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# The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE



BJP VOWS LAW AGAINST LOVE  
JIHAD IN KERALA BACK PAGE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | VOL. 141 NO. 83 | 14 PAGES | ₹5.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2021-2023 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

THURSDAY | 25 MARCH 2021

## IN BRIEF

**PM Yojana: DHFL booked for scam**

**NEW DELHI:** The CBI claims to have unearthed a ₹1,880 crore subsidy scam in the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and has registered a case against Kapil and Dheeraj Wadhawan, brothers and promoters of crisis-hit Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL). **BUSINESS**

**Air Force short of 405 pilots, LS told**

**NEW DELHI:** The Air Force has a shortage of 405 pilots, the government told Lok Sabha on Wednesday. MoS Shripad Naik said the number of pilots at present was 3,834 against sanctioned 4,239. — PTI

**10,099 teachers shifted in Punjab**

**CHANDIGARH:** With the touch of a button, Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh on Wednesday digitally cleared the transfers of 10,099 teachers and volunteers to the station of their choice purely on merit basis as per a new transfer policy. **INSIDE**

## Centre flags rapid surge, slow vax pace in Punjab

Calls for review meet 771 variants found, 336 in state

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 24

A year since the Covid-19 lockdown was imposed to break the chain of viral transmission, the country finds itself battling a second surge of the infection with the Centre on Wednesday terming "Maharashtra and Punjab as areas of gravest concern".

Of the 47,262 (the highest daily case tally this year and the highest in 132 days), more than 28,699 are from Maharashtra and 2,634 from Punjab.

"Punjab is a specific worry as cases are rising disproportionately to the population and the vaccine coverage among health workers is extremely low at 65.11 per cent. While 10 states have achieved 100 per cent coverage of health workers with the first dose, Punjab, despite adequate vaccine supplies, has not been able to cover even the identified groups. Likewise, only 63 per cent of



Rail passengers line up to get tested in Mumbai on Wednesday. PTI

### MUTANTS DETECTED ACROSS 18 STATES

**10,787 TOTAL SAMPLES FROM FOREIGN TRAVELLERS**

#### 'VARIANTS OF CONCERN'

Punjab 336 | Telangana 104 |

Delhi 69 | Maharashtra 62 |

Haryana 6 | Ladakh 1

#### PB, CHANDIGARH SEE LOW VAX COVERAGE AMONG HEALTH WORKERS

Punjab 65.11% | Chandigarh 63% | Telangana 62.01% | Nagaland 64.04%

100% in Kerala, Odisha, Lakshadweep, Rajasthan and Bihar

the health workers have received the first shots in Chandigarh," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan

said. The Centre will meet district magistrates and health officials of Punjab's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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## Nikita killers convicted in 5 mths

BIJENDRA AHLAWAT  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDABAD, MARCH 24

The District and Sessions Court on Wednesday convicted Tausif and his aide Rehan in the Nikita Tomar murder case. The quantum of sentence will be pronounced on Friday. Nikita (21) was shot by Tausif (22) near her college in Ballabhgarh on October 26 last year.

Tausif, who had been pressuring the victim to marry him, his accomplice Rehan and one Arjuddin, who had

Was shot outside F'bad college in Oct last year; sentencing tomorrow



supplied the weapon, were arrested soon after the incident. "While Tausif and Rehan have been convicted

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

under Sections 302 (murder), 366 (kidnapping a woman to compel her into marriage) and 120-B/34 (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC, Arjuddin has been held guilty under the Arms Act," said Adal Singh Rawat, one of the prosecution lawyers.

He said the prosecution produced 55 witnesses and the defence only two. A five-member SIT had submitted a 700-page chargesheet against the accused on November 6, 11 days after the crime.

US SENATE CONFIRMS  
INDO-AMERICAN MURTHY  
AS SURGEON GENERAL

WORLD

crore "profit" with the state treasury a few days ago.

In a letter to CM Capt Amarinder Singh in January, PPSC Chairman Lt Gen Surinder Singh (retd) had demanded fee reduction for various categories, including women, economically weaker sections and persons with disabilities. He also appended a comparative list of money charged by the UPSC and other state service commissions for various exams.

Except SC/ST and OBC categories, all others are being

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## PPSC making megabucks with hefty exam fee

BALWANT GARG & AMAN SOOD  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT/PATIALA, MARCH 24 While various government boards and corporations are under debt, the Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC) is proving to be a money-minting machine for the state government.

From April 1, 2020, to January 31, 2021, the commission collected over Rs 32.60 crore as examination and registration fee for various recruitment drives. The total expenditure incurred by the commission

#### GLARING DIFFERENCE

SERVICE COMMISSION	CHARGES (GEN CATEGORY)
Punjab	₹3,000
Himachal	₹1,500
Haryana	₹1,000
Rajasthan	₹350
Uttar Pradesh	₹125
Meghalaya	₹100
Gujarat	₹100
UPSC	₹200

on conducting these exams was only Rs 8.91 crore. The PPSC deposited around Rs 24

crore "profit" with the state treasury a few days ago.

In a letter to CM Capt Amarinder Singh in January, PPSC Chairman Lt Gen Surinder Singh (retd) had demanded fee reduction for various categories, including women, economically weaker sections and persons with disabilities. He also appended a comparative list of money charged by the UPSC and other state service commissions for various exams.

Except SC/ST and OBC categories, all others are being

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T & Apply

# Govt targets 35K Covid tests a day

39 deaths, 2,634 fresh cases in past 24 hours | Jalandhar worst-hit with 11 casualties

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 24  
To deal with the second Covid wave, Punjab has decided to increase the sample testing capacity. At present, the state is conducting 30,000 tests a day but now the government is working to enhance it to 35,000 tests daily.

In the past one year, the state has conducted 56.6 lakh tests. The daily average of tests remained around 15,000 samples. Out of the total samples, 2.17 lakh were found Covid positive. Since the breakout of Covid, the positivity rate has remained 3.84



A health official collects a swab sample in Nawanshahr. MALKIAT SINGH

per cent in the state.

The state reported 2,634 fresh cases and 39 deaths in the past 24 hours. With these cases, the total number of cases so far has reached 2.2 lakh and the total number of deaths 6,474.

In district-wise break-up of deaths, Jalandhar topped the chart with 11 deaths, Hoshiarpur, Ropar and Kapurthala reported four deaths each, Patiala and Gurdaspur three deaths each, Ludhiana, SAS Nagar and Amritsar reported two deaths each, Muktsar, Sangrur, Faridkot and Fatehgarh Sahib reported one death each.

The Union Health Ministry

on Wednesday said the surge of cases in Maharashtra and Punjab was of "grave concern". The state has the most number of coronavirus samples with mutations, followed by Telangana, Delhi, and Maharashtra, as per the state-wise data released by the Union Health Ministry.

A total of 771 cases of coronavirus variants have been detected across 18 states. Punjab accounts for 336 such cases. Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said the Centre held a meeting with health officials of Maharashtra and Punjab on Saturday to talk about refinement in their strategy to tackle the surge.

# Screening, social distancing given go-by at Amritsar shrines

GS PAUL

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, MARCH 24

Despite a spurt in Covid cases, scant precautionary measures are being adopted at the Golden Temple and Durgiana Mandir in Amritsar. When a Tribune team visited both shrines, it appeared the devotees did not see much reason in taking precautions against the pandemic.

It was left to the 'discretion' of the devotees to follow the guidelines. Six feet physical distance and face mask



Devotees without masks at the Golden Temple. PHOTO: VISHAL KUMAR

## CAN'T FORCE THEM TO WEAR MASKS

"Earlier, we used to ask the devotees to take off the masks before entering, but now, there is no restriction. It is devotees' own will whether to wear a mask or not. Golden Temple sewadar

## Hola Mohalla begins

KIRATPUR SAHIB, MARCH 24

The first phase of the 6-day Hola Mohalla festival started here today. After three days, the venue will be shifted to Anandpur Sahib on March 27. The festival will be concluded on March 29 with a procession and display of martial arts by Nihang Sikhs.

The festival started with the beating of drums and ardas. Akhand paths have also been started at various gurdwaras at Kiratpur Sahib, bhog of which will be held on March 26.

To keep a check on the

### Covid -ve report must for foreigners

spread of Covid-19, the district administration has appealed to visitors to take all preventive measures, including the use of sanitisers, masks, hand wash and social distancing.

In Bathinda, 697 persons have been issued challans for not wearing masks. Similarly, 544 persons have been chalanned in Mansa district.

Bathinda SSP Bhupinderjeet Singh Virk made an appeal to the public to follow the instructions issued by the state government.

## 697 challaned in Bathinda

BATHINDA, MARCH 24

Joint teams of the Punjab Police and Health Department have intensified issuing challans and conducting tests to mask violators in Bathinda and Mansa.

In Bathinda, 697 persons have been issued challans for not wearing masks. Similarly, 544 persons have been chalanned in Mansa district.

Mansa SSP Surender Lamba said, "In the past few days, 1,900 face mask violators have undergone Covid tests and 544



A man without a mask being challanned in Bathinda. PAWAN SHARMA

persons have been issued challans. The police also distributed free masks to 2,000 persons in the district." — TNS

Unlike last year when ample arrangements were in place to check the health of devotees before letting them in, this time no thought was effort was made to set up a health check-up counter or arrangement for hand sanitisation. A sewadar at the entrance of the Golden Temple said, "Earlier, we used to ask the devotees to take off the masks before entering, but now, there is no restriction. It is devotees' own will whether to wear a mask or not."

Another sewadar also joined in to express his view-

point. "It is 'babe da dwar' (a place of faith) and people come here to seek blessings for good health and prosperity. No one can be forced to do anything," he said.

SGPC honorary chief secretary Harjinder Singh Dhama said though no visitor could be forced to wear a mask, but from today, the sewadars would be directed to encourage the visitors to wear one. We will shortly hold a meeting with the

Deputy Commissioner for engaging health teams and take other preventive steps," he said.

At Durgiana Mandir, absolutely no arrangement has been made to comply with the guidelines. Mandir committee president Ramesh Sharma said, "We have sanitisation tunnels. These will be installed soon. Also, the devotees will be asked to wear masks and maintain social distancing."

## Farmers' sacrifice won't go in vain, say Sikh leaders

AMRITSAR, MARCH 24

A programme to pay homage to Navreet Singh, who died during the tractor march in Delhi on Republic Day, and others who lost their lives during the course of the farm agitation was organised in the Golden Temple complex today. Sikh organisations held an ardas and 'shardhanjali samagam' for the success of the agitation against the three central farm laws.

Actor Yograv Singh urged farmer leaders to form a political party and contest all 117 Assembly seats in the state. He said without being in the position of power, their agenda will remain unfulfilled. "If you (farm leaders) do not take any political step, the people will not spare you." The crowd cheered him with "Bole So Nihal".

Morcha leader Balbir Singh Rajewal, however, clarified that their movement was apolitical and they had no intentions to fight elections. He said they toured all five

## No 'ghar wapsi' until farm laws repealed: SKM

FATEHGHAR SAHIB, MARCH 24

Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) leaders today addressed a "Kisan mahapanchayat" at the grain market in Sirhind. Amid loud cheering and sloganising from the crowd, SKM leaders declared that there would be no 'ghar wapsi' from the Delhi borders until the three central farm laws were repealed.

Actor Yograv Singh urged farmer leaders to form a political party and contest all 117 Assembly seats in the state. He said without being in the position of power, their agenda will remain unfulfilled. "If you (farm leaders) do not take any political step, the people will not spare you." The crowd cheered him with "Bole So Nihal".

Morcha leader Balbir Singh Rajewal, however, clarified that their movement was apolitical and they had no intentions to fight elections. He said they toured all five



Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) leaders during a mahapanchayat at Sirhind. TRIBUNE PHOTO

poll-bound states and urged people to defeat the BJP. Rajewal said he had cautioned the people and politicians in 2017 about the intentions of the Modi government and held all-party meetings. He said PPCC chief Sunil Jakhar and SAD leader Bal-

winder Singh Bhunder supported us to lead a struggle, but the latter hadn't been visible during ever since the agitation began.

He warned that a certain section of the media and the BJP's IT cell were making all-out efforts to confuse masses

and defame their agitation.

Dr Darshan Pal recounted the achievements of their agitation and said that it had united all the sections of the society, including the youth, women and panthic organisations all over the country. "It has been discussed in parlia-

### DON'T WEAR MASKS

"The government is trying to sabotage our agitation on the pretext of Covid threat. Don't wear masks and if any cop stops you, hold a protest.

Ruldu Singh Mansa, UNION LEADER

ments of various countries and many human rights organisations have supported our just cause. He made it clear that there will be no "Ghar Wapsi" till farm laws were repealed.

Gurnam Singh Chaduni, in his address, said all three farm laws were on ventilator and would not survive for long. They were sitting at the Delhi border just to get the death certificate of these laws, he added. Langars were organised by SGPC, panchayats and NGOs. — OC

## All set for Bharat Bandh tomorrow

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 24

Prem Singh Bhangu, president of the All-India Kisan Federation and leader of Samyukt Kisan Morcha, said preparations had been made for Bharat Bandh on March 26. As per the reports received, the "bandh" will be observed in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra, apart from Punjab and Haryana.

Preparations were in full-swing for the "bandh" in these states, said Bhangu.

The agitation, which started from Punjab, had spread all over India and now it had become a people's movement, he said. Farmers were determined to continue their struggle until the three anti-farmers' laws were repealed, he said.

### ABOHAR TRADERS EXTEND SUPPORT

Beopar Mandal, Arhtiya Association, District Halwai and Bakery Association and Dodhi (milk vendors) Union in Abohar have extended support to the Bharat Bandh call.

On March 26, road and rail traffic, as well as the markets would remain closed. Even the government offices would observe complete "bandh" from 9 am to 6 pm, but essential services would be exempted, he said. Bhangu said there was a widespread resentment among people against the apathetic attitude of the Union Government. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha has appealed to all sections of society to participate in the "bandh" with full strength. — TNS

## Protesting farmers shut mall

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SRIGANGANagar, MARCH 24

Taking cognizance of the reports that the staff of a big mall had reopened it thinking that farmers' stir on Delhi borders had become less effective, representatives of farmers organisations reached Ridhi Siddhi Colony to shut it.

Kisan Army spokesman Gurpal Singh Brar said ex-MLA Het Ram Beniwal, District Congress Committee president Prithivpal Singh Sandhu and members Gurmeet Singh Mann, Sandeep Singh and Gurjant Singh asked the staff why they resumed work when three other malls were lying shut. The staff assured them that the mall would not be opened till



Protesters outside a shopping mall in Srigananagar. TRIBUNE PHOTO

farmers' agitation continued. Brar said none of the toll plazas was charging fee in Sri-ganganagar after the sit-ins

by farmer organisations. "We will continue raising strength at the Shahjahanpur morcha and Delhi, he added.

## Minor 'killed', case registered

ABOHAL, MARCH 24

The police here today registered a case under Sections 302 and 201 of the IPC on the complaint of Arjun, a native of Jharkhand, at Lande Rode village in Muktsar, in connection with the death of his 16-year-old younger brother.

He said Ganesh, a Class X student, went missing on March 18. His body, tied with a rope, was recovered from a canal near Alamgarh village in Abohal yesterday.

The victim carried a mobile phone in his school bag. The police said prima facie it appeared that Ganesh was kidnapped and thrown into the canal. The body was today handed over to the family after post-mortem. — OC

## Sampla visits Sangrur boy paraded with hands tied

Tribune News Service

SAKHA KHURD, MARCH 24

National Commission for Scheduled Castes Chairman Vijay Sampla today visited the Dalit boy who was reportedly paraded in Bhasaur village recently with hands tied at the back along with three other minor boys in an alleged theft case.

Since Sampla and his team did not meet the residents of Bhasaur, who had converged at a local school to share their feedback, they protested after the panel chief left the village. Though the police on March 14 had registered an FIR under Sections 499, 500, 341, 342, 323, 34 of the IPC and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act against four accused, the delay in the arrest has angered the parents of the four boys.

"The incident took place on March 7, but an FIR was registered on March 14 as the police received the complaint late. There might be multiple reasons for delay in submitting complaint, but to date we are satisfied with the working of the Sangrur police as they registered the FIR immediately after get-



NCSC Chairman Vijay Sampla (L) with the father and mother of the girls who were murdered, at Sekha Khurd village in Moga.

### MEETS PARENTS OF SLAIN MOGA SISTERS

**Moga:** NCSC Chairman Vijay Sampla on Wednesday met family members of the two sisters, who were brutally murdered in Moga. At Sekha Khurd village, Sampla directed the District Magistrate to ensure pension for the eldest member of the family, a government job, free education up to graduation to eligible family member and cultivable land as per the SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1999. TNS

ting complaint and have also added more sections, as per our letter," Sampla said after meeting the Dalit family and presiding over a meeting of senior officers of Sangrur.

"We have directed the Sangrur SSP to arrest the accused in two days and we have also got deputed a police vehicle near the residence of the Dalit family for their protection," Sampla said.

to the residence of the Dalit family in Bhasaur and later shared all details with the commission team.

"We have directed the Sangrur SSP to arrest the accused in two days and we have also got deputed a police vehicle near the residence of the Dalit family for their protection," Sampla said.

## After HC snub, Gurdaspur SSP transferred

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 24  
Within days of the Punjab and Haryana High Court questioning appointment of police officials, chargesheeted or convicted in a criminal case, on key posts, the government today shifted the Gurdaspur SSP Rajinder Singh Sohal, who was convicted in a case.

The government ordered his transfer replacing him with Dr Nanak Singh. The orders were part of the list of eight officers shifted today. The transfer of others was not related to the High Court order. On a petition filed by an ex-police officer, the High Court said, "It is disquieting to note that Sohal, who has been convicted in a criminal case, is posted as SSP of Gurdaspur district. He has been convicted in a CBI case and sentenced to imprisonment for three years on March 11, 2013."

The other postings included Surjeet Singh, DIG STF, Ferozepore and Ludhiana range; Kashmir Singh Gill, AIG STF, Ropar; Lakhbir Singh, Commandant, IRB, Amritsar; Kuljeet Singh, AIG STF, Amritsar; Rajpal Singh, AIG STF, Jalandhar; Nirmaljit Singh, AIG STF, Ferozepore; Davinder Singh, SP STF, Bathinda and Ferozepore. — TNS

## Shunted, college lecturer demands investigation

FEROZEPUR, MARCH 24

Ad hoc lecturers working in a private college here levelled allegations of high-handedness against the college authorities. In a written complaint submitted to the college management, Dr Manpreet Singh, a resident of Jalalabad, said he had joined the college last year in September as Hin-

## Divyangjans honoured

CHANDIGAR

**Safety Tips for Shopkeepers****To Curb Corona**

Maintain Social Distance Between Customers

Sanitizer Should Be Arranged at The Entrance Point of Every Shop

Avoid Cash Transactions, Keep an option for Online Payments

Use Gloves While Delivering Goods To Customer

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Sh. Manohar Lal

Chief Minister, Haryana



# CM digitally shifts 10K teachers

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 24  
CM Capt Amarinder Singh today digitally ordered mass transfers of schoolteachers in line with the Teachers Transfer Policy-2019.

With the touch of a button, the CM cleared the transfers of 10,099 teachers and volunteers to the station of their choice on merit basis. Education Minister Vijay Inder Singh was also present on the occasion. A total of 35,386 online applications were received from aspiring teachers and volunteers, of whom 15,481 were found ineligible as they fell short of the prescribed parameters of the policy. The remaining 19,905 were found eligible for transfer. For the first time, computer teachers and various categories of education volunteers were brought into the ambit of the Teachers Transfer Policy.

The Chief Minister said the

**OVER 50% APPLICATIONS APPROVED**

<b>35,386</b>	<b>15,481</b>	<b>19,905</b>
Online applications received	Found ineligible	Eligible for transfer

■ For the first time, computer teachers and education volunteers were brought into the ambit of the Teachers Transfer Policy

**EXEMPTED FROM SUBMITTING ONLINE PLEAS**

- Those suffering from cancer, hepatitis B and C, sickle cell anaemia, thalassaemia or on dialysis, handicapped to the extent of 60%, divorcees and having differently or mentally challenged children, war widows, widows of martyrs etc
- The orders in such cases will be issued with the approval of the Chief Minister on merit



transfer policy had been instrumental in successfully achieving the goal of quality education through filling of vacant posts. "This has helped in ensuring uninterrupted academic session, besides giving enormous job satisfaction to teachers to work at the places of their choice," he said.

adding that the government would soon enact the Teachers Transfer Act in place of the existing system of notification issued by the School Education Department.

The CM lauded various projects of the department for upgrading infrastructure and improving the quality of edu-

cation in schools. He said Teachers Transfer Policy-2019 was a major step in ensuring qualitative improvement in school education.

Under the online system, over 50 per cent transfer applications had been approved. As many as 10,099 teachers, including 4,405 masters, 3,748 primary teachers and 718 lecturers and an adequate number of computer teachers working under the Punjab ICT Education Society, had availed the benefit of the policy.

An official spokesperson said the teachers, aspiring for transfer, needed to apply on the department's portal. Those suffering from cancer, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, sickle cell anaemia, thalassaemia or on dialysis, handicapped to the extent of 60 per cent, divorcees and having differently or mentally challenged children were exempted from submitting online transfer requests.

## ₹3.27 crore for labs' upgrade in schools

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 24

On the directions of School Education Minister Vijay Inder Singh, over Rs 3.27 crore has been released for renovation of science and computer labs and libraries.

A spokesman for the School Education Department said had been provided for 3,638 schools. Education Secretary Krishan Kumar directed the officers concerned to upgrade labs and libraries to smart rooms for which Rs 9,000 has been provided to each school.

According to the spokesperson, the amount would be utilised for paint, flex, door mats, curtains, clocks, display boards, newspapers, reading stands and syllabus handler. The education department was fully committed to revamp the school infrastructure and the funds had been released in this direction, the spokesperson said. — TNS

# Stop farm DBT scheme for one year, Capt urges Modi

Shoots off letter to PM seeking its early resolution

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**TOUGH TO CHANGE OLD PRACTICE**

■ The Centre is taking revenge on farmers through procurement as they didn't agree to the three farm laws... How is it possible to change the 40-year-old relationship between farmers and arthiyas? Procurement is starting next week. How can computerised details be provided so suddenly. Ravneet Singh Bittu, LUDHIANA MP



So how will those who till the land get their money under the DBT?" he said at a media event.

In his letter, the CM drew the PM's attention to the ministry's directions, asking the state to ensure direct payment to farmers, along with online submission of the details of land owners/cultivators. Pointing to the age-old relationship between arthiyas, licensees

under the Agriculture Produce Market Committee Act, and farmers, he said for many decades procurement agencies and the FCI had been procuring foodgrain for the central pool. Farmers had never complained of non-receipt of payment of MSP and the government was ensuring online payment to them, albeit through arthiyas, he added.

हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार ने पूरा किया अपना वादा - घर द्वार पर वी सुविधाएं ज्यादा से ज्यादा है।

**ऑनलाइन पेमेन्ट का ज़माना है।**

प्रदेश को आगे बढ़ाना है।

विषुव बिल और विषुव आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी सभी सुविधाएं अब घर द्वार पर।

**ऑनलाइन सुविधाएं:**

1. विषुव बिल देखने की सुविधा।
2. विषुव बिल भुगतान करने की सुविधा।
3. विषुव बिल कैलकुलेट (Calculate) करने की सुविधा।
4. पैशन सम्बन्धी जानकारी ली की सुविधा।
5. कर्मचारियों सम्बन्धी सुविधाएं।
6. नये कैनेक्शन सम्बन्धी सुविधाएं।
7. विषुव आपूर्ति व विषुव बिल सम्बन्धी शिकायतों की सुविधा।
8. विषुव बोर्ड लिमिटेड सम्बन्धी सभी जानकारी की सुविधा।

मुख्य रूप से उपभोक्ता, हिमाचल प्रदेश स्टेट इलैक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड लिमिटेड की वेबसाइट <https://www.hpseb.in> पर जाकर View / Pay Energy Bills without Login की ऑप्शन पर जाकर अपना 12 नम्बरों का कन्जूमर आईडी, भरकर अपना विजली बिल देख सकते हैं और भुगतान कर सकते हैं।

**ऑनलाइन विजली बिल भुगतान के माध्यम**

- हिमाचल प्रदेश स्टेट इलैक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड लिमिटेड की वेबसाइट [www.hpseb.in](http://www.hpseb.in)
- HPSEBL मोबाइल ऐप।
- भारत बिल भुगतान प्रणाली (BBPS) बैंक और नॉन बैंक सुविधाओं जैसे पेटीएम, एमजून पे और गुगल पे इत्यादि।
- ऑनलाइन एनईएफटी, आरटीजीएस।
- लोकमित्र केन्द्र

**ऑनलाइन सुविधा के लाभ**

- सुविधा जानक है।
- सुरक्षित है।
- आपका समय बचाता है।
- पर्यावरण के अनुकूल है।
- बेहतर धन प्रबंधक है।
- आपको व्यवस्थित रखता है।
- आधुनिक तकनीकी का उचित प्रयोग।

**दिजिटल बिल, विषुव उप- मंडलों के कैश काउंटरों पर भी दिये जा सकते हैं।**

किसी भी जानकारी के लिए टोल फ़्री नम्बर **1800-180-8060** वा **1912** पर संपर्क करें। सभी सुविधाओं के लिए **HPSEBL** की वेबसाइट <https://www.hpseb.in> वा **HPSEBL** ऐप का प्रयोग करें।

उपभोक्ता विकास फोरम (CGRA), कर्मसूली, लिम्ला-9, दूरभाष 0177-2626483 विषुव आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी सेवाओं में विज्ञापन के लिए आप समर्पक कर सकते हैं। विषुव लॉकपाल (Electricity Ombudsman) रालीगढ़ लिम्ला-2 दूरभाष 0177-2624525

**हिमाचल प्रदेश स्टेट इलैक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड लिमिटेड**

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# Fraud case: HC raps state for brushing matter under carpet

SAURABH MALIK

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 24 Rapping Punjab for apparent attempts to push under the carpet the issue regarding the alleged fraudulent allotment of plots, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has called for an affidavit by the Principal Secretary concerned. He has been asked to delineate the measures taken after the submission of a report in the matter by the Vigilance Bureau to "ensure that faith of the general public in system is kept intact."

The direction by the Bench of Chief Justice Ravi Shanker Jha and Justice Arun Palli came on a petition filed against the State and other respondents by Satinder Singh through counsel Baltej Singh Sidhu. Referring to reports carried in different newspapers in September 2019, Sidhu had contended that the petitioner came to know about the scam in the allotment of plots by the Punjab State Industries and Export Corporation (PSIEC).

Sidhu submitted that an inquiry was marked to the



Vigilance Bureau regarding forgery in the plots' allotment in the industrial focal points in the State. The inquiry officer concluded that the PSIEC officers misused their position to get the plots allotted to their close relatives, friends and others, causing financial loss running into crores to the government.

It further concluded that the PSIEC officers were involved in the scam in connivance with their relatives and ultimately it was suggested to register a criminal case after taking legal opinion. The Bench during the course of hearing was told that the petitioner was aggrieved by apparent inaction on the part of the respondent authorities to initiate criminal prosecution and proceedings

against those found guilty of embezzlement and involved in fraudulent allotment of plots in accordance with the report submitted by the Vigilance Bureau after carrying out the inquiry.

The Bench observed notices were issued to the respondent authorities way back in January last year and still time was being prayed for to submit the response. The Bench noted in its order that in response to a pointed query whether the matter had made tangible progress pursuant to the report, Punjab Deputy Advocate-General stated a committee of officers, belonging to the PSIEC, had been constituted to examine the issue.

"Once the Vigilance Bureau has already conducted an inquiry and submitted a report, the act of the authorities in still constituting a committee consisting of the officers of the same institution (PSIEC), which is under scrutiny, defies logic. Rather, it appears to be an attempt to brush the entire issue under the carpet," the Bench asserted. — TNS

## Murder case against ex-DGP, IGP committed to sessions court

FARIDKOT, MARCH 24

For framing of charges against former Punjab DGP Sumedh Singh Saini and under suspension IGP Paramraj Singh Umrangal in the Behbal Kalan police firing case, the court of Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Faridkot, on Wednesday committed the challan in the case for trial before the court of District and Sessions Judge.

Umrangal and Saini were nominated as accused in the murder case on September 27, 2020. The Home Department of the state government had granted permission to prosecute both senior police officers on February 16 this year.

In the case under Sections 302, 307, 218, 201, 166-A, 120-B, 34, 194, 195 and 109 of the IPC and Sections 25/27 of Arms Act, the challan against other co-accused, including former Moga SSP Charanjit Sharma and many other police officials, was already committed to the sessions court as the offence under Sections 302 and 307 of the Indian Penal Code are exclusively triable by the sessions court. — TNS

# Farmers hold dharna over land acquisition for Katra highway

Police foil march towards Chief Minister's residence in Patiala

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



Farmers stage a sit-in near Patiala on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: RAJESH SACHAR

are protesting at Delhi borders and the state government is instrumental in acquiring their land."

The farmers also said they were not getting adequate compensation for their land. Gurnaib Singh, a protesting farmer, said: "The government is acquiring land at low rates to help industrialists. So, we won't

if the government gives four times the market price and not the collector rate, which has not been revised for decades."

The protesting farmers said they would stage a sit-in for five days and would again march towards the CM residence on the sixth day if their demands were not met.

## Rape accused sentenced to 7-year jail

AOHAR, MARCH 24

A

Special Court established under Section 28(1) of the POCSO Act at Sriganganagar sentenced a man, accused of raping a teenager, to seven years of rigorous imprisonment.

The police said on Wednesday the accused, identified as Raju, alias Rajendra Kumar (33) of Chak 3 MLD, was convicted by the Special Court under Sections 376 (1) and 3/4 of the POCSO Act to seven years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000 was also imposed. Failure to pay the fine would result in additional punishment of one year in jail. Raju was exonerated on charges of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, but under Section 450 of the Indian Penal Code, a sentence of five years and a fine of Rs 4,000 had been imposed. Compensation has also been recommended to the victim.

As per the case registered on May 21, 2016, Raju jumped into a house when the complainant had gone to his field for watering the crop. The accused allegedly raped the 14-year-old daughter of the complainant. — OC

## Congress MLAs meet Kishor, flag concerns over high power, sand prices



Prashant Kishor

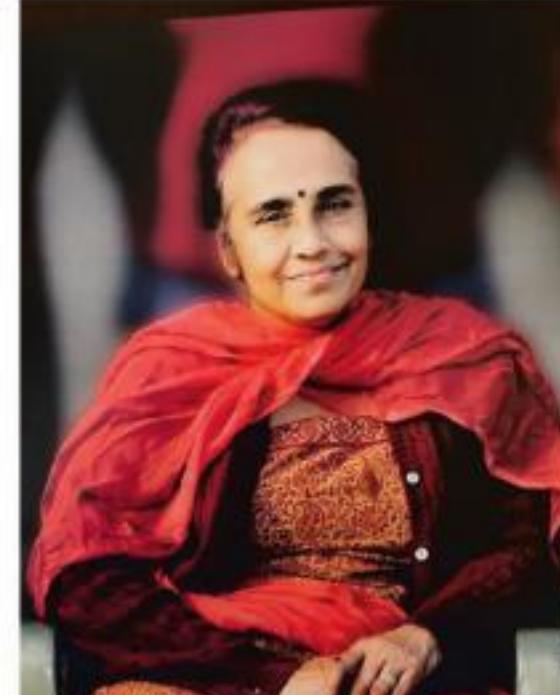
in 2017, the Principal Adviser and his team have been interacting with leaders and Punjab Government officials. On Wednesday, the Adviser, along with a Political Adviser to the Chief Minister, met nearly 37 first-time MLAs to get the feedback.

The issue of bringing a white paper and terminating/negotiating the controversial power purchase agreements with private thermal plants, bringing to book the accused in the Bargari sacrifice incidents and subsequent police firing were highlighted by others. One of the legislators said since the political strategist was involved in the poll promises during the 2017 Assembly elections, it

had also been pointed out that while there was no issue with the intent of the government schemes like minibus permits, it should be seen on the ground that genuine people should be accommodated and not the influential and politically connected.

As part of the exercise to review the status of the poll promises made to the masses

## In Memoriam



**Manjula Sharma**, daughter of Mr. Prakash Ananda (Ex-Editor The Tribune) & Mrs. Kanta Sharma, born in Lahore in 1945, passed away on March 17, 2021 in Chandigarh.

She will be deeply missed by family and friends, and fondly remembered by students and colleagues at NIT Kurukshetra where she served as a Professor of English Language & Communications from 1982-2010.

A private prayer meeting will be held in her memory at our residence. Given current restrictions, we request you to pray for her soul and celebrate her life with your family and friends wherever you may be...

Dr. B. L. Sharma (+91 81969-22066)

Roopa & Deepak  
Rohit & Reenu  
Rahul & Deeptha

And her favorites of them all: Nakul, Neha, Chhavi, Nandini, Mira, Sahir, and Vedant.

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/AUTH.	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/ CORP/AUTH.	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE BALLABGARH COOP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD., MILK PLANT BALLABGARH	MPF/FENG/2021/8840-48 2021_HBC_163456_1	THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION WAS 23.03.2021 AT 11:00 HRS IS FURTHER EXTENDED UP TO 02.04.2021 AT 11:00 HRS.	www.vitaindia.org.in	9968604725
2	THE AMBALA DISTT. COOP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD.	ID: 2021_HBC_160629_1, 2021_HBC_160668_1, 2021_HBC_160626_1, 2021_HBC_160981_1, 2021_HBC_160993_1	THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION WAS 16.03.2021 AT 11:00 HRS IS FURTHER EXTENDED UP TO 02.04.2021 AT 11:00 HRS.	www.vitaindia.org.in	milkplant@vitambala.com
3	HVPNL	NIT NO. 36/AMINP/MF/CIRCLE_DKT/2020-21 DATED: 10.03.2021	THE TENDER WAS TO BE OPENED ON DATED 22.03.2021. NOW DATE EXTENDED UP TO 05.04.2021 DUE TO NON TURNING UP MINIMUM BIDDERS I.E. 3 NO. BIDDERS	www.hvpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
4	HVPNL	NIT NO: 28/AMB/2020 KV SHAHBAD/2020-21, DATED 09.02.2021	THE TENDER WAS TO BE OPENED ON DATED 22.03.2021. NOW DATE EXTENDED UP TO 01.04.2021 DUE TO NON TURNING UP MINIMUM BIDDERS I.E. 3 NO. BIDDERS	www.hvpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
5	THE AMBALA DISTT. COOP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD.	2021_HBC_161222_1	THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION WAS 19.03.2021 AT 11:00 HRS IS FURTHER EXTENDED UP TO 29.03.2021 AT 11:00 HRS. CORRIGENDUM FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PREPACK POUCH FILLING MACHINE AND CODING OF POUCHES ON MILK LASSI AND DAHI AND GHEE.	www.vitaindia.org.in	milkplant@vitambala.com
6	HVPNL	NIT NO: 27/CWFG-25/VOL-IV/2020-21 DATED 28.12.2020	LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION- 08.04.2021 (11:00 A.M.)	PRDH/13/2021/120/2321/I/31/4	01722583789 pro@hvpn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE					
NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER		OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN Rupees	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA STATE HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	CONSTRUCTION OF WORKING PLATE FORM OF SIZE 2100 SFT AREA FOR MEDIA PREPARATION AT COE FOR FLOWER CULTIVATION AND SEED PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY AT MUNIMPUR JHAJJAR	CLOSING DATE 05.04.2021	EMD 6500/-	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
2	HARYANA STATE HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	CONSTRUCTION OF BEE KEEPING SHED OF SIZE (50FT X 20 FT X 11.50FT) AT COE FOR FLOWER CULTIVATION AND SEED PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY AT MUNIMPUR JHAJJAR	CLOSING DATE 05.04.2021	EMD 5000/-	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
3	MC SONIPAT	CLEANING WASHING & MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC & COMMUNITY TOILETS IN MUNICIPAL CORPORATION SONIPAT.	CLOSING DATE 30.03.2021	NIL	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
4	MC SONIPAT	SUPPLY INSTALLATION TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF FLOWMETER AT KAROI ROAD STP AND RATHDHANA STP IN MC SONIPAT	CLOSING DATE 31.03.2021	13.82 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
5	HSAMB KAITHAL	CONSTRUCTION OF LINK ROAD FROM VILL. PAI-PUNDRI ROAD NEAR OUTER RING ROAD BADALA THEH. (M.C. PAI) ID-9967 AND 12 OTHER	CLOSING DATE 15.04.2021	512 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
6	HVPNL	PROVIDING 2 WORKERS FOR DOING THE JOB OF HELPER/MALIS/AFAI KARAMCHARI AT EACH NEWLY COMMISSIONED 66 KV S/STN, HVPNL, TAPRIAN AND 66 KV S/STN, HVPNL, RASULPUR FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.04.2021 TO 31.03.2022 DURING FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-22	18.03.2021 30.03.2021	8.84 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
7	HVPNL	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL AND U/C FENCING AT 220 KV S/STN. HVPNL ROHTAK	19.03.2021 30.03.2021	1.31 CRORE	<a href="http://www.hvpn.org.in">www.hvpn.org.in</a>
8	HVPNL	AUGMENTATION OF 66KV S/STN. BARVALA FROM (1X25/31.5 MVA + 1X12.5/16 MVA) 66/11KV TRANSFORMERS TO 2X25/31.5 MVA, 66/11KV TRANSFORMERS IN FY 2020-21.	18.03.2021 26.03.2021	8.32 LACS	<a href="http://www.hvpn.org.in">www.hvpn.org.in</a>
9	DHBVN	SUPPLY INSTALLATION TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF ELECTRIC LINES UP TO 11 KV VOLTAGE LEVEL ON TURNKEY BASIS BY EXECUTING THE WORK UNDER MGJG SCHEME ON 5 NOS. RDS FEEDERS IN (OP) DIVISION HODAL, NIT NO/SE/OP/	19.03.2021 09.04.2021	6.08 CRORE	<a href="http://www.dhbvn.org.in">www.dhbvn.org.in</a>
10	MC JHAJJAR	BIO-REMEDIATION OF THE LEGACY WASTE OF THE DUMP SITES AT MC JHAJJAR.	22.03.2021 31.03.2021	EMD 2.50 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
11	DHBVN	SUPPLY AND ERECTION OF MATERIAL ALONGWITH TESTING AND COMMISSIONING THEREOF FOR THE WORK OF RELEASE OF TUBE WELL CONNECTIONS (AGRICULTURE) IN 10 NO. CIRCLES UNDER DHBVN IN SIX DIFFERENT PACKAGES AGAINST TED-348/PD&C/2021	25.03.2021 16.04.2021	296.28 CRORE	<a href="http://www.dhbvn.org.in">www.dhbvn.org.in</a>
12	HVPNL	AUGMENTATION OF EXISTING 12.5/16 MVA, 66/11 KV T/F T-2 B7Y 25/31.5 MVA 66/11 KV T/F AT 66 KV S/STN. HVPNL, PALWAL.	20.03.2021 07.04.2021	2.67 LACS	<a href="http://www.hvpn.org.in">www.hvpn.org.in</a>
13	HVPNL	PROCUREMENT OF 220V, 600AH AND 48V, 800AH VRLA BATTERY BANKS	26.03.2021 26.04.2021	71.73 LACS	<a href="http://www.hvpn.org.in">www.hvpn.org.in</a>
14	MC SONIPAT	PROVIDING SEWERAGE SYSTEM IN LEFT OUT AREA INCLUDING Q&M OF ONE YEAR DURING DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD AND FIVE YEAR THEREAFTER AT SONIPAT TOWN	CLOSING DATE 30.03.2021	21.65 CRORE	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
15	HSAMB PANIPAT	ANNUAL REPAIR OF VARIOUS LINK ROADS IN M.C. PANIPAT FOR THE YEAR 2021-22 (13 OTHER WORKS)	CLOSING DATE 09.04.2021	88 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
16	HSAMB KAITHAL	ANNUAL REPAIR OF VARIOUS MC PROPERTIES IN EXT. MANDI, FAOC BUILDING, SECY. & SDO RESIDENCE, CLASS-III & IV STAFF QUARTERS AT PUNDRI. 2021-22 AND 12 OTHER	CLOSING DATE 19.04.2021	79 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
17	HRECL GURUGRAM	PROVIDING MANPOWER FOR REPAIRING AND RETREADING OF NYLON AND RADIAL TYRES OF THE SIZE 9.0			

# CBI calls for action against 5 TCP officials

BHARTESH SINGH THAKUR

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, MARCH 24** The CBI has called for disciplinary action against five officials of the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department for alleged lapses in land release and the grant of licence in favour of Krrish Buildtech Private Limited (now Brahma City Private Limited).

As per the CBI chargesheet filed before a special court in Panchkula, these officials are the then District Town Planner (DTP) Devendra Nimbokar (now Senior Town Planner (STP)), former DTP PP Singh (now STP), former Gurugram STP Kamal Kumar Saini (retired as Chief Town Planner), former Gurugram DTP Vijender Kumar (now STP), and former kanungo Chhotu Ram (now retired).

However, the department has not taken any action against them.

The CBI is pressing for a criminal trial against three former officials — former Chief Town Planner JS Redhu, former Assistant Town Planner SK Arora and former Deputy Superintendent Rajbir Singh — for corruption, cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy. They were handed over the chargesheet on March 22.

The case pertains to the release of notified land in favour of builders and grant of licences to them from 2009 to 2012 by cheating landowners and the state of Haryana.

The CBI chargesheet states that the licence appli-

**THE CASE FILE**

The CBI chargesheet states that the licence application of Krrish Buildtech for a plotted colony spread over 162 acres in Gurugram was processed at an "abnormal speed" from April 20, 2010, to May 27, 2010, when the Letter of Intent (LoI) was issued. The firm's 130 acres were released before the issuance of Section 6 of the Land Acquisition Act.

cation of Krrish Buildtech for a plotted colony spread over 162 acres was processed at an "abnormal speed" from April 20, 2010, to May 27, 2010, when the Letter of Intent (LoI) was issued. The firm's 130 acres were released before the issuance of Section 6 of the Land Acquisition Act.

The CBI said Redhu proposed the grant of licence by releasing the notified land on May 26, 2010, which was endorsed by then Director, Town and Country Planning (TCP) TC Gupta and then Financial Commissioner, TCP, DS Dhesi on May 26, 2010. It was approved by then Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda the same day, as conveyed by Chattar Singh, Principal Secretary to CM.

The same day, the draft LOI was put up and, the next day, Gupta signed it.

The CBI has told the court that the investigation against Hooda, 13 developers and others mentioned in the FIR is under way. Gupta's name is mentioned in the FIR registered in 2019.

# Don't finalise selection of art and craft teachers: High Court

**CHANDIGARH, MARCH 24**

Flooded by a "similar kind of writ petitions on a daily basis" challenging the appointment of arts and craft

teachers, the Punjab and Haryana High Court today restrained the Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC) from finalising the

selections to the posts till further orders to "avoid further complications".

The directions by Justice Tejinder Singh Dhindsa

came on a petition against the state of Haryana and other respondents by Punam Devi and 19 others through counsel Ravinder Bangar.

In his detailed order, Justice Dhindsa observed that the grievance in the instant petition was that the respondent-commission was

resorting to an arbitrary procedure to call candidates for the viva-voce/ interview, which could not stand the scrutiny of law. — TNS

## Public celebration of Holi banned

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, MARCH 24** The Haryana Government today banned the public celebration of Holi festival in the wake of the rise in the number of Covid-19 cases in the recent weeks. This year, Holi falls on March 29.

"The Haryana Government has banned the public celebration of Holi in view of the rise in the number of cases of coronavirus..." Home and Health Minister Anil Vij said in a tweet.

The state has witnessed a seven-fold rise in the weekly number of Covid-19 cases in a month. During the past few days, Haryana has been reporting over 800 new cases daily. As many as 3,104 per-

sons lost their lives to the pandemic as on Tuesday. Gurugram, Kurukshetra, Karnal, Ambala, Yamunanagar and Panchkula are among the worst-hit districts that are witnessing a surge in cases.

Meanwhile, former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda has announced that he wouldn't celebrate Holi this year due to the death of 300 farmers during the ongoing agitation on the borders of the national capital. "More than 300 farmers have died in the fight against the anti-farmer laws. In such a situation, it is not appropriate to celebrate any festival. I once again appealed to the government to accept the demands of the farmers," he said.

## Cash-for-job scam: Bailable warrants against two ACPS

**CHANDIGARH, MARCH 24** A Panchkula court has issued bailable warrants against ACP Purnima Singh and ACP Adarshdeep Singh after they failed to appear in the Haryana Staff Selection Commission's (HSSC) cash-for-job scam of 2018.

During a resumed hearing, Additional District and Sessions Judge Narender Sura observed that "ACP Purnima has not come to the court to get her statement recorded and on earlier dates, she did not appear due to the ongoing Assembly session".

"She is stated to be on leave. It appears that to avoid appearance, she has proceeded on leave and this court is of the view that with-

out the issuance of warrants, her presence cannot be secured," the Judge said.

ACP Purnima Singh is a complainant in the case. ACP Adarshdeep Singh, who was a member of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in the case, couldn't appear before the court as he was busy in conducting a departmental clerical examination. In the last hearing too, bailable warrants were issued against him.

The Chief Minister's Flying Squad had busted the racket on April 5, 2018. The scam is linked to the appointment of drivers, clerks and nurses against posts advertised by the Commission. — TNS

151 health and wellness centers

## DIGITAL INAUGURATION



Nine Police Stations

Sub-Tehsil Complex at Sham Chaurasi

## FOUNDATION STONE LAYING

of

4 Tehsil Complexes at

**MALERKOTLA, AHMEDGARH, BHAWANIGARH AND AMLOH**

# The Tribune

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## Counting pandemic losses

Worst may be over, but that is of little comfort

THE Supreme Court's decision to not allow waiver of complete interest and extension of the six-month Covid-related loan moratorium came with a telling observation that courts are not advisers to the executive on matters of economic policy. What the apex court did permit was the waiver of interest-on-interest or compound interest for all borrowers, while making it clear that it cannot interfere with the government's decision to fix priorities for relief during the pandemic. As the country marks a year since the first lockdown was announced — resulting in untold suffering — several questions continue to lurk. Has enough been done to help those affected the most? Did the series of sector-specific packages announced by the Centre have the desired effect? Did the decision-makers fall way short in extending assistance, and continue to?

Comparisons are odious and misplaced all the more in the Indian context, but it would be erroneous to not take note of Joe Biden's 'rescue plan'. The massive \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package dishes out \$1,400 payments to most Americans. More than money, what it sends out is a message of optimism and hope — in short supply as small and medium businesses in our country struggle to stay afloat and there is no end to job losses, even though the stock exchange may have us feel otherwise.

The loan moratorium was conceptualised as a crisis-response measure, so the banks have a valid argument to charge interest on the deferred EMIs. But that the crisis is far from over cannot be lost on the government. For many, the worst may be over, but what has followed is equally challenging, especially in the absence of any direct support. The silence and inaction on the visible markers of an upward spiral for home budgets, the exponentially high fuel and LPG prices, inspires little trust in policy intervention to bail out the struggling millions. A year since the announcement to lock down the country is as good a time as any for serious stock-taking.

## Deep rot of lawlessness

Gritty youngster's fight provides hope in crime-ridden UP

WITH sordid events of crime continuing to unfold in Uttar Pradesh every few minutes and the horrific ones among them making the headlines every few weeks, the state epitomises absence of rule of law. Especially lacking in security of life and dignity are the weak and downtrodden. In the latest shocker, two teenaged sisters were found dead under mysterious circumstances in Pilibhit. The district is yet to serve justice to its six-year-old daughter who had been raped and murdered last November. The dreadful deeds that the poor daughters of Hathras and Badaun suffered are unforgettable. These and the many other cases — both registered and not registered — underscore the shameful data revealed in the annual NCRB reports. The 2019 figures point to the state having the most number of crimes against the girl child and dowry cases, and the second highest number of cases of rape against Dalit women. A case of rape was registered with the UP police every two hours and a crime against a child every 90 minutes.

Sadly, compounding the grim situation is the failure of governance and law enforcement to check the soaring crime. Rather, an atmosphere of fear and vigilantism against the minorities with impunity is perpetrated, by the thriving politician-police-criminal nexus. The ordinary citizen is denied justice. Getting the prosecution process going is a frustratingly arduous task. The long-winded criminal justice system, sagging under the weight of a massive backlog of cases and poor conviction rate, buries the victims in deeper malaise.

In this state of broad disorderliness, a gritty dhaba owner taking on the two head constables who refused to pay up the food bill provides much-needed hope. The audacious and abusive cops had slapped false charges against him, his staff and some customers present at the time, as also a fake 'encounter'. A month and a half later, the cops find the tables turned, with FIRs registered against them. It remains to be seen if the youngster who has dared to dent the standard template of cops riding roughshod over the common man gets a fair trial.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit. — Harry S Truman

### ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

# The Tribune.

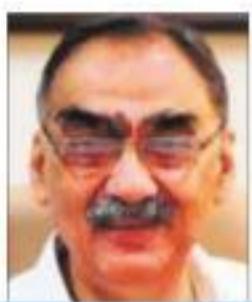
LAHORE, FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1921

### The Duty of the Sikhs.

WHILE we are clear in our mind as to the duty of the Government, we are also clear about the corresponding duty of the Sikh community generally and of the Sikh leaders in particular. They must recognise that the only alternative to the proposed law is the due application and enforcement of the existing law itself, and since the existing law is insufficient for their purpose, it is their duty to co-operate with the Government in enacting a law which, while meeting their own purpose, shall be consonant with equity and shall have due regard for the just interests of other communities. If they fail to do this, they will put themselves as much in the wrong as the Government will put itself if it either remains inactive or fails to strengthen their hands by taking the preliminary step we have suggested, and they will have only themselves to thank if the Government will have no choice left but to enforce the existing law. Secondly, pending the enactment of the new law, they must make an effort to suspend the activities associated with the Gurdwara movement and all attempts to force possession should cease. As regards the second of these points, something in the nature of a tentative assurance has been given already. "I am convinced," says Sardar Jogendra Singh in his article, "that there would be no difficulty in obtaining an assurance that there would be no further attempts to force possession, particularly if the Sikh community is satisfied that steps are being taken to place the administration of Gurdwaras on a suitable basis." He said, "I was assured that if the men under arrest are released, the leading Sikhs are prepared to give an assurance that the Sikh Jathas will not force decision in any other Gurdwaras, and if some men trespass this assurance, the Sikh Jathedars will see that such action is immediately rectified."

# The creation of Bangladesh

India must also recall the political and diplomatic successes of 1971 under Indira



VIVEK KATJU

EX-SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



TOUGH AS NAILS: Indira Gandhi's government achieved the integration of diverse elements to convert challenges into opportunities. FILE PHOTO

Indira's speech in Parliament, declaring 'Dhaka is the free capital of a free country', is one of the shining moments of the Republic's history.

cism can be levelled on many aspects of the agreement and the assumptions that led to it — should be segregated from the political and diplomatic management of 1971.

But first, how should the events of 1971 be evaluated in strategic terms, both on account of their challenges and in what terms? Also, later in the year, as India marks the golden jubilee of its victory in the 1971 War, how will it honour the leader who led the country with skill and iron determination to victory against very great odds? Her later mistakes cannot take away her 1971 achievement.

Whenever people look back to the events of 1971, their attention is claimed by the success of the Indian Army or shifts to the controversies generated by the Simla Agreement of July 1972. Consequently, the political and diplomatic successes of 1971, which provided the foundation for military achievements, have fallen into the crevices of public memory. However, Indian diplomacy leading to the Simla Agreement and Indira Gandhi's specific role in its conclusion is evaluated — and certainly criti-

diverse elements to convert challenges into opportunities. Indian actions led to basic changes in the map of the Indian subcontinent. The independence of Bangladesh also eroded the view that religion by itself can be a lasting glue for nationalism, thereby destroying the two-nation theory.

The December 1970 Pakistani election shocked the Pakistan army and West Pakistani political elite because Sheikh Mujib's party, the Awami League, secured 167 of the 169 seats of East Pakistan and had sufficient numbers to form the federal government. The army led by the then dictator and President Gen Yahya Khan and the West Pakistani political leaders were determined to prevent this from happening, for they feared that Mujib would end their domination by insisting on provincial autonomy and the end of exploitation of the country's eastern wing. When negotiations failed, the army began an unrestrained massacre of the Bangladeshi people on the night of March 25, 1971. It especially targeted the Hindu population. Refugees started to pour into India, and by the time armed hostilities began in December, around one

## Shoes a little too big to fill

SHIV SETHI

IT was a stunning performance. You were really into the shoes of the character' our skilful director lauded me after the successful staging of the play 'Bhagat Singh's Shaddai'. The performance was delivered in the auditorium of our college on the sombre but proud occasion of the martyrdom day of the three great patriots — Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev. The play was prepared and enacted by our troupe with elan. I was assigned to perform the character of Bhagat Singh with two fellow actors who were to don the role of Sukhdev and Rajguru.

During my journey through the

world of dramatic performances, I had played many characters like Hamlet, Dr Faustus and King Lear. Playing Lear was challenging as I was supposed to deliver much-famed dialogues like, 'Nothing will come out of nothing', with an intonation tinged with kingly indignation.

Understanding and portraying Hamlet's dilemma took me several days and nights of rehearsals. I could easily connect with the towering ambition of Dr Faustus without consuming many long sessions of rehearsals.

But when a few days before the martyrdom day of Bhagat Singh, our director brought the script, I was reluctant to give my nod. Before this,

I had never experienced any strong patriotic spurt of energy nor did I know much about the man's innermost mind. But having read the script about the supreme sacrifices of these three sons of the soil, it began to pull me like a magnet.

And while reading about their daredevilry, I had tears in my eyes. Indeed these were not the tears of a feeble mind. My head was held high with great esteem for the heroes whose matchless contributions our countrymen had unfortunately forgotten.

I promptly took the call and got ready to enact the glory of the heroes of the nation. Surprisingly, I was able to assimilate the character of Bhagat

Singh with some effort. With slogans of 'Vande Mataram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' in the air, the deepest chords in every heart had been touched. The execution scene left no eye dry. When the artificial noose was rolled around my neck, I could feel the pain our heroes must have experienced, but their pain could not dampen their patriotic zeal. With broad smiles on their faces, they kissed the noose.

I believed that my director's observation was only partly correct. I had made an effort to slip into the whole being of the martyr. Although mine was a mock execution, yet the sense of his patriotic fervour had overwhelmed my every inch in absolute reality.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Tainted politicians

The article 'Like the private armies of politicians' rightly points out the glaring anomalies of the state police forces, as a sequel to the tainted politician-police nexus, and the need to eradicate this collusion. The issue assumes added significance when the country is heading for the scheduled culmination of the celebrations of the 75th year of its Independence. Just as one crafty politician can make many in the police force bend, similarly one right politician can get the crafty cahoots to see that upright personnel are valued. Nations are not made in a day, particularly the ones that rise from the yoke of slavery. There is a need to introduce more transparency to bring in accountability.

JAGVINDER SINGH BRAR, PATIALA

#### Police-politician nexus

The criminalisation of police and the nexus between the police and politicians is the reason for the rot that has set in ('Like the private armies of the politicians'). Police reforms are imperative. There should be an autonomous body like the Election Commission or UGC to govern the police force. All IPS officers should report to it and their training and posting should be the responsibility of that body alone.

PAWAN KUMAR RAKHEJA, GURUGRAM

#### Scholars as VCs

Reference to 'In need of some learning'; it is a matter of concern that the university system is dogged not only by issues of access and quality, but also suffers from political appointment of VCs. It is disappointing that in many cases, the VCs — the most visible symbols of the university system — are appointed not because they are reputed scholars, researchers and distinguished administrators, but because they have the right political connections. Let the universities choose their own VCs who are best suited to lead, and not command them.

SIKANDAR BANSAL, SHIMLA

#### Fake degree scam

The knowledge of Internet was misused to the hilt by the fake degree racketeers arrested recently by the Baddi branch of the Himachal Police ('Fake degree racket busted, 5 arrested'). That the culprits used their expertise in cloning websites, copying domain names and logos of universities shows how deep this malaise has penetrated into the systems of public and private educational institutions. There is also a possibility of collusion by some insiders, which needs to be probed. The government should make it obligatory for all organisations to ensure the veracity of documents of

candidates applying for admissions, appointments and selections.

LR SHARMA, SUNDERNAGAR

#### Covid resurgence

The new mutant of the coronavirus is more lethal and is spreading at a faster rate. It is a matter of serious concern. Since there is no shortage of vaccine, priority parameters have to be redefined to include all 'working humanity', irrespective of age and comorbidities. This would minimise the wastage of vaccine and maximise the safety net to wider sections of the population. Safety protocols, along with vaccination, are the only way to deal with the virus.

ANIL VINAYAK, AMRITSAR

#### Farmers' issues

The Bills passed in the name of agrarian reforms have led to insecurity and fear of exploitation among the whole farming community. These fears are genuine and are based on bitter experiences with the corporates in the past. In a democracy, not only are the views of coalition partners accommodated, but also those of opposition parties have to be given due consideration. Farmers constitute a sizeable vote bank. Realising the role of agriculture in our economy, concerns of the farming community must be addressed

seriously, and also with alacrity to prevent our economy to be disrupted irredeemably.

KONICA, RAMPURA PHUL

#### Vanity rules

Apropos of the middle 'Nothing official about Nataraja portrait', I got my share of jitters in 2005 when a 66 KV substation at Ambala was to be inaugurated by the CM. A black marble plaque with golden letters bearing the names of the CM, state power minister and local MP was cast with cement in the wall. A day before the event, I got a call from the DC that the MP's name needed to be upgraded to the second position as she was senior to the minister. It was conveyed that it was not possible at this stage. The next morning, I reached the site well in advance and was surprised to find the MD waiting for me. Due to the MP's insistence, I was told, the order of names on the plaque would have to be changed otherwise the CM would not visit the substation. A junior officer came to my rescue and immediately went to the town to get a flex printing on a piece of cloth and covered the plaque with it. Inauguration did take place late in the afternoon, but the resentful MP sat in the car and refused to share the stage with the minister.

ADARSH JAIN, BY MAIL

# More queries than answers in Mehta's case



YOGENDRA YADAV

NATIONAL PRESIDENT, SWARAJ INDIA

**O**UR collective reaction to Pratap Bhanu Mehta's ouster from Ashoka University is disappointing for more than one reason. A short-lived outrage in a small circle seems to have given way to a quiet acquiescence. Professor Arvind Subramanian's response was exemplary in its timing and messaging, not the least because he cannot be dubbed as anti-government. The statements by the faculty and the student body showed more courage than you would expect in a private university. Add to that statements by academics based abroad and a few editorials, and that's all we have by way of response to this defining moment in the shrinking academic space in India. The contrast with the nation-wide reaction to attempts to silence lawyer Prashant Bhushan tells a story. It is hard to avoid the impression that envy may have diluted our moral sensibility. Apparently, a famous academic, an elite private university and its rich patrons do not stir our public conscience.

Even more disappointing is the nature of our response. It is a sign of the times we live in that we ask every question except the one that needs to be asked. We ask tough and valid questions of the founders and trustees, but with an emphasis that seems misplaced. We ask

questions about the elite nature of Ashoka University, its faculty and students, without appreciating that these are beside the point here. This occasion has been used by some to take potshots at Mehta as a public intellectual. All these leave us with little energy to pose a question to those who orchestrated it all, those who arm-twisted the university, those who cannot take any expression of dissent. The one-who-cannot-be-named remains untouched.

#### What Pratap's writings did

Let us begin by asking a simple question: Why is this government so nervous about a highbrow political scientist? After all, Pratap Bhanu Mehta writes only in English, much to the disappointment of friends like me. He does not appear on TV despite incessant requests. And he keeps away from any political party, movement or ground action of any kind. So, why should the government bother about him? It can't be just the erudition and scholarship that backs his intellectual criticism of the ruling ideology. His writings cover an astonishingly vast range of fields: moral philosophy, jurisprudence, political institutions, foreign policy, national security and political economy, to name a few. He is among the few Indian intellectuals who have learnt something, other than accent and mannerism, from their stint at elite universities abroad while retaining cultural self-confidence. His intellectual fearlessness is not reserved for this government. He has the courage to question his dear friends, publicly. His views on caste and reservations annoy most of my friends. He and I have publicly disagreed on this. But I see his willingness to take a position on



Pratap Bhanu Mehta is not one of those deracinated Left-secular critics the Modi govt would not mind. He understands, decodes and lays bare the architecture of New India. He is a serious challenge to the hidden hand that shapes the policies and politics today. Hence, the need to silence him.

A MESSAGE: Mehta's exit is surprising as it happened in an institution not dependent on govt for grants. TRIBUNE PHOTO

this issue as a mark of his intellectual courage. But, to be fair to the ruling dispensation, it simply does not have the intellectual equipment to be perturbed by these qualities of Pratap.

The heart of the matter is his criticism of the policies, politics and the personality of the current government, including that of the Supreme Leader. He is not one of those virulent and nagging Narendra Modi-critics who are a pain in the neck every morning. Pratap is sharp but subtle. He questions their ideology, but you cannot put him in an ideological box. He chronicles the decline and fall of our institutions without falling back on ready-made descriptions. He takes apart the Modi government's nationalist claims by clinically examining issues of national security. And Pratap exposes the PM, after giving him the maximum benefit of doubt, not just for his ideology, but for his sheer incompetence. That must hurt. Pratap Bhanu Mehta is not

one of those deracinated Left-secular critics the Modi government would not mind. He understands, decodes and lays bare the architecture of New India. He is a serious challenge to the hidden hand that shapes the policies and politics today. Hence, the need to silence him.

#### In a private university

This relates to the question about the institution: Why should we be bothered about the happenings inside a private university? This incident has triggered many dissents that have interrogated the 'liberal' self-image of the university. There is no doubt about its elite character and not just in intellectual terms. Most of these private universities are sites of caste and class privilege. Middle-class parents would have to dip into their life savings to afford this education. (Disclosure: the author belongs to this category of parents.) No doubt, the impressive faculty that the university has

managed is often at the cost of public universities. There is something odd about teaching liberal values, justice and fairness in such an island of power and privilege. No doubt, the university's liberal self-image has taken a beating. Yet, these critics forget that in this instance, their argument cuts the other way.

Pratap's exit is significant precisely because it happened in an institution that did not depend upon the government for grants, precisely because it is secured by power and privilege. If such an institution cannot protect its best-known face, what would be the fate of any other academic?

#### A silent acceptance

Finally, the question about the surrender by the trustees: Why did the independent and philanthropic founders of a university give in to the powers that be? We do not yet know if the trustees "crawled when asked to bend" as

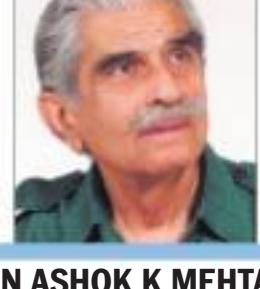
Ramachandra Guha put it. Maybe they just bent when asked to bend, or were ordered to crawl. We do not know whether the government used a carrot or a stick, or both, whether it was big or small. But we do know that Ashoka University draws more on genuine private philanthropy than most teaching shops that pass off as private universities in India. We also know that its founders and trustees include a wide range of new-tech entrepreneurs not beholden to any regime. Logically, therefore, it must have fewer skeletons to hide and be less fearful of the government. Was this a meek surrender? Or was the pressure from the top just too much for any institution to take? We may never know the full answer. But we do know that when this set of patrons can be arm-twisted into pushing someone like Mehta to quit, the message for every other academic is loud and clear. As they say in Hindi: *Tum kis khet ki mooli ho?*

That is the real silence in this debate. We have flogged the messenger, perhaps rightly so, but no one speaks about the author of this message. Not because anyone is in doubt about who the author is, or about the content and the intent of this message. The reality is too familiar, frightening and boring. So, we pick soft targets, we discuss inanities, but we do not talk about the elephant in the room. That has already become furniture. We start treating the nature of political power as a fact of nature. That is how we become complicit in the suppression of our liberties.

The attempt to send a message by silencing Prashant Bhushan did not succeed. Will this attempt to send a message via Pratap Bhanu Mehta succeed? That is the question we must ask.

Views are personal

# Ethnic divide in Lanka to test Indian diplomacy



MAJ-GEN ASHOK K MEHTA (RETD)

MILITARY COMMENTATOR

India had pitched its case in a post-conflict Sri Lanka at the UN on two pillars — sovereignty of Sri Lanka and the rights of Tamils.

This new strategic formulation for the first time equated the political aspirations of Tamils with recognising the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka drawn from the 1987 agreement which involved the sacrifice of 1,200 Indian soldiers who prevented the break-up of Lanka. That and assistance in defeating the LTTE, overriding Tamil politics, was the litmus test.

Sri Lanka has dragged its feet on reconciliation and accountability, vaulting from partial to full action to non-compliance. Equally, it has dithered on the implementation of the 13th Amendment, its position determined by the political clout of the government and India's own political compulsions in Tamil Nadu. The West, led by the US and Europe, have imposed commercial and trade sanctions. While China and Russia have provided Colombo political cover, the West has been aggressively intrusive. India has acted in its national interest — either abstained from voting or supported resolution, and once voted against it.

A lot of water has flown down the Mahaweli river since. The Rajapaksa brothers are back with an unprecedented majority following the Easter Sunday bombing (2019), abolition of 19th



BRIDGE THE HIATUS: Sri Lanka has refused to budge on allowing international investigations into human rights abuses during the civil war. REUTERS

Amendment and a likely new Constitution that could terminate the chequered 13th Amendment, putting paid to reconciliation with minority Tamils. Colombo is aware that provincial autonomy in the North within a united and indivisible Sri Lanka is a red line for New Delhi and tinkering with it is according to former President Maithripala Sirisena, 'playing with fire'. China and Sinhala majoritarianism have emboldened the Rajapaksa to try and dare India.

Recent events — national anthem in

Sinhala only, militarisation of the North,

bulldozing the civilian war memorial at Jaffna University, pardon of Sergeant Sunil Ratnayake who killed eight Tamils, refusal to allow burial of Muslims till recently, cancellation of India-Japan joint venture for the Eastern Container Terminal in Colombo, offer of a solar project to China off Jaffna, plan to terminate the 35-year lease of Trincomalee Oil Tank Farms to India — are troubling. Still, the Rajapaksa have called India 'the family', the rest as 'friends' and elaborated its 'India First' foreign policy which was earlier reliance on New Delhi for security and Beijing for development.

It is against this background that India abstained from voting at Geneva. On March 14, President Rajapaksa had called Prime Minister Modi for India's help to defeat the resolution with Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardene, speaking to his counterpart S Jaishankar earlier. But the most active solicitor of support was Colombo. On 13th Amendment, his views are in sync with the government, branding some Tamil leaders as leaning towards separatism.

On January 15, senior Tamil National Alliance (TNA) leader R Sampanthan had said that Tamil parties had sought an international probe, including refer-

ence to the International Criminal Court, to investigate genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Last year, suddenly after five years, the Rajapaksa withdrew from UNHRC 30/1 under which it had agreed to time-bound investigation into the war crimes that took place during the war. The first draft (January 22) was damning and included 'warnings of militarisation of new government (28 serving or retired or military or intelligence officials in key posts), reversal of important constitutional safeguards, political obstruction of accountability, exclusionary rhetoric and intimidation of civil society and use of anti-terrorism laws'. UNHRC's Michelle Bachelet said the 'present government was proactively obstructing investigations into past crimes to prevent accountability and that this has had a devastating effect on families seeking truth and justice'.

The second draft (February 19) called on Colombo to implement 30/1 from which it pulled out and two roll-on resolutions — 34/1 and 40/1. The present resolution goes back to an agreement at Kandy on May 26, 2009, between UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Mahinda Rajapaksa.

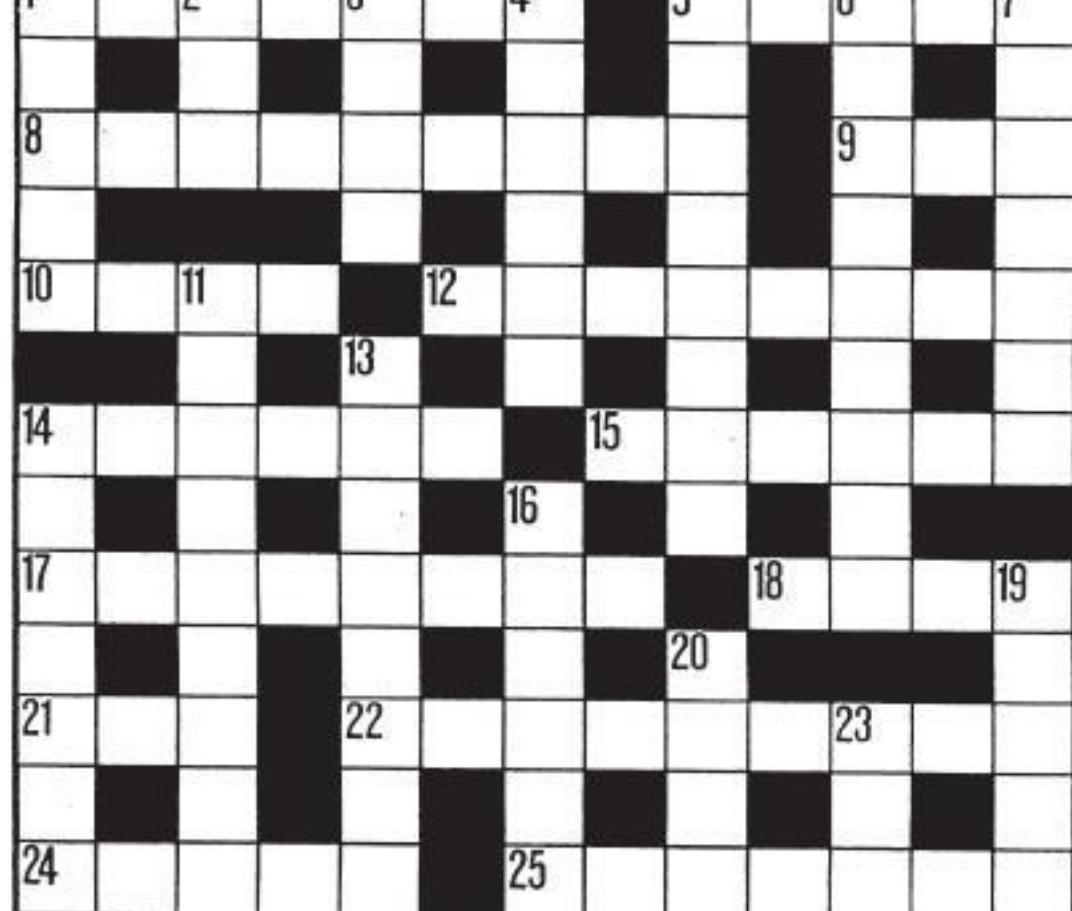
The President appointed a Sri Lankan judge and a three-member presidential inquiry which produced a report called Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission of March 2012. While the government noted that human rights violations took place during the war, it declined to accept the report. In 2015, with a national government in place, Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera accepted to host international judges in hybrid courts. But both President Sirise-

na and Prime Minister Wickremesinghe chickened out. Heads or tails, Sri Lanka refused to budge on allowing international investigations into alleged war crimes.

The Truth, Justice and Reconciliation conundrum is essentially stuck around missing persons. These relate to the 13,784 people who had surrendered on May 19, 2009. Gotabaya had disclosed while he was campaigning for president, that they were subsequently rehabilitated, re-integrated and given employment. The 13,784 figure he used to reveal as Defence Secretary during the annual army seminars at Colombo after 2011 that I attended. But this figure is probably different from the number that actually surrendered. One month into office, President Rajapaksa told the UN Resident Coordinator in Colombo that 'thousands who were reportedly missing were actually dead'. There are still hundreds of former LTTE cadres in jail without trial for more than 10 years.

India had pitched its case in a post-conflict Sri Lanka at the UN on two pillars — sovereignty of Sri Lanka and the rights of Tamils under 13A. This new strategic formulation for the first time equated the political aspirations of Tamils with recognising the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka drawn from the 1987 Indo-Lanka bilateral agreement which involved the sacrifice of 1,200 Indian soldiers who prevented the break-up of Sri Lanka. That above all and the active Indian assistance in defeating LTTE in 2009, overriding domestic Tamil politics, was the litmus test. Colombo and New Delhi must reconcile and realign on 13th Amendment without delay and move on.

#### QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

**Across:** 1 Body blow, 5 Memo, 9 Screw, 10 Feature, 11 Uninterested, 13 Averse, 14 Upturn, 17 Superficial, 20 Cropper, 21 Taunt, 22 Edge, 23 Usefully.

**Down:** 1 Bask, 2 Derange, 3 Bow and scrape, 4 Offset, 6 Exult, 7 Overdone, 8 Make a point of, 12 Massacre, 15 Unusual, 16 Tigris, 18 Prong, 19 Stay.

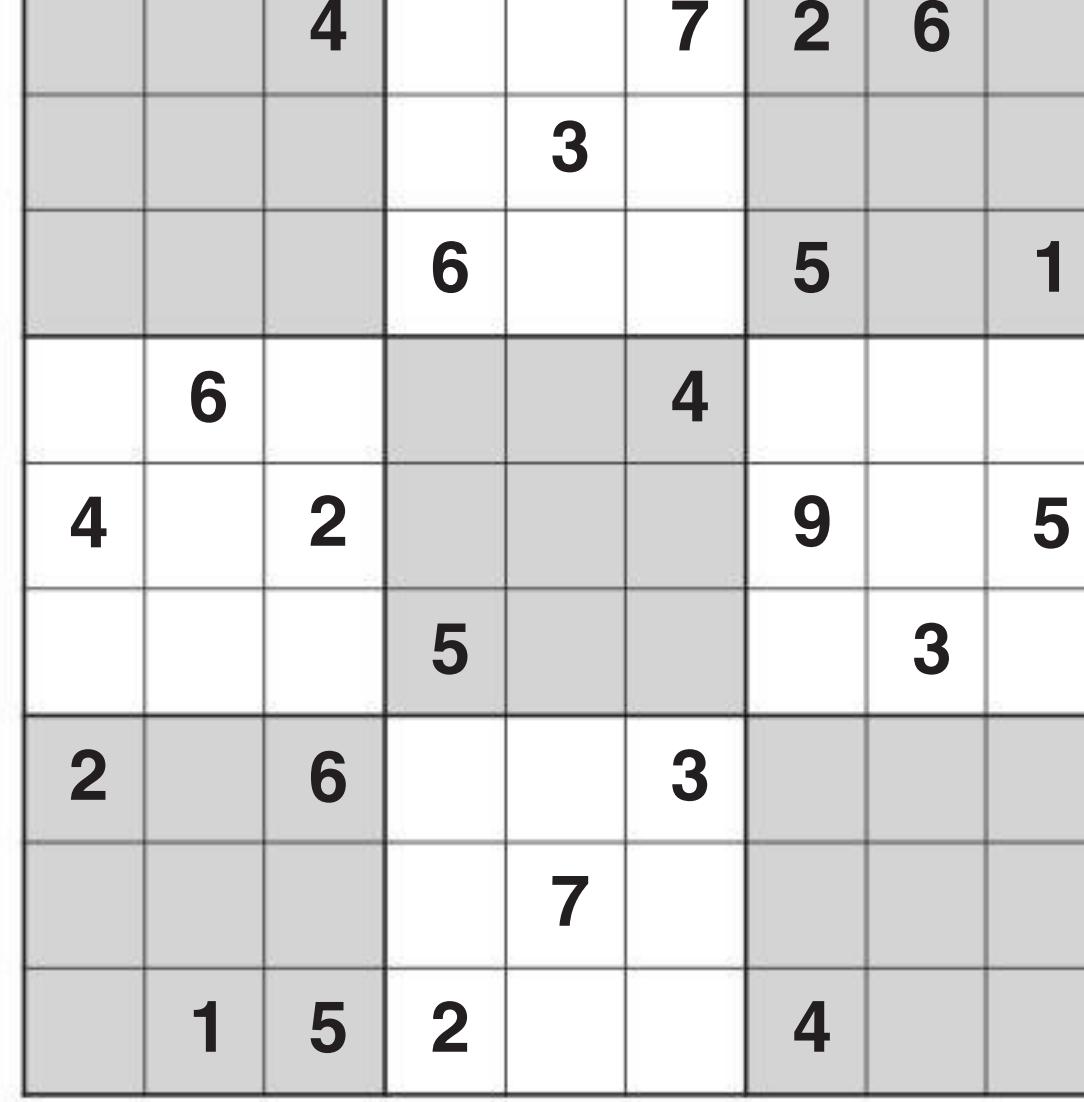
#### ACROSS

- 1 More than is needed (7)
- 5 Correspond (5)
- 8 Detailed analysis (9)
- 9 Relatives (3)
- 10 Consider (4)
- 12 Food of ancient gods (8)
- 14 For choice (6)
- 15 Feeble imitation (6)
- 17 Offer for discussion (8)
- 18 Read superficially (4)
- 21 Operate effectively (3)
- 22 Words of off-screen narrator (5-4)
- 24 Subsequent (5)
- 25 Brave (7)

#### DOWN

- 1 Restrained (5)
- 2 Repent of (3)
- 3 Similar thing (4)
- 4 Tempestuous (6)
- 5 Canadian port (8)
- 6 Review the situation (4,5)
- 7 Central European country (7)
- 11 Retaliatory (3,3,3)
- 13 Handgun (8)
- 14 Italian High Renaissance painter (7)
- 16 Final part of story (6)
- 19 Be worthy of (5)
- 20 Distribution of cards (4)
- 23 Through (3)

#### SU DO KU



V HARD

#### CALENDAR

MARCH 25, 2021, THURSDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1943
■ Chaitra Shaka	4
■ Chaitra Parvishte	12
■ Hijri	1442
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 11, up to 9.48 am	
■ Sukarma Yoga up to 10.03 am	
■ Aashle Nakshatra up to 10.49 pm	
■ Moon enters Leo sign 10:49 pm	

#### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

#### FORECAST

SUNSET: THURSDAY 18:37 HRS  
SUNRISE: FRIDAY 06:19 HRS

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	31	13
New Delhi	33	17
Amritsar	28	12
Bathinda	30	14
Jalandhar	29	12
Ludhiana	29	14
Bhiwani	30	14
Hisar	30	14
Sirsia	31	15
Dharamsala	17	9
Manali	16	5</td

# CLASSIFIEDS

## SITUATION VACANT

Doctors required for hospital at Samrala Chowk, Ludhiana for Orthopaedic, ENT, Gynocology, General Medicine, Skin, Physiotherapy. WhatsApp only: 98885-30400, 98727-00800. (CL20112431)

## PROPERTY FOR SALE

12 marla newly built (1755 sq ft) 2nd floor, corner, park facing house Sector 28D, Chandigarh. Amrit Property 98140-39322. (CL20112430)

## COURT NOTICES

In the Court of Bhupinder Mittal Judicial Magistrate First Class-5, Jalandhar.

PKF Finance Limited Vs.

Jagraj Singh

CNR No.:

PBJL03-005301-2019

Next Date: 29.04.2021

Publication issued to: Jagraj Singh, Father Amarjeet Singh, VPO Maura, Tehsil Nabha, District Barnala.

In above titled case, the accused could not be served. It is ordered that accused should appear in person or through counsel on 24.05.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

## COURT NOTICES

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)  
In the Court of Ms. Gitanjali Goel Civil Judge, Junior Division, Chandigarh.

Kamaljit Singh Versus

M/S Micronutrient Manufacturers Association

For Ejection of Respondents

CNR No.:

CHCH02-000871-2020

Next Date: 24.05.2021

Publication issued to:

1. M/S Micronutrient Manufacturers Association, Address: SCO No. 1086-1987, Sector 22B, Chd. through its President Sh Arun Kapoor.

2. Sh. Arun Kapoor President M/S Micronutrient Association House No. 430, Focal Point, Mehta Road, Amritsar.

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 24.05.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to

[https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district\\_notice&district=chandigarh](https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=chandigarh)

Dated, this day of 03.03.2021.

Sd/- Civil Judge, Junior Division,

CL20112114 Chandigarh.

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Ms. Gitanjali Goel Civil Judge, Junior Division, Chandigarh.

Kamaljit Singh Versus

M/S Continental Advertising For Ejection of Respondents

CNR No.:

CHCH02-000870-2020

Next Date: 24.05.2021

Publication issued to:

1. M/S Continental Advertising, Address: SCO No. 1086-1987, Sector 22B, Chd. through its Director Shri Rajan Kumar Mehta.

2. Sh. Rajan Kumar Mehta Director M/S Continental Advertising First Floor, SCO No. 1086-1987, Sector 22B, Chandigarh.

2nd Address:

M/S Continental Advertising Office No. 608, Gagandeep Building 12 Rajendra Place New Delhi through its Director Sh. Rajan Kumar Mehta.

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 24.05.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to

[https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district\\_notice&district=chandigarh](https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=chandigarh)

Dated, this day of 03.03.2021.

Sd/- Civil Judge, Junior Division,

CL20112114 Chandigarh.

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Mayank Marwaha Civil Judge (Junior Division)-15, Jalandhar.

State Bank of India Vs.

Dhanajay Singh (15704737L)

CNR No.:

PBJL03-023805-2019

Next Date: 29.04.2021

Publication issued to:

Yograj Nagpal

Father: Late Jagan Nath Nagpal, Prop M/s Aarti Enterprises r/o 32, Ground Floor Sough Extension Part-2, New Delhi.

In above titled case, the accused could not be served. It is ordered that accused should appear in person or through counsel on 29.04.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to

[https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district\\_notice&district=jalandhar](https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar)

Dated, this day of 17.02.2021.

Sd/-

Judicial Magistrate First Class-5, CL20100354 Jalandhar.

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Baljinder Kaur, Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Nakodar.

Dalbir Singh son of Gurkash Singh @ Bakshian son of Late Amar Singh R/o Village Bopari Kalan, Tehsil Nakodar, Distr. Jalandhar.

Versus

Amrik Singh

CNR No.:

PBJL00-000322-2020

Next Date: 15.04.2021

Suit Under the Punjab Partition of Immoveable Property Act 2012 for grant for separate possession of share of plaintiff and his brother Defendant No. 6 in all that Gair Mumkin Property Measuring 1K-19M situated in the Abadi area of Village Bopari Kalan, Haddast No. 18, Tehsil Nakodar, District Jalandhar.

Publication issued to: 1. Surinder Singh sun of Tara Singh son of Amar Singh, 2. Jagdish Singh @ Baldwin Singh son of Tara Singh, 3. Paranjit Singh son of Lachman Singh son of Waryam Singh, 4. Unmar Kaur D/o Lachman Singh son of Waryam Singh, 5. Gurdev Singh son of Gurkash Singh @ Bakshian son of Late Amar Singh all Village Bopari Kalan, Tehsil Nakodar, Dist. Jalandhar.

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 15.04.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to

[https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district\\_notice&district=jalandhar](https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar)

Dated, this day of 09.03.2021.

Sd/- Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Nakodar.

Nature:- Suit for Recovery

Notice to Defendant No. 3.

Jaswinder Kaur W/o Gurmail Singh R/o Village Awan near Ramdass Sub Tehsil Ramdass, District Amritsar.

This Court opines that the respondent/defendant in the above said case cannot be served through ordinary process. So Under Section 5 of Civil Rule 20 this publication is issued against the defendants/respondent that they should appear in this court themselves or through their counsel on the date 14.04.2021 at 9:30 am, otherwise one-sided proceeding will be initiated in the above said case.

Notice given today 08.01.2021 under my seal and stamp.

For details logon to

[https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district\\_notice&district=gurdaspur](https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=gurdaspur)

Sd/- Ms. Divya Sharma, Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.),

CL20089227 Batala.

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The Tribune  
Classified  
THE RIGHT CHOICE

## COURT NOTICES

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Sh. Ranjan Kumar Khullar Additional Principal Judge, Family Court, Hoshiarpur.

Usha Rani aged 36 years wife of Amarpreet Singh d/o Banarsi Dass r/o Village Sarangwal, P.S. Chabbewal, District Hoshiarpur.

Versus

M/S Micronutrient Manufacturers Association

For Ejection of Respondents

CNR No.:

CHCH02-000871-2020

Next Date: 24.05.2021

Publication issued to:

1. M/S Micronutrient Manufacturers Association, Address: SCO No. 1086-1987, Sector 22B, Chd. through its President Sh Arun Kapoor.

2. Sh. Arun Kapoor President M/S Micronutrient Association House No. 430, Focal Point, Mehta Road, Amritsar.

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 24.05.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to

[https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district\\_notice&district=hoshiarpur](https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=hoshiarpur)

Dated, this day of 03.03.2021.

Sd/- Civil Judge, Junior Division,

CL20112114 Hoshiarpur.

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Ms. Gitanjali Goel Civil Judge, Junior Division, Chandigarh.

Kamaljit Singh Versus

M/S Nature Farm and Real Estates Pvt. Ltd.

Parimati Kaur w/o Navharan Singh r/o Village Karanpur, P.O. Baghpura, Tehsil and District Ludhiana.

Versus

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M/S Nature Farm and Real Estates Pvt. Ltd.

Parimati Kaur w/o Navharan Singh r/o Village Karanpur, P.O. Baghpura, Tehsil and District Ludhiana.

Versus

# Deficient rainfall, Kullu orchardists a worried lot

ABHINAV VASHISHT



## INADEQUATE CHILLING HOURS

- Kullu Fruit Growers' Association president Prem Sharma said low rain and snowfall this year would result in inadequate chilling hours that are needed for apple crop
- He said the flower size was small and it might have an impact on the quantity and quality of the produce
- Environmentalists are concerned that a drought-like situation may arise due to scanty snowfall and rain
- Many water bodies will be affected as they will not be recharged adequately due to scanty rainfall

ies will be affected as they will not be recharged adequately due to scanty rainfall. The tourism beneficiaries were concerned that snow will vanish earlier from the major tourist attraction Rohtang Pass

which will have an adverse impact on the tourism industry.

Even Lahaul region experienced very low snowfall of 94.5 cm this year which is lowest in many decades. According to Met depart-

ment, 51.7 cm of snow was recorded in January, 15.6 cm in February and 27.2 cm so far in March. Last year the district received 280 cm of snow. The highest snowfall of 719 cm was witnessed by the valley in 2019 while the lowest snow of 172 cm was recorded in 2016 during the past decade.

The Lahaul valley has also recorded an unusual rise in temperature due to scanty snowfall. The snow has already disappeared in about 70 per cent of the region in March itself. The glaciers have not received armour this time due to less snowfall due to which the possibility of drought has increased.

These are the glaciers in the Lahaul-Spiti region which feed Sutlej and Chenab rivers. Less snowfall will affect these major rivers and have an impact on the speed of melting of glaciers as well.

Village elders Phunchog, Mandas, Jochand and Dorje said that the region had experienced the lowest snowfall in the past many decades.

## Nerchowk hospital to open from April 15, says Thakur

MANDI, MARCH 24

While presiding over the review meeting on Covid-19 situation in Mandi district at Sundernagar today, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said that the state government was fully aware of the situation and has taken appropriate steps to check the resurgence in corona cases in the state.

The CM said that till date a total of 1,25,881 samplings had been done in Mandi district. Of these, 10,382 cases were reported positive out of which 10,197 have been cured and 129 deaths reported.

He said that positivity rate per sample in the district was 8.25 per cent and fatality rate 1.24 per cent. He said that the upcoming pre-fabricated Covid-19 hospital at Nerchowk would be completed at the earliest and the admission to patients would be allowed from April 15. — OC

## Water crisis looms, SJPNL sans operational head

SHIMLA, MARCH 24 If Shimla faces water crisis this summer, as is being feared by Jal Shakti Minister Mahender Singh, Shimla Jal Prabandhan Nigam Limited (SJPNL) will have to handle it without a full-fledged operational head.

SJPNL's Managing Director-cum-CEO Dhamendra Gill has been transferred to Mandi and now he holds additional charge of the company. "It's ideal to have a full-fledged head but it would be wrong to assume that the SJPNL is headless. Chief Secretary as chairman of the Board of Directors is the top boss of the company," said Digvijay Chauhan, an independent director in the SJPNL Board of Directors.

"Besides, there are three AGMs to take care of bulk water supply, water distribution and sewerage and day to day functioning of the company. We will eventually need a full-fledged operational head," he said.

"Much of the negotiations with the World Bank have been done by Gill. Also, because of Covid, the World Bank is not releasing money at the expected rate. Gill has apparently been retained with an additional charge to ensure the project and funding do not suffer any setback," said Chauhan. — TNS

# State adjudged best in fight against TB

SHIMLA, MARCH 24

Himachal Pradesh has been ranked No 1 among all states having a population of more than 50 lakh in National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme. Dr Nipun Jindal, Mission Director, NHM, and Dr Gopal Beri, State Tuberculosis Officer, received the award from Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan in New Delhi today.

The nation has committed itself to end tuberculosis by 2025, and Himachal Pradesh has set itself a goal to eliminate the disease ahead of the national deadline. — TNS

applied. A survey was conducted in the month of February 2021 and the results were declared on the occasion of World TB Day today. Lahaul and Spiti earned silver medal for its efforts to curb TB, while Kinnaur, Hamirpur, Una and Kangra won bronze medals.

The nation has committed itself to end tuberculosis by 2025, and Himachal Pradesh has set itself a goal to eliminate the disease ahead of the national deadline. — TNS

## HPPSC chairman takes oath

SHIMLA, MARCH 24 Governor Bandaru Dattatreya today administered oath of office and secrecy to Ajay

Kumar as the Chairman of the Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (HPPSC) at Raj Bhawan in Shimla. — TNS

## SHIROMANI GURDWARA PARBANDHAK COMMITTEE SRI AMRITSAR

### Tender Notice

SGPC, Sri Amritsar, Invites Sealed Tenders for Paper, Chemicals and Inks from Reputed Firms for Press. Tenders will be opened on 31-03-2021 at 11:00 am at Admin Block, SGPC, Sri Amritsar. For Details visit [www.sgpc.net](http://www.sgpc.net)

Chief Secretary

## GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

### Tender Notice No. 02 Dated 24.03.2021

The Department of Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana invites online bids for the following:

Sr. No.	Items	Amount (in lakh)
1	Prov/Laying of Sewerage/New manhole chambers and Water supply line.	As per uploaded DNIT
2	Prov/Inst. of Tubewells (against failed tubewells)	

Closing Date & Time: 05.04.2021 till 04:30 PM

Opening of Technical bid: 08.04.2021 till 01:00 PM

Opening of Financial Bid: Date will be fixed after technical bid opening. For Detail log onto [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in).

Note: Any Corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,

Zone-C (O&M) Cell,

Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

e-mail: [xenzonecomcell@gmail.com](mailto:xenzonecomcell@gmail.com)

## Corrigendum

The Estimated Cost of Work

C/o Servant Rooms at Sh. Hari

Gau Sadan at Sunni Block

Basantpur Distt. Shimla (H.P.) in

e-Procurement Notice may be

read as Rs. 16,95,435/- instead of

Rs. 27,04,728/- and Earnest

Money to be deposited is Rs.

32,932/- instead of Rs. 48,071/-.

Executive Engineer (HQ)

RD & PR Department,

SDA Complex Kasumti

Shimla-09

DPR/HP/6742

DPR/Pb/3025



## RESERVE BANK OF INDIA Chandigarh

### Directions under Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (AACS) – Hindu Cooperative Bank Limited, Pathankot, Punjab-Extension of period

Reserve Bank of India, in exercise of powers vested in it under Sub-Section (1) of Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (AACS), had, in the public interest, issued Directions to Hindu Cooperative Bank Limited, Pathankot, Punjab, from the close of business on March 25, 2019. The Directions have been extended from time to time and were valid up to March 24, 2021. These Directions are now being extended up to June 24, 2021, subject to review. A copy of the Directions is displayed at Head Office/branches/all other business premises of the bank.

General Manager

Department of Supervision

March 25, 2021



## राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश



## सुरक्षित रहने के तीन नियम

**नियम 1: फेस मास्क पहनें और सुनिश्चित करें कि मास्क को केवल किनारों से ही छुएं**

**नियम 2: दूसरों से उचित दूरी बना कर रखें**

**नियम 3: नियमित रूप से अपने हाथों को धोएं और कीटाणुरहित करें**

**सुरक्षा की युक्ति कोरोना से मुक्ति**

**मास्क नहीं तो टोकेंगे कोरोना को हम टोकेंगे**

# Locals in quandary over partial land acquisition for four-laning

RAJIV MAHAJAN



A house 30 m away from NH-154 in Nurpur being acquired for the project.

## 933 HIT BY ROAD WIDENING PROJECT

- As per the information, 933 buildings are being acquired for widening of the Pathankot-Mandi NH-154 in Nurpur section
- The people, who are set to lose their buildings partially for the project, are experiencing sleepless nights as they say that their left-out structures will be of no use
- They have demanded that either the whole structures be acquired or they should be left untouched altogether

manager of National Insurance Company and a resident of Bagni village near here, lamented that he had built his house around 30 meters away from the NH-154 but now the NHAI had worked out that half of his building would be acquired. "What will I do with the remaining portion of my house after its demolition by the NHAI," he questioned.

Similarly, houses of Mandan Mohan of Nagni, Surinder Kumar of Bhadwar and Ranbir Singh of Kalera are partially being acquired by the NHAI. They say that the

NHAI should take the whole structured area so that they could rehabilitate themselves after shifting from the existing location. The commercial buildings of Baldev Pathania and Sudershan Pathania of Jachhi are also being acquired partially by the NHAI. They have also resented partial acquisition of their shops.

Anil Sen, Project Director, NHAI, Palampur, clarified that as per the NHAI norms only the land or building that was required for the construction of the four lane project was being acquired. — TNS

# Unfruitful expenditure cost J&K ₹17.18 cr: CAG

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE



128 solar plants on police premises are non-functional.

diture of Rs 3.67 crore.

The CAG further said the J&K government made "unfruitful expenditure" on lift-irrigation scheme, because it did not select a suitable site for construction of pumping station before taking up execution of the works and lost Rs 2.23 crore.

The J&K government lost money due to payment of "unauthorised" idle salary in power development department because its failure "to either transfer drivers/chauffeurs deployed in excess of sanctioned strength or utilise their services effectively", the CAG said. It went on to add that this resulted in "unauthorised payment of idle salary of Rs 79.46 lakh to them during the period from March 2015 to January 2019.

The CAG said the failure of Public Health Engineering Department to make the augmentation of water supply scheme functional for seven years, resulted in unfruitful expenditure of ₹78.28 lakh and blocking of ₹39 lakh.

from the Forest Department and Defence Authority, resulting in wasteful expen-

**SHEER APATHY**

- Despite spending ₹9.7 crore and availability of warranty, 128 solar power plants rendered non-functional
- Water storage tanks' project taken up sans clearances from forest, defence authorities, wasting ₹3.67 crore
- Without having a suitable site, lift-irrigation scheme work taken up and thus ₹2.23 crore went down the drain

from the Forest Department and Defence Authority, resulting in wasteful expen-

## Tulip Garden opens



■ Asia's largest Tulip Garden, overlooking the Dal Lake in Srinagar, will be thrown open to people on Thursday, marking the beginning of the new tourism season in Kashmir.

■ PM Narendra Modi has appealed to people to visit the garden and experience the warm hospitality. It has 15 lakh flowers of over 64 varieties, he tweeted. PTI

## Centre flags rapid surge...

FROM PAGE 1

most affected districts — Jalandhar, SAS Nagar, Ludhiana, Patiala and Hoshiarpur — for a review on Saturday.

In another major development, the government disclosed that the apex genome sequencing consortium had detected 771 Covid variants of concern (VOCs) in 18 states. Of these, 736 were positive for the UK variant; 34 for the South African and one for the Brazilian variant. Of the 771 VOCs, 336 are in Punjab alone and all are UK strains.

"Mutations of the virus are natural and there is no cause for panic. But we need to be cautious," Paul said, adding that India had not seen any case of blood clotting due to Covishield.

"There is no inadequacy in the availability of vaccines. The systems are ready. But we must expand using private facilities," said Paul.

In Punjab, only 38.48% of all Covid vaccine centres are private and in Haryana 21.24%.

surge some states like Maharashtra, Kerala and Punjab were witnessing. Both Indian-made vaccines were effective against UK and Brazil strains and studies on the South African variant were underway.

"Mutations of the virus are natural and there is no cause for panic. But we need to be cautious," Paul said, adding that India had not seen any case of blood clotting due to Covishield.

"There is no inadequacy in the availability of vaccines. The systems are ready. But we must expand using private facilities," said Paul.

In Punjab, only 38.48% of all Covid vaccine centres are private and in Haryana 21.24%.

FROM PAGE 1

## Issue serious, but move...

"If probe by an independent agency is being asked for, it will also be granted by the high court which has wider powers under Article 226 of the Constitution," the Bench said.

Senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi appearing on behalf of Param Bir said: "This is a matter of serious public interest. The entire state is rocked... Police reforms have

not taken place." Justice Kaul pointed out: "That's the case (police reforms not taking place) with all states."

"It appears that none wants to give up... the control of police transfers or implement measures that would insulate the police machinery from performing its role without any uncalled for interference," the Bench said.

## Nikita killers...

The chargesheet contained digital, forensic and material evidence and statements of the witnesses. Besides the CCTV footage, the dying declaration of the victim was one of the key pieces of evidence.

"We are satisfied with the prosecution and hope that the accused get death penalty," said Mool Chand Tomar, Nikita's father.

## PPSC making mega bucks with hefty exam fee

In an advertisement for 124 posts of SDO in nine departments, the Punjab authorities put a condition that every candidate should apply separately for each department. In other words, a candidate applying for all nine depart-

ments ended up paying Rs 27,000 in all.

The PPSC Chairman confirmed to The Tribune that he had taken up the issue with the government. He had recommended a reduction in fee for all genuine categories, he said.

## GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE INVITING FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, Chenab Valley Division, HP.PWD, Udaipur on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the items rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of following work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firm registered with HP.PWD.

SR. No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost of the Work	Bid Security EMD/	Cost of Docu-ment	Period of Com-pletion	Starting date for download-ing Bid	Deadline for submission of Bid	Eligible Class
1	Construction of Sarai Bhawan at Triloknath (Udaipur), Distt. Lahaul & Spiti (H.P.) (SH-Balance work and W.S & S.I.)	Chenab Valley Division, HP.PWD, Udaipur.	22,92,128/-	41,900/-	500/-	Six Months	01.04.2021	07.04.2021	Class D&C
2	Construction of Sarai Bhawan at Triloknath (Udaipur), Distt. Lahaul & Spiti (H.P.) (SH-C/o Second floor & Roofing).	Chenab Valley Division, HP.PWD, Udaipur.	29,48,196/-	51,800/-	500/-	Six Months	01.04.2021	07.04.2021	Class D&C

Bid documents can be downloaded from the website <http://hptenders.gov.in>. The documents downloaded from the site should not be tampered, and if any such tampering is detected before or after the opening of bids, the bidder shall be penalized and blacklisted.

Other terms and conditions shall remain same as given in the bid document.

**Terms & Conditions:-**  
Scanned copy of Registration/Enlistment with H.P.P.W.D. Deptt.  
Scanned copy of PAN/TIN & Income Tax Clearance Certificate.  
Scanned copy of work done certificate of similar nature of work.  
Scanned copy of Earnest Money and Cost of Form.  
Scanned copy of Affidavit regarding genuineness and correctness of document attached.

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh  
Executive Engineer, Chenab Valley Division, HP.PWD, Udaipur.  
No. PW/CHV/CB/TA/2020-21 - 10674-82 Dated:- 23.03.2021 DPR/HP/6769

जय राम ठाकुर  
मुख्य मंत्री  
हिमाचल प्रदेश



सन्देश

हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार विभिन्न संकेतकों पर ग्रामीण एवम् शहरी स्तरीय आंकड़ों को एकत्र करने के उद्देश्य से 'ग्रामीण स्तरीय निर्देशिका' का संकलन करने जारी है और जिसका हर तीन महीने के बाद नियमित रूप से नवीनीकरण किया जाएगा। यह हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा धरातल पर आंकड़ों को आसानी से उपलब्ध करवाने के लिए पहला प्रयास है। निर्देशिका का मुख्य उद्देश्य स्थानीय स्तर पर केन्द्र और राज्य सरकार द्वारा चलाई जा रही वर्तमान और भविष्य की योजनाओं/कार्यक्रमों के उचित मूल्यांकन तथा कार्यान्वयन हेतु विश्वसनीय आंकड़ों का संकलन करना है।

ये आंकड़े महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग में कार्यरत आंगनबाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा एकत्रित किये जाएंगे और आर्थिक एवम् सांख्यिकी विभाग द्वारा संकलित किए जाएंगे। इस 'ग्रामीण स्तरीय निर्देशिका' के माध्यम से एकत्रित आंकड़े राज्य में ग्रामीण/शहरी स्तर पर मूलभूत सुविधाओं की वास्तविक स्थिति जानने, राज्य के लोगों के जीवन स्तर में सुधार लाने और अपेक्षित सुविधाएं प्रदान करने की दिशा में अत्यधिक सहायक होंगे।

अतः प्रदेश में विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में ग्रामीण एवम् शहरी स्तर पर कार्यरत पदाधिकारियों, स्कूल एवं कालेज के प्राचार्यों, स्वास्थ्य अधिकारियों, पंचायत सचिवों, पटवारियों, पंचायत प्रधानों, वार्ड सदस्यों से यह आहवान है कि 'ग्रामीण स्तरीय निर्देशिका' का संकलन करवाने में अपना पूर्ण सहयोग प्रदान करें और गणनाकार के रूप में सरकार द्वारा नियुक्त कार्य कर रही आंगनबाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं को सही एवं स्टीक जानकारी उपलब्ध करवाएं, ताकि प्रदेश के विकास के लिए बनाई जाने वाली नीतियों में आपका बहुमूल्य योगदान हो।

( जय राम ठाकुर )

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE					
SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT
1	PWD B&R, JIND	SPECIAL REPAIR OF KHANSAR MOR TO MUSLIM MADRSAS LEADING ROAD IN JIND DISTT. (ROAD ID 3181)	CLOSING DATE 12.04.2021	16.40 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
2	PWD B&R, CH. DADRI	IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD BY PROVIDING WDG & STG. ON BEHALF TO DHIGAWA VIA SARSI, CHEHAR KHURD, CHEHAR KALAN, NAKIPUR IN BIHWANI DISTT. UNDER PMGSY-III, BATCH-II. + 2 OTHER WORKS	15.03.2021 08.04.2021	807.47 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
3	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, NARWANA	ANNUAL MTC. WATER SUPPLY SCHEME SEDHA MAJRA, "COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE OF GASEOUS TYPE FULL VACUUM CHLORINATION SYSTEM & REFILLING OF CHLORINE GAS CYLINDERS AT WATER WORK SEDHA MAJRA".	19.03.2021 26.03.2021	31.75 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a> tender no. 2021_hry_165101_1 +10 other
4	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	E-TENDER NOTICE FOR RENOVATION OF VETERINARY OFFICE BUILDING AT AMBALA CITY	25.03.2021 31.03.2021	6.18 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
5	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, PANCHKULA	SUPPLY OF IT HARDWARE UNDER ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA + 1 OTHER WORK	23.03.2021 05.04.2021	EMD NIL	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
6	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, NARWANA	REPAIRING DAMAGED LINING WITH CEMENT CONCRETE M-15 AND BRICK PITCHING AFTER REMOVING OF OLD BRIDGES PIER OF BML BARWALA LINK CHANNEL REACH RD 63000 TO 74000.	CLOSING DATE 27.03.2021	38.18 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
7	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, KURUKSHETRA	REPLACEMENT OF 02 NO. 5 CS. V.T. PUMP WITH 02 NO. 5 CS. VT. PUMPS AT PERMANENT PUMP HOUSE RD 42500 OF LUKH BUND NEAR VILLAGE SAMASPUR IN WATER SERVICES MECH. SUB DIVISION, KURUKSHETRA. + 1 OTHER WORK	22.03.2021 30.03.2021	34.61 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
8	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, PANCHKULA	SUPPLY, ERECTION & COMMISSIONING OF 03 NO. VT PUMPS 50 CS & 01 NO. 35 CS WITH MOTOR, STARTER & DELIVERY PIPE FOR YWS CIRCLE, FARIDABAD	25.03.2021 10.04.2021	3.10 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
9	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, NARNAL	RE-E-TENDER/REPAIR/REPLACEMENT AND FIXING OF NEW MS CROSS GIRDER (ISM) FOR FOUNDATION OF VT AXIAL PUMP 150 CS CAP (P-3), VT PUMP 50 CS (P-2) AT MAIN BRANCH NB-2, VT PUMP 09 CS (P-1) OF BUCHOLI DYAT PUMP HOUSE NB-2 OF NNL BRANCH + 10 NOS. WORKS	CLOSING DATE 30.03.2021	53.43 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
10	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, JIND	LAYING PIPE LINE FOR Dewatering of FLOOD WATER OF VILLAGE GATOLI & JAI JAI WANTI OUTFALLING AT RD 15200/R KARSOLA MINOR + 4 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 05.04.2021	272.86 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
11	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA KARNAL	LAYING HDPE PIPELINE INCLUDING SOLAR PUMP SET FOR OUTFLOW OF SURPLUS WATER FROM GAUTAM RISHI POND VILLAGE GONDER. + 5 OTHER WORKS	22.03.2021 05.04.2021	95.48 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
12	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA ROHTAK</td				

**Uttar Pradesh Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd.**  
(A U.P. GOVT. UNDERTAKING)

**Notice Inviting e-TENDER**

The Project Manager, Electrical Unit Lucknow invites for and on behalf of Managing Director U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd., online percentage rate bids in two bid system for the following work:  
**NIT No:** 230/APM.(E)E.U.-Lko/Agriculture Degree College, Gonda/RNN, Dt-22/03/2021, Name of Work: S/I/T/C of Fire Fighting System in Academic Block, Boys Hostel and Guest House Building at Agriculture Degree College District Gonda U.P.  
Estimated Bid Value: Rs. 55.1 Lakhs+GST, Earnest Money: Rs. 1.12 Lakhs, Period of Completion: 3 months, Last time and date of submission of Bid: 1500:00 PM on Dt. 15.04.2021  
The bid forms and other details can be obtained/downloaded from the website: <https://etender.up.nic.in> The NIT is also available on <http://www.uprnn.co.in>.

**Punjab Skill Development Mission**  
SCO 149-152, 11nd Floor, Sector 17-C, Chandigarh

Notice inviting Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Private Training Partner for Setting up, Operation and Maintenance of Multi Skill Development Centre (MSDC) with placement facility at Hoshiarpur, Punjab on PPP format.

No. PSDM/2021/1385 Dated: 24.03.21

Punjab Skill Development Mission (PSDM) invites the Request for Proposal (RFP) which can be downloaded from Mission's website [www.psdm.gov.in](http://www.psdm.gov.in) for finalization of Private Training Partner for Setting up, Operation and Maintenance of Multi Skill Development Centre (MSDC) with placement facility at Hoshiarpur, Punjab on PPP format.

Interested Training Partners should submit their proposals online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> or before 06/04/2021 up to 3:00 PM along with Bid Document Fee of Rs. 5,000/- (Rs. Five Thousand only) and Bid Security of Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rs. Ten Lakh only). In case of any change in the RFP document, it will be uploaded on the Mission's Website [www.psdm.gov.in](http://www.psdm.gov.in)

Sd/- Additional Director  
Punjab Skill Development Mission  
DPR/Pb/3024



**SCO NO. 74-75, BANK SQUARE, SECTOR 17-B,  
CHANDIGARH — 160 017  
TEL: 0172-5197867 & 5197857**

**NOTICE**

Applications are invited by Punjab State Warehousing Corporation for one post of Tehsildar (on contract basis) from retired Naib Tehsildars and Tehsildars of Punjab Govt. initially for a period of six months, which may be further extended as per the requirement of Punjab State Warehousing Corporation. The selected candidate will be paid consolidated emolument & last pay drawn minus pension per month. The upper age limit should not be more than 65 years. TA/DA will be paid as per State Govt. instructions. The Managing Director shall determine the terms of appointment including place of posting from time to time as per the requirement of PSWC.

Closing date for receipt of application is 12.04.2021 (up to 5.00 P.M.). No applications, if received after the closing date shall be entertained.

The application proforma and scope of work may be downloaded from the Corporation website [pswc.in](http://pswc.in) under advertisement section. Duly completed applications may be submitted by the closing date to the Chief Manager (Establishment) PSWC SCO 74-75, Bank Square, Sector 17-B Chandigarh.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all the applications without assigning any reason.

MANAGING DIRECTOR  
DPR/Pb/3021

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,  
W/S & Sanitation Divn. No. 1, Ferozepur  
TENDER NOTICE**

The Department of Executive Engineer, W/S & Sanitation Division No. 1, Ferozepur invites online bids for the following:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Approx. value of Work (in Lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	1. Tender Processing Fee 2. Document Fee (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme Jhok Hari Har, Block & Distt. Ferozepur under NABARD-XXIII	126.06	252129/-	As per site 1000/-	10 Months

- Availability of bidding document on website from 31.03.2021 at 10:00 to 30.04.2021 at 4:00 p.m.
- Pre-Bid Meeting Held on dt. 15.04.2021 at C.E.(c) WSS Department, Patiala at 11.00 a.m.
- Part I bid named Technical Qualification part of bid will be opened on 03.05.2021 at 11.30 a.m.

Note:  
1. For any clarification regarding e-tendering process, please contact this office e-tendering helpline of 0172-2791326, 2791226, 01632-223633.  
2. All other details can be seen in the bidding document uploaded on [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in).  
3. Corrigendum, if any, will be given on above website & will not be advertised in newspapers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
W/S & Sanitation Divn. No. 1, Ferozepur.  
DPR/Pb/3023

**PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD  
GOVT. OF PUNJAB**

**NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS**

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 16 OF 2021/PWSSD, ABH  
DATE: 24/03/2021

<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

On behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Chandigarh, Executive Engineer, Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Division, Abohar invites bids from the eligible bidders for the works detailed below:-

Sr. No.	Description of Work	Earnest Money	Cost of Document Tender Processing Fee (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Approx. Value of the Work
1	DNIT for Providing & Laying of Interlocking Pavers and Sewerage House Connections including inspection Chamber complete in all respects and all other works contingent thereto at Abhara, Block, Distr. (Left out by SPCL) (Waryam Nagar, Panj Peer Tibba, etc.)	8.24 Lakhs	Rs. 1000/- Rs. 5000/- + Taxes as applicable	06 Months	412.19 Lakhs

Important dates are as under:-  
i) Period of availability of tender online shall be : 26.03.2021 at 09:00 A.M.  
ii) Last date and time for online submission of bid shall be : 15.04.2021 at 03:00 P.M.  
iii) Closing date & time for Tender : 15.04.2021 at 03:00 P.M.  
iv) Date and time of opening of Technical Bid : 16.04.2021 at 12:00 P.M.  
For detailed terms and conditions refer to website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

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

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Pb. W/S & Sew. Divn., Abohar.  
DPR/Pb/3040

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

1. On behalf of the Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Fazilka invites bids from eligible bidders for the Project/Work(s) detailed in the following table. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the following Project/Work(s):

Sr. No.	Name of scheme	Approx. value of work	Bid Security (Rs.)	Bid Processing fee	Tender Fee (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme Ghatian Wali Block Arni Wala Sheikh Subhan District Fazilka (Under Nabard XXIII/ JMM)	2,38,90,921/-	4,77,818/-	As per website	1000/-	12 Months

2. Important dates are as under:  
i) The period of availability of tender online shall be : From Date 01.04.2021 to 03.05.2021  
ii) Pre-bid meeting will be held at : Date 15.04.2021 at 11:30 a.m. Office of Chief Engineer (Central), WSS Deptt. Punjab, Patiala  
iii) The last Date & Time for on submission of bids shall be online : Date 03.05.2021 up to 5:00 p.m.  
iv) Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid : Date 04.05.2021 up to 11:30 a.m. Technical Bid

The bidding documents can be downloaded from website: [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in). The document downloaded from website should not be tampered, and if any such tampering is detected before or after the opening of bids, the bidder shall be debarred for a period of 6 months.

Corrigendum, if any, will be given on above website & will not be advertised in Newspapers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Fazilka.  
E-mail: [ewss.divfazilkapb@yahoo.com](mailto:ewss.divfazilkapb@yahoo.com)  
Phone No. 01638-261348

**Police Department 3rd I.R.B.Ludhiana  
Tender Notice**

The auction of the following Government condemn vehicles through tender on 30.03.2021 at 11:00 a.m. at Battalion Headquarter 3rd India Reserve Battalion, Bhai Randhir Singh Nagar, Ludhiana. The interested bidders can visit to see the following condemn vehicles on any day at the above mentioned address. The Committee has every right to accept or reject any tender assigning any reason.

**Detail of condemn vehicles.**

Sr. No.	Type of vehicle	Model	Vehicle No.	Reserve Price
1.	Mini Bus	1995	PB-08-N-9823	Rs: 65,000/-
2.	Canter	1995	PB-08M-9845	Rs: 55,000/-

Sd/- (Jatinder Singh Benipal) PPS, Commandant,  
3rd India Reserve Battalion, Ludhiana.  
Phone No. 0161-2463328  
E-mail: [thirdirb@gmail.com](mailto:thirdirb@gmail.com)

DPR/Pb/2934

**OFFICE OF THE CIVIL JUDGE (SENIOR DIVISION),  
PATHANKOT**

No. 214/LoC Dated: 23.03.2021

Sealed applications are invited from the eligible contenders up to 26.03.2021 till 04:00 p.m. for auction of the Canteen and Parking (Cycle/Scooter/Motor-Cycle/Cars etc.) on lease at the New Judicial Courts Complex, Pathankot for the period from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022. The auction will be held on 31.03.2021 at 01:00 p.m. The details/terms & conditions can be viewed on the website <http://districts.ecourts.gov.in/india/punjab/pathankot/tender> till 26.03.2021. The successful lessee shall have to deposit 25% of the lease money at the time of auction. For further query, office of the undersigned can be contacted.

Dated: 23.03.2021 Sd/- Civil Judge (Senior Division), Pathankot.  
DI-23543

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB  
PWD B&R BRANCH  
NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS**

Bid No. 33 Dated 23.03.2021

Dept. inviting work:- Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD B&R Br, Amritsar.  
Brief of work:- Special repair of G.T Road to Gehri Mandi including Maintenance of Road for Three Years (One Year Defect Liability Period+ Two Year Maintenance Period) in Assembly Constituency Jandiala Guru in M.C. Mehta District Amritsar.  
Area of Work:- Amritsar.  
Date of Opening of Bid:- 09.04.2021.  
For detailed terms and conditions of the notice inviting Tender please see our website [punjab.gov.in](http://punjab.gov.in), [www.eprocpbpwd.gov.in](http://www.eprocpbpwd.gov.in)

Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD B&R., Amritsar.  
DPR/Pb/2949

**JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA MASEETAN DISTT. KAPURTHALA (PUNJAB)**

Sealed Tenders are invited from the manufacturers/wholesalers/dealers/Reputed firms, Distributors/Firms for supply of Dry Ration, Vegetables & Fruits, Electrical items, Civil items (White Wash and Paints), Sanitary Items, Washing & Ironing of Uniform, Carriage charges of milk, Bakery Items, and Medicines for the session 2021-2022 for JNV Maseetan District Kapurthala.

The tender forms and documents containing specifications, terms & conditions can be downloaded from the Vidyalya website [www.jnvkapurthala.org](http://www.jnvkapurthala.org) w.e.f. 25.03.2021. The downloaded form should be accompanied by a demand draft of Rs. 200/- each for separate group of items at the time of submission of tender along with separate demand draft of EMSD as mentioned in the tender form in favour of Principal JNV Maseetan payable at any Nationalized Bank Branch at Kapurthala. The last date for the receipt of sealed tenders along with requisite EMSD is 15.4.2021 up to 4.00 P.M. through registered post/letter box kept in the office.

The tenders will be opened in the presence of VFAC on 16.4.2021 from 11.00 AM onwards in the office of Principal JNV Maseetan District Kapurthala. Interested vendors or their representatives may remain present at the time of opening of tenders.

DI-23578 PRINCIPAL

**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 invites bids from eligible bidders for the work detailed in the following table. The bidders may submit bids for the following works on website [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://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 & Installing New Tubewell Size 200mm ID Straight up to 200 Mtr. Depth, Gravel Pit, Rising Main, Etc. at Water Supply Scheme Village Khaspur Block Patran & Distt. Patiala Under Head 4215.	Rs. 11,66,906/-	24,000/-	As per website	2 months

Availability of Bidding documents on Website 15.04.2021 (17.00 hrs.)

Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bids Online 15.04.2021 (17:00 Hrs.)

Time and Date of Opening of Technical Bids Online 16.04.2021 (11:00 Hrs.)

For detailed terms and conditions of the notice inviting bids refer to website [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in)

Sd/- Executive Engineer, W/S & Sanitation Div. No. 2, Patiala. Pin Code: 147101 Email: [xenrws\\_pta@yahoo.co.in](mailto:xenrws_pta@yahoo.co.in)

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

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

Name of work	Estimated cost	Ernest Money	Time of Completion
Providing water facility to SC community in Vill. Kanol from WSS Chancour in Tehsil Dehra Distt. Kangra (Under SCSP) (SH- C/o over head tank 40000 litres capacity with 10.00 mtrs staging height at vill. Kanol)	124000/-	24500/-	Three months

Last date of filling/uploading the tender through e-tendering:- 30/03/2021 up to 11.00 A.M. The tender form and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website [www.Hpiph.org](http://www.Hpiph.org)

Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti Division Dehra.

DPR/HP/6761

**H.P. GOVERNMENT DENTAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL, SHIMLA - 171001**  
Office: Shimla - 171001, HP  
Phone: 0177-2658838, 2808384

**NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS"**

Sealed quotations are hereby invited by the Principal, H.P. Govt. Dental College & Hospital, Shimla from the authorized firms/agencies for Repair of High Pressure Steam Sterilizer. Rates quoted should reach in this office on or before 04.04.2021 by 2:00 p.m. The quotations should be neatly typed as per proforma below. Rates shall be opened on the same day at 3:00 p.m. in the presence of concerned firms or their authorized representatives who wish to be present at the time of opening. Schedule of items is as below:-

Sr. No.	Description of product required to be repaired/change unit/items	Rate per unit/items	Other Charges (if any)	GST %	Total
1.	Door Gasket				
2.	Boiler Plate Gasket				
3.	Glass Gauge				
4.	Heating Element				
5.	Heating Element Gasket				
6.	Safety Valve				
7.	Door Handle				
8.	Nuts and Bolts				
9.	LED Lamp				

The rates should be F.O.R as cited above mentioned location at Shimla. The undersigned reserve the right to accept or reject any quotation without assigning reasons. For any information office of the undersigned may be contacted on any working day.

PRINCIPAL  
H.P. GOVT. DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, SHIMLA - 171001.

DPR/HP/6752

**DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES HIMACHAL PRADESH**

**e-Procurement NOTICE****INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

1. The Director cum-Warden of Fisheries Himachal Pradesh, Bilaspur invites bids in electronic tendering system, in two covers for outsourcing of below mentioned skilled/unskilled manpower at Departmental Fish Farms, Centers and Offices during the F.Y. 2021-22 from the eligible Service provider:-

Sr. No.	Description of Manpower	Tentative Requirement	Earliest Money/ Period
<b>Tentative Tender Value = Rs. 70.00 lacs</b>			
1.	Ice Plant operational services.	1 at Trout Farm Patlikuhal Kulu HP	
2.	Feed Mill operation services	1 at Fish Farm Gagret(Una), Distt. Una, HP 1 at Fish Farm Sultanpur, Distt Chamba, HP	
3.	Motor Boat operational services	1 at Ranjeet Sagar Chamba HP	
4.	Chowkidar-cum-cooking services	6, each at Pong Dam (Kangra), Barot (Mandi), Patlikuhal (Kullu), Ghagrus (Bilaspur), Sultanpur (Chamba) and Kangra (Kangra) (HP).	
5.	Chowkidar-cum-cleanliness services.	1 at Bilaspur HP	
6.	Peon-cum-cleanliness services.	1 at Bilaspur HP	
7.	Part Time cleanliness services (Four hours daily)	9, each at Bilaspur (Bilaspur), Deoli (Bilaspur), Dehra (Kangra), Pongdam (Kangra), Sathana (Kangra), Nagrota Surian (Kangra), Sangla (Kinnaur), Nalagarh (Solan), Deoli (Una). HP.	Rs. 250000/- Only for One year
8.	Labourer services	11, one at Ghagrus (Bilaspur), two at Patlikuhal (Kullu), Four at Deoli (Una), three at Nalagarh (Solan), one at Sultanpur (Chamba).	
9.	Chowkidar (watch & ward) services	If requirement arises.	
10.	Data entry Operator	5 No. Two at Directorate of Fisheries HP & One at DDF Patlikuhal & Two HP AFMS, Bilaspur.	
11.	Computer operator	03 No. at HP AFMS, Bilaspur.	
12.	Technical Asstt.	01 No. at Directorate of Fisheries HP, Bilaspur	
13.	Laboratory Technician	01 No. at DDF Patlikuhal Distt. Kullu.	
14.	Laboratory Assistant	01 No. at DDF Patlikuhal Distt. Kullu.	
15.	Junior Engineer(civil)	01 No. at HP AFMS, Bilaspur.	
16.	Driver	01 No. at HP AFMS, Bilaspur.	

Note:- Rates quoted by firms shall be compared on consolidated basis i.e. grand total of **Column No. 11** (Total cost per person per month) of Annexure-4 and not service-wise however the firms are required to supply the rates service-wise also.

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://htpntenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in this Department may obtain the same from the website: <https://htpntenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:-

1. Date of Online Publication	23.03.2021
2. Document Download start and end date(s)	23.03.2021, 17:30 Hrs. up to 16.04.2021, 10:30 Hrs.
3. Bid submission start and end date(s)	23.03.2021, 17:30 Hrs up to 16.04.2021, 10:30 Hrs.
4. Physical submission of EMD & cost of tender document	16.04.2021 up to 11:00 Hrs.
5. Date of Technical Bid Opening	16.04.2021, 11:30 Hrs.
6. Date of opening of financial bid	To be announced on 16.04.2021

4. TENDER DETAIL

The tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Covers:-

i) **Cover-1:** Shall contain scanned copies of all 'Technical Documents/ Eligibility Information.'

ii) **Cover-2:** Shall contain 'BOQ/Financial Bid', where contractor/ supplier/service provider will quote his offer for each item/category separately.

5. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/earliest money deposit (EMD) and other technical documents in the office of Director cum-Warden of Fisheries Himachal Pradesh, Bilaspur, as specified in key dates at Sr. No. 3 above on tender opening date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. BID OPENING DETAILS: The bids shall be opened on **16.04.2021** at 11:30 a.m. in the office of Director cum-Warden of Fisheries Himachal Pradesh, Bilaspur, by the tender opening committee. In their interest, the tenderers are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tender. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bids for works/services shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates. The employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender. So it is advised to visit the site regularly.

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRY IN THIS REGARD PLEASE CONTACT DIRECTOR- cum-WARDEN OF FISHERIES HIMACHAL PRADESH DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES, BILASPUR, HIMACHAL PRADESH -174001, TELEPHONE NOS.0177-224068 & 223212, FAX NO. 01978-224068 AND ALSO VISIT OUR WEBSITE <https://htpntenders.gov.in> E-mail: fisheries-hp@nic.in

DPR/HP/6753

**Advertisement Notice****Selection of Outsourcing Agency for Providing Staff**

Department of Water Supply and Sanitation, Water Works Complex, Phase-2, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Tel: 0172-4330317, 352) requires the services of an outsourcing agency for providing staff such as Receptionists, Data Entry Operators, Vehicle Drivers, Peons/Sweepers/Chowkidars, Lab Staff, Junior Engineer, Junior Draftsman etc. through outsourcing. Reputed firms/companies and service providers capable of supplying the above said manpower can submit their offers in a sealed cover to the undersigned up to 5.00 PM on 08.04.2021. The detailed Terms of Reference may be seen at department website [www.dwss.punjab.gov.in](http://www.dwss.punjab.gov.in).

Note: Any corrigendum(s) to this advertisement notice shall be published on above website only.

HOD DWSS

DPR/Pb/2983

सदृश्यः करमवारी लिंगानेश्वर, बिजली मंडप, लाईन वाइ. भ. चं म ब्रह्मा, लंगर।

Email: [electdivnjala55@gmail.com](mailto:electdivnjala55@gmail.com)

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB**

**PWD B&R BRANCH**

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS**

**Tender Notice No. 21** Date: 22-03-2021  
On behalf of the Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, PWD B&R Br., Jalandhar Cantt invites bids from eligible, authorized bidders/Service enlisted with PWD (B&R) for the below noticed work:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount	Availability of tender online from	Last date and time of submission of tender online	Tender Opening Date
1	Construction of EVM and VVPAT (Category-1) in DAC at Kapurthala (Providing Freight-cum-Passenger Lift)	34,80,100/-	22.03.2021 to 30.03.2021	30.03.2021 at 10.00 AM	30.03.2021 at 03.00 PM

\* For detailed terms and conditions refer to website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

\* Corrigendum, if any, will only be issued on website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Electrical Engineer,

Pb. PWD B&R Branch, Jalandhar Cantt.

DPR/Pb/2984

JERUSALEM, MARCH 24

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's prospects for another term looked uncertain on Wednesday after partial results from a national election projected no clear path to victory. Not even his stewardship of Israel's world-beating Covid-19 vaccination roll-out—a central pillar of his campaign—proved enough for Netanyahu to break through the political deadlock that has seen four elections in two years.

With about 88 per cent of votes counted it appeared that Netanyahu, 71, would have to cobble together a coalition from a combination of right-wing allies, ultra-Orthodox parties, ultra-nationalists, Arabs and defectors to secure another term. Should a hard-right government emerge, it would likely be at loggerheads with the Democratic administration of US President Joe Biden over

**PM WAS HOPEFUL OF A DECISIVE VICTORY**

- In an address to supporters early Wednesday, a visibly subdued Benjamin Netanyahu boasted of a "great achievement" but stopped short of declaring victory.
- The PM instead appeared to reach out to his opponents and called for formation of a "stable government".
- Netanyahu had been hoping for a decisive victory that would allow him to form a government with trusted allies that could provide him immunity from corruption charges.



issues such as Palestinian statehood and the US engagement with Israel's arch-enemy Iran over its nuclear programme. Some centre-left parties made a better showing than expected after highlighting longstanding corruption allegations against

Netanyahu—which he denies—and accusing him of mishandling the early months of the pandemic. But like Netanyahu's right-wing bloc it fell short of a governing majority in the 120-member parliament. And it has a less clear route to forming a coalition

tion, having to unite parties from different wings of the political spectrum.

Immediately after polls closed on Tuesday, Netanyahu claimed victory and said he hoped to form a "stable right-wing government". But as first results trickled in and seemed to shift against him, he did not repeat the claim in his televised post-election speech.

One potential kingmaker is Naftali Bennett, 48, a former defence minister who favours annexing parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Bennett's hawkish Yamina party is projected to win seven seats. He remained non-committal after the vote, saying he would only do "what is good for Israel". Yohanan Plesner, head of the Israel Democracy Institute, predicted political paralysis and said a fifth election was possible. — Reuters

**Senate confirms Murthy as US Surgeon General**

WASHINGTON, MARCH 24

Indian-American physician Vivek Murthy has been confirmed by the Senate as President Joe Biden's Surgeon General, a role in which his top priority will be responding to the pandemic that has severely hit the country.

Dr Murthy, 43, will occupy the position of America's Surgeon General for the second time. In 2011, President Barack Obama tapped him to serve on the advisory group on prevention, health promotion, and integrative and public health.

"I'm deeply grateful to be confirmed by the Senate to

# Chinki leads gold rush, is a Tokyo certainty

Indian women sweep 25m pistol field, cement position on top of medal tally

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 24

In a historic first, the Indian girls swept the podium places in the 25 metre pistol competition. Chinki Yadav pipped her more experienced and accomplished teammates Rahi Sarnobat and Manu Bhaker in the closely contested final.

Both Chinki and Rahi, who finished 1-2, started slowly after failing to score hits, ie shots registering 10.2 points and above.

Manu, with three hits after the first series of five shots, was third, while Chinki stood sixth with two and Rahi was seventh with only a solitary hit. However, as the final progressed, so did the unpredictability. Chinki jumped to tied top by registering five hits. The Bhopal girl stayed in the medal hunt throughout even as fortunes fluctuated in the final. Manu slipped to seventh after the end of 35 shots. Rahi had fought back from eighth early on to second.

Manu eventually finished third with 28 hits. The final went to the wire when Rahi and Chinki both finished tied on 32 hits after the 50-shot final. Chinki edged Rahi 4-3 in the shoot-off to win her maiden ISSF World Cup medal.

"I am happy because this is my first medal in a World Cup. Though I shot in a few World Cups this was my first medal and that too gold so I am very happy," a beaming Chinki said after the win.



FRONT TO BACK: Manu Bhaker, Chinki Yadav and Rahi Sarnobat compete in the 25m pistol final.



Chinki Yadav is congratulated by Rahi Sarnobat.

speculation about Chinki's place in the Tokyo-bound team, with the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) president Raninder Singh confirming that today's winner would be part of the team.

#### Uncertainty

The 23-year-old did Chinki conceded that speculations regarding her place in the

Olympics team did affect her. "I have thought about it (Tokyo selection) a few times and by doing this I bring unnecessary pressure," she added.

Rahi, meanwhile, was happy by the way the competition went. "I had come here to get back to competing again. See we did not compete at all because of pandemic. So I am

happy that I am back competing again," she said. "All three of us were in the fight. I overcame a deficit to come within touching distance of the gold medal. We have a lot of talent and it showed today it also keeps us on our toes, as I cannot be complacent about my place on the team."

Five 6s, seven 4s: Shafali carries on

LUCKNOW, MARCH 24

Shafali Verma was not selected in the Indian women's team for the One-day series against South Africa, much to the disappointments of fans who were keen to watch her in action after one full year.

However, the 17-year-old did not take her omission to heart and made it count when she got the opportunity in the T20I series. She was named Player of the Series after knocks of 23, 47 and 60. In her 60 off 30 balls in the last match, 58 of her runs came off boundaries (5 sixes, 7 fours).

#### Focus on getting better

Asked if she was disappointed with her exclusion from the ODI team, she said she thought that she needs to work on something in her game. "When I didn't get a call-up for the ODIs I thought there might still be some weakness in my game that I need to address. But I didn't go and ask anybody about it, neither the captain nor the coach, about my omission," the Haryana teenager said. — TNS

## DIRECTORATE OF CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS, HARYANA CANCELLATION NOTICE

Memo. No. EA2/2021/1524 Panchkula Dated the 09/03/2021 Refer this Office Advertisement No. Memo. No.EA2/2021/1524 Panchkula Dated the 09/03/2021 of Director Consolidation Of Holdings, Haryana Panchkula published on 18-03-2021 in various News Papers to fill the vacancy of clerk (Post-1) on outsourcing policy Part-2 is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable reason.

Sd/- Deputy Superintendent, For Director Consolidation of Holdings, Haryana, Panchkula

PRDH/1019/11/2/2021/2322/314

### सर्वजनिक सूचना

#### जिला करनाल वन विभाग में संविदाकारों के पंजीकरण/नवीनीकरण हेतु नोटिस

हरियाणा वन विभाग के क्षेत्रीय वन मंडल करनाल के अधीन जिला करनाल में वर्ष 2021-22 में जिले के भिन्न-भिन्न स्थानों पर विवायीय कार्य करवाया जाना है। उक्त कार्य करवाने के लिए संविदाकारों से पंजीकरण/नवीनीकरण हेतु आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं।

इच्छुक आवेदक अपने आवेदनपत्र दिनांक 25.03.2021 तक दोपहर 12 बजे तक वन मंडल अधिकारी, करनाल कार्यालय में जमा करवा सकता है। आवेदन प्रोफाइल वन मंडल अधिकारी करनाल वन राजिक अधिकारी करनाल, इन्हीं व असंघ के कार्यालय से किसी भी कार्यालयस के दिन प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

आवेदनकारी के पास अनुभव प्रमाणपत्र (पौधारोपण व नर्सरी के कार्यों), एक पासपोर्ट साइज फोटो, पैनकार्ड, आधार कार्ड, बैंक खाता नं./आई.एफ.एस.सी. कोड/एप्स.आई.सी.आर. कोड, ई.पी.एफ. नं., ई.एस.आई. नं., लेवर विभाग हरियाणा द्वारा जारी किया गया रजिस्ट्रेशन सर्टिफिकेट व रिजिस्टर्ट लेवर की सूची होनी चाहिए। जिन संविदाकारों का नवीनीकरण किया जाना है तन संविदाकारों से प्राप्त वर्ष 2020-21 में जमा करवाये गये मजदूरीयों के EPF & ESI की पूर्ण फिटेल व चालान सहित मंडल कार्यालय में वन राजिक अधिकारी के प्रमाणपत्र सहित प्रस्तुत करें।

PRDH/1043/11/24/2021/2306/314

उप वन-संरक्षक, करनाल

## Government of India Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

### Rules for Digital News Publishers and OTT Platforms

The Government of India has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 on 25.02.2021. Part III of Rules pertains to digital news publishers and publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms). The rules require the publishers to adhere to the Code of Ethics, establish a Grievance Redressal Mechanism, and furnish information to the Government of India.

For more details, visit <https://mib.gov.in/> or contact:  
Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting  
E-mail: amarendra.singh@nic.in

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of following Special trains as under:-

Train No. & Name	Days of run	Presently Notified Upto	Extended upto
02521 Barauni Jn.-Ernakulam Jn. Special	Monday	31.03.2021	05.04.2021 to 28.06.2021
02522 Ernakulam Jn.-Barauni Jn. Special	Friday	04.04.2021	09.04.2021 to 02.07.2021
02397 Gaya Jn.-New Delhi Special	Daily	31.03.2021	Upto 30.06.2021
02398 New Delhi-Gaya Jn. Special	Daily	01.04.2021	Upto 01.07.2021
03257 Danapur-Anand Vihar Terminus Spl.	Daily	31.03.2021	Upto 30.06.2021
03258 Anand Vihar Terminus -Danapur Spl.	Daily	01.04.2021	Upto 01.07.2021
05269 Muzaffarpur Jn.-Ahmedabad Jn. Spl.	Thursday	25.03.2021	Upto 24.06.2021
05270 Ahmedabad Jn.-Muzaffarpur Jn. Spl.	Saturday	27.03.2021	Upto 26.06.2021
05559 Darbhanga Jn.-Ahmedabad Jn. Spl.	Wednesday	31.03.2021	Upto 30.06.2021
05560 Ahmedabad Jn.-Darbhanga Jn. Spl.	Friday	02.04.2021	Upto 02.07.2021
05251 Darbhanga Jn.-Jalandhar City Special	Saturday	27.03.2021	Upto 26.06.2021
05252 Jalandhar City-Darbhanga Jn. Special	Sunday	28.03.2021	Upto 27.06.2021
05531 Saharsa Jn.-Amritsar Jn. Special	Sunday	28.03.2021	Upto 27.06.2021
05532 Amritsar Jn.-Saharsa Jn. Special	Monday	29.03.2021	Upto 28.06.2021
05267 Raxaul Jn.-Lokmanya Tilak(T) Spl.	Saturday	27.03.2021	Upto 26.06.2021
05268 Lokmanya Tilak(T)-Raxaul Jn. Spl.	Monday	29.03.2021	Upto 28.06.2021
05529 Saharsa Jn.-Anand Vihar(T) Special	Wednesday	31.03.2021	Upto 30.06.2021
05530 Anand Vihar(T)-Saharsa Jn. Special	Thursday	01.04.2021	Upto 01.07.2021
02355 Patna Jn.-Jammu Tawi Special	Sat, Tue	30.03.2021	Upto 29.06.2021
02356 Jammu Tawi-Patna Jn. Special	Sun, Wed	31.03.2021	Upto 30.06.2021
03255 Patliputra-Chandigarh Special	Sun, Wed	31.03.2021	Upto 30.06.2021
03256 Chandigarh-Patliputra Special	Mon, Thu	01.04.2021	Upto 01.07.2021
09027 Bandra Terminus-Jammu Tawi Special	Saturday	24.04.2021	01.05.2021 to 26.06.2021
09028 Jammu Tawi-Bandra Terminus Special	Monday	26.04.2021	03.05.2021 to 28.06.2021
09017 Bandra Terminus-Hardwar Special	Wednesday	28.04.2021	05.05.2021 to 30.06.2021
09018 Hardwar-Bandra Terminus Special	Thursday	29.04.2021	06.05.2021 to 01.07.2021
09451 Gandhidham-Bhagalpur Special	Friday	30.04.2021	07.05.2021 to 25.06.2021
09452 Bhagalpur-Gandhidham Special	Monday	03.05.2021	10.05.2021 to 28.06.2021
09313 Indore-Patna Jn. Special	Mon, Wed	28.04.2021	03.05.2021 to 30.06.2021
09314 Patna Jn.-Indore Special	Wed, Fri	30.04.2021	05.05.2021 to 02.07.2021
09321 Indore-Patna Jn. Special	Saturday	24.04.2021	01.05.2021 to 26.06.2021
09322 Patna Jn.-Indore Special	Monday	26.04.2021	03.05.2021 to 28.06.2021
09057 Udhna-Manduadih Special	Friday	30.04.2021	07.05.2021 to 25.06.2021
09058 Manduadih-Udhna Special	Sunday	02.05.2021	09.05.2021 to 27.06.2021

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

Visit RailMadad website:

[www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in)

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## BRIEFLY

VINAYAK PADMADEO  
TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 24

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar jokingly said: "I have been called Aishwarya Rai a lot, today it was Akshay Kumar! Pata nahi kya chal raha hai!"

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, SHOOTER

When the first time he broke into the junior Indian team, he was wrongfully named Aishwarya in the team sheet.

He got it corrected in the ISSF records, but folks kept calling him Aishwarya back home.

"I had to show them my shooter's ID, wahan bhi naam galat tha! Thankfully, all this is past," he said.

Despite the gaffe by the announcer, Aishwary made his name after winning gold in the 50m Rifle 3 Positions in a field that included current world No. 5 Istvan Peni and world No. 6 Sanjeev Rajput.

The 20-year-old started strongly and led in the first 15 shots in the kneeling position. However, he slipped to second place in the next 15 shots in prone position. However, he recovered in the standing position to lead the finals by the time the elimination rounds started.

## IN PARLIAMENT



**Increase awareness on RTI in rural areas: Panel**  
Noting that people living in rural areas are most vulnerable to corrupt practices and they are the ones who know very little about their rights under the RTI Act, a parliamentary panel in its report has asked the transparency watchdog Central Information Commission to run campaigns to spread awareness about the law among such population. TNS

**Lok Sabha passes Bill on child protection**

The LS on Wednesday cleared radical amendments to the Juvenile Justice Act making district magistrates responsible for child protection, mandating background checks for those interested in setting up child shelters and stipulating qualifications for child welfare committee members. "We can't wait for children to become victims," Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani said. TNS

**Aware of China developing border infra: Govt**

The government on Wednesday said it was aware that China is developing infrastructure in border regions opposite India in Tibet and Xinjiang autonomous regions, and that it keeps constant watch on all developments having a bearing on the country's security and takes all steps to safeguard it. PTI

**Rajya Sabha passes Finance Bill**

The RS on Wednesday returned the Finance Bill, 2021, without proposing any new amendment, thus completing the Parliamentary approval for Budget 2021-22. FM Nirmala Sitharaman, however, had to cut short her reply after sharp exchanges with Trinamool Congress members. TNS

## IN BRIEF

**HC suspends 2-year jail term of AAP MLA**

NEW DELHI: The Delhi HC on Wednesday suspended the two-year jail term of AAP MLA Somnath Bharti in a case of assault on AIIMS security staff. Justice Suresh Kait also stayed Bharti's conviction in the case and sought response of the Delhi Government on his plea challenging his conviction and the sentence. PTI

**Ration scheme won't have any name: Kejriwal**

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Cabinet on Wednesday approved the doorstep delivery under a ration scheme to be rolled out without any name after objections by the Centre. PTI

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**PM's Dhaka visit to be a milestone in ties: Shringla**

NEW DELHI, MARCH 24 Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Dhaka from March 26, his first abroad since the outbreak of Covid last year, would mark an important milestone in bilateral relations, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said at a special briefing here today.

The Foreign Secretary took note that the PM had been invited for a visit on Bangladesh's "most significant" national day. "They had been planning it for a very long time. Let us not conflate with other issues which are important, but let us not detract from this high point in relationship," he observed. — TNS

**PM counters TMC's 'outsider' rant, says son of soil to be CM**

NEW DELHI, MARCH 24 In a bid to counter Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's "outsiders" campaign, PM Narendra Modi on Wednesday said if BJP came to power in the state, a "son of the soil" only would don the mantle of CM.

Addressing a rally at Contai, Modi said he found Banerjee's "outsider" rant quite strange as Bengal had played a key role in uniting the country. "We are all children of Bharat Bhumi. No Indian is an outsider here," the PM said. Banerjee, during a rally at Onda, urged the womenfolk to chase away the "outsider goondas" with kitchenware. — TNS

PM greets Suvendu's father Sisir Adhikari in East Midnapore. PTI



AAP MP Sanjay Singh speaks in the Rajya Sabha in Delhi. PTI

**SAD DAY FOR DEMOCRACY: KEJRIWAL**

New Delhi: Soon after the passage of the GNCTD Bill, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal said it was a sad day for democracy. "The RS passes GNCTD Bill. We will continue our struggle to restore power back to people. Whatever be the obstacles, we will continue doing good work. Work will neither stop nor slow down," he added. TNS

**LS clears Bill to regulate allied, healthcare professions**

BJD, TMC, RJD and AAP were among the regional parties that opposed the Bill during the discussion, saying it encroached upon powers of the state governments and was against federalism.

Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy tried to allay Opposition members' apprehension that the Bill would make irrelevant the elected government in the NCT Delhi.

**Cong, RJD protest 'beating up' of MLAs in Bihar**

NEW DELHI, MARCH 24 The Congress today said democracy had been throttled in Bihar where Opposition RJD and Congress MLAs, including women, were allegedly manhandled by the state police when they were opposing a Bill seeking to grant unbridled powers to cops.

RJD MP Manoj Jha walked out of the Rajya Sabha on the issue after House Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu denied him permission to raise the issue. "Let the House first decide whether it can take up issues of states. The other day I didn't allow Maharashtra matter to be raised. You can't raise issues on your convenience. There has to be a policy," said Naidu.

Earlier, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took to Twitter to say "those stripping democracy have no right to call themselves a government". He said the Opposition would continue to speak up for the people and was not afraid of anyone. — TNS

**Unemployment eases, still a long way to go**

## TTRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 24 The unemployment situation in the country may have marginally eased after a year the lockdown was imposed to contain the spread of deadly Covid-19 on March 25 last year, but the strains on the job market continue.

The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's data show unemployment rate at 6.9 per cent in February this year as against 7.8 per cent in February last on the eve of the lockdown and 8.8 per cent in March 2020, the month when restrictions were imposed.

Figures put unemployment rate at the highest 23.5 per cent in April and 21.7 per cent in May.

Decline began thereafter with 10.2 per cent unemployment rate in June and 7.4 per cent in July.

September was a green month for job growth trend reversal with unemployment rates plummeting to 6.7 per



APRIL WORST-HIT

- Figures put unemployment rate at the highest 23.5 per cent in April and 21.7 per cent in May
- Decline began thereafter with 10.2 per cent unemployment rate in June and 7.4 per cent in July

cent, followed by 7 per cent in October, 6.5 per cent in November, 9.1 per cent in December last 6.5 per cent in January.

The Finance Minister recently informed the Parliament that recoveries in job markets were visible with main industry sectors running at their optimum.

**BJP manifesto promises laws to protect Sabarimala traditions**

Assures legislation in Kerala to check love jihad

## ASSEMBLY POLLS 2021

## TTRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 24 Along with a job for every family, gas cylinders for BPL households and free laptops for high school students, the BJP also promised legislations to protect "traditions" of Sabarimala temple and end 'love jihad' or forcible religious conversions on the pretext of marriage in poll-bound Kerala.

The proposals are part of the manifesto for the Assembly elections unveiled in Thiruvananthapuram today. The manifesto also assures housing, drinking water and power supply for all, minimum wages across sectors, ex gratia of Rs 5,000 per month to every family where the sole breadwinner falls sick/unable to



Union Minister Amit Shah during a rally in Kochi on Wednesday. PTI

## 'LDF, UDF MADE STATE DEN OF CORRUPTION'

The LDF and UDF, which rule the state alternatively, have made Kerala a den of corruption. When UDF comes, then we see scandals like solar scam Amit Shah, UNION MINISTER

work. It also promised hike in monthly welfare pension.

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said, "The BJP

manifesto is progressive, dynamic and development-oriented and Kerala was awaiting such a manifesto."

**TMC: Central agencies targeting candidates**

## SHUBHADEEP CHOUDHURY

## TTRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 24 The Trinamool Congress has taken exception to the deployment of Special Armed Police (SAP) from Uttar Pradesh in West Bengal on election duty.

"We strongly object to deployment of SAP personnel from UP since it is governed by the BJP and CM Yogi Adityanath is the party's star campaigner," TMC leader Derek O'Brien said in a letter to the election authorities.

Appealing to the EC not to deploy police force from UP or any other BJP-ruled state, O'Brien, TMC leader in the Rajya Sabha, in another letter, urged the poll authorities to issue directions to central agencies such as "the ED, CBI, NIA and the IT (Income Tax)" to refrain from singling out TMC functionaries, including candidates, for actions "amid the elections".

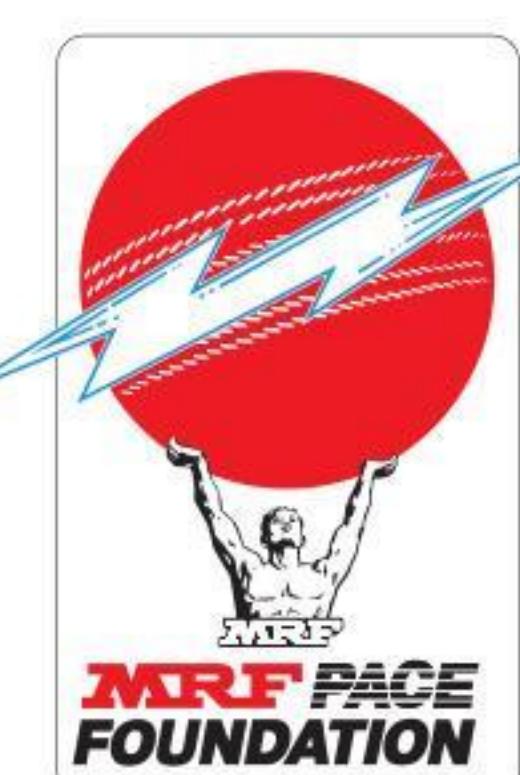
O'Brien alleged the central agencies were harassing TMC leaders in cases which were at least five years old. "Several BJP leaders too were accused in these cases, but they were not summoned by central agencies. This is clearly a proof of misuse of central agencies by the party in power at the centre," the letter said. He alleged the actions by the central agencies against TMC leaders were designed to influence the voters in the state by showing TMC in a bad light.

The letter further alleged a battery of BJP heavyweights, including the Prime Minister, Home Minister, other central ministers and CMs of BJP-ruled states, had been using their official transport and other government paraphernalia while visiting West Bengal for election campaign.

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