

BIDEN TO XI: WILL ENSURE FREE
INDO-PACIFIC REGION WORLD

AMAZON MOVES SUPREME COURT IN
FUTURE-RELIANCE DEAL DISPUTE BUSINESS

CAA IMPLEMENTATION AFTER
VACCINATION: SHAH BACK PAGE



FRIDAY | 12 FEBRUARY 2021

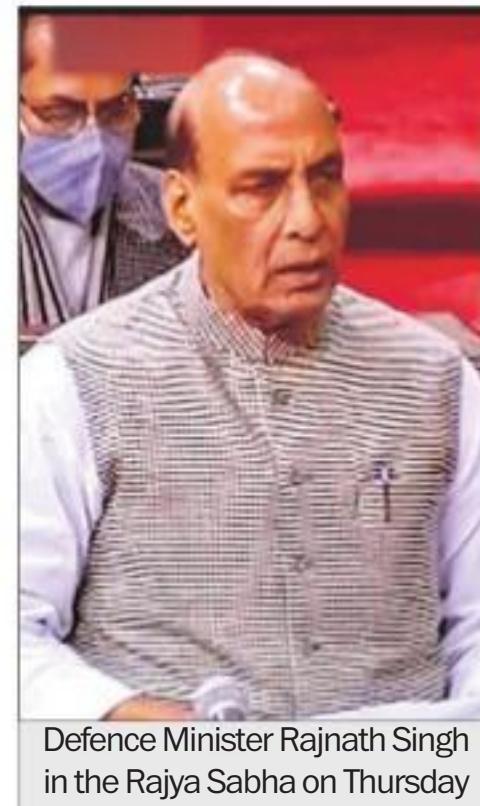
China to return to Finger 8: Rajnath

Says won't cede an inch | Indian troops to be based at Finger 3 | Pullback in phases

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 11
India and China have started disengaging from the north and south banks of the Pangong Tso lake with a temporary moratorium on patrolling in the areas being vacated by both sides. A meeting of senior commanders within 48 hours of the complete disengagement will sort out the remaining wrinkles in the Pangong Tso sector, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced in the Rajya Sabha today.

The Minister revealed specifics of the withdrawal on the north bank which began on Wednesday. The Chinese army will pull back its troops to the east of Finger 8 and Indian troops will be based at their permanent location near Finger 3 area. The area between Finger 3 and Finger 8 will not be patrolled till a resolution on future deployment is reached.



WHY NO ASSURANCE ON THE TIMEFRAME FOR SECURING STATUS QUO ANTE AS ON APRIL 2020, ASKS CONGRESS

The bunkers and other structures built by the Chinese army between Finger 4 and 8 will be dismantled.

Some outstanding issues regarding deployment and patrolling at some other points along the LAC in east-

ern Ladakh will be the focus of further discussions with the Chinese side. "This pact will substantially restore the situation to that existing prior to the commencement of the standoff last year," Rajnath said, adding the

aim is to achieve complete disengagement and restoration of status quo.

The disengagement will take place in a "phased, coordinated and verified" manner. "I want to remind the House we haven't lost anything," Rajnath declared. "Our approach has been guided by the resolve that we will not give even an inch of Indian territory. Our tenacity and approach during talks have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

EDIT: DISENGAGEMENT PACT

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Protests, boycott, BJP nominees face it all

Fearing backlash over farm laws, many resigning, contesting as Independents



OUR CORRESPONDENT

FATEHGHAR SAHIB, FEBRUARY 11
BJP candidates in Mandi Gobindgarh and Sirhind-Fatehgarh Sahib civic body elections are facing the wrath of farmers and residents. They are not being allowed to enter in many wards.

In Mandi Gobindgarh, farmers are taking out protest marches daily against saffron party candidates. Joining BJP leaders who are either leaving the party or fighting as Independents, the mandal president has also resigned from the party and is contesting as Independent to keep his chances alive. The pro-farmer bodies are appreciating his gesture and extending support to him.



Farmers take out a rally against BJP candidates in Mandi Gobindgarh on Thursday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

In Sirhind-Fatehgarh Sahib wards, residents, particularly women accompanied by their family members, gheraoed senior BJP leader Dr Harbans Lal in Aman Colony, when he along with the BJP candidate was canvassing. They raised slogans against the central government and forced BJP leaders to leave the colony. They were told not to seek votes in the area.

The office of BJP candidate from Sirhind's ward No. 17 Varinder Kaur was closed by farmers. She lodged a complaint with the Fatehgarh Sahib SHO. Farmers also took out a march against the SAD candidate of ward No. 16 and his wife, who is contesting from ward No. 18, for allegedly committing a fraud to the tune of Rs.4.5 crore. Alleging he was not returning

their money, they urged SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal not to nominate such anti-social elements.

Meanwhile, the police took out flag marches in all towns. DC Amrit Kaur Gill and SSP Amneet Kondal visited sensitive areas. They promised the elections will be conducted in a free and fair manner and no one would be allowed to disturb the peace. — OC

Campaigning ends today

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Polling on Feb 14, counting on Feb 17

the campaign would end as per the programme announced on January 16.

He said the required election materials and electronic voting machines (EVMs) would be handed

over to the polling parties on February 13, while voting will take place on February 14 from 8 am to 4 pm.

The spokesperson said the voters who would enter the booth by 4 pm would be given a chance to cast their vote, adding that the counting of votes would begin at the centres on February 17 at 9 am.

Police custody of three Cong men extended

MOGA, FEBRUARY 11

A local court today extended the police custody of three Congress men by five days to investigate the murder of two Akali workers, who were allegedly crushed to death under their cars on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday.

7 suspected of killing 2 SAD men at large

Former councillor Narinder Pal Singh Sidhu, Jasmal Singh, alias Nikka, and Parmma were arrested soon after the incident. Sidhu's wife is contesting the MC election from ward No. 9, here. He and his son Jaslovepreet Singh were among the 10 suspects who allegedly attacked the Akali workers. No more arrests had been made in the case so far.

City-I police station SHO Jaswant Singh said: "We are trying to arrest the rest of the suspects," he claimed. — TNS

Muktsar locality bars parties' entry over sanitation woes

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUKTSAR, FEBRUARY 11

People living around the municipal committee office here have put up hoardings, appealing to the politicians to visit them for votes only after addressing the long-standing problem of poor sanitation.

Gurjinder Singh, a senior citizen, said: "A few years ago, the municipal committee had built a market, located just opposite its new office. However, a large number of shops are presently closed. It is serving the purpose of garbage dumping ground, rather than a market. Besides, stray animals wander in it. We have met some politicians and officers, but nobody is paying any attention. Thus, we have appealed to politicians to come for votes only after developing the market."

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8 Cong men suspended

MUKTSAR, FEBRUARY 11

The Congress leadership has suspended eight party leaders from Malout for alleged anti-party activities and contesting the municipal elections as Independents against party nominees.

Malout block president Nathu Ram Gandhi said those suspended for anti-party activities included former Malout Municipal Council president Satguru Devraj Pappi. — TNS

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Gulati said after receiving the report, the commission would take further action. Earlier, Chaudhary had urged the NCW to intervene for early release of Nodeep. The minister said the government would provide legal assistance to Nodeep and urged the NCW to direct Haryana to arrange a meeting of a Punjab State Women's Commission delegation with Nodeep. — TNS

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State govt to give legal aid to Nodeep

the case investigated by a senior officer. "The SSP has been asked to submit a detailed investigation report within five days i.e. by February 15," she added.

Gulati said after receiving the report, the commission would take further action. Earlier, Chaudhary had urged the NCW to intervene for early release of Nodeep. The minister said the government would provide legal assistance to Nodeep and urged the NCW to direct Haryana to arrange a meeting of a Punjab State Women's Commission delegation with Nodeep. — TNS

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SSP's report on activist

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 11

On the appeal of Social Security, Women and Child Development Minister Aruna Chaudhary to the National Commission for Women (NCW) for the release of Mazdoor Adhikar Sangathan activist Nodeep Kaur, the Punjab State Women Commission today sought status report from the Sonepat SSP by February 15.

Punjab State Women Commission chairperson Manisha Gulati said Nodeep Kaur of Giadarh village in Muktsar district was arrested on January 12 after she had participated in the farmer's protests at Kundli border in Haryana. She said through a written communiqué, the Sonepat SSP had been directed to get

the case investigated by a senior officer. "The SSP has been asked to submit a detailed investigation report within five days i.e. by February 15," she added.

Gulati said after receiving the report, the commission would take further action. Earlier, Chaudhary had urged the NCW to intervene for early release of Nodeep. The minister said the government would provide legal assistance to Nodeep and urged the NCW to direct Haryana to arrange a meeting of a Punjab State Women's Commission delegation with Nodeep. — TNS

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Power bill set to rise amid state regulator's solar push

Despite staying non-functional, thermal plants to pay capacity charges

AMAN SOOD
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, FEBRUARY 11
With more stress being laid on renewable energy (solar power) in the coming fiscal, as desired by the power regulator, and minimum usage of state-run thermal units, power cost in Punjab is likely to rise further.

The PSERC has revised the renewable power obligation to 14.5 per cent for 2021-22 against eight per cent in 2020-21. Due to this, the requirement of less power from thermal units during the day would result in financial burden on the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL).

The gross generation of Ropar and Lehra Mohabbat thermal stations is 14.26 per cent each at plant load factor (PLF). The state government-owned thermal stations operate at much lower PLF as compared to the private ones. The PLF of thermal plants at Rajpura, Talwandi Sabo and Goindwal Sahib are 71.21, 51.97 and 27.84 per cent, respectively.

If the government doesn't



30-35 PAISE/UNIT HIKE ON CARDS

- Buyers prefer to draw their electricity requirement from power exchange rather than running their own thermal units
- In the coming fiscal, this will lead to a hike of 30-35 paise per unit as fixed charges and surrendered power still needs to be paid for
- The state is already levying around 40% taxes on electricity

CONSUMERS BURDENED

“Punjab needs only two plants of 1,000 MW each, but got private thermal plants generating over 2,900 MW. This additional 1,000 MW remains unutilised for most part of the year and the burden is on consumers. Now, with focus on solar power, PSPCL will have to pay for the surrendered power at all private thermal plants. — A senior PSPCL official

buy power from private thermal stations, it is still required to pay capacity charges on the declared capacity of the plant. The PSPCL has estimated that in the next fiscal the

capacity charges payable to Talwandi Sabo, Goindwal Sahib and Rajpura thermal plants would be Rs 1,275 crore, Rs 337 crore and Rs 72 crore, respectively.

“Due to lower power rate from power exchanges and high flexibility of power from power sellers, buyers prefer to draw their requirement from power exchange rather than running their own thermal units,” said VK Gupta, spokesman for the All India Power Engineers Federation.

“In the coming fiscal, this will lead to a hike of 30-35 paise per unit as fixed charges and surrendered power still needs to be paid for. Already Punjab is levying 40 per cent taxes,” he added.

“The thermal plants used to be base-load and now these have been turned into flexible load plants to absorb renewable power. So, the PSPCL will run its thermal units at Ropar and Lehra only in paddy season and that, too, only after sunset as solar power will be available during the day,” Gupta said.

State's per capita income falls to ₹1.15L, lower than national avg

RUCHIKA M KHANNA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 11
Punjab is no longer the prosperous state it used to be. The state's per capita income has slid to below the national average and its per capita capital expenditure is the lowest in the country.

Punjab's per capita income is Rs 1,15,882 — lower than the national average of Rs 1,16,067 — a gap of 0.16 per cent. This is the first time that the average income of a Punjabi is less than the income of his counterparts living in 16 other states and Union Territories, indicating how the state is slipping down the economic indicators.

Punjab's per capita capital expenditure, which is important for states as it affects the growth process of state economy, is the lowest in the country. The state is spending just Rs 869 per person as capital expenditure, against the national average (of major states) being at Rs 3,509.

Goa is spending the highest (Rs 14,804) on building its assets and continues its economic growth momentum, while neighbouring Haryana



PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE LOWEST IN COUNTRY

- Punjab is spending just ₹869 per person as capital expenditure against the national average (of major states) of ₹3,509
- Goa is spending the highest (₹14,804) on building its assets, while neighbouring Haryana is spending ₹6,038

ANALYSING REPORT

“The state was part of the workshop where the performance of all states and UTs was discussed. We are in the process of analysing the report. We are trying to assess the reasons for the fall in some socio-economic indicators. Raj Kamal Chaudhary, PUNJAB PRINCIPAL SECY, PLANNING

is spending Rs 6,038. Lack of investment in building assets seizes the economic growth of any state.

The report also shows that the per capita social sector expenditure in Punjab is also much lower than the national average (Rs 6,981 as against national average of Rs 8,962 for major states).

The only three areas where Punjab has taken lead is on school education and quality index and the India Innovation Index. Even on the health index, the state has shown improvement. —TNS

4-day remand of 'Khalistani operative'

AMRITSAR, FEBRUARY 11

The Counter-Intelligence (CI) today produced alleged Khalistani operative Jagdev Singh in a local court, which remanded him in four-day police custody. He was arrested from Lucknow on Tuesday.

Jagdev was arrested following preliminary interrogation of his accomplice Jagroop Singh, who was arrested from Rampur Cheeta village on Sunday. The Punjab Police had recovered five country-made weapons from him.

A CI official said the police had also brought Baljit Singh, an accomplice of Jagdev, on production warrant from the Amritsar Central Jail. Both were nabbed for allegedly possessing illegal weapons in 2019.

On Wednesday, the CI had brought notorious gangster Jasbir Singh, alias Jasbir Anngariya, on production warrant in the case. Jasbir faced 30 criminal cases, including attempt to murder, robbery and under the NDPS Act. Their arrest also brought forth the fact that anti-national forces in Pakistan were using notorious criminals and smugglers for carrying out nefarious activities. —TNS

HOLIDAY ON GURU B'DAY Top court tells Centre to reply within 4 weeks

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROPAR, FEBRUARY 11
Some unidentified poachers shot a sambar in the residential area of National Fertilisers Limited (NFL), Nangal, on the intervening night of February 9 and 10.

According to district wildlife officials, they got a call from NFL officials of poachers shooting a sambar in their area. Range officer Malkeet Singh said NFL security guards heard gunshots in the residential area of Sector 1 around midnight. The guards informed the Wildlife Department but the accused fled in a car. A sambar carcass was found the next morning with a gunshot injury, he said.

This is not the lone incident in the area, which has proved to be a haven for poachers. Locals said a fortnight ago, poachers had shot a sambar in NFL's Sector 7, the residential complex meant for senior officials of company.

On Monday, more than 25 kg sambar meat was recovered from the fields of Majri village



Carcass was found in Nangal's residential area

in the Purkhali area. Similarly, 1 kg sambar meat was recovered from Garh Bagga village. Last month, three sambars with their legs tied were found in the fields in the Nikku Nangal area. In November 2018, a sambar skull and nine horns were recovered from a home in the area. During summer, a video had gone viral on the social media showing some youths poaching a sambar with the help of dogs.

DFO Monika Yadav said she had written to the SSP to track down the suspects. A letter had also been sent to the NFL authorities to install CCTV cameras to prevent such incidents in their area, she said.

No anticipatory bail for ex-DGP, IGP

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, FEBRUARY 11

The District and Sessions Judge today denied anticipatory bail to former Director General of Police (DGP) Sumedh Singh Saini and suspended Inspector General of Police (IGP) Paramraj Singh Umranangal.

Both Saini and Umranangal are accused in a criminal case registered at the Bahakhana police station of



Sumedh Singh Saini
Paramraj Singh Umranangal

ing at Behbal Kalan in the aftermath of sacrilege incidents at Bargari and Burj Jawahar Singh Wala.

Saini and Umranangal were charged with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Punjab Police on January 15. The court had asked them to appear on February 9.

Saini had earlier approached the Punjab and Haryana High Court, seeking the quashing of the

chargesheet. The case is pending in the High Court.

On February 4, Saini and Umranangal had filed applications for anticipatory bail before the District and Sessions Judge, Faridkot.

On February 9, the JMJC, Faridkot, had issued bailable arrest warrants against Saini as he had not appeared before the court to face trial in the case. The court had summoned Saini for February 9 here.

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Sambar shot by poachers at NFL

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(Walk in interview) **Onkar College of Pharmacy** Sajama, Distt. Sangrur (Pb.) 148026. Mail ID: onkar2005@yahoo.com. Website: www.onkarcollege.in. Contact: 94170-48224, 77400-97327 following staff is urgently required Lecturer-M.Pharmacy or B.Pharmacy with 03 year (03) minimum experience, Computer Operator-(1 no) salary will be as per PCI/PSBTE norms. (CL20095574)

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Shri Durga Mahila Mahavidyalaya Samiti, Tohana (Distt. Fatehabad). Mob. 94166-16253, 94160-87875. Email: sdmcollge@tohana@gmail.com Requires:- Principal for Primary School with minimum 10 years experience. Attractive salary will be paid. Application with resume and all relevant documents should be sent through registered post or by hand to President Shri Durga Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Tohana. President. (CL20095616)

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

Dated, this day of 03.02.2021. Sd/- Civil Judge, Junior Division-13, Patiala.

CNR No.: PBPT02-003749-2018 Next Date: 02.03.2021 Publication issued to:

2. General Public In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 02.03.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Dated, this day of 03.02.2021. Sd/- Civil Judge, Junior Division-13, Patiala.

CL20094601

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Rekha w/o Jagjit Kumar Joshi r/o House No. M-102, M-Block, South City, Ayali Khurd, Ludhiana, Punjab-142027 have changed my name to Rekha Joshi for all purposes. (CL20095062)

I, Munish Kumar s/o Des Raj r/o 2212/1, Sector-45C, Chandigarh have changed my name to Munish Kumar Leekha. (CL20095076)

I, Anuradha Garg W/o Rajesh Kumar Garg R/o # 762, Sector 77, Mohali Have changed my name from Anuradha Garg to Anuradha Singh. (CL20095278)

I, Poonam w/o Anil Kumar r/o H.No. 46, Sector 27A, Chandigarh-160019 have changed my name to Poonam Dhiman. (CL20095090)

I, Renu Sharma w/o Naren Kumar, r/o H.No. 34, New Colony, Aman Nagar, Jalandhar, have changed my name from Renu Sharma to Renu. Concerned please note. (CL20095237)

I, Jitender Singh Dhanda s/o Attar Singh r/o 229, Sector 8, Panckhula, Haryana have changed my name to Jitender Dhanda. (CL20095262)

I, Sushma Kumari d/o Sh. Dwarka Nath r/o House No. 1505, Sector 43B Chandigarh have changed my name to Sushma Kumari Raina. (CL20095281)

I, Gurav Kumar s/o Shishpal, Village Chuharmajra, Dhand (Kaithal) have changed my name to Gurav Kumar. (CL20095331)

I, Ishwar Singh s/o Surat Ram resident 53 Vijay Nagar Bhiwani declare that my son Sameer and his wife Ishu are out of my control. I disown them from my all property. I along with my family will not be responsible of their acts. (CL20095336)

I, Dilkumar Gurung son of Sh. Kishan Singh resident Seva Niketan Near ITI Solar HP, have changed my name from Dilkumar Gurung to Anil Gurung. Concerned note. (CL20095342)

I, Tirath Singh S/o Dogar Singh, #2019/B, St. No. 20, Guru Teg Bhadur Nagar, Bathinda have changed my name to Tirath Singh Dhaliwal. (CL20095359)

I, Hemant s/o Sh. Arjun Bahadur r/o # 316-A, Sector 29-D, Chandigarh, declares that Hemant and Hemant Vohra are one and same person. In future I may be known as Hemant Vohra. (CL20095402)

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I, Vishakha Z D/o Khem Singh Resident of Village Rampur Jannardar, PO Naugawan, Sadat Amroha Nawgawan, Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to Vishakha Concerned note. (CL20095420)

I, No. JC582216N Sub Surrender Kumar s/o Preml Singh, Vill. Kot, PO Sajaoiplu, Sub Tehsil Tihra, Distt. Mandi (HP) declare that my wife Bavita Devi D/o 20.3.75, daughter name Barsha Katsoh and son name Nikhil Katsoh wrongly mention in my Army records. Correct wife Dob 02.04.1975, daughter name Versha and son name Nikhil. Please all concerned note. (CL20095430)

I, Ashok Kumar s/o Sadhu Ram r/o # 21175, St. No. 5, Ajit Road, Bathinda, have changed my name to Ashok Kumar Garg. (CL20095442)

I, Hawa Singh S/o Balkar Singh R/o VPO Kalsoura, Tehsil Indri, District Karnal, have changed my name to Honey. (CL20095478)

I, Renu Bala w/o Manmohan Singh (No. 249272K) NK s/o Ajit Singh village Madhan PO Mandi Teh. Bangana Distt. Una (HP), have declared that in my husband Army documents name of my wrongly entered as Reenu Bala instead of Renu Bala. (CL20095596)

I, No. JC-818178A Sub. Maj. & Hon'y Capt. (retired) Dharman Bir Dogra s/o Sh. Minal Ram Village Barohal, PO Panchrukhi, Tehsil Palampur, Distt. Kangra (HP). Declare that my daughter's name in my Army record wrongly entered as Ninta. Whereas her correct name is Ninta Devi. Concerned note. (CL20095597)

COURT NOTICE
(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Ms. Lovepreet Kaur Swaich

Civil Judge,
Junior Division-13,
Patiala.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited through Divisional Engineer Patiala.

Vs.
Pepsi Township Development Board Rajpura.

CNR No.: PBPT02-003749-2018
Next Date: 02.03.2021

Publication issued to:
2. General Public

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 02.03.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Dated, this day of 03.02.2021.

Sd/- Civil Judge,
Junior Division-13,
Patiala.

CL20094601

False info given, action taken against officials, says Addl CS

Tainted Cops Case Seemingly matter of shooting messenger: HC

SAURABH MALIK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BENEFICIARIES SPARED

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 11 The Punjab Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Home Affairs and Justice, has admitted before the Punjab and Haryana High Court that "certain false information" was disclosed in his earlier affidavit in the tainted cops case, while claiming initiation of disciplinary action against officials supplying incorrect details. However, his stand failed to find favour with Justice Arun Monga, who observed that it was seemingly a case of shooting the messenger.

The admission, and the observation, came just about a fortnight after the petitioner's counsel submitted only a half true picture had been projected in the affidavit. Some of the serving police officials/officers were deliberately being shielded.

Justice Monga asserted perusal of the additional affidavit, dated February 1, revealed "candid admission" regarding "false information" in the affidavit filed on December 10, 2020. The justification rendered was that the deponent was mis-

led into deposing incorrectly on the basis of wrong/filter information provided by certain erring officials, against whom disciplinary action was being initiated in accordance with the law.

The Bench also took note of the state's submission that a decision had been taken to constitute a special committee to frame a policy for action in cases where police officials had either been con-

victed or criminal proceedings were pending after registration of an FIR. "Let a report be filed on or before the next date of hearing," Justice Monga directed.

Justice Monga said the order (December 15, 2020), passed by Justice Ritu Bahri, revealed the case was directed to be heard by Justice Anupinder Singh Grewal's Bench as he had part heard the matter and certain detailed interim orders/directions were also passed.

"Let this case be heard by the Bench of Justice Anupinder Singh Grewal after obtaining appropriate orders from the Chief Justice," Justice Monga concluded. Justice Grewal had earlier called for details of accused and convicts in uniform.

Covid test must to visit Nankana Sahib

AMRITSAR, FEBRUARY 11

The SGPC has arranged a Covid-19 test camp for pilgrims who aspire to visit Pakistan for the centenary event of Saka Nankana Sahib.

A jatha will leave on February 18 to mark the event on February 21. The details of pilgrims have been sent to the Pakistan embassy in this regard.

The Pakistan embassy has made Covid test mandatory for visitors, 72 hours before they cross over

at the Attari-Wagah border.

The SGPC has asked all those who have submitted their passports to undergo testing. SGPC president Bibi Jagir Kaur said a camp for Covid-19 testing was being held on February 15 and 16 at the SGPC office in Amritsar. Pilgrims could even get the tests done on their own. —TNS

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform sad demise of our beloved **SARDARNI JAGIR KAUR W/o Col Mohinder Singh**.

Bhog & Antim Ardas for the departed soul will be held on 14 Feb. 2021 (Sunday) from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Gurudwara Waryam Nagar, Near Kidney Hospital, Jalandhar.

IN GRIEF:- 10.08.1930 to 05.02.2021

By: Chief Engineer Baldev Singh Sekhon & Kulwant Kaur (Son & Daughter-in-law) Col. Kulwant Singh & Kanwaljit Kaur (Son & Daughter-in-law) S. Manjeet Singh & Paramjit Kaur (Son & Daughter-in-law) Wg. Cdr. Gulbagh S. Padda & Ranjeet Kaur (Son & Daughter-in-law)

Resi: 66/67 Gurajpal Nagar, Jalandhar. Mob.: 7696453012

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Hans Raj Gangar I.A.S. (Retd.)** (16.01.1946 - 31.01.2021)

with profound grief and deep sorrow, we inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Hans Raj Gangar**, who left us for his heavenly abode on January 31, 2021.

Bhog & Antim Ardas will be held on 13-02-2021 (Saturday) from 1.00pm to 2.00pm at Gurudwara Sahib, Sector 21-C, Chandigarh. Followed by Guru ka Langar.

72-year-old farmer dies

Tribune News Service

SONEPAT, FEBRUARY 11
A 72-year-old farmer from Moga district died at the Singhu border today. Heart attack was suspected to be the reason for his death. The deceased was identified as Hansa Singh of Said Mohammad village at Dharamkot in Moga district of Punjab.

His associates said Hansa had come to the Singhu border 76 days ago. He went out of his tent this evening and fell down. They carried him back, but he was dead. They informed the family members of the deceased. Kundli SHO Ravi Kumar said the body was sent to the General Hospital, where postmortem examination would be conducted.

Moga farmers setup park at Tikri

Install CCTV cameras to keep tabs on anti-social elements

RAVINDER SAINI

Tribune News Service

JHAJHAR, FEBRUARY 11
Punjab farmers have developed a park over 200 yards at the Tikri-Bahadurgarh border. They have also installed benches, cots and centre tables there, besides setting up a guest room.

The park has been barricaded with the help of tied-up bamboo sticks. The farmers have also installed five CCTV cameras in the area to keep a tab on anti-social elements and protect their belongings.

The park is being used by the protesting farmers to discuss the prevailing situation while guests from Pun-



A park developed by Punjab farmers at Tikri. TRIBUNE PHOTO

jab use the room to stay.

"Since heaps of garbage were lying at the site, residents of our village decided to clean the area and develop it into a park. It has been named 'Sanjhi Chhat', said Gurcharan Singh from Manuke Gill village in Moga. He said they had been

organising langar near the park for the last two months.

Labh Singh, another farmer, said they lifted the garbage through tractor-trailers and then did earth-filling to level the surface. Plants were sown and flower pots were bought to give the site the shape of a park. Benches were arranged and chairs were brought from Punjab. A make-shift room at the park had become the centre of attraction.

"Various farmer groups gather at the park daily to discuss the situation. We are also providing the WiFi facility," said Mandee Singh Gill, another farmer.



Tikait to attend 2 mahapanchayats on February 18

Tribune News Service

HISAR, FEBRUARY 11

Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait is set to address mahapanchayats in two villages of Hisar district on February 18.

Randeep Lochab, a Samyukta Kisan Morcha member, said on Thursday that Tikait would address a mahapanchayat in Kharak Purnia village at 11 am and participate in another mahapanchayat at Bal-

samand village at 2 pm.

overnment had enacted the three laws to benefit the capitalists.

"The farmers, who are already in a pitiable condition due to wrong policies of the government, will be starved to death or compelled to end their lives if the laws get implemented," said Abhay.

Yuva panchayat head Satish Rathi said khap panchayats would stand by the agitating farmers.

Chaubisi panchayat chief Tulsi Grewal said four resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the farm laws, enactment of a law on MSP, release of the arrested protesters and creation of a fund to provide financial aid to the families of those killed during the agitation were passed at today's meeting.

13 protesters missing: SKM

To meet senior police officers to search for them

MUKESH TANDON

Tribune News Service

PANIPAT, FEBRUARY 11

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) will approach senior Delhi Police officers to search for the farmers missing after the Delhi violence on January 26. The SKM has finalised a list of 13 persons missing since the incident.

As per the list finalised by the legal committee of the SKM, eight farmers are from Punjab, four from Haryana and one from Rajasthan. The SKM has formed a five-mem-



R-DAY VIOLENCE

ber legal committee to identify and trace the persons missing.

The committee members have established a legal help desk at the Delhi borders to collect information about the persons missing.

"We have collected information that around 115 persons

had been arrested and prepared a list of 13 persons who were missing after the incident," said Deepsinghwala, vice-president, Kirti Kisan Union, Punjab.

He said earlier people had sent names of persons missing before the incident and of some mentally challenged persons, but the final list had now been prepared. "We will meet senior Delhi Police officers in connection with the missing persons. If we do not get any clue, we will file a habeas corpus petition in the apex court," he maintained.

Gupta against his transfer.

The Bench noted that it could not be said that the impugned transfer order passed by Haryana was mala fide, discriminatory or in violation of the statutory rules governing the service. The Bench maintained that transfer was an incident of service. The power to transfer was vested in the employer, who was to exercise it as per administrative exigencies keeping in view public interest, unless it involved adverse impact on career or further prospects.

Power to transfer vested in employer

The Bench maintained that transfer was an incident of service. The power to transfer was vested in the employer, who was to exercise it as per administrative exigencies keeping in view public interest, unless it involved adverse impact on career or further prospects.

"The exercise of power to transfer in the present case

'Kisan Ratan' title for Abhay

Tribune News Service

ROHTAK, FEBRUARY 11

INLD leader Abhay Singh Chautala was felicitated on Thursday for resigning from the Legislative Assembly in support of the agitating farmers.

Abhay was accorded the title of 'Kisan Ratan' at a 'sarvkhp kisan sammelan' organised by the Sarvajatiya Sarvkhp Yuva Panchayat and the Sarvkhp Panchayat Meham Chaubisi at chaubisi chabutara, Meham.

Addressing the gathering, the INLD leader said farmers were the backbone of the country and the nation could not sustain without them. He alleged that the BJP gov-

ernment had enacted the three laws to benefit the capitalists.

"The farmers, who are already in a pitiable condition due to wrong policies of the government, will be starved to death or compelled to end their lives if the laws get implemented," said Abhay.

Yuva panchayat head Satish Rathi said khap panchayats would stand by the agitating farmers.

Chaubisi panchayat chief Tulsi Grewal said four resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the farm laws, enactment of a law on MSP, release of the arrested protesters and creation of a fund to provide financial aid to the families of those killed during the agitation were passed at today's meeting.

Court: Furnish FIR in teen arrest case

GAZIPUR, FEBRUARY 11

A Kaithal teenager, currently in judicial custody for heinous crimes like attempt to murder and dacoity for his alleged role in the January 26 violence, may have won some relief for himself and several others.

In a judgment that may help farmers held in various jails, Metropolitan Magistrate Abhinav Pandey has ordered the Delhi Police to furnish an FIR to Deepak's lawyers. Deepak (19), lodged in Tihar Jail, was arrested on January 26 from Nangloi, near the Tikri border, but his family was not notified.

His father Ramesh, after finding his son's name on the list of those arrested in the aftermath of the January 26 violence, visited the Nangloi police station and sought a copy of the FIR, but his request was turned down

Dad had sought copy

Deepak's father Ramesh, after finding his son's name on the list of those arrested, visited Nangloi police station and sought a copy of the FIR, but his request was turned down

"We moved court on February 9, saying a copy of the FIR was our right. The judge passed an order in our favour. We received a copy of the FIR today," said lawyer Aadil Singh Bopari. He said the judgment would bring relief to many who had been held.

"Not giving a copy of an FIR is a curtailment of basic rights. The judge has asked for a clarification for failing to give us a copy of the FIR. We have to understand that counsel of the accused cannot move a bail application without a copy of the FIR," he added. — TNS

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Col. J. S. Bala (Retd.)

Secretary

Sikh Educational Society

SGGS Complex, Sector 26, Chandigarh

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E-Tendering

Tender for Empangement of Vendors and Award of Contract - Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) /Facility Management Service (FMS) of Computer Hardware, Software and Peripherals

Reserve Bank of India, Chandigarh invites e-tenders under two bid system (Technical and Financial Bid) for Empangement of Vendors for Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) /Facility Management Service (FMS) of Computer Hardware, Software and Peripherals for three years (Part I) and Award of Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) /Facility Management Service (FMS) of Computer Hardware, Software and Peripherals for One Year (Part II) at Reserve Bank of India, Sector 17, Chandigarh-160017.

1. The complete details of the tender will be available on RBI website <http://www.rbi.org.in> and on MSTC portal from February 12, 2021.
2. Interested Tenderers are mandatorily required to be registered on www.mstccommerce.com for participation.
3. The tenderers can participate in the tender only through e-tendering at www.mstccommerce.com/eprochome/rbi.
4. Tender documents can also be downloaded from the website www.rbi.org.in from February 12, 2021. The tender can only be submitted through e-tendering at www.mstccommerce.com/eprochome/rbi from February 12, 2021 to March 05, 2021.
5. Part-1 (Technical Bid) of the tender will be opened on MSTC portal at 11:00 am on March 08, 2021.

Regional Director

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR
(Established by the State Legislature Act No.21 of 1969)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI) FOR LEASING OUT A SHOP TO A BANK FOR ATM INSTALLATION IN THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar invites EoI from the interested banks for leasing out vacant shop below Bhai Gurdas Library to a bank for ATM installation. Interested parties may submit their Expression of Interest (EoI) to the Registrar, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar on or before 25-02-2021 by 4 pm in the prescribed EoI form under sealed envelope superscribing "Expression of Interest for ATM installation" by Regd.Post/Courier. The prescribed EoI form, terms & conditions can be downloaded from university website www.gndu.ac.in—(Tenders).

REGISTRAR

REGISTRAR

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Disengagement pact

India must ensure that Chinese pullback is not a sham

AFTER several rounds of talks at the diplomatic and military levels, India and China are poised to take a major step forward to end the over nine-month-long standoff at the LAC. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday that both nations had reached an agreement on the disengagement of troops from the north and south banks of the Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh. Under the pact, the two sides will cease their forward deployments in a 'phased, coordinated and verified manner' in these areas. The potential breakthrough comes as many as five months after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, during a meeting in Moscow, worked out a five-point action plan to ease border tensions. Interestingly, the Chinese Defence Ministry went to town about the initiation of disengagement on Wednesday itself, while the Indian government took its time preparing a detailed statement. India's guarded, carefully calibrated response is understandable, considering how China has given short shrift to a series of agreements signed over the past three decades or so.

The much-awaited de-escalation will offer some respite to the Indian troops, who have been on high alert particularly after the Galwan valley clash of June 2020, but there is no room for letting one's guard down. India needs to constantly monitor the Chinese pullback and be on the lookout for any aberration. Rebuilding mutual trust will be a long-drawn-out process requiring sustained actions on the ground.

It's not only China's misadventures in recent years that have tempered India's optimism with caution. There is a bitter lesson to be learnt from history too. Back in July 1962, the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had welcomed the 'partial' withdrawal of Chinese troops from Ladakh. The euphoria didn't last long. Barely three months later, China invaded Indian territory. Though India will be hoping that such treachery is not repeated, the possibility can't entirely be ruled out. Another cause for concern is lack of transparency on the neighbour's part. New Delhi must ensure that Beijing ticks all the boxes of the disengagement process. It should all be in plain view, and easily verifiable.

Emulate farmers

Pre-poll violence an abhorrent contrast to peaceful stir

WHILE the electoral battles in Punjab are not devoid of sporadic incidents of violence, the brazen running over of two persons during a clash between Congress and SAD workers campaigning for the MC poll in Moga marks a brutality that necessitates swift action by the state election commission. Perpetrators of direct violence (the Moga killings) and indirect violence (suicide by a Mohali BJP candidate's husband allegedly following pressure for her withdrawal) not only have to — and should — suffer the lawful consequences of their acts, but also face the ire of voters.

The crime is amplified in the present socio-political context of the state. Punjab has become the model of an unprecedentedly huge, but peaceful, agitation of farmers fighting democratically for the repeal of the new agriculture laws that they perceive as black. The massive goodwill earned nationally and internationally by the endless sea of masses protesting for over two months and the positive image of Punjab thereby gained stand to be squandered with senseless poll-related violence. The people, who have refrained from violence under extenuating circumstances at Singhu or Tikri, would do well to fight their political battles with equal aplomb and restraint and have faith in the power of the franchise. The grassroots have been stirred to an awakening of a fight for their survival and progress. This social arousing, tipped on the edge of violence, must sustain. Both the contestants and voters need to focus on issues of development, even as the state struggles to recoup the losses incurred in the tumultuous pandemic time.

The urban local body polls in Punjab are the first to be held under the shadow of the protests at the Delhi borders. The situation on the ground is a pointer to the sinking in of a new reality as the BJP finds itself hobbling to field nominees or campaigners. Fearing an electoral backlash, many leaders have quit the party or entered the poll fray as independent candidates. The SAD has snapped ties with its long-time ally. In 2015, the Akali Dal-BJP combine had swept the civic polls. The day of reckoning, February 14, will show if the tide has turned.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other's eyes for an instant? — Henry David Thoreau

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1921

The Historical Survey.

IT need not be denied that His Excellency's reading of the several stages of India's progress towards self-government and their imperfections is on the whole correct. It is quite true, for instance, that "the Councils set up by the Act of 1861 were still merely legislative committees of the Government," though "the right of the public to be heard and the duty of the executive to defend its measures were acknowledged"; that all that the Act of 1892 did was "to recognise in principle the right of the Indian people to choose its own representatives on the Councils," though the persons so elected continued still to be "technically nominated"; that even under the Morley-Minto Reforms, "the principle of autocracy, though qualified, was still maintained," the element of responsibility was entirely lacking and the ultimate responsibility in all cases rested with the Government, and the Councils were left with no other functions save that of criticism. It is equally true that "on the lines of the Morley-Minto Reforms, there could be no further advance," that "that particular line of development had been carried to the further limit to which it could be carried" and "the only further change of which the system was susceptible would have made the legislative and administrative acts of an irremovable executive entirely amenable to elected Councils and would have resulted in deadlocks." This was practically admitted by some of the advocates of the Congress League scheme itself, which was obviously an attempt in the direction of carrying the Morley-Minto Scheme to its logical perfection, when they declared that it was only by means of deadlocks that India could surely and speedily attain her destined goal.

Police welfare on mind

Maharashtra Home Minister does well to seek suggestions from ex-officers



TRYSTS AND TURNS

JULIO RIBEIRO



LINE OF DUTY: A large number of policemen have lost their lives during Covid. PTI

The welfare of personnel should concern the supervisory level of the hierarchy if the force is to deliver the service it is expected to bring to the table.

and more retired IPS officers, I listed the eight-hour duty schedule as the most important welfare measure that the lower ranks would appreciate.

In view of my physical infirmities pursuant to my advancing years, I was compelled to decline the minister's dinner invitation. But I wrote to him, listing the most important measures that I felt he should facilitate at his level to make the quality of life of the policeman better.

A policeman serving in any state is on duty physically 14 hours a day on an average. The normal shift is of 12 hours. This usually prolongs to 14 or even longer if there is a local emergency, like it happens all the time in a commercial metropolis like Mumbai.

Nobody in the police had imagined that this feat was possible. But listening to a constable from a police station, whose duty was to distribute duties to the men, Datta decided to try it out first at that very police station, and later to other police stations in the city. The reaction of many officers and men who I met was electrifying. Such an arrangement had never been tried out in the recent or even distant past!

So, when the state's Home Minister Anil Deshmukh wrote to me, inviting me to discuss police welfare over dinner he hosted last month for a dozen

policemen or police women deal with members of the public who performe have to visit police stations.

The Home Minister, in his letter, mentioned the sacrifices policemen and their officers had made during the Covid lockdown. It was incumbent on the government's most visible arm, the men in khaki, to enforce the rules of the lockdown. In the course of this duty, they were exposed more than other citizens to the infection. Over 200 died of the pestilence in the past nine months in the state. Almost half of those who died met their end in Mumbai City. A grateful government felt obliged, said the minister, to ameliorate the lot of these 'soldiers'.

I commended him for thinking of the police, even though the idea emanated from the sacrifice of their fallen colleagues. I also suggested a yearly medical check-up of every policeman/woman, as well as their family, and a central repository of the findings and the treatment recommended.

In the month before he demitted office, DGP Subodh Jaiswal was in talks with six Rotary governors. I had facilitated these talks because Gulam Vahanvati, Rotary Foundation's Board member and my co-trustee in PCGT, a Mumbai-based

NGO, had requested me to do so. If this initiative is pursued for the city of Mumbai alone, it may be possible to make a beginning. Covering the entire state was found to be impractical for a single entity.

Another immediate welfare measure I recommended was repair and maintenance of policemen's quarters in more than a dozen Police Lines that dot the city. Many of these quarters were of colonial vintage! There are flats in such a sad state of disrepair that the possibility of accidents disturbs the peace of mind of the residents of those flats. The police housing establishment is perpetually short of money to maintain the quarters, and if the government could find ways to meet that necessity, it would help immensely to lift morale.

The constabulary is much more educated and knowledgeable today than it was in 1953 when I joined the Indian Police Service. The minimum educational qualification required to be recruited has risen steadily from those early days to High School Certificate today. But, high school-qualified candidates stand a poor chance because degree holders competing for recruitment outnumber them.

It is not only the men, but even their wives who are educated, many of them having graduated from the city's burgeoning colleges. The modern policeman's family is content with two children. In fact, one-child families are common in the lines. Many of these one-child homes consist of the parents and a girl child! What impressed me most about the minister's initiative was the realisation that he showed that he really cared! He did not set himself up as all-knowing! He wanted to pick on the minds and the experience of senior retired officers. This surprised me because he had just got rid of an outstanding state police chief, Subodh Jaiswal, on the specious ground that Subodh 'interfered' in police postings (as local newspapers reported).

If now the minister accepts some, if not all, of our suggestions, my respect for him and his government will increase. The rank and file of the force is also sure to respond.

The secret of getting along with people

RAMESHINDER SINGH SANDHU

WITH nuclear families everywhere, loneliness is natural at times, especially for the elderly. For the bed-ridden, it's more arduous. In my neighbourhood, an aunt, a septuagenarian, has been bedridden for nearly a decade, but many of us keep visiting her, considering that her working son and daughter-in-law return late in the night.

'Have you forgotten the way to my home?' She wastes no time in saying through a quick phone call if it has been several days since we saw her. At times, her two sisters, who live in Canada, call to remind us to keep the meetings going.

However, as they always wanted someone to stay permanently with her, they managed to get a young girl from their village, from a needy family. They did not scramble hard to find one for the handsome sum they promised to pay. As she was also a college student, who remained busy studying online, she didn't suit the aunt. 'She keeps studying, and doesn't talk to me. I wanted someone who can always talk,' she declared. Hence, the sisters replaced her with another girl from the same village.

It didn't help much either. 'She keeps watching TV day and night, that too songs and movies, and rarely talks,' she said. The sisters, this time, got a middle-aged woman, who has been with her for the past two months. She met the core

requirement — 'has to be garrulous'. No wonder, she keeps taking all her listeners either to her childhood or to her neighbourhood in the village. Often, other engrossing anecdotes are rolled out, but she is still seen as a headache as the aunt has begun complaining. 'She talks so much that my head begins to spin. In the night, she snores so hard that I have a hard time sleeping.'

The other day, as the talkative woman had gone to a bank nearby, the aunt couldn't hold telling me, the

laugh aside, there's a point to catch, a lesson to learn that most of us often overlook: Each individual is different and has different habits. Most importantly, we can't change anyone overnight, nor should we expect anyone to be our photocopy. But when we accept people the way they are, or simply focus to see the good in them, it can never irk us and we adjust naturally. The aunt unfortunately didn't consider such facts.

English cricketer Arthur Forman once observed, 'Not everyone thinks the way you think, knows the things you know, and believes the things you believe, nor acts the way you would act. Remember this and you will go a long way in getting along with people.'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Puzzling paradox

The news item 'Defend arrested youth, Khaira urges parties' was ironically amusing. So far, supporters of the farmers' agitation were shouting themselves hoarse that the rioters who vandalised the Red Fort and insulted the national flag were RSS and BJP agents, planted by the government to defame the farmers. Now, these very people are demanding that these youths should be defended. Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh has even declared that the state has appointed 70 lawyers to defend the accused. The common man would be genuinely puzzled.

AK SHARMA, CHANDIGARH

Preparedness is key

The forces involved in rescue operations always put in a lot of effort even to the extent of sacrificing their own lives and limbs which is commendable. But watching them being hampered by lack of training, equipment and SOPs is painful. Natural disasters will always occur, but preparedness is the key to minimise the damage. The plan and procedures for rescue must be worked out even before constructing a tunnel. There is no need to hurry the pace. It is not only so in

setting up of hydel projects in hill states, but also for the overall economic development of the nation. It needn't be fraught with risks.

LT COL GS BEDI, (RETD), MOHALI

Fake papers

Refer to '150 RCs made with fake papers in Indora'; how have the offenders managed to make fake papers for RC registration? It's a matter of serious concern. Who helped them? Those involved in this scam must be punished. It also brings to light the irregularities in Aadhaar registration. How do they manage to get fake Aadhaar cards? The government must initiate a thorough investigation.

RITISH PANDIT, SUNSHINE

Fuel prices

It's a matter of grave concern that the prices of petrol and diesel have been going through the roof. Unless the Centre announces a suitable cut in the excise duty, the retail prices of the twin auto fuels may soon touch the level of Rs 100/litre. The government should come to the immediate rescue of the hapless end-users.

SK GUPTA, PANCHKUL

Resolve farmers' issues

Refer to 'Biden-Modi phone call'; the US President underscored his

desire to defend democratic institutions and norms around the world and noted that a shared commitment to democratic values is the bedrock of the US-India relationship. The handling of the farmers' issue has become a perception battle more than a true search for corrections. India must resolve farmers' issues through negotiations to strengthen Indo-US ties.

SS PAUL, NADIA

Another tragedy

The recent Uttarakhand disaster reminded people of the 2013 Kedarnath tragedy. The one main reason for such incidents is global warming which needs to be controlled. The government should take stern action to control pollution to prevent such calamities that result in huge losses to both humankind and wildlife. Man-made constructions are also responsible for the occurrence of natural disasters. We need to reduce the use of such things which go against the environment.

RIYA KOHLI, DEHRADUN

Team India disappoints

Apropos of 'Laid low in Chennai', it was disheartening to see India lose the first Test of the series against England by a massive margin.

gin of 227 runs. Expected to come up with an exceptional effort on Day 5, they belied the hopes of cricket lovers of India. Captain Kohli ploughed a lonely furrow to showcase how to bat on a difficult pitch. Eventually, he too fell as he could not withstand the tremendous pressure exerted on him by England bowlers. India's defeat has opened up the race to the final of the World Test Championship and they cannot afford another drubbing. At the same time, England's triumph cannot be belittled. They deserve accolades for their clinical and superlative performance with the bat and the ball that enabled them to win the Test hands down. Skipper Joe Root deserves plaudits for his scintillating 218 in the first innings.

TAREM S BUMRAH, BATALA

Not the right choice

Refer to 'Laid low in Chennai'; the inclusion of Rohit Sharma is becoming a liability for the team. Seeing his batting form in Australia, he shouldn't have been picked as he is not suited to this format of cricket. The inclusion of Shahbaz Nadeem over Kuldeep Yadav was also inexplicable. The Indian tail also needs to wag a bit in this format.

HARISH MALHOTRA, BY MAIL

Expand maritime footprint to check China



ANITA INDER SINGH
FOUNDING PROFESSOR, CENTRE FOR
PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

highlight the strategic and economic importance of the ocean's international waters to both countries. Traditionally, India has regarded the Indian Ocean as its maritime sphere. Parts of the ocean comprise India's territorial waters. Most of India's trade by volume and all its vital oil imports traverse the ocean, so maritime security in the IOR is a strategic and economic imperative.

China recognises that geography gives India a special position in the Indian Ocean but it has warned that the ocean is not India's backyard. Since 2015, China's Defence Papers have linked its national security and development interests. The world's largest oil importer, China buys 40 per cent of its oil from the Middle East, so the openness of the ocean's seaways, access to ports in the IOR and the acquisition of a stake in them are among China's top economic and security priorities. Throughout the IOR, China's presence and influence have increased. Most countries in the IOR have joined China's Belt and Road Initiative, presenting it with the opportunity to offer them both investment and military gear.

China's naval strength in the Indian Ocean is greater than India's. The People's Liberation Army Navy is bigger than the Indian Navy and it can deploy more sea-based aircraft. India is safeguarding its interests in the IOR. The Indian Navy has significantly increased its deployment of warships, submarines and other assets in the IOR, in an attempt to send across a message to China. The extent to which India is able to deploy advanced technologies will have a



bearing on its status as major South Asian and Indian Ocean power.

China's growing presence in the Indian Ocean reflects its wish to consolidate its role in the IOR and enhance its global maritime power. China has moved submarines, destroyers, special operations forces and guided-missile frigates into the Indian Ocean.

With most states in the IOR, China has strengthened its trade and investment ties. It has developed ports in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Myanmar and enhanced its influence in the region. It has also built its first overseas naval base in Djibouti in north-west Africa. Djibouti is strategically located at the southern entrance to the Red Sea, en route to the Suez Canal. The canal connects Asia to Europe and Africa.

The China factor also represents the most significant challenge to India's politico-military strategy in the Western Indian Ocean. In recent years, China has strengthened trade ties with Middle East countries. Beijing is a major import-export partner of India's friend, Israel. It is also Saudi Arabia's largest trading partner and is helping to finance Riyadh's 'Vision 2030' to help diversify the Saudi economy and transform Saudi Arabia into a major industrial powerhouse and an international logistics hub.

India must contend with the hard fact that it cannot take even friendly neighbouring countries for granted. Take the case of Sri Lanka. On January 15, about 10 days after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited

Sri Lanka, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa declared that because of regional security considerations — implying India's suspicions of China's clout in Sri Lanka — India's Adani Ports company and its Japanese partners would build the East Container Terminal of Colombo port. But on February 2, Sri Lanka made the shock announcement that Adani Ports would not be allowed to develop the terminal because the "foreign company" did not agree to its proposals and because of opposition from trade unions. Some Indian officials see Chinese prodding behind Sri Lanka's volte face. News of its U-turn came a few days after Sri Lanka received free anti-Covid vaccines from India. Good vaccine diplomacy

is clearly not intertwined with success in port diplomacy.

China's strengthening influence in the Indian Ocean goes against the Indian vision of an IOR where security rests on the balance of power rather than dominance by any single country — whether that is the US or China. This is a major reason why New Delhi has signed logistics agreements with the US, France and Australia to counter China's naval presence beyond India's immediate maritime neighbourhood. But to counter China successfully in the choppy waters of the Indian Ocean, arms sales, military strength and partnerships must be accompanied by more economic investment and trade with countries in the IOR.

CHOPPY WATERS: Traditionally, India has regarded the Indian Ocean as its maritime sphere. PTI

Blocking dissent may prove counterproductive



SABA NAQVI
SENIOR JOURNALIST

In a healthy democracy, the State is not afraid of the opinion of its citizens, be they critical of the regime. One of the classic signs of a backsliding democracy is the State seeking to criminalise or shut down amplification of opinions by those who disagree. From terra firma, the battle inevitably goes to cyber space these days.

The Indian government is currently in a battle with Twitter, the micro-blogging site with millions of subscribers. It wants to block 1,178 accounts that it says are propagating Khalistani content, in some instances backed by Pakistan. Twitter has made it an issue of free speech though it's also begun capitulating and has reportedly blocked some 500 accounts, leaving those of journalists, activists and politicians. This is actually the first time that Twitter has taken a 'free speech' stance in India, possibly a result of changes in the US where it is headquartered and famously terminated the account of a sitting President Donald Trump this year, just before President Joe Biden took over.

In India, the Modi regime is faced with its biggest challenge in the ongoing agitation against the farm laws; it clearly wants to manage and counter the dissent and to do so is ready to take the battle into cyberspace. Because new media, such as Twitter, is hard to contain, supporters of the regime and prominent ministers have taken it upon themselves to shift to a made-in-India app called Koo and #BanTwitter was the hash-tag trending on, well, Twitter on February 10.

In a nation where demonetisation was abruptly announced and a national lockdown declared at four hours' notice, it's not impossible to imagine Twitter being



WORD WAR: The battle to counter dissent over the farm stir has entered cyberspace. PTI

banned. But it's worth mentioning that the Prime Minister has the largest Twitter following of political leaders in office with 65 million (currently, former US President Barack Obama has the largest following in the world — 129 million). But ever since pop star Rihanna with 101 million followers (the fourth largest) put out a tweet asking "why aren't we talking about this #FarmersProtest" along with a story about India cutting internet at protest sites, Delhi seems to have lost a certain balance.

The MEA reacted with an official statement, about "sensationalist social media hashtags" and "poor understanding of facts", thereby making a celeb tweet a matter of State concern. Since then, other international personalities have also tweeted about the farmers' protest, illustrating clearly that you can't shut down social media in an interconnected world. The counter campaign asking or com-

pling Indian achievers in cinema and sports to tweet identical words in support of the government's actions was a poorly executed command performance.

The showdown between Twitter and the Indian government is another marker of how tough New Delhi can get. But as long as India keeps its Net space open, trying to block contrarian opinion and protest on these platforms is a bit like standing with an umbrella to avoid a tsunami. Organised protesters have prepared back-up Twitter IDs and intend to share information and opinion linked to the farm protest in accounts bearing other names. It's a battle the government cannot win, short of banning the site altogether, akin to actions taken in nations that do not claim to be democratic. Twitter is an American company and threatening its employees with arrest has already attracted criticism in the Western media.

Beyond cyberspace, what is being done

on the ground is to use the police to intimidate the media. Just look at the events of January alone: two journalists covering farm protests were arrested for allegedly obstructing police, FIRs were filed from BJP-ruled states against a total of 10 journalists and three Manipur journalists were arrested under the draconian UAPA for an opinion piece.

Conditions in Kashmir remain deplorable and the restoration of 4G Internet there was a reminder of how long people there were denied freedoms. This week, there were raids on the Delhi-based news website NewsClick that's done several gritty ground reports on the farmers' protest.

The assault on independent media is a sign of paranoia as it takes place in spite of mainstream broadcast media being overwhelmingly in support of all policies of the regime. Little wonder, India is slipping on the Democracy Index prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). Last week, it slipped two places in the 2020 report to land at position 53 and therefore in the category of "flawed democracy". In 2014, India was 27 in the rankings, but has been steadily moving downwards since.

More challenges await some citizens. Any Indian who has ever applied for a passport would know that there is a police verification required. The police in Uttarakhand have declared an intention of monitoring social media posts to see if passport applicants have "anti-national sentiments" which in the current climate may be a case of supporting the farm protests or being politically opposed to the state or Central regime. There is nothing in the Passports Act that supports this, but the police can certainly

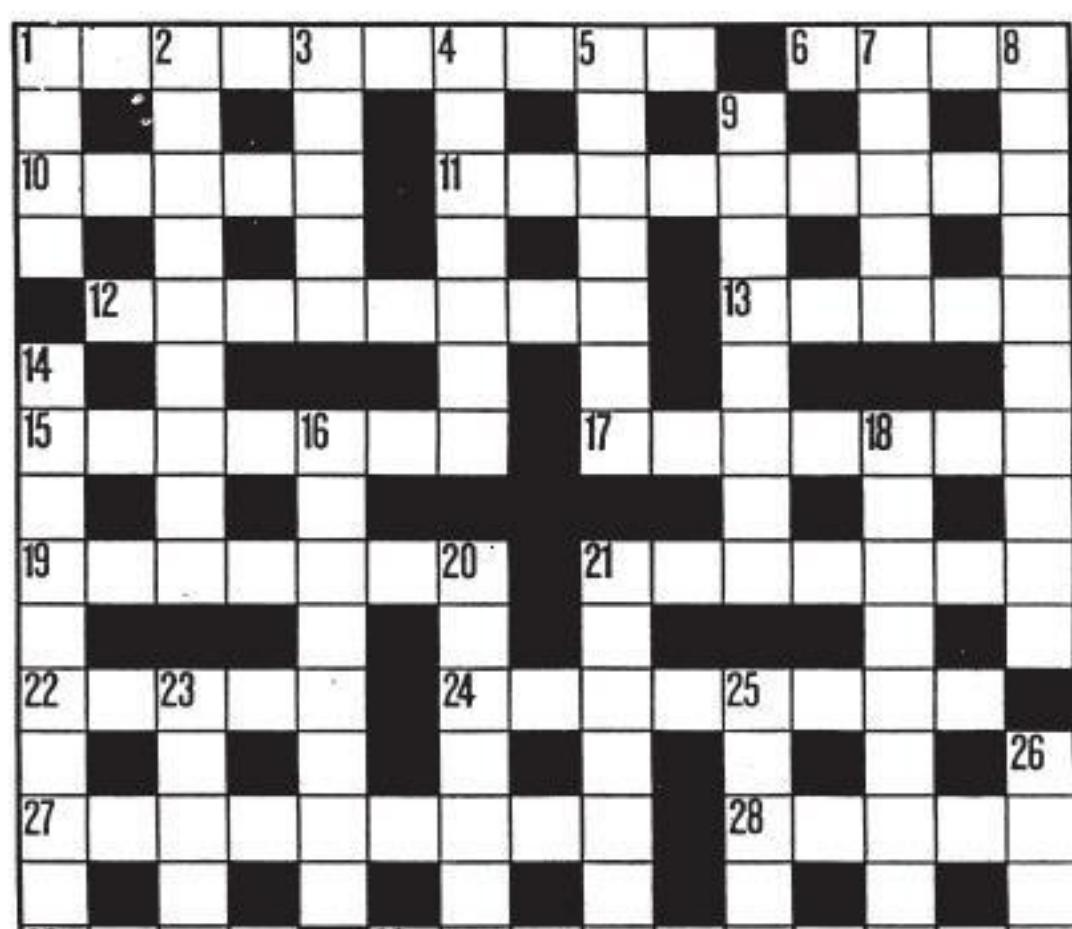
impede the process. Likewise, the regime of Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, himself a product of the JP movement, has threatened a similar sort of police verification to deny protesters a government job, financial aid from the state and a passport.

A democracy at its best represents all the people all the time. We have already created an election template where we get some of the people against another set of people and mobilise voter blocs to get adequate votes to win a seat in the first-past-the-post system. One section of India's society is all too often treated as the enemy within. With the farm protests, we are labelling other industrious citizens as hostile inhabitants of the land.

The vocal section that sees the nation embodied in an individual or a party has ironically amplified its views through the very social media platform that the government would now like to censor. The government has consistently refused to call out hate speech or fake news peddled by accounts loyal to its ideological fraternity. Indeed, it is the right wing cause that has gained the most through social media campaigns and hash-tags.

New media has played a big role in changing the nature of discourse in the post-truth age. It has promoted the worst tribalism and prejudice, but it can also be used to counter them. Democracy is not about electoral conquest that culminates in the victorious regime treating all critics as enemies of the State. If that were indeed to be the permanent state of mind, India would fall into the category that the EIU Democracy index calls authoritarianism. If India bans Twitter, the long protest, the crackdown and the state of our democracy would invite further international scrutiny.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Fanatic, 5 Cling, 8 Augur well, 9 Pan, 10 Know, 12 Graffiti, 14 Detain, 15 Regale, 17 Adelaide, 18 Deaf, 21 Tie, 22 Of no avail, 24 Caddy, 25 Solidly.
Down: 1 Frank, 2 Nag, 3 Turn, 4 Cherry, 5 Cold feet, 6 In private, 7 Genuine, 11 On the mend, 13 Dilatory, 14 Drastic, 16 Adonis, 19 Folly, 20 Fall, 23 Add.

SU DO KU



CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 12, 2021, FRIDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Magh Shaka	23
■ Phalgun Parvashite	1
■ Hijri	1442
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 1, up to 12:30 am	
■ Parigha Yoga up to 2:19 am	
■ Dhanishtha Nakshatra up to 2:23 pm	
■ Moon in Aquarius sign	
■ Phalgun Sankranti	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: FRIDAY 18:08 HRS
SUNRISE: SATURDAY 07:04 HRS

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	25	11
New Delhi	27	10
Amritsar	24	10
Bathinda	26	09
Jalandhar	25	09
Ludhiana	25	10
Bhiwani	26	12
Hisar	26	10
Sirsia	25	10
Dharamsala	18	06
Manali	16	02
Shimla	19	07
Srinagar	14	-01
Jammu	23	11
Kargil	-01	-10
Leh	-02	-13
Dehradun	24	08
Mussoorie	16	06

TEMPERATURE IN °C

AUCTION NOTICE

Sealed bids over and above the reserve price alongwith prescribed application Form, Detailed Project Report and earnest money of Rs. 10,000/- in the shape of Demand Draft pledged in the name of General Manager, Distt. Industries Centre, Bilaspur, H.P. are invited from the general public for allotment of following resumed plots through auction on leasehold basis for 95 years intending to set up Industrial Enterprise, so as to reach in the office of the Member Secretary, Single Window Clearance Agency, Gwalthal, District Bilaspur, H.P. on or before 26-02-2021 till 3PM. The bids will be opened on same day at 4PM by the District Level Plot Allotment Committee. For any query, please contact office telephone No. 01978-224248 (Bilaspur) and Mob. No. 94184-66237 (M.S. Gwalthal).-

Sr. No.	Name of Industrial Area	Plot No.	Area of plot	Reserve Price
1.	Gwalthal, Tehsil Shri Naina Deviji Distt. Bilaspur, H.P.	36, Phase-I	500 Sqr. Mtrs.	Rs. 1500/- Sqr. Mtr.
2.	-do-	37, Phase-I	600 Sqr. Mtr.	Rs. 1500/- Sqr. Mtr.
3.	-do-	38, Phase-I	616 Sqr. Mtr.	Rs. 1500/- Sqr. Mtr.
4.	-do-	39, Phase-I	504 Sqr. Mtr.	Rs. 1500/- Sqr. Mtr.

Other Terms & Conditions:-

- The bids submitted without earnest money and prescribed application form and Detailed Project Report shall be rejected. Earnest money would be adjustable in case of successful bidder and returned back to unsuccessful bidders.
- 15% amount of the highest bid for plot/ land shall be deposited by the bidder within 15 days of issuance of acceptance letter failing which earnest money will be forfeited. The second highest bidder may then be considered for allotment of such plot/land as per procedure laid down under "Rules Regarding Grant of Incentives, Concessions and Facilities and Facilities for Investment Promotion in Himachal Pradesh- 2019".
- The balance amount of highest bid shall be payable in 5 equal annual instalments. No interest will be charged on balance instalments. However, interest @ 9% would be charged on delayed payment.
- The allotment of the plot to the successful bidder will be regulated by Rules Regarding Grant of Incentives, Concessions & Facilities to Industrial Units in HP, 2019. The proposed industrial activity should not fall in negative list.
- The District Level Plot Allotment committee reserves the right to accept/reject any bid without assigning any reasons.
- In case of any dispute arising out of the interpretation of auction of above plots, the matter will be referred to the Commissioner Industries, HP, whose decision shall be final and binding on all.

(Uttam Verma)
General Manager, District Industries Centre, Bilaspur, District Bilaspur, H.P.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEN-II/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.irreps.gov.in with closing date 01.03.2021 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 tender, and any such Contractors are allowed to make payments against these tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.irreps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

S.N.	Tender Number	Details Of Tender
1	33-2020-21-ADEN-II-FZR	Misc civil works of providing basic infrastructure i.c.w manning of Level Crossings in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-II/FZR.
		Advertised Value Validity of Offer Period of Completion ₹ 6348084.48 45 days 06 Months
		Bid Starting Date:- 15.02.2021, Bid closing Date: 01.03.2021
2	42-2020-21-ADEN-LDH	Misc. Track Works i.c.w. Replacement of Turnouts & superstructure of Fan shaped 87 Nos Turnouts laid on PSC sleepers at various locations on SNL-JUC section & TRR (SH) 7.49KM, TRR (P) 2.39 Total 9.88Km in DDL & LDH yard in the jurisdiction of ADEN/LDH.
		Advertised Value Validity of Offer Period of Completion ₹ 39693366.14 45 days 12 Months
		Bid Starting Date:- 15.02.2021, Bid closing Date: 01.03.2021
3	49-2020-21-ADEN-LDH	Balance work for providing IRS type shelter 3 Bays towards UMB end and 10 Bays towards ASR end on extended portion of platform no 4/5 at Ludhiana.
		Advertised Value Validity of Offer Period of Completion ₹ 2852713.48 45 days 03 Months
		Bid Starting Date:- 15.02.2021, Bid closing Date: 01.03.2021
4	65-2020-21-ADEN-II-FZR	Shifting of Manned Level Crossing No. B2-5 at Km 3/5-6 on JUC-NRO section Under ADEN-II/FZR.
		Advertised Value Validity of Offer Period of Completion ₹ 5871171.08 45 days 06 Months

300/2021

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Advt. No. 1/2021

HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION

BAYS NO. 67-70, SECTOR 2, PANCHKULA — 134151

Website www.hssc.gov.in

Item(s)	Timeline
Date of publication	11-02-2021
Opening date for submission of online applications	16-02-2021
Closing date for submission of online application	03-03-2021
Closing date for deposit of fee	06-03-2021

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1.1 Invitation of Applications

Online applications are invited for direct recruitment for the 534 posts of (PGT Sanskrit) H.E.S.-II (Group-B Services) mentioned under paragraph 2.1 through the URL address i.e. http://adv12021.hryssc.in/StaticPages/Home_Page.aspx from 16.02.2021 to 03.03.2021 till 11.59 P.M. Thereafter website link will be disabled.

1.2 Procedure/Instructions/Guidelines for Online Filling of Application Form

Following are all the general and special instructions for the applicant with respect to the online filling of the application form:-

- Apply online well in advance without waiting for last date of submission of online application form.
- The candidates belonging to reserved categories who wish to apply against the post meant for General Category should deposit application fee as prescribed for General Category. They should also ensure that they fulfil all eligibility conditions meant for General Category candidates.
- Please read the instructions and procedures carefully before you start filling the Online Application Form and check all the particulars filled up in application form after getting the printout to ensure the correctness of information. Upload all documents as required. After checking and ensuring the correctness of all particulars and documents finally submit the application.
- The candidate should fill all details while filling the Online Application Form. After applying online, Registration No. and Password will be generated. Take print out of the registration no. and password screen for future reference of your application status and for Reprinting of your online filled application form and e-Challan form.
- After successful submission of application, candidates can again take final print out of application form and e-Challan.
- The hard copy of application form along with all uploaded documents must be brought at the time when called upon to do so by Haryana Staff Selection Commission. No documents which has not been uploaded, shall not be entertained.

9. No request for change of any particular on the application form shall be entertained by the Haryana Staff Selection Commission.

h. No offline application form or copy of downloaded application form will be accepted by the Haryana Staff Selection Commission.

i. The Selection shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Haryana Govt. notification No. 523-3GS-II/70/2008, dated 28.01.1970 and further amended time to time.

j. Candidates who do not fulfil the qualifications/eligibility conditions on cutoff date, their application shall not be accepted by the online application system. All the Certificates relating to educational qualification/eligibility conditions and Socio-Economic Criteria etc. will be determined with regard to last date fixed to apply online applications also called as closing date i.e. 03.03.2021 as given in the advertisement. **NO CERTIFICATE ISSUED AFTER CUTOFF DATE SHALL BE CONSIDERED.**

k. The Commission does not scrutinize the documents and same are checked only at the time of Scrutiny.

l. If an FIR is lodged/pending against a candidate, he/she shall not be treated eligible for application, if charges are framed against him/her.

Important Note:

- Candidates are advised to fill their application form carefully such as Name, Father's/Mother's name, Date of Birth and Category, Qualification, marks, obtained passing year, photo, Signature, details & fee. No request for change of any particular on the online application form shall be entertained by the Haryana Staff Selection Commission after submission of application form.
- After final submission of application form, no change will be allowed. Candidate will be responsible for any mistake in the data of application form and fees paid by him/her.
- In case candidate feels that he/she has filled up the form erroneously, he/she should fill up a fresh online application form alongwith fresh requisite fee before closing date.

1.3 Special Instructions for filling application form

- The online application can be filled up using URL address i.e http://adv12021.hryssc.in/StaticPages/Home_Page.aspx.
- The decision of the Commission in all matters relating to acceptance or rejection of an application, eligibility/suitability of the candidates, mode and criteria for selection etc. will be final and binding on the candidates. No inquiry or correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

3. Candidates applying for a post must ensure that they fulfil all the eligibility conditions on the last date of application.

- If on verification at any stage starting from submitting application form till appointment, it is found that any candidate does not fulfil any of the eligibility condition or it is found that the information furnished is false or incorrect, his/her candidature will be cancelled and he/she will also be liable to be criminally prosecuted. This is irrespective of whether the candidate was benefitted by furnishing the false or incorrect information in his/her application.
- The shortlisting of candidates shall be done on basis of particulars filled in online application form for which he shall have to add/upload supporting documents. In case of variation in two, candidature shall be cancelled.

4. A candidate whether he belongs to General or reserved category viz. SC, BCA, BCB, EWS, ESP, ESM/DESM, DFF or PwD (persons with disabilities) can submit only one online application form under one particular category of post advertised. Submission of more than one application form will automatically lead to rejection of candidature.

5. Haryana Staff Selection Commission reserves the right to call any candidate personally along with printed copy of the application form with uploaded documents original certificates and photocopy of self-attested certificates along with Photo, Identity Proof i.e. Identity Card/Driving License/Passport/Voter Card/Par Card/Aadhaar Card etc.

Cat. No. 1. 534 posts of PGT Sanskrit (Rest of Haryana)

2.1 DETAILS OF POST & QUALIFICATIONS

POST GRADUATE TEACHERS (PGT-Sanskrit) H.E.S.II (GROUP-B SERVICES)

DEPARTMENT OF SECONDARY EDUCATION, HARYANA

■ Essential Qualification:-

- Hindi/Sanskrit as one of the subject in Matriculation or Higher.
- Certificate of having qualified Haryana Teacher Eligibility Test (HTET)/School Teachers Eligibility Test (STET) of concerned subject.

(iii) "Good Academic Record" Candidates having 50% marks after taking average of any three examination from 10th/12th/Graduation/Post Graduation as the case may be. However the candidate must have atleast 50% marks in Post-Graduation except PGT Computer Science and

HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION

BAYS NO. 67-70, SECTOR-2, PANCHKULA - 134151

Phone No. 0122-2586501, Website www.hssc.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

EXTENSION OF CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATION

Reference Haryana Staff Selection Commission's Advt. No. 4/2020, which was published in various newspapers on 30.12.2020 vide which online application forms were invited for the post of **Group C of Police department, Haryana** through the URL address <http://adv42020.hryssc.in/StaticPages/HomePage.aspx> from 11.01.2021 to 10.02.2021.

Keeping in view the convenience of the candidates, the **last date** for applying online application forms against this Advt. 4/2020 is hereby **extended up to 25.02.2021 till 11:59 P.M.**, through the URL address i.e. <http://adv42020.hryssc.in/StaticPages/HomePage.aspx>. Thereafter, website link will be disabled. The last date for deposit of fees is also extended upto 01.03.2021.

Sd/- Under Secretary,
2021
for Secretary, Haryana Staff Selection
Commission, Panchkula.

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

CURRICULUM

Ref: Open E-Tender Notice No.

PI/EP/20-21/09

Following change is made:-

1. The tender item is at Sr. No. 09 (High Energy Linear Accelerator for Nuclear Medicine).

2. The bid submission dates

3. The bid opening date

4. The tender details

5. The bid opening date

6. The tender details

7. The bid opening date

8. The tender details

9. The bid opening date

10. The tender details

11. The bid opening date

12. The tender details

**NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Sr. DOM/FZR acting for an behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the work mentioned here under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 05.03.2021 at 15.00 Hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Bidders are allowed to make payments against this tender towards cost of tender document and earnest money only through online payment mode available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDRs etc. are not allowed.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost	Cost of Tender form	Date & time of submission of tender	Earnest Money	Work Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
1502-2021-OPTG-FZR	Loading unloading of approx. 172 Nos. guard's Tool/line boxes daily (Total approximately 62780 Nos. for one year) at Ludhiana (LHD) after alighting from B/Van or B/Van or locomotives at Station and Yard to Box room & from Box room to B/Van or Loco motives for One year (365 Days).	Rs. 735153.80/- (Including GST)	NIL	Up to 05.03.2021 at 15:00 Hrs.	Nil (Riy. Bd. Lt. no. 2020/CE-1/CT/3E/GCC/ Policy dt. 30.12.2020)	12 Months	05.03.2021	www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Notice No. 380-T Box. Porter/E-Tender/LDH/2021 (E-49725) Dated : 11.02.2021 301/2021

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE


STATE BANK OF INDIA

STRESSED ASSETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH, FIRST FLOOR, S.C.O. 99-107,
MADHYA MARG, SECTOR 8-C, CHANDIGARH, PHONE NO. 0172-4567165

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF MOVEABLE / IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS (HARD COPY) AND (ON LINE) 04.03.2021, 16:00 Hrs.

DATE & TIME OF MEGA E-AUCTION : 05.03.2021, 11:00 Hrs TO 13.00 Hrs.

(with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the sale)

Sale of immovable properties mortgaged to Bank under Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Whereas, the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India has taken possession of the following properties pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) on the date mentioned against each account of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same "AS IS WHERE IS & AS WHAT IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder & whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property(ies). The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Web Portal (<https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/bapi/index.jsp>).

Sr. No.	Name of the Account	Description of the Movable/ Immovable property	Outstanding Amount & Demand Note Date	Reserve Price	Date/ Time of inspection of property	Contact Person & mobile No.
1.	M/s SURYA HEALTH CARE LTD., having its registered office at SCO No 164-165, Sector 9-C, Chandigarh and also office at House No. 1232, Sector 18-C, Chandigarh, Sh	CHANDIGARH (UT) All that part and parcel of House No. 1232, Sector 18-C, Chandigarh, measuring 500.50 Sq. yards in the name of Sh. Rajiv Goyal S/o Sh. Budh Ram Goyal, (Physical Possession)	Rs. 158,10,33,849.26 SBRs. 78,63,26,672.26 BOBs Rs. 79,47,07,177/- as on 31.10.2016 along with future interest & expenses w.e.f. 01.11.2016	Rs. 6.31 Crore Bid Increase Amount Rs. 63.10 Lakh Rs. 1.00 Lakh	24.02.2021 14.00 Hrs. to 16.00 Hrs.	Mr. Brij Lal Mobile No.: 09779585557

Rajiv Goyal, House No. 1232, Sector 18-C, Chandigarh, Smt. Alka Goyal, House No. 1232, Sector 18-C, Chandigarh, M/s Surya Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (Guarantor) 1596, 1st Floor, Bhagirath Palace, Chandni Chowk, Delhi-110008, M/s Surya Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (Guarantor) 911, 9th Floor, Surya Kiran Building, 19, Kasturb Gandhi Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, M/s Surya Hitech Infrastructure Limited (Guarantor), Registered office: S.C.O. No. 25, Madhya Marg, Sector 7-C, Chandigarh, Sh

Sr. No.	Name of the Account	Description of the Movable/ Immovable property	Outstanding Amount & Demand Note Date	Reserve Price	Date/ Time of inspection of property	Contact Person & mobile No.
2.	M/s MAHESH TIMBER PRIVATE LIMITED, Sh. Ashok Kumar Mittal S/o Sh. Ratni Ram Mittal, Smt. Nisha Mittal W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Mittal all having same address i.e. Timber Market Imam Bara, Sadar Bazar Karnal-132116. Personal Guarantors: Sh. Naresh Kumar Garg S/o Sh. Jagat Ram Garg R/o C-19, Yona Vihar, Delhi-110095. Sh. Deepak Singh S/o Late Molu Ram Singla, Smt. Lakshmi Singh W/o Sh. Babu Ram Singla, Sh. Babu Ram Singla & Sh. Harish Singla S/o Sh. Babu Ram	GANDHIDHAM PROPERTY 1: Pan-pasuu 1st charge by way of EM of Commercial Plot No. 1 measuring 158.10 Sq.Mtrs. situated at Survey No. 250/1, Mithi Rohar, Gandhidham-Kutch. (Owned by Sh. Ashok Kumar Mittal S/o Sh. Ratni Ram Mittal). (Physical Possession). PROPERTY 2: Pan-pasuu 1st charge by way of EM of Commercial Plot No. 8 measuring 2583.51 sq.mtrs. situated at Survey No. 250/1, Mithi Rohar, Gandhidham-Kutch. (Owned by Sh. Ashok Kumar Mittal S/o Sh. Ratni Ram Mittal). (Physical Possession) DELHI Property 3: Pan-pasuu 1st charge by way of Equitable Mortgage of Land measuring 1 Bigha-13 Biswa (1650.00 sq. yards) comprised in Khasra No. 72/17/2 min.(1-3) & 774/3(0-10), situated at Village Mundka, Delhi vide Sale Deed No. 4/51 dated 01.01.2013 (owned by Sh. Ashok Kumar Mittal). (Physical Possession)	Rs. 243,52,55,579.88 Rupees Two Hundred Forty Three Crores Fifty Two Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Nine and Eighty Eight Paisa only amount due as on 31.07.2017 plus future int'l. and expenses thereon. Wherein State Bank of India	PROPERTY-1 Rs. 60.00 Lakh Rs. 6.00 Lakh Rs. 20,000/-	24.02.2021 14.00 Hrs. to 16.00 Hrs.	Mr. Brij Lal Mobile No.: 09779585557

Sr. No.	Name of the Account	Description of the Movable/ Immovable property	Outstanding Amount & Demand Note Date	Reserve Price	Date/ Time of inspection of property	Contact Person & mobile No.
2.	M/s MAHESH TIMBER PRIVATE LIMITED, Sh. Ashok Kumar Mittal S/o Sh. Ratni Ram Mittal, Smt. Nisha Mittal W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Mittal all having same address i.e. Timber Market Imam Bara, Sadar Bazar Karnal-132116. Personal Guarantors: Sh. Naresh Kumar Garg S/o Sh. Jagat Ram Garg R/o C-19, Yona Vihar, Delhi-110095. Sh. Deepak Singh S/o Late Molu Ram Singla, Smt. Lakshmi Singh W/o Sh. Babu Ram Singla, Sh. Babu Ram Singla & Sh. Harish Singla S/o Sh. Babu Ram	GANDHIDHAM PROPERTY 1: Pan-pasuu 1st charge by way of EM of Commercial Plot No. 1 measuring 158.10 Sq.Mtrs. situated at Survey No. 250/1, Mithi Rohar, Gandhidham-Kutch. (Owned by Sh. Ashok Kumar Mittal S/o Sh. Ratni Ram Mittal). (Physical Possession). PROPERTY 2: Pan-pasuu 1st charge by way of EM of Commercial Plot No. 8 measuring 2583.51 sq.mtrs. situated at Survey No. 250/1, Mithi Rohar, Gandhidham-Kutch. (Owned by Sh. Ashok Kumar Mittal S/o Sh. Ratni Ram Mittal). (Physical Possession) DELHI Property 3: Pan-pasuu 1st charge by way of Equitable Mortgage of Land measuring 1 Bigha-13 Biswa (1650.00 sq. yards) comprised in Khasra No. 72/17/2 min.(1-3) & 774/3(0-10), situated at Village Mundka, Delhi vide Sale Deed No. 4/51 dated 01.01.2013 (owned by Sh. Ashok Kumar Mittal). (Physical Possession)	Rs. 243,52,55,579.88 Rupees Two Hundred Forty Three Crores Fifty Two Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Nine and Eighty Eight Paisa only amount due as on 31.07.2017 plus future int'l. and expenses thereon. Wherein State Bank of India	PROPERTY-1 Rs. 60.00 Lakh Rs. 6.00 Lakh Rs. 20,000/-	24.02.2021 14.00 Hrs. to 16.00 Hrs.	Mr. Brij Lal Mobile No.: 09779585557

Sr. No.	Name of the Account	Description of the Movable/ Immovable property	Outstanding Amount & Demand Note Date	Reserve Price	Date/ Time of inspection of property	Contact Person & mobile No.
3.	KARNAL (HARYANA) Best Foods Limited, REGD. OFFICE: 2867/2, Chandigarh Housing Board Flats, Sector 49, Chandigarh-160047. CORPORATE OFFICE: 502 D/Mall, Netaji Bhawan Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034. WORKS: Best Foods Limited P. O. Box 5, VPO Norta, Tehsil Indri-132041 Distt. Karnal, Haryana. Personal Guarantors: (i) Sh. Mohinder Pal Jindal S/o Sh. Krishan Chand, (ii) Sh. Dinesh Gupta S/o Sh. Mohinder Pal Jindal, (iii) Smt. Poonam W/o Sh. Dinesh Gupta, all residents of House No. 808, Sector 9, Urban Estate, Karnal Haryana. Corporate Guarantors: (i) M/s Best Sugar Pvt. Ltd, (ii) M/s Best Deal General Trading Pvt. Ltd, (iii) M/s Best Deal Housing and Construction Pvt. Ltd, (iv) M/s Excel Infracon Pvt. Ltd, (v) M/s Heritage Infracon Pvt. Ltd, (vi) M/s Unified Developers Pvt. Ltd, (vii) M/s Unified Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd, all having Registered Office at Unit No 502, Building D Mall, Plot No A-1, Netaji Bhawan Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034 viii) M/s Bharat Rice Mills (Proprietor Sh Mohinder Pal Jindal), Village Norta, Indri Karnal Haryana.	KARNAL (HARYANA) PROPERTY 1: Commercial land measuring 2K-7M owned by Smt. Shuklendra Devi w/o Sh. Mohinder Pal Jindal as under: (i) Land measuring OK-19M comprised in Khetwan No. 58min. Khaton No. 81min. Khasra No. 25, Killa No. 21/1(5-16), situated in Village Gudha, Tehsil & Distt. Karnal, vide Jamabandi for the year 1971-72 and Sale deed No. 7692/1 dated 17.03.1979. (ii) Land measuring 1K-8M as under: a) Land measuring OK-19M vide Khetwan No. 157, Khaton No. 181, Khasra No. 25, Killa No. 21/1(5-19) as on 30.09.2017 to Union Bank of India (including erstwhile State Bank of Patiala), Rs. 169,16,44,213.60 as on 30.11.2017 to Union Bank of India, Rs. 148,41,34,358/- as on 31.12.2017 to Canara Bank, Rs. 132,88,17,408/- as on 29.12.2017 to Central Bank of India, Rs. 130,93,21,057/- as on 30.11.2017 to Corporation Bank, Rs. 61,98,30,867/- as on 31.12.2017 to Bank of Baroda, Rs. 35,21,44,231.79/- as on 01.12.2017 to IDBI Bank, Rs. 42,14,89,653.82 as on 20.06.2017 to UCO Bank, Rs. 99,08,00,00/- as on 30.11.2017 to Dena Bank, Rs. 27,50,00,00/- as on 31.12.2017 to Tamlined Mercantile Bank. PROPERTY 2: Two Shops (Double Storied) having area of 66.66 sq. yards (10' X 30') situated in Main Bazaar, Opp. Devi Mandir, Ward No. I, Indri, Tehsil Indri, Distt. Karnal, through relinquishment deed no. 74/1 dated 19.04.2002 owned by Sh. Dinesh Gupta S/o Sh. Mohinder Pal Jindal. (Symbolic Possession). PROPERTY 3: Two Residential Plots owned by Smt. Poonam W/o Sh. Dinesh Gupta as under: (i) No. 329/11 measuring 87.11 sq. yards vide Sale deed no. 1268/1 dated 24.11.2006 and (ii) No. 330/11 measuring 87.11 sq. yards vide Sale deed no. 1269/1 dated 24.11.2006, Situated at Old Anaj Mandi, Subhash Colony, Taraori, Tehsil Nilkanth, Distt. Karnal. (Physical Possession). PROPERTY 5: Residential House No. 75-A/P, measuring 421.00 sq. yards, situated at Sector-8, Urban Estate, Karnal, vide Regd. Sale deed No. 7769/1 dated 02.11.2004 owned by Sh. Mohinder Pal Jindal S/o Sh. Krishan Chand. (Symbolic Possession).	Rs. 10,10,28,00,000/- as on 30.09.2017 to State Bank of India (including erstwhile State Bank of Patiala), Rs. 169,16,44,213.60 as on 30.11.2017 to Union Bank of India, Rs. 148,41,34,358/- as on 31.12.2017 to Canara Bank, Rs. 132,88,17,408/- as on 29.12.2017 to Central Bank of India, Rs. 130,93,21,057/- as on 30.11.2017 to Corporation Bank, Rs. 61,98,30,867/- as on 31.12.2017 to Bank of Baroda, Rs. 35,21,44,231.79/- as on 01.12.2017 to IDBI Bank, Rs. 42,14,89,653.82 as on 20.06.2017 to UCO Bank, Rs. 99,08,00,00/- as on 30.11.2017 to Dena Bank, Rs. 27,50,00,00/- as on 31.12.2017 to Tamlined Mercantile Bank.	PROPERTY-1 Rs. 96.00 Lakh Rs. 9.60 Lakh Rs. 50,000/-	02.03.2021 11.00 Hrs. to 14.00 Hrs.	Mr. Danvir Singh Mobile No.: 08826640034

Sr. No.	Name of the Account	Description of the Movable/ Immovable property	Outstanding Amount & Demand Note Date	Reserve Price	Date/ Time of inspection of property	Contact Person & mobile No.
3.	KARNAL (HARYANA) Best Foods Limited, REGD. OFFICE: 2867/2, Chandigarh Housing Board Flats, Sector 49, Chandigarh-160047. CORPORATE OFFICE: 502 D/Mall, Netaji Bhawan Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034. WORKS: Best Foods Limited P. O. Box 5, VPO Norta, Tehsil Indri-132041 Distt. Karnal, Haryana. Personal Guarantors: (i) Sh. Mohinder Pal Jindal S/o Sh. Krishan Chand, (ii) Sh. Dinesh Gupta S/o Sh. Mohinder Pal Jindal, (iii) Smt. Poonam W/o Sh. Dinesh Gupta, all residents of House No. 808, Sector 9, Urban Estate, Karnal Haryana. Corporate Guarantors: (i) M/s Best Sugar Pvt. Ltd, (ii) M/s Best Deal General Trading Pvt. Ltd, (iii) M/s Best Deal Housing and Construction Pvt. Ltd, (iv) M/s Excel Infracon Pvt. Ltd, (v) M/s Heritage Infracon Pvt. Ltd, (vi) M/s Unified Developers Pvt. Ltd, (vii) M/s Unified Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd, all having Registered Office at Unit No 502, Building D Mall, Plot No A-1, Netaji Bhawan Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034 viii) M/s Bharat Rice Mills (Proprietor Sh Mohinder Pal Jindal), Village Norta, Indri Karnal Haryana.	KARNAL (HARYANA) PROPERTY 1: All that part & parcel of Factory Land & Building admeasuring 5 Bigha 02 Biswa bearing Khat/ Khatuna No. 105/131, Khasra No. 196(0-16), 197(1-9), 198(1-8), 199(1-8), 201(1-3), 201(3-9) kitta 6 situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Saini Majra, HB No. 91, Tehsil Naragar, District Solan, as per Jamabandi for the Year 2006-07, standing in the name of M/s Japshichem Pharmaceuticals vide Sale Deed No. 2573 Dated 15.09.2005 registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Naragar (H.P.) (Physical Possession). PROPERTY 2: Plant & Machinery including fixed assets installed in the factory premises at HB No. 91, Village Saini Majra, Tehsil Naragar, District Solan. (Physical Possession). NOTE:- Plant & Machinery shall be lifted/removed by the successful auction purchaser within 30 days from the date of issuance of confirmation of sale by the bank after payment of the full auction amount. Failure to remove/lift the Plant & Machinery within stipulated period will attract penalty @ Rs. 10,000/- per day till the actual removal of				

Valley shuts down on JKLF founder's death anniversary

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 11

Normal life was affected in Kashmir on Thursday due to a shutdown to mark the 37th death anniversary of JKLF founder Mohammad Maqbool Bhat, who was hanged in New Delhi's Tihar Jail on this day in 1984, officials said.

Most of the shops, fuel stations and other business establishments were shut in Srinagar, while public transport was largely off the roads, they officials said.

However, the officials said, private cars, autorickshaws and cabs were plying in the city.

The officials said similar reports of shutdown were also received from other district headquarters of the Kashmir valley.

Security forces were deployed in strength at vulnerable places in the city and elsewhere in the Valley to avoid any untoward incident, the officials added.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) had last week called for a complete strike on February 9 and 11 to mark the death anniversaries of Parliament attack convict Mohammad Afzal Guru and its founder Mohammad Maqbool Bhat.



A security man stands guard near Lal Chowk during a strike in Srinagar on Thursday. PTI

MAQBOOL BHAT WAS HANGED IN 1984

- The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front had last week called for a complete strike on February 9 and 11 to mark the death anniversaries of Parliament attack convict Mohammad Afzal Guru and its founder Mohammad Maqbool Bhat.
- While Afzal Guru was hanged in Tihar Jail on February 9, 2013, Bhat was hanged on February 11 in 1984. Both were buried on the jail premises.

mark the death anniversaries of Parliament attack convict Mohammad Afzal Guru and its founder Bhat. Also, posters, purportedly issued by the Hurriyat

Conference, were pasted in some areas of the city, calling for a shutdown on Tuesday and Thursday. However, the officials said the authenticity of the posters could not be verified.

While Afzal Guru was hanged in Tihar Jail on February 9, 2013, Bhat was hanged on February 11 in 1984. Both were buried on the jail premises. — PTI

Trudeau dials...

FROM PAGE 1
capacity and Modi's leadership in sharing this capacity with the world.

The Health Minister was asked by her rival shadow Health Minister if Canada was planning to approach India for emergency requisitioning of vaccines. The questioning was against the background of Ottawa's strained ties with India, first over supporting separatists and recently on farmers' stir. The minister was non-committal, but embarrassed after Delhi let it be known that Trudeau had called up Modi seeking vaccines. Ottawa attempted to retrieve some of the ground by stating that Trudeau discussed many important issues, including the farmers' protests.

This is the fourth chairperson post win for the PAGD after the successes in Kargil, Ganderbal and Pulwama. — PTI

NC BAGS POST

- The National Conference's Mohammad Yousuf Gorski, who had won the DDC polls from the Pahalgam seat, was elected as the chairman of the Anantnag District Development Council, whereas Javaid Ahmad of the PDP was elected as the vice-chairman.

candidate for the deputy. The NC's Mohammad Yousuf Gorski, who had won the DDC polls from the Pahalgam seat, was elected

as the chairman of the district council, whereas Javaid Ahmad of the PDP was elected as the vice-chairman, the officials said.

Gorski polled 11 votes out of the total 14 members elected to the council in December last year, they added.

Among the 14 seats in Anantnag, six were won by the NC, three each by Congress and PDP and two by Independents.

This is the fourth chairperson post win for the PAGD after the successes in Kargil, Ganderbal and Pulwama. — PTI

FROM PAGE 1

China to return to Finger 8: Rajnath

yielded results," he said.

With the backing of the Chairman M Venkaih Naidu, Rajnath did not provide clarifications to members on grounds of national security considerations. The Defence Minister complimented the troops for their valour

and courage on both banks of the Pangong Tso and said the nation would always remember the sacrifices by the soldiers which have been the foundation of the disengagement from the Pangong lake.

"Our armed forces proved yet again that territorial

integrity of our country remains safe in their hands," he added.

To ensure disengagement, the Indian side had insisted that troops of both sides, who are now in close proximity, should vacate the forward deployments made in

2020 and return to the permanent and accepted bases.

"Our approach and strategy for negotiations with the Chinese side has been guided at the highest level by the PM's resolve that we will not give even an inch of the Indian territory," he said.

Follow Indian...

criticise. You can criticise anyone from the PM to the ministers. That is part of the Constitution but if social media is used to spread fake news, violence and disaffection, there will be strong action. If someone misuses social media to manipulate elections through corrupt means, action will be taken. We wish to tell Twitter, FB or LinkedIn or WhatsApp — work in India, you have crores of followers here. Make money but you will have to follow the Indian Constitution and laws," Prasad said in PM Narendra Modi's presence during the Question Hour.

The draft guidelines Prasad mentioned, meanwhile, seek to regulate social and digital media, including over the top (OTT) platforms and web-based news portals. These speak of a self-regulatory system with a code of ethics (as in case of TV channels), a compliance officer to respond to concerns flagged by law enforcement agencies, timely submission of compliance reports by social and digital media players, a grievance redressal structure and powers to bureaucracy to act in emergencies within 48 hours should the platform in question refuse to comply.

The minister also flagged violent content being peddled by social media. — TNS

Scare at rescue site as river level rises again

A senior Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) official said, "The drilling operation towards the slush flushing tunnel was stopped later in the day after approximately 7 to 8 metres of drill. A hard rock obstructed the cutters to operate. The rescue teams are now removing the slush again as earlier with JCB loader machines."

As the continuous flow of slush and silt remained a major obstacle between the rescuers and those feared trapped inside, a boring operation by a huge machine was also being undertaken to see if the problem could be addressed in a different way and the teams could reach further inside, the official said.

The focal point of the rescue operation now remains the 1.5-km headrace tunnel, a part of the 2.5-km long network of tunnels. Drilling through the debris

started from around 68 metres inside the tunnel and the focus at the moment is to take life-saving devices such as oxygen cylinders to those trapped by drilling, the official said, adding that the drilling was to be done for 12 metres to access the probable location of those trapped.

Till Wednesday, about 120 metres of slush from the mouth of the tunnel was cleared and those feared trapped inside were stated to be located somewhere at 180 metres, where the tunnel takes a slip or a turn.

A rescuer said those trapped inside must be in a bad shape without food and water, "but there was hope against hope that they would be surviving somehow as the temperature inside the tunnel was about 20-25 degrees Celsius and some oxygen was possibly available to them".

No longer a farmers' stir alone: Unions

the people to prepare for a long battle. "The government is trying to impose a globally failed model of agricultural system on the farmers. Over 80 per cent farmers, especially small

cultivators, will lose their landholdings to corporates because of the laws" he claimed.

A series of 'mahapanchayats' have been held in Haryana against the farm

laws. Three of these were addressed by BKU leader Rakesh Tikait, who has been spearheading the protest at the Ghazipur border for over two months.

The minister also flagged violent content being peddled by social media. — TNS

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Ludhiana

Recruitment Notice No.: 13836 dated 30.01.2021

The last date for filing of application for recruitment under MGNREGA has been extended to 25-Feb-2021 till 5:00 p.m. due to administrative reasons. Age relaxation has been extended for these following categories:

SC Category	: 5 years
BC Category	: 3 years
Handicapped Person	: 2 years
Ex Servicemen	: 3 years

पंजाब सरकार द्वारा जनरल कॉम्प्रेसर (रिकर्म)-मीट-दैविंग
सिलु प्रोजेक्ट लेन्डरिंग (मिलनगढ़), लाहौरगढ़।

DPR/Pb/1447 DPR/HP/728

NOTICE FOR INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR SETTING UP MEMBERS OF APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER MGNREGA

Applications are invited from the interested persons/candidates for setting up of Members of Appellate Authority under MGNREGA, in Himachal Pradesh. The interested person can submit their application within 15 days from the date of publication of the advertisement. The essential qualification and application format can be downloaded from the <http://rural.hp.gov.in>

Director-cum-Commissioner (MGNREGA)
Rural Development Department
to the Government of Himachal Pradesh

भारतीय लेखा परीक्षा तथा लेखा विभाग
राज्यीय लेखा परीक्षा तथा लेखा अकादमी शिमला - 171004
INDIAN AUDIT & ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF AUDIT & ACCOUNTS SHIMLA - 171004

Tender Notice

National Academy of Audit & Accountants, Shimla - 171004 (H.P) invites sealed bids for sale of their condemned Force Traveller Mini Bus bearing No. HP 07B-0328 Diesel Model 2010. The sealed tender should reach this office on or before 25.02.2021 by 02.00 pm. The details of bid document containing all terms & conditions can be downloaded from naaa.gov.in/procurement/ & tenders. The vehicle is available for inspection at Academy hostel 'Yarrow', Chaura Maidan, Shimla on all working days between 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Sd/- (Hira Lal Sharma, Sr. Audit Officer (Admn.).
Mob. No. 94187-55649 & 0177-2653037 (Office).
DI-2016

PUNJAB RURAL WATER & SANITATION SECTOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WORLD BANK FUNDED Request for Quotation through Shopping Procedure

1. The Chairman, PWSSC invites bids (to be submitted in the e-Procurement Portal) for the construction of following works:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	i) Amount ii) EMD	Availability of bidding documents on website from	Date & Time of Submission	Date & Date of opening of Technical Bid
1.	Improved Access to water through household connections in Existing Water Supply Village Hetampura, Block Chogawan, and District Amritsar. Under PRWSSP 2A(ii)	i) Rs. 17,50 Lac ii) Rs. 3500/-	12.02.2021 at 10:00 a.m.	25.02.2021 17:00 Hour	26.02.2021 11:30 Hour
2.	Improved Access to water through household connections in Existing Water Supply Village Karyl, Block Harsha Chhina, and District Amritsar Under PRWSSP 2A(ii)	i) Rs. 10.66 Lac ii) Rs. 22000/-	12.02.2021 at 10:00 a.m.	25.02.2021 17:30 Hour	26.02.2021 11:30 Hour
3.	Detailed Invitation for Bid which includes instructions for submission of bids and all other relevant information is available online at https://jeproc.punjab.gov.in . Bidding Documents are also available online at this website for downloading.				

3. Bidders are advised to note minimum qualification criteria specified in the bidding documents. Interested bidders may participate in the bidding process as per instructions given in the bidding documents. Corrigendum/Amendment shall be published in the above said website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
W/S & S Div-1, Amritsar.
Telephone: 0183-2530413,
E-mail: xenrws_1asr@yahoo.com

TENDER NOTICE

HIMACHAL PRADESH FOREST DEPARTMENT e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS

Tender Reference No:

1. The Divisional Forest Officer, Palampur Forest Division, Distt.- Kangra on behalf of Governor of HP invites online bids on item rate, in e-tendering system, in 2 cover system for the undermentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms. Eligible bidders and contractors registered with HPPWD/CPWD.

Sr. No.	Name of work.	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender	Time Allowed
1.	Construction of Inspection Hut at Suhan in Daraman Beat (Darah Forest Range) Palampur Forest Division Palampur for the year 2020-2021 Sub work: Building Work.	79432/-	500/-	Three Months

2. Availability of bid document and mode of submission: The Bid Document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <http://htenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the website, which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder required to have digital signature certificate from one of the authorized certifying Authorities.

3. Key Dates:-

Sr. No.	Activity	Date and Time
I	Date of online publication	From 05.02.2021 at 06:00 p.m.
II	Downloading of e-tender Document	From 06.02.2021, 10:00 a.m. to 19.02.2021 up to 5:00 p.m.
III	Date of submission of e-tendering	From 06.02.2021, 10:00 a.m. to 19.02.2021 up to 5:00 p.m.
IV	Physical submission of Earnest Money Deposit and cost of tender document and other technical documents.	Up to 05:00 p.m. on 19.02.2021
V	Date of Bid opening	11:00 a.m. on 20.02.2021

4. Tender Details:-

The e-tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 (two) covers:- i) Cover-1: shall contain scanned copies of "Eligibility document/Eligible information".

ii) Cover-2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid" where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. Cover-1: shall contain Scanned copies of following "eligibility information" (Scanned copies to be uploaded).

i) The earnest money only in the shape of small saving instruments, or fixed deposit, duly pledged in favour of Divisional Forest Officer, Palampur.

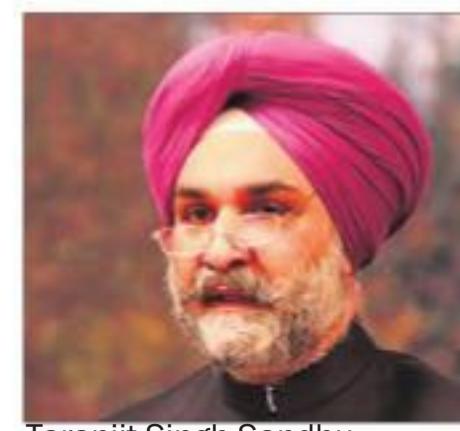
ii) Cost of tender form only



GLOBE TROT



PERPLEXED: Passing through incense sticks, a cat looks at the lensman in bewilderment in Jakarta, Indonesia. REUTERS



India-America ties stronger than ever before: Sandhu

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 11 US President Joe Biden spoke to his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on Wednesday, his first direct contact with the leader of the world's second-largest economy since winning the November US presidential election and taking office last month.

Biden told Xi it was a US priority to preserve a free and open Indo-Pacific region and "underscored his fundamental concerns about Beijing's coercive and unfair economic practices, crackdown in Hong Kong, human rights abuses in Xinjiang, and increasingly assertive actions in the region, including toward Taiwan," the White House said in a statement.

Biden and Xi also exchanged views on countering Covid as well as on the shared challenges of climate change and preventing weapons proliferation, a reference to the US desire to cooperate with Beijing in persuading North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons, the White House said.

"Our defence and security ties are stronger than ever before," the Indian ambassador to the United States said in an interview. — PTI

Nepal bans three Indians for faking Mt Everest summit

KATHMANDU: Nepal has banned two Indian climbers and their team leader from carrying out any mountaineering expeditions in the country for six years after a probe found that they faked their Mt Everest summit in 2016. Narendra Singh Yadav and Seema Rani Goswami received expedition certificates that year which have been revoked. Naba Kumar Phukon who led the expedition, has also been banned for six years starting May 20, 2016. PTI

Meghan wins privacy battle against tabloid paper

LONDON: Meghan, Britain's Duchess of Sussex, has won her privacy case against a tabloid newspaper which printed extracts of a letter she wrote to her estranged father after a court judge issued a summary judgement in her favour on Thursday. Meghan, 39, wife of Queen Elizabeth's grandson Prince Harry, had sued publisher Associated Newspapers after its Mail on Sunday tabloid printed a handwritten letter she sent to her father. REUTERS

US to ensure free and open Indo-Pacific, Biden tells Xi

Discusses Taiwan, Hong Kong crackdown, rights abuse in Xinjiang

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"Our defence and security ties are stronger than ever before," the Indian ambassador to the United States said in an interview. — PTI

Biden, Xi talk for the first time since former's US poll win

US underscores concerns about Beijing's 'unfair' trade practices

Xi says Xinjiang, HK and Taiwan are matters of sovereignty

Taiwan President

thanks US for taking up issues concerning it

Task force to meet China challenge

The Pentagon has established a task force, comprising civilian and military experts, to provide recommendations to address the challenge posed by China, Biden has said. Wednesday. "It will require a whole-of-government effort, bipartisan cooperation in Congress, and strong alliances and partnerships. That's how we'll meet the China challenge and ensure the US wins the competition," he said. PTI

**WASHINGTON IMPOSES SANCTIONS ON MYANMAR MILITARY LEADERS OVER COUP**

Biden has announced a series of sanctions on the military leaders of Myanmar for coup. Tens of thousands have turned out in street protests against the February 1 coup, which overthrew Aung San Suu Kyi's government. The US Government is taking steps to prevent the generals

from improperly having access to the USD1 billion in Burmese Government funds held in the US," Biden said. In Brussels, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said European foreign ministers will meet on February 22 to review the 27-nation bloc's relations with Myanmar. PTI

A senior Biden administration official told reporters ahead of the call Biden would be "practical, hard-headed, clear-eyed" in dealings with Xi, but wanted to ensure the two of them had the opportunity to

have an open line of communication, despite US concerns about Chinese behaviour.

The official said the call came at a time when the US believed it was in a position of strength, after consultations

with allies and partners, to lay out core concerns about China's "aggressive activities and abuses." Taiwan President's office thanked Biden for taking up its issue with China. — Reuters

Media row: China retaliates, bars BBC World News

LONDON, FEBRUARY 11 British television channel BBC World News has been barred from airing in China, the National Radio and Television Administration said on Friday, a week after Britain's media regulator revoked Chinese state television's broadcast licence.

In a statement issued on the stroke of the Lunar New Year, the administration said an investigation found BBC World News' China-related reports had "seriously violated" regulations, including that news should be "truthful and fair," had harmed China's national interests and undermined national unity.

The channel therefore does not meet requirements for foreign channels broadcasting in China and its application to air for another year will not be accepted, it added. English-language BBC World News is not included in most TV channel packages in China but is available in some hotels and residences. The BBC did not immediately respond to a request for comment. On February 4, UK regulator Ofcom had revoked CGTN's licence. — Reuters

Working on new strains: AstraZeneca

LONDON, FEBRUARY 11

AstraZeneca said on Thursday it's working with the University of Oxford to adapt its Covid vaccine to protect against new strains of the virus as public health officials raise concerns about mutations that may make the virus more resistant to existing vaccines.

AstraZeneca said it hopes to cut the time needed to produce large amounts of any new vaccine to between six and nine months.

The WHO chief for Europe



Artists protest against Covid curbs in Athens, Greece. REUTERS

has said it's launching with the EU a USD 48.5 million programme to help deploy vac-

cines in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova. — Agencies

Lanka's Cardinal fumes over 2019 attack probe

COLOMBO, FEBRUARY 11

The head of Sri Lanka's Catholic church once again expressed disappointment on Thursday over the probe in the 2019 Easter Sunday blasts that tore through 3 churches and as many luxury hotels, cautioning the government that if justice is not served, he would approach international organisations. The attacks had killed 258 people.

According to Cardinal Mal-

To approach int'l groups if govt fails to serve justice

colm Cardinal Ranjith, he had sought a copy of the special presidential probe report that was submitted to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa last month.

The report has not been made public so far. — PTI

Int'l community counts on Indian role in multilateralism, says UN

UNITED NATIONS, FEBRUARY 11

A top United Nations official has said that this year, more than ever, the international community counts on India for its contribution to multilateralism as a force for good—from Covid vaccines to climate action and peacekeeping.

UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, addressing the inaugural session of the World Sustainable Development Summit 2021 on

OVERACHIEVEMENT

India is the only G20 member nation that will overachieve the objectives of its nationally determined contributions. Amina Mohammed, UN DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

"India is currently the only G20 country that will overachieve the objectives of its nationally determined contributions. So much has been done already," Mohammed said.

"As India is seeking greater energy security through a revolution in solar, wind and energy storage, installing 450 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030 will bring more jobs," she said. — PTI

BUSINESS

USD \$	EURO €	POUND £	JPY ¥	YUAN ￥	CAD \$	AUD \$	SGD \$	HKD \$
₹72.87	₹88.41	₹100.81	₹0.69	₹11.26	₹57.41	₹56.57	₹55.03	₹9.38

Thomas Cook allowed to withdraw buyback offer

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 11

Markets regulator SEBI on Thursday allowed Thomas Cook (India) to withdraw its buyback offer because of substantial deterioration in the company's financial position due to the Covid pandemic.

The regulator treated the case as "unique" and said the order is not intended to serve as a precedent.

In February 2020, the Board of directors of the firm had approved the proposal for a buyback of up to over 2.6 crore shares, representing 6.9% of the total paid-up equity share capital as on December 31, 2019, on a proportionate basis through the tender offer process.

Accordingly, it filed a draft letter of offer with SEBI. However, in September 2020, the company had filed an application seeking withdrawal of the buyback offer. — PTI



₹24,713-CRORE TRANSACTION

- The development comes after a recent Delhi High Court's ruling that stayed a previous order on status quo of the deal and ruled that statutory authorities cannot be restrained from acting in accordance with law
- The high court order on Monday came over an urgent petition moved by FRL after a single-member Bench directed maintaining status quo over Future's deal with Reliance

taining status quo over Future's deal with Reliance.

The scheme of arrangement has already received approval from CCI and no

objection from SEBI and bourses, following which it had approached NCLT Mumbai on January 26, 2021.

Last month, Amazon had approached the Delhi High

Court seeking enforcement of the interim order of the Emergency Arbitrator (EA) at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) that had restrained FRL from going ahead with the deal with Reliance. Justice Midha had directed FRL and other parties to maintain status quo till pronouncement of the reserved order.

Amazon and Future have been locked in a bitter legal tussle after the US e-commerce giant dragged Future Group to arbitration at SIAC, arguing that the latter had violated their contract by entering into the deal with rival Reliance.

Amazon had invested in Future Coupons in August 2019, with an option of buying into the flagship Future Retail after a period of three to 10 years. — PTI

Vehicle sales rise 11% in January

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 11

Passenger vehicle wholesales in India increased by 11.14% to 2,76,554 units last month as compared with same month last year amid supply chain challenges, unavailability of semiconductors and higher container charges, auto industry body SIAM said on Thursday. Passenger vehicle sales in January 2020 stood at 2,48,840 units.

As per the latest data by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), two-wheeler dispatches to dealers also rose 6.63% to 14,29,928 units as compared to 13,41,005 units in January 2020.

Motorcycle sales increased 5.1% to 9,16,365 units as against 8,71,886 in January 2020. Scooter sales were also up 9.06% at 4,54,315 units from 4,16,567 units a year ago.

Three-wheeler sales, however,

declined by 56.76% to 26,335 units as compared to 60,903 units in January last year. Vehicle sales across categories rose by 4.97% to 17,32,817 units last month as against 16,50,812 units a year ago. — PTI

IN BRIEF

MUMBAI
Sensex jumps 222 pts to fresh closing high

Sensex surged 222 points to end at its new closing record on Thursday, propelled by gains in index major Reliance Industries amid positive global cues. After trading on a choppy note, it settled 222.13 points higher at 51,531.52. Similarly, the Nifty advanced 66.80 points to its all-time high of 15,173.30. PTI

NEW DELHI
Fintech major BharatPe raises \$108 mn in funding

Fintech major BharatPe on Thursday said it has raised \$108 million (over Rs 786 crore) in funding, led by existing investor Coatue Management, at a valuation of \$900 million (over Rs 6,551 crore). The company has raised \$90 million in primary fund raise and also ensured secondary exit for its angel investors and employees for a total amount of \$18 million, it said. PTI

NEW DELHI/LONDON
Aditya Mittal named CEO of ArcelorMittal

ArcelorMittal on Thursday announced the appointment of Aditya Mittal as its CEO. Aditya Mittal, son of steel baron Lakshmi Mittal, is the CFO of the company, and will succeed his father in the new role. Lakshmi Mittal, who is currently chairman and CEO, will become the company's executive chairman. PTI

NEW DELHI
₹819-cr RailTel IPO to open on February 16

RailTel Corporation of India on Thursday fixed a price band of Rs 93-94 a share for its initial share-sale, which will open for public subscription on February 16. The IPO is entirely an offer-for-sale through which government will offload 27.16% stake, it said. PTI

Coal India Q3 profit falls 21% to ₹3,085 cr

CORPORATE RESULTS

NEW DELHI FEBRUARY 11

Coal India Ltd on Thursday reported 21.3% fall in consolidated net profit at Rs 3,085.39 crore for the quarter ended December 31, 2020. Income during October-December 2020-21 slipped marginally to Rs 24,334.62 crore from Rs 24,602.19 crore in the year-ago period, the filing said.

Time spent by Indians on smartphones highest globally

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 11

Average time spent by Indians on smartphones is the highest in the world and the duration for watching short videos is likely to rise four-fold by 2025, telecom gear maker Nokia said in a report on Thursday.

The annual report—Mobile Broadband India Traffic Index, (MBI) 2021—found that India ranked second in the world in terms of broadband usage on mobile phones after Finland, and the data traffic in

MOBILE BROADBAND INDIA TRAFFIC INDEX 2021

- India ranked second in the world in terms of broadband usage on mobile phones after Finland, and the data traffic in the country has increased around 60 times over the last five years, which is also highest globally.
- According to the report, 164 petabytes of data was consumed in December 2015, which reached close to 10,000 petabytes in December 2020

highest globally.

"In the past five years, we have grown 63 times in 4G network combined. Average data consumed on 4G network are 13.7 GB per user per month.

"An average user in India has increased his consumption on smartphones by four times in the last year. An average person consumes close to 5 hours per day, in fact, it is 4.48 hours per day, on their devices. Even from today, we will grow four times more in terms of more content getting used," Marwah said. — PTI



Elavenil sets mark, Manu gets gold

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 11
Elavenil Valarivan, the current world No. 1 in women's 10m air rifle, beat compatriot Apurvi Chandela's standing final world record score to win the T3 national selection trials in the event today at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting range here.

This was the second time an Indian broke a world record mark in two days at the ongoing National Selection Trial 3&4 for Rifle/Pistol events. Divyansh Singh Panwar yesterday went past the final world record mark held by a Chinese shooter in the corresponding men's final.



Elavenil shot 253 in the women's 10m air rifle T3 final to break Apurvi Chandela's record of 252.9

New world record
Elavenil shot 253 in the women's 10m air rifle T3 final to break Apurvi Chandela's record of 252.9

respective trials. Among them, two-time Olympian Sanjeev Rajput continued a stellar run of form. He topped qualification with a score of 584 and then won the final with an effort of 243.7 after 24 shots.

Manu Bhaker, the present world No. 2 in the event, won the women's 10m air pistol T3 trials quite comfortably. She topped qualification with a score of 584 and then won the final with an effort of 243.7 after 24 shots.

The final winner of the day was Vijayveer Sidhu, who won the men's 25m rapid fire pistol T3 event. Vijayveer shot 35 in the final to beat Bhavesh Shekhawat to second place. Rajasthan's Bhavesh shot 29 to finish behind the Punjab youngster. — TNS, agencies

Younger Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, also a Tokyo quota winner, came in second with 458.1. He had also followed Sanjeev in second

BRIEFLY

MADRIS

Sevilla beat Barcelona in Messi's 900th game
Taking advantage of a quiet game from Lionel Messi in his 900th career match, Sevilla defeated Barcelona 2-0 in the first leg of the Copa del Rey semifinals, the goals being scored by Jules Kounde and Ivan Rakitic.

CHENNAI

Buttler, Bairstow back for T20Is against India
Senior wicketkeeper-batsmen Jos Buttler and Jonny Bairstow were on Thursday named in a 16-member England squad for the five T20 International matches against India, scheduled from March 12 to 20. AGENCIES



Jaffer has scored the most runs in the Ranji Trophy. FILE

I'm with you, Kumble tells Jaffer

He faced 'communal' charges after quitting as coach

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 11
Spin legend Anil Kumble today extended support to his former India teammate Wasim Jaffer after the Cricket Association of Uttarakhand (CAU) alleged that Jaffer had tried to force religion-based selections as coach.

Jaffer, who quit as Uttarakhand coach owing to a dispute with the state association, yesterday rejected allegations by CAU officials that he favoured Muslim players in the team. He got support from Kumble, a former India captain and coach who currently heads the ICC's Cricket Committee.

"With you Wasim. Did the right thing. Unfortunately it's the players who'll miss your mentor ship," Kumble wrote on Twitter today. Kumble, incidentally, is Jaffer's colleague as part of IPL team Kings XI Punjab's coaching staff — Kumble is the director of cricket operations and Jaffer is the batting coach.

Former India opener Wasim Jaffer first played Ranji Trophy for Mumbai in October 1996, and his last Ranji game for the team of the city of his birth was over 18 years later, in January 2015. In this duration, he played 130 matches for Mumbai, yet not a single Mumbai player had spoken in solidarity with him at the time of going to press. Jaffer played 31 Tests and 2 ODIs for India.

However, two other former India players — Manoj Tiwary

of West Bengal and Doddha Ganesh of Karnataka, supported Jaffer. "You have been a great ambassador of the game and represented India with pride. Cannot believe that this could happen to someone like you. You're a gem of a cricketer and human, brother. Cricket world knows you and your integrity," Ganesh wrote in a post addressed to Jaffer.

"I would request the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand... to intervene immediately and take note of the issue in which our national hero Wasim bhai was branded as communal in the cricket association and take necessary action. Time to set an example," Tiwary wrote on Twitter.

The 42-year-old Jaffer, who is one of the most respected players in domestic cricket, said the charges levelled by CAU secretary Mahim Verma had caused him immense pain. — PTI, TNS

However, two other former India players — Manoj Tiwary

Kenin falls to Kaia, Nadal rolls on



Rafael Nadal reacts after being heckled by a drunk fan, who was later ejected. REUTERS

vatore Caruso, defeating his compatriot 4-6 6-2 6-3 7-6(12) on John Cain Arena court to reach the third round for a fourth straight year.

Croatian 22nd seed Borna Coric crashed out following a 6-4 6-2 4-6 6-4 defeat to Amer-

ican Mackenzie McDonald. Estonian 21st seed Anett Kontaveit recovered from a shaky start to beat Britain's Heather Watson 6-7(5) 6-4 6-2 and set up a third-round meeting with American Shelby Rogers. — Reuters

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice		
DEN-Track/FZR 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 05.03.2021 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time Contractors are allowed to make payments against these tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque,		
S. Tender N. Number		
1 56-2020-21-PTK-II DRM-FZR		
Manufacturing and supplying of 60,000 CUM 65 MM gauge stone ballast (Mechanically broken) duly stacked and loading into Railway Wagons/Hoppers in quarry siding in Sub Depot-I at Madhopur Punjab on BHRL-JAT section under ADEN-II/PTK.		
Advertised Value Validity of Offer Period of Completion		
26346600.00 45 days 12 Months		
Bid Starting Date:- 19.02.2021, Bid Closing Date 05.03.2021		
Similar Nature of Work: Supply of machine crushed stone ballast for railway/highway/roads.		
299/2021 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE		

299/2021
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

fanos Tsitsipas beat 267th-ranked Thanasi Kokkinakis 6-7(5) 6-4 6-1 6-7(5) 6-4 in a battle lasting over 4 1/2 hours.

Ukraine's fifth seed Elina Svitolina produced a clinical display to beat American teenager Coco Gauff 6-4 6-3.

Home favourite Alex de Minaur struck 30 winners en route a dominant 6-3 6-3 7-5 victory over Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas.

Italy's 16th seed Fabio Fognini needed almost four hours to find a way past Sal-

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IN PARLIAMENT



Budget for, of and by the rich: Chidambaram

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader and former Finance Minister P Chidambaram on Thursday said the Budget was "for the rich, of the rich and by the rich". He said 64 million people dropped out of the labour force during the pandemic, 28 million people were registered in employment exchanges, but the budget proposals were silent on these issues. TNS



Enshrine MSP in law: SAD MP Gujral

New Delhi: Thousands of farmers protesting at the borders of Delhi for over two months will return home if the government agreed to include a guarantee through a law for purchase of their crops at MSP. SAD MP Naresh Gujral said in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. "After these laws, farmers will have to go to private mandis and will not get the MSP" he said. TNS

Delhi to Dehradun in 3.15 hrs soon: Gadkari

New Delhi: Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday told the Lok Sabha that an elevated expressway was being constructed between Delhi and Dehradun, capital of Uttarakhand, with which the travel time between the two cities would reduce to around 3.15 hours. Currently, it takes more than five hours to cover the distance. Gadkari said the construction work on the 'green' elevated highway would begin in June 2021. TNS

In talks with judiciary over Bill: Prasad

New Delhi: The government on Thursday said it was in talks with the judiciary which had some concerns about the Judicial Standard and Accountability Bill, 2010, and consultations were underway. Responding to MP KTS Tuli, who sought to know the status of the Bill during the question hour in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the Bill had been passed before the BJP came to power. TNS

2,072 Indians died of Covid abroad: Govt

New Delhi: A total of 2,072 Indians died due to Covid-19 in various countries, with the highest death toll of 906 being reported in Saudi Arabia, followed by 375 in the UAE, the government said on Thursday. PTI

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Laws will destroy mandis, help corporates: Rahul

Says entire country backing farmers' protest

Tribune News Service

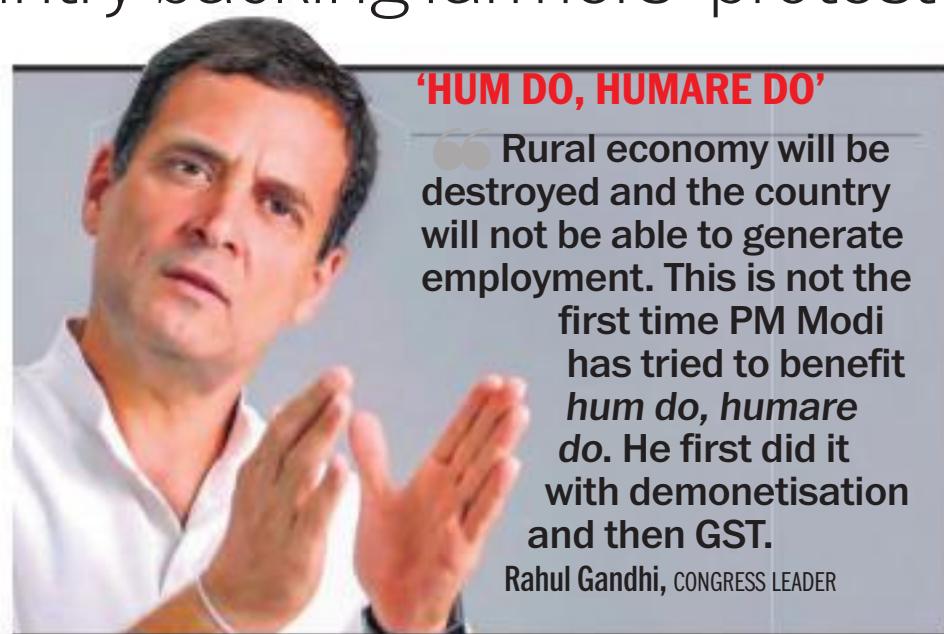
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 11

In a stinging attack on the Narendra Modi government, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi today accused it of destroying mandis and promoting hoarding to "benefit a couple of corporate friends". He spun around an old family planning slogan "hum do hamare do" to make his point.

"The nation is being run by four persons," said Rahul.

He did not name anyone, saying everyone knew who he was talking about. His comments resulted in a virtual bedlam in the House, with allegations flying against his (Gandhi) family and Union Minister Anurag Thakur, accusing him of "telling lies" and coming unprepared to speak on Union Budget.

"The PM has given us three options — hunger, unemploy-



'HUM DO, HAMARE DO'

Rural economy will be destroyed and the country will not be able to generate employment. This is not the first time PM Modi has tried to benefit *hum do, hamare do*. He first did it with demonetisation and then GST.

Rahul Gandhi, CONGRESS LEADER

ment and suicide," said Rahul, amid repeated disruptions and requests by Speaker Om Birla to restrict his speech to the Budget. Rahul did not take their names but Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, who raised the point of order and asked him to prove his claims, ended taking the names of two corporates.

"Let me tell what will happen when these laws are enacted. Small farmers and traders will be wiped out and

only 'hum do hamare do' will run the country," said the Congress leader.

"Do not think it is farmers' agitation alone. It is the agitation of the entire country. Farmers are showing way to the country, which is rising against 'hum do, hamare do'.... Let me give you in writing. Farmers will not move back an inch. You will have to take back the three laws," warned the Congress leader.

Shah: CAA to be implemented after vaccination

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 11

Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday put off the implementation of the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) for the time being and announced that the Act would be notified after the vaccination drive against Covid-19 was over.

Shah, who is on a tour of West Bengal to drum up support for the BJP for the impending Assembly elections, was speaking at a meeting at Thakurnagar, considered Mecca of the numerically strong refugees of the Matua caste from across the border.

Shah said in the "auspicious venue" associated with Matua leaders Harichand Thakur and Guruchand Thakur; he would like to assure people that the CAA would be implemented after the vaccination drive was over. Shah said in 2018, the BJP had promised that the existing law on citizenship would be amended to accord the status of citizenship to people from neighbouring countries who sought refuge in India because of religious persecution. —TNS

After cooling tensions with China, India to renew ties with Russia

SANDEEP DIKSHIT

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 11

Having reduced tensions with China after the simultaneous disengagement of troops began in eastern Ladakh, India will renew its engagement with Russia that will culminate in a visit by Vladimir Putin for a summit meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said sources.

Besides dealing with bilateral issues, the South Block is keen on multilateral initiatives with Russia. It will seek to put the India-Japan-Russia trilateral on a firmer footing with the unstated purpose of reducing the need for Moscow to seek China's participation in the development of the vast Russian Far East rich in minerals and hydrocarbons. A trial run of the Vladivostok-Chennai sea corridor will be followed up by more substantial programmes. India will also be looking to activate its

MOSCOW VISIT, JOINT WORKING GROUP MEET

In the run-up to a Modi-Putin summit, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla will visit Moscow. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will also co-chair a meeting of a joint working group.

\$1 billion line of credit for the development of the Russian Far East.

India is also poised to produce the Sputnik vaccine, which could hit the markets by March-April after regulatory approvals. India has already earned much diplomatic goodwill by dispatching made-in-India vaccines far and wide. The commercial production of Sputnik will see India's vaccine diplomacy extend its footprint to Central Asian and other countries.

project first started. In 2019, we approached the Uttarakhand High Court through a PIL alleging unfair and environmentally hazardous practices being adopted by the private company involved, but to no avail." Villagers say they radically approached the Joshi-math SDM and warned him against stone-crushing works in the middle of the riverbed wreaking havoc on local flora and fauna and damaging the fragile eco-space of the region. "No one needed us. The disaster could have been averted if the authorities were responsive," Bhagwan Singh says.

SC rejects Gogoi's bail plea in anti-CAA protest case

Tribune News Service

Ramana said, dismissing Gogoi's bail plea.

Gogoi had challenged the Gauhati High Court's January 7 order rejecting his bail plea in an anti-CAA protests case registered by the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The High Court rejected his bail plea in connection with a case registered against him under various sections of the IPC and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. He has been accused of conspiring to support a terrorist organisation.

'Chipko' birthplace Raini battles nature's fury

MUKESH RANJAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JOSHIMATH, FEBRUARY 11

Inhabitants of Chamoli's Raini village are finding it hard to process Mother Nature's message. Jolted by the Sunday deluge that killed at least 32 and left 176 missing, locals are at pains to absorb the fact that floods have devastated Raini, the birthplace of Chipko movement, which originated here and went on to mother several environment campaigns in India and abroad.

Among all villages ravaged by the tragedy, Raini, situated on the banks of Dhauliganga,



A drone survey being conducted at Raini village on Thursday. PTI

has suffered the most. Large swathes of the once vibrant land stand bare reduced to smitherines by the assault of nature. Locals now say they had premonitions of a disaster

Raini village pradhan Bhagwan Singh Reni said. "The destruction in the Chamoli region was feared long back in 2005 when the works on the Rishiganga 520 MW power

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