

Promotion to GMC profs for 'clerical work' stirs row

Seven-year teaching experience norm 'overlooked'

KARAM PRAKASH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, OCTOBER 12
Professors of Government Medical Colleges (GMC) in Amritsar and Patiala, working as nodal officers at Director Research and Medical Education (DRME) office, have got their promotions in effect for doing clerical work.

In a clear violation of the Punjab Medical Education Service (PMES) Group A 2016 Rules, whereby one has to have teaching experience, a nodal officer got two promotions while working at the DRME office. Firstly, he got promoted from lecturer to assistant professor in 2014, while in 2019 he was promoted to associate professor. In another case, a biochemistry professor working as a nodal officer was promoted as an associate professor while doing a clerical job at the DRME office.

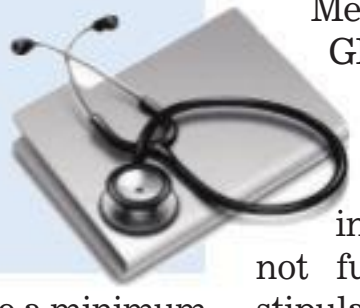
According to the PMES Rules, for associate professor,

WHAT RULES SAY

According to the Punjab Medical Education Service (PMES) Group A 2016 Rules, for associate professor, one should have a minimum of seven years of teaching experience after the completion of post-graduation. Moreover, out of seven years, four years experience should be as assistant professor along with two research publications to their credit.

one should have a minimum of seven years of teaching experience after the completion of post-graduation. Moreover, out of seven years, four years experience should be as assistant professor along with two research publications to their credit.

A majority of the professors doing clerical job at the DRME office have got their



3% DA for govt staff, pensioners

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 12
The state government on Saturday announced a 3 per cent hike in the dearness allowance (DA) for its employees and pensioners with effect from November 1.

Different organisations and unions of the state employees had been demanding DA hike and arrears with effect from January.

In a statement, Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal said Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh had approved the hike despite financial constraints faced by the government.

The Chief Minister, he said, had ordered the hike as a mark of appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the government staff.

"The move will cost the exchequer an additional Rs 480 crore per annum," he said, adding that the implementation of the decision coincided with the Diwali celebrations for the employees

and pensioners.

Manpreet said the state government was committed to the welfare of its employees. The government would continue to ensure that the employees and pensioners got their due, irrespective of the state's fiscal situation.

Meanwhile, the employees' unions have been protesting for the release of DA arrears. Nearly 3.52-lakh government employees and one lakh of the state public sector undertakings are awaiting 15 per cent DA due to them since January 2018. However, the government is silent on whether DA instalments are to be given at all. Moreover, the state's fiscal health continues to be precarious with the government.

The total outgo towards salaries and pensions this year is Rs 37,853.89 crore. It is because of such a major outgo that even the Sixth Pay Commission of the state government is yet to see the light of day.



Residents of Ballarwal during a protest against ex-MLA Amarpal Bony in Ajnala. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Protest against former MLA's mining allegation in Ajnala

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, OCTOBER 12
A day after former MLA Amarpal Singh Bony raised the issue of "illegal sand mining" in Ajnala, residents of Ballarwal village held a protest and burnt an effigy of Bony today. They accused Bony of carrying out illegal mining

during the SAD-BJP tenure. Earlier associated with the SAD (Badal), Bony is now a Taksali leader.

Lakhbir Singh of Tehra Rajputan said, "Bony was indulged in illegal sand mining for 10 years during the SAD-BJP regime. He dug pits in the fields of Ballarwal which residents are

now filling with sand." Resham Singh, sarpanch of Harnam Singh Wala village, said, "We condemn the move of ex-MLA Amarpal Bony to create tension in the village. The government should take action in this regard."

Despite repeated attempts, Amarpal Singh Bony didn't respond to phone calls.

CKD members accuse chief of misbehaviour

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, OCTOBER 12
Opposition members of the Chief Khalsa Diwan (CKD) accused its president Nirmal Singh of using "objectionable and abusive" language against them during the general house and executive committee meeting here today.

Kuljit Singh, Harkanwal Singh Kohli, Sarbjit Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Gagandeep Singh and other members of the Chief Khalsa Diwan have written a complaint letter to Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh to apprise him of the matter.

They alleged that an abusive word was used against Sikh members of the CKD when the meeting was taking place in the presence of Guru Granth Sahib.

According to Kuljit Singh, one of the CKD members, said his request for seeking time to raise vital issues pertaining to the century old organisation was denied.

Meanwhile, Nirmal Singh, president of the CKD, denied the allegation of using abusive word against any member. He said only those members were speaking who were speaking outside the agenda.



Patwaris during a protest in Jalalabad. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Patwaris demonstrate over pay anomalies

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FAZILKA, OCTOBER 12
Patwaris from six districts of the state staged a protest in poll-bound Jalalabad town today in favour of their demands. The patwaris who came from all the way from Fazilka, Ferozepur, Muktsar, Faridkot, Mansa and Bathinda districts took out a protest march in the town and demanded to fulfil their demands. The protest was led by Revenue Patwar Union state president Mohan Singh Bhedupura.

Their demands included filling up of vacant posts of patwaris, removal of pay anomalies, one kanungo should be posted against seven patwaris to share the workload, restoration of old pension scheme, release of

THEIR DEMANDS

Other than removal of pay anomalies, members of the Revenue Patwar Union have been demanding recruitment of patwaris to fill vacant positions, posting of one kanungo for seven patwaris to share their workload, restoration of old pension scheme, release of pending dearness allowance instalments and implementation of the pay commission report. They have also demanded to hand over the work of data entry to patwari which is at present outsourced by private contractors. They warned that if their demands were not accepted, they would intensify their agitation.

Two booked for murder

SANGRUR, OCTOBER 12

A man has accused his former wife and her "paramour" of "murdering" his 1.5-year-old daughter, who died due to injuries. Jagdeep Singh, a resident of Jirakh, said he divorced Mandep Kaur two

months ago as she had "illicit relations" with one Navi.

On Friday, Jagdeep got to know that his daughter was unwell who died at her mother's house in Ramgarh Sardara village. A case has been registered, the police said. — TNS

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CBI CASE - RC 1202016A0003 (Special Case 02/2019)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that Sh. Sukh Jeevan Singh Chahal S/o Sh. Jaswant Singh Chahal R/o Present: 1021, Gillies Road, Sherwood Park AB T7A, 1 C8, EDMONTON, Alberta, Canada and Permanent R/o House no. 64, Sector 21 A, Chandigarh have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence of section 120-B r/w 420, 468 & 471 IPC and warrant has been issued to compel the attendance of Sh. Sukh Jeevan Singh Chahal before this court to be examined touching the matter of the said complaint and whereas it has been returned to the said warrant that the said Sh. Sukh Jeevan Singh Chahal cannot be served, and it has been shown to my satisfaction that he has absconded (or are concealing him to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the Sh. Sukh Jeevan Singh Chahal is required to appear at the Court of Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, CBI Court No. 3, Ghaziabad, U.P. before the Special Judge at 10 AM within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice or before to be examined touching the offences complained of.

Sd/ Rekha Agnihotri
Special Judge, Anti Corruption
CBI Court No. 3, Ghaziabad, U.P.

Dated: this 27th day of August, 2019 (Seal of the Court)

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Grading of primary schools next month

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 12
The first-ever list of the best-performing government primary and middle schools in Punjab will be out by the first week of November.

The list of the schools according to their positions is being prepared on the basis of self-evaluation data sent by the schools. The evaluation comprises 50 marks for results, 20 for infrastructure, 10 for attendance, 15 for co-curricular activities and 5 for parent participation in school affairs.

Last year, the Education Department had sought data only from senior secondary and high schools.

Inputs from the senior secondary, high and middle schools are learnt to have already landed in the department. The final merit lists for all categories of schools will be released together.

Confirming the development, Manoj Kumar, Deputy State Project Director of the Punjab Education

Evaluation process

The evaluation comprises 50 marks for results, 20 for infrastructure, 10 for attendance, 15 for co-curricular activities and 5 for parent participation in school affairs. Primary schools, which are approximately 13,500 in number, are being graded for the first time.

Development Board, said, "We have sought information from approximately 13,500 primary schools and approximately 2,500 middle schools by October 18. The data compilation should be complete by the first week of November."

In the evaluation for high and senior secondary schools last year, Government High School (RMSA), Hira Wali, Fazilka, was ranked number one among the high schools. Government Senior Secondary School, Dabwali Rahurian, Muktsar, was adjudged the best among the senior secondary schools.

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INLD promises loan waiver for farmers, small traders

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 12 The Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) on Saturday released its manifesto with promises of loan waiver for both farmers and small traders, reservation for local youth in the private sector, political reservation for backwards and a slew of benefits for women including job quota, free sanitary pads in villages and Scooty for students.

State president of INLD BD Dhaliya released the manifesto today in the presence of national secretary general RS Choudhry and chairman of policy planning committee MS Malik. State secretary general Abhay Chautala was not present.

For farm sector, besides waiver of farm loans of up to Rs 10 lakh, the party promised to complete the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) and Dadpur-Nalvi canal projects. If it comes to power, it will give Rs 5,000 per acre to farmers twice a year, provide free power for tubewells and implement the Swaminathan Commission recommendations. It will end the existing crop insurance scheme and set up a corpus for helping out farmers in case of crop failure.



INLD leaders release the party manifesto in Chandigarh on Saturday.

'NO COMPROMISE ON SYL'
When asked whether alliance partner Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) would support the construction of SYL, state president of INLD BD Dhaliya said they would not compromise on SYL whether it is SAD, BJP or Congress. "We will oppose the SAD too on the issue. The alliance with them is till elections only," he said.

On women empowerment, like the Congress, the INLD has also promised job quota of 33 per cent for women. The manifesto also has provision of social security allowance of Rs 1,000 for poor women in the age group of 35-60 years, free sanitary pads to rural women and help of Rs 5 lakh to poor girls on marriage. For youth too, like the Congress' manifesto, the party has promised to provide a job

to every family and 75 per cent reservation for local youth in the private sector. But its manifesto has higher provision of unemployment allowance at Rs 15,000 per month, free bus ride to students going out of their village for education and for taking entrance exams and free Scooty to women students after class XII. The manifesto promised Rs 100 per day to senior citizens,

physically challenged, transgender and widows. Old-age pension will be revised to Rs 5,000 per month. At present, it is Rs 2,000. It will press for provision of political reservation to backward classes from panchayats to Lok Sabha and would provide at least Rs 18,000 per month salary to safai karamcharis and watchmen in rural areas.

At present, there is provision of Rs 6 crore to a sports person for gold medal in Olympics, Rs 4 crore for silver and Rs 2.5 crore for bronze. The INLD has promised to enhance it to Rs 11 crore for gold, Rs 8 crore for silver and Rs 5 crore for bronze. Wooing the employees, the party promised to allow contractual employees to work till 58 years and to implement all the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission. It has called for including Haryanvi language in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.

For martyrs' families, the party has promised 200 sq yard plot with two-room house constructed on it. It will also waive loans of up to Rs 10 lakh of small traders. Free power up to 200 units for domestic consumers is also on the agenda.

In Adampur, Yogi's J&K talk fails to strike chord with voters



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addresses a public meeting in Hisar on Saturday.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, OCTOBER 12 Campaigning for BJP candidate Sonali Phogat in Adampur Assembly segment today, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath focused on nationalism and abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, but failed to connect with locals.

During his 12-minute speech, people expected him to address local issues

"This is a state poll and the BJP must address local issues. Yogi's speech was not impressive. He failed to connect with the masses."
Baldev, HISAR RESIDENT

He said the decision to remove the special provision was helping curb terrorism as the state was eager to join the mainstream of the country.

Baldev, a local resident who attended the rally, said: "We voted for the Modi government on the basis of national issues. But this is state poll and the BJP must address local issues. Yogi's speech was not impressive. He failed to connect with the masses."

considering the state Assembly polls. There was hardly any response from the crowd as Yogi arrived on the stage and blamed the Congress for imposing Article 370 in J&K in 1952.

HLP Hisar nominee Kanda 'assaulted'

HISAR: The Haryana Lokhit Party (HLP) candidate from Rania Assembly segment in Sirsa district Govind Kanda has alleged that he was attacked by some persons near Tara Baba temple in Sirsa on Saturday evening. Kanda's spokesperson Bhupesh informed mediapersons that he was waylaid by a group of 10 persons who tried to enter his car. Sensing trouble, his driver drove away the vehicle. However, the assailants chased him and again stopped him near Tara Baba temple. He alleged that one of the assailants was carrying a pistol. Superintendent of Police (SP), Sirsa, Arun Singh told mediapersons that some persons were detained, but no firearms have been seized from them nor do they have any criminal background. TNS

10 candidates get notice for poll code violation

Faridabad: Notices have been served to 10 candidates contesting elections in the Faridabad-NIT Assembly segment of the district for violation of the Model Code of Conduct. Dharmendra Singh, Returning Officer (RO) of the constituency, said the candidates were issued notices under Section 127-A. They are Pradeep Rana (Independent), Tejpal Dagar (JJP), Jagjit Kaur Panru (INLD), Neeraj Sharma (Congress), Virendra Dangwal (CPIM), Nagendra Bhadana (BJP), Karamat Ali (BSP), Chandar Bhatia (Independent) and Bir Singh Nain (Independent) in NIT-Faridabad. The penalty imposed on Karamat Ali was submitted later this evening. It is claimed that the notice was issued after the RO visited the constituency and noticed flaws in the campaign. TNS

No say in ticket allotment: Rao

REWARI, OCTOBER 12 Having faced constant brickbats for allegedly using his influence in getting ticket of various senior BJP leaders including sitting MLAs scrapped and securing them for his supporters, Rao Inderjit Singh finally spoke up saying he had no say in any ticket allotment. Confronted by angry workers in Rewari yesterday, Rao Inderjit Singh, who had all this while maintained silence over the allegations, said that the rumours were being spread in frustration by those who could not get ticket. — OC

Govt policies ruined farmers: Hooda

Says production cost of crops has gone up in past 5 yrs

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

YAMUNANAGAR, OCTOBER 12 Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda today alleged that Haryana's BJP government had ruined farmers by raising the production cost of crops instead of increasing their income. "This government has taxed fertilisers, pesticides, tractor parts and other items used to produce crops leading to an increase in the production cost. No effort was made to increase the income of farmers," Hooda said.



Bhupinder Singh Hooda during a rally in Kurukshetra. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Addressing an election rally in Radaur town held by Bishan Lal Saini, Congress candidate from the Radaur Assembly segment, Hooda said when he became the Chief Minister of Haryana in 2004, the rate of sugarcane was only Rs 110 per quintal.

He said when he left the post of the Chief Minister in 2014, the rate of sugarcane had reached Rs 310 per quintal but the present BJP government made an increase of only Rs 30 in sugarcane rate in the past five years. "The farmers are forced to sell their crops, including paddy, on lower rates. Some

crops are being procured on lower rates than the minimum support price," he said. Hooda said the BJP had made 154 promises in its manifesto in the Assembly elections of 2014, but the government failed to fulfil even a single promise.

'Teach BJP a lesson'
Kurukshetra: Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda today said farmers, government employees, businessmen and youth were suffering due to the "anti-people policies" of the BJP government in Haryana.

He addressed public meetings in support of Naraingarh candidate Shally Chaudhary, Ladwa candidate Mewa Singh and Pehowa candidate Mandeep Chatha, on Saturday.

Hooda said, "The sugarcane farmers in Naraingarh had to launch a 'Jal Satyagrah' to get their payments from the sugar mill, and now, paddy farmers are not getting the MSP for their produce in the grain markets. The BJP has failed to fulfil its promises made in 2014 and time has come to teach it a lesson for its anti-people policies."

INLD nominee, others join BJP

PANIPAT, OCTOBER 12 INLD candidate Suresh Saini from Panipat Urban today joined BJP in the presence of CM ML Khattar. The others who also joined were Ranbir Deswal and Dharambir Kashyap of Congress, who were ticket aspirants from Panipat Rural, Congress-supported councillor Shakuntla Garg, Congress' Vaibhav Deswal, Independent councillor Chanchal Dawar and BSP leader Kiran Kashyap. — TNS

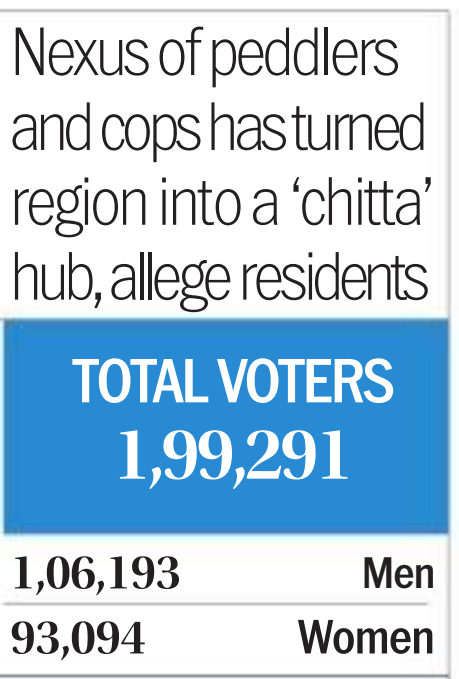
Drugs spreading tentacles in Dabwali

DEEPENDER DESWAL

The home segment of the Chautalas — Dabwali Assembly segment — is located at the far end of the state next to the Punjab and Rajasthan borders.

It has been the hub of power politics as a number of top politicians, including former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal and his family members, former MLAs Brij Lal Godara, Mani Ram and Dr Sita Ram, have risen from this segment. The constituency comprising 70 villages and Dabwali, which is a subdivision, and Mandi township, has remained off the development track despite being a rich agricultural belt for cotton, wheat and kinnow.

The region has also been deprived of industrial growth even though farmers have been urging the government to provide incentives for setting up agriculture-based industries, especially cotton units



CANDIDATES SPEAK
The BJP government has provided funds worth several crores for development in the segment. Sabji mandi, ITI and water treatment plant have been constructed in Dabwali.
Aditya Devi Lal, BJP CANDIDATE

OPPOSITION SPEAK
The BJP government is responsible for turning Dabwali into a drug trade hub. The Congress will eradicate drug menace from the region. I am contesting the poll on the plank of 'Jawani Bachao, Kisani Bachao'.
Amit Sihag, CONGRESS CANDIDATE

and fruit-processing units. Unfortunately, residents alleged that a nexus of the drug peddlers with the police and politicians have turned the entire region into a 'chitta' hub.

"Dabwali region has become a transit route for supply of drugs in Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. The incident of Desu Jodha earlier this week when a family and supporters of drug peddlers engaged in a shootout with a team of the Punjab Police which had come to raid a hideout. It resulted in the death of a person and injury to several policemen, exposing the state of affairs," said Pooran Singh, a resident of Dabwali.

He said that Chautala clan, including Devi Lal who remained Chief Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, his sons former Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala, Pratap Chautala and Ranjit Chautala, OP Chautala's sons Ajay Singh and Abhay Singh, are natives of Chautala village.

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'Martyrdom to Freedom' featured at Kasauli Lit Fest

AMBIKA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, OCTOBER 12

The book "Martyrdom to Freedom: 100 years of Jallianwala Bagh", edited by Rajesh Ramachandran, Editor of *The Tribune*, was featured at the Khushwant Singh Literature Festival in Kasauli on the second day today where former diplomats Navtej Sarna and Navdeep Suri also expressed their views on the subject.

Ramachandran, speaking about what went into the making of the book, brought out a century after the massacre, talked about the central role played by *The Tribune* and its legendary Editor, Kalinath Ray in shaping the public opinion before and after the massacre.

Four days after the massacre, Kalinath Ray was arrested and later was sentenced to two years' rigorous



Rajesh Ramachandran, Editor, The Tribune (C), with Navdeep Suri (R) and Navtej Sarna (L) at the Khushwant Singh Literature Festival in Kasauli on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: NITIN MITTAL

imprisonment by the martial law commission. Even after his release after months, he did not change the tone and tenor of his writings.

The book compiles rare articles from the archives of *The Tribune*. Under the dynamic stewardship of Ray, *The Tribune* continued to

question the British government. The book stands testimony to the paper's commitment to act as a chronicle of colonial atrocities. In the

centenary year of the epochal tragedy, the book brings together essays of some of the best-known authors, thinkers and historians of modern India. Published by Rupa, the book is available at the fest.

As the only newspaper at the time to investigate and chronicle the massacre, *The Tribune* was the lone voice of dissent against the iniquities of the British rule. The book recounts the history behind the massacre and has records of the Hunter Commission proceedings and the enquiry done by Mahatma Gandhi.

Navtej Sarna, a former diplomat, talked about his upcoming book, which is a work of fiction, while another diplomat Navdeep Suri, read out a few lines from his grandfather Nanak Singh's poetry "Khooni Baisakhi" during the session.

4,000 take part in mega Kullu natti



Dressed in traditional attire, women perform natti during Kullu Dasehra. PHOTO: JAI KUMAR

ABHINAV VASHISHT

KULLU, OCTOBER 12

More than 4,000 women participated in the mega Kullu natti, organised by the International Kullu Dasehra Festival Committee, at the Rath ground here today.

Also known as the 'Pride of Kullu', the event was launched in 2014. It has also made to the Limca Book of Records by registering 8,540 participants. In 2015, the event made a world record as the "Largest Natti Dance" by ensuring the participation of 9,892 persons.

The mega natti is held every year, but over the years, the number of participants has reduced.

During the fourth cultural night at the Kala Kendra yesterday, performances by singers Jyotika Tangri and Kushal Pal enthralled the

audience. The programme commenced with natti. Local artistes presented traditional songs, which delighted foreign and domestic visitors.

Presentations by cultural troupes from Haryana and Chamba were appreciated by the audience. Artistes from Sri Lanka also gave a glimpse of their culture. Govind Singh Thakur, Transport and Forest Minister and chairman of the International Kullu Dasehra Festival Committee, said the event focused on the importance of hygiene and nutritious food.

A large number of people turned up at the Kala Kendra to witness the cultural evening. Brig Khushal Thakur (ret'd), chairman-cum-managing director, State Ex-Servicemen Corporation, was the chief guest.

Cong objects to Speaker campaigning for BJP

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 12

The Congress today hit out at Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur for setting a wrong precedent of allowing the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker to campaign for the BJP candidates.

Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) president Kuldeep Rathore said: "I was surprised to hear that Thakur had justified Bindal's involvement in the bypoll campaigning saying that in many other states too, Speakers had campaigned," he said.

Rathore sought action by the Election Commission of India (ECI) on the Chief Minister's statement. He said the Chief Minister's defence of Bindal indicated as if he was himself encouraging Bindal to campaign actively.

"If Thakur and the party are in such a dire need of campaigning for the candidates, Bindal should be removed from the post of Speaker and be inducted as a minister, as there are vacancies in the Cabinet," he said.

"Even when some previous governments in Himachal had a wafer-thin majority, Vidhan Sabha Speakers never actively took part in campaigning during the elections for party candidates," Rathore said. "The ECI should take immediate action against Bindal if it wants to act in a fair and impartial manner," he added.

From Bollywood to battlefield, Day 2 takes literati back in time

Sharmila Tagore talks of women's position in today's times | Decorated soldiers tell their tales of valour

AMBIKA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KASAUJI, OCTOBER 12

Reflecting on the 60 years of Filmistan, Bollywood actress Sharmila Tagore lent a captivating start to the second day of Khushwant Singh Literary Festival amid a jam-packed audience at the Kasauli Club today. Her poise and grace swept the audience, as she gave an insight into her journey in the tinsel town.

Her debut, at 13, had come at a cost, as she had to forgo schooling, given the conservative mindset where women working in films were looked down upon in those times.

In a conversation with Shantanu Roy Chaudhari, the actress left the audience awestruck as the latter was eager to grasp more of her romance on the silver screen.

She was a bundle of energy as she unravelled how women's position had undergone a sea change. "The hitherto male gaze prevailing in the cinema was no longer evident and films depicting women as the main protagonist were finding acceptance."

Sharmila was candid to admit that black money had made its way to Bollywood.



"Filmistan has come of age with the use of 'Hinglish' becoming the latest fad, ultra-nationalist cinema emerging and women's role as the main protagonist gaining acceptance." Sharmila Tagore

THE ACTRESS IN CONVERSATION WITH SHANTANU ROY

OTHER HAPPENINGS

The festival saw a heart-rendering tribute to the bravehearts of Himachal, including captain Vikram Batra, Captain Saurabh Kalia and Subedar Sanjay Kumar, while also unveiling their portraits. Captain Batra's parents — Girdhari Lal and Kamal Kanta — were also felicitated on the occasion.

A soul-stirring narrative on the lives of women drawn into the dark world of militancy and insurgency by Vivek Katju, a former diplomat, was brought alive in "She goes to War: Women Militants in India".

She regretted that films gave visibility to Kashmir but not to Kashmiris, which was sad. "Filmistan has come of age with the use of 'Hinglish' becoming the latest fad, ultra-nationalist cinema emerging and women's role as the main protagonist gaining acceptance." Recalling their pursuit of the enemy in the Kargil war, a session on "Kargil 20 Years On" witnessed talks by decorated soldiers such as Col Wangchuk Sonam and Col SC Tyagi. The session, moderated by television anchor Vishnu Som, was reminiscent of the brave deeds of the valiant soldiers. What evoked an emotional response from the audience was a brave mother of a martyr reading his last letter, where he had a premonition that he won't come back.

"A soldier doesn't die when he is martyred, but he dies when his nation forgets him," averred Col SC Tyagi while reflecting on his book. In a much-appreciated gesture, the festival saw a heart-rendering tribute to the bravehearts of Himachal, including Captain Vikram Batra, Captain Saurabh Kalia and Subedar Sanjay Kumar, while also unveiling their portraits. Captain Batra's parents — Girdhari Lal and Kamal Kanta — were also felicitated on the occasion. Listening with rapt attention, the audience of this 139-year-old club drawn from Delhi, Punjab, Chandigarh and as far as Malaysia, were engrossed in various sessions, where speakers regaled the literary buffs with their experiences on the battlefield.

Nayantara Sahgal and Sagrika Ghose reflected on the contemporary moment in India: Diversity or Carbon Copies, which did invite some eager comments from the engaging audience. The session on "A Kashmir backgrounder culminating in the article on everyone's lips 370" saw a lively discussion by Lt Gen Ata Hasnain, where authors Radha Kumar and Tuhin A Sinha and noted journalist Tavleen Singh lent vigour to the session while aptly synergising their vast military experience and strategic outlook. Radha Kumar was vocal in terming the August 5 move as one which had pitted one Kashmiri against the other and called for rolling up of the move to bring back normalcy,

which she averred had shattered the normal ways of life. Tuhin A Sinha, however, expressed the hope that it would finally bring a solution to the long standing Kashmir problem. The day had more in store as a riveting articulation on the "Godmen: Of Cults, Sinners and Saints" drawing a contrast between the self-styled godmen — Asaram Bapu, Gurmeet Ram Rahim — and others like Baba Ramdev, who were deliberated upon by Swati Chopra, Ushinor Majumdar and Anurag Tripathi and Priyanka Pathat Narain. "Pakistan-the Balochistan Conundrum" was another thought-provoking session where Tilak Devasher, member, National Security Advisory Board, and Vivek Katju traced the history of the sensitive issue.

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Online Applications process for admission to Class VI & IX in Sainik Schools for the session 2020-21 through All India Sainik School Entrance Exam has been extended till 31 Oct 2019 due to administrative reasons. Candidates may visit website sainikschooladmission.in for online registration process.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB NOTICE RE-INVITING ONLINE BIDS

Tender Notice No. C2-5 Date: 10.10.2019 On behalf of the Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer Construction Division No. 2 PWD B&R, Bathinda Re-invites bids from eligible bidders enlisted with Public Works Department (Building & Roads) for the work approved under the Jurisdictions of Executive Engineer Construction Division No. 2 PWD B&R, Bathinda detailed in the following table. The bidders may submit bid for the following Work:

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of Road, Amount in Lacs, Availability of tender online from, Last date and time of Submission of tender online.

For detail terms and conditions refer to website www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

SCREENING TEST FOR INDIAN NATIONALS with FOREIGN MEDICAL QUALIFICATIONS FMGE December - 2019 National Board of Examinations PUBLIC NOTICE

DNB-PDCET (2020 Admission Session) Diplomat National Board - (Post Diploma) Centralized Entrance Test National Board of Examinations PUBLIC NOTICE

White Knight Corps commander Jammu: Lt Gen Harsha Gupta took the command of the elite White Knight Corps from Lt Gen Paramjit Singh Sangha on Saturday. TNS

WESTERN RAILWAY LEASING OF SECOND PARCEL VAN (VP) OF 23 TONNES CAPACITY The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Mumbai Division, DRM office building, Ground Floor, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008 invites open e-tender, for leasing of Second Parcel Van (VP) of 23 tonnes capacity on round trip basis in Train No. 19023/24 for a period of 05 years. Reserve Price per round trip (in ₹) : 1,49,526/- (Exclusive of DC & GST). Date & Time of submission of Tender : up to 05.11.2019 at 15:00 hrs through online www.irops.gov.in only. Date & Time of opening of Tender : up to 05.11.2019 at 15:30 hrs. For details please visit www.irops.gov.in

Mobiles to ring in Kashmir from Monday

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 12 All post-paid mobile phones, barring Internet facilities, would start ringing across Kashmir from Monday, 71 days after restrictions and communication blockades were imposed in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the state on August 5. The Tribune was first to break the story on mobile restoration on October 9. The decision was announced by Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary to the Jammu and Kashmir Government and its spokesperson, two days after the travel advisory to tourists was lifted, which had been imposed before the Centre made constitutional changes. Kansal said landline phones had been fully restored and functional for over six weeks.



CONNECTIVITY FACTS

- Restrictions and communication blockade imposed early on August 5
Of the 66 lakh mobile subscribers, only 44 lakh are post-paid numbers in Kashmir Valley
Decision to restore mobiles taken two days after lifting of advisory on tourists from October 10
Restoration of landlines gradually began on August 17

However, he evaded queries about the decision on restoring Internet facilities on mobiles and landlines, which continue to be suspended in view of the situation post abrogation of Article 370 that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir. "Having reviewed the situa-

tion, a decision has been taken to restore mobile phone facilities in all areas of Jammu and Kashmir," Kansal stated. "All post-paid mobile phones, irrespective of the telecom service provider, will stand restored and be functional from 12 noon on Monday, October 14, 2019. This will cover all 10 districts of Kashmir province," the spokesperson added. He said this would help tourists, students, businessmen, transporters and contractors. Kansal said since August 16, there had been a gradual removal of the restrictions, most of which were removed by the first week of September, he said and added that over 99 per cent of the areas of J&K had no restrictions. Telephone landlines had been fully restored during the past six weeks. Mobile phones facilities were restored in the Jammu and Ladakh regions and subsequently in Kupwara district. Govt mulls Net facility at tourist spots TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 12 The authorities in Kashmir are mulling to provide Internet facilities to the visitors at the tourist spots. The decision to open the Internet facilities at the tourist spots comes after the J&K government lifted the travel advisory for the tourists visiting Kashmir. Prior to the scrapping of Article 370 and 35A and downgrading the J&K state into two union territories, the government had, on August 2, issued a security advisory asking the tourists and visitors to the Kashmir to leave the place within two days, citing "terror" threats.

Grenade blast sends vendors scurrying for cover

First since clampdown, attack being seen as way to discourage traders

SUMAYYAH QURESHI TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 12 Hari Singh High (HSH) Street in Srinagar on Saturday was bustling with vendors, all lined on the one side, selling fruit, woollens and household items. Business was going on until a grenade blast sent everyone scurrying around 2.50 pm. In no time, the street was deserted and the vendors had fled. Shards of glass and packing material lay strewn on the street. The traffic had been diverted. A few vendors, who had set up stalls a few metres from the explosion site, were frantically packing their goods. Some fruit vendors were furiously pushing their carts, moving to the other part of the area.



Security personnel at the grenade blast site in Srinagar. AMIN WAR

Setback to government's normalcy efforts On Friday, the government launched a campaign against shutdowns by releasing full-page advertisements in local newspapers, telling people about the disadvantages of the shutdowns This is the first attack in the area since the clampdown on August 5 and is a setback to the government's efforts to restore normalcy in the region. As per reports, seven persons have been injured in the blast. The blast is seen as an attempt to discourage vendors from operating. On Friday, the government launched a campaign against shutdowns by releasing full-page advertisements in local newspapers, telling people about the disadvantages of the shutdowns. A police official said they arrived as soon as they heard about the explosion. "We were not here at the time of the explosion. We came just now. Some people have been injured," he said. This is the first attack in the area since the clampdown on August 5 and is a setback to the government's efforts to restore normalcy in the region.

Only vendors have been operating throughout the day on the street since the clampdown. All shops, however, remain closed and open only for a few hours in the morning. An auto-rickshaw driver said an explosion had occurred and some people were injured.

Men, women, youth and even children, who live near the explosion site, all come out of their houses on hearing the explosion. The explosion was loud enough, said some local women near the site of the explosion, who stood in one of the bylanes facing the street. They said their houses were shaken by the explosion and they had come out to see what had happened. "Some people were injured. They have been taken to the hospital in auto-rickshaws," said a few women, who cautioned the youth of the area against standing by the roadside.

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਖੁਰਾਕ ਸਿਵਲ ਸਪਲਾਈਜ਼ ਅਤੇ ਖਪਤਕਾਰ ਮਾਮਲੇ ਵਿਭਾਗ, ਸ੍ਰੀ ਮੁਕਤਸਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਢੋਆ-ਢੁਆਈ ਲਈ ਟੈਂਡਰ

HIMACHAL PRADESH IPH DEPARTMENT "NOTICE INVITING TENDER" Short terms sealed item rate tenders on form 6 & 8 are hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors, so as to reach in this office on or before 14.10.2019 at 3.00 p.m.

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of work, Estimated cost, Earnest money, Time limit, Cost of tender form.

Women exempted, pvt CNG to follow odd-even: Kejriwal

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12 Allowing cars driven by women to be exempted from the odd-even scheme, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday announced that private CNG vehicles will need to follow the road rationing scheme starting November 4. Kejriwal said the discussion is still on for exemptions for two-wheelers and the fine levied on violators. He said cars driven by women with all women passengers or a child below the age of 12 will be allowed to commute without any bar, just like the previous two editions of the scheme. "Women drivers will continue to be exempted from the provisions of the odd-even road rationing scheme keeping their security in mind," Kejriwal said. This means, any vehicle being driven by a single woman driver, or a sin-

gle woman driver being accompanied by other woman passengers as well as women driving with children below the age of 12, will be exempted. However, the private CNG vehicles, which were exempted during the previous edition of Odd-Even, will not be exempt this year, he said. "In previous editions of odd-even, CNG vehicles were exempt. But we observed that the CNG stickers to denote vehicles were sold in the black market and misused by some people to bypass the odd-even scheme. This defeats the purpose of odd-even." He said: "Two-wheelers do pollute the air and we believe they should not be exempted...But at the same time given the number of two-wheelers in Delhi, it is impractical to take half of them off the roads. Delhi doesn't have such a large amount of vacant capacity in our public transport to be able to do that." However, he added, the decision on two-wheelers has not been taken yet by the government. "The government is trying to resolve the contradiction on this issue. In principle, we have decided to stagger office timings. We are consulting experts on this and will share more information when the decision is taken," he added. Commenting on the fines that will be levied on violators, Kejriwal said, "Our aim will not be to heavily fine violators, but to request them to follow the rule. For the steps being taken by the government, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said 2,000 private buses will be engaged during odd-even and the cab operators were warned against surge pricing. —IANS

Schoolgirl killed as bus hits scooter

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12 A seven-year-old girl was killed when the scooter she was riding pillion on was hit by a Uttar Pradesh Roadways bus in northeast Delhi's Jyoti Nagar, the police said on Saturday. Divya Raghav of Ghaziabad's Loni was a Class I student. The accident occurred on Friday around 7.15 am when she was on the way to her school with her mother. "The mother was riding the scooter. In Jyoti Nagar area, a bus hit the vehicle from behind after which they fell on the road," the officer said. —PTI

Ex-AAP leader Lamba joins Cong

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12 After a month of quitting AAP, former Chandni Chowk MLA Alka Lamba on Saturday joined the Congress in the presence of state in-charge PC Chacko. She met Chacko and took primary membership of the party. Lamba tweeted that she has taken receipt of Rs 5 and officially became a Congress member. She had met interim party president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday. Lamba had served in the Congress for 20 years before she quit the grand old party and joined the AAP and won the 2015 Assembly elections from Chandni Chowk. On September 19, Lamba was disqualified from the Assembly on the grounds of defection. —IANS

IN EVERLASTING MEMORY OF Ch. Maharaj Singh Ji KIRTAN Bhagwan Satya Sai Baba Ji will be held at 5.00 p.m. on 13.10.2019 at Holy House, Ambala City.

Rift in Delhi Cong over demand for Chacko's removal

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12 The rift within Delhi Congress widened on Saturday with one of the factions demanding disciplinary action against leaders who had demanded removal of the party's Delhi unit in-charge PC Chacko. A letter purportedly signed by 14 district Congress presidents was sent to party chief Sonia Gandhi for disciplinary action against five leaders who had levelled allegations of corruption against Chacko and demanded Gandhi to form a committee to probe the matter in a press conference on Friday. Authenticity of the letter could not be verified. Mangat Ram Singhal, Kiran Walia and Delhi Congress spokespersons Ramakant Goswami and Jitender Kochar had also accused Chacko of "leaking" a personal letter written by Sandeep Dikshit, son of former Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit. Sandeep Dikshit has accused Chacko of "leaking" his personal letter to the media. One of the leaders who held the press conference against Chacko, claimed that the "so-called" letter written to Gandhi had "fake" signatures of many district presidents. The Congress High Command has forwarded Sandeep's letter to Chacko to party's disciplinary committee for further action. — PTI

K'taka ex-Dy CM's aide found hanging TAX EVASION Parameshwara summoned by income tax sleuths on Tuesday

BENGALURU, OCTOBER 12 A confidant of Karnataka's former Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara allegedly committed suicide here on Saturday, days after income tax sleuths raided the residence, office and education institutions of the Congress leader, police said. Ramesh was found hanging from a tree near the Sports Authority of India grounds in the morning, the police said. He hailed from Mellehalli in Ramanagar, they said. He started his stint with the Congress as a typist and became close to Parameshwara. The sleuths who raided the residence, office and Siddharth Group of institutions belonging to Parameshwara two days ago had grilled Ramesh too. Lamenting the death, Parameshwara said he had told Ramesh to be courageous and face the situation boldly. "Don't know why he committed suicide. This morning also, I spoke to him and told him to stay bold." Parameshwara, who had served as the Congress state president, visited the place where his confidante committed suicide. Meanwhile, the income tax officials summoned Parameshwara to depose before them on Tuesday after two



G Parameshwara's personal assistant Ramesh allegedly committed suicide in Bengaluru.

₹4.22 CRORE SEIZED

- Parameshwara aide's death comes a day after the IT Dept said ₹4.22 crore in unaccounted cash had been found during raids since October 10
Tax sleuths had raided Parameshwara's properties for alleged tax evasion by Siddhartha group of education institutions owned by him and his family

days of extensive raids at his office, education institution and residence. "They (IT officials) have summoned me on Tuesday. So, I will go there," Parameshwara told reporters here on Saturday. The Congress leader said the IT officials told him the raids were carried out following complaints by some students. It could be possible but verification should also take place, he said. He refused to give any political colour to the raids,

saying he was preparing to answer regarding the findings of income-tax officials. "I have to reply about what has happened with regard to the admissions and what information they have with them," Parameshwara said. The I-D Department said in a press release on Friday it had search prominent business group in Karnataka that runs multiple educational institutions on October 9. It claimed to have unearthed conversion of seats, originally allotted by merit through counselling by the medical committee, into institutional quota seats through dropout system. The department said it had found incriminating evidence substantiating conversion of seats, commission payments to brokers and sale of seats in exchange of receipt of cash. Evidences of use of multiple agents for conversion of MBBS and PG seats have also been found, it added. Hawala transactions relating to movement of such cash had been established, said the department adding a total of Rs. 4.22 crore of unaccounted cash had so far been found, including Rs 89 lakh in the house of the main trustee. Evidences also reveal undisclosed investments in real estate. — PTI



A Youth Congress activist being detained during a protest outside the residence of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi.

BJP misusing agencies: Cong

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12 A day after I-T raids on at least five persons working in the Congress' accounts division, the party today cried foul alleging that the BJP was misusing the probe agencies to block financing of candidates in Haryana and Maharashtra where elections are due. Senior Congress spokesperson Anand Sharma said raids had been conducted on five such persons dealing with Congress accounts and probe officers are sitting in the residences of some of them. "All this is being done with an ill intent. It is vendetta politics at its worst. It is pointless to tell this government anything

AIMPLB vows not to part with Ayodhya land

LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 12 The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) today resolved that under the 'shariat', the status of any land dedicated to a masjid cannot be altered, changed or transferred in any manner. The AIMPLB Working Committee meeting, held at the Darul Uloom Naadwatul Ulema under the chairmanship of its president Maulana Syed Mohammad Rabey Hasan Nadvi, reiterated what it described as the "basic stand of the Muslim community" that "no Muslim can surrender or transfer or trespass such Waqf land". Today's meeting was in response to the October 10 congregation of eminent Muslims under the banner of Indian Muslims for Peace where they had expressed the desire to hand over the 2.78 acre land with the Sunni Central Waqf Board to the Supreme Court for it to be handed to the Government of India. The AIMPLB pointed out their stand that handing over the land was not possible was "based on historical facts and evidence that the Babri Masjid was constructed without demolishing any mandir or any other place of worship". Tracing the history of the

Says proceedings in final stages, no possibility of any further mediation, reconciliation

previous mediation efforts, the release maintained the board had fully participated in several earlier proposals for mediation with the hope that a solution based on justice could be found. "But after several efforts it is now clear that there is no possibility of mediation/reconciliation. Therefore, it is obvious that since legal proceedings were in the final stages, there is no possibility of any further mediation, reconciliation". Expressing satisfaction at the Supreme Court proceedings, the AIMPLB articulated its optimism at a favourable judgment "in favour of the Muslim cause which will be based on right, fair play and justice". The board also decided to challenge the constitutionality of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, on the ground that far from protecting the rights of Muslim women and children in marriage, it would "completely destroy the marriage and leave Muslim women as destitute".

Raj pipes down post ED summons

MAHA POLL Goes soft on criticising PM, BJP during campaign SHIV KUMAR TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, OCTOBER 12 Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray, who was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate over a property deal involving the troubled IL&FS group, has toned down criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP during the campaign for the Maharashtra Assembly poll. At his maiden rally earlier this week in suburban Bandra, Thackeray was a pale shadow of his self during the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year. "We do not have the strength to dream of forming the government, but please elect our boys for a strong opposition. A democracy needs a strong opposition party and my boys have fire in their bellies," Thackeray said in his speech.

FIGHTING 102 SEATS

- The MNS is contesting 102 of the 288 Maharashtra seats
Neither Raj nor any of his senior leaders is in the fray
New faces MNS has fielded are likely to cut into BJP votes

In contrast, during the LS elections, the MNS chief had organised a string of video presentations at his public meetings across Maharashtra fact-checking the PM's claims. Though well received by the public, Thackeray's efforts were in vain and the BJP posted a good showing at the hustings. Sources say Thackeray wanted to sit out the Assembly elections like he did the Lok Sabha polls, but was persuaded by party colleagues to contest a few seats. The MNS has thus fielded candidates in 102

of the 288 Assembly seats. The buzz in political circles is that several of Thackeray's candidates in the Nashik-Raigad belt are poised to cut into the votes of the BJP and thus benefit the candidates of the Nationalist Congress Party. While Thackeray's senior associates are sitting it out during these elections, most of MNS' candidates are new faces with a history of local-level activism. According to the MNS, Thackeray will address a dozen rallies in Mumbai, Thane, Pune and Nashik. In the 2014 Assembly elections, the MNS bagged only one seat in Junnar. The party's MLA, Sharad Sonawane, subsequently joined the Shiv Sena. Last month, ED sleuths quizzed Thackeray over his investments in Kohinoor Towers, which was reportedly funded by IL&FS Group.

Sena woos voters with ₹10 meals, cheap power

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, OCTOBER 12 The Shiv Sena today wooed voters with Rs 10 meals, cash transfers for farmers and lower electricity tariffs ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections on October 21. Releasing the party's election manifesto here, Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray accompanied by his son Aaditya said the "Vachan Patra" was the party's promises to the voters. "We are very much in alliance with the BJP but this Vachan Patra is the Shiv Sena's promise to voters," Thackeray told mediapersons when queried why the two parties were releasing separate election manifestos. Thackeray said the Shiv Sena worked out its election manifesto keeping in mind the state's finances. "We can definitely afford to provide wholesome meals for Rs 10 across Maharashtra. We will set up 1,000 bhojanalayas in Maharashtra," Thackeray added. The manifesto also promised health tests for Rs 1, 30 per cent reduction in electricity charges up to 300 units per month and Rs 10,000 cash transfers for farmers in the state. The Vachan Patra also promised special scholarships for Classes X and XII students scoring more than 80 per cent in Marathi. The party has also announced state funds for building all-weather roads in urban areas of Maharashtra on the lines of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana which is functional in villages. "After GST, there are no funds with urban bodies to build roads. The Shahar Sadak Yojana will bring in funds for urban roads," Aaditya said. Hitting out at the NCP for playing the sons-of-the-soil card in its own manifesto, Uddhav said, "The Sena spoke of bhoomi putras 50 years ago. Now other parties which are powerless are playing our bhoomi putra card."



Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray release the party manifesto in Mumbai. PTI

- PARTY PROMISES...
Health tests for ₹1 | ₹10,000 cash transfers for farmers in state
30 pc reduction in electricity charges up to 300 units per month
Scholarships for Classes X & XII students scoring over 80 pc in Marathi
State funds for building all-weather roads in urban areas

'Soorma' puts up a good fight

FROM PAGE 1 was released," Sandeep says rather embarrassed, as a crowd carrying garlands of marigold gathers around him. "When we watched him play for the country, we did not imagine that one day he would be amidst us," the announcer tells the crowd amid a roar of applause. Sandeep focuses on the achievements of the BJP government at the Centre and the state. "Pehowa lags in development. It surely deserves better. We need quality education and healthcare facilities in the constituency. We also need better roads and streetlights. The Khattar government has worked without bias in the past five years. With your blessings, I am sure I will be able to transform Pehowa. "When I played for the country, I gave the game my very best. If given a chance to represent the constituency, I will do the same for the electorate," he tells the gathering. In 2006, Sandeep was seriously injured in a freak accident on board the Kalka-Shatabdi Express. Barely 20 years old then, he was on the wheelchair for a year. Once recovered, he made a remarkable comeback, playing for India in the 2010 Hockey World Cup. "A newcomer to politics, he is already giving a tough time to opponents," observes a villager. Sudhir, a shopkeeper in Pehowa town, too anticipates a keen contest. "Chattha's father has been in touch with a large number of electorate while Sandeep is an outsider. However, a sturdy BJP government at the Centre and the state could tilt the scales in favour of the former hockey captain," he maintains. Congress poll managers say they are confident of Mandeep Chattha's victory. "Chattha saab has done a lot for the constituency. People will surely vote for his son," they argue. Besides BJP rebel Swami Sandeep Onkar, INLD and JJP candidates too are in the fray.

One in 10 schoolkids... CSIR studying how traffic impacts schoolkids' health

FROM PAGE 1 At extremely high levels, triglycerides can also cause acute inflammation of the pancreas. The government is closely looking at the survey results to draft new policy to deal with the NCD risk in children. In another finding, the survey said 4 per cent adolescents have high cholesterol and high low density lipoprotein and 28 per cent have low high density lipoprotein, which means a lot of children are now increasingly getting bad

cholesterol, also associated with heart risks. The survey further reveals that 5 per cent of the Indian adolescents are already reporting high blood pressure in signs of a massive underlying NCD burden as hypertension is a known silent killer. In 7 per cent of the surveyed children and adolescents, clear risk factors for chronic kidney disease were detected. Chronic kidney disease among children was particularly found clustered in a few districts of south, east and north-eastern states. respiratory, cardiovascular and neuro-psychological functions, there is also growing evidence worldwide that it adversely impacts academic performance. The project is being undertaken by the CSIR's Central Road Research Institute and will involve data collection and statistical surveys over a period of time with regard to traffic density, roads infrastructure and pollution level at multiple spots on the ground. With ever increasing number of vehicles on roads and level of air pollution for longer durations, having adverse health effects, said scientists. Respiratory disorders like asthma and some eye-related allergies are common. "In addition, anthropological as well as geographical and meteorological factors that hamper the dispersion of particulate matter present in the air also have to be considered," a scientist said. "Vehicle emissions, dripping oil, road dust and tyre fragmentation result in an increase in carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrates and suspended particulates in the air," he added. A scientist referred to a paper published earlier this year by the US National Bureau of Economic Research, which indicated that when students switch to schools with higher levels of traffic pollution, they tend to experience decline in test scores, more behavioral incidents and more absents. Air pollution harms cognitive performance and poses a major threat to health worldwide, the paper noted.

LIKELY EFFECTS

- Respiratory, cardiovascular, neuro-psychological issues
Asthma, some eye-related allergies
Poor academic performance

greater distance to be travelled between homes and schools, children are exposed to higher

2 die in mishap

FROM PAGE 1 SP Sumit Kumar and DSP Headquarters and DSP Traffic Satish Kumar Vats along with other officials reached the spot. The rescue operation continued for over two hours. Deputy Commissioner Sumedha Kataria later visited the injured at the hospital. The Quilla police have registered a case under various Sections of IPC against the driver and started investigation into the matter, said the DSP. The cause of the accident would be ascertained once the autopsy report is out, he said. The bodies were handed over to the families after postmortem, he said.

India, China to set up trade mechanism

FROM PAGE 1 Xi welcomed Indian investments in IT and pharma and agreed to explore the possibility of establishing manufacturing partnerships as well as identify sectors where investments can be made by companies of both countries. "China is ready to take sincere action and discuss the balance of trade in concrete way to reduce (India's) trade deficit," Xi reportedly told Modi. In what seems to be a similar stand that China will take with Nepal, the two sides decided to engage more on defence and security to enhance trust between the two militaries and security forces. China has sent an invite to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to visit China as a first step in this direction. In an article in a Nepal newspaper today, Xi wrote of the need to scale up border defence contacts and enhance security cooperation. The leaders directed the Special Representatives on border issues to meet soon. Their previous meeting scheduled for September was aborted after the Indian side said it had scheduling issues. It was also decided to bring a new focus to people-to-people ties. "We need (favourable) public opinion to broad-base the relationship," stressed the Foreign Secretary. Asked for a timeline for implementing the decision,

Start of a new era in ties: PM

FROM PAGE 1 fester into disputes. The PM began the second day of the informal summit by "plogging" on the beach. With no one at the beach and a couple of TV cameras for company, dressed in a black tracksuit, he picked up trash with bare hands. Later, he paced in the foyer of the beach resort while waiting for Xi to arrive and then sat next to the driver in a battery-operated vehicle while Xi and interpreters sat behind him as they drove down to a retreat. Xi was circumspect in his opening remarks. "I may follow up on the proposals and issues discussed on Friday. I will make some responses," he said. The leaders then held delegation-level talks. Besides PM Modi, the Indian side included National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale. Xi was more forthcoming on the Indian hospitality, stating he was "really overwhelmed" and the trip to South India was a "memorable experience for me and us (the delegation)". The two leaders had met on Friday evening and toured the temples of Mamallapuram that was followed by a cultural programme and dinner. At a late night briefing, Gokhale said the two leaders discussed bilateral issues and their respective national visions. — TNS

CALENDAR
October 13, 2019, Sunday
Vikrami Samvat 2076
Shaka Samvat 1941
Ashwin Shaka 21
Ashwin Parvatisht 27
Hijari 1441
Shukla Paksh Tithi 15, up to 2:38 am
Vyasa Yoga up to 4:42 am
Uttarabhadrapad Nakshatra up to 7:53 am
Moon in Pisces sign.
Ashwin Purnima
Shri Satyanarayan Vrat
Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti
Gandmool start 7.53 am



THE BEGINNING

IFFI started in 1952. It was organised by the Films Division of the government, under the patronage of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, in Mumbai. As many as 23 countries sent their entries, giving the festival a flying start. This year, 76 countries are expected to send in over 200 entries.

INITIAL YEARS

The Festival, after kicking off at Mumbai, was held in different cities like Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai in the next few years. Besides, it was not an annual affair to begin with — the second edition came in 1961 and third in 1965.



FIRST WINNER

The competition segment was introduced at its third edition and the first movie to win the Golden Peacock Award was Sri Lanka's *Gamperaliya*.

THE INSIGNIA

In 1975, IFFI adopted a representation of peacock as its permanent insignia.

GOA IS HOME

Since 2004, Goa has become Festival's permanent address. Besides, it has been an annual event since the 2004 edition. From being the first film festival of Asia, it is today a global one.

TOP OF THE LINE

In the last five years, IFFI has showcased critically-acclaimed movies like *Bicycle Thieves*, *Miracle in Milan*, *Yukiwario*, *The River*, *The Fall of Berlin*, etc. A few art films such as *Life of Pi*, *Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom*, *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, too, have been showcased.

CONTROVERSIES



The Festival is no stranger to controversies. The latest to shake the Festival happened two years back when two films, *Nude and Durga*, were dropped from the line-up even though they were selected by the jury. This forced Sujoy Ghosh, jury head of the Indian Panorama section, to quit.

MAINSTREAM MOVIES in Indian Panorama this year

Uri	Aditya Dhar
F2	Anil Ravipudi
Gully Boy	Zoya Akhtar
Super 30	Vikash Bahl
Badhaai Ho	AR Sharma

AMITABH SPECIAL

The Festival will honour Amitabh Bachchan by screening a few of his most impactful movies. The actor has been conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award this year.



GOLDEN JUBILEE: IFFI continues to be a huge draw and filmmakers make it a point to visit despite younger and better curated festivals like MAMI catching up fast. FILE PHOTO

IFFI is 50, awaits magic moment

NONIKA SINGH IN CHANDIGARH

GOLDEN jubilee is a milestone by all means. As India's biggest, and perhaps the most panned, film festival gets ready for a landmark year, we pause, ponder and wonder. What makes the International Film Festival of India click, or tick the wrong boxes? For years now the Festival has been attracting cinephiles in huge numbers. Each year a buffet of films from across the world are screened at Goa, the Festival's idyllic and permanent destination since 2004. Expectedly this year too as curtains go up on November 20, around 200 films from 76 countries are expected to be screened.

But the question is not of number, rather of how many more feathers will the Festival add or shed to the glory of the dancing peacock, its official insignia? Among the many highlights will be the presence of Amitabh Bachchan. Not that this will be the first time he will be gracing IFFI. Each year a fair sprinkling of Bollywood bigwigs and regional superstars keep their date with the Festival. From Rajinikanth to Kamal Hassan to Akshay Kumar to Shah Rukh Khan, many A-listers have been special guests. The star-studded affair, which has become a norm since the past few years, forces Malayalam actor Kannan Nayar to dub the Festival as yet another film awards night. Part of the team that tried its level best to ensure their film *Durga*, dropped rather unceremoniously, found its due place at the Festival, undeniably Kannan's experience has been unsavoury.

International Film Festival of India can do better. But beyond drawbacks and criticism, it has many positives — the power of cinema, especially regional, that throbs here with full force being a huge takeaway



Israeli director and writer Dan Wolman was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award at IFFI last year.

Magical experience

Down the memory lane when the Festival was a revolving one and was held at New Delhi, writer Ritesh Shah can only recall the magic of IFFI. Those were the days when access to international cinema was limited. Shah would catch up on as many as three films a day. Besides, it was the Festival that introduced him to the likes of Iranian auteur Abbas Kiarostami.

Iranian cinema has been the toast of the Festival since a long time and continues to find favour. Divya Dutta, a festival regular in varying capacities as jury member and panel delegate, shares how

meeting her all-time favourite Iranian director Majid Majidi was an enthralling moment in her cinematic journey. All set to be a guest again, in the capacity of FTII governing council member, she can only count its strengths.

Kannan, however, continues to remind us of its downside. Sure he is happy with the selection of three Malayalam and two Tamil films in the Indian Panorama section this year. Nevertheless, he has a complaint — he claims a film of a jury member has been selected. "Doesn't selection of the jury member's film amount to conflict of interest?" he asks. In fact, on the composition of jury mem-

bers itself, it's not him but others too who are circumspect. Malayalam filmmaker Bijukumar Damodaran, aka Dr Biju, whose films have been screened four times at IFFI, the last one as recently as in 2016, says, "Except for the chairman, the credibility of jury members of the Indian Panorama section in the recent past often has not been up to the mark." Yet another grouse he has is the "absence of a marketing platform. While screening at international festivals automatically ensures the film is picked up for other festivals, no such doors open at IFFI".

Sure Film Bazar exists and almost runs as a parallel event, but one has to pay

extra for registration. There are no ancillary benefits for independent filmmakers, even when their films are selected for the Festival.

Selection of certain kind of films which Kannan calls "propaganda films" and Dr Biju "mainstream films" too is a bone of contention. They feel this takes away the gravitas that should define a festival of international repute.

Sceptics and admirers

Of course, for every sceptical voice there are many admirers too. Sonu Sood, who performed at the inaugural function at the 49th edition, believes since the last few years the Festival has only become better and bigger. Even though younger and better curated festivals like MAMI might be fast catching up, the enthusiasm of movie buffs at Kerala's film festival might be unbeatable, IFFI still continues to be a huge draw and filmmakers like Dr Biju make it a point to visit. This year he is part of a panel discussion on environment and cinema. But otherwise, too, he loves to be there and catches up with makers from different regions, with IFFI bringing the makers and movies of different hues together.

For beyond all that might not be right with IFFI, the power of cinema, especially regional, does pulsate here with a throbbing force. A little more than a month away, things may not be fully in place and details are sketchy. But rest assured, movies here will be both a slice of life and, to borrow from Alfred Hitchcock, a slice of cake. In short, something for everyone.

Directionless, director-less, and nobody cares

GAUTAMAN BHASKARAN

THE early years of 2000 were a period of great excitement for the International Film Festival of India. They were also one of dilemma. Known as IFFI in its abbreviated form, the Festival ever since its inception in the 1950s had led a gypsy existence — alternating between New Delhi and various other cities. This arrangement obviously had huge flaws. One of the IFFI directors, Malti Sahay, used to lament that over 50 per cent of their energy and time and money went towards such camping outside New Delhi, where they had a permanent base. Also, IFFI found it a struggle to build a rapport with different state governments every other year. They had their own agenda.

So, a move began to find a permanent venue for the Festival, which was organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals, a wing of the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry. Both Ravi Shankar Prasad and the late Sushma Swaraj, who headed the I&B ministry in succession, were keen on Panaji. They felt that one could turn the capital city of Goa into a Cannes.

In 2004, the Festival settled down in Panaji. The location was excellent with a theatre complex facing the gentle flowing Mandovi river. But brick and motor do not make a festival, and IFFI began its downward spiral. And 15 years later in 2019, as the Festival by the Mandovi is all set to celebrate 50 years of its journey, IFFI is nowhere near any of the major festivals the world over. Certainly, miles and miles away from Cannes — the 12-day cinematic event on the French Riviera that some wished would be replicated at Panaji.

What the best stand for

This May, Cannes celebrated its 72nd edition — a Festival that began just as World War II ended in 1945, and which has been steadily building its reputation through an excellent choice of movies and an administration that is almost unshakable. Its

As the Festival by the Mandovi is set to celebrate 50 years of its journey, IFFI is nowhere near any of the major festivals the world over. Certainly, miles away from Cannes, the 12-day cinematic event on the French Riviera that some wished would be replicated at Panaji



Acclaimed Iranian filmmaker Mohsen Makhmalbaf's movie *The President* was screened at the Festival.

directors like Gilles Jacob have remained at the helm for a quarter century and more; the present director, Thierry Fremaux, has been in charge for almost 15 years now or more. He will remain probably for another 15 years, young as he is. Cannes believed in a certain permanence, and this came from the top echelons of the management.

The Venice Film Festival has had its hurdles, its directors not staying long enough to get the 11-day event getting stronger. But when the dynamic Marco Mueller came on board in 2004, the Festival realised its folly. He remained in office for eight years, virtually lifting the Festival that was drowning in the Adriatic Sea. He saw to it that the Festival got just about every film as world premiere.

Mueller's successor Alberto Barbera, who is now the director, has been as able, pushing the Festival from strength to strength. Not just that, Venice has become a keen competitor of Cannes, acting as the launch pad for Oscar hopefuls. Several of the films that premiered at Venice — like *Birdman*, *La La Land*, *The Revenant*,

Roma and so on — went to the Oscars. At 76, Venice — the world's oldest festival — has indeed become a great festival, giving Cannes, often called the Queen of all, a tough race. And Venice could become that largely because the administration realised that a director must stay on for a long time if the Festival has to grow and shine.

Where IFFI erred

IFFI, sadly, seems to have totally overlooked and ignored this aspect. After Shankar Mohan retired as the Festival director in 2014, the event has not been able to find a suitable replacement. It was widely felt then that Mohan should be allowed to continue — as he understood cinema well and was also a keen administrator. Unfortunately, that did not happen, and we have been seeing a shabby stopgap arrangement with one bureaucrat after another holding the post of director. If they know little about cinema (they are not supposed to, obviously), they are, frankly speaking, not even interested in the position.

But even when Mohan was the director, he did not have a great time. He was

hardly allowed to travel to Festivals like Cannes or Venice or Berlin. When he was allowed to go, he was given just about three days in Cannes or Venice — festivals that ran for 11 or 12 days!

Worse, Indian bureaucrats trooped into Cannes year after year, clueless as to what they were meant to do there. If this was not an utter waste of public money with some of the bureaucrats travelling business class and staying in five-star luxury at Cannes, the fact that there was really none to select films was appalling. After all, IFFI is the biggest Festival in India. Any festival worth its name needs a director or programmers who can hop into Cannes or Venice or Berlin or Tokyo to pick titles and build a rapport with producers and helmers there. But IFFI did not believe in that!

What seemed sadder was that IFFI directors hardly had the kind of freedom which their counterparts elsewhere enjoyed. Maybe, they did not assert that! I remember an incident at Busan where the director stood his ground to screen a documentary *The Truth Shall Not Sink With Sewol* (2014) — which told us the tragic tale of a

Considered a bridge too far since Independence and despite the innumerable odds, the Kartarpur corridor — a 4.

PASSAGE TO KARTAR



HOLIEST OF SHRINES

- Located on the banks of the Ravi and originally known as Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara in Pakistan's Punjab province is among the holiest shrines for the Sikhs
- The gurdwara was built to commemorate the site where Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikh religion, settled after his missionary work and spent 18 years until his death in 1539
- Later, when the shrine was repeatedly ravaged by floods, the Maharaja of Patiala, Bhopinder Singh, the grandfather of CM Capt Amarinder Singh, got it reconstructed at a cost of Rs 1.35 lakh in 1920
- The shrine was closed to people coming from across the border after Partition in 1947
- It was opened to pilgrims after repairs and restoration in 1999, and Sikh *jathas* have been visiting the shrine regularly since

Work underway at the site of Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur (Pakistan), which will be opened next month for pilgrims from India. REUTERS FILE



How it all came together, bit by bit

RAVI DHALIWAL IN DERA BABA NANAK

EVERY month, for 18 long years, come rain, sunshine or sleet, former Nakodar legislator and Akali stalwart Kuldeep Singh Wadala organised prayer meetings near the Zero Line at Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur. With hands folded in reverence, he and scores of devotees would seek to see and feel — from a distance — the place across the border in Pakistan's Kartarpur where the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak Dev, assembled a commune and spent the last 18 years of his life until his death in 1539.

There was no shortage of sceptics over India and Pakistan setting aside differences and agreeing to open and operationalise a corridor to Gurdwara Darbar Singh in Kartarpur from Dera Baba Nanak. However, the two hostile neighbours are well on way to make the pilgrims' journey a reality in time for Guru Nanak Dev's 550th birth anniversary

Wadala passed away on June 5 last year and 20 months later, the first batch of pilgrims is all set to cross over to pay obeisance at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, fulfilling his wish. The Punjab government, in a touching tribute, has decided to name one of the roads leading to the corridor after him.

Indian officials at the construction site, who often meet their Pakistan counterparts in technical review meetings, are fond of recounting how the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank asked Prime Minister Imran Khan "to show something good done by his country" if they had to give him the greenbacks. The premier could not have thought of a better goodwill gesture than announcing that his country would open the passage to Kartarpur to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak. New Delhi had to quickly start planning the venture on the Indian side following Imran's well-disguised political googly.

When the first JCB started flattening the sugarcane fields in Dera Baba Nanak, a month after Vice President Venkaiah Naidu and Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh laid the foundation stone in November last year, there was no shortage of sceptics. "One more attack like Dinanagar or Pathankot and the JCB machines will go



NHAI has been given the responsibility of constructing and widening roads to the ICP and the corridor.

back" was the consensus. However, this uncertainty slowly evaporated into thin air once the land acquisition process got underway. There were regular protests from farmers demanding more price than what was being offered. Finally, sensing that things could go off on a tangent, Capt Amarinder dispatched his 'Man Friday' and local MLA Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa to negotiate.

"Faith can move mountains and doubts can create them. There was a lot of scepticism but when we told the farmers that they would get 100 per cent solatium (money given as compensation), they stopped protesting and readily agreed to part with their landholdings," said Randhawa. On February 14, the Pulwama attack took place, followed by the Balakot airstrikes, but fortunately, the corridor work stayed on track.

Ironing out differences with Pakistan

Round one had been won once the process to acquire land was completed without much ado. Then came the technical part. The main question was how to evolve a consensus on 'zero-point' — the exact place where roads coming from India and Pakistan would converge.

This question was answered during the first technical review meeting. Unanimity emerged that Pakistan would construct its

side of the passage, a little more than 3 km long, while India would build the rest and the roads would meet somewhere near where the fencing has been erected.

Finally, it was decided that the passages would meet just adjacent to the raised platform constructed by the Border Security Force to facilitate devotees to have a glimpse of Kartarpur gurdwara through binoculars.

With the Lok Sabha elections barely months away, it was imperative that Prime Minister Narendra Modi took an avid interest. He ordered the Surface Transport ministry to take charge. The ministry's nodal agencies — National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) — were tasked with the construction process.

Keeping in view the religious implications involved, as also the emotive appeal, the Surface Transport ministry was given Rs 538 crore and was told that more money would flow in. At another level, Capt Amarinder asked his officials to immediately sanction Rs 170 crore for the beautification of Dera Baba Nanak.

After several rounds of confabulations between India and Pakistan, the decks were finally cleared for construction of one of Sikh community's most prestigious projects in Independent India.

THE VAJPAYEE INITIATIVE

■ Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee first suggested that the passage be opened to devotees when he took a bus trip to Lahore in 1999. Later, Gurdaspur MPs Partap Singh Bajwa and Vinod Khanna, too, made efforts, but nothing tangible happened in the name of "national security"

■ Finally, at a Cabinet meeting chaired by PM Narendra Modi on November 22 last year, the Kartarpur corridor was approved

■ During Imran Khan's swearing-in ceremony, then Punjab minister Navjot Singh Sidhu was caught on camera hugging the Pakistan army chief and exuding confidence that the corridor could become a reality. Capt Amarinder Singh was less charitable to Pakistan. "Which army teaches to send people to attack Pathankot and Amritsar? This is sheer cowardice. Sidhu may have his reasons to go to Pakistan, I don't approve them," he said.

back of their minds, officers wanted to secure the 100-metre bridge with explosives to make sure the structure could be demolished in the eventuality of an attack.

"This is a normal procedure with the Army. It always fits bridges with explosives built near the borders. Not much should be read into it," said an officer.

The Pakistanis threw a spanner into the works by insisting that they could not on their side build a bridge which was to connect with the Indian bridge at 'zero-point'. Their reasoning was that it does not suit them in the event of an Indian strike.

According to the agreed terms and modalities, the Indians were to establish a 100-metre bridge while Pakistan was to construct a 300-metre one in its area. Both the over-passes would then connect at the 'zero-point'. This would have guaranteed a two-bridge corridor. The bridges were necessitated due to the Ravi river flowing in a zig-zag way on both sides of the Radcliffe Line. There was an impasse, and Kartarpur was slowly becoming a bridge too far.

Days stretched into weeks as officials from across the border insisted on a causeway rather than a bridge. Minister Randhawa pointed out that if a causeway would come up, the entire town of Dera Baba Nanak would be submerged during monsoon.

"With the causeway blocking the natural flow of water when the Ravi river would be in spate, it would be but natural that all the water flows back into India. This would have meant that not only Dera Baba Nanak, but about 60 villages in its vicinity would also have to bear the brunt of the floods," maintained Randhawa.

Breakthrough on construction

On August 29, in the technical meeting held at Zero Line, a breakthrough was achieved. The Pakistanis saw logic in the flooding argument put forth by Randhawa and the Indian officials. They agreed to construct a bridge, but with a rider. Their bridge would be built only after the corridor was operationalised. "Instead, they were willing to provide a service road to facilitate the movement of pilgrims. They said they would establish the bridge at a later date. This definitely has taken some sheen away from the corridor," said Jeetendra Singh, vice-president of Ceigall India Limited.

The Kartarpur corridor may well turn out to be a catalyst to normalise ties, and can also act as a bulwark against mutual trust deficit. And if that happens, credit should go to believers like Kuldeep Singh Wadala.

6-km border crossing to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan — would be thrown open to public on November 9

PUR



WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT INTEGRATED CHECK POST

- Land Ports Authority of India, tasked with construction of Integrated Check Post, has agreed to a proposal by local MLA Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa to depict Guru Nanak Dev's teachings and Sikh history through murals
- The idea to have a 'Darshani Deodi' near the ICP has also found favour
- Immigration, customs and security checks will be done in the ICP
- Paintings revealing history and culture of towns located on the banks of the Ravi, including Chamba, Basholi, Sialkot, Kalanaur and Ajnala, will also be hung
- ICP, a multi-storeyed monolith when completed, 'will act as an epitome of faith, sacrifice, and divinity'. Final inspection of the airport-like passenger terminal with over 50 immigration counters will be held on October 31
- There will also be paintings portraying Akbar's coronation in Kalanaur, Greek invaders crossing the Ravi, Shiv Temple in Kalanaur, Akbar making Lahore his capital, founding of Amritsar by Guru Ramdas, rise of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, declaration of Pooran Swaraj and Jawaharlal Nehru unfurling the 'Tiranga' on the banks of the Ravi in December 1929



CORRIDOR: KEY STICKING POINTS

India and Pakistan went through protracted negotiations that have led to agreement on 80 per cent of the issue and in-principle concurrence on the remaining 20 per cent. The biggest sticking points:

DATE OF INAUGURATION

Pakistan has indicated that the corridor will be "opened" in time for Guru Nanak Dev's 550th birth anniversary celebrations. But Islamabad says no date has been fixed for its inauguration. This is the first time Pakistan has taken this stance.

SOLUTION SO FAR: India is in touch with Pakistan to ensure the corridor becomes operational the day it is inaugurated. However, post-August 5 changes in J&K appear to be casting a shadow.

FEE FROM PILGRIMS

India has been adamant on free access but Pakistan is equally insistent on asking for \$20 per pilgrim, which it says is to defray the expenses of maintaining the corridor and the shrine.

SOLUTION SO FAR: As the date of the inauguration nears, the hard stance taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs appears to be weakening and India may accept the fait accompli unless Pakistan springs a last-moment surprise.

NUMBER OF PILGRIMS

Negotiations started with Pakistan indicating that it would accept just 750 pilgrims every day.

SOLUTION SO FAR: It has now agreed to increase the number to 5,000, but Pakistan is still reluctant to double the number on special occasions, citing infrastructure constraints.

ALL-WEATHER PASSAGEWAY

Pakistan needs to build a bridge over a creek in the path of the Kartarpur corridor in order to make the pilgrimage a round-the-year event.

SOLUTION SO FAR: Pakistan has agreed in principle to build the bridge at the earliest so that pilgrimage is not stopped or pilgrims left stranded if the creek floods and overflows into land around Dera Baba Nanak. Till then, both sides have agreed on an interim solution that however still does not obviate the danger of flooding.

INDIANS WITH OCI, PIO CARDS

Pakistan was initially adamant on giving access only to residents of India while New Delhi wanted permission to Indians holding OCI and PIO cards.

SOLUTION: Pakistan gave in to Indian persuasion and will now allow OCI card holders to utilise the Kartarpur corridor.

KHALISTANI SYMPATHISERS

India stayed away from official-level talks for nearly four months over the inclusion of Khalistani sympathisers in the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC).

SOLUTION: A day before the talks resumed on July 14, Pakistan removed Gopal Singh Chawla and at least three other Khalistani leaders from PSGPC. However, the brother of another Khalistani leader Ameer Singh, who was also removed, has become a member.

CONSULAR ASSISTANCE

In addition to no-cost, seven-days-a-week access to 5,000 pilgrims, India is also requesting for a consular office to attend to emergencies faced by Indian pilgrims.

SOLUTION SO FAR: There is no official word on whether India's request has been entertained.

— Sandeep Dikshit in New Delhi

Dera Baba Nanak in big league

But can the Gurdaspur border town cope with the rush of devotees?

RAVI DHALIWAL IN DERA BABA NANAK

UNPRECEDENTED development is being seen in Dera Baba Nanak town, the starting point of the 4.6-km-long Kartarpur corridor.

Days after the project was announced, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh set up the Dera Baba Nanak Development Authority (DBNDA) to ensure there was no haphazard growth.

The state government has allocated Rs 170 crore to set up new ventures and upgrade old ones like the civil hospital and the bus stand. The railway station is being refurbished with funds provided by the rail ministry. The bus stand has a new address on the outskirts of the city. With this, a lot of space has been made available in the otherwise cramped town.

The 500-metre road running through the main bazaar is being converted into a heritage street on the lines of the one in Amritsar. A food court is also coming up nearby. The District Administrative Complex (DAC) of this sub-divisional town is also being given a new look.

Punjab State Power Supply Corporation (PSPCL) officials have already ensured quality power supply with no fluctuations. The century-old government senior secondary school has been declared a heritage site.

The popular 'Seechewal model' of collecting sewerage water into a pond where a wire meshing is used to filter objects flowing into water is being adopted in 50 villages. Polluted water is taken into two wells where silt and other extraneous material are taken away before it flows to a third well, where it is cleaned by the rays of the sun.

Officers claim this project has been so successful that the Union government has approved it to clean the Ganga. "Former President late APJ Abdul Kalam became a big votary of it and even visited Seechewal village in Jalandhar in 2006 and 2008. Later, then Union Minister for Water Resources Uma Bharti visited the area before approving it to clean the Ganga. Work in the villages of Jaurian Khurd and Chandunangal in Dera Baba Nanak has already started. We expect to cover the other 48 villages before the corridor opens," said an officer.

Huge centre of attraction
The Intelligence Bureau has ruled out establishing hotels or inns in the vicinity



Some knots still remain, like the issue of 15,000 people who will stay back at Dera Baba Nanak daily after 5,000 pilgrims cross the corridor. PHOTOGRAPHS: VISHAL KUMAR

HOW TO REACH CORRIDOR

From Amritsar

The corridor is 46 km away from Amritsar and pilgrims will have to travel via Fatehgarh Churian

Devotees can travel by taxi, their own vehicle or rail. Dera Baba Nanak's railway station, barely 2 km away from the corridor, is being upgraded

From Gurdaspur

Devotees from J&K and Himachal Pradesh will have to travel to Gurdaspur before making the 40-km trip to the corridor via Kalanaur

From Batala

Travellers coming from New Delhi may either go directly to Amritsar or may take the Beas-Batala-corridor route. From Batala, the corridor is located at a distance of 35 km

ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE

Tent City

This temporary structure is being established at the T-point. This will be operational from November 6, three days before the opening. The T-point is located on the Gurdaspur-Dera Baba Nanak road from where the corridor (and the Integrated Check Post) is 2.5 km. The Tent City is at a distance of 38 km from Gurdaspur, 44 km from Amritsar, 33 km from Batala



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is having second thoughts on when to open the corridor



NEW DELHI: With a month to go, Indian side is hopeful of resolving differences

GLOBE TROT



ROYAL CONNECT: Spain's King Felipe VI (2L), Queen Letizia (2R), princess Leonor (L) and princess Sofia (R) attend the Spanish National Day military parade in Madrid. AFP

We are the change, says Greta Thunberg

DENVER: Young people must be prepared to continue striking to call for action on climate change for a long time and not back down, Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg told a climate strike rally in Denver on Friday.

'World more divided now than when Berlin Wall fell'

ATHENS: Thirty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the world is more divided than ever, thus dialogue was urgently needed to build a more inclusive and peaceful future, experts said at the opening of the two-day Rhodes Forum.

Actor Jane Fonda held during climate change protest

WASHINGTON: Veteran actor Jane Fonda was arrested by the police outside the US Capitol when she was participating in a climate change protest.



US troops in Syria come under fire from Turkish positions

Ankara denies charge | Fierce battle rages in border town

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 12

The US troops in northern Syria came under artillery fire from Turkish positions on Friday but none were wounded, the Pentagon said, as Turkey wages an offensive against US-allied Kurdish militia.

"The explosion occurred within a few hundred meters of a location outside the Security Mechanism zone and in an area known by the Turks to have US forces present," Navy Captain Brook DeWalt, a Pentagon spokesman, said.

Meanwhile, Turkey denied targeting a US base in northern Syria. Defence Minister



Turkey-backed Syrian rebels on outskirts of Ras al-Ain. AFP

Pak supports Erdogan's offensive against terrorists

"PM Imran Khan called Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and told him that Pakistan fully understands Turkey's concerns relating to terrorism," his office said.

Hulusi Akar said, "All necessary precautions were taken so as not to damage the US post." He said the Turkish forces had stopped firing "as a precaution" after the Americans contacted them.

At least 100,000 people have fled their homes in Syria, as Turkey presses on with its cross-border offensive on Kurdish-held areas, the UN

SDF OPPOSES TURKEY'S CAPTURE OF RAS AL-AIN

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) denied that Turkish-backed forces had taken control of the centre of Ras al-Ain

Marwan Qamishlo, an SDF military media official, said Turkish-backed forces had entered a neighbourhood of Ras al Ain, following hours of heavy Turkish shelling that had forced a "tactical retreat" from the area

Worst typhoon in six decades batters Tokyo



Rescue operation underway in Japan on Saturday. REUTERS

JAPAN, OCTOBER 12

A heavy downpour and strong winds pounded Tokyo and surrounding areas on Saturday as a powerful Hagibis typhoon dubbed to be Japan's worst in six decades made landfall southwest of Tokyo, with streets, beaches and train stations deserted.

The Japan Meteorological Agency warned of dangerously heavy rainfall in Tokyo and surrounding prefectures, including Gunma, Saitama and Kanagawa, and later expanded the area to include Fukushima and Miyagi.

An earthquake shook the area drenched by the rainfall shortly before the typhoon made landfall in Shizuoka prefecture on Saturday evening. The US Geological Survey said the magnitude 5.3 quake was centered in the ocean off the coast of Chiba, near Tokyo, and was fairly deep, at 59.5 kilometers.

"Be ready for rainfall of the kind that you have never experienced," said meteorological agency official Yasushi Kajihara, adding that areas usually safe from disasters may prove vulnerable. Kajihara said people who

DOUBLE WHAMMY

Hagibis, which means "speed" in Filipino, was advancing north-westward with maximum sustained winds of 144 km per hour on Saturday evening

An earthquake measuring 5.3 shook the area drenched by the rainfall shortly before the typhoon made landfall in Shizuoka

Around 17,000 police and military troops were called for rescue operations in various prefectures

live near rivers should take shelter on the second floor or higher of any sturdy building.

Hagibis, which means "speed" in Filipino, was advancing north-northwestward with maximum sustained winds of 144 kilometers per hour on Saturday evening, according to the meteorological agency.

The storm brought heavy rainfall in wide areas of Japan all day ahead of its landfall, including in Shizuoka and Mie prefectures, southwest of Tokyo, as well as Chiba to the north, which saw power outages and damaged homes in a typhoon last month. — AP

4 shot dead in Brooklyn

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 12

With no sign of gun control becoming law and President Donald Trump once again endorsing the right to bear arms at his Minneapolis rally, Crown Heights in Brooklyn saw a deadly shootout at a social club in the ongoing killing spree across the US.

The police said at least four were killed in a Saturday morning shooting in Brooklyn that left five others injured. Four men were found dead while five others were taken to the hospital. The possibility of gang war cannot be ruled out. — IANS

11 killed, 100 injured in Nepal bus crash

KATHMANDU, OCTOBER 12

An overloaded bus plunged down a hill in central Nepal, killing at least 11 and injuring 108 people, an official said Saturday.

The packed bus was ferrying passengers who had been celebrating the Hindu festival of Dashain. The crowded vehicle slipped and fell more than 50 metres at a bend.

"Six people were killed instantly and five more passed away on the way to

hospital or while being treated," district official Goma Devi Chemjong told AFP.

Chemjong said 108 people were injured but only 39 were kept for treatment. "We are investigating what caused the accident," she said.

Accidents are common on Nepal's poorly maintained highways, with the number increasing during the festival season when the roads are far busier and public transport overcrowded. — AFP

HK protesters defy warnings, use 'gas bombs'

HONG KONG, OCTOBER 12

Protesters marching peacefully hit streets of Hong Kong again in multiple locations on Saturday, defying police warnings that they were gathering illegally.

Police said rioters tossing gasoline bombs also damaged a subway station. Protesters rallied outside police headquarters to maintain pressure on Chief Executive Carrie Lam to bend on her demands ahead of her annual policy address on Wednesday. — AP

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB BHAKRA MAIN LINE DIVISION PATIALA NOTICE INVITING TENDER. Tender Notice No. 5/2019 Dated 10.10.2019. Department inviting Work Brief of Work: Bhakra Main Line Division, Patiala. REPAIRING/REPLACING OF DAMAGED ELECTRIC WIRING OF TECHNICAL EXAMINER VIGILANCE-1, PATIALA (1 No. Works).

Tender/RFD for Services like AMC, housekeeping etc. Government of Punjab Tender/RFP Reference No. 22 of 2019 dt. 10.10.2019. The Department of PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD re-invites online bids for: Special repair of Main Pumping Station and 25 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant at Kapurthala.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB PWD B&R BRANCH NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS eemchild@gmail.com. Tender Notice No. 12 Date : 11.10.2019. Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division PWD B&R Br., Jalandhar reinvites bids from eligible bidders for the below noted work.

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH CORRIGENDUM. Ref: Open Tender Notice No. PI (EP)/19-20/06. 1. The tender item is at Sr. No. 56 (Mini PACS-RIS main department, advance trauma centre and emergency section, with extra image data storage space and connectivity in OPD, APC and ACC) due on 24.10.2019 has been withdrawn due to technical reasons.

PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD E-TENDER/EE/PWSSD No. 2/PATIALA/09/2019 DATED: 10.10.2019. On the behalf of Chief Executive Officer, Pw. W/S and Sew. Board Chandigarh, Executive Engineer, Pw. W/S & Sew. Divn. No. 2 Patiala invites bid from the eligible bidders as per DNIT conditions for the works detailed below:-

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES NOTICE INVITING TENDER AND INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS. E-Tendering Notice No. 5/6-A Tender /DCD Dated 10.10.2019. E-Tenders are hereby invited on work order basis on behalf of the Governor of Punjab through our website eproc.punjab.gov.in/nicgep from approved and eligible Contractors/ Agencies registered with the Water Resources Department Punjab and L&C Societies registered only with B&R Department, Punjab (Principal Department) as per notification of Punjab Govt. Department of Co-operation (Co-operation I-Branch) No. 76/52/79-C-1(5)4342 dated 02.10.2014, for the following works :-

PUNJAB AGRI EXPORT CORPORATION LIMITED 2-A, Sector 28-A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh, 160002 Ph: 0172-2656242, 5074210 & 15; Website: www.punjabagro.gov.in CIN: U51909CH1997SGC019321 Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender. Punjab Agri Export Corporation Limited (PAGREXCO) invites the following 3 e-tenders from reputed & experienced manufacturers/suppliers:

ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ. ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਮੋਜਰ ਹਰਮਿੰਦਰਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ (ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਚੱਕਰ) ਸਰਕਾਰੀ ਕਾਲਜ, ਫੇਜ਼-6, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ (ਮੁਹਾਲੀ) ਵਿਖੇ ਕਾਲਜ ਕੰਟੀਨ, ਟੱਕ ਸ਼ਾਪ ਅਤੇ ਸਟੋਰਮਨਰੀ ਸ਼ਾਪ ਦੇ ਅਲੱਗ-ਅਲੱਗ ਠੇਕੇ ਲਈ, ਸਰਕਾਰੀ/ਅਰਧ-ਸਰਕਾਰੀ ਅਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਾਈਵੇਟ ਠੇਕੇਦਾਰਾਂ ਪਾਸੋਂ ਸੋਹਰਬੰਦ ਟੈਂਡਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ। ਉਕਤ ਦੇ ਸਬੰਧ ਵਿਚ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਹੀ ਠੇਕੇਦਾਰ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਫਾਰਮ ਭਰਨ, ਜੋ ਕਾਲਜ ਅਥਾਰਟੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਦਰਜਾਈ ਗਈ ਰੋਟ ਲਿਸਟ ਤੋਂ ਘੱਟ ਕੀਮਤ 'ਤੇ ਸਵੱਛ ਅਤੇ ਵਧੀਆ ਕੁਆਲਟੀ ਦਾ ਸਮਾਨ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕਰਵਾ ਸਕਣ। ਟੈਂਡਰ ਫਾਰਮ ਦੀ ਕੀਮਤ 300/- ਰੁਪਏ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਕਾਲਜ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਸਵੇਰੇ 9.00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ ਦੁਪਹਿਰ 3.00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਕੰਮ ਵਾਲੇ ਦਿਨਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰ ਲਏ ਜਾਣ।

ਦਫਤਰ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਂਸਲ, ਬੁਢਲਾਡਾ (ਮਾਨਸਾ) 01652-253014 (mehubulada@gmail.com) ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ. ਨਗਰ ਕੌਂਸਲ, ਬੁਢਲਾਡਾ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਦੇ ਅਹਿਤ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਕੰਮਾਂ ਲਈ 23.23 ਲੱਖ ਰੁਪਏ ਦੀ ਰਾਸ਼ੀ ਦੇ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨਿਮਨ ਦਸ਼ਨ ਸ਼ਹਿਦ ਮੋਜਰ ਅਲੱਗ-ਅਲੱਗ ਠੇਕੇ ਨਾ ਕਰੇ ਹਨ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਟੈਂਡਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਾਰਕਾਰੀ ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ http://eproc.punjab.gov.in 'ਤੇ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ ਅਤੇ ਡਿਟੈਲ ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਤਮਨੀਨਾਂ ਵਗੈਰਾ ਹਰ ਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਦਫਤਰ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਂਸਲ ਵਿਖੇ ਵੇਖੇ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ। ਕਾਰਜਸਾਧਕ ਅਰਥਾਤ ਸਿਨਾਂ ਕਾਰਨ ਚੋਣ ਟੈਂਡਰ ਹੋਣ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ।

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB PWD B&R BRANCH NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS. Bid No. 09 Date: 10.10.2019. On behalf of the Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer, Construction Division, PWD B&R Br., Patiala invites re-bids from eligible bidders for detailed in the following table. The bids shall be on the percentage rate basis. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the following works:

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED Regd. Office: PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala — 147001 Office of Controller of Stores & Disposal (South), F-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala. Ph No. 0175-2207571, E-mail id: cosandds@gmail.com Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in FORWARD E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD RE-TENDER NOTICE No. 14 of 2019-20 PWSSD Gurdaspur (2nd time) https://eproc.punjab.gov.in. On behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, Pw. W/S & Sew. Board, Chandigarh, Executive Engineer, Pw. W/S & Sew. Division Gurdaspur. The E-tendering Notice No. 14 issued vide this office endst. No. 4080-94 dt. 17.09.2019 is hereby recalled due to reason that less than 3 No. bidders participate received for each of the below tender. Now these tender will be opened as per detail given below:-

PUNJAB AGRI EXPORT CORPORATION LIMITED 2-A, Sector 28-A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh, 160002 Ph: 0172-2656242, 5074210 & 15; Website: www.punjabagro.gov.in CIN: U51909CH1997SGC019321 Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender. Punjab Agri Export Corporation Limited (PAGREXCO) invites the following 3 e-tenders from reputed & experienced manufacturers/suppliers:

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB PWD B&R BRANCH NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS. Bid No. 09 Date: 10.10.2019. On behalf of the Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer, Construction Division, PWD B&R Br., Patiala invites re-bids from eligible bidders for detailed in the following table. The bids shall be on the percentage rate basis. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the following works:

FORWARD E-AUCTION NOTICE. The online Forward E-auction for the sale of various types of Scrap Material of PSPCL on "As-Is-Where-Is" and "As-Is-What-Is" basis will be conducted as under:-

By the way...



Google remembers Bengali poet Kamini Roy

Kolkata: Google on Saturday paid homage to Bengali poet-reformer and India's first woman honours graduate Kamini Roy on the 155th birth anniversary of the leading campaigner of voting rights for women. Roy, one of the first girls in British India to attend school, was born on October 12, 1864, at Basanda village in then Bakergunj district of undivided Bengal — an area now part of neighbouring Bangladesh's Barisal district. PTI

Nobel literature body's 1st woman head dies

Helsinki: Sara Danius, the first woman head of the prestigious Swedish body that awards the Nobel Prize in Literature, has died. She was 57. Her family told Swedish news agency TT that Danius passed away early Saturday following long illness. Swedish media said she had breast cancer. Danius, who was a literature critic, professor and writer, served as the first female permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy between 2015 and 2018. AP

Zero tolerance towards custodial deaths: Shah

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12 Maintaining that the government has zero tolerance towards custodial deaths, extra-judicial killings and police atrocities, Union Home Minister Amit Shah today emphasised that acts of terror, violence and other human deprivations should also be treated with equal concern in protection of human rights.

Addressing the 26th foundation day celebrations of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in Delhi, Shah, in a strong replete to critics, countered that the Narendra Modi government was working extensively to protect the human rights.

"The government is providing electricity to households, free medical services and gas connections. Providing toilets is also ensuring the human rights of people and the Modi government has done a massive work in the direction to



Home Minister Amit Shah being presented a memento by NHRC Chairperson HL Dattu in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

provide these rights to the people," the minister said.

Shah said, "40,000 civilians have been killed since Independence in Kashmir by militants. Is that not an attack against human rights? I would like to ask, do the families of people who died due to terrorism in Kashmir have no human rights?"

Noting that India's social structure has an inherent strength to protect human rights of poor, weaker sec-

tions, women and children, Shah asked the NHRC to broaden the arc of its cognisance to other aspects of the rights. "I believe human rights norms made by the UNHRC are not applicable in India. Their definition of human rights is limited. We should make our own definition."

Invoking Mahatma Gandhi, Shah said his principles and values encompassed a wide range of human rights.

Xi holds talks with Nepalese counterpart

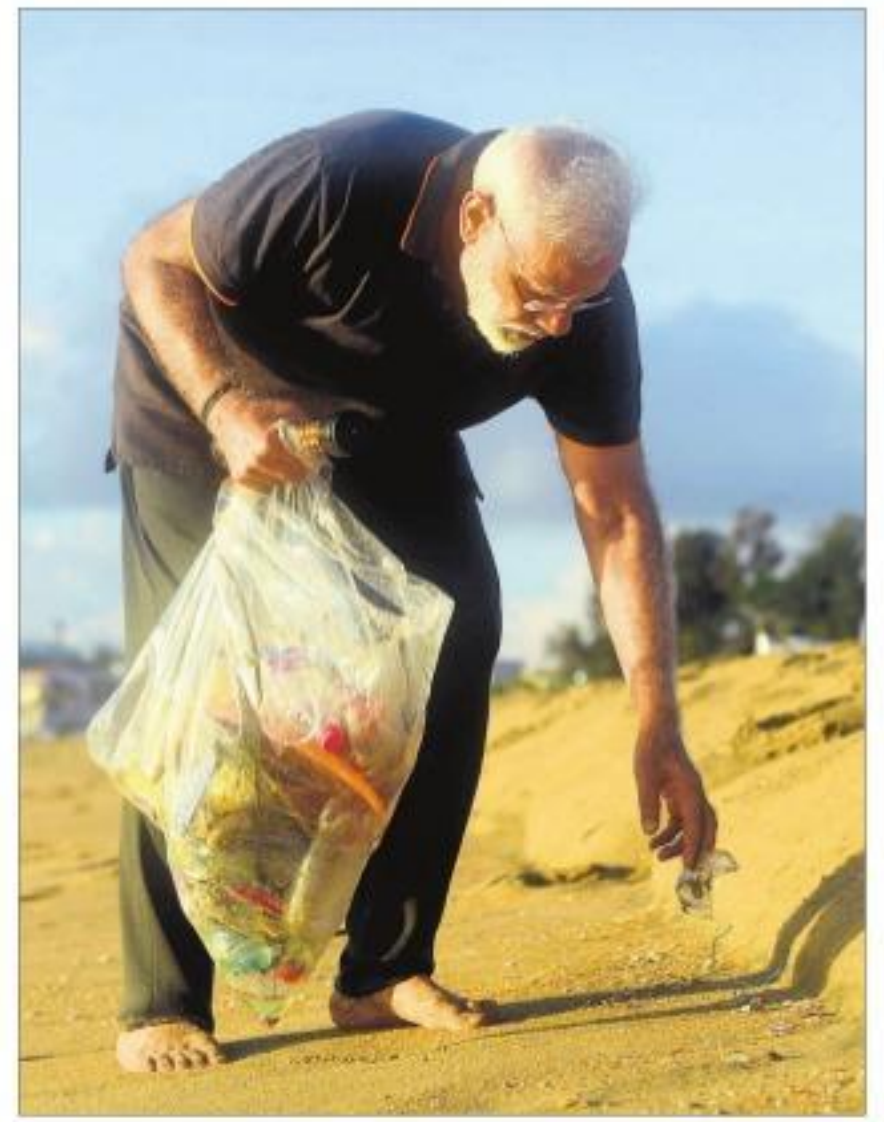
KATHMANDU, OCTOBER 12

Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with his Nepalese counterpart Bidya Devi Bhandari on Saturday as he began his two-day state visit, becoming the first head of the Communist nation to visit Nepal in 23 years, during which the two countries are expected to sign a number of pacts, including an extradition treaty.

Xi was received by President Bhandari and Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli at the Kathmandu International Airport and was offered a ceremonial guard of honour by the Nepal Army.

He is also scheduled to meet Opposition Nepali Congress leader Sher Bahadur Deuba before joining the banquet being hosted by the Nepal President. Xi will meet PM Oli and co-chairman of ruling Nepal Communist Party Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" on Sunday. There will be formal dialogue between the Nepalese delegation led by Oli and Chinese delegation led by Xi," the official said. — PTI

PM goes 'plogging'



Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Saturday seen cleaning up a Mamallapuram beach by picking up plastic litter and other waste during his morning walk.

On Twitter, PM Modi released a three-minute video, which showed him collecting the waste as he walked barefoot on the sand, and urged the people to ensure that public places are clean and tidy. PTI

ED attaches ₹4,000 cr assets of Bhushan Steel

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12 The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday said it had attached assets worth Rs 4,025 crore of Bhushan Power and Steel Limited (BPSL) in connection with its money laundering probe linked to an alleged bank loan fraud.

The central probe agency says it has attached land, building, plant and machinery of the firm located in Odisha under the provision of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The total value, under the provisional order for attachment, is Rs 4,025.23 crore. This is the first attachment in the case and more is expected. The ED alleged that BPSL used various modus operandi to siphon funds obtained as loans from various banks.

"An amount of Rs 695.14 crore was introduced as capital by Sanjay Singal (the then CMD of the company) and his family members in BPSL out of artificially generated long term capital gains (LTCG) by diversion of bank loans fund of BPSL," it said.

LTCG was exempted from income tax during the relevant time, it added. The ED's case of money laundering was filed after studying the CBI FIR against the company, Singal and others on charges of corruption. The ED charged that the BPSL had also made RTGS payments to various entities against "fictitious purchases" of capital goods.

Against RTGS payments, these entities had trans-



MEHUL CHOKSI CHEATED PSB OF ₹441 MILLION

The public sector Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) has revealed around ₹441 million loan exposure to the absconding diamantaire Mehul Chinubhai Choksi on Saturday.

This is the first time the 111-year-old bank has come clean on the default perpetrated by Choksi, who has now settled as a citizen of Antigua & Barbados, the West Indies.

The New Delhi-based PSB has issued notices proclaiming him as a "willful defaulter" who owes the bank the amount for which it has initiated recovery proceedings against him.

ferred cash to BPSL which was ultimately traced to have been used for generation of artificial LTCG by jacking up the prices of penny stocks by way of synchronised trading, the ED said.

Another Rs 3,330 crore invested as equity by promoter companies was found to have been routed out of the funds obtained as loans and diverted from accounts of BPSL in shape of advances shown to various shell companies.

Resolution on Gandhi's b'day anniv introduced in US House

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 12

Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has introduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives celebrating Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary and his enduring legacy.

"Mahatma Gandhi is one of my personal heroes," Krishnamoorthi said after introducing the resolution on Friday. The resolution was cosponsored by a bipartisan group of 14 other lawmakers.

"Gandhi's dedication to public service is an inspira-

tion, and even when faced with incredible hardships and injustice, he never wavered in the fight for freedom, dignity and equality for all," he said.

"As an Indian-American serving in the Congress, I am proud to play my part in honouring his legacy through the introduction of this bipartisan resolution," he added. Brad Sherman, who is Chair of the House foreign affairs sub-committee on Asia, said he would continue to use the platform to promote the values promoted by Gandhi. — PTI

मा निपाद! प्रतिष्ठां त्वमगमः शाश्वतीः समाः।
यत् कौचमिथुनादेकमवधीः काममोहितम् ॥
- महर्षिं वाल्मीकि

Haryana Remembers
Maharishi Valmiki Ji
On His Birth Anniversary
October 13, 2019

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana
www.prharyana.gov.in