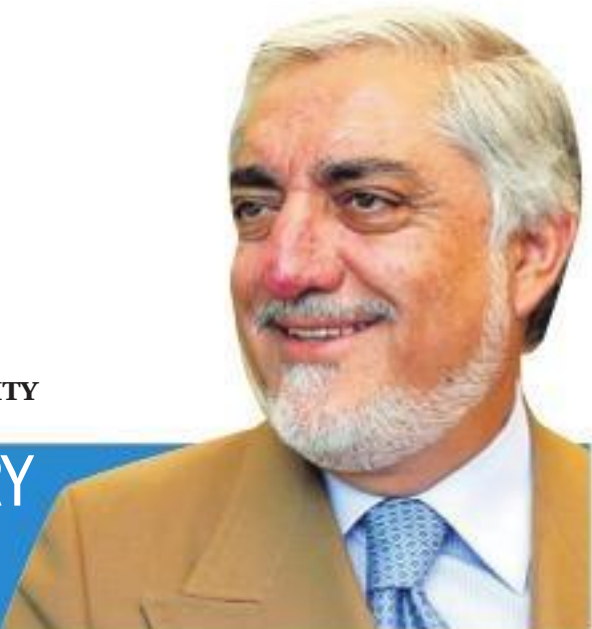


PM REACHES OUT TO TN
POST HINDI ROW PAGE 7

RCAP TO EXIT LENDING BUSINESS
PAGE 12

ABDULLAH CLAIMS VICTORY
IN AFGHAN POLLS PAGE 13

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Khattar, Phogat on BJP 1st list of 78

Dy Speaker, 2 ministers among 8 dropped; party repeats 38 MLAs

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

A day after the BJP central election committee held final discussions on nominees for the forthcoming elections to the 90-member Haryana Assembly, the party today released the first list of its 78 candidates, including nine women and several turncoats.

The saffron party has also given ticket to wrestlers Babita Phogat, Yogeshwar Dutt and former India hockey team captain Sandeep Singh. Repeating 38 and dropping eight sitting legislators, including ministers Vipul Goel and Rao Narbir Singh and Deputy Speaker Santosh Yadav, the party has, in its bid to retain power in the state, fielded Zakir Hussain and Naseem Ahmed from Nuh and Ferozepur Jhirka. The two former INLD MLAs had crossed over to the BJP "impressed" by the style of functioning of the Manohar Lal Khattar government and its observance of the slogan "Sab ka saath, sab ka vikas".

In the past, the party avoided fielding members of the minority community, even in regions dominated by them. Goel has been replaced by Narinder Gupta and Rao Narbir by Manish Yadav.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

ELECTION TEST FOR SPORT ICONS

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR KARNAL	YOGESHWAR DUTT BARODA	SANDEEP SINGH PEHOWA	BABITA PHOGAT DADRİ

THOSE DROPPED

1 DY SPEAKER SANTOSH YADAV	ATELI
2 MINISTER VIPUL GOEL	FARIDABAD
3 MINISTER RAO NARBIR	BADSHAHPUR
4 SANTOSH SAARWAN	MULANA
5 KULWANT BAJIGAR	GUHLA
6 VIMLA CHOWDHARY	PATAUDI
7 SHYAM SINGH RANA	RADAUR
8 TEJPAL TANWAR	SOHNA

TURNOATS WHO MADE IT

Several turncoats, majority of them sitting MLAs, have got the BJP ticket

■ RANBIR GANGWA NALWA	■ BALKAUR SINGH KALANWALI
■ ZAKIR HUSSAIN NUH	■ SATISH NANDAL GARHI SAMPLA KILOI
■ NASEEM AHMED FEROZEPUR JHIRKA	■ RAM KUMAR KASHYAP INDRI
■ NAGENDER BHADANA FARIDABAD NIT	■ PARMINDER DHULL JULANA
■ RC KAMBOJ RANIA	

'Discord' with MPs cost ministers ticket

SUSHIL MANAV
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30

The denial of ticket to two senior ministers, Vipul Goel and Rao Narbir Singh, and Assembly Deputy Speaker Santosh Yadav appears to be the biggest takeaway of the BJP's first list.

Goel and Rao, it is learnt, were dropped as they "no longer enjoyed good equation" with

the MPs of their respective areas while Yadav's candidature wasn't considered owing to her "disconnect" with voters.

Goel was elected from Faridabad in 2014 and was inducted in the Manohar Lal Khattar Cabinet as Industries and Commerce Minister on July 22, 2016. An affable politician, he was popular among his constituents, but he was neither liked by Farid-

abad MP Krishan Pal Gurjar nor did he enjoy good terms with Khattar, said sources.

A video had gone viral in which Goel was purportedly seen involved in a tiff with Gurjar during the inauguration of Dasehra festival in Faridabad last year. Rao Narbir Singh was considered among ministers having close proximity to CM Khattar,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

12 on hold over several faces, strong rivals

SUSHIL MANAV
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30

The BJP has kept on hold ticket for 12 Assembly segments, most of which are either represented by Congress heavyweights or where the party has multiple strong contenders.

Among the seats are Meham, Kosli, Ganaur, Kharkhoda, Naraingarh, Panipat, Fatehabad, Adampur, Tosham, Rewari, Gurugram and Palwal. Ganaur and Kharkhoda are in the Sonapat Lok Sabha segment while Meham and Kosli are part of Rohtak. Both the parliamentary constituencies were considered to be the stronghold of former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda before he and his son Deepender Hooda lost these in the last General Election.

Barring Kosli, which has BJP's Bikram Singh Thekedar as MLA, the other three seats are with Hooda loyalists Anand Singh Dangi (Meham), Jaiveer Singh (Kharkhoda) and Kuldeep Sharma (Ganaur). Adampur, Tosham and Palwal are represented by Congress's Kuldeep Bishnoi, Kiran Choudhry and Karan Singh Dalal, respectively.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Never proposed Rajoana's release to Centre, says Capt

RAJMEET SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh today said in Ludhiana that his government had no role in the Centre's decision to release former Chief Minister Beant Singh's killer Balwant Singh Rajoana or any other prisoner.

The CM clarified that his government had merely sent to the Union Home Ministry a list of all long-term TADA prisoners. The Congress stand on Beant Singh's killers had always been clear and consistent that they should serve their full sentence, the CM said. He, how-



ever, added that he was personally against death penalty. The punishment in all such cases should be commuted to life imprisonment, he said.

The state government was yet to receive the names of the nine prisoners who the Ministry of Home Affairs had reportedly decided to grant

special exemption as a humanitarian gesture on the 550th Parkash Purb of Guru Nanak Dev, he said.

On reports of threat to Punjab's peace on the release of TADA prisoners, he said he would not let anyone disturb peace and harmony in the state. "As an ex-Army man, I can assure the people that we are fully prepared to counter any threat and will not let the peace of Punjab be disturbed under any circumstances," he said.

Beant Singh's grandson and Ludhiana MP Ravneet Bittu also told *The Tribune* that Rajoana's name was never recommended by the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Pak wants Manmohan at Kartarpur opening

ISLAMABAD, SEPTEMBER 30

Pakistan has decided to invite former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to attend the inaugural ceremony of the landmark Kartarpur corridor in November, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said on Monday.

Pakistan is scheduled to open the Kartarpur Corridor for Indian Sikh pilgrims on November 9, days ahead of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak on November 12.

"The Kartarpur Corridor inauguration is a big programme and Pakistan is preparing for it in a big way," Qureshi said, noting that Prime Minister Imran Khan has a personal interest in it.

Pakistan has agreed to allow 5,000 Sikh pilgrims from India to visit on a daily basis to the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Narowal through the Kartarpur corridor. "On behalf of the government, as the foreign minister of Pakistan, I invite him to attend the inauguration of the Kartarpur corridor," said Qureshi, adding



UNLIKELY TO ATTEND

Ex-PM Manmohan Singh's office said no invite had been received yet. Congress sources, however, said Singh, even if invited, was unlikely to go. "He didn't go to Pak when he was PM for 10 years, why will he go now?" a Cong leader said. **TNS**

HIGH REGARD FOR HIM

After consultations, Pakistan has decided to invite Manmohan Singh, who we hold in high regard. He will represent the Sikh community. **SM Qureshi, PAK FOREIGN MINISTER**

that the government also intended to send a formal written invitation to the 87-year-old leader. — PTI

IN BRIEF

Railways' Apr-Aug earnings witness ₹12,000 cr shortfall
New Delhi: The Railways has witnessed a shortfall of around ₹12,000 crore from ticketing, loading and sundries in the April-August period this year compared to the corresponding period last year, with the national transporter failing to meet any of its target growth rates in the first five months of the current fiscal, as per official documents. **PTI**

BrahMos cruise missile's land-attack version tested
Balasore (Odisha): India on Monday successfully test-fired the land-attack version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, featuring indigenous components such as propulsion system and airframe, from a base at Chandipur in Odisha's Balasore district. It has a strike range of 290 km. **PTI**

Delhi HC again denies bail to Chidambaram in INX case
New Delhi: Congress leader P Chidambaram on Monday failed to get any relief from the Delhi High Court which dismissed his bail plea in the INX Media corruption case. The HC said the investigation was at an advance stage and his influencing the witnesses couldn't be ruled out. **PTI**

All Kashmir schools to reopen on Oct 3

Hearing in SC on Art 370 from today

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU/NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

In a key development, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Monday decided to reopen all government and private higher secondary schools in the Valley on October 3 while the colleges would reopen from October 9.

The announcement came on the eve of a crucial hearing in the Supreme Court on challenge mounted to the legal validity of the Centre's abrogation of the provision of Article 370, which gave special status to J&K. A five-judge Constitution Bench is all set to commence on Tuesday the hearing on a batch of petitions challenging the scrapping of provisions of Article 370.

Chairing a meeting of senior officials in Srinagar, Kashmir Divisional Commissioner Baseer Ahmad Khan directed

all deputy commissioners and officers concerned to ensure all educational institutions up to higher secondary level and colleges — shut since August 5 — were reopened, a spokesperson said.

Khan also directed the officials to hold parent-teacher meetings tomorrow in all schools to finalise modalities for their reopening. During the meeting, it was informed that medical and dental colleges were already functioning smoothly and their students were appearing in examination without any inconvenience.

Meanwhile, a Bench headed by the CJI, which on Monday dealt with other related petitions concerning the issues arising after the constitutional changes were brought in J&K, said all such matters would now be adjudicated upon by a Bench headed by Justice NV Ramana. (With PTI inputs)

VAIKO PLEA ON FAROOQ TURNED DOWN

New Delhi: The SC on Monday refused to entertain further the plea of Rajya Sabha MP Vaiko seeking production of National Conference leader **Farooq Abdullah** before it. The SC said the MDMK leader could, however, challenge the order detaining the former CM under the Public Safety Act. **PTI**



RIDE TO SAFETY: Residents being rescued on an earth-mover following heavy rain in Patna on Monday. **PTI**

Rain batters UP, Bihar; toll 143

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

The death toll in rain-related incidents mounted to 143 in the country on Monday with several areas in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh still under water following incessant showers over the past few days.

The Met has forecast a long delayed withdrawal of monsoon and more rains for Patna, where several areas lie submerged. The Bihar disaster management department said the state government

PUNJAB, HARYANA TO SEE DELAYED HARVEST

Erratic weather pattern does not augur well for Punjab and Haryana farmers who are set to witness a delayed harvest. Several parts in the two states received over 100-mm rainfall in the last 24 hours, leading to flattening of crops. **PAGES 4, 6**

had urged the Air Force to send a helicopter for air-dropping of food packets and other relief material. In UP, 900 prisoners had to be shifted to other jails after floodwaters entered the barracks of Ballia district jail located near the Ganga. Since Thursday, 93 persons have died in the state in rain-related incidents.

The Met department said the country had recorded the highest rainfall this monsoon since 1994, classifying it "above normal" as the season officially ended on Monday. — PTI

Ready to face any challenge, threat: New IAF Chief



Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria takes charge from outgoing IAF Chief BS Dhanoa, in New Delhi on Tuesday.

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria today took over as the 26th Chief of the IAF and minutes later spoke about India's prowess in tackling its western neighbour.

On being asked about Pakistan reactivating Balakot terror camps, he said, "We are aware of the reports and we will take necessary action as and when required... We were prepared then, we will be prepared next time. We will be ready to

FOR MODERNISATION

There shall be impetus on modernisation through acquisition of crucial technologies and capabilities with more reliance on indigenous design. **RKS Bhadauria, AIR CHIEF MARSHAL**

face any challenge, any threat." Bhadauria replaces Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, who

superannuated and around noon left Delhi to move to his family home in Mohali.

In his address, Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria said focus of the IAF would be to rapidly operationalise newly inducted platforms and equipment as well as to ensure earliest and complete integration of these capabilities in IAF's operational plans. "There shall be impetus on modernisation through acquisition of crucial

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Bus overturns in Gujarat, 22 killed, 50 hurt

AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 30

At least 22 passengers were killed and more than 50 others injured when a packed private luxury bus skidded and overturned in a hilly area on the Ambaji-Danta highway in Banaskantha district of north Gujarat on Monday evening, said officials.

All the deceased and injured hailed from Anand district in central Gujarat who had hired the bus for the Ambaji trip. The police said possibility of further increase in the casualty figure could not be ruled out.

The mishap took place at Trishulia Ghat, around 160 km from here, when the victims were returning home after visiting a temple, they said.

The bus driver lost control over the vehicle due to heavy rain, said Banaskantha Superintendent of Police Ajit Rajian. "We pulled out 53 persons alive from the bus using a crane," he said.

The injured were referred to Danta town's referral hospital and Palanpur Civil Hospital, said Rajian. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Vijay Rupani have expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident. — TNS

Priests from South at Priyanka house puja

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 30

AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi today performed "puja" at her newly built cottage in Charabra, about 12 km from here.

She arrived here yesterday to perform puja during the auspicious Navratras with Hindu priests specially called in from South India to complete the rituals. Priyanka was accompanied by her son and daughter. She returned to Delhi this afternoon.

To inspect cottage construction, Priyanka, generally accompanied by her mother and AICC president Sonia Gandhi, has been frequently visiting this place. Last month, she visited the place with her husband Robert Vadra.

Cong gen secy's much delayed dream home near Shimla ready

Priyanka purchased the land, located in idyllic setting close to "Retreat" the Rashtrapati Niwas, in 2007. She was specially granted permission by the then Congress government to purchase land here. Being a high-security zone close to "Retreat", no houses are allowed in the vicinity and Priyanka was granted permission by Rashtrapati Bhawan, to pave way for her house, built like an English cottage with a blend of hill architecture, the house took almost a decade to be completed. — TNS



4.25 BIGHAS BOUGHT IN 2007 ₹47 LAKH THEN COST OF THE LAND

MONEY METER



Declaration made by candidates to the EC at the time of filing nomination papers

BALWINDER SINGH DHALI WAL PHAGWARA, CONGRESS

TOTAL ASSETS ₹1.82 crore

- Aged 57, he is a postgraduate in geography.
• Retd IAS officer and his wife have no liability.

MOVABLE ₹52.76 lakh

- This includes assets of his wife and two sons, including deposits and jewellery. The family does not own any vehicle.

IMMOVABLE ₹1.3 crore

- He has two immovable properties in his name, including farmland in Ludhiana and non-agricultural land in Mohali.
• The affidavit mentions that his wife has a vacant plot in her name but its worth and location is not mentioned.

RAJESH BAGHA PHAGWARA, BJP

Aged 46, he is an undergraduate. He has a liability of ₹12.31 lakh.

TOTAL ASSETS ₹87.35 lakh

MOVABLE ₹10.35 lakh

- This includes assets of his wife and two sons, including deposits and jewellery. The family does not own any vehicle.

IMMOVABLE ₹77 lakh

- He has 2 properties in his name, including a house and share in commercial one in Jalandhar. His wife has no asset in her name.

Cong, BJP tame dissidents

MUKERIAN Rebels relent after senior leaders pitch in

SANJIV KUMAR BAKSHI

MUKERIAN (HOSHARPUR), SEPT 30 On the last day of filing of nominations for the Mukerian bypoll, the BJP and Congress were able to deal with dissent and managed to keep the rebels off the fray.

While the BJP feared two-time MLA Arunesh Shakir rebelling against the party candidate, Congress' Indu Bala faced opposition from



Jangi Lal Mahajan (2R), along with BJP state chief Shwait Malik and other leaders, files his papers in Mukerian on Monday.

was able to prevail on Shakir. Later, Shakir said, "The BJP is like my mother and how can a son go against mother. The state president has assured my workers that I will be given a respectful place in the party. I am a dedicated worker of the party and will work to make the party candidate victorious".

Talking to the media, Malik said, "There is no opposition of any kind in the BJP. Everyone has a right to ask for the ticket, but after the decision is taken, all ticket-seekers should come together." In all, 11 candidates filed papers from Mukerian today. Mahajan was accompanied by Som Prakash, Malik, Sampla, and others during the filing of nomination. Youth leader Sangram Singh filed the nomination as Mahajan's covering candidate.

REFERENDUM ON CONG PERFORMANCE: MALIK

The bypoll will be a referendum on the performance of the Congress govt. The party has failed to fulfil any of its poll promises. The law and order situation is bad. People will definitely vote against it. Meanwhile, the SAD-BJP split in Haryana will have no impact in Punjab. Our relationship in Punjab is fully intact. Shwait Malik, BJP STATE CHIEF

test as an Independent. BJP's Shakir, who took a call last night, came with supporters to file papers. In the meantime, BJP state chief Shwait Malik, Union Minister Som Parkash, ex-Union Minister Vijay Sampla

and BJP leader Ashwani Sharma reached there to persuade him not to file papers. Soon, Shakir's supporters started sloganeering and opposed the move to give the ticket to Jangi Lal Mahajan. After long discussion, Malik



Capt Amarinder Singh addresses the media after Congress' Sandeep Sandhu filed papers from Dakha. HIMANSHU MAHAJAN

Candidate not ours, claims BSP

LUDHIANA, SEPTEMBER 30

In all, 11 nominees, including two covering candidates, filed their papers for Dakha Assembly seat on Monday. Total 16 candidates have filed their papers for the seat.

Those who filed papers today include Congress' Sandeep Singh Sandhu, LIP's Sukhdev Singh, BSP's Baldev Singh, Simrandeep Singh from Aapna Punjab Party, SAD (A) Joginder Singh, Independents Harbans Singh, Gurdeep Singh Kahlon and Neelam and Gurjit Singh from National Justice Party. Ludhiana, September 30

The state BSP leadership on Monday claimed to have fielded candidate in only one of the four Assembly seats. BSP state chief Jasvir S Garhi said, "We have fielded only one candidate from Phagwara in accordance with the directions of our chief Mayawati. Baldev Singh, who has filed his papers from Dakha, is not our candidate. We've not given him any authority letter. His papers will get rejected. We'll take action against Baldev for filing papers as BSP candidate without our consent." — TNS

Jakhar, Sukhbir in war of words

FAZILKA, SEPTEMBER 30 Congress' Raminder Singh Awla, SAD's Raj Singh Dibia-pura and AAP's Mahinder Singh Kachhura filed their nominations from the Jalandhar constituency today.

PPCC chief Sunil Jakhar, Cabinet Ministers Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi and Gurpreet Singh Kangar and MLA Amarinder Raja Warring accompanied Awla. However, Capt Amarinder Singh did not turn up and left the workers disappointed.

Lashing out at the Centre, Jakhar demanded that it should offer jobs to the unemployed youth to fulfil its promise. He claimed that the SAD-BJP combine should clear its stand on 'chitta'.



SAD's Raj Singh Dibia-pura files his papers in the presence of party president Sukhbir Singh Badal in Jalandhar. TRIBUNE PHOTO

SAD chief Sukhbir Badal, who accompanied Dibia-pura, claimed that the Congress had betrayed the state people. He said the Congress failed to field local candidates in the Jalandhar and Dakha con-

stituencies which amounted to accepting defeat.

He gave credit to his father and senior leader Parkash Singh Badal's over the commutation of death sentence of Babbar Khalsa terrorist Balwant Singh Rajoana. — OC

Opposing 'outsider', Akali leader files papers

DEEPKAMAL KAUR & ASHOK KAURA TRIBUNE REPORTERS

PHAGWARA, SEPTEMBER 30

All 16 nomination papers for the Phagwara Assembly bypoll were filed before SDM-Cum-Returning Officer Latif Ahmed on the last day today.

Those who filed papers were Congress' Balwinder Singh Dhalialwal, BJP's Rajesh Bagha, BSP's Thekedar Bhagwan Dass, LIP's Jarnail Nangal, AAP's Santosh Kumar and Charan Kumar People's Party of Democratic India. Sitting Akali councillor Baljinder Singh Thekedar filed his papers as an Independent. Others Independents were Neetu Shatran Wala, Sonu



AAP candidate Santosh Kumar Gogji files his nomination for the Phagwara constituency on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MALKIAT SINGH

Kumar, Manjinder Kumar and Paramjit Kaur. The remaining were covering candidates. PPCC incharge Asha Kumari accompanied Dhalialwal. Asked about the party decision to field all new candidates, she said, "All four of

them have been working for many years for the party."

Trust deficit in PDA Despite warning by constituent parties of the PDA to LIP against fielding their candidate, Simarjit Bains today

accompanied Jarnail Nangal for filing of his papers. Bains said he had made it clear to the alliance partners right at the time of Lok Sabha polls that his candidate would contest from Phagwara.

PEP leader Sukhpal Khaira and BSP poll incharge Rachhpal Raju termed it a lie. BSP state chief Jasvir Garhi said they would wait for LIP till October 3 afternoon, the last day of withdrawal of candidature, before deciding the next action.

Rift in SAD-BJP?

Even as the Phagwara seat falls in the BJP kitty, Akali councillor Baljinder Singh Thekedar filed his papers as an Independent. He said, "My supporters were upset with the BJP fielding outsiders for the last three polls in the constituency." Asked if his party stopped him from contesting against the BJP, Thekedar replied in the negative.

The move points to bitterness in relations between the SAD-BJP in Punjab too since they fell apart in Haryana.

Just in nick of time The Congress and BJP candidates filed their papers in the last half an hour on the last

Chitta claims teen's life in Moga village

MOGA, SEPTEMBER 30

A 17-year-old youth allegedly died of overdose of drugs at Sadda Singh Wala village in Moga district on Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Gurpreet Singh. His body was found in the village drain, police officers said. A police team sent the body for autopsy at the district hospital. The doctors also took viscera samples and sent them for chemical examination in a government lab. The

autopsy report is awaited. Deceased's father Mangal Singh said his son was an addict and used to consume 'chitta'. He claimed, "My son has died of overdose of 'chitta' and this drug was provided to him by a village youth."

Revealing the name of the drug supplier to the police, he said earlier too, a youth of the village had died of overdose. "The police must arrest the supplier," he demanded. — TNS

Out to catch cattle, MC team attacked

PATIALA, SEPTEMBER 30

Senior Deputy Mayor Yoginder Singh Yogi was attacked by some miscreants on Sunday night while taking part in a drive against stray cattle in the city. Yogi suffered an injury on his leg.

The police have nabbed three attackers who have been sent to judicial custody. Yogi said he, along with an MC team, was catching stray cattle near Safabadi Gate when they were attacked by miscreants with sticks and stones.

Many women started taking away the cattle that they had tied to adjacent poles to be taken to shelters, he said. "The attack was definitely carried out by some mafia. I suffered an injury on my leg as we battled the attackers and tried to escape. Later, the police rescued us from the spot," he said. The police have arrested three persons, identified as Shankar Kumar, Rohit Kumar and Aman, all residents of an area near Atma Ram Sabha School. SHO Jaspreet Singh said an FIR had been filed on the complaint of Ladi, an employee of the MC. He said, "We have registered the case against the three along with some unidentified persons over obstructing public servants in discharge of their public functions. We are trying to identify the other attackers." — TNS



Senior Deputy Mayor with MC workers during a drive against stray cattle in Patiala.

E-TENDER NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS. On behalf of the Managing Director, PSIEC, Executive Engineer-II, PSIEC, Chandigarh invites short term tender notice bids from eligible bidders for the project/work detailed in the following table.

CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT e-TENDER NOTICE. The Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. 1, Chandigarh invites online the percentage rate tenders on behalf of the President of India from the eligible enlisted firms Class 'A & B' enlisted with the Chandigarh Administration.

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD. BADDI, DISTT.- SOLAN (H.P.) Tel. No. 01795-244148, 246148 REGISTERED OFFICE : NEW HIMRUS BUILDING, CIRCULAR ROAD, SHIMLA -171000 (H.P.)

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS. Sealed item rate tenders on prescribed form (HPSIDC 7/8) for under mentioned works are hereby invited in separate envelope for each work from contractors having current enlistment in the appropriate class with HPPWD, HPI & PH/CPWD/ HIMUDA and having valid licence issued by Chief E electrical inspector for electrical work (s) so as to reach the office of the undersigned upto 12.00 Noon or before 22.10.2019.

NORTHERN RAILWAY "PUBLIC NOTIFICATION" Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Northern Railway that the 25 kV, 50Hz, AC overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all time and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line.

Rajoana move gives hope to other convicts on death row

KLF operative Lahoria's kin meet Sukhbir, seek clemency for him

AMAN SOOD AND ARCHIT WATTS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA/MUKTISAR, SEPTEMBER 30
The Centre's decision to commute the death sentence of Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted for the assassination of former CM Beant Singh, to life term has given a ray of hope to at least 12 convicts who have been awarded capital punishment and are lodged in jails for the past over a decade.

Their execution has been delayed due to pending applications at various stages. A few of these cases were so gruesome that they had hogged national headlines. However, the Centre's decision has given a ray of hope to these criminals, who expect that they might also have a chance despite their cases are not political, but cold-blooded murders.

"Since Sunday, most of the convicts on death row are eager to know about Rajoana's case and demanded newspapers from the jail library in the morning," said an insider. "There have been discussions and the convicts were seen asking our staff that on what pretext Rajoana managed to get his death sentence commuted to life term," said a top official.

One such case is of kidnapping and murder in which mercy pleas of Vikram Singh and Jasbir Singh, are pending in the President's office. In September 2012, the Hoshiarpur court had directed the Patiala jail superintendent to make necessary preparations to execute the death warrants of Vikram and Jasvir after



Daya Singh Lahoria's family meets SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

THOSE AWARDED CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

- In September 2012, a Hoshiarpur court gave death penalty to Vikram Singh and Jasbir Singh, who abducted and killed 16-year-old Abhi Verma, for ransom in February 2005. The SC in July 2017 dismissed their review petition, while their mercy plea is pending with the President.
- In August 2018, the special CBI court in Mohali sentenced Khushwinder Singh in Fatehgarh Sahib to death for killing six relatives of his wife by pushing them into the Sirhind canal for grabbing family's wealth. Earlier, he had hoodwinked the CBI in a previous case involving the killing of four members of a family in 2004.
- Other convicts include Jasbir Singh, alias Jaswinder; Resham Singh; Gurnayab Singh; Kulbir Singh; Saleem; Gurwail Singh; Ashok Kumar Pintoo; Balwinder; and Baldev.

the duo, along with their woman accomplice, abducted and later killed 16-year old DAV School student Abhi Verma, a goldsmith's son, for ransom in February 2005. The Supreme Court in July 2017 dismissed their review petition, while their mercy pleas are pending with the President.

Another case is of Khushwinder Singh (45) of Suhavi village in Fatehgarh Sahib, whose death sentence was upheld by the SC in a 2012 murder case. He had hoodwinked even the CBI in a previous case involving the killing of four of a family by

pushing them into a canal in 2004. Both cases were unravelled by the Punjab Police and are now part of the curriculum of the IPS and PPS trainee officers.

Meanwhile, the Centre's decision on Rajoana has raised the hopes of some more families of Sikh prisoners. They have started approaching SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal seeking clemency for their kin.

For instance, the family of Khalistan Liberation Front terrorist Daya Singh Lahoria today met Sukhbir at Badal village and appealed to him to request the Centre to grant

clemency to him. They said Lahoria had spent 24 years in jail and the court had said he could be released even after completion of 20 years in jail.

Lahoria, 56, was awarded life term by a Jaipur court in 2004 for kidnapping the son of Rajasthan Congress leader Ram Niwas Mirdha.

The sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court. The KLF wanted to pressure the then PM Narasimha Rao to release 1993 Delhi blast convict Devinderpal Singh Bhullar.

Sources said more families of Sikh prisoners were likely to meet Sukhbir in the coming days.

CHAND KAUR MURDER CBI demand for Dimpa's lie-detector test rejected

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MOHALI, SEPTEMBER 30

A Special Court today rejected the CBI demand for conducting the polygraph test on Palwinder Singh, alias Dimpa, a suspect in the murder of Mata Chand Kaur, wife of former head of the Namdhari sect.

The CBI had demanded the permission to conduct the polygraph test on Dimpa who was produced in the court of Special CBI Judge GS Sekhon after a four-day police remand. Defence counsel RS Sarao said the court had rejected the demand as Dimpa had refused to undergo the test. He said the CBI had failed to produce any outcome of the investigation carried out during the four-day custody. However, the court extended Dimpa's police remand by three days.

On September 26, the CBI had made the first arrest in the sensational case three years after the incident. Chand Kaur was shot by two unidentified bike-borne assailants at the Bhaini Sahib Gurdwara complex, 30 km from Ludhiana, on April 4, 2016.

Pertinently, Dimpa was arrested by the Jalandhar rural police, which had registered a case claiming that he was one of the main conspirators in the murder.

Dimpa was arrested in Bangkok. He was deported to India in connection with the Jalandhar tiffin bomb blast case. A former driver of Namdhari sect head Thakur Dalip Singh had during a polygraph test revealed that he was aware about the identity of Chand Kaur's assailants, including Dimpa.

Terror suspect 'sent funds' via mobile banking apps

PK JAISWAR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, SEPTEMBER 30

Following the trail of financial transactions done by Maan Singh, the counter-intelligence wing is scrutinising the phones found from inside jail premises in the recent past. Maan Singh was arrested by the State Special Operation Cell (SSOC) after the busting of a Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF) terror module.

Sources said Maan Singh used mobile banking applications for transfer of funds. He used bank accounts of jail inmates for transactions. "Therefore, we are also looking into a nexus of drug peddlers and

DRONE BUST: HUNT ON FOR 3 MORE ACCUSED

The State Special Operation Cell has launched a manhunt to nab three persons whose names came up during the interrogation of Shubhdeep Singh. Shubhdeep had accompanied Akashdeep, Balwant Singh and others to bring the arms consignment smuggled from Pakistan with the help of a drone.

The SSOC had busted the KZF terror module with the arrest of five persons on September 22. It had confiscated five AK-47 rifles, four Chinese pistols and a huge quantity of ammunition from their possession. Later, the police had claimed to have found parts of drones from a godown in the Jhabal area and Baba Budha canal.

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Calendar of events for October 2019

1-7 October	Display of Puratan Hath Likhat Holy Manuscripts & 7 days lecture series on the Life and Teachings of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji	Sri Guru Granth Sahib Bhawan, Punjabi University, Patiala
4-5 October	2 days National Seminar on understanding Socio-Political Ideas of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji in present context	Senate Hall, Punjabi University, Patiala
10 October	National Seminar on Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Teachings; Psychological Insights and Perspectives	Senate Hall, Punjabi University, Patiala
11-13 October	Punjab State Games (Girls) Under - 14 including Kabaddi (National & Circle Styles)	Rupnagar
15 October	Cultural Function	Khalsa College, Amritsar
16 October	Special lecture on the Concept of Dialogue & Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji	Prof. Harbans Singh Department of Encyclopedia of Sikhism, Punjabi University, Patiala
17 October	Cultural Function	Lyallpur Khalsa College, Jalandhar
18-20 October	Rabab Utsav (2 days)	Gurdwara Rababsar, Bhaironana, Sultanpur Lodhi
20-22 October	Punjab State Games (Boys) Under - 18 including Kabaddi (National & Circle Styles)	Ferozepur
21-25 October	Book Fair dedicated to Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji	Punjabi University, Patiala
22 October	International Seminar on Alternative of Life: Contribution of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Thought	Guru Gobind Singh Bhawan, Punjabi University, Patiala
22 October	Dedication of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Bio-diversity Bagicha in Shikargarh Bir	Shikargarh Bir, Kapurthala
23 October	Plays & Skits regarding Life & Times of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji	All University Constituent Colleges, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

Gurdwara Sri Reetha Sahib, Uttarakhand



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Heavy Sept rains set to delay paddy harvest

PAU issues advisory, wants farmers to wait for a week

RUCHIKA M KHANNA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30 Erratic weather pattern seems to be the new normal in Punjab. The weatherman says that unlike the rest of India, where monsoon retreats by September, Punjab has seen higher than normal rains in the end of September.

This, however, does not augur well for the farmers, who are ready to harvest paddy crop and realise returns for their months of toil. With north eastern and southern part of the state receiving higher than normal rainfall in the past week and an overcast sky being predicted for another two-three days, farmers are

GOVT READY FOR PROCUREMENT: ASHU

Food and Supplies Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu on Monday said all preparations for paddy procurement season beginning October 1 were in place. Nearly 1,734 purchase centres had been allotted to the procuring agencies. TNS

at their wits' end. Rain at this point will add to the moisture content in paddy, making it unfit for procurement by food agencies. Thus, farmers have to delay the harvest.

This year, the paddy crop was sown a week in advance, and the crop had started arriving in the mandis last week. In Khanna, commission agent Harbans Rosha told *The Tribune* that last week almost 3,000 quintals of non-basmati paddy had arrived before the rain start-

ed. "Since then, there have been no arrivals. Even the grain bought last week is lying in heaps without having been bought as official procurement will begin from Tuesday. I don't expect any arrivals for the next three-four days," he said.

Dr JS Mahal, Director, Extension, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), said they had issued advisories to farmers to delay harvesting in the wake of high rainfall on September 27 and 28.

Centre nod to 14 trains for Sultanpur Lodhi

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30 On CM Capt Amarinder Singh's request for special trains to Sultanpur Lodhi to cater to the rush of pilgrims during the 550th Gurburb, the Railways has decided to run 14 special trains connecting the historic town from November 1.

These trains will facilitate devotees from Punjab and other regions, significantly Nanded and Patna Sahib, according to an official spokesperson. Earlier this month, the Centre had accepted the state government's proposal to announce a special express train connecting New Delhi with Sultanpur Lodhi. The ongoing works to upgrade Sultanpur Lodhi railway station would be completed by the Railways before the celebrations scheduled to be held in November. — TNS

HC: View accident as act of providence for sentencing

SAURABH MALIK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30 The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that an accident "being an accident" has to be taken as an act of providence for the purpose of imposing sentence on a convict unless his conduct was shown to be extremely negligent at the time of mishap and abject brazen after it.

The assertion by Justice Rajbir Sehrawat came in a case where the petitioner-convict had not abandoned the victim "at the relevant time" and the facts of the case showed that he may not have been solely responsible for the accident. "Therefore, the petitioner can be extended a lenient view in the matter of sentence," Justice Sehrawat ruled.

The ruling came on a petition filed by Amarjeet Singh against the state government challenging the judgment dated August 1, 2017, whereby Malerkotla Sub-Division-

'NOT SOLELY RESPONSIBLE'

The appellant's counsel submitted that the victim's death had occurred only because of an unfortunate factual situation. Although, the petitioner may not have been so vigilant in his driving at the time, the facts would show that he was not solely responsible. Furthermore, the petitioner's conduct at the relevant time would show that he had not run away from the spot. Therefore, at worst it was a case of an unfortunate accident.



al Judicial Magistrate convicted and sentenced the appellant in a case of death by negligence and other offences under Sections 279, 304-A and 427 of the IPC. An FIR in the matter was registered on September 5, 2015, at Malerkotla City-I police station. The appellant had also challenged another judgment dated April 24, passed by Sangrur Additional Sessions Judge, whereby his conviction and sentence was upheld.

Appearing before the Bench, counsel for the petitioner submitted that Amarjeet Singh had already undergone about half of the sentence. He had, rather,

undergone sentence of five months and 20 days out of maximum year's sentence. He added that the petition might as such be considered for reduction in sentence.

Justice Sehrawat asserted the petitioner maintained good behaviour even during custody period, leading him to earn remissions from the jail authorities. "It is clear that the petitioner is on the course of correction. Hence, it would not be unjustified to grant one more opportunity to the petitioner to join the main stream of the social life," Justice Sehrawat ruled, while sentencing the petitioner to period already undergone.

Ex-judge plaint maintainable, says counsel

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30 Just about seven months after Justice Ranjit Singh accused SAD chief Sukhbir Badal and MLA Bikram Singh Majithia of bringing to disrepute the sacrilege commission headed by him, his counsel today submitted that the complaint filed by the former Judge was maintainable before the High Court.

The assertion by senior advocate APS Deol on Justice Ranjit Singh's behalf came in response to arguments by Majithia's counsel that the complaint before the HC under the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act could have been filed only by a member or chairman of a commission. But Justice Ranjit Singh had ceased to be a commission member when he filed the complaint. Senior advocate Puneet Bali's arguments all along have been that the commission ceased to function on August 31, 2018. But the complaint was filed in January this year.

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PUBLICATION SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY AND APPEARANCE
(SUMMONS UNDER SECTION 19(4) OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT 1993 READ WITH RULES 12 & 13 OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME.)
D.No. : 3056 Dated : 20/09/2019
OA No 878/2019

Axis Bank Ltd. V/s. Davinder Singh & Ors.
1. Davinder Singh S/o Gurjant Singh, R/o Village Rohi Kapura, Tehsil Jaitu, District Faridkot, Punjab-151202.
2. Baljinder Singh S/o Gurjant Singh R/o Village Rohi Kapura, Tehsil Jaitu, District Faridkot, Punjab-151202.
3. Pooran Singh S/o Dasodha Sing, R/o Village Rohi Kapura, Tehsil Jaitu, District Faridkot, Punjab-151202.

I am directed to say that the above mentioned case was originally filed before this Tribunal under Section 19 of the Recovery of the Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (as amended from time to time) for recovery to debts of Rs. 61,12,101.94/ as it has been shown to the satisfaction of Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore this notice is given by this publication directing you to put in appearance before this Tribunal on 04.10.2019 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time the case shall be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 19th day of Sep. 2019.

By Order of Tribunal
Registrar
DRT-I, Chandigarh

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I
S.C.O. 33-34-35, 2nd Floor, Sector 17-A, Chandigarh

PUBLICATION SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY AND APPEARANCE
(SUMMONS UNDER SECTION 19(4) OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT 1993 READ WITH RULES 12 & 13 OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME.)
D.No. : 2776 Dated : 20/08/2019
OA No 940/2019

Axis Bank Ltd. V/s. Mukhtiar Singh & Anr.
1. Mukhtiar Singh S/o Bhag Singh R/o H.No. 319, Village Dandi Kadim, Tehsil Jalalabad, District-Ferozepur-152024.
2. Parkash Kaur W/o Mukhtiar Singh, R/o H.No. 319, Village Dandi Kadim, Tehsil Jalalabad, District-Ferozepur-152024.

I am directed to say that the above mentioned case was originally filed before this Tribunal under Section 19 of the Recovery of the Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (as amended from time to time) for recovery to debts of Rs. 15,11,417.00/ as it has been shown to the satisfaction of Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore this notice is given by this publication directing you to put in appearance before this Tribunal on 03.10.2019 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time the case shall be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 19th day of Aug. 2019.

By Order of Tribunal
Registrar
DRT-I, Chandigarh

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I
S.C.O. 33-34-35, 2nd Floor, Sector 17-A, Chandigarh

PUBLICATION SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY AND APPEARANCE
(SUMMONS UNDER SECTION 19(4) OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT 1993 READ WITH RULES 12 & 13 OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME.)
D.No. : 2769 Dated : 20/08/2019
OA No 865/2019

Axis Bank Ltd. V/s. Nachhtar Singh & Anr.
1. Nachhtar Singh S/o Jangeer Singh, Vill-Dhale Ki Basti, Buta Singh Wala, Sodhi Nagar, Tehsil & Distt.-Ferozepur, Pin-152002.
2. Baljeet Singh S/o Bhagat Singh, Vill-Dhale Ki Basti, Buta Singh Wala, Sodhi Nagar, Tehsil & Distt.- Ferozepur, Pin-152002.

I am directed to say that the above mentioned case was originally filed before this Tribunal under Section 19 of the Recovery of the Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (as amended from time to time) for recovery to debts of Rs. 25,34,644.06/ as it has been shown to the satisfaction of Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore this notice is given by this publication directing you to put in appearance before this Tribunal on 03.10.2019 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time the case shall be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 19th day of Aug. 2019.

By Order of Tribunal
Registrar
DRT-I, Chandigarh

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I
S.C.O. 33-34-35, 2nd Floor, Sector 17-A, Chandigarh

PUBLICATION SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY AND APPEARANCE
(SUMMONS UNDER SECTION 19(4) OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT 1993 READ WITH RULES 12 & 13 OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME.)
D.No. : 2886 Dated : 16/09/2019
OA No 926/2019

Axis Bank Ltd. V/s. Harpreet Singh & Anr.
1. Harpreet Singh S/o Rajvir Singh, R/o H.No. 1187, Ward No. 25, Mehal Nagar, Barnala-148101
2. Sandeep Kaur, W/o Harpreet Singh, R/o H.No. 1187, Ward No. 25, Mehal Nagar, Barnala-148101

I am directed to say that the above mentioned case was originally filed before this Tribunal under Section 19 of the Recovery of the Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (as amended from time to time) for recovery to debts of Rs. 25,17,703.00/ as it has been shown to the satisfaction of Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore this notice is given by this publication directing you to put in appearance before this Tribunal on 03.10.2019 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time the case shall be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 06th day of Sep. 2019.

By Order of Tribunal
Registrar
DRT-I, Chandigarh

Plying AC buses not STU's right alone: HC

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30 The Punjab and Haryana High Court has asserted the condition in a notification that AC stage carriages in Punjab would be run only by the State Transport Undertakings (STU) was, prima facie, violative of Articles 14 and 19 of the Constitution.

While Article 14 is on equality before law, Article 19 deals with freedom of trade and occupation.

The observation by the Bench of Acting Chief Jus-

QUASHING OF NOTIFICATION SOUGHT

The petitioner has sought quashing of the Punjab Road Transport Scheme notification dated February 22, 2018, whereby the state made it clear that only the Transport Department could run AC buses.

Justice Rajiv Sharma and Justice Harinder Singh Sidhu came on a petition filed by Rayia Tourist Company, Barnala, versus the State of Punjab and another respondent. The case was taken up by the Bench on September 25, but the copy of its order became available subsequently.

The Bench asserted: "Con-

sequently, there shall be an interim stay on the notifications issued on February 22, 2018, and June 4 to the extent it excludes private transport operators from plying AC buses. It is, however, clarified that the STUs shall continue to operate the AC stage carriages as per the notification".

The Bench also issued a notice of motion for October 30, which was accepted on behalf of the respondents by Assistant Advocate General Lavanya Paul. The petitioner, among other things, was seeking the quashing of the Punjab Road Transport Scheme notification dated February 22, 2018, whereby the state government made it clear that only the Transport Department could run AC buses. According to the notification, the petitioner could not apply for AC route permits in the state.

Kamal Nath
Chief Minister
Madhya Pradesh, India

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POLL BUZZ

BJP reposes faith in 10 turncoats

Eight tickets given to ex-INLD leaders, one each to former leaders of Congress, SAD

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30
It was a field day for the turncoats who joined in the run-up to the October 21 state Assembly elections with at least 10 of them figuring in the list of 78 candidates announced by the party today.

A lion's share of the tickets has gone to former INLD leaders, who had bagged eight tickets with former Congress and SAD leaders getting one ticket each. Though the BJP leadership is putting up a brave front saying that these turncoats had been fielded from the seats which had never been a BJP stronghold, the development might brew resentment within the rank and file of the BJP, which had toiled hard over the years in anticipation of getting the party tickets at a time when the party was pitching for Mission 75.

"Winnability has been the sole criterion for the selection of the party candidates. The turncoats have been fielded from the seats which the BJP had lost in the last Assembly elections. The party leadership wanted strong candidates from these seats to increase the BJP tally and these leaders fit the bill," a senior BJP leader said.

Among the turncoats from the INLD, including former MP and MLAs, who had managed to bag the BJP nomination included Ram Kumar Kashyap (Indri), Parminder

Celebrity candidates for vulnerable seats

Besides turncoats, the BJP has reposed faith in three sports celebrities to win the seats for the BJP which it had lost in the 2014 Assembly poll. These include Sandeep Singh (Pehowa), Babita Phogat (Dadri) and Yogeshwar Dutt (Baroda). It seems to be a clear play by the BJP to win the seats on the strength of their celebrity status as there are no other "winnable" candidates for these seats.

Those who missed bus

Ravinder Baliala, Markhan Lal Singla and Ram Pal Majra (former INLD MLAs), Kailasho Saini (Congress ex-MP) and Dinesh Kaushik, Ravinder Machhrauli and Jasbir Deswal (former Independent MLAs)

Fear of poaching forced party to delay nominee selection

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30
The fear of poaching of aspirants who were denied tickets by the Opposition is believed to have prompted the BJP to delay its list of tickets for Haryana which was to be released on Sunday evening.

Pressure being exerted by Union Ministers Rao Inderjit Singh and Krishan Pal Gurjar, who want tickets for their daughter and son, respectively, is also believed to have forced the BJP to

delay the tickets. The BJP finally released a list of 78 candidates in the afternoon today, but it still chose to hold back names for 12 Assembly segments where it feared dissensions.

The BJP will release the list of the rest of 12 candidates only on October 3 when barely a day will be left for the filing of nominations. The Tribune has learnt that looking into the notoriety earned by politicians in Haryana for switching sides at the drop of a hat, top leadership of the BJP was wary of the reports that some disgruntled aspirants could defect to the JJP which was waiting for dissension in the ruling party.

Sources said the JJP, which was to release its list of candidates on Sunday, eventually announced only 15 tickets, ostensibly to keep the options open for defectors, if they come.

AVOIDING 'AAYA RAM, GAYA RAM'

Haryana is known for setting the trend of "Aaya Ram and Gaya Ram" in politics of the country. The term "Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram" originated in 1967 in the state when excessive horse trading, counter horse trading took place triggering several rounds of frequent political defections within a span of few weeks resulting in the dissolution of the Haryana Legislative Assembly.

Sources said that having welcomed a number of "Aya Rams" (turncoats into its fold), the BJP now wanted to avoid the process of Gaya Ram (those quitting the party) lest it harmed the party's poll prospects.

31 NOMINATION PAPERS FILED

Chandigarh: On the second day of filing nominations for the Assembly segment, 31 papers were filed from 26 constituencies on Monday. The process of filing nominations will continue till October 4.

Balakur Singh (Kalanwali) are the other turncoats getting nomination.

Senior leaders did not rule out the possibility of revolt as some of the ticket aspirants might contest from other prominent parties.

Nine women make it to BJP's first list

The BJP on Monday released the names of 78 candidates for the October 21 Assembly poll. The list includes nine women and two Muslims. The BJP dropped eight sitting MLAs. Among them are ministers Vipul Goel and Rao Narbir Singh.



MANISH GROVER

SEGMENT	CANDIDATE	SEGMENT	CANDIDATE
Karnal	Manohar Lal Khattar	Uklana (SC)	Asha Khedar
Tohana	Subhash Barala	Narnaund	Capt Abhimanyu
Kalka	Latika Sharma	Hansi	Vinod Bhyana
Panchkula	Gyan Chand Gupta	Barwala	Surender Punia
Ambala Cantt	Anil Vij	Hisar	Dr Kamal Gupta
Ambala City	Aseem Goyal	Nalwa	Ramveer Gangwa
Mulana (SC)	Rajveer Barada	Loharu	JP Dalal
Sadhaura (SC)	Balwant Singh	Badhra	Sukhwinder Mandi
Jagadhri	Kanwarpal Gurjar	Dadri	Babita Phogat
Yamunanagar	Ghanshyam Das Arora	Bhiani	Ghanshyam Sharaf
Radaur	Kamdev Kamboj	Bawani Khera (SC)	Bishambhar Balmiki
Ladwa	Pawan Saini	Garhi Sampla-Kiloi	Satish Nandal
Shahbad (SC)	Krishan Bedi	Rohtak	Manish Grover
Thanesar	Subhash Sudha	Kalanaur (SC)	Ramavtar Balmiki
Pehowa	Sandeep Singh	Bahadurgarh	Naresh Kaushik
Guhla (SC)	Ravi Taranvali	Badli	OP Dhankhar
Kalayat	Kamlesh Dhanda	Jhajjar (SC)	Rakesh Kumar
Kaithal	Lila Ram Gurjar	Beri	Vikram Kadyan
Pundri	Vedpal Advocate	Ateli	Sita Ram Yadav
Nilokheri (SC)	BD Kabirpanthi	Mahendragarh	Ram Bilas Sharma
Indri	Ramkumar Kashyap	Narnaul	Omrakash Yadav
Gharanda	Harvinder Kalyan	Nangal	Abhay Singh Yadav
Assandh	Bakhtshish Singh Virk	Bawal (SC)	Banwari Lal
Paripat Rural	Mahipal Dhandha	Pataudi (SC)	Satyra Prakash
Israna (SC)	Krishan Panwar	Badshahpur	Manish Yadav
Samalkha	Shashikant Kaushik	Sohna	Sanjay Singh
Rai	Mohan Lal Kaushik Badoli	Nuh	Zakir Hussain
Sonepat	Kavita Jain	Ferozepur Jhirka	Naseem Ahmed
Gohana	Tirath Singh Rana	Punahana	Nouksham Choudhary
Baroda	Yogeshwar Dutt	Hathin	Praveen Dagar
Julana	Parmender Dhul	Hodal (SC)	Jagdish Nayar
Safidon	Bachchan Singh Arya	Ratia (SC)	Prithla
Jind	Dr Krishan Middha	Kalanwali (SC)	Balkaur Singh
Uchana Kalan	Prem Lal	Dabwali	Aditya Devi Lal
Narwana (SC)	Santosh Danoda	Rania	Ramchandra Kamboj
Ratia (SC)	Laxman Napa	Sirsa	Pradeep Ratusariya
Kalanwali (SC)	Balkaur Singh	Eilenabad	Pawan Beniwal
Faridabad NIT	Nagendra Bhadana		
Badkhal	Seema Tirkha		
Balalbagh	Moolchand Sharma		
Faridabad	Narender Gupta		
Tigaon	Rajesh Nagar		

Rebate for voters on paranthas

Sonepat: To encourage voters to cast their vote, Murthal Dhaba Association has offered 20 per cent rebate in the bill of Murthal paranthas for three days on the condition that the visitor has to show his inked finger. The association has also communicated about the offer to the district administration. During the Lok Sabha poll, the offer was only for one day, oc

THE DAY AHEAD

Khattar to file nomination

Karnal: Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar will file nomination on Tuesday. He will be accompanied by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The two leaders will address a gathering.



SUSHIL MANAV

Little done to revive dying industry



NITIN JAIN

THE lack of basic civic amenities and poor drainage system remain the bane of the residents of Ambala City constituency, which had remained the citadel of both the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress. The dilapidated condition of roads, insanitary conditions, shortage of water, erratic power supply and dying mixer-grinder and scientific instruments industries are the major local issues that

still await resolution even after the BJP and the Congress have represented the segment six and four times, respectively, so far.

While the BJP is confident of retaining the seat after recording a victory margin of 34,601 votes in the recently held Lok Sabha poll, the Congress is hopeful of making a comeback by what it claims as "failure" of the saffron party in fulfilling the pre-poll promises.

Even as the sitting first-time MLA Aseem Goel remains the undisputed choice of the BJP, the Congress is still undecided on its candidate. Himmat Singh, who had unsuccessfully contested from here on the Congress ticket in 2014, and former MLA Jasbir Singh Malour are the frontrunners for the party ticket this time.

People feel the pain due to the lack of basic civic amenities and rising inflation besides unemployment.

"We are deprived of proper roads, adequate water and power supply and suffer from non-existent drainage

TOTAL VOTERS	2019 LOK SABHA POLL RESULT
2,48,699	BJP: 90,316
1,30,689 Men	Congress: 55,715
1,18,007 Women	Margin: 34,601

Legislator speak

I had fulfilled most of the promises that I had made with the people. The condition of roads has improved, a new bus stand is coming up, drinking water problem has been tackled and Ambala has been freed of the dirtiest city tag. I am confident that people will again repose faith in me. Aseem Goel, BJP

Opposition speak

The BJP has failed to keep the pre-poll promises. It had promised a medical college, a university in the name of Guru Gobind Singh and upgrade of a government polytechnic institute to an engineering college but all it hasn't kept its word. Unemployment is at its peak. Himmat Singh, CONG LEADER

system and poor sanitary conditions and our successive elected representatives have failed to solve these problems," rued a local trader Vinay Kumar.

An octogenarian, Sukhdev Rai, said given the present political scenario in Haryana and the country, people have no choice but to vote for the BJP.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
Tender Notice No. 251/SE/Z/C/D/O&M Dated 30.09.2019
The Department of Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana invites online bids for the following:

Sr. No.	Item	Amount (in Lacs)
1	P/Laying of 4" Dia DIK7 Water Supply Line & Maintenance of Fountains (2 Nos. Works)	4.61

Closing Date & Time : 09.10.2019 till 02.00 p.m.
Opening of Technical Bid : 10.10.2019 till 03.00 p.m.
Opening of Financial Bid : 13.10.2019 till 11.00 a.m.
For detail logon to eproc.punjab.gov.in.
Note: Any Corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.
Sd/- Er. Ravinder Garg, Superintending Engineer, O&M Cell, M.C., Ludhiana.
E-mail: assistantcommissionerzr@gmail.com
M. No. 99888-20840 DPR/Pb/C7317

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (RICE BRANCH)
Anaaj Bhawan, Sector 39-C, Chandigarh - 160036, Email: adfsrciceho90@gmail.com

OFFICE ORDER

All the Rice Millers of the Punjab State, who wish to mill the Paddy procured by the State Procurement Agencies are hereby informed that they shall have to register on the portal of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Punjab i.e. www.foodsuppb.gov.in for allotment of their rice mills for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2019-20. Upon registration, they would get a unique 'username' and 'password' which shall be used to fill their requisite details on the above portal. Only those rice mills, which complete their registration process and fill in the complete requisite details, would be considered for allotment and issuance of paddy subject to verification by the field staff.

Dated, Chandigarh: Anindita Mitra, I.A.S., Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Punjab.
DPR/Pb/D6766

BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
SADIQ ROAD, FARIDKOT (PUNJAB) - 151203
Ph.: 01639 - 256232, 256236

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-tenders are invited for the procurement of following upto 21.10.2019
(1) Construction of first floor & second floor of additional block for emergency block in GGSMH, Fdk
(2) Up-gradation of Physiology Department for 150 MBBS seats of GGS Medical College, Faridkot
(3) Providing 160 KVA DG set with AMF panel for TB culture & DST lab of GGSMC, Faridkot
(4) Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of extension of medical gases system for TB & chest hospital block in GGSMC, Faridkot (5) Annual maintenance contract (AMC) of Dalikin make water cooled 3 no. screw chiller of 175 TR each installed at ACI at Bathinda (6) Construction of NELS Training Centre at Ind Floor of skill centre under GGSMC Faridkot (7) Supply of Air conditioners (8) Procurement of Antivirus Software (9) Equipments for Multidisciplinary Research Unit (MRU) (10) Canteen at SINPMS, Badli (11) Security Services.
E-tenders are invited for the procurement of following upto 30.10.2019.
(1) Supply and installation of Computer Radiography with Dry Imager at Civil hospital, Badli
(2) Cold room for forensic medicine department (3) Six body chamber for mortuary (4) Colposcope with standard accessories at GGSMCH, Fdk (5) ABG Analyser Machine (6) Hearing Aid (7) Purchase of OT Linen Sheets (8) Disposal of old answer sheets and other material.
E-tenders are invited for the procurement of following upto 30.10.2019.
(1) Supply and installation of X-ray units of 600mA and 800mA at GGSMCH fdk. The pre bid meet for finalization of specifications will be held on 11.10.2019 at 1.00 PM in the university.
Other terms & conditions can be downloaded from <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. The tenders will be accepted in e-tender mode only. Bidder can also download tender notification and document from university website: www.bfuhs.ac.in REGISTRAR

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान मोहाली
(National Institute of Science Education and Research Mohali)
Sector-81, Knowledge City, P.O. Manauli, S.A.S. Nagar Mohali, Punjab-140366

PhD Admissions
Applications are invited from prospective candidates for admission to the PhD Program at IISER Mohali in the areas of Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Earth & Environmental Sciences and Humanities & Social Sciences, for the session beginning in January 2020. Candidates interested in pursuing research in interdisciplinary areas are also encouraged to apply.
Eligibility Criteria : The applicant should have a Masters degree/ B.Tech/ MBBS/ M.Tech with a good academic record (at least a high second class) and should be GATE/ CSIR or UGC-NET/ JEST/ NBHM-JRF/GPAT/ICMR-JRF/DBT-JRF/DBT-BINC/ICAR-NET/DST-INSPIRE qualified in the relevant subject.
Application procedure : Prospective candidates should apply online using the "Online Application Facility" by visiting the website at <http://www.iisermahali.ac.in> Short-listed candidates will be invited for a screening-test/interview at IISER Mohali.
Last date : The online application facility will be open till 12.00 noon, October 21, 2019. For further details about the program and research areas, please visit our website: <http://www.iisermahali.ac.in>



JJP leaders Naina Chautala and Digvijay welcome former minister Munge Ram Gupta into the party fold on Monday. MANOJ DHAKA

Ex-minister joins JJP

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30
A long-time associate of former CM Bhajan Lal, Munge Ram Gupta joined the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) on Monday. He joined the party with his son Mahavir Gupta in the presence of Naina Chautala and Digvijay Chautala.

Munge Ram Gupta was once the finance minister in the Congress government and had represented

Jind constituency a number of times. In 1977, he won from Jind as an independent candidate. He lost by a thin margin in 1982 as Congress candidate from the same constituency. He again lost as the Congress candidate in 1987, but won the seat in 1991.

He lost in 1996, but in 2000 and 2005, he won again. In 2009, he lost to Dr Hari Chand Middha.

RERA Regd No. PBRERA-LDH44-PR0487

GLADA welcomes Navratras and Festival Season by Inviting Applications for Allotment of

203 FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL PLOTS
[AND 28 PLOTS FOR ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTION (EWS)]
at GLADA Estate, Sua Road, Behind Hotel Keys, Ludhiana

Scheme Closes 11.10.2019

Draw of Lots 14.10.2019

Details of Plots Offered for Allotment by Draw

Location :	Size of Plots (Sq.Yds)	No. of Plots Available	Rate (Per Sq. Yd.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)
Adjoining Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar (Behind Hotel Keys)	upto 100	169	Rs. 29,000/-	2,90,000/-
Residential	100-125	34	Rs. 29,000/-	3,62,500/-
Economically Weaker Section (EWS)	upto 100	28	Rs. 26,100/-	2,61,000/-

Commercial Site (SCOs) e-auction will be held soon

NOTE:- a) 2% cancer cess alongwith 15% amount of the plot will be payable within 30 days from issue of Letter of Intent.
b) Price of the plot will be charged as per actual size of plot on the spot.
c) PLC will be charged extra as per the norms.

- 5% Rebate on Lump Sum Payment
- Located in the Heart of the City
- Possession within 6 months of allotment
- Near Bhai Randhir Singh Nagar (BRS)
- Adjoining Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar
- Connected with the Southern Bypass
- 80:20 Scheme
- Front boundary wall shall be optional for providing easy access for parking

The application form/brochure can be obtained @ Rs.200 & can be deposited to the following nodal bank branches & other branches mentioned in the brochure: (a) HDFC Bank: Model Town Opp Janjith Ghar, Ludhiana, (b) Axis Bank: Mall Road Ludhiana, (c) SBI: Gurdev Nagar Ludhiana, (d) PNB: High Value Branch, Near Waves Mall Ludhiana, (e) IDBI Bank: Feroze Gandhi Market.

For further details & applying online visit www.glada.gov.in

Greater Ludhiana Area Development Authority
PUDA Complex, Ferozepur Road, Ludhiana. Tel.: 0161-2460924

HC nod to FIR against Rawat in sting case

NAINITAL, SEPTEMBER 30



In a setback to former chief minister Harish Rawat (pic), Uttarakhand High Court on Monday permitted the CBI to register an FIR against the Congress leader in connection with a 2016 sting video that purportedly showed him negotiating a deal to buy the support of rebel MLAs. A Bench of Justice Dhulia gave the nod to the CBI to go ahead with its investigations in the case and lodge an FIR against Rawat after the agency submitted a report in a sealed cover on the preliminary inquiry. The video had surfaced in 2016 when the state was under President's rule. It purportedly showed the Congress leader discussing money to win back the support of disgruntled MLAs who had crossed over to the BJP, so that he could get back in power. — PTI

Cong's UP march scuttled, 80 held

Had planned 'Nyay Yatra' for the student who has accused Chinmayanand of rape

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 30

About 80 Congress workers, including leaders Sushmita Dev, Aradhana Misra, Ajay Kumar Lallu, Jitin Prasada, were arrested today after being denied permission for a "Nyay Yatra" demanding justice for the Shahjahanpur rape survivor.

The Congress has planned a 180-km march from Shahjahanpur to Lucknow in support of the law student who has accused the BJP's Chinmayanand of rape.

The workers en route to the Shahjahanpur were arrested from Bareilly, Lakhimpur Kheri and Lucknow. The district borders of Shahjahanpur were blocked from all sides. Irked at being denied permission for the march, Congress workers protested on roads and some of them climbed a water tank to show their resentment against the district administration.

The video had surfaced in 2016 when the state was under President's rule. It purportedly showed the Congress leader discussing money to win back the support of disgruntled MLAs who had crossed over to the BJP, so that he could get back in power. — PTI



BJP LEADER BACK IN JAIL

A district court on Monday rejected the bail pleas of BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand and the law student. Also, the Lucknow Hospital discharged the BJP leader after a week, sending him back to Shahjahanpur jail. He and the law student were sent to 14-day judicial custody after being arrested in cases running parallel.

<< Police detain a Congress worker in Shahjahanpur. PTI

Shahjahanpur City Magistrate Vineeta Singh said they had denied permission for the march as the venue, from where the "Nyay Yatra" was scheduled to begin, was "too small to accommodate 2,000 people". Later, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra criticised the arrests. "The BJP government of UP is standing with the one committing atrocities on daughters and is taking protesting Congressmen into custody," Rahul tweeted. "The UP Government is nervous," said Priyanka Gandhi. In a series of tweets, she accused the government of tearing democ-

racy apart in its arrogance. "The UP BJP government wants to suppress the voices seeking justice for the daughter of Shahjahanpur. The padyatra is being stopped. Our workers and leaders are being arrested. What is there to be afraid of? "As soon as they learn about the protest against them, they promulgate 144.

Please give justice to the daughter of Shahjahanpur. Stop protecting your minister," she tweeted.

Prasada, too, tweeted: "UP is no Kashmir, yet today I am in preventive custody for simply wanting to highlight the plight of the Shahjahanpur rape victim. This BJP government has no qualms in quashing an individual's fundamental rights"

All India Mahila Congress president Sushmita Dev said women security and law and order were in a bad shape under the Yogi government and when the Congress wanted to highlight these, it was prevented.

Congress leaders PL Punia and Akhilesh Pratap Singh claimed that 5,000 Congress workers had been arrested in the state. They said Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had called upon party workers to hold district-level protests on Tuesday. (with agency inputs)

Give Bilkis Bano ₹50L, job & house: SC to Guj

AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 30

Hours after the Supreme Court ordered the Gujarat government to give 2002 riots gang-rape survivor Bilkis Bano a compensation of Rs 50 lakh, job and an accommodation within two weeks, her husband criticised the Rupani-led dispensation for "not providing any assistance" to them all these years.

Bilkis Bano suffered for 17 years, but the state government refused to help her despite being ordered to do so by the country's top court, her husband Yakoob Rasool said over the phone from Dahod on Monday.

"The Supreme Court on April 13 asked the state government to give her compensation within 15 days. It has been over five months now, but the government did not contact us even once, let alone follow the court order," he said.

Rasool said his family sent two notices to the Vijay Rupani-led state government, reminding it of the SC order, but it did not even reply, following which they approached the apex court again.

"Let us see what the state government does now. It has to comply within 15 days or it will amount to contempt of court," he said. She lost her family in the post-Godhra riots, but still managed to



Victim's husband says no help from the state govt for 17 years, despite the SC order

raise her children, despite the state government not helping her in any way, Rasool said.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi today asked the Gujarat Government as to why it has not given compensation, job and accommodation to Bilkis Bano despite the apex court's April 23 order.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state, gave an undertaking to the court that the compensation, job and accommodation would be given to Bano within two weeks. On March 3, 2002, Bilkis Bano and her family were attacked by a mob. Five-month pregnant at that time, Bano was gang-raped and seven members of her family were killed. — PTI

HC seeks ED reply on Shivakumar's bail plea

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

The Delhi High Court sought the ED's response on Monday on the bail plea of Karnataka Congress leader DK Shivakumar in a money-laundering case.

Shivakumar, arrested in a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), approached the High Court challenging the trial court's order denying him bail.

The court issued notice to the agency, asked it to file a status report and listed the matter for further hearing on October 14. In the high court, Shivakumar has cited medical reasons as one of the grounds for securing bail.

In the petition, the Congress leader has said he is a seven-time MLA and not a flight risk. He has contended that it is a case based on documentary evidence and there is no ground to keep him in custody



Cong leader DK Shivakumar

as he has no criminal antecedents. Meanwhile, the court had reserved order on another plea moved by Shivakumar, seeking a copy of his statements recorded by the ED in the money-laundering case.

Denying him bail, the trial court had said Shivakumar was an influential person and if released at a crucial stage of the investigation, might influence witnesses or tamper with documents. The trial court had perused the Congress leader's medical report and noted that although he had undergone angiography, his condition was stable. — PTI

Post Hindi row, PM reaches out to South, says Tamil now echoes in US

CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 30

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said Tamil is now echoing across America as he extolled its rich antiquity at the convocation ceremony of IIT Madras here, days after praising it as the most ancient language of the world in the United Nations.

The Prime Minister's praise for Tamil is seen as an attempt to reach out to the people of Tamil Nadu after a row broke out with Home Minister Amit Shah's pitching for Hindi as a common language, which was condemned as "Hindi imposition," by parties in the State.

Modi was on his first visit to Tamil Nadu after his address to the UN General Assembly and his party's big win in the Lok Sabha elections months ago. Addressing a reception here hosted by the BJP, Modi referred to his usage of an



'MOST ANCIENT LANGUAGE'

About 3,000 years ago, a great poet of India, Kaniyan Poongundranar wrote in Tamil, the most ancient language of the world 'Yaadhum Ore' (we belong to all places, and to everyone). — Narendra Modi, PM

<< The PM being felicitated during the 56th annual convocation of the IIT Madras in Chennai. PTI

ancient Tamil saying in the world forum and he then went on to mention its positive implication in the US. "...so even today Tamil is echoing in the whole of US," he said to rounds of applause from BJP supporters. He said it was always a delight for him to be back in the state capital of Tamil Nadu.

"Chennai makkalai santhithil magilchi," he said in Tamil, which meant "happy to meet the people of Chennai." Later, addressing the 56th convocation of the IIT Madras, Modi said "We are in the state of Tamil Nadu, which has a special distinction. It is home to the oldest language in the world, Tamil."

Asked about Prime Minister Modi's back to back praise for Tamil within days, political commentator Sumanth C Raman said: "The PM might be trying to reach out to the people of Tamil Nadu in the wake of the controversy that surrounded the draft New Education Policy." — PTI

BJP-Sena talks stuck over Dy CM's post

SHIV KUMAR

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 30

Seat-sharing negotiations between the BJP and the Shiv Sena continue to be stuck with the latter insisting that Aadiya Thackeray be given the post of Deputy Chief Minister should the saffron alliance return to power in Maharashtra, sources said.

The BJP is wary of the younger Thackeray's entry into the electoral fray which is likely to upset the political calculations of all major players in Maharashtra politics, they said.

On Sunday, the Shiv Sena, off the record, said Thackeray would contest from its stronghold Worli. However, the party has not made any formal statement even as there are reports that as many as 11 sitting MLAs have been given the forms to file their nominations.



AADIYA THACKERAY TO CONTEST POLL

Aadiya Thackeray on Monday confirmed that he would be contesting the Assembly elections

Speaking to party workers in Worli from where he is due to fight the elections, Aadiya invoked his grandfather BAL Thackeray and Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Shiv Sena wants Aadiya to be made Deputy CM should the saffron alliance return to power in Maharashtra

<< Yuva Sena chief Aadiya Thackeray being garlanded during a rally in Mumbai. PTI

Officially, the Shiv Sena says a statement would be issued by party chief Uddhav Thackeray and BJP leaders. "The BJP is likely to give the Shiv Sena just around 124 to

126 seats (in the 288-member House)," a party leader from Mumbai said.

The entry of Aadiya Thackeray — the first from the family to contest an election — is

aimed at galvanising the party cadre and securing as many seats as possible to help the Shiv Sena get a better bargain after the elections, according to political observers.

Never proposed Rajoana's release to Centre, says Capt

FROM PAGE 1

state for commuting his death sentence.

In its communication to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs earlier this month, the state had recommended names of nine TADA Sikh prisoners for release as they had served their jail terms, ranging between 18 and 28 years. Rajoana's name was not among them.

As sought by the Centre, Punjab had forwarded names of 17 long-term TADA prisoners, lodged in jails across the country. Out of them, 10 are lodged in Punjab jails, four in Chandigarh's Burail jail, two in Delhi and one in Uttar Pradesh. The remain-

ing five are out on bail. Recommending premature release of prisoners who no longer pose any threat to society, the state specifically mentioned names of nine prisoners— Lal Singh, Dilbagh Singh and Swaran Singh (all lodged in Maximum Security jail, Nabha); Nand Singh (Central Jail, Patiala); Subesh Singh (Central Jail, Ludhiana); Hardeep Singh and Baj Singh (both in Central Jail, Amritsar); Waryam Singh (Central Jail, Bans Bareilly, UP); and Gurdeep Singh (Central Jail, Gulbarga, Karnataka).

The eight prisoners against whom no recommendation was made, included Rajoana, Jagtar Singh Hawara, Paramjit Singh Bheora, Lakhwinder Singh, Gurmeet Singh and Shamsher Singh, who are serving life term in the Beant Singh assassination case. The two others are Devinder Singh Bhullar, serving life term in Central Jail, Amritsar, in connection with the 1993 bomb blast case; and Daya Singh Lahoria, serving life term in the Mircha kidnapping case of Jaipur, Rajasthan. The decision to commute Rajoana's sentence has been taken on a mercy plea pending with the Union Ministry. The plea was filed by then CM Parkash Singh Badal when he met the President in 2012.

12 seats where the party still undecided

FROM PAGE 1

Sources said the ruling party is treading cautiously while finalising nominees for these seats as the party leadership thinks that to achieve the 75+ target, it is important to corner strong opponents.

For Fatehabad, the BJP has two turncoats — Dura Ram who defected from the Congress and Balwan

For Fatehabad, BJP has turncoats Dura Ram, who defected from the Congress, and MLA Balwan Singh Daulatpuria

Singh Daulatpuria, the sitting INLD MLA who quit the party to join the BJP.

Rewari and Gurugram fall under Rao Inderjit Singh's Gurugram Lok Sabha seat and the union minister has been lobbying for his daughter Aarti Rao for Rewari, while the party is against this dynastic politics. Naraingarh was represented by Nayab Singh Saini who was later elected as Kurukshetra MP. When the BJP inducted former MP Kailasho Saini last week, it was believed she would be fielded from Naraingarh. In Panipat, the home town of Karnal MP Sanjay Bhatia, the MP is said to be against fielding sitting MLA Rohita Rewari.

'Discord' with MPs cost ministers ticket

FROM PAGE 1

but he didn't see eye to eye with Gurugram MP Rao Inderjit Singh. Rao Narbir's Badshapur Assembly segment is part of Gurugram constituency. Sources, however, said Rao Narbir could still be accommodated from Kosli, Rewari or Gurugram, as candidates for all these three seats were yet to be announced.

Deputy Speaker Yadav, who has been denied ticket from Ateli, had won the seat by a huge margin of over 48,000

votes in 2014. However, sources said she failed to keep connect with the electorate and was no more a popular leader in her constituency, said sources. Her Ateli seat falls under Bhiwani-Mahendragar Lok Sabha segment and she too was not in too good terms with local MP Dharamsingh.

However, Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh, who enjoyed cordial ties with Dharamsingh, was said to be against giving the ticket to Yadav.

Khattar, Phogat on BJP 1st list of 78

FROM PAGE 1

RSS strongman Sita Ram Yadav has replaced Santosh Yadav. The buzz, however, is that Narbir Singh "could still be fielded from one of the 12 remaining seats for which names have been withheld due to some serious issues".

Union minister and Gurugram MP Rao Inderjit Singh has been pitching for his daughter from one of the Assembly seats falling in his Lok Sabha constituency.

Khattar, fielded from Karnal again, has been trying to buy peace with sulking leaders from south Haryana,

including Faridabad MP Krishna Pal Gujjar, who was also believed to be seeking ticket for his kin.

As expected, the party has fielded sportspersons who joined it recently. Wrestler Babita Phogat, former Indian hockey captain Sandeep Singh and Olympic medalist Yogeshwar Dutt have been fielded from Dadri, Pehowa and Baroda, respectively.

Haryana unit president Subhash Barala will contest from Tohana, Capt Abhimanyu from Narnaud and Om Prakash Dhankar from Badli. The ministers who

have been re-nominated include Ram Bilas Sharma, Anil Vij, Krishan Kumar Bedi, Karan Dev Kamboj and Kavita Jain.

With the Opposition weakened due to desertions and shrinking support base, as witnessed in the recent Lok Sabha poll, the BJP looks confident of returning to power with a bigger mandate. A section of leaders, however, agree the "trouble in southern Haryana is an issue".

The party hopes to win "75-plus" seats riding on popularity of the Centre's decision to nullify Article 370.

Ready to face any...

FROM PAGE 1

technologies and critical capabilities with increased reliance on indigenous design and development. We shall proactively promote indigenisation for sustenance of all existing fleets and equipment," he said.

On being asked about Pakistan PM Imran Khan's warning of nuclear war, he said, "That is their understanding of nuclear aspects. We have our own understanding, our own analysis. We will be ready to face any challenge." Thanking his predecessor, he

said: "I convey my sincere gratitude to Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa for his vision, untiring efforts and extraordinary leadership in bringing glory to the IAF and the nation."

The new IAF chief has over 4,270 hours of experience on 27 types of fighters as well as transport aircraft and holds the unique distinction of being an Experimental Test Pilot, a Cat 'A' Qualified Flying Instructor and a Pilot Attack Instructor. He was extensively involved in the initial prototype flight testing on Tejas. — TNS

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Imran and the J-word

J&K is merely a rant to keep the religious war going

FROM being a heartthrob of millions of cricket-lovers across the Indian subcontinent, Imran Khan has overnight metamorphosed into a medieval mullah. Worse, his cry for jihad against India now puts him in the league of Osama bin Laden and Mullah Omar. For, after 9/11 no head of government or serious statesman has ever used the J-word so casually and callously as Imran Khan did on Sunday, after returning from his failed mission to rake muck at the United Nations General Assembly against India over the abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution. Strangely, while proclaiming a religious war against India, Imran elevated his third wife Bushra Bibi to the status of his nation, thanking both in the same breath for their fervent prayers when he was away in New York.

Imran seems to have lapsed into religion after his hysterical threats of a nuclear war elicited derisive laughter in the world capitals. Even Pakistan's greatest ally China has merely gone through the motions without adding any substance to formal posturing. Only the United Kingdom, the original Pakistan patron, seems to have extended the hospitality of its capital city to hold anti-India rallies and to break the windowpanes of the Indian High Commission. This cannot be a source of consolation for Imran or his masters — the Pakistan deep state comprising the military-intelligence network.

Yet, it is of great import to understand the reasons behind the jihad cry. Was it Imran, nervous of losing the army's support and scared of being made a scapegoat, appealing to the religious extremists within and without the army? Or, was he merely lip-synching the army prompters as he has done so far? If the latter is the case, the world should sit up and take note. India has been at the receiving end of an interminable jihad since Jinnah's Direct Action day on August 16, 1946, when he declared that he would have 'either a divided India or a destroyed India'. Jinnah's successors want to divide and destroy India over and over again. J&K is a mere ruse; it's a jihad Pakistan wants.

Let Urdu flourish

PU move to merge dept with foreign languages ill-considered

MIRZA GHALIB would have nailed the debate with this couplet: 'Har ek baat pe kehete ho tum ki tu kya hai, tumhin kaho ki ye andaz-e-guftugu kya hai.' Panjab University has courted needless controversy with the proposal to bring its Urdu Department under the School of Foreign Languages. The very idea of considering Urdu as a foreign and not an Indian language defies logic and reeks of insensitivity, no matter the administrative considerations. The department's strong objection to the move highlighted how Urdu was 'born, nurtured and cultured in India in the 13th century by Amir Khusro. From that moment onward, Urdu and Hindi languages have not looked back. Not only this, even Punjabi language was put on the path of development by Baba Farid Ganj Shakar'.

India's composite way of life, where languages, religions, belief systems merge, coexist and nurture each other is a cherished idea. In the unique Hindustani communication fibre that binds India, and indeed the subcontinent, Urdu holds a pride of place. There has alongside been undeniable curiosity and eagerness to engage with this language of poetry and prose, and seek out more than just the meaning of lyrics and dialogues Bollywood so indulgently rests its standing on.

The contentious PU proposal gained traction after Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh's tweet expressing concern. Language can be a great unifier and carries the potential to create irredeemable divisions where none existed, as witnessed following the recent remarks by Central ministers on exploring Hindi as the language of the country. If teaching of Indian languages like Urdu needs support, the State needs to step in, not distance itself from a national project. Some tasks demand affirmative action, this is one of them. Seeing language through the prism of religion, or even giving such an impression unknowingly, is fraught with danger. Just days before his death, Mahatma Gandhi had admonished those opposing Urdu. Cherish it, he counselled, 'you will only gain'.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

It's a good place when all you have is hope and not expectations. — Danny Boyle

ON THIS DAY...50 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

AMBALA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1969

NATIONALISED BANKS ASSURED FULL FREEDOM

NEW DELHI, September 30 (UNI, PTI)— The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, assured the custodians of the nationalised banks that they would have the fullest freedom to exercise professional judgement and function with maximum efficiency. She told them that she had no hesitation in promising them that political consideration would not be allowed to interfere with their working. The custodians of the 14 nationalised banks met the Prime Minister here today for the first time since the banks were nationalised on July 19 last. Mrs. Gandhi said the Government was working out plans to organise a simple, but wide-ranging system of guarantees for lending by the banks in the fields so far neglected, such as retail trade, small business, minor repair industries, small farming and self-employed sector.

Panel To Probe Gujarat Riots

AHMEDABAD, Sept. 30 (PTI)—The Gujarat Government today announced its decision to appoint a commission of inquiry to inquire into the recent disturbances in Ahmedabad and other parts of the State. The commission to be appointed under the Commission of Inquiry Act will consist of a sitting Supreme Court judge and two sitting Judges of the Gujarat High Court. An official announcement said the Central Government and the Gujarat High Court were being approached and the appointments were expected to be made by the State Government very soon in consultation with them. The terms of reference will be as under: To enquire into the causes and course of the communal disturbances which took place at Ahmedabad and generally in other parts of the State of Gujarat on and after September 18 last, among other things.

All pomp, little to show

Modi and Trump were talking to different audiences



MANOJ JOSHI

DISTINGUISHED FELLOW, OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION, NEW DELHI

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi spent a week in the US at the end of September. Ostensibly, the visit was to attend the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, but fresh from his election victory and his Article 370 'surgical strike' on Jammu & Kashmir, he decided to make it a larger exercise of displaying India to the world.

The most theatrical feature of the visit was the 'Howdy, Modi!' event in Houston. This was a strategy trademarked by Modi in 2014, when he participated in a major rally at the Madison Square Garden stadium in New York. The loud political rally generated considerable attention in Washington DC by the time Modi arrived for his official visit. This was a riposte of sorts to the US for denying him a visa for more than a decade before.

This time around, fresh from his sweep in the General Election, Modi was in the capital of the Indian diaspora, Houston, and not only spoke to a larger and adoring audience of NRIs, but also had roped in the POTUS himself for the *tamasha*.

Houston was about messaging. Both leaders were talking politics to different audiences—Modi to the millions who would have been watching the wall-to-wall TV coverage back home. And Trump electioneering with a category of voters who had overwhelmingly voted Democratic the last time around. There was nothing more, though, than the glitz, as became evident as the week unfolded.

Importantly, Modi was not able to strike a trade deal with the US. For some time now, Trump has been



ONE-SIDED: 'Friendship' with President Trump did not yield the desired results.

Be it Kashmir or trade exemptions, Prime Minister Modi was unsuccessful in driving a hard bargain.

raising the issue of the trade imbalance with India, and in May, Washington revoked the benefits India was getting under the GSP. In July, Trump himself weighed in when he tweeted, 'India has long had a field day putting tariffs on American products. No longer acceptable!'

There has been brave talk by people like Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal that India wants to build up export competitiveness, rather than depend on the GSP. But in troubled times such as these, the \$6.4 billion benefit to Indian exporters is not insignificant. Expectations that his over-the-top 'friendship' with Trump would help persuade the US to back off were belied. Modi couldn't even manage a waiver of the March 2018 duties the US placed on national security grounds on Indian aluminum and steel, several countries, though, have managed to get exemptions.

The Prime Minister did hold a

glitzy roundtable with US CEOs and business leaders in Houston and New York, but the net result was the lone, and somewhat controversial, MoU between Petronet and the American oil and gas major, Tullurian. American majors do not seem to be too interested in investing in India, given the quirky ways of the government.

The most important context of the US tour was the Jammu & Kashmir issue. After the unprecedented informal meeting of the UN Security Council in August, there were worries about how it would play out in the UNGA.

India was on the offensive from the outset, when in Houston Modi attacked those who had 'put their hatred of India at the centre of their political agenda' and those who supported terrorism and 'who nurture terrorism'. The time had come to 'fight a decisive battle against terrorism and against all the people who promote terrorism,' he said, and sought to draw

Trump into the battle.

But Trump was evasive. He did denounce the threat of 'radical Islamic terrorism' to applause from the audience. But later he clarified that he was thinking more about Iran, than Pakistan.

Modi largely stuck to the high road in his remarks at the UNGA, but he couldn't resist returning to the issue of terrorism, which he said somewhat flippantly, was a challenge to 'the entire world and humanity'.

World leaders would have been bemused about the messaging here from someone who had just referred to Buddha's message of peace. At a time when the world community was fixated on global warming, the Indian PM appeared not to want to let go of his primary electoral weapon—attacking Pakistan/Muslims on account of terrorism.

Despite efforts, the J&K issue has grabbed the attention of the world community. Beyond disclaimers by the administration, Trump remains fixated on his role as a mediator, most recently articulated before his meeting with Imran Khan in New York last week. Meanwhile, the US has also let it be known that its relatively benign attitude is conditional on India being able to rapidly lift the restrictions and release those who have been detained in the state.

That Kashmir has been internationalised because of the government's ill-considered actions is apparent from the ambiguous position of the US, the stand of the UK Labour Party, and the full-fledged support being given to Pakistan by Malaysia and Turkey. This may not mean much at present. But it is a needless distraction for a country that should be focusing on its economic growth and whose economy is in a difficult place. So, despite the self-praise and hype generated by a friendly media, the outcome of the US tour was, as they say, mixed. Neither the NRIs nor the CEOs or Trump himself have been persuaded to do something, except mouth nice words about India.

When a group of boys met CM Kairon

LT COL SWARAJINDER SINGH (RETD)

SARDAR Partap Singh Kairon, former CM of Punjab, was a great visionary. He started Punjab Public School, Nabha, in 1960, based on scholarship. Defence Minister VK Krishna Menon followed that model to set up five Sainik Schools across India in July 1961, with funding by states. Kairon got two of these schools at Kapurthala and Kunjpura (Karnal). Complete Punjab was thus covered. Kapurthala in the north, Nabha in the centre and Kunjpura in the south. These three schools have produced outstanding defence officers and top professionals in many fields.

I joined the first batch of Sainik School Kapurthala in July 1961. The school was established in the erstwhile palace of Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala. For boys like me — from government schools in small towns — it was a big transformation.

In early 1962, Kairon expressed his desire to meet boys from the school. About 15 of us were brought to Chandigarh to meet the CM. Chandigarh, another vision of Kairon *sahab*, was the new happening city of Punjab. We were overawed by the splendour of this magnificent city. Our stay in Chandigarh was at Sainik Rest House, in the heart of the city. Our classmate was the son of the owner of a hotel opposite the rest

house. In the evening, we were invited to dinner at the hotel. This was our first visit to a star-rated hotel and we relished the experience.

The next day we were taken to the multi-storeyed Punjab Secretariat to meet the CM. For most of us, it was our first experience in the lift. He had recently won an election. Our teachers instructed us to shake hands only if he offered, and to put forward only the right hand. While shaking hands, we were to say 'congratulations, Sir'. Then came the moment of our life.

We entered his office and he rose from his seat to greet us. He shook hands with each one of us. That was followed by an interaction over a cup of tea. The pur-

pose of the meeting was to get first-hand feedback about the school. From his expressions we could make out that he was happy meeting us, and with the way the school had taken off. We took his leave after a group photograph. The next morning we were all excited to see our photograph with the Chief Minister that had appeared in *The Tribune*.

The memories of the visit have stayed with me throughout my life. On his birth anniversary today (October 1), I am reminded of the Chief Minister who had spared his valuable time to meet young school students in his office — the Chief Minister who made the future of many boys like me.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opinion back home matters

The conclusion drawn in the editorial 'Modi at UNGA' (September 30) that PM Modi's visit to the US was an image-booster is an apt summing-up. But the question that riddles the common man is, how is it going to bring *achhe din*? Jingoistic exercises are not going to make the *aam aadmi*'s day-to-day life any easier than it is. Onion prices at home are a matter of more concern than the opinions of far-off countries.

DV SHARMA, MUKERIAN

Go easy on Kashmir

Refer to 'Modi at UNGA' (September 30); though Imran Khan kept up the relentless attack on Modi personally, our Prime Minister refused to be drawn into a futile public argument with Pakistan. Instead, Modi concentrated on getting his own message across on vital global issues like terrorism and climate change. At the same time, taking the high global road does not mean that the Kashmir question is going to disappear from international discourse. The world is not likely to hold its peace forever. An improvement in the ground situation will strengthen India's case.

PL SINGH, BY MAIL

Primacy of Hindi

Reference to 'In Hindi language divides. Elsewhere, language unites' (Spectrum, September 29); *The Tribune* is projecting only one side of the story. Hindi is spoken by most people across India. No other language can take its place at the national or international level. The push for Hindi, therefore, is not without reason. Even the Constitution recognises Hindi's primacy. Article 351 of the Constitution states that 'it shall be the duty of the Union to promote spread of the Hindi language'.

WG CDR CL SEHGAL (RETD), JALANDHAR

Relevance of nonviolence

Refer to the article 'Gibbeting Gandhi' (*Nous Indica*, September 28); it is a fact that since the dawn of Independence, successive governments have only, somehow, lowered the image of Mahatma Gandhi. Though not practical in all situations, in a free and civil society, the practice of nonviolence is essential for meaningful and balanced growth. It is wrong to blame Nehru-Gandhi for the emergence of two nations. The Muslim League saw a big gain for Muslims and set forth the demand for a separate nation. Gandhi was an honest man in all respects of an ideal life. The prac-

tice of nonviolence is gaining momentum in most developed countries. It will remain relevant in a civilised society.

NIRMAL KUMAR, PANCHKULA

Keep Gandhi alive

The article 'Gibbeting Gandhi' boldly exposes all those who, for their vested interests, deliberately opposed Gandhi who always stood for socio-economic justice and did his best to unite all sections of society. He wanted an India, where there would be no exploitation, repression, ignorance and exclusion. His nonviolent methodology to resist wrong-doings of the government or others is a great lesson for us. Many Indians are moving away from our constitutional goals and humanitarianism. Forces opposing 'Gandhian philosophy', which is universal, transformative, integrative and pragmatic, must be exposed and opposed. Positive results can be achieved if his ideas are implemented substantially in all fields related to socio-economic challenges faced by the people in rural and urban areas. Please keep 'Gandhi' alive for all times. Sociologists must integrate the philosophies of Ambedkar, Marx and the other great Indian leaders in a harmonic way.

SUDESH KUMAR SHARMA, KAPURTHALA

SGPC must keep out of it

Refer to 'Maan must tender apology' (September 28), the move should be condemned with the contempt it deserves. The SGPC is supposed to be a religious body. It should not venture into the field of linguistic extremism. Its attack on renowned singer Gurdas Maan for his views on 'one-nation one-language' exposes its narrow mindset. Religious bodies should unite people. Hope better sense prevails.

AK SHARMA, CHANDIGARH

Land degradation

Apologies 'Battling desertification' (InFocus, September 30), land degradation is undermining the well-being of billions. The principle global driver of land degradation and desertification is the expansion and unsustainable management of agriculture, fuelled by unprecedented levels of consumption. This is causing a significant loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, such as food security, water purification and the provision of energy. Green infrastructure development, reducing soil loss, remediation of contaminated land and conservation agriculture can minimise land degradation.

ADITYA SHARMA, KANGRA

Strikes on oil facilities fuel Gulf tensions



MAJ GEN ASHOK K MEHTA (RETD)
MILITARY COMMENTATOR

ON September 14, I was in Muscat (Oman) when the Abqaiq refinery and the Khurais oilfield in Saudi Arabia were struck by drones/missiles that reduced Saudi Aramco's daily oil production by half. One week later, I returned to Muscat to take stock of the devastating aerial strikes that sent oil prices soaring for major importers of Saudi light crude like Japan, South Korea, China and India and assess its strategic impact in the region. In February 2012, I had attended the annual strategic conference at the Interdisciplinary Centre, Herzliya (Israel), where a terrorist strike on oil facilities in Abqaiq was simulated and counter-measures recommended, which obviously went unheeded.

The geography of the region, viewed from Oman, is breathtaking: the Strait of Hormuz sits at the north-western edge of the Gulf of Oman as it enters the Persian Gulf that divides, rather sandwiches Saudi Arabia between Iran to the north and Yemen to the south. The United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain girdle the western reaches of the Persian Gulf. The rest of the Middle East — Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Israel — straddles the mighty

Euphrates river and the Mediterranean Sea. The Hormuz Strait is a choke point for the movement of oil tankers and shipping in the Persian Gulf via the Gulf of Oman into the Arabian Sea, accounting for 20 per cent of the world's oil.

Iran-backed Houthi rebels claimed the September 14 aerial strikes with a swarm of 17 missiles and drones that dodged the Saudi air defence network and knocked out 5 per cent of the world's oil supply of 5.7 million barrels of crude a day. This was a big blow for Saudi Aramco just when Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, son of King Salman and older half-brother of Prince Mohammad bin Salman, had taken over as Energy Minister, the first time any royal had taken charge of the country's crown jewels. Aramco claims it has restored half of the lost output and hopes for full restoration by October 14. The stunning success of the not-expected precision strikes has unnerved the Saudis, their US allies and other Gulf monarchies in the region. They have unanimously blamed Iran for an act of war, though President Trump has not named the country he despises the most. Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al Jubeir confirmed the source of the attack as 'not from Yemen but from the north'. Meanwhile, Houthi rebels, in an act of magnanimity, announced a halt to all attacks — drones, missiles and other means — in Saudi Arabia as part of a peace initiative five years after capturing Yemen's capital Sanaa.

Mark Esper, US Defence Secretary, had immediately ordered additional deployment of US troops in Saudi

What are the lessons from the lethal strikes on Saudi oil facilities that were forecast and war-gamed in 2012? Sanctions alone will not alter the Iranian regime's behaviour. The failure of a kinetic response in May/June has emboldened the Iranian Revolutionary Guard to step up the attacks.



VULNERABLE: The Saudi regime can't defend itself despite a military budget of \$68 bn.

Arabia, including defensive air and missile systems. Trump took to Twitter to declare (on September 14) that our response is "locked and loaded" but "under what terms we will proceed to protect the Saudis, we will have to work out," adding that "we'd like to avoid war." Trump's last five words summed up the US policy on the aerial strikes and the limits to US power. The Trump doctrine, in essence, amounts to bluff and bluster. On May 4, there were four unclaimed attacks on tankers — two Saudi, one

Norwegian and one Emirati — transiting the Strait of Hormuz. There was no US response despite noises in the White House that Iran was behind the attacks. Similarly, in June, two more oil tankers were attacked by suspected Iranian patrol boats. Also in June, a \$130-million US drone, Global Hawk, was downed over Iran. In July, Iran seized a British ship when British marines tried to stop an Iranian oil tanker. The US was conspicuously inactive during these depredations except in ratcheting up sanctions

against Iran and its leaders.

Meanwhile, after Tehran's latest alleged act of war, Commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard (IRG), Gen Hossein Salami, warned that any country that attacks Iran will become the main battlefield. Tehran displayed remnants of the RQ4-Global Hawk drone that was downed in June, the RQ170 Sentinel drone captured intact in 2011 and the Khordad3 air defence battery which had shot down the RQ4. In addition to threats of retaliation and cyberattacks, the US upped the ante

with still new sanctions on Iran and targeting a critical funding mechanism that Iran uses to finance its terrorists including the Qods force — its foreign operational arm. Tehran said US cumulative sanctions would block Iranian access to food and medicine and denied that the cyberattacks on September 14 had disrupted its oil flow.

What are the lessons from the lethal strikes on Saudi oil facilities in 2019 that were forecast and war-gamed in 2012? That sanctions alone will not alter the Iranian regime's behaviour. The failure of a kinetic response in May/June has emboldened the IRG to step up attacks. In case of US punitive strikes — once evidence is available that the source is Iran — Tehran will hit back at Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the UAE and target US troops in Syria and Afghanistan. Clearly, the Saudi regime cannot defend itself despite a massive military budget of \$68 billion (more than India's) and the deployment of US Patriot3 and THAAD air defence systems. Ironically, Russia jumped in, offering its S400 ordered by Turkey, China and India.

On September 25, President Rouhani was unrepentant and defiant at the UN even as a US-led international group to protect navigation in the Gulf was revamped. Gen Joseph Dunford, Chief of Joint Chiefs of Staff, has said: "All options have been presented to Commander-in-Chief Trump," adding that "it is a political judgement not for the military to decide." Strategic choices are located between inaction and escalation. For Trump, in testing times, discretion seems to be the better part of valour.

China marches on, but can't afford to be complacent



YOGESH GUPTA
FORMER AMBASSADOR

China achieved rapid economic progress when it was a more 'open' country with less government control, was part of the global supply chain and co-existing peacefully in the global political order. In important ways, China has digressed from this track. A big challenge for the Chinese leadership is whether it can seek the path of restraint, accommodation and legitimacy, at home and in dealing with major powers and its neighbours.

AS the People's Republic of China (PRC) celebrates its 70th anniversary, its exultation at its great achievements is understandable. China's economy has become the second biggest in the world with a GDP of \$13.4 trillion (2018), the per capita income has grown to about \$10,000 and it accounts for 15 per cent of the global GDP. In 1949, PRC was a poor country, its people were hungry, the average life expectancy was 35 years with 80 per cent illiteracy and 20 per cent infant mortality rate. China's Human Development Index has escalated from 0.502 in 1990 to 0.752 in 2017, with life expectancy now at 76 years, illiteracy at 5 per cent and infant mortality down to 1.5 per cent.

This journey of 70 years has been extremely tumultuous, with the death of several million Chinese during the Great Leap Forward (aimed at transforming China through industrialisation and collectivisation, 1958-62) and the Cultural Revolution (to purge the Communist Party of China or CPC of Mao Zedong's enemies and purify its ranks, 1966-76). China made considerable headway in land reforms, water conservation and removal of illiteracy during 1949-79 that formed the bedrock for huge progress under paramount leader Deng Xiaoping when he initiated reforms of the economic system; the latter included a sharp increase in the procurement price of farm products; the autonomy of enterprise managers, allowing them to retain profits; and encouraging Chinese companies to engage in private trade with foreign firms. These and other changes allowed China to register an average annual growth rate of 10 per cent from 1978 to 2010. Much of



TEST: The Communist Party of China faces the challenge of adapting the Chinese political system to meet the growing needs of a pluralised and empowered society.

this growth was due to China's booming exports, which accelerated after the grant of the 'most favoured nation' status by the US in May 2000 and the facilitation of its admission into the WTO in 2001.

When Xi Jinping took over as the head of the CPC in November 2012, he found a very different China from that of Deng Xiaoping: Chinese people had acquired money, talent and information, corruption had spread in the party and the military, even senior cadres' loyalty to the CPC was suspect and there was talk of shifting to a more democratic system of government akin to the Singapore model. Xi Jinping, who was appointed to save the party, immediately ordered measures to weed out corrupt elements (including his critics), ruthlessly establishing the party's control on state and private enterprises, universities, media and human rights insti-

tutions making it clear that the CPC came before everything else. The CPC is worried how the failure of the Russians to stand up for their party led to the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

How does China view its place in the world? In a 2017 speech to the CPC, Xi Jinping said, "China has stood up, grown rich, is becoming strong and its ultimate goal was to become a global leader." Projecting himself as a 'transformational' leader like Mao and Deng Xiaoping, Xi Jinping unveiled his 'dream' of national rejuvenation of making China a 'powerful socialist country' by 2049, when it completes 100 years. Towards this objective, Xi Jinping has undertaken several initiatives such as the rapid build-up of China's military capability of projecting power overseas, acquiring national sufficiency in 5G, semiconductors, artificial intelligence and quantum technologies and Belt and Road Initia-

tive (BRI) to set up a China-dominated economic architecture in Eurasia as a rival to the transatlantic architecture led by the US. He has also prolonged his own stay in power, removing the two-term limit.

China's rapid economic development using unfair trade practices such as the denial of market access, theft of intellectual property, forced transfer of technology and a state-subsidised model of economic growth has earned the wrath of the US. The latter has started 'economic decoupling' to weaken China in the long run, impose tariffs and sanctions against certain Chinese technologies and nuclear power companies to maintain its dominance in 'emerging technologies' and resist China's growing power through freedom of maritime operations in the South China Sea, fresh arms sales to Taiwan and build potential allies like India and Vietnam. China's regional neighbours, perturbed about its growing assertiveness, interference and militarisation of disputed territories in the South China Sea and Xinjiang, are seeking new strategic and political alignments to deal with China's growing might.

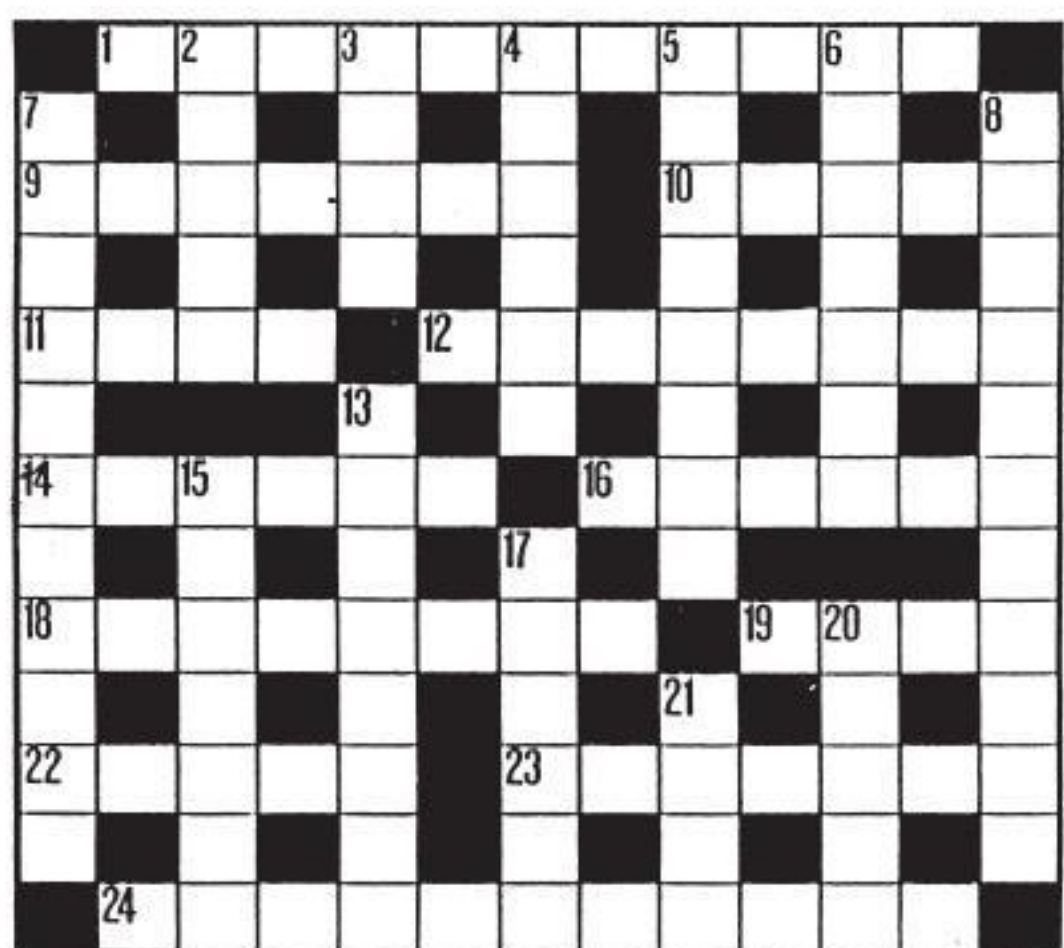
Millions of Muslims, including Uighurs, Tibetans and others, are deeply concerned about China's denial of human rights, its 'cultural policing' and intrusive surveillance which violates basic freedom and privacy. Civil disorder in Hong Kong over the denial of democratic rights is generating fresh anxieties on whether China can maintain its 'special status' in accordance with the 'one country, two systems' principle which it had previously agreed upon, without resorting to extreme violence. The space available for critics and dissi-

dents has been sharply constricted under the present leadership as it wants to brook no opposition to the absolute power of the CPC.

Over time, while China's leadership has become relatively weaker, its people have become empowered and aspirational, seeking more jobs, education, health and housing facilities. The Chinese society is now dominated by important constituencies such as the big, medium and small business owners, professionals, bureaucrats, military, migrant workers and others with diverse interests. An important challenge for the CPC is whether it can adapt the Chinese political system to meet the growing needs of a pluralised and empowered society. The Chinese economic miracle was fuelled by a large and youthful labour force, rapid urbanisation, continuing market reforms and globalisation — factors which have now diminished. Another test for China is whether it can meet the rising expectations of its people while maintaining the CPC's supremacy, even as its economic growth is declining amid the escalating trade war with the US.

Historically, China has achieved rapid economic progress when it was a more 'open' country with less government control, was part of the global supply chain and co-existing peacefully in the global political order. In important ways, China has digressed from this track. Another big challenge for the Chinese leadership is whether it can seek the path of restraint, accommodation and legitimacy, at home and in dealing with major powers and its neighbours, to avoid confrontation, build on consensus and strengthen peace, stability and security.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Besides (11)
- 9 Without question (2,5)
- 10 Slight colouring (5)
- 11 Tough (4)
- 12 Huge (8)
- 14 Fine distinction (6)
- 16 Aircraft gun (6)
- 18 End of the line (8)
- 19 Cultivate (4)
- 22 Infuse (5)
- 23 Perplex (7)
- 24 Nonetheless (4,3,4)

DOWN

- 2 Speak (5)
- 3 Tightly drawn (4)
- 4 Scope (6)
- 5 Relevant (8)
- 6 In weakened health (3-4)
- 7 Easy (7,2,2)
- 8 In decreasing degree (4,3,4)
- 13 Loud and grating (8)
- 15 North American reindeer (7)
- 17 Extinguish (6)
- 20 The Muslim religion (5)
- 21 Burden (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION
Across: 1 Sombre, 4 Act of God, 9 Occult, 10 Face card, 12 Dire, 13 Quite, 14 Fell, 17 Winter sports, 20 House of cards, 23 Vine, 24 Crash, 25 Hell, 28 Weakling, 29 Mozart, 30 Likewise, 31 Sordid.
Down: 1 Showdown, 2 Macaroni, 3 Rile, 5 Coast-to-coast, 6 Open, 7 Gravel, 8 Diddle, 11 Purse strings, 15 Venom, 16 Stock, 18 Free hand, 19 Isolated, 21 Awol, 22 Unmask, 26 Blow, 27 Solo.

SU DO KU

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

V. EASY

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 1, 2019, TUESDAY

- Vikrami Samvat 2076
- Shaka Samvat 1941
- Ashwin Shaka 9
- Ashwin Parvishite 15
- Hijari 1441
- Shukla Paksh Tithi 3, up to 1:55 pm
- Vaidhra Yoga up to 8:31 am
- Vishku Yoga up to 5:24 am
- Swati Nakshatra up to 3:21 pm
- Moon in Libra sign.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: TUESDAY 18:08 HRS
SUNRISE: WEDNESDAY 06:16 HRS

City **MAX** **MIN**
Chandigarh 29 22
New Delhi 32 24

PUNJAB
Amritsar 29 22
Bathinda 32 22
Jalandhar 29 22
Ludhiana 30 22

HARYANA
Bhiwani 32 23
Hisar 32 24
Sirsar 32 22

HIMACHAL PRADESH
Dharamsala 24 16
Manali 20 10
Shimla 20 13

JAMMU & KASHMIR
Jammu 31 21
Leh 22 08
Srinagar 26 12

UTTARAKHAND
Dehradun 28 19
Mussoorie 20 12

TEMPERATURE IN °C

Amid political siege, JD(U) to go ahead with BDC polls

EHSAN FAZILI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 30 While the political spectrum of J&K is under siege post the abrogation of Article 370, the state unit of the Janata Dal (United) has decided to participate in the forthcoming Block Development Council (BDC) elections, being held around a year after the panchayat elections.

The Chief Electoral Officer of J&K, Shailendra Kumar, on Sunday announced the government's decision to hold the BDC elections on October 24. The elections are being conducted at a time when all top political leaders, including three former Chief Ministers, former ministers, legislatures and other party

FIRST PARTY TO DECIDE ON PARTICIPATION



The Janta Dal (United) has become the only political party to decide on participation in the BDC elections, particularly from Kashmir. The leaders of regional political parties, including the National Conference, PDP, People's Conference and others have been put under detention since August 5 when the Central government abrogated Article 370.

cadres are under detention at different levels.

A day after the announcement, GM Shaheen, state president of the JD(U), said the party leadership after a meeting with the panches and sarpanches from different areas of the Valley decided to contest the forthcoming elections. He said the par-

ty feels "it as its democratic right to participate in these elections" and at the same time lamented that the polls were being held amid a communication blockade and lack of public transport facilities.

He said only panches and sarpanches lodged in hotels in Srinagar were in contact with the party

while others in rural areas were cut off due to the absence of mobile facilities. He urged the government to restore mobile phones of the party leaders apart from panches and sarpanches across the state. He said the phones of party leaders and workers were not restored while these facilities were available to BJP leaders and workers.

The JD (U) has become the only political party to decide on participation in these elections, particularly from Kashmir. The leaders of regional political parties, including the National Conference, PDP, People's Conference and others have been put under detention since August 5 when the Central government abrogated Article 370.

State mulls implementing RTE Act

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 30

A high-level team from the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) recently chaired a meeting with the school education department, Kashmir, to discuss the applicability of the Right to Education Act (RTE) in private schools.

The MHRD team informed the department that the implementation of RTE Act to the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir would pave the way for reservation to poor children in private schools. As per the Act, the private schools have to keep 25 per cent quota in admission for students from economically weaker sections (EWS).

Earlier, as the region had its own constitution, the provision was not applicable due to which private schools would deny admissions to students belonging to weaker sections. — TNS

NHAI to utilise plastic waste to build Jammu-Srinagar highway

400-MT seized polythene to be used for laying road

SUMIT KAKHOO
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 30

In a first-of-its-kind experiment in Jammu and Kashmir, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will use plastic and polythene dumped in godowns of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) for laying the road on the 270-km-long Jammu-Srinagar national highway, which is undergoing four-laning.

About 400 metric tonnes (MT) of polythene seized by the SPCB and other agencies after the State High Court banned the use and manufacture of polythene in 2008 has not been disposed of and the agencies have chalked out a plan to utilise it. Environmentally fragile J&K is facing a daunting task of disposing of tonnes of polythene material generated by consumers every year.

Officials said under the pilot project, five metric tonnes of polythene would be tested on the Jammu-Pathankot National Highway using the existing technology available in India and if successful, will be replicated on the strategic highway, which connects Kashmir Valley with the rest of India.

There is also a plan to lay roads using waste material in the two capital cities and towns of the state. "If our experiment succeeds, we will find an alternative way of disposing plastic waste. Many states in India have adopted this technique. Roads laid with asphalt mixed with plastic are resistant to water, cold weather and general wear and tear",



Four-laning under way on the Jammu-Srinagar highway. FILE

SMC COLLECTS 6 TONNES OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

- **Srinagar:** Around 6 tonnes of single-use plastic has been collected by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC). This also marks the start of a campaign to clear the city of single-use plastic.
- The campaign is being undertaken under the Prime Minister's Swachh Bharat Mission. For this year, the theme announced by the Prime Minister is 'plastic waste awareness and management'.
- The SMC has collected plastic from 10 wards of Srinagar city. The drive against the use of single-use plastic was started by it on September 11.

said Purshotam Kumar, Project Director, NHAI-Ramban, overlooking the four-laning of the Udhampur-Ramban Highway.

As per the technical details polythene and plastic is first shredded and then mixed with bitumen at very high temperature. Later, it forms one of the layer when macadamisation is carried out of a particular road.

"We are hopeful that the project will succeed. It is becoming difficult to dispose of polythene and plastic waste generated. Other methods cause pollution. We are also in talks

with cement plants so that plastic can be used as fuel but for that plants need some modification", said Suresh Chug, Chairman, JKSPCB.

For years, the state has failed to find scientific solution to get rid of the haul and seized polythene, especially carry bags. Since 2015, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is also encouraging road developers to use plastic waste along with bituminous mixes to overcome the growing problem of disposal of plastic waste, which is threatening the environment.

Release politicians before poll, Panthers Party urges President

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 30

The National Panthers Party (NPP) today urged the President of India, Ramnath Kovind, to convene an urgent meeting with the leadership of J&K state parties by releasing political leaders and others before holding any election.

The elections are possible only after the "illegal detentions" are stopped by the state government. The confidence of the people of J&K is an important factor to create appropriate atmosphere to hold any election to the panchayats or the Assembly, said National Panthers Party (NPP)

“The elections are possible only after the illegal detentions are stopped by the government. The confidence of the people of J&K is an important factor in creating the appropriate atmosphere to hold any election. Bhim Singh, NPP CHIEF

chief Bhim Singh in a letter addressed to the President.

In his letter, Bhim Singh included that it was surprising that the senior leadership of all recognised state political parties was either detained

under the so-called illegal Public Safety Act or under some other false cases and there was no communication between the senior officials working in J&K under the President's Rule with any of the political parties in J&K even though the Act of Parliament to amend Article 370 was passed by Parliament and would be implemented after October 31.

He added that the declaration to hold the election for the Chairmen of the Block Development Council would not bring any positive result because the political leadership was in jails. — TNS

Combing operation in Ganderbal for 4th day

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 30

For the fourth consecutive day, the Army is combing the upper reaches in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district to trace a group of militants with whom a contact was established on Saturday.

A militant suspected to be a Pakistani was killed in a gunfight on Saturday. Defence sources said the operation at Trunkhal Gangbal in Ganderbal district, which was launched on Friday, was going on and no fresh contact with the militants could be established.

"The teams are still combing the area and the operation is on. The area is very difficult," sources said.

The axis where the anti-militancy operation is going on is close to the Gurez sector in Bandipora district and the militants with whom contact was established are suspected to have infiltrated recently.

Sources said the group of militants had crossed into the Gurez Sector from the Line of Control and then travelled on foot from the Bakhtor area in Ganderbal to the high-altitude Gangbal area.

Kashyap, Musafir get going in Pachhad

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, SEPTEMBER 30

Seven candidates, including two BJP rebels, filed nomination papers for the Pachhad seat before the returning officer at Rajgarh today.

BJP official nominee Reena Kashyap filed her nomination in the presence of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, MP, Shimla, Suresh Kashyap and Chairman, HP Agriculture Marketing Board, Baldev Bhandari.

Two BJP rebels, a former ABVP activist Aashish Sikta and sitting Zila Parishad chairperson Dayal Pyari, also filed nominations.

GR Musafir, a former Assembly Speaker, filed his nomination from the Congress in the presence of Pradesh Congress Committee president Kuldeep Rathore. Dinesh Aarya filed his nomination as a covering candidate for the Congress.

Pawan Kumar, an AAP nominee, and another independent candidate Surender Pal Chhinda also filed papers.

In Dharamsala, Nehria, Karan file nomination

LALIT MOHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, SEPTEMBER 30

Eight candidates today filed nomination papers for Dharamsala Assembly bypoll. Besides the candidates of main parties, the Congress and the BJP, five independents and a candidate of Swabhiman Party filed their nomination papers today.

The candidates who filed their nomination papers today included Vishal Nehria of BJP, Vijay Inder Karan of the Congress, Rakesh Kumar (independent), Nisha Katoch (independent), Subash Chander Shukla (independent), Manish (independent), Chaukas Bharadwaj (independent) and Manohar Lal Dhiman (Swabhiman Party).

With both the Congress and the BJP selecting greenhorns for byelections, fissures were evident in both the parties. Former minister Sudhir Sharma failed to turn up for party event for the Congress while for the BJP most of ticket hopefuls stayed away.

The BJP candidate Vishal Nehria came with former Chief Minister Shanta Kumar, state president of BJP Satpal Satti and BJP MP from Kangra Kishan Kapoor for filing the nomination papers. The BJP later organised a rally at Kachehri crossing just out the mini secretariat.

Former Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhimal was not present. The BJP ticket hopefuls, including Sanjay Sharma, Umesh Dutt and Rakesh

VOTER COUNT		
	MALE	FEMALE
	41,017	40,057
81,074		
DETAILS OF AFFIDAVITS		
Name of candidate: Vishal Nehria (BJP)		
Age: 31 years		
Educational Qualification: BA LLB and MA English		
Moveable assets: ₹18,56,700		
Immovable assets: ₹66,36,400		
Liabilities: ₹27,47,106		
Name of candidate: Vijay Inder Karan (Congress)		
Age: 41 years		
Educational Qualification: MA English		
Moveable assets: Self: ₹10,69,785 Spouse: ₹35,88,388		
Immovable assets: Self: ₹25,25,733 Spouse: ₹25,25,733		
Liabilities: Self: ₹10,01,933 Spouse: ₹10,01,933		
Name of candidate: Rakesh Kumar (Independent)		
Age: 42 years		
Occupation: Government Contractor		
Moveable assets: Self: ₹24,77,070 Spouse: ₹11,84,171		
Immovable assets: ₹35 lakh		
Liabilities: ₹6,40,178		

Sharma, were absent from the event at Dharamsala today. The Congress candidate Vijay Inder Karan was accompanied by former MP Chander Kumar and CLP leader in Himachal Vishan Sabha Mukesh Agnihotri while filing of nomination papers. For the Congress, former minister Sudhir Sharma skipped the filing of nomi-

nation papers of party candidate. Sudhir Sharma declined to contest giving party just two days to select a new candidate. His absence from the nomination filing of party candidate indicated that he was going to stay away from party campaigning also in the coming. Since Sudhir had a vote bank in the constituency from where he contested two times, it was being considered as setback for the Congress.

Rebels out to spoil saffron show

AMBIKA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, SEPTEMBER 30

The BJP is in for trouble as two BJP rebels Aashish Sikta and Dayal Pyari filed nominations as independents from Pachhad against the official candidate Reena Kashyap. The development has left the party embarrassed as it has brought the bickering to the fore.

Organisational secretary Pawan Rana, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, general secretary, Chander Mohan Thakur, MP, Shimla, Suresh Kashyap, Assembly in-charge and Cabinet Minister Mohinder Singh Thakur held a close-door meeting to resolve the issue after the nominations at Rajgarh. Though attempts were made to prevail upon the rebels, the party is yet to achieve success.

The stiff opposition was witnessed within the party against the official candidate Reena Kashyap soon after the announcement of her candidature yesterday.

ABVP former activist Aashish Sikta, who hails



CM Jai Ram Thakur during a roadshow amid rain at Rajgarh in Pachhad on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

from the trans-Giri area, filed his nomination amid hundreds of supporters who raised slogans against sitting MP Suresh Kashyap. He presented a show of strength before CM Jai Ram Thakur who specially arrived at Rajgarh this morning.

Former zila parishad chairperson and sitting member Dayal Pyari queered the poll pitch further for the BJP. She filed

her nomination and, while addressing the media, said she was perturbed with the dictatorial attitude of BJP leaders who were ignoring her.

She also claimed that despite taking up the issue with the CM several times, she had failed to get justice and claimed that she had the support of the people. She also said she wanted to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and convey the

injustice meted out to her.

Baldev Bhandari, Chairman, HP Agriculture Marketing Board, had pushed her during a poll rally at Sarahan in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls a few months ago in the presence of the CM. Dayal Pyari, who has been elected to the zila parishad for the third time, has an immense presence among the masses and she would adversely hit the BJP's official nominee.

20 hurt as bus rolls down gorge

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PALAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 30

At least 20 persons were injured, 10 of them seriously, when a private bus ferrying a marriage party from Sujanpur to Amritsar rolled down a gorge near Paror in wee hours of Monday.

Sources said the bus had left Sujanpur at 4 am and when it reached Paror after nearly an hour, the driver failed to negotiate a sharp curve and the bus, with 40 passengers on board, fell into a gorge in a forest.

The police along with local

residents immediately rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation. Most of the injured were shifted to the Palampur Civil Hospital. Later, 10 persons were referred to the Government Medical College, Tanda. Their condition is stated to be critical.

Palampur SDM Pankaj Sharma and DSP Amit Sharma also reached the spot to supervise the rescue operation. They said the state government would bear the cost of the medical treatment to all injured. They also visited the civil hospital and met the injured. Health Minister Vipin Singh Parmar spoke to the Medical Superintendent of the Tanda Medical College regarding the treatment to the injured.

Dhauladhars get season's first snowfall

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 30

The Dhauladhars received the first spell of snowfall while widespread intermittent rain accompanied by strong winds lashed several parts of HP. High mountain passes and other higher hills received light snowfall, leading to further drop in temperature. The rain and the snowfall triggered landslides and link roads were blocked at several places in the interiors of Shimla district, obstructing traffic and hampering transportation of apple. — TNS

BLOOD BANK SOCIETY, CHANDIGARH ALL INDIA BLOOD DONATION DAY OCTOBER 1, 2019



KANTA KRISHEN HONoured WITH LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

At a glittering ceremony held in the ballroom of the Hyatt Hotel, Women Achievers from different walks of life were honoured on Women's Day. The only Life Time Achievement Award that morning was conferred on Mrs. Kanta Krishen of the Blood Bank Society for her unparalleled contribution towards voluntary blood donation in the country. The event was organized by The Lifestyle Journalist Group. The award was received by the grand-daughter and great-grand-daughter of Kanta ji on her behalf.

ROSE FESTIVAL



A stall was put up at the Panjab University Rose Festival where information was given about Blood Donation and Thalassemia Prevention. Interactive activities like fun worksheets, quizzes, pin-up-the-correct-answers, helped to spread awareness of Thalassemia and voluntary blood donation. The response was heartening, as many youngsters participated and had queries, which were answered to their satisfaction.

POSTER COMPETITION ON THALASSEMIA AWARENESS AND PREVENTION



Thalassemia is a dreaded blood disorder that is inherited from ones parents. It is known as the 'BLOOD THIRSTY' disease as large quantities of blood are needed to keep Thalassemic patients alive. The only good news about it is that it is PREVENTABLE. How do you involve the youth and make them aware of this dreaded genetic disorder and avoid becoming victims of something that so prevalent in this part of the world?

The Blood Bank Society Chandigarh supported by the Minno Sambhi Thalassaemic Service, organized a Poster Making Competition amongst college students of Chandigarh on May 8, World Thalassemia Day.

The topic was 'Thalassemia Awareness & Prevention'. This got the youngsters curious to find out about the subject.

Besides creating awareness we also hoped to get fresh ideas for information and education material to be used for further spreading the message amongst the masses. 125 entries were received.

Mrs Sukrita Singh the co-ordinator of the event, welcomed the guests at the prize distribution ceremony.

Mrs Bonny Sodhi, an eminent educationist and active social worker of the city gave away the prizes to the winners.

The winners were:

Ms. Jasmine Kaur Bhogal, Ms. Aakanksha, Ms. Monika Sharma, Ms. Harleen Kaur, Ms. Navya Dutta, Mr. Satnam Singh, Mr. Sunil Kumar Maurya, Ms. Tamana

CONFERENCES



India aims to achieve the target of 100% blood from voluntary donors by 2020. The importance of sharing ideas cannot be stressed enough to achieve this goal. One learns from each other's experiences and picks up valuable tips on how to promote voluntary blood donation.

At the Indian Society of Blood Transfusion and Immunoheamatology (ISTBI) annual conference in Vishakhapatnam and at a conference organized by Chandigarh SACS - AIDSCON 8, Mrs. Niti Sarin presented the activities of the Blood Bank Society, Chandigarh which has always been looked upon as the nursery for idea by other voluntary bodies working in this field. The presentation was greatly appreciated as our work is on the ground level. Keeping donors motivated and enrolling new ones, needs a continuous flow of new ideas and personal interaction with the public.

At the ISTBI Conference at Vishakhapatnam, two new posters brought out by the Blood Bank Society Chandigarh were released at the inauguration by the Vice Chancellor of Andhra University and the Member of Parliament of Vishakhapatnam.



One of the three camps held each year at the Pb. & Hry. High Court

BOOK MARKING HALF A CENTURY OF SERVICE

How does one condense 50 years of perseverance, toil and innovative ideas into a few pages? What seemed an impossible task was achieved when the book 'Purpose, Passion, Perseverance - 50 years of the Blood Bank Society, Chandigarh' was released on the 3rd of February 2019, at the Annual Function for Blood Donors.

Published by Roots and Shoots and sponsored by the Sarin Memorial Legal Aid Foundation, the book was compiled by Mrs. Kanta Krishen, Mrs. Niti Sarin, Mrs. Vanita Sahni and Mrs. Sukrita Singh of the Blood Bank Society.

When we were floundering with mountains of material not knowing where to begin, Mr. Sanjay Sethi came to our rescue and the result was a beautiful coffee table book recording the incredible journey of the Blood Bank Society.

Our grateful thanks to the Sarin Memorial Legal Aid Foundation, for making this dream come true.

The book is available from the Blood Bank Society office at the Blood Centre in Sector-37, Chandigarh.

AWARD FUNCTION



L-R Mrs. Niti Sarin, Mr. Anil Nehru, Mr. R.K. Saboo, Chief Justice Krishna Murari, Chief Justice (Retd.) S. S. Sodhi, Mr M.L. Sarin, Mr Rajan Kashyap.

SOME BONDS ARE CREATED BY BIRTH OTHERS BY BLOOD CREATE A BOND - DONATE BLOOD



JOIN THE MOVEMENT DONATE BLOOD

Blood Bank Society, Chandigarh

JUNE 14, HAS BEEN DECLARED 'WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY'



Keeping the tradition of thanking blood donors and motivating new ones, the Blood Bank Society this year, distributed environment friendly, reusable, cloth bags at the various 'Apni Mandis' which are held across the city.

These bags, made by the Blood Bank Society members and stitched by local village girls, carried messages of blood donation and Thalassemia prevention. This endeavour not only helped these young people to earn some income, but also helps to stop the use of plastic, while creating awareness about Blood Donation.

The designs on the bags were taken from the poster competition which was organised on Thalassemia Day!



A blood donation camp in progress at the Department of Evening Studies, Panjab University

SEMINAR FOR MOTIVATORS



Partnering with the ISBTI Chandigarh Chapter, the Blood Bank Society and Minno Sambhi Thalassaemic Service organized a Seminar for Motivators.

The meeting was held in the Gallery of the Alliance Francaise, who graciously agreed to let us hold the seminar there.

Motivators of the region working to increase the voluntary blood donor base were the delegates and were given valuable inputs by Dr. Suchet Sachdev of the PGI, Prof. Dr. Reena Dass of the PGI, Dr. Kalpana Tyagi of Haryana SACS and Dr. Manish Rai of the Blood Centre, Sector 37.

The need to keep abreast with the latest trends in technology is very useful for motivators, who are the public face of this movement and are constantly in touch with donors.

MELA FOR BLOOD DONORS AND THEIR FAMILIES - 2019 WILL BE HELD ON DEC. 1.



For the last three years, the Blood Bank Society has found a wonderful way to thank and show gratitude to the blood donors and their families, of the region.

A Mela is organized where, FREE coupons are given for the families to enjoy a fun filled evening. Thus offering attractions such as Games, Camel Rides, Candy Floss, Tambola, Food stalls, Pop-corn, Tattoos, Hampers to be won and plenty more.

Last year too, a similar Mela was organized, which was a tremendous success. Each year the foot fall has been increasing. At the end of evening, it was gratifying to see happy donors take home their families with lots of goodies that they had won at the various stalls!

This has proved to be a great motivation tool to retain our donors, since repeat voluntary donors are the safest source of blood!

WOMEN'S DAY



At the Blood Bank Society, we are an "All Women" volunteer group of about 20 ladies, who work in unity, innovation, creativity, one in spirit, working with one vision..... to motivate new voluntary blood donors and encourage our earlier donors, to be consistent and to continue to donate.

Who else can celebrate "Women's Day" in a more meaningful way, than the ladies of the Blood Bank Society. As part of the celebration, we organized a special blood donation camp. Colleges, social clubs, corporate offices etc. were contacted to encourage new donor. To make the blood donors feel special, they were treated to mouth watering eats, which were appreciated by one and all.

More power to all women - everywhere.

रक्तदान की हस्ती को आप क्या पहचानोगे गालिब, हजारों लोग जीवन पा गए मरते मरते।

DONATE BLOOD AT BLOOD CENTRE - 37, PGI-12, GMCH-32, GMSH-16.



BSE
155.24
38,667.33

NSE
32.95
11,474.45

GOLD
₹37,385
Mumbai

SILVER
₹44,610
Mumbai

USD	EURO	POUND	JPY	YUAN	CAD	AUD	SGD	HKD
₹70.87	₹77.25	₹87.29	₹0.65	₹9.92	₹53.39	₹47.88	₹51.26	₹9.02

STPI to set up Centre of Excellence in Mohali

To provide all necessary support to nurture startups

VIJAY C ROY
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30 If you are a techie and harbouring an entrepreneurial dream in Data Analytics (Big Data), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) and Audio Visual Gaming (AVG), then Mohali could be the ideal location for you. From offering infrastructure to funding, including seed capital, the upcoming Centre of Excellence (CoE) called 'Neuron' at Mohali by the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) will offer comprehensive support to the startups.

According to experts, the lack of investor ecosystem, especially funding, mentorship and industry involvement are major impediments that startups face. So setting up the CoE and offering support in the form of mentoring, industry connect, market access, networking and funding access, access to STPI Mohali Data Centre and high-speed Internet access will go a long way in promoting Big Data, AI, IoT and AVG. Neuron plans to incubate 50 startups in each every year.



ILLUSTRATION: SANDEEP JOSHI

ABOUT THE CENTRE

- To be operational: By January 2020
- Area: 33,026 sq ft (incubation space)
- Capacity: 500 plug and play seats
- Facilities: Data Analytics Lab, AVG Lab and Innovation IoT Lab

"We are looking at multiple options to offer seed money to our successful incubates at the CoE where they can access funds up to Rs 25 lakh. We are contemplating to have CSR-structured funds, industry support and support from the Central government to nur-

ture these startups. We are also looking for venture capital in association with private participation and funds from the Central government to further scale up," said Subodh Sachan, Director and CEO, STPI Next. STPI Next is the latest endeavour of STPI in promoting and encouraging innovation-led entrepreneurship through building an ecosystem to facilitate incubation, mentoring, R&D, industry-connect and funding.

This is the sixth CoE by STPI. The existing five are in Chennai, Bhubaneswar (two), Bengaluru and Pune. The CoE at Mohali, which will be operational by January next, is coming up in

association with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Punjab government, Indian School of Business (ISB), Punjab Technical University (PTU), IIT-Ropar, TIE Chandigarh and Chandigarh Angel Network.

The centre is being set up at a project cost of Rs 20.92 crore over five years. The Punjab government will provide Rs 10 crore while the remaining will be funded by MeitY, STPI and other stakeholders.

Dr Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI, said, "We believe with the promotion of disruptive technology-led innovations and supporting ecosystem, such initiatives will transform not only Mohali but the whole country into a hub for new generation software products."

AI and IoT are emerging and fast-growing digital technologies and both are complementing each other in providing a variety of solutions. The combination of IoT, Big Data and AI is fuelling futuristic innovative solutions in healthcare, digital business, cyber security, smart cities among others.

RCap to exit lending biz

To shut down two credit verticals by December

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 30

Facing headwinds, Anil Ambani-run Reliance Capital, which has credit as well as insurance and mutual fund verticals, has decided to shutter its two lending arms by December, the company said today.

Reliance Capital has two credit verticals — Reliance Commercial Finance and Reliance Home Finance — with a cumulative asset of over Rs 25,000 crore.

This is second major business that the Anil Ambani-led Group is exiting after its once flagship Reliance Communications was shuttered two years ago and is now under the bankruptcy process. Its defence business — Reliance Naval — is also under severe financial stress.



Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani along with his two sons Anmol and Anshul before the AGM in Mumbai on Monday. PTI

SHARES TANK NEARLY 14%

■ Shares of Reliance Capital on Monday came under massive selling pressure, plunging nearly 14%, after the company decided to shutter its two lending arms by December

■ The scrip tumbled 13.57% to touch its 52-week low at ₹24.20 on the BSE. On the NSE, the scrip cracked 13.59% to a one-year-low of ₹24.15

"As part of the business transformation, Reliance Capital has decided to exit the lending business. Both our lending businesses — Reliance Commercial Finance and Reliance Home Finance — are working close-

ly with all our lenders and other stakeholders to finalise the resolution plans which are expected to be completed by December," Ambani told the shareholders at the AGM.

He said even after shuttering the lending business,

RCap will continue to be the financial shareholder of these companies so that shareholder value increases under the new management and effectively debt of Reliance Capital comes down by Rs 25,000 crore. — PTI

Core sector output slips to 0.5% in Aug

New Delhi: The Index of Industrial Production grew by a mere 0.5% in August as against 4.7% in the same month last year, according to data of the Commerce and Industry Ministry released on Monday. This was the poorest performance in nearly four years. The last such sluggish production was recorded in November 2015. TNS

Maruti rolls out mini SUV at ₹3.69 lakh

New Delhi: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India on Monday launched a mini SUV S-PRESSO priced between Rs 3.69 lakh and Rs 4.91 lakh (ex-showroom). The new model, which is based on the company's fifth generation HEART-ECT platform, comes with a BS-VI compliant one-litre petrol engine with a claimed fuel efficiency of 21.7 km per litre. PTI

RBI looking into PMC crisis: Thakur

New Delhi: Terming the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank crisis as an "eye opener", Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur on Monday said the RBI is looking into various aspects, including lapses on part of auditors. The bank came under stress due to alleged financial irregularities forcing the RBI to impose restriction on the lender. TNS

LVB, Indiabulls' shares tumble

New Delhi: Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) shares tumbled around 5% on Monday to hit its lower circuit limit after the RBI initiated a prompt corrective action plan against the lender due to high level of bad loans. Indiabulls Housing Finance, which had proposed to merge with Lakshmi Vilas Bank, also plunged 34.39% to close at Rs 255.50 apiece on the BSE. PTI



The Tribune CORPORATE BROADBAND

NHPC, Himachal Pradesh in pact for Dugar HE Project

NHPC has signed an MoU with the Himachal Pradesh government for the execution of 449 MW Dugar HE Project in Chamba district. The agreement was signed by Balraj Joshi, CMD, NHPC, and Principal Secretary (Energy), Himachal Pradesh, in the presence of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur.



SCOPE to promote agenda of nation building: Meghwal

Minister of State for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises and Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal recently visited SCOPE Complex in New Delhi. Atul Sobti, Director General, SCOPE, apprised him of recent initiatives taken and its future plans. Meghwal advised them to play an active role in promoting the agenda of nation building and explore new areas of capacity building through corporate governance, environment protection and R&D.



HUDCO chairman addresses shareholders at 49th AGM

Dr M Ravi Kanth, CMD, HUDCO, addressed the shareholders at its 49th AGM, held in New Delhi on September 25. It was well attended by all stakeholders who appreciated the financial performance of the company in 2018-19.



Amara Raja Skill Development Centre holds convocation

Amara Raja Skill Development Centre, Andhra Pradesh, recently organised a convocation for students of its 8th batch. As many as 60 students received certificates during the ceremony. Dr Ramachandra N Galla, founder and chairman, Amara Raja Group, was also present.



AP Organics bags award for rice bran oil exports

Dhuri-based AP Organics Ltd has been conferred with the "First Award" for being the highest exporter of refined rice bran oil during 2018-19. Dr AR Sharma, chairman, Ricela Group, received the award from Kamal Datta, Joint Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, at the 48th SEA award ceremony, held in Mumbai recently.



Federal Bank sets up e-learning lab under CSR

The Federal Bank recently set up an e-learning lab at Government Secondary School, Gudha, Rajasthan, under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative. It will consist of multiple computers and e-learning books, providing a complete learning solution to students of this school.

Corporate tax cut to boost direct selling industry: Thakur

Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur recently released the Annual Survey 2018-19 of Indian Direct Selling Association (IDSA). He said the corporate tax cut along with a slew of economic measures taken recently will add momentum to the sector.



Sansui unveils new range of products

Japanese consumer electronics giant Sansui has launched a new range of technologically powered consumer durable and electronic products in India. The diverse product portfolio includes smart TVs, washing machines, audio devices, ACs, refrigerators and small kitchen appliances.



Sushma Group announces 'Happy Home Celebration'

Sushma Group recently organised a conference in Ludhiana to showcase its projects in the tricity. It also announced a special festive benefit plan "Sushma Happy Home Celebration". Under the plan, the group is extending attractive benefits for the residents of Ludhiana for a limited period where they can buy premium units with additional benefits at standard price.



Flipkart collaborates with 100+ fashion brands

Flipkart has partnered with 100+ leading brands and widest seller network in India. It also unveiled a wide range of styles in the fashion category. From apparel to accessories like bags, sunglasses, perfumes to footwear, the offerings cover a wide gamut of products.



Vasal Educational Group's chairman awarded

Vasal Educational Group chairman Sanjeev Kumar Vasal has been conferred with "Bharatiya Mahanatham



Vikas Puraskar" during the 72nd Pride of Nations Programme organised by AsiaOne India's Greatest Brand & Leader Award 2018-19. The award was given by Zainal Aznan Nadzir, Consul General of Malaysia, at a function held in Mumbai recently.

Chitkara University holds national theatre festival

Chitkara University recently organised two-day national theatre festival 'Rangrez' on its Punjab campus. As many as 140 teams from 20 states participated. It saw the perfect blend of intriguing storyline, invigorating performances in fascinating forms and distinctive voices. The theme of the festival was 'Light to Enlighten'.



HDFC Bank, IndianOil launch co-branded credit card

HDFC Bank and IndianOil has launched a co-branded fuel credit card for users from non-metro cities and towns. It offers customers the highest rewards and benefits on fuel consumption. The card will be available on both RuPay and Visa platforms.



Tecno launches mobiles under Spark series

Tecno has launched mobile phones under Spark series. The series is designed and developed keeping in mind the aspirations of Indian consumers who look for value-for-money proposition.



Saffolalife conducts survey on lifestyle habits

To create awareness regarding lifestyle habits that lead to heart risk, Saffolalife recently conducted a survey across Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad. The study reveals growing incidence of heart risk among those who are stressed or get inadequate sleep. While 65% of people are stressed and at heart risk, 58% of these don't consider it to be among the critical risk factors.



Everest Industries launches integrated building solutions

Everest Industries has launched 'Everest Integrated Steel Connect'. It is the only 'concept to commissioning' player in this segment backed by the company's in-house manufacturing capability for providing integrated building solutions.



Heart failure risk rises with age, says expert

While heart failure can develop at any age, its risk increases with age. About 1% of those above 65 and 7% of those between 75 and 84 years of age succumb to this condition. It is important to raise awareness about the fact that timely diagnosis and treatment can save lives. This was disclosed by Dr Sudheer Saxena, Director & Head of Department, Cardiology, Max Hospital, Mohali, recently.



Deepak Sood takes over as Assocham secretary general

Industry leader Deepak Sood has taken over as secretary general of Assocham. He had earlier worked as executive director of CII. He was deputed as CEO of Invest Karnataka Forum, an investment promotion arm of the Karnataka Government.



GoAir adjudged most punctual airline by DGCA

According to data released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, GoAir has emerged as the most punctual airline in August. With this, the airline has topped the chart of on-time-performance for 12 times in a row.

Skoda Auto launches new Kodiaq Scout

Skoda Auto has unveiled its new Kodiaq Scout, equipped with 2.0 TDI (DSG) diesel engine that generates 150 PS (110 kW) of power and a peak torque output of 340Nm with delivering a fuel efficiency of 16.25 km/l and a top speed of 194 km/h. This seven seater will be available in four colour options.



Mobile app to provide onions, potatoes at cheaper rates

POT Agritech Pvt Ltd., India's first agritech startup in onion and potato supply chain industry, has launched mobile app 'AlooPyaz' which promises to do away with middlemen thus assuring good quality product at less than market prices. It was launched by Ajit Balaji Joshi, Director General, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Ms Nazuk Kumar, Administrator, Agriculture Marketing Board, UT, recently.



Isuzu announces attractive discount offers on its range

Isuzu has announced discount offers on its products ranging from Rs 50,000 for commercial variant of D-Max (single cab) to Rs 2 lakh

on the up-market SUV, the mu-X. The offers are available on the commercial D-Max, S-Cab, V-Cross and mu-X till October 31.

OnePlus unveils new mobile, smart TV

OnePlus has unveiled its new and highly anticipated OnePlus 7T smartphone. The company also launched its flagship smart TV - a device combining imagination and intelligence to seamlessly connect mobile and home networks for the future of interconnectivity.



Organic Harvest launches new hair care products

Organic Harvest has launched hair care products — shampoo, oil, rosemary and tea green essential oil. These products help in taking care of all hair fall woes.



Jio employees take part in 'Swachh Rail Abhiyan'

To drive the message of Clean India, Jio recently took up the mission of cleaning nearly 900 railway stations across the country. Jio Swachh Rail Abhiyan saw participation by over 25,000 people, including Jio staff, associates, partners and their family members.



Dr Marta Hawkins delivers lecture at SD Business School

PML SD Business School, Chandigarh, organised a lecture on "Creativity, innovation and design thinking" by Dr Marta Hawkins, Dean, London School of Science and Technology, University of Glasgow, on September 28. GGSDS College Society office-bearers, including Upkar Krishan Sharma (president) and Anirudh Joshi (general secretary) were among those present.



Technical Training Institute of PSPCL gets CEA certificate

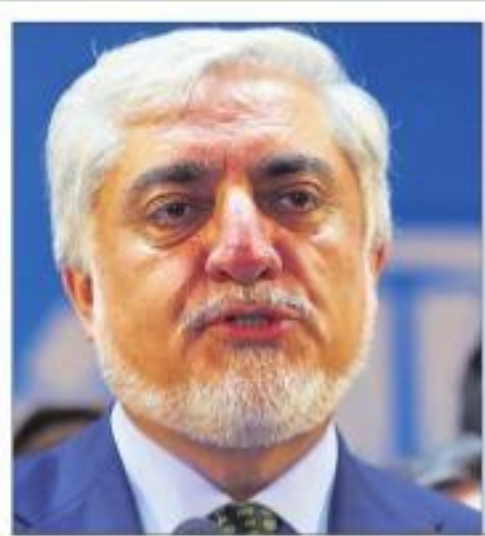
PC Kureel, Secretary, Central Electricity Authority (CEA), has awarded a recognition certificate to Technical Training Institute (TTI) of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL). The award was received by Parupkar Singh, Additional SE Protection and Bishan Kumar, Principal, TTI, at New Delhi recently.



Ghani rival Abdullah claims victory in Afghan elections

Poll official terms announcement premature | Move may stir tension

KABUL, SEPTEMBER 30 Afghanistan chief executive Abdullah Abdullah claimed victory on Monday over incumbent Ashraf Ghani in the weekend's presidential election, far ahead of the release of any official results.



TWO-HORSE RACE

"The results will be announced by the Independent Election Commission, but we have the most votes. The election is not going to go to a second round

- Abdullah Abdullah, AFGHANISTAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE

- Despite a large pool of candidates, the election was seen as a two-horse race between Abdullah and Ghani
They both claimed victory in the 2014 poll - a vote so tainted by fraud and violence that it forced the administration of then US President Barack Obama to push for a compromise that saw Abdullah awarded a subordinate role

centres still unreported. Preliminary results are not due until October 19, and if the leading candidate doesn't secure more than 50 percent of the vote the top two will run off in a second round.

"According to the law, it is the IEC that decides who is the winner."

Abdullah, who is seeking the presidency for the third time after losing in 2009 and 2014, said his team would "make the new government". Without giving details, Abdullah also mentioned reports of "some government officials' meddling in the election process. His remarks follow the release on social media of several videos purporting to show election workers stuffing ballots in favour of Ghani.

The IEC's complaints division head, Zuhra Bayan Shinwari, said the panel had so far received 2,569 complaints. Previous Afghan polls have been marred by widespread allegations of systemic fraud, so the stakes are high for the IEC, which has promised a clean process this year with rigorous steps to curtail cheating. - AFP



A Yemeni detainee is greeted by his relative after his release from a prison controlled by Houthi rebels, in Sanaa on Monday. PTI

Yemen's Houthi rebels release 290 detainees

SANAA (YEMEN), SEPTEMBER 30 Yemen's rebels on Monday released scores of detainees they had rounded up and held for years in rebel-controlled territory, a development that raised hopes of reviving stalled peace talks between the warring sides.

Yemen's internationally recognised government and ushering in the civil war that has killed tens of thousands of people.

A Saudi-led coalition intervened in the conflict in 2015 and has since waged war against the Houthis in an effort to restore the government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to power.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said the Iran-aligned rebels, known as Houthis, freed 290 detainees. Franz Rauchenstein, the ICRC's chief in Yemen, said the Red Cross facilitated the release following a request from the Houthis.

He expressed hope this would open the door to "further releases to bring comfort to families awaiting reunification with their loved ones".

The fighting in the Arab world's poorest country has also left millions suffering from food and medical care shortages and pushed the country to the brink of famine.

The ICRC said Monday's release included 42 survivors of an attack earlier this month by the Saudi-led coalition on a Houthi-run detention centre in the southwestern province of Dhamar.

Most of the prisoners were taken in raids since 2014, when the rebels overran the capital, Sanaa, and much of the north, pushing out

In Sanaa, the Houthis announced they released 350 detainees on Monday, including three Saudis. - AP

Militants attack EU convoy, US base in Somalia

MOGADISHU, SEPTEMBER 30 The Al-Shabaab militant group claimed responsibility for an attack on a US base in Somalia on Monday, as the European Union confirmed a separate strike against a convoy of Italian advisers.

km (70 miles) northwest of the capital Mogadishu, with explosives before gunmen opened fire on the compound. In a statement, Al-Shabaab said: "In the early hours of Monday morning, an elite unit of soldiers... launched a daring raid on the US military base in Baledogle."

"After breaching the perimeters of the heavily fortified base, the Mujahideen (holy fighters) stormed the military complex, engaging the crusaders in an intense firefight." There were no reports yet of any casualties.

Baledogle is a major launching site for US drone operations against Al-Shabaab, an Al-Qaeda-linked group which controls large parts of Somalia, and the Islamic State in Somalia outfit. "Two heavy explosions occurred. There was also a heavy exchange of gunfire after the blasts but we don't know about the details," a Somali elder said. - AFP

After outcry, Russia quashes jail term for actor

MOSCOW: A Moscow court on Monday overturned a prison sentence for actor Pavel Ustinov, giving him instead a one-year suspended sentence, in a case that has sparked protests and a major solidarity campaign over alleged police brutality. Ustinov (23) was this month sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison for violence against police at an opposition protest, despite his insistence he was just a bystander. AFP



FINAL ADIEU: French Republican guards carry the flag-draped coffin of late French President Jacques Chirac as President Emmanuel Macron follows the coffin in Paris on Monday. AP/PTI

Sri Lankan presidential nominee faces court test COLOMBO: A court in Sri Lanka set up a three-judge panel on Monday to hear a petition challenging the citizenship of presidential nominee Gotabaya Rajapaksa, which could disqualify the hardline former defence chief from the November 16 vote if it succeeds. Rajapaksa is widely seen as the election frontrunner because of his popularity among majority Sinhala Buddhists over his role in ending a 26-year civil war in 2009. REUTERS

Indian girl flew to Abu Dhabi 'for love' ABU DHABI: A 19-year-old Delhi-based Christian girl who flew to Abu Dhabi earlier this month and embraced Islam, has rubbished reports that she has been abducted and coerced into joining a terrorist group, adding that she came to the UAE for love. "This is not true. I have found my true calling and have come to Abu Dhabi of my own free will. No one forced me. I am an adult citizen of India and can make my own decision," Ciyani Benny, now known as Aisha, told Gulf News on Sunday. On September 18, she took a flight to Abu Dhabi to marry an Abu Dhabi-based Indian man she became friends with on social media nine months ago. IANS



Chief Executive Officer, 550th celebrations of Parkash Utsav of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. NOTICE INVITING BIDS. Sealed bids are hereby invited from well established, experienced, reputed and professionally run music companies/musical level eligible bidders for the following work so as to reach the office of the CEO by 3:00 P.M. upto 15-10-2019 and the same shall be opened the same day at 3:30 P.M. in the presence of those bidders who would like to be present.

Deptt. of Water Supply & Sanitation, Government of Punjab. The Executive Engineer, W/S & Sanitation Division, SBS Nagar, invites bids (to be submitted in the e-procurement Portal) for the following works-

PUNJAB STATE URBAN LIVELIHOODS MISSION. ADVERTISEMENT. TENDER NOTICE. In reference to the tender uploaded at Punjab e-tender website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in on dated 25.9.2019 for the engagement of Agency/Service provider for establishment of State Mission Manager, City Mission Manager-Urban, Community Organiser-Urban under National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) and State Level Technical Experts and City Level Technical Experts under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) in Punjab State Urban Livelihoods Mission and For 164 Urban Local Bodies in State of Punjab". For further information and key dates kindly visit website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

ADMISSION NOTICE SAINIK SCHOOL KAPURTHALA. Registration for All India Sainik School Entrance Exam for Session 2020-21 for admission to Classes VI and Class IX is open. The Last date for filling of application is extended up to 10 Oct 2019. Only online applications are accepted.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB PWD B&R BRANCH. NOTICE INVITING ON-LINE BIDS. TENDER NOTICE NO. 17 DATED: 26-09-2019. On behalf of Governor of Punjab Executive Engineer, Construction Division, PWD B&R Br., Rupnagar invites bids from eligible bidders enlisted with "Bridge works" category with PWD (B&R) for the work of Replacement of Expansion Joints and Wearing coat of Bridges (Sutlej Bridge, Dabad Khad Bridge & Khanpur Khuhri Bridge) on Sri Anandpur Sahib to Garshankar Road in District Rupnagar. For detailed terms and conditions refer to website http://eproc.punjab.gov.in 04-10-2019.

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (POWER WING). Corrigendum-2 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER Dtd.: 26.09.2019. Name of office: Chief Engineer / System Operator, Planning & Design (Power Plant) Dte., BBMB (PW), Flat No. 75 SLDCC Complex, BBMB, Industrial Area, Phase-I, Chandigarh, Tel-Fax: 0172-2637035.

National Highways Authority of India (Ministry of Road Transport & Highways). National Highways Authority of India (NHA) invites online applications for 30 posts of Deputy Manager (Technical) in the Level 10 of Pay Matrix of 7th CPC (Pre-revised: Pay Band-3 (₹ 15,600-39,100/-) + Grade Pay ₹ 5400/-) with Central DA on Direct recruitment basis through GATE 2019 Scores in the discipline of Civil Engineering.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB. Tender Notice No. 250/SE/Z/C/D/O&M Dated 27.09.2019. The Department of Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana invites online bids for the following:

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB PWD B&R BRANCH. NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS. TENDER NOTICE NO.: 51 DATED: 30.09.2019. On behalf of Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 2, PWD (B&R) Br., Kapurthala invites bids from eligible bidders enlisted for Road works category with PWD (B&R) for the works approved under Celebration on 550th Birth Day of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the following Work(s):

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE. The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Const), Northern Railway, Moradabad for & on behalf of President of India invites E-Tenders under single packet system for the under noted work:- 1. Name of work with its location: Electrification of shed, offices, Railway quarters & service building illumination in Yards and Roads with laying of LT cables in c/w Electrical works for electrification of AMB ANDAURA-DAULATPUR railway line over Ambala Division. Completion period of the work: 06 Months. Approximate Cost of work: ₹13,61,972/- Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online): ₹ 27,300/- Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender: Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs on date 22.10.2019 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 22.10.2019. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document: The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in. Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 07.10.2019 to 22.10.2019. The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office. No. 17-Elect/CE/PS/UM/59 Dated: 26.09.2019 3147/19. Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE. DEN-II/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against below titled tenders with closing date 18.10.2019 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against these tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED (A State Government Undertaking). DETAILED TENDER NOTICE (e-Tendering Mode Only). Online Short Term Tender (having Single Bid) are invited for the providing skilled and un-skilled persons for engagement in construction and maintenance gangs, on the prescribed form (Tender Document) from the contractors of appropriate class enlisted with HPSEBL, HPPWD, I&PH, MES, CPWD, Individual Entrepreneurs, Firms, Societies, Companies and Service Providers according to the revised HP enlistment rules for the following work. The dates of Sale, receipt and opening of Tender is as per detail given below. The detailed tender notice can also be downloaded from website http://www.tenderwizd.com/HPSEBL. Any further Corrigendum/ Addendum to this tender notice shall not be published in Newspapers, but shall only be uploaded at website http://www.tenderwizd.com/HPSEBL. So, the Bidders are advised to keep visiting the 'tender-wizard' web-site for any such Corrigendum/ Addendum, if so.

Government of Punjab Department of Water Supply & Sanitation Punjab. Tender Notice Reference No. E-tender/WSSD/BARNALA/2019-20/012. The Department of Water Supply and Sanitation Division Barnala invites Online Bids for the following:

HIMFED E- Tender Notice for procurement of Calcium Nitrate Plain (CA18.5 + N15.5) on consignment basis. Online tenders are invited from the PSU's/Multi State Cooperatives of Calcium Nitrate (Ca 18.8% + N 15.5%) having valid license of Registration under Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 of the State of HP, for the supply of 1500,000 MT. (Fifteen hundred Metric Ton) (approximate) Calcium Nitrate (Ca 18.8% + N 15.5%) fertilizer on consignment basis during the year 2019-2020 i.e. 01/11/2019 to 31/10/2020 on F.O.R. basis at various retail outlet of Himfed in Himachal Pradesh. Instructions for E-Tendering: 1. The tenderer should register himself on Website https://hptenders.gov.in and obtain user ID, Password, before bidding. In case of any problem contact Sr. Manager (Fert.) 94181-61001 and for any technical assistance you may contact Programmer (IT), HIMFED, on Phone No. 94180-79977. 2. Entire tender process will be carried out online through above mentioned website. Tenderers are advised to procure E-Token/Digital Signing Certificate from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency. 3. Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all necessary documents in single PDF have been uploaded with the bid. 4. Tenderers are advised to check/see website https://hptenders.gov.in on dated: 05.10.2019 to check for any amendment/corrigendum in the tender document. All subsequent notifications/amendments/notices shall be published on the aforesaid website only.

BRIEFLY

BARCELONA
Aditi Ashok finishes 8th in Mediterranean Open
 India's Aditi Ashok finished in the top-10 for the second straight year at the Mediterranean Open golf tournament here. The 21-year-old from Bengaluru shot a final round of 72 to finish at even-par 284 and tied-8th. Tvesa Malik ended tied-35th, while Diksha Dagar was tied-49th. Carlota Ciganda claimed the title.

NEW DELHI
Powerlifter alleges coercion by NADA to collect sample
 An Andhra powerlifter, Raghavendra Goud Yelugani, has alleged that the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) used coercion to extract a fresh sample from him after the suspended National Dope Testing Laboratory's report of his B sample had cleared him of any violation. The 24-year-old Raghavendra has alleged that NADA forcibly collected a fresh sample from him at its Delhi headquarters and kept him provisionally suspended after that. However, a senior project officer from NADA categorically denied any use of "force" and said that the powerlifter has "consistently used steroids as the fresh sample indicated".

NEW DELHI
Nagarkoti returns to team for Emerging Asia Cup
 Young pacer Kamlesh Nagarkoti today returned to the Indian team for the upcoming Emerging Asia Cup after a 19-month injury layoff. The pacer, who had excelled in India's triumphant campaign at the U-19 World Cup last year, underwent rehab following stress fractures in his lower back, heel and ankle.

JAIPUR
Hazare Trophy: Bengal crush J&K
 India A speedster Ishan Porel bowled brilliantly to grab six wickets while Shreevats Goswami made an unbeaten 86 to guide Bengal to a comfortable eight-wicket win over Jammu and Kashmir in a Group C Vijay Hazare Trophy match here today.
Brief scores: J&K: 169 all out (Ram Dayal 57; Ishan Porel 6/34) vs **Bengal:** 175/2 (Sreevats Goswami 86; Ram Dayal 2/40); **Bihar:** 137 all out (Gaurav Yadav 3/41) vs **Madhya Pradesh:** 138/3 (Rajat Patidar 48); **Gujarat:** 305 all out (Bhargav Merai 125; Ajoy Sarkar 3/68) vs **Tripura:** 204/8 (Milind Kumar 103*; Chintan Gaja 2/17)

AMRITSAR
Kerala, Services register wins in volleyball tourney
 Kerala defeated Delhi 25-11 25-16 25-11, while Services beat Karnataka 25-22 25-15 25-17 in the Federation Gold Cup of Volleyball. TNS

MADRID
Spain court dismisses fraud case against Messi
 Spain's National Court today said it had dismissed a complaint against Barcelona's Lionel Messi filed by a former employee of the Argentine footballer's foundation, who had accused him of fraud, embezzlement and money laundering.

KOBE (JAPAN)
Rugby World Cup: Scotland score easy win over Samoa
 Scotland revived their Rugby World Cup campaign with a 34-0 victory over Samoa today, scoring four tries in a much improved performance to secure a bonus point that could prove crucial in a tight Pool A. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV
 4TH WOMEN'S T20I
 INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA
 STAR SPORTS 7PM
 ATHLETICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
 STAR SPORTS 7PM
 UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
 REAL VS BRUGGE (10:25PM)
 MAN CITY VS DINAMO
 TOTTENHAM VS BAYERN
 JUVENTUS VS BAYER
 GALATASARAY VS PSG
 00:30AM (WEDNESDAY)
 SONY TV, S&P, ESPN



SHELLY-ANN FRASER-PRYCE WINS THE 100M FINAL AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN DOHA ON SUNDAY. AP/PTI

4TH 100 metres gold for Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, making her the first person to win four gold medals over the distance at the athletics World Championships



12TH World Championships gold for Allyson Felix (*in pic*) breaks Jamaican legend Bolt's record tally of 11 gold medals. Felix is competing in her ninth straight Worlds.

26 MEDALS overall in major championships for Felix, including six Olympics golds. Felix has accumulated more World Championships and Olympics honours than any other track and field athlete in history

Annu Rani enters javelin final

Top Indian woman javelin thrower Annu Rani qualified for the final round by smashing her own national record. The 27-year-old registered a throw of 62.43m, bettering her record of 62.34m. In the process, she became the first Indian to reach the finals of the women's javelin throw in the World Championships. Annu finished third in Group A and qualified for the finals as the fifth best performer. Only two athletes crossed the automatic qualification mark of 63.50m.

Gold is gold

Russian pole vaulter Anzhelika Sidorova said her victory on Sunday had not been overshadowed by the absence of her country's flag and the scandal surrounding its athletics federation. The 28-year-old Russian pipped Sandi Morris by vaulting 4.95 metres with her third and final attempt, leaving the American with a silver medal for her third successive major championship after clearing 4.90. Greek Ekaterini Stefanidi, the title-holder and Olympics champion, finished with the bronze. Sidorova said she felt slightly uncomfortable seeing the silver and bronze medallists celebrate with their flags but was too caught up in her own emotions to be bothered. "All that is not too comfortable but I was so happy," she said. "I was just so happy that I didn't really think about it... Gold is gold."

Taylor wins fourth triple jump title after shaky start



American triple jumper Christian Taylor (*in pic*) recovered from two fouls to clinch his fourth title at the World Championships, edging his teammate and long-time rival Will Claye. Taylor committed fouls on his first two attempts and came under pressure early to remain in contention for a spot on the podium. But a jump of 17.42 metres on his third attempt was enough to keep him alive and win the title with 17.92m on his fifth attempt. Claye won silver with a jump of 17.74m. It was the fourth time the pair, who both competed for the University of Florida, held the top two spots at major championships. Hughes Fabrice Zango of Burkina Faso clinched bronze with a jump of 17.66m. AGENCIES

American triple jumper Christian Taylor (*in pic*) recovered from two fouls to clinch his fourth title at the World Championships, edging his teammate and long-time rival Will Claye. Taylor committed

Haryana govt requests CoA to appoint supervisory panel

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

The Haryana Government has requested the Committee of Administrators (CoA) to appoint a "supervisory committee" to run cricket in the state, reacting to reports that the Haryana Cricket Association (HCA) is yet to comply with the Lodha Panel reforms. "The government requests the BCCI to appoint a supervisory committee for ensuring steps that would enable participation by Haryana players in the Ranji Trophy and other domestic tournaments," a letter to CoA from the principal secretary in the state's Sports Ministry stated.

A top official of the HCA rejected the claims, saying that the association has already amended its constitution and that the unit is "fully compliant". A few people in

Tendulkar eligible to vote in MCA polls

Sachin Tendulkar and Dilip Vengsarkar are among 39 international players eligible to vote in the Mumbai Cricket Association elections, scheduled to be held here on October 4. This is the first time that former players are allowed to vote in the state association polls after the Lodha Panel reforms have come into effect.

the state cricket fraternity saw the move as a deliberate attempt to stall reforms in Haryana cricket, claiming that the constitution is fully compliant. "The constitution is fully compliant. If there is any attempt to appoint a supervisory committee, it will be appropriately dealt with in the court of law as it is contempt of court," a senior BCCI functionary said. — PTI

Bumrah going to UK to seek opinion on fracture

NEW DELHI: Jasprit Bumrah will be off to the United Kingdom to seek opinion on his lower-back stress fracture from multiple specialists. Bumrah has been ruled out for a minimum period of two months, his first major injury break in his three-and-a-half-year international career. "The NCA head physiotherapist will be accompanying him," a senior BCCI functionary said.

Rain threat looms over 1st Test



Coach Ravi Shastri interacts with the players during a practice session in Visakhapatnam on Monday. PTI

INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA

Weather could play spoilsport during the first Test between India and South Africa starting here on Wednesday with rain predicted on all five days. It has been raining here regularly over the last one week and there is an 80 per cent chance of showers on the opening day of the series opener. On Day 2 and 3, the percentage drops to 50 and 40, respectively. The warm-up game between South Africa and Board President's XI in Vizianagram,

around 50km from here, was also affected by rain.

Want to be consistent, says SA spinner Maharaj
 South Africa's most experienced spinner Keshav Maharaj wants to be as consistent as the seasoned Indian duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin during the upcoming series.

The orthodox left-arm spinner, with 94 wickets from 25 Tests, had a successful county performance and is hoping to make life "uncomfortable" for the Indian top-order. "It is nice that peo-

ple speak highly of you. Look at Jadeja and Ashwin. Ashwin has got a lot of variations and Jadeja keeps it simple but the key is consistency and that makes it uncomfortable for the batsmen. I want to emulate that going forward and do my job from one end," said Maharaj, who is on his maiden Test tour of India.

Spin will hold key but reverse swing could also play a huge role, he said. "Besides spin, reverse swing will be key. If it starts to reverse, we also have amazing bowlers who can utilise the conditions," he said. — PTI

SUPER MOMS

Fraser-Pryce, Felix seal record gold medals

DOHA, SEPTEMBER 30

Jamaican sprint queen Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce surged to an unprecedented fourth 100m crown and US legend Allyson Felix broke Usain Bolt's gold medal record tally as the returning new mothers lit up the World Championships here.

Fraser-Pryce and Felix, both racing in their first major championships since taking time off from the sport to have children, lit up a pulsating Day 3 of competition even if the action was played out inside a near-empty Khalifa Stadium on Sunday.

Mom to the four

The 32-year-old Fraser-Pryce, who skipped the 2017 championships to give birth to her first child, delivered a barnstorming run to take the 100m in 10.71 seconds. Britain's Dina Asher-Smith took silver with a time of 10.83s while Ivory Coast's Marie-Josée Ta Lou claimed bronze in 10.90s. "To be standing here as world champion again after having my baby, I am elated," said Fraser-Pryce. "The females keep showing up. We love to put on a performance and for me I am just really happy to come away with the win."

Fraser-Pryce was in control from the gun, rocketing out of the blocks and taking the lead in the opening 20 metres. From that point there was only going to be one winner, and the veteran



Fraser-Pryce takes a victory lap carrying her two-year-old son Zyon. REUTERS

"To be standing here as world champion again after having my baby, I am elated."

Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce

So special, to have my daughter here watching means the world to me.

Allyson Felix

Jamaican swept over the line majestically to add to the world titles won in 2009, 2013 and 2015 before setting off on a victory lap carrying her two-year-old son Zyon.

Worlds royalty

The two-time Olympics champion's dominant display was the highlight of a Day 3 which also saw US track queen Felix win a record 12th World Championships gold medal. Felix only returned to the sport in July after a 13-month layoff which saw her give birth to

her daughter Camryn by emergency C-section last November. The 33-year-old, who failed to qualify for the individual 400m event in Doha, took gold in the 4x400m mixed relay as the United States motored to victory in a world record time of 3 minutes, 09.34 seconds.

Felix's 12th gold medal broke Jamaican legend Bolt's record tally of 11 World Championship gold medals. Overall, Felix now has an incredible 26 medals, a dazzling haul that also includes six Olympics golds. Felix, competing in her ninth straight Worlds, has accumulated more World Championships and Olympics honours than any other track and field athlete in history. "So special, to have my daughter here watching means the world to me," Felix said. "It's been a crazy year for me."

Walk her way

There was another victory for a returning mother in the final event of the day, the women's 20km race walk, where China's 2016 Olympics champion Liu Hong won gold. Liu, 32, who took a maternity break from 2017 to 2018, shrugged off steamy heat and humidity to lead a Chinese sweep of the medals in 1 hour, 32 minutes, 53 seconds and secure her third world title. Qieyang Shenjie took silver in 1:33:10 while compatriot Yang Liuqing won bronze in 1:33:17. — AFP

Organisers blame late starts, working week for empty stadium

The embarrassingly low attendance was blamed on late start times and a blockade of the country by other nations in the region by the event's organisers. Athletes, pundits and global TV audiences have widely criticised the poor turnout at the Khalifa Stadium over the first three days of competition. The 48,000-capacity venue was barely half full

for the men's 100 metres final on Saturday. But on Sunday, when the women's 100 metres headlined the action, it was almost completely empty. The local organising committee said in a statement that attendances on Friday and Saturday were "solid" but were "down on our expectations" on Sunday, which they said "coincided with the start of the working week."

Pak beat SL as ODIs return to Karachi

KARACHI, SEPTEMBER 30

Pakistan marked the return of ODI cricket in Karachi after 10 years with a 67-run victory over Sri Lanka in the second ODI today. Babar Azam formed the backbone of Pakistan's strong total of 305/7 as he smashed 115 off 105 balls. Babar also became the fastest Pakistani batsman to complete 1,000 ODI runs in a calendar year in 19 matches.

In the absence of some key players who pulled out of the tour due to security concerns, Sri Lanka were bowled out for 238 in 46.5 overs. Shehan Jayasuriya (96) missed out on a maiden ODI hundred and Dasun Shanaka made a career-best 68. Left-arm fast bowler Usman Shinwari rattled Sri Lanka's inexperienced top order and reduced the visitors to 28/5 before Jayasuriya and Shanaka shared a 177-run stand. Shinwari returned and broke the partnership by having Jayasuriya caught behind.

A power failure at the National Stadium disrupted play for 26 minutes during



Pakistan's Babar Azam celebrates his century against Sri Lanka in Karachi on Monday. AP/PTI

Sri Lanka's run-chase. It was not a packed house at the 32,000-capacity National Stadium, where Sri Lanka was the last team to play an ODI in 2009. But still around 12,000 cricket enthusiasts braved the strict security checkpoints under hot and humid conditions and were enthralled by Babar's imperious 11th ODI hundred.

Brief scores: Pakistan: 305/7 (Azam 115, Zaman 54; Hasaranga 2/63); **Sri Lanka:** 238 (Jayasuriya 96; Shanaka 68; Shinwari 5/51, Shadab 2/76). — AP

Nagal wins title, climbs to world No. 135

TENNIS ROUNDUP

BUENOS AIRES, SEPTEMBER 30

Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal notched up a straight-set win over home favourite Facundo Bognis to claim the men's singles title at the ATP Challenger Tournament here. The 22-year-old from Haryana, seeded seventh, beat 8th seed Bognis 6-4 6-2 to win his career's second Challenger title.

The talented youngster jumped 26 spots to achieve a career-best ranking of 135.

No support

However, the paucity of

funds meant that Nagal had neither his coach nor the physio by his side in Argentina. "I was all alone here. No one was with me to help out," Nagal said. "One way, it has been great that I have been playing good tennis but it's not easy to do it and I'm really sad. The path is lonely despite doing well at the US Open. I qualified at 22 and led a set against Roger Federer but it still has not made impact anywhere. It's really sad nobody is coming up to invest in tennis," he added.

Zverev, Khachanov through Beijing: Alexander Zverev

carried his Laver Cup winning form into the China Open as he sailed into the second round with a 6-3 6-2 victory over wildcard Frances Tiafoe here today. Russian Karen Khachanov advanced after he saved three set points in the second set tie-break to beat Pablo Cuevas 6-2 7-6(7). Andrey Rublev beat Grigor Dimitrov 6-2 7-5.

In the women's section, Simona Halep was beaten in the second round by Ekaterina Alexandrova 6-2 6-3. Bianca Andreescu had to dig deep to win her first match since the US Open. She beat Aliaksandra Sasnovich 6-2 2-6 6-1.

Cilic makes solid start

Tokyo: Marin Cilic mowed down local favourite Yuichi Sugita 6-4 6-4 today to reach the second round of the Japan Open.

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic, forced out of the US Open with a shoulder injury, suffered a doubles defeat, but proved his recovery is on track. Bruno Soares and Mate Pavic beat the 32-year-old Serbian star and his countryman Filip Krajinovic 6-2 4-6 10-4 to progress to the quarterfinals. Top seed Djokovic will make his Japan Open singles debut against Alexei Popyrin. — Agencies



A FEW MORE KILOS: World No. 1 Novak Djokovic (*in pic*) might be top seed at the Japan Open but when he took to the ring for a sumo bout in Tokyo, he came up short. "I felt that I am out of shape (for sumo) a little bit," he said. With his teeth gritted and his fingers sinking into the giant arm of his opponent, Djokovic tried and failed to move a wrestler a few inches inside a *dohyo*, or sumo ring. "I think with a few more kilos, I'll be ready to compete," he joked. "Probably three times as much as I have right now would be the right measurement for me to compete." COURTESY: ATP

By the way...



DEITY'S MARCH: Ahead of Durga Puja celebrations, labourers transport a statue of the goddess to a pandal in Kolkata. AFP

Ram Leela: 'Taadka' suffers burns, hospitalised

Muzaffarnagar: A youth playing the role of a mythical character 'Taadka' in a Ram Leela in Rampuri locality here, has landed in hospital after his clothes caught fire on stage. According to reports, the incident took place in the wee hours of Monday when Ankit started spraying off kerosene from his mouth to create a bust of flames. During the act, the flames fell on his clothes that caught fire. Ankit, who had suffered 60 per cent burns, was later referred to Meerut for advanced treatment from a local hospital. IANS

Asics apologises for playing porn in NZ store

Tokyo: Japanese sports giant Asics issued an apology on Monday after screens outside a flagship store in Auckland, New Zealand, showed pornography for several hours. The content played on the store's promotional outdoor screens until staff arrived at 10 am on Sunday to open the shop, reports the BBC. In a Facebook post, the company said "an unknown person gained access to the screens above our central Auckland store and some objectionable content was displayed on the screens". "We are working with our software and online security suppliers to ensure this doesn't happen again." IANS

111 'corrupt' hospitals listed on PMJAY site

New Delhi: Over 111 hospitals found involved in corruption and fraud have been listed on the official website of Ayushman Bharat insurance scheme (PMJAY) as part of the government's "name and shame" policy, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Monday. The policy is aimed at creating deterrence among healthcare establishments. PTI



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Pak, Malaysia, Turkey plan anti-Islamophobia channel

ISLAMABAD, SEPTEMBER 30

The governments of Pakistan, Turkey and Malaysia will launch an English television channel to highlight the issues of Muslims and fight Islamophobia in the West, according to media reports.

The channel proposal was discussed at a meeting between Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir

Mohamad, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistan PM Imran Khan on the sidelines of the 74th United Nations General Assembly in New York last week.

"We felt that many reports about Islam and Muslims were inaccurate, and do not portray what Islam preaches. They label Muslims as terrorists for example, and the world accepts it as the truth when Islam is not a violent religion. We feel there must be an effort to explain what Islam is so that there is no

JOINT VENTURE TO 'FOLLOW BBC MODEL'

■ The 'BBC-type' TV channel, which will broadcast in English, will produce series and films aimed at highlighting 'Muslim issues', spreading knowledge on Islamic history

■ "Mis-perceptions which bring people together against Muslims would be corrected; issue of blasphemy would be properly contextualised; Muslims would be given a dedicated media presence," Pakistan PM Imran Khan tweeted while explaining channel's role



confusion and it won't be accused of being a religion that promotes terrorism," Mahathir said.

Without giving the possible date of the channel's launch, he said the effort would be spearheaded by the information departments of the three countries.

Under the joint venture, web series and films will be produced to spread knowledge on Islamic history, the News International quoted Khan as saying.

"Our meeting in which we decided to set up a BBC-type English language TV channel that, apart from highlighting Muslim issues, will also fight Islamophobia," Khan tweeted. "Mis-perceptions which bring people together against Muslims would be corrected; issue of blasphemy would be properly contextualised; series and films would be produced on Muslim history to educate/inform our own people and the world; Muslims would be given a dedicated media presence." — PTI

Saeed faces 'life threat'; terror case shifted to Lahore

LAHORE, SEPTEMBER 30

A Pakistani court on Monday accepted the plea of Mumbai attack mastermind and JuD chief Hafiz Saeed to

transfer a terror-financing case against him from the anti-terrorism court Gujranwala

district to a court here on the ground that there is a "threat to his life".

On July 17, Saeed, an UN-designated global terrorist, was arrested in connection with the terror-financing case while on his way from Lahore to Gujranwala. Prior to his arrest, the top 13 leaders of the Jamaat-ud-Dawah were booked in nearly 24 cases for terror financing and money laundering.

The Lahore HC Chief Justice accepted Saeed's plea when the government law officer raised no objection on it and allowed his trial in the Lahore court. — PTI

J&K is India's internal issue: German envoy

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

Emphasising that development in J&K with regard to Article 370 remains an issue internal to India, new German Ambassador Walter J Linder today said the country would like to see lifting of restrictions as early as possible after security assessments.

Acknowledging that J&K was a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan, the Ambassador asserted that whoever is talking of war was not doing any good. "We have had enough wars and violence... fight against terrorism is important... such talk between countries... even verbal exaggeration is not helpful," Ambassador Linder said while sharing his thoughts with Indian Association of Foreign Correspondents here.

Pitches for lifting of curbs at the earliest after security assessment

On reports of a possible link of a person residing in Germany and recent arms drop in Punjab delivered through drones, the Ambassador said the use of these aerial objects was the most worrisome for every country and how to deal with it would be a challenge.

As for any person provided asylum in Germany, if found involved in such acts, there is a legal process in place. Terrorist would not get protection in his country, he said, underscoring that law and not foreign policy deals with such cases. — TNS

When Babu was denied temple entry over UK visit

THIRUVANATHAPURAM, SEPT 30

Mahatma Gandhi, who waged many a battle for egalitarianism in Hindu shrines and for the right of lower-caste devotees to access them, was denied entry into a temple — not because of religion or caste, but because he had visited a foreign land.

The year was 1925, the place, the Bhagavathy Amman temple in Kanyakumari. Refused permission to enter the inner shrine by temple authorities, who cited his visit to England, Gandhi offered worship standing outside, show records.

Gandhi, who was visiting the princely state of Travancore (south Kerala) and the famed temple during his

GANDHI



150 years

south India tour, articulated his anguish in an article in Navjivan, a weekly newspaper he published.

He said he was allowed to circumnavigate the shrine, but was denied permission by the

man in-charge of the temple from proceeding further.

"...Even there my happiness was not untainted by sorrow. I was allowed to make a complete circle, but I was not permitted to go to the inner shrine because I had been to England," he said in the article titled "Darshan of Kanyakumari" (dated March 29, 1925).

Crossing the seas and going abroad was considered taboo by the Hindus during the time and those who violated the belief were denied entry into the temples in Travancore. Such people could enter the shrines only after performing special purification rituals.

An upset Gandhi wrote, "How can this be tolerated? Could Kanyakumari be pollut-

ed? Has this practice been followed since ancient times?"

He also hailed the beauty and tranquillity of the place and mentioned seeing the spot where Swami Vivekananda used to meditate.

"My inner voice cried out that this could not be. Moreover, if it had been, it would be sinful. That which is sinful does not cease to be so or become meritorious through its antiquity. Hence, I was all the more convinced that it was the duty of every Hindu to make a mighty effort to remove this stigma."

The situation soon righted itself. Travancore's visionary king Sree Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma stopped the restrictions imposed in the name of foreign trips. — PTI

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI — 110608 EXAMINATION SECTION

Addendum No. 38/2019

Important Notice for PWBD candidates to Register themselves for Recruitment Examination to the post of Nursing Officer for AIIMS - Bhopal, Jodhpur, Patna and Raipur

With reference to Advertisement No. 78/2018 dated 27.09.2018 published in leading newspapers and subsequent Notice No. 82/2018 dated 12.10.2018, Notice No. 84/2018 dated 31.10.2018, Notice No. 88/2018 dated 16.11.2018 and Notice No. 102/2018 dated 28.12.2018 regarding Recruitment Examination for the post of Nursing Officer for AIIMS - Bhopal, Jodhpur, Patna & Raipur. In this regard, as per order of Hon'ble High Court in the matter W.P.(C) No. 11456/2018, CMAPPL. 44346/2018, CMAPPL. 29165/2019 dated 17.09.2019 to consider the acid attack victims under the reserved categories for persons with benchmark disability for the post of Nursing Officer for AIIMS - Bhopal, Jodhpur, Patna and Raipur. Accordingly, the Competent Authority has decided to allow all categories of disabilities as mentioned in Section 32(1) of PwD Act 2016 including the acid attack victims under the reserved categories to apply for the posts of Nursing Officer, if eligible, provisionally allowed to appear for Recruitment Examination to the post of Nursing Officer for AIIMS, Bhopal, Jodhpur, Patna and Raipur.

- All PWBD candidates with disabilities as mentioned in Section 32(1) of PwD Act 2016, but have not applied earlier, in response to the Advertisement No. 78/2018 dated 27.09.2018, can now apply through Online Mode from 4th October, 2019 to 14th October, 2019 (up to 5.00 p.m.) Such candidates are required to visit www.aiimsexams.org under Recruitment Tab/Nursing Officer-2018 for AIIMS (Bhopal, Jodhpur, Patna and Raipur).
- All PWBD candidates with disabilities as mentioned in Section 32(1) of PwD Act 2016, but had applied earlier in the PWBD category (OL) in response to the Advertisement No. 78/2018 dated 27.09.2018, due to non-availability of options other than OL, should now declare their current disability in accordance with the Section 32(1) of PwD Act 2016. They may update their application details at www.aiimsexams.org under Recruitment Tab/Nursing Officer-2018 for AIIMS (Bhopal, Jodhpur, Patna and Raipur). Only the PWBD status box will be active for such candidates. No other entry can be changed. Please use your login credentials.
- All those who are applying under the PWBD category are required to upload a scanned copy (only Jpg/png format) of their Disability Certificate issued by a competent authority at the time of applying/updating their application form. All candidates are also required to indicate whether they require the facility of a SCRIBER during the examination. However, the decision regarding this facility shall rest on the screening of the Disability Certificate by a Medical Board.
- The eligibility, qualification, experience etc. will be determined according to the details mentioned in the advertisement No. 78/2018 dated 27.09.2018. However, if selected, the selection of PWBD candidates will be subject to the decision of the appropriate Medical Board constituted by the respective AIIMS. Other terms and conditions remain same.

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Sd/- Assistant Controller (Examination)



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