

1,400 striking health staff fired

Action after NHM employees fail to rejoin | Voluntary workers to be hired

VISHAV BHARTI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 10

As Punjab grapples with the Covid pandemic, the state government today terminated the services of around 1,400 protesting contract employees working under the National Health Mission (NHM) after they refused to join work.

Around 3,000 employees had been on strike for the past one week, demanding regularisation of their services. The government had given an ultimatum to the protesting employees to join work by 10 am today or their services would be terminated.

Around 1,600 joined work today. The remaining 1,400 failed to report to duty by this evening, prompting the government to issue their termination orders.

Acting under the Disaster Management Act, the National Health Mission Director said the strike had posed a threat to the lives of people amid the ongoing



Healthcare workers have been demanding regularisation of jobs. FILE

MOST FROM JAL DIST

■ Most of the sacked employees belonged to Jalandhar district (318), followed by Tarn Taran (182), Gurdaspur (177), Fazilka (113), Ferozepur (108), Hoshiarpur (99) and Pathankot (89)

■ Those terminated include auxiliary nurse midwives, nurses, data entry operators, Ayurvedic medical officers, community health officers, multipurpose health workers, etc

Covid pandemic, so the services of the employees had been terminated.

The district civil surgeons had been asked to recruit voluntary staff to replace the sacked employees.

Those terminated include auxiliary nurse midwives (ANMs), nurses, data entry operators, Ayurvedic medical officers, community health officers (CHOs), multipurpose health workers, etc.

A majority of the employ-

ees sacked belonged to Jalandhar district (318), followed by Tarn Taran (182), Gurdaspur (177), Fazilka (113), Ferozepur (108), Hoshiarpur (99) and Pathankot (89). In 10 districts, including Barnala, Bathinda, Ludhiana, Mansa, Moga, Mohali Muktsar, SBS Nagar, Ropar and Sangrur, all employees joined work before the deadline.

The strike had adversely affected the 'Covid prevention drive', especially in the

rural areas of the state. Due to the weeklong absence of CHOs, ANMs, etc. from health and wellness centres, there had been a spike in positivity and death rates as they played a key role in sampling and tracing of suspected patients.

Considering the medical emergency, state Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu had urged the agitating NHM employees to resume their duties by Monday morning.

Govt school employees on contact-tracing duty in F'kot

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, MAY 10

The district administration has set up 30 new contact tracing teams (CTT) of the Covid cases. The members of these teams are teaching and non-teaching staff from the government schools in the district. These teams will trace minimum 30 contacts of every lab-confirmed case of Covid-19.

As all schools are closed in view of the pandemic, the teaching and non-teaching staff in the schools have been engaged in supervisory or other helpful activities in relation to Covid-19 patients, said sources in the School Education Department.

Timely detection of contacts of a positive case was the key to break the chain of transmission in the community, said Vimal Setia, Deputy Commissioner, Faridkot.

The purpose of contact tracing is to identify and classify contacts as early as possible for preventing the spread of

Each team to trace minimum 30 contacts of every Covid positive patient



Teachers will also work as tele-counsellors to help patients. FILE

further transmission. The decision to test some of the contacts and to quarantine others is based on risk assessment process considering factors like - proximity, duration, nature of exposure as well as other factors, said the DC.

Other than making contact tracing of the virus-affected persons, the teachers are also helpful in providing information to callers relating to Covid-19 and to carry out any other activities to be instructed by

the zonal team. Teachers are also working as tele-counsellors in the Covid-19 call centres. These employees would be relieved from the Covid-19 duty as and when the situation becomes normal, said Director, School Education Department.

The director has asked district education offices to relieve these teachers from the schools and place their services at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioners till the time Covid-19 situation is over.

3 held for selling O2 cylinders on black market

ABOHAR/SRIGANGANAGAR, MAY 10

Three persons were arrested for allegedly selling oxygen cylinders at exorbitant prices in Sriganaganagar, 40 km from Aohhar. SP Rajan Dushyant said a district special team (DST) of the police busted the gang reportedly selling oxygen cylinders on the black market.

Were charging ₹2,500 for each

A police team, led by Sub-Inspector Kashyap Singh, sent a decoy customer after receiving a tip-off that oxygen cylinders were being sold at exorbitant prices to relatives of Covid patients on life support.

The DST arrested Deepak Valmiki (40), Rajwinder Singh (39) and Sunil Kumar (25) as they allegedly charged Rs 2,500 for a cylinder, whereas the Rajasthan Government had fixed its price at Rs 340. The gang members were carrying 19 cylinders on a vehicle. — OC

SGPC seeks govt nod to import Pfizer vaccine

AMRITSAR, MAY 10

The SGPC has approached the Prime Minister and Union Health Minister seeking nod for letting them import the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine from the US to treat Covid patients.

SGPC president Bibi Jagir Kaur said a letter in this regard was sent to PM Narendra Modi and Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan.

Jagir Kaur holds meeting with docs

Bibi Jagir Kaur held a meeting with doctors at Sri Guru Ramdas University of Health Sciences, Medical College and Hospital, here. To fight against the pandemic, Covid care centres have been set up by the SGPC. Recently, it had inaugurated centres at Gurdwara Manji Sahib, Alamgir, Ludhiana and Takht Sri Damdama Sahib, Talwandi Sabo, Bathinda, The centres are providing oxygen to patients. — TNS

Allow free treatment in pvt hospitals, CM urged

MUKTSAR, MAY 10

Congress MLA from Gidderbaha Amarinder Singh Raja Warring has requested CM Capt Amarinder Singh to announce free treatment for Covid patients in private hospitals in the state, just like the neighbouring Congress-ruled Rajasthan.

On Sunday, Warring tweeted, "The Congress-led

Rajasthan Government announced free treatment of Covid patients in private hospitals... I request Capt Amarinder ji to announce free treatment for patients in private hospitals in Punjab."

Warring said he had asked Principal Secretary, Health, Hussan Lal to provide more staff at the hospitals in Muktsar district. — TNS

Woman, twins die at Patiala hospital

KARAM PRAKASH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, MAY 10

In a tragic turn of events, a Covid-19 positive woman succumbed to the virus after losing her preterm newborn twins at Government Rajindra Hospital today.

The deceased has been identified as Manpreet Kaur of Sangrur. The hospital authorities said Manpreet died of Covid on

Had severe acute respiratory infection

Monday morning.

Doctors in the gynaecology department said one child was stillborn, while the other died a few hours after birth.

The woman was reportedly 29 weeks pregnant and was admitted to the hospital with severe acute respiratory

infection (SARI) before she tested positive for the virus.

Dr Parneet Kaur, head of the department, gynaecology, said: "We had to shift the woman from the Covid isolation ward to the gynaecology department for delivery. Unfortunately, all three died." Dr HS Rekhi, medical superintendent, Rajindra Hospital, said: "Our teams did everything to save the three."



BUSINESS AS USUAL Covid protocol continues to be flouted at a vegetable market in Jalandhar on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: SARABJIT SINGH

2 virus deaths every hour in Ludhiana

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LUDHIANA, MAY 10

Logging an average of almost two deaths from Covid-19 every hour, the district reported 46 casualties due to the virus in the past over 24 hours.

The highest daily casualties recorded so far included 30 locals, four from Fatehgarh Sahib, three from Delhi, two from Sangrur, and one each from Chandigarh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Mansa, Moga and Barnala.

With this, the death toll has mounted to 2,382 — 1,580 locals and 802 outsiders — at the CFR of 2.31 per cent. Meanwhile, 1,595 more persons tested positive for Covid — 1,470 locals and 125 from out of the district.

With this, the total number of cases crossed the 77,000-mark to reach 77,619 — 68,465 locals and 9,154 outsiders. The tally of active cas-

2,382 total casualties in district so far

COVID METER

Cases	8,625
Critical	298
Active	75,800
Deaths	198

WORST-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	CASES	DEATHS
Ludhiana	1,470	30
SAS Nagar	1,382	14
Patiala	676	14
Bathinda	629	19
Jalandhar	619	8

es also surpassed 11,000-mark to touch 11,518 — 11,194 locals and 324 from out of the district. While 1,376 critical patients were hospitalised, 8,378 active cases were under home isolation. However, 55,691 patients have already recovered from the infection in the district.

'Fateh kits' in short supply, social outfits come to aid of patients

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANSA, MAY 10

Various social service organisations in Mansa have come to the aid of Covid-19 patients from the poverty-stricken areas by providing them medicine kits (prescribed by IMA doctors) for free.

These organisations joined hands after an acute shortage of Fateh kits was reported in the government-run hospitals and despite several requests many patients were not getting the required medicines.

Of the total 100 kits distributed among patients, 50 were donated by Shri Balaji Parivaar Sangh, 20 by Rajeshwar Kumar 30 by other members associated with various NGOs in the district.

Gurlabh Singh, a social activist said: "There is a short-



Free medicine kits being distributed to needy in Mansa. TRIBUNE PHOTO

age of Fateh kits for quite some time now. A medicine is the most basic thing that a patient requires as part of his treatment of any disease. It's unfortunate if he or she does not get it, especially amid a pandemic that has already claimed many lives globally."

"Unlike patients from well-to-do families, those

from poor families cannot afford medicines or treatment charges at private hospitals," he said.

Local health officials have intimidated the state health department regarding the non-availability of Fateh kits and assured patients that they will get the kits at the earliest.

In Bathinda, needy get plasma, O2 cylinders

BATHINDA, MAY 10

At a time when families of Covid-19 patients are running from pillar to post looking for hospitals beds, oxygen cylinders and other services, a city-based NGO, Samarpan Welfare Society — started by a group of friends — have taken it upon themselves to help such hassled families with plasma and oxygen.

NGO president Dravjit Thakur Merry and member Mukesh Kumar Goyal alias Monty coordinate with people in need of plasma. "We help people in arranging and donating plasma and oxygen," said Merry, who has set an example by donating blood 66 times and plasma seven times.

So far, they have arranged more than 300 plasma donors, helping around 900 patients and by donating blood have helped nearly 9,000 patients.



NGO members hold an 'oxygen langar' in Bathinda. TRIBUNE PHOTO

They have also started distributing oxygen cylinders and are refilling the old ones. They are also helping people to get admitted in hospitals at a time when the city is facing shortage of Level-3 beds.

Samarpan members are also providing free meals daily to the attendants of the Covid patients admitted at private hospitals in Bathinda. — TNS

Prevent fleecing of patients: NGOs

BATHINDA, MAY 10

Members of various NGOs and social organisations gathered here at Ambedkar Park in Bathinda against alleged fleecing of patients by private hospitals and lack of adequate medical infrastructure at government-run hospitals. They later submitted a memorandum of demands to the Deputy Commissioner, demanding the administration's intervention to ensure quality treatment to Covid patients at affordable prices.

Members of Democratic Teachers' Front (DTF), Association for Democratic Rights (AFDR), BKU (Ekta Ugrahan), Punjab Khet Mazdoor Union, Theka Mulazam Sanghrash Morcha, Nourwan Bharat Sabha and Paramedical Employees' Union among others submitted the memorandum to the Chief Minister, Governor, Health Minister through the DC.

Urge govt to take over private hospitals



Members of various organisations protest in Bathinda. TRIBUNE PHOTO

DTF president Resham Singh said: "We as representatives of all unions demand the government must regularly provide details of availability of L-1, L-2 and L-3 beds, oxygen, vaccine stock, medicines and staff members. Fateh Kits be provided to patients undergoing treatment in isolation. Oxygen and doctors' help be made available at patients' houses."

Gagandeep Singh, a

leader of paramedical employees' union, said, "Black marketing of required medical services amid pandemic must be stopped and strict punitive action be taken against those found guilty." These organisations have threatened to launch stir if above mentioned demands were not met by the government in the coming days. — TNS

Caught in red tape, all for Covid report

PARVESH SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, MAY 10

A local resident had to shuttle across rooms and meet various officials at the Sangrur Civil Hospital (SCH) for three hours to get the report of his wife, who tested Covid positive.

Reason: Authorities did not have ink in the printer.

"After taking the swab sample in the morning, the hospital staff told my wife that she has tested positive. When we requested for Fateh kit, the



Sangrur's Rupinder Singh with his wife's report, which he got after a struggle of three hours.

staff told me to visit the Mangwal village health centre. When I reached the health centre, I was sent back to the hospital to procure a copy of the report," said Rupinder Singh, a local resident.

Singh reached the SCH at 10 am. He was allegedly made to stand in a queue of suspected Covid patients for an hour at the sample collection centre. When his turn came, the staff directed him to the lab. He had to stand in another queue for around 30

minutes. The staff there sent him to another room, where an employee further directed him to another room of a senior official.

"This continued for three hours and when I finally began to lose my patience, the computer operator gave me the report. I met many people there who had similar complaints," alleged Rupinder.

An official said there was no deliberate attempt to delay the delivery of report.

Pyres burning round the clock in Muktsar

ARCHIT WAITS

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUKTSAR, MAY 10

Due to the increasing number of Covid deaths, the LPG furnace at the cremation ground on the Jalalabad road here on the outskirts of the town is working round the clock.

Traditionally, the cremations are done before the sunset. However, due to the emergency situation, the cremations are being done at night as well.

Shammi Tehria, president,



Health workers cremate a Covid victim in Abohar. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Shiv Dhaam Management Committee, said: "The cremation grounds are over-

whelmed with bodies. It takes nearly two-and-a-half hours for one cremation. We

charge nearly Rs 3,500 for the last rites. The LPG cost has increased and it takes nearly three cylinders for one cremation." Tehria, who is also the president of the Muktsar Municipal Council, added: "Last week, I remained present in the cremation ground till 4 am supervising the cremations."

Notably, in Muktsar district, 236 people have died due to Covid to date. In the last 10 days, 89 persons lost their lives due to the infection.

Justice system in limbo as hearings slashed by courts

In just a month, cases listed before HC drop from over 2,500 to 150

SAURABH MALIK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 10 Covid-19 has virtually left the justice delivery mechanism ailing in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. In just about a month, the number of cases being heard has drastically dipped to less than 150, with just about 16 judges holding the court, from nearly 46 judges hearing about 2,510 cases in the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

To make the matters worse, certain category of cases, such as the regular second appeals, are hardly being decided. Working at nearly half its strength with 46 judges against the sanctioned posts of 85, the High Court is currently facing an unprecedented pendency of 6,77,231 cases, including 2,89,594 criminal matters involving life and liberty. No less than 2,31,637 cases are pending between one and three years. Another 97,797 cases are pending between three and five years.

In the absence of new appointments, impending retirement of three judges



UNPRECEDENTED PENDENCY OWING TO COVID

- On Monday, just 149 cases were listed before 16 judges
- A month ago, on April 9, 2,512 cases were placed before 44 judges with 193 matters before each judge
- The HC is currently facing an unprecedented pendency of 6,77,231 cases, including 2,89,594 criminal matters

this year and lack of physical hearing, the situation is expected to worsen. The only other High Court with pendency more than the Punjab and Haryana High Court is Allahabad with 7,90,220 matters awaiting adjudication.

The summary of cases listed for May 10 makes it clear that about 149 matters were listed before 16 judges. On April 9, no less than 2,512 cases were listed before 44

judges. As many as 193 cases were placed before one judge on that date.

The scaling down of listed cases has not gone down well with the Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association. "The High Court is the custodian of Constitution and protector of fundamental rights. It cannot shut its doors for the justice seekers," the association said in a resolution, adding that its executive

committee was concerned about non-listing of matters, especially habeas corpus petitions, anticipatory bails, regular bails, suspension of sentence, stay matters and other matters involving violation of fundamental rights.

Just about 72 hours later, the HC today carried out certain changes, making it clear that the procedure of "mentioning" may be done away with in case of first anticipatory bail pleas filed before the High Court after exhausting the remedy before the sessions court, the habeas corpus petitions and the protection pleas.

The HC has its reasons. It has all along been making it clear that the decisions have been taken to ensure the safety of the judges, advocates, staff and the litigants after taking into consideration the surge in cases with the second wave being more infectious.

Its apprehensions may not be ill-founded. Punjab and Haryana Bar Council chairman Minderjit Yadav said more than 170 advocates were believed to have died due to Covid-19.

No check, fruit sellers fleece buyers

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, MAY 10

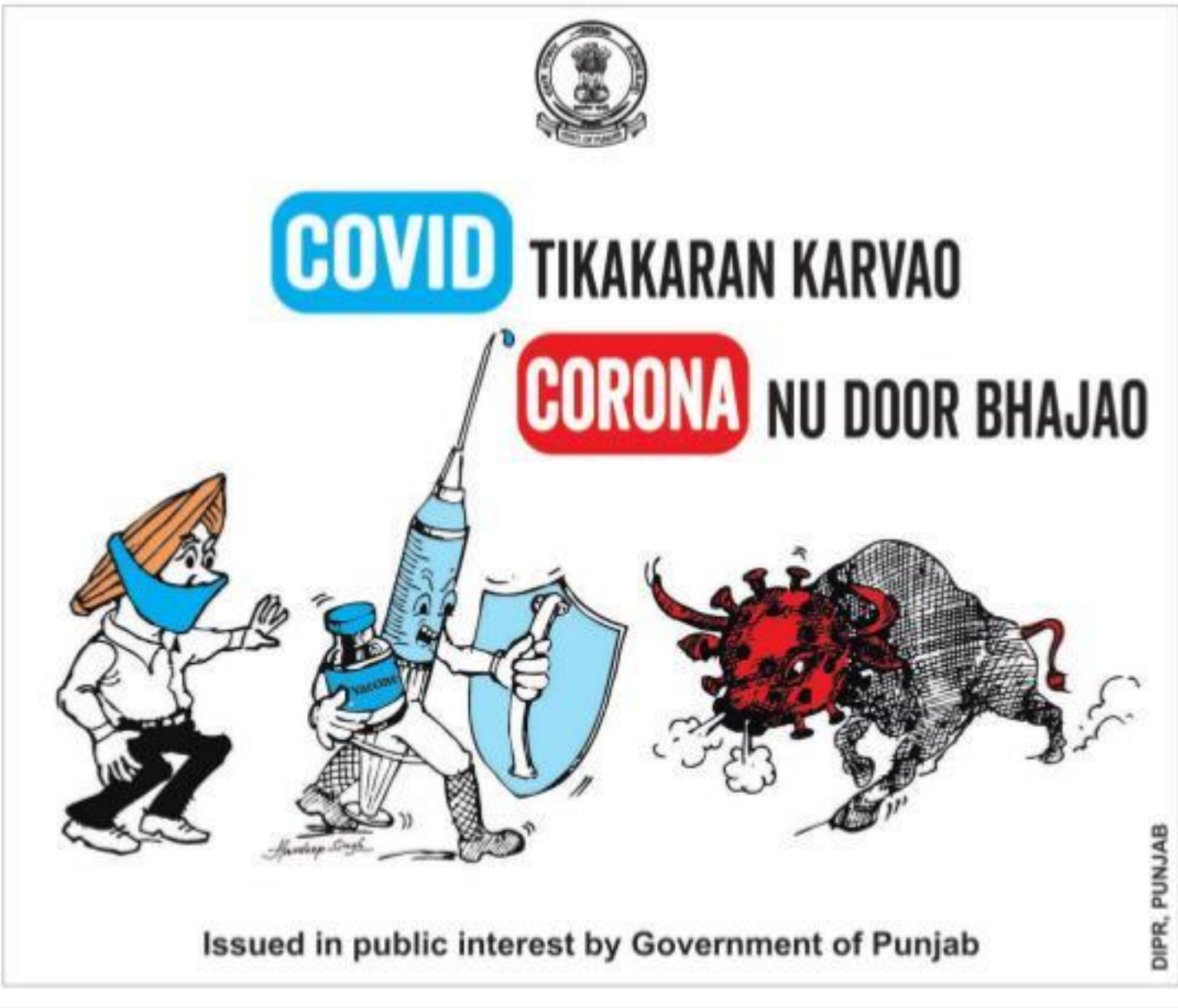
The prices of fruits have skyrocketed these days and burning a hole in buyers' pockets. With the Covid-19 cases rising steeply, the increased demand for fruits has sent the prices through the roof.

Apart from wholesale market, rates of fruit in markets in the city, including Indira Market, Canal Market, Rose Garden and near the bus stand, have skyrocketed.

Sell apples for ₹300/kg, mousami, grapes ₹150/kg

Fruit vendors who have put up their vends outside big private hospitals in the city are fleecing buyers as there's no check on them. Harmeet Singh, a city resident said, "Since there is no price mechanism and barely any check, fruit vendors are minting money at the expense of people's helplessness. It's for the administration to keep a check on undue fleecing of buyers and take action against vendors charging exorbitantly."

Deputy Commissioner B Srinivasan did not respond to numerous attempts being made to contact him.



Issued in public interest by Government of Punjab

31,000 birds culled at Kila Raipur farm

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LUDHIANA, MAY 10

Around 31,000 birds have been culled over the past two days after samples from a poultry farm tested positive for bird flu (H5N8 virus) at Kila Raipur. The district administration had declared the area an infected zone and issued orders of culling the birds.

Dr Paramdeep Singh Walia, Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry Department, Ludhiana, said there were around 75,000 birds at Suba Singh poultry farm. As many as 12,400 birds were culled today at the farm by a rapid response team of the department, while another 19,200 were culled yesterday. The remaining birds would be culled too, he added.

Earlier, the National Institute of High-Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal, had confirmed the presence of avian influenza (H5N8 virus) in the samples taken from the poultry farm here.

Meanwhile, the department has set up a control room at the Civil Veterinary Hospital, Kila Raipur, to monitor the operations.

The area within 1 km radius of the poultry farm was declared an infected



AVIAN INFLUENZA Culled birds being disposed of at a poultry farm in Kila Raipur. TRIBUNE PHOTO

75,000 INFECTED

There were 75,000 birds at the poultry farm. As many as 12,400 birds were culled on Monday, while 19,200 were culled on Sunday. The remaining birds will be culled too.

Paramdeep Singh Walia, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPT

zone while the 10 km area around it was designated as a surveillance zone.

Facilities at L2 centres reviewed

BARNALA, MAY 10

The SDM today visited a level-2 health facility at Sohal Patti to review the services, especially oxygen, being administered to patients.

SDM Varjeet Walia along with Deputy Medical Commissioner Dr Gurminder Kaur visited the centre, where 53 patients are undergoing treatment. Walia directed the officials concerned to ensure there was no leak of oxygen. He also visited a level-2 facility at Mehal Kalan and interacted with patients.

Barnala SDM takes stock at Sohal Patti, Mehal Kalan

"Some relatives of patients misbehaved with the security guard at the Sohal Patti isolation centre after he prevented them from taking away an oxygen cylinder. The police have registered a case against two persons. Patients' relatives should not enter the isolation centre," said the SDM.

Civil Surgeon Dr Harinderjit Singh said following a high number of patients at the Sohal Patti centre, more staff had been deputed. "We are working to increase the supply of oxygen. Work is on to set up an oxygen plant in the district," said DC Tej Pratap Singh Phoolka. — TNS

Amid 2nd wave, big fat wedding biz hit yet again

Many return to villages in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar; others take up odd jobs to survive

AMAN SOOD
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, MAY 10

Sham Singh, 50, is selling vegetables at Sanaur market and is barely able to make both ends meet.

Till 2019 pandemic arrival, he was earning almost 60-70,000 a month as a flower decorator. The current wedding season from April 20 to May 30 has again been hit due to lockdown restrictions.

From selling vegetables to working as a daily wage, the impact of successive lockdowns during wedding season has hit the big fat Punjabi wedding industry hard. The industry has suffered losses and thousands of those involved in the business have either returned to their states or are selling vegetables to survive.



A band master sits idle in Patiala. A TRIBUNE PHOTOGRAPH

"For past over a year, I have managed only three functions and now I earn daily to feed my family of three. Last month, my daughter contracted Covid and I spent all my savings on her. This has

been one of the worst phases of life," Singh said.

"Mounting debts and no work has forced many of my fellow workers to return to their villages in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar," he said.

GATHERINGS CAPPED AT 10, HOPES DASHED

■ The government's decision to limit gathering to 10 persons at weddings has crashed the hopes for those involved with the wedding industry

■ In April, the government had relaxed the cap on the number of guests from 20 to 50

■ Many weddings were even shifted out of state to hill states like Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, but now even they are sealed following a spike in cases

The re-imposition of night curfew and limit of 10 persons at weddings in the state, has again hit the wedding industry. Already thousands of functions have either been cancelled/post-

poned or have taken place with minimal celebrations.

The Marriage Palace Association said it had suffered huge losses due to the cancellation or postponement of functions during the past four seasons and now, with the fresh restrictions, they were forced to cut down on manpower. "This will eventually lead to more job losses as limited guests means fewer men needed," a stakeholder said.

Prince Sidhu, a wedding planner and caterer, said: "From over 50 functions per season, I managed barely 10 since April 2020. Though last year I paid my labour and cooks, I had to spare them now as I was unable to pay a contingent of 36 persons without work."

250 specialist docs to be hired as vaccine drive for 18+ kicks off

FATEHGARH SAHIB, MAY 10

Fatehgarh Sahib has been provided three ventilators and the required staff to operate these will also be deputed as the government is going to recruit 250 specialist doctors. Balbir Singh Sidhu, Minister for Health, said this while interacting with the media at the Civil Hospital here today.

He had come to launch the vaccination campaign for the above 18-year age group and construction workers. He also visited the Civil Hospital at Mandi Gobindgarh and inspected the building, which is in a dilapidated condition. He



Health Minister Balbir Sidhu at the Fatehgarh Sahib Civil Hospital.

announced formation of special teams for testing in rural areas. He said the government had launched vaccination for the workforce today as the depart-

ment recently got 1 lakh doses from the Centre and these would be distributed among the districts as per their population and positivity rate. — OC

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

launches

AMNESTY SCHEME

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAR OUTSTANDING DUES

Government of Punjab has notified **AMNESTY SCHEME-2021** to give an opportunity to the allottees who were not able to deposit the installments due to various reasons.

SCHEME CLOSING DATE
19.07.2021

SCHEME APPLICABLE TO	WHO IS ELIGIBLE	HOW TO APPLY
<p>All the properties auctioned or allotted through any mode by various Development Authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Punjab Urban Planning & Development Authority (PUDA)• Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA)• Patiala Development Authority (PDA)• Greater Ludhiana Area Development Authority (GLADA)• Amritsar Development Authority (ADA)• Jalandhar Development Authority (JDA)• Bathinda Development Authority (BDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allottees who have defaulted in payment of installments due after 31.12.2013.• Allottees whose allotment has been cancelled due to default in instalments or there is litigation on this account can also avail the benefit under the scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allottees are required to deposit the defaulted amount at the rate mentioned in allotment letter alongwith simple interest in lumpsum.• Allottees can contact the Estate Office of respective Development Authority to obtain the process of applying.

➔ Calculator for the convenience of allottees has been uploaded on the websites of all Development Authorities. Detailed notification is also available on the websites.

➔ Part/short payment shall not be entertained under this scheme.

NOTE: Scheme is not applicable in cases where possession has been taken by the Development Authority.

MISSION FATEH

Initiative of Government of Punjab for fighting COVID

COVID-19 BED AVAILABILITY IN GOVERNMENT & PRIVATE HOSPITALS

For queries regarding latest Bed Availability

USE COVA APP OR CALL 104 MEDICAL HELPLINE

	OXYGEN BEDS		ICU BEDS (Without Ventilator)		ICU BEDS (With Ventilator)	
	Total	Available	Total	Available	Total	Available
Government Hospitals	3895	1887	583	25	389	50
Private Hospitals	6605	1347	1295	147	981	166
Total (Govt. + Pvt.)	10500	3234	1878	172	1370	216

Figures as on 10.05.2021 5.00 pm

Issued by: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, PUNJAB

CLASSIFIEDS

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Chandigarh: 8 marla, ground floor 70% covered Sector 40, 3 BHK. 93161-12756. (CL21013086)

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Suman Kapila w/o Rajeev Kapila r/o H. No. 319-L, Model Town, Karnal, inform that "Kapila" is my surname and "Suman" is my given name. Concerned note. (CL21013057)

I, Manan Kapila s/o Rajeev Kapila r/o H.No. 319-L, Model Town, Karnal, inform that "Kapila" is my surname and "Manan" is my given name. Concerned note. (CL21013059)

I, Gagan Narang w/o Supreet Pal Singh 590R Model Town Ludhiana, have changed my name from Gagan Narang to Gagan Kaur. (CL21013088)

I, Manjeet Kaur d/o Dalip Singh r/o H.No. IV/73, Sadan Wali Gali, P.O. Batala, (Gurdaspur), have changed my name to Manjeet Kaur Saggu. (CL21013091)

I, Swastik Sharma S/o Satrajit Nagar R/o # 123, Harmilpur Nagar (PHI), Baltana, Zirakpur, Distt. Mohali declare that my daughter Bhavya Gour is out of my control. I disown her from all my moveable/ immovable property. I shall not be responsible for any of her acts and anybody dealing with her shall do so at their own risk. (CL21013082)

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COURT NOTICES

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of

Rana Kanwar Deep Kaur
Additional Principal Judge,
Family Court-II,
Jalandhar.

Ashok Kumar S/o Sardari Lal R/o H.No. 624-A, Surya Enclave, Jalandhar.

Versus
Gunjan Sharma W/o Ashok Kumar R/o Flat No. 104, PR Enclave, Behind Gajuwaka Club Juggu Junction Kanathi Road Gajuwaka Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Application for grant of maintenance allowance

CNR No. PBJL01-010392-2020
Next Date:- 31.05.2021

Publication issued to:
Gunjan Sharma

Spouse:- Ashok Kumar R/o Flat No. 104, PR Enclave, Behind Gajuwaka Club Juggu Junction Kanathi Road Gajuwaka Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. In above titled case, the defendant(s)/ respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/ respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 31.05.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar

Dated, this day of 08.04.2021.
Sd/- Additional Principal Judge,
Family Court-II,
Jalandhar.

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of

Dr. Gagan Deep Kaur
Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division)-2,
Fatehgarh Sahib.
Raj Kumar Mehta
Versus

Paramjit Singh Grewal
CNR No.:
PBF002-000773-2019
Next Date: 2.07.2021
Suit for Possession

Publication issued to:

Paramjit Singh Grewal
Father:- Hardeep Singh Grewal r/o House No. 9, Surya Enclave, Kharar, Tehsil Kharar, Distt. SAS Nagar, Mohali.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/ respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 02.07.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=fatehgarhsahib

Dated, this day of 6.05.2021.
Sd/- Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division)-2,
Fatehgarh Sahib.

CL21008265

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Probe team holds first meet in Mohali

CHANDIGARH, MAY 10

Under fire from within the ruling Congress, the three members of the new special investigation team (SIT) for the Kotkapura police firing case today held their first physical meeting in Mohali.

A government spokesperson said the officers of the new SIT, constituted by the state government on the orders of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, on Monday held the meeting at the Vigilance Bhawan, SAS Nagar, to discuss the modalities for conducting thorough investigations into the Kotkapura incidents. Besides, the SIT has already held different meetings with the officers and officials of police and legal departments in this regard. The members had held virtual meetings earlier.

The spokesperson said with a view to collect more relevant evidence and

Seeks evidence, witnesses from public

information from the stakeholders, if not submitted earlier, and suggestions from any quarters, the SIT has provided an email newsit2021kotkapurcase@gmail.com and a dedicated WhatsApp number 98759-83237 (without calling facility) to the public to furnish details or documents, if anyone desires, so that a free and fair probe could be conducted in an effective and efficient manner. The SIT has assured that as per the orders of the High Court, the investigations pertaining to both the FIRs registered at the Kotkapura police station would be concluded as expeditiously as possible and to take it at a logical conclusion in an appropriate time. — TNS



Sack Advocate General: Bajwa

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 10

A day after the son of Krishan Bhagwan, who was killed in the police firing at Behbal Kalan in 2015, stated that he would not cooperate with the new SIT as the Advocate General (AG) failed in his duty to competently argue the case in the High Court, Rajya Sabha MP Partap Singh Bajwa said he had been consistently raising the issue with the Chief Minister.

“For the benefit of the state and to safeguard the image of the Indian National Congress, it is essential to remove the albatross from the government neck and remove Atul Nanda from his post as Advocate General of Punjab. He has continuously been hiring special counsels from New Delhi at high costs to the public exchequer,” said Bajwa. “We have reached a crossroads both in state and party. The AG must be removed if the government wishes to truly rebuild bridges with the public. Anything less would also be breaking the solemn promise of the INC in bringing the perpetrators of these heinous crimes to justice,” Bajwa said.

CLASSIFIEDS

COURT NOTICE

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

(Under Guardian and

Ward Act)

In the Court of

Sh. Ranjit Kumar Jain

Principal Judge

Family Court,

Hoshiarpur.

Pranshu Sood aged 27 years son of Doctor Harsh Vardan Sood r/o House No. 133, Ambay Valley Hoshiarpur.

...Applicant

Versus

General Public

...Respondent

CNR No.: PBHO01-006289-2020

Next Date: 28.05.2021

Application U/S 8 of Guardians & Wards Act

Notice to:

General Public

In above titled case, the respondent could not be served.

It is ordered that respondent should appear in person or through counsel on 28.05.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to:

https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=hoshiarpur

Dated, this day of 26.02.2021.

Sd/- Principal Judge

Family Court,

Hoshiarpur.

CL21012719

No justice for 6 years, victims' kin reluctant to assist new SIT

KOTKAPURA CASE Say they're being used as political fodder by parties

BALWANT GARG

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, MAY 10

Weeks after the Punjab and Haryana High Court quashed an earlier inquiry and the state government constituted a new SIT to probe the 2015 Kotkapura police firing incident, family members of some victims and witnesses are reluctant to come forward to assist the SIT.

Sukhraj Singh, son of Krishan Bhagwan Singh, one of the protesters who was killed in police firing at Behbal Kalan on October 14, 2015, alleged after about six years of harassment when the witnesses and the victims' families deposed before several judicial commission and police investigation teams, justice kept eluding them



A protest against the Kotkapura firing incident in Moga. FILE PHOTO

and now, they didn't have any faith of getting it.

“We have come to know that all the victims are being used as political fodder by the parties. While many of the witnesses are tired of making repeated rounds of police offices, others have not received any support or

protection from intimidation,” he alleged. There are over 100 witnesses in the Kotkapura and Behbal Kalan police firing cases.

One of the key witnesses, Surjit Singh, died in January 2020 under mysterious circumstances. Another key witness, brother of a

3 ministers seek action against Sidhu

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 10

The political turmoil in the Punjab Congress deepened today with three Cabinet ministers — Brahm Mohindra, Sunder Sham Arora and Sadhu Singh Dharamsot — urging the party high command to take strict disciplinary action against senior party leader Navjot Singh Sidhu, even as three other ministers — Sukhjinder Randhawa, Charanjit Channi, Gurpreet Kangar — and MPs Partap Bajwa and Ravneet Bittu held a meeting here to discuss the situation arising out of a delay in action in the sacrilege and subsequent police firing cases.

Bittu said if the CM as Home Minister could not take on the Badals, there were other capable persons who could be given the charge of the department. Terming Sidhu's statement an act of gross indiscipline and an attempt to undermine

CABINET RESHUFFLE ON CARDS?

Political circles are abuzz with speculation that amid the political turmoil, there could be a Cabinet reshuffle and the empty slot left by Navjot Singh Sidhu could also be filled. Ministers Brahm Mohindra, Sunder Sham Arora and Sadhu Singh Dharamsot termed Sidhu's statement an act of gross indiscipline



the Congress government in the state, the three ministers said his comments could no longer be dismissed as rantings of a disgruntled member of a democratic party.

Open rebellion was damaging the interest of the Congress at a time when Assembly elections in the state were less than a year away, they said, adding the failure to take action against Sidhu now could trigger unrest in the party's state unit, which would be fatal for the Congress, which had suffered major electoral blows in the recently concluded polls in five states, the ministers warned.

Amid the political churning within the party, leaders in the Chief Minister's camp throughout the day made backdoor efforts to pacify the enraged ministers and other leaders. CM's close associate BIS Chahal also went to Randhawa's house.

The party leaders who are pressing upon the government to punish the perpetrators at the earliest today took a serious note of the statement by the family of Krishan Bhagwan Singh, who was killed in police firing at Behbal Kalan in 2015, that they would not cooperate with the new SIT set up by the Congress government

and accused AG Atul Nanda of failing to put up correct legal defence in the High Court. The rebel group is learnt to have sought time from the party high command on the issue.

Questioning the statement issued by the three ministers seeking action against Sidhu, MP Partap Bajwa said: “I have a lot of respect for my esteemed colleagues with whom I have worked as PPCC chief. They should clear their position weather they wanted action against the perpetrators of sacrilege and subsequent police firing that killed two people.” Undeterred, Sidhu again hit out at the CM, tweeting: “Nefarious intentions are evident, no HC stopped you in 4-1/2 yrs! When DGP/CPS appointments are set aside, orders are challenged in higher courts in matter of hours. Now, first you attack the HC, then from backdoor accept same orders to deflect people's attention.”

Govt shielding Badals: AAP

CHANDIGARH, MAY 10

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA and Youth Wing president Gurmeet Singh Meht Hayer today said the Congress government was not taking any action against the Badals in land, sand, liquor and cable scams. He said it seemed only AAP would send the Badals to jail for their involvement in sacrilege and other cases.

Hayer said the Congress rebel leader and former minister Navjot Singh Sidhu was echoing the same sentiments that of AAP that the Badal family was running the Captain Amarinder Singh government. He said in the other cases, including the sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib, the Congress government was just busy doing a political drama. — TNS

Sidhu as guilty as Capt: Akalis

CHANDIGARH, MAY 10

The Shiromani Akali Dal today said former minister Navjot Singh was as guilty as Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh in failing to arrest and convict those behind the acts of sacrilege, claiming both leaders were playing politics on this issue instead of fulfilling their commitment to ensure justice.

In a statement, SAD leader and MP Balwinder Singh Bhundur said it was shocking that after four years in governance, Sidhu was raising the sacrilege issue solely to snatch the CM's chair from Captain Amarinder. — TNS

Kishor may not keep Pb assignment

CHANDIGARH, MAY 10

With changed political scenario within the Punjab Congress amid resentment among party MLAs over the delay in acting against the perpetrators of the Kotkapura police firing case, Prashant Kishor, principal adviser to Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, is unlikely to continue with his Punjab assignment.

After TMC's victory in the West Bengal Assembly elections, Kishor had announced his decision to quit the “political space” amid speculation that he would continue with his engagement with the Punjab Government.

However, with some ministers and MLAs regrouping and deliberating delay in action by the state govern-



DISSENT OVER KOTKAPURA FIRING

■ Prashant Kishor, principal adviser to CM, has indicated to some state leaders he is not keen on working on assignment in Punjab

■ This comes as some ministers and MLAs have taken the state government to task over the delay in action in Kotkapura case

ment on the Kotkapura incident, Kishor has indicated to some state leaders he is not keen on working on the given position in

Punjab. He is also learnt to have called up some of the main leaders who are in the forefront of the “save Congress” campaign.

An official confirmation on Kishor's future plans is, however, awaited. Sources said over the past few days, leaders close to former Congress president Rahul Gandhi have been in touch with party's state leaders.

Technical Education Minister Charanjit Channi who along with minister Sukhjinder Randhawa has been vocal on the issue, said by representing the historic Chamkaur Sahib seat, it was his moral responsibility to raise the issues of the poor and Dalits and ensure the perpetrators of the crime were punished. — TNS

Kin await youth's body from Canada

BARNALA, MAY 10

The family of Harmanjot Singh Bhattal (19), who was allegedly shot by his uncle in Canada's Edmonton a few days ago, will have to wait for a few more days for his body to arrive.

The autopsy will be conducted on Tuesday and the authorities will start the process of sending it back to India thereafter.

“Harmanjot was shot by his uncle after a quarrel with his wife. We got information about his death on Saturday morning and since then, we have been trying to get his body back,” said Bhupinder Singh, a relative. — TNS

Won't cooperate with team: Mand

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, MAY 10

Opening a front against the Capt Amarinder Singh government, Sarbat Khalsa jathedar Dhian Singh Mand has rejected the newly constituted special investigation team (SIT) to probe the sacrilege and firing incidents at Kotkapura.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mand said, “No one will cooperate with the new SIT and no witness or Sikh leaders will register any statement with it.”

He also said that if any witness or Sikh leaders registered a statement with the new SIT, they would face social boycott from the community. He said the community ran pillar to post in its fight to get justice in this case, but the government was not leaving any stone unturned to shield the accused.

ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਨਗਰ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ, ਜੋਗਾ
E-mail: eejoga@gmail.com
(ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ)
ਨਗਰ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ, ਜੋਗਾ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਦੇ ਕੰਮਾਂ ਸਬੰਧੀ 26.95 ਲੱਖ ਰੁਪਏ ਦੀ ਰਾਸ਼ੀ ਦੇ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨਿਮਨ ਦਰਜ ਸਫ਼ਿਉਲ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਲਗਾਏ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਹਨ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਟੈਂਡਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> 'ਤੇ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ ਅਤੇ ਡਿਏਟ ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਤਮੀਨੀ ਵਰਗਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਸਬੰਧਤ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਕੰਮਕਾਜ ਵਾਲੇ ਦਿਨ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਨਗਰ ਅਤੇ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿਖੇ ਵੇਖੇ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ। ਕਾਰਜਸਾਧਕ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ ਬਿਨਾਂ ਕਾਰਨ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਰੱਦ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ।
ਨੋਟ:- ਉਕਤ ਕੰਮਾਂ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਵਕਰ ਆਰਡਰ ਫਾਇਨਲ ਰਾਸ਼ੀ ਮੁਤਾਬਿਕ ਹੀ ਜਾਰੀ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣਗੇ।
(A) Date and Time Schedule

Sr. No.	Last Date for Online Sale of Bidding Document	Last Date of Online Submission of Bidding Document	Opening of Technical Bid Document	Opening of Financial Bid
1.	18.05.2021 11.00 AM	18.05.2021 11.30 AM	18.05.2021 03.00 PM	18.05.2021 03.00 PM

DPR/Pb/4417 **ਸਰੀ/- ਕਾਰਜਸਾਧਕ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ, ਨਗਰ ਕੌਂਸਲ, ਮਾਨਸਾ**

Municipal Council, Adampur, Jalandhar
ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਂਸਲ, ਆਦਮਪੁਰ, ਜਲੰਧਰ
Email-id: mcadampur38@yahoo.com
mcadampur38@gmail.com
Phone No: 0181-2753256, 0181-5090259
ਨਗਰ ਕੌਂਸਲ, ਆਦਮਪੁਰ
ਸਥਾਨਕ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਵਿਭਾਗ, ਪੰਜਾਬ
<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
ਨਗਰ ਕੌਂਸਲ, ਆਦਮਪੁਰ, ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਜਲੰਧਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਕੁੱਲ ਰਾਸ਼ੀ ਰੁਪਏ 50.59 ਲੱਖ ਦੇ ਸਪਲਾਈ ਦੇ ਕੰਮਾਂ ਲਈ ਰਿਜ਼ਿਟਲ ਫੰਡ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ।

Sr. No.	Description	Date	Time
1.	Sale of Bid Documents from	18.05.2021	10.00 AM
2.	Last Date of Online Submission of Bidding Document	07.06.2021	05.00 PM
3.	Date & Time Opening of Technical Bid	08.06.2021	10.30 AM
4.	Date & Time Opening of Financial Bid	08.06.2021	02.00 PM

ਬਾਕੀ ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ ਵੇਖਣ ਲਈ ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰਿੰਗ ਪੋਰਟਲ ਚੱਕ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇ।
DPR/Pb/4429 **ਸਰੀ/- ਕਾਰਜਸਾਧਕ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ, ਨਗਰ ਕੌਂਸਲ, ਆਦਮਪੁਰ**

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MOGA
LOCAL GOVT. PUNJAB, DEPARTMENT PUNJAB
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS (for 14 days)
www.eproc.punjab.gov.in
E-tender Reference No. LGPMCM/2021/12
No. 261/C Dated: 07.05.2021
The Municipal Corporation, Moga invites percentage rate basis (above, below, or at par) e-tender on double bid system for total 13 works amounting 209.29 Lacs of Municipal Corporation Moga. The tender will be opened as per schedule given below.
Date and time schedule for e-tendering

For Registered Cooperative Societies/Firm/Agency	
Last Date of Online submission of Bidding Document	Opening of Technical Bid
25.05.2021 03:00 p.m.	26.05.2021 12:00 p.m.

For participating in the above e-tendering process, the contractors shall have to get themselves registered with eproc.punjab.gov.in and get User ID, and Password. Class-3 digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Detail information regarding above tenders documents and any corrigendum/amendments will be uploaded on website only.
Sd/- Corporation Engineer,
Municipal Corporation, Moga.
DPR/Pb/4413

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, AMRITSAR, LOCAL GOVT. DEPTT. PUNJAB
E-TENDER NOTICE (CIVIL WORKS)
No. S.E(C)/144 NIT No.15 /2021 Dated: 10.5.2021
The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, invites tenders on Online Two bid system from eligible bidders for development works.

Description	Last Date of Submission	Opening of Technical Bid	Opening of Financial Bid
Last Date of submission of tenders for Co-Op L/C Societies up to Rs. 60.00 Lacs	01.06.2021 up to 12.00 Noon	01.06.2021 at 05.00 PM	As decided by the Administration after Evaluation of Technical Bids
Last Date of submission of tenders above Rs. 60.00 Lacs for General Contractors/Firms/ Agencies/Co-Op L/C Societies	01.06.2021 up to 12.00 Noon	01.06.2021 at 03.00 PM	

- EMD: 2% of Estimated Amount for Firms/Agencies/General Contractors etc.
- For further specification, terms & conditions, Kindly visit <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
- Name of work/Corrigendum/Addendum and Amendment shall be published in the above said website only.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Civil),
Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.
DPR/Pb/4419

Punjab Information & Communication Technology Corporation Ltd. (Punjab Infotech)
(A State Government Undertaking) www.punjabinfotech.in
5th & 6th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Sector 17 Chandigarh
Tel : +91 172 5256400, 5256401, Fax : +91 172 2702324
contact@punjabinfotech.in

e-Tender Notice : PICTC/ITeG/2021-22/001

Punjab Information & Communication Technology Corporation Ltd. invites online bids for **Selection of Implementation Partner for Procurement and Distribution of Smart Phones to the Youth of Punjab**

Start date & Time	11.05.2021 (09 AM onwards)
Close date & Time	07.06.2021 (till 3:00PM)
For details log onto	https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
Help Desk no.	+91 172 2970263/2970284

Note : Any corrigendum (s) to the tender /RFP notice shall be published on the above mentioned website only

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Dig out Covid truth

The world must question China on bio-warfare documents

OVER 33 lakh people have succumbed to the coronavirus pandemic in the past year and a half, but the world is still awaiting conclusive answers to the all-important questions: Is Covid-19 a man-made bio-weapon? Did the virus leak accidentally from a lab in Wuhan? Or was there no human lapse at all? Was it just a case of transmission from animals to humans? Media reports referring to Chinese documents allegedly obtained by the US State Department have turned the spotlight on sinister possibilities. The papers written by Chinese military scientists and public health officers in 2015 describe SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) coronaviruses, of which Covid is an example, as presenting a 'new era of genetic weapons'. According to the reports published in the Australian and British media, the People's Liberation Army documents seem to fantasise that a bioweapon attack could cause the 'enemy's medical system to collapse'.

These 'revelations', predictably dismissed by China's state-run *Global Times* newspaper as an attempt to tarnish the country's image, have reignited the global clamour for getting to the bottom of the matter. It's a pity that the World Health Organisation (WHO), the UN nodal agency spearheading the fight against Covid-19, has not been able to bring us closer to the truth. A probe conducted by a team of experts from the WHO in Wuhan in January-February this year had dismissed as 'unlikely' the theory that the virus leaked from a lab. The investigation left a lot to be desired amid allegations that the Chinese authorities did not offer 'full cooperation' to the visiting contingent.

China, which again finds itself under intense international scrutiny, needs to do a lot of explaining for the whys and wherefores of the 2015 documents. The WHO, on its part, has to ensure that a thorough investigation is conducted, making it incumbent on the Chinese government to keep the proceedings transparent. Reeling under the second wave of the pandemic, India should push harder for ascertaining the truth and fixing responsibility. With the Union Health Minister heading the WHO's Executive Board, India needs to use this platform effectively so that Covid-like catastrophes don't recur.

Black fungus worrisome

Vulnerable group of Covid survivors should be wary

THE ICMR has warned that Covid patients who have uncontrolled diabetes and are on steroids that suppress the body's immunity or have had a prolonged stay in the ICU must beware of black fungal infection (mucormycosis). They are predisposed to catching the infection as their ability to fight germs like this fungal pathogen (mucormycetes), found in the environment, is compromised. It is important to seek immediate medical help because if left uncared, the disease can lead to loss of vision; the treatment may eventually require surgery for the removal of nose, eye or jaw and it may even be fatal. The US Centre for Diseases Control and Prevention estimates mucormycosis with an overall mortality rate of 54 per cent. The government has done well to caution the Covid-battered public. It must also scale up infrastructure to treat the victims.

The advisory comes in the wake of a worrisome rise in cases of this otherwise rare fungal disease detected among Covid survivors in many places, including Pune, Delhi and Ahmedabad. The example of Pune — that traditionally saw just one such case every few months has witnessed around 30 cases in the past two to three weeks — should alert the vulnerable group of patients. They need to be on the lookout for such symptoms as sinusitis, black or bloody nasal discharge, pain on cheek bone or one side of the face, ache/loosening of teeth, blurred or double vision with fever, skin lesion, thrombosis, chest pain and shortness of breath.

The set of preventive dos and don'ts enumerated should be helpful. Emphasis is laid on controlling blood glucose level and the judicious use of steroids, with correct timing, dose and duration — under medical supervision. Also highlighted is the need to maintain personal hygiene and stay masked and fully covered with shoes, gloves, long-sleeved shirts and long trousers. Even as guidelines have been prescribed for doctors — a team of various specialists is needed — for the line of treatment to be adopted, people showing warning signs would do well to promptly take medical aid before it turns into a back-breaking, deadly malaise.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Everybody you fight is not your enemy and everybody that helps you is not your friend. — Mike Tyson

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1921

Europeans in India.

IN a leading article in a recent issue of the *Pioneer*, the question is discussed whether there is any real danger that threatens Europeans in service or those who are engaged in commercial and industrial activities in India. A number of European correspondents have written to that paper expressing apprehension of danger to themselves as a result of the unrest and political discontent and expressing a desire to leave India and go to their own houses. It is suggested that those who wish to go should be given a suitable pension, bonus, etc., on a liberal scale by way of compensating them for the services they have already rendered to India and for leaving it at a time when they have not provided for their future living. The *Pioneer* points out that these apprehensions have no real basis and the present political manifestations are only passing phases of a changing country struggling to assert her legitimate destiny and scope for development. We believe this view is correct, though we think that the majority of European officials and others in India have only to adjust themselves to the new situation in India and recognise the change from subjection to freedom which the Indian people are anxious to bring about as speedily as possible. Being themselves lovers of national freedom, and being born and trained in an atmosphere of national and individual liberty, Englishmen living in India can easily sympathise with and help their fellow creatures in India, if they like. But if they have been too long accustomed to a bureaucratic order and autocratic way of doing things to change their mental outlook or habits now, there is no doubt that they should find a more congenial place for themselves. There is no race hatred in India, whether among the educated classes or the ignorant masses, who are all prepared to welcome people of any one race as equal citizens or brothers; but there is no opportunity for any one lordling it over another.

China policy in the works

Unclear if Biden administration will go for 'semi containment' or selective engagement



MANOJ JOSHI

DISTINGUISHED FELLOW, OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

AS of now all we have of the US-China policy are words, from President Biden, his aides like Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and his National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan. In his first speech to the Congress at the end of last month, Biden talked tough on China, saying that Washington 'would stand up to unfair trade practices, subsidies to state-owned enterprises and theft of US technology and intellectual property'. Adding that the US would maintain a strong military presence in the Indo Pacific 'not to start a conflict, but to prevent one'. But the bottom line was that the competition with China was not only military, but also economic and technological.

The message sent out by Blinken and Sullivan is that the goal of the US policy is not to contain China, and that Quad is about an 'affirmative agenda' which involves upholding international law and human rights, as well as promoting strategies of development and mitigating climate change.

The comprehensive review of a new US policy towards China is still being worked out, and it's not clear whether the Biden administration will follow Trump's policy of selective containment, or craft a new one of selective engagement. The problem is that Biden must write on a palimpsest that is not exactly blank. The US-China tariff war, US sanctions on certain technology categories, Hong Kong developments, threats to Taiwan, eastern Ladakh faceoff, are realities that a US President cannot ignore. As it is, the



HEAD-TO-HEAD: The bottom line is that the competition with China is not only military, but also economic and technological. REUTERS

Biden has repeatedly asserted that the real issue is US recovery and that the way to go is to outcompete China in a range of areas.

mood in the US is very anti-China, and Biden has to worry about being outflanked on the issue by Trump who retains an iron grip on the Republican Party which will do its best to wrest away the House of Representatives from the Democrats in the off-year elections in November 2022.

Whatever be the political imperatives, the US has to consider the ongoing economic costs of Trump's 'semi containment of China'. In a recent article, former US diplomat Chas Freeman noted that the US farmers have lost most of their \$24 billion Chinese market, US companies have had to cut profits and wages and raise prices for US consumers, and almost no jobs have been re-shored back to the US. By 2025, the US can expect job losses topping 3,20,000 and a GDP \$1.6 trillion less than what it would have been otherwise because of its China restrictions.

Biden has repeatedly asserted that the real issue is US recovery and that the way to go is to outcompete China in a range of areas. Even the Interim

Security Guidance issued by his administration notes that to be strong abroad, 'the United States [needs] to build back better at home.' Biden has unfolded a plan whereby this can be done, but so divided is the US polity that he is likely to face an uphill struggle in trying to get the Congress to appropriate the money needed to repair the decaying US infrastructure, raise federal spending in R&D and education.

The US travails are there for all to see. The grip of racism in its political culture is only matched by the obstinate refusal by significant sections of Americans to accept that in their society today there are people — minorities, women, the poor — who need a leg-up. In the present situation, as Freeman puts it, the US needs to show that it is 'better governed, better educated, more egalitarian, more open, more innovative, healthier, and freer society'.

Biden is not seeking conflict abroad, leave alone with China. But the poison pills left behind by the

Trump team are like landmines scattered around the landscape. For example, the use of the word 'genocide' for the persecution of Muslims in Xinjiang. What is happening in Xinjiang is unacceptable and a gross violation of human rights, but it is not 'genocide' of the kind the Nazis conducted against the Jews. If Xi Jinping was actually presiding over such an act, how could the US, or for that matter the world community, have normal relations with China?

But the Democrats find themselves pushed by the Trump positions. Last year, the Democrats removed the phrase 'one China' from their election platform. And Biden became the first President, since the US recognised the People's Republic of China, to invite the Taiwan ambassador to his inauguration. Last month, the US announced that it was easing restrictions on official US contacts with the Taiwan government. Not surprisingly, Chinese actions and rhetoric around Taiwan has become more belligerent. In his confirmation hearings in the US Senate, Admiral John Aquilino, the Biden administration's nominee for the commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command, has said the danger of the Chinese use of force against Taiwan 'is much closer to us than most think'. This cannot but have the most catastrophic consequences for China itself, and by extension, the rest of the world.

But Biden accurately sees the challenge of China as being economic and technological. Militarily, actually, the US remains far superior to China, which today accounts for 30% of the world's manufactures, and has become the largest consumer market. American, or for that matter Japanese and European prosperity, depend, in some measure, on stable ties with China. For that reason, Biden would much prefer a strategy of selective engagement. One that will seek to build the strongest possible coalition of friends and allies to push Beijing in the right direction.

Granny, the unsung Covid warrior

RADHIKA SINGH

AT 86, when my grandmother came down with Covid, our initial reaction was of outright panic. She is overweight, has weak lungs and what may medically be called a frail heart. But she also possesses unshakeable faith, an indomitable spirit and a perpetual quest for knowledge. During this illness, while we fretted on how to reach out to her and comfort her, she found herself becoming increasingly self-reliant and enjoying her solitude. Tasks like bathing, cleaning her room, organising medicines became everyday adventures. We would make frantic calls if she wouldn't answer her phone on the first go, only to find

her busy cleaning her temple for morning prayers. We would worry when she would be active online at 2 am, only to be admonished by her later about our constant anxiety. She was engrossed in a particularly engaging interpretation of the Ramayana, she would tell us, and lost track of time.

My granny has always liked a full house, and has openly received the love of daughter and daughters-in-law alike, been adored by her grandchildren and is now doted upon by her great-grandchildren. Her heart is full of love and her pantry, full of food, so it's no surprise that everyone constantly wants to be close to her. But as Covid hit, and we all worried about the implications of the ensuing isolation, she got busy

preparing herself for her 'tapasya'. She turned inwards like never before. Read. Reflected. Ruminated. There was such a visible change in her way of talking, such peace in her voice and clarity in her words.

Today, she narrated a story to me over the phone. At the time of marriage, Goddess Parvati was the epitome of love; coy, homely and caring, but wise beyond her years. Lord Shiva, on the other hand, was a 'vairagi', a wanderer, and could not be tied down. She, who was a nurturer and caregiver, soon started feeling desolate in his company. What was to be done? She told the Lord of her predicament, who smiled knowingly, and flung his 'trishul' down. It landed firmly at Kashi. This is your

abode, he told her. Here you will be worshipped as Annapurna, the Goddess of food and nourishment, and all of humanity will feed at your bosom. Those who invoke you will never go hungry.

At the end of her story, she lovingly told me that those like my mother, who have taken to feeding people during this pandemic, are the embodiment of Ma Annapurna. Love and respect them, she said, and value the nourishment you get from your home and kitchen. My grandmother is a terrific storyteller, and this is but a small example of the everyday wisdom she has been imparting to us through her tales. At 86, she has truly emerged as the hero of her own story and there's a lesson in it for all of us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cap on reservations

Reservations have been a contentious issue and a subject of multiple SC judgments. An important element of this issue is determining the extent to which reservations can be provided. By what degree can the opportunities afforded to the backward classes exceed those of the rest of society? The question has been explored in the cases of MR Balaji, T Devadasan and Indra Sawhney, all agreeing on capping the reservation limit at 50%. Recently, the SC in the Maratha reservation case has upheld and furthered the same opinion. The rationale for affixing a limit on the quantum of reservations is that in the pursuit of making provisions for the advancement of backward classes, the rights and claims of other members cannot be undermined. The rights exercised by one group cannot override the other; and therefore, it is imperative that they be balanced against each other. Hence, seats reserved for backward classes should be complemented by seats open for competition in a manner that is reasonable and that does not jeopardise the efficiency of the administration.

NISSIM AGGARWAL, CHANDIGARH

At someone else's cost

Apropos of 'Pandemic's vultures', when the whole country is in the need of cooperation among all its citizens

in the deadly second wave of the pandemic, there are some people who are using this time to earn money through black marketing. What will people do by earning money at the cost of the misery of other people? It is a very sad reality of our society.

BITISH PANDIT, SUNHET

Show compassion

The significance of benevolence and brotherhood should not be undermined at any cost in these testing times ('Let us fight Covid crisis calmly and collectively'). When most of us are in trouble, the best thing to do for all of us is to show compassion to all. It is time to extend a helping hand to a person who is neither physically nor financially sound. We can accompany those patients to hospitals who have been abandoned by their near and dear ones or donate money to those who can't buy food, medicines, masks, sanitisers, etc. If we will work together, only then we will win this war.

SUNIL CHOPRA, LUDHIANA

Forgotten humanity

At a time when Covid-19 is raging like never before, it is shocking how some humans are behaving, hiking ambulance and oxygen charges. When I was nine years old, in 1955, I was a witness to severe floods in Punjab. Every home in the town was cooking

meals for families who had shifted from affected areas to dharamshalas and schools, even as young men were building walls of earth filling to divert the flow of water. What have we learnt in the past six decades? To become selfish and loot when we get a chance? However, some NGOs have come to the rescue of those suffering and providing help with transport, langar and medicines.

OP GARG, PATIALA

Cummins shows the way

With reference to *The Sunday Tribune*, 'Cometh the hour, Cummins the man'; the second wave of corona has shaken India badly. Amid the greed for money and glamour, world's cricketers are eager to get into the IPL. In this era, keeping humanity alive with such a sporting spirit is an example in itself, which an Australian player did. It was also a slap in the face of Indian players and IPL organisers. Indian players should also become partners in this initiative. Cummins has certainly won the hearts of millions of Indians.

SIKANDAR BANSAL, SHIMLA

Government's version

Reference to 'Why India is getting bad press'; even if the government side is friendly with foreign media and tries hard to justify its viewpoint, what explanation will it give

to the visual proofs of people running from pillar to post for hospital beds, oxygen, medicines; people dying on the roads, and the long queues for cremation? No journalist worth his salt would buy the government explanations! The only explanation the government has is that it didn't expect such a deadly onslaught of the second wave. Also, it was busy in holding political rallies and allowing religious events like the Kumbh mela.

LALITA JAGMOHAN SINGH, CHANDIGARH

Go for joint farming

Refer to 'Joint farming boon for Dalit in trying times'; it is relevant in the pandemic times. The Sangrur model should be implemented all over Punjab so that the downtrodden can get employment with dignity. Common and reserved land should be given to landless labourers. The Dalits are 32% of the state's population but barely own 3% of the land. Major political parties are wooing Dalit voters by promising them the post of deputy Chief Minister to their community, but are silent on providing them viable extents of agricultural land. The need of the hour is joint farming as many farmers and labour organisations are on agitation path over the three farm laws.

JANAK RAJ SARANGAL, GURDASPUR

Election verdict a pushback for BJP policies



ZOYA HASAN

PROFESSOR EMERITA,
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

THE results of the just-concluded Assembly elections give us an indication of ground-level political changes in the key states of Assam, West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. While it's important to understand the results in terms of state-specific factors, the overall political outcome indicates a successful assertion of local/regional politics against the majoritarian-authoritarian politics of the BJP. The centrality of the local is visible from the Lokniti-CSDS survey which underlines the primacy of local factors and state leaders with a mass base in determining the choices of voters. The reasons for this vary from state to state but the limits of Hindutva's expansionist politics and its agenda of polarisation are apparent. This has decisively dashed the BJP's avaricious plans of conquering new territories.

These setbacks suggest that the polarising rhetoric of Hindu nationalism doesn't thrive everywhere in India, especially in regions with a distinct culture, a history of social movements, strong secular tradition, and where vernacular languages hold primacy instead of Hindi. It showed how stunningly out of touch the BJP is from the political reality in these states where it was holding Uttar

Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's road shows, chanting slogans of Jai Shri Ram, talking love jihad and trying to excite Hindus with anti-Muslim dog whistles. None of this seems to have worked. The BJP lost decisively in Kerala (not winning a single seat), its alliance lost in Tamil Nadu (BJP won only four seats), and it lost spectacularly in Bengal (winning 77 seats, way short of 200 it boasted). The central point of the election outcome is that the majority of Hindus voted against the BJP to keep it out of power in three important states.

But this rebuff did not occur in the core areas of BJP's support base in northern and north western India and these will be tested in the polls in 2022. The RSS has changed the political discourse in these states, especially in UP. But it would be a mistake to presume that issues of unemployment, jobs, farmers' distress, regressive farm laws and the massive Covid mismanagement will not matter in India's most significant state. In addition to Covid, the continuation of the farmers' revolt, which began in November 2020, is likely to shift the balance of forces in many of these northern states, from Haryana to UP to Gujarat.

The gross mismanagement of the public health crisis in UP makes it one of the worst hit states with high case-load and fatalities. UP has an archaic and creaky medical infrastructure which is collapsing as Covid rages unchecked through the state with people running from pillar to post in search of hospital beds, including in the big cities of Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad and Banaras. The situation in villages and small towns is much worse. The virus has now reached rural parts

What the pandemic has done, unlike the disaster of demonetisation, is bring to the fore the BJP's incapacity for governance. It has shown the sheer incompetence of the majoritarian model of governance, which is just not suited for running a modern state. The administrative ineptitude is impossible to ignore even for those intoxicated by the right-wing's electoral successes.

ROADBLOCKS: The BJP's plans to make inroads in certain states has suffered a setback. PTI



where people are struggling to breathe.

However, the state government is claiming that it has the situation under control. This shows how completely unmindful it is of human suffering. Amid the surge of the virus, the Chief Minister has issued orders to set up help desks for the protection of cows in each district of the state and has directed that Covid-19 protocols are maintained at all cow shelters, including stocks of equipment like oximeters and thermal scanners "for cows and other animals as well". The order comes while UP suffers from a crippling shortage of medical supplies and oxygen. Instead of tackling oxygen shortage, the government has slapped an FIR on a Lucknow city

hospital, accusing it of spreading false rumours of shortage.

While people in the state are desperate for oxygen, its Chief Minister denies there's even a problem. The denialist rhetoric and the government's indifference to the crisis will impact the BJP's popularity in UP. A report in Mint pointed out that even hardcore BJP supporters and party workers are sharply criticising the government's maladministration in WhatsApp groups in UP. The growing anger against the BJP leadership's handling of the Covid crisis has found resonance in the panchayat polls. Opposition parties have won close to 50 per cent of all seats contested and swept districts which are BJP strong-

holds. The BJP is losing ground in Ayodhya, Varanasi, Mathura and Gorakhpur which is an important development given how much political attention has been showered on these cities by the government.

But let's not forget that Modi and the BJP have the ability to turn things around. They did it after demonetisation, sweeping UP in the 2017 Assembly elections even though everyone had predicted an adverse fallout for the party. However, the post-Covid situation is different. What the pandemic has done, unlike the disaster of demonetisation, is bring to the fore the BJP's incapacity for governance. It has shown the sheer incompetence of the majoritarian model of governance based on a politics of hate and

obscurantism which is just not suited for running a modern state. It's not simply a failure of the Indian State but a failure of the BJP model of the State. The administrative ineptitude and the government's insensitivity are impossible to ignore even for those intoxicated by the right-wing's electoral successes.

The huge governance failure in UP, in contrast to Kerala, for example, reminds us during the worst crisis, that a governance model can make the difference between life and death, and the absolute criticality of a politics based on empathy, concern, planning and human development in comparison with one based on building religious places of worship and vanity projects such as the Central Vista in the Capital in midst of the calamitous second wave.

The BJP's defeat in West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu shows the limits of Hindutva. It shows regional parties can overpower Hindutva at the state level and hence the BJP cannot assume a natural monopoly over state politics. However, regional politics cannot counter the hold of Hindutva in UP which has been the BJP's pathway to power in 2014 and 2019. The Hindutva project has built an enduring communal majority in the Hindi heartland. Its overwhelming size and support in this region give the BJP an overwhelming advantage over its rivals. Therefore, majoritarianism and the claim of the majority to dominate have to be challenged in these states. The most effective way of doing this, apart from building big-hearted alliances, is to claim greater equality of rights of every section of the people and region, and not simply the inclusion of minorities through the revival of pluralism.

Onus on Rahul to take up the gauntlet



RASHEED KIDWAI

SENIOR JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR

Some of Rahul's close aides claim that the Gandhi family wishes to take a back seat and let a non-Gandhi head the organisation. This strategy, according to its backers, would save the Gandhis from the constant criticism of controlling the party. If Rahul stands by the parameters that he had articulated at the time of his resignation in 2019, the Congress' internal contest would not only be democratic, but also full of interest.

A moment of reckoning has come for Rahul Gandhi. The former AICC chief has to take a call whether he wishes to return as the 87th president of the grand old party or allow a non-Gandhi to head the Congress.

The party's interim chief, Sonia Gandhi, unwilling to continue particularly after another debacle in the recent Assembly polls in Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu, has decided to accept the Madhusudan Devram Mistry report that had been gathering dust since January this year. Mistry heads the Congress panel on internal party elections, known as the Central Election Authority (CEA). Though the Covid-19 crisis has been cited to defer these elections, the Gandhis' game plan seems to be to buy more time.

The term of the new party chief is currently for just one-and-a-half years' duration. According to Mistry, who heads the CEA, the new president will be elected by the 1,000-odd AICC delegates and not by the traditional electoral college consisting of PCC delegates (numbering around 13,000), spread all over the country. Article XVIII [h] of the Congress Constitution stipulates the election of a 'regular president' by the AICC if the party president resigns. Rahul Gandhi was elected as the 87th president of the AICC in December 2017 for a period of five years. He, however, resigned in May 2019 owning responsibility for the Lok Sabha poll debacle. The term of the 'regular president' will be till



CALL FOR CHANGE: The Congress needs to resolve its leadership crisis. REUTERS

December 2022 when fresh polls have to be called in which the PCC delegates will get to vote.

A section of the Congress thinks Rahul has been reluctant to don the mantle of leadership. In his scheme of things, neither he, nor a member of his family (read Priyanka Gandhi Vadra) should be in the fray. In fact, Rahul would not even want Sonia or Priyanka to indicate their preference for the new party chief. If Rahul stands by the parameters that he had articulated at the time of his resignation on May 25, 2019, the Congress' internal contest would not only be democratic, but also full of interest.

The outcome of the recently concluded Assembly polls in Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry has been telling. It has come with the writing

on the wall that every Congress leader wanted to avoid reading. It told them once again that the grand old party is incapable of winning on its own. The future appears bleak unless the Congress relies more and more on regional parties that are not part of the NDA. In other words, the Congress, rather a large number of Congressmen, is beginning to realise that the grand old party is no longer a national alternative to the BJP.

In a more immediate sense, the 2021 verdict was a bigger setback to Team Rahul which was hoping to officially take control of the party apparatus. The stature of KC Venugopal, the AICC general secretary in charge of the party organisation, has in particular, taken a beating. Traditionally, the AICC general secretary in charge of the organisation is seen as the unofficial number

two or three in the hierarchy. KCV, as he is addressed in the party circles, hails from Kerala and is said to be the chief architect of Rahul's 'Mission Kerala'. Congress insiders insist that while opinion and exit poll surveys kept predicting an LDF victory in Kerala, Rahul was convinced that the May 2 verdict would prove them wrong. Apparently, Rahul was constantly flooded with 'in-house' reports forecasting a UDF victory in Kerala and the Congress-led 'Mahajot' alliance in Assam. Rahul perhaps has reasons to feel dejected as the entire 'feedback' system was 'doctored' or 'tailor-made' to stoke his desire.

Dithering and reluctant post-defeat, Rahul is said to have retreated into a shell. Some of his close aides claim that the trio of Rahul, Sonia and Priyanka wish to take a back seat and let a non-Gandhi head the organisation. This strategy, according to its backers, would save the Gandhis from the constant criticism of controlling the party. The names of Mukul Wasnik, Bhupesh Baghel and Ashok Gehlot are doing the rounds.

Some Congress leaders think Rahul somehow fancies himself in the mould of his grandfather Feroze Gandhi, an able parliamentarian who had created a niche for himself in the Nehruvian era. Among the many qualities that Feroze had, he excelled as democracy's David. Old-timers recall how Feroze had brought down Prime Minister Nehru's Finance Minister TT Krishnamachari, much to his chagrin. If Rahul focuses on the parliamentary wing of the Congress, would Priyanka Gandhi attend to the party's organisa-

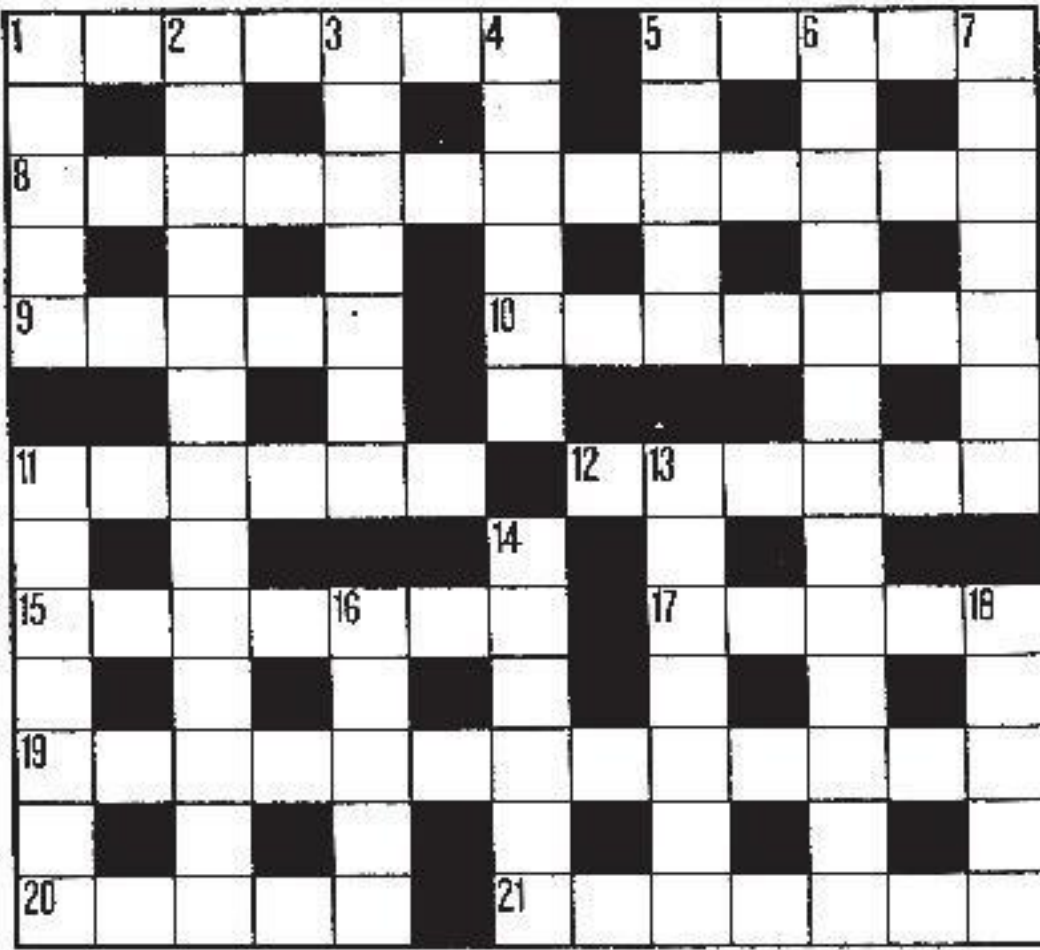
tional and electoral campaign?

Incidentally, the fall of the Congress has not been sudden. There have been many decisions that systematically damaged the Congress over the decades. Rajiv Gandhi, for instance, after getting 400-plus Lok Sabha seats, had decided that those sitting MLAs would be denied a ticket where the Lok Sabha party candidate secured less votes than the Opposition despite winning. This witch-hunt of sorts had opened the floodgates for every aspiring MLA candidate to sabotage the elections to discredit the sitting MLA.

Sonia Gandhi, who took over as the AICC chief in 1998, took an informal decision not to let a party leader who has lost elections twice, get nominated to the Rajya Sabha. Many Congress leaders of stature and roots missed Upper House berths even as Sonia went on to nominate retired bureaucrats, businessmen and politicians who had crossed over from other parties. Then came Rahul Gandhi's saga of experimenting with the internal elections for the Indian Youth Congress and the NSUI where money and enmity entered virtually every block unit. It led to a lot of manipulation and acrimony but some utopian elements kept convincing Rahul to continue till he himself realised the futility of it.

By December 2022, several Assembly polls, including in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, will be over and the countdown for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections would begin. Rahul would then perhaps be better placed to return as the Congress president.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Haydn, 8 One or two, 9 Forge, 10 Pinpoint, 11 Peril, 12 End, 16 Gaiety, 17 Infant, 18 Elm, 23 Motor, 24 Alter ego, 25 Frump, 26 Dead duck, 27 Means.
Down: 2 As one man, 3 Dog-tired, 4 Ensign, 5 Poppy, 6 Staid, 7 Route, 12 Eye, 13 Dim, 14 Of course, 15 In common, 19 Legacy, 20 Gaudy, 21 Steal, 22 Pride.

SU DO KU

			2	6		8				4
5			4			1	3			
9	7					1	6			
4		7		3			5			
		5		7		2		4		
		8			1		9		6	
			9	1				2	7	
		2	6			5				8
3					2		7	4		

V. EASY

CALENDAR

MAY 11, 2021, TUESDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2078
■ Shaka Samvat	1943
■ Vaisakh Shaka	21
■ Vaisakh Parvishte	29
■ Hijari	1442
■ Krishan Paksha Tithi 15, up to 12.30 am	
■ Soubhagya Yoga up to 10.41 pm	
■ Bharni Nakshatra up to 11.31 pm	
■ Moon in Aries sign	
■ Vaishakh Amavas	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

7	5	6	4	1	8	3	2	9
4	9	3	7	6	2	1	8	5
8	1	2	5	9	3	4	6	7
3	6	4	2	8	7	5	9	1
9	7	5	1	3	6	8	4	2
2	8	1	9	5	4	7	3	6
5	3	9	8	2	1	6	7	4
1	4	8	6	7	9	2	5	3
6	2	7	3	4	5	9	1	8

FORECAST

SUNSET: TUESDAY 19:06 HRS
SUNRISE: WEDNESDAY 05:31 HRS



CITY	MAX	MIN	
Chandigarh	36	24	
New Delhi	38	24	
Amritsar	37	23	
Bathinda	41	25	
Jalandhar	38	23	
Ludhiana	39	23	
Bhiwani	41	26	
Hisar	42	25	
Sirsa	41	27	
Dharamsala	29	15	
Manali	20	09	
Shimla	23	14	
Srinagar	24	10	
Jammu	37	22	
Kargil	13	06	
Leh	09	02	
Dehradun	33	20	
Mussoorie	18	11	

TEMPERATURE IN °C

58 villagers test +ve in Mandi post wedding

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, MAY 10
There can't be a bigger proof of marriages proving to be Covid super spreader than the case of Kass Gehra village in Sarkaghat sub-division of Mandi district where 58 residents from one ward have tested positive, post-wedding celebrations.

The administration, led by the Sarkaghat SDM, today visited the village to distribute Covid medical kits to the positive villagers. There was a wedding in the village on April 27-28, which possibly resulted in the virus being transmitted. The Deputy Commissioner, Mandi, has sought a report.

Men, women and children of all age groups in the village have been infected with the virus and not even one house in the ward is without an

Men, women and kids of all age groups infected

infected person. All of them have been isolated and medical teams will monitor their condition round the clock.

Despite the best efforts and strict curbs being imposed by the government, people are still behaving in the most irresponsible manner and attending marriages as seems to be the case in Sarkaghat. Though only 20 people are allowed to attend a marriage, people are flouting norms with impunity.

“Though there are videos of the police challaning people in marriages, there is no dearth of people happily violating the norms,” lamented an officer in Kangra, the worst-hit district.

10 trains cancelled on Kalka-Shimla track

AMBIKA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, MAY 10
Reeling under low occupancy due to Covid, only one train will be plying on the UNESCO's World Heritage Kalka-Shimla rail track now, while 10 others have been cancelled since yesterday.

Rail officials said initially two trains were cancelled, but seeing the low occupancy, operations of all trains except Kalka-Shimla Express, which takes off from Kalka at 6.20 am and reaches Shimla at 11.35 am, have been suspended since May 9.

Among the trains that have been cancelled include Kalka-Shimla rail motor special, which covers a distance of 96 km in approximately 4.25 hours.

Train journey is specially preferred by tourists who are enchanted by the pic-



A view of the deserted railway station in Shimla on Monday. PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

turesque panoramic view of the hills.

Tourists from Gujarat, West Bengal and those from South India as well as foreigners often travel on this track.

Rail traffic was suspend-

ed last year too in March during the first wave of the Covid pandemic. It had resumed gradually from October with online bookings having been introduced initially.

Trains had started register-

ing usual occupancy later, but when the second wave of the pandemic struck the country, the occupancy dipped again and the Railways started incurring losses in keeping all trains operational, said an official.

Services stopped on Jogindernagar section too

PALAMPUR, MAY 10
The Railways today suspended its services on the 120-km Kangra valley narrow gauge rail line following restrictions by the state government on the movement of passenger vehicles.

Before Covid crisis, seven trains were plying on the route daily covering 33 stations like Nurpur, Jwali, Jwalamukhi Road, Kangra, Nagrota Bagwan, Chamunda, Palampur, Baijnath and Jogindernagar, which are the major tourist attraction centres.

Kangra DC Rakesh Prajapati said the situation in Kangra was alarming. He did not want to take any risk, therefore, stringent measures were being adopted. — OC

4,359 fresh Covid cases, 53 deaths in state

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, MAY 10
As many as 4,359 Covid cases were reported in the state today, taking the tally to 135,782. Besides, 53 persons died of the virus in the past 24 hours. Eighteen deaths were recorded in Kangra, eight in Solan, seven in Shimla, five each in Mandi and Sirmaur, four in Chamba, three in Una, two in Hamirpur and one in Kinnaur.

Kangra reported the highest 1,543 cases, followed by 438 in Sirmaur, 424 in Una, 402 in Solan, 381 in Hamirpur, 317 in Bilaspur, 269 in Chamba, 241 in Shimla, 147 in Kullu, 96 in Mandi, 74 in Kinnaur and 27 in Lahaul and Spiti. The number of active cases rose to 34,417.



COVID METER		
Samples tested	16,45,146	
Recovered	99,400	
Active cases	34,417	
Positive cases	135,782	
Deaths	1,925	
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Una	8,909	136
Solan	16,784	161
Kangra	27,806	530
Chamba	6,184	75
Hamirpur	9,383	115
Sirmaur	10,505	100
Mandi	18,509	222
Bilaspur	8,218	37
Shimla	18,383	407
Kullu	6,753	103
Kinnaur	2,153	26
Lahaul & Spiti	2,195	13
Total	135,782	1,925

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS (B&R Works)
NIT No. 16/SE(TIC), Dated: 10.05.2021

The department of Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana (B&R) invites online double bids for 05 Nos. works (under PUEIP) as per schedule given below:-

Last date of online submission of bidding document	Opening of bidding documents	
Technical Bid	Financial Bid	
24.05.2021 up to 5:00 p.m.	25.05.2021 at 11:00 a.m. in the office of SE(TIC), Zone A, MCL	Will be intimated later on

For details logon to:- eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note:- Detail of works, other terms & conditions & tender documents any corrigendum/addendum to the tender notice shall be published on above website only.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (TIC),
Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

DPR/Pb/4418

HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Haryana Undertaking)
Bays No 59-62, Sector 2, Panchkula.
Phone: 01722567945

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)
Tender Enquiry No.: 176/Tend/COR/2020-21/3/4-A

Online Tender for the Rate Contract for the supply of Medicine to Various Hospitals of Government of Haryana for a Period of Six Months for "Group B" Medicine and documents can be downloaded from 10.05.2021 onwards on e-procurement portal www.etenders.hry.nic.in.

For Managing Director,
HMSCL, Panchkula.

PRDH/2222/11/51/2022/2892/31/4

After discharge from Covid centre, 80-yr-old 'dumped' on roadside

RAJIV MAHAJAN

NURPUR, MAY 10
Batan Singh (80), a poor resident of Jassur gram panchayat in Nurpur, was abandoned on the roadside near his house by an ambulance of the Health Department yesterday after his discharge from a dedicated Covid care centre at Dharamsala in Kangra district. Even his family was reluctant to take him inside the house.

Batan Singh was found infected on May 1 and locals shifted him to the district Covid care centre the same day. It could be a communication gap in contacting his family before discharging the octogenarian from the Covid care centre or

WAS SUPPOSED TO QUARANTINE AT HOME

■ The resident of Jassur in Nurpur was kept at the Covid care centre for 10 days and was to undergo home quarantine for seven more days.

■ After discharge, he was abandoned on the roadside near his house by an ambulance.

■ Even his family was reluctant to take him inside the house

negligence on the part of the ambulance driver, who left him on the roadside instead of leaving him with his family.

On seeing Batan Singh's predicament, the gram panchayat contacted the Kangra DC, who asked the SDM to

take necessary steps.

Nurpur SDM Surinder Thakur told *The Tribune* that he first coordinated with the SDM and Zonal Hospital authorities, Dharamsala, to get information on Batan Singh. "As per the new guidelines of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, he was kept at the Covid care centre for 10 days and was to undergo home quarantine for seven more days. The local gram panchayat was given directions to shift him into home isolation," he said.

Dr Gurdarshan Gupta, Chief Medical Officer, Kangra, denied any lapse on the part of the Health Department but said it might be an error on the part of ambulance driver.

Haryana Medical Services Corporation Limited
(A Government of Haryana Undertaking)
Bays No. 59-62, Sector 2, Panchkula
Phone: 01722567945

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)
Tender Enquiry No.: 175/Tend/COR/2020-21/3/4-A


Online Tender of Medical consumables for a period of Six Months procurement of Logistics for Corona virus, Haryana of "Group C" and documents can be downloaded from 10.05.2021 onwards on e-procurement portal www.etenders.hry.nic.in.

For Managing Director,
HMSCL, Panchkula.

PRDH/2222/11/53/2022/2894/31/4

चुविष्टी चं.डी.एल.-33004/99

REGD.NO. D.L.-33004/99


भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India
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EXTRAORDINARY
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NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021/VAISAKHA 16, 1943

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 6th May, 2021

S.O. 1774(E).— In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of Delhi - Amritsar - Ludhiana - Katra National Highway (NH-NE5) in the stretch of land from Km. 175.9 to Km. 177.8 (Sunam Tehsil) in the district of SANGRUR in the state of PUNJAB, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Sunam in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE
Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling in the Delhi - Amritsar - Ludhiana - Katra National Highway (NH-NE5) in the stretch of land from Km. 175.9 to Km. 177.8 (Sunam Tehsil) in the district of SANGRUR in the state of PUNJAB.

State: PUNJAB		District: SANGRUR			
Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
Taluk: Sunam					
Village: Ghanaur Jattan (100)					
1	15/15/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0126000 (Hectare)	0.0126000
2	15/15/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0253000 (Hectare)	0.0253000
3	15/16	Private	Agriculture	0.0632000 (Hectare)	0.0632000
4	15/25	Private	Agriculture	0.0126000 (Hectare)	0.0126000
5	15/4	Private	Agriculture	0.0253000 (Hectare)	0.0253000
6	15/5/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0051000 (Hectare)	0.0051000
7	16/20/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0126000 (Hectare)	0.0126000
8	16/21	Private	Agriculture	0.0607000 (Hectare)	0.0607000
9	18/17	Private	Agriculture	0.0278000 (Hectare)	0.0278000
10	18/19/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0076000 (Hectare)	0.0076000
11	18/22/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0556000 (Hectare)	0.0556000
12	18/22/2	Common (Common (Gram Panchayat)	Gair Mumkin Rasta	0.0126000 (Hectare)	0.0126000
13	18/23/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0126000 (Hectare)	0.0126000
14	18/24/1/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0506000 (Hectare)	0.0506000
15	18/24/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0253000 (Hectare)	0.0253000

Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
16	30//13	Private	Agriculture	0.0708000 (Hectare)	0.0708000
17	30//14/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0126000 (Hectare)	0.0126000
18	30//2/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0126000 (Hectare)	0.0126000
19	30//2/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0202000 (Hectare)	0.0202000
20	30//3/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0253000 (Hectare)	0.0253000
21	30//3/2	Common (Common (Gram Panchayat)	Gair Mumkin Rasta	0.0051000 (Hectare)	0.0051000
22	30//4/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0658000 (Hectare)	0.0658000
23	30//8	Private	Agriculture	0.0759000 (Hectare)	0.0759000
24	34//11/1/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0202000 (Hectare)	0.0202000
25	34//11/1/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0228000 (Hectare)	0.0228000
26	34//11/1/3/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0051000 (Hectare)	0.0051000
27	34//12/1/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0253000 (Hectare)	0.0253000
28	34//20/1/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0910000 (Hectare)	0.0910000
29	34//20/1/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0455000 (Hectare)	0.0455000
30	34//20/3	Private	Agriculture	0.0025000 (Hectare)	0.0025000
31	35//15/1	Common (Common (Gram Panchayat)	Gair Mumkin Rasta	0.0051000 (Hectare)	0.0051000
32	35//15/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0126000 (Hectare)	0.0126000
33	35//16/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0126000 (Hectare)	0.0126000
34	35//16/2	Government (Provincial Government)	Gair Mumkin Rasta	0.0202000 (Hectare)	0.0202000
35	35//16/3	Private	Agriculture	0.0228000 (Hectare)	0.0228000
36	46//12	Private	Agriculture	0.0051000 (Hectare)	0.0051000
37	46//19	Private	Agriculture	0.0379000 (Hectare)	0.0379000
38	46//22	Private	Agriculture	0.0506000 (Hectare)	0.0506000
39	5//13	Private	Agriculture	0.0126000 (Hectare)	0.0126000
40	5//24	Private	Agriculture	0.0126000 (Hectare)	0.0126000
41	51//13/2	Private	Agriculture	0.0051000 (Hectare)	0.0051000
42	51//13/3	Private	Agriculture	0.0506000 (Hectare)	0.0506000
43	51//13/4	Common (Common (Gram Panchayat)	Gair Mumkin Rasta	0.0051000 (Hectare)	0.0051000
44	51//17/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0303000 (Hectare)	0.0303000
45	51//18/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0455000 (Hectare)	0.0455000
46	51//2	Private	Agriculture	0.0177000 (Hectare)	0.0177000
47	51//24/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0759000 (Hectare)	0.0759000
48	51//3/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0051000 (Hectare)	0.0051000
49	51//8/1/2	Private	Agriculture	0.1239000 (Hectare)	0.1239000
50	59//4/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0177000 (Hectare)	0.0177000
51	59//6	Private	Agriculture	0.3288000 (Hectare)	0.3288000
52	63	Government (Provincial Government)	Gair Mumkin Minor	0.0126000 (Hectare)	0.0126000
Total				1.8206	1.8206

[F. No. NHA/PIU/LDH(Expway)/701/LA/2020/DAKE-1/3A2]
RAJESH GUPTA, Director

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਮੰਡੀ ਬੋਰਡ
ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਬੋਲੀਆਂ ਮੰਗਣ ਦਾ ਨੋਟਿਸ
ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਨੰ. 04 ਮਿਤੀ: 10.05.2021

ਕਾਰਜਕਾਰੀ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ (ਸ), ਪੰਜਾਬ ਮੰਡੀ ਬੋਰਡ, ਫ਼ਰੀਦਕੋਟ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੰਤਰ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਫ਼ਰੀਦਕੋਟ ਅਧੀਨ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਮੰਡੀ ਬੋਰਡ ਨਾਲ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਯੋਗ ਠੇਕੇਦਾਰ/ਵਰਮ/ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ ਪਾਸੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਬੱਧ ਦਰ ਉੱਪਰ ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰਿੰਗ ਵੈਬਸਾਈਟ: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> ਰਾਹੀਂ ਟੈਂਡਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। ਵੇਰਵਿਆਂ, ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ ਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਬੱਧਾਂ ਨਾਂ ਬੋਲੀ ਸੱਦਾ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਲਈ ਵੈਬਸਾਈਟ ਤੇ ਹਵਾਲਾ ਲਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਲਗੀ ਨੰ.		ਕੰਮ ਦਾ ਨਾਂ/ਵਰਕ ਡੇਰਡ ਨੰਬਰ/ਕੋਡ ਦਾ ਸਮਾਂ
1	2	
1		ਕੋਸਟਰਗਰਜ਼ ਆਫ ਏ.ਪੀ.ਐੱਫ. ਐਂਡ ਰੋਡਜ਼, ਡੀ.ਐੱਸ. ਫਲੋਰਿੰਗ ਐਂਡ ਸਟੀਲ ਫਿੱਟ ਸਾਈਜ਼ 35X35 ਇੰਚ ਪ੍ਰਦੇਸ਼ ਸੈਂਟਰ ਜਵਾਹਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਲਾ, ਮਾਰਕੀਟ ਕਮੇਟੀ, ਕੋਟਕਪੂਰਾ, ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਫ਼ਰੀਦਕੋਟ, ਵਰਕ ਡੇਰਡ 21-001

ਸ਼ੁੱਧੀ-ਪੇਂਟਰ, ਜੇਕਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ਤਾਂ ਸਿਰਫ ਵੈਬਸਾਈਟ 'ਤੇ ਹੀ ਜਾਰੀ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ।

ਸਹੀ/- ਕਾਰਜਕਾਰੀ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ (ਸ),
ਪੰਜਾਬ ਮੰਡੀ ਬੋਰਡ, ਫ਼ਰੀਦਕੋਟ

DPR/Pb/4426


SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Short term Tender is hereby invited from the reputed firms for the Annual Maintenance Contract for NEC make Telecom EPABX System containing 400 extension expendable 600 Digital Exchange and 64 P&T Lines installed in Haryana Civil Secretariat. Before submitting quotation, the EPBAX System may be inspected in Room No. 50-B, 5th Floor, Haryana Civil Secretariat, Sector-1, Chandigarh. A copy of terms of Agreement and scope of work may be taken from the office of Administrative Officer, Haryana Civil Secretariat. The terms of agreement are to be given duly signed by alongwith Tender. The rate should be quoted on percentage basis on the total value of the equipment. The firm shall have to deposit the security of Rs. 10000/- in the shape of Bank Draft in favour of Under Secretary (General) to Government, Haryana alongwith the tender.

The last date of submitting the Tender is 25.05.2021 by 02.00 PM and all the Tender will be opened by the Committee on the same date in the office room of undersigned at 03.00 PM. The undersigned shall have the right to accept or reject any Tender without assigning any reason.

Sd/- (KARISHAN KUMAR)
Under Secretary (General) to Government, Haryana

PRDH/1016/11/3/2022/2887/31/4

**HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED**
(“A State Govt. Undertaking”)
Telephone No. : CE(PC/A) 0177-2813166 (Office), 2657057 (Fax)
Website : www.hpseeb.com | E-mail : chiefengineerpcpa@gmail.com

Appointment Notice

Applications on prescribed format are invited for filling up the following posts of Junior Draughtsman (Civil), Junior Engineer (Civil and Junior Engineer (Mech) and on contract basis in HP State Electricity Board Ltd. By way of special Drive under persons with Disability (PWD) Act 1995 on contract basis. Candidates who are bonafide Himachali and possess the requisite qualification as shown below can apply:-

Name of Post	Junior Draughtsman (Civil)	Junior Engineer (Civil)	Junior Engineer (Mech)
Total No. of Post	1 No.	2 Nos.	1 No.
Category	Genl. (Divyang)	Genl. (Divyang)	Genl. (Divyang)
Category of Disability	Orthopaedically	Hearing Impaired & Orthopaedically Handicapped	Hearing Impaired & Orthopaedically Handicapped
Pay band/ Grade Pay	Rs. 6400-20200+3050 Grade Pay	Rs. 10900-34800+4350 Grade Pay	Rs. 10900-34800+4350 Grade Pay
Class	III	III	III
Qualification	Minimum matriculation and 10+2 from the School/Institution situated within H.P. Diploma or Degree in Architectural/Assistance ship/Architecture by whatever named called from a recognized Board/Institution/ University established by law by the state/ Central Govt. Or Course in the trade of Draughtsman ship/Diploma in Draughtsman ship by whatever name called from a polytechnic institute/ITI	Minimum Matriculation with Diploma in Civil Engg. From the recognized Institute / University	Minimum Matriculation with Diploma in Mech. Engg. From the recognized Institute / University

- The detailed information in this regard can be viewed on HPSEBL website www.hpseeb.in
- The applicant should not be less than 18 years and not more than 45 years as on the last date of receipt of application provided that the age is relax able in accordance with the instructions issued by the H.P. Government from time to time.
- No TADA will be payable to the applicant for appearing in written/viva voce test.
- The application form as per performa complete in all respect must reach in the office of Chief Engineer (PCA), HPSEBL, Vidyal Bhawan, Kumar House, Shimla - 171004 on or before 10.06.2021 for normal area and 20.06.2021 for tribal area candidate (Residing in Tribal & difficult area)
- No application shall be entertained after the due date.

Save Energy for the Benefit of Self and Nation

Chief Engineer (PCS)
HPSEBL, Shimla-4



A heavy rush at a wholesale vegetable and fruit market in Jammu after the administration announced relaxation from 6 am to 10 am during the Covid lockdown on Monday. PTI

Covid lockdown in Leh extended till May 17

JAMMU, MAY 9
The Ladakh administration today extended till May 17 the curfew imposed in Leh to curb the spread of Covid-19. The curfew was earlier scheduled to end on Monday. The UT of J&K had announced lockdown extension a day before. Leh District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Chairman Shrikant Suse said stringent action would be taken against violators. Shops selling essential items, including grocery, meat, chicken, dairy products, vegetables and bakeries, would open from 8 am to 1 pm daily, he said. Essen-

3,614 new cases in J&K, 138 in Ladakh
■ J&K Covid caseload mounted to 2,20,546 on Monday as 3,614 more people tested positive while the death toll climbed to 2,782 with 56 more fatalities.
■ Ladakh saw 138 fresh cases and two deaths. With this, Ladakh's tally has climbed to 15,317 and the death toll has reached 155.

Stressing that people were exploiting relaxation and exemptions, he said the movement of vehicles would not be allowed. The DDMA office would provide vehicle movement passes on need basis for emergencies, he added. Suse requested people to not spread rumours and appealed to them to comply with the standard operating procedure. The restrictions, he said, would help health employees get a "much-needed" break. He also sought feedback from the head of departments regarding the rosters prepared for government employees. — PTI

FROM PAGE 1

In HP, Covid negative report must for labour..

48 bodies...
and Rs 6,000, have gone up manifold. Now the charges range from Rs 16,000 to Rs 20,000. This may also be the reason for people abandoning bodies.”
However, District Magistrate of Buxar Aman Sameer said, “After finding the bodies on the banks of the Ganga, senior officials rushed to the spot to assess the situation. They have found that the bodies reached the district with the river current. Till now, we have found 48 bodies and made all arrangements for their respectful disposal.”
Meanwhile, officials from UP's Gamhar block of Ghazipur district have also reached Buxar and coordinated efforts are on to ensure that bodies are not thrown in the river, a district officer said.
The Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) KK Upadhyay said the matter was under investigation. “We are alerting officials near the ghats to ensure this does not happen again,” he added.

Covid cremation norms being flouted in Rohtak
crematoriums in the city for the last rites of Covid victims. Though health officials telephonically remain in touch with home isolated patients or their families, several cases are learnt to have come to the fore where the last rites were performed without informing the authorities.
The Deputy Commissioner has ordered the Rohtak Municipal Commissioner and all Block Development and Panchayat Officers to ensure strict compliance with norms related to cremation of those succumbing to the virus.
“It is apparent that over the past few days, the deaths of Covid patients who are in home isolation have been increasing and their families aren't disposing of the bodies as per protocol. This may cause the virus to spread more rapidly,” read the DC's order. The order also asked the officials to ensure the kin of the deceased informed nearby hospitals about the death.
DSP Gorakh Pal Rana said police personnel had been deployed at crematoriums in view of the DC's order.

Nepal PM loses trust vote
new PM even as Oli, till reports last came in, was ready to battle it out. Prime Minister Oli secured 93 votes in the lower house of parliament during a special session convened on the directives of the President. Oli required at least 136 votes in the 275-member House to win the confidence motion as four members are currently under suspension.
A total of 124 members voted against the confidence motion while 15 members stayed neutral, Speaker Agni Sapkota announced. The session was attended by 232 lawmakers.
Some 28 Lawmakers belonging to Oli's rival faction led by Madhav Nepal-Jhala Nath Khanal abstained during the voting. The main opposition Nepali Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre), which control 61 and 49 votes, respectively, voted against Oli's trust motion.
The political uncertainty in Nepal comes at a time when it is battling a rise in Covid cases. This is an issue that Oli has seized upon by writing an

BBN belt was one of the worst hit during the first wave
during the first wave, and this time too there appears to be no let-up in the surge. As many as 55 deaths have been reported in the fresh

PDP leader Akhtar released after 5 months
SRINAGAR, MAY 10
Three days ahead of Eid ul Fitr, the authorities today released People's Democratic Party leader Naeem Akhtar from preventive detention after five months, the party said.
Akhtar was released after remaining in “illegal” incarceration for five months, a PDP spokesman said.
Welcoming the release, PDP general secretary Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura demanded the release of other political prisoners as well. Hanjura termed their detention illegal. — PTI

ICU beds...
FROM PAGE 1
oxygen-supported bed occupancy rate is 54.3%, exerting daily pressures on the system unless active cases reduce. “Even as we ramp up critical care and hospital infrastructure to deal with active cases, we have to work to reduce the caseload for which local restrictions in areas with high positivity rate are important to break the chain of transmission,” AIIMS (New Delhi) Director Randeep Guleria said as the virus moved to tier 2 and 3 cities.
Meanwhile, the daily new cases today dropped to 3,66,161, a much needed dip after four straight days of more than 4 lakh cases each. The daily fatalities were also down to 3,754 after two days of more than 4,000 deaths.

wave in the subdivision while there are 1,230 active cases. With the movement of truckers from several states, including high caseload ones like Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Delhi, and 50,000 industrial workers commuting on a daily basis, the area is highly vulnerable.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB		TENDER NOTICE			
SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN LACS	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS EMAIL
1.	Director, Medical Education & Research, SAS Nagar	Purchase of Machinery/Equipment and Hospital Furniture for COVID-19 Patient at Guru Nanak Dev Hospital, Amritsar, Rajindra Hospital Patiala and Guru Gobind College & Hospital, Faridkot	11.05.2021/ 17.05.2021	3.00 LACS	9878676699 dir.mer@punjab.gov.in
2.	Executive Engineer, Sidhwan Canal Division, Ludhiana	Berm Cutting of Sidhwan Branch from RD 100325 to 106000	20.05.2021/ 20.05.2021	27.00 THOUSAND	8284067800 xensidhwancanal@gmail.com
3.	Executive Engineer, Panchayati Raj, P.W.(C&M) Division, Ludhiana	Construction of OPD Room and Waiting Hall at Indian Medical Association B.R.S. Nagar, Ludhiana (Under Creation of Basic Infrastructure and Renovation)	13.05.2021/ 20.05.2021	19.00 THOUSAND	9814056538 xenprldlhiana@yahoo.com
4.	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, HARIKE CANAL DIVISION, C.C. FERROZPUR	Internal Clearance of Ferozepur Minor RD 0-11000 and Others	10.05.2021/ 20.05.2021	2.27 LACS	9478563858 harikecanalfzr@gmail.com
5.	Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation Division No. 2, Ferozepur	Providing Water Supply Scheme, Attu Wala Hithar, Block Mamdot, Distt Ferozepur Under Head 1a(iii)J/M	10.05.2021/ 20.05.2021	85.75 THOUSAND	9878883040 eewss.div2ferozepurb@yahoo.co.in
6.	Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation Division No. 1, Ferozepur	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme (i) Akku Wala, Block & Distt. Ferozepur (ii) Faride Wala Block & Distt. Ferozepur under Head 1a(iii)J/M	12.05.2021/ 24.05.2021	1.29 LACS	9888775107 eewss.div1ferozepurb@yahoo.com
7.	Executive Engineer, EASTERN CANAL DIVISION, Firozepur	Internal Clearance of (Weed, Jalla, Deela, Sarkanda and Jungle etc.) 63 Nos. works in District Ferozepur & Fazilka	10.05.2021/ 20.05.2021	4.27 LACS	9501005960 xeneastern.fzr@gmail.com
8.	Executive Engineer, Panchayati Raj P.W.D Division, Sangrur	07 Nos. works of Remodeling & Renovation of Ponds in Various Villages in Distt. Sangrur & Barnala	10.05.2021/ 19.05.2021	4.24 LACS	9814331751 xenprnsangrur@yahoo.in
9.	Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 2, PWD (B&R) Br; Amritsar	Special Repair of link road in M.C. Patti Phase-II due to repair for the year 2018-19 (Balance Work) Group No. 1, 2, 3 and 4	11.05.2021/ 25.05.2021	6.88 LACS	9814096455 xenc2amritsar@yahoo.com
10.	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division PWD B&R Br; Amritsar	Patch Work on Various Link Roads falling in Market Committee Majitha, Mehta & Rayya in District Asr.	12.05.2021/ 22.05.2021	1.48 LACS	9417025026 eepdasrprwdpb@gmail.com
11.	Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, S.A.S. Nagar	Repair of Water Recharging-cum-Silt Detention Structure	05.05.2021/ 20.05.2021	11.50 THOUSAND	7009699037 dsco.dswc.sasn@punjab.gov.in
12.	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, Water Supply and Sanitation Div. No. 2, Tarn Taran	Providing Water Supply Scheme, Ruriwala Bifurcation from Existing WSS Chohla Sahib (MH/PC) Block Chohla Sahib, Distt. Tarn Taran (UNDER PRWSSIP 1A-II)	10.05.2021/ 15.06.2021	1.50 LACS	9915708385 eedwssdiv2tt@gmail.com
13.	Executive Engineer, Construction Division PWD B&R Branch, Sirhind	S/r various Premature link roads falling in M.C., Amloh (G.No. 1, 2 & 3) Year 2020-21 Wid & Culvert Phase-2, M.C. Amloh/Sirhind.	07.05.2021/ 21.05.2021	10.66 LACS	9814182766 eecdsrhndprwdpb@gmail.com
14.	Executive Engineer, Panchayati Raj C&M Division, Patiala	Construction of main road to Colony from Ablowal Inderpura main road at New Sudhar Colony, Ward No. 1, Ablowal Block Patiala, District Patiala.	10.05.2021/ 21.05.2021	99.00 THOUSAND	9814040079 xenprdpatalia@yahoo.in
15.	Executive Engineer, Majitha Division UBDC, Amritsar	Internal Clearance/Strengthening of weak Banks, Ghats, (Berm/silt) of weed, jungle, jaala, deela etc. manually from inner section and repair Disty, Minors etc.	19.05.2021/ 19.05.2021	0.00 LACS	9878692188 majithadivnubdc@gmail.com
16.	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, B&R Branch, Sangrur	2 No. Building works in Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital at Sangrur	11.05.2021/ 31.05.2021	15.21 LACS	9878360786 xenprovincialsangrur@yahoo.com
17.	Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation Division No. 1, Hoshiarpur	Prov. Boring and installing a tubewell 150mm i/d straight 140mtr. Depth with R/R Rig. Rising main, chlorination plant, etc. at W/S sch. Pathralian, Block Hoshiarpur-I, Distt. Hoshiarpur under Head 4215/J/M Bid Cost: 6.84,351/-	11.05.2021/ 21.05.2021	13.68 THOUSAND	9878899443 eewss.div1hoshiarpurb@yahoo.com
18.	Executive Engineer, Punjab Water Supply and Sanitation Division No. 1, Jalandhar	PROVIDING ESTATE WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, RAIN HARVESTING & FIRE FIGHTING ARRANGEMENT AT BABA SAHEB BHIM RAO AMBEDKAR GOVT. COLLEGE AT BOOTA MANDI, DISTRICT JALANDHAR	24.05.2021/ 25.05.2021	51.00 THOUSAND	9814704392 eewss.div1jalandharpb@yahoo.com
19.	Executive Engineer, Construction Div. No. 2, PWD (B&R) Branch, Jalandhar Cantt.	WDG/REPAIR/RE-CONST. OF BRIDGES AND CULVERTS & COMPACTION OF E/W TO OPEN GRADED P.C. ON APPROACHES, OF VARIOUS L/Rs FALLING IN M.C. JAL. CITY IN DISTT. JAL. UNDER 200 CR. PROJECT PHASE-2	10.05.2021/ 24.05.2021	1.10 LACS	9814800787 EECD2JALPWDPB@GMAIL.COM
20.	Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Talwara (Hoshiarpur)	Augmentation Water Supply Scheme, Village Nangal Awana, Block Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur. (Under PRWSSIP) 2a(i)+J/M) Bid Cost 9.36 Lac.	11.05.2021/ 24.05.2021	18.71 THOUSAND	9501099773 eewss.divtalwarapb@yahoo.com
21.	Executive Engineer, Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Kapurthala	Bifurcation of Water Supply Scheme, Dewlanwala, Block Kapurthala (Cost 46.38 lac) Distt. Kapurthala (Under 1a(ii)J/M)	10.05.2021/ 25.05.2021	0.92 LACS	9872017183 xen.kapurthala@gmail.com
22.	Executive Engineer, Lehla Division IB, Patiala	Estimate for laying Underground Syphon at RD 99272 of Ladbanjara Disty	11.05.2021/ 21.05.2021	4.98 THOUSAND	9646407185 xeniblehal@gmail.com
23.	Executive Engineer, Water Supply and Sanitation Division No. 2, Patiala	Re-invitation for work of providing Improved Access to water through Household Connections in existing W/S Scheme Bakraha of Block-Patran, Distt. Patiala Under Sub-component 2a(i) of Punjab Rural W/S & Sanitation Sector Improvement Project & J/M	12.05.2021/ 27.05.2021	9.50 THOUSAND	8146385234 xenrws_pta@yahoo.co.in
24.	Executive Engineer, Gurdaspur Division UBDC, Gurdaspur	Estimate for Berm Cutting and Silt Clearance of Various Distributary System 1 to 8	10.05.2021/ 19.05.2021	1.62 LACS	9501233559 eeubdc@gmail.com
25.	Executive Engineer, Construction Division, PWD B&R Branch, Nabha	S/R to various Link Roads (Year - 2020-21) (Premature) Falling under the Jurisdiction of Constituency Nabha, M.C. Nabha. Under Head-8443	11.05.2021/ 25.05.2021	1.85 LACS	9872202660 xenprdpatalia@yahoo.in
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND CORRIGENDUM & ADDENDUM, IF ANY, KINDLY VISIT: https://dswcpunjab.gov.in , http://eproc.punjab.gov.in , www.eproc.punjab.gov.in					

DPR/Pb/4441

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA						TENDER NOTICE	
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL	
1	HSPV ROHTAK	DEVELOPMENT OF BALANCE AREA IN SECTOR 5 URBAN ESTATE ROHTAK	CLOSING DATE 19.05.2021	EMD 77000/-	etenders.hry.nic.in	9215501732 xendiv1.rtk@gmail.com	
2	HARYANA BOARD CORPORATION/THE PANIPAT CENTRAL COOPERATIVE BANK LTD. PANIPAT	E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF 38INCHES DOUBLE DOOR FOR OPEN GODREJ LOCKERS WITH NEW SUBZ-MANDI PANIPAT BRANCH	05.05.2021/ 24.05.2021	10 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9053083006 itcel@postpanipat.org.in	
3	HSPV GURUGRAM	BALANCE SCOPE OF WORK IN COUNTRY CLUB, HEALTH CLUB & SWIMMING POOL IN SECTOR-56, GURUGRAM.	05.05.2021/ 31.05.2021	11.11 LACS	www.hspv.hry.org.in	9999615511 xen1hudaggn@gmail.com	
PRDH/13/2022/60/2891/1/31/4						FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in	

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA						TENDER NOTICE	
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL	
1.	MC SONIPAT	BUILD-OPERATE-TRANSFER PARKING AND AUTO STAND IN MASAD MOHALLA AND OPPOSITE KACCHEY QUATAR M.C. SONIPAT	CLOSING DATE 19.05.2021	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	cemcsonopat@gmail.com	
2.	MC PANCHKULA	UNIFORMS OF SAFAI KARAMCHARIS WITH STITCHING (GRADO SUITINGS NO. 154111, GRADO SUITINGS NO. 901614) ONE WINTER AND ONE SUMMER UNIFORM, TWO PAIR SHOES (MALE AND FEMALE) MAKE BATALIBERTY/ LAKHANJIA/CONTO/ MILANO FH 181	07.05.2021/ 18.05.2021	EMD 50000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9050060000 xenmcpk@gmail.com	
3.	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KHARKHODA	SWEEPING OF RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL AREA IN MC KHARKHODA AND COLLECTION OF WASTE DURING SWEEPING TIME AND TRANSPORTATION AT DUMP SITE KHARKHODA.	CLOSING DATE 17.05.2021	36.96 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416002295 secymckkd201@gmail.com	
4.	UHBVN	HIRING 1 NO OUTSOURCED VEHICLE BOLERO/TATA SUMO ALONG WITH DRIVER FOR S/D RAJOUND FOR OFFICE USE TO BE USED 24 *7 UNDER DIVISION UHBVN PUNDRI	CLOSING DATE 13.05.2021	Rs. 6000/- per vehicle	www.uhbvn.org.in	9354726133 xenoppundri@uhbvn.org.in	
5.	HVPNL	CREATION OF LILO OF ONE CIRCUIT OF 132 KV D/C DADIBHANA- LOHARU LINE AT 132 KV S/STN SATNALI WITH 0.4 SQ" ACSR ZEBRA CONDUCTOR (NIT NO. 22 /PD&C DATED 07.05.2021)	10.05.2021/ 23.06.2021	EMD 19.20 LACS	www.hvpnl.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvpnl.org.in	
6.	HVPNL	16/20MVA 132/11KV POWER TRANSFORMER (NIT NO. 1182 DATED: 06.05.2021)	11.05.2021/ 11.06.2021	24.37 LACS	www.hvpnl.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvpnl.org.in	
7.	HVPNL	100MVA 220/33KV POWER TRANSFORMER (NIT NO. 1183 DATED: 06.05.2021)	11.05.2021/ 11.06.2021	92.87 LACS	www.hvpnl.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvpnl.org.in	
8.	HVPNL	REPAIR, MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE ROAD IN THE PREMISES OF NRB AT 220 KV S/STN SHAHABAD (NIT NO. 6/AMB/220 KV SHAHABAD/2021-22 DATED: 10.05.2021)	10.05.2021/ 24.05.2021	19.19 LACS	www.hvpnl.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvpnl.org.in	
9.	THE SONIPAT COOPERATIVE SUGAR MILLS LTD. SONIPAT	PURCHASE OF DOMITE TIP SIZE 90 X 90 MM. U TYPE WITH H.T. BOLT 7/8" X 45 MM. LONG AND LOCK WASHER OF FIBRIZER (MAKE JUPPER) + 17 OTHER WORK	07.05.2021/ 15.05.2021	2.50 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9728310002 sonipatsugar@gmail.com	
10.	UHBVN	NIT NO.2/SK-1/2021/2022 DATED 10.05.2021 FOR HIRING OF 1 NOS. VEHICLE (JEEP WITH HARD TOP I.E. BOLERO/SUMO) FOR USE S.D.O (OP) SUB DIVISION UHBVN NILOKHERI UNDER XEN S/U DIVN. NO.1, UHBVN, KARNAL.	CLOSING DATE 24.05.2021	6000/-	www.uhbvn.org.in	9315457383 xenopus1karnal@uhbvn.org.in	
PRDH-13/2022/200/2890/1/31/4						FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in	

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA						TENDER NOTICE	
Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL	
1	PWD (B&R) SIRSA	UPGRADATION OF MASITAN TO DABWALI VIA SHERGARHI IN DABWALI BLOCK IN SIRSA DISTT. PMGSY-III BATCH-II T-14 REINVITED	12.05.2021/ 26.05.2021	338.50 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666220530 pwd-eeepd1-sirsa@hry.nic.in	
2	PWD (B&R) SIRSA AMBALA CANTT	CONST. OF MUKUND LAL CIVIL HOSPITAL AT YAMUNA NAGAR (PDG. CCTV CAMERA SYSTEM). + 6 OTHER WORKS	13.05.2021/ 27.05.2021	246.63 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2630877 pwd-eeed-ambala@hry.nic.in	
3	WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT, SONIPAT	ABOUT PROCUREMENT OF FOOD ITEMS FOR ANGANWADI CENTRES OF DISTRICT SONEPAT	30.04.2021/ 19.05.2021	30 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416306381	
4	IRRIGATION HANSI	EXTENSION OF WATERCOURSE AT OIL RD 8215-L RAIPUR MINOR + 16 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 24.05.2021	68 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466063030 xen-wshansi.irr@hry.gov.in	
5	IRRIGATION JIND	RE-MODELING OF WATER COURSE OIL RD 62365 JD NO 4	17.05.2021/ 18.05.2021	6.76 LACS	hid.gov.in	9464040970 xenconstdivjind@gmail.com	
6	HEALTH DEPARTMENT NARNAUL	TENDER FOR COVID 19 KIT IN DISTRICT MAHENDERGRAH	10.05.2021/ 13.05.2021	20 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	dhs.csmhn@hry.nic.in	
7	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING SIRSA	ESTIMATE FOR REPAIR OF EXISTING WATER WORKS STRUCTURES, LAYING OF WATER SUPPLY PIPE LINE AND FHT CONNECTION AT VILLAGE SAHUWALA-I, DISTT. SIRSA (UNDER J/M) 'LAYING OF DISTRIBUTION PIPELINE, PROVIDING FHT CONNECTION, REPAIR OF EXISTING WATER WORKS STRUCTURES AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO AT VILLAGE SAHUWALA-I AND 2 OTHERS	10.05.2021/ 17.05.2021	92.52 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-221925 ee2sirsa@phedharyana.gov.in	
8	IRRIGATION KURUKSHETRA	REPLACEMENT OF 02 NO. 5 CS. VT PUMP WITH 01 NO. 10 CS. AND 01 NO. 05 CS. VT PUMP AT PERMANENT PUMP HOUSE 47.01 K.M. LEFT OF SYL NEAR VILLAGE KIRMICHI IN WATER SERVICES MECH. SUB DIVISION, KURUKSHETRA. (TOTAL 02 WORKS)	07.05.2021/ 17.05.2021	77.05 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	01744-239164 xenwsdivnkra@gmail.com	
9	PWD(B&R) HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF APPROACHES OF 2 LANE ROB AT LC NO. 114 AT KM 1721-2 ON REWARI-HISAR BHATINDA RAILWAY LINE ON ADAMPUR TO DAROLI ROAD IN HISAR DISTT.-RECALL	14.05.2021/ 27.05.2021	1775.35 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812306111 pwd-eeepd1-hissar@hry.nic.in	
10	REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT HARYANA	PROVIDING SANITATION SERVICES (PROPER AND EFFICIENT CLEANING) ON ALL DAYS EXCEPT SUNDAYS OF ALL THE FLOORS AND BASEMENT ALONGWITH OPEN AREA OF HARYANA NEW SECRETARIAT BUILDING, SECTOR 17, CHANDIGARH FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01/06/2021 TO 31/03/2022.	11.05.2021/ 24.05.2021	60 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7696016009 ddofcr5@gmail.com	
PRDH/11/2022/200/2890/1/31/4						FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in	



GLOBE TROT



RISKING LIVES: Migrants board an overcrowded ferry to get home to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr after Bangladesh announced restrictions due to Covid in Munshiganj, on Monday. REUTERS

China to draw 'separation line' at Mt Everest peak

BEIJING: China will draw a "separation line" atop Mount Everest to prevent Covid from being spread by climbers ascending Nepal's side of the mountain. A team of Tibetan mountaineering guides will set up the separation line at the peak before climbers attempt to reach the summit from the Chinese side, Xinhua said. It is not clear what the separation line will be made of. AGENCIES

Racial attack on Indian-origin woman in Singapore

SINGAPORE: In an apparent incident of hate crime, a man hurled racial slurs and kicked a 55-year-old Indian-origin woman in Singapore for not wearing a mask. Hindocha Nita Vishnubhai, a private tutor, was brisk walking on Friday morning when she was attacked, her daughter Parveen Kaur told the Channel News Asia. The assailants is yet to be identified. The police have lodged a case. PTI

UK lowers Covid alert level

Daily death count falls sharply | Cautious hugging, pints in pubs from May 17

LONDON, MAY 10 British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will set out on next Monday the next phase of lockdown easing, giving the green light to "cautious hugging" and the serving of pints inside pubs after months of strict restrictions. News about the next easing, to begin on May 17, comes as the country's chief medical officers lowered the Covid alert level, meaning that an epidemic is in general circulation, but transmission is no longer high or rising exponentially.

The five-level alert system was devised last year to determine the levels of lockdown and social distancing required to keep the rate of infections from the deadly virus under check.

In a statement, the medical officers said social distancing and the rapid vaccine rollout had helped to bring Covid cases and daily deaths down sharply. "However, Covid is still circulating with people catching and spreading the virus every day, so we all need to continue to be vigilant," they said.



Amid concerns over Covid spread, pupils attend an outdoor class at a primary school in Staffordshire, Britain. REUTERS

S AFRICA WARNS OF 'VAX APARTHEID'

Johannesburg: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has said that if wealthy nations hogged Covid shots while millions in poor countries died, it would amount to "vaccine apartheid". He sought support on waiver of vax intellectual property rights. REUTERS

ANTI-TRAVEL BAN PLEA DISMISSED IN Oz

Melbourne: A Sydney court has dismissed the plea of a 73-year old citizen, stranded in Bengaluru, against the ban on return from India. Justice Thomas Thawley said it was clear that the chief medical officer thought further relief would come by preventing further entry. PTI



Transmission no longer rising exponentially in UK

Britain is in the process of gradually lifting its latest lockdown over a period of months, in line with a four-

step plan unveiled in February. Under Step 3, from May 17 people will be permitted to meet up indoors for the first time in months, in groups of

up to six people or two full households together. Pubs, cafes and restaurants will be able to host customers indoors. — Reuters

Pak to set new rules to meet FATF norms

ISLAMABAD, MAY 10 Pakistan, keen to exit from the grey list of the FATF, is set to introduce new rules relating to anti-money laundering cases and change the prosecution process to meet its remaining tough conditions, a media report said on Monday.

Pakistan was put on the grey list by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global watchdog for money laundering and terror financing, in June 2018 and the country has been struggling to come out of it.

The Dawn newspaper reported that the changes being made also include the transfer of investigations and prosecution of anti-money laundering (AML) cases from police, provincial anti-corruption establishments (ACEs) and other similar agencies to specialised agencies.

This is part of two sets of rules including the AML (Forfeited Properties Management) Rules 2021 and the AML (Referral) Rules 2021 under the National Policy Statement on Follow the Money approved by the federal



BAJWA IN KABUL

■ Pakistan's Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa met Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and senior leader Abdullah Abdullah in Kabul.

■ He reiterated that Pakistan would continue to support the Afghan-led peace process based on mutual consensus of all stakeholders.

eral Cabinet meeting a few days ago, the report said.

These rules and related notifications for certain changes in the existing schedule of Anti-Money Laundering Act 2010 (AMLA) would come into force immediately. Based on these measures, the FATF would conclude if Pakistan has complied with three outstanding benchmarks, out of 27. — PTI

UN's planned Xinjiang event an insult: China

BEIJING, MAY 10 China's foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on Monday that the use of the United Nations as a platform for a virtual event on the repression of Uyghur Muslims and other minorities in Xinjiang was an insult to the institution.

China has urged United Nations member states not to attend the virtual event, planned by Germany, the United States and Britain. "The US has banded up with

Denounces US appeal for Taiwan to join WHO meeting

several countries, abused the United Nations' resources and platform, and smeared and attacked China to serve its own interests," she said at a daily news conference in Beijing. "This is total blasphemy against the United Nations," she said. — Reuters

Sikhs killed in Indianapolis remembered

WASHINGTON, MAY 10 Extending condolences to the bereaved families and friends of the victims of the recent shooting in the US state of Indianapolis, Congresswoman Victoria Spartz, in her address to the House, has honoured four Sikhs who lost their lives in the violence.

They were killed last month in the mass shooting at a FedEx facility, staffed by a large number of Indian-American employees, in Indianapolis. — PTI

11K anti-junta academics, varsities' staff suspended

NAYPYITAW, MAY 10 More than 11,000 academics and other university staff opposed to Myanmar's ruling junta have been suspended after going on strike in protest against military rule, a teachers' group has said.

The suspensions come as the resumption of universities after a year closed due to the Covid epidemic prompts a new confrontation between the army and the staff and students who are calling for boycotts over the

Were on strike against military rule

February 1 coup. As of Monday, more than 11,100 academic and other staff had been suspended from colleges and universities offering degrees, an official of the Myanmar Teachers' Federation said, declining to be identified for fear of reprisals. — Reuters

Hamas fires rockets, tension escalates



An Israeli policeman points a pistol at an assailant to protect a Jewish driver, who was attacked by Palestinian protesters at Jerusalem. Violent protests were seen against planned eviction of Palestinians. There were reports of rocket firing by Hamas towards Israel, escalating the tension. AP/PTI

BUSINESS

USD \$	EURO €	POUND £	JPY ¥	YUAN ¥	CAD C\$	AUD A\$	SGD S\$	HKD HK\$
₹73.35	₹89.23	₹103.49	₹0.67	₹11.44	₹60.52	₹57.83	₹55.41	₹9.45

BSE	NSE	GOLD	SILVER
295.94 49,502.41	119.20 14,942.35	₹45,910 Mumbai (MCX)	₹71,500 Mumbai (MCX)

The Tribune CORPORATE BROADBAND

LIC relaxes claim settlement requirement amid pandemic

To facilitate speedy settlement of death claims in the prevailing situation, LIC has allowed alternate proofs of death such as death certificate, discharge summary/death summary containing clear date and time of death issued by Govt./ESI/armed forces/corporate hospitals in lieu of municipal death certificates and counter-signed by LIC class I officers or development officers along with cremation/burial certificate.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana extended till June

After the successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) I & II during 2020, the Government of India has extended this scheme for another two months for May and June. Around 79.39 crore beneficiaries are covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). All beneficiaries are being provided 5 kg foodgrain per month free of cost over and above the NFSA allocation to combat the economic impact of Covid on the poor.

First Indo UK Clinic becomes operational in Ludhiana

Indo UK Clinics (IUCs), an integral part of one of the largest health-care projects in the world encompassing 5,000 clinics and 11 medicines par-India using NHS expertise, equipment and suppliers, has started operations in Ludhiana. The objective of setting up 5,000 diagnostic centres and clinics is a part of inter-governmental discussions held between India and the UK at Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2018.

Bajaj Finserv unveils 'Savdhan Rahein. Safe Rahein' campaign

Bajaj Finserv has launched public awareness campaign, 'Savdhan Rahein. Safe Rahein', across digital and social media platforms to educate customers and public at large on financial fraud risks and how to stay protected.

Through this initiative, the company aims to convey an important message to strictly avoid making any refundable advance payments in the name of loan processing fee, bank charges, GST, verifications etc. and verify all loan offers at the Bajaj Finance's official website only.

Bajaj Auto clocks sale of 3,48,173 units worldwide

Bajaj Auto has clocked worldwide sales of 3,48,173 units. Of this, 2,21,603 units were exported and the company emerged as India's No. 1 motorcycle manufacturer in April 2021. The company's export income stood at Rs 12,687 crore, with 52% of its volumes exported to over 79 countries.

Govt eases grant of provisional, family pension amid Covid surge

In view of the Covid pandemic, instructions have been issued for grant of provisional pension in accordance with Rule 64 in all cases where there is a delay in sanction of regular pension. In case of death of a government servant during service, provisional family pension may be sanctioned immediately on receipt of claim for family pension and death certificate from the eligible family member, without waiting for forwarding of the family pension case to pay and accounts office.

HDFC Bank, CSC join hands to bring chatbot 'Eva' for VLEs

HDFC Bank and Common Services Centres (CSCs) have announced the launch of chatbot 'Eva' on CSC's Digital Seva Portal to support Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) in providing banking services for last-mile rural consumers.

JB Chemicals & Pharma enters nephrology segment in India

JB Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (JBCPL) has forayed into nephrology segment with a new dedicated division called 'Renova' which will endeavour to serve patients who are under treatment for chronic kidney disease (CKD). It will focus on comprehensive renal care.

Axis MF unveils 'Axis Global Innovation Fund of Fund'

Axis Mutual Fund has launched 'Axis Global Innovation Fund of Fund'. It will provide investors with an opportunity to invest in Schroder International Selection Fund Global Disruption, an equity fund that aims to provide long-term capital growth by investing in companies worldwide that benefit from disruption.

HLP Group organises free anti-Covid vaccination camp

Realty developer HLP Group recently held a free anti-Covid vaccination camp for its employees and their immediate family members. The drive was conducted at the site office of HLP Galleria, Sector-62 (Phase 8), Mohali. As many as 235 people were vaccinated during the camp.

Tecno Mobile brings back doorstep delivery facility

Tecno has reactivated its doorstep delivery initiative with its largest retail network of 50,000+ outlets to offer the convenience of stay-at-home shopping amid the pandemic. It will give consumers access to buy Tecno smartphone of their choice from the safety of their homes.



Vehicle registration dips 30% in FY21, says FADA

NEW DELHI, MAY 10 The total vehicle registrations in India fell by 29.85% to 1,52,71,519 units in financial year 2020-21 — the lowest in the past eight years — the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said on Monday. Total vehicle registrations were at 2,17,68,502 units in fiscal year 2019-20.

All categories of vehicles, except tractors were in red in FY21 with two-wheeler (2W), three-wheeler (3W), commercial vehicles (CV) and passenger vehicles (PV) falling by 31.51%, 64.12%, 49.05% and 13.96% respectively — the lowest in past eight years and way below the FY13 levels, FADA said.

Passenger vehicles registrations were at 23,86,316 units last fiscal, as against 27,73,514 units in FY20, down 13.96%, while those of two-wheelers



LOWEST IN EIGHT YEARS

■ All categories of vehicles, except tractors, were in red in FY21 with two-wheeler, three-wheeler, commercial vehicles and passenger vehicles falling by 31.51%, 64.12%, 49.05% and 13.96%, respectively — the lowest in past eight years

dipped 31.51% to 1,15,33,336 units as compared to 1,68,38,965 units in FY 20.

Three-wheeler registrations in FY21 were down 64.12% at 2,58,174 units, as compared to 7,19,594 units in FY20, while CV registrations

were at 4,48,914 units as against 8,81,114 units, a decline of 49.05%, FADA said.

Tractor registrations, however, grew by 16.11% last fiscal at 6,44,779 units as compared to 5,55,315 units in FY20, it added. — PTI

Norms for undertaking govt biz by pvt banks

MUMBAI, MAY 10 The RBI on Monday issued modified norms that allow private sector banks to undertake government business, whether at the Centre or in states. As per new norms, private sector banks, which are not under the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework of the RBI, can undertake government business after executing an agreement with the central bank. The Finance Ministry in February 2021 had lifted the embargo imposed in September 2012 on further allocation of government business to private sector banks. — PTI

Ola doorstep delivery of oxygen concentrators

NEW DELHI, MAY 10 Ola Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Ola, on Monday said it has partnered with donation platform GiveIndia to provide consumers with oxygen concentrators amid the deadly second wave of the Covid pandemic. The service, which will be provided for free through the Ola app, service will start rolling out in Bengaluru from this week with an initial set of 500 oxygen concentrators. Ola and GiveIndia will scale it up across the country with up to 10,000 concentrators in the coming weeks. — PTI

IOC converts LNG tankers to carry medical oxygen

NEW DELHI, MAY 10 Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is converting 14 liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers into medical grade oxygen carriers as the steps in to augment oxygen-carrying capacity in the country. IOC said it had previously diverted high-purity oxygen used in its Mono Ethylene Glycol unit to produce medical liquid oxygen at its Panipat refinery. In the face of a massive surge in demand for medical oxygen, the oil major is supplying 270 tonnes of liquid medical oxygen per day to the hospitals in Delhi, Haryana and Punjab. — PTI

16 new faces in Didi's cabinet, portfolios allocated

Low-key ceremony amid pandemic | CM retains six ministries, including Home, Health

KOLKATA, MAY 10

At least 43 members of the third cabinet of the Mamata Banerjee government were on Monday sworn in as ministers during a low-key ceremony at the Raj Bhawan, amid the raging pandemic.

Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar administered the oath of office and secrecy to the ministers. Three TMC leaders Amit Mitra, Bratya Basu, and Rathin Ghosh were sworn in virtually. Mitra is unwell and both Basu and Ghosh are recuperating from Covid. Those who were sworn in include 24 Cabinet ministers and 10 ministers of state (independent charge). Eight women were sworn in, and with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the total number of women has increased to nine.

The portfolios were decided at the first Cabinet meeting of the government at the state secretariat. The Chief Minister retained the portfolios of Home and Hill Affairs, Personnel and Administration, Health and



NEW TEAM: Ministers after being sworn in at the Raj Bhawan in Kolkata on Monday. PTI

Family Welfare, Land and Land Reforms and Refugee and Rehabilitation, Information and Cultural Affairs, and North Bengal Development. Almost all senior ministers in the previous administration, including Amit Mitra, Subrata Mukherjee, Firhad

Hakim and Partha Chatterjee, have been retained.

While most of the ministers retained their old portfolios, among those who were given new charge included Partha Chatterjee, who was made Minister for Industry, Commerce, and

Enterprise as well as Information Technology and Electronics and Parliamentary Affairs.

Chatterjee who was the Industry Minister in the first term of the TMC government had been removed from the charge to replace Bratya Basu

SUVENDU IS LoP

Nandigram MLA Suwendu Adhikari was elected as the Leader of Opposition in the WB Assembly. This decision was taken at a meeting of BJP MLAs that was attended by state president Dilip Ghosh and Central observers Ravi Shankar Prasad & Bhupender Yadav



EX-CRICKETER IN TEAM

Former cricketer Manoj Tiwari, BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari's detractor Akhil Giri, senior leader Biplab Mitra and former IPS officer Humayun Kabir are among the 16 new faces

Bankim Hazra and Biplab Mitra will be Ministers for Water Resources Investigation and Development, Sunderbans Affairs, and Agricultural Marketing Departments, respectively. Another newcomer in the Cabinet, Pulak Roy was made Minister for the PHE Department. Chandranath Sinha was given charge of the MSME and Textiles Department.

While Pulak Roy was made Minister for the PHE Department, Swapan Debnath was given the portfolio of the Animal Resources Development Department. Senior leader Subrata Mukherjee was retained as the Minister for Panchayat and Rural Development, Public Enterprises and Industrial Reconstruction Department and veteran Amit Mitra will continue as the states Finance Minister.

Shashi Panja, who is the only woman among the eight women ministers to get a Cabinet rank, will continue as the Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Minister. — PTI



Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi greets the new Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma, in Guwahati on Monday. PTI

Sarma sworn in; 'unhappy' tribals his biggest challenge

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 10

Himanta Biswa Sarma was today sworn in as the Chief Minister of Assam by Governor Jagdish Mukhi in the presence of BJP president JP Nadda and other leaders of the state.

The oath of office was administered to 13 legislators belonging to the BJP and its alliance partners, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL).

They include state BJP president Ranjeet Kumar Dass, Chandra Mohan Patowary, Parimal Suklabaidya, Ronoj Pegu, Sanjay Kishan, Jogen Mohan, Ajanta Neog, Ashok Singhal, Pijush Hazarika, Bimal Bora (all from the BJP), Atul Bora and Keshav Mahanta from the AGP, and Urkhao Gwra Brahma from the UPPL.

Outgoing Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who had proposed the name of Sarma at the legislature party meeting yesterday, was not among them.

By choosing Sarma, the BJP may have avoided a possible rebellion at a time when it failed to win West Bengal and couldn't arrest the spread of Covid. The question about the future of Sonowal, a popular tribal

13 MLAs administered oath of office

ROAD AHEAD FOR SONOWAL

■ It remains to be seen how the BJP placates outgoing CM Sarbananda Sonowal — the face of the party in the last Assembly poll

■ Speculations are rife that he may be handed over the reins of the North-East Democratic Alliance

leader, remains.

Tribals have a significant presence in upper Assam districts of Jorhat, Golaghat, Sivsagar, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Dhemaji and Lakhimpur. Observers say Sonowal and other tribal leaders gave the BJP a foothold in the region. Perceived largely as a "north Indian" party, the BJP was able to garner the support of tribals, including the Kachari tribe to which Sonowal belongs.

Sources say Sonowal is expecting a "meaningful role in the state, not at the Centre". Speculations are rife he may be handed over the reins of the North-East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) in consonance with the BJP's "one man, one post" policy.

Centre defends vax policy, says no room for court intervention

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 10

The Supreme Court on Monday deferred to May 13 the hearing on Covid crisis management due to technical glitches, even as the Centre turned down the court's suggestion for uniform vaccine pricing, saying states have already announced free vaccination for all.

"The server is down today. We will go through the affidavits and keep the matter on Thursday," said a Bench of Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice LN Rao and Justice SR Bhat as the proceedings got hit by technical glitches.

In an affidavit filed on late Sunday night, the Centre cautioned the SC against judicial interference in the matter and asked it to trust the wisdom of the executive which needed the discretion to formulate a policy in the larger interest.

"Any overzealous, though well-meaning judicial intervention, may lead to unforeseen and unintended consequences," the affidavit submitted. The Centre also rejected the court's suggestion to exercise its powers under the Patents Act — such as compulsory licensing or government authorisation — over Covid vaccines and medicines, saying it would be counter-productive at this stage.

The SC had earlier asked the Centre to reconsider its vaccine pricing policy as it

SC defers hearing on Covid crisis to Thursday due to technical glitch

EXECUTIVE'S WISDOM SHOULD BE TRUSTED

“In view of the unprecedented and peculiar circumstances under which vaccination drive is devised as an executive policy, the wisdom of the executive should be trusted.

— Union Government

would prima facie prove detrimental to the right to public health.

Defending its vaccination policy, the Centre said the price factor would not have any impact on the ultimate beneficiary since all state governments had declared they would be administering vaccines to their residents free of cost. The vaccine price was not only reasonable, but also uniform throughout India, it submitted.

"Due to consultations and 'persuasion' by the Centre, both Bharat Biotech and SII have declared their prices which are uniform for all state governments," it said, adding, the new "Liberalised Pricing and Accelerated National Covid-19 Vaccination Strategy" would further ramp up the pace of vaccination.

Central Vista: Delhi HC to take up early hearing on plea to stop work

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 10

The Delhi High Court on Monday agreed to hear on Tuesday a plea for early hearing on a petition seeking stopping construction work related to the Central Vista redevelopment project in view of a sudden spike in Covid-19 cases.

"We are keeping it tomorrow," a Bench led by Chief Justice DN Patel told senior advocate Siddharth Luthra after the latter mentioned it for early listing this morning.

The Central Vista redevelopment plan — which aims to free up 75 acre land in the heart of the Capital — involves demolition of around 10 buildings,



Construction work under way as part of the Central Vista redevelopment project, at Rajpath in New Delhi. PTI FILE

including Shastri Bhawan, Udyog Bhawan, Krishi Bhawan, Vigyan Bhawan, Vice-President's House and Lok Nayak Bhawan.

Announced in September last year, it envisages a new triangular Parliament building, with seating capacity for

more than 1,200 MPs, expected to be constructed by August 2022 when the country will be celebrating 75th Independence Day. The common Central Secretariat is likely to be built by 2024.

Refusing to set aside the clearances given to the Central

Vista Redevelopment Project, the Supreme Court had on January 5 said it couldn't venture into policy matters and areas reserved for the Executive without any legal basis.

On Monday, Luthra explained that after the High Court posted the matter for hearing on May 17, petitioners — Anya Malhotra, who works as a translator, and documentary filmmaker Sohail Hashmi had moved the top court against the High Court's May 4 order.

The High Court had adjourned the matter, saying it wanted to study the top court's January 5 judgment giving a go ahead to the Central Vista project.

Sexual assault: SKM forms panel for women plaintiffs

FROM PAGE 1

the culprits were befittingly punished. "The committee will ensure such incidents don't recur," he said.

The victim's father too narrated how his daughter "wanted the duo punished, but without the farm protest being harmed". On why the case was registered late when he knew of the sexual assault before the victim's death, he said, "I was shaken by the sudden demise of my daughter and how she was tortured by the accused."

The victim's father, meanwhile, today filed a second statement with the Bahadurgarh police stating that only two persons, Anil Malik and Anup Singh, were accused in the case, and that "he had no complaint against the four others named in the FIR". "We want punishment for the guilty, not the innocent.

Hence, the names of the four others should be excluded from the FIR," he demanded.

Yogendra Yadav, another SKM leader, said the police had also included the names of two women activists in the FIR. "The women, in fact, had helped the victim. Their names were not even mentioned by the complainant," he said.

Asked whether union leaders knew about the incident and why a police complaint was not lodged earlier, Yadav claimed they weren't aware about the sexual assault.

Jhajjar SP Rajesh Duggal today inspected the crime spot at Tikri where the Kisan Social Army had pitched its tent. The tent is learnt to have been removed by farmers a few days after the incident came to light. Six persons have been booked in the case.

Plasma use...

FROM PAGE 1

antibodies in immunosuppressed people given plasma therapy. This raises the possibility of more virulent strains developing due to irrational use of plasma therapy which can fuel the pandemic," clinicians said in a signed letter addressed to PM's principal scientific adviser K Vijay Raghavan, ICMR chief Balram Bhargava and AIIMS-New Delhi Director Randeep Guleria.

The signatories, including top vaccinologist Gagandeep Kang, Editor of the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics Amar Jesani and public health researcher Shahid Jameel, said they were willing to assist and appraise evidence critically to inform the policy change they were seeking. "We hope you will look into this as a matter of urgency and get the ICMR and AIIMS guidelines rectified," the signatories said, citing studies on convalescent plasma therapy with none showing any benefits. — TNS

In 17 days, Rlys brings 4,709 MT O2

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, MAY 10

The Indian Railway, with its network spread across the country, is doing its bit in the fight against the pandemic.

Addressing an online press conference on Monday, Railway Board chairman and CEO Sunet Sharma talked about the crucial role being played by the railway for the transportation of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) through the "Oxygen Express" trains.

Since the service was launched on April 24, 295 tankers carrying a total of 4,709 MTs of LMO had been delivered by Oxygen Express trains in various parts of the country till now, Sharma said. The trains have carried out 121 journeys for transportation of the life-saving gas, he said, adding that 744 MTs more of LMO was under movement as he was interacting with the press.



Cryogenic tankers carrying liquid oxygen onboard an Oxygen Express after reaching a railway station in New Delhi. REUTERS

RAILWAYS DELIVERS 225 MT LMO TO DELHI

New Delhi: The Indian Railways has said an Oxygen Express with the highest load of 225 MT Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) was offloaded in Delhi from Hapa, Gujarat, and with this the national transport monolith has so far delivered a total of more than 4,700 MT of life-saving gas to different states/UTs in the country

He said the first experiment of transporting tankers carrying LMOs through trains was carried out on April 19 when six empty oxygen tankers were sent to Vizag from Mumbai. Some more preparatory works

like identification of suitable wagons, manufacturing of ramps for shifting of tankers to railway wagons and so on were carried out following which regular service "Oxygen Express" started from April 24.

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