

Centre-farmers talks tomorrow

AGENCIES
New Delhi, 28 December

Protesting farmer unions on Monday agreed “in-principle” to a government proposal for holding the next round of talks on the new agricultural laws on December 30, but insisted the agenda of the meeting should include discussing modalities for repealing the three legislations. The farmers’ acceptance of the proposal came hours after the Centre sent them a letter suggesting December 30 as the date for the dialogue, against December 29 the protesting unions wanted.

This comes amid Prime Minister Narendra Modi continuing to support the farm laws, saying that the reforms are meant to better their lives.

Responding to a letter sent by the protesting farmer unions last week — expressing their willingness to hold talks — the Centre said just like the protesting farmers, it is also committed to finding a logical solution to all relevant issues. The protesting farmer unions had, last week, proposed to the Centre to hold talks on Tuesday.

The agenda included modalities for repeal of the three farm laws enacted in September, a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP), concrete steps



“THE GOVERNMENT’S POLICIES ARE CLEAR AND INTENTIONS TRANSPARENT IN REFORMING THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR. IT WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TO STRENGTHEN FARMERS AND AGRI SECTOR WITH FULL FORCE AND DEDICATION”

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

on draft electricity Act and NCR’s pollution ordinance.

Taking note of the unions’ offer to resume talks, agriculture secretary Sanjay Aggarwal said that a detailed discussion will take place on the issues.

However, the government letter did not make any specific reference to a key condition proposed by the unions seeking talks on modalities for repeal of the Acts.

“The letter of the government indicates that it is being clever with words and not willing to discuss the agenda proposed by farmer organisations; this exposes its double-speak,” said the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee, one

of the groups participating in the protest.

So far, five rounds of formal talks held between the Centre and 40 protesting farmer unions remained inconclusive.

The last round of talks was held on December 5. The sixth round of talks, originally scheduled for December 9, was called off a day after an informal meeting of home minister Amit Shah with some union leaders failed to reach any breakthrough. The government had, however, followed up Shah’s meeting with a draft proposal sent to the unions in which it had suggested 7-8 amendments to the new laws and written assurance on the MSP procurement system. In a December 26

letter, farmer unions gave December 29 as date for resumption of talks. They made it clear that the modalities for repeal of the three farm laws and guarantee for MSP should be part of the agenda.

The date given by the Centre for the talks is the day when unions will hold a tractor march from Singhu border and Tikri border to the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal highway. It’s been over a month now since thousands of farmers, especially from Punjab, Haryana, and parts of Uttar Pradesh, are camping at Delhi borders, seeking repeal of the three laws.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while flagging off the 100th ‘Kisan Rail’, asserted his government has undertaken historic reforms in the farm sector to boost agriculture and strengthen farmers.

He said it would continue to do so with full force and dedication. Modi said his government’s policies are clear and intentions transparent in reforming the agriculture sector.

NTI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar said false narratives about the farm laws are doing significant harm to the interests of farmers as well as the economy in general. He expressed disappointment at some economists changing their stance on the new legislations.

Israel’s sales pitch: Our artillery gun to boost Make in India

AJAI SHUKLA
New Delhi, 28 December

Highlighting how important Tel Aviv regards an Indian order for 1,580 artillery guns, worth about ₹20,000 crore, Israel’s Ministry of Defence (MoD) has written to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, pushing the award of a contract to Elbit Systems – the Israeli firm that bid lowest in an Indian global tender for towed guns.

Business Standard has reviewed the letter, which was signed last Tuesday by Brigadier General Yair Kulas, director of Sibat — the Israeli defence ministry agency in charge of defence exports. It expresses concern that no contract has been signed, even though Elbit Systems was declared the lowest bidder in March 2019 in the tender for 155-millimetre, 52-calibre guns. In July 2019, Elbit successfully concluded price talks with India. “We would kindly request your guidance regarding the status of the approval process and the anticipated or

planned timeline for the conclusion of the approval process,” writes Sibat. As *Business Standard* earlier reported, Elbit priced its Autonomous Towed Howitzer Ordnance System (ATHOS) gun 40 per cent cheaper than the rival offering from French firm, Nexter. Elbit quoted €477 million for 400 fully-built ATHOS guns, while Nexter quoted €776 million, say Indian MoD sources. That puts the cost of each ATHOS gun at €1.2 million (₹10.7 crore), significantly cheaper than the €1.94-million (₹17.3-crore) price of each Nexter gun. However, Elbit’s main sales pitch is not low cost, but a high degree of indigenisation. The Indian tender requires the first 400 guns to be supplied fully built or in kits, with no indigenisation requirements. The remaining 1,180 guns are required to be built by the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), with at least 50 per cent indigenous content.

On October 14, Elbit provided a written commitment that it would indigenise production to the extent of 70 per cent, including the first 400 guns. Sibat’s letter indicates that the Israeli government will not restrict technology transfer or impose con-

trols that might prevent Elbit from meeting its indigenisation commitment. “On behalf of the Israeli MoD, I would like to take this opportunity... to convey our strong support in Elbit Systems undertaking to contribute to the Make in India initiative,” the letter says.

For meeting this tough 70-per cent indigenisation target, Elbit will take the unprecedented step of setting up two production lines in India. It will partner the Kalyani group and its flagship, Bharat Forge, for building the first 400 guns. After that, in accordance with the requirements, Elbit will transfer technology to the OFB to build the next 1,180 guns. When production shifts to the OFB, the Kalani group line will not be idle. Elbit and the Kalyani group will keep that line alive, building ATHOS guns for the global market. “According to our understanding, the project will quickly provide highly advanced capabilities to the Indian artillery forces, as well as create numerous new job opportunities and prospects for export to third

countries,” wrote Sibat. According to Elbit, it will succeed in indigenising 70 per cent of the first 400 guns, having already taken “very decisive, firm and committed steps” to partner Indian companies. Elbit has a joint venture (JV) with Bharat Forge called BF Elbit Advanced Systems, and a JV with Alpha Design Technologies called Alpha-Elsec. It is also concluding a JV with Aditya Precitech, Hyderabad.

The MoD initially preferred the Defence Research and Development Organisation’s 155-mm, 52-calibre Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System, over Elbit’s ATHOS gun. This became clear when the MoD embargoed the import of all 155-mm, 52-calibre towed guns from December 31, 2020. However, partly because of the ATHOS’ low price and also roadblocks in the development of ATAGS, the MoD changed its mind in favour of the ATHOS. As *Business Standard* reported, the MoD reversed course on August 21 and permitted imports for another year, till December 31, 2021.

The question mark that still hangs over the signing of a contract with Elbit Systems is the reduced availability of funds.

ELBIT’S MAIN SALES PITCH IS NOT LOW COST, BUT A HIGH DEGREE OF INDIGENISATION. THE INDIAN TENDER REQUIRES THE FIRST 400 GUNS TO BE SUPPLIED FULLY BUILT OR IN KITS, WITH NO INDIGENISATION REQUIREMENTS

India’s first driverless metro flagged off

Metro rail to be expanded to 25 cities by 2025: PM

TWESH MISHRA
New Delhi, 28 December

More than 25 cities will have metro rail by 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after inaugurated full-time operations of driverless trains on the Delhi Metro-Magenta Line on Monday.

“When our government was formed in 2014, only five cities had metro rail at that time. Today, metro rail is served in 18 cities. By 2025, we are going to expand it to more than 25 cities,” he said.

The prime minister highlighted his association with this project. “I had the privilege of inaugurating the Magenta Line about three years ago. Today again, on this route, the country’s



The driverless metro operation will be expanded to the Pink Line, which connects Majlis Park and Shiv Vihar, by June

PHOTO: PTI

first fully automated metro is being inaugurated.”

Trail runs for driverless trains had begun in May 2016 and 14 high-tech trains were ferried from South Korea for the same. There

was a mishap during the trial period on December 20, 2017, when one of the driverless trains crashed through a wall because of a “human error.”

In 2014, only 248 km of metro

lines were operational in the country. “Today it is about three times more than 700 km. By 2025, we are trying to expand it to 1,700 km. In 2014, the number of riders on the metro was 1.7 million per day. Now this number has increased five times to 8.5 million people every day,” he said.

According to officials in the know, this driverless metro operation would be formalised on the Magenta Line that connects Janakpuri (West) and Botanical Garden metro stations. Operations will be expanded to the Pink Line, which connects Majlis Park and Shiv Vihar stations by June. The Delhi Metro system has about 350 train sets that operate across the 285 stations on the network.

Modi also listed different types of metro rail on which work is being carried out in the country. He said the Regional Rapid

Transit System (RRTS) between Delhi and Meerut would reduce the distance of Delhi and Meerut to less than an hour. In cities where passenger numbers are less, work is being done on the MetroLite version, he said. This version would be constructed at 40 percent cost of normal metro.

Modi said Metro Neo is being worked in cities where the ridership is less. It would be built at the cost of 25 per cent of the normal metro. For cities where there are large water bodies, the water metro is now being worked on. This will provide last-mile connectivity to the people near the islands, an official statement said.

The PM also launched the fully operational National Level Common Mobility Card for travel on the 23-km Airport Express Line (New Delhi to Dwarka Sector 21 metro stations).

— TENDER CARE — — Advertorial

GRAND LAUNCH OF PONGALO PONGAL BARODA ATM THIRUVIZHA

Pongalo Pongal Baroda ATM Thiruvizha" was launched by R. Mohan, Zonal Head, Chennai Zone on 15th Dec 2020 across the Tamil Nadu & Puducherry State as part of Bank's digitisation initiative with cultural integration, in pursuit to achieve customer excellence. All the ATMs of Bank of Baroda have been decorated with Kolams, Rangoli, Flowers and serial lights in TN & Puducherry. Adequate care is taken to maintain uptime 24x7. Customers and non Customers can feel the difference at the ATMs bearing a contemporary look during this festival time. R. Mohan, reiterated that amongst all good things which Bank is doing, we can't forget the important role which our front-line soldiers are playing on borders. To honor and facilitate them, BOB has signed MOU on 21st Dec with Defence Forces for its newly launched "Baroda Military Salary Package" for all military, paramilitary and Police personnel to offer them a host of benefits. An MOU was also signed with leading Infrastructure Commercial vehicle manufacturing company to give fillip to Construction industry.



SHRI VINIT KUMAR, SMP, KOLKATA CHAIRMAN TOOK OVER ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF CHAIRMAN, PARADIP PORT TRUST

Shri Vinit Kumar, Chairman, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (erstwhile Kolkata Port Trust), an IRSEE officer of 1993 batch took over the additional charge of Chairman, Paradip Port Trust from today, i.e., the 23rd December, 2020.



Before taking over the charge of Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust, Shri Vinit Kumar was Chief Electrical Engineer in Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd. and looked after World Bank funded MUTP project before joining as Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust. Shri Kumar joined administrative post of Secretary, Central Railway and gained experience in general administration. Shri Kumar worked in Central Railway in Mumbai suburban system, one of the densest suburban system in the world in maintenance and operations of rolling stock and traction installations. He also worked in Pune and Nagpur in independent charge of traction assets and locomotive workshop. He has wide experience in operation, maintenance, infrastructure development and general administration of Railways.

As Chairman of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata, Shri Kumar has played a pivotal and dynamic role for the Port to achieve the highest cargo handling in two consecutive years of 2018-19 and 2019-2020 which surpassed all previous records in the 150-year history of the port. In addition to cargo handling, the Port achieved profitability of INR 60 crore for the first time in 15 years due to his thoughtful and energetic leadership.

ON CHRISTMAS, SBI AO MOHALI ORGANISED AN ANIMAL ADOPTION AWARENESS CYCLE RIDE "RIDE IN RED" (CYCLOTHON)

On Christmas, SBI AO Mohali organised an Animal Adoption Awareness cycle Ride "Ride In Red" (Cyclothon) in association with Cyclegiri group and Chhatbir Zoo officials which started from SBI Aero Arcade branch at Aerocity Mohali till Chhatbir Zoo in which more than 100 participants took part, where SBI AO Mohali adopted a "Royal Bengal Tiger" (The National Animal of India) for one year. This Cyclothon was done to create an awareness among public to adopt a Zoo animal which was flagged by Sh. Sukhbir Singh Birdi, DGM (B&O) AO Mohali and Dr. M. Sudhagar (IFS) Field Director Chhatbir Zoo. During this ride "Santa Claus" distributed Masks and Sanitizers among participants and all the guidelines from Govt. of India for prevention of Covid-19 were adhered by all the participants. Field Director Chhatbir Zoo expressed thanks for adopting a Zoo animal to SBI AO Mohali and motivated the other participants for adoption of Zoo animal.



Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 21-12-2020 to 27-12-2020
Controller of Legal Metrology
Tender ID: 2020 CLM 399616 2 * Controller,LEGAL METROLOGY * (RE TENDER)supply Installation and maintenance of Laborator * Closing Date: 07-Jan-2021 * PAC: Rs900000
Office of the Commissioner of Food Safety Kerala
Tender ID: 2020 FOOD 401773 2 * Commissioner of Food Safety * Supply of CRMs and SRMs * Closing Date: 21-Jan-2021 * PAC: Rs500000
Visit <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> for more details.
Ro.No:21-27/Dec/2020/PRD/N11

Dr.Reddy's
NOTICE
Pursuant to Regulation 47 of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, January 29, 2021, *inter alia*, to consider and approve the unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2020.
This notice and outcome of the above meeting will be available on the website of the Company and also on the website of BSE Ltd. and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. viz www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com respectively.
For Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Limited
Sandeep Poddar
Company Secretary
Dr. REDDY'S LABORATORIES LIMITED
Regd. Office: 8-2-337, Road No.3, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500 034
CIN: L85195TG1984PLC004507, Tel: 91 40 4900 2900; Fax: 91 40 4900 2999
email: shares@drreddys.com; website: www.drreddys.com

TATA POWER
The Tata Power Company Limited
(Corporate Contracts Department)
Smart Center of Procurement Excellence, 2nd Floor, Sahar Receiving Station, Near Hotel Leela, Sahar Airport Road Andheri (E), Mumbai 400 059, Maharashtra, India
(Board Line: 022-67173917) CIN: L28920MH1919PLC000567
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
The Tata Power Company Limited invites tenders (2 Part Bidding) from eligible vendors for the following packages to be done for upcoming Tata Power distribution in Odisha (SOUTHCO and WESCO)

Tender Enquiry No.	Work Description
TPCODM/SA/O/S043	Rate contract for Rehabilitation and Waterproofing Works at Various Circles of Southco Utility
TPCODM/SA/O/W043	Rate contract for Rehabilitation and Waterproofing Works at Various Circles of Wesco Utility
TPCODM/SA/O/S044	Rate contract for Civil Works for Upgrading Stores at Various Circles of Southco Utility
TPCODM/SA/O/W044	Rate contract for Civil Works for Upgrading Stores at Various Circles of Wesco Utility

For detailed tender document, please visit Tender section on website <https://www.tatapower.com>. Further details for participating in tender is given in the tender document.
Interested bidders to submit Tender Participation Fee and Authorization Letter through email before **8th January 2021, 1500 Hrs.**, after which link from Tata Power e-Tender shall be shared. All future correspondence regarding the tender, bid submission date, etc. will happen with participating bidders only through Tata Power E-Tender system.

Mahindra FINANCE
MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
Registered Office: Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai - 400 001.
CIN: L65921MH1991PLC059642
Tel: +91 22 6652 6000 | **Fax:** +91 22 2498 4170
Website: www.mahindrafinance.com | **Email:** investorhelpline_mmfs@mahindra.com
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given in compliance with Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Thursday, 28th January, 2021 to *inter alia*, consider and approve the Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results of the Company for the third quarter ending 31st December, 2020, subject to a limited review by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.

This intimation is also available on the website of BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com) and National Stock Exchange of India Limited (www.nseindia.com) where the Company's shares are listed and may also be accessed on the website of the Company at <https://www.mahindrafinance.com>.

For Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited
Sd/-
Arnavaz M. Pardiwalla
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
Place : Mumbai
Date : 28th December, 2020

E.I.D.- PARRY (INDIA) LIMITED
CIN: L24211TN1975PLC006899
Regd. Office: "Dare House", Parry's Corner, Chennai - 600 001.
Tel: 044-25306789 Fax: 044-25341609
Web: www.eidparry.com Email: investorservices@parry.murugappa.com
NOTICE
Members are hereby informed that pursuant to Section 110 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 ["the Act"], Rule 22 and Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 ("Rules"), relevant circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, and Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the Company has completed the despatch of the Postal Ballot Notice dated December 16, 2020 along with the Statement pursuant to Section 102 of the Act on December 28, 2020 only through electronic mode to all those members of the Company whose email address are registered with the Company's Depositories on December 25, 2020 (Cut-off date). The requirement for sending physical copy of the Postal Ballot Notice and Postal Ballot Form has been suspended with vide the relevant MCA Circulars.

The special resolution for increase in the limits for making investments / extending loans and giving guarantees or providing securities in connection with loans to Persons / Bodies Corporate, as per the details set out in the Postal Ballot Notice, is to be transacted by Postal Ballot through electronic voting only ("remote e-voting") through remote e-voting platform provided by M's KFin Technologies Private Limited (KFin).

The Voting period commences on Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at 9 a.m. IST and ends on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 5 p.m. IST, when remote e-voting will be blocked and voting shall not be allowed beyond said time.

Members whose names are recorded in the Register of Members of the Company or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on the cut-off date i.e. December 25, 2020 will be entitled to cast their votes by remote e-voting. A person who is not a Member on the cut-off date should accordingly treat the Postal Ballot Notice for information purposes only.

Members who have not received the Postal Ballot Notice electronically may contact the Company or send an e-mail request to investorservices@parry.murugappa.com and obtain the same. A copy of the Postal Ballot Notice is also available on the Company's website www.eidparry.com, on the website of the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent ("RTA") viz. KFin Technologies Private Limited (www.eidparry.com) and at the relevant sections of the websites of the Stock Exchanges where the shares of the Company are listed.

For any query / grievance on e-voting, members may please visit Help & FAQ section of www.eidparry.com or contact Mr. K.V. Prem Nair, Manager at KFin Technologies Private Limited [Unit: E.I.D.-Parry (India) Limited], Selenium Tower B, Plot No. 31 & 32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Hyderabad - 500 032; e-mail: enward.ris@kfintech.com, Contact No.: 040-67162222 & Toll-free No. 1800 3454 001.

Members who have not registered their e-mail address are requested to register the same, in respect of shares held in electronic form with the Depository through their Depository Participant(s) and in respect of shares held in physical form by writing to the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, KFin Technologies Private Limited at enward.ris@kfintech.com. For detailed information in relation to email registration and remote e-voting members may refer to the Notes of e-voting instructions provided in Postal Ballot Notice.

The Results of the Postal Ballot and e-voting will be declared on Friday, January 29, 2021 and shall be placed along with the Scrutiniser's Report on the Company's website www.eidparry.com, the website of KFin, www.eidparry.com and shall be communicated to National Stock Exchange of India Limited and BSE Limited, where the Company's shares are listed.
Place : Chennai
Date : December 29, 2020
By order of the Board
Biswa Mohan Rath
Company Secretary

