

Give agri laws a chance: Modi

Reaching out to farmers, says Manmohan too favoured common market

SHUBHADEEP CHOUDHURY
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday appealed to agitating farmers to give the new farm laws a chance.


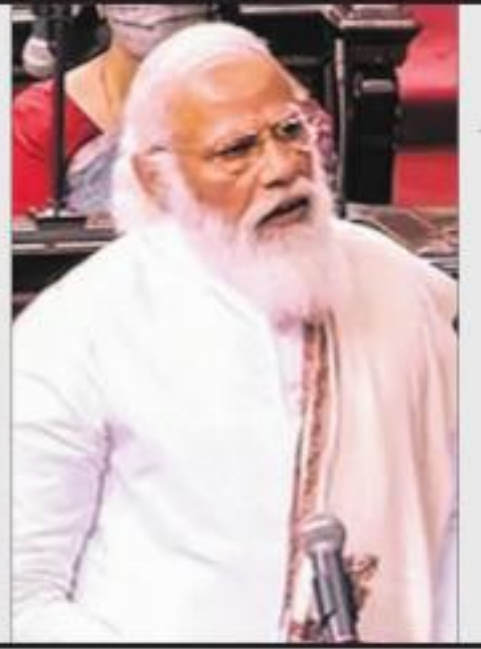
"If there is any drawback in the laws, it will be corrected. If there is a loose end, it will be tightened. Our doors are open for suggestions," the PM said. Replying to a discussion in the Rajya Sabha on a motion thanking the President for his address to Parliament at the start of the Budget session, Modi asserted that the system of minimum support price (MSP) for crops would

HAILS SIKH COMMUNITY

"The Sikhs have done so much for the nation... Language used by some for them and bid to mislead them will never benefit the nation," PM Modi said.

AMENDMENTS REJECTED

Cong's Deepender Hooda moved two amendments to the motion thanking President's Address — repeal of farm laws & obituary reference to farmers who have died during the stir. Both were rejected.



TIKAIT: HE IS TRYING TO CONFUSE THE PEOPLE
"We never said anything about MSP getting withdrawn. It is an attempt to confuse people. Our demand is that the govt brings a law on MSP with a guarantee on procurement."
Rakesh Tikait, BKU

continue. "The MSP was there, is there and is going to be there in future," Modi said, adding that mandis would be modernised and there was also no question of abolition of distribution of ration through the PDS. Modi appealed to the farmers protesting on the outskirts of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
EDIT: PM'S OUTREACH

Multi-agency rescue op underway; at least 30 feared trapped in tunnel

26 bodies recovered, 171 still missing

MUKESH RANJAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JOSHIMATH, FEBRUARY 8
Twentysix bodies have been recovered while 171 persons were still missing as a multi-agency rescue operation was underway at the NTPC hydel project site in Chamoli that was ravaged by a flash-flood in the Rishi Ganga, possibly after a portion of the Nanda Devi glacier broke off on Sunday.

The glacier burst appeared to have triggered an avalanche and a deluge that ripped through the Alaknanda river system — the Rishi Ganga is its part.

The 171 reported missing, mostly from Uttarakhand, UP and Bihar, include those working at hydel power project sites and villagers whose homes nearby were washed away with the force of the raging waters, officials said. Two power projects — NTPC's 480-MW Tapovan-Vishnugad project and the 13.2-MW Rishiganga hydel project — were extensively damaged



READY TO HELP IN RELIEF OP: UN
The United Nations stands ready to contribute to the ongoing rescue and assistance efforts in Uttarakhand, if necessary, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said as the global organisation expressed sadness over the loss of life and damage due to the glacier burst and flooding.

ROCKFALL LIKELY TRIGGER: EXPERT
Kalachand Sain, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, says rockfall on accumulated snow in the higher Himalayan reaches of Chamoli may have caused a glacial breach. He pointed out that of the 1,000 glaciers in U'khand, scientists are able to monitor only 7.

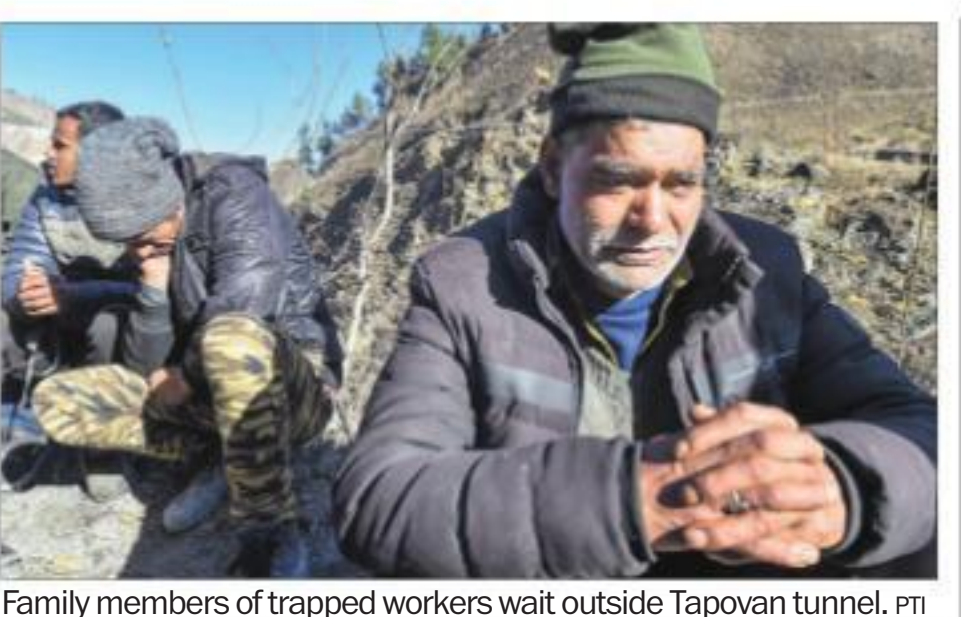
INTERVIEW BACK PAGE

with scores of labourers caught in tunnels as the waters came gushing in. Thirteen villages are cut off. The disaster management teams were working to rescue 30 to 35 workers learnt to be stuck inside the Tapovan tunnel, said officials. Sniffer dogs and heavy mechanical equipment, including bulldozers and JCBs, were deployed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
EDIT: HIMALAYAN TRAGEDY

IN BRIEF

Maha Govt to probe celebs' tweets on stir
MUMBAI: Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh has said the state intelligence wing will conduct a probe into allegations that some celebrities were pressured to tweet on farmers' stir. — PTI



Family members of trapped workers wait outside Tapovan tunnel.

Twitter told to block 1,200 accounts
NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has asked Twitter to block or suspend nearly 1,200 accounts. These "were flagged by security agencies as accounts of Khalistan sympathisers or backed by Pakistan". — TNS

Slush, screams, darkness: Survivors recount horror

MUKESH RANJAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JOSHIMATH, FEBRUARY 8
Away from the anxieties dotting the flashflood-ravaged sites in Chamoli where rescue operation is underway, the ITBP's base hospital at Joshimath in Uttarakhand presents a picture of hope.

Recovering at this facility are 12 workers of the NTPC's Tapovan hydel project, devastated by Sunday's Nanda Devi glacier burst that left at least 26 dead while

Army: No impact on LAC access

NEW DELHI: Flashflood in the upper reaches of Uttarakhand has not affected the Army's readiness to maintain its supply lines to Barahoti, 80 sq km of "contested" area along the LAC with China.

The flood has impacted one of the major routes to Barahoti and Niti pass, which lies 100 km from Joshimath on the north-eastern axis. "An alternative route is open," Army officials said. The Pithoragarh-Darchula-Lipulekh road was not impacted. — TNS

Glacier burst or avalanche?

NEW DELHI: While some environmentalists question the "glacier burst" claim, others point to massive construction activity and hydropower projects in eco-sensitive zones. "Was it a glacial burst or an avalanche," asked Himanshu Thakkar of South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People. There are 98 dams in Uttarakhand. BACK PAGE

Azad may seek RS berth from Kerala
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Speculation is rife that Ghulam Nabi Azad, Leader of Opposition in the RS, may contest from Kerala when three members from the state retire in April. — PTI

ISHANT 3RD INDIAN PACER TO TAKE 300 TEST WKTS
Ishant Sharma becomes the 3rd pacer from the country to take 300 wickets in Test cricket
Kapil Dev (434) and Zaheer Khan (311) are other Indian pacers to reach this landmark.

17+ve, HP college a containment zone

PALAMPUR, FEBRUARY 8
The district administration today declared Netaji Subhash College of Nursing as containment zone after its 17 students tested positive for Covid-19 last night.

Passing the order to this effect, Palampur SDM Dharmesh Ramotra said Sec-

Over 100 students residing in hostel to undergo Covid test

tion 144 of the CrPC had been promulgated to avoid crowding. The entire college complex, DMC Hospital and a part

of Ward 13 of the Palampur Municipal Corporation has been declared containment zone till further orders.

The SDM said arrangements had been made to test over 100 students of the nursing college who were residing in hostels.

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With Gurbani, Hanuman Chalisa, Singhu goes secular



Gurbani and Hanuman Chalisa are recited every morning at Singhu.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 8 With the focus of the farmers' movement shifting from Punjab to the Jat hinterland, the Singhu protest site on the Delhi border, so far dominated by Sikh farmers, has donned a secular colour.

The morning starts with the recitation of Gurbani from the stage, followed by Hanuman Chalisa and other religious hymns.

Farmer leaders say the

Increase in participation of Haryana farmers behind change, say leaders

sudden increase in participation of Haryana farmers has further secularised the movement. "Now, it has gone much beyond any communal agenda. It is now difficult for the state to label this movement a 'Khalistani struggle'," says one of the leaders of the 32 farmer

organisations spearheading the agitation.

Earlier, farmer leaders were opposing the idea of any religious activity from the official stage at Singhu. In December, even a detailed discussion took place during a meeting of the farmer organisations on ways to save the movement

from becoming a "show of one particular religion".

Apart from exchange of religious values, a mix of cultures is taking place at the protest site. This is the first time a large number of women and children from Haryana are participating at the Singhu border.

"This is something that has never been seen before," says a lawyer from Punjab and Haryana High Court who returned from Singhu on Sunday.

Martyr's kin upset over farmers being defamed

SUKHMEET BHASIN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANSA, FEBRUARY 8

The family members of martyr Sepoy Gurtej Singh of Mansa, who sacrificed his life in a clash with the Chinese army at Galwan valley in Ladakh last year, are upset over farmers being called terrorists, Naxals and separatists.

Gurtej's father Virsa Singh, a resident of Birewala Dogra village in Budhlada sub-tehsil, is a marginal farmer and does farming on around three acres. He said: "We are opposing the farm laws as these will hit the marginal farmers like me hard. We demand the repeal of the laws at the earliest."

He said even he had gone to the Tikri border on his tractor to protest the three farm laws. "Our son gave his life guarding the country's border. It really pains us when we hear media houses and politicians terming us terrorists, Naxals and separatists. But we cannot do anything," he said.

On January 26, martyr Sepoy Gurtej Singh was conferred with Param Vir

IT PAINS US

“Our son gave his life fighting for the country and guarding the border. It really pains us when we hear media houses and politicians terming us terrorists, Naxals and separatists.

Virsa Singh, MARTYR GURTEJ'S SINGH FATHER

Chakra posthumously. Man-mander Singh Birewala, relative of the martyr, said: "We are proud that my nephew laid down his life fighting for the nation. We are part of India and nobody is demanding a separate state. We just want the three farm laws to be repealed". He said he was not happy how the things unfolded at the Red Fort on Republic Day.

The martyr's family has made an NGO, Shaheed Gurtej Singh Welfare Foundation. In June, 2020, Sepoy Gurtej Singh was amongst the 20 soldiers who attained martyrdom fighting with the Chinese army in Galwan valley.

Don't link stir with any community, SAD urges PM

FAZILKA, FEBRUARY 8

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) today urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to link farmers' agitation with any one religion or community, adding farmers from Uttar Pradesh to Kerala were united against the three agricultural laws.

After touring the 25 wards of Fazilka in connection with the forthcoming municipal elections, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal appealed to the Prime Minis-

Says farmers united against laws

ter to talk on the agenda and focus on giving justice to farmers. "We should not try to divide this struggle by trying to limit it to one religion or community. This will not serve any purpose except alienating the government amongst the farming community," he said.

He condemned the state police for not taking action against Gidderbaha legislator Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, despite the fact that the suicide note of contractor Karan Kataria mentioned Warring and his brother-in-law Dimpy Vinayak were both demanding money from him. — OC

BJP leaders face farmers' wrath

Sharma skips events in Nawanshahr, Kapurthala | Sampla gheraoed in Moga



TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NAWANSHAHR/MOGA, FEB 8

There seems to be no let-up in the protest against the BJP, with state party chief Ashwani Sharma and leader Vijay Sampla facing farmers' ire.

In Nawanshahr, farmers owing allegiance to various unions gathered in large numbers and gheraoed the community hall at Pandora Mohalla where Sharma was supposed to address the meeting with BJP workers. The farmers got the information that the BJP chief was going

RIVALS USING STIR TO CREATE HURDLES

“In the name of farmers' agitation, the BJP's rivals are creating such a situation in which our candidates are finding it difficult to canvass. Farmers are protesting peacefully. Ashwani Sharma, STATE BJP PRESIDENT



to visit the district, after which they all gathered outside a mall and started moving towards the community hall.

They blocked almost every entry point leading to the venue to oppose Sharma. The police also reached the

venue to avert any untoward incident. A minor scuffle ensued between the police and the farmers. Women protesters alleged they were hurt during the scuffle. The opposition by the farmers was so strong that the BJP chief



<< Farmers protest outside a BJP meeting venue in Nawanshahr on Monday; and the police try to give a safe passage to BJP leader Vijay Sampla's car in Moga. TRIBUNE PHOTOS

chose not to come.

Even in Kapurthala, farmers did not let BJP leaders hold an event in which Sharma had to participate. He could not make it to the venue. Farmers reportedly stopped vehicles canvassing for the BJP and removed party flags put up on them. They also removed party badges pinned on supporters' dresses.

Meanwhile in Moga, farmers staged a protest against former Union minister and senior BJP leader Vijay Sampla while campaigning for the party candidates ahead of the

upcoming civic body elections. Heavy police force was deployed at the venue where Sampla was scheduled to meet party workers. As he emerged from the meeting, a group of farmers stopped his car and raised slogans.

The police escorted his vehicle and provided him a safe passage out of the city. He could not openly campaign for the party candidates in any of the city wards.

Earlier, the farmers tried to break the barricades put up by the police to prevent protesters from entering the venue.

Delhi influx sees liquor sales drop

SAMEER SINGH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, FEBRUARY 8

Liquor sales have declined significantly in the rural areas of the Malwa region in the past two months. As per liquor contractors, the sales have dipped up to 30 per cent as compared to last year around the same period.

Contractors said as farmers' stir continuing unabated for the past two months at the Delhi borders, they had been suffering losses in the business. They said their losses, however, had mitigated to some extent on account of the crackdown by the police on the production and sale of home-made liquor post the spurious liquor tragedy in the Majha region last year.

Rakesh Kumar (Happy), a liquor contractor, said: "Villages, particularly in Ram-pura, Bhagta, Bhucho, Bhai

30-40% DAILY DIP

“Sales of liquor in villages have come down drastically ever since the farm stir shifted to Delhi. On an average, our vendors are witnessing 30-40% decline in sales on a daily basis in rural areas.

Rakesh Kumar, CONTRACTOR

Rupa, Ballianwali and Nathana, and villages in the Goniana block have recorded maximum decline in liquor sales. If on an average even the smallest of vendors were fetching Rs 10,000 profit, it has come down to Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,000 now. People from all age groups have been visiting protest sites at Delhi borders; as a result, there is barely any activity at the liquor shops."

Javed Khan, another liquor contractor from Barnala, said, "We are two groups that operate in majority of the villages in the district but in the past two months alone, our daily sales have come down up to 25 per cent. After Covid, we were anticipating a good sale in the winter season. But with sales dwindling and stocks piling up at liquor vendors in villages, we have curtailed our orders."

Ruldu Singh Mansa, president, Punjab Kisan Union, said, "It is indeed a great development from Punjab's perspective that not just elderly and middle-aged but also youngsters in large numbers remain engaged in the agitation in Delhi. What could be more satisfactory than seeing people of the state holding fort at the Delhi borders than queuing up at liquor vendors."

Ex-sarpanch starts free taxi service to Delhi

BATHINDA, FEBRUARY 8

A former sarpanch of Mehma Sarkari village in Bathinda district has announced bearing commuting charges for those interested to visit protest site at Delhi borders.

Barjinder Singh Brar has hired a taxi (SUV) for the job that leaves for Delhi borders on a weekly basis. The first group of farmers left for the Tikri border on Monday. On an average, taxi service providers charge around Rs 8,000 for one round to Delhi. Many farmers travel by train, bus or tractors on a daily basis to the protest venues at the Delhi borders.

Brar said, "All farmers do not have adequate resources to travel to and from Delhi. The service will facilitate their travel in a hassle-free manner." — TNS

Up in arms over debt



SHOW OF STRENGTH: Members of the Mazdoor Mukti Morcha protest against the state government, demanding full debt waiver, outside Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal's office in Bathinda on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: PAWAN SHARMA

Veteran sings, pens songs in farm stir's support

APARNA BANERJI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, FEBRUARY 8

At the 'chakka jam' at PAP Chowk on February 6 was 63-year-old Manjit Singh — a retired Naik from the Army. Popularly known as 'Baba Chimte Wala', he was part of a group of over 50 ex-servicemen which participated in the protest in solidarity with farmers on February 6.

Dressed up in a spotless white kurta pyjama, he walked all the way to the protest site from basti areas to express solidarity with the farmers, even though he has no land of his own.

He had protesters hooked as he crooned: "Ni Kangana tu Singhu border te aa. Mawan saddiyan phulke pakavan, Tu vi aake do-chaan la". His four brothers



Ex-serviceman Manjit Singh is also known as 'Baba Chimte Wala'.

WE KNOW WHAT SACRIFICE MEANS

“My father saw four wars in 1941, '47, '62 and '65. He fought in World War-I. One of my brothers saw three wars. I was also posted at Tangdhar in J&K. Ask us faujis, we know what the sacrifice means.

Manjit Singh, EX-SERVICEMAN

support hai. Bahut fauji kisan ne. Je Modi araam di neend saunda aa — faujiyan karke hi saunda aa. Police fail hundi tan hari vardi vale fauji jawan hi control karde hai. Te eh kisana nu keh rahe ne atankvadi e vakhvadi e... Shaheed Kahwana saukha

nahi — kurbani deni paindi hai. (If Modi sleeps peacefully, it's because of the Army men. Many of them are farmers. When the police fail, they call the men in olive greens. We stand by farmers. But the Modi government calls farmers Khalistanis, terrorists

Sangrur ex-serviceman in jail, family decides to join protest

PARVESH SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, FEBRUARY 8

The family of ex-serviceman Jit Singh (70), who was arrested in New Delhi on January 28, has decided to send other members to the national capital to join the protests against the new farm laws.

"My father retired as a Lance Naik in 1989. The Delhi Police arrested him from the Burari ground on January 28 and lodged him in the Tihar Jail. He was not involved in violence. He used to just provide water to farmers at the ground," said Veer Singh, who is son of Jit Singh, in Khanauri town.

The main source of the income for the family is Jit Singh's pension and the mea-



Jit Singh from Sangrur

gre salary of his son, who works as a private security guard. Jit Singh who owns one-acre land has been supporting the agitation in a peaceful manner.

"I was in touch with my father on January 26 and he was present at the Burari

ground. After the arrest, I got a call from Tihar officials. It's injustice to our family as my father should not have been arrested. Our other family members will join the protest in coming days," said Veer Singh.

Some other residents of Khanauri are not ready to accept the allegations that Jit Singh was involved in violence as they have always seen him motivating others for a peaceful protest against the laws.

Rachpal Singh, brother-in-law of Jit Singh, said: "Jit Singh and his family have never supported violence. In fact, Jit Singh has been a vocal supporter of peaceful protests. We are trying to get him released on bail".

₹17-cr mediclaim by legislators in 10 yrs

ARCHIT WATTS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUKTSAR, FEBRUARY 8
Despite the fact that the Punjab legislators are among the highest paid in the country, MLAs and ex-MLAs have claimed medical expenses of Rs 16.89 crore in the past 10 years. Information received under the RTI Act revealed that Rs 1.59 crore was claimed in the fiscal year 2019-20. The state government, however, refused to provide details of each MLA or ex-

RTI REPLY IN FIGURES		MLAS' CLAIM	
₹10.68 cr CLAIMED BY FORMER MLAs		2019-20	₹29.82 lakh
₹6.21 cr CLAIMED BY INCUMBENT LEGISLATORS		2018-19	₹33.29 lakh
₹1.59 cr CLAIMED IN FISCAL 2019-20		2017-18	₹14.10 lakh
		2016-17	₹15.17 lakh
		2015-16	₹7.43 lakh
		2014-15	₹3.25 lakh
		2013-14	₹17.65 lakh
		2012-13	₹52.05 lakh
		2011-12	₹89.32 lakh
		2010-11	₹3.59 crore

MLA, claiming it was their personal matter.
In the past decade, former MLAs have claimed medical expenditures of Rs 10.68 crore, while incumbent MLAs claimed Rs 6.21 crore. The ex-MLAs claimed medical expenses of Rs 1.29 crore in the year 2019-20, Rs 1.19 crore in 2018-19, Rs 1.2 crore in 2017-18, Rs 1.1 crore in 2016-17, Rs 99 lakh in 2015-16, Rs 99 lakh in 2014-15, Rs 1.1 crore in 2013-14, Rs 1.1 crore in 2012-13, Rs 75 lakh in 2011-

12, and Rs 76 lakh in 2010-11. The Deputy Secretary, Vidhan Sabha, said the information about illnesses for which bills were claimed could not be given as the bills were sent to the district treasury offices. Notably, every person holding any office mentioned in Sub-Section (1) of Section 2 of the Punjab State Legislature Offices, Ministers and Members (Medical Facilities) Act, is entitled, for himself and his family, medical reimbursement as per the actual bills.



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No interim relief for Saini, Umranangal in Behbal case

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, FEBRUARY 8

Four days after former DGP Punjab Sumedh Singh Saini and suspended IGP Paramraj Singh Umranangal approached the court of District and Sessions Judge, Faridkot, seeking anticipatory bail in apprehension of their arrest on February 9 here, the court deferred the hearing on their application to February 11.

Accused in a murder and attempt-to-murder case, the former DGP and IGP have been summoned by the Court of Judicial Magistrate (First Class), Faridkot, for their presence before the court on February 9.

Fearing arrest, both accused police officers wanted to avail the benefit of anticipatory bail. However, as the court has deferred the decision on the anticipatory bail application to February



Sumedh Singh Saini



Paramraj Singh Umranangal

11, the threat of the arrest looms large. The public prosecutor today opposed the anticipatory bail to Saini, claiming the Punjab and Haryana High Court had already granted blanket bail to Saini in October 2018 and it was challenged by the state government. The court has summoned the record of this blanket bail to Saini on February 11. In the October 2018 blanket bail order, it was mentioned that “in case the petitioner

(Saini) is sought to be arrested in the Kotkapura sacrilege case or in case involving Aman Skoda of Moga or in any case pertaining to an incident of the period while the petitioner remained as the state Vigilance Head or Inspector General of Police, Intelligence, Punjab, or Director General of Police, Punjab, one week’s advance notice shall be afforded to the petitioner before effecting his arrest so as to enable him to have recourse to remedies available to him”.

23-yr-old ‘escapes’ from shelter home

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, FEBRUARY 8

A 23-year-old girl went missing from the Pingla Ghar here today. As per the authorities, she escaped in the morning. A complaint has been filed with the Police Station No. 2.

The girl, who was staying in the Pingla Ghar hostel, was also working at its office as a computer operator. The girl was brought to the Pingla Ghar by her family in 2019.

SHO Sukhbir Singh said, “The girl went missing this morning. Her last location was traced to the bus stand. As per preliminary information, she wanted to leave the Pingla Ghar for quite sometime.”

Administrator, Pingla Ghar, Capt Jagdish Chand said, “The girl was suffering from depression and getting treatment. She wanted to leave the Pingla Ghar and we had also written regarding it to the DC, DSSO, Civil Hospital

The girl was suffering from depression

and the District Magistrate. She had never left the Pingla Ghar before.” Captain Jagdish said she came in 2019 after her family sought shelter for her from the then DC. Her mother had run away with someone and her family did not want to keep her. He said, “She had been pressing for a job outside. That seems only plausible reason for her escape.” Deputy Commissioner Ghanshyam Thori said, “During my recent visit, the authorities informed that a girl, receiving psychiatric help, was lodged at the Pingla Ghar and wanted to take up a job outside the place. As an adult, she is free to take her decisions. The exact reasons for her leaving the place can only be ascertained when she is found.”

Health workers must get first jab by Feb 19

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 8

The state on Monday extended the last date for the healthcare workers to get their first shot of Covid vaccine from February 12 to February 19.

Those failing to get themselves vaccinated till then will not get free vaccination. They will be vaccinated under the drive to inoculate the general population, after the completion of the ongoing phase I and II.

The ongoing second phase to vaccinate the healthcare workers will be completed by the first week of March.

This was decided during the third meeting of the state steering committee for Covid vaccination, chaired by Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan here this evening. “It was decided that the first dose of vaccine will be provided to the healthcare workers up to February 12. However, now the date has been extended to February 19,” said an official spokesperson. — TNS

Killed in Kabul blast, Ludhiana man leaves behind son he never saw

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LUDHIANA, FEBRUARY 8

“We were planning to celebrate our first wedding anniversary, but fate had something else in store for us. We are shattered,” says an inconsolable Shivani.

A resident of Mundian Kalan village in Ludhiana, Shivani lost her husband Sunny Singh (27) in a blast that took place in Kabul on Saturday. “He was excited to see our newborn for the first time. Before coming home, he wanted to earn some more money,” says Shivani.

She married Sunny, a small-time general merchant in Afghanistan, last February and gave birth to a boy in October. Sunny had left for

TWIST OF FATE

“We were planning to celebrate our first wedding anniversary, but fate had something else in store for us. We are shattered. Shivani, LUDHIANA RESIDENT

Afghanistan in August. Two other Afghan Sikhs — Sher Singh and Chucha Singh — sustained serious injuries in the attack that killed Sunny. “I had lost my father when I was six months old and my son has been left without his father when he is merely three months old,” Shivani said. Shivani has not eaten since she heard the tragic news. Repenting the day Sunny decided to go to Kabul for greener pastures, Shivani says, “We have lost everything. What will money do

when we don’t have him?” The deceased was working hard to earn money, so that he could build a house in his village. “I could not even see his face for the last time or attend his last rites,” rues Shivani, who watched Sunny’s final journey over a video call by her in-laws, who were staying with him in Kabul. Besides her own fate, she is worried about the health of her toddler as well, who has been undergoing treatment for a heart ailment since birth.



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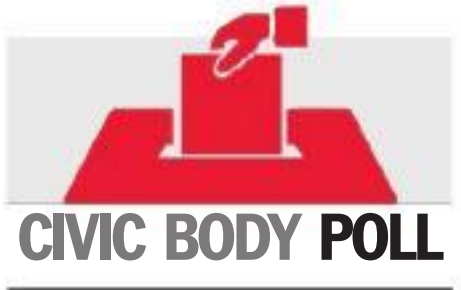
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Department of Governance Reforms and Public Grievances, Punjab

BJP on 'back foot' in Batala, Pathankot

Sentiment against saffron party due to ongoing farmers' protests, feel observers



RAVI DHALIWAL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATHANKOT/BATALA, FEBRUARY 8
Repercussions of the farm laws have put the once-powerful BJP on the back foot in the poll-bound Municipal Corporations (MC) of Batala and Pathankot.

Both these bodies fall in the ambit of the Gurdaspur parliamentary constituency represented by a BJP MP.

To complicate matters, party leaders claim that the ruling dispensation in Chandigarh has clandestinely conveyed to officials



BJP workers campaign for the MC poll in Bathinda. FILE PHOTO

to bend backwards to ensure all the Congress candidates have a smooth sailing and simultaneously “their candidates are harassed”.

A Congress legislator said this was not a new phenomenon as it is always the ruling party which remotely controlled the electoral

strings. “When the SAD-BJP was in power for 10 years, they swept aside practically all polls. Now, it is payback time,” he said.

In Batala, the party has fielded candidates in 36 wards in the 50-member House while in Pathankot, all the 50 wards have been covered.

CID reports claim the situation is better in Pathankot as compared to Batala because of the fact that the city is full of shopkeepers and traders who have traditionally been BJP voters. In Batala, the party is strong only in five to seven wards located in the walled city while it has nothing to gain in the wards falling on the outskirts. The situation is so dismal that the party could not find candidates to contest in as many as 14 wards.

“In Pathankot, the cadre is well-entrenched in 10-14 wards. Here we have die-hard loyalists who will vote for the party come what may,” said a senior leader. CID reports, however, claim that the party may end up without touching double digits. There are many like shop-

keeper Parshotam Lal who claimed they voted for the BJP in the 2017 Assembly polls and later for Sunny Deol in the 2019 elections. “Lekin is baar hum BJP ke sath nahi hai (This time we are not with the BJP),” he said.

Observers claim that popular sentiment is certainly against the BJP. The SAD, the other mainline party, is yet to find its feet in the city. Likewise, in Pathankot, the Akalis stand completely marginalised. During the last elections, under the seat-sharing agreement, the SAD was given just five wards to contest keeping in view its marginal presence in the town. “This holds true even now. Without the BJP, the Akalis will be plowing a lonely furrow,” said a minister.

BJP nominee alleges threat calls, probe on

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, FEBRUARY 8
BJP candidate from ward No. 7 and party's Mahila Morcha district president Mamta Jolly Jain has claimed to have received threat calls on her mobile phone, prompting the police to start a probe.

A complaint in this regard was filed by former BJP minister and Bathinda MC poll in-charge Manoranjan Kalia with Bathinda SSP Bhupinderjeet Singh Virk and Cantt police station SHO.

The SSP directed the officials to trace the number from which the calls were made. Jolly also lodged a complaint claiming a suspicious car had been spotted in her area, but the police had failed to trace its number.

SSP Virk said: “We have verified complaints by BJP candidates about threat calls, but there is a variance between the complaints and our findings. However, we have provided security to all BJP candidates. Women candidates have been given women officers.”

In her complaint, Jain said: “On Sunday evening, I received three calls from a number within a span of two hours. The caller dared me to campaign in any other area outside Bharat Nagar.”

She said it was sad that candidates of a national party were not being allowed their democratic right to

GOT 3 CALLS IN 2 HRS
On Sunday evening, I received three calls from a number within a span of two hours. The caller dared me to campaign in any other area outside Bharat Nagar.

Mamta Jolly Jain, BJP CANDIDATE

campaign, adding political parties behind this were doing so in the name of farmers' protest.

Besides, incidents of tearing of BJP candidates' posters, including those of Jolly's, have been reported in Bathinda. Earlier, posters of party candidate from ward No. 27 Sareena Goyal were blackened, while posters of candidates Kachan Jindal (ward No. 29), Babita Gupta (ward No. 30) and Shama Bharti (ward No. 49) were torn. In all these incidents, women BJP candidates were targeted.

BJP state secretary Sukhpal Sra has written to the State Election Commission and demanded security for party candidates, while district president Vinod Kumar Binta, who is contesting as an Independent, using his veto, has written to the SSP expressing satisfaction over the police arrangement for the poll in Bathinda.

Party barely contesting half the seats

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 8
Facing protests from farm unions, the BJP is contesting under 50 per cent of the total seats in the local bodies elections.

As per the State Election Commission, 2,302 wards are up for grabs in the local bodies elections slated for next week. After the SAD parted ways over the

Of total 2,302 wards, fields candidates in 1,003

farm laws, the BJP had claimed it would contest all 117 Assembly constituencies on its own. However, it has found it hard to field candidates in over 50 per cent of the civic body seats. While cities have been considered a good base for the BJP in Punjab, the party has fielded only 1,003 candidates.

Party sources said even the RSS cadre were not upbeat. A district leader said the high command's offer to provide funding for candidates willing to contest hadn't cut much ice.

There were instances where party loyalists had shown reluctance to contest on the party symbol. BJP state president Ashwani Sharma couldn't be reached for comment.

At Delhi meeting, Sonia 'offers' Cabinet berth, AICC role to Sidhu

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8
Congress president Sonia Gandhi today met former Punjab minister Navjot Singh Sidhu for about 25 minutes here and is learnt to have reiterated the party's offer of a state Cabinet berth for him or even a central role if he desires so.

The meeting, held at Sonia's residence, was also attended by AICC general secretary and in charge for Punjab affairs Harish Rawat and AICC general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal.

The presence of Venugopal was seen as a signal that the party high command wanted to placate Sidhu with the offers of a state Cabinet berth or an organisational role or both.

Sidhu had sought the meeting a long time ago, but it had been delayed due to Sonia's ill health



Navjot Singh Sidhu

and farmers' agitation.

Rawat has been publicly asserting that Sidhu would be duly accommodated with the latter even coming out happy from a breakfast meeting with Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh in November last year.

Sidhu has been eyeing the post of Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee president currently held by Sunil Jakhar. The organisational chief's position is key in the Congress as the PPCC presi-

dent has a massive say in the distribution of tickets during the elections.

The effort on Sonia's part today appeared to be on breaking the prolonged deadlock on the role of Sidhu in the Congress.

With the state elections slated in 2022, the party would want the stalemate to end and a battle-ready organisation to be in place before that.

Sidhu's bargaining power is also limited with the Congress appearing to be the current beneficiary of the farmers' agitation and AAP largely fragmented in Punjab.

Congress sources said Sidhu could go back to the state Cabinet and settle for his people to be accommodated in the organisation which has been in a limbo since 2019. The meeting also signalled early possibilities of a Punjab Cabinet and PPCC reshuffle.

Congtoprotest fuel price hikeonFeb 11

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 8
The Punjab Congress will stage a statewide protest against the hike in petrol, diesel and kitchen gas prices by the central government on February 11. The protest will be held in all cities from 11 am till 1 pm. This was disclosed by Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee chief Sunil Jakhar today.

In a press release, Jakhar, who will lead a protest march in Abohar, said due to the “oppressive policies” of the Centre, all segments of society had been affected.

A gas cylinder used to cost Rs 438 in 2014 when Dr Manmohan Singh was the Prime Minister, said Jakhar, adding that now, the cost had risen above Rs 750.

The global prices of oil and gas had come down, but the Centre was deliberately increasing prices in the country, Jakhar said.



AAP leader Raghav Chadha at a press conference in Hoshiarpur.

AAP: Capt gave consent to passage of farm laws

HOSHIARPUR, FEBRUARY 8
AAP state co-in charge Raghav Chadha today said the SAD and BJP were not the only parties to bring in the farm laws as the Congress was also an equal partner in the move because it “gave its consent when the Bills were passed”.

Chadha arrived in Hoshiarpur for canvassing for the municipal corporation elections. Addressing a press conference, he said, “The Punjab Contract Farming Act-2013 was introduced by the SAD-BJP government

and was stamped by the Congress. It was clearly stated in Section 25 of the Act that a farmer could face jail or fine if he did not comply with it.”

“It is a law that makes farmers a kind of bonded labour,” he added. He said Capt Amarinder Singh and Sunil Jakhar were MLAs at that time, but they did not oppose the law. “Now, when the Modi government came up with the black laws on agriculture, Capt Amarinder was a member of the high-powered committee, and he agreed to the passage of the laws,” he added.— OC

Votes shifted to other wards, claim Akalis

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 8
The SAD today lodged a complaint with the State Election Commission alleging change of wards of several voters in the Batala Municipal Committee elections and urged immediate action in this regard.

In the complaint, SAD senior vice-president and spokesperson Dr Daljit Singh Cheema said Batala MLA Lakhbir Singh Lodhinagar had claimed the ruling party was trying to change wards of hundreds of voters even after the allotment of the election symbol to candidates.

Citing example, the SAD said in ward No. 15 of the city, the vote of SAD candidate Inderjit Kaur along with hundreds of others had been transferred to ward No. 17.

Meanwhile, the State Election Commission has declared 861 booths hypersensitive and 1,708 sensitive for the February 14 civic body elections. Giving details, officials said maximum 111 booths were hypersensitive in Muktsar Sahib, followed by Patiala (86) and Moga (78). The polling will be held in 4,102 booths.

BSF foils intrusion attempt, shots fired

ABOHAR, FEBRUARY 8
The Border Security Force (BSF) late last night thwarted an intrusion bid by Pakistan smugglers in the Hindumalkot area, near Dullapur Keri village, in Sriganganagar sector, 35 km from here.

Official sources said the troops spotted suspected movement of smugglers close to the fencing and challenged them drawing fire. The troops retaliated, prompting the smugglers to flee. A packet containing 1 kg suspected heroin was found in the fields between the fencing and zero line. BSF officers from Sriganganagar reached the scene and initiated a search operation after cordoning off the area. Police sources said troops at pillar No. 134 under BSF's Madanlal border outpost in front of Dullapur Keri village located on Abohar-Hindumalkot-Sriganganagar Road noticed some move-

₹2-CR HEROIN SEIZED

Fazilka: The BSF claimed to have recovered a 470-gram packet of heroin, worth ₹2.35 crore in the international market, in the area of Tahliwala border outpost in Fazilka district on Monday. The troops of BSF's 52 Battalion recovered the packet from the fields of a farmer, Darshan Singh, across the barbed fencing, oc

ment on the other side of the fencing around 12.15 pm.

Two suspects had crossed the zero line and were approaching the fencing when they were challenged by the BSF men. No casualties were reported in the firing. Police sources said a packet wrapped in yellow tape containing 1 kg suspected heroin, priced at Rs 5 crore in the international market, was seized.— OC

ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ
ਨਗਰ ਨਿਗਮ, ਫਗਵਾੜਾ
ਮੀ.ਨੰ. 653/CB ਮਿਤੀ: 05.02.2021
ਨਗਰ ਨਿਗਮ, ਫਗਵਾੜਾ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਦੇ ਕੁੱਲ 956.95 ਲੱਖ ਰੁਪਏ ਦੇ ਕੰਮਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਮਿਤੀ 02.03.2021 ਤੱਕ ਮਨਜ਼ੂਰਬੁਦਾ ਲੇਬਰ ਕੋਆਪਰੇਟਿਵ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਠੇਕੇਦਾਰਾਂ/ਫਰਮਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸੂਚੀਬੱਧ ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ। ਵਧੇਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲਈ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ www.eproc.punjab.gov.in 'ਤੇ ਦੋਖਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।
DPR/Pb/1370 **ਸਹੀ/- ਨਿਗਰਾਨ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ, ਨਗਰ ਨਿਗਮ, ਫਗਵਾੜਾ**

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(POWER WING)
CORRIGENDUM-I NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
NIT No.: BP-2820
Name of Office: Dy. Chief Engineer, Bhakra Power Houses Circle, BBMB (PW), Nangal.
Name of Work: Supply of Non-metallic brake Friction Pads for 157 MW Hydro Generation Machines of Bhakra Right Bank Power House of BBMB (PW), Nangal.
Last date for download tender documents: 02.03.2021 upto 16:00 hrs
Last date for submission of online bid: 02.03.2021 upto 17:00 hrs
Due date for opening technical bid: 03.03.2021 at 11:00 hrs
For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited please visit BBMB website www.bbmb.gov.in & www.bbmbeproc.abcprocure.com.
794-PR-GENERATION-4 For your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.
Tender No. 251-Elect-T-26-2020-21
Name of work: Electrical work in c/w Repair, Maintenance improvement & Special maintenance of Electrical assets for proposed GM inspection from Jalandhar (including)-Amritsar (including).
App. Cost (In Rs.) 33,43,781.09/-
Completion period 04 Months
Opening of tender 23.02.2021 after 15:00 Hrs.
Website Particulars www.ireps.gov.in
251-Elect/T-Notice No. 30-Elect/2020-21 Dated : 08.02.2021. 276/21
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

AUCTION NOTICE
It is informed to all general public that the auction of condemn building of following schools of District Karnal is to be conducted on date and time which is written in front of name of the school in the campus of concerned school. Interested people have to deposit Rs 20,000/- (Rs Twenty Thousand Only) as earnest money before the auction. The payment of failed bidders will be returned immediately. Successful bidders have to deposit 25% of bid amount on the spot and remaining 75% money must be deposited within three working days. In the case of failure, all money will be forfeited. Remaining terms & conditions will be announced at the time of auction.
Sr No. Name of School Name of Block Detail of Condemn Building Date & Time of Auction
1 GSSS Nissing Nissing 01 Room 23.02.2021 At 10:00 A.M.
2 GSSS Dacher Nissing 03 Rooms 23.02.2021 At 02:00 P.M.
District Education Officer, Karnal.
PRDH/1032/11/2/2021/1731/31/4

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Chief Medical Supdt. Northern Railway, Firozpur for an on behalf of the President of India, invites expression of interest on the prescribed form for the following work:-
1. Name of work: Expression of interest from reputed, registered and licensed diagnostic centres for empaneling name for providing diagnostic services for patients of Health Unit/Ludhiana, Jalandhar City Jalandhar Cantt, Pathankot, Katra & Badgam.
2. Completion Period: One year from the Date of starting
3. App. Cost of the work: N.A.
4. Earnest money: N.A.
5. Cost of application form on cash/By post: N.A.
6. Date and time availability & Place of procuring application form: Any working day from office of Chief Medical Supdt., N.Rly. Firozpur and can be downloaded from Railway website- www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in from 10.02.2021 to 10.03.2021 upto 11.00 Hrs.
7. Place of submission of bids: Chief Medical Supdt. N.Rly Divisional Hospital, Firozpur
8. Date and time of submission of application form: Up to 11.00 Hrs on 10.03.2021 Opening of bids at 11.30 Hrs on 10.03.2021.
Note: Definition of similar type of works for above noted work: No applicable
Allocation: 110-241-26. No.15-MedInvestigation Dated: 08.2.2021 275/2021
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Tender/RFP for Services like AMC, Housekeeping etc. Government of Punjab
Tender Reference No. 02 of 2021
The Department of Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board invites online bids for:-
Sr. No. Name of the work
1. A/Mit. of W/S & Sewerage Scheme at 70.5 Acre Improvement Trust, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Avenue, Jalandhar for the year 2021-2022 (w.e.f. 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022).
2. A/Mit. of running of Main Pumping Station at Adampur Town Distt. Jalandhar for the year 2021-2022 (w.e.f. 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022).
3. A/Mit. of running of Main Pumping Station at Bambianwali at Jalandhar for the year 2021-2022 (w.e.f. 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022).
4. Hiring a car for Division Office, Pb. W/S & Sewerage Division No. 1, Jalandhar for the year 2021 period 01.03.2021 to 31.12.2021.
Important dates for Serial No. 1 to 3 are as under:- 04.03.2021 upto 16:30 hrs. Important dates for Serial No. 4 are as under:- 22.02.2021 upto 16:30 hrs.
i) Last date and time for online submission of bid for tenders
ii) Date and time of opening of Technical Bid for tenders
Note:- The above dates are given for L&C Societies. For Sr. No.1 to 3 the Last date and time for online submission of bid for tenders Contractors/Agencies will be 09.03.2021 upto 16:30 hrs. and Opening date for tender is 10.03.2021 at 14:00 hrs. and for Sr. No. 4 the Last date and time for online submission of bid will be 25.02.2021 upto 16:30 hrs. and Opening date for tender is 26.02.2021 at 14:00 hrs. Other terms and conditions referred to website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Punjab W/S & Sew. Divn. No.1, Jalandhar.
DPR/Pb/1373



BJP national secretary Narinder Singh in Fatehgarh Sahib.

'WILL FORM GOVT IN PUNJAB IN 2022'
■ Addressing mediapersons, BJP national secretary Dr Narinder Singh said the party would spring a surprise in the 2022 Assembly elections and form the government with the high command preparing a roadmap in this regard
■ He said to prevent the BJP from expanding its base in the state, Congress workers, at the behest of CM Capt Amarinder Singh, were staging protests in the guise of farmers to hide their failure in fulfilling promises and providing good governance

promises and providing good governance.

The BJP leader accused the Congress of “murdering” democracy by getting nomination papers of Opposition candidates rejected and

planning rigging.

He said the BJP high command had been apprised of the ground situation, adding the Assembly elections must be held under paramilitary cover for free and fair elections.

REMEMBRANCE
We remember our father
Late Sh. H.R. Kaushik P.C.S (Judicial), who sacrificed his life on this day in 1987 while holding court at Moga.
R.K. Kaushik I.A.S Ashok Kaushik Chetan Kaushik Sons Mrs Nandini Kaushik (Daughter in Law) Dr Aashita & Vaibhav (Grand Children) Mob. No. 9814001762

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

PM’s outreach

Need to bridge trust deficit with protesters

STICKING to his stand that the new farm laws are in the farmers’ interest, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appealed to protesters to end their agitation and give agriculture reforms a chance. Replying to the Motion of Thanks on the President’s address in the Rajya Sabha, the PM slammed attempts to defame the protesting farmers, particularly Sikhs, and stated that India is ‘very proud’ of the community’s contribution. He also tried to address a major concern of the farmers by asserting that the time-tested MSP regime would continue. The PM’s outreach comes at a time when the agitation, which began at Delhi’s borders in November-end, is regaining momentum after the January 26 disturbances and making international headlines. The government’s strategy to queer the pitch for the protesters by suspending the Internet, installing concrete barriers and concertina wires, and embedding nails into roads seems to have backfired, inviting the ire of global celebrities.

The PM’s conciliatory approach is aimed at blunting criticism of his government over the ‘unilateral’ passage of the farm laws as well as the alleged mishandling of the consequent agitation. But what has struck a discordant note is his insinuation that protesters, in general, are being misled by the new ‘FDI (foreign destructive ideology)’. He has warned the country against the ‘andolan jivi’, the elements who are ready to jump into any protest, be it of the farmers, lawyers or students. Smelling a conspiracy behind every demonstration is uncalled for, particularly in the case of the farmers’ stir that has gained traction in India and abroad.

The PM needs to go beyond mere assurances and engage directly with farmers on the ground. It rankles that he has been conspicuous by his absence from various rounds of talks between the government and the farm bodies. Though the government has offered to put the laws on hold for 18 months, it has remained non-committal on the key demand of legalising MSP. The onus is on the PM to bridge the trust deficit.

Himalayan tragedy

Course-correct on development model, climate change

THE circumstances may have been different, but Sunday morning’s devastation in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand drew instant comparisons with the 2013 flash floods. If mindless construction in an ecologically fragile ecosystem was considered a key contributor then and continues to be a subject of much concern, the latest Himalayan tragedy is also a reminder of how close to home the frontier of climate change and global warming is. While a glacial lake outburst appears to be the likely reason, it would be a while before experts can come up with definitive explanations about what led to the sudden surge of water, and the part played by several underlying factors.

Given the hill state’s history of natural disasters and the vulnerabilities red-flagged by locals and environmental activists over and over again, what emerges is a widening mismatch between the model of development championed by governments and the need to preserve land and water resources. Ironically, Raini, the village where disaster struck, was the cradle of the Chipko movement initiated in the 1970s to save trees. Commissioning of large hydro-power projects, involving storage structures and dams, and the resultant ecological impact is a divisive issue; the benefit-versus-loss debate has no clear winners. There are over 50 such projects that are operational, being built and proposed in Alaknanda and Bhagirathi basins. A safety and viability audit would, expectedly, be in the works, along with a rethink on bolstering the mitigation mechanism.

A majority of the glaciers in the Himalayas are known to be receding, leading to the formation of several proglacial lakes. The climate change hotspot would require a generous dose of resources to monitor the region better and recommend policy changes. The course correction hopefully would be more effective than the cold treatment to suggestions, by a 2014 committee constituted by the apex court, to turn down the proposals to build hydel projects above an altitude of 2,000 metres, citing various risks.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is absurd. — Voltaire

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1921

Railway Finance.

THE latest annual report on the working of the Indian railways furnishes another argument against the view that money should be found in larger amounts for railway expansion and a special rate of interest should be given for railway loans. There are, in all, 36,735 miles of railway in India built at a total cost of £380 millions. During the year 1919-20, these railways yielded a total profit of Rs 33 crores or £22 millions, giving a percentage of 5.90 on the capital invested. The Government was able to raise loans at 3½ per cent to finance its railways and because money borrowed a decade ago was so cheap, the Government has now realised a net profit of £7 millions. But if money is to be borrowed now to finance new lines and for the improvement of existing lines, as repeatedly urged by commercial people, it is obvious that there would be little or no profit, while there may be considerable loss annually as working expenses are bound to increase. This loss would naturally fall upon the Indian tax-payer, and it is a very serious question whether such an arrangement could be approved. It would be practically impossible to raise loans in India or in England under 6 per cent, and it is certain that the passenger and goods rates cannot be enhanced further. Under these circumstances, how a large capital programme for the railways could be supported is difficult to understand and so far no clear evidence on this point has been given by the witnesses before the Railway Committee. One Marwari witness in Calcutta, however, said that it did not matter at all if the Indian railways were worked at a loss, provided that the capital was raised in India even at a high rate and the system was nationalised. It remains to be seen whether this view will find support in Bombay where the Committee is sitting at present.

Paranoia grips Pak army

Edgy about retired officers meeting Indian ‘hostile elements’



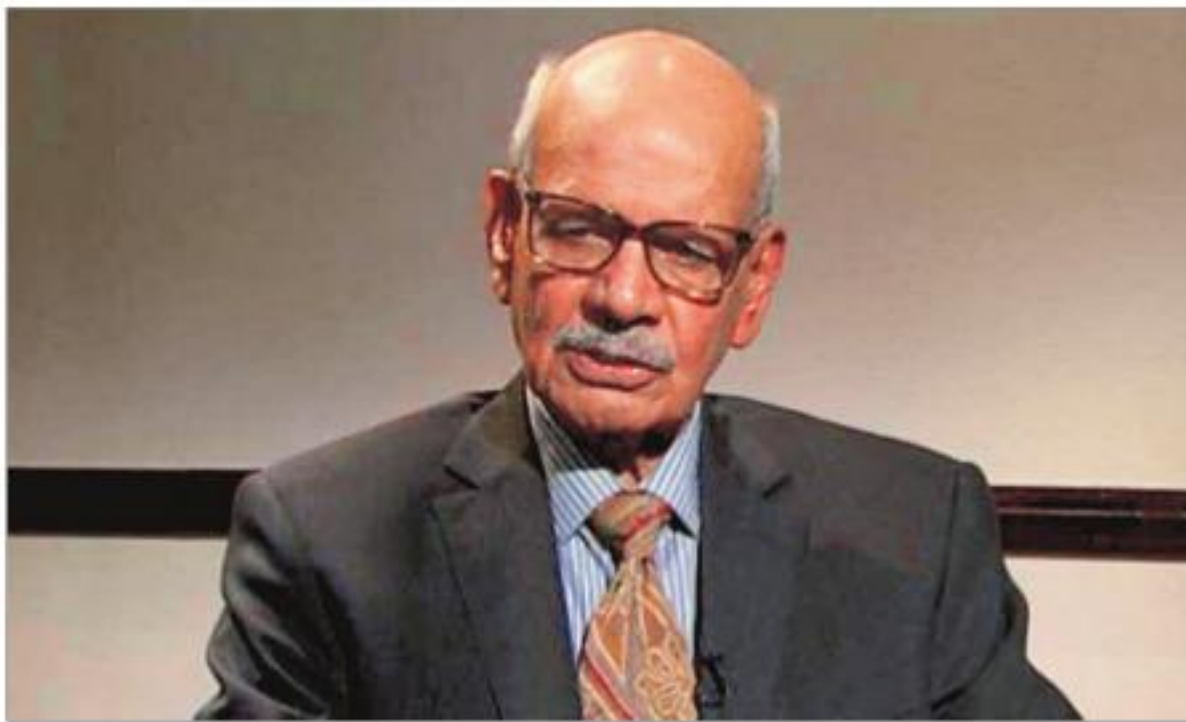
VIVEK KATJU

EX-SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LT GEN Asad Durrani (retd), a former Director General of Pakistan’s ISI, continues to be hounded by the army he served with distinction, though not without controversy. The saga of charges against him and counter charges by him against the army leadership, past and present, is riveting. More importantly, for the Indian strategic community, including participants in track-two processes, this matter confirms that senior generals of the Pakistan army expect that former members of their fraternity would be guided by prescribed scripts, especially in their interaction with Indians.

Serving generals may ‘respect’ a retired brother but will never tolerate his cooperating with an Indian in an unsupervised joint intellectual venture. That is the ultimate sin and that is what Asad Durrani did when he collaborated with Amarjit Singh Dulat, who was head of the R&AW for a couple of years in the late 1990s. They put together an unusual, though not earth-shaking, book (*The Spy Chronicles*) on the basis of a series of conversations which covered a range of subjects, including India-Pakistan ties. That embarrassed the Pakistan army as it provided its critics, especially Nawaz Sharif, to claim that the force had double standards to assess the patriotism of its former colleagues and others. For this reason, among others, action was initiated against Durrani and penalties and disabilities were imposed on him. He was also put on the exit control list which prevents Pakistanis from leaving the country. That impediment continues and Durrani has approached the courts against the inclusion of his name.

Some 10 days ago, the government



TALKING SHOP: On the track-two circuit, Durrani possibly had met retired R&AW officers and may have occasionally conversed with some serving officers, too.

Durrani, ex-DG of ISI, is in a spot for collaborating on a book with AS Dulat, a former head of R&AW.

filed para-wise comments to Durrani’s petition. According to Pakistani media reports, it opposed the relief sought by Durrani on the ground that he had been ‘interacting with hostile elements’, including R&AW, since 2008. In a paper which Durrani had widely circulated some months ago, and which had found its way to the media, he had noted that earlier government counsel had told the court that he was ‘affiliated with RAW since 2008’. Now ‘interacting’ and ‘affiliated’ have vastly different connotations. It would therefore appear that the army has chosen now to water down the charge to ‘interacting’. Apart from R&AW, other hostile elements have not been named. While it has been mentioned that Durrani was interacting with R&AW, it is highly unlikely that he was doing so with the agency as an institution. What is probable is that he had met with retired R&AW officers on the track-two circuit and maybe had occasionally conversed with some serving officers as well.

The key word in the government response is ‘interacting’. The nature of the interaction has not been spelt

out but a few logical inferences can be made. If Durrani was interacting with ‘hostile elements’, especially R&AW, in a malignant manner, he should have been charged under Pakistan’s criminal laws and not merely for unbecoming conduct or violating pension rules. ‘Interaction’ is different from either direct or indirect ‘espionage’. The latter would mean working for ‘hostile elements’, including R&AW, and passing on classified information collected either directly or through agents. It is a criminal activity. On the other hand, interaction generally consists of an exchange of ideas, impressions, information available in open sources, experiences. It enables interlocutors to gain a better understanding of motivations and characteristics and greater insights into the working of systems. These are sometimes helpful in removing suspicions and abating anxieties. However, often such interactions are sterile and fail to accomplish even this little for the long-standing attitudes and reflexes of the participants of such interactions do not easily go away.

Now all governments have rules for

their officials relating to their interaction with foreign officials. This is to ensure that even inadvertently they do not pass on current information that would jeopardise interests. But that is not applicable in Durrani’s case, for he retired almost a decade and a half before he is said to have begun interactions with R&AW. In sum, therefore, the Pakistan army is so paranoid, especially regarding India, that it does not want officers, even if they retired long ago, to meet ‘hostile elements’.

Durrani claims that among the principal reasons for the army’s unrelenting hostility arises out of his view that the US had kept Pakistan in the loop on its Abbottabad operation to kill Osama bin Laden in May 2010. Pakistan chose to deny its complicity and preferred that it be accused of incompetence. Durrani has offered little by way of credible reasons, leave alone information, to support his hypothesis. The US had of course entered into a bargain with Pakistan, under which they handed over hundreds of low-level Al-Qaeda operatives for large sums of money. However, it is prima facie difficult to believe that the US would have had sufficient faith in the Pakistani system on Osama bin Laden. Perhaps what has outraged the generals is that a former ISI head is alleging that those who consider themselves as the ultimate guardians of the ‘izzat’ and ‘waqar’ of Pakistan were capable of humiliating compromises.

Durrani has also bitterly complained about the current army chief Qamar Bajwa acting on account of regimental sympathy with former chief Aslam Beg. Durrani and Beg had used funds to intervene in Pakistani elections three decades ago. A case against the two goes on and Beg has been willing to save himself at Durrani’s cost. It is unlikely though that the case will ever reach a conclusion.

Durrani notes, ‘Whichever route I took, it entailed risk to life and limb. In fact it had to be assumed that the GHQ would hit back’. Is there a difference then between the Pakistan army and the Cosa Nostra with its omerta codes?

Nothing beats nature’s ‘jal tarang’

SS CHHINA

THE proclivity to listen to music created by water matured in my mind when I was a student of Mission High School, Dhariwal. A group of musicians came to the school to play instrumental music. The musicians had cups filled with water and were playing with sticks on them. The modulated music created ‘jal tarang’ or the rhythm of water. It was melodious.

Since then, anytime I happened to be near a water channel, canal or river, I would locate spots where such music could be listened to because of the fall of water. I

observed the impeccable rhythm that was never possible mechanically or by humans. Though the music at different spots was variable, I could hear the perfect rhythm at that particular spot.

When I went to Government College, Dharamsala, I was supposed to stay in a hostel. I was not familiar with the geography of the area. On the very first night, I heard melodious music. Instantly, I guessed that it was because of the fall of water. Maybe, there was a canal or river flowing nearby, I thought and went back to sleep.

Early in the morning, when I woke up, I could not suppress my desire to visit the place from where

the music had emanated. I went in that direction. Even the birds had not started chirping yet. I spotted the place. The music was so sweet that I sat on a stone that was naturally placed in that *nullah*, enjoying the music looking at the Dhauladhars in the east. I related the scene with a story in which Mughal emperor Akbar enquired from his minister Tansen at what time he could listen to the music of his master. Tansen replied that his master only sang at midnight, sitting on the riverbank, away from people, so that nobody could listen to him as he thanked the Creator through his music. The scene was similar, the music erupting perpetually without

any break, but it was not to gain any award from anyone.

I used to enjoy that music every night, but I realised that the volume got dim during the daytime because of human activity.

Two decades later, when I went to Dharamsala along with my family, I went to the same spot one evening. I saw a lot of construction. Some industrial units were coming up. I tried to locate that particular spot, but in vain.

I was told that the course of the *nullah* had been diverted. Wandering aimlessly there for a while, but disenchanted, I returned, looking back a number of times hoping that I had arrived at some wrong place. But alas, it was not so.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bail, not jail

Refer to ‘SC grants interim bail to comedian Faruqui’; the Supreme Court’s prompt willingness to free comedian Faruqui should send a signal to all magistrates, sessions courts and high courts that ‘bail, not jail’ should be the judiciary’s primary instinct. Without even scrutinising the violation of fundamental right to free speech, the apex court decided the other fundamental issue: Was arrest necessary? The police are required to certify the necessity of arrests against a five-point checklist: possibility of committing another offence, proper investigation of present offence, preventing any evidence from disappearing, threat to witnesses and possibility of accused absconding. It is alarming that such procedures are neglected.

PL SINGH, BY MAIL

Off and on

Refer to ‘Better late than never’; restoration of 4G services after a long hiatus in Kashmir is so far so good. Given the low fuse rating of the government and it being compulsively thin skinned, how long this fundamental right is sustainable is anybody’s guess. Any iota of dissent shall provoke it to reimpose the ban at the drop of a hat. The way the Internet has been suspended at farmer protest

sites is a testament. Fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution are now at the whims of the government. This is a new normal.

DEEPAK SINGHAL, NOIDA

4G services in J&K

It is a matter of relief that 4G mobile services have been restored across J&K after almost 18 months (‘Better late than never’). As a matter of fact, the decision to suspend the mobile services to the common masses was harsh. Internet access being part of the fundamental right to freedom of speech was stressed by the Supreme Court itself, which had also pointed out that suspension of Internet services was against rights and must be avoided.

SUBHASH C TANEJA, GURUGRAM

Global flak

Apropos of ‘Check facts: MEA on celeb tweets’, it is becoming clear that the pillars of our political establishment stand shaken over a few tweets. Earlier, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had sent a notice to Twitter, directing it to remove accounts relating to the farmers’ protests that it deemed to be offensive, but Twitter responded by conveying that they constitute free speech. By attempting to

quell and block global attention and criticism, India is making itself look prickly and insecure, instead of the firm-footed player on the world stage that it wants to be.

PS KAUR, BY MAIL

Selling govt assets

Reference to the FM rejects ‘selling family silver’ charge; the best solution to this problem is to make it mandatory to buy immovable assets with the proceeds of any PSUs asset or share or part of it sold. Any state government or Centre can’t meet their day-to-day expenses with the proceeds of the assets so sold, they would have to reinvest the same amount in immovable assets. This is in pattern with the I-T Act under which any individual who sells his/her immovable assets has to buy the fixed assets in a stipulated time or buy government bonds or pay income tax.

NARESH MOHAN JOHAR, AMRITSAR

Disinvestment plans

Apropos of ‘FM rejects ‘selling family silver’ charge’, the policy to divest most public sector companies, save the few in strategic sectors, may be moot. Since this is a long-drawn process, consensus across the political spectrum

would be desirable. Twenty years ago, a fully operational heavy water plant at NFL Nangal was scrapped — as atomic energy-sensitive heavy water could not be entrusted to a private prospective entity — with the change of guard in 2004. The government of the day would do well not to bite off more than it can chew.

LALIT BHARADWAJ, PANCHKULA

Nature hits back

The Uttarakhand incident is being called a natural disaster. Humans must be condemned. It is our doing. Rampant construction of roads and rail lines, besides pollution, is adding to the problem. It is a result of our deeds. A report says in the upcoming decade, we will be experiencing temperatures as high as 60°C. The day is not far when the entire world would have to be put under lockdown every year to curb pollution. First, we invest in buying petrol and diesel and pollute the environment; and then, we initiate global programmes to check pollution by investing many crores. What does it show? We need to innovate and work according to nature. The race to become powerful has ruined our environment and nature.

AMAN JAISWAL, DELHI

CLASSIFIEDS

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Gen. Gurnam Singh Public School, Sangrur following Teachers/ staff are required by the school, applications are invited through email: directorgsschool@gmail.com or by post by 15th Feb. 2021. 1) Post TGT-a) Science b) English c) Physical Education 2) CBSE Coordinator/ IT coordinator/ Office Secretary- 1. Qualification: IT Graduate Engineer, proficient in typing & MS- Office and English language having 3 to 5 years experience. Director. (CL20094640)

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EDUCATIONAL

NEET 21 Physics Predicted Questions-Make difference www.tkgphysicacademy.in; Wapp 98367-67097. Mail: info@tkgphysicacademy.in (CL20094605)

ADMISSION GUIDANCE

Ph.D. (all streams) LLB, LL.M, Pharmacy, BA, MA, B.Com, M.Com, MBA, B.Tech., M.Tech. Diploma regular/ distance/ part time for Govt. employees. 95019-03221, 94175-30888. (CL20092340)

MEDICAL/SURGICAL

New Lifeline Hospital Zirakpur announces Extra Coropical Membrane Oxxygenation (ECMO) facility. ECMO is a true life saver. ECMO is the ultimate life support system for Heart, Lung and Liver failure patients. Many precious lives can be saved both in adults and children. 98141-04203. (CL20094662)

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Dharam Pal Kapoor S/o Late Shri Teju Ram Kapoor R/o H.No. 47, Gali No.3, Lower Bazar, Shimla (H.P.) declare that I have lost my original Sale Deed registered in the Office of Sub Registrar Shimla vide Registration No. 133/2007 dated 15.02.2007. (CL20094599)

It is notified that my original DMC and Migration Certificate of class 12th, Roll no. 13609678, of CBSE Board has been actually lost. Maninderpal Kaur R/o Jagmel Singh, VPO Midku Khara, Muktsar. 94643-25313 (CL20094618)

I, Inderjit Sharma s/o Late Sh. Chandu Lal Sharma r/o B-XXXII/ 255, Mohalla Tej Nagar, Sufiyani Bagh, Industrial Area-A, Ludhiana, has disown my daughter Mrs. Monica Sharma w/o Sh. Rajiv Kumar Sharma from my moveable and immovable property, because she is not in our control and supervision. Therefore, anybody dealing with her will be doing so at his own risk and responsibility and I or my wife shall not be liable for any act of my above named daughter. (CL20094630)

I, Sangeeta Rani w/o Rajinder Singh r/o 2157, Pipilwala Town, Maninajra, Sector-13, Chandigarh have changed my name to Shanrajit Kaur. (CL20094637)

I, Rohtash Kumar s/o Partap Chand r/o 1, Nai Abadi, Abohar, declare that my name in Assumption Convent School, record of my daughter Garima Verma be corrected from Kuldeep Verma to Rohtash Kumar. (CL20094649)

I, Monika wife of 13769260H Hav. Sandeep Kumar Village Kandiala, PO Bane Di Hatti, Tehsil Dehra, Distt. Kangra, (HP), have changed my name from Monika to Monika Rani vide affidavit No. 08AA250525 dated 30.01.2021 before Notary Public Dehra, Sub Division Kangra (HP). (CL20094673)

DISCLAIMER

“The Tribune Trust does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon.”

LOST & FOUND

I, Rajneesh Malhotra s/o Inderjit Malhotra r/o H.No. 2-R, Model Town, Ludhiana, have declared that my title Deed No. 8467, 8469, Dated 11.7.2012 and original title Deed No. 2089 dated 11.1.2012 lost on 29.1.2021, if any found pl contact on address or Mobile 98140-78044. If any misuse he will responsible. (CL20094586)

It is notified for the information that my Original qualifying examination certificate of Matriculation of year 2018, ICSE Board Mark sheet No. TF20075418, Pass certificate No. TF80075099, Unique ID 6739200 & Pass certificate of Senior Secondary examination of year 2019-20, Roll No. 13632340, Migration certificate and Mark sheet issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Himanshu Sheemar s/o Anil Kumar Sheemar. Contact: 88376-96147. (CL20094628)

COURT NOTICES

In the Court of
Sh. Amrish Kumar Jain
Judicial Magistrate -
1st Class Sangrur.
Harbans Singh
Versus
Samay Infra Tech Private
Ltd.
Detail of office:-
CNR No.:-
PBSG03-001852-2018
Next Date:- 16.03.2021

Notice to:
Samay Infra Tech Private
Ltd.
World Bank Colony Barra
Kanpur through its Director.
In above titled case, the accused could not be served.
It is ordered that accused should appear in person or through counsel on 16.03.2021 at 10:00 a.m.
For details login to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=sangrur
Dated, this day of 28.01.2021.
Sd/-
Judicial Magistrate -
1st Class, Sangrur.
CL19169986

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(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Sh. Hasan Deep Singh Bajwa
Civil Judge,
(Junior Division),
Ludhiana.
Manjit Singh Gill
Versus
Karamjit Kaur
CNR No.:
PBLD02-006091-2020
Next Date: 26.02.2021
Publication issued to:
Karamjit Kaur
Daughter: Late S. Jaswant
Singh Gill, r/o F-609,
Block-F, Ketupar Hill, Off
Jalan Ketumbar, 56100 Kuala
Lumpur.
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 26.02.2021 at 10.00 a.m.
For details login to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=ludhiana
Dated, this day of 15.01.2021.
Sd/-
Civil Judge,
(Junior Division),
CL20089085
Ludhiana.
(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Ms. Amarjot Bhatti
District and Sessions Judge,
Hoshiarpur.
1. Kishan Singh aged about 63 years son of Tara Singh R/o Village Balu Chohan, P.O. Sango Katrala, P.S. Hajipur, Tehsil Mukerian, District Hoshiarpur & Ors.
....Claimants/Applicants
Versus
Harpreet Singh @ Happy S/o Hazoor Singh R/o Village Ghuluwal, P.S. Mukerian, District Hoshiarpur & Anr.
....Respondents
Claim Petition Under Section 166 of Motor Vehicle Act 1988.
CNR No. PBHO1-003160-2019
Next Date:- 26.02.2021
Publication issued to:
2) Lakhvir Singh Shingara Singh R/o Village Sahalia, Tehsil Mukerian, District Hoshiarpur. (Owner of offending Tractor Sonalika DI-III bearing Registration No. PB-7BG3002).
In above titled claim petition, 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 26.02.2021 at 10:00 a.m.
For details login to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=hoshiarpur
Dated, this day of 27.01.2021.
Sd/-
Additional Civil Judge,
(Senior Division),
CL20094543
Bholath.

COURT NOTICES

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Ms. Amarjot Bhatti
District and Sessions Judge,
Hoshiarpur.
Navkirat Kaur aged about 2 years d/o Harpreet Singh r/o Village Balu Chohan, PO Sango Katrala, P.S. Hajipur, Tehsil Mukerian, District Hoshiarpur.
....Claimant/Applicant
Versus
Harpreet Singh @ Happy s/o Hazoor Singh r/o Village Ghuluwal, P.S. Mukerian, District Hoshiarpur & Anr.
....Respondents
Claim petition under Section 166 of Motor Vehicle Act 1988
CNR No.:
PBHO01-003161-2019
Next Date: 26.02.2021
Publication issued to:
2. Lakhvir Singh Shingara Singh r/o Village Sahalia, Tehsil Mukerian, District Hoshiarpur (Owner of offending Tractor Sonalika DI-745 III bearing Registration No. PB07BG3002).
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 26.02.2021 at 10.00 a.m.
For details login to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=hoshiarpur
Dated, this day of 27.01.2021.
Sd/-
District and Sessions Judge,
CL20091735
Hoshiarpur.
(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Girish
Additional District and
Sessions Judge-7,
S.A.S. Nagar.
CNR No.
PBSA01-011099-2019
Next Date: 26.02.2021
Nisha Kumari
Versus
Narender Kumar
Petition U/S 13(1) of Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, (as amended by the Marriage Laws Amendment Act, 1976) for dissolution of marriage of the petitioner by way of decree of divorce, in the interest of justice.
Notice to:
Narender Kumar son of Mansa Ram r/o V.P.O. Thara, Tehsil Baijnath District Kangra, Himachal Pardesh.
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 26.02.2021 at 10:00 a.m.
For details login to
https://www.highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=mohali
Dated, this day of 29.01.2021.
Sd/-
Additional District and
Sessions Judge-7.
S.A.S. Nagar.
CL20092357
In the Court of
Ms. Tejinder Preet Kaur,
Judicial Magistrate- 1st
Class-6,
Patiala.
Pinder Jit Kaur
Versus
Mandeep Singh Somal
CNR No.
PBPT03-010353-2018
Next Date: 23.02.2021
Publication issued to:
Mandeep Singh Somal S/o Gurvinder Singh C/o Col. H.S Somal House No. 518, Sector 12, Panchkula (Haryana)
2nd Address: Mandeep Singh Somal H.No. 1504, 67 Street , SW Edmonton, Alberta, Canada- T6X0G8
In above titled case, the accused could not be served. It is ordered that accused should appear in person or through counsel on 23.02.2021 at 10:00 a.m.
For details login to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=patiala
Dated, this day of 02.02.2021.
Sd/- Judicial Magistrate- 1st
Class-6,
CL20093719
Patiala.
(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Dr. Sushil Bodh
Additional Civil Judge,
(Senior Division),
Bholath.
Mandeep Kaur and Ors.
Versus
General Public
Suit for Declaration
CNR No.:
PBKPCO-000006-2021
Next Date: 24.02.2021
CS/06/2021
Publication issued to:
General Public
N/A
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 24.02.2021 at 10.00 a.m.
For details login to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=kapurthala
Dated, this day of 28.01.2021.
Sd/-
Additional Civil Judge,
(Senior Division),
CL20094543
Bholath.

COURT NOTICES

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Ms. Gurpreet Kaur-III
Civil Judge, Jr. Division-2,
Sri Anandpur Sahib.
CNR No.
PBROA0-000517-2018
Next Date: 12.03.2021
Niranjan Singh son: Sant Ram r/o Village Simbal Majra, Sub Tehsil, Nurpur Bedi, Tehsil Anandpur Sahib, Distt. Rupnagar.
Vs.
General Public
Petition U/S specific Relief Act U/S 34
Publication issued to: 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 12.03.2021 at 10.00 a.m.
For details login to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=Rupnagar
Dated, this day of 05.02.2021.
Sd/- Civil Judge
Junior Division-2,
Sri Anandpur Sahib.
CL20094635

Count of glacial lakes in Sutlej basin up

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, FEBRUARY 8

The rapid increase in glacial lakes downstream of Karcham and Nathpa in the Sutlej river basin in Kinnaur is becoming a cause of constant worry, especially against the backdrop of the catastrophe in Chamoli in Uttarakhand.
It is in view of this threat from increasing glacial lakes that the State Centre on Climate Change in the HP Council for Science, Technology and Environment is using more sophisticated equipment which will help provide clearer pictures of the glacial lakes in Himachal and the Tibetan Himalayan Region.
The increase in the number of glacial lakes remains

a major cause of worry for Himachal too, especially the Sutlej basin which has some of the country's biggest hydel projects like Nathpa Jhakri, Karcham Wangtoo and Baspa.
Preliminary interpretation of the Sutlej basin right from the origin of the Sutlej basin reveals that the number of lakes is increasing as is evident from the high resolution of satellite data being used. Prior to the installation of these high tech contraptions, these newly formed lakes could not be mapped.
The state centre in collaboration with Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad has been mapping and monitoring all these lakes in the Tibetan Himalayan region and in Himachal.

THREAT TO DOWNSTREAM AREAS

- The increase in the number of glacial lakes remains a major cause of worry for Himachal, especially the Sutlej basin which has some of the country's biggest hydel projects such as Nathpa Jhakri, Karcham Wangtoo and Baspa
- The previous year studies have already indicated the phenomena of increasing glacial lakes which are a potential threat to the downstream areas in various parts of the state

Nishant Thaklur, Joint Member Secretary of the climate change centre, said the formation of lakes at the snout of glaciers was being mapped and monitored as they contain a lot of water and could cause major damage in case of bursting. Based on the 2019 study, the Sutlej basin has the highest 562 lakes, Chenab basin 242 lakes, Beas basin 93 lakes and Ravi basin 37 lakes.
The previous year studies

have already indicated the phenomena of increasing glacial lakes which are a potential threat to the downstream areas in various parts of the state. "The use of LISS-III data having resolution 23.5 mts and LISS-IV satellite data having resolution of 5.8 mts will give detailed information of such changes were taking place in the higher Himalayan region," explained Dr SS Randhawa, Principal Scientific Officer, State Centre

on Climate Change.
Dr Randhawam revealed that the centre has undertaken a detailed study of one of most vulnerable lakes - Geepang Lake in Lahaul Spiti district. "The study has identified the potential locations which are susceptible to damage in case the lake bursts," he said.
He added that the installation of the new high tech gadgets would help identify and monitor any new changes in all the five basins in the state to avert an Uttarakhand-like catastrophe. Himachal suffered more than Rs 800-crore loss due to flash floods in the Sutlej river in 2000 and later in 2004 the formation of a lake Parechu in the upper basin of the Spiti river in Tibet posed threat to the villages downstream.

Website audit of pvt varsities in the offing

SHIMLA, FEBRUARY 8

The Himachal Pradesh Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission (HPPEIRC) has sent a format to the universities seeking details for an audit of their websites.
The decision was taken after a private university in Solan district informed the regulatory commission that a fake website was running in its name. An FIR was registered on its police complaint.
"Recently, a complainant, who claimed to have completed B.Com (2015-2018) from a private university, approached the commission alleging that the university was not verifying his mark sheet. A copy of the mark sheet of the student has been forwarded to the police for investigation," said Maj Gen Atul Kaushik (ret'd), Chair-

man of the commission.
"Both cases pertained to the same university and the nexus of fake websites functioning in the name of private universities cannot be ruled out. To ascertain the facts, we have sought the details of the websites from the private universities," he added.
The details sought by the commission include procurement, functioning, upgrade, technical details, privacy policy and security and about people managing and operating the websites.
Investigations by *The Tribune* revealed that agents in Delhi were selling mark sheets of some universities in the country claiming that the degrees would be verified and the students could check the degrees online on the websites of the universities. — TNS

Shimla colleges open after 10 months, attendance low

SHIMLA, FEBRUARY 8

Colleges reopened in the state today after over 10 months. Even as attendance was low in all three government colleges in Shimla, students were thrilled and hoped there would be no further disruption in their studies.
"We have been looking forward to the opening of colleges for the past many months," said Tamanna Jhamta, a BA-II student of Government College, Sanjauli. While every college has prepared micro plans to implement Covid guidelines, the Sanjauli college has opted for the odd-even formula to maintain social distancing in classrooms. "We have



Students at Sanjauli college in Shimla on Monday. AMIT KANWAR

small classrooms but our strength is substantial. So we have decided to divide the students in each class into two groups on the basis of their roll numbers and they will come on alternate days," said college principal CB Mehta.
"Besides, we are involving students to raise awareness

among all to follow the norms," he said.
At RKMV, too, there was focus on following the guidelines. "We had deputed peons at the gate for thermal scanning of the students. Besides, the campus and classrooms have been sanitized," said vice-principal Gopal Chauhan. — TNS

HIMACHAL PRADESH GENERAL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED
(H.P. Government Undertaking) (Head Office: New Himrus Building, Cart Road, Shimla-171001 (H.P.))
Phones: 2624438, 2624824, 2624557, Fax: 0177-2624925
Website: www.hpgic.co.in | Email : hpgicld@yahoo.in | CIN NO. U85330HP1972SGC003204

No. HPGIC: CLBP/Maint - 2878
Dated: 07-02-2021
TENDER NOTICE FOR PURCHASE OF 125 KVA DIESEL GENERATOR SET COUNTRY LIQUOR BOTTLING PLANT MEHATPUR, DISTT - UNA (HP)

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the reputed manufacturers/suppliers of the DG Set 125 KVA conforming to the stated specifications on F.O.R. destination basis and exclusive of all taxes / GST / Duties etc. for supply to Country Liquor Bottling Plant, Mehatpur Distt.-Una, 174315 HP so as to reach at Country Liquor Bottling Plant Mehatpur, Distt. Una HP on or before **22-02-2021** at 3.00 PM alongwith the required earnest money mentioned in the shape of demand draft in favour of Manager, CLBP Mehatpur, Distt.-Una, HP. The detailed terms and conditions and users/systems requirements with specifications can be collected from CLBP Mehatpur on any working day or can be seen on our website www.hpgic.co.in. The tenders will be opened on the same day at **3.30 PM** in the presence of tenderers or their authorized representatives at Country Liquor Bottling Plant Mehatpur Distt. Una 174315 H.P. If required, negotiations will be held with L-1 party on the same date at the discretion of the Corporation. The undersigned reserves the right to accept/reject any/all tenders without any reason. The detailed description of the DG Set are given as under:

Sr. No	Description	Quantity	Earnest Money
1	Supply Erection/installation, Testing and commissioning of 125 KVA DG set of make Cummins/Kirlosker/TMTL/Mahindra/Yamaha/Honda (as per CPEB-2 norms) at 1500 RPM under NTP conditions complete with standard accessories, Acoustics enclosure 16 SWG CRCA Sheet sound absorbing material to restricting sound level upto 75 dB at 1.0 m and coupled with STAMFORD make or any suitable make and standard design alternator rated at 125 KVA, 0.8 p.f.(lag), Air cooled/liquid cooled continuous rating 415V, 3 phase, 4 wire mounted on a common base iron frame, suitable rated battery with leads, silencer, fuel tank, set of AVM pads, composite type acoustic enclosure including transport to CLBP Mehatpur, Distt.- Una. HP.	01	Rs. 50,000/-

Amit Kashyap, IAS
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Office of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate-cum-CALA Kangra (H.P)
Notification under Section 3 (D) read with sub-section (3) of Section 3G Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

S.O. Whereas the Central Government in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, declared its attention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the Notification bearing No. SO 1047 (E) dated 09.03.2018 & published in the Gazette of India. Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, issued under sub-section (1) of Section 3 A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act) for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH No. 88 on the stretch of land from km 180,000 to km 196.50 (Jwalamukhi Bypass to Kangra bypass) in the district Kangra of in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
And whereas, the substance of the said notification was published in the Tribune (in English) and Divya Himachal (in Hindi) both dated published in 16.03.2018 under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act.
And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under Section 3-C, considered and settled the same appropriately.
And whereas, in Pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Competent Authority has submitted its report to the Central Government:
And whereas, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government has declared that the land specified in the said Scheduled should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose:
And whereas, the said declaration has been published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part bearing No. SO 1249(E) dated 09.03.2019 as required under Section 3D of the said Act;
And further, in pursuance to sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.
Now, therefore, in compliance of sub-section (3) of Section 3G, the Competent Authority hereby invites all the landowners or persons interested in the land being acquired under these proceedings to submit their claims in respect of the land mentioned in the schedule given here-in-below within a period of 15 days (by **22.02.2021, 11.00 A.M.** from the date of publication of this Public Notice in the office of the Competent Authority of Land Acquisition Kangra Office.
All the persons interested [owner of the lands and other interested person(s)] in the lands specified in the schedule already published in newspaper The Tribune and Divya Himachal both dated on 17.06.2019 are hereby called upon to submit their claims in the said land (their share, area of land, any assets attached thereto e.g. structures/ trees etc. and state the nature of the respective interest in such lands along with relevant records. The said landowners or persons interested therein shall also furnish the particulars of their Bank Accounts to which they would like their compensation amount to be credited.

Sd/- Competent Authority of Land Acquisition-cum-Sub Divisional Officer (Civil) Kangra, District Kangra H.P.

DI-20004

BSF shoots Pak intruder in Samba

JAMMU/NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

An unidentified Pakistani intruder was shot dead by the Border Security Force (BSF) along the international border in Samba district on Monday, officials said.

Inspector General of BSF, Jammu Frontier, NS Jamwal said the intruder could be a terrorist guide who had come for a reconnaissance or was carrying something to deliver on this side of the border.

The incident took place near the Chak Faquira border post (border pillar No 64) in the Samba sector around 9.45 am, they said. Jamwal said it was around 2.30 am that the alert BSF personnel noticed suspicious movement and kept a close watch on the intruder who hid himself in the bushes.

“Again at around 9.45 am, he started moving aggressively towards the border fence and was repeatedly warned by the sentry who fired a few rounds,” he told reporters, adding that the intruder was hit and killed. — PTI

With violence down, J&K set to develop fast, claims govt

Rajya Sabha passes Bill to merge J&K, AGMUT cadres

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

Union Minister of State G Kishan Reddy said with violence in Jammu & Kashmir having gone down, the UT was poised for development because of the large number of Central Government projects.

Giving statistics, he said the number of infiltration attempts had fallen to just 99 in 2020 as against 216 in 2019, terrorist violence had fallen from 594 in 2019 to 244 in 2020, while stone-throwing incidents had sharply declined to just 327 last year from over 2,000 in 2019.

Reddy was piloting the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill in the Rajya Sabha which was later passed by voice vote. The Bill will replace an ordinance to merge the J&K cadre of all India services (such as IAS, IPS, Indian Forest Service, etc) with the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram Union

FALL IN INFILTRATION ATTEMPTS

- The number of infiltration attempts fell to just 99 in 2020 as against 216 in 2019.
- Terrorist violence fell from 594 in 2019 to 244 in 2020.
- Stone-throwing incidents sharply declined to just 327 last year from over 2,000 in 2019.

PAK TARGETS FORWARD POSTS IN KATHUA

- Pakistani Rangers opened fire on forward posts and villages along the international border in Kathua district, officials said on Monday.
- The firing from across the border in the Karol Krishna border outpost area started around 10:20 pm on Sunday, prompting strong retaliation by the Border Security Force (BSF), the officials said. PTI

Territory (AGMUT) cadre.

Replying to the debate that also marked the Congress veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad’s last speech as a Rajya Sabha member, Reddy said the legislation would correct the huge deficiency of officers of the All India Services in the UT of J&K. Developmental schemes, Centrally sponsored schemes

and other allied activities had suffered due to the non-availability of adequate number of all India officers in the existing cadres of J&K, he argued.

By merging the J&K cadre with the AGMUT cadre, officers working in other UTs would be able to bring their experience and freshness of vision to J&K, Reddy argued

while implicitly dismissing Azad’s suggestion to make recruitments from J&K.

Earlier, opening the discussion, Azad sought restoration of statehood to J&K by the next Budget so that bureaucracy need not perform the job of legislators who are better at formulating well-rounded legislation.

Azad said the government’s declarations of major job opportunities, industrialisation and Indians purchasing land had come to naught. Rather than adding to the industries, 60 per cent of enterprises in Jammu had closed down. In Kashmir, industrialisation was difficult due to the absence of all-weather communication links. Land was difficult to purchase because most of it was forests and mountains due to which one acre of land in Srinagar and Jammu cost Rs 40-50 crore. Azad also spoke on the water and health woes of people.



Schoolchildren pray for the victims of Uttarakhand glacier burst, in Jammu on Monday. PTI

Schools reopen for Classes I to VIII

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 8

A week after educational institutions reopened for higher classes, most of the schools in the summer zone areas of Jammu resumed class work for the students of Classes I to VIII amid strict Covid-19 protocol.

However, parents of many students complained of hardships in dropping and picking up their wards in the absence of school transport.

In the revised guidelines on Covid containment measures issued last month, the

Jammu and Kashmir Administration had allowed schools, colleges, higher educational institutions and technical or skill development institutions to reopen from February 1.

While the senior classes in the summer zone areas of the Jammu division started functioning from February 1, the junior classes resumed functioning from February 8 in accordance with the government order.

However, the schools in Kashmir and winter zone

areas of Jammu will reopen after the winter break later this month or early next month depending on the weather conditions.

“We welcome reopening of the schools after a long break... the school is a must for the overall development of a child but the school management needs to follow the government guidelines strictly for the safety of the children,” Prashant Sharma said after dropping his son, a Class III student, at a private school. — PTI

26 bodies recovered, 171 still missing

Officials said 27 persons were rescued alive. Of them, 12 were saved from the smaller of the two tunnels at the Tapovan-Vishnugad project site and 15 from the Rishi Ganga site.

Facing criticism for allowing hydel projects in an ecologically fragile landscape, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat cautioned against falling for anti-development agenda in the wake of the flashflood.

The CM, who arrived in Joshi-

math, was briefed by ITBP Additional Director General (Western Command) MS Rawat about the rescue work.

The ITBP ADG, who met an ISRO team at the site, said the cause of the flashflood was being investigated, though it appeared lakhs of metric tonnes of snow had slid off a hill into the feeding points of the rivers.

Trivendra Singh said once the probe report was out, they would draft a plan to

ward off potential disasters.

The residents of the 13 villages that have been cut off have been demanding rehabilitation elsewhere, saying they were scared to live here anymore. There’s apprehension that the flashflood swept away the supervisors of the projects in the Chamoli region.

The agencies involved in the rescue efforts include ITBP, Army, National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force.

NDRF chief SN Pradhan tweeted today that more teams had been flown in to Joshimath. An official said the operation to rescue the labourers feared trapped inside the tunnel remained slow due to structural challenges posed.

ITBP spokesperson Vivek Kumar Pandey said special equipment had been arranged for the rescue. “There is a huge amount of debris inside the 250-metre tunnel. A 100-metre portion has been cleared,” he said.

Independent elected Budgam DDC chief

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 8

The second phase of elections to the posts of chairperson for District Development Councils (DDC) in Budgam and Kupwara districts was held on Monday, officials said.

However, the polls in Baramulla district were postponed, they said.

In Budgam district in central Kashmir, Nazir Ahmad Khan, an Independent DDC member, was elected as the

POST BAGGED BY PC CANDIDATE IN KUPWARA

- In Budgam district, Nazir Ahmad Khan, an Independent DDC member, was elected as the chairperson, while Nazir Ahmad Jahara of the National Conference was elected as the vice-chairperson of the DDC.
- In Kupwara district, the People’s Conference, led by Sajad Lone, secured the post of the chairperson, while the party-backed Independent candidate won the vice-chairperson’s post.

chairperson, while Nazir Ahmad Jahara of the National Conference (NC) was elected as the vice-chairperson of

the DDC, officials said.

The officials said in Kupwara district in north Kashmir, the People’s Conference (PC), led

by Sajad Lone, secured the post of the chairperson, while the party-backed Independent candidate won the vice-chairperson’s post.

The party’s DDC member Irfan Panditpuri was elected as the chairperson, while Farooq Ahmad was elected the vice-chairperson, they said.

The elections to the posts of chairperson and vice-chairperson for the Baramulla DDC were postponed due to lack of quorum, officials said. — PTI

Survivors recount...

Within seconds, there was frenzied commotion. All were shouting ‘bhago paani ka sailaab aa raha hai’ (save yourself from the deluge). I felt numb for a second, but mustered courage to run—albeit in the direction of water.

“The last thing I remember was getting stuck in slush until I was pulled out. Those six hours were the darkest in my life,” says Himachal Pradesh’s Satish Kumar, 31, among the first few to be rescued.

Andhra Pradesh’s KS Reddy, an electrician, says it’s surreal to be alive. “I normally don’t work in the tunnel but yesterday around 9.30 am, I went in to fix some lights. Around 10.15 am, water gushed inside, sweeping along several workers. The electrical wire I was carrying

proved my saviour as I used it to anchor myself along the tunnel wall,” the 50-year-old recounts.

Among the survivors are Nepali nationals Chitra, Kiran, Basant and Sant Bahadur, all in shock, speechless, barely able to fold hands in gratitude when asked, “Are you fine?”

Uttar Pradesh’s Virendra Kumar, pulled out with ropes as machines could not work inside the tunnels, recalls, “I fell unconscious as the wall of water hit us. Don’t remember what happened next and regained consciousness only after reaching the hospital.”

Four Chamoli residents—Lal Bahadur, Rakesh Bhatt, Suraj and Vinod Singh—too survived, courtesy ITBP personnel who proved to be a godsend amid the catastrophe.

Give agri laws chance...

Delhi to return home. “It does not feel right... there are old people too in the gathering.”

He also urged the MPs to request the agitating farmers to leave. “If the laws produce an adverse impact, pass the blame to me. If the laws work, take all the credit,” the PM told the Opposition, seeking its cooperation.

Modi said the idea of a “one large common market” for agricultural produce was also envisaged by former PM Manmohan Singh, “who had said the existing marketing regime prevented farmers from getting the highest rate of return”.

“It is our endeavour to remove all those handi-

caps that are in the way of India realising its vast potential as one large common market,” Modi said, quoting Manmohan Singh.

In an apparent reference to tweets by pop star Rihanna and Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg favouring the agitating farmers, Modi played on the term FDI to warn against damaging influences from abroad.

“We have to protect the nation from this new FDI — foreign destructive ideology,” he said.

He also hit out at “a new crop of agitators”. “There is a new crop of ‘andolan-jivi’. They look for ways to start a new movement. The country needs to be wary of these andolan-jivi,” he said.

ment was extending full cooperation to the administration and the Health Department in tackling the situation. — OC

HP college containment zone

The infected students have been sent in isolation as per rules. College Director Bhubnesh Sood said the institute’s manage-

PUNJAB MANDI BOARD
Tender Notice No. 03 (2021) Dated : 08.02.2021
SECURE ONLINE SUBMISSION OF TENDERS
Email: pmb.xencpat@punjab.gov.in 0175-2364136
Executive Engineer (C), Punjab Mandi Board, Composite Office Building, N.G.M. Sirhind Road, Patiala invites bids from eligible bidders enlisted with Punjab Mandi Board for various works:-

Work Code:	Name of work	Estimate Cost (in lacs)	Earnest Money (in lacs)
PTA-21-001	Special Repair of Phirni Village Assarpur, internal roads and Link road up to Cremation Ground, Market Committee & District Patiala. (Time 6 months)	209.63	4.20

For details, terms and conditions of the notice inviting bids, refer to website www.eproc.punjab.gov.in Corrigendum, if any, will only be issued on website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (C), Punjab Mandi Board, Patiala

DPR/Pb/1366

Haryana Public Service Commission
Bays No. 1-10, Block-B, Sector-4, Panchkula

CORRIGENDUM
RECRUITMENT TO SUBORDINATE JUDICIAL SERVICE
SELECTION COMMITTEE OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT
Through
Haryana Public Service Commission,
Bays No. 1-10, Block-B, Sector-4, Panchkula
H.C.S (Judicial Branch) Examination 2020-21

In continuation of Advertisement No. 1 of 2021 published on 13.01.2021 in various newspapers, it is for the general information of the candidates that as per Para A) of Chief Secretary’s circular letter No. 22/10/2013-1GSIII dated 25.04.2018 & clarification given by the Government vide letter No. 25/01/2020-1SIII dated 05.02.2021, the quantum of reservation to the Persons with Benchmark Disabilities has been enhanced from 3% to 4% of the posts/cadre in case of direct recruitment to Group A, B, C & D posts/services out of which 01% each shall be reserved for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities detailed below as a), b) & c) and 1% for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities under clause d) & e) given as under:

No. of posts horizontally reserved for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities.	Categories of Disability which are included.
VH-03 posts	a) Blindness and Low Vision
VH-03 Posts	b) Deaf and Hard of Hearing
OH-02 Posts	c) Locomotor Disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy
MD-02 Posts	d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness &
	e) Multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness in the posts identified for each disabilities
10	

Note: The eligible candidates belonging to above categories are directed to fill their online application forms up to 15.02.2021 (closing date).

Sd/- Secretary,
Haryana Public Service Commission,
Panchkula.

PRDH/1156/13/07/2021/1732/31/4

Annexure- A
E-TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer JSV Division Thural invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible Contractors for the following work(s) through e-tendering process:-
Work No. 1:- Providing LWSS Harsi Sanghole (Under Jal Jeevan Mission) in Tehsil Jaisinghpur Distt Kangra. (H.P.) (Sub-Head: L/J & testing of Rising main 80 mm dia & S/E of pumping machinery with allied accessories), Estimated Cost Rs. 1983790/-, Earnest Money Rs. 37256/- Time limits, 06 Months, Cost of tender form Rs. 400.

1. Last date of filing/uploading the tender through e-tendering:- 15.02.2021 up to 5.00 P.M. The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website www.hpiph.org.

Executive Engineer,
JSV Division, Thural.

DPR/HP/5646

HIMACHAL PRADESH
JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Sunder Nagar on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in Two covers for the undermentioned work from the contractors/firms/Manufacturer of appropriate class enlisted with any Department or Govt. Undertaking.

Name of Work - A/R & MO various water supply scheme under IPH Division, Sunder Nagar (SH Fabrication supply installation testing and commissioning of rectangular steel tanks.

Estimated Cost Rs. 2904000/-
Earnest Money Rs. 51100/-
Time 3 Months
Cost of Form 400/-

Schedule of Tendering:-

1	Bid Submission Start Date	8.2.2021	5 P.M.
2	Bid Submission End Date and Time	15.2.2021	Up to 5 P.M.
3	Opening of Cover 1	16.2.2021	11.30 A.M.
4	Opening of Financial bid	Date and place to be notified separately	

Terms and Conditions:-

- The e-tender documents shall be uploaded in two covers:-
 - Cover-1** shall contain scanned copies of “**Eligibility information**”.
 - Cover-2** shall contain **Financial Bid on prescribed form**.
- Cover-1** shall contain scanned copies of following “**Eligibility information**” (scanned copies to be uploaded in pdf file).
 - All payment regarding purchase of bid document and deposit of earnest money shall be through online mode (e-payment)/offline only. The contractor/firm are advised to open bank accounts with core banking solution branches (with NEFT/RTGS facility).
 - Certificate of contractor registration with any department or undertaking as his or her class of enlistment with the condition that he is to get himself registered with HP Jal Shakti Vibhag before award of work.**
 - PAN No., GST registration.
 - Scanned copy of undertaking that I have carefully studied all the terms and conditions stipulated in the contract document before quoting the rates in the BoQ chart and also visited the site of work before quoting the rates.
 - Authorization letter regarding digital signature certificate (DSC) of the person authorized by the registered tenderer.
- Cover-2** shall contain “Financial bid” and will be opened only of those contractor/firm whose documents in cover are found in order.
- The contractor will have to submit the proof of registration EPF under Employees Provident & Miscellaneous Provision Act., 1952 within one month after acceptance of tender by competent authority and before award of work. Failure to observe this condition shall render the tender of the contractor liable to summary rejection.
- The clarification, if any, will be taken from the successful contractor only in respect of error and omission, technical aspects and in no case on financial bid.
- Earnest money of L1, L2 and L3 shall be retained for a period of **120 days**.
- If opening day is a holiday, the tenders shall be opened on next working day at the same time.
- The offer of the tender shall be kept open for **120 days**.
- The tenders of the contractors/firms who fail to fulfill the eligibility criteria will be summarily rejected.
- Instructions for e-tendering:-**
 - The contractor should register himself on website <https://hptenders.gov.in> and obtain user ID, password, before bidding.
 - Entire tender process will be carried out online through above mentioned website. Contractors/firms are advised to procure e-Token/Digital signing certificate from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency.
 - Before submission of online Bids, Bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all necessary documents have been uploaded with the bid.

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Sunder Nagar.

DPR/HP/5639

ਭੂਮੀ ਅਤੇ ਜਲ ਸੰਭਾਲ ਵਿਭਾਗ, ਪੰਜਾਬ
ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਨੋਟਿਸ

1. ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੰ. DSWC/DSCO/JALANDHAR/06/2020-2021 ਰੂਡ ਟਾਪ ਹੇਠ ਵਾਟਰ ਹਾਰਵੇਸਟਿੰਗ ਇਨ ਇਨਫਰਾ ਸਟਰਕਚਰ ਅੰਡ ਹੋਸਟਲ, ਬਲਾਕ ਐਂਡ ਪੀਐਮ. ਐਲ. ਐਲ. ਜਲਧਰ।	10,58,782/-
ਅੰਦਾਜ਼ਨ ਲਾਗਤ (ਰੁਪਏ)	15.02.2021, ਦੁਪਹਿਰ 12.00 ਵਜੇ

ਵੇਗਵਿਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਹਿੱਸਾ ਲੈਣ ਲਈ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> ਨੂੰ ਦੇਖੋ।
ਨੋਟ: ਜੇਕਰ ਕੋਈ ਬੁੱਧੀ-ਪੱਧਰ ਹੋਇਆ ਤਾਂ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਪੋਸਟਲ 'ਤੇ ਹੀ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਿਤ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

ਸਹੀ/- ਮੰਡਲ ਭੂਮੀ ਰੱਖਿਆ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ, ਜਲਧਰ।

DPR/Pb/1364 0181-2234422, ਈ-ਮੇਲ: dsco.dswc.jalandhar@punjab.gov.in

HIMACHAL PRADESH
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
Short Term NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Sealed item rates tender is hereby invited on Form No. IPH 6 & 8 by the **Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dhamrasha** on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors/firms enlisted in the appropriate class with HP Jal Shakti Department for the following work through offline tendering process, so as to reach in the office of the **Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dhamrasha** on or before **17.2.2021 up to 11.00 A.M.** The tenders will be opened on the same day at **11.30 A.M.** in the presence of intending contractors/firms or their authorized representatives, who may wish to be presented at the time of opening the tenders. The application(s) for issue of tender(s) form(s) shall be received on or before **16.2.2021 up to 3.00 P.M.** and form/form(s) shall be issued on **16.2.2021 from 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.** against cash payment (Non-refundable). The rates in tender form(s) will be filled in words and figures, otherwise, the tender will be rejected. The earnest money in the shape of **FDR/ National Saving Certificate duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dhamrasha**. Conditional tender or tender(s) received without earnest money will be similarly rejected. The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dhamrasha reserves right to reject the tender(s) without assigning any reason. The option of the tender will be kept opened for 120 days.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Cost of Tender Form	Re-marks
1	Stock Storage in Tehsil Dhamrasha Distt. Kangra (SH- Providing and deputing of 2 Nos. Drivers for running & operation of Govt. Vehicles (LMV) of Jal Shakti Division Dhamrasha for six months.)	183230/-	3665/-	Six months	250/-	
2	Stock Storage in Tehsil Dhamrasha Distt. Kangra (SH- Providing and deputing of 2 Nos. Drivers for running & operation of Govt. Vehicles (LMV) of Jal Shakti Division Dhamrasha for six months.)	183230/-	3665/-	Six months	250/-	

Terms and Conditions:-

- The application(s) for issue of tender(s) shall be received on or before **16.2.2021 up to 3.00 P.M.** and form(s) shall be issued on **16.2.2021 from 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.** against cash payment (Non-refundable).
- The earnest money in the shape of FDR/National Saving Certificate duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Dhamrasha/Certificate for exemption of earnest money.
- Conditional tender or tender(s) received without earnest money will be summarily rejected.
- The contractor must give the copy of enlistment/ renewal and photocopy of individual PAN No./GST No./EPF No. with the application at the time of applying the tender(s) documents or must be attached with his tender form.
- The tender form(s) will be issued to only those contractors who are found eligible/suitable and competent.
- The Security, Income Tax, G.S.T., Education Cess and labourcess etc, shall be deducted according to instructions of the Govt. time to time.
- If holiday falls on the date of opening the tender(s), the same will be opened on next working day at 11.30 A.M.

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Dhamrasha.

No. EE-IPHD/EA-/2020- 15294-15393 Dated:- 3.2.2021 DPR/HP/5637

कायालय : उपमंडलीय आयुर्वेदिक चिकित्सा अधिकारी व सदस्य सचिव, रोगी कल्याण समिति, आयुर्वेदिक अस्पताल, रामपुर बुझीहर, जिला शिमला, हिमाचल प्रदेश 172001

संख्या : उ.मु./आयु./निविदा/डाइट/2016 दिनांक

निविदा शुद्धि प्रपत्र सूचना

संबंधित 20 बिस्तरिय आयुष अस्पताल रामपुर बुझीहर जिला शिमला हि.प्र.

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक 07.02.2021 को विभिन्न समाचारपत्रों में प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना को कि 20 बिस्तरिय आयुष अस्पताल रामपुर बुझीहर के रोगियों व स्टाफ कर्मियों के लिए **मैस संचालन एवं कैटीन** के संबंध में है, जिसका स्पष्टता प्रकाशन न होने के कारण अब शुद्धि प्रपत्र अपोहरताश्री द्वारा जारी किया जाता है और पुनः यह स्पष्ट किया जाता है कि 20.02.2021 तक आमंत्रित निविदाएं 20 बिस्तरिय आयुष अस्पताल रामपुर बुझीहर के रोगियों व स्टाफ कर्मियों के मेष व सह कैटीन हेतु विभिन्न इच्छुक पाटियों से आमंत्रित की गई हैं व अन्य निगम एवं शते पूर्वकत रहेगी।

संबंधित जानकारी के लिए किसी भी कायविकस पर दूरभाष नंबर 01782-234944 पर भी संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

(डा. दिनेश कुमार)

आयुर्वेद उपमंडल चिकित्सा अधिकारी,
सह सदस्य सचिव, रोगी कल्याण समिति,
राजकीय आयुर्वेदिक अस्पताल, रामपुर बुझीहर,
जिला शिमला, हिमाचल प्रदेश-172001.

DPR/HP/5643

ਉਪ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ ਰਾਜ ਕਰ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਮੰਡਲ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਮਿੰਨੀ ਸਕੱਤਰੇਤ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ

ਅਮ ਜਨਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇਸ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਨਿਮਨਲਿਖਤ ਕੰਡਮ ਗੱਡੀਆਂ ਜਿਵੇਂ ਹਨ, ਜਿਸ ਵੀ ਹਾਲਤ ਵਿਚ ਹਨ, ਦੇ ਨਿਪਟਾਰੇ ਲਈ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਜਾਂਚੇ ਹਨ, ਜੋ ਕਿ ਇਸ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਮਿਤੀ 16.02.2021 ਨੂੰ ਦੁਪਹਿਰ 12.00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣਗੇ ਅਤੇ ਬਾਅਦ ਦੁਪਹਿਰ 3.00 ਵਜੇ ਖੋਲ੍ਹੇ ਜਾਣਗੇ। ਜਿਸ ਦਾ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਧ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ, ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਗੱਡੀਆਂ ਵੇਚ ਦਿੱਤੀਆਂ ਜਾਣਗੀਆਂ।

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ.	ਗੱਡੀ ਨੰ.	ਮਾਡਲ	ਕਿਸਮ	ਰਿਜ਼ਰਵ ਕੀਮਤ	ਬਿਆਨਾ ਰਕਮ
1	PB-10-AW-0072	2004	ਕੁਆਲਿਸ	40000	4000
2	PB-10-AV-0064	2004	ਕੁਆਲਿਸ	40000	4000
3	PB-10-AM-0039	2001	ਕੁਆਲਿਸ	42000	4200
4	PB-11-E-2159	1993	ਜਿਪਸੀ	30000	3000
5	PB-06-E-3270	2004	ਕੁਆਲਿਸ	46000	4600

ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ:-

- ਟੈਂਡਰ ਫਾਰਮ ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ ਸਮੇਤ 20 ਰੁਪਏ ਦੀ ਅਦਾਇਗੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਹਾਇਕ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ ਰਾਜ ਕਰ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ, ਮਿੰਨੀ ਸਕੱਤਰੇਤ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਤੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।
- ਕੰਡਮ ਗੱਡੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਰਿਜ਼ਰਵ ਕੀਮਤ ਮੁਤਾਬਿਕ 10% (ਭਾਵ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਗੱਡੀਆਂ ਲਈ ਬਿਆਨਾ ਰਕਮ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਹੈ) ਦਾ ਡਿਮਾਂਡ ਡਰਾਫਟ ਉਪ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ ਰਾਜ ਕਰ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਮੰਡਲ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਦੇ ਨਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਹੀ ਲੱਖੀ ਹੋਣਾ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਬਿਨਾਂ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਰੱਦ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ।

DPR/PB/1365 **ਸਹੀ/- ਉਪ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ ਰਾਜ ਕਰ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਮੰਡਲ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ।**

TENDER NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

Online tenders on percentage basis (above or below or at par the DNIT amount) for the below mentioned work are invited from the eligible contractors as per eligibility criteria of SBD.

Name of the Work		Estimated Cost	Earnest Money
Preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment Study and Seeking Environment clearance from the MOEF (GOI) for Development of Township and Area Development Project namely "Sector 90, 91 & 93" having an area of approx. 261.6160 acres in S.A.S. Nagar		To be quoted by agency/firm	Rs. 15,000/-

Tender Processing Fee : As mentioned online Period of Completion: 5 months & 17 days

Online availability of tender for bidding	Last date & time for submission of online bids	Date & time of opening of tender in O/o Superintending Engineer (C-1), GMADA, Room No. 445, 4th Floor, PUDA Bhawan, Sector 62, SAS Nagar
From To	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
09.02.2021 05:00 PM	22.02.2021 11:00 AM	22.02.2021 03:00 PM

1.For detailed terms and conditions refer to our website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

2.For any clarification/difficulty regarding e-tendering process contact **0172-2970263, 2970284.**

Divisional Engineer (PH-1)

GREATER MOHALI AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PUDA Bhawan, Sector 62, SAS Nagar

केंद्रीय विद्यालय मिलिटरी स्टेशन अबोहर (पंजाब)-152116
KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA MILITARY STATION ABHOR (Punjab)
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अंतर्गत स्थापित संस्थान)
(An autonomous Body under Ministry of Education, Government of India)

Email: kvabohar@gmail.com website:- www.abohar.kvs.ac.in
दूरभाष/Phone/01634-220123, 223332 CBSE Affiliation no. 1600028

F. No. A 2-19/kv/Abohar/2020-21 Date : 08.02.2021

नीलामी सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि केंद्रीय विद्यालय, अबोहर के निम्न विभागों में अनुपयोगी पुराने सामान को नीलामी "जैसा है, जिस हालत में" के आधार पर दिनांक 19.02.2021 (शुक्रवार) को दोपहर 11.30 बजे विद्यालय परिसर में की जाएगी। सभी इच्छुक बोलीदाता 19.02.2021 (शुक्रवार) को 09.30 बजे से 10.30 बजे के बीच बोली लगाने से पूर्व सामान को देख सकते हैं। अधिकतम बोली लगाने वाले को बोली की प्रक्रिया के तुरंत बाद पूरी धनराशि जमा करवानी होगी।

क्र. सं.	विभाग का नाम	वस्तु
1.	कंप्यूटर व सूचना तकनीकी	कंप्यूटर, मूपीएस, प्रोजेक्टर, ए.सी. (खिड़की), प्रिंटर
2.	फर्नीचर	कुर्सी, टेबल, अलमारी, डेस्क आदि
3.	पुस्तकालय	पुस्तकें
4.	विद्यालय वि. निधि	फोटोकॉपी मशीन, आर.ओ. (पानी)
5.	गणित प्रयोगशाला	पुस्तकें और पंक्तिवार, गणित उपकरण
6.	विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला	प्रयोगशाला उपकरण
7.	संगीत	संगीत उपकरण

शर्तें :-

- बोलीदाता को बोली में भाग लेने से पूर्व अग्रिम धनराशि के रूप में 5000/- (पांच हजार रुपये) जमा करवानी होगी। असफल बोलीदाता को अग्रिम धनराशि नीलामी की प्रक्रिया पूर्ण होने के बाद लौटा दी जाएगी।
- बोलीदाता को नीलामी के समय बताए गए नियमों का पालन करना होगा।
- आक्षेपित मूल्य नीलामी के समय बताया जाएगा।
- यदि सफल बोलीदाता नीलामी के सामान को कीमत नहीं जमा करता पाता है, तो अग्रिम धनराशि जमा कर ली जाएगी और अगले बोलीदाता को वस्तु दी जाएगी।
- केंद्रीय विद्यालय संगठन के कर्मचारी और उनके परिवारों को बोली में भाग लेने की अनुमति नहीं होगी।
- यदि प्रक्रिया में कोई त्रुटि या विवाद सामने आता है, तो अपोहरस्ताक्षरकर्ता को प्रक्रिया रद्द करने का पूर्ण अधिकार होगा।

DI-20012 **प्राचार्य।**

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION PUNJAB
TENDER NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS

For and on behalf of Governor of Punjab, The Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation Division No. 2, Patiala re-invites bids from eligible bidders for the name of work detailed in the following table. The Bidders may submit bids for the following works on website <https://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Value of Work	BidS Security	Tender Processing Fee (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	Providing Operational Improvement for Improved Water Supply Service level of Water Supply Scheme Udhm Singh Nagar Galoli, Block - Patran, Distt. Patiala under sub-component 2a(i) of Punjab Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Sector Improvement Project and Jal Jiwan Mission.	Rs. 514985/-	Rs. 10300/-	As per Website	4 Months

Availability of Bidding Documents on Website
Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bids Online
Time and Date of Opening of Technical Bids Online

From Date 09.02.2021 to Date 22.02.2021 (17:00 HRS.)
Date 22.02.2021 (17:00 HRS.)
Date 23.02.2021 (11:00 HRS.)

For detailed Terms and Conditions of the notice inviting bids refer to website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Sd/- Chairman GPWSC,
Village Udhm Singh Nagar Galoli,
BLOCK PATRAN, DISTRICT PATIALA.
O/o Executive Engineer,
W/S & Sanitation Div. No. 2, Patiala.
Pin Code – 147101,
Email: xenrws_pta@yahoo.co.in

Amid protests, Myanmar junta imposes curfew

YANGON, FEBRUARY 8

Myanmar's military government imposed a curfew and bans on gatherings of more than five persons in the country's two biggest cities on Monday as protests against last week's coup showed no sign of abating.

The decrees covering Yangon and Mandalay were issued on a township-by-township basis, and those which have become public so far have the same restrictions. At least seven have been issued, and more are expected for other areas.

Rallies and gatherings of more than five persons, along with motorised processions, are banned, and a 8 pm to 4 am curfew is imposed. The measures are effective until further notice. The decrees say they were

MONKS JOIN STIR

- Family of detained Australian seeks his release
- Protests largest since 'Saf from Revolution' of 2007
- Monks and nurses join nationwide stir

UK, EU FOR SPECIAL UNHRC SESSION

Geneva: Britain and the EU said on Monday they were requesting that a special session of the UN Human Rights Council be held to address the crisis. "The detention of politi-

cians and civilians has grave implications for human rights," said UK's ambassador to the UN. REUTERS

issued in response to people carrying out unlawful actions that harm the rule of law.



STRONG-ARM TACTICS The police fire water cannons to disperse people protesting coup in Myanmar's Naypyitaw on Monday. REUTERS

Demonstrations against the coup had intensified Monday and spread to more parts of the country.

Police fired a water cannon at hundreds of protesters in Myanmar's capital who were demanding the military hand power back

to elected officials.

Protesters also rallied at a major downtown intersection in the country's largest city, Yangon, raising a three-finger salute that is a symbol of resistance and carrying placards. There were also reports of new demonstra-

tions in towns in the north, southeast and east of the country, as well as in the city of Mandalay, where there was a procession of marchers and motorbikes.

The growing wave of defiance, particularly in the capital Naypyitaw where such

protests are unusual, was striking in a country where demonstrations have been met with severe force in the past.

"We do not want the military junta. Nobody wants it. All the people are ready to fight them," said Daw Moe, a protester in Yangon. — AP

S Africa halts rollout of AstraZeneca vaccine

LONDON, FEBRUARY 8

South Africa halted Monday's planned rollout of AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccines after data showed it gave minimal protection against mild infection from one variant, stoking fears of a much longer cat-and-mouse battle with the pathogen.

The new variants have raised fears that vaccines will need to be tweaked and people may have to have booster shots.

Researchers from the University of Witwatersrand and the University of Oxford said in a prior-to-peer analysis that

TRACKING VIRUS

NATIONS	DEATHS
US	4,74,939
BRAZIL	2,31,561
MEXICO	1,66,200
UK	1,12,465
ITALY	91,273

the AstraZeneca vaccine provided minimal protection against mild or moderate infection from the South African variant among young people. — Reuters

China ignores Biden's jibe at Xi, calls for managing differences

BEIJING, FEBRUARY 8

China on Monday chose to ignore US President Joe Biden's comment that his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping lacked democratic bone in his body but said that the two countries should focus on cooperation and manage differences.

In an interview to CBS television on Saturday, Biden acknowledged that he is yet to speak with President Xi since his swearing in on January 20, but said he had met him many times when they were Vice Presidents of their respective countries in the past.

US Prez recently said his Chinese counterpart lacked 'democratic bone'

"I know him pretty well," Biden said, adding that when they do speak, they will have "a whole lot to talk about." Biden described Xi as "very bright" and "very tough" but without "a democratic, small D, bone in his body", highlighting the autocratic style of functioning of the Chinese leader.

Asked for his reaction to Biden's "D bone" remark, Chinese Foreign Ministry

spokesman Wang Wenbin evaded a direct reply.

"President Xi Jinping has had many contacts with President Biden. Maintaining communication between China and the US at all levels is conducive to mutual understanding and to the development of bilateral relations," he said. "China is committed to developing a relationship with the US that is non-conflictual, based on non-confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation," he said. "Meanwhile, China will continue to firmly safeguard its national sovereignty," he said. — PTI

BUSINESS

USD \$	EURO €	POUND £	JPY ¥	YUAN ¥	CAD \$	AUD \$	SGD \$	HKD \$	BSE 61714 51,348.77	NSE 191.55 15,115.80	GOLD ₹47,350 Mumbai (MCX)	SILVER ₹68,700 Mumbai (MCX)
₹72.97	₹87.78	₹99.89	₹0.69	₹11.31	₹57.12	₹55.86	₹54.63	₹9.41				

IDP Education's virtual fair

IDP Education is hosting the biggest virtual education fair from February 1 to March 5. Over 150 institutions from Australia, the UK, the US, Canada, New Zealand, and Ireland will participate in the fair.

Central Rly officials honoured

Vipin Anand, MD, LIC of India, recently honoured officials of Central Railway, Mumbai, who transported necessary materials during the lockdown. Vikas Rao, zonal manager, LIC, Western Zone, Rajivan Nair, ED, corporate communications, and Shalabh Goel, DRM, Central Railway, were also present.

M&M cancer care initiative

Swaraj Tractors has reached out to over 95,000 beneficiaries in Punjab since it began its Mahindra Mobile Primary Health & Cancer Care Project nearly six years ago. The project serves 157 villages across three districts of Bathinda, Patiala and SAS Nagar.

HMSI observes road safety mth

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India recently announced its 360° road safety awareness initiative for the 32nd National Road Safety Month under the 'Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Raksha' theme set by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

M&M sells 33,562 tractors in Jan

M&M's Farm Equipment Sector sold 33,562 tractors (domestic market) in January as against 22,329 units in January 2020. Total sales (domestic + exports) stood at 34,778 units as against 23,116 units in January last year.

Training on industrial safety

National Fertilizers Ltd., Bathinda, recently held a two-day training programme on 'Industrial Safety & Occupational Health' under the guidance of Deputy Director, Factories, and Punjab Industrial Safety Council, Mohali.

New Jeep Compass launched

New Jeep Compass has been launched at WSL Jeep Automobiles, Chandigarh. It is priced at Rs 16.99 lakh onwards.

PFC bags SKOCH Gold Award

RS Dhillon, CMD, PFC, recently received the SKOCH Gold Award for 'Best Performing PSU for Covid Activities' from Sameer Kochhar, chairman, SKOCH Group.

Budget to push growth: SCOPE

Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), an apex body of public sector enterprises, believes the Union Budget shall pave way for a faster rebound of the Indian economy on the growth path. Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE, said it will further boost the reforms announced by the government.

BHEL commissions thermal plant

BHEL has commissioned the second unit (800 MW) of the 2x800 MW Gadawara Super Thermal Power Project Stage-I. Located at Gadawara in Narsinghpur district of MP, the greenfield project is being developed by NTPC.

Realme introduces 5G mobiles

Realme has introduced two smartphones - X7 5G and X7 Pro 5G. Both the phones are powered by MediaTek chipsets. The X7 5G will be available in two colours priced at Rs 19,999 and Rs 21,999 and the X7 Pro 5G will be priced at Rs 29,999.

TDI Group hardsells 'Park Street'

Realty developer TDI Group has invited investors from Ludhiana for its commercial project 'Park Street' in Mohali. The project is coming up near the International Airport at Mohali.

Sonalika records 46% growth

Sonalika Tractors has registered highest-ever January sales at 10,158 tractors as compared to 7,220 units in January 2020, recording a 46% growth. "The company also introduced five new premium tractors in 2020 that address farmers' needs in a cost-optimised way," said Raman Mittal, ED, Sonalika Group.

Trident expands retail footprint

Trident Ltd has expanded its retail presence in the country with the open-

Vodafone tax case: India challenges ruling in Singapore

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

India has challenged in the Singapore High Court an international arbitration tribunal's verdict that overturned its demand for Rs 22,100 crore in back taxes from Vodafone Group Plc, and the order passed in Cairn Group's case is under consideration of the government, Parliament was informed on Monday.

An international arbitration court had in September last year rejected tax authorities' demand for Rs 22,100 crore in back taxes and penalties relating to British telecom giant Vodafone's 2007 acquisition of an Indian operator

turned a Rs 10,247 crore retrospective tax demand on British oil and gas company Cairn Energy Plc and asked the government to return shares it sold, dividend it seized and tax refunds it stopped to enforce the tax. — PTI

FRLdeal:HCstays statusquo order

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

The Delhi HC on Monday stayed its single-judge direction to Future Retail Ltd (FRL) and various statutory authorities to maintain status quo with regard to the Rs 24,713-crore deal with Reliance Retail. It said bodies like NCLT, CCI and SEBI cannot be restrained from proceeding in accordance with law with regard to the deal. — PTI

Traders'bodycalls for Bharat bandh

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

The pro-Modi government Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has called for a Bharat trade bandh on February 26 against the Goods and Services Tax (GST), calling it 'one of the most complex taxation systems that has resulted in misery to traders'. The CAIT has also claimed the support of All-India Transport Welfare Association, which will hold a 'chakka jam' on the same day. — TNS

BRIEFLY

DUBAI

Pant named player of month

Wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant won the ICC's inaugural Player of the Month award for his show in the Test series against Australia in January.

GUWAHATI

Dawar breaks 5000m record

Madhya Pradesh's Sunil Dawar broke the 24-year-old U-20 men's 5000m national record on his way to winning the gold in the National Junior Athletics Championships. Dawar clocked 14 minutes, 13.95 seconds.

RAWALPINDI

Pakistan sweep Test series

Seamer Hasan Ali took a career-best 10 wickets in the match as Pakistan blitzed South Africa with the new ball to complete a 95-run victory in the second and final Test and claim the series 2-0.

LIVERPOOL

Man City thrash Liverpool

Manchester City opened up a commanding five-point lead at the top of the Premier League as Ilkay Gundogan scored twice in a 4-1 victory at Liverpool for whom keeper Alisson endured a Sunday afternoon to forget.

SEVILLE

Messi stars in Barca victory

Lionel Messi came off the bench to haul Barcelona back from a goal down against Real Betis to win 3-2 but it was winger Francisco Trincao who snatched victory by choosing the perfect moment to score his first goal for the club.

KOLKATA

Churchill hold Real Kashmir

Churchill Brothers were held to their third successive draw in the I-League. They played out a goalless draw against Real Kashmir. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

FIRST TEST
INDIA VS ENGLAND
STAR SPORTS 9:30AM

TENNIS
AUSTRALIAN OPEN
SONY SIX 5:30AM

ISL
BENGALURU VS MOHUN BAGAN
STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

India 39/1 chasing 420 for victory

CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 8 A cautious England spared India the ignominy of a follow-on but set them a daunting 420-run victory target in the opening Test here today.

England, who had posted a mammoth 578 in the first innings, bowled India out for 337 but opted against enforcing the follow-on.

The tourists walked out to bat instead and were bowled out for 178 an hour before stumps, baffling many by their refusal to declare which would have given them more time to bowl out India. The hosts finished the penultimate day on 39/1, still 381 behind the target, with Shubhman Gill batting on 15 and Cheteshwar Pujara on 12.

“Obviously, we’re ahead in the game,” England bowling coach Jon Lewis said. “We played some really good cricket in this game. We’re confident that we can create enough chances to win the game tomorrow. I think we’re in a really strong position.”

Earlier today, Washington

A mountain to climb



Sundar led India's rearguard resistance with an unbeaten 85 before he ran out of partners. The all-rounder added 80 runs with Ravichandran Ashwin in a spirited seventh-wicket stand to take India, who had resumed on 257/6, past the 300-mark.



ABOVE: Washington Sundar scored his first Test half-century. LEFT: Ravichandran Ashwin took his 28th five-wicket haul. He is eighth in the list of players with most five-wicket hauls in an innings.

(nought) as well.

James Anderson had also toiled without success yesterday but claimed the last two Indian wickets, leaving Sundar stranded 15 runs from a maiden Test century.

When England came out for their second innings, Ashwin dismissed Rory Burns with the very first ball and went on to claim 6/61 as England batted on with a safety-first approach. Ishant Sharma dis-

SCOREBOARD			
England 1st innings 5/8			
W Sundar not out	85	J Archer b Ashwin	5
R Ashwin c Buttler b Leach	31	J Leach not out	8
S Nadeem c Stokes b Leach	0	J Anderson c & b Ashwin	0
Extras: (NB 7)			
Total: (All out, 46.3 overs) 178			
FOW: 1-0, 2-32, 3-58, 4-71, 5-101, 6-130, 7-165, 8-167, 9-178			
Bowling			
Ravichandran Ashwin	17.3	2	61
Shahbaz Nadeem	15	2	66
Ishant Sharma	7	1	24
Jasprit Bumrah	6	0	26
Washington Sundar	1	0	1
India 2nd innings			
R Sharma b Leach	12		
S Gill not out	15		
C Pujara not out	12		
Extras: 0			
Total: (1 wicket, 13 overs) 39			
FOW: 1-25			
Bowling			
Jofra Archer	3	2	13
Jack Leach	6	1	21
James Anderson	2	1	2
Dom Bess	2	0	3

missed Dan Lawrence to claim his 300th Test wicket. Joe Root, who had smashed 218 in the first innings of his 100th Test, made 40 before Jasprit Bumrah trapped him lbw. Ashwin then ran through England's batting order, dismissing Dom Sibley, Ben Stokes and Dom Bess and finally removing Jofra Archer and James Anderson in the same over. India lost opener Rohit Sharma early, with Leach spinning one past the bat to hit the off-stump.

Ishant said India, having chased down 328 in their previous Test against Australia in Brisbane, were optimistic about victory. “It all depends how we start tomorrow,” he said. “If we get a good start, I’m sure that we can chase this down, because we have a fearless batting lineup.” — Reuters

TOP CHASES IN INDIA		
India need 381 more to win. Here are top-5 successful run chases in India.		
Team	Target	Opponents
IND	387	ENG (Chennai, 2008)
WI	276	IND (N Delhi, 1987)
IND	276	WI (N Delhi, 2011)
IND	261	NZ (Bengaluru, 2012)
IND	254	AUS (Mumbai, 1964)

“If we get a good start, I'm sure that we can chase this down” Ishant Sharma

Ishant Sharma touches 300 in 98th Test

ISHANT IN 300-WICKET CLUB					
Ishant Sharma is the third Indian pacer to reach 300 wickets:					
Wickets	Bowler	Tests	Avg	5 Wkt	10 Wkt
619	A Kumble	132	29.65	35	8
434	Kapil Dev	131	29.64	23	1
417	H Singh	103	32.46	25	5
386	R Ashwin	75	25.47	28	7
311	Z Khan	92	32.94	11	1
300	I Sharma	98	32.32	11	1

Read under Wickets, Bowler, Tests, Average, 5 wickets in an innings, 10 wickets in a match

Ishant Sharma became the third Indian pace bowler to take 300 Test wickets. PHOTO: BCCI >>

I enjoyed that quite a lot.”

He had missed the tour of Australia due to an injury he suffered in the IPL, and the 32-year-old was tired. “I’m a bit sore, just played a four-overs game, a T20 game, in domestic and then came back and bowled



“Quite a rollercoaster life till now... I enjoyed it, pretty much, a lot of experiences through my career” Ishant Sharma

said Ashwin, who reached 300 wickets in his 54th Test.

“From the Ishant that went to Australia, got Ricky Ponting out (200), and then has gone through so many other tours, he’s had his fair share of injuries,” he added.

“For a fast bowler to get close to 100 Tests in India is not a joke, and it’s a fantastic, fantastic achievement. And 300 club... I really do wish to see him get to 400 and probably 500, which would be a sort of a roadmap for a lot of quicks going forward,” he added. — TNS

Novak, Serena keep it simple

MELBOURNE, FEBRUARY 8 Novak Djokovic got his Australian Open title defence off to a rollicking start, breezing past Frenchman Jeremy Chardy 6-3 6-1 6-2 on Rod Laver Arena today.

The world No. 1, who has won eight of his 17 Major titles at Melbourne Park, rattled off 41 winners and did not face a single break point en route to victory.

Serena Williams kickstarted her bid for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title with a 6-1 6-1 drubbing of Germany’s Laura Siegemund before rushing off the court to watch Tom Brady win his seventh Super Bowl.

Nick Kyrgios treated the sparse crowd at the John Cain Arena to some vintage moments — a racquet thrown across the court, and a few choice words towards his box and the umpire — as he sailed to a 6-4 6-4 6-4 victory over Frederico Ferreira Silva.

Bianca Andreescu was



made to work hard on her return to competition after 15 months, but the 2019 US Open winner dug deep to see off Mihaela Buzarnescu of Romania 6-2 4-6 6-3.

Alexander Zverev overcame an inconsistent start

and a smashed racquet to battle past unheralded American Marcos Giron 6-7(8) 7-6(5) 6-3 6-2, while US Open champion Dominic Thiem fended off Mikhail Kukushkin 7-6(2) 6-2 6-3. — Reuters

DRAW FOR ALLOTMENT OF PLOTS TO OUSTEE CATEGORY CORRIGENDUM

In reference to our advertisement published in this newspaper on 07-02-2021 regarding announcement of draw for allotment of plots measuring 200 sq.yd to Oustee category. This is to inform that list of applicants was uploaded on our website www.gmada.gov.in, to which certain persons have objected that their names have not been included in the list. It is intimated that if any person has any objection to the list he/she can submit the same in office of the undersigned upto 19-02-2021. Objections received thereafter shall not be entertained. The draw scheduled for 09-02-2021, stands postponed, which now would be conducted at same time and place on 05-03-2021.

Estate Officer (Plots)

GREATER MOHALI AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PUDA Bhawan, Sector 62, SAS Nagar

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W) Firozpur acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the works/services listed below. 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 manual offer received shall be ignored.

Contractors are allowed to make online payments against these 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, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type	Bidding System	Date of uploading Tenders	Bid closing Date/Time	Date and Time of opening E-Tender (Technical Bid)
Open	Two packet System	08.02.2021 Time 18:00 hours	03.03.2021 Time 15:00 hours	03.03.2021 Time 15:05 hours

SN.	Tender Number	Details of Tender			
1.	02-2021	Work for Mechanized cleaning of coaches of primary trains along with provision of OBHS in trains including toilettries in AC coaches and Depot complex cleaning at Coaching Depot, Katra (SVDK) for period of Three Years (Thirty-Six Months).			
		Advertised Value	Tender Doc. Cost	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
		78966241.77	10000/-	0.00	60 days
					36 Months

For more details please log on to www.ireps.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

277/21

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, PALWAL	CONSTRUCTION OF EVM/VVPATS WARE HOUSE FOR THE PROPER STORAGE IN MINI SECTT. AT PALWAL IN PALWAL DISTT.	CLOSING DATE 25.02.2021	206.57 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8851491777 pwd-eeepd-palwal@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R, BHIWANI	SPECIAL REPAIR BY PROVIDING 4-LANNING OF HTB ROAD WITHIN M.C. LIMIT BHIWNI FROM KM 83.06 TO85.01 IN BHIWANI DISTT. (ROAD ID NO.2223) + 1 OTHER WORK	05.02.2021 01.03.2021	586.33 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01664242436 pwd-eeepd bhiwani@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R, REWARI	ROAD & PARKING IN THE CAMPUS OF SAINIK SCHOOL AT GOTHRA TAPPA KHORI IN REWARI DISTRICT.	08.02.2021 01.03.2021	1618.80 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01274253703 pwd-eeepd-rewari@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R, HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF APPROACHES OF 2 LANE ROB AT LC NO. 114 AT KM 172/1-2 ON REWARI-HISAR BHATINDA RAILWAY LINE ON ADAMPUR TO DAROLI ROAD IN HISAR DISTT.	09.02.2021 22.02.2021	1775.35 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812306111 pwd-eeepd3-hissar@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R, HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF INTEGRATED COMPLEX (OBSERVATION HOME, SPECIAL HOME, PLACE OF SAFETY AND CHILDREN HOME) AT VILLAGE BEED IN HISAR DISTRICT	08.02.2021 22.02.2021	2330.94 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662239887 pwd-eeepd3-hissar@hry.nic.in
6	PWD B&R, KURUKSHETRA	ANNUAL REPAIR TO VARIOUS NON RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS UNDER PROVINCIAL SUB DIVISION NO. 2 KURUKSHETRA FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 UNDER HEAD 2059. (GROUP- II)+ 1 OTHER WORK	05.02.2021 22.02.2021	4 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01744297271 pwd-eeepd2-kurukshetra@hry.nic.in
7	PWD B&R, KARNAL	CONSTRUCTION OF SHC ATERNA DISTT. SONIPAT (PDG. EI ONLY). RECALL + 3 OTHER WORKS	05.02.2021 22.02.2021	49.80 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01842265696 pwd-eeed-karnal@hry.nic.in
8	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	I) ELECTRIC PUMPING SETS (3CS CAPACITY) II) DIESEL PUMPING SETS (2CS CAPACITY) III) ELECTRIC PUMPING SETS (SCS CAPACITY)	06.02.2021 24.02.2021	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in , dsndharyana.gov.in	0172-2570121-124, 2584125, 2585125 supplies@ hry. nic. in
9	HIPA , GURUGRAM	RFP FOR COMPREHENSIVE ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR RENOVATION OF EXISTING CENTRAL BUILDING OF HIPA, GURUGRAM	23.01.2021 22.02.2021	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in 2021_HRY_157254_1	9999033686 rekhad@hipa.in
10	PANCHAYATI RAJ, KAITHAL	CONST. OF LWM PROJECT IN DISTT. KAITHAL	11.02.2021 24.02.2021	207.02 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	94161-91639 prexeeng.ktl@hry.nic.in
11	PANCHAYATI RAJ, KARNAL	1 NO. WORK COMP. OF C/CENTRE GURU BRAHMANAND, CONST. OF B/WALL AND 3 NOS. OTHER WORKS	05.02.2021 22.02.2021	55.62 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416290875 prexeeng.krl@hry.nic.in
12	PANCHAYATI RAJ, KARNAL	1. CONST. OF GOBARDHAN PROJECT (CIVIL, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL COMPONENT AND OPERATION) 2. CONSTRUCTION/ INSTALLATION OF L.P.G/C.N.G. BASED CATTLE CREMATORIUM SYSTEM 3. 2 NO. WORKS CONSTRUCTION OF DISPOSAL/TREATMENT OF WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT	10.02.2020 05.03.2021	273.07 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416290875 prexeeng.krl@hry.nic.in
13	PANCHAYATI RAJ, KAITHAL	CONST OF LWM PROJECT AT VILLAGE RATTA KHERA AND UJHANA	11.02.2021 24.02.2021	40.37 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	94161-91639 prexeeng.ktl@hry.nic.in
14	PANCHAYATI RAJ, KURUKSHETRA	CONSTRUCTION OF HOMEOPATHIC DISPENSARY INCLUDING PH & EI WORKS	05.02.2021 25.02.2021	28.51 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416483487 prexeeng.krk@hry.nic.in
15	HEALTH DEPARTMENT CIVIL SURGEON PANCHKULA	E-TENDER FOR HIRING OF E RIKSHAW WITH MIKING FOR URBAN AREA OF DISTRICT PANCHKULA	09.02.2021 21.02.2021		https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7015995169 dhs.cspk@hry.nic.in
16	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, REWARI	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TOILET ON 2ND FLOOR DIVISION OFFICE BUILDING AT CANAL COLONY REWARI.+ 3 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 17.02.2021	20.64 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9354260552 xenws2rri@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

PRDH/11/2021/320/1725/1/31/4

IN PARLIAMENT



Stubble-burning up in Punjab, Haryana

New Delhi: Union Minister of Environment Prakash Javadekar said stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana increased by 75% and 25%, respectively, in September 2020. The government spent substantial funds to provide 40,000 machines to the states, but these were seldom used. The wind in September-November blew eastward due to which pollution increased in Delhi, he said. **TNS**



Bill on unauthorised colonies in Delhi

New Delhi: The government introduced a Bill in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, which seeks to replace the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020. Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri introduced it in the RS. The unauthorised colonies that existed as on June 1, 2014, and had witnessed 50% development as on January 1, 2015, will be eligible for regularisation. **PTI**

Average pace of NH construction 28 km/day



New Delhi: The pace of highway construction during April-December 2020, on an average, was 28 km a day amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Parliament was informed on Monday. Total highways constructed across India during the period were 7,767 km, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari told the Rajya Sabha. **TNS**

The Tribune INTERVIEW: KALACHAND SAIN, DIRECTOR, WADIA INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN GEOLOGY

Rockfall triggered breach, probe on

GLACIER BURST

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

ROCKFALL on accumulated snow in the higher Himalayan reaches of Uttarakhand's Chamoli likely caused a glacial breach triggering the Sunday deluge, government's lead scientist on the disaster said today.

Kalachand Sain, Director, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, a department of science facility, probing the cause behind the flood, said, "Satellite imagery has thrown early signs of a rockfall in the upper reaches, which may have caused the glacier to break and the water to come gushing downstream."



Indian glacial monitoring capacities are currently very low. Out of 1,000 glaciers in Uttarakhand, scientists are able to physically monitor only seven

"We are yet to reach a conclusion on the exact cause behind the flooding. But based on observations from satellite images of the area, it appears that a rockfall, on snow-capped reaches, broke a glacier. The images reveal a massive scar—around half a kilometre in diameter—on the snow cover. Our teams have left for the site to match satellite evidence with field data. Unless that

happens, nothing can be said definitively," Sain told *The Tribune* today.

The expert also said preliminary findings didn't point to glacier lake outburst flood and appeared more consistent with an avalanche caused by rockfall on snow.

"It had snowed in the region in the past weeks and accumulation of snow has happened," Sain said, noting

that conclusive findings will take over a week to emerge.

Asked if such disasters could be predicted, Sain said yes. "Current capacities to monitor glaciers are very limited. Out of 1,000 glaciers in Uttarakhand, we are able to physically monitor only seven. We need automatic weather stations along upper reaches to improve data generation and a dedicated national institute to process that data for disaster forecast," he added.

Five scientists of Wadia institute today reached Joshi Math to investigate the flood but are yet to climb up the source of the disaster. "It is a very steep and hard to access region. We may need choppers to get aerial views," Sain said.

On Feb 5, Centre gave extra chance to those who are not age-barred

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to consider extending the benefit of extra chance, given to civil services aspirants who exhausted their last attempt last year during the Covid-19 pandemic, to age-barred candidates as well.

"We don't expect you to be rigid on this aspect. There were extraordinary circumstances," a Bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar told Additional Solicitor General SV Raju. The court's comments came after senior counsel Shyam Divan sub-

mitted on behalf of the petitioner candidates that extra chance and age-bar relaxation were inter-twined and such last chance candidates should be treated as a "homogenous class".

Divan and other senior counsel representing the petitioners pointed out that such relaxation had been given in the past as well. "You can always argue it is a policy decision. But is there a way out? We are also of the

view that age should not be changed. But if it is done in the past, is it possible as a one-time measure?" the Bench asked, noting that policies were made based on ground realities.

The Bench deferred the hearing to Tuesday after ASG Raju said he would like to seek instructions. It said if the issue was not resolved tomorrow, it would proceed to decide the case on merits.

The Centre and UPSC had on February 5 agreed to grant an extra chance to candidates who are not age-barred and exhausted their last attempt for the Civil Services Examination (CSE) in 2020 during the pandemic.

Will be involved in active politics: Sasikala

TIRUPATHUR (TN), FEBRUARY 8
Expelled All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) leader VK Sasikala on Monday said she would involve herself in active politics following her return to Tamil Nadu after completing a four-year prison term in Bengaluru in a corruption case.

In her first comments days after being discharged from a hospital in the Karnataka capital where she was treated for Covid-19, Sasikala said she was indebted to the people of Tamil Nadu, but asserted she would not be cowed down by "oppression".
Asked if she would visit the AIADMK headquarters in Chennai, she said, "Please wait and see."



CAN'T BE ENSLAVED

"I am bound by love, to the Tamil ethos and the principles I have embarked upon. But I can never be enslaved by oppression"
VK Sasikala, EXPELLED AIADMK LEADER

VK Sasikala, being felicitated on her return, after serving a jail term, in Krishnagiri. **PTI**



More NDRF teams arrive at Joshimath after a glacier broke off causing a massive flood in the Dhauli Ganga in Chamoli. **PTI**

Glacier burst or an avalanche? Experts debate

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

The Uttarakhand tragedy has put a question mark on what actually led to the disaster. While some environmentalists are questioning claims of "a glacier burst", others are pointing to long-standing struggle of locals against massive construction activities, including highways and hydropower projects such as Rishi Ganga, in eco-sensitive zones "without proper clearance".

"Was it a glacial burst or an avalanche?" questioned Himanshu Thakkar of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People amid the revival of debate around infrastructure projects by those upset with the Centre and state clearances for massive infrastructure activities in fragile, eco-sensitive regions of the Himalayas.

A former member of the Narendra Modi Cabinet, Uma Bharti adds it's something she had warned against as a minister and that the tragedy

Rapid development 'weakening young mountains'

is both a matter of concern and warning. "When I was the minister, my ministry, in its affidavit about dams in Uttarakhand, had requested that it is a sensitive region. Therefore, power projects should not be built on the Ganga and its main tributaries," she said. While Bharti said electricity shortfall could have been met by the national grid, Thakkar added that wind and solar were better ways to generate power in mountains.

There are around 98 dams in Uttarakhand. Besides, rapid infrastructure development of roads, highways, hotels is taking place in the state, leading to "virtual shake-up" of the "young" mountains. Activists have been cautioning about "weakening" of "young mountains" due to dynamite blasts and "manmade fires".

Uproar in LS over TMC MP's remarks

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra's critical reference to a former Chief Justice of India created an uproar in the Lok Sabha with treasury members accusing her of violating parliamentary rules and demanding that her remarks be expunged.

Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal termed her comments against the former CJI, who was not named, as "shameful". In her speech, she lashed out at the government for making "hate and bigotry" a part of its narrative and alleged that the judiciary and the media too had "failed" the country. She repeatedly used terms like cowards and cowardice to



Mahua Moitra

BJP is likely to bring a breach of privilege motion against Moitra

slam the government for "hiding behind" power and authority and alleged that it had made India a "virtual police state" by charging critical voices with sedition. — TNS/Agencies

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(AGRICULTURE-4 BRANCH)

NOTIFICATION FOR COMMENCEMENT OF SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No.: 25/14/15-Agri-4(2)/6741 Chandigarh, dated the: 29.10.2020

The State Government intends to acquire land for public purpose for establishment of Post Graduate Institute of Horticulture Research and Education (PGIHRE) in the area of Village Chhidan, Hadbast No. 333, Tehsil Ajnala, District Amritsar. A Social Impact Assessment Study for the said purpose is required to be undertaken as per the "Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013".

it is hereby notified that the Social Impact Assessment shall be carried out in consultation with the concerned Gram Panchayat in the affected area. The proposed acquisition for establishment of Post Graduate Institute of Horticulture Research and Education (PGIHRE) would entail about 32 acres of land. Thus affected area shall be village Chhidan, Hadbast No. 333, Tehsil Ajnala District Amritsar. The main Objectives of SIA is to:-

- i. Assess whether the proposed acquisition serves public purpose.
- ii. Estimate number of affected families and number of families among them likely to be displaced.
- iii. Understand extent to land (public and private), houses, settlement and other common properties likely to be affected by the proposed acquisition.
- iv. Understand if extent of land to be acquired is bare minimum needed for the project.
- v. Analyse alternate place (if any)
- vi. Study of the Social impact, nature and cost of addressing them and impact of these cost on the overall cost on the overall cost of the project vis-a-vis the benefit of the project.

This notification is made under the provision of Section-4(1) of THE RIGHT TO FAIR COMPENSATION AND TRANSPARENCY IN LAND ACQUISITION, REHABILITATION AND RESETTLEMENT ACT 2013 (No. 30 OF 2013).

It is hereby also notified that the acquisition of land under the proposed project falls under the provision of Section 2(1)(b)(v) "project for Government administered, Government aided educational and research schemes or institutions." Thus provision of section 2(2) i.e. consent of Gramsabha/land owners is not required for this project. It is to be noted that entire SIA shall be carried out in consultation with Panchayat and land owners.

The SIA shall commence from the date of issue of the SIA notification, which shall be completed within 6 months. The important output of the SIA shall include SIA report and SIMP along with the disclosure as prescribed under section 6 of the said Act.

The Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar is hereby nominated as the Social Impact Assessment Authority for having the social Impact Assessment (SIA) Conducted and SIMP prepared as per provision of the said Act.

Any person interested in the manner SIA is being carried out may contact the Sub Divisional Magistrate, Ajnala (Distt. Amritsar).

Further, the details of the land proposed to be acquired are as under:-

Village Chhidan, Hadbast No. 333 Tehsil Ajnala District Amritsar				
No.	Khasra	Type of land	Aera K-M -S	Hectares
50//11		Chai	7-12	0.3845000
	20/1	Chai	4-0	0.2024000
	20/2	Chai	4-0	0.2023000
	21/1	Chai	6-8	0.3237000
	21/2	Chai	1-12	0.0809000
51/114/1		Chai	6-2	0.3086000
	14/2	Chai	0-10	0.0253000
	15/1	Chai	7-5	0.8944000
		Chai	0-11	0.0278000
	16	Chai	8-0	0.4046000
51//15/2	17	Chai	7-8	0.3743000
	24/1	Chai	1-10	0.0759000
	24/2	Chai	3-14	0.1872000
	25/1	Chai	7-16	0.3946000
	25/2	Chai	0-4	0.0101000
57//4	27	Chai	2-0	0.1012000
		Chai	7-19	0.4022000
	5/1	Chai	5-0	0.2529000
	5/2	Chai	3-0	0.1518000
	6/1	Chai	3-0	0.1518000
	6/2	Chai	5-0	0.2530000
	7	Chai	8-0	0.4046000
	14/1	Chai	2-4	0.1113000
	15/1	Chai	5-0	0.2529000
	15/2	Chai	3-0	0.1518000
	16/1/1	Chai	3-0	0.1518000
	16/1/2	Chai	1-0	0.0506000
	16/2	Chai 3-15 G.M. 0-5	4-0	0.2023000
	17	Chai 7-15 G.M. 0-5	8-0	0.4046000
	18	Chai	8-0	0.4046000
	23/2/1/1	Chai	0-9	0.0228000
	23/1/1/1	Chai	1-14	0.0860000
	23/1/1/2	Chai	1-16	0.0911000
	23/2/1/2	Chai	0-18	0.0455000
	23/2/2/1	Chai	0-3	0.0075000
	24/2	Chai	0-16	0.0405000
	25/1	Chai	5-0	0.2530000
	25/2	Chai	3-0	0.1518000
	23/1/1/3	Chai	0-3	0.0075000
	23/1/2	Chai	1-7	0.0683000
57//23/2/2/2		Chai	1-10	0.0759000
	24/1	Chai	7-4	0.3642000
		Chai	8-0	0.4047000
	2	Chai	7-11	0.3819000
	3	Chai	7-0	0.3541000
	10	Chai	8-0	0.4047000
	11	Chai	8-0	0.4047000
	9/1	Chai	3-13	0.1846000
	67//2/2/2	Chai	3-0	0.1518000
	3/1/2	Chai	0-8	0.0202000
	3/1/1	Chai	2-12	0.1315000
	3/2	Chai	4-12	0.2327000
	4/1	Chai	2-0	0.1012000
	4/2/1	Chai	5-4	0.2630000
	4/2/2	Chai	0-16	0.0405000
	5	Chai	8-0	0.4047000
	6/1	Chai	3-10	0.1770000
	6/2	Chai	2-6	0.1163000
	7/1	Chai	0-12	0.0304000
	7/2	Chai	6-4	0.3136000
	8/1	Chai	3-8	0.1720000
	8/2	Chai	4-1	0.2049000
	9/1/1	Chai	5-11	0.2808000
	84	GM	1-1	0.0531000
			260	13.1522 Hect.

Total Area Land to be acquired 32 Acre 4 Kanal 0 Marla			
Name of Village	Area Kanal Marla	Sarsai Hectares	Remarks
Village Chhidan, Hadbast No. 333, Tehsil Ajnala, District Amritsar.	260	0	13.1522
Chandigarh dated the: 28.10.2020 DPR/Pb/1346			
Sd/- Anirudh Tewari, Additional Chief Secretary (Development), Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.			