

# The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019

## 5% DA hike for central staff

**NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9**  
In a bonanza for 50 lakh Central Government employees and 65 lakh pensioners ahead of Diwali, the government today announced an increase of 5 percentage points in dearness and relief allowances (to 17%) from July 1 this year. This will put an additional burden of Rs16,000 crore on the exchequer.  
“This is the highest ever 5 percentage points increase in DA in one go,” Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said while briefing the media. The government had earlier raised DA/DR from 9 per cent

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## Global slowdown effects more pronounced in India, says IMF

**WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 9**  
The global economy is witnessing “synchronised slowdown”, which will result in slower growth for 90 per cent of the world this year, and the effect is even “more pronounced” in some of the largest emerging market economies like India, new IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva has warned.

The Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) pointed out that the widespread deceleration means that growth this year

### COMPETITIVE INDEX: INDIA SLIPS 10 PLACES

**New Delhi:** India is less competitive than a year ago due to poor health conditions, low life expectancy and weak adoption of technology, the World Economic Forum has said. The limited progress in improving ICT (information, communications and technology) too has contributed to the country falling 10 places to rank 68 in 2019. TNS

will fall to its lowest rate since the beginning of the decade. She said the World Econom-

ic Outlook to be released next week will show downward revisions for 2019 and 2020.

“In 2019, we expect slower growth in nearly 90 per cent of the world. The global economy is now in a synchronised slowdown,” Georgieva said on Tuesday in her curtain raiser speech for the IMF and World Bank’s annual meeting here next week.

Despite deceleration, 40 emerging market are forecast to have real GDP growth rates above 5 per cent, the IMF chief said. — PTI



Chinese President Xi Jinping with PM Narendra Modi at Wuhan. FILE

## Modi-Xi talks at TN beach town

**SANDEEP DIKSHIT**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9**  
India and China ended uncertainty on the second informal summit, announcing that Chinese President Xi Jinping would visit India on October 11 and 12. Xi will meet PM Narendra Modi over two days at the beach town of Mamallapuram near Chennai where they will have two rounds of one-on-one discussions, besides a session of delegation-level talks.

An immediate outcome will be to pack more muscle in confidence-building measures for ensuring peace and tranquillity on the border. “At the end of it, our objective to ensure communication between leaders is routine, easy-going and getting down to business through several hours of discussion,” said government sources here.

Chinese Prez arrives tomorrow; focus on border peace, trade

### WHY MAMALLAPURAM?

**New Delhi:** That Xi Jinping was once the Governor of Fujian province ended the hunt for location for the second India-China informal summit. P 11

### PAK-CHINA FRIENDSHIP UNBREAKABLE: XI

“Friendship between China and Pakistan is unbreakable and rock-solid despite changes in global situation. China to Pak

Having been in power for five years, both leaders have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11  
EDIT: TIMING IT RIGHT

## Cong now says will boycott BDC polls

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, OCTOBER 9**  
Accusing the ruling BJP of bulldozing democratic institutions and gagging dissent, the Congress today decided to boycott the Block Development Council (BDC) elections to be held on October 24. The Congress had earlier said it would participate in the elections as a responsible Opposition party.

“We have no option but to withdraw from the BDC polls due to oppressive measures being adopted by the administration on the directions of the Centre to deprive the Opposition of its democratic rights,” said Pradesh Congress Committee chief Ghulam Ahmed Mir.

### ₹5.5 LAKH EACH FOR DISPLACED FAMILIES

**New Delhi:** The government has approved a resettlement package of ₹5.5 lakh each to 5,300 displaced families who came from Pak-Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK). Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said, “The families will get a one-time aid under scheme for sustained income.” TNS

The announcement has given a virtual walkover to the BJP as barring Jammu-centric Panthers Party, most parties have decided to stay away from the “much-publicised” elections — projected by the government as a move to empower people at the grassroots level.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

### IN BRIEF

#### Jio to charge 6 paise/min for calls to rival networks

**New Delhi:** Reliance Jio, for the first time, will charge 6 paise per minute for voice calls by its users to mobile phone networks of rivals. BUSINESS

#### CBI gets 2 more mths for probe into Asthana case

**New Delhi:** The Delhi HC has granted two more months to the CBI to complete probe in a bribery case allegedly involving the agency’s then Special Director Rakesh Asthana. PAGE 7

## In Cong bastion, Shah flays dynasty politics

Skips local issues, focuses on nationalism

**SUSHIL MANAV**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 9**  
It is now clear that the BJP will target the Congress on dynasty politics and nationalism in the run-up to October 21 Haryana elections.

Union Home Minister and BJP president Amit Shah attacked Congress’ dynasty politics while addressing rallies in the strongholds of former CMs Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Bansi Lal and

### HARYANA POLLS

**2019**  
In 5 years, state debt up by ₹1 lakh crore: Hooda  
CM again promises AIIMS

AICC spokesperson Randeep Surjewala.

Bansi Lal’s elder son Ranbir Singh Mahendra is Congress nominee from Badhra, son-in-law Somvir Singh from Loharu and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## Bathinda cops raid Hry village, attacked; 1 dead

CIA team was chasing drug dealer, 7 injured

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**BATHINDA, OCTOBER 9**  
A villager was killed and seven members of Bathinda police’s CIA-1 team were injured during a raid to arrest an alleged drug dealer at Desu Jodha village in Haryana’s Sirsa district this morning. Jagga Singh (45) was killed in police firing after the team came under attack from alleged drug smugglers.

Bathinda range IGP Arun

### Haryana police raise issue with Punjab higher-ups

Kumar Mittal said: “The police arrested Gagandeep and Mandeep with 6,000 tramadol tablets at Rama Mandi on Monday. They told us the drugs were handed over by Kulwinder Singh at Desu Jodha.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



# 21 October 2019



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Chief Electoral Officer, Haryana

# Prices low, cotton growers at wit's end

CCI reluctant to start procurement, private traders offer prices below MSP

PERNEET SINGH  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, OCTOBER 9

Cotton farmers are grappling to get remunerative prices of their produce, as private buyers are treading cautiously in view of the fiscal slowdown that has hit the textile industry. Besides, high moisture content is also adding to their woes since the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is not making any purchase.

Talking to *The Tribune*, cotton trader Ashok Kapur attributed the declining trend in cotton prices to the fact that the mills had not entered the market in a big way. "The mills are only making hand-to-mouth purchase, as the yarn market is sluggish right now and they are unable to dispose of their inventory. The low prices of cotton should have prompted them to make more purchase, but they slowdown has played a spoilsport," he said.

He felt that the pressure of cotton arrivals is also contributing to low prices, as the arrivals in the region's markets are high as compared to the last year.

Satish Bansal, an arhiya



Farmers wait for buyers at the grain market in Bathinda on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: PAWAN SHARMA

## ARHTIYAS DECRY CCI MOVE

**Muktsar:** The Federation of Arhtiya Association on Wednesday held a meeting of agents from Muktsar, Bathinda, Faridkot, Muktsar and Fazilka. They decided to meet the CM over the CCI's decision to buy raw cotton direct from farmers in ginning factories. Vijay Kalra, president of the association, said they would seek CM's personal intervention. TNS

## EXPEDITE PURCHASE: BKU

**Fazilka:** Activists of the BKU (Lakhowal) led by their state president Ajmer Singh Lakhowal staged a protest outside the DC office here on Wednesday. Lakhowal sought speeding up of the paddy and cotton procurement as farmers had been facing difficulties due to tardy purchase. The farmers have demanded a compensation of ₹40,000 per acre for the loss of cotton crop due to hailstorm a few days ago. OC

at local grain market, said the prices were hovering between Rs 4,700 to Rs 5,200 per quintal, which was

less than the MSP of Rs 5,350 per quintal. He blamed high moisture content for low cotton prices.

He said the produce arriving in the market these days had 15 to 16 per cent moisture. He said only pri-

private buyers were making purchases and the CCI was staying away. He said the market committee had also allotted a yard to the CCI for making the purchase, but no farmer is approaching the agency primarily due to high moisture content.

Sources say the CCI has made some purchase at Kiliwali market. The CCI guidelines don't allow the agency to procure cotton having more than 12% moisture content. Besides, the CCI's condition of making direct purchase from the farmers may also turn out to be a roadblock.

Sukhdeep Singh, a farmer from Kotfatta village, said his cotton fetched Rs 4,800 per quintal, which was disappointing. "We were better off last year when we sold our cotton for Rs 5,500 per quintal. Our returns would be low this year, considering the fact that we had to shell out Rs 700 per quintal as labour charges for plucking cotton," he said. BKU Ekta Ugraha leader Shangara Singh Mann said no government agency was entering the market, leaving farmers at the mercy of private buyers.



GOLDEN HARVEST Women thresh paddy at a village near Nawanshahr. TRIBUNE PHOTO: SARABJIT SINGH

## ₹26,700-cr cash credit released

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 9

Following Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's personal efforts, the Centre on Wednesday sanctioned cash credit limit (CCL) amount of Rs 26,707.50 crore for paddy procurement for the month of October.

Disclosing this, an official spokesperson said the amount had been released by the RBI towards credit limit till the end of October. Capt Amarinder had been pursuing the issue of early release of CCL with the Centre to ensure timely payment to farmers against their crop.

Expressing satisfaction at the pace of procurement, the CM directed the Food Minister to ensure prompt lifting of the produce and release of payments to farmers within the stipulated timeframe.

## Relief for millers, govt slashes levy security

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 9

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu today said to save the farmers from any harassment and keeping in mind genuine demands of rice millers, the government had decided to slash levy security of Rs 10 lakh (Rs 5 lakh refundable plus Rs 5 lakh non-refundable) to Rs 7.25 lakh refundable levy security. He said the move would bring respite to the millers. "The bank guarantee shall be applicable only to millers for quantum of paddy stored over and above 5,000 MT instead of 4,000 MT," he said.

The minister today chaired a meeting which was attended by Rural Development and Panchayats Minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa and prominent rice millers of the state.

Bank guarantee shall be applicable only to millers for quantum of paddy stored over and above 5,000 MT instead of 4,000 MT.

Bharat Bhushan Ashu, CIVIL SUPPLIES MINISTER

He said the millers who applied before October 10, would be allotted paddy on priority and without pro-rata cut, the quantum of the release orders of those millers would also be increased. He said those rice mills that had opened last year and the year before would be treated as old mills.

"Due to shortage of space, if the miller is not able to deliver rice, he would not have to pay any interest," said Ashu, adding that to waive interest on quality cut, a case had already been forwarded to the Finance Department.

# Govt staff to face music for burning straw

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 9

In order to execute anti-stubble burning measures more efficaciously at the grassroots level, the state government has involved officials of various departments, boards, corporations, cooperatives societies and autonomous bodies besides making them

accountable against burning of crop residue in fields owned or cultivated by them. Issuing detailed instructions in this regard, the government has asked entire staff of departments/boards/corporations and cooperative societies not to burn the crop residue wherever they were growing paddy.

Disclosing this here today,

the Secretary, Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, KS Panu said in case any employee failed to comply with these directions, disciplinary action as per service rules would be initiated against them.

He said employees had also been directed to dissuade others from indulging in this practice. The employees have been mandated to bring the matter to the notice of the

authorities concerned in case there was any burning of crop residue. In addition to ensuring that they themselves do not indulge in straw burning, these employees had also been directed to create awareness among farmers about the ill-effects of stubble-burning.

The Secretary said the state government directed the district police chiefs and

other police officers to impress upon farmers not to burn paddy residue. Likewise, all revenue patwaris have also been directed to mark red entry in the gir-dawari of agriculture lands, where this malpractice will take place. The burning of paddy residue in that particular field would also be brought to the notice of his higher authorities, he added.

# Lacklustre show so far, Cong tells MPs, ministers to hit campaign trail

## ASSEMBLY BYPOLL

RAJMEET SINGH  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 9

To push the lacklustre campaign for the October 21 bypoll to the four Assembly segments — Jalalabad, Dakha, Phagwara and Mukerian, the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) today directed its Members of Parliament (MPs), barring Patiala MP Preet Kaur, to campaign aggressively for the party candidates.

In the campaign schedule, revised on the instructions of Chief Minister

Capt Amarinder Singh, seven of the eight party MPs have been divided among the four Assembly segments.

For Dakha, Ludhiana MP Ravneet Bittu and Fatehgarh Sahib MP Amar Singh have been asked to campaign. The MPs apart, three senior Cabinet ministers Bharat Bhushan Ashu, Sukhbinder Sarkaria and Vijay Inder Singla have also been deputed in Dakha from where CM's political secretary Capt Sandeep Sandhu is in the fray.

With the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) bagging a considerable number of votes, especially in Doaba region, in the recently held parliamentary elections, Congress leaders feel that in

the Phagwara Assembly segment they can have advantage for supporting the recent Ravidassia community agitation over the demolition of Guru Ravidass Temple at Tughlakabad in Delhi.

The party has put MP Chaudhary Santokh Singh, apart from Dalit ministers Charanjit Singh Channi and Aruna Chaudhary, apart from Chhabwal MLA Raj Kumar, who lost to Union Minister of State Som Parkash from Hoshiarpur in the last Lok Sabha elections, Balwinder Singh Dhaliwal, a former bureau chief, is the party candidate from Phagwara.

Party sources said for the Mukerian seat, earlier represented by late Rajneesh Kumar Babbi, Anandpur

Sahib MP Manish Tewari and Amritsar MP Gurjeet Aujla have been asked to campaign. This is besides Cabinet ministers Tript Rajinder Bajwa, Razia Sultana and Om Parkash Soni, who have been allocated the constituency for electioneering. The party ticket from Mukerian has been given Babbi's wife Indu Bala.

For the Jalalabad segment, a stronghold of the Akalis, two MPs Mohammed Sadiq and Jasbir Singh Dimpa have been asked to campaign for the party candidate, Raminder Amla. Five ministers Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, Manpreet Badal, Balbir Singh Sidhu, Gurpreet Kangar and Rana Gurmeet Sodhi have been deputed to serve the purpose.

# Finally, SAD leaders show up in Phagwara, Mukerian

ASHOK KAURA

PHAGWARA, OCTOBER 9

Post the recent turmoil within the SAD-BJP alliance owing to their break-up in Haryana and a coordination committee meeting thereafter on Saturday, the senior SAD leadership today showed up in support of the BJP candidates in Phagwara and Mukerian ahead of the October 21 Assembly bypoll.

Though there are still reports that the local workers are not moving along the BJP cadre on the two seats, Youth Akali Dal president Bikram Singh Majithia today held rallies for BJP Phagwara candidate Rajesh Bagha and Mukerian candidate Jangi



SAD leader Bikram Majithia (R) campaigns for BJP candidate Rajesh Bagha in Phagwara on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Lal Mahajan. Majithia and former MLA Sarabjeet Makkar appeared on the stage along with BJP state president Shwail Malik, incharge Parbhat Jha, Union Minister Som Parkash and

former Union MoS Vijay Sampla. The leaders held their hands together and posed for photographs to spread across the message that the alliance partners were working together in Punjab.

# Jalalabad not Sukhbir Badal's property: Jakhar

FAZILKA, OCTOBER 9

Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) president Sunil Jakhar flayed SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal for his remark where he reportedly said that the Jalalabad Assembly seat was his "property". Jakhar said only the voters had the power to elect their representative.

He said this was not the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee election where "the Badal family has its complete say". Jakhar claimed that Congress candidate Raminder Singh Awla would win the bypoll with a huge margin. He said during the last two-and-a-half years, the Congress-led government in Punjab had implemented schemes for each and every section of society. — OC

# विश्व दृष्टि दिवस

## 10 अक्टूबर 2019 को मनाया जा रहा है

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- कम रोशनी में न पढ़ें |
- यदि आँखों में कुछ पड़ जाए तो डॉक्टर की सलाह के बिना कोई भी दवाई आँखों में न डालें |
- आँखों के संक्रमण का जल्दी से उपचार कराएं |
- नज़दीक या दूर की वस्तु सही न दिखाई देने पर डॉक्टर को दिखाएं |
- आँखों में तेज़ खुजली या जलन होने पर डॉक्टर को दिखाएं |
- काला मोतिया आँखों की रोशनी खत्म कर देता है | शीघ्र उपचार कराएं |
- अपनी आँखों की नियमित जाँच करवाएं |
- ज्यादातर मामलों में अंधता और नज़र की खराबी रोकथाम या उपचार योग्य होती है, अगर जल्दी इसका पता चल जाए |
- मोतियाबिंद के उपचार के लिए शीघ्र आँखों के डॉक्टर को दिखाएं |

मोतियाबिंद का उपचार सभी सरकारी अस्पतालों में मुफ्त किया जाता है | अधिक जानकारी के लिए अपने नज़दीकी स्वास्थ्य केंद्र से संपर्क करें |



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# Minister: No more than 400 eligible for release

Capt had ordered remission for 550 prisoners

JUPINDERJIT SINGH  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 9  
Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh's announcement to free 550 prisoners to mark the 550th Parkash Purb celebrations of Guru Nanak this November has put the state Prison Department in a tizzy as there aren't enough eligible prisoners for special remission.

Despite calculating the best possible remission of up to one year as a special case, the department could find only 350 eligible prisoners. Usually, remission of up to six months is given.

The Chief Minister had, on September 28, announced that the government would release 550 prisoners by mid-November. As per officials of the Prisons Department, it would be impossible to reach the figure of 550 in a month.

The department has already explained the situ-

**GURU'S 550TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY**

“If we want to ease remission norms, we will have to get it passed in the state Assembly and even from the Union Home Ministry on certain aspects.”

Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, MINISTER

ation to the government in a detailed note. It had pointed out the laid down procedure for remission and asked for easing of norms, if the government insisted on releasing 550 prisoners.

Jails Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa admitted

that the target of releasing 550 prisoners was almost impossible to achieve. “Even if we give the maximum remission of one year, we won't be able to find even 400 eligible prisoners. If we want to ease the norms, we will have to get it passed in the state Assembly and even from the Union Home Ministry on certain aspects of remission,” he said.

The minister said the department was trying its best to scramble the maximum number of prisoners for release, but it could not ignore rules and regulations in this regard.

Though Punjab has more than 21,000 prisoners lodged in different jails, it can only give remission in prison term to those lodged in non-heinous crimes. Those serving sentence for drugs smuggling, rape and gruesome murders cannot be pardoned, explained officials.

# Nod to MLAs' Pak visit from October 29

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 9

The Central government has given given clearance to the Punjab Government's 21-member delegation of ministers and MLAs scheduled to visit Pakistan from October 29 to November 3 in connection with the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak.

According to the schedule, the delegation would participate in the function at Nankana Sahib. The event will begin with an 'Akhand path' on October 31 and end on November 2.

A nagar kirtan would start from Nankana Sahib and reach Sultanpur Lodhi on November 4.

The state delegation would comprise Ministers OP Soni, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Charanjit Singh Channi, Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Balbir Singh Sidhu, besides MLAs Inderbir Singh Bolaria and Amarinder Singh Raja Warring.

# DSGMC told to put off nagar kirtan

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, OCTOBER 9

Intervening in the matter of Sarna brothers and Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) organising separate nagar kirtans from Delhi to Nankana Sahib to commemorate the 550th Gurburb, Akal Takht today directed the latter to postpone its programme scheduled to commence from October 13.

Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh said two

## US to mark Gurburb

New Jersey: New Jersey will mark November 12 as World Equality Day. The Senate and General Assembly, in a resolution said, the Sikh community will celebrate the 550th birthday of Guru Nanak on November 12. It said the “Sikh community has played a vital role in growth of the nation”. IANS

nagar kirtans commencing from the same place would lead to confusion among the sangat. He said it was also learnt that the Pakistan Government had permitted

## Documentary on Guru

Washington: A documentary on Guru Nanak Dev will be screened at Awareness Film Festival in Los Angeles on October 13. Directors Jerry Krell and Adam Krell of Auteur Productions along with prominent religious leaders and authors will be present at the screening. PTI

only one nagar kirtan, so he stopped the work of gold palanquin.

The Jathedar asked the sangat to cooperate with HS Sarna and PS Sarna in

organising the religious procession, which would commence from October 28. He said the devotees had approached Akal Takht to prevail on the organisers to hold only one procession from a city with Khalsai traditions.

The Jathedar also directed the gurdwaras, which had installed separate donation boxes for preparing a gold palanquin, to withdraw the same. He added that they must submit the report of this collection at Akal Takht secretariat.

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### POLL BUZZ

#### Cong manifesto to be out on Oct 11: Selja

Panipat: Congress state chief Kumari Selja on Wednesday said the party would release its manifesto on October 11 in Chandigarh. She stated this while interacting with mediapersons before a public meeting, organised by party candidate Sanjay Aggarwal, here. Accusing the BJP, Selja said people were fed up with the 'jhooth' and 'jumlas' of the BJP and had decided to oust it from power. TNS

#### EC: 19,578 booths for over 1.83 crore voters

Chandigarh: The total number of voters for the Haryana Assembly elections is pegged at 1,83,90,525. Joint Chief Electoral Officer Inder Jeet said here on Wednesday the figure included 1,07,955 service voters. He said there were 98,78,042 male voters, 85,12,231 female voters and 252 third gender voters in the state. As many as 19,578 polling stations have been set up. TNS

#### LSP ties up with RJP, Hindu Mahasabha

Kurukshetra: Loktantra Suraksha Party leader Raj Kumar Saini on Wednesday said the LSP, Rashtriya Janata Party and Akhil Bhartiya Hindu Mahasabha had formed an alliance. The LSP and Hindu Mahasabha will support the RJP in Panchkula, Niookheri, Pataudi, Bawani Khara, Badli, and Dadri, while LSP and RJP will back Hindu Mahasabha in Sirsa and Ateli. TNS

## In 5 yrs, state debt up by ₹1 lakh cr, claims Hooda

### Blames Khattar govt for Jat quota riots, seeks 'White Paper' on jobs

SUNIT DHAWAN TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, OCTOBER 9

Former Chief Minister and veteran Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda has maintained that the debt on the state, which was nearly Rs 70,000 crore when the BJP regime took over the reins of Haryana in 2014, has now reached around Rs 1.70 lakh crore. "The BJP government has put Haryana under a massive debt burden, even though it has not carried out any substantial development during its five-year tenure. It has only organised events, made tall promises and hollow claims of progress," Hooda said while addressing a meeting of Congress workers here today to mobilise support for Bharat Bhushan Batra, the party's nominee for the Rohtak seat.

The Congress leader lambasted the BJP regime, stating that it had hatched a conspiracy which led to riots during the Jat agitation for reservation.

"Even the Prakash Singh Committee constituted by the state government had held the top government functionaries responsible for the riots. However, instead of taking any action against the culprits, the government junked the committee's report," Hooda stated.



Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda at a public meeting in Rohtak. MANOJ DHAKA

#### Rohtak seat a prestige issue

The Rohtak seat is quite crucial for the Congress as the party had lost it in the last Assembly elections.

The other three Assembly seats of Garhi Sampla-Kiloi, Meham and Kalanaur falling in Rohtak district — the hometown and citadel of the former Chief Minister — were won by the Congress in 2014.

The Rohtak seat is likely to see a keen contest as the BJP wants to retain it while the Congress wants to wrest it back.

He also castigated the BJP government for preferring the applicants of other states in selections for cushy jobs and giving jobs of peons and water-carriers to highly educated youth of Haryana, terming it as a cruel joke with the state's jobless youth.

"I demand a White Paper from the state government on the number of jobs granted during its tenure and the number of applicants who did not join the jobs or left them," said the two-time Chief Minister.

Hooda exhorted the Congress workers to put

in all-out efforts to ensure the victory of party nominee Batra. The Congress leaders, including former Rajya Sabha MP Shadi Lal Batra and former municipal council chairman Satish Pansari, presented a united

face by sharing the dais. Winning the Rohtak seat is quite crucial for the Congress, especially Hooda, as the party had lost it in the last Assembly elections. The other three Assembly seats of falling in Rohtak district were won by the Congress last time.



## Ex-CM promoted corruption, Chautala hooliganism: Shah

### Former minister Sampat Singh joins saffron party

SUNIT DHAWAN TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MEHAM (ROHTAK), OCTOBER 9 Union Home Minister Amit Shah has termed the Congress and the INLD as "family parties", claiming that the Congress government led by Bhupinder Singh Hooda was synonymous with corruption, while the (Om Prakash) Chautala regime stood for "goondaism".

"Earlier, people had to apply at leaders' durbars for government jobs and transfers, which were up for sale. The BJP government has ended corruption and 'goondaism' in Haryana



Amit Shah inducts Congress leader Sampat Singh into the BJP.

and established the rule of merit that is reflected in the online system for selections, postings and transfers," Shah said while addressing a public meet-

ing in here on Wednesday. Meanwhile, former minister Sampat Singh, who quit the Congress, joined the BJP in the presence of Shah at the Meham rally.

## By Oct 18, nominees to declare criminal cases against them

GEETANJALI GAYATRI TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 9 The election candidates who have criminal cases pending against them will now have to publicly declare the same before the polling day. For the first time, the Haryana's Assembly elections are being held in keeping with the Election Commission's amended rules for declaration of criminal cases by the candidates, and the political parties on their part are ensuring their contestants don't forget this

#### Going public

Candidates are required to publicise their cases at three different times in widely circulated dailies and thrice on channels in 8-second slots.

inations, to the party office. The ECI, in the amended rules had specified that the candidates, as also the political parties they represent, will have to publicise the details of criminal cases pending against them or cases in which they have been convicted, in three newspapers and on television. Sources in the Chief Electoral Office, Haryana, said the declaration should be published up to two days before the date of poll which is October 18 in the case of Haryana.

one direction. In a letter to its contesting candidates, the state unit of the Congress has asked them to furnish the information of criminal cases against them, supplied to the Returning Officer while filing their nom-

## Khattar again promises AIIMS

RAVINDER SAINI TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KOSLI (REWARD), OCTOBER 9 Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar today reiterated his government's promise to establish AIIMS in Rewari district. He made this announcement while addressing a rally at Berli village in the district.



Khattar at Berli in Rewari.

"The BJP government had promised to establish AIIMS in Rewari district. There are some technical issues in the setting up of the AIIMS at Manethi... we have asked people to provide land for the project," the Chief Minister said.

Khattar's announcement comes ahead of the October 13 meeting called by the AIIMS Sangharsh Samiti to chalk out the future course of

part of the state. Disgruntled BJP leader and former minister Jagdish Yadav was not present at the rally. He had sought the party ticket from Kosli, but the BJP has fielded Laxman Yadav, a supporter of Rao Inderjit. Yadav wanted to contest as Independent, but he dropped the plan after the CM reportedly placated him.

action. Incidentally, the issue was raked up before the Lok Sabha elections as well.

At the rally, Khattar, accompanied by Union Minister Rao Inderjit, lambasted the previous Congress government for "biased" development and "favouritism" in government jobs. He asserted the BJP government had not only worked for bringing about changes in the system, but also ensured equal development in each

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Sealed Tenders are invited from Reputed and Financially Sound Firms for Photocopying, set making of various documents etc. on outsource basis in Administrative Block of GNDU Campus, Amritsar up to 25-10-2019. Details of Cost of tender form, terms and conditions can be downloaded from university website [www.gndu.ac.in](http://www.gndu.ac.in) -Tenders. REGISTRAR

**Appeal for Identification**  
General Public is hereby informed that one unknown person namely Akram Ali, aged about 30 years, wheatish complexion, height 4'-5", both legs affected with polio, hair black & curly was found lying unconscious at Govt. Toilet, Sector 7, Chandigarh and lifted to GMSH, Sector-16, Chandigarh on 02.10.2019. He was declared brought dead at General Hospital, Sector-16, Chandigarh. In this regard, a DDR No. 28, dated 02.10.2019 has been lodged in Police Station, Sector 26, Chandigarh. The photograph of deceased is given above.  
If anyone having any information/clue about the whereabouts of unidentified deceased person, please inform the SHO, Police Station Sector-26, Chandigarh on Phone No. 9779580926, 0172-2750049, 2790594, or Police Control Phone No.0172-2749194 or 112, 100.  
Chandigarh Police

**HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY (NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade University) GYAN PATH, SUMMER HILL, SHIMLA-171005 STORE PURCHASE SECTION NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
Electronic tenders are hereby invited on behalf of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, HP University, Shimla-5 for Supply and Installation of workstations. The Tender Forms/Documents shall be available online at <http://hptenders.gov.in> w.e.f. October 10th, 2019 at 3:00 PM onward. The tender shall be opened on October 31st, 2019 at 3:00 PM. The Notice is also available at website <http://hpuniv.ac.in>. The bidder shall be required to deposit Earnest Money and cost of tender document as mentioned above by way of Demand Draft/FDR from any of the Nationalized Bank in favour of the Finance Officer, HP University Shimla-5. (scanned copy to be uploaded on HP e-tenders portal and physical copy in sealed cover to be deposited in the office of Store Purchase Section on or before October 31st, 2019 at 01:00 PM.  
The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <http://hptenders.gov.in>. If any change or corrigendum is required will be published <http://hpuniv.ac.in> or <http://hptenders.gov.in> websites only.  
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Size (Sq. Yd.)	Plot No.	Rate Per Sq. Yd.	Eligibility Fee	
<b>ABOZHAR</b>				
1 acre	A-5, A-6, A-7, A-8		₹1,60,000/-	
2500	B-10, B-11, B-12, B-13	₹1,600/-	₹80,000/-	
250	E-3, E-4, E-8 (P)		₹8,000/-	
<b>AMRITSAR NEW</b>				
500	D-205, D-206, D-209, D-210	₹7,500/-	₹75,000/-	
<b>BATALA</b>				
5 acre	1-A	₹3,500/-	₹17,50,000/-	
<b>BATHINDA (IGC)</b>				
5000	C-30, C-31	₹2,700/-	₹2,70,000/-	
2500	D-1, D-6, D-29		₹1,35,000/-	
<b>GOINDWAL SAHIB PHASE I</b>				
500	207, 208, 209, 225	₹2,000/-	₹20,000/-	
4000	367	₹2,000/-	₹1,60,000/-	
<b>GOINDWAL SAHIB PHASE II</b>				
24.20 acre	454	₹2,000/-	₹48,40,000/-	
<b>KAPURTHALA</b>				
7 acres	A-2-A		₹17,50,000/-	
2500	B-9, B-11		₹1,25,000/-	
1000	C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5	₹2,500/-	₹50,000/-	
500	D-179, D-180, D-181, D-182, D-183, D-184		₹25,000/-	
<b>LUDHIANA PHASE VIII</b>				
2500	B-63A, B-63B		₹5,00,000/-	
2500	B-63C (P)		₹5,50,000/-	
1700	B-66 C	₹10,000/-	₹3,40,000/-	
990	B-66 A		₹1,80,000/-	
843	B-66 B		₹1,68,000/-	
<b>LUDHIANA PHASE VI</b>				
2500	D-197	₹10,000/-	₹5,00,000/-	
<b>MALOUT</b>				
577	S-39, S-78-S-79, S-80		₹17,310/-	
166	S-246, S-233, S-234, S-261, S-262	₹1,500/-	₹4,980/-	
<b>MANDI GOBINDGARH</b>				
1000	D-107, D-113, D-115, D-117, D-118		₹80,000/-	
500	E-32, E-41		₹40,000/-	
<b>MOHALI PHASE VII</b>				
500	F-86(D)	₹16,500/-	₹1,65,000/-	
<b>MUKATSAR</b>				
500	125, 150, 151, 152, 153		₹10,000/-	
250	23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30	₹1,000/-	₹5,000/-	
<b>NAWANSHAHAR</b>				
3750	A-8	₹2,500/-	₹1,87,500/-	
<b>PATHANKOT</b>				
1000	E-60, E-61, E-62, E-73, E-74, E-75		₹30,000/-	
500	F-42, F-45, F-65, F-67	₹1,500/-	₹15,000/-	
250	K-76, K-77, K-79, K-80, K-81		₹7,500/-	

COMMERCIAL SITES (on freehold basis)					
Category	Size (Sq. Yd.)	Plot No.	Reserve Price	Eligibility Fee	Features
<b>INDUSTRIAL FOCAL POINT, AMRITSAR (OLD)</b>					
SCF	16'-6"x82'-0" (121 sq.yds.)	4,5,7	₹20 lakhs	₹40,000/-	Near Vallah Fatak situated opposite ISB and IISER at a walking distance from office of GM(DIC)
Booth	8'-3"x24'-9" (22.68 sq.yds.)	17,18,19	₹6 lakhs	₹12,000/-	
<b>PHASE VII, INDUSTRIAL FOCAL POINT, MOHALI</b>					
SCF	16'-6"x82'-6" (151.25 sq.yds.)	41,42,43,49,52	₹180 lakhs	₹3,60,000/-	Located near airport road opposite ESI Hospital at a walking distance from Phase V (Residential), Mohali
SCF	16'-6"x57'-9" (106 sq.yds.)	70,71,72	₹125 lakhs	₹2,50,000/-	
Booth	8'-3"x24'-9" (22.68 sq.yds.)	78,79,80,81,82	₹40 lakhs	₹80,000/-	
<b>PHASE IX, INDUSTRIAL FOCAL POINT, MOHALI</b>					
SCO	16'-6"x82'-6" (151.25 sq.yds.)	6	₹180 lakhs	₹3,60,000/-	Opposite Bestech Mall adjacent to ISB and IISER at a walking distance from Airport road
Booth	8'-3"x24'-9" (22.68 sq.yds.)	40,43,45	₹40 lakhs	₹80,000/-	
<b>GHWC COMPLEX, NEAR PARTAP CHOWK, LUHDIANA</b>					
SCO/SCF	16'-6"x82'-6" (151.25 sq.yds.)	27,29,31	₹140 lakhs	₹2,80,000/-	Adjoining Loha Mandi, Near Partap Chowk, walking distance from Gill Road, Ludhiana
SCO/SCF	16'-6"x66'-0" (121 sq.yds.)	15,17,19	₹100 lakhs	₹2,00,000/-	
<b>PHASE V, INDUSTRIAL FOCAL POINT, LUHDIANA</b>					
SCF	20'-0"x82'-6" (183.33 sq.yds.)	21,24	₹85 lakhs	₹1,70,000/-	Opposite R&D Centre for Bicycles & Sewing Machine, Punjab (Near Chandigarh road)
SCF	16'-6"x66'-0" (121 sq.yds.)	30,31	₹64.5 lakhs	₹1,29,000/-	
<b>INDUSTRIAL FOCAL POINT, JALANDHAR (OLD)</b>					
SCF	16'-6"x82'-6" (151.25 sq.yds.)	25,27,30	₹64.31 lakhs	₹1,28,620/-	Adjoining Transport Nagar at a walking distance from Sarb Multiplex with Direct approach from GT Road (Jalandhar - Amritsar)
Booth	8'-3"x24'-9" (22.68 sq.yds.)	52,53,54,55	₹7.86 lakhs	₹15,720/-	

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- Details of plots/sites, their sizes/dimensions, layout plan, reserve price, help manual and detailed terms and conditions of e-auction including eligibility and earnest money deposit (EMD) are available at [www.pniec.punjab.gov.in](http://www.pniec.punjab.gov.in)

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**Shivakumar case: Karnataka bank president quizzed**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9** Karnataka State Apex Cooperative Bank President KN Rajanna today appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the money-laundering case filed against former state minister DK Shivakumar.

ED officials said Rajanna, senior Congress leader and former MLA, was questioned as regards multi-crore loans given by the bank to a sugar company linked to Shivakumar a few years ago.

Rajanna's statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), as certain links of him with Shivakumar were being investigated into, agency sources said.

The ED, in the past, has grilled a number of persons and associates of Shivakumar, including his daughter Aishwarya (23) and Congress MLA Lakshmi Hebbalkar.

Former Karnataka minister Shivakumar was arrested by the ED on September 3 and is in the agency's custody since then.

The central agency in September last year registered a money-laundering case against Shivakumar, Haumanthiah, an employee at the Karnataka Bhavan in New Delhi, and others.

The criminal case was filed based on an Income Tax Department chargesheet filed against Shivakumar and others before a court in Bengaluru for alleged tax evasion and hawala dealings.

**ED grills Karti in INX Media case**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) today questioned Karti Chidambaram, son of former Union Minister P Chidambaram, in connection with the INX Media money-laundering case, agency officials said.

Karti, Congress MP representing Sivaganga in Tamil Nadu, was summoned for a fresh round of grilling in the case, they said, adding that he appeared before the Investigating Officer (IO) here.

Before entering the ED office here, Karti, when



**FRESH LEADS**

■ The Congress MP representing Sivaganga in Tamil Nadu was summoned for a fresh round of grilling in the INX Media case

■ Sources in the ED said Karti was questioned on some fresh leads obtained by the agency from abroad

■ Karti was questioned multiple times by the agency in the past in connection with the case

Karti Chidambaram. FILE PHOTO

asked questions by waiting mediapersons there, shot back saying he had come to say hello to the investigators on Dasehra.

Karti was questioned multiple times by the agency in the past in connection with the case and his statement recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested his father and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram in the case last month.

Sources in the ED said Karti was questioned on some fresh leads obtained

by the agency from abroad. Last year, the ED had attached assets worth Rs 54 crore of Karti that were located in India, the UK and Spain in connection with the INX Media case.

Sources in the agency had earlier alleged that P Chidambaram and Karti were the "beneficial owners" of several shell firms that were incorporated in India and abroad in connection with a Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) approval given to the INX Media group during Chidambaram's tenure as the union finance minister.

**CBI books Mumbai firm for cheating SBI of ₹70 crore**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9** The CMD and the CEO of a Mumbai-based ground handling company, Livewel Air Team Pvt Ltd, have come under the CBI net with the agency filing a case against them for allegedly cheating State Bank of India to the tune of ₹70 crore by submitting forged documents for availing loans, which remained unpaid.

The officials in the agency said, the CBI in its FIR had named Chairman and Managing Director Manek Daver and Chief Executive Officer Burzin Daver besides the company. It had alleged that between 2015 and 2017, the company and its directors "hatched a criminal conspiracy" to commit forgery and cheat the State Bank of India (SBI).

The CBI website claims that it has footprints in five countries — the UK, the UAE, Malaysia and Singapore besides India. It also claimed to be the first company for ground handling of biggest Airbus aircraft A380 at Terminal 3 of the Delhi Airport in 2010.

The CBI has alleged that they created forged documents and signatures of an auditor on financial statements submitted to the bank for availing credit facilities, the FIR said.

Based on these forged documents, the company "induced the bank" to avail credit facilities to the



Submitted fake papers

■ Mumbai-based ground handling company Livewel Air Team Pvt Ltd 'submitted' forged documents for availing loans from SBI

■ The CBI in its FIR named Chairman and MD of firm Manek Daver and CEO Burzin Daver besides the company

■ The SBI appointed an auditor to carry out a stock audit of the company who found 'glaring irregularities and instances of fraud'

tune of ₹61 crore during the period.

The bank had sanctioned the credit limit to meet the fund requirement for business activities, which included providing engineering and infrastructure facilities for narrow-bodied aircraft, cabin interior refurbishment services for commercial airlines among others, the FIR said.

The SBI appointed an auditor to carry out a stock audit of the company who found "glaring irregularities and instances of fraud".

**CBI gets more time to probe Asthana case**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9** The Delhi High Court today granted two more months to the CBI to complete the investigation in a bribery case allegedly involving the agency's then Special Director Rakesh Asthana, making it clear that further time will not be given for the probe.

Justice Vibhu Bakhu observed that the probe cannot be delayed indefinitely and it should have been completed by now. The court said it was of the view that two more months be granted for the probe, but asked the CBI to ensure that it is completed in the given time. The court passed the order while disposing of a plea by the CBI seeking time extension.

Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee, representing the CBI, said



letters rogatory (LRs) have been sent to the US and UAE and the response is awaited due to which the investigation could not be completed. He said LRs were sent to the US and UAE last month and last week, respectively.

LR is a formal request from a court to a foreign court seeking some judicial assistance. Banerjee urged the court to grant at least three more months to complete the probe. — PTI

**PMC Bank scam accused in further custody till Oct 14**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**MUMBAI, OCTOBER 9** A magistrate's court here today extended the police custody of Sarang Wadhwan, Rakesh Wadhwan and Waryam Singh, who have been arrested in the PMC Bank case till October 14. The custody of Joy Thomas, former managing director of the bank, has been extended till October 17.

The Wadhwans, who are promoters of Housing Development Infrastructure Limited (HDIL), are being investigated for fraudulently obtaining fake accounts with PMC Bank into which Rs 4,355-crore bank funds were transferred.

According to sources in the economic offences wing of the Mumbai police, properties, cash and other assets, includ-



PMC Bank depositors protest outside a court in Mumbai. PTI

ing airplanes and high-end cars, belonging to all of them have been frozen by various investigative agencies.

The scene outside the Esplanade Court where the accused were produced for extension of police custody

was chaotic as depositors of the troubled bank had assembled there in large numbers. Holding placards stating: "No bail, only jail" the depositors grappled with the police and damaged some cars, the police said.

**BRIEFLY**



PM Narendra Modi releases a stamp on the birth centenary of Late Marshal of IAF Arjan Singh in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

**Siddaramaiah is LoP in K'taka**

**New Delhi:** Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday appointed former Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly, but divested him of his role as a Congress Working Committee member. In an order, Sonia also named senior former minister SR Patil Leader of Opposition in the state. LoP in the state Assembly is a cabinet rank post. The decision comes ahead of the Assembly session starting on Thursday until October 12. TNS

**'Rahul shouldn't have quit'**

**New Delhi:** Former Union minister Salman Khurshid on Wednesday said Rahul Gandhi should not have walked away from the party presidency as everyone wanted him to continue. He said the biggest problem of the party was that Rahul, the leader, had distanced himself from the entire process when he should have continued to lead. Khurshid said he would not leave the Congress, but he was concerned about the fact that the Congress did not go through the mandatory introspection process it should have after losing the LS polls. TNS

**Trivedi elected unopposed to RS**

**Lucknow:** BJP candidate Sudhanshu Trivedi was on Wednesday elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh. He has been elected to the Rajya Sabha on the seat which fell vacant following the death of BJP stalwart Arun Jaitley. PTI

**Shastra puja: Did Cong walk into trap?**

Party has problems with Air Force modernisation, Indian traditions: BJP

VIBHA SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9** By leading the charge on criticism of the "shastra puja" performed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on India's new acquisition—the Rafale fighter jet—the Congress appears to have walked into a trap.

Responding to senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge's comment terming the Rafale ceremony in France on as "tamasha" (drama) while referring to how his party never made a show when the UPA-led acquired the Bofors gun, the ruling BJP tweeted from its official handle: "Congress has problems with Air Force modernisation. Indian customs and traditions. For a party used to worshipping Quattrocchi, 'shastra puja' is naturally a problem. And, Kharge ji, thank you for reminding us about the Bofors scam."

Not just Kharge, several Congress leaders have registered objection to the "shastra puja", which defence officials



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh performed 'shastra puja' after receiving the first Rafale jet in France on Tuesday. REUTERS

say is "very much a part of the ceremony whenever any new acquisition is made". "Whenever a new aircraft is inducted into a squadron, a religious ceremony is part of the tradition," they said.

Home Minister Amit Shah also hit back at the Congress. "Rajnath Singh performed 'shashtra puja' of Rafale yesterday in France. The Congress did not like it. Is 'shastra puja' not performed on Vijaydashami? They should

ponder over what should be criticised and what not," Shah was quoted as saying at an election rally in Haryana that goes to the polls on October 21.

The Congress, in the run-up to General Election, tried hard to make the Rafale deal finalised by the Modi government an election issue, alleging corruption in the deal. Using the Kharge's criticism to corner the Congress, the saffron party also "thanked" it for reminding the nation

**'KHARGE AN ATHEIST'**

■ The BJP on Wednesday attacked veteran Congman Mallikarjun Kharge for terming Defence Minister's "shastra puja" of the Rafale jet as a drama

■ Kharge invited criticism not just from the BJP, but also from within his party. Former Mumbai Congress chief Sanjay Nirupam called Kharge an "atheist"

■ "Shastra puja is an old ritual. It is not theatrics. Kharge is an atheist, but entire Congress is not," he said. TNS

once again about the scandal related to alleged kickbacks paid in the multi-billion deal between the Swedish arms manufacturer Bofors with the then Congress-led government for howitzer guns.

"For a party used to worshipping Quattrocchi, 'shastra puja' is naturally a problem," the BJP mocked the Congress. Italian businessman Ottavio Quattrocchi was named by the CBI as the conduit for the Bofors bribe.



SP chief Akhilesh Yadav meets family members of Pushpendra Yadav in Jhansi on Wednesday. PTI

**Akhilesh meets kin of Jhansi man killed in 'fake encounter'**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 9** The Jhansi police were on alert as Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav met the family of 28-year-old Pushpendra Yadav, who was killed in an alleged fake police encounter last week, at Kargua Khurd village in Bamore block.

As the police barricaded the area, angry villagers raised slogans demanding an FIR against Moth SHO Dharmendra Singh Chauhan.

The killing of the youth is snowballing into a political crisis as SP and Shivpal Yadav's party have come out against what they describe as the cold-blooded murder of the youth.

Meanwhile, the police claim that Pushpendra had opened fire at an officer who returned fire in self-defence, a claim contradicted by the family of the deceased who point out that the police had killed him as he had refused to pay a bribe.

According to the police, Pushpendra ran a sand

mining business and was shot dead on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday by a police team after he reportedly fired at an inspector, who a few days ago had apprehended his truck used for mining.

This police account is being challenged by Pushpendra Yadav's family. They allege that the Moth SHO Dharmendra Chauhan had been demanding Rs 1.5 lakh as bribe to release his truck. He murdered Pushpendra when he threatened to expose him.

**UP's Basti tense after violence, shooting of student leader**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 9** Tension prevails in Uttar Pradesh's Basti district after violence erupted during immersion of idols and a student leader was shot dead.

The shooting in broad daylight took place in the city despite heavy police presence after Tuesday evening's violent clashes between two communities in which vehicles were damaged and shops were burnt, forcing the police to rush additional force from neighbouring districts.

Trouble started when a rumour spread that pieces of meat had been strewn on Ramjanki road, the route

Trouble started when a rumour spread that pieces of meat had been strewn on Ramjanki road, the route through which Durga idols were to go for immersion

through which Durga idols were to go for immersion. Anti-social elements went on a rampage, hurling stones and setting shops ablaze. Additional police force had to be rushed to Basti and the city turned into a virtual fortress.

Despite the heavy deployment, student union leader Kabir Tiwari was shot by two bike-borne assailants on Malviya Marg around 11 am on Wednesday. People present at the spot managed to nab the two accused

and handed them over to the police.

The critically injured Kabir succumbed to his injuries on way to King George Medical University in Lucknow. The anger spilled on the streets when the body was brought back to Basti. His supporters attacked the Kotwali police station damaging government property. The shops immediately down shutters and the town wore a deserted look as the police took charge of the situation.

**Curfew in R'sthan town after clashes during Dasehra**

JAIPUR, OCTOBER 9

An indefinite curfew was imposed in Malpura town of Tonk district on Tuesday following communal tension that gripped the area after people of two communities clashed and pelted each other with stones before the effigy of Ravana was to be consigned to the flames Tuesday.

A Dasehra procession was moving on and some miscreants pelted it with stones. This led to commotion and effigy of Ravana could not be burnt. Additional personnel were deployed and Internet services were snapped in Malpura and adjoining towns as a precautionary measure after the curfew was imposed around 0200 hrs, DGP (Law and Order) ML Lather said. — OC

**Aadhaar seeding date for kisan plan extended**

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9

Ahead of elections in Maharashtra and Haryana and by-elections in several states, the Centre today approved relaxation of Aadhaar seeding data of beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) till November 30.

The scheme provides income support of ₹6,000 per year to landholding families to help farmers buy farm inputs in three equal installments. The amount is directly transferred into the bank accounts of the bene-

ficiaries through direct benefit transfer (DBT) mode.

The Rabi sowing begins around mid-November. The decision in this regard was taken in the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Aadhaar seeding was mandated to avail the installment after August 1, 2019. However, it was exempted to farmers of Assam, Meghalaya and Jammu and Kashmir till March 2020. — TNS

**Chinmayanand, student's voice samples taken**

SHAHJAHANPUR, OCTOBER 9

The voice samples of former Union Minister Chinmayanand and the law student who has accused him of rape were taken at the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Lucknow on Wednesday.

"Both Chinmayanand and the law student have been brought back to the district jail here after their voice tests," said Jail Superintendent Rakesh Kumar. A team of the UP police also took Sanjay, Vikram and Sachin, accused of demanding extortion money from the BJP leader, to the forensic laboratory for their voice test. — PTI

# The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

## Uneasy over lynchings

RSS needs to take unequivocal stand on hate crimes

IN his customary address at the Vijaydashami function of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), its chief Mohan Bhagwat tried, in vain, to kill several birds with one stone. He claimed that the term 'lynching' was a western construct that was being used to defame India as well as Hindus. He also attempted to dissociate the Sangh from any kind of mob violence and denied charges of Islamophobia against the right-wing outfit. Bhagwat only ended up displaying selective amnesia.

With apologies to Shakespeare, a lynching by any other name would be as heinous. In July last year, the Supreme Court had told the Union and state governments that 'horrific acts of mobocracy' could not be allowed to become the new normal, while underscoring the urgency to protect India's 'pluralist social fabric' from bloodthirsty mobs. Five months later, Manipur had become the first state to pass a law against lynching. The fact that a government, and that too BJP-ruled, promulgated the Protection from Mob Violence Ordinance, flies in the face of Bhagwat's 'alien concept' theory.

In most cases of lynchings in recent years, the role of cow vigilantes or religious fanatics has come to light. The chilling murder of Pehlu Khan, a dairy farmer, at Alwar in 2017 and other such hate crimes prompted the Rajasthan Assembly to follow in Manipur's footsteps. In June this year, Jharkhand's Tabrez Ansari had died after he was beaten up with rods while tied to a pole and forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' over an alleged theft. These incidents have largely been the handiwork of elements emboldened by the Sangh Parivar's Hindutva push amid the BJP's pan-India hegemony. The RSS has been generally loath to condemn violence directed at the minorities and has made little or no effort to allay their fears. Hate-mongers like Pragy Thakur and Sakshi Maharaj have been allowed to spew venom. The sincerity or otherwise of Bhagwat's message of maintaining harmony and upholding the rule of law would be demonstrated by how RSS workers and supporters acquit themselves on the ground.

## Timing it right

China changes tone on Kashmir ahead of Xi's visit

THREE days before Chinese President Xi Jinping was to land in Chennai, China sprang a surprise to infuse life into the informal summit he will hold with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Since the actual venue of Mamallapuram is quite a mouthful for the world at large, the Chennai Informal Summit, as it will be called, seemed headed to become a footnote in the diplomatic calendar of bilateral meetings. The bad blood between the two countries over the abrogation of Article 370 had created a stalemate till the Chinese Foreign Office spokesperson advised India and Pakistan to resolve their differences over J&K through dialogue.

For the first time since India effected the changes on August 5, Beijing dropped all references to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. This reference is a red rag for India since it considers the Simla Agreement, which Pakistan has also signed, as the starting point for talks on J&K. The Chinese gesture does create a conducive environment for the two leaders to hold frank and unrestrained conversations with each other in order to remove the distrust and suspicion about each other's policy choices. The first informal summit did produce a Chinese appreciation of India's massive trade deficit and guidance to the two militaries to peacefully manage the border. But the Chinese stand on Kashmir nipped the shoots and stiffened India's back to the extent that it upgraded its consultations with the Quad, an anti-China grouping, to the ministerial level.

At this moment, China cannot afford to antagonise India. Already grappling with unrest in Hong Kong, its mass internment of Muslims in Xinjiang has come under global scrutiny; US sanctioned the first lot of Chinese officials on Tuesday. The US pincer on trade is unlikely to ease and signature Belt and Road Initiative has enough challenges on its hands to dissuade China from opening new fronts. Hopefully, the Indian Army's exercises have transmitted the right signals because China may not be ready to abandon Pakistan on Kashmir. As China has reaffirmed, Sino-Indian ties transcend sectoral disputes. But the challenge will be in adroitly managing them in the crucial days ahead.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. — **Thomas Jefferson**

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

## The Tribune.

LAHORE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1919

### The Punjab Enquiry.

IN a recent issue we stated that we had been hearing complaints that in some cases individual officials had taken up an unjustifiable attitude towards men engaged in the task of preparing the popular case in connection with the enquiry into the Punjab disturbances. One such complaint, made with necessary circumstantial details, will be found in a letter published on another page in this issue over the signature of Mr. Hyder Mehdi, a Vakil of the Allahabad High Court. Similar complaints have reached us from other sources. We have no doubt that in all such cases the police or other officers concerned have exceeded their instructions and now that the matter has formed the subject of notice in the public press the authorities will take all necessary steps to nip the evil in the bud. We need scarcely say that it would be nothing short of a scandal of the gravest magnitude if owing to mistaken or perverse use of authority in the part of police or other officials the task of preparing the non-official case before the enquiry committee were hampered in any way.

### Students and Martial Law.

THE Committee which has been sitting for the last few days under the chairmanship of Mr. Maynard to enquire into the cases of students punished under Martial Law has made some important recommendations. We trust that before its sittings have concluded it will have done all that is necessary to bring to a satisfactory end what is undeniably a most painful chapter in our educational history. The feeling of bitterness evoked by the punishments inflicted upon so many students, punishments both indiscriminate and disproportionate, has found repeated expression both in these columns and elsewhere.

# No longer bankable

Essential restructuring can turn around the commercial credit crisis



**SUBIR ROY**  
SENIOR ECONOMIC ANALYST

LAST week, the head of India's monetary authority, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, said, 'Indian banking sector remains sound and stable and there is no reason for any unnecessary panic.' The need for him to make such an extraordinary assertion underlines the level of disquiet that is working through the system.

The disquiet is at two levels. After the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC) has had to go into intensive care, the sight of the humblest queuing up distraught to get back their meagre savings is making depositors across the country ask what the future of their own savings is. This is the antithesis of the trust on which the banking system runs — people leaving their money with the banks so that they can lend to businesses and let the wheels of the economy turn.

The second is fundamental and systemic. Flow of funds to the commercial sector appears to have collapsed. During April to mid-September this year, it was Rs 90,900 crore, an unbelievable one-eighth of Rs 7.36 lakh crore clocked in the same period last year. If funding to the commercial sector dries up in this manner, it must cause economic activity to grind down, severely impacting incomes and jobs.

What we may be seeing is a vicious cycle at work. The real estate sector, a major client of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), is in trouble (this predates the NBFC crisis), leading to its players' inability to service their debts, causing the asset quality of their NBFC lenders to decline. This prevents them from accessing funds the way they used to. The Infrastructure Leasing



**THE BIG QUESTION:** What good is RBI supervision, not to speak of an audit by its officials, if it does not have a clue to what is really happening?

A new layer is needed between the board of directors and the line management, with independent professional directors accountable to the RBI.

and Finance Services (IL&FS) collapse along the way adds to this. So, the NBFC funds get costlier and harder to come by. The result is the inability to keep up the earlier pace of lending.

This contributes to the growing economic slowdown which hits commercial operations across the board in the economy, making companies unable to repay their loans, not just to NBFCs, but also banks. So, there is a decline in the asset quality of banks, too, and their focus shifts to mending their balance sheets instead of growing them. As a result, less bank money is coming to NBFCs.

To understand why we are in such a bind, let's get back to where it began, when the collapse of the IL&FS, precisely a year ago. The fact that this could happen to a quasi-government operation sent shock waves through the non-bank or NBFC sector, drying up the rollover of their short-term loans with which they had financed long-term loans to the realty sector, causing the asset liability mismatch.

A year later, the NBFC sector is yet to recover as mutual funds and banks are still reluctant to lend to them. The risk premium over government bond yields that banks are charging has increased despite repo rate cuts in the intervening period, indicating continuing risk aversion among the lenders to NBFCs.

Plus, most recently, the sector has been hit by the RBI stepping in at the PMC Bank, a major interstate cooperative bank, leading to the arrest of its former chairman and the managing director, as also the father and son duo, owners of Housing Development and Infrastructure Ltd. They had the run of the bank, accounted for a huge portion of its lending, and their default has brought the house down.

How do we get back to sanity and good health for the financial sector? (We were in fact on the road to recovery with banks on the mend, lowering their NPAs, when the PMC Bank setback hit.) A good place to begin will be to look at why cooperative banks are so wayward.

Their ill luck lies in having to live with dual regulation. The RBI supervises and the cooperative operations of ministries at the Centre and the states oversee their management and monitoring. (PMC Bank, for example, being a multi-state cooperative, is managed by the cooperative department of the Union Agriculture Ministry.) Plus, critically and locally powerful politicians wield influence through boards whose directors are elected by the cooperative society members.

One way to solve this mess is to introduce a new layer — a board of management — between the board of directors and the line management, with independent professional directors accountable to the RBI.

If an independent board is one watchdog, cooperative banks must have to ensure they mind the interests of stakeholders. Another watchdog whose health needs examining is the auditors. IL&FS, EY India, KPMG and Deloitte Haskins and Shell are facing a possible ban on account of their inability to deliver. Spot the rot before it bursts open.

Another watchdog group which has fallen down in the case of IL&FS is the rating agencies. The chief executive of ICRA has been sacked and that of CARE has been sent on leave and is being investigated. If downgrades take place after the damage has been done, what benefit is there in paying for a rating that merely encourages complacency?

The spotlight also needs to be on the RBI. What good is RBI supervision, not to speak of audit by its officials, if it does not have a clue to what is really happening? The RBI has to greatly improve its ability to gather market intelligence, so that it can step in before all the liquid assets have been squirreled away and a collapse takes place. Right now, the RBI is mostly made up of officials who have spent their professional lives within the RBI and know no way of tuning their ears on to market gossip that can signal danger ahead.

# Gandhi and the final trigger

HARBHAJAN SINGH

WHY was Mahatma Gandhi, who propagated *ahimsa*, responsible for India attaining Independence, and revered by most Indians and the world, assassinated?

Punjab and Bengal, two Muslim-majority provinces with sizeable Hindu and Sikh population, were bifurcated on the eve of our Independence. Punjab had 44%-47% non-Muslim minorities. The pre- and post-Independence violence was so vicious that it amounted to 'ethnic cleansing'. According to Sir Evan Jenkins, the last British Governor of Punjab, some 5,000 fatalities had taken place till August 4, 1947, in the state. From August 15 to December 31, 1947, those figures shot up between 5 lakh and 8 lakh.

As per a study by Ishtiaq Ahmed, titled, *The Punjab Bloodied, Partitioned and Cleansed*, in March 1947, Muslims started large-scale violence, mainly against Sikhs, but also against Hindus, in the Muslim-majority districts of northern Punjab (Jhelum, Rawalpindi, etc). Yet at the end of that year, more Muslims had been killed in East Punjab than Hindus and Sikhs together in West Punjab.

I was 15 years old, living in Lahore, when the Partition took place. My father, a gazetted officer in undivided Punjab, opted to stay on in Pakistan as our lands were in the area likely to be awarded to Pakistan. He was posted to Mianwali towards the end of July 1947. When he realised that living in Pakistan Punjab would be unwise, based on atrocities being committed on Hindus and Sikhs, he

changed his mind. When horror stories of inhuman atrocities came to be known, these were retaliated in kind in East Punjab. People on both sides went berserk. Thousands of Hindus and Sikhs became refugees, lost everything and reached Delhi. Communal riots started there too.

Gandhi could not bear these happenings and went on a fast. He made speeches during his daily prayer meetings against the riots and killings. However, he seemed more critical of Hindus, especially Sikhs, than Muslims. Even as a child, I clearly remember this aspect. This created resentment among a section of the non-Muslim population.

My father was in the civil supplies department and posted at Ferozepur. He had to ensure that adequate foodgrains were made avail-

able to refugee camps in which Hindus and Sikhs had taken shelter, and Muslims awaiting evacuation to Pakistan were accommodated. He was provided a duly requisitioned bus of the Malwa Bus Service. (This service used to run buses to Lahore from Ferozepur and nearby towns every day before Partition.)

On January 30, 1947, he took me along while visiting Muktsar. As we alighted from the bus, his assistant posted there told him that 'Mahatma ji had been killed'.

Our first thought was that hopefully, the assassin was not a Sikh. We were relieved to know that he was not.

While many studies have been undertaken and books written on Gandhi's assassination — and the RSS blamed — the fact mentioned above may have been the final trigger.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Genesis of Hindustan

The word 'Hindustan' came from Persia since it was the first to use the term. To the Persians, the term referred to the region beyond the Indus river and did not reflect on the people, culture or religion that was practiced in the region. It is the name with which they used to describe India as a trading region. In 515 BCE, Darius-I annexed the Indus valley, including Sindhu, which was called 'Hindu' in Persian. Hindustan is the Persian name for India, broadly the Indian subcontinent, which later began to be used by its inhabitants in Hindi-Urdu. It continues to be used as a historic name for the Republic of India. It has nothing to do with Hindu religion. Naming India as Hindu *rashtra* is thus highly uncalled for.

VIDWAN SINGH SONI, PATIALA

#### Hindustani, not Hindu

In his address at Nagpur, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat reiterated that Bharat was a Hindu *rashtra* ('Bhagwat cringes over lynching', October 9). According to him, the concept of Hindu *rashtra* is geographical rather than denominational, as is indicated by India's other name — Hindustan, meaning the land of the

Hindus. There is some historical truth in what he says. The term Hindu is a transformation of 'Sindhu', which was introduced before the Christian era and was used to refer to people living around or beyond the river Sindhu. Therefore, at one stage the terms 'Hindu' and 'India' got equated. However, the semantics of the word Hindu changed due to the quirks of history and it began to denote a specific religious community with a broad range of beliefs and practices derived from the Vedas or other derivative texts. At the juncture of history we stand today, 'Hindu' has a denominational rather than territorial meaning. If we seek a common word for all people living in India, the best word would be not Hindu, but Hindustani.

BHUPINDER SINGH, PATIALA

#### Gone too far

Reference to the editorial 'Let the phones ring' (October 9); the government should take steps to end the communication blackout in the Valley, though it may have been justified for a short period for security reasons. Mobile phones have become indispensable even for a short time, and a period lasting more than 60 days is annoying and painful. The US House Foreign Affairs Committee has right-

ly described Kashmiris as Indian citizens, and it is a matter of solace for us.

SANTOSH JAMWAL, HAMIRPUR

#### Lift restrictions

Apropos the editorial 'Let the phones ring' (October 9), the idea to abrogate Article 370 was supposed to bring peace and harmony to the people of J&K. However, it has only resulted in suppression and curtailment of their rights. The halt in communication has only made it more difficult. People are still awaiting the ray of light to reach their homes. The government must do something about it as soon as possible.

AKASH BHAKRI, PHILLAUR

#### This record doesn't help

We are in the race for getting our name in the Guinness book for the tallest Ravana effigy and stone statues, causing huge environmental pollution and expenditure. Can our nation afford this? There are other fields to create a record in, like high-rise buildings, highest bridges and roads and the lowest percentage of BPL families that may actually benefit the country. We must curb such kind of unnecessary and wasteful expenditure at the cost of human health and national interest. The money

saved through this effort can be used for health, infrastructure build-up and education.

WG CDR JASBIR MINHAS (RETD), MOHALI

#### Shastra puja regressive

During *shastra puja* of the Rafale aircraft in France, our Defence Minister Rajnath Singh performed certain rituals that can only lower the prestige of our country in the eyes of the global community ('Rajnath receives first Rafale from France, says IAF will get more teeth', October 9). To ward off evil, two lemons were placed underneath the tyres of the aircraft. Such illogical acts are against Article 51-A of the Constitution which says that all citizens must develop a scientific temper.

BS KAKKAR, JALANDHAR

#### Aadhaar link with property

Refer to the news 'HC: Decide to link Aadhaar with property deals' (October 9); the step will help eradicate malpractices going on across the nation in property-related issues. It will help reduce *benami* properties and also the generation of black money. By linking Aadhaar card with property deals, many such issues can be solved easily.

AKSHARA GURBANI, KANPUR



# Indian market is the best bet for China



**ABHIJIT BHATTACHARYYA**  
COMMENTATOR AND AUTHOR

IN bilateral trade and commerce, Customs arguably is the frontline professional organisation of the Government of India which can authentically state and report happenings and potential, or real-time consequential, damage inflicted by the import-export of a particular type of foreign goods, to the economy of the state. No civil service officer of any other branch or unit, 'conceived superior' or 'perceived inferior', can possess such a unique/vast reservoir of first-hand knowledge, or form even an iota of idea, except the Indian Revenue Service (Customs) officials in ports, airports and land port stations through which pass goods worth billions of dollars. In reality, Customs isn't only a law enforcement agency, but also the facilitator of foreign trade and commerce, directly affecting the macro-economics of the state. Yet, competent officers thereof are rarely consulted or their views taken for deciding and formulating the international trade policy or concluding multinational commercial agreements between India and foreign countries. And that's a big mistake because those sitting on the high negotiating table must not move in haste for 'international commitment', without taking into account a detailed analysis and feedback on real issues from 'actual' and 'real-time' professionals, as India's economics, trade, commerce and indus-

try have started showing signs of stress and distress. India's (humongous) deficit in foreign trade is a recurring feature, and there's little possibility that things will improve any time soon.

Consequently, today's 'foreign trading' China is damaging all, including India, the trade deficit of which during last five years alone (2014-15 to 2018-19) stands at a whopping \$711.298 billion. No wonder, China has taken a commanding lead to demolish and dwarf all, for its own interest (and why not, by a sovereign nation), soothing and sweet words of charm offensive on the high table, interspersed with avoidable harsh and hostile words on the Dalai Lama, Arunachal Pradesh, McMahon Line, J&K, BRI/CPEC, Huawei telecom, notwithstanding.

Since China has already demolished the trade balance with, and of the US, and is inexorably moving forward to repeat it in every corner of the globe, one needs to look into the present and proposed trade scenarios, as any further miscalculation by India will lead to a colossal and irreversible collapse of the Indian industry.

A media report of September 28 is alarming: 'India may cut duties on 80 per cent of Chinese imports under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).' Let's understand that imported Chinese goods have already created havoc in the Indian system, with virtually 100 per cent 'undervaluation' of goods through congenial 'mis-declaration' for almost two decades, thereby resulting in a huge loss of revenue to the Indian exchequer. A mindboggling modus operandi is ensuring gross failure of the Indian system. With special reference to valuation by misdeclaration certificates of dubious origin on/of imported Chinese



**BUSINESS GOAL:** China is desperate to have India on board the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a mega trade agreement.

China tops the world's textile industry. The cost of Chinese fabric is less as the government gives subsidy and loans to the textile industry with low interest rates. With zero per cent duty through the RCEP free trade agreement, China will get open space, affecting the medium and small players in the textile industry of India which is majorly dependent on the domestic market.

goods and the 'invoice' thereof. Grossly undervalued Chinese goods are entering the Indian market through a third country too, as the 'certificate-of-origin of goods' is invariably cooked up. One doesn't wish to mention the names of these nations, as purportedly they are 'friendly countries' and India knows who they are. To top it all, the 'valuation rule' is rendered inadequate, ineffective, obsolete and effete owing to the monopoly entry of Chinese goods which decimated the definition pertaining to comparison and contrast between 'identical' and 'similar' imported goods. When one gets, and deals with, only Chinese goods at the entry port/airport/land port and domestic market, words like 'identical' and 'similar' goods are meaningless and useless, as one doesn't find any 'identical' or 'similar' goods of any non-Chinese origin in the Indian market. All 'identical' and 'similar' goods are 'Made in China'. So, how does one do a proper valuation without competitive

goods of different origin? Even if the goods are declared absurdly low, since it is a 'bona fide transaction value', it 'legally' enters the Indian market dirt cheap, with a resultant loss to the Indian exchequer worth billions of rupees in tax and duty.

Seen thus, India giving Customs duty concessions to imported Chinese goods will be a disastrous self-goal and multiple jeopardy for the following reasons: loss of tax; closure of industry; loss of jobs; rise of unemployment; social unrest; and finally, loss of foreign investors' confidence in an internally turbulent society.

Hence, when Ludhiana-based garment makers sought protection against cheaper imports from China a few months back, can they be faulted? Certainly not. Again, when the Federation of Gujarat Textile Traders Association, towards the end of September, demanded the inclusion of textile sector protection from the RCEP in which China will be the indisputable 'biggest brother', and reconsider 'free import of polyester fabrics from South-East Asian countries, including China, Vietnam and Bangladesh', should they be ignored?

The fear of industrial collapse and loss of employment are becoming bigger by the day, as another report came on September 28: "The Bhiwandi Textile Manufacturing Association in Maharashtra and the Gujarat Weavers Association have decided to jointly oppose the RCEP agreement, a mega regional trade agreement with 15 (India is the 16th) East-Asian countries, including China, to be signed by India in November this year."

Undoubtedly, the most poignant and practical point of perception was made by a member of the Bhiwandi Textile Manufacturing Association in Maharashtra, Hiren Nagda: "If the RCEP is signed, the Indian textile industry will

suffer major losses. China tops the world's textile industry. The cost of Chinese fabric is less as their government gives subsidy and loans to the textile industry with low interest rates. With zero per cent duty through the RCEP free trade agreement, China will get open space, affecting the small and medium players in the textile industry of India. The textile industry of India is majorly dependent on the domestic market..."

There seems little prospect for India to make strategic gain in multilateral trade as it has always proved to be more disappointing and disadvantageous than bilateral. Search for export surplus by India should be non-priority, unlike China. Indian trade and economics, thus far, have been more domestic-centric than China's 'profit from export of goods enterprise.'

China began with a manifestly deliberate policy of currency devaluation between 1980 and 1992, to 'promote exports and to restrain imports so as to improve China's current account position.' From the ratio of \$1: 1.53 Chinese yuan in 1980, the latter had fallen to 8.72 yuan to a dollar. In other words, from 100 yuan equivalent to \$65 in 1980, 100 yuan became equivalent to \$11.5, a mere 17.5 per cent of its value in 14 years.

As a result, China's trade deficit of \$7.7 billion in 1988 turned into a trade surplus of \$8.74 billion in 1990 and by year end, Beijing's foreign exchange reserves rose to \$28.6 billion. Today, that figure has swollen to \$3 plus trillion.

Will India be able to do it? Purely on export? Make no mistake, with a reduced export order, China's best bet today is the Indian market. Hence, the desperation to take India on board the RCEP. India, please don't get trapped. It may result in a point of no return.

# A tamed Kejriwal makes peace with Modi



**ARATI R JERATH**  
SENIOR JOURNALIST

Kejriwal is holding his breath for the main dividend he's seeking from his move to extend the olive branch to Modi, the man he once blasted as 'a coward and a psychopath'. He's hoping that by removing Modi from his line of fire, he can lower the pitch of the Delhi Assembly elections, due in February 2020, and spin his campaign around local issues.

THE most remarkable fallout of Narendra Modi's return as Prime Minister for a second consecutive term is the taming of Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party's maverick boss Arvind Kejriwal. The man who thought he could leapfrog his way to the top by baiting Modi declared a silent truce once the poll outcome was known and turned over a new leaf.

After the poll result on May 21, virulent tweets and personal attacks that had become a hallmark of Kejriwal's anti-Modi politics ceased. Next, he sought a meeting with the PM to personally congratulate him and offer cooperation. He was one of the few non-BJP leaders to express confidence in Modi's ability to arrest the economic slowdown. And on Lal Bahadur Shastri's birth anniversary on October 2, he made a show of camaraderie with his erstwhile opponent, captured eloquently on camera for all to see, at the late Prime Minister's *samadhi*.

But the big turnaround, which stunned his friends in the Opposition and sealed his newfound bonhomie with Modi, was AAP's support in the Rajya Sabha to the contentious Bills withdrawing Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir and downgrading the state into two union territories. The decision knocked the bottom out of Kejriwal's core agenda of full statehood for Delhi. But he probably decided that at this juncture, it's smart politics to make peace with Modi in his moment of triumph than pursue an impossible dream.

The returns on the change of strategy



**PRAGMATIC:** Since AAP's rout in Delhi in LS polls, Kejriwal has been backing Modi.

are already visible. Modi sent Kejriwal a happy birthday letter for the first time this year when the Delhi CM turned 51. It set off an exchange of friendly tweets that had political circles rubbing their eyes in astonishment. Another first was the speed with which the Central government cleared Delhi's proposal for water conservation in the Yamuna floodplains, a sign of the new cooperation movement between Modi and Kejriwal.

Of course, it's not all hunky-dory. The Modi government has just denied permission to Kejriwal to attend a climate change conference in Copenhagen where he had hoped to showcase his success in cleaning Delhi's air. Significantly, the CM has not criticised the Centre.

Kejriwal is holding his breath for the main dividend he's seeking from his

move to extend the olive branch to the man he once blasted as "a coward and a psychopath." He's hoping that by removing Modi from his line of fire, he can lower the pitch of the Delhi Assembly elections, due in February 2020, and spin his campaign around local issues.

After AAP's decimation in Delhi in the Lok Sabha polls, he has understood that it's a no-contest if he pits himself against Modi. AAP's performance was so dismal in those polls that it fared even worse than the Congress. The BJP got 56.58 per cent of the votes in the Capital, the Congress won 22.46 per cent. AAP's vote share shrunk to 18 per cent, a fall of approximately 15 per cent from 2014. It slipped to the third position in five of the city's seven constituencies, with three candidates losing their deposits. The

results were an eye-opener for Kejriwal, who has treated Delhi as his fiefdom after he swept 67 of the 70 Assembly seats in the 2015 state elections.

Should the BJP decide to use Modi's firepower in Delhi and ride on a nationalist sentiment, as it is doing in this month's Maharashtra and Haryana polls, Kejriwal knows that he could fall by the wayside and it would bring down the curtain on his political career. His best hope for staying in the ring is to craft a Delhi-specific narrative and pitch his governance record. He certainly has successes to boast of, particularly in the field of education and health and providing civic amenities, like electricity and water, free of cost for the poor.

It is interesting that while the BJP is neck deep in preparations for the Maharashtra and Haryana elections and is simultaneously planning its strategy for polls in West Bengal although they are not due till April 2021, it's been lackadaisical about Delhi where the voting day is less than six months away.

Amit Shah has held a couple of meetings with his Delhi leaders but not said much, except to warn them to settle their differences. The BJP's Delhi unit is cripplingly faction-ridden and has been so for many years. It also has the most uninspiring leaders of all state units. But till date, Shah has shown little interest in putting his Delhi house in order.

The BJP's lack of preparedness has given Kejriwal the first-off-the-mark advantage. The city is already plastered with hoardings and posters sporting his face and listing his achievements. To but-

dress his image of good governance, he's also announced plans to re-introduce the odd-even rotation of vehicles to tackle pollution during the winter months.

For someone who was in a hurry to be PM, Kejriwal has visibly downsized his ambitions. It's a pragmatic move. The 2019 verdict has given Modi an aura of invincibility that is going to be difficult to puncture at this point of time. The post-Balakot surge in Hindu nationalism has only been strengthened by the developments in Kashmir and Pakistan premier Imran Khan's threats from across the border.

While the Congress is still scrambling to find a response to the national mood, Kejriwal proved how swift his political reflexes are by siding with the Modi government on the reading down of Article 370. He is hoping that his support will neutralise the BJP's nationalism plank in Delhi.

Kejriwal has undoubtedly put the BJP on the defensive with his aggressive and unexpected moves since the 2019 elections. If his strategy succeeds and the Delhi Assembly poll becomes a local choice, Modi may reserve his energies for bigger battles ahead, like storming Mamata Banerjee's West Bengal bastion in 2021. After all, Delhi is a glorified state where the Chief Minister has no real powers. The two key levers of power — land and police — are in the hands of the Central government presently headed by Modi. Kejriwal would then have the satisfaction of having created a level playing field for himself, whatever may be the outcome.

## QUICK CROSSWORD

1		2		3		4	5	6	7
					8				
9							10		
11					12				
	13	14				15			17
16									
18				19			20	21	
22						23			
24									25

### ACROSS

- 1 Change sides (6)
- 4 Sunny (6)
- 9 To quarrel (4,3)
- 10 Forthright (5)
- 11 Precipitous (5)
- 12 Having communication (2,5)
- 13 Alternate (5,6)
- 18 Withdraw from contest (7)
- 20 Sound reasoning (5)
- 22 Friendship (5)
- 23 Unbiased (7)
- 24 Suds (6)
- 25 Alcove (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Render harmless (6)
- 2 Untruthful (5)
- 3 Helicopter (7)
- 5 Refute (5)
- 6 French painter (7)
- 7 Irritable (6)
- 8 Obtained directly (2,5,4)
- 14 Jury's findings (7)
- 15 Conspire (7)
- 16 To attack (6)
- 17 Weighing machine (6)
- 19 A culinary herb (5)
- 21 Eat greedily (5)

### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

**Across:** 1 Gosling, 5 Cruel, 8 On a shoestring, 9 Steer, 10 Crystal, 11 Safety, 12 Plenty, 15 At heart, 17 Onion, 19 By all accounts, 20 Entry, 21 Outplay.  
**Down:** 1 Gross, 2 State of the art, 3 Inherit, 4 Greece, 5 Catty, 6 Unintentional, 7 Legally, 11 Shamble, 13 Lookout, 14 Stucco, 16 Alloy, 18 Nasty.

## SU DO KU

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

MEDIUM

## CALENDAR

### OCTOBER 10, 2019, THURSDAY

- Vikrami Samvat 2076
- Shaka Samvat 1941
- Ashwin Shaka 18
- Ashwin Parvishite 24
- Hijari 1441
- Shukla Paksh Tithi 12, up to 7:52 pm
- Gand Yoga up to 2:38 am
- Shatbhisha Nakshatra up to 2:14 am
- Moon in Aquarius sign

### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

## FORECAST

SUNSET: THURSDAY 17:57 HRS  
SUNRISE: FRIDAY 06:22 HRS

Sunny Partly Cloudy Cloudy Rainy Foggy

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	32	19
New Delhi	32	20

PUNJAB		
Amritsar	31	19
Bathinda	31	19
Jalandhar	30	18
Ludhiana	31	19

HARYANA		
Bhiwani	32	20
Hisar	33	18
Sirsa	31	19

HIMACHAL PRADESH		
Dharamsala	25	15
Manali	20	09
Shimla	24	13

JAMMU & KASHMIR		
Jammu	32	18
Leh	—	—
Srinagar	24	06

UTTARAKHAND		
Dehradun	32	18
Mussoorie	23	11

TEMPERATURE IN °C

## Shehla Rashid quits mainstream politics

MAAMIR KHAN  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 9 Former JNU student leader Shehla Rashid, who had joined bureaucrat-turned-politician Shah Faesal's party — J&K Peoples Movement (JKPM) earlier this year — today announced to quit mainstream politics.

Stating that she would continue to work as an activist, Shehla flayed the Centre for attempting to 'showcase normalcy' in Kashmir to the outside world post the abrogation of Article 370 and sought people's support to the Supreme Court petition seeking restoration of special status of J&K.

"...the Centre is soon going to hold elections to the Block Development Councils, in an attempt to showcase normalcy to the outside world...the Centre's recent actions have shown that, when it comes to J&K, it doesn't even respect its own laws, forget international law....I would, therefore, like to make clear my dissociation with the electoral mainstream politics in Kashmir. I stand in solidarity with my people who are being made to suffer for even the most basic amenities," Rashid announced in a statement.

She had joined the JKPM when it was launched in March 17 and was seen in several party rallies later, especially in rural areas. The JKPM had also announced to contest Assembly elections in alliance with the Awami Ittehad Party led by former MLA Langate Engineer Rasheed.

She also censured the Centre for 'pushing' people out of the mainstream despite inviting them to



“The Centre's recent actions have shown that when it comes to J&K, it doesn't even respect its own laws. I stand in solidarity with my people who are being made to suffer for even the most basic amenities.”

Shehla Rashid, JNU EX-LEADER

join politics. "The government of India keeps inviting the youth to 'join the mainstream'. However, the Centre's actions have, for decades now, only served to push people out of the mainstream. If being in the mainstream means compromising on the basic interests of your people, then one cannot be part of such a mainstream!"

"I will continue to be an activist and raise my voice against injustice on all fronts that do not require a compromise, and I'll continue to put my energies behind the Supreme Court petition seeking the restoration of special status of the state, and the reversal of bifurcation of the state. I request people to support me and my co-petitioners in this fight," she added.

Rashid also said the Centre wanted to 'install puppet leaders' in J&K. "...what is underway is not democracy, but the murder of democracy. It is a plan to install puppet leaders."

## Nominations for BDC polls conclude

Scrutiny today | Most political parties not participating as leaders under detention

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 9 As the filing of nomination papers for polls to the Block Development Councils (BDCs) in Jammu and Kashmir concluded today, these elections would have little enthusiasm as most of the mainstream political parties are staying away.

The total number of nomination papers was awaited, as the reports from eight districts out of 22 were being compiled, officials said. The scrutiny of nominations will be conducted tomorrow and the last day of withdrawal is October 11.

## 9 KAS officers transferred

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, OCTOBER 9 The state administration today ordered the transfer and posting of nine senior KAS officers with immediate effect.

Ashok Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes (Appeals-II), Jammu, was transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Ramban.

Shabir Hussain Bhat, ADC, Shopian, was transferred and posted as ADC, Kulgam. Abdul Aziz Sheikh, Member, J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB), was transferred and posted as ADC, Shopian. Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Additional Secretary, Labour and Employment Department, was transferred and posted as ADC, Srinagar. Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, ADC, Kulgam, is transferred and posted as ADC, Anantnag.

## BJP, PANTHERS PARTY IN FRAY

■ Only the BJP and its ally, state unit of the JD(U), apart from the Panthers Party, are participating in the elections, while the Congress in its latest move on Wednesday decided to stay away from the poll process.

■ The National Conference after a meeting of its delegation with party president Farooq Abdullah recently sought the release of the leaders after which the party would consider its participation.

■ That seems to be the least possibility as the party would require more time for preparing to participate in the elections after consultations at its working committee level.

Only the BJP and its ally, state unit of the JD(U), apart from the Panthers Party are participating in these elections, while the Congress in its latest

move on Wednesday decided to stay away from the poll process. The National Conference after a meeting of its delegation with party president

Farooq Abdullah recently sought the release of the leaders after which the party would consider its participation. That seems to be the least possibility as the party would require more time for preparing to participate in the elections after consultations at its working committee level.

Both the former Chief Ministers, Farooq Abdullah (NC president) and Omar Abdullah (NC vice-president), have been under detention since August 5 when the Article 370 was abrogated.

The PDP, with its president and former Chief

Minister Mehbooba Mufti under detention, apart from other leaders, is also not in a position to participate. There has been no word from the PDP on the participation in the BDC polls since the process started and the schedule announced.

Both the NC and PDP did not participate in the elections to municipal bodies last year, which are held on party basis. The panchayat elections in October-November last year were held on non-party basis, while the next phase of the BDC is being held on a party basis.

## Indo-Pak tension may hit Chenab project

SUMIT HAKHOO  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, OCTOBER 9

The India-Pakistan hostility is likely to cast a shadow on the ambitious Chenab water diversion project as Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Centre are yet to reach an agreement to fund the scheme, which aims at ending the perennial water crisis facing nearly three million people in J&K.

The project, first conceptualised in the late 1980s, and a detailed project report (DPR) formulated in 2008, is pending with the Department of Economic Affairs, which comes under the Union Ministry of Finance, for the last two years.

After the 2016 Uri terror attack, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Centre had announced speedy clearance and funding for the project and other schemes on western rivers (Chenab,



The Chenab water diversion project was first conceptualised in the late 1980s. TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Indus and Jhelum) and eastern ones (Sutlej, Ravi and Beas) covered under the Indus Water Treaty, 1960.

Sources said the Centre had decided to approach JICA for funding the scheme after Asian Development Bank declined to finance it.

"There is no clarity regarding the reasons for the delay in getting funds from JICA.

Technically, there is no problem in the plan but the reason for the reason can be clarified only by the Centre," said a senior Public Health Engineering Department official.

If completed, 500 million gallons daily (MGD) were to be diverted from the river at Akhnour in the Jammu division for the augmentation of the existing drinking water supply system in southern districts of J&K. In Phase-I, 250 million litres a day (MLD) will cover a population of 25 lakh by 2031 and in Phase-II, 250 MLD will meet requirements of 37 lakh people in 2046.

"It was one of the priority projects. It has to be seen how the scheme gets funds post revocation of Article 370, as earlier, when Asian Development Bank was approached, China and Pakistan had raised objections," said a senior administrative officer involved in the project formulation during the previous NC-Congress government.

Bachan Lal Bhagat, Director, Economic Reconstruction Agency, said, "We have information that a meeting will be held soon to discuss the funding issues. We have been asked to provide details." Bhagat, however, did not share any further information about the reason for the delay.

## Central package peanuts, say PoK refugees

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, OCTOBER 9 Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) refugees have termed the Central government's decision of one-time settlement package of Rs 5.5 lakh to 26,319 displaced families in Jammu as a gross injustice to their 72-year-old struggle.

Rajiv Chuni, chairman SOS International, a PoK refugee organisation, said the government woke up from slumber to extend the peanut amount to refugees after the SOS International announced to observe October 22 as Black Day in New Delhi.

## Couple among 3 booked for duping man of ₹4 lakh

JAMMU, OCTOBER 9

The Crime Branch, Jammu, has registered a criminal case against three fraudsters, including a couple, for duping a person of his money by using his mPay application after stealing his phone.

According to an official spokesperson of the Crime Branch, complainant Sader-Ud Din Zargar of Dharam village in Gool tehsil of Ramban district filed a complaint that he found his mobile phone missing while he was travelling back to home on April 17 from Delhi to Jammu after performing Umrah.

"The phone contained two SIM cards besides his personal information, including the mPay app. In this regard, the complainant, on reaching the railway station, Jammu, lodged a missing report..," the spokesperson said. — TNS

## Sirmaur DC acting as BJP agent, transfer him: Rathore to EC

Says Speaker, minister misusing office, will be shown black flags

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 9

The Congress today urged the Election Commission of India to transfer Sirmaur Deputy Commissioner as he was acting more like a BJP agent than a responsible officer. It also decided to show black flags to Speaker Rajeev Bindal and Irrigation and Public Health Minister Mahender Singh for mis-

### 'SPEAKER SHOULD BE NEUTRAL'



filed by the Congress. "He is trying his level best to ensure the victory of the ruling party and as such we have approached the ECI to transfer him so as to ensure free and fair poll in Pachhad," he said.

He also accused Bindal and Mahender Singh of blatantly violating the model code of conduct. "It is most inappropriate for the Speaker to campaign for his party when he is

expected to be neutral. He is lowering the esteem of the constitutional post," he said. A complaint in this regard had been made to the ECI.

He also accused Mahender Singh of blatantly misusing official machinery to sway votes in favour of the BJP. "A truck carrying pipes, used in setting up polyhouses, was stopped by Congress leaders and workers which clearly showed how the BJP

is desperately using official machinery to woo voters in Pachhad," he alleged.

Rathore said the BJP was trying to deviate the focus of the electorate from economic slowdown, rising unemployment and major decline in exports.

He said the Congress would target Mahender Singh for making backdoor entries of Jal Vahaks in violation of norms. "He is in the habit of acting in violation or rules and does not even listen to the Chief Minister," he said. The Congress would open a front against the IPH Minister after the bypolls get over.

Replying to a query, the Congress chief said former minister Sudhir Sharma would shortly start campaigning. It was owing to health reasons that he had stayed away from campaigning for the party candidate.

## Minister's wife in firing line for 'misuse' of official car

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, OCTOBER 9

Senior Congress leader and Congress Working Committee member Asha Kumari today accused the ministers in the Jai Ram Thakur government of misusing the official machinery.

Quoting an incident in which ₹2.5 lakh was stolen from the vehicle in which the wife of Transport Minister Govind Thakur was travelling in Chandigarh, Kumari alleged that the vehicle was registered in the name of the HRTC MD. "When PM Narendra Modi is pushing for digital transactions, why a minister's wife was carrying ₹2.5 lakh cash while visiting a salon in Chandigarh? This incident has come to light at a time when a common man is not even allowed to withdraw more than ₹20,000 from a bank. The minister should explain as to why his wife



Congress leader Asha Kumari addresses the media in Dharamsala on Wednesday. PHOTO: KAMALJEET

was carrying so much cash and why the official vehicle was being used for her Chandigarh visit," she said.

Addressing a press conference, she alleged that the economy of the country was in bad shape due to policies of the BJP-led government at the Centre. Kumari said it was a precarious situation

that the banks had started falling and people were losing their money in banks.

She accused the current BJP government of ignoring the Kangra constituency. She alleged that not even a single development project had been started in the past two years in Kangra by the current government.

## Decks cleared for medical college in Hamirpur

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 9

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) will construct Dr S Radhakrishnan Medical College and Hospital in Hamirpur.

Senior officials of the CPWD and the college signed a memorandum of understanding for the construction of the 300-bed hospital.

Sudhir Kumar Chawla, special director general, CPWD, and Anil Chauhan, principal, medical college, were also present on the occasion.

Nearly 16 acres of land has been allotted for the hospital, which is 8 km away from the main bus stand on the Hamirpur-Nadaun highway.

The hospital will have six modular operation theatres and a 20-bed ICU along with all diagnostic facilities.

## Three held for admission fraud

SOLAN, OCTOBER 9

Three persons were arrested and remanded in police custody till October 11 for duping an educational institute of thousands of rupees in the name of securing admissions from Bhutan and Sikkim.

Sirmaur SP Ajay Sharma said a case of cheating under Section 420 of the IPC was registered on a complaint by the institute and kingpin Ravinder Benipal and his two accomplices — Deepak and Sandeep — were arrested from Dehradun yesterday. — TNS

## Snow in Rohtang, traffic restored

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, OCTOBER 9

The Kullu administration has restored traffic on the Manali-Leh highway via Rohtang today, which had been blocked to traffic since Monday after snowfall.

Only local vehicles in emergency cases were allowed between Manali and Keylong, while there is complete restriction on the movement of tourist vehicles in view of public safety. The people of Lahaul-Spiti took a sigh of relief because they were cut

off due to closure of the pass.

Meanwhile, Rohtang received fresh snow again. But the Border Roads Organisation has cleared snow from the road and restored the pass to traffic.

Talking to *The Tribune*, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Manali, Raman Gharsanghi, said, "The traffic has been restored between Manali and Keylong. No vehicle will be allowed in early morning or at night on this route because of plummeting temperature and intermittent snowfall in the area."

## Cops gave me electric shocks: Kotkhai rape accused

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 9

Six prosecution witnesses recorded their statements in the Special CBI Court during a hearing in the Kotkhai custodial death case today.

Prosecution witness Dr HV Acharya, Assistant Director, Forensic Science Laboratory, Gujarat, told the court that she did BEOS and narco tests on Ashish Chauhan, Rajinder Singh, Lokjan, Deepak and Subhash Singh after their consent. The polygraph test was done by HR Shah. Both prepared a comprehensive forensic psycholo-



HIMACHAL'S SHAME

logical report on the findings of three reports.

About the conclusion of the reports, she mentioned, "The role of five in the act of rape and murder is not observed in their polygraph, narco and BEOS tests. The motive of rape and murder of girl is not established. Further, the role of Rajinder in killing of Suraj

Ashish Chauhan was one of the six suspects, who was arrested by the police in the alleged Gudia rape and murder case. After the death of accused Suraj in police custody, all accused were made prosecution witnesses by the CBI in the custodial death case.

in the police custody is not observed in narco and BEOS test." Prosecution witness Ashish Chauhan told the court that on July 9, 2017, three policemen picked him from his house and took him to Bankufer rest house for interrogation. Thereafter, he was taken to Chhaila police post and kept him

there till July 10, 2017.

"On July 11, they started torturing me," he told the court. He said he was beaten up with sticks and given electric shocks.

On July 13, around midnight, they took his signatures and told him that an FIR had been registered. On July 15, they took his police

remand from Theog court and kept him in a lock-up at Kotkhai police station.

Ashish Chauhan was one of the six suspects, who was arrested by the police in the alleged Gudia rape and murder case. After the death of accused Suraj in police custody, all accused were made prosecution witnesses by the CBI in the custodial death case.

Statements of prosecution witness Dr Ashwani Sood, a radiologist with DDU Zonal Hospital, Shimla, Pritam Chand, Amar Singh Verma, senior assistants, Police HQ, Shimla, and constable Ajay were also recorded.





BSE 645.97 38,177.95

NSE 186.9 11,313.30

GOLD ₹38,446 Mumbai

SILVER ₹46,072 Mumbai

Table of exchange rates for various currencies: USD, EURO, POUND, JPY, YUAN, CAD, AUD, SGD, HKD.

Festive season fails to cheer offline traders

Electronics, apparel, grocery sellers worst hit

Vijay C Roy

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 9

The ongoing festive season has failed to live up to the expectations of offline retailers in the region...

Among the worst hit are electronics shops, including those selling mobile phones...

There are over a million traders in the region comprising Haryana, Chandigarh, Punjab, HP and J&K...

According to the retailers, the booming online sales, especially the festival sales by two major e-retailer giants...

According to the retailers, the booming online sales, especially the festival sales by two major e-retailer giants...



ILLUSTRATION: SANDEEP JOSHI

Factors behind dwindling sales

- Slowdown in economy
Heavy discounts by online players
Easy EMI payment options by e-tailers

crore (approximately) across all categories during the festive season.

There is already liquidity scare in the market and deep discounting by online retailers has further hit our businesses...

The traders alleged that earlier e-tailers had a focus on big cities but now they are strengthening their presence in tier-II and tier-III cities...

Meanwhile, a delegation of the CAIT, led by its secre-

tary general Praveen Khandelwal, has met Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in this regard...

Garg said Goyal has directed Guru Mohapatra, secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, to call both Amazon and Flipkart for a meeting to clarify on the points raised by the CAIT...

Markets rally riding on banking stocks

Sensex surges 646 pts, Nifty zooms 187 pts

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 9

Benchmark indices made an emphatic comeback on Wednesday after a six-session losing streak...

The BSE Sensex surged 645.97 points or 1.72% to end at 38,177.95, while the broader NSE Nifty zoomed 186.90 points or 1.68% to 11,313.30...

Sentiment got a further boost after the Cabinet hiked the dearness allowance (DA)

DA HIKE BOOSTS SENTIMENT

After a cautious start, key indices gained momentum in afternoon trade, led by banking, financial, telecom stocks

- Sentiment got a further boost after the Cabinet hiked the dearness allowance for Central government employees...
Banks outperformed as sharp fall in bond yield is indicating further room for rate cuts...

for central government employees, which is expected to prop up festive demand, analysts said.

On the Sensex chart, IndusInd Bank was the biggest gainer, spurring 5.45%, followed by Airtel, ICICI Bank, SBI, M&M, Kotak Bank, Tata Steel and HDFC Bank.

Market recovered after many days of fall and rose comfortably above 11,300-level. Banks outperformed as sharp fall in bond yield is indicating further room for rate cuts...

Jio to charge users for calling on other networks

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9

Forced by regulatory uncertainty over review of sunset clause for call termination charges, Reliance Jio on Wednesday announced it will charge customers 6 paise per minute for voice calls made to rival phone networks...

Subscribers will be charged 6 paise per minute for voice calls made to rival phone networks, but the company will compensate them by giving free data of equal value

In a statement, Jio said the 6 paise charge will remain in place till the time telecom operators are required to pay rivals for mobile phone calls made by their users to other operators' network.

These charges are not applicable on calls made by Jio users to other Jio phones and to landline phones and calls made using WhatsApp, FaceTime and other such platforms.

Telecom regulator TRAI in 2017 had slashed the so-called interconnect usage charge (IUC) to 6 paise per minute from 14 paise and had said this regime will end by January 2020.

India slips 10 places in global competitive index: WEF report

New Delhi: India is less competitive than a year ago because of poor health conditions, low life expectancy and weak adoption of technology, the World Economic Forum (WEF) said on Wednesday.

SBI cuts lending rates by 0.1%, interest on savings down 0.25%

Mumbai: The State Bank Group on Wednesday revised its marginal cost of funds-based lending (MCLR) rates by a marginal 10 basis points across all tenors but steeply revised down the pricing on savings deposits under Rs 1 lakh by a 25 bps to 3.25%.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB Tender/RFP Reference No. 4908-10 Dt. 07.10.2019. Department of Water Supply and Sanitation Division No. 2, Ludhiana invites online bids...

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BANUR Phone No. 01762-507076, 01762-251441. NOTICE INVITING TENDER E-tender No. 01/MC Banur/2019/DATED 09-Oct-2019

PUNJAB STATE ELECTORY REGULATORY COMMISSION PLOT NO. 3, MADHYA MARG, SECTOR 18-A, CHANDIGARH Notice Inviting Bids

HIMACHAL PRADESH POWER CORPORATION LTD. (A State Government Undertaking) Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U40101HP2006SGC030591

Short Time Tender Notice OFFICE: EXECUTIVE ELECTRICAL ENGINEER Pw PWD B&R Jalandhar Tender Notice No. 14 Dated: 07.10.2019

DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION, PEC University of Technology Campus, Sector 12, UT, CHANDIGARH CORRIGENDUM in respect of Public Appointment Notice

PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD E-TENDER NOTICE No. 7/PWSSD FERROZEPUR Dated: 09.10.2019

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB SUPPLY & SANITATION DEPARTMENT, PUNJAB NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time limit. Includes items for footpath lighting and street lighting.

Table with columns: Sr. No., Description of Work, Earnest Money, Cost of Document/Tender processing Fee (Rs.), Period of Completion, Approx. Value of the work.

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of works, Estimated Cost, Important Dates/Time. Includes deployment of contract labour and annual maintenance for sewerage.

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of the Work, Estimated Cost, Earnest Money. Includes annual maintenance of roads and junctions.

CENTRE FOR PERSONNEL TALENT MANAGEMENT (CEPTAM) Scrutinize, Actualize & Recognize Human Potential. DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (DRDO) MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

PUNJAB STATE INSTITUTE OF SPORTS SPORTS COMPLEX, SECTOR 63, SAS NAGAR Phone No. 0172-2233482, e-mail: helpdeskpis123@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS Online tenders on percentage rate basis (above or below or at par the DNIT amount) for the below mentioned works are invited from eligible contractors as per eligibility criteria of the SBD.

GLOBE TROT

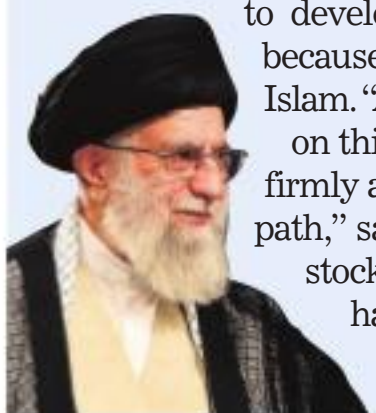


FINAL PUSH: Tourists climb Uluru, a large sandstone rock formation at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Northern Territory, in Australia, ahead of a ban on climbing. REUTERS

Thousands rush to climb Australia's Uluru ahead of ban SYDNEY: Thousands of people are rushing to climb Australia's Uluru, ignoring the calls of indigenous people to stay off what they consider a sacred monolith, before the ascent is permanently banned at the end of the month. Visitors will no longer be able to scale the Australian landmark, formerly known as Ayers Rock from October 26, following a decades-long campaign by indigenous communities to protect it. The UNESCO World Heritage-listed 348-metre rock, famed for its deep red-ochre hues, is a top tourist draw near Alice Springs. REUTERS

Malaysian MPs vote to repeal fake news law KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian lawmakers voted to repeal a controversial law on Wednesday that punished spreading "fake news" with up to six years behind bars and which critics said was aimed at stifling dissent. It was the second attempt by the lower house to overturn the law after MPs voted to repeal it last year only for the opposition-controlled upper chamber to block it. Opposition said it was a crude tool aimed at silencing criticism of the then-government and its leader Najib Razak. AFP

Nuclear weapons 'haram' in Islam, says Khamenei TEHRAN: Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday that Iran could have taken the step to develop nuclear weapons but will not because their use is "haram" forbidden in Islam. "Although we could have taken steps on this path, based on Islamic ruling we firmly and bravely said we won't take this path," said Khamenei. "Both building and stockpiling it is wrong, as using it is haram," he told a group of academics on his Twitter account. AFP



Turkey launches Syria offensive

TURKEY, OCTOBER 9 Turkish bombardment on Kurdish-controlled areas in northeastern Syria killed at least 15 people on Wednesday, eight of them civilians, a monitoring group said in an updated toll. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least two of the civilian victims were killed in artillery strikes on the city of Qamishi. Turkey launched its threatened offensive hours earlier, with a limited number of airstrikes and mostly artillery fire across most of the width of its long border with Kurdish-controlled regions of Syria. Several large explosions rocked Ras al Ain, just across the border across from the Turkish town of Ceylanpinar, a CNN Turk reporter said, adding that the sound of planes could be heard above. Smoke was rising from buildings in Ras al Ain, he said.



Civilians ride a pick-up truck as smoke billows following Turkish bombardment in Ras al-Ain town of Syria on Wednesday. AFP

PUTIN URGES ERDOGAN NOT TO HARM PEACE PROCESS Russian President Vladimir Putin told his Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan to avoid any steps in Syria that could harm peace process, the Kremlin said

The Britain-based Observatory, which has a vast network of sources across Syria, said more than 40 people had also been wounded in the early phase of the attack. The Kurds, whose main militia is considered a terrorist organisation by Ankara, have vowed to resist any ground offensive and called on the population to mobilise.

TRUMP SNUBS CRITICS, 'FOCUS ON BIG PICTURE'

Donald Trump lashed out at critics for sharp bipartisan criticism of his decision to pull back US troops from north-east Syria, saying he was focused on the "big picture" that did not include US role in "stupid endless wars" in Middle East. "Fighting between various groups has been on for hundreds of years. US should never have been in Middle East," Trump said. "The stupid endless wars, for us, are ending!" he said

The offensive, which was widely condemned, comes three days after US President Donald Trump announced a US troop pull-back from the border, effectively green-lighting a Turkish invasion. President Tayyip Erdogan said the aim was to eliminate what he called a "terror corridor" on Turkey's southern border. "Our mission is to prevent the creation of a terror corridor across our southern border, and to bring peace to the area," Erdogan wrote, adding that the operation would target Kurdish militants and the Islamic State group (IS). World powers fear the action could open a new chapter in Syria's war and worsen regional turmoil. Ankara has said it intends to create a "safe zone" in order to return millions of refugees to Syrian soil. — Agencies

Taiwan expels Chinese tourist for damaging 'Lennon Wall'

TAIPEI, OCTOBER 9 Taiwan has expelled a Chinese tourist for damaging a "Lennon Wall" that was put up in support of Hong Kong's democracy movement, a move likely to irk Beijing. Hong Kong pro-democracy activists have put up Lennon Walls, covered with colourful sticky notes, posters and slogans, across the city, and they have been set up in Taiwan too. A Chinese visitor, identified as Li Shaodong, was deported late Tuesday for engaging in "criminal activities" after he was caught tearing up posters from a Lennon Wall on a university campus in Taipei on Monday, the National Immigration Agency said. "Our government will not tolerate any illegal behaviour that damages democracy and freedom with vicious intentions," it added. — AFP

UK Brexit minister to meet EU negotiator

LONDON, OCTOBER 9 Britain's Brexit Secretary Steve Barclay will meet EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier in Brussels on Thursday, as talks on the country's exit from the bloc reach a critical stage, Downing Street said. "They will discuss the state of play following a week of technical talks," the spokesman from Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office said on Wednesday. Johnson is expected to meet Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar later this week to discuss the Irish border. Brussels and London have

“To put things frankly, we are not really in a position to be able to find an agreement with the UK.” Michel Barnier, EU BREXIT NEGOTIATOR

Trump stonewalling impeachment investigation, says Speaker Pelosi

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 9 President Donald Trump is "trying to make lawlessness a virtue," said House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Pelosi's comment came after the White House in a letter to the Democrat leaders on Tuesday refused any cooperation from President Trump in the impeachment investigations by the Opposition. "For a while, the President has tried to normalise lawlessness. Now, he is trying to make lawlessness a virtue," Pelosi said. "The American people have already heard

TWEET LESS: CARTER TO US PRESIDENT

Former US president Jimmy Carter has two simple pieces of advice for Donald Trump as he faces the threat of impeachment: Tell the truth and tweet less. "My advice to him would be to tell the truth... and also to cut back on his Twitter feeds," said Carter, who served as head of the state from 1977 to 1981

cover up his betrayal of our democracy, and to insist that the President is above the law," she said. "Mr President, you are not above the law. You will be held accountable. This letter is manifestly wrong, and is simply another unlawful attempt to hide the facts of the Trump Administration's brazen efforts to pressure foreign powers to intervene in the 2020 elections," Pelosi said. She said the WH's stonewalling against the allegations was giving evidence of President Trump abusing his office and violating his oath to "protect, preserve and defend" the Constitution. Congressmen Adam Schiff said, "We will be issuing subpoena to Ambassador Sondland for both his testimony and documents." — PTI

Punjab Municipal Infrastructure Development Company (PMIDC) NOTICE FOR QUOTATIONS. Dated: 07/10/2019. Sealed quotations are invited for purchase of Stationery items. Detail of items and other terms and conditions are given on the website of PMIDC which can be accessed at http://pmidc.punjab.gov.in

HIMACHAL PRADESH IRRIGATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDER. Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, IPH Division, Jhandutta on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractor/firms of appropriate class enlisted with HP IPH Department.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 33/PWSSD/SGR Dated 09.10.2019. The department of Pw. W/S & Sew. Board, Chandigarh, Executive Engineer, Pw. W/S & Sew. Divn., Sangrur invites online bids for the following.

CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) Sector-39-A, Chandigarh 160036 (India). Advt. No. I-110113/20-HR. Six Months Internship Program (January 2020-June 2020).

NUMBERING DRAW OF RESIDENTIAL PLOTS OF ECO CITY-2, NEW CHANDIGARH, SAS NAGAR. PUBLIC NOTICE. This is to inform that numbering draw of plots measuring 100 sq.yds., 150 sq.yds., 200 sq.yds., 300 sq.yds., 400 sq.yds., 500 sq.yds., 1000 sq.yds. & 2000 sq.yds. of scheme of allotment of 334 residential plots at Ecocity-2, New Chandigarh, SAS Nagar and remaining residential plots of land pooling scheme measuring 100 sq.yds., 150 sq.yds. & 200 sq.yds. has been fixed to be held on 22-10-2019 (Tuesday) at 11.00 A.M. at Community Centre, Sector-69, SAS Nagar.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Corrigendum in Auction Program of Principal Chief Materials Manager/Northern Railway. The auction program of Northern Railway for the month of Oct., 2019 is amended as under:-

HIMACHAL PRADESH IRRIGATION & P.H. DEPARTMENT "NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERING". E. E., IPH Division No. 1, Una Telephone No.: 01975- 226060 E-mail: eeiph1una@gmail.com

सूचना सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक 27.09.2019 को एम.डी.डी बाल भवन, फुसगढ़, करनाल के पालना घर में नवजात बच्ची मिली है। यदि उपरोक्त बच्ची का कोई संरक्षक/वारिस हो जो इस सूचना को पढ़ रहा है तो निम्न पते पर 15 दिन के अन्दर-अन्दर प्रातः 9 से सायं 5 बजे तक सम्पर्क करें। अन्यथा बच्ची को गोद देने हेतु प्रक्रिया आरम्भ कर दी जायेगी।

CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (ELECTRICITY WING) CORRIGENDUM. Sub:- Tender No.: OP-118/2019-20 for Appointment of consultant for preparation of comprehensive Restructuring of Electricity wing of Engineering Department including preparation of strategy transfer schemes etc along with overseeing its implementation as per scope of work defined in the bid document and to the entire satisfaction of the Engineer in Charge and defending the same before regulatory commission appropriate ministry department for its approval.

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED ("A State Govt. Undertaking") "PRESS TENDER NOTICE" (E-tendering mode only). Online tenders are invited for the work as under from the eligible contractors firms:- Name of work: Tender for providing 11kv HT line and 11/0.4 kv, 100 kva & 250 kva distribution sub-station at various villages for SOP to t/wells of I&PH Deptt.. Under Electrical Division, HPSEBL Gagret. (OCU-14-2019-20)

The Executive Engineer, I&PH Division No. 1, Una invites online tender on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works through online process:-

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DEPARTMENT, PUNJAB NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS. Bid No. 11476 Date 09.10.19. On behalf of the Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitation Division No. 1, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar invites bid from eligible bidders for the work detail in the following table. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the following work:-

Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration, Punjab. (An ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001: 2015 Certified Punjab Government Organisation devoted to training and research in Public Administration). Institutional Area, Sector 26, Chandigarh - 160019, India. Phone: +91-172-2793589/91, Fax: +91-172-2793589/91 Extn: 400. Email: helpdesk.mgsipa@punjab.gov.in website://mgsipa.punjab.gov.in

Design Competition for Entrance Gate of Punjab at Chandigarh International Airport. Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) invites entries for the design of an Iconic Entry Gate to be built at Chandigarh International Airport towards SAS Nagar. First three winning entries will be awarded a prize of Rs. 3 Lac, Rs. 2 Lac and Rs. 1 Lac respectively. In case of implementation of the proposal, the selected entry will be paid a fee @ 3% of the actual cost of construction for detailed design and construction drawings, lighting design, structural design and supervision to execute the works etc. on the terms and conditions to be detailed out later on. However, GMADA reserves the right to withdraw this invitation at any stage, without assigning any reason. Last date for submission of entries is 08.11.2019 (Friday) upto 5.00 p.m. in the office of Chief Administrator, GMADA. For location of gate and other details visit www.gmada.gov.in

HIM SUCHNA AND JAN SAMPARK Executive Engineer, I&PH Division No. 1, Una.

## BRIEFLY

## THIMPHU

## SAFF U-15: Indian girls thrash Nepal 4-1

The Indian football team kicked off their SAFF U-15 women's championship campaign with a 4-1 victory over Nepal at the Chalitang Stadium. Striker Lynda Kom Serto scored a brace, while winger Sumati Kumari produced a fierce performance, scoring one and assisting another. Priyanka Sujeesh scored the last goal for India. Man Maya Damai netted the consolation goal for Nepal. India are slated to play Bhutan in their second match on Friday.

## ALMERE (THE NETHERLANDS)

## Dutch Open: Sameer, Lakshya, Rahul in pre-quarters

Sameer Verma, Lakshya Sen and BM Rahul Bharadwaj progressed to the pre-quarterfinals of the Dutch Open badminton tournament. Verma notched up a 21-19 19-21 21-13 win over fellow Indian Kiran George in the second round. Lakshya Sen also entered the pre-quarterfinals after registering straight-game wins in the first two rounds. The 18-year-old from Almora defeated Ireland's Nhat Nguyen 21-19 21-17 in the opening round and then outclassed Cuba's Osleni Guerrero 21-12 21-12. Rahul too advanced to the next round after beating Malaysia's Cheam June Wei 21-18 21-13 in another match.

## LAHORE

## Sri Lanka complete 3-0 whitewash of Pakistan

Sri Lanka beat Pakistan by 13 runs in the third and final T20I to complete a 3-0 whitewash of the top-ranked T20 side in the world.

**Brief Scores:** Sri Lanka: 147/7 (Fernando 78\*; Amir 3/27); Pakistan: 134/6 (Sohail 52; Hasaranga 3/21). — AGENCIES

## TODAY ON TV

SECOND TEST  
INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA  
STAR SPORTS 9:30AM  
PRO KABADDI LEAGUE  
STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

Hosts, likely to field same playing XI, aim to make it 2-0 against struggling SA

## INDIA EYE WRAP



Virat Kohli plays a shot during Wednesday's nets session. AFP PHOTOS



Rohit Sharma during the training session on Wednesday.

**299** Runs and six wickets for Dean Elgar in India, this is more than any other South African players on the tour

**23.57** Mohammed Shami's bowling average and strike-rate (46.0) in India are the best ever by an Indian fast bowler at home

**25** Of the 33 Tests India have won when R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja have played together as compared to just 21 out of 54 for Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh. India have won 22 and lost only one out of 29 Tests Ashwin and Jadeja have played together at home. In comparison, India won 14 out of 34 with Kumble and Harbhajan in the playing XI

**“**If you would have asked me to make the points table, I would give double the points for an away Test win. That is something I would definitely have liked to see, maybe after the first edition — **Virat Kohli**

**PUNE, OCTOBER 9** Improving on near-perfection would be India's aim while building on the small positives from a huge loss will be South Africa's focus when the two sides clash in the second Test, which starts here tomorrow.

Virat Kohli's men ticked almost all the boxes during their 203-run win in the opening encounter in Visakhapatnam, and they would be keen to maintain the intensity in their bid to seal the series here itself.

It is difficult to improve upon the Visakhapatnam show, but trust Kohli to find a new challenge for his team in the pursuit of excellence.

## Rohit factor

The emergence of Rohit Sharma 2.0, with a blockbuster re-entry into the Test arena as an opener, was a calculated punt that worked wonderfully well for Kohli and head coach Ravi Shastri. With Mayank Agarwal also showing the ability to make every chance count, India's opening woes — at least in home conditions — seem to be over.

The heavy-duty batting line-up that also includes Kohli, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane and Hanuma Vihari would look to make a heftier contribution if the pitch at the Gahunje Stadium aids batsmen.

It was at this ground that the team endured its last batting collapse at home, against Australia in 2017 on a rank turner, when visiting spinners Nathan Lyon (5 wickets) and Steve O'Keefe (12 wickets) routed India.

It's unlikely that such a pitch would be provided for this Test, but if curator Pandurang Salgaonkar offers anything remotely close to it, India may well finish off South Africa in less than four days. Dean Elgar and Quinton de Kock showed a lot of character with their hundreds in the first

innings at Visakhapatnam, but they would struggle to replicate those innings on a rank turner.

## Tough at home

Ravichandran Ashwin, with a match haul of eight wickets, and Jadeja, with his all-round solidity, give this team a menacing look in home conditions. Mohammed Shami's mastery with the semi-new and old ball on dry tracks is slowly attaining legendary

status. India would hope that Shami would remain injury-free, as he was seen hobbling on his run-up in the first innings in Visakhapatnam. Ishant Sharma was steady in Visakhapatnam, without being spectacular. India are unlikely to change their playing XI for the match, unless forced by an unforeseen injury.

South Africa, though, might be tempted to drop one between Senuran Muthusamy and Dane

Piedt, who were taken to the cleaners by the Indian batsmen. Rohit was especially hard on them and hit a world record 13 sixes in the game.

If Piedt is dropped, the Proteas could be tempted to try Lungi Ngidi, who could make a difference with his pace and movement.

**Have to be careful about Bumrah's workload: Shastri**  
Head coach Ravi Shastri has said that the Indian

team needs to be careful about Jasprit Bumrah's workload because the pacer plays in all three formats of the sport. "Very concerned. Because he is precious, special, different, and a match-winner. They are taking opinions on whether he needs surgery. We have to be careful about his workload because he plays all three formats," Shastri was quoted as saying. — Agencies

**Major violations**  
Maharashtra is going to be barred from the AGM as the Charity Commissioner of the state had found anomalies in their amended constitution. The unit is still under the control of former BCCI secretary Ajay Shirke and was supposed to be represented at the AGM by Riyaz Bagban.

## Haryana, TN barred from BCCI AGM

They have not complied with Lodha panel recommendations, rules CoA

## PUNE, OCTOBER 9

The cricket associations of Haryana (HCA), Tamil Nadu (TNCA) and Maharashtra (MCA) have been barred by the Committee of Administrators (CoA) from attending the BCCI Annual General Meeting in Mumbai on October 23 due to their non-compliance with the Lodha Committee recommendations.

In effect, this means that the three non-compliant units will not be able to vote at the BCCI AGM. "Yes, the CoA has intimidated the two state units that they would be debarred from participating in the elections as they have not amended their Constitutions as per Supreme Court orders on August 9, 2018. Maharashtra is also going to be debarred from attending the AGM," a source close to CoA said.

CoA chief Vinod Rai, who is currently in the United States, was unavailable for a comment. TNCA, which is under the control of former BCCI president N Srinivasan, was supposed to be represented at the AGM by its secretary SS Ramasaamy while Haryana under the rule of outgoing BCCI treasurer Anirudh Chaudhry, was set to be represented by Mrinal Ojha.

## Future course

"The intimation (on barring TNCA) from attending BCCI AGM had been received," a TNCA source said. "But it has only been from CoA. We will wait for the electoral officer to announce the valid electoral list for the AGM before deciding on our future course of action." Electoral officer N Gopal-swami will release the list of eligible state representatives on Thursday. The implication of the decision to bar the three state units could be two-fold, and the BCCI could be divided on this issue. In case there are unanimous choices for the five office-bearers' posts (president, vice president, secretary, joint secretary and treasurer), it won't mean much. But the three associations could go to court and get a stay order on the AGM, and that could cause problems. — PTI

## Fencer claims Viagra use for failed dope test

## TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

## NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9

Athletes have in the past cooked up hilarious excuses after testing positive for a banned substance. Jeremy Kerley of NFL team New York Jets blamed ghosts for his failed drug test. Canada's pole vaulter Shawn Barber successfully avoided a ban after claiming to have accidentally ingested cocaine after kissing a woman. Cyclist Tyler Hamilton had claimed that his two positive tests were a result of "a vanishing twin".

The latest entry in this list of bizarre excuses is Chunni Lal, an Indian fencer, who claimed that his sample returned positive because he took a medicine to improve his libido. Lal said he took Viagra a day before he was subjected to an out-of-competition test in July 2018. Chunni Lal came up with the excuse after he was told to consult his lawyers after failing to convince the anti-doping disciplinary panel.

In his initial defence, Lal denied the charge and wrote back stating that he had only consumed fever medicines and supplements issued by the Sports Authority of India. After his B sample returned positive, he hinted that the violation was "at best unintentional" as the steroid found was of no use in the sport of fencing.

After he was told to reconsider, Chunni Lal

admitted that he took Viagra. "Somehow the panel was not convinced and gave an opportunity to the athlete to recollect and to reconsider his position in consultation with his advocate, as to whether he had received or was receiving treatment for a medical condition. After much hesitation, he admitted that a day before the dope test, he and his colleagues had consumed Viagra, purchased from a local chemist shop. However he did not have an invoice of the purchased tablet so there was no way to ascertain the exact nature of the consumed tablet," National Anti-Doping Agency said in a statement.

However, he was still suspended for four years. "...As Chunni Lal failed in the above criterion and indulged in unsportsmanlike behaviour he was found liable for sanctions which made him ineligible for a period of four years starting from March 2019," the report added.

## Nirmala Sheoran suspended for 4 years

Quartermiler Nirmala Sheoran has been suspended for four years. The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU), which manages the bulk of doping cases relating to track & field athletes, announced the verdict on Wednesday. Nirmala's samples, taken in June 2018, returned positive for drostanolone and metenolone, an anabolic steroid.

## Debutant Punia powers India to 8-wkt win

## VADODARA, OCTOBER 9

Debutant Priya Punia starred in the absence of the injured Smriti Mandhana, making a fine unbeaten 75 to take India to a win over South Africa in the first ODI.

South Africa struggled with the bat after winning the toss, bowled out for 164 in 45.1 overs. It was an all-round bowling effort from India with Jhulan Goswami (3/33), Shikha Pandey (2/38), Elka Bisht (2/8) and Poonam Yadav (2/33) sharing the bulk of the wickets.

India cantered to victory in 41.4 overs with openers Punia (75\*) and Jemimah Rodrigues (55 ) laying the foundation of a resounding win. The three-match series is not part of the Women's ODI Championship.

**1** Mithali Raj is the first female to complete 20 years in international cricket. Mithali, who made her ODI debut against Ireland on June 26, 1999, has now completed 20 years and 105 days in the 50-over format. The right-handed batswoman has played 204 ODIs, the most by woman player, followed by England's Charlotte Edwards (191), teammate Jhulan Goswami (178) and Alex Blackwell (144) of Australia

>> Priya Punia bats during her unbeaten innings of 75.

Punia, who has played three T20 Internationals, got the chance to play her maiden ODI after star opener Mandhana was ruled out on the eve of the game due to a



fracture on her right toe. The 23-year-old from Jaipur hit eight boundaries.

Rodrigues was back among the runs after a lean run in the preceding five-match

T20I series and shared an 83-run stand with Punia. It was her second ODI half-century for the highly talented 19-year-old, who smashed seven fours. It was also captain

Mithali Raj's first game for India since March, and with it she became the first woman player to last more than 20 years in international cricket. She had made her debut back in June 1999. Raj retired from T20Is last month. After Goswami trapped Lizelle Lee on the first ball of the innings, opener Laura Wolvaardt (39) and Trisha Chetty (14) tried to steady the innings. From 89/3, South Africa collapsed to 115 for seven. In the end, they did well to post 164 but it turned out to be a comfortable chase for the Indians. Marizanne Kapp top-scored for South Africa with 54 off 64 balls.

**Brief Scores: South Africa:** 164 (Kapp 54, Woolvaardt 39; Goswami 3/33, Bisht 2/28); **India:** 165/2 (Punia 75\*, Rodrigues 55) — PTI

## Kaul takes 4 as Punjab beat Baroda by 3 wickets

## VADODARA, OCTOBER 9

Pacer Siddarth Kaul starred with the ball before Punjab put up an all-round batting effort to register a three-wicket win over Baroda in their Group B match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Put in to bat, Baroda rode on Vishnu Solanki's half-century and Yusuf Pathan's 43 to reach 222/8 in the stipulated 50 overs. Solanki scored a 74-ball 54 with six boundaries and one six. He was trapped leg-before by leg-spinner Mayank Markande in the 25th over. Former India all-rounder Pathan looked in explosive form, hitting three sixes and one four but could not guide Baroda to a big total as he was dismissed by Kaul with seven balls remaining. Kaul returned with the figures of 4/58, Markande (2/31) scalped two wickets while skipper Gurkeerat Singh and Ramandeep Singh picked up one wicket each.

Chasing 223, Punjab lost opener Abhijeet Garg for a duck in the second over. Captain Gurkeerat and Anmol Malhotra scored 39 runs each. Abhishek Sharma (38) and Sharad Lumba (33) also chipped in with the bat. Karan Kalia scored an unbeaten 35 to seal the victory for Punjab.

For Baroda, Rishi Arothe (3/47) was the pick of the bowlers. This was Baroda's fourth consecutive loss. For Punjab, this was their third win from four matches. They have only lost to Haryana. **Brief Scores: Baroda:** 222/8 (Vishnu Solanki 54; Siddarth Kaul 4/58); **Punjab:** 223/7 (Gurkeerat Singh 39; Ramandeep Singh 39; Rishi Arothe 3/47) — PTI

## Jamuna, Lovlina storm into quarters

## ULAN-UDE (RUSSIA), OCTOBER 9

Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) and debutant Jamuna Boro (54kg) have entered the quarterfinals of the women's boxing World Championships with comprehensive victories.

Boro outpunched fifth-seeded Algerian Ouidad Sfouh, an African Games gold medalist, in a unanimous verdict, while the third-seeded Borgohain got the better of a sprightly opponent in Morocco's Oumayma Bel Ahibb, also for a 5-0 win.

In the quarterfinals tomorrow, Boro will take on Germany's Ursula Gottlob, who upstaged European Championship bronzemedallist and fourth seed Yuliya Apanasovich of Belarus in her pre-quarterfinal bout in a split 3-2 ver-

## WORLD BOXING C SHIPS

**5** Indians — MC Mary Kom (51kg), Manju Rani (48kg) and Kavita Chahal (+81kg) — have made the quarterfinals. Chahal is yet to take the ring as she got a direct entry into the quarters

dict. The referee mistakenly raised Apanasovich's hand at the end of the fight but later corrected himself.

Next up for Borgohain is sixth-seeded Karolina Koszewska, who defeated Uzbekistan's Shakhoza Yunusova. Poland's Koszewska had claimed a gold medal at this year's European Games. Boro opened the proceedings for India and the 22-year-old Assam Rifles employee was slow off the blocks. However, she



Jamuna Boro is declared winner against Algeria's Ouidad Sfouh after their 54kg category bout. PTI

became the aggressor as the bout progressed. During an engaging battle in the second and third rounds, it was Boro who made a better impression with her clean straight punches. The third round belonged entirely to Boro

with Sfouh coming short for most part. The Assamese, whose mother worked as a vegetable seller to financially support her daughter's aspirations, is a gold winner from this year's India Open. "I was a bit confused to start with but then

I figured how to push her and managed to pull off a victory," Boro said.

The last bout of the first session featured Borgohain, and she also took time to find her rhythm against Ahibb. What was striking about Borgohain's game-plan was her resolve to keep distance from Ahibb, who tried her best to draw the Indian in with aggressive posturing. The Moroccan did succeed in flinging her arms for a few impactful jabs but Borgohain had the last laugh with her counter-attacks, which were more effective in garnering scoring punches. "It wasn't particularly tough for me. I think I fought just the way I had planned and I am hopeful of continuing this form in the quarters too," Borgohain said. — PTI

BRIEFLY

MADRID Ex-Liverpool star Alonso in Madrid court for fraud Former Liverpool midfielder Xabi Alonso appeared in a Madrid court today, facing charges of tax fraud to the tune of €2 million, a court spokesman said.

MILAN Fallen giants AC Milan appoint Pioli as coach Fallen Italian giants AC Milan have appointed Stefano Pioli as their new coach a day after his predecessor Marco Giampaolo was sacked after just seven games in charge.

MADRID Dembele to miss Clasico after receiving 2-match ban Ousmane Dembele will miss this season's first Clasico between Barcelona and Real Madrid after he was banned for two matches by the Spanish football federation (RFEF) today.

LAUSANNE Iran women to attend football match after 40 yrs Iranian women fans are to attend a football match — a 2020 World cup qualifier against Cambodia — freely for the first time in around 40 years, after FIFA threatened to suspend the country over its controversial male-only policy.

Djokovic in top gear

Continues winning run, Thiem among top seeds to advance to last-16

SHANGHAI, OCTOBER 9

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic extended his winning run in Asia when he strolled into the last-16 of the Shanghai Masters with a 6-3 6-3 victory over Canada's Denis Shapovalov today.

Djokovic, the defending champion, broke the 20-year-old Canadian three times and never dropped serve, wrapping up the match in 70 minutes to set up a clash with American John Isner, who beat Frenchman Lucas Pouille 7-5 6-3.

Austrian fourth seed Dominic Thiem, who won the China Open in Beijing at the weekend, beat Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta 7-6(3) 6-3 to set up a last-16 clash with Georgia's Nikoloz Basilashvili.

Greece's sixth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas came out on top in two tiebreaks to beat 47 minutes. The second-set tiebreak had a lighter moment — Zverev losing his grip while hitting a shot, and his racquet flying into the crowd.



Novak Djokovic makes a forehand return to Dennis Shapovalov. AFP



Alexander Zverev overcame Jeremy Chardy 7-6(13) 7-6(3) on Wednesday. AFP

"I think when you feel pressure you're doing well. It's something that is inevitable so you might as well embrace it and accept it." — Novak Djokovic

"I think something that probably I'm trying to cover that deficiency that I have is not concentrate too much on my power and my strength and how hard I can hit." — Stefanos Tsitsipas

Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime 7-6(3) 7-6(3) in their second round match.

"I knew it was going to be tough, and it was very tough," Tsitsipas, who plays Poland's Hubert Hurkacz next, said. "I think, mostly, the concentration that I have put and the work that I have put into that match, I still felt like I had to put a lot in order to get that outcome at the end."

The top three seeds Djokovic, Roger Federer and US Open runners-up Daniil Medvedev all play in the last-16 tomorrow. — Reuters

Amid row, Chinese organisers cancel NBA fan event

SHANGHAI, OCTOBER 9

Chinese organisers today cancelled a fan event on the eve of a National Basketball Association (NBA) exhibition game in Shanghai, the latest fallout in a row over comments by a team official supporting protests in Hong Kong.

Chinese sponsors and partners have been cutting ties with the NBA after a tweet by Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey last week supporting anti-government protests in the Chinese-ruled city.

The Shanghai Sports Federation said the cancellation of the fan event ahead of Thursday's game between the Brooklyn Nets and Los Angeles Lakers was due to the "inappropriate attitude" of Morey and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver.

A Wednesday afternoon press conference with



A worker removes a promotional banner for the pre-season game between the Brooklyn Nets and the LA Lakers in Shanghai. AFP

both teams was indefinitely delayed, organisers said. Outside the team hotel, workers tore down massive banners advertising the game were torn down by workers. Silver said on Tuesday the

league supported Morey's right to exercise his freedom of expression, further angering authorities and some fans in China and threatening the NBA's business there, said to be worth more than \$4 billion. — Reuters

Sindhu eyeing Tokyo Olympics gold

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT 9

Badminton star PV Sindhu, who recently became the first Indian world champion in the sport, has said her focus now is on clinching the top honours at next year's Tokyo Olympics Games.

However, the 24-year-old is committed to improving her performance at the prestigious quadrennial event and turn the silver she won in Rio into gold. "Right now, my focus is on the 2020 Olympics Games and my main aim is to work hard and give my best in Tokyo," Sindhu said during a felicitation by the Kerala government. "My ultimate aim is to get gold. I know it's not going to be easy and I need to work hard," she added. — PTI



PV Sindhu at the Attukal temple in Thiruvananthapuram. PTI



Wales' Jonathan Davies (R) thwarts Fiji's centre Jale Vatubu as he tries to evade him. AFP

Wales best Fiji 29-17 to reach WC quarters

OTIA, OCTOBER 9

Winger Josh Adams grabbed a hat-trick of tries as a battered and bruised Wales battled to a 29-17 bonus-point win over Fiji today to book their place in the Rugby World Cup quarterfinals.

In a frenzied clash, the Fijians gave the Six Nations champions a real scare, surging into 17-14 lead early in the second half of the Pool D with a penalty try. That revived memories of the 'Nightmare in Nantes' when the Pacific islanders knocked Wales out

of the 2007 World Cup. Adams, steadied the ship with his hat-trick try on the hour-mark.

Argentines down US Argentina ended a disappointing campaign on a high as they ran in seven tries to hammer US 47-17 with a in their final Pool C game today. Howling into 17-14 lead early in the second half of the Pool D with a penalty try. That revived memories of the 'Nightmare in Nantes' when the Pacific islanders knocked Wales out

6 state assns write to Sports Min for EFI's de-recognition

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9

Six state associations have knocked on the doors of the Sports Ministry to derecognise Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) for non-compliance of National Sports Development Code of India, 2011.

The letter has also requested ministry and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to appoint an ad-hoc body to run the day to day affairs of the body — the time needed to bring EFI's constitution in compliance to the sports code. Six associations — name withheld as they risk reprisals from the EFI board — have written a letter to Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju asking for the immediate derecognition of the sports body.

"...We, therefore, request MYAS to confirm the withdrawal of EFI's recognition as an NSF for the persistent, belligerent and continued breaches and non-compliance with the provisions of the Sports Code," wrote

It is humbly submitted that the circumstances pertaining to the EFI's non-compliance with the provisions of the sports code are similar to that of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) where in MYAS has proceeded to suspend the recognition of the PCI for failure to abide by the provisions of the sports code. Vidushpat Singhania, LAWYER

Vidushpat Singhania, a noted lawyer on behalf of the state bodies. "It is humbly submitted that the circumstances pertaining to the EFI's non-compliance with the provisions of the sports code are similar to that of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) where in MYAS has proceeded to suspend the recognition of the PCI for failure to abide by the provisions of the sports code. We hereby humbly request the MYAS to treat the present case along the same lines as those in its decision taken with the respect to the PCI," he added.

Rajasthan, which is one of the six associations, had approached the Delhi High Court after EFI announced dates of election — September 29, 2019 — despite in breach of several clauses of the sports code. The High Court had then directed the EFI to "refrain from declaring and/or notifying the results thereof without seeking the court's approval.

Prior to the election, both the ministry and IOA had made their dissatisfaction with EFI top officials in separate communications.

On September 16, the IOA had informed EFI that it did not approve the election for breach of provisions of IOA's constitution which provides for 'one state one unit' and reserve voting rights at Annual General Meetings (AGM) only for State/Union Territory Associations. The IOA has subsequently downgraded EFI's status to that of an IOA member with no voting rights. Sports Ministry declined to send its observer and also communicated its displeasure.

Messi says tax problems made him want to leave Barcelona

Madrid: Lionel Messi has admitted he wanted to leave Barcelona when he was under investigation from the Spanish tax authorities but insists now he intends to finish his career at the club. Messi and his father Jorge were found guilty of defrauding Spain of €4.1 million in taxes between 2007 and 2009, for which they paid close to €10 million and Messi was handed a 21-month suspended prison sentence.

Advertisement for All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) PG (Postgraduate) Courses — January 2020 Session. Includes details on registration, schedule, and contact information.

Advertisement for Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh. Tender Notice No. PI(E)/19-20/07. Lists various medical equipment and services with quantities and prices.

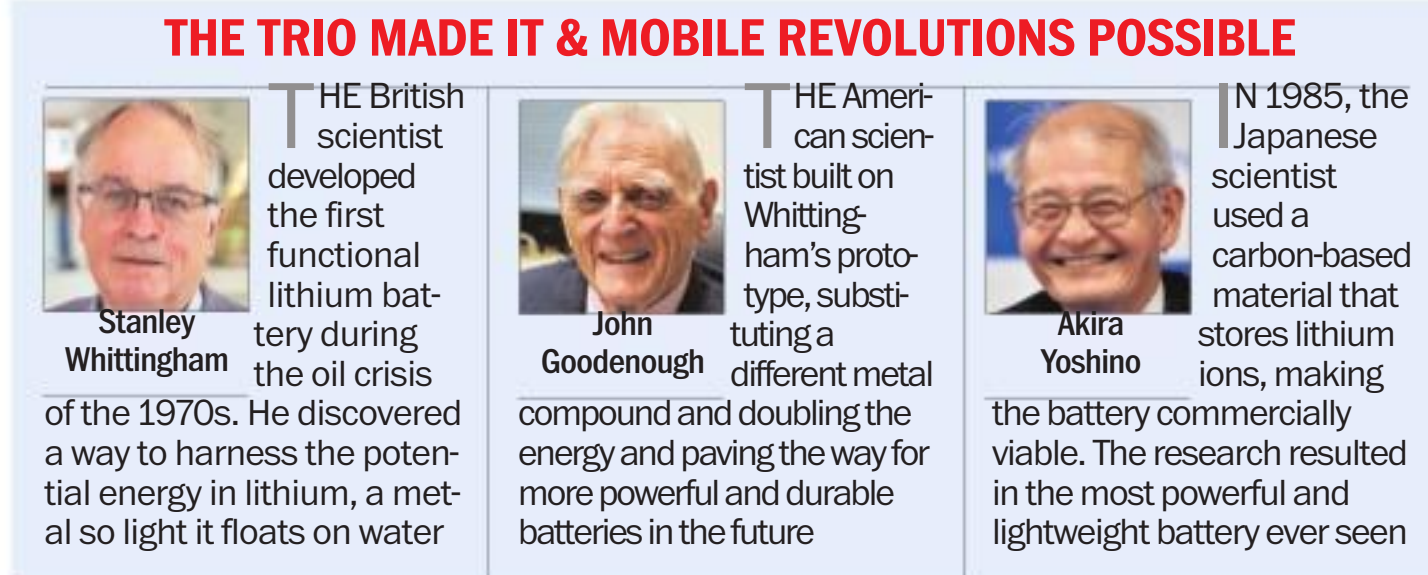
# Lithium-ion battery pioneers win Chemistry Nobel

STOCKHOLM/LONDON, OCTOBER 9

Three scientists won the 2019 Nobel Prize for Chemistry on Wednesday for developing and refining rechargeable lithium-ion batteries which made the global information technology, mobile and fossil-free revolutions possible.

American John Goodenough, at 97, became the oldest winner of a Nobel prize and shares the 9 million Swedish crown (Rs 6.44 crore approximately) equally with Stanley Whittingham from Britain and Akira Yoshino of Japan, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

"Lithium-ion batteries have revolutionised our lives since



they first entered the market in 1991. They have laid the foundation of a wireless, fossil fuel-free society, and are of the greatest benefit to humankind," the academy's

Nobel committee said. Whittingham developed the first functional lithium battery in the early 1970s. Goodenough doubled the battery's potential in the fol-

lowing decade and Yoshino eliminated pure lithium from the battery, making it much safer to use.

Speaking on Japanese TV after hearing of his win, a

smiling Yoshino said he was glad to have helped the environment. "I am happy that Lithium ion battery won the prize in that context," he said, adding that he also hoped it would inspire others: "I hope this will become an encouragement for young researchers."

Gregory Offer, an expert in mechanical engineering at Imperial College London, said the scientists' work had led to "one of the key enabling technologies of the 21st century".

"They have already underpinned the mobile revolution, and are now essential to help us solve the problem of climate change by electrifying transport and storing renew-

able electricity generation," he said in an emailed comment.

Peter Somfai, a professor of organic chemistry and a member of the Nobel committee for chemistry, said it was clear why the three should have won. "This is a technology we use every day. Most people have a mobile phone, electric vehicles are getting more popular. So, it's pretty straight forward why it's an important discovery," he said.

The Nobel prizes for medicine and physics were awarded earlier this week. The awards for literature, peace and economics will be announced in the next few days. — Reuters

## By the way...

### Goa cuts road tax for new vehicles by 50%

**Panaji:** In a bid to incentivise purchase of new vehicles, the Goa Cabinet on Wednesday rolled back road tax by 50 per cent for all new vehicles till December 31, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced here. The decision comes a day after promoters of car dealerships in the state warned of a dip in car sales and requested the state government to incentivise purchase of vehicles. IANS

### 11-yr-old girl saves brother from leopard

**Pauri:** An 11-year-old girl saved her younger brother from a leopard attack at a village in Pauri district of Uttarakhand, but was badly injured in the process. On October 4, Rakhi was playing with her 4-year-old brother when a leopard attacked them, her aunt Madhu Devi said. Instead of running away, the girl lay over her brother to cover him and saved him from the big cat. Though the boy remained largely unharmed, she received severe neck injuries. PTI

## China back to old stand on Kashmir

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9

A day after Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson omitted mentioning UN Charter and UNSC resolution on Kashmir, a joint China-Pakistan statement has brought the formulation back. The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson's accent on India and Pakistan resolving the Kashmir dispute bilaterally had led to the assessment that China had consciously dropped India's bugbear of referring to UNSC resolutions in order to create a conducive environment.

But the joint China-Pakistan statement says the Chinese side "responded that it was paying close attention to the current situation in J&K... the two sides reaffirmed their support on issues concerning each other's core interests," it added. "No matter how the international and regional situation changes, the friendship between China and Pakistan

### 'FOLLOW UN CHARTER'

Kashmir issue is a dispute left from history, and should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant UNSC resolutions and bilateral agreements. — Joint China-Pakistan statement

has always been unbreakable and rock-solid, and China-Pakistan cooperation has always maintained strong vitality," Xi was quoted by the Xinhua news agency shortly after he met Imran Khan two days before explaining for India to meet PM Narendra Modi.

Noting that Pakistan had provided "selfless help" when China was in difficulty, Xi said, "Now that China has developed, it sincerely hopes to help Pakistan develop faster and better." Xi added that the parties should resolve the dispute via peaceful dialogue. — TNS

## India, France focus on defence

Reaffirm their strong commitment to combat terrorism jointly

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9

India and France have agreed to widen defence-related official as well as operational-level interactions. The two nations agreed to expand the scope and complexity of the existing regular bilateral joint exercises named Shakti, Varuna and Garuda.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, currently on a visit to France, held the second India-France ministerial-level annual defence dialogue with his French counterpart, Minister for the Armed Forces Florence Parly, in Paris, a statement of the Ministry of Defence said.

During the dialogue held in Paris, the two ministers comprehensively reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral defence cooperation, which is a key pillar of India-France strategic partnership. They also exchanged views on contemporary regional and inter-



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his French counterpart Florence Parly during the annual defence dialogue in Paris. PTI

### OPEN TO TAX REFORMS, RAJNATH TELLS CEOs

Addressing a delegation of CEOs representing some of France's leading defence industry majors, Rajnath Singh said India is open to further tax rationalisation that may be required to encourage the 'Make in India' initiative in the sector. The minister also highlighted the recent cut in corporate tax rate as well as the steps taken to improve the ease of doing business in India. "We have undertaken significant economic reforms to open up the economy for investments," he said.

national developments of mutual interest. Recognising that India-France partnership in the Indian Ocean region is crucial for preserving and promoting the common strategic and security interests, the two ministers noted the continuing imple-

mentation of actions outlined in the "Joint Strategic Vision of India-France Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region" (March 2018). The ministers also reaffirmed the strong intention of the two sides to further deepen bilateral cooperation on counterterrorism.

Singh yesterday attended a ceremony for the handing over of the first of the 36 Rafale jets being acquired by India. The Indian delegation included Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, senior officials from the Ministry of Defence and the three Services.

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