



On first day, 1 cr register for 18-plus vax despite glitches

Six Oppn-ruled states to delay drive

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 28
Those aged above 18 rushed to register for vaccination starting from May 1 with over 1 crore registering on CoWIN portal on the opening day despite early glitches.

The portal opened for registrations at 4 pm, but did not accept log-in by 18-plus people saying, "valid only for 45-plus". A few minutes later, the government restored the platform tweeting: "CoWIN portal is working. There was a minor glitch at 4 pm that was fixed. 18-plus can register."

"Registration is happening on cowin.gov.in, but appointments will be based on slots made available by the states and private hospitals later," the Health Ministry said.



SHORTAGE PERSISTS: A Covid patient on oxygen provided by NGO Hemkunt Foundation in Gurugram on Wednesday. PHOTO: S CHANDAN

FRESH CASES | DEATHS IN 24 HRS | MORTALITY RATE
3,60,960 | 3,293 | 1.12%

Portal chief RS Sharma said around 80 lakh registered during the first three hours. MyGov CEO Abhishek

Singh said over 1 crore adults registered on CoWIN on Day 1. Despite an enthusiastic registration spree and lowering

HEAVY-LIFT PLANES IN STATE OF READINESS: IAF

The entire fleet of heavy-lift transport planes and a major part of the medium-lift fleet of the IAF is in a state of 24x7 readiness, Air Chief Marshall RKS Bhadauria told PM Narendra Modi at a review meeting. **BACK PAGE**

MAHA EXTENDS LOCKDOWN; 4 DIE IN THANE HOSPITAL FIRE
SII CEO POONAWALLA GETS 'Y' CATEGORY SECURITY

INDIA DECLINES UN AID SUPPLY CHAIN OFFER

India has declined aid offered by the United Nations of its integrated supply chain for Covid-related material, saying the country has a "robust system" to deal with the required logistics. **PTI**

of Covishield cost for states by the Serum Institute of India
CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
EDIT: TIME FOR LEADERSHIP

Covaxin neutralises double variant: US expert

WHO urges India to fill critical gaps in essential med supplies

NEW DELHI, APRIL 28
Days after the ICMR announced indigenous Covaxin worked against the Sars-Cov2 double mutant 617, the US too has endorsed its effectiveness. The mutant, as per the World Health Organisation (WHO), has been found in at least 17 nations.

White House chief medical adviser and leading pandemic

BioNTech: HERD IMMUNITY IN EUROPE BY AUG
Berlin: Europe can achieve herd immunity within the next four months, head of German pharmaceutical company BioNTech, which developed the first widely approved Covid vax with US partner Pfizer, said on Wednesday. **PAGE 10**

expert Anthony Fauci said Covaxin, a Bharat Biotech-ICMR vaccine, had been found to neutralise variant 617. The ICMR had on April 21 said Covaxin

worked against the double mutant. The WHO, meanwhile, has urged India to fill critical gaps in essential medical supplies. — TNS

Covishield price for states cut to ₹300

NEW DELHI: The Serum Institute of India on Wednesday announced a 25 per cent cut in the price of Covishield vaccine for states, saying it will charge them Rs 300 a dose instead of Rs 400 for adult vaccination orders after May 1. The SII has not reduced prices for private hospitals—Rs 600 a dose. — TNS

142 succumb in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28
Punjab reported 142 Covid deaths, the highest ever single-day toll, in the past 24 hours. As per official figures, 700 patients are on oxygen support and 97 on the ventilator. The total number of Covid deaths in the state stands at 8,772, with over 1,900 deaths between April 1 and 28. Gurdaspur district is the worst-affected with 22 deaths. — TNS

RISING GRAPH

2020	Cases	Deaths
March	46	4
June	3,305	95
September	59,894	1,954
December	14,431	534
Jan 2021	6,754	234
March	57,558	1,036
April	1,18,452	1,904

HryO₂ quota up 70 MT

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28
Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar today said the Centre had increased the state's daily oxygen quota from 162 MT to 232 MT in view of the prevailing Covid situation.

"The enhanced quota will come from Odisha," said Khattar, denying Remdesivir shortage in the state. "I have asked the Health Department to issue guidelines so

that there was no unnecessary prescriptions of Remdesivir and Tocilizumab." Equating the second wave

No shortage of life-saving Remdesivir, says Khattar

with a tsunami, he said industrial units would soon be given licence to produce oxygen. — TNS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Shift Kerala scribe to Delhi for treatment, SC tells UP

NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the Uttar Pradesh Government to shift ailing Kerala journalist Sidique Kappan from a hospital in Mathura to a hospital in the national capital for treatment.

Kappan was arrested under the UAPA on October 5 last year while on way to cover the Hathras incident involving the gang-rape of a Dalit.

"We direct the UP Government to shift Kappan to RML Hospital, or AIIMS or any other government hospital. He be transferred back to jail after doctors certify him to have recovered," — TNS

DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO DIE, HC ASKS GOVT

The Delhi High Court has said it appeared the Centre wanted people to die as according to the protocol on the use of Remdesivir, the drug was to be given only to those on oxygen support.

Bench led by Chief Justice NV Ramana said.

As Solicitor General Tushar Mehta requested the Bench to direct a hospital to vacate a bed for a non-Covid patient, the CJI said, "Mr Mehta, you sort it out with the government. Leave it here." — TNS

Covid test must for candidates to enter counting centres

NEW DELHI, APRIL 28
The Election Commission today said candidates and their agents would not be allowed to enter the counting centres on May 2 unless they have a negative Covid test report or they have taken both doses of vaccine.

No public gathering outside the counting venue will be allowed during the process of counting. The counting of votes for Assembly polls in Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, besides bypolls of various Assembly and Lok Sabha seats, would begin at 8 am on May 2. — TNS

Paracetamol, azithro raw material cost shoots up, pharma cos worried

AMBika SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, APRIL 28
A sharp rise in the price of raw material of key drugs used in the treatment of Covid over the last few weeks has unnerved manufacturers in the state.

Enquiries reveal the rates of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) like paracetamol, ivermectin, doxycycline, azithromycin,

UP TO 300% SURGE IN PRICES

Drug	Cost in February	Currently
Ivermectin	₹17,000/kg	₹58,000/kg
Paracetamol	₹350/kg	₹680/kg
Doxycycline	₹6,000/kg	₹12,000/kg
Azithromycin	₹8,000/kg	₹11,500/kg

maropenem 1 gm, etc., have increased up to 300 per cent.

"Ivermectin has seen a price hike from Rs 17,000 per kg to Rs 58,000 per kg while parac-

etamol has gone up from Rs 350 per kg to Rs 680 per kg. Similarly, doxycycline has jumped from Rs 6,000 per kg to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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Minister Sukhjinder Randhawa

Cong legislators want CM to act in sacrilege, firing cases

Now, Pargat targets Capt, says his image as administrator dented

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28

Being cornered within the party over delay in seeking justice in the Kotkapura police firing case, more problems seem to be in store for Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh as party MLAs are teaming up to seek time-bound strict action against the perpetrators of sacrilege and subsequent police firing incidents.

Though present in Chandigarh, Randhawa did not attend the meeting. The Chief Minister has already rejected the offer of Randhawa to resign. Though the minister did not respond to call, sources close to him said not much should be read into his absence. —TNS



FEELING SUFFOCATED

Now the effort is to cover up everything. We go to court and issues are compromised. MLAs are feeling suffocated otherwise they would have stood by the Chief Minister.

Pargat Singh, JALANDHAR CANTT MLA

time has been lost, the SIT does not matter now but perception among the people matters as it is being seen as betrayal of trust.

As the MLAs expressed their concerns to the Chief Minister, Jalandhar Cantt MLA Pargat Singh on Wednesday made his stand public by stating that instead

of beating around the bush, the government should go to the root of the problem and plug it. After meeting the Chief Minister as part of the MLAs group from Doaba, Pargat said instead of conducting surveys of MLAs, the CM should get his survey done to know as to how his image as an able administra-

tor had suffered a dent because the party had won due to image of Capt Amarinder Singh.

"Now the effort is to cover up everything. We go to court and issues are compromised. MLAs are feeling suffocated otherwise they would have stood by the CM. We need to correct the perception game or our game for the 2022 elections will be over," he said to mediapersons.

After Congress MLA Navjot Singh Sidhu, Pargat Singh has become the second party legislator to target the Chief Minister over the administrative and political failure leading to the SIT probe being quashed. Party sources said with anxiety building up among the MLAs, more of them could go public over the issue.

Not trying to protect Badals: Amarinder

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28

Denying that he was trying to protect the Badals in the Kotkapura police firing incidents, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh today said he had no love lost for them as he was acquitted after 14 years of litigation due to a false case registered against him.

Talking in context of allegations of protecting Badals in the sacrilege and police firing cases, the Chief Minister said the name of Parkash Singh Badal would come in the FIR and the challan and it would be put up before the court for trial. The CM who talking to a private channel, he could throw Badals in jail without investigation and proof.

Sharpening his attack on party leader Navjot Singh Sidhu, the Chief Minister termed him an opportunist. "We have reports that he had meeting with AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal. Let him go where he wants. My doors are closed on him. Politics is not all about being a good orator, one has to perform as a minister. Capt Amarinder Singh, CM

SIDHU OPPORTUNIST

Navjot Singh Sidhu is an opportunist. We have reports that he had meeting with AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal. Let him go where he wants. My doors are closed on him. Politics is not all about being a good orator, one has to perform as a minister. Capt Amarinder Singh, CM

Arvind Kejriwal. Let him go where he wants. My doors are closed on him. Politics is not all about being a good orator, one has to perform as a minister. He wanted to be PPCC president or Deputy CM with home portfolio when there are ministers senior to him".



General JJ Singh (retd)

Former Army chief takes a dig at CM

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28

A day after CM Capt Amarinder Singh challenged Navjot Singh Sidhu to contest from Patiala and "lose his deposit like Gen JJ Singh (retd)", the former Army chief hit back saying the CM was hand in glove with the Badals and the 2017 election result was an outcome of that.

He joined the issue with Sidhu, who has been hinting at a fixed match between the Chief Minister and the Badals. "You are not acting on the evidence against the Badals in the Kotkapura firing case," he said, adding Amarinder too had lost security deposit in an election from Patiala. —TNS

Three escape from Patiala jail, probe on

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, APRIL 28

In a complete laxity on part of jail officials, three convicts escaped from the Patiala Central Jail early on Wednesday morning by drilling a hole in the cell wall and later escaped by managing to get over a 12-ft wall. The prisons department has now initiated a probe against the jail administration.

All three were lodged in the Koratne barracks which houses cells for inmates. The police were investigating how they managed to scale a 10-ft inner wall and then the outer wall which is over 12 ft.

"The trio managed to make a hole in the washroom cell wall and later managed to scale outer boundary walls without being noticed," a source inside the jail said.

"We came to know about the escape in the morning. During change of guard, one of the jail guards noticed the hole in the cell wall," he added. The missing convicts are Sher Singh, Inderjeet Singh Dhiana and Jaspreet Singh Noopi.

Sher Singh was deported from the UK to serve a sentence in a drugs case in which

MINISTER SHOULD RESIGN, SAYS SAD

Chandigarh: The SAD on Wednesday said the prison break in Patiala was a direct result of the policy of patronage to criminals by the Congress government. It demanded the resignation of Jails Minister Sukhjinder Randhawa on the issue. TNS

he was sentenced to 22 years behind the bars. "He was in the jail for over two years," said a senior police officer.

"There is a hole which they made through the wall of their cell, not the outer wall. We are searching the jail premises as well," said a senior official. The police have started a probe in the matter. "Raids are on to nab the accused and we have intimidated our local police stations," said SSP Vikramjeet Duggal.

IG (Prisons) Roop Kumar Arora said he had initiated a probe and efforts were on to trace those who were in touch with them few days before the escape. "The way they managed to escape points to the fact that they had some external help as well," he said.



Labourers load wheat sacks onto a truck at a grain market in Nawanshahr on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MALKIAT SINGH

Ensure prompt lifting, agencies told

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Wednesday directed procurement agencies to ensure prompt lifting of wheat produce and timely payment to farmers through the newly introduced Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system during the ongoing rabi marketing season.

Reviewing procurement at a virtual meeting with his Cabinet, the Chief Minister ordered strict adherence to the Covid protocol amid the current surge. He urged all those farmers, arthiyas,

CABINET HIKES AID UNDER ASHIRWAD SCHEME

The Cabinet has approved an increase in financial assistance under the Ashirwad Scheme from ₹21,000 to ₹51,000 per beneficiary, with directions to clear all payment backlog

NOD TO REGULARISE TELECOM TOWERS

The Cabinet has decided to regularise all telecom towers installed illegally between December 5, 2013, and December 7, 2020

labourers, employees of procurement agencies and other stakeholders over 45 years of age who visit mandis to get themselves vaccinated.

On the availability of gunny bags, the Chief Minister was

informed by KAP Sinha, Principal Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, that the issue had been resolved and there was no shortage. As of now, 19.19 crore gunny bags have

already been used for wheat packaging. Further, around 30 lakh new bags are being received every day by the agencies and being supplied directly to grain markets across the state, said Sinha.

The procurement of wheat commenced on April 10 and in a span of 18 days, 98 LMT wheat has arrived in mandis, of which 95.97 LMT has been procured. Further, 90 per cent of the due payment on the MSP, i.e. Rs 14,958 crore, has been transferred directly into the bank accounts of nearly five lakh farmers. —TNS

While the Punjab Government has released payment for almost 80 per cent of the wheat it has procured, the FCI has released payment for just 41 per cent of the wheat purchased by it.

Officials in the central food agency said they were making the entire payment to farmers upfront, and not withholding a part of the dues for packing of wheat or as labour charges.

"We are paying Rs 1,975 per quintal to farmers within three days of the purchase," said a senior FCI official.

This is the first time that

₹12,817 crore paid via DBT to farmers

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28

Farmers in Punjab have received over Rs 12,817 crore for their wheat crop through the newly initiated Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), till date.

While state government agencies, which have done more than 90 per cent of procurement, have so far paid farmers Rs 12,246.29 crore directly, the Food Corporation of India, which is purchasing wheat directly in 400 odd mandis across Punjab, has paid Rs 571.20 crore to the farmers.

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DAP FERTILISERS TO BE SOLD AT OLD RATES

Moga: The government has directed district-level officers of the Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department to ensure that the farmers get phosphatic fertilisers (DAP) at the old rates from the stocks already available with the cooperative societies and private dealers. TNS

being made directly for the grains procured from them. Though initially there were some hiccups in stabilising the system of making payments, after the information of crop purchase and farmers bank account details was uploaded on the Anaj Kharid portal, state government officials said that the system had stabilised now.

Finally, 20K acres of forestland reclaimed, encroachers removed

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATHANKOT, APRIL 28

Pathankot forest officials have embarked upon a plantation drive on 20,000 acres of forestland, also called the Shahpur Kandi area in the sub-mountainous Dhar block.

The drive was initiated following the Punjab and Haryana High Court's order to hand over possession to the forest department after a protracted legal battle between the department and land sharks.

Dr Sanjeev Tiwari, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), said in a symbolic start 400 acres of land had been covered with khair, amla and bamboo trees last week. "We expect the entire area of 20,000 acres to be covered by the end of this year," he added.

In 1904, 27,000 acres of forest land was transferred to the Forest department.



A plantation drive in progress in the Shahpur Kandi area.

POSSESSION OF 7K ACRES MORE SOON

After a vigorous drive, we have got the ownership rights of 20,000 acres... the forest cover of the district will now increase from 21% to 25%. We will get the title rights of the remaining 7,000 acres soon. Dr Sanjeev Tiwari, DFO

However, a sizable chunk was encroached upon by politicians, businessmen, hoteliers, bureaucrats, doctors and other professionals after conniving with lower and middle rung revenue officials. In

1986, the department moved the High Court to take ownership rights but a powerful lobby of land sharks managed to get a stay. The stay was vacated in 2014 but the department failed to get control. —TNS

Punjab State Commission for Protection of Child Rights also sought a report from the District Education Officer. Ropar SHO Rajeev Kumar informed a complaint from the district child protection officer had been received. —TNS

Ropar school head booked for 'thrashing' pupil

ROPAR, APRIL 28

The local police have booked Government Girls Senior Secondary School principal Anju Chaudhary for allegedly thrashing a girl student. A video clip went viral last week, in which the principal was seen slapping and pulling the ear and hair of a student on the school stage during assembly hours.

While face of the victim was not visible, the video clip seemed to be quite old, as teachers and students were seen in woollens. After the video clip went viral, Education Minister Vijay Inder Singh ordered an inquiry with directions to send the accused on forced leave.

Punjab State Commission for Protection of Child Rights also sought a report from the District Education Officer. Ropar SHO Rajeev Kumar informed a complaint from the district child protection officer had been received. —TNS



An inconsolable Melo Kaur, mother of martyred Sepoy Prabhjot Singh, being comforted at Hakumwala village in Mansa on Wednesday; and (below) people pay their last respects to martyred Sepoy Amardeep Singh at his native Karamgarh village in Barnala. TRIBUNE PHOTOS



On behalf of Governor VP Singh Badnaur and Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sukhpreet Singh Sidhu laid the wreath. Prabhjot's brother lit the pyre of the martyr in the Hakumwala village in the Budhlada subdivision of Mansa. A contingent of the Army played 'The Last Post' and a gun salute followed.

He conveyed condolences to martyr's father Jagmel

Singh and mother Melo Kaur and ensured all possible help to them. He also said Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh had announced Rs 50 lakh ex-gratia compensation and a government job for the next of the kin.

Others present were Budhlada MLA Budh Ram, former MLA Ajit Inder Singh Moffer, SDM Sagar Setia, Subedar Bhupinder Singh of 21 Punjab Regiment and District Defense Services Officer Col Maninder Singh.

In Barnala, the mortal remains of Sepoy Amardeep Singh were consigned to flames with full honour at Karamgarh village. Deputy Commissioner Tej Partap Singh Phoolka said as per the government rule, the 23-year-old soldier's family would get Rs 50 lakh ex gratia. —TNS

₹911-cr projects on fast track

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28

The Punjab Government has prioritised projects to the tune of Rs 911 crore for seeking assistance from NABARD during the current financial year. —TNS

Ex-Chief Secy's death condoled

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28

The Punjab Cabinet, led by CM Capt Amarinder Singh, on Wednesday, condoled the death of former state chief secretary YS Ratra. The CM remembered him as a competent civil servant and a fine gentleman.

Capt Amarinder said, "We were commissioned in the Army together, while he took up engineering, I went into the infantry." —TNS



General JJ Singh (retd)

Former Army chief takes a dig at CM

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28

A day after CM Capt Amarinder Singh challenged Navjot Singh Sidhu to contest from Patiala and "lose his deposit like Gen JJ Singh (retd)", the former Army chief hit back saying the CM was hand in glove with the Badals and the 2017 election result was an outcome of that.

He joined the issue with Sidhu, who has been hinting at a fixed match between the Chief Minister and the Badals. "You are not acting on the evidence against the Badals in the Kotkapura firing case," he said, adding Amarinder too had lost security deposit in an election from Patiala. —TNS

Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

Let's Combat Corona with

Precaution, Sanitation and Vaccination

Wash Hands Regularly With Soap and Water or Use Sanitizer

Wear Mask Properly

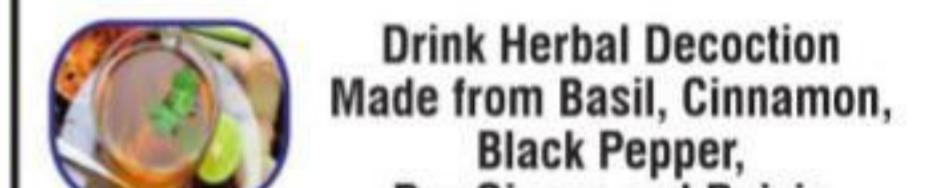
Maintain Social Distance of 2 Gaj (6 feet)

Must Get Yourself Vaccinated

Defeat Corona, Adopt Ayurveda to Boost Immunity



Use Turmeric, Coriander, Cumin & Garlic in Cooking



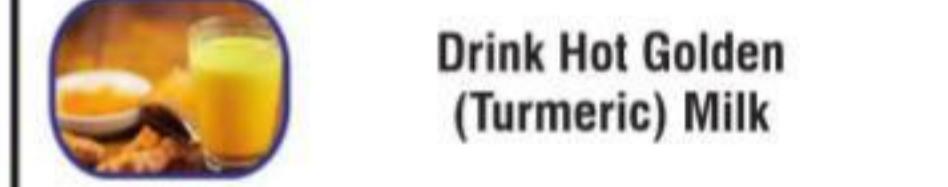
Drink Herbal Decoction Made from Basil, Cinnamon, Black Pepper, Dry Ginger and Raisin



Use Sesame/Coconut Oil or Ghee Drops in Both the Nostrils



Consume Giloy Everyday



Drink Hot Golden (Turmeric) Milk



Adopt Yoga, Pranayama & Meditation



For Information related to COVID-19

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Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

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OPDs in 3 govt medical colleges suspended

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28 The Punjab Government has decided to suspend OPDs in all three medical colleges and hospitals till further orders and reserve all beds in these facilities for Covid-19 patients. However, the emergency services will continue.

In a meeting to review the situation of oxygen availability and other requirements here today, Medical Education and Research Minister OP Soni instructed the authorities that prompt action was needed if any eventuality came up pertaining to any obstruction in oxygen and any other medical supplies. He said that if any report of oxygen shortage came to notice, then it should be immediately reported to the higher authorities so that necessary steps could be taken.

Reiterating the state government was leaving no stone unturned to provide healthcare facilities, the minister directed the Principal Secretary, Medical Education and Research, to reserve 75 beds in Advanced Cancer Centre,



A cop makes an announcement regarding the deadline for closure of shops in Jalandhar on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: SARABJIT SINGH

CM: ENSURE SAFETY OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

Moga: Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has asked the Department of Industries and DCs to ensure safety of industrial workers. On the occasion of World Day for Safety and Health at Work, he said the industries must run with the minimum required strength on a rotational basis. TNS

Bathinda, for Covid patients. Stressing that beds in medical colleges and hospitals had been increased, he said the work of installation of oxygen tanks and generation

COVID METER

Cases	6,472
Critical	97
Active	53,426
Deaths	142

WORST-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	CASES	DEATHS
Ludhiana	952	15
SAS Nagar	867	12
Jalandhar	614	8
Amritsar	501	18
Patiala	597	10

plants was being expedited throughout the state. He also ordered to regularly audit the supply, availability, and usage of oxygen to tap any leakage or pressure drops.

HC extends interim orders till June 30

SAURABH MALIK

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28

As India witnessed the world's highest single-day spike of 3.6 lakh new Covid-19 cases, the Punjab and Haryana High Court today suo motu extended till June 30 the operation of interim orders, directions and protection granted by it or any other tribunal, judicial or quasi-judicial forums subordinate to it. It includes orders requiring compliance by the parties to such proceedings.

The Bench of Chief Justice Ravi Shanker Jha and Justice Suvir Sehgal also made it clear the police would desist from arresting the accused up to June 30, unless it was necessary for maintenance of law and order situation in a cognizable offence prescribing sentence up to seven years. In all, the Bench issued 12 commandments.

The Bench added interim orders by the HC or any subordinate court, meant to operate till further orders, would remain in force till modified.

The Bench also extended till June 30 the time for filing written statement or "return" in any suit or proceeding pending before any civil court or any

Arrests, if necessary, for maintenance of law and order

other forum, unless specifically directed. The direction would not preclude the parties from filing such written statement or "return" before June 30.

The orders of eviction, dispossession, demolition, so far unexecuted, would also remain in abeyance till June 30. Interim protection given in anticipatory bail pleas by the HC or Court of Sessions for a limited period was also extended.

Interim bails granted under Section 439, CrPC, specifying an expiry date, were also extended, subject to the accused not abusing such liberty. Parole granted to a person by order passed by a court was also extended. Senior advocate Anupam Gupta was appointed amicus curiae. Among others, Additional Solicitor General of India Satya Pal Jain, Punjab Advocate General Atul Nanda, Haryana AG Baldev Raj Mahajan, Additional AG Deepak Balyan, UT senior standing counsel Panikaj Jain and additional standing counsel Namit Kumar were present.

98% of oxygen generated by industry diverted to hospitals

VIJAY C ROY

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28

Amid Covid crisis, almost 98 per cent of the oxygen generated by the industry in the state for industrial purposes is being diverted to hospitals. The state has 15 air separation units (ASUs) with a generation capacity of around 60-65 tonnes per day. The remaining capacity is being utilised by pharmaceutical units.

According to industry associations, the daily requirement of oxygen by the industry and



250-TONNE DEMAND

On an average, the requirement of hospitals was 50-60 tonnes per day during pre-Covid days which has shot upto 250 tonnes.

such as steel-makers, fabrication, pharmaceutical industry and water purification. Steel-makers in Mandi Gobindgarh account for major consumption followed by Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Mohali and Dera Bassi. In addition to the industry, there are a few Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) medical oxygen generation in government hospitals and private hospitals which cater to part of their demands.

On an average, the requirement of hospitals was 50-60 tonnes per day during pre-

Patients want cap on price of medical tests

SAMEER SINGH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANA, APRIL 28

With no price cap on medical tests recommended for Covid-19 patients, private laboratories are charging an "exorbitant price" in Mansa district. Patients rued that apart from the Covid-19 test, doctors ask them to get other medical tests done as well, for which they have to go to private labs, as government hospitals do not have the required machinery or equipment.

People say the infected patients and those with Covid symptoms undergo a number of medical tests on daily basis as prescribed by doctors. Subsequently, private laboratories are making hay of the situation.

Dr Janak Raj Singla, IMA president, Mansa, said, "Apart from RT-PCR and rap-

Fearing lockdown, residents stock up on essentials

MUKTSAR, APRIL 28

While the state government has imposed a lockdown from 6 pm to 5 am on weekdays and planned for a stricter weekend lockdown, locals have resorted to panic buying of essentials.

A number of people were seen yesterday stocking up on groceries and other household supplies. "We saw a similar situation last year, hence it is wise to buy essential goods. Now, supplies are available at normal rates.

Once the total lockdown is imposed, the prices will go up," said a local resident, Sonia Kataria.

Similarly, Gagan Kumar, another resident, said, "The government had increased restrictions step by step last year. If the situation worsens, the state government may impose a total lockdown."

People say the infected patients and those with Covid symptoms undergo a number of medical tests on daily basis as

prescribed by doctors. Subsequently, private laboratories are making hay of the situation.

Dr Janak Raj Singla, IMA president, Mansa, said, "Apart from RT-PCR and rap-



PROGRAMMES OFFERED

- LAW PROGRAMMES
 - BA, LL.B (Hons)
 - BBA, LL.B (Hons)
- BUSINESS PROGRAMMES
 - BBA FinTech (in collaboration with AlphaBeta Inc.)
 - BBA Digital Marketing (in collaboration with Digital Scholar)
 - BBA Business Analytics
 - BBA from University of Michigan, Dearborn (UMD): 2 years at VSB + 2 years at UMD
 - BS Business Analytics from Arizona State University (ASU): 2 years at VSB + 2 years at ASU
- B. Com. Finance (in collaboration with Master Minds CA Academy)
- PG PROGRAMMES
 - M. Sc. Data Science (in collaboration with LatentView Analytics)
 - M. Sc. Physics
 - M. Sc. Chemistry
 - M. Tech VLSI Design
- 5 YR INTEGRATED PROGRAMMES
 - M.Tech Computer Science & Engg (in collaboration with Virtusa)
 - M.Tech Software Engineering
- B. TECH. PROGRAMMES (Based on VITEEE Rank)
 - B.A. - M.A. Public Service with integrated training for UPSC (in collaboration with AKS IAS Academy)
 - B. Sc. - M. Sc. Data Science (in collaboration with LatentView Analytics)
- B. TECH. SPECIALISATIONS/ MINORS
 - Data Analytics, Networking and Security, Artificial Intelligence, Edge Computing, Software Engineering, Geo Informatics, Blockchain, VLSI, Embedded Systems, IoT, Computational Mathematics, Image and Video Processing, Digital Manufacturing, Robotics, Digital Marketing, Econometrics, FinTech, Corporate Law, Performing Arts.
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For Information related to COVID-19

Contact State Helpline Numbers
8558893911

(Gurugram & Faridabad) & For Other Districts 1075

Sources said they had gathered to thank Sukhbir for appointing Arshdeep Singh Robin Brar as SOI's president. A number of pictures and videos of the event went viral on social media. In one of these videos, even Sukhbir is purportedly seen standing amid the crowd and addressing them. Further, in a video, Robin Brar is requesting the gathering not to make videos, fearing action for 'violating' the Covid guidelines. In



Akali workers at Sukhbir Singh Badal's residence. TRIBUNE PHOTO

COVID NORMS VIOLATED

Late on Wednesday evening, the Lambi police registered a case against Robin Brar and nearly 150 unidentified persons for allegedly violating the Covid-19 guidelines issued by the District Magistrate. "A case has been registered," said SI Chander Shekhar, SHO, Lambi police station.

these within no time. I repeatedly told them to follow the Covid guidelines," said Robin. About today's gathering, Lambi police station SHO Chander Shekhar said: "A legal action will be taken in this regard."

CLASSIFIEDS**SITUATION VACANT**

Urgently required DGO/ MBBS, for established maternity Hospital in Jalandhar. Contact: 98147-54024. (CL21010035)

Miri Piri Institute of Medical Sciences & Research (Charitable Trust), Shahabad (M.), Distt. Kurukshetra, Haryana. Walk-interview for the posts of Staff Nurse (B.Sc. Nursing/ GNM registered with the Haryana Nursing Registration Council) on purely contract basis will be held on 05.05.2021 at 10:30 am in Conference Room, Miri Piri Campus, Shahabad (M.). Candidates may reach one hour before the interview alongwith original documents of qualifications, experience and residence proof as well as a set of testimonials of the same. Contact No. 01744-245445 (Ex-228). Chief Executive Officer. (CL21010123)

MEDICAL/SURGICAL

Covid beds with Ventilator and ECMO facility available. New Lifeline Hospital, Zirakpur, 98141-04203. (CL21010095)

BUSINESS

Business funds available at nominal interest rate. Contact: 76528-25450 (Mon- Fri) 11:00 am to 6:00 pm (CL2009858)

PROPERTY WANTED

Wanted at Chandigarh 2 or 1 kanal kothi, clear title, payment time 30 days. Genuine seller contact: Jeet Associates 96468-09090. (CL21010007)

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TOLET**CHANDIGARH**

Fully AC 3 BHK, 2 toilets. 1st floor 1170-8-C, Chandigarh. 89688-11705, 95013-44563. (CL21010190)

Furnished AC/non-AC rooms for girls, independent entry. 1170-8-C, Chandigarh. 89688-11705, 95013-44563. (CL21010191)

TENDER NOTICE

Mehr Chand Polytechnic College Dayanand Nagar, Jalandhar City, Punjab 14000 E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tender are invited through e-procurement process from eligible contractors for carrying out paint work with Material labour inclusive of labour, tools, equipment, M/s college campus. Tender documents and other details can be downloaded and uploaded by the bidders through the portal www.lenderwizard.com/PUNJAB and can also be seen on https://www.mcpolyjai.com Last Date and Time for Tender submission 17-05-2021 Time 23:55 Date & Time for opening of Qualifying Bid. 18-05-2021 Time 9.30 a.m. Principal CL21010262

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Sarjeet Singh s/o Phool Singh r/o House No.175, Gali No.7, Aman Nagar, Patiala (Punjab), have changed my name to Surjit Singh. (CL21010016)

I, Dharam Singh s/o Sh. Mangal Singh r/o # 60 Pipiwala Town, Manimajra, Chandigarh U.T. declare that my son Jayaparkash daughter-in-law Sushila Devi and their children Ravi and Tarun are out of my control. I disown them from all my moveable/immoveable property. I shall not be responsible for any of their acts and anybody dealing with them shall do so at their own risk. (CL21010135)

I, Nisha Ranji d/o Raj Kumar w/o Amit Sharma r/o # 30, Vill. Lahora, U.T. Chandigarh-160012 have changed my name to Nisha Sharma after marriage. (CL21010141)

Sanjeev S/o Madan Gopal LIG 1384, Housing Board Colony, C-Block Ranji Avenue Amritsar, have changed my name to Sanjeev Kumar. (CL21010151)

I, Reena w/o Umesh Dass r/o 4, Village Faidan Nizampur Chandigarh have changed my name to Mangali Devi. (CL21010174)

I, Paramjit Singh S/o Darbara Singh R-7/B Mahesh Nagar Ambala Cantt, disown my son Kulwinder Singh from my moveable/ immoveable properties as he is out of my control. Anyone deals him at own risk. Concerned note. (CL21010197)

I, Jarnail Singh JC- 285970F Naib Subedar R/o Mana, Tehsil- Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur declare that in Army records, name of my son was wrongly mentioned as Nishan Manhas. His correct name is Nishant. (CL21010206)

I, Jarnail Singh JC- 285970F Naib Subedar R/o Mana, Tehsil- Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur declare that in Army records, name of my daughter was wrongly mentioned as Vaisali. Her correct name is Vaishali. (CL21010215)

I, Balwinder Kaur Sandhu w/o Devindra Pal Singh Sandhu r/o 106 Sispal Vihar, Sector 49, Gurgaon 122018, Haryana, India, now residing at 129 Lichen Court, Fremont 94538, California, USA, holder of Indian Passport No. J6694685 issued at Delhi on April 06, 2011 expired on April 05, 2021, bears my name as Balwinder Sandhu. This is to state that my correct name is Balwinder Kaur Sandhu vide public documents or affidavit dated April 18, 2021, sworn before Notary Nita Shaw # 235507, Fremont subject to the approval of Indian embassy in USA. (CL21010240)

I, No. 14930595K, Sepoy Pardeep Singh s/o Dilbag Singh, Village Karol, PO Pragpur, Tehsil Dehra, Distt. Kangra, HP, declare that in my Army service record my son's name was wrongly written as Akshay Thakur whereas his correct name is Akshay Thakur. Concerned note. (CL21010240)

I, Balwinder Kaur Sandhu w/o Devindra Pal Singh Sandhu r/o 106 Sispal Vihar, Sector 49, Gurgaon 122018, Haryana, India, now residing at 129 Lichen Court, Fremont 94538, California, USA, holder of Indian Passport No. J6694685 issued at Delhi on April 06, 2011 expired on April 05, 2021, bears my name as Balwinder Sandhu. This is to state that my correct name is Balwinder Kaur Sandhu vide public documents or affidavit dated April 18, 2021, sworn before Notary Nita Shaw # 235507, Fremont subject to the approval of Indian embassy in USA. (CL21010150)

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e-paper.tribuneindia.com

ASI held for taking bribe

Faridkot, April 28

ASI Balveer Bhatti was nabbed while accepting bribe from the complainant. He allegedly demanded Rs 20,000 to close the case. — TNS

**HIMACHAL PRADESH
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
e-Procurement Notice***** NOTICE FOR BIDS (IFB)***

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Dharamshala District Kangra (HP) on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh re-invites the item rate/lump sum contract bids from the eligible contractors/Firms. Bidders should be registered with Central Govt. or State Govt. or Central Govt. or State Government undertakings. The scope of the work will be as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	EMD	Cost of tender form
1	Provision for WSS under Dharamshala constituency (Providing LWSS to SCSB habitation in GP Sarah and Sakoh in Tehsil Dharamshala Distt. Kangra (SH:-C/O overhead tank 75000 Litres capacity 12 Mtr. Staging height at Lower Sakoh.)	1456881/-	29140/-	400/-
2	Provision for WSS under Dharamshala constituency (Providing LWSS to SCSB habitation in GP Sarah and Sakoh in Tehsil Dharamshala Distt. Kangra (SH:-C/O overhead storage reservoir 50000 Lt capacity with 9 mtr staging height at Upper Sakoh).	1058857/-	21180/-	400/-
3	Improvement and Augmentation of WSS Dharamshala Town Distt. Kangra (SH:-C/O overhead storage Reservoir 50000 Ltr. Capacity with 8 mtr staging height at Gorkha Colony.)	938157/-	18765/-	250/-
4	Providing separate WSS to Lower Tangroti, Upper Tangroti & Balher in Tehsil Dharamshala Distt. Kangra (H.P.) Drilling, lowering & development of tubewell 80.00 mtrs deep	1665795/-	32490/-	400/-

Time limit:- 3 months each

1. The offer should be for the complete job.
2. **Availability of bid document and mode of submission:-** The bid documents is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://htptenders.gov.in>. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HP Jal Shakti may obtain the same from the website <https://htptenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. Schedule of tendering

1	Key dates:-	
a)	Date of online publication	20.04.2021 at 17.00 p.m.
b)	Period of availability of bidding documents on website https://htptenders.gov.in .	20.04.2021 at 17.00 p.m. up to 10.05.2021 at 11:00 a.m.
c)	Date of submission	26.04.2021 at 10.00 a.m. up to 10.05.2021 at 11:00 a.m.
2	Opening of bids: The bids will be opened online by the authorized officer at the appointed time.	
a)	Time and date for opening of part one of the bid (the technical qualification part).	At 11.30 a.m. dt. 10.05.2021 in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Dharamshala
b)	Time and date for opening of part two of the bid (the financial bid) of bidders who qualified in part 1 of the bid.	To be notified later
3	Last date of bid validity.	120 days for the deadline date for submission of bids.
4	Officer inviting bids.	Designation: The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Dharamshala.

4. Terms and conditions:- The offer should be for complete job/work.

(A) The e-tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 covers:- Cover-1 shall contain scanned copies of "eligibility information".

Cover-2 shall contain "Financial Bid" on the prescribed form.

(B) Cover-1 shall contain scanned copies of following "eligibility information" (scanned copies to be uploaded) on the website <https://htptenders.gov.in> at the appropriate place.

(i) Bid security/Earnest money deposited through e-payment mode in ICICI bank authorized by the Govt. of HP as well as cost of tender form. Bank guarantee submitted as bid security shall be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the bid. Bid security of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded as promptly as possible within 45 days after the expiry of the validity of bid.

(ii) Bid security/Earnest money deposited through e-payment mode in ICICI bank authorized by the Govt. of HP as well as cost of tender form. Bank guarantee submitted as bid security shall be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the bid. Bid security of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded as promptly as possible within 45 days after the expiry of the validity of bid.

(iii) Bid security/Earnest money deposited through e-payment mode in ICICI bank authorized by the Govt. of HP as well as cost of tender form. Bank guarantee submitted as bid security shall be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the bid. Bid security of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded as promptly as possible within 45 days after the expiry of the validity of bid.

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(xix) Bid security/Earnest money deposited through e-payment mode in ICICI bank authorized by the Govt. of HP as well as cost of tender form. Bank guarantee submitted as bid security shall

95 deaths, highest so far

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28
With 12,444 fresh Covid cases and 95 deaths in the last 24 hours, the overall tally of Haryana reached 4,60 lakh today. The total number of deaths have so far crossed 4,000.

The maximum deaths took place in Hisar 12, followed by 10 in Sirsa, nine in Fatehabad, eight in Jind, seven each in Gurugram, Karnal and Bhiwani, six in Panchkula, five each in Faridabad and Ambala, four each in Sonipat, Rohtak and Kaithal, two each in Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar and Palwal and one in Nuh.

The total number of deaths due to Covid so far has reached 4,021. A total of 7,618 got cured in the last 24 hours, while the active cases reached 88,860 today. — TNS

COVID METER	
Cases	12,444
Critical	805
Active	88,860
Deaths	95
WORST-AFFECTED DISTRICTS	
District	Cases
Gurugram	2,934
Faridabad	1,602
Hisar	1,042
Deaths	12

Oxygen Express for state

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 28
The Haryana Government has requested the Railways to run Oxygen Express to ferry liquid medical oxygen.

Currently, tankers are being loaded in Faridabad which will be sent for filling to Rourkela.

"As of now, it is planned that two Oxygen Express trains with a capacity of five tankers each will be run specific-

Karnal hospital to double oxygen storage capacity

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



Attendants of Covid patients queue up to refill oxygen cylinders in Manesar on Wednesday. S CHANDAN

KARNAL, APRIL 28
To ensure smooth supply of oxygen for 300 more beds, an additional storage capacity of 10,000 kg oxygen will be set up at the Kalpana Chawla Government Medical College (KCGMC).

At present, the KCGMC has the storage capacity of 10,000 kg oxygen which is capable of supplying interrupted oxygen to around 270 beds including 70 ICU beds.

"Since we are going to increase the number of ICU beds as well as non-ICU beds, we have decided to increase the storage capacity of oxygen at KCGMC," said Nishant Kumar Yadav, Deputy Commissioner after inspecting the site for expansion.

After selecting the site for erecting the tank, he directed the authorities to start the work at the earliest. It is expected the work will be completed in three weeks.

STUDENTS TO BE ROPED IN

LOCKDOWN IN KARNAL AREAS

- As the number of beds is increasing, we will require more staff. We will take the help of pharmacy and nursing students of RPII Bastara, Gandhi Pharmacy College, ANM, GNM College KCGMC.
- In view of the large number of cases from Karnal's Sectors 13 and 6, District Magistrate Nishant Kumar Yadav imposed lockdown for a week in both sectors
- Nobody will be allowed to go outside their houses. All essential commodities will be provided at the doorstep of the people
- A team of the Health Department will conduct door-to-door survey and samples would be taken

Nishant Kumar Yadav, KARNAL DC

Auto majors to govt's aid

GURUGRAM, APRIL 28

Automobile major Maruti Suzuki has advanced its maintenance shutdown from June to between May 1 and May 9.

The car manufacturer says it

will support the government with oxygen used in manufacturing process. Suzuki Motorcycles, Hero Moto Corp and Munjal Showa have also declared shutdown till May 2 in their plants. — OC

BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
SADIO ROAD, FARIDKOT (PUNJAB) - 151203
Ph.: 01639 - 256232, 256236
RECRUITMENT NOTICE Advt. No. BFU-21/2

In view of emergency situation arisen and to fight against COVID-19, online applications are invited w.e.f 01/05/2021 to 15/05/2021 from eligible candidates through University website i.e. www.bfhus.ac.in for the recruitment of 473 posts of STAFF NURSE at Govt Medical Colleges Amritsar, Patiala & other attached Hospitals under Department of Medical Education & Research, Government of Punjab and 30 posts of STAFF NURSE at Guru Gobind Singh Medical College & Hospital, Fandikot and Constituent Hospitals under BFHU, Faridkot. For details/ Updates/ eligibility No. of Posts/ terms & conditions visit University website. REGISTRAR

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG
OFFICE ORDER

Due to Covid-19 epidemic in the country the following online e-tender was called vide this office due to be opened on 28.04.2021 at 11: 30 A.M. is hereby cancelled.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Closing Date and Time	E-tender ID
1.	Job contract for providing/Management of skilled technical Manpower like Data Entry Operators (Outsource basis) for training, software development and support services in Jal Shakti Vibhag Himachal Pradesh for a period of one year (extendable by further one or more years subject to satisfactory performance of the vendor and its willingness to continue on existing terms and conditions of decision of Jal Shakti Vibhag or Govt. of Himachal Pradesh	19.05.2021 at 5:00 p.m.	2021_HPIP_45848_1

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Pb. W/S & Sew. Divn. No. 1, Patiala.
0175-2200731
eep1.pwssb@punjab.gov.in

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG
e-TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Rekong Peo Distt. Kinnaur invites item rate tender on behalf of the Governor of H.P. from the eligible contractors for the following works through e-tendering process:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Form (Rs.)	Time Limit
1.	Providing sewerage system to Village Kalpa in Distt. Kinnaur H.P. (SH: L/J/T of DI pipe 150 mm dia, C/o 603 Nos. Manhole chambers in brick masonry, provision for house connections, P/F RCC Spun vent shaft and P/F flushing tank)	2,81,16,393	3,13,664	2500	24 Months

1. Tender documents and other instructions/T&C can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <http://htenders.gov.in> by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.
2. As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency at the earliest.

KEY DETAILS:-

- Date of online publication: 28.04.2021, 10:00 a.m.
- Downloading of e-tender documents: 28.04.2021, 10:00 a.m. to 11.05.2021, 05:00 p.m.
- Date of submission of e-tendering: 28.04.2021, 10:00 a.m. to 11.05.2021, 05:00 p.m.
- Date of opening bid: 12.05.2021, 03:30 p.m.

DPR/HIP/516

TENDER NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

Online tenders on percentage rate basis (above or below or at par the DNIT amount) for the below mentioned work are invited from the reputed agencies dealing in such type of work as per eligibility criteria mentioned in DNIT.

Name of the Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money
Annual maintenance and Mechanized cleaning of PUDA Bhawan (Civil, PH and electrical works) including the cost of consumables and housekeeping material, tool and plants and required machinery etc. for complete job as per DNIT and to the entire satisfaction of Engineer-in-Charge for the period 06-06-2021 to 05-06-2022	Rs. 111.95 Lac	Rs. 2,24,000/- (To be submitted online only)

Tender Processing Fee (To be submitted online only) **Rs. 5900/-** Period of Completion One year

Online availability & time for submission of online bids Last date & time for submission of online bids 31.05.2021 01:00 PM

Date & time of opening of tender in O/o Superintendent Engineer (HQ), PUDA, Room No. 430, 4th Floor, Block-A, PUDA Bhawan, Sector 62, SAS Nagar 31.05.2021 03:00 PM

Shall be opened after evaluation of technical bid

1. For detailed terms and conditions refer to our website [https://eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in)
2. For any clarification/difficulty regarding e-tendering process contact 0172-2791226, 2791326. Divisional Engineer (Proj-I)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION
3rd Floor, Paryavarjan Bhawan, Sector 19-B, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh.
Ph. No. 0172-2700065

The ENVIS (Environmental Information System) HUB, Union Territory, Chandigarh set up in the Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration as part of ENVIS network under scheme of Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi, intends to fill up one post of Information Officer on contract basis on fixed consolidated salary of Rs. 39,996.97/- per month for one year.

Applications are hereby invited from the eligible candidates for the post of Information Officer in the prescribed proforma which can be downloaded from the website <http://chandigarhenvis.gov.in> & <http://chenvis.nic.in>. The application in the prescribed proforma with self-attested copies of the testimonial along with 2 (Two) self addressed envelope duly affixed speed/registered post, postal stamp should reach the office by 13.05.2021 up to 5:30 p.m. The application form should be superscribed with the name of the post applied for. Incomplete application form or application received after due date shall not be entertained. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview.

Name and Number of Post	Essential qualifications	Age Limit	Consolidated Salary (INR)
Information Officer (1)	M.Sc. in Environmental Science or M.Tech in Environmental Engineering with atleast 60% marks And Have knowledge of Geographic Information System (GIS); worked on technologies like Arc GIS and QGIS And Have knowledge of computer especially data management, ms office and use of internet And One-year experience in relevant field such as collection, compilation and interpretation of data/report writing/GIS Mapping	35 years	38,996.97/- per month

DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT

Man dies for want of O₂ in Jind hospital

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, APRIL 28
A Covid patient died at a hospital in Ghaziabad in UP for want of oxygen as the supply got interrupted by cops in Jind district on Monday night.

A relative of the patient, Rajender Singh, has lodged a complaint with the SP, Jind, that he got a call from his relative that one of their family members was admitted to hospital and needed oxygen as the hospital's oxygen supply was likely to finish by 3-4 am. He said he arranged two cylinders and sent a person Gurpreet Singh to deliver oxygen to the patient in Ghaziabad from Dhuri (Punjab).

The complainant alleged the vehicle carrying oxygen was stopped near the Gatauli police chowki in Jind district by the police around 11 pm. The driver tried to convince the cops that he was on way to supply

Cops halted man on way to provide cylinders to patient, plaint filed

87-YEAR-OLD DIES, KIN ALLEGES LAPSE

An 87-year-old Covid patient died hours after he was shifted from Soni Burn hospital to the Civil Hospital in Hisar on Wednesday. His son said his father was on oxygen support in the hospital but had to wait outside the Civil Hospital for nearly an hour. "My father was admitted later, but his oxygen level plummeted, which resulted in his death," he said, alleging negligence by the authorities in his father's death. TNS

Meanwhile, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) today started constructing a 500-bed hospital in Panipat's Bal Jatan village. — TNS

Remdesivir for hospitals only: Govt

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28
The state government today directed pharmacists and drug distributors to sell remdesivir and tocilizumab only to hospitals having ICU beds and ventilators.

An order issued by the Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, said the two emergency-use drugs could not be sold directly to patients in home isolation or to those admitted to hospital not having ICU or ventilator support.

The Commissioner also asked pharmacists and distributors to send the record of purchase and distribution of the two drugs to the State Drugs Controller, Haryana, for smooth supply.

Meanwhile, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) today started constructing a 500-bed hospital in Panipat's Bal Jatan village. — TNS

MISSION FATEH

Initiative of Government of Punjab for fighting COVID

COVID-19 BED AVAILABILITY IN GOVT. & PRIVATE HOSPITALS

Government Hospitals	OXYGEN BEDS		ICU BEDS	
	Total	Available	Total	Available
4193	2964	550	123	
4649	1623	1460	382	
Total (Govt.+Pvt.)	8842	4587	2010	505

Issued by:
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, PUNJAB

For any question or queries regarding bed availability contact our **Helpline Number (104)**

ਈ - ਨਿਲਾਮੀ

ਦਫਤਰ ਨਗਰ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਟਰੱਸਟ ਲੁਪਿਆਣਾ

ਲੁਪਿਆਣਾ ਨਗਰ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਟਰੱਸਟ ਲੁਪਿਆਣਾ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਸੁਨਾਰ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਵਸਤ ਸੰਕੀਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਆਪਣੇ ਪਾਸ ਦੀਆਂ ਰਿਹਾਇਸ਼/ਵਾਰਿਅਟ ਜਾਇਦਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰੋ ਨਵਾਂ ਰਿਹਾਇਸ਼/ਵਾਰਿਅਟ ਸੁਭੂ ਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਵੱਲ ਕਰ ਲਈ ਦ੍ਰੀ-ਹੋਲਡ ਆਪਾਰ ਤੇ ਈ-ਆਕਸ਼ਨ ਪ੍ਰਾਲੀ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਹੋ ਲਿਪੀਆਂ ਰਿਹਾਇਸ਼/ਵਾਰਿਅਟ ਕਰਾਵ ਵਾਂਦੀ ਦੀ ਪੇਸ਼ੇਵਰ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਬਿੱਡਰ ਲਈ ਰਜਿਸਟਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਂ: 29-04-2021 ਸਵੇਰੇ 10:00 ਵਜੇ

ਬਿੱਡਰ ਲਈ ਰਜਿਸਟਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਬੰਦ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਂ: 10-05-2021 ਸ਼ਾਮ 5:00 ਵਜੇ

ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਬਿੱਡ ਬਾਅਦ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਂ : 13-05-2021 ਸਵੇਰੇ 9:00 ਵਜੇ

ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਬਿੱਡ ਬਾਅਦ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਂ : 13-05-2021 ਦੁਪਹਿਰ 3:00 ਵਜੇ

ਸਫਲ ਬੋਲੀਕਾਰ ਲਈ 10% ਅਤੇ 6%(cess) ਰਕਮ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਆਖਰੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਂ 17-05-2021 ਸ਼ਾਮ 5.00 ਵਜੇ

ਈ ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਪੋਰਟਲ :- www.tenderwizard.com/DLGP

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ:	ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਦੀ ਕਿਸਮ	ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਦਾ ਨੰਬਰ	ਸਰੀਮ ਦਾ ਨੰ	ਰਕਬਾ	ਗਾਬਵੀ ਕੀਮਤ (ਰੁ: ਵਿਚ)	ਰਕਮ ਬਿਆਨਾ (ਰੁ: ਵਿਚ)
1.	ਸਪ੍ਰ-ਕਮ-ਡਾਲੋਟ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਸੁਣ ਕੁਲ-7	73 ਤੋਂ 79	ਭਾਈ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਸੰਖ ਨਗਰ (550 ਏਕਾਰ)	181.5	1,69,90,000/- ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਐਸ.ਸੀ.ਐਂਡ	3,39,800/- ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਐਸ.ਸੀ.ਐਂਡ
2.	ਸਪ੍ਰ-ਕਮ-ਡਾਲੋਟ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਸੁਣ (ਕਾਰਨ)	96	ਭਾਈ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਸੰਖ ਨਗਰ (550 ਏਕਾਰ)	181.5	1,69,90,000/- ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਐਸ.ਸੀ.ਐਂਡ	3,39,800/- ਪ

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Central Vista can wait

Govt must reorient its priorities to focus on Covid crisis

THE Union government's decision to keep the Central Vista project on track amid a pandemic that is claiming 3,000-odd lives every day is a classic case of misplaced priorities, if not monumental apathy. According to reports, work is in progress even during the lockdown in Delhi as workers have been granted movement passes by the authorities under the 'essential services' category. Buses are ferrying workers to the project site daily, even though the lockdown guidelines stipulate that only on-site labour can be deployed for the purpose. The government's business-as-usual approach is also evident from the fact that it recently invited bids for the construction of three secretariat buildings.

It's not rocket science to separate what's essential from what isn't in these turbulent times. The mega redevelopment plan, under which a new Parliament building will be raised at a cost of around Rs 1,000 crore, is certainly a luxury right now. What people urgently need are oxygen cylinders and vaccines, not a new skyline or a post-colonial showpiece in Lutyens' Delhi.

It's hard to fathom that the government is bent on sticking to the November 30, 2021, deadline for the new-look Central Vista, considering that the country is facing a health emergency and must optimally use every penny as well as all hands on deck to cope with the unprecedented crisis. The irony is not lost on anyone: hundreds of crores of rupees will be spent on the new building for parliamentarians, expected to be ready next year ahead of India's 75th Independence Day, even as the MP local area development (MPLAD) scheme under which they disburse funds to their constituencies has been frozen for two years, citing Covid-induced exigencies. Such blatant double standards are eroding the government's credibility. It's high time the powers that be see reason and put all inessential projects on hold. As and when the virus is tamed, work can be resumed to fulfil the grand dream of making the Central Vista a world-class tourist attraction. For now, criminal extravagance amid adversity must stop.

Time for leadership

Fighting Covid demands unity of purpose, not brinkmanship

IT'S arguably the country's worst public healthcare crisis in living memory. India is on the edge, its citizens literally holding their breath, hoping against hoping that they somehow scrape through and escape the horrors being faced by so many. The failures, the inadequacies, the muted response of the state machinery are all important questions the answers to which must be sought, and those responsible taken to task. For now, though, the foremost priority has to be of pooling in resources and getting help from wherever possible to stem the Covid-19 surge. The heart-warming resolve shown by individuals — unknown, restless, angry — to reach out to those in need over the past few days holds a mirror to the leadership. While India is making an effort to come together to help out Indians, the leaders are busy squabbling over the electoral arithmetic of the pandemic numbers.

A united, bipartisan approach to tide over the crisis seems like an alien concept, be it the Centre or the states; coronavirus will only be fought on party symbols. In Punjab, with elections less than a year away, forget the possibility of the Opposition joining hands with the ruling party to forge efforts to secure lives, the Congress' top leaders could not resist the opportunity to bring each other down. The 2015 sacrilege case undoubtedly scores high on the state's political agenda, but the ugly to-and-fro between Navjot Singh Sidhu and Capt Amarinder Singh is both bad timing and misplaced priorities.

The unprecedented healthcare emergency demands a combined war-like effort; much of the energy and thought, however, is being spent on politicking. Missing is the voice of reassurance — acknowledging and indicating a sense of urgency, and also calming nerves, ramping up institutional facilities, filling glaring gaps in the delivery in real time. Talking less and doing more. Something the Haryana Chief Minister too could take note of. 'The dead won't come back, no point debating death data' is a remark that smacks of insensitivity. Now is the time for leadership, not brinkmanship.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

For greed all nature is too little.

— Seneca

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

THE STATUS OF VAKILS.

THE invidious distinction between the legal status and position of a Vakil and that of a Barrister is one of those things which remind us of the continued subjection of India to England, and the continuation of the distinction would be to give the lie to the much-vaunted talk of the removal of all racial inequalities in the new era which is said to have dawned on India. The disabilities under which the Vakils have to work are not of recent origin, but may be traced back to the days of the East India Company. At the close of the eighteenth century, the retaining fee of the Vakil was fixed at four annas in Bengal. That system continued until 1814, when the Vakalatnama was introduced. But even then the question of fee was not left to be settled by agreement between the Vakils and their clients; but was arbitrarily fixed. The scale of fees laid down the maximum limit which was not to be exceeded by the Vakils; and the fees were fixed at Rs. 24 in Sudder Courts, Rs. 16 in Provincial Courts and Rs. 8 in Zilla Courts. It was thirty years later, in 1844, that private agreements for the payment of fees were recognised and given effect to. It was not only in the matter of fees that the restrictions were imposed upon the Vakils. The number of Vakils entitled to practice in each court was limited; and they were regarded as servants or ministerial officers of the court. They were required to attend court every day and were fined for absence without leave or for bad or inefficient work. In the Madras Presidency, there was also a provision for the re-examination of a Vakil, in case the presiding judge was not satisfied with his work. Even after the Government of the country was transferred to the Crown, the prejudice against the Vakils as such was continued. The Vakil Bar has produced lawyers of unquestionable ability and vast legal knowledge and erudition, many of whom have discharged the duties of High Court Judges with great distinction.

All eyes on Afghanistan

US pullout will lead to a race for natural resources, with China as the most active player



G PARTHASARATHY

CHANCELLOR, JAMMU CENTRAL UNIVERSITY & FORMER HIGH COMMISSIONER TO PAKISTAN

US President Joe Biden announced on February 14 that all American troops would be withdrawn from Afghanistan by September 11. This would bring to an end the longest war in US history whose roots were laid two decades earlier. On September 11, 2001, US cities were subjected to four coordinated attacks, masterminded by the Al-Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden, operating from Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. As many as 2,977 Americans died. The attacks led to the most prolonged US military operations ever. US commandos killed Osama in Pakistan's Abbottabad. He was living at a virtual stone's throw away from Pakistan's military academy. American diplomacy was so confused and inept that rather than censuring and sanctioning Pakistan, successive US Presidents acted as virtual apologists for the Pakistan army.

A recent American study has indicated that the war in Afghanistan has cost the US treasury a mind-boggling \$2.26 trillion and resulted in 2.41 lakh people killed, including 2,372 US military personnel. Thanks to Pakistan's omnipresent ISI, the Afghan conflict also saw the emergence of closer ties between the ISI, the Taliban, and Afghanistan-based Pakistani terrorist groups operating against India. These included the Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Lashkar-e-Taiba. These links will inevitably continue. The Taliban, after all, treated the hijackers of IC 814 like heroes, as India surrendered ignominiously, releasing terrorists like Maulana Masood Azhar, Omar Saeed Sheikh and Mushtaq Zargar.

Contrary to popular belief, Afghanistan is not a monolithic country. The country has 14 distinct ethnic and linguistic denominations, including



FLOWING OUT: A recent American study has indicated that the war in Afghanistan has cost the US treasury a mind-boggling \$2.26 trillion. REUTERS

The Afghanistan government would require financial assistance from the US and its allies, together with military supplies and air support, to survive.

Pashtuns, Tajiks, Kyrgyz, Balochis, Turkmen and Uzbeks. Pashtuns, who constitute 40.9% of the population, are mainly in southern Afghanistan. The Tajiks, constituting 37.39%, live in northern Afghanistan bordering Central Asia. The Durand Line drawn arbitrarily by the British is not accepted as an international border by Afghan Pashtuns, who believe Afghanistan's borders extend to the Indus near Attock in Pakistan. The main question posed today is, why is there so much interest, and, indeed, rivalry among China, the US, Russia, the EU, Pakistan and others

to have a finger in the Afghan pie? A major reason for this extraordinary external interest of these powers in Afghanistan is that it is a goldmine of mineral and material resources. The country's high-quality emeralds, rubies, etc., have long excited the international gemstone market. The United States Geological Survey has concluded that Afghanistan may hold 60 million metric tonnes of copper, 2.2 billion tonnes of iron ore, 1.4 million tonnes of rare earth elements, and veins of aluminium, gold, silver, etc. From the point of view of mining tycoons, these resources are there for the picking. The US withdrawal will lead to a race for

access to Afghanistan's natural resources, with China as the most active participant.

Pakistan is obsessed with using Afghanistan for 'strategic depth' to promote terrorism in India. In the days before the 9/11 US intervention, the 'strategic depth' that Pakistan received in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan was the availability of training camps for its jihadis. In days after US intervention, the Taliban provided facilities for Pakistan-based groups to attack Indian consulates in Herat and Jalalabad. The Indian embassy in Kabul has been under constant threat of attacks. Indian engineers and professional staff working on development projects in Afghanistan face similar threats.

With the passage of time, the Taliban will seek to obtain dominant control of territory. The Taliban and other ISI protégés, like the Haqqani network, could overrun significant parts of southern and eastern Afghanistan. New Delhi needs to make a careful assessment on whether it would be feasible, or desirable, to join others in providing weapons and equipment, including air power, to the Afghan armed forces.

A major feature of Indian involve-

ment in the Afghan conflict, prior to US intervention, was India's close ties with Iran and Tajikistan, which were transit points for Indian military and relief assistance to the Afghan resistance, known as the Northern Alliance. Tajik war hero Ahmed Shah Massoud then led the resistance. Iran has sectarian and ethnic aversions for the Taliban, though it presently seems to have opted to proceed cautiously. Iran can intervene when the Taliban seeks to take control of non-Pashtun, or Shia-dominated areas in Afghanistan's provinces bordering Iran, or Central Asian Republics like Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

At the same time, the Russians who backed the Northern Alliance prior to the American invasion, now appear to be singing a different tune by backing the Taliban. One wonders how the Russians will respond to concerns in their erstwhile Soviet Republics in Central Asia about the Taliban reaching their borders. Trends on these issues need to be analysed and acted on. New Delhi should undertake detailed discussions not only with the Afghan government, but also major regional leaders in Afghanistan on how to proceed in the coming months. An odd development one faces is that the Afghan 'peace process' treats the Afghanistan government and the Taliban on a virtually equal footing. Little thought seems to have been given on how to politically deal with the Taliban, which has the support of only a section of Afghanistan's Pashtun population. It is, however, unlikely that the Taliban can prevail over the Afghan national army across the entire Pashtun heartland.

The Afghan government would require financial assistance from the US and its allies, together with military supplies and air support, to survive. Given past American policies, one can never be sure of assistance, particularly air support from the US, in the future. India would have to keep in touch with a wide cross-section of Afghan political leaders as the resistance to a Taliban takeover would be strong and widespread. It would, however, be prudent to retain contacts with sections of the Taliban. Pakistan will, in the long run, face territorial and other claims by any government in Afghanistan which is sensitive to Pashtun aspirations.

An everlasting friendship

P Lal

PURSHOTAM, this is me, Yogeshwar. How are you? He accosted me as I was walking one evening on the Jail Road, Gurdaspur, where I had a government bungalow as an ASP in 1971. Yogeshwar Singh Ratra and I had done our foundation course at the National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, in 1969, he from the IAS and I from the IPS. He was an ex-Army officer and was assigned 1965 as the year of allotment.

I asked him what brought him there. 'I belong to Gurdaspur and am visiting my parents with my wife.'

'So you are married, congrats.

Please drop by this evening along with your wife for tea,' I said to him.

They came. Though a bachelor then, I had a fairly well-established household. He introduced me to his wife Kalpana, one of the most graceful ladies I have ever met. She was from Lucknow, from where I, too, hailed. We had myriads of things to talk about, including her experiences at Loreto Convent, Lucknow, where she had studied.

In 1973, when he was posted at Chandigarh, and had a residence in Sector 8, I dropped in from Lucknow, where I had gone on leave. They had two rooms, one furnished with beds et al, and the other with a few sofa chairs.

They offered me their own bedroom

and volunteered to sleep in the other on the floor. I thanked them for the offer, and chose the other room for myself.

The next day, I took a lift on his Vespa-scooter for going to the Secretariat, where he had his office and I had work to attend to in the police headquarters.

In 1977, he was posted as Secretary, Punjab State Electricity Board, at Patiala. I was posted there as Commandant, 36 Bn PAP. I resided in Model Town. Expecting my transfer, I had packed up all my luggage. Our wives had gone to their respective parents' place.

One evening, he dropped in at my residence. 'What have you got for this evening?' he asked. 'Black Knight to be served in steel tumblers,' I said. My fine crockery was packed.

Black Knight was no Scotch, but it tasted better then, with the cocktail of love, affection and informality.

Later, when he lived in Sector 11, Chandigarh, and I in Sector 35, they treated me to a weekend lunch followed by a movie in a cinema hall.

Yogesh, who rose to become the Chief Secretary, passed away on April 27 after a prolonged illness. An IAS batchmate, while condoling his death, described him as 'a jovial person, a fine gentleman, a very caring husband and a loving colleague'. Yogesh, you are no more but you will be forever in our hearts.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let heads roll

Refer to 'Second wave has shaken nation, says PM'; when epidemiologists and doctors had started ringing alarm bells about the inevitability of a second wave, they were ignored by the government with an arrogance that it continues to exhibit. Those responsible for this criminal mismanagement should be sacked. It was their strategy to fight the pandemic in a Centrally planned way. Now, they blame state governments for the grim shortage of oxygen supplies. Their strategy was flawed. India now has more daily cases than any other country and the death toll is rising. As a first step for the PM to win against the second wave is to sack the officials whose negligence has put India in the ICU without oxygen.

PS HANSPAU, BY MAIL

Not the time to fight

It is shocking that Capt Amarinder Singh and Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu are fighting vigorously when the government is struggling to contain the spread of the pandemic in the state. Instead of coming together in these days of crisis, they are challenging each other and spoiling the political fabric of the state by their accusations. Sidhu wants to surpass the

supremacy of Captain through his utterances through the media and become a leader of his own calibre. When he was in the BJP, he used these tactics to remain in the lime-light. The Congress high command needs to take strict disciplinary action against him.

RL BANSAL, KURUKSHETRA

Dilemma of students

The government must clarify on what basis will class XII students get admissions to colleges. Students must know for which entrance exams they must start preparing. The government must also clarify whether the exams for class XII will be conducted or not. Students are in a state of dilemma, whether they should prepare for board exams or for the future entrance tests.

PARWINDER KAUR, LUDHIANA

We elected them

The media is full of reports on the filthy display of power and position by our elected representatives by defying the Covid norms ('Mayor's spouse held for violating norms'). The ball ultimately lands in the public court. We elect representatives who are not concerned about our safety. Such persons need to be debarred and removed from their posts.

RS KISHTWARIA, PALAMPUR

Mobilise all resources

As the country is battling the massive second wave of Covid-19 and all medical resources, including the Army's, have been mobilised, all retired, able-bodied doctors and other medical staff (including those in private practice at home) should come together. Also, for the smooth production and fair distribution of medical oxygen, respective state governments should take control of oxygen plants in the country as a short-time measure. Last but not the least, violations of Covid discipline should be dealt with sternly.

LT COL HS DULLAT (RETD), PATIALA

Fever in rural areas

With regard to 'Plug gaps in rural health care before it is too late', a strange type of fever is spreading in some villages of Haryana. The victim suffers from extreme weakness after the fever subsides. There are unending lines before 'jhola chhap' doctors. Nobody goes to city hospitals because they know that these are already over-occupied with Covid cases. The government must spare a few teams to visit some villages and investigate the type, nature, pathogenicity and transmission chain of this fever.

RN MALIK, GURUGRAM

Stop blame game

Many countries are coming forward to help India which is facing its worst Covid crisis. There is no reason to blame any other nation or any party. Pakistan, which we call a terrorist nation, is extending a helping hand, and on the other hand, our political parties are accusing one another and pointing fingers. Time is very crucial. The Centre and states need a comprehensive plan of action to cope with the current situation otherwise it will be too late to do so.

JASKIRAT SINGH BATRA, MUKTSAR

EC bias evident

The Election Commission has been in the news for the wrong reasons. Its actions have invited public criticism of being biased, especially in favour of a party in power. The appointment of a former Commissioner as the Lieutenant Governor of Goa gives rise to further speculation. During Bengal and Assam elections political parties were not advised to follow strict Covid protocols. When on April 6, the EC could conduct elections for 475 constituencies, why did it not think of completing polls in 420 constituencies in Bengal and Assam in one phase?

COL KULDIP S GREWAL (RETD), PATIALA

Bengal politics has taken a turn for the worse



YOGENDRA YADAV

NATIONAL PRESIDENT, SWARAJ INDIA

her leadership and Prashant Kishor's micromanagement. And if it is the other way around, TV studios would be raving about the great saffron surge created by the Modi-Shah duo.

No matter which of these scenarios unfolds on May 2, it is clear that a fundamental political realignment has taken place in West Bengal. The BJP's extraordinary success in West Bengal in the Lok Sabha elections of 2019 was clearly no flash in the pan. Despite a significant presence of Hindu political organisations immediately before and after Partition — first the Jan Sangh and then the BJP — they were never more than a marginal factor in the state. As late as 2011 the BJP drew a blank with just 4.1 per cent votes in the Assembly polls. That improved to just three seats and 10.2 per cent votes in the 2016 polls. The BJP was firmly on the margins.

All that changed dramatically in 2019 when the BJP built upon Modi's popularity to emerge as the main challenger to the TMC, winning 18 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats and securing 40.6 per cent votes. The question was whether the BJP would be able to hold on to this success in this Assembly election or recede to its marginal position. We don't have the result, but we have the answer to this question: politics of Hindutva is here to stay in West Bengal. For some time now, political competition in the state will be TMC vs BJP — an unthinkable proposition a few years ago.

This has been accompanied by a social realignment. The BJP entered state politics by courting marginal regions and social groups. Its initial successes were in the backward regions of north Bengal and Jangalmahal in the west. It created a



For long, Bengal was an exception to many trends and patterns of Indian politics. Its party competition was unique. Campaigns were about political cadres speaking an ideological language. Elections were contested without appeal to caste or community and without much money. This election may have ended the exceptionalism of Bengal.

BATTLE LINES: For some time, political competition in the state will be TMC vs BJP — an unthinkable proposition a few years ago. PTI

base by courting Dalits, adivasis, Hindu migrants from Bangladesh and Hindi speakers in urban pockets. Since 2019, the BJP has expanded its net much beyond these sections. This time, it has gone into the heartland of rural south Bengal and created a space for itself among the Bengali middle class, the *bhadralok*. Yet, by stoking caste politics in a state where it was suppressed for long, the BJP may have triggered a new kind of identity politics.

The fulcrum of this politics is, of course, Hindu mobilisation. Popular vote share of anywhere close to 40 per cent would mean that the BJP has succeeded in consolidating

about two-thirds of the 70 per cent Hindu voters in the state. This electoral realignment would have long-term consequences. In a state with about 30 per cent Muslim voters, the BJP would need to keep Hindus in a state of heightened anxiety, if not panic, to keep them consolidated at this peak level. The rise of the Indian Secular Front, a Muslim political party, indicates the future possibility of counter-mobilisation among the Muslims. Bengal, thus, faces the prospects of being pushed to its sordid communal past of the 1940s when it was the epicentre of Hindu-Muslim violence.

Add to it the role of muscle, money

and election machine this time. It was widely feared that this may be one of the least free and fair elections in Bengal. Many of those fears have turned out to be true. Muscle power is not new in Bengal politics. Its roots go back to the 1960s, in the clashes between the Congress and Communists and then the intra-Communist feuds. It is no secret that the Left Front government routinely deployed violence against its political adversaries. The TMC continued and accentuated this legacy. The large-scale violence unleashed by the TMC strongmen during the panchayat elections of 2018 is one of the reasons for popular

disaffection with the ruling party. Now, the BJP has continued the tradition as many erstwhile Left workers have reportedly shifted their loyalties to the BJP. What the BJP still lacked in its ability to take on the TMC musclemen, it was made up by the central security forces, as alleged by Mamata Banerjee.

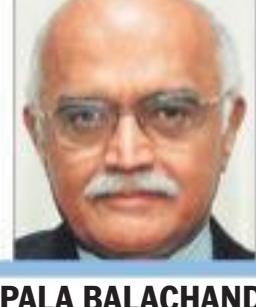
As for money, this was clearly the most expensive election in the history of the state. While there are no reports of large-scale voter bribing, money was pouring in multiple ways that the state has not seen before: pre-election defection of leaders, money to local middlemen, popping up of new TV channels and massive advertisements. Once this trend begins, there is no going back. It is also fair to say that the Election Commission was more partisan in this election than it has been in any other election.

Finally, the 'professional' management of elections marks a new turn in the history of Bengal, if not the country. Following the shocker in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Mamata Banerjee outsourced political strategy and management to Prashant Kishor's team which created a parallel structure to the party. They helped design new and popular policies, forged a new image, helped in the selection of candidates and in the micromanagement of the campaign and polling. We do not know if all that would suffice to give Mamata a third term. But we do know that it would be hard to go back to the old-style election management by political leaders and cadres.

It may have also led Bengal and the rest of the country into American-style politics as management.

Views are personal

India draws pity, flak over Covid chaos



VAPPALA BALACHANDRAN

FORMER SPECIAL SECY, CABINET SECRETARIAT

Does this shadowboxing absolve our leadership of not implementing the Empowered Group VI's decision of April 2020 that the supply of oxygen should be ramped up to face the Covid pandemic and that the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade would look into its supply? The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health had in November highlighted the need for ensuring that the oxygen inventory was in place and its price controlled.



CENTRE IN THE DOCK: Oxygen supply has not been ramped up despite warnings. PTI

rejoinder to *The Australian* on April 26 objecting to the words "arrogance, hyper-nationalism and bureaucratic incompetence" drew furious reactions from readers who reproduced photographs of crowded election campaigns addressed by the PM and other BJP leaders and the photographs of mass cremations, saying that "people are dying like animals not getting oxygen".

The Economist blamed the PM, quoting his declaration in January that "We not only solved our problems but also helped the world fight the pandemic." It said that in early March, when Maharashtra complained of shortage of vaccine, his government far from helping, attacked the state government "in the hope of bringing it down."

Never before had we received such humiliating international publicity. From the far right *The Australian* (April 25) to the centrist *The Economist* (April 24), blame was squarely laid on the Central Government and personally on the PM for their "complacency and distraction" which allowed things to "spiral out of control".

Yet, some sections in our media seem to be losing direction by deflecting our

ire towards the US through a despatch by their US-based correspondent for a national daily (April 27): "US jolted into action, Biden phones Modi to promise all help". The report said that the "Joe Biden-Kamala Harris dispensation" which was "slammed across the social, political, and business spectrum for perceived indifference to India" has sprung into action promising all help to India.

Justification for our expectation for quid pro quo was because India had helped the US when the then President Trump had requested our PM to rush hydroxychloroquine to them on April 5, 2020 despite our ban on its export the previous day. As a result, India shipped 50 million tablets to the US on May 1, 2020. Before this, an anonymous social media post had said that India's

National Security Adviser had conveyed to his US counterpart that "India could play the game better" if he "knew a trick of the game". The post was based on an article in a business weekly on April 22 that a Mumbai-based pharma company was making highly purified 'synthetic phospholipids' for vaccine manufacturing in the US.

Does this shadowboxing absolve our leadership of not implementing the Empowered Group VI's decision taken in April 2020 that the supply of oxygen should be ramped up to face the Covid pandemic and that the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade would look into its oxygen supply? The media had also reported that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health had in its report on November 21, 2020, highlighted the need for ensuring that the oxygen inventory was in place and its price controlled to meet the outbreak of Covid-19 and its management.

Although the Maharashtra Government issued an order on March 20, 2021, diverting 80 per cent of its oxygen towards medical use, the Centre chose to do that on an all-India basis only with effect from April 22, 2021. But this did not prevent the Union Health Minister from being aggressive with the Maharashtra when it requested for more vaccine supply after experiencing severe shortage as restive long queues started appearing for vaccination. Health ministry mandarins went on saying that enough vaccine was supplied to the state. As a result, the 'Tika

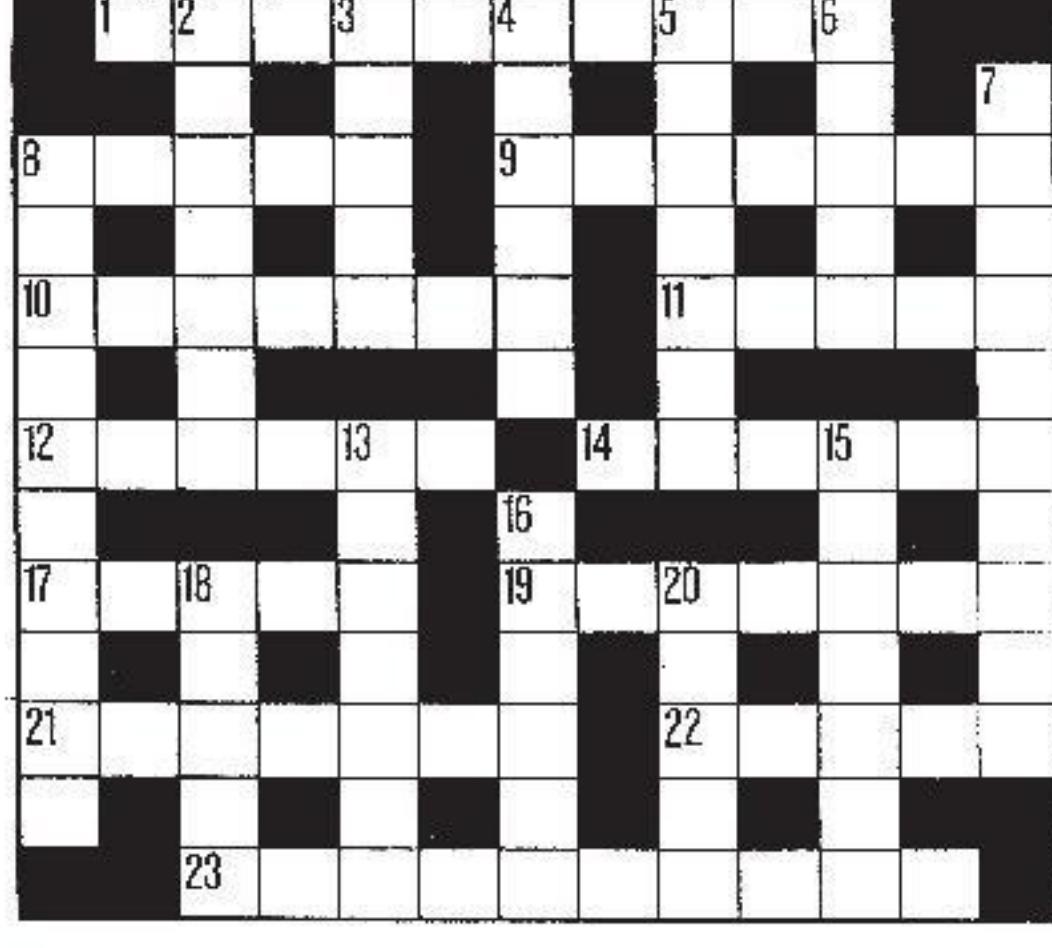
Utsav' (vaccination festival) advocated by Modi from April 11 to 14 became a joke in Mumbai.

The same aggression from the Health Minister was experienced by former PM Manmohan Singh when he wrote a non-polemical letter to the PM on April 18, giving suggestions on how to improve Covid management. This compelled a respected industry leader to call for ending "our age of hatred". He said that Singh's "well-meaning letter provoked an uncharacteristic rant from the Union Health Minister." Yet, he added that "many of Singh's suggestions, already under evaluation for weeks, were part of the new strategy" announced on April 19 by the Health Minister.

The way top BJP leaders were holding mammoth rallies and road shows all over West Bengal with aggressive slogans and refusing to shorten their campaigns despite Covid, remind one of the invasions undertaken by the Huns into Europe in the fifth Century to overturn the Roman Empire.

Did it need a strongly worded reprimand from the Kolkata High Court on April 22 for the Central Election Commission to realise that mammoth crowds during the elections had posed severe health hazards? The HC said: "The Commission is not doing one-tenth of what TN Seshan had done." It warned that if the commission did not take action, the court would. A stronger admonition came from the Madras High Court on April 26 that 'murder' charges should be framed against the EC for the way it allowed Covid norms to be flouted. Weren't these avoidable?

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Scotch, 4 Gauche, 9 On the go, 10 Hound, 11 Sit-in, 12 Curator, 13 Comeuppance, 18 Attract, 20 Prune, 22 Flung, 23 Too much, 24 Lately, 25 Bellow.

Down: 1 Spouse, 2 Octet, 3 Cleanse, 5 Abhor, 6 Caustic, 7 Endure, 8 Couch potato, 14 On trust, 15 Approve, 16 Lawful, 17 Nephew, 19 Angel, 21 Usual.

ACROSS

- 1 At very little cost (3,7)
- 8 A composition (5)
- 9 Childish chatter (7)
- 10 A deep red (7)
- 11 Standoffish (5)
- 12 Haphazardly (6)
- 14 Renounce as erroneous (6)
- 17 Overturn (5)
- 19 Uncomplaining in adversity (7)
- 21 Destroy gradually (7)
- 22 Well known (5)
- 23 Matter for argument (4,2,4)

DOWN

- 2 Corpulence (7)
- 3 Try hard to persuade (5)
- 4 Affix (6)
- 5 Ignorant (7)
- 6 A fight (3-2)
- 7 Professed (4-6)
- 8 Have a powerful impact (4,1,5)
- 13 Obsolete (7)
- 15 Severely self-denying (7)
- 16 Declare aggressively (6)
- 18 Cancel (5)
- 20 Confess frankly (3,2)

SU DO KU

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

EASY

CALENDAR

APRIL 29, 2021, THURSDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2078
■ Shaka Samvat	1943
■ Vaisakha Shaka	9
■ Vaisakha Parvishtha	17
■ Hijri	1442
■ Krishan Paksha Tithi 3, up to 10.10 pm	
■ Varilyana Yoga up to 11.48 pm	
■ Anuradha Nakshatra up to 2.29 pm	
■ Moon in Scorpio sign	
■ Gandmool start 2.29 pm	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: THURSDAY 18:59 HRS
SUNRISE: FRIDAY 05:41 HRS

CITY	MAX		MIN		
	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Rainy	Foggy
Chandigarh	41	22	22	22	22
New Delhi	42	22	22	22	22
Amritsar	39	23	23	23	23
Bathinda	43	22	22	22	22
Jalandhar	42	22	22	22	22
Ludhiana	42	25	25	25	25
Bhiwani	42	25	25	25	25
Hisar	42	22	22	22</td	

DRDO to set up two 500-bed hospitals in Jammu, Srinagar

JAMMU, APRIL 28

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will set up two 500-bed Covid hospitals in Jammu and Srinagar, officials said on Wednesday.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, while chairing a high-level meeting, reviewed the proposal to set up the hospitals, they added. Bhalla asked the Jammu and Kashmir administration to immediately identify suitable locations for constructing the hospitals. He also asked the DRDO to evaluate and submit the corresponding proposal estimates through a team of experts.

The meeting was informed that the administration has identified two patches of land in Jammu and Srinagar for the purpose. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam, Financial Commissioner, Health, Atal Dullo, the Union secretaries of the departments concerned and officers from the DRDO, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the AFMS Institute attended the meet-



A worker checks medical oxygen cylinders at Government Medical College and Hospital in Jammu on Wednesday. PTI

MEDICAL OXYGEN STOCKS SET TO SURGE IN J&K

- An attempt to pre-empt the medical catastrophe that has afflicted Delhi, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and some other states, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has taken a major initiative to boost the oxygen manufacturing across the Union Territory.
- Even as most of the major hospitals in Kashmir are already equipped with independent oxygen manufacturing plants, the authorities have stepped up the process of adding six new plants to the system within a fortnight. PTI

ing. To mitigate the shortages in medical facilities, it was requested that the temporary

DRDO Covid hospitals be constructed in time, an official spokesperson said. — PTI

84-HR LOCKDOWN IN 11 DISTRICTS

- An 84-hour lockdown would be imposed in 11 districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday evening in a bid to tackle the surge in Covid-19 cases, a senior official said.
- The curfew would come into effect at 7 pm on Thursday and remain in force till 7 am on Monday. Eleven districts, including Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam, Kulgam, Pulwama, Ganderbal, Jammu, Kathua, Reasi, Udhampur will be under curfew. PTI

TRANSPORTERS WANT PASSENGER FARE UP

Protesting against the administration's order capping the seating capacity in public transport at 50 per cent amid the Covid-19 pandemic, dozens of transporters held a protest here on Wednesday, demanding a hike in passenger fare for the survival of the "economically-hit" industry. Private transporters have been on an indefinite strike since April 21. PTI

Paracetamol, azithro raw material cost...

FROM PAGE 1

to Rs 12,000 per kg and the price of azithromycin has increased to Rs 11,500 per kg from Rs 8,000 per kg prevailing in the market a few weeks ago, said Yuvraj Chhoker, who runs Tiruvision Medicare in Baddi.

Even packaging material like foil and cartons has registered a price hike of 10 to 20 per cent and empty capsules have become dearer by 30 to 40 per cent. The price of 1 gram maropenem, another raw material, has increased from Rs 100 to Rs 180 added Chhoker.

"The price of the APIs has increased by as much as 300 per cent ever since the second wave of Covid has erupted. There was no check on the price by the government. Since the price of the medicines manufactured using these ingredients is regulated under the drug price control order, their maximum price cannot be enhanced," said SL Singla, adviser, Himachal Pradesh Drug Manufacturers Association.

"Azithromycin has gone off the shelf today as its manufacturing has become unviable. More drugs would follow suit if the government doesn't intervene to either regulate the price of the APIs or to enhance the price of the final product," claimed Singla.

Drug manufacturers asserted that they had given up their margins in this hour of crisis, but the government had done little to address their representations.

With China suspending cargo flights to India, the manufacturers feared that more trouble was in the offing. A sizeable chunk of the APIs comes from China.

Pharma companies are largely dependent on China for their API requirement. A sizeable decline in imports from China triggered its shortage in the domestic markets since the advent of Covid. The API shortage led to uncertainty in the market, fuelling price hike. Also, there was a scramble to manufacture these drugs due to their burgeoning demand, said a manufacturer.

Online e-tender on lump sum/items rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Palampur on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh in electronic tendering system in two covers for the undermentioned work from the Contractor/Firm of appropriate class.

Name of Work	Estimated cost	EMD	Cost of tender
Work No.1 :- Improvement of water supply scheme to Scheduled Caste habitation Gopalpur and Drati in Tehsil Palampur District Kangra(HP). (SH) Construction of reinforcement cement concrete overhead storage tank of 50000 litre capacity 10 mtr staging height.	Rs. 1150000/-	Rs. 23000/-	Rs. 400/-

Last date of filing/uploading the tender through e-tendering 05/05/2021 upto 11.00 AM and the same will be opened on 05/05/2021 at 11.30 AM. The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website: www.hpihp.org and www.hptenders.gov.in:- DPR/HP/410

PUNJAB POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION LTD.

POLICE COMPLEX, PHASE-VII, S.A.S. NAGAR

TEL. No. 4080111, 4080112 & FAX No. 4080107

INVITATION OF BID (IFB)

SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 5/2021-22 DATED: 28.04.2021

Online tenders are invited on two bid system (Technical Bid & Financial Bid) on percentage basis above/below/at par from the DNTT for the following works from the eligible Contractors enlisted in Central/State Government and PSU as per detail given in the website eproc.punjab.gov.in

Sl. No.	Name of work	i) Estimated Cost ii) Earnest Money iii) Processing Fee iv) Tender Form Cost	Time Limit (in months)
1.	Construction of Balance Work of Standard Police Station Building Type-H at Aur, District SBS Nagar.	i) Rs. 242.33 Lacs ii) Rs. 4.65 Lacs iii) Rs. 5900/- iv) Rs. 2360/-	12
ii)	Start Date of Downloading	29.04.2021 Time 17:00 Hrs.	
ii)	Last Date of Bid Submission	11.05.2021 Time 11:00 Hrs.	
iii)	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid	12.05.2021 Time 11:00 Hrs.	

For any clarification/difficulty regarding e-tendering process flow, please contact us on 0172-2970263, 0172-2970284/4080116. Corrigendum/Addendum/Corrections, if any will be published in the website. DPR/Pb/4110 Sd/- CHAIRMAN-cum-MANAGING DIRECTOR.

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD. (A State Government Undertaking)

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERING (E-TENDER MODE ONLY)

Online Tender is hereby invited by the undersigned, for & on behalf of the Chairman-cum-Managing Director, HPSEBL, Shimla-4, from the experienced/reputed Bidders/ Joint venture firms/ A Co-operative Society of Retired Employees of HPSEBL Ltd. for the below mentioned work on the prescribed formats:-

BID No.	HC-II/DB-E-Tendering Job No.- 03-2021-22
Name of work	E-Tendering Partial work on Turnkey Basis for Providing SOP to M/s Luxus Hotel & Resort at vill. Dera in (E) Section Chhaura under Electrical Sub Division, HPSEBL, Kandaghat. T.S. No. HES-4-2021-22, W.B. No. D-21-0131. Name of Scheme:- Deposit.
Estimated Cost	₹ 5,55,344/- Only
Earnest Money	₹ 13,880/- Only
Completion Period	Three Months
Cost of Tender Documents	₹ 1,000/- + 18% GST = @ ₹ 1,180/- only
Sale of Tender Documents	From 29/04/2021 to 12/05/2021 at (11.30 AM)
Receipt of Tender	12/05/2021 (04:00 PM)
Download of Tender	13/05/2021 (11:00 AM)

Key Dates:-
 1. Date of online publication 29.04.2021
 2. Start date and time of bid submission 01.05.2021 at 11:00 AM
 3. End date and time of bid submission 12.05.2021 at 04:00 PM
 4. Date and time of opening of Price Bid 13.05.2021 at 12:30 PM

The detailed tender notification can be viewed/ downloaded free of cost from the website <https://hptenders.gov.in>.

Er. Rakesh Kumar
Superintendent Engineer, (OP) Circle, HPSEBL, Solan

Two killed in factory blast in Kathua dist

KATHUA/JAMMU, APRIL 28

Two labourers were killed and another injured on Wednesday in an explosion at a zinc and copper factory in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior police official said. The cause of the explosion that occurred at around 12.45 pm is being investigated. Senior Superintendent of Police, Kathua, RC Kotwal said. Charred bodies of two persons were recovered from the debris of the factory which went up in flames following the blast, he said.

One more labourer was evacuated to hospital in an injured

Boiler is believed to have exploded, causing a blaze

condition and admitted to Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital, Kathua. Officials identified the deceased as Shakeel Ahmad (35) and Salman (22), both residents of Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh, and the injured as their associate Alam (19) of Muzaffarnagar. They said a boiler is believed to have exploded, causing the fire and the casualties. — PTI

1 cr register for 18 plus vaccine...

FROM PAGE 1

(from Rs 400 to Rs 300 a dose), Opposition-ruled Maharashtra, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Kerala said they would not be able to roll out 18-plus vaccinations from May 1 because vaccine manufacturers had said they had to meet Centre's commitments first.

The Punjab Government placed an order for 30 lakh Covishield doses with the SII two days ago, but was told there were no stocks till May 15. Congress-ruled Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Congress-JMM ruled Jharkhand were also told the same.

The Centre, meanwhile, said the states and UTs had been provided around 16 crore vaccine doses free of cost and 1,06,19,892 were available with the them as of today.

VAX STOCK WITH NORTHERN STATES

State	Free doses	Consumed	In stock	On the way
Punjab	34,86,770	32,95,760	1,91,010	2 lakh
Haryana	42,02,220	38,55,867	3,46,353	3 lakh
Chandigarh	2,90,930	1,96,852	94,078	—
Himachal	18,81,690	16,44,503	2,37,197	1.5 lakh
J&K	23,81,840	22,45,463	1,36,377	1 lakh

CONCERN OVER WASTAGE

High vaccine wastage remains an issue with northern states. While Haryana reported 5.72% wastage, the figure was 4.98% in Punjab, 3.46% in Chandigarh, 2.58% in J&K and 2.08% in Ladakh.

Even as the Centre claimed there was no shortage of stock, several vaccine centres across the country turned back people whose second doses were due.

Hry O2 quota up 70 MT

FROM PAGE 1

Addressing a press conference, he said, "During the first wave, the maximum cases per day had reached around 3,100. But yesterday, the state recorded 11,931 Covid cases, which is around four times the peak witnessed during the first wave."

He said they had prepared health facilities keeping in view the peak figures for the first wave, "but now we are geared up to tackle the latest situation too". "There is no shortage of oxygen, but its availability in the liquid form (required for transportation) is a challenge. We are working to put a network in order," he added. — TNS

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE/CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN LACS	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS E-MAIL
1.	Executive Engineer, Ludhiana Drainage Division, Ludhiana	Desilting/Clearance of Sarkanda, Weed, Jala, Booti etc from Neelon Drain in between R.D. 7260-34200 by machinery and providing and fixing boundary pillars. RD stone after demarcation at Neelon Drain and Budha Nullah	06.05.2021/ 06.05.2021	8.00 THOUSAND	9780092500 xenldhdrg@gmail.com
2.	Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 3, PWD (B&R) Branch, Ludhiana	Normal Patch Work on various Road in MC Doraha & MC Maloud	07.05.2021/ 07.05.2021	1.06 LACS	9781404284 eecd3ldnpwdp@gmail.com
3.	Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 1, PWD (B&R) Branch, Ludhiana	Normal Patch Work/Heavy Patch Work on various Link Road Falling in MC Ludhiana under Repair Program 2020-21	10.05.2021/ 10.05.2021	1.59 LACS	9878721188 eecd1ldnpbpwd@gmail.com
4.	Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation, Division No. 1, Ludhiana	Providing Water Supply Scheme for Village New Abadi Akalgarh, Block Sudhar, Distt. Ludhiana. (Under Nabard-XXIII/JJM)	30.04.2021/ 01.06.2021	2.72 THOUSAND	961500057 div1dh@gmail.com
5.	Executive Engineer, Panchayati Raj, P.W. (C&M) Division, Ludhiana	Construction of Stadium at Khalsa College for Women Sidhwani Khurd Block Jagraon, Distt. Ludhiana	07.05.2021/ 07.05.2021	19.60 THOUSAND	9814056538 xenprldh@yahoomail.com
6.	DETC JALANDHAR DIVISION JALANDHAR	The Office of the DCST, Jalandhar Div, Jaland			

HIMACHAL PRADESH**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT****E-Procurement Notice****INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

1. The Executive Engineer, HP-PWD, Rohru, Distt. Shimla, H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on item rates, in electronic tendering system, in 2 cover system for the undermentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/firms registered with HP-PWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Starting Date for downloading Bid	E/Money	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	C/o Sports Hostel Block at GSSS Rohru (SH:- Civil Work W.S. & S.I., and rain harvesting tank & site development etc.)	Rs. 2,51,89,389/-	12.05.2021, 1030 HRS	Rs. 1,71,900/-	27.05.2021, 1800 HRS

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website [www.htenders.gov.in](http://htenders.gov.in). And any corrigendum uploaded in website. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer,
B&R Divn., HP.PWD, Rohru.

HIMACHAL PRADESH**JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG****NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Matiana (HP)

Telephone No. 01783225341

E-mail: iphdivisionmatiana@gmail.com

Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Matiana on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the undermentioned work from the contractor/firms of appropriate class enlisted with H.P. Jal Shakti Department.

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	E/Money	Time of Completion	Cost of form
1.	Retrofitting of LWSS Khalat Nallah to Naqjubbar in GP Jadoon, Tehsil Kumarsain, Distt. Shimla H.P. (SH:- Providing FHTC (house hold water connections) Under JMM.	567637/-	11350/-	6 Months	400.00
2.	Retrofitting of LWSS Nanja Kirti Gharal in GP Shamathla and Kirti, Tehsil Kumarsain, Distt. Shimla H.P. (SH:- Providing FHTC (House hold water connections) Under JMM.	976825/-	19500/-	6 Months	400.00
3.	Prov. GWSS Bhera Khad to Bithal in GP Shamathla, Sub Tehsil Kotgarh Distt. Shimla H.P./SH:- Tapping of additional source to village Bithal, C/o Nallah Intake, Storage Tank of 55000 ltrs, capacity and Treatment units).	2498243/-	44975/-	6 Months	400.00
4.	Retrofitting of LWSS Dhori Khad to Batali, Kawani in Tehsil Kumarsain Distt. Shimla HP (SH:- Prov. FHTC household tap connections (FHTC) under JMM.	1468901/-	29380/-	6 Months	400.00

- 1 Tender documents and other instruction can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <http://htenders.gov.in> by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.
- 2 As the bids are to be submitted online and required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency at the earliest.

Key Dates:-

1 Date of online publication	28.04.2021
2 Downloading of e-tender Documents	From 28.04.2021 to 06.05.2021 up to 11:00 a.m.
3 Date of submission of e-tendering	From 28.04.2021 to 06.05.2021 up to 11:00 a.m.
4 Submission of earnest money deposit and cost of form through online mode (e-payment)	Up to 06.05.2021 11:00 a.m.
5 Date of opening bid	06.05.2021 at 11:30 a.m.
i) Cover-1 Eligibility Criteria & Technical Bid	On 06.05.2021
ii) Cover-2 Financial Bid	Should be intimated separately

Terms & Conditions:-

1. The e-tender documents shall be uploaded online in (Two) covers:- **Cover-1:** Shall contain scanned copies of "Eligibility Information" & "Technical Bid". **Cover-2:** shall contain "Financial Bid" on the prescribed form.
2. Cover-1 shall contain scanned copies of following "Eligibility Information" (Scanned copies to be uploaded pdf. File.)
 - a) The earnest money shall be strictly through online mode (e-payment) only.
 - b) The cost of tender form as shown above shall be strictly through online mode (e-payment) only.
 - c) Certificate of registration with Jal Shakti Vibhag in appropriate class and latest renewal thereof.
 - d) Income Tax return for the year 2019-20 & 2020-21.
 - e) Registration of GST.
 - f) PAN (Permanent Account No.)
 - g) EPF with documentary proof
 - h) The authorization letter regarding digital signature certificate (DSC) of the person authorized by the registered tenderer to upload the bid, be uploaded alongwith the other documents online.
- i) The contractor/Firm shall submit/upload the scanned copies of the documents as required in NIT through online mode only. No physical submission of documents will be allowed .
- j) A scanned copy of undertaking that I have carefully studied all the Terms & Conditions stipulated in form PWD 6 & 8/12 as well as special Terms & Conditions appended alongwith schedule of quantity before quoting the rates in the BOQ chart and that I have visited the site of work before quoting the rates.
3. "Technical Bid" Technical Bid shall contain.
4. Cover-2 shall contain "Financial Bid" which will be opened at a later date to be notified separately and Financial Bids shall be opened only of those contractors/Firms whose documents as per eligibility information Cover-1 and Technical Bid Cover-2 shall contain only Financial Bid/Offer on Departmental schedule of quantity/BOQ where contractor/Firms will quote his/her offer for each item.
5. Earnest Money of L1, L2, and L3 shall be retained for a period of 120 days.
6. No subletting of work as a whole by the contractor is permissible.
7. In case, opening day is a holiday, the tender shall be opened on next working day at the same time.
8. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.
9. Ambiguous/Conditional tenders or tenders by Fax/ E-mail shall not be entertained/considered in any case.
10. Conditional bids are liable to be rejected without assigning any reason. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject/cancel any or all the tenders/bids without assigning any reason(s).
11. Any enquiry regarding tender can be obtained on E-mail of the Divisional Officer under E-mail address iphdivisionmatiana@gmail.com.

Er. Ajeev Negi
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division Matiana.
Tel. Ph. 01783225341.

No. JS-DM-CB-Tender/20- Dated: DPR/HP/485

The detailed tender specification/documents can be viewed/downloaded free of cost from the web-site <http://htenders.gov.in/nic>. For further details regarding e-tendering, contact on telephone No. 01909-223016. The tenders will be received and opened in the office of the undersigned on the scheduled date & time given above.

Stay Home -- Stay Safe

Chief Engineer (Operation), Central Zone, HPSEBL, MANDI.

ANNEXURE-A**e-TENDER NOTICE**

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Thunag invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work(s) through e-tendering process:-

Work No. 1:- Construction of LIS Nihri Bajouin in GP Sunah Lambathach Tehsil Thunag Distt Mandi HP: Construction of Head weir, Desilting Tank and sump well and site development i.e. retaining wall from RD 0 to 20 mtr) (Estimated Cost: 1667932/-, Earnest Money: 32520/-, Time Limit: Six Months, Cost of tender document: 400/-.

Work No. 2:- Construction of LIS Nihri Bajouin in GP Sunah Lambathach Tehsil Thunag Distt Mandi HP (SH:- Construction of Pump House, Toilet, Electric wiring, Delivery tank and site development i.e. retaining wall from RD 20 to 36 mtr) (Estimated Cost: 1968751/-, Earnest Money: 37040/-, Time Limit: Six Months, Cost of tender document: 400/-.

Work No. 3:- Providing various water supply schemes for Scheduled Caste village Jhundi, Keoli and Balinda in Tehsil Thunag Distt Mandi HP (SH:- Construction of storage intake chamber, Sedimentation tank of 5500 liters capacity, filter bed of 13.42 Sqm, RCC storage tank of 19000 liters capacity and laying, jointing and testing of GI pipes) Phase-3rd at Balinda (Estimated Cost: 987479/-, Earnest Money: 19750/-, Time Limit: Three Months, Cost of tender document: 400/-.

Work No. 4:- Construction of LIS Nihri Bajouin in GP Sunah Lambathach Tehsil Thunag Distt. Mandi HP (SH:- Laying, jointing and testing of HDPE pipes Node- D2-A1, A1-A2, D2-A, D1-A3, A3-A4, A4-A5, A3-A6, A3-A7, D1-A8, A8-A9, A9-A10, A8-A11, A11-A12, A12-A13, A13-A14, A12-A15, A11-A16, A16-A17, A11-A18, D1-A18, A25, A25-A26, A26-A27, A27-A28, A28-A29, A29-A30, A25-A31, A26-A32, A27-A33 and A29-A35, C/O Chamber/BP tanks (Open chamber)-10 Nos and Sluice valve chamber-8 Nos) (Estimated Cost: 1618743/-, Earnest Money: 31790/-, Time Limit: Six Months, Cost of tender document: 400/-.

Schedule of Tendering:-

1 Bid Submission start date	24.04.2021 at 9:00 a.m.
2 Bid Submission end date	06.05.2021 at 5:00 p.m.
3 Physical submission of Earnest Money Deposit, Cost of tender form if not paid online	07.05.2021 at 10:30 a.m.
4 Opening of cover-I	07.05.2021 at 11:00 a.m.
5 Opening of financial bid	Date and place to be notified separately

Last date of filling/uploading the tender through e-tendering 06.05.2021 up to 5:00 p.m.

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website [www.hpiph.org](http://hpiph.org).

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division,
Thunag Distt. Mandi.

DPR/HP/466 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

HIMACHAL PRADESH**JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG****NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Sealed item rate tenders on the form 6 & 8 are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dehra on behalf of the Governor of HP for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in IPH Department.

TENDER SCHEDULE:-

1. Date and time of receipt of application for tender form : 01.05.2021 up to 05.00 P.M.
2. Date and time of issue of tender form : 01.05.2021 up to 05.00 P.M.
3. Date and time of receipt of tenders : 03.05.2021 up to 03.00 P.M.
4. Date and time of opening of tenders : 03.05.2021 at 03.30 P.M.

The earnest money (unless exempted) in the shape of NSC/FDR/ Time Deposit and saving account of the Post Office/Bank in HP duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dehra should be attached with each tender case. Tender without earnest money shall summarily be rejected. These tenders have been uploaded in the departmental website www.hpiph.org. The firms/contractors who down load the tender form the departmental website shall have to deposit the cost of the tender form in the shape of demand draft drawn in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dehra payable at Dehra along with the eligibility criteria and earnest money in separate sealed cover up to 03.00 P.M. on dated 03.05.2021 and can collect the requisite form from the office after scrutiny of their application. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the tenders as specified above the tenders will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time limit	Cost of Tender form
1	R/M of stock storage at Divisional store Dehra in Tehsil Dehra, Distt. Kangra (HP): Unloading and stacking of cement and steel)	173040/-	3460/-	Three months	250/-
2	A/R & M/O LWSS Chowkath Bhalori (Bohal Khalsa) in Tehsil Jawalamukhi, Distt. Kangra (HP): Supply and erection of Submersible pump set with its allied accessories)	262600/-	5255/-	Three months	250/-
3	Stock storage Jal Shakti Division Dehra in Tehsil Khundian, Distt. Kangra (HP): C/o Store room Nr. Divisional building)	353069/-	7060/-	Three months	250/-
4	A/R & M/O LWSS Lagru in Tehsil Khundian, Distt. Kangra (HP): Replacement of 60 HP centrifugal pump set)	240000/-	4800/-	Three months	250/-

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. The contractors/firms should possess the following documents (Photo copy to be attached):
 - i) Latest renewal of enlistment
 - ii) PAN (Permanent Account No.)
 - iii) Registration under HP GST and Income Tax Clearance Certificate.
 - iv) The tender of pumping machinery without curve chart will be summarily rejected.
2. Ambiguous/telegraphic/conditional tenders or tender by Fax/ E-mail shall not be entertained/considered in any case.
3. The Executive Engineer, reserves the right to reject/cancel any or all the tenders without assigning any reason(s).
4. The offer of the tender shall remain valid upto 120 days after the opening.
5. The contractor must quoted their rates both in words as well as in figures.

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division Dehra.

No:EE/IPH/EA/Tender/2021-2022-1192-1242 Dated: 26/04/2021 DPR/HP/486

The detailed tender specification/documents can be viewed/downloaded free of cost from the web-site <http://htenders.gov.in/nic>. For further details regarding e-tendering, contact on telephone No. 01909-223016. The tenders will be received and opened in the office of the undersigned on the scheduled date & time given above.

Stay Home -- Stay Safe

Chief Engineer (Operation), Central Zone, HPSEBL, MANDI.

Indo-Pacific on mind, Oz to upgrade military bases

MELBOURNE, APRIL 28

Australia will invest \$747 million in upgrading four key military training areas and ranges in the Northern Territory to defend the country's interests and support greater engagement with the Indo-Pacific neighbours and allies, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced on Wednesday amid China's increasing assertiveness in the region.

Morrison announced the multi-million dollar investment, stating that the objective was to pursue peace rather than sending any message to China. The multi-million investment will

Super Kings on top with easy win

Gaikwad-Faf in 129-run stand

NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

Chennai Super Kings romped to a comfortable seven-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in the 23rd match of IPL-14 tonight, rising to the top of the points table with their fifth victory in six matches. Royal Challengers Bangalore also have 10 points, but CSK are ahead on net run rate.

Chasing Hyderabad's competitive total of 171, CSK got the job done for the loss of only three wickets, with nine balls to spare.

Openers Ruturaj Gaikwad (75 off 44 balls, 12 fours) and Faf du Plessis (56 off 38, 6 fours, 1 six) laid the foundation for CSK's win with a stand of 129. When Gaikwad was bowled by Rashid Khan (3/36) in the 13th over, CSK's scoring rate was 10 runs per over, and they needed only 43 more off 42 balls. Moeen Ali (15) and du Plessis were



Ruturaj Gaikwad hit 12 fours in his 44-ball 75. PTI

Manish Pandey (61 off 46 balls) and David Warner (57 off 55) were the top-scorers. In fact, when both Warner and Pandey fell in the 18th over, Hyderabad had reached only 134, and had only 13 deliveries left in the innings. Williamson and Jadhav managed to smash 37 runs off the last 13 balls to take Hyderabad to a challenging total. Lungi Ngidi was the best bowler for CSK, returning figures of 2/35 while Sam Curran (1/30) got the other wicket.

Warner, who passed 10,000 T20 runs during the course of his innings, appeared frustrated at times at his inability to force the pace on a track on which the ball was not always coming onto the bat. His 50th IPL half-century had three fours and two sixes but it was not his usual aggressive, bustling knock. — TNS, agencies

Brief scores: SRH: 171/3 (Pandey 61, Warner 57; Ngidi 2/35); CSK: 173/3 in 18.3 overs (Gaikwad 75, du Plessis 56; Rashid 3/36).

dismissed off consecutive balls by Rashid in the 15th over, but Suresh Raina (17 off 15) and Ravindra Jadeja (7 off 6) took the team to victory without trouble.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS (B&R Works)					
NIT No. 11/SE(TIC), dated 28.04.2021					
The Department of Municipal Corporation Ludhiana (B&R) invites online Double Bids for 116nos. works as per schedule given below:-					
Pre Bid Meeting	Last date & Time for online submission of Bids	Opening of bidding documents	Technical Bid	Financial Bid	
11.05.2021 at 11:00 AM in the office of SE(TIC), Zone-A: MCL	18.05.2021 upto 05:00 pm	19.05.2021 at 11:00 AM in the office of SE(TIC), Zone-A, MCL	Will be intimate later		
Pre Bid meeting schedule is only for the tenders amounting above than Rs. 1 crore.					
For details log on to :- eproc.punjab.gov.in					
Note :- Detail of works, other terms & conditions & tender documents any corrigendum /addendum the tender notice shall be published on above website only.					
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (TIC), Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana					
DPR/Pb/4091					

CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS & LEGAL METROLOGY SHORT TERM LIMITED E-TENDER

The Department of Food & Supplies and Consumer Affairs & Legal Metrology, Chandigarh Administration invites Short Term Limited e-Tender for Selection of Agencies for distribution of dry ration under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, among approx. 63,000 Ration Card holders registered under DBT Scheme in Chandigarh, from Government Organizations/PSUs/Cooperative federations having presence in atleast 5 States including U.T., Chandigarh/Board or Corporations. The detailed term & conditions of tender is available on the departmental website i.e. www.chdfod.gov.in & Chandigarh Administration website i.e., <http://etenders.chd.nic.in>. The tender will be available from 29.04.2021 at 11:00 a.m. onwards. The last date for submission of tender will be 12.05.2021 (11:00 a.m.).

Sd/- Secretary, Food & Supplies and Consumer Affairs & Legal Metrology, U.T., Chandigarh.

Relay teams miss Olympics qualifier

NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

An Indian athletics squad, including star sprinters Hima Das and Dutee Chand, was today forced out of next month's Olympics qualifying World Athletics Relays in Poland after the suspension of a connecting flight to Amsterdam owing to the spike in Covid-19 cases in India.

The women's 4x100m and the men's 4x400m relay teams were to board a KLM flight to Amsterdam in the wee hours on Thursday but the Netherlands government suspended flights from India effective Monday evening.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) tried to book an alternate flight available to any European city en route to Silesia in Poland where the event will be held on May 1-2 as there is no direct flight to Poland from India. Adille J Sumariwalla, AFI president said, "We are very disappointed at this moment. There are no direct flights between Indian airports and Warsaw, Poland. This meant that despite the best efforts, the squad could not be rerouted on another airline." — PTI

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE						
The Deputy Chief Engineer/BR/Workshop, Northern Railway, Jalandhar Cantt, for and on behalf of the president of India invites Open e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-						
S. N.	Tender Notice No.	Name of wok	Approx Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of opening	Bidding Start date on IREPS
1.	01-2021-Metalising JRC	Blasting and Metalising of open web Girder members in Bridge workshop Jalandhar Cantt.	15659729.93	NIL	24.05.2021	09.05.2021 to 24.05.2021
2.	02-2021-General Painting	General Painting of Bridge No. 17 BHRL-JAT Section & other various bridges under jurisdiction of SSE/BrM/PTK	90,24,357.64	NIL	24.05.2021	09.05.2021 to 24.05.2021
3.	03-2021-General Painting	General Painting of Bridge No. 84 JUC-FZR Section under jurisdiction of SSE/BrM/JUC	27,69,423.13	NIL	24.05.2021	09.05.2021 to 24.05.2021
Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of tender						
Up to 15:00 hrs on dates shown against each and opening of tender thereafter at 15:00 hrs on same date.						
Website Particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded						
The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in						
No. 80-W/30/Bridges/Invitation- Date : 27.04.2021						
933/21 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE						

DISTRICT HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY, YAMUNA NAGAR

DHFW Society, Yamuna Nagar invites the applications from the eligible candidates for the following posts, purely on contract basis under NHM up to 30.06.2021 or till the approval of RoP 2021-22 or completion of the project whichever is earlier. The Screened candidates on the basis of eligibility and written test will be eligible for interview.

Sr. No.	Name of Post	Name of Programme	Nos. of Vacant Posts	Date and Venue of written test/interview
1.	Medical Officer	NUHM	01(UR)	Walk-in Interview on every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. (till the post get filled) at O/o CS YNR.
2.	Medical Officer	Child Health (SNCU)	01(UR)	
3.	General Physician	NPCDCS	01(UR)	
4.	Radiologist	Maternal Health	01(UR)	
5.	District Monitoring & Evaluation Officer	HMS	01(UR)	24.05.2021 for written test 27.05.2021 for Interview of Eligible Candidates only.
6.	Data Assistant	HMS	01(UR)	
7.	Staff Nurse	NPCDCS	01(UR)	25.05.2021 for written test 27.05.2021 for Interview of Eligible Candidates only.
8.	Staff Nurse	Maternal Health	01(SC)	

Important Instructions:
(1) The interested candidates should apply on the prescribed Proforma from website addressed to the undersigned giving full detail of his/her biodata, with attested photograph and attested photocopies of the certificates, experience & testimonials and the applied documents should reach this office by 17.05.2021 up to 05:00 p.m. sharp i.e. last date of document submission. (2) The incomplete/unsigned applications will be rejected without any information. (3) All candidates (except for the posts mentioned at Sr. No. 1 to 4) must submit a fee of Rs. 200/- in the form of Bank Draft in favor of District Health & Family Welfare Society, Yamuna Nagar payable at Yamuna Nagar (4) The candidate should reach for written test/interview as per schedule mentioned above and on Website:- www.yamunanagar.nic.in & <http://nrhmharyana.gov.in> along with original certificates. (5) No TA/DA shall be admissible for attending the interview. (6) Posts may increase/decrease and these posts may be discontinued at any time depending upon the workload, requirement or validity of the project. (7) Department will not be responsible for any postal delay. (8) All the selected candidates will have to maintain his/her Headquarters. (9) Reservation will be applicable as per Haryana state Govt. policy (10) If selected, candidates will not be allowed to do private practice. (11) Service Bye Laws of NHM, Haryana- 2018 will be applicable (except posts mentioned at Sr. No. 1 to 4). (12) For application form, Academic Qualifications, required experience, salary details and any other updates kindly visit Website:- www.yamunanagar.nic.in & <http://nrhmharyana.gov.in>

Note:- Walk-in Interview for the post of Specialists and Medical Officers under NHM will be conducted on every WEDNESDAY at 11:30 a.m. (till the vacany gets filled) at O/o Civil Surgeon, Yamuna Nagar, as and when the vacany will occur. The Notice regarding vacany under Spl./MO category will be placed on the notice board of O/o Civil Surgeon, Yamuna Nagar. At present the vacany is mentioned at Sr. No. 1 to 4 under these categories. Interested candidates can check for it and apply accordingly.

Sd/- Member Secretary-Cum-Civil Surgeon, District Health & Family Welfare Society, Yamuna Nagar.

TODAY ON TV

IPL
MUMBAI VS RAJASTHAN 3:30PM
DELHI VS KOLKATA 7:30PM
STAR SPORTS

EUROPA LEAGUE SEMIFINALS
MAN UNITED VS ROMA
VILLARREAL VS ARSENAL

SONY TEN 00:30AM (FRIDAY)

Women's T20 Challenge unlikely due to Covid

NEW DELHI: The three-team Women's T20 Challenge, which has been held during the IPL in the past, is unlikely to be organised this year given the current restrictions imposed by countries on air travel with India due to the spike in Covid-19 cases in the country. The BCCI had been planning a camp for the Indian woman players, but the tournament has hit choppy waters as players from Australia, England, South Africa or West Indies would not be able to travel to India because of the unprecedented health crisis in India. The event has been organised three times in a row after its inception in 2018, and three teams — Supernovas, Velocity and Trailblazers — were involved.

IPL bio-bubble most vulnerable, says Zampa

SYDNEY: Australian cricketer Adam Zampa has said that the bio-secure bubble for IPL 2021 is the most vulnerable one he has been in so far, due to the Covid-19 situation in India. "We've been in a few (bubbles) now, and I feel like this is probably the most vulnerable," Zampa told Australian media. Zampa said that the tournament should have been held in the UAE, as it was last year. "I just feel like because it's India, we're always being told about the hygiene over here and being extra careful... I just felt like it was the most vulnerable. The IPL that was held in Dubai six months ago didn't feel that way at all," said the leg-spinner, who was part of the Royal Challengers Bangalore squad, but decided to leave because of his concerns over the situation. "I felt like that (UAE) was extremely safe. Personally, I feel like that would have been a better option originally for this IPL," added Zampa. Zampa said that the next discussion is probably going to be about whether the T20 World Cup, which is scheduled to be held in October-November in India, should be played in India or not. AGENCIES

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE					
Sr.DEN-IIF/ZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 20.05.2021 up to 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in document section on the portal					
Tender Type	Open	Tendering Section	Works	Bidding System	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	27.04.2021	Bid Starting Date	06.05.2021	Bid Closing Date/Time	20.05.2021/15:00 hrs.
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1	13/2021-22-JRC-DRM-FZR	Complete track renewal (

India's GDP to grow at 11% this fiscal: ADB

NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday said the Indian economy is projected to grow at 11 per cent in the current financial year on the back of the strong vaccination programme, but cautioned that the second Covid wave is worrying.

"India's economy is expected to grow 11 per cent in fiscal year (FY) 2021, which ends on March 31, 2022, amid a strong vaccine drive. However, the recent surge in Covid-19 cases may put this recovery at risk," said the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2021.

Continued economic recovery boosted by increased public investment, vaccine rollout and a surge in domestic demand will trigger this strong rebound, the ADB said.

The predictions are based on assumption that there is extensive vaccine deployment across the country and the second wave of Covid is contained.

According to ADB's flag-

2nd WAVE POSES DOWNSIDE RISK TO GROWTH: S&P

New Delhi: S&P Global Ratings on Wednesday said the second wave of Covid poses downside risks to India's GDP and heightens the possibility of business disruptions. The second wave brings in uncertainty and a drawn-out Covid outbreak will impede India's recovery, it said. "This may prompt us to revise our base-case assumption of 11% growth over fiscal 2021-2022, particularly if the government is forced to reimpose broad containment measures," S&P said. PTI



ship publication Asian Development Outlook. "The second wave of Covid-19 cases is worrying, especially if vaccine rollout falters or fails to contain it."

Another risk is further tightening of global financial conditions, which would apply pressure on India's market interest rates and therefore affect economic normalisation, due to the Covid-19 shock.

"With large government stimulus and the ongoing vaccination drive, we expect economic activity will continue its recovery that started from the third quarter of FY2020 and rebound strongly in the current fiscal year with an uptick in domestic demand, especially in urban services," said Konishi.

to have contracted by 8 per cent in FY2020, in line with the government's second advance estimate, it said.

ADB Country Director for India Takeo Konishi said India's economy faced its worst contraction in FY2020 due to the Covid-19 shock.

"With large government stimulus and the ongoing vaccination drive, we expect economic activity will continue its recovery that started from the third quarter of FY2020 and rebound strongly in the current fiscal year with an uptick in domestic demand, especially in urban services," said Konishi.

The economy is expected

Govt proposes new re-registration norms

MUKESH RANJAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: The Road Transport Ministry on Wednesday issued a notification of draft rules, which would make it much easier for those shifting from one state to another to re-register their vehicles. This was a demand from wide-ranging quarters. Station relocation occurs with both government and private sector employees. According to the statement, this scheme will facilitate free movement of personal vehicles across any state upon relocation to a new state. TNS

POWER TUSSLE

- Govt will now have to seek L-G's opinion before any executive decision
- Prohibits govt from any probe in relation to administrative decisions
- Comes at a time when Centre, Delhi Govt are fighting over Covid mess

DRDO to set up 500 oxygen plants

New Delhi: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been asked to set up 500 medical oxygen plants within three months with money coming from the PM Cares Fund. Each of these plants is designed for a capacity of 1,000 litres of oxygen per minute.—TNS

GNCT of Delhi Act, 1991, a legislation that provides framework for functioning of the Delhi Legislative Assembly and redefines the Delhi Government as the L-G. It curbs the Assembly's power to conduct proceedings as per rules of procedure made by it. It provides that the rules made by the Assembly to regulate the procedure and conduct of business in the House must be consistent with the rules in the Lok Sabha.

The amended law signifies the "government" in Delhi means the "Lieutenant Governor". It mentions that the L-G's opinion "shall be obtained" on all such matters as may be specified by the L-G before taking any executive action on decisions of the council of ministers of the Delhi Government.

The new law amends the

6.4 earthquake in Assam



A MAN STANDS NEAR A DAMAGED WALL DUE TO AN EARTHQUAKE IN GUWAHATI ON WEDNESDAY. PTI

A series of earthquakes jolted Assam and most of the North-East on Wednesday, causing extensive damage to buildings. Several roads in the region developed cracks.

There were no immediate reports of deaths, but three persons were injured as the first quake of 6.4 magnitude struck Tezpur at 7.51 am, officials said.

The impact was also felt in parts of West Bengal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. The first quake was followed in quick succession by lesser intensity tremors. PTI

Candidate's widow files plaint against EC officials

KOLKATA, APRIL 28 Nandita Sinha, whose husband Kajal Sinha (59), TMC candidate from Khardaha, died of Covid on Sunday, has filed a police complaint against Election Commission officials, including Deputy Election Commissioner Sudip Jain, holding them responsible for her husband's death. In the complaint, Nandita

asked the police to take immediate steps against Jain and other ECI officials "responsible for acts/omissions which have led to the death of my husband and for committing offences punishable under Sections 269/270/304 (Part II)/120B of the IPC". Nandita urged the police to register an FIR on the basis of her complaint.—TNS



Poll officials in Murshidabad. PTI

34 WB seats go to polls today

KOLKATA, APRIL 28 An unprecedented 753 companies of central forces will be deployed for ensuring smooth voting in the last phase of polling in 34 constituencies of West Bengal on Thursday.

Polling was originally scheduled to be held for 35 seats, but a candidate's death led to countermanding of polls in the Baisnabnagar in Malda.—TNS

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Russia fast forwards vaccine delivery

Putin, Modi resolve to set up 'two-plus-two' mechanism to strengthen ties

SANDEEP DIKSHIT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

Russia has joined the US in sending massive amount of aid and fast-forwarding the dispatch of Sputnik vaccines even as a telephonic conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday resolved to add more ballast to bilateral ties by agreeing to establish a two plus two dialogue between their foreign and defence ministers.

In fact, vaccines and other medical assistance from Moscow could start arriving from tonight, said sources. "Our cooperation on Sputnik-V vaccine will assist humanity in battling the pandemic," noted PM Modi after the telephonic conversation.

Russian Emergencies Ministry will deliver over 22 tonnes of necessary equipment including 20 oxygen production units, 75 lung ventilators, 150 medical monitors and 200,000 packs of medicine.

New Delhi is still mulling its response to two proposals from Pakistan — for opening an oxygen corridor from Lahore to Punjab and ambulance from the Eidi Foundation, said sources here.

US President Joe Biden has



Tankers filled with medical oxygen before being airlifted to India to combat shortage of the gas. PTI

O₂ CONCENTRATORS FROM UK ON WAY INDIA HELPED, SO MUST WE: CHARLES

London: Britain has confirmed that following the first tranche of vital medical equipment

a further 400 oxygen concentrators will be sent to India over the course of Wednesday and Thursday to help the country meet an overwhelming demand amid a 'horrible' second wave of the pandemic. PTI



London: Britain has confirmed that following the first tranche of vital medical equipment a further 400 oxygen concentrators will be sent to India over the course of Wednesday and Thursday to help the country meet an overwhelming demand amid a 'horrible' second wave of the pandemic. PTI

Aid givers opt for Red Cross over PM Cares Fund

already spoken at length with PM Modi and promised immediate dispatch of a whole series of help, including Remdesivir and other drugs.

The Chinese government, however, is taking time to consider the list submitted by the Indian government. But Chinese medical suppliers

are working overtime with at

least 25,000 orders for oxygen concentrators placed in recent days. Cargo planes are under plan for medical supplies and the Chinese customs

will facilitate relevant process, said Chinese ambassador to India Sun Weidong.

Aid being received by the Centre is being routed through the Indian Red Cross Association

for distribution to states while some NGOs are receiving help directly, said the sources. Meanwhile, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to his Canadian counterpart Karina Gould after Ottawa offered \$10 million to Indian Red Cross Society for buying oxygen cylinders and ambulances.

'Sputnik to combat new strain'

NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

The Sputnik V vaccine gives enough antibodies to combat the virus' Indian strain, the vaccine developer and Director of the Gamaleya Center Alexander Gintsburg has told TASS ahead of arrival of



the vaccine to India.

"If necessary, we will combat the Indian strain by high

titors of antibodies triggered by the Sputnik V vaccine. As a rule, it generates antibodies 20, 30, 80 times as much as necessary to neutralise the biggest amount of the virus in an infected organism.

Sputnik V will be effective against the Indian strain," he said. — TNS

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM					
SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	DHBVN	NIT NO. 13/XEN/CIVIL/HSR/2020- 21 DATED 28.01.2021	DATE EXTENDED UP TO 11.05.2021 (13:00 HOURS)	www.dhbvn.org.in	702734844 xencivil@dhbvn.org.in
2	UHBVN	04/2021-22	CLOSING DATE 04/05/2021 OPENING DATE 05/05/2021	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9356063248 xenciviluhbvnpanchku@gmail.com
3	UHBVN	02/2021-22	CLOSING DATE 04/05/2021 OPENING DATE 05/05/2021	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9356063248 xenciviluhbvnpanchku@gmail.com
4	UHBVN	01/2021-22	CLOSING DATE 04/05/2021 OPENING DATE 05/05/2021	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9356063248 xenciviluhbvnpanchku@gmail.com
5	UHBVN	NIT NO. 14/2020-21	HIRING OF 2 NOS. VEHICLE FOR USE TO XEN AND SDO M&P DIVISION, YAMUNANAGAR DATED 05.07.2021 UP TO 3:00 PM (OPENING TIME), 07.05.2021 UP TO 3:30 PM (CLOSING TIME).	www.uhbvn.org.in	9315161470 xenmnpnagar@uhbvn.org.in
6	DHBVN	NIT NO. EOI- 21TPD&C/2021-22	THE BID SUBMISSION CLOSING DATE AND OPENING DATE OF NIT ARE HEREBY EXTENDED AS UNDER (1) LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TECHNO- COMMERCIAL BID AND PRICE BID ON WEB PORTAL AND CLOSING DATE AS 10.05.2021 (UP TO 1700 HRS) (2) OPENING DATE OF PART-1 OF THE BID OR WEB PORTAL AS 12.05.2021 (UP TO 1100 HRS)	www.dhbvn.org.in	01662223216 cepdc@dhbvn.org.in
7	THE BALLABGARH COOP. MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD MILK PLANT BALLABGARH	MPF/PUR/2021-9574-81 2021_HBC_166923_1	THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION WAS 20/04/2021 AT 11:00 HRS. IT IS FURTHER EXTENDED UP TO 06/05/2021 AT 11:00 HRS. SUPPLY OF KHEER CUP RABRI CUP MEETHI DAHI CUP GHEE BOX CONTAINER KHEER CONTAINER SWEET BOX CONTAINER OF IML TECHNOLOGY	www.vitaindia.org.in	9968604725 vitablib@gmail.com

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	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MC SONIPAT	CONST. OF ROAD IN HASAMABAD, WARD NO. 8 M.C. SONIPAT	CLOSING DATE 12.05.2021	21.54 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01302260100 cemcsonepat@gmail.com
2	UHBVN	4 NO, HIRING OF VEHICLE JEEP/ BOLERO/OPEN BODY OR EQUIVALENT VEHICLE WITH HARD TOP & WITH DRIVER	03.05.2021 04.05.2021	6000/- EACH	www.uhbvn.org.in	01251297021 xenoperi@uhbvn.org.in
3	HSAMB PANIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICE CUM REST HOUSE BUILDING IN NGM AT MADLAUDA & 1 OTHER WORK	06.05.2021 20.05.2021	1.17 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01802661236 xenpnpp2021.hsbm@gmail.com
4	MI CADA	15 NO. LINING OF WATERCOURSES EXTENSION/NEW WORKS/UGPL.	CLOSING DATE			