

Centre's Agnipath scheme for recruitment in armed forces in national interest: HC

NEW DELHI, Feb 27:

The Delhi High Court on Monday upheld the Centre's Agnipath scheme for recruitment in the armed forces, saying it was made in national interest and to ensure that the armed forces are better equipped.

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad dismissed a batch of petitions assailing the scheme, and said there was no reason to interfere with it.

Besides pleas challenging the Agnipath scheme, the court also dismissed a bunch of petitions relating to recruitment process for the armed forces under certain previous advertisements while clarifying that such candidates do not have a right to seek recruitment.

The court had reserved its verdict on the batch of pleas on December 15 last year.

The Agnipath scheme, unveiled on June 14, 2022, lays out rules for the recruitment of youth in the armed forces.

According to these rules, those between 17-and-a-half and 21 years of age are eligible to apply and they would be inducted for a four-year tenure. The scheme allows 25 per cent of them to be granted regular service subsequently. After the scheme was unveiled, protests erupted in several states against the scheme.

Later, the government extended the upper age limit to 23 years for recruitment in 2022.

Earlier during the arguments, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati and central government standing counsel Harish Vaidyanathan, representing the Centre, had said the Agnipath scheme is one of the biggest policy changes in defence recruitment and was going to bring a paradigm shift in the way the armed forces recruit personnel.

"More than 10 lakh aspirants have taken advantage of the two-year age relaxation given by us... A lot of things we cannot say on affidavit, but we have acted in bona fide manner," the ASG has said.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioners in a petition concerning cancellation of the recruitment processes for the armed forces under certain previous advertisements, had said the government did not stop all recruitments in June 2021 and some of the recruitment processes were held even in August 2021 and in the beginning of 2022.

The high court had also asked the Centre to justify different pay scales of 'Agniveers' and regular sepoy in the Indian Army if their job profile is same.

Defending its Agnipath scheme, the Centre has said a large amount of study has gone into this policy and it was not a decision which was taken lightly and the Union of India was mindful and cognisant of the situation.

The bench had asked the petitioners, who have challenged the Centre's short-term military recruitment scheme Agnipath, as to which of their rights have been violated and said it was voluntary and those having any problem should not join the armed forces under it.

It had said the Agnipath scheme has been formed by experts in the Army, Navy and Air Force, and judges were not military experts.

One of the petitioners' counsel had said that after being recruited under the scheme, the Agniveers will have life insurance of Rs 48 lakh in case of contingency which is much less than the existing one.

Whatever the armed forces personnel are entitled to, these Agniveers will get them only for four years, the counsel had argued, adding that if the service would have been for five years, they would have been entitled to gratuity. (PTI)

Grave irregularities found in 13 out of 22 educational institutions under radar of CBI in scholarship scam

SHIMLA, Feb 27:

Grave irregularities have been found in 13 out of 22 educational institutions which are on the radar of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the Rs 250-crore scholarship scam, agency sources said.

Investigations revealed that these 13 institutions took scholarships in the name of about 2,000 fictitious students, sources in the CBI said. The accounts and other documentation of the remaining institutions are yet to be checked, they added.

Scrutiny of documents, accounts and data procured from computers and other related material of these institutions located in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh by the CBI revealed that scholarship fund was siphoned and scholarship was taken in the name of students who either did not exist or had left the institutions, sources added.

These institutions bagged a major chunk of the scholarship amount.

The scam started in 2012-13 when the scholarship for pre-matric and post-matric students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes under 36 schemes were not paid to eligible beneficiaries.

The scam remained hidden for almost five years as the person who created the online portal for disbursement of scholarship was also responsible for transferring the amount.

The matter came to light in 2018 following reports that students of government schools in tribal Spiti valley in Lahaul and Spiti district had not been paid any scholarship for the past five years.

Investigations had pointed out that fake letterheads to show false affiliation were used by some institutions to mislead the education department which failed to ensure physical verification of infrastructure and strength of students.

The other discrepancies included non-submission of Aadhaar numbers of students by institutions, use of same Aadhaar accounts to withdraw scholarships of multiple students who did not exist and opening of fake accounts in nationalised banks.

In order to grab the scholarship money, the institutions allegedly used the blank cheques and vouchers submitted at the time of admission, allegedly in connivance with some employees of nationalised banks which opened the accounts without Aadhaar verification. (PTI)

Congratulation to ADV. CHETAN MISRI For being elected as Joint Secretary J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu

Office of the Executive Engineer, JAMMU POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (JPDCL), JAMMU POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Tel No. 0191-2562593 Fax No.0191-2562593 e- NIT No: ED-I/e-NIT/69 of 2022-23 Dated: - 24.02.2023

1. INVITATION: - For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer (Distribution), JPDCL, ED-I, Parade, Jammu, hereinafter referred as 'Employer', invites online e-bids from reputed Companies or Class 'A' registered contractors for "Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning for shifting of 11KV Line of Jindrah Feeder for Railway at near Village Kharta near Khanpur. Under The Jurisdiction of Electric Division Div-I (JPDCL) Jammu On Turn Key Basis. For The Financial Year 2022-23" (On Turn Key basis)

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful/conscious study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.

Table with 2 columns: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K. Rows include Publishing Date, e-Bid submission (start) date & time, e-Bid submission (end) date & time, Tender Document Sale/Download End Date, Submission of Hard Copy of Tender Fee & EMD Instrument (End) date & time, Commercial and Technical Bid opening date & time, etc.

3. The Bidders need to submit the proof/cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through Demand Draft from any Nationalized/Scheduled bank pledged to Executive Engineer, JPDCL, ED-I, Parade Jammu, payable at Jammu. The original demand draft shall be submitted in a separate envelope to the Office of the Executive Engineer, JPDCL, ED-I, Parade Jammu and should reach at least one day before opening of commercial and technical e-Bid. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft must be uploaded along with the e-Bids.

4. Bidders must quote for all the particulars of the item in the Technical Bid and in the price schedule/BOQ of financial bid. The bids of Bidders who will not quote for all the particulars for any item in technical and financial bids shall be liable to be rejected at the discretion of the Employer keeping in view the interest of the JPDCL.

5. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee only from any Nationalized/Scheduled bank only pledged to Executive Engineer, JPDCL, ED-I, Parade Jammu. No Interest shall be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.

a. Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD shall be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, ED-I, Parade JPDCL Jammu, at least one day before opening of commercial and technical e-Bid.

b. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site http://jktenders.gov.in. This is conveyed to the technically qualified Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same Web Site.

6. The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of Bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table. An authority letter of Bidder's/OEM representative will be required to be produced.

7. The JPDCL reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof if any major lapse/deviation is found. The decision of the JPDCL will be final and binding.

8. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday for JPDCL office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.

9. All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidders electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.

10. To participate in e-bidding process, Bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding. Hard Copy/ORIGINAL INSTRUMENT OF EMD & Cost of Tender Document must be delivered to the Office of the Executive Engineer, JPDCL, ED-I, Parade, Jammu in sealed cover at least one day before the scheduled date of opening of the commercial and technical-Bids. The sealed cover shall be super scribed as "COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS & EMD INSTRUMENT AGAINST e-NIT NO: ED-I/e-NIT/69 of 2022-23-Dated 24.02.2023"

DIP/J-5399-P Dated : 25/2/2023

Sd/- Executive Engineer JPDCL, Electric Division Ist Parade, Jammu.

HEARTIEST THANKS TO Sh. Ravinder Raina BJP Chief JKUT and Sh. Davinder Singh Rana (Sr. BJP Leader & Ex. MLA) for nominating Er. DDI Bahadur Singh Jamwal as convener, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan J&K UT

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TENDER NOTICE 1. APS Kaluchak invites tenders from reputed vendors/Agencies/Firms having GST NO for the items mentioned as under:- S.No Details Time Limit in tender (a) Printing of School Magazine Qty-2900 Within 20 days from date of issue of supply order. (b) Installation of Hose Reel Hose (Point qty-06) Within one month from date of issue of supply order. (c) Purchase of: (i) Teachers Workstation: Size: 30"x36"x69" of 17mm/19mm Ply Board with Sunmica Qty:15 Within 30 days from date of issue of supply order. (ii) Lecture Stand : Size: 24"x16"x45" of 17mm/19mm Ply wood with sunmica Qty:15 (d) Replacement of Deodar Doors with accessories. Size: 56.5 x 80.5 inch Total : 17 Doors Within 15 days from date of issue of supply order. (e) Granite Floor in Assembly Stage Approx area: 1015 sq ft Size: 900 mm x 2400mm Thickness: 18 mm to 20 mm Colour: variations of grey and black Finishing: polished Within 15 days from date of issue of supply order. (f) Procurement of PA Equipment. (Ref Annex-I of School website) Within 15 days from date of issue of supply order. (g) Procurement of Photostat Machine qty- 01 (Ref Annex-II of School website) Within 15 days from date of issue of supply order. (h) Procurement of Desktop PC's qty-13 (Ref Annex-III of School website) Within 20 days from date of issue of supply order. 2. The complete bidding process will be Offline. All the notifications regarding this tender notice will hereafter be published on the school website www.apskaluchak.edu.in. Bidding documents including details of required technical specification can be seen and downloaded from the website www.apskaluchak.edu.in. 3. Tender documents can be submitted by registered post at the School's address or could be physically dropped in the Quotation Box placed at Tiger Arty Brigade Main Gate Kunjwani Chowk, Jammu (Pin-180010) latest by 1000 hrs on 09 Mar 2023. Quotation/Bid will be opened in camera at Conference hall Tiger Arty Bde on 09 Mar 2023 at 1100 hrs. 4. Technical Bids & Commercial bids will be submitted in separate sealed envelopes. The Commercial bids in respect of only those bidders will be considered whose Technical bid meet the required specifications/criteria. Rates applicable should be valid for a period up to next 60 days from the date of opening of the tender documents. Liquidated Damage (LD) charges @ 0.5% of the total Contract value shall be weekly levied if supply is not given within the period mentioned in supply order. All rates to be provided including GST. Principal, APS Kaluchak

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