

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager, Rail Coach Factory invites e-tenders for supply of the following Items:

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Tender No. & Due Date, Description, Quantity, EMD (Rs.). Contains 20 tender items for railway coaching materials.

CORRENDUM

1. Tender No. 12231403; Due date: to be read as 26.02.2024 instead of 19.02.2024; 2. Tender No. 12241021; Due date: to be read as 26.02.2024 instead of 15.02.2024; ...

JUSTIFIES BUYING CRUDE OIL FROM RUSSIA

Moscow never hurt India's interests, says Jaishankar

In interview to German daily, says India's ties with China were more difficult

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

FOLLOWING THE conflict in Ukraine, India's energy suppliers in West Asia gave priority to provide petroleum products to Europe that paid higher prices...

In an interview to German economic daily Handelsblatt, Jaishankar also suggested that India was open to play the role of a mediator to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict...



S Jaishankar with Estonia counterpart Margus Tsahkna (left) and Greece counterpart Giorgos Gerapetris (right) at India Europe Business and Sustainability Conclave, in Delhi. PTI

"very friendly" relationship with Russia, and that Moscow never hurt New Delhi's interests. "We, on the other hand, had a politically and militarily much more difficult relationship with China, for example," he said.

Jaishankar also strongly justified India's procurement of Russian crude oil. "When the fighting started in Ukraine, Europe shifted a large part of its energy procurement to the Middle East (West Asia) — until

then the main supplier for India and other countries," he said. "What should we have done? In many cases, our Middle East suppliers gave priority to Europe because Europe paid higher prices. Either we would have had no energy because everything would have gone to them. Or we would have ended up paying a lot more because you were paying more," he said.

Jaishankar's response came when asked about criticism in Europe against India that its procurement of Russian crude oil is detrimental to the effectiveness of the Western sanctions imposed on Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine.

He argued that if no one had bought the crude oil from Russia and everyone had procured it from the other countries, prices on the energy market would have shot up even further.

"Global inflation would have been much higher -- and that would have been a huge political issue in lower-income countries," he said. "If Europe had wanted to maximise the damage at the time, it would have had to stop all economic relations with Russia completely. But it didn't," he said.

PDP leader Baig attends Modi rally, says has 'come to listen to my PM'

Former J&K Dy CM refuses to confirm or deny if he would be joining BJP

ARUN SHARMA JAMMU, FEBRUARY 20

SENIOR PDP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Muzaffar Hussain Baig was present at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally here Tuesday, setting off fresh speculation about leaders who might join the BJP in Jammu and Kashmir.



Baig quit the PDP in 2020 and returned last month

One of the founding members of the PDP, Baig is a prominent Pahari leader from Kashmir. Several prominent tribal leaders from other parties have joined the BJP in recent days but, if he does so, Baig will be the first Pahari leader from the Kashmir province to follow in their wake.

Baig neither confirmed nor denied he would be joining the BJP, asking instead: "Can't one come to listen to one's PM?" Describing his presence at the rally as "my duty", he added: "It is not necessary to join, but will perform my duty as per their (PM's) programme... Joining any party frustrates the larger goal of one nation."

elections on account of the abrogation of Article 370, it will "perform well" in the province. Associated with the PDP since its inception in the late 1990s, Baig had developed differences with the party over tickets for the District Development Council polls. In March 2021, he formally joined Sajad Lone's Peoples Conference, only to be expelled a few months later.

The award was accepted by Baig even when most of his party leadership including Mufti were behind bars and booked under the Public Safety Act. Asked about Baig's presence at the PM rally, a senior PDP functionary, who did not wish to be named, said Baig had never formally rejoined the party. Recently, amid problems in INDIA seat-sharing talks for J&K, there was speculation that the National Conference was in discussions with the BJP.

BJP LEADERS INSIST ALLIANCE ALL BUT SEALED

10 days after Jayant said joining NDA, what is BJP waiting for?

LALMANI VERMA NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

AS THE BJP remains mum on a formal confirmation of the alliance announced by Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) chief Jayant Chaudhary 10 days ago, workers in both parties are getting anxious. Senior leaders, however, said the tie-up was all but sealed.

Speaking to reporters at the RLD's central office in Delhi, after paying tributes to his father and party founder late Ajit Singh on his birth anniversary,

Chaudhary had confirmed that his party will join the NDA ahead of the Lok Sabha elections — after dropping several hints that this was coming.

Since then, there has been no word on the seats the RLD will contest, or any photographs of senior BJP leaders receiving Jayant. While BJP leaders in western UP are silent, confessing that decisions are being taken by the central leadership on the matter, RLD members said the party was bargaining for four Lok Sabha seats — Baghpat, Bijnor, Kairana and Mathura — all in its base of west UP.



RLD chief and Rajya Sabha MP Jayant Chaudhary. File

ment is made, I will openly reply to questions like what were the reasons, our idea for the future, and what we want to do for our people and our area."

Insisting that the alliance is "finalised", and just a formal announcement awaited, an RLD leader said: "Party leaders want Jayant to contest the Lok Sabha elections from Baghpat, the tra-

ditional seat of his family."

One speculation is that the formal announcement might happen around the time of the unveiling of a life-size statue of Ajit Singh in Chhaprauli area of Baghpat Lok Sabha constituency. The initial date for the event was February 12. RLD sources said Prime Minister Narendra Modi may himself visit Chhaprauli now in the coming days to unveil the statue. "The announcement of the RLD-BJP alliance is expected to be made before that. All the modalities have been decided," a senior RLD leader said.

As per other sources, the agitation by Punjab farmers and the BJP-led Haryana's tough measures against them have queered the pitch. The leaders of the RLD, which claims to represent the interests of farmers apart from Jats, are facing questions over "Jayant's silence" on the issue.

Swami Prasad Maurya quits SP, is likely to float his own party

Lucknow: Nearly a week after resigning from the post of Samajwadi Party general secretary alleging "discrimination" and accusing party chief Akhilesh Yadav of ignoring the Pichda, Dalit and Alpasankhyak (PDA) people, Swami Prasad Maurya on Tuesday quit the party.

Maurya, 70, who also resigned as a Member of the Legislative Council, alleged that Akhilesh Yadav's "secularism" has been exposed as he had defied "samajwadi (socialist) ideology" by conducting a puja at a party office, "putting even the BJP to shame". While Maurya said that he would reveal his future plan at a public meeting in Delhi on Thursday, sources said he could float his outfit, like he had done in 2016 after leaving the BSP.

In his resignation letter addressed to Akhilesh Yadav, Maurya wrote: "I got the opportunity to work under your leadership in a cordial atmosphere. However, after the February 12 dialogue and my letter of February 13, no dialogue was initiated from your side. That is why I am submitting my resignation letter from the primary membership of the Samajwadi Party."

On February 23, Maurya had resigned from the post of SP general secretary.

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Table with 3 columns: Details of Secured Asset, Reserve Price (in Rs.), Earnest Money Deposit Amount (in Rs.).

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