

# The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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QUOTE UNQUOTE

KILLERS CLAIMING GANDHI'S LEGACY

Those who assassinated Mahatma Gandhi are now trying to make him their own. They are trying to interpret Gandhi's statements in their favour.

Pinarayi Vijayan, KERALA CM

HIS INDIA UNDER SEVERE ATTACK

Today, as we inaugurate #SurjeetBhawan, it is Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary. Gandhi's India and our Constitution is under severe attack.

Sitaram Yechury, CPM GEN SECY

FOLLOW MAHATMA, DON'T DEIFY HIM

Society and nation will stand transformed if our young generation even partially follows what he (Gandhi) stood for.... But he should not be deified.

Nitish Kumar, BIHAR CM



AI to paint Gandhi's image on 5 aircraft

In a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, Air India will get his image painted on the tail-end of five aircraft in the next 15 days. "The image of Mahatma Gandhi will be painted on tail of (Boeing) 747, 777, 787, 320, ATR," an AI spokesperson said. IANS



**SACHIN GETS SWACHHTA AWARD:** Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar was awarded with the Most Effective Swachhta Ambassador award by President Ram Nath Kovind during a private event held to mark Gandhi Jayanti. PTI

Statue unveiled in Nepal

**Kathmandu:** Mahatma Gandhi's first statue in Nepal was unveiled on Wednesday on the premises of the Indian Embassy here to mark his 150th birth anniversary. PTI

“ Mahatma Gandhi pioneered successive non-violent movements that changed history. 150 years since his birth, Gandhi's philosophy is at the core of our work at the UN. May his courage and conviction continue to inspire us. Antonio Guterres, UN CHIEF

Tributes & political jostling to claim Bapu's legacy

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

His writings, his spoken words and vignettes from his life — Mahatma Gandhi was the refrain in the farthest corners of India on his 150th birth anniversary on Wednesday as tributes poured in and parties jostled to stake claim to his legacy.

GANDHI



150 years

From Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Congress president Sonia Gandhi and from schools big and small to the beaches of Dandi, there were multiple odes to the man whose ideas and ideals were instrumental in shaping India's freedom struggle and post-Independence journey.

An outpouring of tributes, marches and commemorative events marked the day that saw customary ceremony and grandstanding, but also genuine

remembrances of the Mahatma and efforts to understand his profound contribution to society.

President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President Venkaiah Naidu and Modi led the nation in paying rich tributes to the Father of the Nation at his memorial in Rajghat.

Observing that Gandhi envisioned Indian nationalism as one that was never narrow or exclusive, Modi proposed what he called the 'Einstein Challenge'. "How do we ensure the ideals of Gandhi are remembered by future generations? I invite thinkers, entrepreneurs and tech leaders to be at the forefront of spreading Gandhi's ideas through innovation," Modi wrote in the New York Times, in an article titled 'Why India and the World Need Gandhi'.

"We pledge to continue working hard to realise his dreams and create a better planet," he said on Twitter, adding that the nation expresses its gratitude to Gandhi for his everlasting contribution to humanity.

Modi also travelled to Gujarat to address a gathering in the Sabar-mati Ashram. The government used the day to stress on cleanliness, the dangers of single-use plastic and the aim of making India open defecation-free.

The celebrations appeared to be a game of one-upmanship between the Congress and the BJP



HOUSE REMEMBERS HIM

Parliament paid tributes to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said not just India, the entire world was celebrating the birth anniversary

Birla said Gandhi was an 'institution' in himself whose philosophy consisted of faith, spirituality and culture and this is the reason that his birthday is celebrated every year as 'International Day of Non-Violence'

Among those who paid floral tributes to Gandhi were PM Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Leader of Opposition (Rajya Sabha) Ghulam Nabi Azad, Former Deputy PM LK Advani and Congress president Sonia Gandhi

<< Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Ghulam Nabi Azad at Parliament House. MUKESH AGGARWAL

with both organising marches, Gandhi's favourite way of reaching out to the people, in their bid to cash in on his legacy.

BJP president Amit Shah kicked-off a four-month exercise in which party leaders across the country will undertake foot marches and address public events to mark his 150th birth anniversary. Shah asked people to follow Modi's call to

shun single-use plastic.

The Congress, which has seen over the years a gradual appropriation of some of its stalwarts by the BJP, launched a counter-drive with its president Sonia Gandhi taking a swipe at the Modi government, saying the Mahatma would have been pained by what has happened in India over the last few years. In a show of strength, perhaps the first since the Con-

gress' Lok Sabha poll debacle in May, Sonia Gandhi as well as her children, former party chief Rahul Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, were out on the streets accompanied by thousands of party workers.

While Rahul Gandhi led a march of party workers to Rajghat, Sonia Gandhi waited at the memorial to address the workers and Priyanka Gandhi

was in Lucknow. She claimed that the Congress was the only one party that followed the path shown by him and carried on his legacy. Those who indulge in the politics of falsehood cannot understand his ideals of truth and selfless service, she said.

A mega cleanliness drive was organised on the sea beach in Dandi, the place associated with the historic 'Salt Satyagrah' of 1930. — PTI

BJP's 5-yr strategy to steal show

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

It was in the very first year of his first term in 2014 that PM Narendra Modi launched his government's flagship cleanliness programme — Swachh Bharat Abhiyan — on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Five years down the line, the Modi government 2.0 and the BJP spearheaded mega events to mark the 150th birth anniversary of the Mahatma even as party's ideological fountainhead RSS also pitched in.

Sarsangchalak Mohan Bhagwat said, "Gandhiji, who believed in the Swa-based reorganisation of Bharat, firmly stood for social equality and harmony and translated his vision into action, had set an example for all through his life. We must perceive, understand and manifest it in our life." He also claimed the Mahatma visited an RSS "shakha" during the time of



Minister Prakash Javadekar tries his hands on a spinning wheel. MUKESH AGGARWAL

Partition, interacted with "swayamsevaks" and expressed joy over their discipline and absence of divisive feelings over caste and creed.

While the Congress claims the BJP had been "forced to acknowledge the Mahatma" because the governments led by it kept his legacy alive, PM Modi and the BJP have, in the past five years, managed to ensure that the Mahatma

becomes an essential part of their narrative.

The NDA government may have changed names of some UPA programmes christened after Congress leaders, but its flagship programme "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme", which was mocked by Modi while being the Gujarat CM, continued with bigger allocations when he became the PM.

Over the past five years, Modi was seen promoting Gandhi's legacy, his thoughts and his views on cleanliness and "khadi". The PM, who normally does not react to untoward statements by party leaders, made an exception when it came to Mahatma. "I will never be able to forgive Pragya Thakur for insulting Gandhi," he said reacting to Pragya calling Nathuram Godse, Mahatma's assassin, a true patriot. — TNS

Redeem Gandhi's India: Sonia

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

Congress president Sonia Gandhi today admonished a Twitter-happy party to hit the roads to preserve Mahatma Gandhi's idea of India.

Addressing Congress workers who congregated at Gandhi memorial Raj Ghat here after a 4-km-long padyatra led by past president Rahul Gandhi, Sonia took jibes at the BJP without naming it and said some people wanted the RSS to become the symbol of India in place of Mahatma Gandhi but that's not happening.

The Congress chief said Bapu's heart would be anguished today to see the state of affairs of India in the past five years (read since the BJP came to power). She was leading the national event to mark the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi with top AICC leaders holding similar marches across state capitals.



Priyanka Gandhi takes part in the 'Jan Aakrosh Padyatra' in Lucknow.

A DAY OF PADYATRAS IN LUCKNOW

Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary became a day of padyatras — an agitation tool perfected by none else than him

- Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra led the 3-km 'Jan Aakrosh Padyatra' in Lucknow on Wednesday
- CM Yogi too took out a padyatra from his official residence to the 1090 crossing where he took a pledge to shun single-use plastic
- Lucknow Lok Sabha MP and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also undertook a padyatra from BJP office to the Hussainganj crossing

Sonia urged workers to go to "every village and lane like the Mahatma to restore the spirit of India." Projecting Congress as the true inheritor

of Mahatma's legacy, the Congress chief in veiled swipes at BJP said it was easy to appropriate Gandhi but difficult to live his teachings. — TNS

No consent, China shifted to Indian Embassy

BEIJING, OCTOBER 2

The celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, which is held every year since 2005 at a public park in Beijing, was shifted to the Indian Embassy premises in the last minute on Wednesday after the Chinese government denied permission to hold the event, Indian Embassy officials here said. However, no explanation was given by the Chinese authorities as to why the permission was not given, they said.

For the last 14 years, Gandhi Jayanti celebrations were being held at the Chaoyang Park after a statue of 'Father of the Nation' sculpted by Chinese sculptor Yuan Xikun was installed there in 2005. The popular public park has the only sculpture of Gandhi in China. — PTI

Sena stalls Rane's entry into BJP

SHIV KUMAR TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 2

Stiff opposition from the Shiv Sena has forced the Maharashtra BJP to delay the admission of former Maharashtra Chief Minister Narayan Rane into the party. Party sources said Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray had conveyed his opposition to the entry of Rane into the BJP to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. The BJP which helped Rane enter the Rajya Sabha is keen on fielding his son Nitesh from the Kankavli Assembly constituency from where he won last on a Congress ticket.

"Nitesh Rane will contest from the Kankavli Assembly constituency on the BJP ticket. His name will figure on the

RESISTANCE IN RULING PARTY TOO

Sources in the BJP said its party workers in Konkan had also opposed the entry of Narayan Rane into the party. Rane is pushing for the BJP ticket for his son Nitesh who had defeated the BJP's sitting MLA Pramod Jathar in 2014

second list put out by the party." Narayan Rane told reporters in Pune today. Sources in the BJP said its party workers in the Konkan had also opposed the entry of Rane into the party. Nitesh Rane had defeated the BJP's sitting MLA Pramod Jathar in 2014.

Narayan Rane, who was Maharashtra's Chief Minister during the Shiv Sena-BJP rule 20 years ago, moved to

the Congress before floating the Maharashtra Swabhiman Paksh which joined hands with the BJP.

Today Rane told reporters that he would be inducted into the BJP in a week's time. The former Shiv Sena strongman from the Konkan told reporters that he could turn the whole of Sindhudurg district into the BJP's stronghold if he was inducted into the party. "I can assure you that all the MLAs and MPs from this district will belong only to the BJP," Rane said.

However, Shiv Sena leader and MoS for Finance Deepak Kesarkar, who is opposed to Rane, has warned that the local units of the Shiv Sena and the BJP would revolt if the former CM was inducted into the saffron party.

Bihar CM snaps back at scribe over flood query

PATNA, OCTOBER 2

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar lost his cool in the face of persistent queries from a journalist about the inundation of Patna due to heavy rain and shot back asking whether there was similar outrage when Mumbai suffered a deluge and floods disrupted normal life in the US.

The incident took place on late Tuesday night when Kumar was wading through knee-deep water to survey an inundated area of the city.

Apparently aggrieved at the incident, Kumar on Wednesday said, "Do you have any illusion that your harsh language is of any consequence to me? It is not. I am someone who has been devoted to serv-



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar in Patna

ing the people. I do not care about what you say about me." "People of my age are virtually through with their lives. But for heaven's sake show a sense of responsibility." — PTI

ISRO scientist found dead in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 2

A 56-year-old scientist with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), an ISRO division, was found dead under suspicious circumstances at his residence here, police said on Wednesday. Suresh Kumar, working in the NRSC photo department, was staying alone in the apartment at Ameerpet when the incident occurred on October 1.

Kumar's wife, who lives in Chennai, had called his mobile several times but there was no response, they said. She informed his friends, who reached his flat and found that the man was found lying dead with three injuries on the head. — PTI

BCI opposes higher education panel Bill, warns of agitation

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

The Bar Council of India on Wednesday strongly opposed the proposed higher education commission bill, saying it takes away the BCI's power to regulate legal education and hands it over to "outsiders". In a statement by the BCI, its chairman Manan Kumar Mishra said that nationwide protests will be held in November in which about one lakh lawyers were expected to participate. "The council has further resolved to hold protest rallies in all the state capitals as well as in Delhi and 'gherao' the parliament during the winter session if the Bill is moved and the advocates act is not excluded from its ambit," the BCI said.

Mishra said that the reason to protest was that the "legal education cannot be allowed to be regulated by outsiders, social workers or the teachers". The statement said that the BCI has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other ministers demanding that professional legal studies be spared from the purview of the bill.

In its letter to Modi and other ministers, the lawyers' body explained that it has a sound statutory legal educa-

In letter to PM and other ministers, lawyers' body says it already has a sound statutory legal education committee

tion committee, headed by former judge of the Supreme Court and chief justices, several sitting and former judges of high courts and noted academicians to take care of the standard and regulation of the legal education in the country. The statement said the BCI will also hold a joint meeting of all state bar councils at its premises in Delhi on October 12 to protest against the Bill. It said that the move to introduce such a bill was proposed last year but with the intervention of Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah it was dropped.

The Higher Education Commission of India (Repeal of University Grants Commission) Bill 2019 repeals the University Grants Commission Act 1956 and introduces the Higher Education Commission of India, which would regulate the standards of higher education. — TNS/PTI

My critics now talking of climate change: Jairam

BHOPAL, OCTOBER 2

In a veiled attack on PM Narendra Modi, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said on Wednesday those who once criticised him for raising alarm over climate change are now championing the same cause. The former Environment Minister was speaking at a seminar here on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. "Those who criti-

cised me 10 years ago for talking about climate change are today taking a lead in advocating ways to address climate change globally," he said. When he spoke out about environmental degradation, these people would say that development should be given primacy, he said.

Last month, Modi said at UN Climate Summit that world needed quick action. — PTI

SC decision has exposed Dalit plight: Maya

LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 2

BSP president Mayawati on Wednesday said the Supreme Court's decision on the SC/ST Act have brought to the fore "bitter life realities" and struggles of Dalit society and exposed the "Dalit love" of the ruling BJP and Congress.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday had recalled its direction in the March 20, 2018, verdict which had virtually diluted provi-



sions of arrest under the SC/ST Act. In a tweet, Mayawati said: "The Supreme Court, while restoring the provi-

sions of the SC/ST Act 1989 in its judgement, has verified facts regarding the bitter life realities and struggles of Dalit society, they specially expose the Dalit love of the ruling BJP and Congress. It is necessary that the country and society remain aware (sic)."

In another tweet, she spoke about Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand faring badly on NITI Ayog's ranking in terms of school

education. "Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand are ranked lowest in the country in terms of school education ranking of NITI Ayog. Will the parties which have ruled the country and the state for the longest time, especially the Congress and BJP, be able to give an answer to the public on Gandhi Jayanti as to why there is such a shameful crisis," she asked. — PTI

# The Tribune

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MARY KOM SHOULDERS MEDAL HOPE AT WORLD EVENT **SPORT**

UK COURT RULES IN FAVOUR OF INDIA ON NIZAM'S FUNDS, REJECTS PAK CLAIM **WORLD**

EXPECT US TO ALLOW S-400 DEAL: JAISHANKAR **BACK PAGE**

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PM Narendra Modi pays homage at Bapu's samadhi

## Meeting Bapu's swachhta goals

Lucky to see Mahatma Gandhi's dream coming true... Today, India's villages have declared themselves 'open defecation-free'. The world is appreciating us (for) providing toilets to over 60 cr people. Narendra Modi, PM

### MORE THAN 98% SANITATION COVERAGE

5 yrs ago Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin launched on this day

98% sanitation coverage in villages from mere 38.7% earlier

27 states, 601 dists, 5,934 blocks, 2,46,116 panchayats open defecation-free

- Open defecation-free:** Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, HP, J&K, Chhattisgarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, MP, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, Sikkim, TN and Uttarakhand
- Targets met:** Construction of 66.42 lakh individual household toilets, 2.52 lakh community toilet seats, 2.56 lakh public toilet seats and cent per cent door-to-door collection of solid waste
- 9.16 crore toilets built by February this year
- Single-use plastic won't be allowed inside historical monuments

Single-use plastic is dangerous to the country and the world. Gandhi was the ambassador of cleanliness and Modi is the only PM who has made it a mass movement. Amit Shah, HOME MINISTER



## Plastic ban put off, 'disruptive'

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2 There was no big announcement on Wednesday on "banning" single-use plastic, not even plastic plates, straws, cups, bottles, etc.

Focusing on public awareness for now, the Narendra Modi government appears to have left India's war against environmentally hazardous material on the collective consciousness of the people.

A few days ago, the Centre had issued an advisory to states and UTs, asking them to curb production of plastic bags, cutlery and similar items of thermocol before October 2. The advisory had "suggestions to be added to the existing orders and/or to any new regulations" for the "implementation of single-use plastic phase out".

### THREE-PHASE DRIVE

- States asked to enforce existing rules and conduct public awareness campaigns
- People to be told about ill-effects of single-use plastic and persuaded to collect and send it for recycling
- The industry being asked to come up with alternatives



In other words, there is no immediate move to ban single-use plastic. Officials said the measure was seen as too disruptive for the industry at a time when the country was passing through a bad economic phase. Also, PM Modi had never said there would

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

## Statehood to be back as tension eases: Madhav

JAMMU, OCTOBER 2 Amid demand by various political parties to restore J&K statehood, BJP national general secretary Ram Madhav on Wednesday said any decision on this would be taken by the Union Home Ministry.

Addressing a function to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Madhav said some decisions had been taken "only for the time being" to ensure lasting peace. "As the situation improves, J&K statehood will be restored. Protecting the political rights of the J&K people is a priority with the Centre," he said.

Though Madhav didn't set a time frame for this, he said Home Minister Amit Shah had himself announced in Parliament that the "UT status was temporary and statehood would be restored at the appropriate time". — TNS



TEST TON AS OPENER: Rohit Sharma scored unbeaten 115 in his first Test innings as opener against South Africa in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. It was Rohit's 4th Test ton, the earlier ones scored playing in middle order. **SPORT**

### IN BRIEF

**Passport, not visa, must for Kartarpur Sahib visit**  
Chandigarh: A passport is a must for Indian devotees visiting Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara in Pakistan. However, a visa will not be needed. The visitors need to get themselves registered online at least a month in advance. This came to light at a high-level review meeting chaired by Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh here on Tuesday. **IANS**

## Congress plays it safe, fields 16 of 17 Hry MLAs

ADITI TANDON  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2 The Congress played safe in election-bound Haryana today by fielding 16 of the 17 sitting MLAs, including former CM and four-term lawmaker Bhupinder Singh Hooda from Garhi Sampla Kiloi, in the first list of 84 candidates announced late today.

Hansi MLA Renuka Bishnoi, wife of Kuldeep Bishnoi, is the only MLA the Congress hasn't repeated. She opted out even though former Haryana Deputy CM Chander Mohan, the brother of Kuldeep Bishnoi, has been named Congress candidate from Panchkula, a segment he represented earlier. Former Congress Legislature

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Tanwar revolts publicly

Calls it fight to the finish, flays Hooda camp

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2 Former Haryana Congress chief Ashok Tanwar today publicly revolted outside party chief Sonia Gandhi's residence here, alleging sale of party ticket.

"There are allegations that the Sohna Assembly ticket has been fixed for Rs 5 crore," he claimed outside the AICC headquarters where a thousand-strong gathering of his supporters sat on a daylong protest, alleging denial of nominations to "deserving" workers by a select few, a reference to state chief Kumari Selja, CLP leader BS Hooda and AICC general secretary Ghulam Nabi Azad.

Tanwar, upset over being replaced with Selja as state

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I'M A HUMAN BOMB

No leadership was allowed to come up in Haryana for years. We created leaders from all castes. Now efforts are afoot to politically murder you all.

## 200 transfers behind minister's back

RAJMEET SINGH  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 2 Punjab Local Government Minister Brahm Mohindra's three week's absence from the office for medical reasons saw nearly 200 transfers in the department.

The Local Bodies Direc-

Why the move when Mohindra was in hospital, ask some Punjab MLAs

torate, in an apparent violation of "rules of business" which specify the powers vested in the CM, minister in-

charge and Administrative Secretary regarding various decisions, including transfers, ordered 200 transfers, also allotting additional charge to an official.

This happened between September 7-21 when the minister was recuperating at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

\*\*\* NURTURING OVER \*\*\*

# 18 MILLION DREAMS.



#LetsPlay



Bringing the best of basketball to a stadium full of children.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 6:30 pm  
Dome, NSCI, SVP Stadium, Mumbai.

# Put a halt to goonda tax, Ropar court tells officials

## Stone crusher owners allege admn fails to curb menace

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROPAR, OCTOBER 2

A month after the collection of "goonda tax" from crusher owners was highlighted by *The Tribune*, a local court directed the state government as well as the district administration, including police authorities, to ensure that no such illegal check post be set up in the district by any unauthorised person.

Disposing of an application filed by eight stone crusher owners from Himachal Pradesh, Ropar Civil Judge Madan Lal stayed the collection of "goonda tax", directing that defendants Rakesh Chaudhary, Bunty Sandhu and Prabh Gill be restrained from collecting unnecessary royalty or money by way of extortion in Rupnagar. The respondents were also directed to ensure that no such illegal check post was put up in the district till the disposal of the case.

It was on August 28 and August 29 when *The Tribune* highlighted that "goonda tax" was being collected from crusher owners as well as from drivers of vehicles of Himachal Pradesh carrying sand and gravel. All tippers and other vehicles coming out of stone crushers in the



Youths collect illegal tax from tipper drivers on the Anandpur Sahib-Ropar national highway. FILE PHOTO

### PRACTICE CONTINUES DESPITE COMPLAINTS

- *The Tribune* had, on August 28, highlighted that even as mining in Ropar was yet to start, the mining mafia had begun collecting "goonda tax".
- Though the police had cracked down on illegal nakas after complaints by crusher owners, the practice continued allegedly due to political patronage.

district were forced by the mafia to shell out Rs 4 per cubic feet of material. According to rough estimates, the mafia, which is operating apparently under the political patronage, is collecting nearly Rs 1 crore every day in the name of "protection money".

The district police had booked Rakesh Chaudhary, Bunty Sandhu and Prabh Gill on a complaint by a road construction contractor on September 10 for allegedly detaining his tippers carrying gravel from Himachal Pradesh and seeking illegal tax. No further action was taken against them and they continued to collect "goonda tax" openly.

Following this, eight crusher owners from Himachal Pradesh moved the court alleging that the accused in connivance with

defendants, including the state government and district administration, were collecting "goonda tax".

Meanwhile fearing backlash, stone crusher owners in the district preferred to keep mum over the issue. A few crusher owners on the condition of anonymity alleged that the mafia men had assured them of protection from enforcement agencies with warnings that their crushers would be sealed in case they didn't cooperate with them.

A close relative of a senior politician was forced to keep his stone crusher closed for nearly one week after he refused to pay "tax" last month.

# Pay ₹35,000, clear pending exams at Punjabi varsity

## Offer draws criticism from faculty members, students

RAVNEET SINGH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, OCTOBER 2

In an attempt to provide relief to students who have exhausted all chances of reappear and improvement in any of their exams, Punjabi University, Patiala, is offering them a special chance to clear the papers during the upcoming semester examinations.

However, the offer comes at an expenditure of Rs 35,000, which will be charged apart from the reappear and improvement fees. The offer is also valid for those whose degrees are pending due to their inability to clear the road safety awareness paper on a special fee payment of Rs 1,000.

Moreover, the university has decided to declare the students' results without marks, as mere pass or fail. The university said interested students could deposit their fees and forms by October 10, and the exams would be conducted in November and December. The step has drawn criticism from various quarters.

Dr Jaswinder Singh Brar, professor, economics and president, Punjabi University Teachers' Association, lauded the offer of the special chance but added, "The university could have given



The Punjabi University campus in Patiala. FILE PHOTO

### ONE-TIME OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS

“A similar chance was offered during May exams. This is a one-time offer. Any student from previous years can avail it. All formalities for the exams will be done exclusively. With this, the students are getting a chance to complete their degrees. Balwinder Singh Tiwana, CONTROLLER OF EXAMINATIONS

relief over the special fee to students from marginalised sections.”

Kulwinder Singh, president, Punjab Students' Welfare Association, said, "The university should have provided some relief by charging only nominal fee in view of Guru Nanak Dev's 550th birth anniversary. This is not in the interest of students but a bid to fill the university's own coffers. Many students from marginalised sections will not be able to avail the offer.”

Defending the move, controller of examinations Balwinder Singh Tiwana said the university had provided such offers earlier as well. "A similar chance was offered during the May examinations this year. This is a one-time offer. Any student from previous years can avail the chance." He said the charges were high as this was a one-time offer. "All the formalities for the exams will be done exclusively. With this, the students are getting a chance to complete their degrees.”

# Jail inmates protest 'delay' in release

PATIALA, OCTOBER 2

Inmates at the open jail, Nabha, today sat on a hunger strike alleging files related to their release were not being forwarded by the jail superintendent despite completion of their sentence. Photographs and video of the strike have gone viral.

## Video goes viral, supdt says outsiders filmed agitation

Jail superintendent Sucha Singh said some inmates were behind the protest. He said he had been directed to present the details of the inmates at the office of the ADGP (Jails) on Thursday.

Sources said in all, 41 inmates, who have been serving life term, have been protesting since Tuesday.

Sucha Singh claimed the inmates raised demands that their files should be sent for processing as they had completed their term, which was not true. "The inmates are supposed to be in jail for 14 years, which does not include time period spent on temporary parole. Those serving life term are allowed temporary parole periods," he said.

When asked about the video, he said, "Some outsiders came to the jail. They weren't allowed to bring phones but one of them must have filmed the incident secretly." — TNS

# For ₹40K computer, market panel shells out double amount

VISHAV BHARTI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 2

A computer that costs around Rs 40,000 was purchased for Rs 82,000 by a market committee. This is just the tip of the iceberg as a large amount of stationery and publicity material was purchased at inflated prices by the Punjab Mandi Board. It's not just articles that have been purchased at inflated rates, the supplier has also charged the market committees more GST than the prescribed rates.

According to the documents with *The Tribune*, the Market Committee, Gehri, in Amritsar purchased a desktop computer in October 2017. The computer was supplied by Jalandhar-based Amit Traders. As per the bill, a 'Dell all-in-one with 24 inches screen, 7th generation processor with pre-installed Windows', including UPS, was purchased for Rs 82,423. However, the computer with the same configuration is available at almost half the price in the market. Interestingly, the money has been charged twice for the installation of the Windows in the bill.

Around 30 purchase bills of various market committees pertaining to 2017 and 2018 hint at another scandal, the one pertaining to GST. The supplier has charged 28% GST on the stationery items. However, the prescribed rate is just 12%.

Similarly, on publicity material like flex boards, the GST rate is 18%. However, the same seller has charged 28% from a market committee.

Similarly, the stationery supplied to Market Committees of Fatehgarh Churiyan and Tanda Urmur, the price of items like gate entry registers were charged more than the approved rates. In some cases, it was even double than the approved rates.

Besides, there are also instances where rates of various items having been charged more than the

## Many even charged higher GST than prescribed rates

### ANNUAL PURCHASE WORTH ₹10-CRORE

There are total 153 market committees in the state and each of them gets ₹5-lakh grant to buy flex boards, printing material and stationery at the local level every year. Besides this, they get ₹1 lakh each to buy computer or photocopy machines. All these purchases are made at the local level at the prices fixed by the Punjab Mandi Board. Thus, the total purchase comes to ₹10 crore.

approved rates. For instance, as per a bill dated November 11, 2018, the Market Committee, Attari, purchased a Canon photostat machine (Model IR-2004) for Rs 57,600. However, as per the approved rate list, it should have been supplied for Rs 44,838, including 18% GST. The supplier, however, charged 28% GST against 18%. Interestingly, for the same items, the GST has been charged on different rates from various market committees.

Amit Kumar, owner of Amit Traders, accepted that the computer they had supplied was available for Rs 50,000 in the market. "But the committee wanted an extra Windows and we charged for its installation as well," he said. When asked about the photocopy machine, he said the company had discontinued that particular model asked for, so they supplied a different one, which was expensive. But the Mandi Board failed to update their rate contract record.

About the GST, he said they had charged as per the prescribed rates only. Lal Singh, chairman of the Punjab Mandi Board, couldn't be contacted as his staff said he was in a meeting and would get back soon.

# Ex-Jathedar: Free SGPC from Badals

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FATEHGARH SAHIB, OCTOBER 2

The Panthik Akali Lehar, a non-political organisation led by former Akal Takht Jathedar Bhai Ranjit Singh, on Wednesday launched a mass movement to liberate the Akal Takht, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and other Sikh organisations from the "clutches of the Badal family".

It organised a conference at Fatehgarh Sahib which was attended by thousands of supporters.

Addressing the gathering, Bhai Ranjit Singh lashed out at the Badals for misusing the 'Guru's golak' meant for the poor and making the Jathedar of the Akal Takht "his slave". He said the Akal Takht had become defunct and no message was given without the permission of the Badals.

He called upon the Union and the state governments to immediately announce the SGPC polls and urged the Sikhs to enrol themselves as voters so as to challenge the authority of the Badals. He warned that if the government did not announce the elections, they would be forced to launch an agitation.

# Akalis in wait-and-watch mode, yet to pitch in for ally

DEEPAKAMAL KAUR

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, OCTOBER 2

With the bypoll to four Assembly constituencies in Punjab just three weeks away, the strained relations between the SAD-BJP owing to their split in Haryana can have an impact on the result of at least two seats here.

While the BJP candidates are contesting on two seats of Doaba - Phagwara and Mukerian, the other two of Dakha and Jalalabad fall in the SAD kitty. While the Akali Dal's indifference may not matter much to the BJP as it does not have much base in Mukerian, it surely will dent the party on Phagwara seat, which has a large Sikh population in 91 villages falling in its periphery. Likewise, if Dakha remains unaffected due to no involvement of the BJP, the SAD surely needs its support in Jalalabad.

To date, the Akali leaders of Doaba have been sitting back and are not participating in any campaign of the BJP for the two seats in the area. Youth Akali Dal general secretary Sarabjot Sabi, who hails from Mukerian and had last month organised a membership drive there, is reportedly

## ASSEMBLY BYPOLL

### Leaders await Sukhbir's nod post coordination panel meet on Oct 5

working in Dakha for the past few days and is not participating in any activity of BJP candidate Jangi Lal Mahajan.

Likewise, SAD leaders of Phagwara, including Marked former chairman Jarnail Singh Wahid, Senior Deputy Mayor Surinder Singh Walia and Deputy Mayor Ranjit Singh Khurana, are not attending any events of the BJP, including the opening of the party's poll office on Wednesday. Though Wahid was present with BJP candidate Rajesh Bagha during the filing of his papers on Monday, they have not been seen along thereafter.

Akali councillor Baljinder Singh Thekedar who filed his nomination as an Independent is yet to withdraw his papers, the last day for

which is Thursday.

Senior Akali leader and popular Dalit face of Doaba Pawan Tinu too has not been going to the reserved seat of Phagwara. All SAD leaders are reportedly awaiting directions from the party chief on whether or not to join campaign for the BJP seats. "We will wait for directions post the coordination committee meeting in Jalandhar on October 5," SAD leaders said. The meeting is slated to be held at Country Inn Hotel at 3 pm.

The leaders also said, "The game started from the BJP side. They joined our party MLA. BJP leader from Amritsar Tarun Chugh was present during his joining. The BJP leaders should have at least exercised some restraint but they issued all kinds of anti-SAD statements in the media. Chugh talked of ethics on the part of our SAD chief in 2014. Another BJP leader said former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal never reacted but his son did not seem to have learnt politics from him. In such a scenario, when our leaders are being let down by the BJP, how can we go out and campaign for their candidates?"

# Deploy paramilitary personnel: BJP to EC



BJP state president Shwait Malik interacts with the media after opening the party's poll office in Phagwara. PHOTO: MALKIAT SINGH

PHAGWARA, OCTOBER 2

The BJP wants the Election Commission to deploy paramilitary personnel to ensure free, transparent and peaceful byelections in Phagwara, Mukerian, Dakha and Jalalabad on October 21.

Talking to mediapersons after inaugurating the poll office of BJP candidate Rajesh Bagha in Hargobind Nagar, on Wednesday party's state chief Shwait Malik expressed apprehension that the Congress-led state government might "misuse" the official machinery. Malik said representation would soon be submitted to the Chief Election Commissioner in Delhi and the Chief Electoral Officer in Punjab in this regard.

Replying to a question about the Centre's decision on Rajoana, convicted for Beant Singh's murder, Malik congratulated the Union Home

### ALLEGE CODE VIOLATION

BJP leaders have complained to poll observer Saurav Bhagat regarding "code violation" by Congress leaders. They said Congress leaders, along with their supporters and cops, removed the barricades to reach the office of Returning Officer Latif Ahmed during filing of nomination papers of their candidate BS Dhalwal.

Minister for taking the decision on the 550th Gurburb.

When asked about filing of papers by Akali councillor Baljinder Singh Thekedar as an Independent, Malik, in presence of senior SAD leader Sarwan Singh Kular, SAD Phagwara (Urban) chief Satnam Singh Arshi and SAD Phagwara (Rural) president Rajinder Singh Chandi, expressed confidence that he would withdraw his nomination. — OC

# GMC profs get ₹1.5-lakh pay for 'clerical work'

KARAM PRAKASH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, OCTOBER 2

Ten professors of Government Medical Colleges (GMC) in Amritsar and Patiala have been withdrawing a salary of more than Rs 1.5 lakh each for clerical jobs for the last few years. In fact, the doctors are working at the Directorate of Medical Education and Research (DRME) in Mohali instead of treating poor patients at their original places of posting.

It has been learnt that even professors have been appointed as 'nodal officers' at the directorate to do clerical work while they are supposed to treat patients at the hospitals. Their postings as nodal offi-

cers have allegedly been done because either they have their residences in the tricity (Chandigarh, Panchkula and Mohali) or in some cases, their spouses are working there.

In fact, one such associate professor of the GMC, Patiala, has been working as a nodal officer for court cases for over six years at the directorate office. Moreover, two assistant professors of the GMC, Patiala, have recently been asked to work in Mohali.

However, in records, all the professors are withdrawing salaries from their original places of posting. Notably, instead of deputation, they are posted on temporary orders. Interestingly, the Director,

## Appointed as 'nodal officers' in Mohali instead of treating patients in hospitals

### 'TRYING TO RESTRUCTURE WORKING'

“These postings are not on deputation but on a temporary basis. We are trying to restructure the working at the directorate office. We are planning to hire people for clerical work.

Dr Akashdeep Aggarwal, JOINT DIRECTOR, RESEARCH AND MEDICAL EDUCATION

Research and Medical Education and Joint Director, Research and Medical Education, have also been appointed only on the temporary basis.

Surprisingly, experts said the doctors were hired by the government to carry out clinical jobs, including emergency

duty, indoor and outdoor patient care and teaching MBBS students at the GMC, and not for clerical jobs.

A senior professor of GMC, requesting anonymity, said, "Instead of serving poor patients, they are performing clerical work just to be with

their families. The government can hire 10 clerks on the salary of one professor to perform the same work."

In a similar case of adjustment, an assistant professor of the skin department, posted at the GMC, Amritsar, is teaching at the GMC, Patiala, for four days and for just two days at the GMC, Amritsar, because her family is staying in Patiala.

Joint Director, Research and Medical Education, Dr Akashdeep Aggarwal said, "These postings are not on deputation but on a temporary basis. We are trying to restructure the working at the directorate office. We are planning to hire people for clerical work."

# GK forms new panthic party

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

Ex-chief of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) Manjit Singh GK today formed a 'Panthic party' and named it 'JAGO' (*Jag Asra Guru Otti*).

The party name was announced after an *ardas* at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha at Greater Kailash.

GK said the names of the chiefs of the youth, women, religious and intellectual wings would be announced soon.

GK said being a Panthik party, its work area would be the betterment of the community by becoming the voice of the Sikhs living in India and abroad. GK also released the party logo. — TNS

# Another haul, 15-kg heroin seized; 2 held

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**AMRITSAR, OCTOBER 2**  
A day after the BSF seized 2.13 kg of heroin from Old Mohammadi Wala border outpost in the Ferozepur sector, 15 kg of contraband was recovered in two separate incidents in the state.

In the first incident, the Amritsar rural police have confiscated 12 kg of heroin and arrested two persons in this connection. They were identified as Gural Singh and Gupreet Singh, both residents of Rorawala Kalan village located near the Indo-Pak border.

SSP Vikram Jeet Duggal confirmed the seizure and said the operation was still on. The seizure was by made by the CIA staff led by Inspector Vikrant. The accused were intercepted by the police team during a naka following a tip-off. "They were apparently going to deliver the consignment to their accomplices when they were intercepted," the SSP said, adding that the contraband was seemingly smuggled from across the border. Further investigations were underway in this regard, he added.



The heroin recovered in Amritsar. TRIBUNE PHOTO

### OPERATION STILL UNDERWAY: SSP

SSP Vikram Jeet Duggal confirmed the seizure and said the operation was still on. The seizure was by made by the CIA staff led by Inspector Vikrant. The accused were intercepted by the police team during a naka following a tip-off.

In another incident, the BSF seized 3 kg of heroin near the Indo-Pak border under the Amritsar sector. A BSF official said six packets were recovered from Bharopal and Roranwala border outposts. No arrest has

been made so far, he added. He said the BSF troops noticed some suspicious movement near the security fence during the early hours and challenged the suspects to stop, but they didn't pay any heed. The BSF troops opened fire, the smugglers managed to escape taking advantage of darkness. During a search, the BSF recovered the contraband from the site.

# Man who took slain STF cop to peddlers ends life

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**AMRITSAR, OCTOBER 2**  
A day after an STF cop was shot dead, the man who took the officials posing as customers to drug peddlers today allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself with a tree.

The victim was identified as Simarjit Singh alias Deba. He ran a religious dera from his house. His body was found hanging with a tree at Wadala village on Rayya-Gagarbhana road.

Vikram Jeet Singh Duggal, SSP, Amritsar rural, said the police were looking for him since the arrest of peddlers Parwinder Singh and Harpreet Singh. "Initial probe suggests that Simarjit was unable to come to terms after his name figured in the investigation of killing of STF cop Gurdeep Singh. He too was involved in drug trafficking," said the SSP. He said Deba had



The two drug peddlers in police custody in Amritsar. VISHAL KUMAR

assured the cops posing as customers that he would provide them heroin at cheaper rates. He had given his motorcycle to the peddlers, which was found abandoned at the spot following the shootout that claimed Gurdeep's life. Simarjit had been absconding since the incident.

The SSP said a manhunt had been launched to nab the remaining suspects

whose names were cropped up in the probe. Meanwhile, the local court here today sent two drug peddlers Parwinder and Harpreet Singh to four day police remand. They recovered 500 gm of heroin from the spot which they had come to deliver to the customers (decoy cops). The contraband was abandoned at the spot while the accused had fled.

# Five-day remand for KZF operative

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**AMRITSAR, OCTOBER 2**  
Sajanpreet Singh, an alleged accomplice of a terror module of Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF) that was busted by the State Special Operation Cell (SSOC) recently, was on Wednesday sent to five-day police remand.

He was produced in a court by the SSOC under heavy police security.

The SSOC nabbed Sajanpreet from near Kot Khalsa area here on Tuesday. He was one of the three persons whose names cropped up during the interrogation of Subhdeep Singh, alias Shubb, arrested by the counter-intelligence wing around a week ago. According to information, Sajanpreet also accompanied Akashdeep Singh and Subhdeep for taking arms and ammunition smuggled from across the border fence. With his arrest, the SSOC had nabbed eight persons in the case so far.

On September 22, the SSOC claimed to have busted a terror module and arrested Baba

Was nabbed from Kot Khalsa area of Amritsar on Tuesday

Balwant Singh of Mohanpura village in Tarn Taran, Akashdeep Singh Randhawa of Naag Kalan village, Harbhajan Singh and Blabir Singh of Tanda. Maan Singh who was already languishing in jail under the Unlawful Activities Act was brought on production warrant along with them. The police have also nominated their Germany-based handler Gurmeet Singh, alias Bagga/Doctor. Later, his brother Gurdev Singh was also arrested from Hoshiarpur. Gurdev was earlier deported from Thailand.

Akashdeep's interrogation led to the arrest of Subhdeep, who named three other accomplices, including Sajanpreet. The SSOC officials said a manhunt had been launched to nab the remaining two persons. They said Sajanpreet helped Subhdeep and Akashdeep to destroy the drone that failed to return.

# Capt tells Channi, Randhawa to attend SGPC meeting tomorrow

Wants Cabinet Ministers to finalise joint programme schedule



TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**AMRITSAR, OCTOBER 2**  
Amid face-off between the SGPC and the state government over joint celebrations of 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and Sukhjinder Singh Channi and Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa to attend the coordination committee meeting scheduled for October 4 at SGPC headquarters here.

Both the ministers were designated by the CM to finalise a joint programme rising "above the party lines". After skipping the panel meet twice, Randhawa and district (rural) Congress president Bhagwant Pal Singh Sachar (Channi was abroad then) represented the state government in the last meeting held on September 17 in Amritsar, but failed to reach

### AMARINDER TO INVITE PRESIDENT, PM

**Chandigarh:** Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh will meet President Ram Nath Kovind and PM Narendra Modi on Thursday to extend an invitation for the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev next month. Capt Amarinder, who reached Delhi on Wednesday, would invite both for the celebrations at Sultanpur Lodhi in Kapurthala on November 12.

### HARSIMRAT WANTS TRAIN RENAMED

Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal on Wednesday urged Railways Minister Piyush Goyal to rename the New Delhi-Lohian Khas Intercity SF Express as "Sarbat da Bhala Express" as a tribute to the Guru. The minister said "Sarbat da Bhala" (blessings for all) formed the essence of Guru Nanak's teachings and it would be appropriate to rename the train as such.

any conclusion.

On the other hand, SGPC president Gobind Singh Longowal said an intimation of October 4 meeting was sent to the CM on September 27, but there had been no communication till date. "We have no inkling as to who else will be there from the government's side. But the meeting will be held as scheduled," he said. CM's media adviser Raveen Thukral said Channi and Randhawa had been conveyed by the CM to attend the meeting. While Randhawa could

not be contacted despite repeated attempts, Channi said the outcome of the meeting could be conclusive only if the SGPC stopped taking directions from its "political bosses".

"I will attend the meeting, if the CM wants. But the sanctity of the meeting could be there only if the SGPC comes on negotiation table keeping aside the political interests of the Akalis," he said.

For the main event on November 12, he claimed that with mutual consent, it was decided that the SGPC

would hold the programmes inside Gurdwara Ber Sahib, whereas the government would hold programmes outside the gurdwara. "Later, the SGPC backed out and insisted to hold the event separately at another venue. We have already spent Rs 52 crore to erect tents and allied arrangements for over 35,000 persons. Similarly, overlooking the government representatives, the SGPC took along SAD president Sukhbir Badal and Union Minister Harsimrat Badal for extending invitation to the PM and the President. These politically motivated moves played a spoilsport," he said.

The SGPC has hired Guru Nanak Stadium at Sultanpur Lodhi, whereas the government has already set up a huge 'pandal' for the occasion behind historic Gurdwara Ber Sahib.

Longowal said, "Ethically, the main event should be conducted by the SGPC that represents the whole Sikh community." On invitation row, he said the state government too had been extending invitations on their own.

# SGPC backs govt drive against stubble-burning

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 2

Boosting up the efforts of the Punjab Government and environmentalists to safeguard the environment, the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) has also gave a clarification call to the state farmers to abstain from burning crop residue in open fields.

Acting on the request of the Agriculture Department, the SGPC, in a letter to the man-

agers of gurdwaras, said the preservation of clean and green environment was of foremost significance in view of the celebrations of 550th Parkash Purb of Guru Nanak to be held in November.

The SGPC additional secretary also instructed the managers to ensure strict compliance of directions against stubble-burning on agricultural lands owned by gurdwaras. — TNS

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# Teen gangraped in Barnala, 4 booked

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**BARNALA, OCTOBER 2**  
The Sehna police have booked four persons for allegedly raping a 16-year-old girl of Maur Nabha village for three days.

The victim alleged that on September 29, four youths of the same village bundled her in a car when she was going to a grocery shop. She said the accused took her to an unidentified location and locked her in a room.

"The victim has alleged that she was raped repeatedly by the four accused from September 29 to October 1. On Tuesday evening, she managed to escape from the clutches of the accused," said Sub-Inspector Balwinder Kaur.

After returning to her house, the victim's family members got her admitted to Tapa hospital from where she was referred to Barnala Civil Hospital, where she is undergoing treatment.



Victim's kin allege inaction by cops on their complaint

The relatives of the victim alleged that they had lodged a complaint with the Sehna police after their daughter went missing, but the cops allegedly did not take them seriously.

"She has identified one of the accused as Gurpreet Singh while for the remaining three, we are conducting a probe. We have registered a case and conducting raids to arrest all accused," Kaur added.

# No job, Faridkot man kills himself in US

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**FARIDKOT, OCTOBER 2**  
A 27-year-old man of Tehna village in Faridkot allegedly committed suicide in the US.

As per family sources here, Jatinder Pal Singh was a student at the University of Illinois in Chicago. He had gone to the USA in August 2017 on a study visa. After completing his education in April 2019, Jatinder was reportedly under depression for not getting a suitable job. It is alleged that he hanged himself with a rope in the balcony of his rented apartment where he was living with two youths of Haryana.

The family members of Jatinder got the information about his death today evening from one of his roommates. As per the family, after Jatinder hanged himself around midnight in his apartment, the rope which was used in the hanging broke and Jatinder fell on the lower floor of the apartment. His head struck an iron grill,



Jatinder Pal Singh

resulting in his death.

Jatinder's father Kewal Singh was an employee in the School Education Department and had died in April 2011. After the death of his father, Jatinder's elder brother had got a job on compassionate ground in the place of his father. Known as a brilliant student in Tehna village, Jatinder had shared the problem of him not getting a suitable job in the USA and the family members had suggested him to return home, sources said. The family has approached the district administration to raise the matter with the External Affairs Ministry to bring home his body.

मतदान की तिथि

21 अक्टूबर, 2019

(सोमवार)

समय प्रातः 7 बजे से सायं 6 बजे तक

आओ बढ़ाएं हरियाणा की शान।

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## POLL BUZZ

### It's free-for-all in Cong

Unprecedented factionalism comes to the fore over ticket allotment

**SUSHIL MANAV**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 2  
A former state president of the Congress leads a huge protest outside the residence of president of the party, Sonia Gandhi, another senior leader shoots off a letter to her expressing his 'disgust' and announces a ticket for his son before the party takes a call, and still another leader files nominations even before the release of the list of candidates.

The Congress in Haryana is witnessing a free-for-all ahead of the October 21 elections. Factionalism in the state Congress is not a new phenomenon, but what is happening in the run-up to the Assembly poll is unprecedented. The developments are not only becoming an embarrassment for the senior leadership of the party, but are also providing ammunition to the BJP and other opponents to target the Congress.

Much to the embarrassment of the top leadership of the party, the party's former state president Ashok Tanwar, who was replaced by Kumari Selja ahead of the poll announcement, today levelled serious allegations about tickets being sold for a price.

While Tanwar himself did not name any leader in this connection, his supporters who had assembled in a large number outside 10-Janpath, official residence of Sonia Gandhi, levelled serious allegations against former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda and state in-charge of the party Ghulam Nabi Azad.

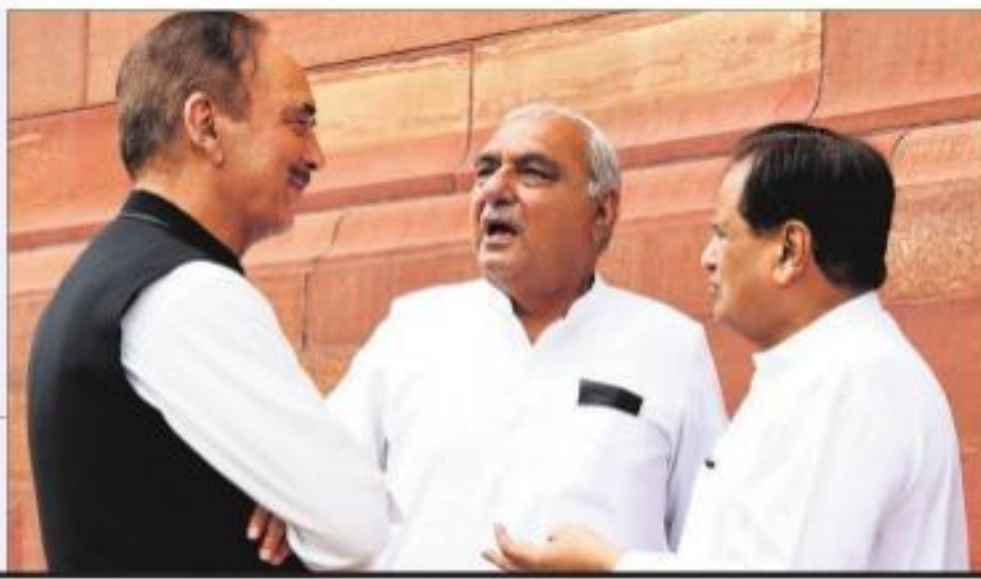
Speaking to The Tribune, Tanwar alleged that he had



Ashok Tanwar addresses his supporters outside Sonia Gandhi's residence in New Delhi. **MUKESH AGGARWAL**

Tanwar's supporters levelled allegations about sale of tickets against former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda and state in-charge of the party Ghulam Nabi Azad.

BS Hooda, Ghulam Nabi Azad and Ahmed Patel in New Delhi on Wednesday.



BS Hooda, Ghulam Nabi Azad and Ahmed Patel in New Delhi on Wednesday.

given a list of 85 aspirants to the AICC based on their hard work in the past five years, but except for one or two, all other names were being ignored. Describing himself as a "human bomb", Tanwar said he would fight to finish to safeguard the interests of the committed party workers. Capt Ajay Yadav, another senior leader and a six-time MLA from the Rewari Assembly seat, also expressed his disgust at the ticket selection

process and said old workers of the party were being ignored. A day after he suo motu announced the party ticket for his son Chiranjeev Rao even before the Congress finalised the tickets, Yadav today expressed his disgust in a tweet and shot off a letter to Sonia Gandhi. "The screening committee Haryana headed by Madhusudan Mistry has finalised list for Assembly elections. It has totally ignored those Congress candidates who worked

with loyalty for 5 years but gave preference to defectors and non-Congress men. Disgusted," reads Yadav's tweet. Asked how he could suo motu announce a ticket for his son, Yadav said he was just transferring his own responsibilities and challenges to his son. Yesterday, Anand Singh Dang, a sitting MLA from Meham, went to the extent of filing his papers even as the party's top leadership was still mulling over the name of candidates.

### INLD picks 64; Abhay to contest Ellenabad again

12 women selected; Dalit fielded from Naina's seat

**BHARTESH SINGH THAKUR**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 2  
The Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) today released its first list of 64 candidates with party's secretary-general Abhay Singh Chautala contesting from Ellenabad again.

From Dabwali, an unreserved seat, the party has fielded former MLA and Dalit leader Sita Ram. The contest would be interesting as Abhay's sister-in-law Naina Chautala is likely to contest from there on a ticket of the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), a faction of the INLD. Mani Ram, Sita Ram's father, had represented the seat three times — 1977, 1987 and 1996 — when it was a reserved seat. Sita Ram himself has considerable clout in Dabwali as he won twice consecutively from the seat — 2000 and 2005. In 2009, the seat became unreserved and Ajay Singh Chautala won it followed by his wife Naina Chautala in 2014. Out of 64 candidates, the

party has given tickets to 12 women (19%). The party had announced at a recent rally in Kaithal that it would give 33% seats to women. The INLD had brought in 19 MLAs in 2014 but most of them defected and at the end of five years it was left with just three MLAs — Abhay, Ved Narang from Barwala and Om Prakash Barwa from Loharu. However, in today's list Barwa's name was missing and Raj Singh Gagadwas has been fielded in his place. A senior party leader on condition of anonymity said that Barwa didn't want to contest. Ved Narang's name is yet to be announced as the party still has to field candidates in 26 seats.

**SAD to contest in alliance with INLD**  
The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Wednesday announced it would contest the elections in alliance with the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD). The SAD will contest the Kalanwali, Ratia and Gulla Cheeka seats in alliance with the INLD. While Rajinder Singh Desujodha is the party candidate from Kalanwali, Kulwinder Singh Kunal will contest from Ratia and Raj Kumar Ravarajgir from Gulla Cheeka. The SAD president said the remaining seats which would be contested jointly with the INLD will be declared on Thursday.

party has given tickets to 12 women (19%). The party had announced at a recent rally in Kaithal that it would give 33% seats to women. The INLD had brought in 19 MLAs in 2014 but most of them defected and at the end of five years it was left with just three MLAs — Abhay, Ved Narang from Barwala and Om Prakash Barwa from Loharu. However, in today's list Barwa's name was missing and Raj Singh Gagadwas has been fielded in his place. A senior party leader on condition of anonymity said that Barwa didn't want to contest. Ved Narang's name is yet to be announced as the party still has to field candidates in 26 seats.

### Khattar attributes selection to luck

in candidate selection. "Sometimes even we don't know what are the factors taken into account when one (candidate) is selected out of four-five probables..." "I can only say the one who has been selected may be... (touches his forehead with his hand indicating that luck plays its part too)," the CM said. — PTI

### Police take out flag march in Ambala

Ambala: The district police and the Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) took out a flag march on Wednesday ahead of the October 21 Assembly poll. Led by DSPs Sultan Singh and Madan Lal, the flag march went through various areas of the district. The aim was to give the message that the police were committed to ensuring a free, fair and peaceful poll. **TNS**

### Cops seize ₹25 lakh

Bhiwani: The Bhiwani police have seized Rs 25 lakh from a car driver near the Kharak village police check-post on the Rohtak-Bhiwani road on Tuesday night. A police spokesperson said the police searched a car and recovered cash from the driver, identified as Tinku. DSP Viender Singh said the cash was confiscated as the owner failed to explain the source. **TNS**

### Hooda to file papers

Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda will file his nomination papers as Congress candidate from the Garhi-Sampla-Kiloi Assembly seat in Rohtak on Thursday.

### 225 complaints on C-vigil

KAITHAL, OCTOBER 2  
Deputy Commissioner Priyanka Soni on Wednesday said of the 225 election-related complaints on the C-vigil app, 193 had been resolved and 32 dropped. She said any citizen could download the C-vigil app and upload any election-related complaint via video or photo. She said after a complaint was uploaded, its disposal by the official concerned within 100 minutes was assured. She said this facility was being provided to political parties and candidates to seek election-related permissions.

### 3 women part of BSP 2nd list

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 2  
The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) today released its second list of 27 candidates for the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections.

Earlier, the party had released a list of 41 candidates. "Most of the candidates have been our workers for quite a long time. The rest of the 22 candidates will be named soon," said Prakash Bharti, state president of the BSP. The party has given ticket to Ramesh Dalal from Beri, Subhash Nambardar from Dabwali, Ashwani Nagra from Kalka, Poonam from Rohtak, Ashok Sharma from Garhi-

### LSP announces 36 more candidates

Kurukshetra: The Loktantra Suraksha Party (LSP) on Wednesday released its second list of 36 candidates for the October 21 Assembly elections. With this, the party has announced the names of 52 candidates. It will release its third and final list on Thursday. Raj Kumar Saini, former Kurukshetra MP and LSP leader, will contest the elections from Gohana, while party's women's cell chief Anamika Tanwar will contest from Bhiwani. Saini said, "The party has given preference to Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes." **TNS**

Assembly poll and was fourth. Javed Ahmad is again contesting from Sohna. In 2014, he was third from the seat. From Loharu, the party has given ticket to Ramesh Kothari, who is vice-chairman of the local body, while from Panipat Rural, it has given ticket to a businessman, Rajbir Singh Malik.

### In a first, BJP fields two Muslims

Wooing minorities: Increases Sikh share from one to 3 candidates

**PRADEEP SHARMA**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 2  
In a bid to woo minorities, the saffron party has fielded two Muslim candidates in the Muslim-dominated Mewat for the first time while increasing the representation of Sikhs from one to three in the upcoming elections.



Zakir Hussain Naseem Ahmed

### Symbiotic relationship

There seems to be a symbiotic relationship between the turncoats Zakir Hussain and Naseem Ahmed and the BJP. While the BJP was looking for "winnable" Muslim faces in Mewat, the two legislators were looking for a "dependable" political party for their political survival after a vertical split in the INLD.

### "Sab ka saath..."

"The BJP firmly believes in 'sab ka saath, sab ka vikas,' and the nomination of candidates belonging to different communities, including the Muslims and the Sikhs, showed its commitment to the welfare of all sections of society. **SURAJ PAL AMU, BJP STATE SPOKESMAN**

While the BJP was looking for "winnable" Muslim faces in Mewat, the two legislators were looking for a "dependable" political party for their political survival after a vertical split in the INLD. As far as the Sikh candidates are concerned, the party has betted on hockey star Sandeep Singh from Pehowa and sitting MLA Balkaur Singh from Kallianwali. Balkaur Singh defected from the SAD to the BJP recently. The BJP had lost both seats in the 2014 Assembly elections. However, for the Assandh seat, the party has retained its sitting MLA Bakshish Singh Virk. However, the party maintained that winnability was the primary criteria for fielding candidates. "The BJP firmly believes in 'sab ka saath, sab ka vikas,' and nomination of candidates belonging to different communities, including the Muslims and the Sikhs, showed its commitment to the welfare of all sections of society," asserted Suraj Pal Amu, BJP state spokesman.

There seems to be a symbiotic relationship between the turncoats Zakir Hussain and Naseem Ahmed and the BJP

**PUNJAB ROADS & BRIDGES DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
SCF 61-62, Phase-II, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali)  
**DISPOSAL OF ONE OLD AMBASSADOR CAR & ONE OLD MARUTI SX4 ZXI CAR**  
Sealed offers are invited from individuals or vehicle dealers for the disposal of one Ambassador 2000 (Diesel) Car Model 2010 & one Maruti SX4 ZXI (Petrol) Car Model 2008 of this office on "As Is where Is" basis so as to reach the office of the undersigned up to 10.10.2019 at 03:00 p.m. For detailed terms and conditions refer to our website [www.prdbb.gov.in](http://www.prdbb.gov.in). All Addenda/Corrigenda shall be published on the website only.  
DPR/Pb/C7346 Sd/- Joint Secretary

**ICAR: Indian Institute of Soil & Water Conservation**  
Research Centre, Sector 27-A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh — 160019  
Tel. (O) 0172-2659365, Fax: 0172-2650783  
Email: [soilcons\\_chd@yahoo.com](mailto:soilcons_chd@yahoo.com)  
**AUCTION NOTICE**  
This is for the information of all the bidders that ICAR: Indian Institute of Soil & Water Conservation, Research Farm, Near Mansa Devi, Panchkula, that auction of Aonla fruits (310 Trees), Sweet Corn Maize crop (1.5 acre) and Hybrid Maize crop (0.5 acre) is scheduled to be held on 23.10.2019 at 11:00 a.m. The bidders can participate in the auction process by depositing an amount of Rs. 5,000/- for Aonla fruit, and Rs. 2,000/- for both maize crops. All bidders should ensure that they possess a Bank Account and Pan Card. No transaction would be entertained in Cash. Detailed terms and conditions of auction and for further updates/changes Institute website: [www.cswcrtiweb.org](http://www.cswcrtiweb.org) be visited and these will also be informed at the time of Auction.  
DI-91208 Head of Centre

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB PWD B&R BRANCH**  
**NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS**  
TENDER NOTICE NO. 09 DATED: 3-10-2019  
On behalf of Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer, Provincial Division PWD B&R Br., Mansa invites bids from eligible bidders enlisted under "Building work" category with PWD (B&R) for the work **Special Repair of Tehsil Complex Budhlada, Distt. Mansa.** Under Head (2059 M&R N.P.) for detailed terms and conditions of notice inviting bid refer to website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> w.e.f 03/10/2019 to 17/10/2019 up to 1:00 PM.  
\* Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.  
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Provl. Division PWD B&R, Mansa.  
DPR/Pb/D6780

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB PWD B&R BRANCH**  
**NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS**  
TENDER NOTICE NO. 10 DATED: 03-10-2019  
On behalf of Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer, Provincial Division PWD B&R Br., Mansa invites bids from eligible bidders enlisted under "Building work" category with PWD (B&R) for the work **Special Repair of Tehsil Complex Sardulgarh, Distt. Mansa.** Under Head (2059 M&R N.P.) for detailed terms and conditions of notice inviting bid refer to website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> w.e.f 03/10/2019 to 17/10/2019 up to 1:00 PM.  
\* Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.  
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Provl. Division PWD B&R, Mansa.  
DPR/Pb/D6781

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB PWD B&R BRANCH**  
**NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS**  
TENDER NOTICE NO. 52 DATED 01.10.2019  
On behalf of Governor of Punjab Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 2, PWD (B&R) Br. Kapurthala invites bids from eligible bidders enlisted for **Building works category with PWD (B&R)** for the works approved under Punjab Technical University Kapurthala. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the following work(s):-  

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Availability of tender online	Last date and time of submission of tender online
1	Construction of Central Workshop Phase-V in IKGPTU Punjab Technical University in District Kapurthala.	02.10.2019 to 23.10.2019	23.10.2019 at 6:00 P.M.

  
\*For detailed terms and conditions refer to website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.  
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 2, PWD (B&R) Br. Kapurthala.  
DPR/Pb/D6785

**GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY AMRITSAR**  
**E-TENDER NO: GNDU/GEN/2019-2020/1&2**  
**ONLINE TENDER ARE INVITED UPTO: 18/10/2019**  
FOR SUPPLY OF:- (1) 34 LACS ANSWER BOOKS FOR TWO YEARS OF 36 INNER RULED PAGES 21.0 x 29.7 CMS A-4 SIZE (LANDSCAPE ORIENTATION) ON MAPLITHO (60 GSM) WHITE CREAM WAVE PAPER WITH MIN. BRIGHTNESS OF 75 AND OPACITY MIN. 80. THE SHEET SHALL HAVE (i) ONE INSTRUCTION BACK COVER (ii) ONE RE-EVALUATION PAGE AND (iii) ONE OMR SHEET (105 GSM), MAPLITHO PAPER PRINTING ON BOTH SIDE AS PER SPECIMAN (iii) IMAGE OF PART C & D. (iv) SCANNING OF PART C & D WITH SCAN NO. OF OMR FRONT COVER AND PROCESSING OF DATA IN THE FORM OF MARKS LIST. (2) 06 LACS ANSWER BOOKS FOR TWO YEARS OF 32 PAGES, 8.75 x 11.25" SIZE IN MAPLITHO 60 GSM WHITE CREAM WAVE PAPER WITH (i) BRIGHTNESS MIN 75 (ii) OPACITY MIN 80. (3) 04 LACS ANSWER BOOKS FOR TWO YEARS OF 16 PAGES, 8.75 x 11.25" SIZE IN MAPLITHO 60 GSM WHITE CREAM WAVE PAPER WITH (i) BRIGHTNESS MIN 75 (ii) OPACITY MIN 80. (4) 04 LACS ANSWER BOOKS FOR TWO YEARS OF 08 PAGES (PRACTICAL MINOR) OF 8.75 x 11.25" SIZE IN MAPLITHO 60 GSM WHITE CREAM WAVE PAPER WITH (i) BRIGHTNESS MIN 75 (ii) OPACITY MIN 80.  
Details of Cost of tender form, terms and conditions can be downloaded from [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in).  
REGISTRAR

**PUNJAB STATE INSTITUTE OF SPORTS SPORTS COMPLEX, SECTOR 63, SAS NAGAR**  
Phone No. 0172-2233482.  
E-mail: [helpdeskpis123@gmail.com](mailto:helpdeskpis123@gmail.com)  
e-Tender for Hiring of Buses (32 Seater) for Centres of Excellence of Punjab State Institute of Sports  
e-Tender for Hiring of Buses (32 Seater) for Centres of Excellence of Punjab State Institute of Sports  
Detailed Tender Notices (DNIT) and terms & conditions are available at website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. Earnest Money and tender fee of Rs. 100/- per centre should be paid online.  
Tenders shall have to pay processing fee through online mode only. No other mode of payment shall be acceptable.  
For any clarification/difficulty regarding e-tendering process, please contact at 0172-2970263, 2970284.  
Sd/- Director Sports Punjab and Director General, PIS.  
DPR/Pb/D6768

**SHRI KRISHNA AYUSH UNIVERSITY KURUKSHETRA**  
Umri Road, Sector 8, Kurukshetra, Haryana — 136118  
Website: [www.skau.in](http://www.skau.in) E-Mail ID: [ac.skau.hry@gmail.com](mailto:ac.skau.hry@gmail.com)  
Ph.: 01744-225803, 225804  
**Admission/Counseling Notice**  
Mop-up round counseling of BAMS/BHMS for Academic Session 2019-20 Online registration will start from 2nd October, 2019  
It is for the information of all the concerned that online applications are invited for admissions in BAMS/BHMS Courses for Government/Private AYUSH Institutes of Haryana & U.T. Chandigarh. All the eligible NEET qualified candidates are required to register themselves online through the website i.e. [www.skau.in](http://www.skau.in) or on admission link [hrybamsadmissions.in](http://hrybamsadmissions.in).  
For participating in Mop-up round of counseling a candidate have to deposit a Demand Draft of Rs. 67,500 for admission in SK Govt. Ayu. College Kurukshetra and MSM Institute of Ayurveda Khanpur Kalan and Rs. 1,56,000/- for all private College/SGT University Gurugram and SBMM University Asthal Bohar Rohtak.  
**Note:**  
1. The terms & conditions and other information regarding the counseling are available on the University website as mentioned above.  
2. Gaur Brahmin Ayurvedic College, Brahmawas, Rohtak has been allowed admissions for additional 40 seats as per orders of Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh dated 25.9.2019 in CWP No. 19002 of 2019.  
3. Lal Bahadur Shastri Mahila Ayurvedic College & Hospital, Bilaspur, Yamunanagar has also been allowed for admissions to 50 seats as per decision dated 27.9.2019 in CWP No. 22703 of 2019 of Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh  
Date: 1st October, 2019 PRDH/79268 Sd/- REGISTRAR

# In 2nd list, BJP denies ticket to 4 sitting MLAs

**CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 2** The BJP late in the night released the list of 12 remaining candidates for the October 21 Haryana Assembly elections, denying ticket to four sitting legislators. In a jolt to Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh, the party also denied ticket to some of his loyalists, including Gurugram MLA Umesh Aggarwal and Kosli MLA Bikram Thekedar. The other legislators denied ticket included Rohita Rewari from Panipat (City) and Randhir Kapriwas from Rewari. Rao Inderjit's daughter Arti Rao, for whom he had lobbied hard, also did not figure in the list. Kapriwas had to pay the price for leading a 'dissenting MLAs' group, which levelled charges of discrimination with their

## Jolt to Rao Inderjit as two of his loyalist legislators not fielded



Segment	Candidate
Fatehabad	Dura Ram
Panipat City	Pramod Vij
Kosli	Laxman Yadav
Rewari	Sunil Musepur
Gurugram	Sudhir Singla
Palwal	Deepak Mangla
Adampur	Sonali Phogat
Naraingarh	Surinder Rana
Ganaur	Nirmal Chaudhary
Kharkhauda	Meena Narwal
Tosham	Shashi Ranjan Parmar
Meham	Shamsher Kharkhada

Assembly segments against Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar

# Cong fields 16 MLAs

FROM PAGE 1

Party leader Kiran Choudhry will defend Tosham segment in her fifth Assembly election while five-term MLAs Karan Singh Dalal and Krishan Hooda will contest from their current seats of Palwal and Baroda, respectively.

AICC communication in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala has been fielded from Kaithal, his segment and three-term MLA Geeta Bhukkal, a former minister in Haryana, will defend Jhajjar reserved constituency.

Other MLAs named in the Congress list today are former Speaker Kuldeep Sharma; Kuldeep Bishnoi from Adampur; Jagbir Singh Malik (Gohana); Jaiveer Singh (Kharkhauda reserved constituency); Anand Singh Danggi from Mehama; Lalit Nagar (Tigaon); Raghuraj Qadian (Beri); Shakuntala Khatak (Kalanaur reserved segment) and Udai Bhan from Hodal reserved constituency.

Former Congress MLA from Rai Jai Tirath Dahiya, whose previous election was declared void by the High Court last week, has been fielded from Rai again. The list reveals the old trend of political dynasties making it big and has a fair share of sons of state stalwarts.

Two sons of late CM Bhajan Lal, Kuldeep Bishnoi and Chandar Mohan are in fray; son and daughter-in-law of late CM Bansi Lal — Ranbir Mahendra (Badhra) and Kiran Choudhry — are contesting; late minister HS Chatha's son Mandeep Chatha is the Congress nominee from Pehowa and Varun Chaudhry, the son of former state chief Phool Chand Mullana is in the fray

## Six seats on hold

Six seats on hold include Fatehabad, Assandh, Ambala City, Ladwa, Barwala and Radaur. In Fatehabad, Mahila Congress has recommended the candidature of Krishna Punia but BS Hooda is said to be backing Prahlaad Singh Gillakhera. Ambala City is stuck because state chief Kumari Selja is said to be opposing the candidature of Chitra Sarwara, the daughter of Nirmal Singh, who contested Kurukshetra Lok Sabha elections recently and lost.

from Mullana and Chiranjeev Rao, son of Capt Ajay Yadav has been fielded from Rewari.

Former Finance Minister Sampat Singh, who switched over to the Congress from INLD, has, however, not been fielded. He was seeking a ticket from Nalwa, a seat that has gone to Randhir Panihar, said to be a Bishnoi's loyalist.

Among recent entrants to Congress, the party has fielded ex-INLD state chief Ashok Arora from Thanesar; former INLD MLA Pradeep Choudhry from Kalka; Jai Prakash, Independent MLA, from Kalayat and Shamsuddin from Sohna, a seat former Congress chief Ashok Tanwar today alleged had been sold.

The list today marks prominence of Hooda with Tanwar managing the nominations of some loyalists, including Vineet Kamboj from Rania, from where Hooda was keen on fielding Ranjit Chautala, the brother of INLD supreme Om Prakash Chautala. Ranjit Chautala has not managed the ticket.

## CONG BANKS ON VETERANS IN FIRST LIST

CONSTITUENCY	CANDIDATE	CONSTITUENCY	CANDIDATE
Kalka	Pradeep Choudhary	Uklana (SC)	Bala Devi
Panchkula	Chander Mohan	Namaund	Baljeet Sihag
Naraingarh	Shalley	Hansi	Om Parkash Panghal
Ambala City	Jasbeer Mallour	Hisar	Ram Niwas Rada
Mullana (SC)	Varun Chaudhary	Nalwa	Randhir Panihar
Sadhaura (SC)	Renu Bala	Loharu	Somvir Singh
Jagadhari	Akram Khan	Badhra	Ranbir Mahendra
Yamunanagar	Nirmal	Dadri	Maj Nirpender Singh
Shahabad (SC)	Anil Dhantori	Bhiwani	Amar Singh
Thanesar	Ashok Arora	Tosham	Kiran Choudhry
Pehowa	Mandeep Singh Chatha	Bawani Khera (SC)	Ram Kishan Fauji
Guhla (SC)	Dillu Ram	Meham	AS Dangj
Kalayat	Jai Parkash	Garhi Sampla-Kiloi	Bhupinder Singh Hooda
Kaithal	Randeep Surjewala	Rohtak	BB Batra
Pundri	Satbir Singh Jangra	Kalanaur (SC)	Shakuntla Khatak
Niokheri (SC)	Banta Ram Balmiki	Bahadurgarh	Rajinder Joon
Indri	Dr Navjot Kashyap Panwar	Badli	Kuldeep Vats
Karnal	Tarlochan Singh	Jhajjar (SC)	Geeta Bhukkal
Gharaunda	Anil Rana	Beri	RS Kadiyan
Panipat (Rural)	OP Jain	Ateli	Rao Arjun Singh
Panipat city	Sanjay Aggarwal	Mahendragarh	Rao Daan Singh
Israna (SC)	Balbir Balmiki	Namaul	Narender Singh
Samalkha	Dharam Singh Chhokkar	Nangal Chaudhary	Raja Ram Golwa
Ganaur	Kuldeep Sharma	Bawal (SC)	ML Ranga
Rai	Jai Teerath Dahiya	Kosli	Yaduvender Yadav
Kharkhoda (SC)	Jaiveer Balmiki	Rewari	Chimjeev Rao
Sonepat	Surender Panwar	Pataudi (SC)	Sudhir Chaudhary
Gohana	Jagbir Singh Malik	Badshahpur	Kamal Vir Yadav
Baroda	Krishan Hooda	Gurugram	Sukhbir Kataria
Julana	Dharmender Dhull	Sohna	Dr Shamsuddin
Safidon	Subhash Deswal	Nuh	Aftab Ahmed
Jind	Anshul Singla	Ferozepur Jhirka	Mammam Khan
Uchana Kalan	Balram Katwal	Punhana	Mohd Ajaz Khan
Narwana (SC)	Vidya Rani	Hathin	Mohammad Israil
Tohana	Paramveer Singh	Hodal (SC)	Udai Bhan
Ratia	Jamail Singh	Palwal	Karan Dalal
Kalanwali (SC)	Shishpal Keharwala	Prithla	Raghuveer Tewatia
Dabwali	Amit Sihag	Faridabad NIT	Neeraj Sharma
Rania	Vineet Kamboj	Badhkal	Vijay Pratap Singh
Sirsa	Hoshiyari Lal Sharma	Ballabgarh	Anand Kaushik
Ellenabad	Bharat Singh Beniwal	Faridabad	Lakhan Kumar Singla
Adampur	Kuldeep Bishnoi	Tigaon	Lalit Nagar

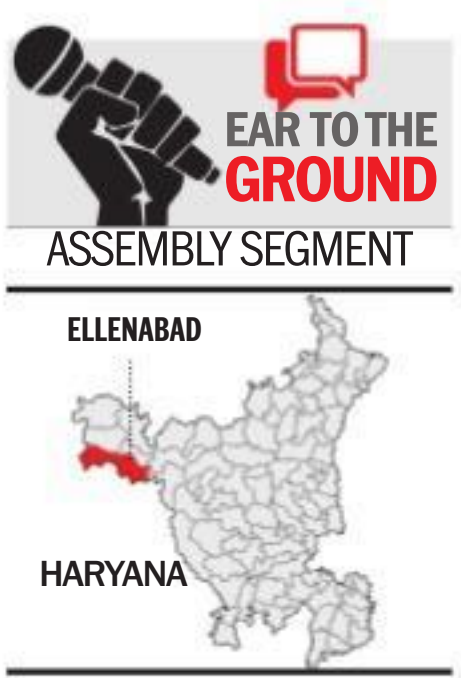
# Daan Singh vs Ram Bilas again

**MAHENDRAGARH, OCTOBER 2** Mahendragarh is all set to witness yet another direct contest between two arch-rivals — BJP's Ram Bilas Sharma and Congress' Rao Daan Singh. It will be the sixth consecutive poll battle between them. In the past five elections,

Rao won thrice and Sharma twice. Both leaders had contested elections against each other for the past 23 years. Sharma defeated Rao by 34,491 votes in the 2014 poll. 'It is perhaps the lone example in Ahirwal of two leaders trying their luck against each other for six consecutive elec-

tions. Both leaders have a good political base in the constituency and this contest is likely to be interesting," said Anil Kaushik, political analyst. The poll battle between Sharma and Rao started in 1996, with the former defeating the latter by 3,708 votes. — TNS

# Tight contest expected at INLD bastion



also lacks good educational institutes, healthcare facilities and civic amenities.

Among the most backward Assembly segments of Haryana, Ellenabad in Sirsa district has been considered a pocket borough of the Chautala clan ever since it was carved out as a Vidhan Sabha seat in 2009.

Before this, the Darba Kalan constituency, which comprised most of the villages falling under Ellenabad, was also considered a stronghold of the INLD. Former Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala won Ellenabad as well as Uchana Kalan seats in the 2009 Assembly elections. Later, he resigned from Ellenabad and in the bye-election that ensued, his younger son Abhay Chautala won the seat.

Abhay repeated this feat in 2014, but the split in the Chautala clan and rise of the BJP in the INLD's Sirsa district has made the contest interesting this time.

In the Lok Sabha poll held in May, BJP's Sunita Duggal got a lead of 34,659 votes from Ellenabad in her victory over her rival.

The BJP has already announced the party ticket for Pawan Kumar Beniwal, chairman of Haryana Seed



The Ellenabad segment lacks good educational institutes, healthcare facilities and civic amenities. TRIBUNE PHOTO

<b>TOTAL VOTERS</b>	<b>1,80,893</b>
96,524 Men	84,368 Women
1 Third gender	

**Candidates**  
 BJP: Pawan Beniwal  
 INLD: Abhay Singh Chautala  
 Congress: Bharat Singh Beniwal

**Legislatorspeak**  
  
 "People of this Assembly segment are like our family members. They have always voted for us. I will win the upcoming Assembly poll with a record margin," Abhay Singh Chautala, INLD

**Oppositionspeak**  
  
 "People are happy with the functioning of the BJP government and they will vote for me. The BJP has changed the way governments are run. People have seen Chautala's rule and now, they have seen how transparently the BJP government has been functioning," Pawan Beniwal, BJP LEADER

# Dating app 'hires' student, dupes him of ₹1.25 lakh

**SANJAY YADAV**  
**GURUGRAM, OCTOBER 2** Taking a cue from recent Bollywood film "Dream Girl", a group of alleged fraudsters trapped a BA student on the pretext of hiring him for a dating app and talking to girls on telephone.

The victim, who was told that his job profile would be the same as that of Ayushmann Khurana in the movie, was allegedly duped of ₹1.25 lakh taken on the pretext of registration fee. An FIR was registered at the Farrukhnagar police station. The police are scanning the telephonic details of the accused.

BA final-year student Sumit, a resident of the district's Fazilpur Badli village, said in his police complaint that on May 5, he had got a call from from a woman named Dimple, claiming to be working for Locanto dating app. She gave him information about the app and demanded ₹1,600 as registration fee. She claimed if he went on a date, he would get ₹25,000 per date.

Rakesh, a resident of Jamal village, however, says that the INLD has its roots very deep in the constituency and the party will win this seat once again.

## Takes cue from flick

- Taking cue from recent Bollywood film 'Dream Girl', a group of alleged fraudsters trapped a BA student on the pretext of hiring him for a dating app and talking to girls on telephone.
- On May 5, a woman named Dimple, claiming to be working for the dating app, called him up and demanded ₹1,600 as registration fee
- She claimed if he went on a date, he would get ₹25,000 per date.
- After paying ₹1,600, he was asked to pay ₹20,000 more to get a registration number

refused play along. Sacred, I deposited ₹1,24,780 in five bank accounts between June 27 and July 26. Finally they provided me with an ID card of Locanto dating app. But I realised it was all fake and I was duped," he stated in the complaint. The police said Sumit's family had kept the money aside for buying a buffalo.

The case was assigned to the economic offences wing (EOW). On its recommendation, a case was registered under Sections 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code at the Farrukhnagar police station today.

"All five bank accounts are in different branches in West Bengal in the names of Chapal Das, Saida Praveen, Mohammad Mandal, Mritunjay Das and Viplav Maiti. We have lodged an FIR and probing call details of mobiles used in the crime. The accused will be arrested soon," said Inspector Neeraj Kumar, investigating officer.

## FOUR JAIL INMATES COME TO BLOWS

**Gurugram:** Four Bhondsi jail inmates, all members of Kaushal gang, came to blows in a prison van while being taken from jail for a court hearing. Three of them ganged up against one, identified as Ravikant, and thrashed him, said the police. The cause of the incident was enmity. An FIR has been registered at Badshahpur police station and all four were sent to jail where they were kept in separate barracks. On the complaint of Ravikant, a fresh FIR was registered against the trio. TNS

## 83 poll stations in state critical

**CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 2** The administration and police have identified 83 polling stations in 60 locations as critical and 2,923 polling stations in 1,419 locations as vulnerable for the Assembly elections.

Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Navdeep Singh Virk on Wednesday said security arrangements were being made, including identification of critical and vulnerable polling stations across the state.

"All such polling stations will be covered by either deployment of paramilitary forces, micro-observers and webcasting or a combination of these," he said. — TNS

# No political activity in govt guest houses, says CEO

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 2** Chief Electoral Officer Anurag Aggarwal has said that as the model code of conduct is enforced, the ruling party or its candidates will not have a monopoly on the allotment of rest houses, dak bungalows, circuit houses and other government rest houses.

He said allocation could be done to other political parties and candidates in an unbiased manner provided that these places should not

"If members of any party hold informal meetings in rest houses, dak bungalows, circuit houses and other government rest houses, that will be considered as a violation of the model code of conduct." Anurag Aggarwal, CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

be used for election purpose, including opening of camp offices or for holding any kind of public meetings. Aggarwal said if any informal meeting was held

by members of any party on such premises, that would be considered as violation of the model code of conduct.

He said a person allowed to stay in a rest house would not be allowed to take more than two vehicles into the complex and the availability of rooms should not exceed more than 48 hours.

He said 48 hours before the completion of the polling process, no permission would be given to stay in the rest houses.

**Birthday Remembrance**

**Sardar Harnam Singh Kalanauri**  
1903-1973

Your thoughts, vision, leadership, everlasting memories are our source of inspiration to succeed & grow.  
Founder

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 ANAND SINGH, DIRECTOR, Family Members & Staff

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB**  
**PWD B&R BRANCH**  
**NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS**  
**TENDER NOTICE NO. 11** DATED 3-10-2019

On behalf of Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer, Provincial Division PWD B&R Br., Mansa invites bids from eligible bidders enlisted under "Building work" category with PWD (B&R) for the work **Special Repair of Sub Tehsil Complex Bareta**. Under Head (2059 M&R N.P.) for detailed terms and conditions of notice inviting bid refer to website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> w.e.f 03/10/2019 to 17/10/2019 up to 1.00 PM.

Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
 Provincial Division PWD B&R, Mansa.



## Pak targets Indian posts in Rajouri

**RAJOURI, OCTOBER 2**  
The Pakistan army resorted to unprovoked mortar shelling in the Baratgala and Samatian areas in Rajouri district on Wednesday evening. The Indian Army gave a befitting reply to the ceasefire violation.

The Pakistan army targeted forward positions of the Army and residential areas.

On Tuesday also, the Pakistan army had violated the 2003 truce agreement in the Qasba, Shahpur and Kirni areas in the Poonch sector. A civilian, Mohd Bashir (50), was injured in the firing on Tuesday.

Sources said the Baratgala area is considered an important infiltration route from across the Line of Control. "An attempt to push terrorists from this area today by terrorist outfits with the help of the Pakistan army can't be ruled out," said the sources.

The exchange of shelling stopped later. No report of injury or loss to infrastructure was reported till the filing of this report.

### 'Be wary of drone threat'

**Jammu:** As Pakistan agencies continue to make bids to transport arms and ammunition into Indian territory by using drones, the Border Security Forces (BSF) today claimed that it was maintaining highest-level of vigil along the 198-km International Border (IB) to defeat the designs of the neighbouring country.

Keeping in view the recent incidents of drone use by Pakistan agencies, the BSF has conducted an awareness programme among villagers and students regarding drone activities in several villages along the IB in the Akhnoor sector. — TNS

## Sentiment vs irreversible reality tempers mood in Kashmir

**ARUN JOSHI**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 2**

An intense struggle is going on between the bruised emotions of Kashmiris and their gradual but reluctant acceptance of the post August 5 reality.

Kashmir is at the centre of these two confronting realities as it is striving to tame its angry emotions over the real situation, that there hardly is a way out to restore the regional autonomy and the limited sovereignty that Jammu and Kashmir as the state had, prior to the scrapping of the special status under Articles 35A and 370.

At a meeting of the stakeholders in a top, otherwise a deserted hotel, overlooking the Dal lake, last week, a pro-reality stakeholder was shouted down when he suggested that the new reality was there for all to see — those who exploited people for 72 years, brought about the tragedies of guns and bombs, leaving at least 42,000 dead. Pakistan that sponsored all this is isolated at the world stage.

He had to hear from many others in the meeting: "Have you sold your emotions." They cast scorn on him as if he had committed some blasphemy against Kashmiri sentiment that seeks to speak for their religion, place, and the nationalism that had been at the roots of 30 years of the "movement" since late 1989.

There was a step back, and another suggestion was mooted that since the whole of Kashmir has suffered immensely, economically, let the government be asked to help out by waiving taxes and loans and interest on them.

There is an economic hurt. Hotels are locked down, fruit produce is bringing peanuts — the price of an apple box is



### CONFRONTING REALITIES

Kashmir is at the centre of two confronting realities as it is striving to tame its angry emotions over the real situation, that there hardly is a way out to restore the regional autonomy and the limited sovereignty that J&K as the state had, prior to the scrapping of the special status under Articles 35A and 370.

far below the expenditure that the orchardists had spent in growing the fruits, leave aside profit, shopkeepers are in distress, and traders have nowhere to go.

This visible reflection pain of the people struck chord with others present there. "Let's make a plea that the government should help us out because it's their action that had caused this injury to the economy and the image of the place," he said these words, and the mood at the meeting changed. It was a sudden transformation, as they hailed it as a perfect way of looking at things.

The emotion-peddling crowd, however, was worried that what face they would show to their own neighbours and fellow Kashmiris if they happened to re-open their shops and other establishments. It would be a betrayal to the cause — that the Centre imposed something that roiled our identity and cut us off from the world for two months. This trajectory has so many fault lines — didn't we hear the cases where the dead lay in mortuary for days with their kin knowing next to nothing about their

whereabouts, how can it be forgotten that the students, businessmen and others were arrested in a midnight crackdown.

They were pinned down by their own question, should they be seen compromising when everything is so painful. While there is an undeniable validity to these events that have become inseparable part of the unwritten history of the past two months, but when it came to suggesting an alternative, they have none.

Guns for the past 30 years brought disaster only and Kashmir is nowhere close to what it was in 1980s. Its future is not in the hands of Delhi alone. Kashmiris have a bigger stake and collective responsibility to see the logic as it exists today.

The experiment with guns, grenades and shutdowns for the past 30 years has not brought Kashmir anywhere close to "azadi". That is past.

Second part, is that whom to look forward to — Pakistan was portrayed as a "friend," and now that "friend" is "friendless" in the world. "We may like it or not, but that is the reality," the thinking is growing among Kashmiris.

## Govt: BDC polls for panchayat members, not detained leaders

**ARTEEV SHARMA**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, OCTOBER 2**

In a bid to downplay the ongoing controversy over holding of elections to the Block Development Councils (BDCs) on party basis amid detention of political leaders, the J&K Government on Wednesday said these elections were being held for elected panchayat members and not for detained leaders.

"These (detained) political leaders are not participating in the BDC elections. Only a select group participates in this poll exercise as the elected panchayat members have the mandate to vote and elect new chairpersons of the BDCs. No panchayat member has been detained anywhere and if any such particular incident has taken place, we will allow them to take part in the elections," Farooq Khan, Advis-



Panchayat elections were held in J&K last year. FILE PHOTO

### PANCHAYAT BODY QUESTIONS MOVE

**Srinagar:** A day after the Chief Electoral Officer issued a notification for the first-ever Block Development Council (BDCs) polls, a panchayat group has called it an "exercise by the BJP to control the grass-root democratic institutions in the state". The election for the 310 BDCs would be held in a single phase on October 24. Unlike the first tier of the polls, which was

held on a non-party basis, the government is holding these BDC elections, which is the second tier of the process, on a party basis. "We had contested the polls as Independents and on a non-party basis. Now when panchayat members have to vote in the BDC polls, how can it be held on a party basis?" said Shafiq Mir, president of the All-J&K Panchayat Conference. TNS

## Pawsome

INDERJEET SINGH



■ The BSF on Wednesday took out a cleanliness drive along with its dog squad in Jammu

■ The dogs cleaned the litter and plastic waste by picking it up and putting it in dustbins. TNS

## Six days later, ops still on in Ganderbal

**SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 2**

Even as the combing operation in the upper reaches of Ganderbal district continued for the sixth consecutive day, a senior police officer said one or two militants might still be holed up in the area.

Two militants, suspected to be Pakistani, have been killed in one of the longest anti-militancy operations that began on Friday in the upper reaches of Trumkhal, Gangbal, at an altitude of over 4,000 m. "The exact number of militants is not known but there can be one or two militants still holed up in the area," SP, Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal said. — TNS

## TRIBUTE TO FATHER OF NATION



CM Arvind Kejriwal with Deputy CM Manish Sisodia pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi (top left). People perform Yoga to mark Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri flags off the 'India Plog Run' in New Delhi. TRIBUNE PHOTOS



■ Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia on Wednesday paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversaries

■ The duo first visited Vijay Ghat, the resting place of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, and paid floral tributes to him on his 115th birth anniversary.

■ Ten new mohalla clinics and two foot overbridges (FOBs) were inaugurated by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, officials said.

■ Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain had last month said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in the Capital was "much confident" about meeting its overall target of building 1,000 mohalla clinics by the end of the year. PTI

## Single-use plastics won't be allowed inside monuments

**NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2**

Tourism Minister Prahlad Patel on Wednesday announced that single-use plastics will not be allowed on the premises of historical monuments or within 100 metres of them.

The announcement comes days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to the nation to shun single-use plastics. "Single-use plastics will not be allowed inside monuments and within 100 metres of them," the tourism minister said while addressing the media at the launch of tourism fair 'Paryatan Parv' here.

He said this is in line with Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts regarding sustainable and clean tourism. "Efforts are being made to phase out single-use plastics in various organisations of the ASI and the Ministry of Tourism," Patel said.

The government has, however, shelved the plan to outlaw single-use plastics on the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi. The plan to ban six items, officials said, would have been disruptive for the industry at a time when it is coping with an economic slowdown and job losses.

Speaking on the occasion, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, growth of tourism sector has been phenomenal over the last five years. Javadekar said as per the appeal of our Prime Minister, everybody should visit 15 places in India by 2022.

The Paryatan Parv has 31 stalls of Central Government ministries as well as from states and UTs. — PTI



Artists perform at the inauguration of an interactive digital exhibition on 'Swachh Bharat, Sashakt Bharat, Babu ke Sapna ka Bharat', in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

### PARYATAN PARV 2019 INAUGURATED AT THE RAJPATH LAWNS

■ Organised by the Ministry of Tourism, Paryatan Parv 2019 will be held from October 2 to October 13 across the country.

■ The Delhi-leg of the fair is being held at the Rajpath lawns between Rafi Marg and Janpath

■ The Paryatan Parv has 31 stalls of Central Government ministries as well as from states and UTs

■ Fifty-nine food stalls representing cuisines from all over the country have also been set up

## 3 arrested for killing man

**NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2**

Three men were arrested for allegedly killing a man in Rohini's Prem Nagar area, the police said on Wednesday.

They were identified as Manish (26), Uday (25) and Neeraj (19), all residents of Prem Nagar, they said.

According to the police, one Ashish (22) was admitted to a hospital with gunshot injury Monday night. He died during treatment, they added. Subsequently, the police said, a case was registered and a probe initiated.

During investigation, it was revealed that Ashish had a quarrelsome nature. His father had evicted him from his home and he was living with his girlfriend and selling liquor, they said. A country-made pistol, along with four cartridges, was seized, the police said. — PTI

## Capital's air quality 'satisfactory', may dip to 'moderate' by Oct 5

**NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2**

The air quality in the Capital was recorded in the "satisfactory" level on Wednesday but it is predicted to slip into the "moderate" category by Friday as wind direction changes to northwesterly. Westerly and northwesterly winds bring dust from western regions and smoke caused by burning of crop residue in neighbouring Punjab and Haryana to Delhi-NCR. However, the Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) said even a change in wind direction won't drastically impact Delhi's AQI for at least a week.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and SAFAR on Wednesday recorded the

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate' and 201 and 300 'poor'

city's air quality index in the "satisfactory" category - at 90 and 71, respectively. An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. Delhi's air quality is predicted to deteriorate to the "moderate" category by October 5 as a result of change in wind direction

from easterly to north and northwesterly, SAFAR said, adding satellite data has indicated sporadic biomass burning signatures in north India over the last week but no increasing trend in fires counts has been noticed. "Delhi air quality is very unlikely to be influenced by this for the next two-three days. However, the transport of relatively dusty air form western regions is expected by October 5," it said.

SAFAR said it is not expecting any "drastic" deterioration in air quality until the second week of October. This is mainly because strong, moist easterly winds are opposing any flow of polluted biomass plume from the north of the NCR region. — PTI

## Plastic 'Ravana' dismantled

**TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

**NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2**

On the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Mother Dairy, retailer firm of farm products, undertook a funky way to increase awareness against use of plastic.

A 25-foot effigy of Hindu mythological demon leader Ravana of the epic Ramayana fame using plastic collected from households from Delhi-NCR including Gurgaon and Faridabad. The drive is a follow up to Prime Minister Narendra



A 25-foot effigy of Ravana in New Delhi. TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Modi's call against use of single-use plastic.

The Mother Dairy got a jack up in this novelty by

residents of NCR region. The collection drive was carried in areas across Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Noida and Gaziabad.

Mother Dairy Managing Director Sangram Chaudhary informed that an outreach was made to a total of 5,000 households to collect plastic.

To avoid environmental damage, instead of burning the effigy it was dismantled and sent for recycling, which also gave a message about the irreparable damage that plastic causes to the environment.

# The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

## NRC imbroglio

Centre must allay residents' fears of persecution

INVOKING national security in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack, the BJP had stolen a march on the Opposition in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, with PM Narendra Modi claiming soon after the Balakot airstrike that the nation was 'in safe hands'. The ruling party is now again swearing by national security to justify the urgency of preparing the National Register of Citizens (NRC). In principle, the exercise makes sense as every resident Indian should be accounted for, irrespective of caste, creed or ethnicity. However, the whole process is being given a communal colour, leading to panic and possible strife. Home Minister Amit Shah said in Kolkata on Tuesday that the Centre would not force Hindu, Sikh, Jain and Buddhist refugees to leave India, promising them that the NRC would be implemented after the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. It was certainly not unintentional that a prominent minority community was conspicuously left out in his speech. Firebrand politician Asaduddin Owaisi duly pounced upon this omission, telling Shah to read the Constitution that prohibited the grant of citizenship on the basis of religion.

Shah's statement came a week after BJP general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya boasted that 'each and every Hindu refugee' would get Indian citizenship. He did not even bother to name any other community. For the record, of the 19 lakh people left out of the NRC in Assam, more than half are Hindus. In West Bengal, the Mamata Banerjee government claims that at least 17 people have committed suicide or succumbed to stress so far, fearing loss of citizenship. In BJP-ruled UP, the police have already set the ball rolling to identify Bangladeshis and other foreigners so that they can be deported.

The Centre needs to ensure that only infiltrators or intruders are weeded out, not the refugees who have fled persecution in neighbouring countries. Pursuing a divisive agenda is fraught with danger as it would further alienate the minorities and worsen the trust deficit. 'Sabka saath, sabka vikas' will become a meaningless slogan if hapless residents are subjected to a witch-hunt.

## Banks need better systems

Supervision, check on profligacy can reduce risks

CONCERN over the health of the banking sector has been growing. A general manager of the country's largest lender, the State Bank of India, told the Punjab and Haryana High Court on Tuesday that 538 cases regarding fraud committed against the public sector banks were pending in Punjab. The information comes amid reports that more than Rs 71,500 crore was involved in bank frauds across the country in 2018-19. The day also saw other developments. There were reports of failure of online transactions in the case of private banks. Speculations were rife about the health of these banks, triggered at least in the case of one — Yes Bank — by its main promoter offloading shares. The banks later clarified that there was no cause for alarm and the problems were mostly due to the festive rush and that additional servers would be deployed to facilitate the increase in volume. Even the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had to issue a statement clarifying that the banks were not under financial pressure.

The concerns over Yes Bank owed its origin to the experience over the crisis at the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank where two-thirds of the loans were allegedly due to a single bankrupt client who was in the property business, listed by the RBI as 'sensitive'. In fact, there have been worries about the exposure of banks to real estate and non-banking financial companies which may turn to public sector banks for liquidity in case of a shortfall. Only some time back, the government had effected a mega merger of banks, bringing down their number in the public sector to 12 from 27. The aim was to have 'fewer and stronger banks' that will prove to be 'adequately capitalised lenders'. The apprehension is over the financial endowment of these banks being used to compensate frauds masquerading as business failures.

The RBI prescribes methods to run a bank but does not make changes in managements and supervision is done mostly by the state and Central governments. Better systems and better governance will be needed to disprove Keynes who thought India was dangerous for banking.

# The New York takeaway

India must not rest on its laurels — serious challenges lie ahead



G PARTHASARATHY

CHANCELLOR, JAMMU CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, & FORMER HIGH COMMISSIONER TO PAKISTAN

VISITS abroad by India's Prime Ministers have historically been driven by geopolitics, economics, or by energy requirements. Modi's visit to Houston was, however, 'diaspora-driven'. It was the rising profile and growing political activism of the three-million-strong diaspora in the US, which set the stage for an unprecedented get-together. 'Howdy, Modi!' in which 50,000 members participated, featured the leaders of the world's most populous and powerful democracies — PM Modi and President Trump.

As Modi smilingly noted, world leaders greeted him at the UNGA in New York with the words, 'Howdy, Modi!' The Houston meeting had its importance for Trump also as he faces challenges in Texas and elsewhere, ahead of the presidential elections next year. Interestingly, the BJP, which has had a growing presence in the US and only during and after the 1970s 'Emergency' in India, now has growing support from the diaspora in countries like Myanmar, Mauritius and the Gulf.

Modi realised it would be best to get his visit started with offers of expanding business and investment cooperation with the dynamic energy industry of his hosts. His visit was marked by the signing of a \$7.5 billion MoU by Petronet (India) with US firm Telurian Inc. involving the purchase of 5 million tonnes of gas annually, with a \$2.5 billion investment by Petronet. A meeting with senior executives of US oil companies followed. The US is today the largest producer of oil and gas, radically changing the dynamics of global production. It is also emerging as a significant supplier to India, reducing India's dependence on supplies from



IN SPOTLIGHT: Modi's address was characterised as 'measured'. But all eyes will be on how successfully, and soon, normalcy is restored in the Valley.

We can't but be concerned about China. It has moved from adopting a neutral stand on Kashmir to steadfastly backing Pakistan in the UNSC, UNHRC and UNGA.

the volatile Persian Gulf region.

Modi's focus shifted to geopolitics in New York, apart from further interactions with US business tycoons. US companies are increasingly moving out of China after Trump's trade sanctions following allegations of Chinese business malpractices. India should not lose out in exploiting new opportunities, as US businesses look for new partners. While there was optimism about resolving some, if not all, trade-related differences with the US, it is clear that further negotiations involving mutual concessions are required to resolve key issues. Resolving these differences, hopefully soon, will end US objections to restoring the WTO's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) for imports by India, which was done unilaterally by the Trump administration.

India was seen as being obstructive in international efforts to conclude a global agreement on climate change for decades. Modi, however, made drastic changes in our negotiating strategy, which led to the signing of

the Paris Accord. He took the position that developing countries should not set unrealistic conditions in negotiations on this crucial issue. This change is a major reason why India is today seen as a responsible global leader on issues of climate change. Trump, however, deservedly faces criticism for refusing to cooperate in discussions on climate change.

Imran Khan arrived in New York with only one aim. He was desperate to persuade the international community to condemn India on the Kashmir issue and its alleged violation of human rights. Pakistan's earlier efforts to get India condemned in the UNSC and thereafter in the UNHRC had failed. China was the only country that backed Pakistan openly, with the British duplicitously backing the Chinese. While there were some noises against India by Turkey and Malaysia, the General Assembly was aghast at Imran's long-winded diatribe against India when he held out the threat of a nuclear conflict!

# Leading by example, on cycle

Raj Kadyan

RECENTLY an Army Commander-designate cycled from Delhi to Jaipur to take over his post. The General deserves kudos for setting a unique example of fitness and determination. To begin his tenure, he has literally hit the ground running. Since the well-publicised event would have been widely watched by his command, it would surely motivate the rank and file to remain in top physical form.

The event evoked memories. While commanding the Corps at Mathura, I used to cycle to my daily game of squash. However, since my staff kept the contraption well-oiled, the extra calories required in pedalling a rusty

cycle — the type I had in school — did not get consumed. But it did inspire other players to avoid using motorised transport. But squash being essentially an officers' game, the message had limited circulation. I was struck by another idea.

Going beyond merely physical, I decided to achieve an aim plus, in keeping with the Army's ethos. I started taking a round of the cantonment after dark. As an added precaution, I would wear an unmarked golf cap, with its visor pulled low to avoid identification. The venture gave me first-hand knowledge and a good feel of the habitat. I would change routes to know the condition of roads. I could also see the efficacy of security lighting. While routinely interacting with the staff, I

could point out the exact pole where a bulb was fused. On occasions when the Garrison Engineer challenged my observations, I would simply say my information was authentic, and it was found so. I, of course, never disclosed the source of my inputs.

Once when I was entering a jawans' family complex, the sentry at the gate stopped me and asked for identity papers. I confidently took out a blank piece of paper from my pocket. Without even checking, the sentry let me go. This became an important input to apply correctives and improve the security in the cantonment.

One has heard of how Sita was banished from the kingdom after Lord Ram heard a disparaging remark from a *dhobi* during his

incognito round. Luckily, I did not confront any such situation. But the excursions had their side moments.

One evening as I was cycling back after my round of the barracks, a rucksack-carrying uniformed soldier signalled me to stop. As I halted, he asked me if I could drop him at a *chauraha*. Even before I could respond, he had made ready to sit on the carrier in the rear. The need for maintaining mission secrecy required that I give him a lift. And I did. The exertion of pulling a 13-stone-plus load for over a kilometre was the best physical exercise I recall during my tenure. But I was amply rewarded with the grateful soldier's parting remark, '*Bahut dhanyawaad bhai saheb*'.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Take stands, take risks, take responsibility.

— Muriel Siebert

## ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

# The Tribune.

LAHORE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1919

## The Lyallpur Case!

IF it is true, as a correspondent tells us, that the Local Government has dropped the case against nine out of the twelve accused in what is called the Lyallpur case, and has decided to prosecute the remaining three, all of whom are pleaders, we cannot help thinking that the authorities are about to make a deplorable mistake. With the merits of the case we are not in any way concerned. What we ask the Government to consider is the impression which the dropping of the case against all other accused and the prosecution of the remaining three is likely to produce on the popular mind. The fact that all the three accused persons against whom the Government is credited with the desire to proceed are pleaders is bound to create unpleasantness. The position is not improved when it is borne in mind that all three persons, who, we further understand, have been taken into custody, have already been in jail for weeks, first as under-trial prisoners, and then as convicts and that their conviction has already once been set aside.

## A Needed Warning.

IT was a much needed warning that the Hon. Mr. Chunilal Mehta administered at the meeting of the Bombay Millowners' Association, against the reckless manner in which companies are being promoted in the country. The reaction following war conditions had taken the trade and industry of the country to the crest of speculation, which has assumed proportions to cause anxieties. Take, for example, Calcutta. During the last few weeks not less than twenty companies have been floated and their shares have been over-subscribed. In Bombay too the same has been the case. Far be it from us to discourage healthy industrial activities but we cannot but join Mr. Mehta in his warning against the "frenzy of speculation".

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### More than his frail body...

Refer to the editorial 'Cherry-picking Gandhi' (October 2); Gandhi is perhaps the most written and most read personality of the world. Vocal leaders have to invoke Gandhi to justify India and its culture and contribution to the world. Some are still clinging to Raj Ghat and others have reached Gandhinagar, depending upon the calibre to play the Gandhi card. Present-day politics was likely to shun Gandhi, but top leaders are playing safe by adopting a selective approach. They are least interested in Gandhi or his ideology, but are only cashing in on his frail body, pair of lenses and his liking for cleanliness. Gandhi was, and is, much more. He should not remain the most read and most written, but let he be the most understood person, so that we are able to protect our real heritage — the Mahatma.

RK GARG, CHANDIGARH

### Relevance of Gandhi

The editorial 'Cherry-picking Gandhi' (October 2) marks the difference between reason and right reason. In a democratic society, everyone has a right to cherry-pick ideas, so do politicians. Gandhi's relevance lies in efforts for self-evolution which he tried to prac-

tice, irrespective of the fate of his ideas and ideals. The challenges before the people and leadership of India today are no less than Gandhi's time, but now the responsibility and accountability squarely rests with them, unlike the British period. Gandhi stands distinguished for self-punishment and correction for a personal wrong in contrast to many in authority of free India. It is worth remembering Gandhi to have a peep into the contemporary Indian scenario for gain, if not for reform.

JAGVINDER SINGH BRAR, PATIALA

### Let the matter rest

A lot of mud-slinging has taken place in the past few years. The political discourse has gone too low for comfort and humility. What makes a good leader, and what makes a leader great? You could debate on it for decades. You could also debate on the qualities of a good leader — vision, integrity, courage, humility, purpose, and so on. But without any political bias, and in the interest of brevity, let me assume that anyone who governs India, and us Indians, has to be a good leader. I, for one, shall be too ashamed to be called a name for choosing a bad leader. Bad leaders, like bad times, have a very limited expiry time, or

so I believe. Only time and history can confer greatness upon a person. So, Gandhi and Nehru were good and great. Modi is good, too. Whether greatness will come his way only time will tell. But for the time being, we shall be serving ourselves and the nation well by refraining from useless mud-slinging.

SANDEEP CHAUDHRI, KARNAL

### Don't forget Shastri

October 2 is the birth anniversary of two of our great leaders, Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri. We all know what the Mahatma has done for us, but do we know who Shastri is? Many of us are unaware of it. He was the second Prime Minister and one who initiated the project to make India one of the largest milk producers. He first dreamt of 'new India'. He was a man with short height and great willpower, which made the world take note of India.

SUMIT KUMAR CHOUDHARY, RAJPURA

### Punjab schools lag

Reference to 'No improvement in school education: NITI ranking' (October 2); this indicates that the quality of education that should be provided is lacking, as is poor infrastructure and administration policies. Punjab has just shown 8.4%

performance hike as compared to Kerala, Haryana, etc. The ranking depicts the real Punjab. The state needs to make more investment in this field to improve. Only then, can Punjab grow.

DHRITI ANAND, LUDHIANA

### Good move by Railways

The decision to pay compensation for delays to passengers travelling on the Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express is a welcome move. Similarly, all railway divisions must try to achieve 100% efficiency in their scheduled departures and arrivals. Undoubtedly, maintenance of the vast network of the Railways should remain the top priority, but at the same time, the punctuality parameter must be improved to make our railways a world-class entity.

AKASH, JAGRAON

### Apex court on SC Act

Apex court on SC Act: Propos 'SC recalls 2018 order that diluted SC/ST Act' (October 2), the SC has restored the stringent provisions of the Act. Similar provisions of preliminary investigation should be looked into in the Dowry Prohibition Act and Section 498 A of the IPC, and the likes. The system should not be allowed to be manipulated.

KK SOOD, NANGAL

# Make most of farm subsidies, grow food safely



**DEVINDER SHARMA**  
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST

**A**CCOUNTING for over 25 per cent of the greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), intensive agricultural practices over the past few decades have not only deepened the agrarian crisis, but also taken a huge toll on the natural resource base. While the realisation that agriculture is a predominant reason for the climatic aberrations the world is witnessing is gaining ground, the world is slowly seeking a change in the way farming is being practised. The call for safe and organically produced food is growing.

At the base of the environmental crisis afflicting agriculture are the massive subsidies being pumped into agriculture that have left behind a trail of destruction. This is the price the world has paid, often unknowingly, to keep food cheap so as to keep economic reforms viable. According to a study conducted by the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU), 2019, a global coalition of scientists, experts and economists, cheap food comes at an enormous 'hidden cost' on human health, natural resources and environment. Estimated at \$12 trillion — equal to China's GDP — the report warns that half the world may remain

undernourished by 2030 if business as usual continues. The report goes much beyond ascertaining the reasons leading to the farm crisis and lists 10 measures that need to be adopted for transformation.

While growing undernourishment or 'hidden hunger' will be one of the tragic outcomes, the devastating impact it will leave behind by way of destruction of natural resources and the climatic havoc wrought will be nothing short of an ecocide. The report, *Growing better: Ten critical transitions to transform food and land use*, estimates \$700 billion a year is what is being spent on growing food. The figure may still be higher since it becomes difficult to decipher every explicit and implicit farm subsidy being provided. But before you form an opinion, let me make it clear — not all these subsidies go to the farmers. They hardly get a minuscule proportion as direct income support.

Yet another study has on the basis of producer subsidy equivalent (PSE), which measures the amount of support received by farmers, worked out that the richest trading block — Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and China — leads the table in 2016-17 with an annual subsidy support of \$235 billion and \$232 billion, respectively.

As the lead author of a report, *The first 10 years of agreement on agriculture of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)*, which was presented at the Hong Kong Ministerial in December 2005, my estimate was that more than 80 per cent of these subsidies (at that



**HEAVY COST:** Intensive agricultural practices have taken a toll on natural resources.

**While Punjab and Haryana face a crisis resulting from water-guzzling cropping pattern, Queensland province in Australia has established a fund offering financial support to farmers who demonstrate reduction in water usage. Why can't a similar stimulus be given to the farmers in Punjab to switch to less water-consuming crops?**

time, the WTO had worked out close to \$360 billion of farm subsidies that rich countries paid) actually went to agribusiness companies. Mostly for export-driven agriculture, these subsidies were for intensive farming practices which had devastated soil health, contaminated the ground water, and were also for clearing rain forests for cattle rearing and palm oil plantations, raising bio-fuel crops, industrial livestock farming, processing and trading which had not only polluted the environment and decimated biodiversity but also produced unhealthy diets.

Only one per cent of the \$700 billion of global farm subsidies a year had gone in for environmentally safe farming practices. In India, too, less than one per cent of the annual subsidy support goes for regenerative

agriculture or for organic and holistic agriculture. "There is incredibly small direct targeting of subsidies at positive environment outcomes, which is insane," Jeremy Oppenheim, principal at the Food and Land Use Coalition, told *The Guardian*, and added: "We have got to switch these subsidies into explicitly positive measures."

The challenge, therefore, is enormous, but small baby steps taken in the right direction can lead to a visible transformation in how food is safely grown.

Though Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appealed to the farmers to shift from chemical fertilisers, the scientific fraternity thinks that such a move will jeopardise the gains of Green Revolution. On the contrary, as per a paper published in *Nature* (March 2018), China was able to increase crop productivity — by an average of 11 per cent — in the rice, wheat and maize cereal crops by reducing the application of fertilisers by 15 per cent.

But this remarkable turnaround happened when a mission mode approach was followed over the years with 14,000 workshops, engaging 65,000 bureaucrats and technicians as well as 1,000 researchers. Meanwhile, it has also announced to achieve zero growth in fertiliser and pesticides subsidy by 2020. There is no reason why India cannot take a cue and re-orient the state agricultural extension machinery towards organic practices. At the same time, take firm steps to reduce fertiliser subsidy every year.

Besides cutting down on fertiliser subsidies, China's effort is also to

promote the use of crop rotations, crop residues and keeping the land fallow. Picking on the highly successful strategy of setting up demonstration plots at the time of Green Revolution, China has at least 40 sustainable agriculture demonstration farms. Not enough, but shows a determination to move away from chemical farming. Similarly, while Punjab and Haryana are faced with a serious crisis resulting from the water-guzzling cropping pattern they follow, Queensland province has established a \$500 million (Australian) fund offering financial support to farmers who demonstrate reduction in water usage. Why can't a similar stimulus package be given to Punjab farmers to switch from paddy to other less water-consuming crops? If Rs 1.45 lakh crore stimuli can be given to the industry, there is no reason why a similar economic package cannot be given to the farmers.

But essentially, it has to first begin by ensuring that agricultural universities undertake a complete redesigning of their research programmes, shunning chemical inputs. This will require a mindset change, which may take some time, but is not impossible. At the same time, the budgetary support for agriculture, too, has to shift to ecological farming systems. At the global level, the FOLU report strives to redirect at least \$500 billion of agricultural subsidies towards sustainable farming, poverty alleviation and ecological restoration. A tall order, but certainly attainable.

# Boost exports to gain edge in world trade



**SUSHMA RAMCHANDRAN**  
SENIOR FINANCIAL JOURNALIST

**I**NDIA'S two per cent share of the global trade is not as high as it should be if it wants to play a decisive role in the international economy. Most countries which play a big role in world trade have also brought about higher domestic growth rates and ensured a better standard of living for their citizens. China and the Southeast Asian tiger economies are visible examples of the role that enhancing trade flow plays in the overall economic growth. In China's case, exports are a key driver of the economy but it also imports massive quantities of commodities and goods for use in developing its industrial infrastructure. As for the Southeast Asian tigers, they have not only eschewed protectionism, but also joined hands to become a major force in the world economy through regional trade cooperation.

On the plus side, there now seems to be a growing recognition that India needs to gear up to become a more export-oriented economy. The latest round of export incentives announced recently as well as Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal's call for returning to 20 per cent export growth indicates that more focus is going to be put on trade in the second tenure of the Modi government than in the first one. One reason may be the slowing down not just of the domestic economy but also the global economy. Goyal's stress on picking up the pace of export growth is thus timely. Export growth has been rising in the last two years by about 9 per cent but this followed a consistent decline from 2014 to 2016. It has begun to slip again since June though there was a marginal recovery in July this year.



**TAILORING TRADE:** The industry is up in arms over prospects of cheaper imports.

The need to become more competitive in world markets has been highlighted recently by the spotlight on trade issues recently on the global stage. This began with the spat between the US and China over tariffs, but spilled over to the rest of the world. Not only has the Trump administration engaged China over tariffs, it has sought to renegotiate trade agreements with many other countries including neighbours like Canada and Mexico. Differences have also arisen between the US and the European Union with both sides threatening to impose retaliatory tariffs. The trigger for this dispute was the ruling by the World Trade Organisation that subsidies given to Airbus had an adverse impact on the US.

India has not been left out of the Trump administration's obsession

over trade deficits. In the case of India-US trade, there is currently a trade surplus in this country's favour. President Trump initially flagged the issue of high tariffs on Harley-Davidson motorcycles which are imported in less numbers but this was followed by punitive tariffs on steel and aluminium exports to the US.

The last straw was the withdrawal of the concessional Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) tariffs which have been given for many years to developing countries. This, in turn, prompted India to levy higher import duties on a range of American products.

But with Indo-US ties growing closer, especially during the recent public bonhomie between Prime Minister Modi and President Trump, negotiations are reported to be under way to conclude an

interim trade deal to patch up differences in these areas. Whether the vast gap in perceptions between the two sides can be bridged is yet to be seen, as this government is not keen to remove the cap on medical device prices or to reduce tariffs on IT products. But some concessions will have to be made if the US is to agree to even partially restore benefits under GSP. Incidentally, the friction on economic ties is a sharp contrast to the growing closeness on defence and strategic issues.

Even as India-US trade relations remain prickly, India is finalising the terms of membership of the giant Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a trade grouping of Asean countries along with Japan, China, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. The big worry here is to avoid domestic industry facing a flood of cheap imports, mainly from China. Tariffs will have to be reduced but efforts are being made to do this in a phased way so that domestic industry can gear up to meet the onslaught.

At the same time, it is imperative for India to become part of such a regional trade group as these are now critically important to get access to key markets. The industry is up in arms at the prospect of cheaper imports but India really has no option but to join the RCEP as it has yet to become a part of any other major trade partnerships in the world.

Some studies have shown that while trade deficits have increased with countries with whom India has entered into free trade agreements, imports would have been more expensive without these FTAs. Besides, if industry starts looking for new markets, it will be ham-

strung in the future if India excludes itself from regional groupings like the RCEP. It would also be to India's advantage to join the RCEP at the outset when it can influence the rules of engagement for the trade group.

As far as protecting Indian industry is concerned, it would be more productive to help it become competitive in world markets rather than raising tariff barriers. A beginning has been made by the reforms introduced recently, including slashing of corporate taxes as well as providing more export credit. Other reforms to make the life of entrepreneurs easier will include cutting bureaucratic red tape and digitisation of government services.

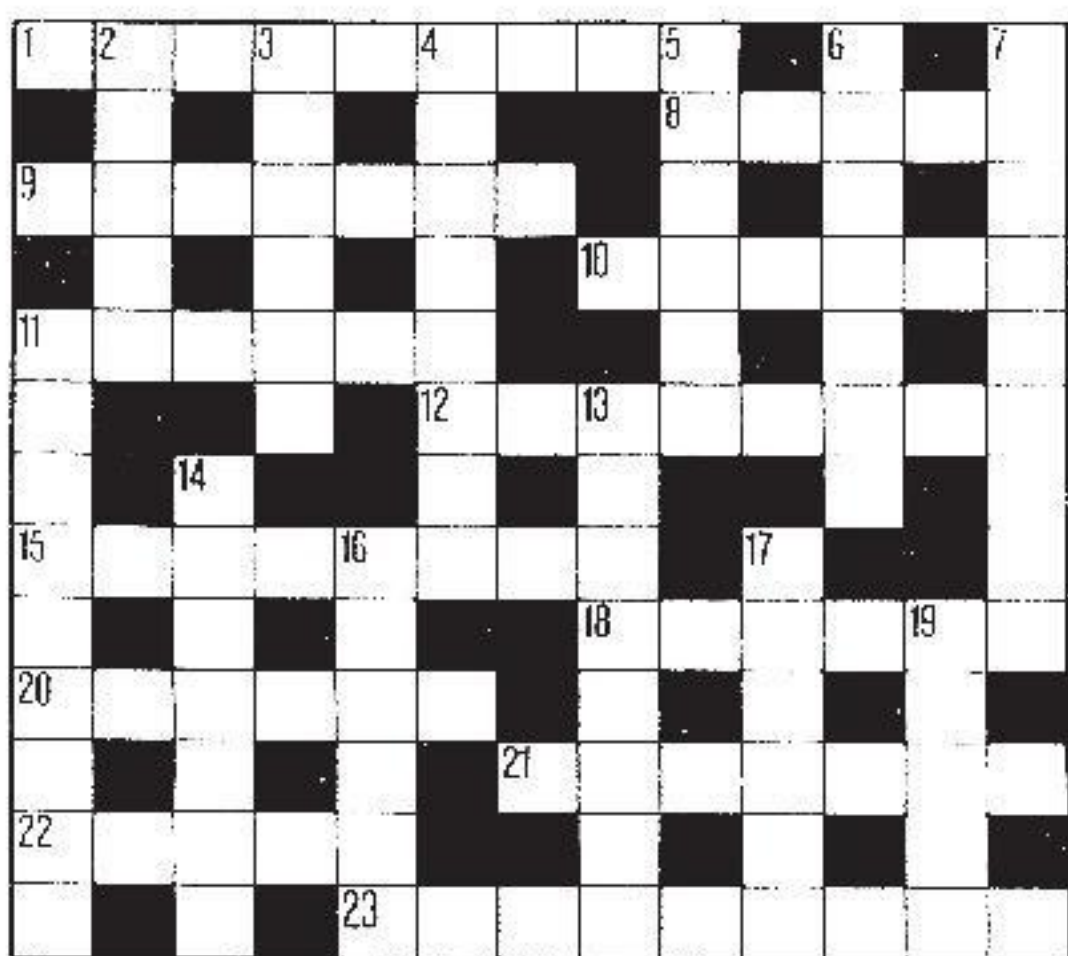
There is no option but to become more globalised and increasing trade flow, especially exports, has to become an integral part of this country's economic strategy. Both agriculture and industry have to become more competitive on the world stage. Agro-processed exports can become a mainstay of the economy if policies are tailored to give the right amount of support to this industry.

Similarly, industry needs to be provided with adequate infrastructure to be able to compete abroad with manufacturers of other countries who get cheap credit, easy power supply and minimal government interference in their operations.

A positive approach to exports needs to be inculcated in the mission mode through all government departments. A policy change on these lines is essential to ensure that trade becomes a priority, otherwise India will not be able to achieve its potential as an economic powerhouse.

There is no option but to become more globalised. Increasing trade flow, especially exports, has to become an integral part of the country's economic strategy. Both agriculture and industry have to become more competitive on the world stage. A positive approach to exports needs to be inculcated in the mission mode through all government departments.

## QUICK CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- Mockery by caricature (9)
- Cool courage (5)
- Study of past events (7)
- Verging on indecency (6)
- To no end (2,4)
- Magnificence (8)
- In a manner of speaking (2,2,4)
- Plump (6)
- Painter (6)
- Speaker's platform (7)
- Item of bric-a-brac (5)
- Add up (4,5)

### DOWN

- Combination (5)
- Deadly (6)
- To choke (8)
- Flag indicating nationality (6)
- A lawn game (7)
- Famous person (9)
- Disequilibrium (9)
- Short amusing account (8)
- Extreme nervousness (7)
- Sagacity (6)
- Fine or abstruse (6)
- A style of folk music (5)

### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

**Across:** 1 Redress, 4 Motif, 7 Fame, 8 Pristine, 10 Rendezvous, 12 Absurd, 13 Ordeal, 15 Ins and outs, 18 Straight, 19 Will, 20 Yield, 21 Miserly.  
**Down:** 1 Refer, 2 Diminish, 3 Strive, 4 Masquerade, 5 Trim, 6 Fretful, 9 Bear in mind, 11 Peculiar, 12 Amnesty, 14 Fathom, 16 Sulky, 17 Urge.

## SU DO KU

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

V. HARD

## CALENDAR

### OCTOBER 3, 2019, THURSDAY

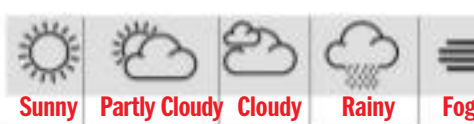
- Vikrami Samvat 2076
- Shaka Samvat 1941
- Ashwin Shaka 11
- Ashwin Parvishte 17
- Hijari 1441
- Shukla Paksh Tithi 5, up to 10:12 am
- Aayu Yoga up to 1:03 am
- Anuradha Nakshatra up to 12:10 pm
- Moon in Scorpio sign.

### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

## FORECAST

SUNSET: THURSDAY 18:06 HRS  
SUNRISE: FRIDAY 06:17 HRS



CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	32	21
New Delhi	35	23

PUNJAB		
Amritsar	32	21
Bathinda	34	23
Jalandhar	32	21
Ludhiana	32	21

HARYANA		
Bhiwani	35	23
Hisar	35	23
Sirsa	34	23

HIMACHAL PRADESH		
Dharamsala	26	17
Manali	20	08
Shimla	22	12

JAMMU & KASHMIR		
Jammu	32	20
Leh	—	—
Srinagar	27	12

UTTARAKHAND		
Dehradun	30	21
Mussoorie	22	12

TEMPERATURE IN °C

USD	EURO	POUND	JPY	YUAN	CAD	AUD	SGD	HKD
₹71.07	₹77.80	₹87.31	₹0.66	₹9.96	₹53.62	₹47.58	₹51.33	₹9.08

# Smaller cities pip metros in luxury cars' sale

Automakers see increased demand for high-end variants

VIJAY C ROY  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHAKAN (PUNE), OCTOBER 2  
Cities such as Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Raipur, Nashik and Guwahati are not the ones that come to mind when one thinks of appetite for high-end luxury cars. However, these tier-II and tier-III cities are emerging as markets for swanky cars, especially of their high-end variants. According to industry, out of total sales in these markets, the high-end models are the preferred choice as compared to their entry and mid-level models in metros.



ILLUSTRATION: SANDEEP JOSHI

"Although the major volume of sales still come from metros such as Delhi and Mumbai, but we have witnessed an increased demand for luxury cars in tier-II and tier-III cities," said Martin Schwenk, managing director and chief executive officer, Mercedes-Benz India (P) Ltd. The company is witnessing an increased demand for its E-Class and S-Class sedans and GLE and GLS SUVs from small cities. Mercedes' E-Class sedans are priced from Rs 58.80 lakh onwards, while the S-Class is priced Rs 1.36 crore onwards. "We have seen an increased traction for E-Class and also S Class models. The demand for high-end

models, including SUVs, is more in smaller cities as compared to metros," said Santosh Iyer, vice-president, Sales and Marketing, Mercedes-Benz India. According to a senior executive working with a BMW dealership, tier-2 cities such as Ludhiana and Chandigarh have grown rapidly and these markets promise remarkable growth prospects. "Customers in these markets are matured and gradually getting exposed to luxury. If we compare the data, high-end models have a lion's share in total sales, especially in tier-II and tier-III markets. For example, there is a lot of demand for Audi Q5 and Q7 models in non-metros," said a senior

executive working with Audi. The price of Q5 variant starts from Rs 55 lakh and Q7 is priced between Rs 78 lakh and Rs 86 lakh. Analysts said the spending capability of customers in these towns has grown manifold. To tap the demand, the carmakers have strengthened their presence in these cities by opening new dealerships over the past couple of years. Further, the companies are rapidly expanding their sales and service network in these markets. Rollout of new showrooms and finance schemes seem to be paying rich dividends for these luxury carmakers. In the current situation when luxury car sales have

witnessed a negative growth of around 20% in the first six months of the current fiscal, the presence of network in tier-II cities has added cushion to their dwindling sales. According to estimates, around 16,000 luxury cars were sold in the first six months of 2019 as compared to 20,000 units sold a year earlier. The industry blamed macroeconomic headwinds such as high interest rates, rising import costs and liquidity crunch for the slump in the auto loan market. At 35,000-40,000 units (average) in the past couple of years, the share of luxury cars in India is about 1.17% of the overall passenger vehicle market.

# Bank loan fairs from today

In the first phase, 250 districts to be covered across the country

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

The first phase of 'Loan Mela', an outreach programme for providing credit to retail customers and MSMEs, will begin from Thursday across 250 districts across the country to meet demand during the festival period.

During the four days beginning October 3, loans will be sanctioned for retail, agriculture, vehicle, home, MSME, education and personal categories on the spot. All banks, including State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Bank of Baroda (BoB), and Corporation Bank have geared themselves up to take advantage of festival season demand.

SBI is the lead banker in 48 districts across the country. Likewise, BoB is the lead banker in 17 out of 250 districts in the first phase.

Simultaneously, it is holding Baroda Kisan Pakhwada during which most of its branches would focus on promoting farm loans, BoB



OUTREACH PROGRAMME

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■ The second phase will be held across 150 districts between October 21 and October 25, just before Diwali

said in a statement.

During the annual performance review earlier this month, public sector banks decided to undertake outreach exercise in identified

400 districts. Later, the private sector lenders too expressed their willingness to join the initiative.

This is part of the systematic bank reform process which

envisioned taking banks to doorsteps of customers.

These camps will provide a one-stop destination for MSMEs, small retail businesses and end customers to access all bank services, especially loans in auto, home, personal and business section.

While at one level it will help businesses to gear up for the festive season, it will also provide ready cash in the hands of consumers.

Needless to say, all prudent financial norms and due diligence will be followed by PSBs while disbursing loans, a top official of the public sector bank said.

Awareness camps will be held in these districts to let people know about the event.

For spreading information, the banker said, local vendor associations, commercial organisations and chambers of commerce may also be engaged to spread the message among merchants and customers. — PTI

## Bharat-22 ETF's 4th tranche to open today

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

The government will launch the fourth instalment of Bharat-22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) tomorrow, which is expected to help the exchequer garner up to Rs 8,000 crore from investors.

The issue will open for anchor investors on Thursday and for other institutional and retail investors, the next day, according to scheme information document filed by ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund, which manages Bharat-22 ETF.

The investors would get a 3% discount over the issue price. "The offer is likely to have a base issue size of Rs 2,000 crore, with a green-shoe option to retain another Rs 6,000 crore, taking the total amount to Rs 8,000 crore," a source privy to the development said.

The decision has been taken after receiving robust response for earlier stake sale by the government in the product. — PTI

## RBI set to slash rates again as fiscal steps fail to cheer

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 2

The RBI is expected to cut benchmark interest rates for the fifth time this year on Friday as recent fiscal measures to boost ailing growth seem largely inadequate and benign inflation offers room for more easing.

The RBI is predicted to lower its key lending rate or the repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 5.15%, which would take cumulative cuts so far this year to 135 bps. Most analysts forecast one more cut of 15 bps in December.

Some RBI watchers expect a larger cut this week, after it cut the repo rate by an unconventional 35 bps in August. "With current inflation remaining benign, we expect RBI to opt for a 40 bps rate cut at its policy review later this week in a bid to continue its support toward growth revival," said Yuvika Oberoi, an economist with Yes Bank in Mumbai.

Asia's third-largest economy expanded by just 5% in the June quarter, its slowest pace since 2013. That has raised expectations the RBI



ECONOMISTS' FORECAST

■ The Central bank is predicted to lower its key lending rate or the repo rate by 25 bps to 5.15%, which would take cumulative cuts so far this year to 135 bps

■ Analysts forecast one more cut of 15 bps in December

■ Some economists expect a larger cut this week, after it cut the repo rate by an unconventional 35 bps in August

will be forced to further downgrade its growth projection of 6.9% for the current fiscal year. However, not all economists were as aggressive with their rate cut bets, saying the central bank will likely reserve some firepower and wait to see how inflation pans out.

In a bid to revive business activity, the government in September announced a sharp cut in the corporate

tax rate — to 22% from 30%.

But while the tax cut brings the cost of doing business in India into line with its main Asian rivals, the government's move will do little to fix a lack of spending power, economists say. "The volatility in oil prices and the measures announced will have an impact on inflation in the medium-term and the fiscal deficit," said Shanti Ekambaram, president, Kotak Mahindra Bank. — PTI

## PMC Bank's suspended MD blames 'superficial auditing' for the crisis

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 2

The suspended managing director of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank, Joy Thomas, has blamed the auditors for the mess at the bank, accusing them of only "superficial auditing" the books of the now crippled lender due to "time constraints".

In a five-page letter to the RBI dated September 21 after a Board member blew the lid on the fraud at PMC, which is among the top 10 urban cooperative banks, Thomas has confessed to the role of the top management, including a few board members, in hiding the actual NPA numbers and also the actual exposure to the bankrupt HDIL, which is stated to be around Rs 6,500 crore or over 73% of its total loan book of Rs 8,880 crore. While Thomas has not named any auditor in the letter to the RBI written two days before the regulatory clampdown, which PTI has reviewed, according to its annual report for FY19, the bank had three auditors — Lakdawal & Co, Ashok Jayesh & Associates and DB



Depositors of Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank protest outside the bank's Andheri branch after it stopped operations, in Mumbai, on Wednesday. PTI

### ICAI SEEKS PERMISSION FROM RBI TO CHECK AUDITORS' ROLE

■ Chartered accountants' apex body ICAI has sought information from the RBI and other authorities on the PMC Bank crisis to check whether any auditor was involved in the alleged financial irregularities at the lender

■ The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has written to the Vigilance Department of the Reserve Bank of India and the Commissioner of Maharashtra Co-operative Societies in this regard

Ketkar & Co since FY11. The shallow auditing of the books of PMC by its statutory auditors was done as the 'bank was growing', Thomas claimed in the letter. The letter of Thomas is part of the FIR filed by the

Economic Offence Wing of the Mumbai Police on Monday. The FIR names Thomas, PMC chairman Waryam Singh and the promoters of the HDIL and related entities. "Since the bank was grow-

ing the statutory auditors, due to their time constraints, were checking only the incremental advances and not the entire operations in all the accounts," Thomas claimed in the letter. — PTI

## US seeks greater involvement in Indian renewable energy sector

High-level delegation arrives in Delhi on a week-long visit

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

A multi-institutional delegation from the US has arrived here to seek greater involvement in the Indian energy sector.

The team consisting of Francis Fannon, a senior US State Department official on energy, the US government's aid arm and its energy regulator and ministry will meet government officials and CEOs days after PM Narendra Modi held three roundtables in the US, one specifically with energy sector businesses, to seek greater involvement.

The conversations will take place at a time when India is about to provide mega investment and manufacturing opportunities in traditional and emerging energy sectors. The government's plans to sell five oil PSUs could be the ideal vehicle for an entry into India's crude oil refining sec-



Bid to keep India away from Chinese e-vehicles

■ Senior US State Department official Francis Fannon will launch Flexible Resources Initiative (FRI), a component of Trump's Asia EDGE Initiative

■ Asia EDGA aims to promote interests of US companies and deny China's dominance in clean energy sectors

■ The United States of America is launching FRI in India with a focus on battery-driven electric vehicles

tor. In the gas sector, India has already entered into long-term supply contracts with the US companies, besides investing in Dominion Cove Point LNG Port and inking an MoU to invest in the proposed Driftwood LNG

export terminal. While the US-India fossil energy bonds are strengthening, Fannon will launch the Flexible Resources Initiative (FRI) to foster closeness in renewable energy sector, especially the bat-

tery-dependent e-vehicles.

A US State Department statement announcing Fannon's week-long India visit said, the FRI is "meant to grow sustainable and secure energy markets throughout the Indo-Pacific." EDGE is Washington's strategy to dominate the energy markets on the supply side.

On the demand side, it has the Energy Resource Governance Initiative (ERGI) with countries that are endowed by minerals required for batteries. A couple of days ago, the US signed the "strategic minerals initiative" with eight countries that have major reserves of cobalt and lithium. Some of these countries are the same ones that India has independently approached to mine lithium.

Fannon will co-lead a team that will also consist of the US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, US Department of Energy and US Agency for International Development.

## J&J agrees to pay \$20.4 m in opioid addiction case

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 2

US healthcare giant Johnson & Johnson today announced it had reached a \$20.4 million settlement to avoid a much-anticipated trial in Ohio for allegedly fuelling the opioid addiction crisis.

Several drugmakers have agreed deals ahead of the trial, due to open this month, which is seen as a national test case for many billions of dollars in settlements. Millions of Americans sunk

### SETTLEMENT TO AVOID TRIAL

■ The company was accused of aggressive promotion of painkillers and downplaying or hiding risk of addiction

■ Several firms have agreed to deals ahead of the trial which is seen as a national test case for billions of dollars in settlements



into addiction after using potent opioid painkillers that companies churned out and doctors freely prescribed over the past two decades.

The Johnson & Johnson agreement was with two Ohio counties ravaged by the opioid crisis — Cuyahoga and Summit. — AFP

### DLF settles ₹8,700-cr payment with GIC

New Delhi: Realty major DLF has settled the entire Rs 8,700 crore amount payable to DLF Cyber City Developers Ltd (DCCDL), its joint venture with Singapore-based GIC, by transferring various completed commercial properties and land parcels as well as cash payment. With settlement of this dues, the company said it has completed the exercise of transforming its balance sheet and consolidation of all rental assets under the DCCDL. DLF holds 67% stake in DCCDL, while Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC holds 33%. PTI

# UK court rules in favour of India, dismisses Pak's claim over Nizam's funds

**70-YEAR-OLD DISPUTE** Over 100 descendants of the last ruler of erstwhile Hyderabad state hope to get due share

**LONDON/ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 2** The UK High Court on Wednesday ruled in favour of India and dismissed Pakistan's claim over funds belonging to the late 7th Nizam of Hyderabad at the time of Partition in 1947 and now worth around 35 million pounds. The ruling marks an important conclusion to the over 70-year-long legal dispute which also witnessed the Indian government, the descendants of the 7th Nizam and the administrator of his estate burying their differences and entering into a confidential settlement agreement last year, which meant the case was effectively an India-

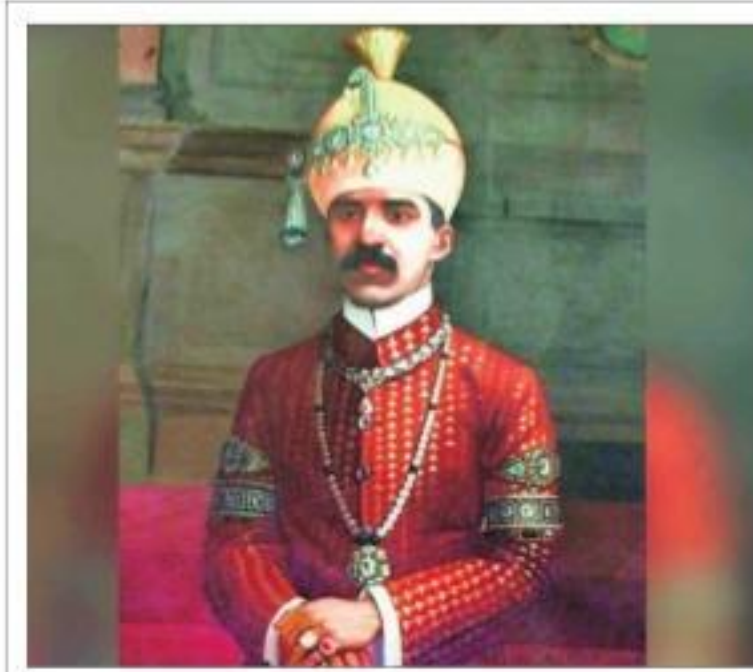
Pakistan clash in the British courts.

In his judgment handed down at the Royal Courts of Justice in London, Justice Marcus Smith ruled that the "Nizam VII was beneficially entitled to the Fund and those claiming in right of Nizam VII — the Princes and India — are entitled to have the sum paid out to their order". "Pakistan's contentions of non-justiciability by reason of the foreign act of state doctrine and non-enforceability on grounds of illegality both fail," the verdict noted, in a setback to Pakistan.

The dispute revolves around 1,007,940 pounds

and nine shillings transferred in 1948 from the then Nizam of Hyderabad to the high commissioner in Britain of the newly-formed state of Pakistan. That amount has since grown into 35 million pounds as the Nizam's descendants, supported by India, claimed it belongs to them and Pakistan counter-claimed that it is rightfully theirs.

"We are delighted that today's judgment recognises His Exalted Highness the VIII Nizam's rights to funds which have been in dispute since 1948. Our client was still a child when the dispute first arose and is now in his 80s. It is a great relief to see this dispute



## ROYALS JOINED HANDS WITH GOVT

■ The Nizam's descendants, Prince Mukarram Jah — the titular eighth Nizam of Hyderabad — and his younger brother Muffakham Jah, joined hands with the Government of India in the legal battle against Pakistan for possession of over around £35 million

■ NatWest Bank plc in London has held on to the funds deposited into the London bank account of then Pakistan High Commissioner Habib Ibrahim Rahimtoola in safekeeping until its rightful legal owner is established

finally resolved in his lifetime," said Paul Hewitt, partner in Withers LLP, who have acted for the VIII Nizam since Pakistan issued proceedings in 2013.

"Justice Smith's judgment covers a complex historical and legal set of issues, interpreting facts and events that occurred 70 years ago to establish that

the funds, which now amount to 35 million, were always held in trust for our client's grandfather, the VII Nizam. The judgment also makes important findings

on justiciability... and whether a nation state can be a trustee," he noted.

Meanwhile, over 100 descendants of the last ruler of erstwhile Hyderabad state are hoping to get their due share. The descendants say they all have the share in the funds and not just Prince Mukarram Jah, the titular eighth Nizam and his younger brother Muffakham Jah.

Nizam's grandson Nawab Najaf Ali Khan said they welcome the court verdict.

"The court has rightly rejected Pakistan's claim in favour of India, and the descendants of Nizam VII. The family has long awaited this judgment," he said

According to him, there are 120 legal heirs of seventh Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan. He hopes that the funds lying in NatWest Bank plc will be distributed among the legal heirs without further legal wrangling.

The Nizam's family members will wait for the next development in the case known as Hyderabad Funds case. They, however, believe that Pakistan has no strong grounds to challenge Wednesday's court order.

Claiming the legal right to the funds, they say they were party to a confidential settlement agreement was reached last year between the Indian government and the Nizam Estate. — Agencies



## GLOBE TROT

# UK offers EU Irish backstop alternative in new Brexit plan

European Commission says will examine Britain's proposals objectively

**LONDON, OCTOBER 2** British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday unveiled his alternative to the controversial Irish backstop clause in the withdrawal agreement with the European Union (EU) as a final offer to the economic bloc to avert a no-deal Brexit on October 31.

Johnson's proposals would see the UK territory of Northern Ireland effectively stay within the EU single market for goods but leave the common Customs Union, something which has been dubbed an "all-island regulatory zone" on the island of Ireland.

"Let's get Brexit done and bring this country together," said Johnson, in a stirring speech to the Conservative Party membership at the ongoing conference in Manchester.

He admitted that his proposal was a "compromise by the UK" and said he hoped the EU would "understand that and compromise in their turn". "If we fail to get an agreement because of what is essentially a technical discussion of the exact nature of future customs checks, when that technology is improving the whole time, then let us be in no doubt that the alternative is no deal. That is not an outcome we want," he warned.

Under the new plan detailed in a letter by the



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson (R) acknowledges the applause from Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Sajid Javid (L) and members of his cabinet in Manchester on Wednesday. AFP

## FRESH STRATEGY

■ Johnson's proposals will see the UK territory of Northern Ireland effectively stay within the EU single market for goods but leave the common Customs Union

■ The Northern Ireland Assembly will get to approve the arrangements first and vote every four years on keeping them

■ The UK is set to leave the EU on October 31 and the Johnson-led government has insisted it will not negotiate a further delay beyond that deadline

"Let's get Brexit done and bring this country together. I hope the EU will understand. If we fail to get an agreement because of what is essentially a technical discussion of the exact nature of future customs checks, then let us be in no doubt that the alternative is no deal" Boris Johnson, BRITISH PM

British PM to the European Commission President, Jean Claude-Juncker, the Northern Ireland Assembly would have to approve the arrangements first and be able to vote every four years on whether to keep them.

Johnson claims his solution respects the Irish peace process and the Good Friday Agreement, which had marked an end to years of troubles between unionists in favour of aligning with the UK and republicans aligned with Ireland and led to the current open border

between the two regions. In his letter, Johnson calls on the EU to "respect the decision taken by the people of the UK to leave the EU, while dealing pragmatically with that decision's consequences in Northern Ireland and in Ireland".

The European Commission says it will "examine (the proposals objectively)".

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, a key voice in the debate because EU member-country Ireland shares an open border with Northern Ireland, has, however,

warned that the proposals do not sound particularly "encouraging" to strike a new withdrawal agreement.

The UK is set to leave the EU on October 31 and the Johnson-led government has insisted it will not negotiate a further delay beyond that deadline. However, under the terms of a law passed by Parliament last month, the PM faces having to request another extension unless MPs back the terms of withdrawal by October 19 — two days after a summit of European leaders. — PTI



**KHASHOGGI REMEMBERED:** Hatice Cengiz (C), fiancée of murdered Saudi scribe Jamal Khashoggi, and others stand near a memorial stone during an event marking the first year of the assassination of Khashoggi in Istanbul, on Wednesday. AFP

## America's first cannabis cafe opens in Hollywood

**LOS ANGELES:** America's first cannabis restaurant has opened in West Hollywood, offering diners an array of weed products. Called "Lowell Farms: A Cannabis Café", the much-hyped 240-seat establishment is open to people 21 and over, who can order from a cannabis menu. "Flower Hosts", or "budtenders", help patrons navigate the menu, giving advice to connoisseurs or novices on what strain of cannabis to order with their meal and the potency and flavour of each product. On offer are pre-rolled joints starting at \$18 dollars apiece, highly potent concentrates, some edibles, and accessories such as bong, pipes and dabbing devices. AFP

## Hidden for 21 yrs, Ethiopian crown set to return home

**ROTTERDAM (NETHERLANDS):** A priceless 18th-century Ethiopian crown is set to be returned from the Netherlands to Addis Ababa after a one-time refugee found it in a suitcase and hid it in his apartment for two decades. The ornate gilded copper headgear, featuring images of Christ and the Twelve Apostles, was unearthed after refugee-turned-Dutch-citizen Sirak Asfaw contacted Dutch "art detective" Arthur Brand. Brand, dubbed the "Indiana Jones of the art world" for his discoveries of missing works, said the crown, which is currently being held in a secure location, would soon be handed to the Ethiopian authorities. AFP



## Meghan sues British tabloid over personal letter

**LONDON:** British royal Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, has sued a tabloid newspaper that she claims illegally published a personal letter she wrote to her father. The civil lawsuit accuses the Mail on Sunday of copyright infringement, misuse of private information and violating the UK's data protection law with the "intrusive" publication of the letter, a spokeswoman for Schillings, the law firm handling the case, said. Prince Harry accused the Mail on Sunday of editing the letter in "an intentionally destructive manner" to "manipulate" readers with an unflattering portrayal of his wife. AP



# Days before anti-nuke talks with US, N Korea fires ballistic missile

**SEOUL/TOKYO, OCTOBER 2** North Korea fired what may have been a submarine-launched ballistic missile from off its east coast on Wednesday, a day after it announced the resumption of talks with the United States on ending its nuclear programme.

If confirmed, it would be the most provocative test by North Korea since it started the talks with the United States in 2018. Analysts said it was likely a reminder by Pyongyang of the weapons capability it had been aggressively developing as it gears up for the new round of talks.

A State Department spokeswoman called on Pyongyang to "refrain from provocations" and remain committed to the nuclear negotiations.

South Korea's military said it had detected the launch of one missile that flew 450 km (280 miles) and reached an altitude of 910 km (565 miles). It was likely a Pukguksong-class weapon, as the North's earlier submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) under development were known. South Korean Defence Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo



A TV grab of N Korean missile in Seoul on Wednesday. AFP

told a parliamentary committee that the Pukguksong, or Pole Star in Korean, has a range of about 1,300 km (910 miles) and that the missile's trajectory may have been raised to reduce the distance it travelled. CNN, citing a US official, said that the missile was launched from an underwater platform, which North Korea has previously done at the early stage of the SLBM programme in 2015.

South Korea expressed concern and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe condemned the launch, saying it was a violation of UN Security Council resolutions. North Korea rejects UN Security Council resolutions that ban Pyongyang from using ballistic missile technology. — AFP

## World War II-era bomber crashes

**WINDSOR LOCKS (US), OCTOBER 2** A World War II-era B-17 bomber carrying 13 people crashed and burned at the Hartford airport in an aborted takeoff attempt on Wednesday, and a state official said at least five people were killed.

The four-engine, propeller-driven plane struggled to get into the air and slammed into a maintenance shed at Bradley International Airport as the pilots circled back for a landing, officials and witnesses said.

It had 10 passengers and three crew members, the authorities said. The state official who gave the death toll was not authorised to discuss the investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Connecticut Public Safety Commissioner James Rovella said hours after the crash that some of those on board suffered severe burns and "the victims are very difficult to identify". The retired, civilian-registered plane was associated with the Collings Foundation, an educational group that brought its Wings of Freedom vintage aircraft display to the airport this week, officials said.

"Right now my heart really goes out to the families who are waiting," Gov Ned Lamont said. — PTI

## Flash-mob rally in Hong Kong



Anti-government protesters hold a march in Causeway Bay in solidarity with the student protester who got shot by police with live ammunition in Hong Kong on Wednesday. REUTERS

■ Flash-mob rallies broke out in Hong Kong on Wednesday as anger mounted over police shooting a teenage protester who attacked officers in a dramatic escalation of the violent unrest that has engulfed the territory for months

■ Large crowds of demonstrators held unsanctioned marches through the commercial centre and then in multiple districts throughout the evening, when police fired brief volleys of tear gas in one neighbourhood

■ Hundreds of students also staged a sit-in at the school of Tsang Chi-kin, 18, who was shot in the chest by a policeman as he and a group of masked protesters assaulted officers with umbrellas and poles. Police fired brief volleys of tear gas at crowds. AFP

# Impeachment fight escalates as Trump calls probe a 'coup'

**WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 2**

US President Donald Trump and Congress traded threats on Wednesday in a growing impeachment scandal that threatens to engulf the White House in what the president claimed is a "coup". The power struggle between Trump — accused of leaning on Ukraine's president to dig up dirt on one of his main 2020 election rivals — and congressional Democrats entered ever more volatile territory.



Donald Trump

Adam Schiff, the Democrat leading the impeachment probe, said there was a "real sense of urgency" to press forward. Trump fought back with language that would once have been inconceivable for a president, including his claim late Tuesday on Twitter that this is "not an impeachment, it is a COUP". Trump insists that he did nothing wrong in a phone call with Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky and got support from Russia's President Vladimir Putin, who said he saw "nothing compromising" in the conversation. — AFP



Bayern hand Spurs record defeat as Madrid's blushes spared; City, PSG win

# Done and dusted

PARIS, OCTOBER 2

Serge Gnabry scored four second-half goals as Bayern Munich came from behind to hand last season's runners-up Tottenham Hotspur a stunning 7-2 home defeat in the Champions League on Tuesday after Real Madrid escaped with a 2-2 draw against Club Brugge.

The evening started well for Spurs as Son Heung-min fired into the far corner to give Mauricio Pochettino's team the lead. However, the Bavarians came roaring back to leave Spurs on the receiving end of the biggest ever home defeat for an English team in Europe. It was the first time they had ever conceded seven goals in a home game.

Two super strikes from Joshua Kimmich and Robert Lewandowski had Bayern ahead at the break and Gnabry, the former Arsenal winger, then scored two goals two minutes apart to make it four early in the second half.

Harry Kane reduced the arrears from the penalty spot but Gnabry ran through to complete his hat-trick on 83 minutes and he smacked in the seventh goal after Lewandowski had netted his second of the evening. Gnabry is the first player to score four goals against English opposition since Lionel Messi achieved the same feat for Barcelona against Arsenal in 2010.

The result means last season's beaten finalists already face a struggle to qualify from Group B after they drew at Olympiakos in their opening game. The Greek club were beaten 3-1 at Red Star Belgrade despite Ruben Semedo giving them the lead as the second-half sending-off of Yassine Benzia for the visitors changed the game.

Milos Vucic equalised for Real before late headers by Nemanja Milunovic and Richmond Boakye secured victory for the Serbian side,



Bayern Munich's Serge Gnabry (L) celebrates after scoring their third goal against Tottenham Hotspur. **Below:** Real Madrid's Casemiro heads in the equaliser against Club Brugge. REUTERS

who go to Spurs next.

### No De Bruyne, no problem

Meanwhile, Manchester City beat Dinamo Zagreb 2-0 at the Etihad Stadium to make it two wins from two in Group C. Riyad Mahrez squared for Raheem Sterling to tap in the 66th-minute opener. Sterling then turned provider for Phil Foden to secure the points in stoppage time for City.

In the same group, Israeli forward Manor Solomon netted the winner deep in injury time as Shakhtar Donetsk came from behind to beat Atalanta 2-1 in Milan.

**Casemiro rescues Real**  
Record 13-time champions Real Madrid were 2-0 down



at half-time at home to Club Brugge, for whom the Nigerian forward Emmanuel Dennis scored a first-half brace. But Zinedine Zidane's

team came storming back as Sergio Ramos headed in before Casemiro claimed a dramatic equaliser in the 85th minute, seconds after Ruud Vormer had been sent

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	
KEY RESULTS	
Tottenham 2-7 Bayern	
Man City 2-0 D.Zagreb	
Juventus 3-0 Bayer	
L.Moscow 0-2 Atletico	
Galatasaray 0-1 PSG	

**1**ST time Tottenham has let in seven goals in a home game. The humbling also marks the biggest ever home defeat suffered by an English team in Europe.

**2**ND Bayern's Serge Gnabry has now become the only second player to net four goals against an English side. Barcelona's Lionel Messi was the first when he pumped in four against Arsenal in 2010

**33** That is how many opponents the 34-year-old Cristiano Ronaldo has now scored against, emulating a record set by Real Madrid legend Raul Gonzalez.

off for the visitors. It is a first point for Real in Group A, which is led by PSG. The French club, again missing the suspended Neymar, beat Galatasaray 1-0 in Istanbul thanks to Mauro Icardi's second-half goal.

### New Ronaldo landmark

Meanwhile, Gonzalo Higuain set Juventus on their way to a 3-0 win over Bayer Leverkusen in Turin before he set up Federico Bernardeschi to double their lead and Ronaldo completed the scoring late on.

With that strike against the Germans, the Portuguese forward has now scored a Champions League goal against 33 different opponents, equalling a record set by Raul. Maurizio Sarri's team share the first place in Group D with Atletico, who ran out 2-0 winners away to Lokomotiv Moscow, thanks to goals by Joao Felix and Thomas Partey. — AFP

# Murray continues to flow, Andreescu reaches last-16

BEIJING, OCTOBER 2

Andy Murray extended his winning run in Beijing by beating fellow Briton Cameron Norrie 7-6(6) 6-7(4) 6-1 today to seal a spot in the China Open quarterfinals where he will face top seed Dominic Thiem of Austria.

Murray was made to fight for two hours and 52 minutes and won consecutive tour matches for the first time since his hip resurfacing surgery in January. The Scot beat eighth-seeded Italian Matteo Berrettini 7-6(2) 7-6(7) in the first round on Tuesday and now meets world NO. 5 Thiem who beat Chinese wildcard Zhizhen Zhang 6-3 6-3.

Serving for the opening set at 5-3, Murray was broken by Norrie, who then saved three set points in the ensuing tiebreak before he double faulted on the Scot's fourth set point. Norrie turned the tables in the second and, although Murray saved a set point on serve, the 24-year-old ranked 69 in the world then held his nerve in the tiebreak.

Murray then switched tactics, coming up to the net more often to dictate rallies and shorten points, and won the first five games in a row to set up a meeting with Thiem.

The Austrian fired five aces, won 84% of his first service points and needed only three breaks to beat Zhang in 69 minutes.

Italy's Fabio Fognini beat Russian Andrey Rublev 6-3 6-4 to set up a quarterfinal clash with fourth seed Karen Khachanov, who dispatched Frenchman Jeremy Chardy 7-6(0) 7-6(5).

In the women's section, US Open champion Bianca Andreescu was forced to dig deep in the second set to beat Elise Mertens in straight sets, winning 6-3 7-6(5) to move into the last-



Andy Murray makes a forehand return to Cameron Norrie during their China Open clash. AFP



Bianca Andreescu beat Elise Mertens 6-3 7-6(5). AP/PTI

16. Canadian fifth seed Andreescu, who needed three sets to dispatch her Belgian opponent in the US Open quarterfinals last month, fought back from 4-1 down in the second set and also saved a set point to win in an hour and 55 minutes. She next faces American qualifier Jennifer Brady who upset 11th seed American Madison Keys 2-6 6-4 6-4.

World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty won her 50th match of the calendar year but she was made to toil for a 6-3 6-7(5) 6-2 victory over China's Zheng Saisai that sealed her spot in the quarterfinals.

Barty needed one break of serve to take the opening set but was pushed to the limit in the second. The 39th-ranked Chinese lev-

elled the match by clinching the tiebreak after the top seed made 23 unforced errors in the second set.

The Australian struggled to convert break points at crucial moments but managed to win two in the final set to advance where she will face seventh seed Petra Kvitova, who beat Belinda Bencic 6-3 6-3.

### Djoker through

**Tokyo:** World No. 1 Novak Djokovic beat Japanese wildcard Go Soeda 6-3 7-5 to move into the quarterfinals of the Japan Open in Tokyo today. The Serb was on point with his serve, firing 10 aces and winning a remarkable 81% of his first service points.

Djokovic next plays Frenchman Lucas Pouille who breezed past the other home favourite Yoshihito Nishioka 6-1 6-2, breaking the 24-year-old four times in a 49-minute encounter.

Japan had a reason to cheer, however, after Yasutaka Uchiyama beat Moldova's Radu Albot. The 27-year-old Uchiyama battled back from a set down to win 6-7(2) 6-3 6-4 in two hours and 25 minutes to move into the quarters where he will face American Reilly Opelka who beat Frenchman Gilles Simon 7-6(4) 7-6(2). — Reuters

# IOC plans boxing qualifiers with the help of suspended AIBA

LAUSANNE, OCTOBER 2

The International Olympic Committee has been cooperating with boxing's suspended international federation AIBA as the Olympics body plans the sport's qualifiers and tournament at next year's Tokyo 2020 Games.

The IOC in June officially took over the boxing qualification and competition for the Tokyo Games, suspending the international boxing federation AIBA over issues surrounding its finances and governance.

"Lots is still going on. We have just enough time for

this project. There is a lot that needs to be done but a lot has been done already," IOC sports director Kit McConnell told reporters today.

The IOC is racing to organise a series of continental qualifiers early next year while also preparing the tournament in Tokyo and going through a process to select judges and referees following background checks.

"AIBA has been very supportive when needed on information we sought such as refereeing, judging, technical and rules. We have to

recognise AIBA staffing has been reduced significantly but when we have gone to them they have been supportive," he said.

"In that regard they have engaged with us and have provided information but let's be clear about this: the qualification events are done through the IOC and by the IOC." AIBA largely depends on Olympic revenues to survive between Games and has started letting staff go as a result of its Olympic exclusion. The boxing body has been in turmoil over its finances and governance for years. — Reuters

# Bernardo charged over Benjamin Mendy tweet

LONDON, OCTOBER 2

Manchester City's Bernardo Silva has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association over a controversial social media post comparing teammate Benjamin Mendy with a black cartoon character.

The Portuguese midfielder last month tweeted an image of a young Mendy alongside an image of the character representing the Spanish chocolate peanut brand Conguitos.

He deleted the post but has now been charged. A statement from the football governing body on Wednesday said "Bernardo

Silva has been charged with misconduct" in relation to a social media post on September 22.

The FA statement said it was alleged that the 25-year-old was responsible for an "aggravated breach" of FA rules because the tweet included a reference "whether expressed or implied, to race and/or colour and/or ethnic origin." Silva, who could face a ban, has until October 9 to respond.

City manager Pep Guardiola has also defended Silva and another of his teammates, Raheem Sterling in his favour. — AFP

# All Blacks maul Canada 63-0

OITA, OCTOBER 2

All three Barrett brothers got on the scoresheet as reigning champions New Zealand stormed to their second victory of the Rugby World Cup with a 63-0 bonus point mauling of Canada at Oita Stadium today.

The All Blacks defied the humid conditions to cross four times in the first half and added five more after the break to move into second place behind Italy in Pool B with matches against Namibia and the Italians to come.

Although a long way from their record World Cup win - a 145-17 thrashing of Japan in 2007 - it was only the second time New Zealand had shut



New Zealand players perform the Haka prior to kick off. AFP

out an opponent at the World Cup after their 40-0 defeat of Scotland in 2007.

Winger Jordie and his full-back brother Beauden crossed in the first half with

the third sibling, lock Scott, scoring his try after the break as the Barretts became the first trio of brothers to play for New Zealand at a World Cup. — Reuters

World Athletics Championships: USA's Lyles 200m winner, Brazier breaks men's 800m record, Kendricks wins consecutive pole vault title

DOHA, OCTOBER 2

American Noah Lyles shot to 200m World Championships gold on Tuesday, providing a bright finish to a day darkened by yet another doping scandal.

The showman Lyles, his hair dyed silver after a heroic animee character, kicked off what many predict will be a glittering career by winning his first world title by storming across the line unthreatened in a time off 19.83sec.

Canada's Andre De Grasse, the Rio Olympics silver medallist behind Usain Bolt, was second again in 19.95 while Ecuador's Alex Quinonez took the bronze by clocking 19.98.

It was a brilliant finish to a day of competition clouded by a drugs controversy that began with renowned American coach Alberto Salazar being banned for four years for doping violations.

The news landed like a grenade right smack in the middle of the International Association of Athletics Federations' (IAAF) showcase World Championships, adding another headache to an event already dogged by criticism over sparse attendance and searing heat.

Nothing, however, could distract Lyles from his goal. The 22-year-old was behind coming out of the blocks but powered into the lead through the corner and was in complete command to the finish.

"So many times this year I have thought about being world champion, you wouldn't believe it," said Lyles.

Charismatic, brash and very fast, Lyles' dominating and entertaining performance in Doha will only increase talk that he is the man to take over from Usain Bolt as the new face of the sport. He



USA's Noah Lyles celebrates after winning the gold in the men's 200m Final, **Right:** USA's Sam Kendricks in action during the men's pole vault final. REUTERS/AFP

is more than just a sprinting machine.

"Don't say I'm the new Bolt," pleaded Lyles. "I'm me. "If you like me I will happily entertain you. It's my time."

The 200m final offered a

small glimpse of a much needed rivalry that the sport also needs.

### Kendricks doubles the joy

Sam Kendricks of the United States clinched his second consecutive world

### KEY RESULTS (DAY 5)

- MEN'S 200M: Noah Lyles (USA) 19.83
- MEN'S 800M: Donovan Brazier 1:42.34 (USA)
- MEN'S POLE VAULT: Sam Kendricks (USA) 66.56m
- WOMEN'S JAVELIN THROW: Kelsey-Lee Barber (Australia) 66.56m



title on Tuesday after a duel with European champion Armand Duplantis that electrified the usually muted crowd at Khalifa International Stadium.

Kendricks stayed alive by clearing 5.87 and 5.97m

in his third and final attempts but it was his first-time clearance at 5.92 that put him above Duplantis and earned him gold when neither man could clear 6.02.

Kendricks, who came

### Brazier wins 1st 800m title

Donavan Brazier stormed home and broke the World Championship record to claim a first-ever world title for the United States in the men's 800m on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old, running in his first Worlds or Olympics final, raced past Puerto Rican Wesley Vazquez with 300m left to win in one minute 42.34 seconds.

Bosnia's Amel Tuka, who won the bronze in Beijing in 2015, went one better by taking the silver, his country's best-ever result in any event at the Championships, and Kenya's Ferguson Cheruiyot Rotich got the bronze. "I've said all season that my goal was to get the gold here and to break this record, and that's what I did," he said. "It means the world to me. To be world champion at 22 years old," Brazier said. — Reuters

