

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | JAMMU | SRINAGAR | VOL. 3 NO. 277 | 16 PAGES | ₹4.50 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2018-2020 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

NITISH ELECTED JD-U PRESIDENT AGAIN NATION

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2019



National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah and wife Molly Abdullah with party leaders at their residence in Gupkar, Srinagar, on Sunday. PTI

Leaders detained, won't contest BDC polls: NC

ISHFAQ TANTRY TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 6

The National Conference today said it would not fight the upcoming Block Development Council polls with its top leadership still under detention.

After meeting incarcerated party leaders Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, NC provincial president Devender Rana said his party would not take part in the BDC elections unless all party leaders were released.

"The NC would strive for the welfare of the people of

15-MEMBER DELEGATION MEETS PARTY CHIEF

The delegation, led by provincial president Devender Rana, was with the former Chief Minister for 30 minutes. Rana said the party would continue to strive for people's welfare and communal harmony

OMAR TAKES SELFIE WITH PARTY MPS

A bearded Omar Abdullah clicked a selfie with party MPs Justice Hasnain Masoodi (ret'd) and Akbar Lone. After the selfie, he returned to Hari Niwas Guest House, which has been declared a sub-jail

Jammu and Kashmir shall continue to work for communal harmony and brotherhood," he told the media outside Farooq's residence after he led a delegation of party leaders from Jammu to meet the former

Chief Minister. The meeting lasted 30 minutes. The delegation then headed for Hari Niwas Guest House to meet Omar Abdullah. Asked if the NC would participate in the elections if its leaders were

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

PDP leaders defer meeting with Mehbooba

DINESH MANHOTRA TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, OCTOBER 6

As suggested by the party high command, Jammu-based PDP leaders have deferred their meeting with party president Mehbooba Mufti scheduled for Monday. Permission for the meeting was granted by the Administration on the request of PDP's Jammu leaders.

"We have deferred our Monday meeting with the party president," general secretary of the party, who was to lead an 18-member delegation, told *The Tribune*. Highly placed sources said the detained PDP president had conveyed to party leaders that a meeting for merely discussing BDCs elections would send the wrong signal to the masses. Subsequently, an emergency meeting was held which decided to defer the meeting.

The PDP leaders had written a letter to the Administration, saying they needed to consult their president regarding elections to Block Development Councils (BDCs) announced by the authorities.

Capt to aid of ailing Kashmiri student

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 6

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh today came to the aid of a 24-year-old Kashmiri student suffering from colon cancer by securing treatment for him at the PGI.

Mujeeb Ahmad Malla, a BBA graduate from a Jalandhar-based college, had been facing



Mujeeb Ahmad Malla

hardship in receiving treatment at the hospital. A distress call to the Chief Minister's Office by Nasir Kheuhami, spokesperson for the J&K Students' Association, ensured he got immediate relief. After returning disappointed from the PGI on Saturday, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

India to receive 1st Rafale jet on Dasehra

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will on Tuesday perform 'Shastra Puja' (worship of arms) on the occasion of Dasehra in Paris where he will receive the first Rafale fighter jet, officials said. "The Defence Minister will perform shastra puja in Paris on the occasion of Dasehra. He has been doing so for last several years, including as Union Home Minister," said a senior official.

Rajnath will be leaving for Paris on a two-day visit, primarily to receive the first of 36 Rafale fighter jets on Tuesday when Dasehra coincides with the foundation day of the Indian Air Force. The Defence Minister will take a sortie in the aircraft from an airbase in Paris for first-hand experience. The first batch of

ON FRANCE VISIT, RAJNATH TO FLY SORTIE

- 1st aircraft to be 'handed over' at Merignac; French Minister of Armed Forces Florence Parly to attend event
- Rajnath will address CEOs of the French defence industry and urge them to participate in 'Make in India'
- First squadron of the aircraft will be deployed at the Ambala Air Force station



Union Defence Minister to perform 'shastra puja' in Paris, say officials

four aircraft will reach India by May next year.

Officials said top military brass of France as well as senior officials of Dassault Aviation, the makers of Rafale,

would be present at the Rafale handing-over ceremony. Sources said a high-level team of the Indian Air Force was already in Paris to coordinate with the French officials

on the ceremony. On October 9, Rajnath is scheduled to hold extensive talks with top defence brass of the French Government on ways to further deepen defence and security cooperation between the two countries.

The sources said the first squadron of the aircraft will be deployed at the Ambala Air Force station. The India-Pakistan border is about 220 km from there. The second squadron of Rafale will be stationed at Hasimara base in West Bengal. The Rafale jets will come with India-specific modifications, including Israeli helmet-mounted displays, radar-warning receivers, low-band jammers, 10-hour flight data recording, infra-red search and tracking systems. — TNS/PTI

SEE ALSO BACK PAGE

Develop anti-drone abilities, forces told

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

Alarmed by the recent arms drop cases in Punjab from across the border, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has asked border guarding forces, particularly the Border Security Force (BSF), patrolling the International Border with Pakistan, to explore all technological possibilities to have anti-drone capabilities.

MHA officials said the instructions in this regard was given to the chiefs of the border guarding forces during a security review meeting, which was chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The direction was given to them in the backdrop of alleged use of heavy-duty drones by Pakistan to drop weapons into India for terrorists, the officials said, adding



The direction comes in the backdrop of reports of arms dropping in Punjab

that chiefs of the border guarding forces had been asked to spend more time in the field with their units rather than in the headquarters in Delhi. According to officials, the Director Generals (DGs) of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Chandigarh girl dies in T'gana plane crash

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 6

A Cessna plane crashed in the fields of Sultanpur village in Vikarabad district of Telangana, 100 km from the city, at noon today, killing a trainee pilot and her instructor. The plane had taken off from the Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad.

Trainee pilot Amanpreet Kaur Sidhu belonged to Chandigarh. The instructor, Prakash Vishal, of Rajiv Gandhi Aviation Academy, hailed from Patna. He was identified from his ID found at the crash site. Later, academy officials identified both victims.

Additional SP of Vikarabad R Bhaskar said it was raining at the time of the mishap. Reports said the crash occurred after the trainee pilot lost control



Parts of the crashed plane in Vikarabad, Telangana.

because of high-speed winds. The plane flipped in the air and crashed, claimed witnesses, who informed the police about the mishap. The SP said the pilots lost radar contact about an hour after takeoff.

IN BRIEF

SC to hear PIL on Aarey tree felling today

New Delhi: Converting a letter written by a law student on felling of trees in Aarey colony in Mumbai into a PIL, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has ordered a special sitting of the Supreme Court on Monday to take up the issue. The hearing will take place despite the fact that the SC is closed for Dasehra vacation from October 7 to 12. **PAGE 11**

HARYANA ELECTIONS 2019



Selja: Tanwar episode history, looking to win

The Congress is all set to fight poll on the basic issues of bread and butter with state unit chief Kumari Selja claiming these will be different from 2019 LS poll as regards voter preferences. **TNS**

It's disadvantage all main political parties

Haryana's main political parties have gone into the Assembly elections at a disadvantage, which is weighing them down as campaigning gathers pace. **TNS**

epaper.tribuneindia.com

Justice Jha takes oath as 35th CJ of Punjab and Haryana HC

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 6

Justice Ravi Shankar Jha today took over as the 35th Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. He was administered oath by Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore at Raj Bhavan this afternoon.

At a simple but impressive ceremony attended by sitting and retired judges of high court, bureaucrats, relatives and advocates, the Chief Justice swore to "bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established".

Justice Jha replaces Chief Justice Krishna Murari, who



Justice Ravi Shankar Jha

was elevated as Judge of the apex court last month. Justice Rajiv Sharma was functioning as Acting Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court in

the interregnum. The swearing-in, attended by Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh, was conducted by Chief Secretary Karan Avtar Singh. Besides an array of distinguished Judges, Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Rana KP Singh, Punjab DGP Dinkar Gupta, media adviser to Punjab CM Raveen Thukral, Advocate-General Atul Nanda and Chief Information Commissioner Suresh Arora were present. UT DGP Sanjay Beniwal and UT Deputy Commissioner Mandip Singh Brar were present too. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**

Toll plaza fined ₹1.05 lakh per day

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROPAR, OCTOBER 6

Following a delay in the repair of toll road from Kiratpur Sahib to Una, the Public Works Department (Central Works) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.05 lakh per day on Rohan Rajdeep Tollways Limited. The company maintains the road on a build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis, and has set up a toll plaza near Kiratpur Sahib. The company was supposed to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



KIRATPUR SAHIB-UNA ROAD NOT RECOATED

- Rohan Rajdeep Tollways Ltd has been penalised for not laying a renewal coat on the toll road from Kiratpur Sahib to Una
- The company was supposed to start the work on laying the renewal coat in November last year
- After getting reminders from the PWD, the contractor agreed to start the work from June 1 but work was done on merely 500-metre stretch of the 38-km highway

An 'overdue' hug from Hasina



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra gets a hug from Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina as former PM Manmohan Singh looks on, in New Delhi. Priyanka had tweeted that a hug from Hasina was 'overdue'. **PTI PAGE 7**

PMC Bank ex-chief in police custody

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 6

Waryam Singh, former chairman of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank, was today remanded in police custody till October 9 by the Holiday Magistrate's court here.

Singh, 68, is the fourth person to be arrested in connection with the PMC scam.

The court granted Singh's custody to the city police after its lawyers submitted that they needed to question him over the sanction of loans to HDIL over the past several years. Singh's lawyers, however, contended that he was not in charge of day-to-day operations at the bank and Thomas was responsible for sanctioning loans to borrowers. — TNS

Hooda sway on bastion hard to miss

GARHI SAMPLA-KILOI BJP looks to spring surprise, fields former INLD rival

SUSHIL MANAV TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, OCTOBER 6

It is life as usual as one arrives at Makrauli Kalan village through the dusty road from the Rohtak-Panipat National Highway. Ask a villager about the poll scene, pat comes the reply: "Arhey to Hooda hi jeetiya karey (Here, only Hooda wins the election)."

The twin villages of Makrauli Kalan and Makrauli Khurd fall in former Chief



BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA

Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda's Garhi Sampla-Kiloi Assembly segment, which is part of Rohtak district as well as Lok Sabha seat.

Not only has Hooda been winning the seat since 2004,

ANYBODY'S GAME

Can't underestimate BJP candidate. If it gets non-Jat vote, it may spring a surprise. **Brij Mohan, A SHOPKEEPER**

his victory margin too has been impressive. However, the margin has been on the wane with each passing election.

Hooda was elected for a fourth term from the Rohtak LS seat in 2004 when the

Congress nominated him as chief minister following the Assembly polls in 2005.

He contested the bypoll from the seat, vacated by Sri Krishan Hooda, and won by 1.03 lakh votes with 97 per cent vote share. In the 2009 election, Hooda won by 72,100 votes and his vote share fell to 80 per cent. In 2014, too, the former CM's victory margin went down to 47,185 and vote share to 60 per cent.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Row over celebrations refuses to die down

Badal family misleading people: Ministers | Cong govt interfering in Sikh religious affairs: Cheema



TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 6

Continuing the war of words over the joint celebrations of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, the Congress today accused the Badal family of creating hurdles in the occasion.

The SAD counter-attacked the Congress, saying the party was playing divisive politics by interfering in religious

affairs of the Sikhs. SAD Spokesperson Daljit Singh Cheema said religious functions of the Sikhs had always been organised by the SGPC.

Cabinet Ministers Sukhjinder Randhawa, Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa and Charanjit Channi accused SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal of misleading the people on the matter. They rejected Sukhbir's contention that 350th anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh was celebrated in Patna by the SGPC. They asserted that the design of the Badal family was to get its legitimacy restored by dominating over the Guru Nanak anniversary celebrations.

Bajwa said he had joined

“The Congress is playing divisive politics by interfering in religious affairs of the Sikhs. Religious functions of the Sikhs have always been organised by the SGPC.”

Daljit Singh Cheema, SAD LEADER

“The Badals, in order to maintain hold on the party, are committing a political hara-kiri by dragging the Parkash Purb celebrations into a controversy, besides misusing the SGPC.”

CABINET MINISTERS

Guru Gobind Singh 350th anniversary celebrations at Patna and the function was organised under the command of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The function was addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the then Bihar Governor Ram Nath

Kovind and the then Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, besides Nitish Kumar. The stage was conducted by the then Punjabi University vice chancellor Dr Jaspal Singh. He further said the then SGPC president just presented vote of thanks.

“These facts are too well-

known to Sukhbir, who, accompanied by his wife Harsimrat Kaur Badal, sat among the sangat in front of the stage. Sukhbir is now purposely spreading misinformation as the design of the Badal family is to seek rehabilitation after having been rejected by the people in the state and alienated due to sacrilegious incidents,” he added.

He reminded the Akali Dal president that the tercentenary of the Khalsa in 1999 was celebrated by the Punjab Government, while Gurta Gaddi Divas of Guru Granth Sahib at Nanded in 2007 too was organised by the Maharashtra Government.

Randhawa said the Badal

family, in order to maintain hold on the party, was committing a political hara-kiri by dragging the 550th Parkash Purb celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev into a controversy every now and then, besides misusing the SGPC.

Randhawa said the Badals ought to have understood the significance of this sacred occasion and cooperated with the government in putting up a united face for the sake of Punjab at least on this issue.

Tourism and Cultural Affairs Minister Charanjit Singh Channi said it was narrow mindedness of SAD president, who considered himself superior to Akal Takht Jathedar.



AAP state convener and MP Bhagwant Mann addresses an election rally in Phagwara on Sunday. PHOTO: MALKIAT SINGH

Politicking over sacred occasion shameful: Mann

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, OCTOBER 6

Condemning the politics over the events related to celebrations of the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev, AAP state convener and Sangrur MP Bhagwant Mann on Sunday said there shouldn't be feud over stage or events concerning the auspicious occasion.

While campaigning in favour of AAP candidate Santosh Kumar Gogi across 10 villages of the Phagwara Assembly constituency, Mann said the differences between the Congress and the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) over the functions were unfortunate.

He said while the Congress and the SGPC had already announced to set up parallel stages at Sultanpur Lodhi, on her recent visit to the historic

town, Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal said the Congress wanted to ruin the programmes planned by the Sikh body.

Taking a dig at both the parties today, Mann said, “It is shameful that religious and political leaders are fighting over names on foundation stones or seats on the stage and dragging such a pious occasion into petty politics.”

On the break-up of SAD-BJP alliance in Haryana, Mann said, “The Akali Dal is indulging in politics of convenience by siding with the BJP where they have hopes of winning seats even as they have fallen out with the saffron party in Haryana.”

Mann said AAP would be holding roadshows on October 13 and 14 in Phagwara. He alleged that the Congress government had failed to fulfil its promises made to the people prior to the 2017 Assembly elections.

Spent ₹117 cr in Dera Baba Nanak, claims minister

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DERA BABA NANAK, OCTOBER 6

A day after Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal ridiculed the Punjab Government for not taking care of Dera Baba Nanak, Cabinet Minister and local MLA Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa rubbished her claims and said the state had already spent Rs 117 crore on initiating a slew of developmental works ahead of the opening of the Kartarpur corridor.

The minister said instead of indulging in a ‘photo op’ at the corridor site on Saturday, Harsimrat should have taken a round of the city to see how the developmental works had spruced up the entire area.

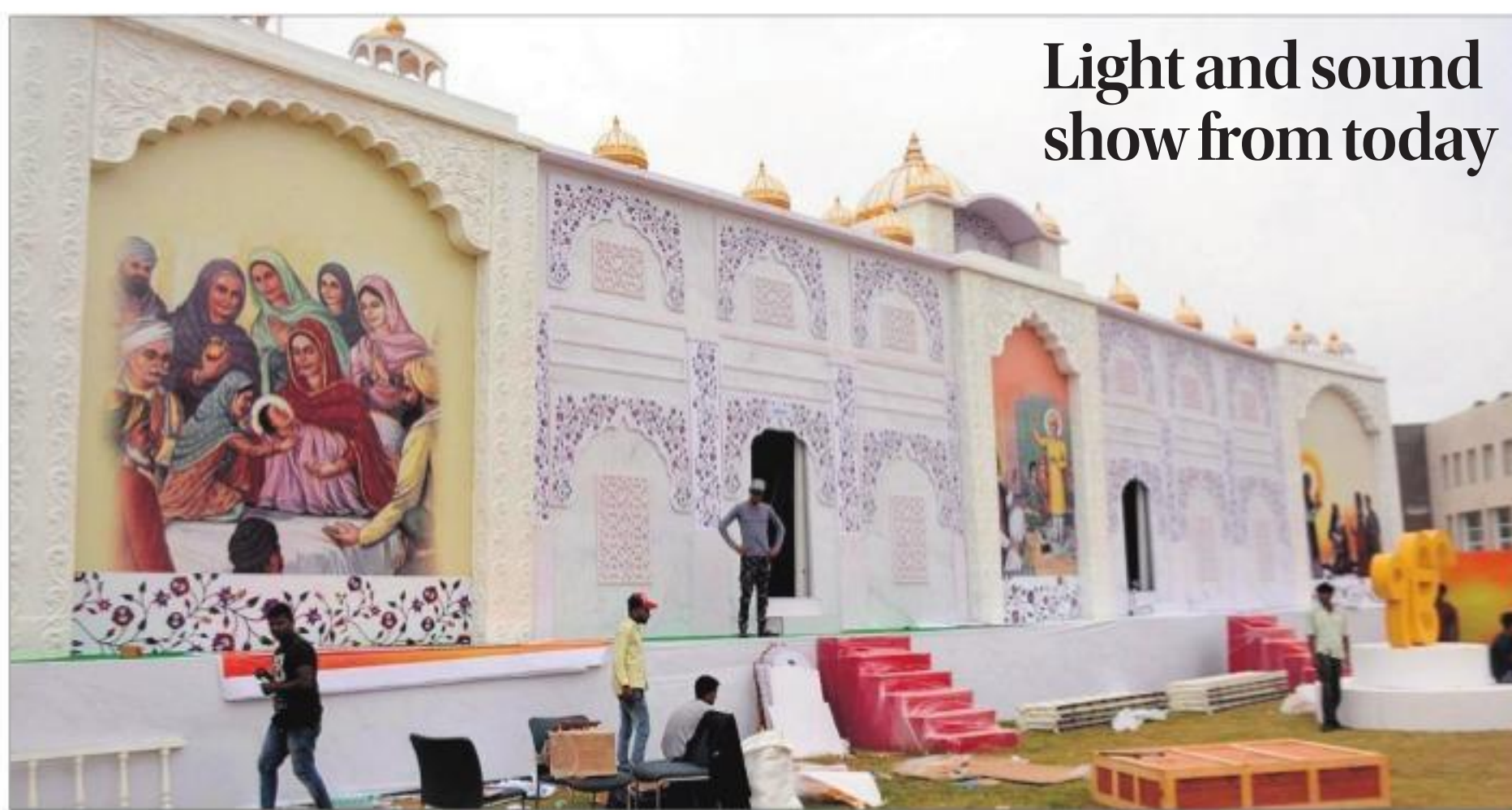
“During the 10-year rule of the SAD-BJP, the Badals had conveniently forgotten the town because it did not suit their political interests. Now, when the corridor is being established, Harsimrat suddenly remembers Dera Baba Nanak. I fail to understand in which capacity she presided over a meeting of officials of the Land Ports Authority of India (LPA) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) at the corridor site. The LPAI and the NHAI are controlled by the Surface Transport Ministry and not the Food Processing Ministry,

Says SAD-BJP didn't shell out even a single penny in its 10-year rule

which she heads. She has committed a serious breach of protocol. It is better for Harsimrat to set her own house in order before pointing fingers at others,” Randhawa added.

He said Rs 117 crore given by the Punjab Government had been spent on bringing in new sewage treatment projects based on the Baba Seechewal model, upgrading the Civil Hospital, strengthening the roads leading from the city to the ICP, installing LED lights in parks and solar powered lights in streets, developing heritage and food streets, improving power generation and transmission network, and upgrading and shifting the bus stand to a new site.

Randhawa said he could foresee more visits from Harsimrat Badal till the corridor opens on November 9. “She knows this is the time to take some publicity and hence, she will come more frequently in the next few weeks,” said the minister. He, however, asked Harsimrat to refrain from indulging in theatrics.



Light and sound shows will be held at 26 places starting Monday. These will continue till February 10, 2020. TRIBUNE PHOTO

■ Special Principal Secretary to CM Gurkirat Kirpal Singh on Sunday reviewed the arrangements for the digital light and sound shows dedicated to the 550th Gurburb of Guru Nanak, which will be held at 26 places in Punjab.

■ A govt spokesman says a digital museum will be set up from October 7 to 9 at the Sector 78 stadium in Mohali. The shows will be held for the next four months and will exhibit the life history of Guru Nanak.

■ Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh will inaugurate the show in Mohali at 6 pm on Monday. The main event of the light and sound shows will be held at Sultanpur Lodhi from November 1 to 12.

■ Floating light and sound shows will be held at Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh and 10 districts of Punjab, including Ropar, Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Gurdaspur, Moga, Kapurthla, Amritsar, Tarn Taran and Ferozepur.

Religious tourism to boost hospitality industry

CORRIDOR Amritsar to cater to air, rail travellers | Gurdaspur, Batala to facilitate pilgrims from J&K, HP

RAVI DHALIWAL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DERA BABA NANAK
(GURDASPUR), OCTOBER 6

Hoteliers of cities located in the vicinity of Dera Baba Nanak are all set to rake in a bonanza even as thousands of tourists are all set to arrive at the Integrated Check Post (ICP) when the corridor will be thrown open to the public on November 9.

Intense competition, high taxes and low occupancy rates had sounded the death knell of the hotel industry in the region. However, all this is bound to change after more than 15,000 pilgrims start arriving every day at the ICP from all parts of the country and even abroad.

There are reports that not only Dera Baba Nanak town, but the entire border district of Gurdaspur will benefit

from religious tourism.

Amritsar, which has Golden Temple, Durgiana temple, an airport and a railway junction, will be the main beneficiary as a majority of the pilgrims will make a stop-over in the city before proceeding to Kartarpur from the ICP through the corridor.

Gurdaspur and Batala will cater to devotees arriving from J&K and HP.

Amarjit Singh Grewal, who is supervising the ceremonies to be conducted in the run-up to the opening, said, “Once connectivity to the corridor has been established, premium hospitality is always going to be just one step behind. Spiritual destinations like Kartarpur will be in high demand throughout the year. Political situations will have a bare minimal bearing on visitors.”



BIZ OFFICES NEAR ICP

“If hoteliers do not establish actual businesses, they can open offices near the ICP, where transport, discounts, incentives and other freebies can be offered... Like thousands pay obeisance at the Golden Temple every day, the Kartarpur shrine too is expected to draw a lot of devotees. And hotels are the first thing that are needed if we have to cater to them.”

Romesh Mahajan,
PRESIDENT, GURDASPUR DISTRICT HOTEL ASSOCIATION

All four main roads leading from Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Batala and Dera Baba Nanak to the ICP are on the verge of completion.

“These new highways will act as a catalyst for the hospitality industry to set up businesses near the ICP. The only thing is that they will have to

get approval from the Dera Baba Nanak Developmental Authority. The hotel industry was floundering but fortunately a revival can be seen now with the influx of at least 15,000-20,000 devotees every day,” said Cabinet Minister and local MLA Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa. He claimed

that he had already been approached by scores of hoteliers who were keen on stitching up local alliances.

“If hoteliers don't establish actual businesses, they can open offices near the ICP where transport, discounts, incentives and other freebies can be offered,”

“Kartarpur is being viewed as a place where one can encounter, see and experience the divine. Like thousands pay obeisance at the Golden Temple every day, the Kartarpur shrine too is expected to draw a lot of devotees. And hotels are the first thing that are needed if we have to cater to them,” he added.

said Romesh Mahajan, president, Gurdaspur District Hotel Association.

“Concepts like medical and wellness tourism have emerged lately in India and it will be safe to say that religious tourism too has also picked up. The corridor is all set to act as a catalyst in hastening this type of tourism,” said Grewal.

With such a huge daily influx of tourists, hoteliers are naturally viewing Kartarpur as their El Dorado.

“Kartarpur is being viewed as a place where one can encounter, see and experience the divine. Like thousands pay obeisance at the Golden Temple every day, the Kartarpur shrine too is expected to draw a lot of devotees. And hotels are the first thing that are needed if we have to cater to them,” he added.

BSP candidate's posters removed, protest erupts

ASSEMBLY
BYPOLL

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PHAGWARA, OCTOBER 6

Activists of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) today sat on a dharna after Municipal Corporation staff removed posters of party candidate Bhagwan Dass here.

Superintendent of the Police Manwinder Singh and SDM-cum-Returning Officer Latif Ahmed rushed to the spot to pacify the BSP protesters.

In a written complaint, BSP leaders Makhhan Singh and Parveen Banga said despite a formal sanction of putting up



BSP activists show torn posters in Phagwara. TRIBUNE PHOTO

billboard on 40 poles, the MC employees tore the 25 flex posters of the BSP candidate in their presence.

The BSP leaders said their activists would intensify the stir if no action was taken

against the MC employees involved in the incident. Additional Deputy Commissioner-cum-Commissioner Gurmit Singh said they were investigating the matter and would act accordingly.

Cong failed to fulfil promises: Majithia

LUDHIANA, OCTOBER 6

Former minister Bikram Singh Majithia today charged the ruling Congress with letting loose reign of terror in four constituencies where bypolls are to be held.

“The situation prevailing in all four segments, including Dakha in the district, indicates that not only voters were being threatened but also democracy is in peril,” he said. Addressing a news conference at SAD candidate Manjit Singh Ayali's residence at Ayali village, he claimed that if free and fair elections were conducted by the government and election machinery, Congress nominees would lose their deposits at all four places.

He alleged that barring Mukerian, the ruling Con-

gress could not find local candidates for Phagwara, Jalalabad and Dakha byelections and all ruling party nominees were parachute candidates.

Congress candidate Capt Sandeep Sandhu, Adviser to Chief Minister, came under criticism by Majithia, who alleged that even as an Adviser, Sandhu had no contribution to the state and he would give similar treatment to voters of Dakha, if elected.

Coming down heavily on the Congress government, Majithia claimed that all sections of people were feeling cheated by the betrayal of Congress and its failure to fulfil any of the poll promises on providing jobs, remission of farm debts, unemployment allowance. — OC

Cong Jalalabad nominee outsider, says Sukhbir

FAZILKA, OCTOBER 6

Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal today said Jalalabad was his constituency and he would continue to nourish it and contest from there in the 2022 Assembly elections.

The SAD chief addressed 12 election meetings in the segment. He claimed that the Congress had fielded an outsider, who had done nothing for the constituency, while on the other hand SAD's Raj Singh Dibbipura was honest and hard working.

Sukhbir said when he had first come to Jalalabad, the constituency even lacked basic facilities. “See the transformation that has taken place in the area since 2009 when I first contested the polls from here.” He said Jalalabad could now be compared with the most forward constituencies in the state. — OC



The police take out a flag march in Phagwara on Sunday.

Flag march in Phagwara

PHAGWARA, OCTOBER 6

In view of the trouble caused following the alleged removal and tearing up of flex boards of a BSP Candidate by MC staff on Sunday, the Phagwara Police headed by SP Manwinder Singh took out a flag march today ahead of the

October 21 Assembly poll.

The aim was to give out the message that the police were committed to ensuring a free, fair and peaceful poll.

The SP, DSP and SHO Vijay Kanwar led the march and covered various areas of the town. — OC

Two factory workers die after inhaling chemical

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LUDHIANA, OCTOBER 6

Two factory workers died after allegedly inhaling some hazardous chemical at a factory on the Tajpur road, opposite the Central Jail, here on Sunday.

The condition of another worker, who too had fallen unconscious, is critical. The deceased have been identified as Raju Kumar (30) and Rajwinder Pathak (47) and the injured Naginder Kumar (25), Raju's brother.

The workers fell unconscious after they poured a chemical into the treatment plant.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Davinder Chaudhary said the unit of Balrama Textile Ltd was closed today, but the workers were there to put some chemical into the tank of effluent treatment plant (ETP). The moment they poured the chemical into the tank, all three fell unconscious and were rushed to CMC Hospital. Two of them were declared brought dead by the doctors there, while the condition of the third was stated to be serious.

The ACP said it seemed that the workers inadvertently poured excess amount of chemical into the tank due to which they inhaled the gas.

He said family members of the deceased were on the way to Ludhiana from Uttar Pradesh. "If any one of them submits a complaint of negligence on part of factory owners, we would initiate action," he said.

Another groundbreaking function for IIM-Amritsar

Previous event was held in May 2017 in 'presence' of BJP's Anil Joshi

GS PAUL

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, OCTOBER 6

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Amritsar, has again scheduled a groundbreaking ceremony for its permanent campus at Manawala, on the outskirts of the city.

The chief guest would be Union Minister of Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' in the ceremony to be held on October 7. The guest of honour would be Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh.

Ironically, the same ceremony was reportedly performed by former minister Anil Joshi in May 2017.

MP Gurjeet Singh Aujla said, "It will not be the second, but rather the third groundbreaking ceremony to be performed at Manawala. First, during the SAD-BJP regime, former Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had laid the foundation stone of the permanent campus in June 2016,



Earlier, there were some technical obstructions against the project. There was no point in holding the groundbreaking ceremony then. Now is the apt time to perform the ceremony. Gurjeet Singh Aujla, MP

<< The land earmarked for the IIM campus in Amritsar.

followed by another groundbreaking ceremony by former minister Anil Joshi. Earlier, there were some technical obstructions against the project. There was no point in holding the groundbreaking ceremony then. Now is the apt time to perform the ceremony," he said.

Ironically, Punjab's first IIM still has a temporary campus, which is located in the building of Government Polytechnic College near the GNDU. Even as the third IIM batch has been

inducted, the absence of a permanent campus continues to irk students.

With the students of the third batch joining this academic session, the strength has reached 145.

The tentative cost of the IIM permanent campus is estimated to be Rs 671 crore. After many hiccups, the 61-acre land on the Amritsar-Jalandhar road at Manawala (between Rakhcheeta and Nijarpura) was acquired during the SAD-BJP regime in 2015. The possession of the 60-acre

land was handed over to IIM Society on June 18, 2016.

When the detailed project report was finalised by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, it was found that the change of land use certification had not been obtained from the state government. When it was procured, another hiccup arose that an acre of land was still to be acquired from a farmer for the proposed entry gate towards NH-15.

Former minister Joshi could not be contacted despite repeated attempts.

900 litres of spurious desi ghee seized

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 6

KS Pannu, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, said the food safety team had seized 900 litres of adulterated desi ghee from a food business operator in Mansa.

The manufacturer was allegedly involved in mixing cooking medium/vanaspati into ghee and was selling it as desi ghee of various brands. The team discovered 13 boxes of Madhu Sagar Desi Ghee (222 litres), 35 boxes of Keshav Ghee (550 litres) along with 12 boxes of Dairy King cooking medium (125 litres).

The cooking medium used for blending was a Haryana-made product, said Pannu and added that it was being looked into as to why the cooking medium was procured from the neighbouring state.

Meanwhile, the food safety team took the samples of ghee and cooking medium and sent it for analysis to the state lab and sealed the premises of the operator.

Phones, drugs seized from jail inmates, visitors

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FEROZEPUR, OCTOBER 6

The police have booked eight persons, including six jail inmates and a woman visitor, following the recovery of mobile phones and intoxicating tablets from jail premises.

According to information, four persons, including two visitors, were booked following the recovery of 95 intoxicating tablets. The accused have been identified as Jaswant Singh, Krishna Rani and two undertrials — Sandeep Singh and Chhinder Singh.

Sources said 95 intoxicating tablets were recovered from Jaswant during frisking when he had come to meet his brother Chhinder on Saturday. A case under Section 42 of the Prison Act was registered against the accused at the City police station. Krishna Rani, mother of Sandeep, was later released on bail.

In another case, three undertrials and one prisoner were booked following the recovery of three mobile phones and three SIM cards during the checking of their barracks. The accused have

OFFICIALS ACCUSED OF SMUGGLING PHONES

■ **Ropar:** A jail inmate has posted a video clip on social media claiming that officials were smuggling mobile phones. In the clip, the inmate showed two mobile phones in a cell, claiming that jail officials were forcing him to sell these to other prisoners.

■ Jail Superintendent Amrik Singh and Deputy Jail Superintendent Mohan Lal denied the allegations, and claimed the video was fake.

■ Jail Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa said he had already asked the ADGP (Prisons) PK Sinha to get an inquiry conducted into the case.

been identified as Thomas, Harpreet Singh, Ranjit Singh and Gurmit Singh. They have been booked under Section 52A of the Prison Act.

On September 24, four jail inmates were booked following the recovery of three mobile phones along with 98 intoxicating tablets.

When contacted, jail officials said due to the alertness of the staff, several mobile phones had been seized during the past two months.

3 cops suspended for not appearing in drugs case

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MOGA, OCTOBER 6

The police have suspended three cops from service against whom non-bailable warrants were issued by the District and Sessions Court for not appearing as prosecution witnesses in a drug seizure case.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Sonia Kinra had issued warrants against head constable Kuldeep Singh and constables Sarwan Singh and

NON-BAILABLE WARRANTS WERE ISSUED

■ A court had issued non-bailable warrants against head constable Kuldeep Singh and constables Sarwan Singh and Sukhdev Singh.

■ They were "absconding" after the High Court ordered to take them into protective custody for not appearing as prosecution witnesses in a drug seizure case two weeks ago.

Sukhdev Singh. They were "absconding" after the Punjab and Haryana High Court ordered to take them into protective custody for not appearing as prosecution wit-

nesses in a drug seizure case two weeks ago. The HC has also refused to grant anticipatory bail to them.

The police tried to take them into protective custody as

ordered by the HC, but they neither reported on duty at the Dharamkot police station nor were they found at home.

The Sessions Court had fixed October 16 as the next date of hearing in this case, said advocate Balwinder Singh Gill, defence counsel of Kaka Singh, a resident of Moga. He had moved the HC after his bail was cancelled for not appearing for a hearing in the trial court.

Kaka was arrested for allegedly carrying 260 gram

intoxicant powder on April 2, 2016, and a case was registered against him under Section 22 of the NDPS Act.

As per the court record, the said cops had been skipping court proceedings for the past over two years, thus delaying the process of trial.

It was due to this reason that the HC ordered to take these cops into protective custody so as to ensure that they deposited before the court for examination.

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Three killed in Canada mishap, families in shock



Wailing family members of Tanvir (inset) who died in a road accident in Canada, at their residence in Jalandhar on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTOS

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, OCTOBER 6

Three Punjabi youth, including two boys and a girl, were killed in a fatal car accident near Sarnia in Ontario, Canada, on early Saturday morning.

The deceased have been identified as Tanvir Singh (19) from Jalandhar, Gurvinder Singh (20) from Tanda and Harpreet Kaur (20) from Gurdaspur. They were students of St Clair College in Windsor.

As per information, the incident was reported

Deceased students of Windsor college

The deceased have been identified as Tanvir Singh (19) from Jalandhar, Gurvinder Singh (20) from Tanda and Harpreet Kaur (20) from Gurdaspur. They were students of St Clair College in Windsor.

around 1.30 am on Saturday, when the driver of the car lost control over it. While the driver escaped death with grievous injuries, three others succumbed to their injuries on the spot. The



“My son went to Canada on a study visa on Baisakhi this year. Within a month of reaching Canada, he managed to find a job for himself. We used talk on video calls daily.”

Bhupinder Singh, TANVIR'S FATHER

of Tanvir, said his son went to Canada on a study visa on Baisakhi this year. “Within a month of reaching Canada, he also managed to find a job for himself. We used talk on video calls daily,” said Bhupinder, who has a business of manufacturing leather shoes. Relatives said he had taken a loan of Rs 15 lakh to send his son abroad.

Tanvir's body is likely to arrive here on Tuesday, informed Bhupinder, who also told that Gurvinder and Harpreet were married and were natives of Tanda and Gurdaspur, respectively.

vehicle was on a high speed and it overturned multiple times before landing on the rural road south of Petrolia. The families of the victims are in a state of shock.

Bhupinder Singh, father

BRIEFLY

Man commits suicide

Muksar: A beldar in the Irrigation Department allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree near Gurusar village in Gidderbaha subdivision on Sunday. The deceased, Hari Ram, had gone out of his house yesterday and when he did not return, the family members started his search and found him hanging this morning. Reportedly, a suicide note has also been found, blaming two persons. The police have started investigation. TNS

21-gm heroin seized, 1 held

Sangrur: The Crime Investigations Agency (CIA), Sangrur, arrested a woman and confiscated 21 gm of heroin from her possession on Saturday. “Last evening, we arrested Palo from Cheema road near Sunam and seized 21 gm of heroin from her possession. We have registered a case and started further investigations,” said ASI Basant Singh. TNS

5 drug peddlers nabbed

Amritsar: The police here claims to have nabbed five drug peddlers on Sunday. The accused were held with contrabands - Tejwant Singh Banwala with 5 kg of poppy husk, Rajinder Singh Jandwala and Gurmeet Singh of Lambi with 10 kg of poppy husk, Truck driver Pratap Singh with 1,050 habit forming sedative tablets and Ram Kumar Dhali of Bhagsar village with 500 banned tablets. In other raids, police seized 35 bottles of Haryana made liquor from Chhinderpal Singh and 30 bottles from Jagdish Kumar of Khatwan village. oc

3 killed in highway accident

Amritsar: Three persons were killed as a truck collided with another truck on the Sriganganagar-Bikaner highway on Sunday. The deceased were identified as Om Parkash Bishnoi of Bikaner, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone of Shopian and his assistant Ajaz Ahmad Butt of Kulgam in south Kashmir. The truck having a J&K registration number was transporting interlocking cement tiles from Hanumangarh to Bikaner. Whereas, the other truck driven by Bishnoi was carrying books and stationery from Jodhpur to be delivered in Amritsar. oc



The mangled remains of the vehicles that met with accident on Sriganganagar-Bikaner highway.

Green tribute to martyrs, 3,000 saplings planted

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FEROZEPUR, OCTOBER 6

The district administration has launched a project ‘Green Tribute’ with the help of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL). The objective is to pay tribute to the gallant martyrs, who sacrificed their lives for the sake of motherland.

As many as 3,000 saplings of ornamental trees are being planted on the 11.2-km-long stretch along the national highway leading to the National Martyr's Memorial, Hussaniwala.

DC Chander Gaiand said HPCL, as part of its CSR initiative, had provided a grant of ₹22 lakh for planting 3,000 saplings of amalats and jacaranda. He said specific stretches on the road had been allotted to various non-government organisations and educational institutions.

Principal-director of Defence Estates SC Kaushik along with Ferozepur MLA (urban) Parminder Singh



Officials at the launch of project ‘Green Tribute’ in Ferozepur.

Pinki launched the drive in the presence of hundreds of school students, NGOs and officials of the Forest Department.

Kaushik said it was a unique way of paying tribute to the martyrs. It would give a loud message for environmental protection and increasing green cover in the state. He said thousands of saplings had already been planted in the Cantonment area and this initiative

would add to the glory of this historic place. “Since large number of people come to visit the Indo-Pakistan joint check post to witness the Retreat ceremony and National Martyrs Memorial, it will be wise to add more greenery on both sides of the road to charm the visitors, who come here to pay obeisance in Hussaniwala,” said Pinki.

“It will add to the grandeur and legacy of this ‘Land of Martyrs’ where people have been selflessly guarding the country since ages,” said Daman Singh, CEO of the Cantonment Board. “I think sacred places like Hussaniwala Memorial deserves a better deal, and the least we can do is to plant more saplings here,” said Pankaj Sharma, advocate.

Kanwardeep Singh, District Forest Officer, said his department would provide all help to ensure the saplings develop into large shady trees for which “watch and ward” would be carried out regularly.

State govt ‘delaying’ appointment of technical varsity VC

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 6

The state government has been delaying the appointment of the new Vice-Chancellor of Maharaja Ranjit Singh Technical University in Bathinda. It has been over five months since the applications invited by the Department of Technical Education to appoint the Vice-Chancellor have been lying pending with the department.

As a result, the state government has twice given extension to the present incumbent Dr MPS Ishar, with the last extension given ahead of the parliamentary elections held earlier this year.

After being appointed as Vice-Chancellor in April 2015, Dr Issar on completing his three-year term, was given one-year extension in April 2018. As appli-

“The governing body meeting of the tech university has been called for giving approval to screening committee to finalise best suitable candidates from among the applicants.”

Charanjit Channi, MINISTER

cations were invited for appointing new VC, Dr Issar was given another extension till the fresh appointment was made.

Technical Education Minister Charanjit Channi said the governing body meeting of the university had been called for giving approval to the screening committee to finalise best suitable candidates from among the applicants.

Plant hoppers attack standing paddy in Sangrur villages

PARVESH SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, OCTOBER 6

Farmers of various villages witnessed the attack of white-backed plant hoppers (WBPH) on their fully grown paddy and sought help from the Agriculture Department. However, the authorities said the situation was not alarming.

“Agriculture Department officials said it usually happens, but it may damage the crop if action is not taken immediately to contain it’s spread,” said Gurmale Singh, a farmer from Majha village.

Some other farmers alleged that they were already under huge debt and the spread of another disease at a time when their paddy was fully grown would multiply their losses.

Farmers of the Lehra area alleged that they had sprayed pesticides recommended by Agriculture Department authorities, but still they were facing plant hoppers’ attack. They claimed that it was happening because the

Punjab Diary



NCC cadets, students and teachers of SGJ DAV Senior Secondary Public School take part in plogging at Abohar village. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Fit citizens, fit nation

Abohar: While celebrating Gandhi Jayanti, NCC cadets, students and teachers of SGJ DAV Senior Secondary Public School organised a 2-km ‘Fit India’ plog run through the historic Haripura village. The place was visited by Guru Nanak Dev along with Bala and Mardana during his first Udasi and later by Guru Gobind Singh after the Battle of Muktsar. Principal Sukhdev Singh said the campaign signified two aspects – “swasth” and “swachhata”. He said the run was a part of the Fit India movement. “We have banned plastic material in the school and expect parents to follow the suit,” he said. The students collected plastic waste from streets in both villages and motivated people to shun its use.



Administration and police officials collect plastic waste from the roadsides in Fatehgarh Sahib. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Go green, go plastic-free

Fatehgarh Sahib: In pursuance with the campaign against the use of plastic, Dr Parshant Goyal, Deputy Commissioner, and Anneet Kodal, SSP, recently led a movement by involving officers and students for collecting plastic waste littered on the roadsides. The aim was to motivate people to shun the use of plastic. They called upon NGOs and residents to come forward to create general awareness to avoid the use of plastic to save environment. They said without the participation of people,

CONTRIBUTED BY RAJ SADOSH, SURINDER BHARDWAJ, NEERAJ BAGGA, PRAFUL CHANDER NAGPAL & ARCHIT WATTS

Use tools to manage straw, farmers told

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, OCTOBER 6

To give a push to the Congress government campaign against stubble-burning, Education and PWD Minister Vijay Inder Singla today invoked religion and asked farmers of the district to pay tribute on the 550th Parkash Purab by shunning the practice of burning stubble this year.

The district Agriculture Department authorities on Sunday organised a district-level training camp for farmers to give them a know-how on using latest machines. Also, 14 farmers were honoured for having



PWD Minister Vijay Inder Singla at a training camp in Sangrur.

shunned the practice of the last many years.

“I request all farmers to pay tribute on the 550th Parkash

nothing concrete could be achieved. They also distributed environment friendly bags among the residents.

Reaching out to poor

Amritsar: Going a step ahead, management of Gurdwara Sadh Sangat Kartar Nagar on Sunday organised a free medical camp for patients of neurology and spinal injuries. Normally, free medical camps of general ailments are held. People from economically weaker sections often struggle to get diagnosis for such ailments. Gurdwara committee president Balwant Singh said the objective of the camp was to provide free of cost diagnostic tests and some medicines to the patients. He stated that 175 people benefited from the camp.

NGO with a vision

Fazilka: An NGO, Social Welfare Society, has been able to motivate 427 families to donate the eyes of their loved ones after their passing away. The society was recently honoured by WHO-recognised Punarjot Eye Bank Society of Ludhiana for its contribution towards helping the visually challenged in this border belt. Society president Shashi Kant said the society had got the consent from 427 families since 2007, to make 852 curable blind to see the world. He said on call, the society arranged to take the eyes of the deceased within five hours after his demise, preserved it, send it to the eye bank free of cost.



Ex-CM Parkash Singh Badal and his younger brother Gurdas Badal sit on specially designed chairs at the Lambi police station on Sunday.

Special chairs for Badal brothers

Muksar: During his tenure as Chief Minister, Parkash Singh Badal used to sit on a special chair during his tour of the Lambi Assembly constituency. There are two such chairs made by a former SHO of Lambi police station. These chairs followed Badal wherever he went in the constituency. The then CM was often seen sitting on that chair during his Sangat Darshan programmes. After the SAD was thrown out of power in 2017, the chairs lost relevance and were kept at Lambi police station. The USP of the chairs is these are broad and perfect to suit Badal's height. A bend has been made in the front portion of the seat to make it more comfortable. On Sunday during a religious ceremony at Lambi police station, not just Badal but his younger brother Gurdas too got the same chair. On this, locals said, “Badal is back on the CM's chair.”

Agriculture Department authorities had provided a subsidy of ₹14.10 crore to 1,307 farmers to purchase mulcher, happy seeders, rotavators, zero drill and other machines to dispose of the stubble without burning. During the current financial year, authorities have received a total of 701 applications to avail subsidy.

“Our government is seriously working hard to launch the required techniques to help farmers dispose of the stubble without burning. Our CM Capt Amarinder Singh has even visited some countries to understand the techniques they have adopted to resolve the issue,” said minister Singla.

Land transferred, 50-bed hospital to come up in Moga

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 6

Local Government Minister Brahm Mohindra accorded its permission to transfer a 12-kanal plot of the Local Bodies Department at Dune Ke village in Moga district to the Health Department for construction of a 50-bed hospital and trauma centre.

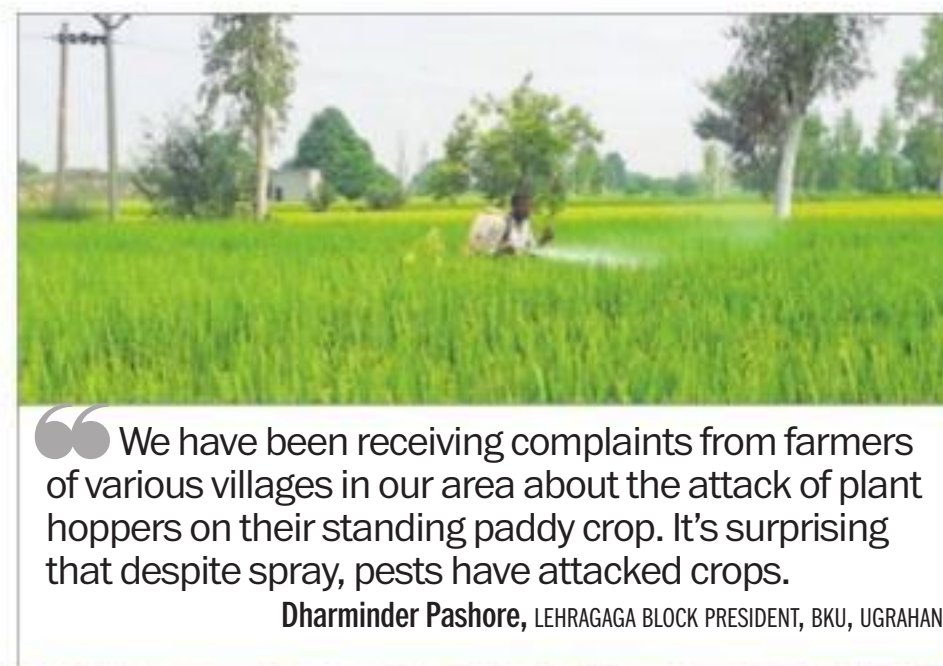
Keeping in view the priority to provide health services in backward areas, the minister has given a go-ahead to proposal to allot the prime land free to the Health Department.

Giving details, a spokesperson said after receiving a memorandum seeking a plot for the hospital and trauma centre, the Municipal Corporation, Moga, had constituted a committee to select the land. He said the committee

Minister Brahm Mohindra gave a go-ahead to allot the prime land to Health Dept

had selected a stretch of 12-kanal land at Dune Ke village. Of the 12-kanal land, 5 kanals would be given for a 50 bed Ayush Hospital and 7 kanal for the trauma centre.

Earlier, the Municipal Corporation abiding by the Municipal Corporation Act, 1976, had put up a proposal to sell the land on the collector rate. Moga MLA Dr Harjot Kanwal then approached Mohindra and apprised him of the need for a hospital and trauma centre in the area. He had urged the minister to allot the land free of cost.



We have been receiving complaints from farmers of various villages in our area about the attack of plant hoppers on their standing paddy crop. It's surprising that despite spray, pests have attacked crops.

Dharminder Pashore, LEHRAGAGA BLOCK PRESIDENT, BKU, UGRAHAN

authorities concerned had failed to contain the sale of spurious pesticides.

“We have been receiving complaints from farmers of various villages in our area about the attack of plant hoppers on their standing paddy crop,” said Dharminder Pashore, Lehragaga block president, BKU, Ugrahan.

He alleged that if the pesticides used by farmers had been of high quality, the plant hoppers would not have

attacked the crops after spray.

Sangrur Chief Agriculture Officer Jaswinderpal Singh Grewal confirmed that the matter was in his knowledge.

“The situation is under control and there is no reason to worry. Our teams are visiting villages and helping farmers to prevent the spread of the WBPH. We have also been taking action against shopkeepers involved in the sale of spurious pesticides,” he said.



PUNJAB GOVERNMENT PRESENTS
DIGITAL MUSEUM AND LIGHT & SOUND SHOW

EVENT SCHEDULE

Date	District	Digital Museum	Light & Sound Show
07 October 2019	Sports Stadium, Sector 78, SAS Nagar	6.30 am-6.00 pm	7.00 pm-7.45 pm and 8.30 pm-9.15 pm
08 October 2019		6.30 am-6.00 pm	
09 October 2019		6.30 am-6.00 pm	7.00 pm-7.45 pm and 8.30 pm-9.15 pm
11 October 2019	PAU Ground Ludhiana	6.30 am-6.00 pm	
12 October 2019		6.30 am-6.00 pm	7.00 pm-7.45 pm and 8.30 pm-9.15 pm
13 October 2019		6.30 am-6.00 pm	7.00 pm-7.45 pm and 8.30 pm-9.15 pm
15 October 2019	Lyallpur Khalsa College Jalandhar	6.30 am-6.00 pm	
16 October 2019		6.30 am-6.00 pm	7.00 pm-7.45 pm and 8.30 pm-9.15 pm
17 October 2019		6.30 am-6.00 pm	7.00 pm-7.45 pm and 8.30 pm-9.15 pm
19 October 2019	IFS College Ghal Kalan Moga	6.30 am-6.00 pm	
20 October 2019		6.30 am-6.00 pm	7.00 pm-7.45 pm and 8.30 pm-9.15 pm
21 October 2019		6.30 am-6.00 pm	7.00 pm-7.45 pm and 8.30 pm-9.15 pm
23 October 2019	Guru Nanak Stadium, Jalandhar Road Kapurthala	6.30 am-6.00 pm	
24 October 2019		6.30 am-6.00 pm	7.00 pm-7.45 pm and 8.30 pm-9.15 pm
25 October 2019		6.30 am-6.00 pm	7.00 pm-7.45 pm and 8.30 pm-9.15 pm
01 November 2019	VVIP Parking near Main Pandal, opp. PUDA Colony Sultanpur Lodhi	7.00 am-5.30 pm	
02 November 2019		7.00 am-5.30 pm	6.15 pm-7.00 pm and 7.45 pm-8.30 pm
03 November 2019		7.00 am-5.30 pm	6.15 pm-7.00 pm and 7.45 pm-8.30 pm
05 November 2019	Polytechnic College Kahnawan Road Batala	7.00 am-5.30 pm	
06 November 2019		7.00 am-5.30 pm	6.15 am-7.00 pm and 7.45 pm-8.30 pm
07 November 2019		7.00 am-5.30 pm	6.15 pm-7.00 pm and 7.45 pm-8.30 pm
09 November 2019	Dana Mahd Dera Baba Nanak	7.00 am-5.30 pm	
10 November 2019		7.00 am-5.30 pm	6.15 pm-7.00 pm and 7.45 pm-8.30 pm
11 November 2019		7.00 am-5.30 pm	6.15 pm-7.00 pm and 7.45 pm-8.30 pm
13 November 2019	Pathankot City	7.00 am-5.30 pm	
14 November 2019		7.00 am-5.30 pm	6.15 pm-7.00 pm and 7.45 pm-8.30 pm
15 November 2019		7.00 am-5.30 pm	6.15 pm-7.00 pm and 7.45 pm-8.30 pm
17 November 2019	PUDA Ground Gurdaspur	7.00 am-5.30 pm	
18 November 2019		7.00 am-5.30 pm	6.15 pm-7.00 pm and 7.45 pm-8.30 pm
19 November 2019		7.00 am-5.30 pm	6.15 pm-7.00 pm and 7.45 pm-8.30 pm
21 November 2019	Roshan Ground Hoshiarpur	7.00 am-5.30 pm	
22 November 2019		7.00 am-5.30 pm	6.15 pm-7.00 pm and 7.45 pm-8.30 pm
23 November 2019		7.00 am-5.30 pm	6.15 pm-7.00 pm and 7.45 pm-8.30 pm
25 November 2019	SBS Nagar City	7.00 am-5.30 pm	
26 November 2019		7.00 am-5.30 pm	6.15 pm-7.00 pm and 7.45 pm-8.30 pm
27 November 2019		7.00 am-5.30 pm	6.15 pm-7.00 pm and 7.45 pm-8.30 pm
29 November 2019	Nehru Stadium, Canal Colony Rupnagar	7.00 am-5.30 pm	
30 November 2019		7.00 am-5.30 pm	6.15 pm-7.00 pm and 7.45 pm-8.30 pm
01 December 2019		7.00 am-5.30 pm	6.15 pm-7.00 pm and 7.45 pm-8.30 pm

EVENT SCHEDULE

Date	District	Digital Museum	Light & Sound Show
03 December 2019	Chandigarh	7.00 am-5.00 pm	
04 December 2019		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
05 December 2019		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
07 December 2019	Fatehgarh Sahib City	7.00 am-5.00 pm	
08 December 2019		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
09 December 2019		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
11 December 2019	Patiala City	7.00 am-5.00 pm	
12 December 2019		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
13 December 2019		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
15 December 2019	Sangrur City	7.00 am-5.00 pm	
16 December 2019		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
17 December 2019		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
19 December 2019	Barnala City	7.00 am-5.00 pm	
20 December 2019		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
21 December 2019		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
23 December 2019	Mansa City	7.00 am-5.00 pm	
24 December 2019		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
25 December 2019		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
15 January 2020	Bathinda City	7.00 am-5.00 pm	
16 January 2020		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
17 January 2020		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
19 January 2020	Sri Muktsar Sahib City	7.00 am-5.00 pm	
20 January 2020		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
21 January 2020		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
23 January 2020	Fazilka City	7.00 am-5.00 pm	
24 January 2020		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
25 January 2020		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
27 January 2020	Faridkot City	7.00 am-5.00 pm	
28 January 2020		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
29 January 2020		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
31 January 2020	Ferozepur City	7.00 am-5.00 pm	
01 February 2020		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
02 February 2020		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
04 February 2020	Tarn Taran City	7.00 am-5.00 pm	
05 February 2020		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
06 February 2020		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
08 February 2020	Amritsar City	7.00 am-5.00 pm	
09 February 2020		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 am-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm
10 February 2020		7.00 am-5.00 pm	6.00 pm-6.45 pm and 7.30 pm-8.15 pm

When the sun sets, evenings in Punjab will transform into a light & sound extravaganza. Devotees & tourists will experience an immersive show on the Life & Journey of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji .

A 45 minute outdoor show will unfold in a multiple part story, immersed in a beautiful symphony of Colourful Visual Projections, Advanced Lasers - all led by a Creative Soundtrack.

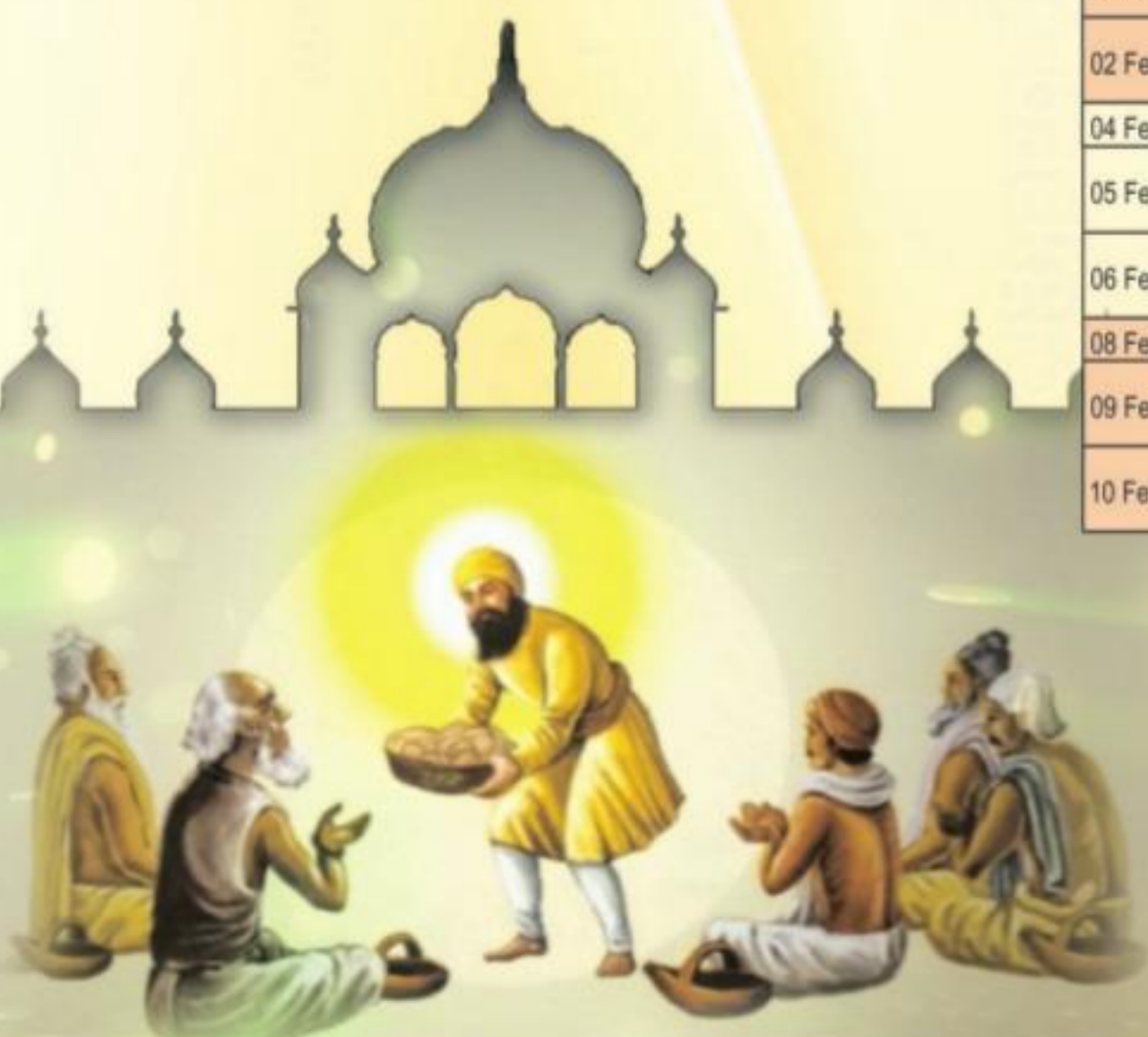
To celebrate the 550th Prakash Purb of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, a Digital Museum has been created that uses multi media technologies to show the Life and Journey of revered Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

A mesmerising, never seen before Digital Museum and Light & Sound Show.

Inauguration by
Capt. Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Punjab

7th October, 2019 at 6:30 PM
Sports Stadium, Sector-78
Mohali (SAS Nagar)

- / 550YearsofGuruNanakDevJi
- @550yrsGuruNanak
- / 550yearsofgurunanakdevji
- / 550 Years of Guru Nanak Dev Ji



4-time Cong legislator Sawhney joins AAP, in 'nation's interest'

Was MLA from Chandni Chowk constituency for 17 years

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

Four-time Congress MLA Parlad Singh Sawhney joined the Aam Aadmi Party on Sunday in presence of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Sawhney (68), said he was impressed by AAP's work and wherever he went, he heard of the development work done by the party.

Sawhney, who was a close aide of former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit, said he had not joined the party for a ticket to contest the Assembly polls next year but to work for the development of Delhi.

Welcoming him in the party, Kejriwal said he was extremely happy that Sawhney joined AAP with his team.

"There are a lot of good leaders in other parties who are looking towards Aam Aadmi Party. I wholeheartedly welcome Parlad Sawhney



Ex-Congress MLA Parlad Singh Sawhney joins AAP in presence of CM Arvind Kejriwal and party leader Sanjay Singh. MUKESH AGGARWAL

and appeal to all the good leaders of the country, irrespective of the party they belong to, to join AAP in the interest of the nation," Kejriwal said, adding that, "AAP started as a movement and there were times when after coming to power parties lost their vision but that is not

the case with AAP. We have done revolutionary work since assuming office."

AAP Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament and Delhi Assembly election in-charge Sanjay Singh was also present at the occasion. He said he hoped Sawhney would be a pillar of strength to the AAP as he

There are a lot of good leaders in other parties who are looking towards Aam Aadmi Party. I wholeheartedly welcome Parlad Sawhney and appeal to all the good leaders of the country, irrespective of the party they belong to, to join AAP in the interest of the nation.

Arvind Kejriwal, DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

had been to the Congress.

Sawhney was MLA from Chandni Chowk Assembly from 1998 till 2015. In 2015, he was defeated by AAP candidate Alka Lamba. Former Congress councillor, three Congress block presidents also joined the party along with Sawhney. — PTI

Man wanted in Arms Act case arrested

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

The Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested a 38-year-old man from Mangolpuri who was wanted in a case registered against him under the Arms Act, an official said on Sunday.

The accused, Ajay Gautam, is a resident of Mainpuri in Uttar Pradesh. He was carrying a reward of ₹50,000 on his arrest, they said. His two accomplices, Ranjeet Singh and Nakshe Lal, were arrested on April 29 and 30 firearms including 29 pistols with five magazines and one small rifle was seized from them, the police said, adding Gautam was on the run since then. A non-bailable warrant was also issued against Gautam in this case. But after two months, Gautam started smuggling firearms in Delhi NCR and adjoining states of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana through his network, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) PS Kushwah. — PTI

Man poses as ISRO scientist to marry Delhi PhD student

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

A PhD student in Delhi has alleged her husband had impersonated an Indian Space Research Organisation scientist to marry her and she found out his lies after tracing his location to Gurugram through their shared Netflix account, the police said on Sunday.

She also found that the man was already married to another woman, they said. The man and his family have been absconding after his lies were busted.

In her police complaint registered on October 1, the woman alleged Jitender posed as an Indian Space Research Organisation scientist before her family and married her. He claimed he had an MTech degree from IIT-Kharagpur and showed them bogus documents to prove he had worked in the Defence Research and Development Organisation as a sci-

FALSE PLAY

- The accused, Jitender, posed as an Indian Space Research Organisation scientist before her family and married her
- He claimed that he had an MTech degree from IIT-Kharagpur
- Showed them bogus documents to prove he had worked in the DRDO as a scientist, before joining the Indian Space Research Organisation
- After the wedding, Jitender claimed he was going to join NASA to train as an astronaut
- He told the woman he was going to Bangalore for work. But his wife found that he was using Netflix from a location in Gurugram

entist, before joining the Indian Space Research Organisa-

tion, a police official said.

The woman's family had visited Jitender and his family in Rewari before the marriage, he said. After the wedding in May, Jitender claimed he was going to join American space agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration to train as an astronaut.

The woman's father dropped him at the airport and after returning from the US, he told the woman he was going to Bangalore for work. But his wife found that he was using Netflix from a location in Gurugram, the officer said. When confronted, Jitender disclosed he was unemployed and was already married. He did not visit the US or Bangalore and was in Gurugram the whole time, the officer added.

A dowry case has been registered against him in Rewari and divorce proceedings with his first wife are underway, the police said. — PTI

Hit by DTC bus, 1 dies, 3 hurt

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

A DTC bus rammed into multiple vehicles as it took an abrupt turn after jumping a red light and in West Delhi's Sagarpur, killing one person and injuring three, police said on Sunday.

They said the incident took place on Saturday night when the bus was on its way to Uttam Nagar. It hit six vehicles which included two two-wheelers and four cars.

The police said the driver, Anil Singh (42), was arrested

from the spot. He told the police that the bus hit the vehicles because of a brake failure.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the driver jumped the red light and hit three motorbikes coming from the opposite side.

The two-wheelers — a scooter and a motorcycle — came under the bus, police said.

They said four people were injured and rushed to the DDU Hospital where Sumit (39) died during treat-

ment, the officer said.

A case has been registered and a mechanical inspection of the bus will be carried out to verify the claims of the driver, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Deepak Purohit.

Two people — Munni Devi and her son Ajay Singh — were later discharged from the hospital, they said. Prasoona Rawat suffered injuries on his back and limbs and is being treated at the hospital, the officer added. — PTI

Gold worth ₹45L seized at airport

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

An Afghan national has been arrested at Delhi airport for allegedly smuggling gold worth over ₹45 lakh by hiding it in his footwear, an official said on Sunday.

The foreigner, who arrived at the IGI Airport from Kabul on Friday, was intercepted by the Customs officials. A detailed personal and baggage search resulted in the recovery of two cut pieces of gold bars, said the police. — PTI

17-year-old youth killed over monetary dispute in Rajouri Garden, owed ₹3L

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

A man and his two sons were arrested for allegedly beating to death a 17-year-old boy and injuring his father in west Delhi's Rajouri Garden after an intense fight over a monetary dispute, the police said on Sunday.

Shiv Charan and his sons Sushil and Amit beat Suraj and his 52-year-old father Dhruv Chand Pathak with batons and a gas cylinder on Saturday evening after Pathak

I gave them a discount and told them to at least pay half the remaining amount. But they got angry, hurled abuses and took batons and started thrashing me and my son.

Dhruv Chand Pathak, VICTIM'S FATHER

asked them to pay the money they owed him, they said.

The police said they received two calls about the incident. On reaching the spot, they found the two sides had an intense fight, according to Deputy Commissioner of

Police (West) Deepak Purohit.

The injured were first taken to a nearby hospital but then shifted to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, he said, adding Suraj died during treatment.

Pathak said Charan owed him ₹3 lakh. He said he offered

Charan to pay him in installments, after which he paid him ₹1.7 lakh in September.

On Saturday, Charan came with his two sons to Pathak's office in Raghbir Nagar, Rajouri Garden, at 6:30 pm and tried to negotiate the outstanding amount.

"I gave them a discount and told them to at least pay half the remaining amount. But they got angry, hurled abuses and took batons and started thrashing me and my son," Pathak said. — PTI

Three snatchers held in west Delhi

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

Three persons have been arrested from West Delhi's Mayapuri area for their involvement in more than 100 cases of snatching in the Capital, officials said on Sunday.

Raja, Ashu and Sheikh Nasir, all residents of Jahangirpuri, used to sell snatched mobile phones in West Bengal, from where these items were being sent to Bangladesh, the police said.

Two stolen motorcycles, as many scooters and 17 snatched mobile phones were recovered from them, the police said, adding that efforts were being made to recover more snatched mobile phones.

"Keeping in view of snatching incidents in the area, a special anti-snatching picket was installed near Mayapuri Depot on Saturday to check

A special anti-snatching picket is installed near Mayapuri Depot on Saturday to check vehicles coming from Mayapuri Chowk towards Sagarpur to curb street crimes.

Deepak Purohit, DCP

vehicles coming from Mayapuri Chowk towards Sagarpur to curb street crimes," Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Deepak Purohit said.

During checking at about 5 pm, the three accused came at the picket on a scooter. When the picket staff asked them to stop, they tried to escape. But, all of them were apprehended, the officer said. — PTI

Idea of Green Diwali sees light of day



- To lessen the impact of pollution this Diwali, green crackers with 30 per cent less emissions will now be available in the Delhi-NCR market.
- Buyers will have to lookout for a green logo as well

as a QR coding system, which have been developed for differentiation of green crackers.

■ Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has also floated the idea of city dwellers meeting at one place. — PTI

Man shot at by assailants

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

A 38-year-old man was robbed allegedly after being shot at by three bike-borne men at a Mother Dairy booth run by him in North East Delhi's Karawal Nagar area, the police said on Sunday.

Nahar Singh suffered injuries to one of his ears. He is stated to be out of danger, they said. — PTI

AAP strategy revolves around lies: Javadekar

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

Attacking Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for his remarks on the NRC, senior BJP leader Prakash Javadekar has said the people understand that the exercise is very important as no country can allow illegal infiltrators to stay, and asserted that his party would repeat the success of Lok Sabha polls in Delhi Assembly election.

Last month, Kejriwal had said if the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is implemented in Delhi, it is the BJP city unit president Manoj Tiwari who will have to leave the Capital first. This drew sharp reaction from the BJP. "Only Kejriwal has confusion over NRC. This is the understanding of the Delhi Chief Minister. But it is not what people understand, they know that no country allows illegal infiltrators to stay. Therefore, the NRC is very much



Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari and LOP Vijender Gupta at a press meet in New Delhi on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MUKESH AGGARWAL

important," said Javadekar.

He said Home Minister Amit Shah has already made it clear that the Citizenship Amendment Bill will be passed. The Bill seeks to amend a 1955 law to grant citizenship to Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis and Christians from the Muslim-majority nations of Bangladesh,

Afghanistan and Pakistan if they have lived in India for six years. It had been passed by the previous Lok Sabha but was not tabled in Rajya Sabha. The bill lapsed after the term of the previous Lok Sabha ended in May but was not introduced in the Budget Session in July.

Javadekar alleged the Aam Aadmi Party's strategy

KNOW CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT BILL

■ The Bill seeks to amend a 1955 law to grant citizenship to Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis and Christians from the Muslim-majority nations of Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan if they have lived in India for six years

■ It had been passed by the previous Lok Sabha but was not tabled in Rajya Sabha. The Bill lapsed after the term of the previous Lok Sabha ended in May but was not introduced in the Budget Session in July

"This time it (BJP repeating its 2019 Lok Sabha polls performance in the Delhi state Assembly elections) will happen," the Union Minister said replying to a query. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP won all seven seats garnering nearly 56 per cent of the total votes polled, while the AAP was relegated to the third position.

Asked whether the BJP will name its Chief ministerial candidate in Delhi, he said the party has not declared any face yet and that it is a matter related to poll strategy. "It's state specific. We have announced in Maharashtra and Haryana. So, somewhere we announce, somewhere we do not announce. It is not because they (Devendra Fadnavis and ML Khattar) are incumbent, but because it is strategy. Strategy should not be confused with policy," he said. — PTI

2nd Death Anniversary

In remembrance of our beloved mother Mrs. Urmil Kaushik W/o Late Mr. H.R. Kaushik P.C.S. (Judicial). Who left us two years ago on this day. Cherishing her sweet and fond memories.

R.K. Kaushik IAS
Ashok Kaushik
Chetan Kaushik
Mrs. Nandini Kaushik
Dr. Aashita, Ishani, Vaibhav

Sons
Daughter-in-Law
Grand Children

9814001762

DI-94661



BHOG OF SHRI GARUR PURAN JI AND RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved

Sh. Om Parkash Goyal
Additional District & Sessions Judge, Punjab,
Registrar, Punjab State Human Rights Commission,
Additional Registrar, Punjab & Haryana High Court, (Retd.)

Left for his heavenly abode on 27th Sep. 2019
BHOG & RASAM PAGRI will be held on
09.10.2019 (Wednesday) from 1 pm to 2 pm
at: Prachin Shiv Mandir (near market) Sec-9, Panchkula

Phone: 9501179955, 9872080790
Deeply Mourned by:

Kaushalya Goyal (Wife)
Ashok Kumar & Rita Goyal (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Rakesh & Anu Goyal (Son & Daughter-in-law)

Daughters and Son-in-law:
Sunita and G.L. Garg
Neena and Ashok Singla
Kamlesh and Pawan Garg
Raghav & Shubham Goyal (Grand Sons)



20.05.1936 to 27.09.2019
SH. OM PARKASH GOYAL

IN BRIEF



Justice Indrajit Mahanty takes oath as new Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court. PTI

Justice Mahanty sworn in as R'sthan High Court CJ Jaipur: Justice Indrajit Mahanty was on Sunday sworn in as Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court by Governor Kalraj Mishra. Justice Mahanty was earlier in the Bombay High Court. Among others who graced the oath ceremony included Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Assembly Speaker CP Joshi, Cabinet ministers and Justice Mahanty's family members. oc

Mystery shrouds RTI activist's death in Barmer police custody Jaipur: Jagdish Golia Jat (47), an RTI activist booked in a case of family land dispute, died in police custody under mysterious circumstances while being taken to a local court at Pachpadra in Barmer district on Sunday. Jat of Mahveer Nagar in Barmer city fainted at the Tehsildar's court. He was declared "brought dead" at the hospital, said Barmer SP Sharad Choudhary. Entire staff, including SHO of the police station concerned, was sent to Police Lines, the SP said. A magistrate probe would be conducted in the case, he added. oc

Sonia to attend B'desh liberation event

Hasina recalls friendship between Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman & Indira Gandhi

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6 Congress President Sonia Gandhi today accepted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's invitation to attend celebrations on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh liberation on March 26, 2021. The visiting Bangladeshi PM extended the invitation to Sonia Gandhi, her son Rahul Gandhi and daughter Priyanka Gandhi during a meeting with a Congress delegation today. The delegation comprised former PM Manmohan Singh, Anand Sharma and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi was not present. He is abroad. Sheikh Hasina was accompanied by



Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during their meeting in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr Abdul Momen, a senior minister and advisers.

In a statement, Sharma said, "Sheikh Hasina recalled with gratitude India's support for the Bangladesh liberation and the special bond of friendship that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman shared with PM Indira Gandhi. She also revisited the period after Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's assassination when her family lived in exile in Delhi. The Congress president congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on winning the third consecutive term as Bangladesh PM... Dr Manmohan Singh complemented PM Hasina for the impressive economic growth made by the country and her initiatives that have led to

improvement of social indicators, particularly health and education."

The leaders exchanged views on a wide range of subjects of mutual interest which included bilateral ties and issues pertaining to regional and global economy, Sharma said.

He said Sheikh Hasina referred to the forthcoming centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh Liberation, which will be marked by yearlong commemorations, and invited Congress president to visit Bangladesh along with Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

"Sonia Gandhi has accepted the invitation," he said. Priyanka shared a picture of the meeting on Twitter.

Plan in works for better deal for tribes in J&K

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6 With full integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India mainland after scrapping of Article 370, the security and Intelligence agencies have now set their eyes on securing lasting peace in the restive state by working on a number of possible measures, including a better deal for tribes. The state has been reorganised into two Union Territories (UTs) — J&K and Ladakh — which will come into being on October 31. Sources in the security establishment say besides structural and administrative changes, which will set in once the two UTs come into existence, work is in progress to look for possible ways of "re-densification" of the population.

A senior Intelligence Bureau (IB) official said the idea was presently being worked out at the security agencies' level and "once the plan is finalised, a report will be shared with the higher-ups in the government". Sources say the agencies are presently weighing two models — Pakistani and Chinese. Pakistani authorities undertook measures like settling Punjabis in PoK with active support from the country's army, whereas Chinese did the same in Tibet's Xinjiang by incentivising new settlers, they say. They, however, contend despite J&K being fully integrated with mainland India, directly copying and implementing either of the two models will not work in the prevailing situation at least for a few initial years. "Therefore, we are working on evolving a model of our own for re-densifi-

UNDER STUDY

- Intel agencies are weighing two models — Pakistani and Chinese
- Pak authorities settled Punjabis in PoK with support of country's army
- Chinese did same in Tibet's Xinjiang by incentivising new settlers
- New model being planned as these may not work in J&K for initial years
- The plan is to first 'instil confidence' among the local tribes and bring them into the mainstream

IAF officer killed by JKLF finds place at memorial

The name of Squadron Leader Ravi Khanna, who was killed by JKLF militants in 1990, has been added to the National War Memorial after it was approved by the Indian Air Force, sources said on Sunday. An IAF official said Khanna's name was missed out in the memorial and the mistake has now been rectified. PTI

tion of population in the state," said a senior official.

The plan, as being worked out, is to first "instil confidence" among the local tribes, who are currently living on the margins, the sources say, adding the aim will be to mainstream them.

"The nationalistic streaks in them are of high value and they have always been good source of information in our efforts in gathering intelligence and military operations," an IB official said.

Sources say after October 31, there will be a free flow of people in and out of the UT of J&K for business and employment. A comprehensive policy framework will be required for safe, steady and sustainable movement of people.

JDU-BJP tie-up stable, happy with Centre's flood help: Tyagi

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6 Amid speculation that the ruling JD(U)-BJP alliance in Bihar finds itself in choppy waters after parties' leaders "locked horns" over "inept" handling of the floods, JD(U) general secretary KC Tyagi today said, "All is well with the alliance. It is stable."

"The Centre is extending satisfactory help to the state, which is grappling with one of the worst floods in many years," he said, even though he slammed Union minister Giriraj Singh for attacking the Nitish government for its "inept" handling of the floods. He said the JD(U) has urged

NITISH ELECTED PARTY PREZ FOR ANOTHER TERM



■ Bihar CM Nitish Kumar has been elected JD-U president unopposed for another term. The party's returning officer Aneel Hedge said Kumar was the only candidate for the post and was officially declared its president on Sunday

■ For long an undisputed leader of the JD-U, Kumar will steer the party during the Assembly elections slated next year

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah to prevail upon Singh to desist from making such negative statements. "Giriraj Singh is habitual of making controversial statements which create confusion and suspicion in the minds of public and the cadres of both parties, he said. Earlier, Tyagi reportedly

said Singh had been reprimanded by Modi and Shah for his controversial remarks in the past. During his visit to the state on Friday, the BJP minister said a leader who gets accolades must also take the blame, in a jibe at Nitish Kumar, who is also known as "Sushaasan babu" (able administrator).

Tejashwi: No alliance with 'chameleon-like' Nitish

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

Amid disagreements over seat-sharing within the Bihar grand alliance constituents for the upcoming bypolls, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday said the elections in the state would not have any impact on the health of the secular coalition.

Yadav described Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar as a "chameleon-like" character and ruled out any possibility of him being accepted back into the secular alliance. In an interview, he attacked Nitish, saying he had helped the RSS and BJP grow, jeopardising secular and socialist politics.

The RJD leader hit out at the BJP-JD(U) government's response to the flood situa-

'GOVT CORRUPT'

“Floods, waterlogging, encephalitis deaths and shelter home case were not natural calamities but government-created disasters due to corruption.”

Tejashwi Yadav, RJD LEADER

tion in Bihar, saying the entire state had helplessly watched the "insensitivity" of the authorities.

Asked about the disagreements over seat-sharing among grand alliance constituents, he replied: "These bypolls are for only five Assembly segments and the age of this Assembly is hardly 10 more months." — PTI

EC deaf to Rampur bypoll complaints: Akhilesh

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 6 Samajwadi party national president Akhilesh Yadav today questioned the stance of the Election Commission of India (ECI), saying despite his party's complaints, the district magistrate and SSP of Rampur were going ahead with bypoll on October 21.

Speaking to reporters, Yadav said the two senior district officials in Rampur were misusing the official machin-



Four-time MP from Azamgarh Ramakant Yadav joins Samajwadi Party in the presence of party chief Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow. PTI

ery but the ECI was not taking any action.

Tazeen Fatima, wife of Rampur Samajwadi Party Lok Sabha MP Mohammad Azam Khan, is the party's candidate for the bypoll. The district administration has lodged 87 criminal cases against the family in the past four months. "Besides taking the advantage of faulty EVMs, the BJP government is also misusing the official machinery to the hilt,"

Meanwhile, around two dozen senior leaders from the Congress and the BSP joined the SP today. This included Ramakant Yadav.

A four-time MLA and four-time Lok Sabha MP, Ramakant Yadav has been a regular party hopper. Starting his political career with the SP he switched over to the BSP in 2004 and to the BJP in 2008. Rukmini Devi, sister of former dacoit-turned-politician Phoolan Devi, also joined the SP today.

FIR against celebrities, Left sees red

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

Registration of criminal case involving charge of sedition against 49 celebrities has offended the Left parties, and opened a new battle front between the Opposition parties and the Union Government, notwithstanding the latter's clarification that it had no role in the matter.

Celebrities were booked recently for having written an open letter to PM Narendra Modi drawing his attention to the increas-

Says the move reflects the growing authoritarianism in the country

ing trend of mob lynching.

The CPM's Polit Bureau on Sunday flayed the decision to slap the sedition charge and demanded its rescinding forthwith. It also demanded scrapping of the sedition provision from the statute book.

"Writing a letter to the Prime Minister expressing opinions on important matters cannot be constituted as a crime and be termed as anti-national. This is tantamount to punishing all those who have a dissenting opinion on the policies of the present government," the CPM said and added that it reflected the growing authoritarianism in the country. "Our country is moving fast towards a fascist totalitarian regime," the CPI said. — TNS

Bajrangi killer moved to another cell in Tihar

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6 Gangster Sunil Rathi, the alleged killer of mafia don Munna Bajrangi, was shifted to a separate high-security ward in Tihar Jail after he alleged that the behaviour of the prison staff at his previous cell was "biased, unsupportive and dangerous", a Delhi court was told.

The submission was made by Tihar jail authorities in a compliance report before

Additional Sessions Judge Kamini Lau on whose direction Rathi was shifted. In its status report, the authorities informed the court that Rathi was moved to high-security jail number 3.

They said Rathi had been allowed necessary bedding arrangements for his medical ailment. He was being provided regular medical treatment by a neurologist for slip disc. — PTI

Toll plaza fined ₹1.05L

FROM PAGE 1 start work on laying a renewal coat on the road in November last year. As the company failed to do so, the executive engineer (XEN) of PWD (Central Works) has imposed Rs 1.05 lakh per day as liquidated damages on the company. PWD XEN Jaswinder Singh said the concessionaire is supposed to lay a fresh coat on the road every five years. The first coat was to be laid in 2012 but it was also delayed and the contractor had been penalised then also.

reminders were sent to the contractor in this regard, he agreed to start the work from June 1 this year but nothing was done. Another reminder was issued following which the work got started on June 22. The company, however, laid the renewal coat on a stretch of merely 500 metres as against its length of 38 km, the XEN said. The penalty of Rs 1.05 lakh per day has been imposed on the company from June 1 this year. Satish Chopra, project manager of the toll road, however, could not be contacted despite several attempts.

Rebate up to ₹2 lakh allowed on home loan

TAX ADVICE

SC VASUDEVA

Q. I am a retired pensioner who purchased a plot for ₹2.20 lakh on 21.2.2015 with stamp duty of ₹13,200 and sold for ₹10 lakh on 26.10.2018. In November 2018, I started construction of the house on another plot and got a loan for ₹10 lakh jointly with my son who is also working. During the year I got/used loan for ₹8,43,829 from our loan account in addition to processing charges etc. for ₹12,450. The amount (₹10 lakh), which I got by selling the plot, was put in a capital gains account and I spent around ₹4.5 lakh during the year. Kindly let me know whether I am entitled to tax relief on loan obtained from bank account with interest and money spent from capital gain account. Can my son also get relief?

— RL Chaudhary

A. You have not clarified in the query whether the amount of entire sale consideration in respect of the plot which was purchased on 21.2.2015 had been deposited under the capital gain scheme account before the due date of filing the income-tax return for the financial year 2018-19. Presuming that the deposit was made before the said date, you are required to utilise the amount deposited under capital gain scheme

account towards the construction of a residential house within three years after the date of sale of the plot. It would, therefore, be advisable for you to utilise the balance amount of ₹5.50 lakh lying in the bank under capital gain scheme towards construction of the residential house within three years after the date of sale. You would be entitled to claim an exemption in respect of the amount of capital gain arising on the sale of the plot provided the above condition is met. The amount of interest paid on the loan raised for the construction of the house shall be deductible while computing the income from house property to the extent of ₹2 lakh. The amount of interest paid during the construction period shall be allowable in five equal instalments beginning from the year in which the income from house property arises. Your son would not be entitled to claim any deduction as the amount of capital gain is in respect of the plot which was sold was in your name. The plot on which construction has been undertaken is



also in your name as is evident from the query.

Q. I am a super senior citizen and pensioner. I file my income tax return regularly. I want to help my son send his daughter to a foreign country for studies. My son is an employee of LIC and is an assessee. The amount will be in lakhs. Kindly advise as to how this monetary help will be shown in the accounts of my son and my accounts. Can it be treated as gift?

— Sant Singh

A. The amount paid by you to your son would be treated as a gift to your son. However, such a gift would not be eligible to income-tax in view of the exemption provided under the provisions of Section 56(2)(x) of the Income-tax Act 1991 (The Act).

Q. It is often advised that an

assessee can claim rebate under Section 80D sub-section 2(c) of the whole amount paid on account of medical expenditure incurred on the health of the assessee or any member of his family not exceeding in aggregate ₹30,000 (₹50,000 in case of senior citizens). Section 80D also provides that such payment is made by any mode as specified in sub-section 2(B). Sub-section 2(B) provides: (i) Any mode, including cash, in respect of any sum paid on account of preventive health check-up; (ii) Any mode other than cash, in all other cases not falling under clause (i). My query is: (a) Whether cash memos obtained from the chemists for purchase of medicines as per doctor's prescriptions are admissible for claim during the

previous year under above sub-section 2(B)(ii)?

— Gurdev Singh

A. Cash memos obtained from the chemists for purchase of medicines will be considered for the purposes of deduction under Section 80D of the Act in respect of preventive health check-up only. In case the deduction is claimed to the extent of ₹50,000 for medical expenditure, the payment should be made by a mode other than cash. It may be noted that deduction towards medical expenditure to the extent of ₹50,000 is allowable to a senior citizen.

Q. Kindly advise on the following: a) I have FDs which give me interest of nearly ₹1,20,000 annually. b) My agriculture land gives me annually ₹1,40,000. c) I earn approximately ₹1,10,000 by giving tuitions to children. d) I have transferred my house to my daughter legally. e) I am a senior citizen aged 73 years. With the latest income-tax rules i.e. up to a income of ₹5,00,000, no income-tax is leviable. Kindly advise me whether I am required to file income-tax return or not for the FY 2019-20 onwards. Till now I have been fil-

ing the income-tax return as I was getting rental income from the house. Now the house has been transferred to my daughter legally. I have no rental income. I transferred the house in my daughter's name on 11.02.2019.

— Hardial Singh Gill

A. On the basis of the figures given in the query, the total taxable income works out at ₹2,30,000 as the agricultural income of ₹1,40,000 is exempt. In view thereof, your total taxable income being much below ₹3 lakh, you would be required to file the tax return provided:

- You have deposited an amount or aggregate of the amount exceeding ₹1 crore in one or more current accounts maintained with a bank.
- You have incurred an expenditure of an amount or aggregate of the amount exceeding ₹2 lakh for yourself or any other person for travel to the foreign country; or
- You have incurred an expenditure of an amount or aggregate of the amount exceeding ₹1 lakh towards the consumption of electricity; or (d) fulfil such other conditions as may be prescribed by the Government.

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Arresting the slide

RBI rate cuts to usher in seasonal cheer

THE revisions in corporate tax and interest rate would rank as the deepest ever by any government as it goes all out to notch a higher growth rate than the middling 5-7 per cent range. The RBI's latest rate cut takes the cumulative reductions to 1.1 per cent, the most by any government in a short period. The cut in corporate tax rates by an average of 10 per cent is the largest ever as well. No government had earlier taken the risk of forgoing such a large chunk of revenue in one go. The cycle of fiscal and monetary stimulus to strengthen private consumption and spur private investment will be complete after personal income tax rates are aligned with the reduced corporate tax structure.

The government has laid down the path for a seven-plus growth rate, but as the RBI noted while reducing the interest rates, the present will remain sluggish. After a 5 per cent crawl in the first quarter (April-June), the numbers for the second quarter (July-September) will also not be salutary. The annual GDP growth rate will be 6.1 per cent, half of the requirement to become a \$5-trillion economy by 2024. As the booster measures sink in, the outlook may become sunnier by the next fiscal, but the challenges do not end.

The entire success of the growth story is predicated on withstanding global headwinds, a stable social environment and that the problem is cyclical, not structural. Global trade wars are hampering exports, weakening a crucial pillar of any country's growth story, with no remedy in sight. The disquiet and extra security expenses due to J&K and the NRC will be negatively factored in by rating agencies and prospective investors. And economists are suggesting that along with fixing the plumbing, the government should attend to structural issues. The propeller of India's growth story — the upper 10 per cent — is looking abroad for consumption and there is a need to tap the next 20 per cent on the economic ladder to accelerate the growth rate. For the present, though, the bold fiscal and monetary fixes should bring cheer in the festival season.

Death in sewers

HC order a reminder that the issue must get priority

THE Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed the two states and the Chandigarh administration to consider the sufferings of the workers and their families who die while cleaning sewers and manholes. The court has directed that their dependents be given jobs and a monthly pension. Taking note that manual scavenging is going on in many parts of both states, the court has described it as a violation of human rights and a dehumanising practice. The court's observations are right, for the continuance of the practice more than seven decades after Independence is an indictment of the functioning of our civic bodies and the lacuna in infrastructure that hinders efforts. The court has ordered that all insanitary toilets be destroyed and workers be given the necessary equipment and implements to carry out their task.

Of late, efforts have been made to improve sanitary conditions and the lot of workers. The Sulabh movement led to the first prominent setting up of public toilets, creating awareness about hygienic practices, and also initiatives to better the condition of workers through education, and occupational and social mobility. With time, it was followed by modern public conveniences with pay-and-use facility to help in maintenance. The court's observation is pertinent when emphasis is being laid on 'swachhta' and making towns and villages open defecation-free (ODF). Making places ODF is linked to the setting up of proper facilities for disposing of human waste. Improvements made will lead to concomitant benefits. But the disposal system still calls for changes because of the hazards involved.

The authorities should ensure that standard operating procedures are followed. Due to the menial nature of the job, it is accorded low priority. Civic bodies should make efforts so that the practice gets modernised for the sake of safety. Just as we grieve for our martyrs, the loss of life while working for providing civic amenities also begets concern.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The right decision is the wrong decision if it's made too late. — **Lee Iacocca**

ON THIS DAY...50 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

AMBALA, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1969

GHAFFAR KHAN BREAKS FAST

NEW DELHI, October 6 (UNI)—Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the 80-year-old Pakhtoon leader and one of the closest associates of Mahatma Gandhi, broke his three-day fast at 7 this morning with a glass of "musumbi" juice offered by another eminent Gandhian and Sarvodaya leader Jayaprakash Narayan. Badshah Khan had undertaken the fast as penance for the "atmosphere of violence, tyranny and hatred in the country." Before the breaking of his fast, the Frontier Gandhi prayed silently, joined by the assembled crowd, "for God's grace so that scenes of violent emotional outbursts", may not be repeated in the land of his leader—Mahatma Gandhi. Immediately after breaking the fast the aged Pakhtoon leader spoke briefly to the assembled crowd once more reiterating that the main considerations of "his visit to India was to meet people of all walks, faiths and beliefs so that they may sit together and find a solution for eradicating tyranny, hatred and violence from India".

Rift In Kashmir Congress Takes New Turn

SRINAGAR, Oct. 6 (PTI)—The rift between the Ministerial and organisational wings of the J&K Congress which has assumed the form of an open confrontation during the past few days took a new turn today when the supporters of Syed Mir Qasim opened a second front against their adversaries in the legislative forum. Last week they had filed nominations for the seven vacant seats in their upper House for which nominations had already been filed by the Ministerial wing. When the State Assembly took up an official Bill to liberalise the State anti-corruption laws today, the Congress members supporting Mr. Qasim combined with the Opposition and spearheaded a move to block the measure on procedural grounds.

Three ways Pak can go

It can continue to rant, adopt muscular approach or hope for 'uprising' in Kashmir



TILAK DEVASHER

MEMBER, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

THE 74th session of the UNGA is done and dusted. Playing to the domestic gallery, Imran Khan had his moment of glory during his maiden address. However, in the realistic and practical international arena, it is not the words spoken but the results produced that matter. By the standard of convincing the international community of Pakistan's narrative on Kashmir, the trip did not measure up to expectations.

In fact, midway through the six-day trip, Imran Khan was forced to admit in New York 'to be absolutely frank, I am a bit disappointed by the international community. There is no pressure on Narendra Modi to lift the siege'. At the Islamabad airport on his return, he declared that Pakistan would stand by the Kashmiris even if the world didn't. This was clearly an admission that his hard sell had not worked. No country talked about reversing the changes in Kashmir.

One immediate fallout of his UN/US performance was that the point person who organised all the interactions, Maleeha Lodhi — the Pak Permanent Representative — was shunted out a day after Imran Khan returned to Pakistan. This spoke volumes of the failure of the trip. Quite possibly, she became the scapegoat for his aggressive sabre-rattling at the UNGA that was frowned upon internationally. The UNGA is not really a bull-fighting arena that he made it out to be, thus violating its sanctity.

In Pakistan, the realisation is beginning to sink in that beyond the rhetoric, the speech did not impact the ground realities. There continues to be a wide gulf between Pakistan's expectations and international realities. Not even Pakistan's close 'allies' were



OUT OF LINE: Imran Khan's sabre-rattling at the UNGA against India did not go as per plan; it was frowned upon internationally.

The sane option for Pakistan would be to realise the futility of aggravating the situation and accept the new reality in Kashmir. It, however, seems unlikely.

ready to push the Kashmir issue at the international level. Most, including the *ummah*, have asked Pakistan to resolve it bilaterally. The phrase now being used is that this is going to be a long-drawn struggle.

Imran Khan ascribed lack of support for Pakistan to the fact that India was a 1.2 billion-strong market. Actually, he got it only partially right. What he missed out was that this market was also economically vibrant and the people had purchasing power. In contrast, Pakistan's economy is in shambles.

To mask the lack of substantive achievement, Pakistan spin-doctors have launched a two-pronged offensive. One, this was the best speech ever by a Pakistani leader in the UN, even better than the ones by ZA Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto in the past. One commentator even called it 'the speech of the century...which will be a reference used in posterity'. The second is that the speech heralded his arrival on the world stage as a statesman and a charismatic leader. Some have even talked about Imran Khan emerging as the true leader of the Muslim *ummah*.

Going ahead, Pakistan has two options. One is the continuation of the diplomatic campaign by engaging with the international community to pressure India to reverse the August 5 changes and implement the UN resolutions on Kashmir, focusing on alleged human rights violations and the restrictions. Apart from engaging with the five permanent members of the UNSC, other important countries, the EU and the OIC, it will also zero in on organisations like the UNHRC, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch as well as sections of the international media to raise a hue and cry about the situation in Kashmir.

The other option is the more muscular one that is being justified on the spurious grounds of preventing a potential genocide in Kashmir. This option includes the use of terror assets that have been carefully nurtured over the decades. Statements have been made about shedding the last drop of blood for the sake of Kashmir. Even diplomats like the former High Commissioner to India, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, have argued that 'Pak-

istan must use all legitimate means (and international law provides them) to ensure that the Kashmiri freedom struggle, including armed struggle is not snuffed out by the illegitimate use of overwhelming force, including atrocities amounting to genocide'.

When diplomats start talking about armed struggle, the level of failure and helplessness can well be imagined. Moreover, such bravado suffers from the infirmities of the Pakistan state and the multiple domestic crises that it faces. The economic and military realities of Pakistan are such that any misadventure would risk jeopardising its very survival.

In between these two options is a third option that is dependent on the ground situation in Kashmir. What Pakistan is hoping for is that when the restrictions are lifted, Kashmiris will take to the streets in hundreds, if not thousands, and, in the words of Imran Khan, there will be a 'bloodbath' leading to another Indo-Pak confrontation forcing international intervention. In reality, by talking about a bloodbath, Imran Khan is actually inciting the Kashmiris to become cannon fodder for the sake of Pakistan. It is his incitement, rather than anything that India would do, that has the potential to destabilise the situation.

However, some sane voices in Pakistan have started cautioning that it would be unwise to get too carried away with the current policy of antagonism towards India. As Lt Gen Talat Masood (ret'd) put it: 'Such a policy cannot be followed forever and somewhere down the line, Pakistan will need to see how it can strike a balance in order to have some influence on India.'

The bottom line is that Imran Khan's much-hyped efforts at the UNGA to get the international community to pressure India have failed. Going forward, the sane option for Pakistan would be to realise the futility of trying to aggravate the situation, and instead, accept the new reality in Kashmir. However, Pakistan is not known to be sane when it comes to India. So while hoping for the best, India needs to prepare for the worst.

Aam Kashmiri, soldier keep suffering

PS RANDHAWA

THE removal of Article 370 has brought Kashmir into focus in a big way. While the official narrative is focused around ending the problems of Kashmiri people and integrating them with mainstream India, the other side is harping about the end of the special status and security clampdown along with restrictions on communication.

Having served in Kashmir on a number of occasions, starting from 1989, I can say that to date — since the beginning of insurgency — only two kinds of people (besides Kashmiri Pandits who fled) have suffered in Kashmir. One is the common man and the other is the

soldier — from all uniformed forces.

There is abject poverty in remote areas of the Valley. The only job available there is of a porter, for taking rations to Army posts located at higher altitudes. That job only lasts for a limited period. The common man has very small landholdings. Those in towns are mostly dependent on tourism-related jobs that last for about six months. Insurgency has severely affected the common man. Frequent calls of shutdown have hit the small businessman, shopkeeper and daily-wage earner. He has to join protests lest he is seen as a 'traitor' to the cause. Studies of his children have suffered. His children, brainwashed by wily politicians, turn militants and get killed

in the bargain. It is not so-called 'azadi' that is his biggest problem, it is to earn his living, somehow. While politicians of all hues from the Valley have prospered, he is the one who has suffered the most. His suffering continues.

Next is the soldier. There were days when posting to the Valley was much sought-after. It is no more so. Soldiers are performing duties under severely stressful conditions. One is never sure from which direction a bullet or a stone is going to hit him. Travelling on foot or in a vehicle is equally dangerous. He doesn't know whether he will safely return to the barracks at the end of the day. He, at times, has to skip meals, rest and sleep. He is out of communication with his kin for days.

There are times he doesn't get leave due to many compelling reasons. His folks at home live on the edge, with prayers on their lips till he returns from Kashmir. They are apprehensive to pick up the phone lest they get some bad news about him. Besides getting killed in the line of duty, a number of soldiers have lost their limbs and fallen prey to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). He has sacrificed the most.

For the rest of the lot, nothing much has mattered. The business of politics has prospered. Other business continues as usual with interruptions. One can only hope and pray that peace returns to the Valley, and the common man and soldier, both enjoy a peaceful life they deserve.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Free to express

Refer to the editorial 'Threatening dissenters' (October 5), it is surprising that a group of activists and artistes who were only expressing their concern over the growing incidents of mob lynching and other hate crimes are charged with sedition. The right to express one's ideas and opinion freely through speech, writing and other forms of communication is guaranteed by the Constitution, as long it does not harm the interest of others. It is hoped that the SC will overrule the order of the lower court.

GREGORY FERNANDES, MUMBAI

Selective agenda?

The most crucial point is whether only dissenting voices are vital for a vibrant democracy? Are incidents of lynching selective, pre-planned and state-sponsored? Are state governments responsible for such heinous crimes? Is the mob swayed by a particular community? Is the Modi government responsible for every act of omission? These protagonists never find fault with the West Bengal Government, which uses state machinery against political opponents. There is total failure of law and order. Why do these stalwarts of democracy turn a blind

eye towards it and only focus on a selective agenda?

DEEPAK MEHRA, BY MAIL

Credit war

Apropos the editorial 'Positive move' (October 5), the SGPC is dominated by SAD politicians; even its president is a former MLA. Politicians in both parties run after credit to show their command over Sikh affairs. The proposal of Capt Amarinder Singh to divide the management of celebrations in gurdwaras and outside gurdwaras among the SGPC and the Congress government did not find acceptance, though it is a good proposal. Let's hope the celebrations proceed smoothly and succeed in sending out Guru Nanak's message of equality of humanity and world peace, without tossing turbans of one another in the credit war.

SHARANJIT SINGH KALLAH, CHANDIGARH

Let it be joint effort

Apropos 'Positive move' (October 5), the overindulgence of Central minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal in the affairs of the SGPC and her self-assumed role as 'super president' of the SGPC is casting a shadow on the grace of the occasion. PM Modi must brief his min-

ister to devote attention to her ministry. The SGPC and the Punjab Government must eschew confrontation and evolve an attitude to impart the message of universal brotherhood, embedded with love, peace, tolerance, and above all, truthful living, enunciated by Guru Nanak. We should avoid wasting time and resources doing things in contrast to the fundamental teachings of the Guru.

BIR DEVINDER SINGH, PATIALA

What makes ideal teacher

The writer beautifully eulogises the virtues of the teachers of yore in the middle 'Once a teacher, always a teacher' (October 5). Times have changed, and so have the teachers. They seldom act as a friend, philosopher and guide, because teaching has become a tough job. They are charged with academic, intellectual and moral degradation and deterioration. The charges may be true, but a teacher is the product of society. A decadent society cannot aspire to produce ideal teachers. Despite all this, still there are hundreds of devoted teachers who work conscientiously to contribute their mite in educating children in their custody. Teachers may come and go, but the kind mentioned in the

middle will go on forever.

TARSEM S BUMRAH, BATALA

Go for 'dharam shiksha'

Our school used to have a 'dharam shiksha' period every day. The attendance was compulsory. Though run by a Hindu NGO, the classes were not confined exclusively to the teachings of Hindu religion, though majority of students were Hindus. There were days when we were taught about Islam, Sikhism and Christianity. Pandits, maulvis, grantis, priests, and scholars were invited to speak on their respective religions. They explained in simple Hindi. The question-answer sessions would clear many doubts students had about any religion. To make it more interesting, singers were invited to render bhajan, *sufiana kalam*, *shabad* etc. Students were also asked to participate in the singing sessions. Diwali, Eid, Guru Nanak's birthday and Christmas were jointly celebrated. I can say with certainty that those classes were rewarding, educative and enlightening. They left a lasting impression and helped me become broad-minded. Such classes should be introduced in public and government schools. It is worth a try.

RN SHARMA, GURUGRAM

Rural sector direly needs stimulus package



JAYSHREE SENGUPTA
SENIOR FELLOW, OBSERVER
RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Several countries around the globe are facing an economic slowdown and have announced stimulus packages to revive the slackening growth of their economies. China has announced a stimulus package to go into infrastructure building and for boosting consumer spending. By cutting the cash reserve ratio (CRR) that banks are required to hold as reserves to 0.5 per cent, China's Central Bank hopes to release \$126 billion into the economy which will be available for loans. Thailand has already announced a stimulus package of \$14 billion to go into agricultural subsidies, cash benefits for low income earners and tourism. The European Central Bank (ECB) has gone for monetary easing and also reduction of interest rates to a negative 0.5 per cent in order to revive the Euro zone countries. Through its asset buying programme of 20 billion euros per month, the ECB hopes to enhance liquidity for revival.

Each country has its unique problems and reasons for slowdown. In India, it is the rural economy which is at the core of the problems involving the economic

slowdown. The NDA government has come up with many stimulus measures aimed at reviving demand and stimulating growth. These include a host of measures to help the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), housing sector, automobile industry and exports. A fund of Rs 20,000 crore has been set up to help finish apartments. The MSMEs have been promised that their areas will be cleared expeditiously and their Goods and Services Tax (GST) refunds would take place within 30 days. No stressed MSME is to be declared a non-performing asset until March 31, 2020.

There is full electronic refund of GST for exports and annual mega shopping festivals are to be held in four cities. The government has simplified and eased norms for foreign direct investment (FDI) and granted 100 per cent inflow through the automatic route for contract manufacturing, coal mining and has eased rules for sourcing of online retail for single-brand products.

The most important stimulus announcement which pleased the stock market and industrialists alike has been the reduction of corporate tax rate to 22 per cent and 17 per cent for new ventures. The move alone is supposed to work wonders and even though it means Rs 1.45 lakh crore in foregone revenue, it may give a much-needed boost to the manufacturing sector.

These stimulus measures are bound to work over a period of time, especially those related to the banking sector. Rs 70,000 crore will be provided for recapitalisation of banks. Also, public sector banks (PSBs) and select non-banking



BOOSTER: No stressed MSME is to be declared a non-performing asset until March 2020.

The govt has not given adequate attention to the rural sector, which is very much under stress and grew at a low rate of 2 per cent in the last quarter. Low international commodity prices have led to low price realisation from sale of farm products in India and farmers have not been able to recover the costs.

financial companies (NBFCs) are supposed to boost lending across 400 districts to farmers, MSMEs and the housing sector. Much, however, depends on the corporate sector and how it uses the money saved from tax to increase investment which will help create jobs that will increase demand.

The government has not given equal attention to the rural sector, which is very much under stress and grew at a low rate of two per cent in the last quarter. Low international commodity prices have led to low price realisation from the sale of farm products in India and farmers have not been able to recover the costs of farming. Agricultural wages have been stagnant because of stagnant farm incomes. One cannot expect a surge in demand for

goods like two-wheelers, tractors, bicycles and fast moving consumer goods (FMCGs) from such a dismal rural scene. There are reports of people in the rural areas cutting down on essentials like toothpaste and shampoo and snacks like Parle biscuits from their daily lives in the absence of an alternate income from non-farm jobs.

Many rural job seekers are barely literate and are school dropouts. This is because of the pathetic state of primary education in the villages. Though there are many government schemes for skill development, few students land up jobs in government or the private sector after training. Lack of skill comes in the way of their getting stable jobs in the towns and cities. They work mostly as migrant daily wage workers who have nothing more than their labour to sell. These workers have been affected the most by the slowdown and are returning home after being sacked. If the rural economy had more jobs and better prospects for business, the youth would have stayed in the villages. Shortage of food processing industries and viable handicrafts and handloom production in the villages is another reason for the dismal job scenario in the rural sector.

The government has started many schemes to help the poor, especially the women in rural areas, but the employment situation remains dismal. Many women are not able to earn an extra income because rural transportation and mobility remains inadequate. The government has given incentives for the development of the handicraft and handloom sector through cluster

development programme, but more needs to be done. Usually, there is a severe shortage of raw materials and appropriate technology in this sector which hinders productivity, increases costs and leads to limited incomes.

Hence, after giving a boost to the manufacturing sector through corporate tax cut, the task of revitalising the rural sector remains and the government's help is needed in creating non-farm employment by facilitating food processing and other allied industries. Guaranteeing Rs 6,000 per year to each small and marginal farmer through PM-Kisan may help a little but more money is needed to revive farmers' demand.

The government has to increase its capital expenditure and invest in infrastructure which will help create many rural jobs. The safe drinking water availability scheme also has to be followed up and bringing piped water to each village household remains a major challenge. This venture, too, can create jobs. Improving the quality of primary education and primary healthcare will lead to better quality work force which can be hired by the manufacturing industry.

Increasing employment and job security are most important for reviving demand. It can be done through construction activity initiated by the government's infrastructure building programme. The employment situation has to improve as a result. Unemployment has actually worsened in September this year, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), to 7.57 per cent, which is an ominous sign.

Private trains can put Railways on the right track



TS RAMAKRISHNAN
PUBLIC POLICY ANALYST

THE Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways but still an entity in its own right, will run two passenger trains, to begin with. Before Independence, the Indian rail network and operations was managed by various private entities. The freight trains have already been operated by private players in competition with the Railways. So, strictly speaking, introducing private passenger trains is not a revolutionary step per se. However, given the fact that the Railways has been operated since Independence as a department, not even as a PSU of the Government of India with no scope for private players to pitch in, this is a much-needed positive change.

Since the Railways enjoyed the monopoly of running the rail mode, it cared little for the introduction of state-of-the-art technologies in infrastructure, integrated system and rolling stock on a par with the countries which are advanced in rail transport. When private bus operators copy rail transport in terms of the smooth ride by introducing the multi-axle Volvo and Scania buses, introduced sleeper coaches in buses and even provided chemical toilets, the Railways remained predominantly stagnant in terms of quality of service offered to the passengers on board, except in premium trains such as Rajdhani and Shatabdi.

The state road transport corporations introduced multi-axle Volvo and Scania buses in their fleet to counter omnibus operators monopolising premium-segment passengers. The arrival of private players in air travel in the 2000s increased the competition, reduced the ticket price and thereby



MAKING INROADS: Trains run by corporates will seek to break the Railways' monopoly.

increased the volume of domestic passenger traffic. Had the roads and skies not been opened for private players, our road and air services would have remained lackadaisical even today.

There are many apprehensions about private trains in some quarters and let us explore how far they are correct. The first one is that the private players will fix the fare so high that the common people cannot travel anymore by rail. Before the opening of the skies for private players, the monopolised prices of Air India never allowed the proliferation of air travel even among the upper middle class, let alone the middle class.

Only after the entry of low-cost private airlines did the metamorphosis take place. As a result, domestic air passengers went up from 1.4 crore in 2000 to 13.90 crore in 2018, which is a ten-fold increase. It is left to private train operators to strategise how they

will achieve profitability even in the presence of price war and attract passengers by giving value for money.

The next apprehension is over the safety and security of passengers while travelling by private trains. Like the Railways, the private players may also lease trains from the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC). Else, they can bring their state-of-the-art trains which consume less energy and provide a smooth ride even at higher speeds with minimal noise and vibrations.

However, they can operate their trains only after the RDSO (Research Designs and Standards Organisation) certification. The private players may hire drivers from anywhere but only after certification from the Railways for their fitness to be loco pilots, should they be allowed to steer the trains. The high standards of the Railways and RDSO with

respect to safety issues is well known and the Railways or organisations under its aegis never compromised on safety standards.

The next apprehension is that the existing railway employees will lose their jobs if private trains are introduced. The Railways does not have excess running staff and hence the question of railwaymen losing their jobs with the introduction of private trains has no basis.

On the contrary, the loco pilots and guards who opted either for voluntary retirement or superannuated have no bar in becoming loco pilots in private trains, if they are fit enough to do the job. This can be a starter for implementing the suggestion by the Chief Economic Advisor in the recent Economic Survey to increase the age of retirement. Moreover, with better services provided on board and expansion of many value-added services by the private trains, these trains would generate employment opportunities for the youngsters.

Transport is essentially a service, where the operators should continue to innovate to introduce new value-added services to make the travel a pleasant experience rather than a chore for the passengers. This is next to impossible, when there is monopoly in running rail passenger trains.

The Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) of the Railways is not answerable for any of the inconvenience passengers face during rail travel today. If passengers fall ill during a journey or there is some serious setback in passengers' health, there is not even a nurse to administer first aid, let alone getting full medical care. The private players can be very imaginative and offer services which have

never been thought through by the Railways such as assured pick-up and drop services to the stations, facilitating senior and super senior citizens in boarding and deboarding trains, spick and span on-board environment and emergency medical aid that clearly distinguish their services from that of others and that ultimately improves the travelling experience for the train passengers.

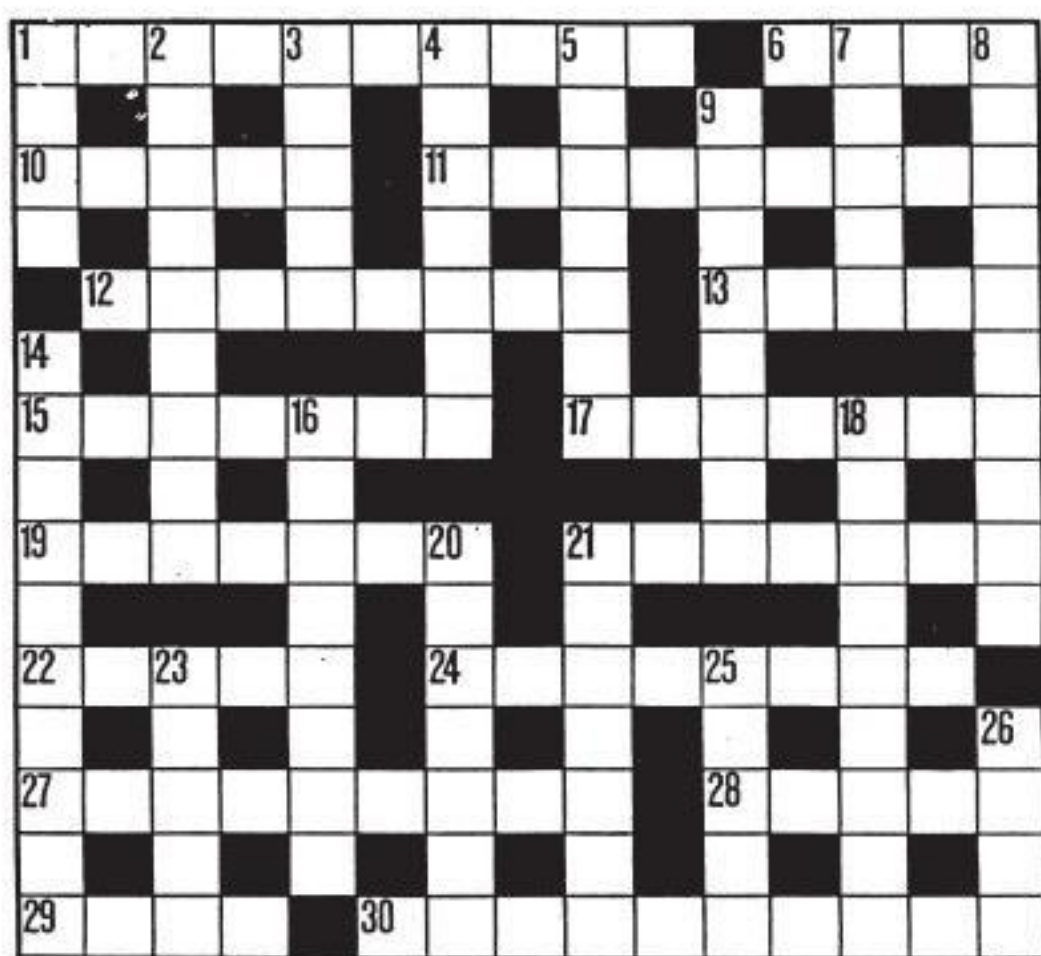
Despite commonalities such as vagaries in climate, congestion in runway and flying as per ATC instructions, the punctuality of private airlines is about 80 per cent, whereas it is about 60 per cent for Air India. IRCTC already announced that if the train is delayed by an hour or two, the passengers would be given back Rs 100 and Rs 250, respectively. Have we ever got such an assurance on punctuality from the Railways ever?

After the announcement of private trains by the IRCTC, the initial public offerings (IPO) announced by the IRCTC received tremendous response from qualified institutional buyers (QIB), high net worth individuals (HNI), retail investors and employees as well. The booking of tickets in these private trains has also been very good. What more proof is required to showcase the reception for private trains by the people of India?

When Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he posed a question during a meeting: "When private buses can run on Indian roads, when private airlines can fly in the Indian skies, what stops private trains from running on our railway tracks?"

The Railways took an enormously long time to realise what Modi had envisaged. However, the Railways has come of age and it is better late than never.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Very comfortable situation (3,2,5)
- Coarse file (4)
- Of one substance throughout (5)
- Spying (9)
- To set free (8)
- Depleted of energy (5)
- Cupidity (7)
- By unspecified means (7)
- Fight in close combat (7)
- Cut short (7)
- Make different (5)
- Discourteous (8)
- Sociable outgoing person (9)
- Large webfooted birds (5)
- Pay attention to (4)
- Whatever it takes (2,3,5)

DOWN

- Dishonourable (4)
- Tibetan spiritual leader (5,4)
- Inconclusive compromise (5)
- Daunt (7)
- Clearly stated (7)
- Old saying (5)
- Very nearly (6,4)
- Buyer and user of goods (8)
- South Asian country (10)
- Physically present (2,6)
- Callous (9)
- Distinguished (7)
- Seat of government (7)
- Championship (5)
- Sound reasoning (5)
- Minus (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Compass, 5 Ditch, 8 Pipe dream, 9 Log, 10 Daft, 12 Keystone, 14 Driven, 15 Pundit, 17 Atypical, 18 Drag, 21 Era, 22 Come off it, 24 There, 25 Halcyon.
Down: 1 Cupid, 2 Map, 3 Aide, 4 Shekel, 5 Damascus, 6 Tall order, 7 Highest, 11 Fairy tale, 13 Mediocore, 14 Dialect, 16 Warmth, 19 Get on, 20 Foul, 23 Fly.

SU DO KU

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

EASY

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 7, 2019, MONDAY

- Vikrami Samvat 2076
- Shaka Samvat 1941
- Ashwin Shaka 15
- Ashwin Parvishte 21
- Hijari 1441
- Shukla Paksh Tithi 9, up to 12:38 pm
- Suka Yoga up to 11:57 pm
- Uttarashadha Nakshatra up to 5:25 pm
- Moon in Capricorn sign
- Mahanavmi

SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: MONDAY 18:01 HRS
SUNRISE: TUESDAY 06:20 HRS

Sunny Partly Cloudy Cloudy Rainy Foggy

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	30	19
New Delhi	33	22

PUNJAB	MAX	MIN
Amritsar	30	19
Bathinda	33	21
Jalandhar	29	18
Ludhiana	31	19

HARYANA	MAX	MIN
Bhiwani	33	22
Hisar	33	20
Sirsa	33	21

HIMACHAL PRADESH	MAX	MIN
Dharamsala	22	15
Manali	16	08
Shimla	23	14

JAMMU & KASHMIR	MAX	MIN
Jammu	30	20
Leh	20	02
Srinagar	18	10

UTTARAKHAND	MAX	MIN
Dehradun	31	20
Mussoorie	22	14

TEMPERATURE IN °C

PoK refugees to observe October 22 as 'black day'

JAMMU, OCTOBER 6

Refugees from PoK will protest against the Centre at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on October 22, which they observe as 'black day'.

They said the Centre has failed to fulfil the promises, which included delay in the implementation of relief package. Post the revocation of Article 370 from J&K, the Centre has upped the ante by repeated statements about retrieving PoK, which may have rattled Pakistan, but the annoyed refugees are still waiting for their issues to be addressed.

"We welcome the revocation of Article 370, though it wasn't harming us and we have always been in favour of retrieving PoK, as it is an integral part of J&K and India. But why do they only talk about the area to be retrieved, why not the people who chose to be with India in 1947 and migrated from that part of J&K to the Indian side?" asked Rajiv Chunnai, PoK refugees' leader. PoK refugees observe October 22 as 'black day', as Kabailis attacked J&K on the same date in 1947, after which a big part of the princely state of J&K was occupied by Pakistan and thousands of Hindus and Sikhs had to migrate to the Indian side.—TNS

Involve Pandits for their rehab, Union Govt told

Say self-styled leaders trying to represent community

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, OCTOBER 6

The resettlement of 3.50 lakh Kashmiri Hindus in the Valley is only possible when the rehabilitation plan is not imposed on Pandits and they are involved in the formation of the plan, believed prominent community activists and human rights activists, who discussed the post-Article 370 political scenario in Jammu and Kashmir and challenges facing the militancy displaced population.

After the Central government revoked the special status of the state on August 5 and created two union territories — Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh — Pandits have supported the Centre's decision.

They have asserted that Article 370 and 35-A have discriminatory provisions, which had encouraged separatists and denied rights to West Pakistani refugees, Dalit Valmikis and tribal Gujjars and Bakerwals.

"We are hopeful that the abrogation of Article 370 will ensure justice to militancy victims. Thousands of families, who were uprooted from their homes, would be



“The government should involve grassroots level leadership of the community to prepare a blueprint for the return policy rather than contacting self-styled leaders. These people have done nothing for us.”

RK Bhat, PRESIDENT YOUTH ALL-INDIA KASHMIRI SAMAJ

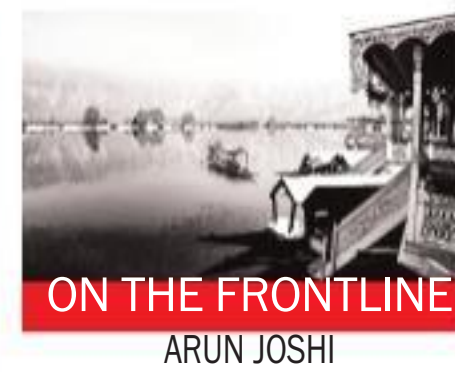
rehabilitated and resettled when they are involved in formulating any new plan," said Prof AN Sadhu, an economist. The activists cautioned the Central government from encouraging self-styled leaders trying to represent the community.

"The government should involve grassroots level leadership of the community to prepare a blueprint for the return policy rather than contacting self-styled leaders. These people have done nothing for us," said RK Bhat, president Youth All-India Kashmiri Samaj.

Recently, YAIKS organised a day-long programme on the abrogation of Article 370 and the way ahead for Kashmiri Pandits to discuss the future course of action after the new UTs will emerge in the state.

"It's time displaced community stayed united because the Central government has taken a decision, which has totally transformed the political landscape of the state. Pandit community, too, had faced discrimination for years," said Dr KN Pandita, a historian.

Pak uses hawkish anti-India voice at United Nations



MALEEHA Lodhi, an "accomplished" diplomat of Pakistan, was removed unceremoniously from her position as Pakistan's permanent representative at the United Nations on September 30 within a couple of days after Pakistan Prime Minister returned from his visit to the United States of America.

There is a message in this. Pakistan is deploying all its hawks on all fronts against India. Its politics and diplomacy are run on anti-India rants. Maleeha always echoed her country's point of view at the UN, including Imran Khan's stand on Kashmir, before and after the August 5 scrapping of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. Even though her line was reflective of subjective way of Pakistan's thinking, her eloquence was decent.

Why Munir Akram, who had since retired from active diplo-

Creating situation of violence

What should worry India, particularly in respect of Kashmir, is Pakistan's attempts to stoke resentment and resistance against India's decision to scrap Article 370, and that there is a harsh and brash voice at the UN on Kashmir. Pakistan is bent upon portraying that the constitutional changes were made to effect a demographic change in Kashmir. Worse, it is seeking to create a situation of violence in the Valley that has already suffered immensely - more than 42,000 dead, thousands displaced with no hope of return to their homes ever and economic channels choked now for almost 30 years.

macy, was chosen as a replacement of Maleeha Lodhi? The official explanation is that she was not "sacked". The Pakistan foreign office claimed that she had completed her tenure, so she had to go.

If that is the logic, why someone from the serving diplomats was not chosen as her successor? There are no answers, or probably Pakistan went by the dictum that diplomats never retire.

Akram is filled with hate for India. It is clear from his writings. His appointment as Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN is perhaps a reward for his slavish sycophancy of Imran Khan, and his "Kashmir policy". He had rated the discussion of the Kashmir issue at a closed-door meeting of the United Nations Security Council on

August 16 as a major diplomatic victory for Pakistan.

He went on to credit the Khan government with getting the human rights organisations speak for the situation in the Valley. "The round-the-clock curfew" in Kashmir is the line that Pakistan has been pushing since August 5. Munir is a cheer-leader of this theory, though the round-the-clock curfew became history after first few days after August 5. He was also perhaps the brain behind telling Imran Khan to throw a nuclear war threat in the course of his speech at the United Nations General Assembly on September 27.

That is what the world should be taking note of, and unfortunately, the world has not paid adequate attention

nor reprimanded Khan for bringing Armageddon at an international forum with such casualness. The greater danger is that Pakistan's nuclear weapons, the world political scientists and anti-terrorism experts have concluded it for long, could fall into the hands of terrorists.

One paragraph of Munir Akram's column titled "Pakistan's Kashmir Strategy" in Dawn newspaper on September 1, bares all the designs that he had in mind, legitimising violence and terrorism. This paragraph reads: "Ultimately, if India confronts a Kashmiri insurgency, a resilient Pakistan, international pressure and an impaired economy, it may agree to negotiate a mutually acceptable settlement with Pakistan and the Kashmiris. But the Hindu fascists may choose not to compromise. Bleeding in occupied Kashmir, they are likely provoking another war with Pakistan, bringing Armageddon to South Asia and much of the world."

It tells the whole story what Pakistan is up to, and why Munir Akram is there where he was placed by Islamabad on September 30.

Congress leaders come to blows

SANJAY PATHAK

KATHUA, OCTOBER 6

Former minister Manohar Lal Sharma and senior Congress leader Kulbeer Singh clashed with each other during a meeting convened on Sunday to finalise the names of party candidates for the Block Development

Council (BDC) elections. Senior leaders attending the meeting had to intervene and pacify both leaders, but not before they exchanged blows and hurled abuses in full public view.

Eye-witnesses said Sharma, who happens to be district president of Kathua Congress, finalised the

name of a party candidate for Barnoti BDC. Kulbeer Singh, who is secretary of Pradesh Congress Committee, expressed his anguish over ignoring his candidature. Both leaders started hurling abuses at each other and exchanged blows. Former MLA and ex-MLC Girdhari Lal Chalotra and Sub-

ash Gupta pacified them. Sources said serious differences have cropped up within the Congress over the distribution of tickets for BDC elections. Elections for the 19 blocks of Kathua district will be held on October 24. As many as 2,184 voters will vote and elect 19 BDC chairpersons.

Ladakh hero's house now 'heritage abode'

OUR CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, OCTOBER 6

Lt Gen YK Joshi, General Officer Commanding, Fire and Fury Corps, inaugurated the "Heritage Abode" of one of the greatest Ladakh warriors — late Col Chhewang Rinchen, at Sumur village in Nubra Valley. The project was aimed at

converting the old house of the Ladakh hero into a heritage site and open it for visitors and tourists to familiarise them with the heroic history of Col Rinchen.

Steering the project, "Tejasve Teen" battalion of the Ladakh Scouts Regiment under the aegis of the Fire and Fury Corps put in

commendable efforts to convert the old house into an immaculate heritage site and the same has already become popular among the locals during the conversion phase itself. The locals appreciated the efforts of the Army.

The event was attended by senior Army officers and civil dignitaries in the presence

of family members and relatives of Col Rinchen. Col Rinchen's family and the local civil population thanked the GOC for the tremendous efforts by the Army and creating a remarkable landmark in Sumur village, which would make it a popular tourist destination on the map of Ladakh.

Early winter hits power generation

Production down 45% | Consumers not to suffer as supply to other states stopped

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 6

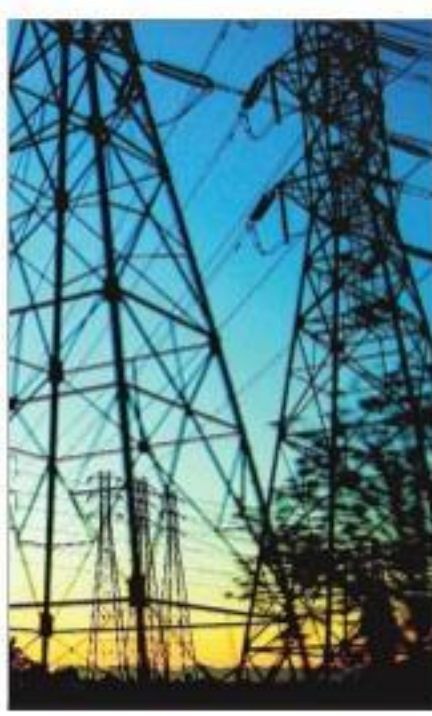
Power generation in Himachal has declined by almost 45 per cent with the early onset of winters, forcing the state to stop supply to other states under the banking system.

Power generation in Himachal has this year declined drastically in view of sudden dip in temperatures, resulting in slow melting of snow in the higher reaches of the state and less water discharge in rivers. The maximum decline of almost 50 per cent has been observed in the case of projects in Bas-

pa and Sutlej basin. This has forced the state to stop power supply to other states under banking system from October 1.

"Since under the banking obligation, we do not need to supply power to Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, we will be left with surplus power to meet our own needs. No doubt generation has declined but with this additional power, consumers will not suffer," said Deepak Uppal, Chief Engineer, System Operation in the Directorate of Energy.

Moreover, shortly Himachal will start receiving power under banking sys-



GIVE-AND-TAKE POLICY

- Himachal will shortly start receiving power under banking system from Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi from October 8 to March 31.
- The maximum quantum of power will be received from Delhi
- A total of 1,900 million units of power has been supplied to Delhi, Haryana and UP
- Over 2,000 million units will be returned to HP under the banking obligation.

tem from the states of Punjab, Haryana, UP and Delhi from October 8 to March 31. The maximum quantum of power will be received from

Delhi. A total of about 1900 million units of power has been supplied to Delhi, Haryana and UP while over 2,000 million units will be

returned to HP under the banking obligation.

It is learnt that generation in most of the projects being run by the HP State Electricity Board (HPSEB) too is down. As compared to a generation of about 95 lakh units by HPSEB projects, the generation is down to about 60 lakh units.

There has been a decline in Baspa project from 79 lakh units to about 40 lakh units in the last week.

Even though decline in power generation is a normal phenomenon in winters this year with the temperatures dipping in October itself, the generation has come down rather early.

Four killed in Chamba accident

DHARAMSALA, OCTOBER 6

Four persons were killed when a Balero fell into 600 metre deep gorge in Tarela area of Bharmour sub division of Kangra.

SP Chamba Monika said that from preliminary inquiry it seems that the driver lost control of the vehicle and it plunged into gorge. There were five occupants, including the driver, in the vehicle when it met with the accident.

The driver Bittu was rescued and shifted to Chamba medical college. All other four occupants of the vehicle — Rajinder Kumar, Ramesh Kumar, Sanjeev and Surinder Kumar died on the spot. —TNS



Nineteen shops along the trekking route and four on the summit have been demolished following HC orders. FILE PHOTO

Illegal structures razed at Triund

LALIT MOHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, OCTOBER 6

Following the orders of the High Court, the Forest Department has demolished most of the temporary shops on the trek leading to Triund and on the summit.

DFO, Dharamsala, Sanjeev Kumar, when contacted on the phone, said about 19 shops on the trek and four on the summit had been demolished. He said after the court orders, land on the Triund summit was demarcated by revenue officials. It was found after demarcation that most of the shops were located on forest lands. On its basis, the demolitions had been carried out.

The HC had ordered the Deputy Commissioner, Kangra, to file a status report regarding encroachments on the Triund summit and trek.

Triund summit attracts a large number of tourists to Dharamsala throughout the years. Located at a height of 2,850 metres from the sea level, Triund is a grassland which is famous among the trekkers the world over. However, it is fast getting converted into a waste dump and a virtual slum of temporary structures raised by certain influential people to accommodate tourists.

Earlier, there used to be just one forest rest house at the summit. Tourists had to

POPULAR AMONG TREKKERS

Triund summit attracts a large number of tourists to Dharamsala. Located at a height of 2,850 metres, Triund is a grassland which is famous among the trekkers the world over. However, it is fast getting converted into a waste dump and a virtual slum of temporary structures raised by certain influential people to accommodate tourists.

take permission from department officials to stay there. However, now hundreds of tourists stay at the summit in illegal temporary constructions. Since there were no toilets or other facilities, the summit was getting converted into a waste dump.

Interestingly, some pucca guest houses have come up close to the summit despite the fact that most of it was on the reserved forest area. Hackles were raised when a local last year had got registered land in his name at the Triund summit. Enquiries revealed that the revenue record had been tampered with to register forest land in the name of the person.

Forest officials said there might be more land around the summit illegally transferred in revenue papers in the name of individuals.



Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administers oath to Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy in Shimla on Sunday. PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

CJ Swamy takes oath

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 6

Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy was today sworn in as the 25th Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court here today.

He was administered the oath of office by Governor Bandaru Dattatreya at an impressive ceremony held at Raj Bhawan. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur was also present on the occasion. The ceremony took place at

the Darbar Hall of the Raj Bhawan, where Chief Secretary Dr Shrikant Baldi conducted the proceedings of oath ceremony and read out the Warrant of Appointment issued by the President of India.

Judges of the Himachal Pradesh HC and Madras HC, senior officers of the state government and other prominent persons were present on the occasion. —TNS

Trans-Giri area cut off as road caves in

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, OCTOBER 6

A major part of the trans-Giri area in Sirmour district was cut off as about 200-metre portion of the Paonta Sahib-Shillai-Hatkoti National Highway caved in near Sataun bridge around 11 am today.

The road is used by commuters travelling from Kupvi, Nerwa and Chopal of Shimla to Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The commuters were compelled to either travel through the Giri river from Sataun or use a detour from Shillai, which was very far. It created hardships for the people as it was a busy road used by hundreds of commuters from the trans-Giri area to reach the other areas of the district.

Local residents said the road had caved in earlier too in 2002 and remained closed for several days.



People cross the Giri on foot after the Paonta Sahib-Shillai-Hatkoti NH caved in near Sataun bridge.

'REPAIR MAY TAKE A WEEK'

“Efforts are on to open the road for smaller vehicles initially. A team of officials from the PWD, district administration and other departments will visit the site on Monday to take stock of the situation and it may take up to a week to repair the damage.” Dr RK Pruthi, DC

Arterial roads like Sarra-Malgi road were being used to commute to Sataun and Paonta Sahib which were at

least 15-km longer.

PWD officials were taking stock of the situation. Deputy Commissioner Dr

RK Pruthi said efforts were afoot to open the road for smaller vehicles initially.

The DC added that a team of officials from the PWD, district administration and other departments would visit the site tomorrow and as per initial estimates, it would take a week to restore the road which had suffered immense damage.

CLASSIFIEDS

SITUATION VACANT

Required boys/ girls having knowledge of Computer and English Typing for office at Ludhiana, 98783-49000. (CL19094648)

Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh requires Principal & UGC NET qualified Faculty in all the subjects of LL.B. BA- LL.B and B.Com- LL.B course. Send resume at: careers@aryans.edu.in (CL19094400)

MGN College of Education, Adarsh Nagar, Jalandhar. Invites applications within seven days for the post of DPE on adhoc/ contract basis. Qualifications/ conditions-UGC/NCTE/GNDU. (CL19094561)

Veer Haqiqat Rai Model Sr. Sec. School, Patiala. Applications are invited for following: SST Teacher (1), Eng. Teacher (1), Hindi Teacher (1), Librarian (1), Accountant (1), Clerk (1), Mother Teacher (1). Email at: veerhaqiqatrai@gmail.com with three days. (CL19092838)

Patiala based author requires two Graduate/ Post Graduate females competent to write English and Punjabi. Handsome salary. Contact no. 98159-54074 Dr. S.S. Nanda Political Science, House 7-A, Dhillon Marg, Patiala. (CL19092890)

Sri Guru Harkrishan Public Sen. School Sultanpur Lodhi Affiliated to C.B.S.E. Requires PGT English, PGT Maths, PGT Political Science. Apply immediately. Contact No. 98154-12435, 99886-00592. Email: guruharkrishan81@yahoo.com (CL19094645)

Distt Defence Services Welfare Office Jalandhar. Required experienced minimum Graduate IELTS Teachers for coaching classes. Salary 15000 to 20000 per month. Biodata with photocopy eligibility certificate to reach this office by 5 p.m. till 11 Oct. 2019. For inquiry Contact: 0181-2455423, 87288-26454. (CL19094644)

Teachers required for Mata Sahib Kaur Modern Sen. Sec. School, Bharawal, Distt. Tarnatar. Requires the following staff: (1) English (capable of English teaching upto +2 Class (2) Computer (capable of Computer teaching upto +2 Class. Salary upto 10,000/- Contact within 3-4 days. Mobile No. 94654-90255 & 97795-99476. Email: mskf_bwl@yahoo.com (CL19094360)

Dasmesh Public School Chak Alla Baksh, Mukerian Distt. Hoshiarpur requires PRT (Hindi), qualification M.A (Hindi), B.Ed. Eligibility as per CBSE by laws. Preference to experienced candidates with good communication skills. Salary Rs 15000 per month. Attend written test/interview with relevant documents on Friday 11th Oct. 2019 at 9:00 am in school premises. Contact no. 9478732778. (CL19094163)

Competent and experienced Teachers required for Akal Academy Balbehra, Distt. Patiala for PGT English, PGT Commerce, Computer, Art and Craft and Punjabi. Fluency in English is must. Eligibility: Post Graduation in required stream. Transportation facility available from Patiala. Salary: Rs 15,000 to Rs 24,000 p.m. Walk-in interview: Test: Akal Academy Balbehra, VPO - Balbehra, Tehsil & Distt. Patiala on 09.10.2019 Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact: (98759-87222) aabhalbehra@akalacademy.ac.in (CL19094151)

Requires Principal for Narain Smart School (CBSE affiliated), Samana Road Bhanra, Patiala. Well qualified PGT candidates with excellent communication skills having leadership qualities and experience as a Principal/ Vice Principal/ Co-ordinator, will be preferred. Attractive salary for deserving candidate. Walk in interview on 9th October, 2019 between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm at Hotel Narain Continental Chhoti Baradari, Patiala. Contact: 98158-27003. (CL19094520)

Walk-in-Interview required instructors for trades of Welder, Plumber, Mechanical, Refrigeration & Air-condition, Mechanic, Motor Vehicle, Electrician and Fitter having Degree/ Diploma with 5 years experience. Preference will be given to CTI trained in particular trade. Apply within ten days contact: New Angel ITC, Defence Colony, Near Lucky Dhaba, Patiala Road, Zirakpur. Mob: 98683-22212, 83603-78971, itc_1256@yahoo.com (CL19094820)

DOCTORS/ENGINEERS

Required BAMS Doctor for clinic 3 year experience Ghagga Punjab. 98764-04145, 98152-28564. (CL19091162)

EDUCATIONAL

IRELAND ADMISSIONS DAY Wed, 9th Oct '19 2 to 5pm Edwise Office Chandigarh

MEDICAL/SURGICAL

Lifeline Superspeciality Hospital, Zirakpur offers world's best heart bypass surgery @ 1,25,000/- all inclusive. Vascular Thoracic surgery, Angiography 7999/-, Angioplasty 70000. For appointment Call 98141-04203. (CL19092549)

PROPERTY FOR SALE

228 sq. yards freehold, plot GK-1, Delhi. Quick sale, buyer may call: 96468-09090. (CL19092671)

Flat 3 BHK Sarita Vihar, D-Block, Ashram -Faridabad Road, Delhi. Contact 96468-09090. (CL19092674)

CHANDIGARH

Confirm Sale: 3 kanal, corner plot (two kanal Zoning, one kanal Green) B-Road Adjoining Maithya Mang. 3 kanal B-Road, Northern Sector 31, Kantal facing park, Chandigarh. 96468-09090. (CL19092679)

MOHALI

Independent house for sale in Kharar Distt. Mohali (Pb). 102 sq. yard, 3 BHK, 3 washroom, 2 kitchen, AC pipe fitting, POP false ceiling, modular kitchen @ 39 lakhs demand. Contact: Aman Goyal 84277-63842. (CL19090699)

PROPERTY WANTED

Wanted 3-2 kanal kothi for immediate buying at Chandigarh. Confirmed seller. Contact: 96468-09090. (CL19092683)

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Santosh w/o Narinder Kumar r/o H. No. 467, St. No. 6, Tripuri Town, Patiala, have changed my name to Sonu. (CL19092200)

I, Manju Gupta d/o Sita Ram Gupta w/o Sandeep Bansal, r/o # 1415, Bansal Lodge, Jand Street, Patiala, have changed my name to Manju Bansal. (CL19093082)

I, Harjot Kaur Kharod d/o Kulwinder Singh village Nalini (Fatehgarh Sahib) have changed my name as Harjot Kaur. (CL19094332)

It is notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of main Secondary & Senior Secondary Examination of Years 2017 & 2019 and Roll No. 2198390 & 2688862 respectively issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Shysha, Vinod Cycle Works, Railway road, Main Bazar, Ding, Sirsa. 98722-41432. (CL19094357)

I, Himmat Singh Rawat s/o Gyan Singh Rawat resident of Ward No. 2, Village Alian (Fatehgarh Sahib) have changed my name to Himmat Singh. I will be called by the name of Himmat Singh. (CL19094421)

I, Om Pal s/o Ram Krishan r/o H.No. 7, St. 8, Jhill Road, Saheed Udham Singh Nagar, Patiala, have changed my name to Om Pal Sharma. (CL19094459)

I, Manisha Ghavri d/o Ram Karan resident of Adarsh Nagar, Sirhind have changed my name as Manisha Ghavri d/o Ram Karan Ghavri. Concerned please note. (CL19094521)

I, Ram Karan s/o Munshi Ram resident of Adarsh Nagar, Sirhind have changed my name as Ram Karan Ghavri. Concerned please note. (CL19094522)

I, Indu w/o Ram Karan Ghavri d/o Satpal Bhatti resident of Adarsh Nagar, Sirhind has changed my name as Indu Ghavri. Concerned please note. (CL19094593)

I, Ex-Havildar Kulwant Singh (No. 4473998M) son of Amrik Singh of Daleke Village (Tarnatar) have changed name of my minor son Amandeep Singh to Amandeep Singh. (CL19094603)

I, Madan Singh s/o Mohan Lal, Surinder Kaur w/o Madan Singh r/o VPO Saha (Ambala) disown our son Jagjeet Singh his wife Richa from our moveable - immovable properties as they both are out of control anybody deals them at own risk. Concerned note. (CL19094604)

For Circulation and Advertisement booking and other related queries please call at following numbers from Monday to Saturday between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.

Circulation: 0172-2670419 or E-mail at: circulation@tribunemail.com Advertisement: Classified: 0172-2670257 or E-mail at: classified@tribunemail.com Display: 0172-2670256 or E-mail at: advt@tribunemail.com

COURT NOTICES

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Ms. Sudipa Kaur, Civil Judge Junior Division-10, Patiala.

M/s Biogenetic Health Care through its partner Sandeep Kumar Versus M/s Manglam Drug House CNR No. PBPT02-000109-2019 Next Date: 29.10.2019 Publication issued to: M/s Manglam Drug House 646, Ram Nagar, Gali No. 14, Roorkee, Distt. Haridwar (Uttarakhand) through its proprietor Neena Saxena.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 29.10.2019 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=patiala Dated, this day of 25.09.2019 Sd/- Civil Judge, Junior Division-10, Patiala. CL19093128

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Sh Kushal Singla Civil Judge, Jr, Divn., Chandigarh CNR No. CHCH02-000156-2018 Next date: 04.11.2019 Central Bank of India Versus Amita Publication issued to: 1. Amita w/o Sh Kamal Kishore. 2. Kamal Kishore, both r/o H. No. 1157, Sec. 4, Panchkula, 2nd address: H. No. 442, Sector 12A, Near Saini Bhawan, Panchkula.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 04.11.2019 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=chandigarh Dated, this day of 09.09.2019. Sd/- Civil Judge, Jr. Divn. Chandigarh. CL19093884

COURT NOTICES

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Shri Harpreet Singh Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Abohar. Rati Bishnoi daughter of Sh. Rudar Krishan Bishnoi s/o Sh. Manphool Singh Bishnoi, resident of P.O. Box 8494, Newark, VJO 7108, USA at present Pannivalla Mahla, Teh. Abohar, Distt. Fazilka. Versus Rudar Krishan Bishnoi s/o Sh. Manphool son of Sh. Jwana Ram r/o H.No. D-111/3249, Vasant Kunj New Delhi etc. CNR No.: PBFZE0-000249-2017 Next Date: 30.10.2019

Suit for Declaration Publication issued to: 2. Lava Krishan Bishnoi s/o Manphool r/o 32-1 House Enclave near Rajiv Chowk Gurgaon Haryana, 5. Mohini Bishnoi d/o Manphool Ram r/o A-4, Karni Nagar Bikaner (Raj), 6. Neha Lata Singh d/o Manphool Ram resident c/o Dr A.K. Singh, Rajiv Menidrial Eye Hospital 14/15 Jacobpura near Samaj Marb Mandir, Gurgaon.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 30.10.2019 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=erozempur Dated, this day of 01.10.2019. Sd/- Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Abohar. CL19094042

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Harsimranjit Kaur Civil Judge, (Junior Division), Payal (Ludhiana) CNR No. PBLDD0-0004632017 Next date: 6.11.2019 Amrajit Singh Versus The Chairperson Reliance Publication issued to: JD 1 The Chairperson Reliance Life Insurance Co. Ltd. 9th and 10th Floor Building No. 2, Reech Park Nirlon Compound, next to Hub Mall Behind Flex Building, Goregaon (East) Mumbai-400063.

In above titled case the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 6.11.2019 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=ludhiana Dated, this day of 27.09.2019. Sd/- Civil Judge, (Junior Division), Payal CL19094252 (Ludhiana).

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC) (Under Guardian and Ward Act) In the Court of Amita Singh Civil Judge (Senior Division)-N.R.I Court, Jalandhar. Madan Lal s/o Hajara Ram 4220, Archer Dr, Bellingham Washington, 98226, USA. Versus General Public CNR No. PBJL02-000680-2019 Next Date:- 31.10.2019

Notice to: General Public In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 31.10.2019 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar Dated, this day of 27.09.2019. Sd/- Civil Judge (Senior Division)-N.R.I Court, Jalandhar. CL19094431

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) (Succession Case) In the Court of Amita Singh Civil Judge (Senior Division)-N.R.I Court, Jalandhar. Harjinder Kumar Doal s/o Pritam Singh r/o 12 Dale Close Great Barr Birmingham B43 6 AS Vs. General Public CNR No. PBJL02-003639-2019 Next Date: 04.11.2019

Notice to: General Public In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 04.11.2019 at 10.00 a.m.

Apex court to hear PIL on felling of Aarey trees today

CJI converts letter by law students into PIL, orders special sitting

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

Converting a letter written by a law student on felling of trees in Aarey colony in Mumbai into a PIL, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has ordered a special sitting of the Supreme Court tomorrow to take up the issue.

"Take note that a Special Bench has been constituted to hear the matter tomorrow i.e. October 7, 2019, at 10 am on the basis of a letter dated October 6, 2019, addressed by Rishav Ranjan with regard to felling of trees in Aarey Forest, State of Maharashtra, which has been registered as a public interest litigation."

The hearing will take



Protesters hold placards against cutting of trees in Aarey Colony for proposed Mumbai Metro 3 car shed in Mumbai. PTI

place despite the fact that the SC is closed for Dussehra vacation from October 7 to 12. After the Bombay High Court on Friday rejected a

petition against the felling of trees, the BMC started cutting down trees at night, inviting protests from activists, many of whom were arrested by the police.

The trees are being felled to pave way for the construction of a Mumbai Metro car shed on 33 hectares.

Highlighting that the authorities had already felled 1,500 trees, the law student (Rishav Ranjan) had sought to meet the CJI, demanding his urgent intervention to stop it.

"This is on the banks of the 'Mithi river' which has tributaries and channels flowing to it and emptying in the river. Its absence can flood Mumbai and it has more than 3500 trees in it out of which 2,238 are proposed to be cut down. The question is why should a forest which has 3,500 trees in it on the banks of a river be removed?" Rishav said in his letter to the CJI.

Conditional bail for 29 protesters

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 6

A sessions court in Mumbai today granted bail to 29 protesters arrested over the past two days on charges of allegedly obstructing and assaulting police personnel on duty during protests against felling of trees at Aarey Colony.

Additional Sessions Judge HC Shende of the holiday court ordered their release on certain conditions, including production of personal surety of Rs 7,000 and assurance that they would not take part in protests. However, the protesters are unlikely to walk out of the Thane jail, where most of them are currently lodged, on Sunday pending the completion of the legal procedure and other formalities.

The arrests were made over Friday night and Saturday after clashes broke out between the police and green activists opposing axing of trees. — PTI

Develop anti-drone...

FROM PAGE 1

Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Sashastra Seema Bal and Assam Rifles have been given a time limit to come out with a plan with required technological inputs to prevent Punjab arms drop like incidents.

As intended the plan will also include for the forces to identify weak areas both geographically and in terms of capabilities and have been asked to build on them phase

wise to make the borders full proof. A senior official said, the chiefs of the forces, who attended the review meeting, were told that the minister would again review the progress made on the directions given.

Shah had on Friday directed the border guarding forces to identify issues affecting the security of the forward locations and submit detailed action plans to resolve them.

NC: Leaders in detention, won't contest BDC elections

FROM PAGE 1

released, Rana replied: "Let them first release the leaders. The party working committee will then meet and formulate a strategy".

Hasnain Masoodi, MP, who was part of the delegation, claimed his objective was to meet the detained leaders to enquire about their well-being and "seek instructions." Farooq, booked under the PSA, and Omar are in preventive detention. They have not yet challenged their detention in court. The MP ruled out participation in any political activity "at a time when the leadership is behind bars."

Capt to aid of ailing Kashmiri student

FROM PAGE 1

patient was called back to the hospital on Chief Minister's intervention. The Chief Minister's Office, through the office of the Chief Secretary, coordinated with the PGI authorities to secure treatment for the ailing student. Kheuhami said after he rang up CM's media adviser Raveen Thukral, state government officials swung into action and ensured the student got treatment.

Thukral said financial aid would be given to the student, as and when required. Talking to The Tribune, Malla said after completing BBA, he returned to the Jalandhar college to pursue

MBA but was diagnosed with colon cancer. Kheuhami, a Kashmiri social activist, played a key role in getting him the desired treatment at the PGI, he added.

"I express sincere thanks to Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh for his timely intervention and support to the Kashmiri student," tweeted Kheuhami. Kheuhami said due to curbs in Jammu and Kashmir following revocation of Article 370, Kashmiris studying in other states had been facing emotional stress and hardship in contacting families. In August, the Chief Minister had on Eid hosted 125 Kashmiris studying in universities across Punjab.

Justice Jha takes oath

FROM PAGE 1

Born on October 14, 1961, Chief Justice Jha was enrolled as advocate on September 20, 1986. He practised on civil, revenue constitutional sides in the

High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Jabalpur before his elevation.

He was appointed as permanent Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh on February 2, 2007. — TNS

Hooda on strong wicket

FROM PAGE 1

"He is definitely on a strong wicket, but you can't underestimate the BJP candidate, Satish Nandal. Like Hooda, he too is a local Jat leader, from Bohar village of the constituency. If non-Jat vote goes to Nandal, Garhi-Sampla-Kiloi can throw up a surprise," says Brij Mohan, a shopkeeper at Bahmanwala village.

Nandal, who was INLD's Rohtak district president before he switched over to the BJP recently, was the runner-up on the seat in the 2009 and 2014 elections.

The BJP has made an elaborate plan of social engineering in Garhi Sampla-Kiloi segment to corner Hooda. "Jat quota violence has inflicted a huge political damage to Hooda. He is otherwise sure to come back to power this time. The recent Lok Sabha polls showed how the saffron party was able to polarise votes on caste lines. People here are not ruling out the same division this time," says a group of youths on village outskirts.

The former CM is still going strong in his constituency as he has given job to youths and ensured development, says one of them.

He is cut in by another: "Earlier, jobs went to those close to the Hoodas. Now, in every village of the segment, you will find eight to 10 youths who got jobs purely on merit during the present regime."

Judiciary needs a recusal policy

People have right to know reasons behind judges' decision



OBITER DICTA

BY SATYA PRAKASH



28 JUDGES OPTED OUT OF 376 CASES IN 2017

According to data culled out from the Supreme Court's website, as many as 28 judges recused from at least 376 cases in 2017. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and Justice L Nageswara Rao — who were elevated from the Bar to the Bench in 2014 and in 2016, respectively — recused from hearing 43 cases each during 2017.

After Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justice BR Gavai, last week Justice S Ravindra Bhat recused from hearing the petition filed by Navlakha who has been booked under provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and the Indian Penal Code. The matter has since been assigned by CJI Gogoi to a Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra, which on Friday extended his protection from arrest.

This is not for the first time that judges have opted out of a case. In fact, they do it routinely, often leaving litigants, advocates and people in general perplexed about the reasons behind their decision to recuse in a case.

Do consumers of justice have a right to know the reasons behind recusal by a judge? Should a judge disclose why he/she opted out of a case? According to Bar and Bench, data culled out from the Supreme Court's website showed that as many as

According to 'Guide to Judicial Conduct' in the UK, "If there are circumstances which may give rise to a suggestion of bias, or appearance of bias, if possible, they should be disclosed to the parties well before the hearing. Disclosure, followed by recusal on the day of the hearing, will almost certainly involve additional costs for the parties and will frequently cause listing difficulties."

In a democratic system, those in positions of power owe a public duty to disclose reasons behind their recusal. This principle particularly applies to judges as the Supreme Court has held that right to information is a facet of fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution.

If recusal happens in a private case, one may not bother about it. But an act of recusal in cases of public importance is bound to raise eyebrows. It's incumbent upon the judiciary to ensure that a judge's decision to recuse in a particular matter doesn't give any chance to an individual or organisation to question its independence and impartiality.

If judges follow Justice Joseph's advice, it would clear the air and stop unnecessary rumour-mongering that starts every time a judge recuses without disclosing the reasons behind his/her decision. Such a practice would introduce transparency in the functioning of the judiciary, enhancing its credibility as an institution. It's high time the judiciary comes out with a proper recusal policy that must be followed by judges across India at every level.

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Attending to everyone, everywhere

Enhancing access to quality healthcare is vital for personal & national security, says Dr Jai Prakash Narain

IN the 40 years since the Alma-Ata declaration of 'Health for all by 2000' and despite notable advancements, less than half of the world's population today receives all the health services it needs; about 100 million people are pushed into extreme poverty because they have to pay out of pocket for health services.

With the aim of addressing these challenges, the heads and representatives of 193 Member States assembled at the 74th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on September 23 to discuss, for the first time, universal health coverage (UHC) under the theme of 'Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World'.

In his opening remarks, UNGA president Tadjibou Mouhammad-Bando said, "Access to critical health services must be a fundamental right and not a privilege." He underscored that "the objective of UHC is to strengthen health systems by ensuring that people have access to affordable preventive, curative and rehabilitative health services."

The high-level UN meeting reaffirmed, through a political declaration, its strong commitment to achieving UHC by 2030 with a view to scaling up global efforts to build a healthier world for all.

UN chief Antonio Guterres called UHC "the most comprehensive agreement ever reached on global health." He stated that this 'significant achievement' would drive progress over the next decade on tackling communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, while addressing non-communicable diseases and the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance through robust and resilient primary healthcare systems.

The key priorities are: increasing health financing, strengthening health workforce, building sustainable and resilient people-centric health systems, and investing in and strengthening primary healthcare.

In adopting the declaration, UN Member States have committed to "leaving no one behind, reaching the furthest behind first" and ensuring that no one suffers from financial hardship by having to pay out of pocket for healthcare. In addition, countries must strengthen their health workforce and infrastructure that are essential for a robust healthcare system.

The UN meeting was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing the plenary, the PM said, "Health does not simply mean freedom from diseases. A healthy life is every person's right. The onus is on our government to make every possible effort to ensure this." Underlining various steps taken by India, he mentioned Ayushman Bharat, the largest health protection scheme in the world, under which poor people are to be given up to Rs 5 lakh a year for tertiary and secondary care. In addition, 1.25 lakh health and wellness centres are being established to provide preventive care for chronic and communicable diseases at the peripheral level.



Gaps in health services (global)

- More than 1 billion people live with uncontrolled hypertension
- Over 200 million women lack adequate access to family planning services
- Around 20 million infants do not receive 3 essential immunisations

Drain on resources

- Health expense is a key reason why families are pushed into poverty
- 100 million people fall into extreme poverty due to out-of-pocket health expenses
- More than 800 million (almost 12% of world's population) spend at least 10% of household budget on healthcare
- Almost 180 million spend at least 25% of their household income for treatment
- All UN Member States have agreed to try achieve universal health coverage by 2030, as part of sustainable development goals (SDGs)

How India spends

- Health expenditure is largely out-of-pocket (65%)
- Only 17% of the population covered by some form of health insurance, prior to the launch of Ayushman Bharat scheme
- Health situation not uniform in the country; Wide disparities exist between rich & poor, between private medical sector and government health facilities, between urban and rural areas, and between those living where quality health services are available and those in geographically remote districts of the country.

Despite the growing evidence that enhanced investment in health can bring health and economic benefits, India continues to under-invest in this sector. The government's health spend as a part of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) remains around 1.3 per cent, one of the lowest in the world. The out-of-pocket expenditure, on the other hand, is among the highest at 65 per

cent. As a result, 60 million people every year are pushed into the poverty trap from which they cannot escape.

Against this background, the emphasis on universal health coverage is both relevant and timely for India. Going forward, there is a need for a clear implementation strategy and an action plan for operationalising the idea.

HERE ARE WAYS TO ACHIEVE UHC AND REDUCE ACCESS-QUALITY GAP:

1. Invest in primary healthcare and strengthen local health systems

The government must increase its allocation for public health and clinical care, with focus on primary healthcare. The UN meeting has recommended that countries must increase expenditure on primary healthcare by at least 1 per cent of their GDP so as to bridge the coverage gaps.

We need to recognise that UHC cannot be achieved without strengthening primary healthcare. The latter brings people into first contact with the health system and is the most inclusive, effective and efficient approach to enhance people's physical and mental health as well as social well-being.

In practical terms, each district must formulate a multi-sectoral district plan with the involvement of all stakeholders, with a unified budget, and an accountability framework. The progress can be reviewed at the end of each year and course correction done on the basis of the findings of the annual review.

2. Focus on access and quality

Health infrastructure in India is fragile and overstretched. The most critical issue is human resources at various levels of health services — with up to 40 per cent of health workers' posts lying vacant in some states and poor management capacity. Most health facilities suffer from perennial shortage of doctors and even some district hospitals like in the remote tribal district of Lahaul & Spiti (Himachal Pradesh) have no specialist doctor.

It is imperative to improve the quality of public sector hospitals and health centres, ensure adequate supply of medicines and products and engage the community. Each district requires physical and human infrastructure needed to deliver benefits. There should be provision for training and retraining of health workers and the availability of clean water and power, medical equipment, laboratories, and management and information systems.

The Central government's plan to establish health and wellness centres (HWCs) across the country offers a unique opportunity to strengthen primary healthcare, thereby enhancing access to services close to home and addressing the quality aspects.

3. Prioritise the most vulnerable first

In a democratic society, the government's primary responsibility is to care for those who cannot fend for themselves. Therefore, it is critical to define a cost-effective package of essential health services — promotive, preven-

tive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative — and make it available to all, but with special emphasis and priority accorded to the poor, vulnerable, and marginalised segments of the population. Governments at the Centre and in the states must politically commit themselves to "leaving no one behind, reaching the furthest behind first."

As the UHC rollout gets underway, the exercise has to be accompanied by a solid management information system and monitoring and evaluation framework right from the start. New technologies can enable these steps.

Simply put, UHC means everyone, everywhere having access to a comprehensive and sustainable healthcare service of quality, without having to suffer financial hardship.

After the rhetoric at New York, it is time for action at the ground level as the goal of UHC cannot be achieved without political will and compassion for citizens who have long been suffering from lack of quality health services. When the political class in the states wakes up from its self-induced slumber and forces officials concerned to shed their bureaucratic and administrative inertia, the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel may hopefully emerge. It is now time to take necessary steps for turning a global aspiration into local action.

The author is former Regional Adviser and Director, World Health Organisation, Regional Office for South-East Asia

Patient safety and the cost of medical errors

SOHAM D BHADURI

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recently came out with a dismaying figure of 138 million — estimated to be the number of patients witnessing harm caused by medical errors every year in medium and low-economic status countries (including India).

A Harvard study of 2013 estimated that India witnessed about 52 lakh medical injury cases annually, amounting to around 3 million years of healthy life lost each year. Medical errors are the third leading cause of death in the US, and the figure was reckoned to be 4 lakh in 2013. Clearly, it is a formidable public health problem projecting considerable (wasteful) costs for the healthcare system. An analysis of this problem reveals a range of appalling gaps in our public health system.

A medical error implies an avoidable adverse effect of medical treatment accruing harm to a patient. This is largely due to procedures deviating from their appropriate course: from administering a wrong drug or wrong dosage; the use of unsterile equipment leading to iatrogenic infection; inadequate care of the bed-ridden causing bed sores; omissions as gross as operating upon the wrong limb. Medical error isn't synonymous with doctor's neglect, which denotes breach of the duty of care on his part. It includes the whole array of mistakes and errors of judgment often engen-

dered by factors beyond the healthcare providers' control and notwithstanding enough care and competence.

Those medical errors stemming from negligence are liable for civil litigation. In India, these are often dealt with in consumer courts, unless the negligence is of criminal proportions. Malpractice litigation, therefore, offers a mode of redress to the victims. The same, however, has made for an inept tool for deterring medical errors and omissions. The consumer courts, initially conceived to ease and fast-

Lack of standard protocols, overburdened staff and inadequate infrastructure are the key factors contributing to medical mistakes. Given our weak regulatory system, these are blots on our healthcare.

track the disposal of consumer complaints (including medical services), have suffered from the same problems as the rest of the judiciary, including delay in processing of cases, pendency, staff shortage, and non-uniformity in compensation payouts. Proving medical negligence, which requires mobilising expert testimony against the accused to the court's satisfaction, is a weary task on the part of the injured party. But even otherwise, addressing the larger problem of medical errors through malpractice litigation is a flawed tactic. Apart from multiple deleterious effects such as wasteful costs; unnecessary hassles for doctors; and jeop-

ardising the doctor-patient relationship — it is highly limited in its scope, even under ideal conditions, to spur downstream improvements in care quality.

Herein comes the role of overarching regulation of all medical establishments, public and private, to ensure minimum standards of care — an area where we have a deplorable track record. While 50-odd laws exercise jurisdiction of some or the other form on medical practice in India, it was only in 2010 that a dedicated Central legislation to actively 'regulate' standards

and quality of care, the Clinical Establishments Act (CEA), was brought. Even then, its implementation has been dismal and fraught with compromises. The national register under the CEA currently has only 23,183 clinical establishments; even as early as 2010, there were some 10.4 lakh private establishments in the country as per NSS 2010 estimates. Multiple parallel state-level laws with varying powers, and often doddering machinery and archaic provisions, continue to exist at varying degrees of under-enforcement.

Lack of standard protocols, overburdened staff, and inadequate infrastructure are some of the foremost factors contribut-

ing to medical mistakes. Little wonder, given our weak regulatory system, that these remain the blots on our healthcare. Some 227 standard treatment guidelines for diseases have been issued under the CEA, but a practical roadmap for ensuring their observance seems as farfetched as ever. Undue heterogeneity of practices and infrastructure among small and medium enterprises, and criminally unregulated work hours of residents in government hospitals, are frontline drivers of the menace of medical errors.

Weaving quality of care outcomes into the provider payment system can help improve the quality of care, as is practised in many advanced nations. The glaring absence of a true national health system, which could embrace the majority of care providers in its ambit, makes such provisions impossible to implement in India. Similarly, the publication of performance results of individual hospitals and practices, as has been conceived in the US, provides an incentive for institutions to monitor and improve their practices — though it has negative effects too. Institutional arrangements to learn and relearn from mistakes and modify practices remain vastly deficient in India.

The problem also boils down to medical education. Practical approach among emerging doctors remains largely deficient in most medical schools. Vital skills like basic and advanced life support

receive little emphasis in medical schooling, and are largely learnt through courses offered and taken privately. Measures such as a competency-based medical curriculum and a national exit test have been proposed to overcome such shortcomings, although their current scope seems limited. Training programmes for rural medical officers in vital areas like emergency medicine are often a farce — conducted mainly for achieving targets on paper, with little attention to stringency, periodicity, and practical rigour and to ensuring attendance of participants. It has been widely proposed that courses in critical care for doctors, especially in rural areas and tier 2 and 3 cities, can greatly help improve care in the critical hour.

Medical errors as a public health problem are thus a manifestation of wider and deeper problems in the Indian healthcare system. While immediate measures along some of the problem lines can be conceived, anything short of a comprehensive upgrade of the healthcare system will fail to yield sustained and considerable dividends. The obtrusive picture of medical errors depicted by the WHO can provide us another opportunity to look afresh and reflect closely on a number of basic and long-standing questions facing us, like regulation and funding of healthcare.

The author is a physician and a healthcare commentator



GLOBE TROT



IN SEARCH OF A BETTER LIFE: Central American asylum-seekers who illegally crossed the Rio Grande, wait to be processed after turning themselves in to US Border Patrol in Los Ebanos, Texas, on Sunday. REUTERS

Vets trying to save elephants rescued from Thai cliff
BANGKOK: A team of veterinarians was on Sunday trying to save two elephants, rescued from a cliff near a Thai national park where six tuskers fell to their deaths after slipping off a waterfall. The Department of Natural Parks said in a Facebook post that the veterinarians were examining the condition of elephants that had "symptoms of fatigue" after hours of struggle on a cliff edge of the Haew Narok waterfall. The elephants got trapped on Saturday, the same day six wild elephants were found dead at the bottom of the gushing waterfall. IANS

BBC concert called off after man slashed backstage
LONDON: The BBC Radio 1Xtra's live event in Birmingham has been called off after a man suffered a slash wound during an incident backstage, it was reported on Sunday. The 1Xtra Live show at the Arena Birmingham was due to include performances from Aitch, French Montana, Ms Banks and headliner Wizkid. The BBC said, "We are upset and saddened that something like this should happen to a guest at one of our events." IANS

Ailing Musharraf to return to politics
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's former military ruler Pervez Musharraf is set to return to the politics by reviving his party after remaining inactive for over an year due to his deteriorating health, according to media reports on Sunday. General (ret'd) Musharraf, 76, who has been living in Dubai since March 2016, is facing the treason case for suspending the Constitution in 2007, a punishable offence for which he was indicted in 2014. Musharraf, the founder of the All Pakistan Muslim League (APML), will address his supporters in Islamabad on Sunday via a video link on the occasion of the party's foundation day, Geo TV and The Express Tribune reported said Senior Zoo Keeper Jane Marshall. PTI

HK protesters bring city to grinding halt



Anti-govt protesters use umbrellas to shield themselves from rubber bullets in Hong Kong on Sunday. REUTERS

HONG KONG, OCTOBER 6
 Hong Kong was rocked by fresh violence Sunday as tens of thousands hit the streets to defy a ban on face masks, sparking clashes with police, street fights and vandalism across the strife-torn city. Large crowds marched through torrential rain in peaceful but unsanctioned rallies on both sides of Victoria Harbour, condemning the government for deploying emergency powers to ban face masks at public gatherings. But violence erupted as police dispersed crowds with tear gas, and then battled hardcore protesters in multiple locations plunging the finance hub into chaos once more. In one incident, a taxi driver was beaten bloody in the district of Sham Shui Po after he drove into a crowd that had surrounded his car. "Two girls were hit by the car and one girl was trapped between the car and a shop," a witness, who gave his surname as Wong, told AFP, adding the crowd managed to push the car off the wounded woman. Earlier, a crowd ransacked nearby government offices, while multiple Chinese banks and subway stations were

PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY WARNS PROTESTERS

■ In the first direct interaction between the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and protesters, the PLA raised a yellow flag with the arrest warning written in large letters, said a Reuters witness
 ■ As a few hundred protesters shone laser lights on the barrack walls, troops in fatigues on the roof of the building shone spotlights at the protesters and used binoculars and cameras to monitor protesters vandalised across the city. Activists have staged three straight days of flash mob rallies and speers of vandalism after Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam outlawed face coverings by protesters, invoking colonial-era emergency powers not used for half a century. Pro-democracy lawmakers went to the High Court Sunday morning seeking an injunction against the ban, arguing the emergency powers bypassed the legislature and contravened the city's mini-constitution. — AFP

Sent response to subpoena: Pompeo

US Secy of State defends his boss' attempts to push Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 6
 US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said the Department of State will follow the law in the impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump and defended his boss' attempts to push Ukraine to investigate former vice-president Joe Biden.

Pompeo's remarks came after the State Department missed a Friday deadline to comply with a subpoena issued by House Democrats to hand over documents related to the department's dealings with Ukraine and Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani.

Democrats in the US House of Representatives are examining whether there are grounds to impeach Trump, a Republican, based on a whistleblower's account that said he asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy in a July 25 phone call to help investigate Democratic political rival Biden.

Pompeo, who is travelling to Greece, told reporters that the department had sent a letter to Congress, "which is our initial response to the



Mike Pompeo and his wife Susan board a plane in Athens. AP

TRUMP WON'T DESTROY ME, SAYS JOE BIDEN

■ Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has said that US President Donald Trump "won't destroy him" or his family over the latter's call for an investigation against the former vice-president and his son

■ In the Washington Post opinion piece, Biden said, "Trump is abusing the power of the presidency and is wholly unfit to be President."

document request." "We'll obviously do all the things we're required to do by law," said Pompeo.

"I was a member of Congress once; Article I has a certain set of powers, and Article II has an obligation to make sure that we protect officials at the State Department," he added.

"And sadly, there have been congressional inquiries that have harassed and abused the State Department employees by contacting them directly and seeking to have them provide documents that belong to the

2ND WHISTLEBLOWER COMES FORWARD

■ A second whistleblower has come forward with first-hand information of the events that triggered an impeachment investigation of President Donald Trump for alleged abuse of power, the informant's lawyer said Sunday

■ "I can confirm this report of a second #whistleblower being represented by our legal team," Mark Zaid said on Twitter

■ Earlier Sunday, Zaid's co-counsel, Andrew Bakaj, said his firm and team "represent multiple whistleblowers" in the case accusing Trump of misusing his powers

State Department, that are official US Government records and ask them to do so without saying, hey, don't bother calling the State Department lawyers; just talk to us directly," he said.

"That's harassment, and I'll never let that happen to

Four killed in shooting at Kansas bar

KANSAS CITY (US), OCTOBER 6
 Four people were killed and five wounded in Kansas early on Sunday when one or two suspects opened fire inside a Kansas City bar, and police were hunting for the shooters, local authorities said.

Authorities believe the suspects had been involved in a dispute at Tequila KC Bar, a private club, earlier in the night and left before returning around 1.30 am and opening fire with handguns, the Kansas City Police Department said in a statement.

The four people killed were all Hispanic men and ranged from their mid 20s to late 50s. The five people injured were hospitalized and are in stable condition, police spokesman Thomas Tomasic said.

Police arrived at a scene of chaos when they were alerted to the incident, as the few dozen people who had been in the bar were running out, the suspects had fled and there was blood on the street, he said.

Authorities have not identified the victims, but local resident Juan Ramirez told the Kansas City Star on Sunday that his 29-year-old nephew was among those killed. — Reuters

Ex-Nepal Speaker faces 'attempt to rape' charge, held

KATHMANDU, OCTOBER 6
 Former Speaker of Nepal's Parliament Krishna Bahadur Mahara was arrested on Sunday for allegedly attempting to rape a woman staffer in the federal parliament secretariat.

Following the Kathmandu District Court's permission based on a First Information Report lodged on Saturday, the police took Mahara into custody from the official residence of the Parliament speaker in Baluwatar in the outskirts of Kathmandu, officials said.

The police said a case has been filed against the former speaker under attempt to rape and acts of violence.

On Tuesday, Mahara resigned as the speaker of Nepal's Parliament. In his resignation letter, Mahara

said he resigned to allow a fair investigation over the allegations. Earlier, Mahara had denied the allegations.

In a video released by online news portal Hamro Kura, the 'victim' woman claims that she has known Mahara for years and that he has behaved indecently with her in the past as well.

The woman said Mahara visited her rented accommodation in an inebriated state on September 23 while she was alone.

This is the first time in Democratic Nepal's history that a high profile political personality has been arrested in a rape case. If proven guilty, Mahara will face up to five years imprisonment. — PTI

3-member US delegation visits PoK

ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 6
 A high-level US Congressional delegation on Sunday visited Pakistan-occupied Kashmir to assess the situation on the ground and gauge the public sentiment after India revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation comprising Senators Chris Van Hollen and Maggie Hassan and US Charge d'Affaires Ambassador Paul Jones visited Muzaffarabad, the capital of PoK.

Pakistan Foreign Office (FO) said the purpose of the visit was to see the ground situation and gauge the public sentiment following India's August 5 decision.

Normal life in Kashmir remains paralysed following the government's August 5 move to abrogate Article 370, that provided special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcate the State into two union territories.

Ties between India and Pakistan came under severe



Policemen block a road with containers at a border village in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Sunday. AFP

strain after New Delhi's decision. Pakistan reacted angrily to the move and expelled the Indian envoy. Since then, Pakistan has been trying to rally international support against India on the issue.

"The US Senators said that they shared the human rights concerns and would continue to urge India to lift the curfew and release all

prisoners as a first step. They also expressed their resolve to remain engaged for the resolution of the dispute," according to the FO.

The delegation also met PoK's leaders Sardar Masood Khan and Raja Farooq Haider.

Khan and Haider said that visit would help the delegation to have first-hand information, understanding of the

'Taliban talks in Pak were about hostages'

■ The Afghan government has said that talks in Islamabad between a Taliban delegation and Pakistani authorities were about the release of two hostages and not on the resumption of the peace process

■ "The talks which are currently underway in Islamabad, in fact we can say they are about the two American hostages between captors," said Idrées Zaman, Deputy Foreign Minister

prevailing "humanitarian crisis" in Kashmir.

They asked US Senators to press India to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir issue in accordance with the UNSC resolutions.

India has been maintaining that the Kashmir issue is a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan and there is no scope for third-party mediation. — PTI

Leaving EU in 25 days, says Johnson

Claims his Brexit proposals have picked up support in Parliament

LONDON, OCTOBER 6
 UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has claimed his Brexit proposals have picked up support in the Parliament as he urged the European Union (EU) to compromise.

Writing in the Sun on Sunday and the Sunday Express, the Prime Minister said, "We are leaving in 25 days. We can do it with a deal if the EU is willing," the BBC reported.

Johnson said his untested plan to use technology to eliminate customs border

checks would take the UK out of EU trade rules while respecting the Northern Ireland peace process.

"I say to our European friends: grasp the opportunity our new proposal provides. Join us at the negotiating table in a spirit of compromise and co-operation," he said.

He claimed MPs from "every wing of the Conservative Party", Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party and from Labour have said our proposed deal looks like one they can get behind".

But he said "there will be no more dither and delay" and the UK will leave the EU on October 31 with or without a deal.

Johnson did not explain how the government would comply with a law passed by MPs which forces the Prime Minister to seek an extension to the Brexit deadline if no agreement has been made by October 19.

In court documents, the government has said the Prime Minister will request a delay as the law requires,

despite his public and Parliamentary statements.

Meanwhile, Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay, writing in the Sunday Telegraph, said there were "positive sounds" of support from MPs but "we need that noise to grow louder" as the EU summit approaches, reports the BBC.

But he said the UK's negotiation had been "severely hampered" by "hardcore opposition MPs", who voted to prevent a no-deal Brexit. — IANS

'No talks' unless US ends hostile policies

SEOUL, OCTOBER 6
 North Korea said Sunday it has "no intention" to continue nuclear talks unless the United States takes steps to end hostilities, a day after negotiations in Sweden broke down.

The North walked away from the Sweden talks saying it was disappointed at the lack of "new and creative" solutions offered by Washington, although the US insisted it was willing to meet again in two weeks.

But a spokesman at the North's foreign ministry said Washington's claims about another meeting was "ungrounded".

"We have no intention to hold such sickening negotiations as what happened this time before the US takes a substantial step to make complete and irreversible withdrawal of the hostile policy toward the DPRK," he said using the acronyms of the North's official name. — AFP

Saudi Arabia eases restrictions on women taking hotel rooms

DUBAI, OCTOBER 6
 Saudi Arabia has lifted some restrictions on women travelling in the ultra conservative Muslim kingdom, its tourism authority said Sunday, with new guidelines allowing women to rent hotel rooms without a male guardian's presence, and foreign men and women to share a room without proof of marriage.

The easing of stringent regulations governing social interactions comes after Riyadh launched its first tourist visa scheme, as part of efforts to open up the country



In a series of measures, Saudi Arabia has lifted the ban on theaters and women driving. FILE PHOTO

WAY FORWARD

■ New guidelines allow women to rent hotel rooms without a male guardian's presence, and foreign men and women can share a room without proof of marriage

■ The move comes amid deep reforms over the past year by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman which has lifted a ban on movie theaters in the kingdom and ban on women driving

to foreign visitors and diversify its oil-reliant economy.

The Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage posted the new requirements on Twitter Sunday, confirming a Friday report by the Saudi daily Okaz.

The commission said women will be allowed to rent hotel rooms with proof of identity an ID card for Saudi women, residency card for foreign residents living in the kingdom or passport for tourists.

The same would be required of foreign couples,

without the need for them to present a marriage certificate.

The move comes amid deep reforms over the past year by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman which has lifted a ban on movie theaters in the kingdom and the world's only ban on women driving.

Critics note there are limits to the reforms, and point to last year's killing of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul and the reported torture of several detained women's rights activists. — AP

BRIEFLY

VADODARA
Sandeep takes 7/19 in Punjab's win over Haryana
 Pacer Sandeep Sharma wreaked havoc with career-best figures of 7/19 as Punjab beat Haryana by three wickets in their Group B match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Sharma and Siddarth Kaul bundled out Haryana for 49 runs in 16 overs. The Haryana batting was in shambles with only two of their batsmen managing to reach double figures and as many as five being dismissed for a duck. Opener Nitin Saini top-scored for Haryana with 22 runs while Sumit Kumar chipped in with 13 runs. In reply, Punjab lost wickets at regular intervals with pacer Ajit Chahal getting early breakthroughs. Chahal (4/32) and Harshal Patel (2/12) claimed six wickets but the total turned out to be too low in the end. Punjab opener Abhishek Sharma was the top-scorer and remained unbeaten on 22. In the Group C match, Rahul Singh Gahlaut smashed an unbeaten 124 to power Services to 7-wicket win over J&K.

Brief Scores: Haryana: 49 in 16 overs (Nitin Saini 22; Sandeep Sharma 7/19); **Punjab:** 50/7 in 15.1 overs (Abhishek Sharma 22*; Ajit Chahal 4/32); **(Match-2): J&K:** 189 all out in 48.3 overs (Paras Sharma 49, Fazil Rashid 39; Diwesh Gurudev Pathania 4/39, Varun Choudhary 2/27); **Services:** 190/3 in 34.2 overs (Rahul Singh Gahlaut 124*, Rajat Paliwal 49)

GREATER NOIDA
PKL: Narwal stars in Patna's win over Bengal
 UP Yodha produced an all-round performance to beat Purneri Paltan 43-39 in their Pro Kabaddi League match. Captain and lead defender Nitesh Kumar, with a High 5 (6 tackle points), was the star for the UP team as they fought it out despite a late effort from the Pune side to stage a comeback. Even though the home side had secured a place in the season seven playoffs, they played with more passion against a Purneri Paltan squad that evidently lacked motivation. Pardeep Narwal was at his best for Patna as his 36-point performance helped the three-time champions thrash Bengal Warriors 69-41 in their Pro Kabaddi League match. — AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

PRO KABADDI LEAGUE
 STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

REMAINS OF THE DAY



Mohammed Shami with the broken stump after scalping Dane Piedt to hand India a 203-run victory on Day 5 of the first Test against South Africa in Visakhapatnam. PTI

Shami, Jadeja take 7 in 1st session to hand India 203-run win over SA, take 1-0 lead

VISAKHAPATNAM, OCTOBER 6
 Mohammed Shami's lethal spell of fast bowling was beautifully complemented by Ravindra Jadeja's guile as India recorded a resounding 203-run victory over South Africa in the opening encounter of the three-Test series. The victory consolidated India's position in the ongoing World Test Championships with another valuable 40 points added to their kitty. India maintain their lead with 160 points.

Chasing an improbable 395-run target, South Africa were expected to put up a fight like they did in the first innings, but Shami's fifth five-for and Jadeja's four-wicket burst saw South Africa dismissed for 191 in 63.5 overs.

Debutant Senuran Muthusamy (49*) and Dane Piedt (56) delayed the inevitable with a fighting 91-run stand for ninth wicket after South Africa collapsed to 70/8 in the morning.

The pitch, which had played fair for the first four days with the odd ball surprising the batsman, turned tricky on Day 5. The spinners got the ball to turn sharply and the variable bounce also helped the pacers. The collapse began in the second over of the day



Temba Bavuma is clean bowled by Mohammed Shami on Day 5. PTI

“There was an opportunity for us to go the other way and we didn't. We played really well, senior players put their hands up in Quinton (Quinton de Kock) and Dean (Elgar) getting fantastic hundreds and to get 400 in the sub-continent is never anything easy to do — Faf du Plessis, SA CAPTAIN

when Ravichandran Ashwin castled Theunis de Bruyn (10) with one that turned back sharply from outside the off-stump for his record equalling 350th wicket.

After Ashwin provided the early breakthrough, Shami castled Temba Bavuma (0), Faf du Plessis (13) and Quinton de Kock (0) in two short bursts to break the backbone of South African batting. Bavuma stayed back to a delivery that kept low and jagged back in, while du Plessis offered no shot to one that cut back in, shattering the stumps. Shami got rid of de Kock with a delivery that held its line after pitching.

3 wickets in 1 over

It became 70/6 in the 27th over when opener Aiden Markram (39) tried to play a lofted shot but did not get the required elevation, and Jadeja took a brilliant one-handed reflex catch off his own bowling. In the same over, Jadeja trapped Vernon Philander and Keshav Maharaj in front of the stumps off successive balls to make it 70/8.

It seemed the game would get over well before lunch but Piedt and Muthusamy took South Africa to 117/8 at the break. Piedt and Muthusamy frustrated India with their nothing-to-lose approach. Piedt's slog-

203Runs, the margin of defeat for SA in this Test, which is their heaviest after scoring 400 or more runs in their first innings. This is only the fifth time they've lost a Test after scoring 400-plus in the first innings

3Number of bigger wins, in terms of runs, for India after their opposition scored 400-plus in their first innings. They won in Visakhapatnam by 203 runs. Two of the three bigger wins came against England, both by an innings, in Chennai and Mumbai in 2016-17

350Wickets for R Ashwin in 66 Tests, making him the joint-fastest to the mark with Muttiah Muralitharan. Ashwin has taken 18 innings more than Muralitharan to reach this feat, but has bowled about 3000 balls fewer to get to the mark. Ashwin has got there in 7 years and 332

sweep over deep mid-wicket went the distance for the 36th six of the game, breaking the record for most sixes in a Test. The off-spinner played well to complete his maiden half-century in his eighth Test. The pair went on to bat for one hour after lunch, with India unable to break their stand. Shami, who provided

days from his debut, while it took Muralitharan 9 years and 9 days

37Sixes hit in this match, the most in a Test. The previous record was 35 between Pak and NZ in Sharjah in November 2014. The most sixes hit in a Test in India before this was 20, achieved twice: India vs Sri Lanka in Mumbai in 2009, and India vs WI in Rajkot last year

3Players to bat more than 100 balls, batting at No. 7 or lower, in both innings on Test debut — Senuran Muthusamy in this Test. Manjural Islam vs Zimbabwe in 2004 and then Moises Henriques vs India in 2013 were the first and second, respectively. Muthusamy remained unbeaten in both innings of his debut Test and became only the fourth player ever to score unbeaten 30-plus scores in both innings on debut

three quick wickets in the morning, was brought back into the attack and he struck on the very first ball, with Piedt playing on to his stumps. It was a loosener but potent enough to break the off-stump. The second Test of the three-match series will be played in Pune from October 10. — PTI

Kohli praises pacers for ruling spin track

VISAKHAPATNAM, OCTOBER 6
 Skipper Virat Kohli hailed India's pace attack for showing a lot of heart to go through the grind and deliver even on slow, spin-friendly wickets.

Asked if the Indian pacers are now playing a more significant role in India's Test victories Kohli said: “It's all about the attitude. If fast bowlers are going to think that spinners are going to do all the work, then it doesn't justify their place.” “They ask for shorter spells so they can give 100 percent,” the captain added. “That's when you see guys like Shami, Ishant, Jasprit and Umesh doing well. It's all about wanting to make a play for the team even in conditions that are difficult.”

In the first innings, Ishant Sharma was the sole wicket-taker among the two pacers. However, Shami rattled the opposition in the second innings to earn praise from his captain. “Shami has been a strike bowler in the second innings. All the guys lived up to their strengths. While batting heroes were obvious bowlers had it tougher in this game,” Kohli said.

Pacers can relax if you have bowlers like Ashwin, Jadeja: Shami

Speedster Mohammed Shami hailed the efforts of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja after India defeated South Africa. “Ashwin has a lot of Test cricket experience, and bowled very well in both first and second innings,” Shami said after the match. “When you have great bowlers like Ashwin and Jadeja in the team, the fast bowlers can breathe easy and relax, knowing that they are there.”

Shami also hailed captain Virat Kohli for giving the bowlers freedom to decide the length of their spells. “Virat Kohli as a captain always hears us out and gives us the freedom to follow our strategy during the match,” said the paceman. “He has given us the freedom to take a call on whether we want to bowl five overs or seven overs or more — he says ‘If you have the power, go ahead and bowl’. That's when we take a call that we will bowl three overs but with full power.. That's the under-



“My job here is to play in a certain manner, that's what they expect... And I'm going to try to do that. A couple of years ago it was communicated to me that I might open some day. Even in nets, I used to practise with the new ball. I wouldn't say it was a surprise — Rohit Sharma

1996The last time an Indian fast bowler took a five-wicket haul in the fourth innings of a home Test — Javagal Srinath vs SA in Ahmedabad. Mohammed Shami did it on Day 5 in Visakhapatnam and joined Karsan Ghavri, Kapil Dev and Madan Lal to achieve the feat

3Five-wicket hauls for Shami in the second innings since 2018 — the most by any bowler. He has picked up 40 wickets in 15 second innings, at an average of 17.70 and strike rate of 32.1. He has taken only 23 wickets in 16 first innings at an average of 37.56 and strike rate of 70.50, with best figures of 3/64

SCOREBOARD

INDIA 1ST INN	502/7 Decl
S AFRICA 1ST INN	431
INDIA 2ND INN	323/4 Decl
S AFRICA 2ND INN	(Overnight 11/1)
A Markram c&b Jadeja	39
D Elgar lbw b Jadeja	2
T de Bruyn b Ashwin	10
T Bavuma b Shami	0
F du Plessis b Shami	13
Q de Kock b Shami	0
S Muthusamy not out	49
V Philander lbw b Jadeja	0
K Maharaj lbw b Jadeja	0
D Piedt b Shami	56
K Rabada c Saha b Shami	18
Extras: (B-2 LB-2)	4
Total: (All out; 63.5 overs)	191
FoW: 1-4, 2-19, 3-20, 4-52, 5-60, 6-70, 7-70, 8-70, 9-161	

Bowling
 Ravichandran Ashwin 20-5-44-1
 Ravindra Jadeja 25-6-87-4
 Mohammed Shami 10-5-2-35-5
 Ishant Sharma 7-2-18-0
 Rohit Sharma 10-3-0

Result: India win by 203 runs
Man of the Match: Rohit Sharma standing we have. He trusts us, and we trust him,” Shami added. — Agencies



Simone Biles performs during the qualifying session at the FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Championships. AFP

Indian women falter

STUTTGART, OCTOBER 6
 Indian women had a dismal outing at the World Artistic Gymnastic Championships as none of them could qualify for the finals of individual events. In the women's all-round qualification, Pranati Nayak and Pranati Das finished 127th and 132nd after scoring 45.832 and 45.248 points, respectively.

In the vault event, Pranati Nayak scored 14.200 in her first attempt but got a neutral deduction in the second attempt, which ruled her out of the finals. She finished 27th in the vault qualification. In the uneven bars qualification, Pranati Nayak, Pranati Das and Aruna Reddy scored 10.566, 9.916 and 8.925 to finish 164th, 182nd and 193rd, respectively. In the balance beam qualification, the story was no different as Pra-

nati Das (10.866), Aruna Reddy (10.200) and Pranati Nayak (9.933) signed off at 138th, 164th and 174th spots. In the floor exercise qualification, Pranati Das (11.466) and Pranati Nayak (11.133) ended at 151st and 179th positions, while Aruna Reddy did not finish.

Jaw-dropping moves

American gymnast Simone Biles led her team with her breathtaking moves in securing the top spot with a comfortable margin at the World Championships. On the second day of women's qualification, Biles had a massive all-round qualifying score of 59.432, which was 2.266 points more than the second-best gymnast, her countrywoman Sunisa Lee. Biles topped in floor exercise and beam, was second in vault and stood sev-

enth in uneven bars. Melanie de Jesus dos Santos of France was at the third spot with 56.782 points.

The two American stars helped the US (174.205) score 5.044 points more than China at the second spot and top qualify for Tuesday's team final.

Biles stunned the audiences when she performed two original jaw-dropping moves. She first completed a triple-double move on the floor which involves a double backflip with three twists. And then she did a double-double dismount on beam, performing a double backflip with two twists. The moves are set to be named after her in the gymnastics code of points. However, it has to be officially announced by the sport's governing body. — Agencies

CoA has no authority to check any state unit's compliance: TNCA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) has taken strong exception to Committee of Administrators' (CoA) showcause notice to it. In a sharp reply, TNCA has said the Supreme Court-appointed CoA “does not have any authority” to check whether it is compliant with the Lodha Committee recommendations.

With the BCCI AGM scheduled on October 23, CoA had issued notices to Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Maharashtra, citing non-compliance in their amended constitution, which could debar them from participation in the AGM. In reply to CoA's notice, TNCA took a counter-offensive stance. “CoA has no authority to disqualify any association from participating and voting in the BCCI General Body Meeting on the alleged ground of such association being non-compliant as per the understanding of the CoA,” TNCA wrote back.

The state unit made it clear that the Vinod Rai-led CoA had no authority since the matter is still sub-judice in the Supreme Court. “Since the said issue is sub-

judice, all the associations shall be allowed to participate and the issue of legality of their participation shall be decided on the basis of the final orders passed by the Supreme Court in the matter,” TNCA's letter stated. TNCA also reminded CoA that their job was to only “file status report”.

Azad releases manifesto for players' association polls

Pension, medical insurance cover and one-time ex-gratia payment for the recently-retired First-Class players are some of the issues that former India player Kirti Azad promises to address if he wins the players' representative elections at the Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA) polls on October 11.

Azad, who is locked in a three-way battle with former India players Anshuman Gaekwad and Dodda Ganesh to be elected the ICA players' representative to the all-important Apex Council of the BCCI, has released a 13-point election manifesto. The fourth candidate for the post is former Saurashtra and India A left-arm spinner Rakesh Dhruv. — PTI

Sarita, Nandini bow out, winless day for India

ULAN-UDE (RUSSIA), OCTOBER 6
 Former champion L Sarita Devi (60kg) was knocked out of the women's boxing World Championships after being upstaged by Russia's Natalia Shadrina on a disappointing day for India.

The fourth seeded Indian, who got a first-round bye, frittered away a strong start to bow out with a 0-5 loss. Debutant Nandini (81kg) proved to be no match for Germany's Irina-Nicoletta Schonberger and was out-punched 0-5.

Sarita, a gold-medallist in the 2006 New Delhi edition of the showpiece event, was chasing her first world medal in over a decade. The Manipuri was in control in the opening three minutes, logging more punches against a seemingly withdrawn opponent. However, Shadrina fought back in the next two rounds and surprised Sarita to get the judges' nod.

Jittery debut

Chandigarh girl Nandini, on the other hand, was jittery from the word go and struggled to keep pace with a technically superior Schonberger. The nerves showed all through and



L Sarita Devi (60kg) lost to Russia's Natalia Shadrina 0-5 in the second round. BFI

Nandini also ended up being warned in the second round for hitting her rival on the back of the head despite repeated cautions. She also sustained a cut on her face during the bout.

Saweety Boora (75kg) and Jamuna Boro (54kg) are the only two Indians to have advanced to the pre-quarterfinal stage so far after winning their opening bouts. — PTI

Coleman, Lyles help US end relay gold drought; Jamaica beat Britain to women's title

BACK TO BASICS



USA's Christian Coleman, Justin Gatlin, Michael Rodgers and Noah Lyles celebrate after winning the gold in the men's 4x100m relay final by clocking 37.10s. **Below:** Ethiopia's Lelisa Desisa won the men's marathon in 2:10:40. AFP/REUTERS

DOHA, OCTOBER 6
A United States quartet led by Christian Coleman blazed to the 4x100m relay title at the World Athletics Championships on Saturday, clocking the second fastest time ever at 37.10 seconds to end a 12-year gold medal drought.

Coleman, world 100m champion, put the Americans ahead with a stunning start and 200m gold medallist Noah Lyles completed the job, crossing the line with his arms raised triumphantly in the air as his teammates celebrated wrapped in American flags.

"We were all motivated to do something special and it just happened, everybody wanted it," said Lyles, who will leave



☺☺ This is for 100 million of Ethiopians who were behind me. I am the second man from my country to win this title and it is not just for me, it is for my country ☺☺ Lelisa Desisa

his first world championships with double gold. "We all wanted to break the curse, a

generational curse and bring on a new era," he added. Defending champions

Britain took the silver in 37.36sec, a European record, as Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake

KEY RESULTS (DAY 9)

- Men's 4x100m relay: United States 37.10
- Women's 4x100m relay: Jamaica 41.44
- Women's triple jump: Yulimar Rojas (Venezuela) 15.37m
- Women's 5,000m: Hellen Obiri (Kenya) 14:26.72
- Men's marathon: Lelisa Desisa (Ethiopia) 2:10:40
- Men's shot put: Joe Kovacs (USA) 22.91m

TABLE-TOPPERS

Pos.	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	USA	12	11	4	27
2	KEN	5	2	4	11
3	JAM	3	4	3	10

A mixed campaign for India at Worlds

Doha: In what has been a tale of mixed fortunes for the Indian contingent at the World Athletics Championships, Asian champion Gopi Thonakal capped India's campaign to finish 21st in the men's marathon by clocking 2:15:57. Gopi's season best has been 2:13:39, which is also his personal best clocked in Seoul in March and was targeting the 2020 Tokyo Olympics qualification mark of 2:11:30. The Indian men's and women's 4x400m relay teams both failed to reach the finals. The women's team comprising Jisna Mathew, MR Poovamma, VK Vis-maya and Venkatesan Subha clocked 3:29.42 to finish sixth in their heat, while the men's team comprising Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Anas, K. Suresh Jeevan and Noah Nirmal Tom finished seventh in heat No. 2 and 13th overall out of 16 countries. While the 27-member Indian contingent was not expected to win any medals, it produced three finalists in the mixed 4x400m relay, men's 3,000m steeplechase and women's javelin throw. **IANS**

failed to catch Lyles on the final straight. Japan won bronze with a time of 37.43 seconds, an Asian record.

Ethiopia's Desisa delights
Lelisa Desisa ended an 18-year wait for Ethiopia when he triumphed in a sprint finish against compatriot Mosinet Geremew to win a midnight marathon in 2:10:40 today.

Desisa, last year's New York marathon winner and world silver medallist in Moscow six years ago, became the first Ethiopian to win the title since Gezahegne Abera in 2001. Geremew took silver and Amos Kipruto of Kenya the bronze. — Reuters

JAMAICA BEAT BRITAIN TO WOMEN'S RELAY GOLD

Doha: Jamaica stormed to World Championships gold in the women's 4x100m relay on Saturday, beating Britain in a battle that featured 100 and 200m winners Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Dina Asher-Smith. Since 2005 the United States and Jamaica have dominated the event at the Worlds, with the Americans topping the podium four times, including two years ago in London, and the Jamaicans three. In Doha, though, the fight for gold came down to Jamaica and Britain, the Caribbean nation returning to the top of the podium with a time of 41.44sec. Britain took silver in 41.85 and the US the bronze in 42.10. In a surprise twist Fraser-Pryce and Asher-Smith, the two sprint stars of the Championships, were not given the responsibility of anchoring their teams but instead went head-to-head in the second leg down the back stretch. Shericka Jackson, bronze medallist in the 400m, brought Jamaica home while Daryll Neita anchored Britain. It was the second gold of the Championships for the evergreen Fraser-Pryce, the 32-year-old bringing her haul from six Worlds to nine gold medals and two silvers. "I am really excited for Team Jamaica and our ladies," said Fraser-Pryce. **REUTERS**



Qatar faces rocky road to 2020 WC

DOHA, OCTOBER 6
Despite triumphs on the track, Qatar has come under fire for its hosting of the World Athletics Championships with questions raised over Doha's ability to deliver the football World Cup successfully in three years' time.

Perhaps the most stinging off-track criticism of the 10-day event which concludes Sunday was sparked by the

spectacle of a near-empty stadium during the opening days, raising fears for attendances in 2022. "It's a classic mega-event failing, believing that 'if you build it, fans will come'," said Simon Chadwick, professor of sports enterprise at Britain's Salford University. Crowds at the 1976 Montreal Olympics and the 2004 Games in Athens also failed to meet organisers' expectations. — AFP

France book place in quarters

KUMAMOTO, OCTOBER 6
France survived a frantic Tonga fightback to grind into the quarterfinals of the Rugby World Cup on Sunday with a nerve-jangling 23-21 win that only just banished the ghosts of their shock loss to the Pacific islanders at the 2011 tournament. The thriller saw France join Pool C rivals England in the knockout stages, sending Tonga crashing out of the tournament with three successive defeats while also knocking out Argentina and the United States. — Reuters



France's Alivereti Raka (R) celebrates after scoring a try against Tonga. AFP

Djoker beats Millman to win first Japan Open title

TOKYO, OCTOBER 6

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic clinched the Japan Open today, dispelling concerns about the shoulder injury that forced him out of the US Open. The Serbian star crushed Australian qualifier John Millman 6-3 6-2 to mark his 10th win in a tournament main draw debut.

TENNIS ROUNDUP

Djokovic, playing in his first Japanese competition, dominated throughout the week, never losing a single set to claim the trophy at the Ariake Colosseum, a venue for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Beaming Djokovic, the winner of 16 Grand Slams, now goes to the Shanghai Masters, where he is the top seed. "I didn't drop a set, so I played a fantastic tournament. Everything is positive in my experience on and off the court, the way I feel and motivated for Shanghai, going there with great confidence," he said.

Osaka tops Barty

Beijing: Naomi Osaka won a second tournament on the spin as she fought back from a set down to defeat world No. 1 Ashleigh Barty 3-6 6-3 6-2 in the China Open final today. The Japanese, a two-time Grand Slam champion emerged victorious after 110 minutes in chilly Beijing.

On Saturday, after defeating holder Caroline Wozniacki in the semifinals, the 21-year-old called her own serve "confusing". And so it was in the sixth game when Osaka conjured up a double fault, then an ace, then another



Novak Djokovic poses with the trophy. REUTERS



Naomi Osaka beat Ashleigh Barty 3-6 6-3 6-2 in the final of China Open. REUTERS

minutes. But much of the crowd in Beijing was pro-Osaka and they were cheering when she broke Barty to move 4-2 up on the way to winning the second set. This was a third title for 2019 for Osaka and fifth in her short career.

Later, Austrian top seed Dominic Thiem overcame a sluggish start and clawed his way back from a set and a break down to beat Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas 3-6 6-4 6-1 in the men's final.

The win secured Thiem's fourth title of the year after triumphs at Indian Wells, Barcelona and Austria. Thiem, who was forced to dig deep and come back from a set down in the semi-final against Karen Khachanov, broke Tsitsipas five times while dropping serve three times to lift his first ever title in Asia. "Honestly I think this was one of the best matches I've played so far in my whole career," Thiem said. He now leads Tsitsipas 4-2 in head-to-head meetings. — Agencies

Tvesa T-6 at Indian Open, Anika 5th

GURUGRAM, OCTOBER 6

The country's top amateur golfer Anika Varma finished a creditable fifth in the Women's Indian Open with a 3-under par aggregate of 285 and a final day card of 2-under 70 here today.

The 15-year-old Anika was one shot ahead of best-placed home professional Tvesa Malik, who was tied 6th at 1-under 287. "I was pretty nervous in the beginning but as soon as I hit my first tee shot I felt fine," Anika said.

Tvesa had finished as the best home golfer at tied-13th and today's result was significant progress for the LET rookie as well.

Christine Wolf of Austria buried the ghosts of the past with a bogey-free final round to clinch her maiden Ladies European Tour title.

She finished three shots ahead of Marianne Skarp-nord (70 and 8-under) and four ahead of MacLaren (72 and 7-under). Whitney Hillier, the halfway co-leader,

shot 72 and was sole fourth at 6-under.

Na takes lead in Las Vegas Tamsui (Chinese Taipei): Kevin Na equalled his career-low round with a 10-under par 61 to take a two-stroke lead over fellow American Patrick Cantlay in the PGA Tour Shriners Hospitals For Children Open.

Na produced another strong performance on the greens in following up his second-round 62. — Agencies

Marquez seals 6th title

BURIRAM (THAILAND), OCTOBER 6

Marc Marquez sealed his sixth MotoGP world title in Thailand today after storming to victory in a heart-pounding final corner duel with Fabio Quartararo at the Chang International Circuit, but said it had not been an "easy" year as the frontrunner.

The win in Buriram gives him an insurmountable lead over closest rival Andrea Dovizioso with four races left in the season. Spain's Marquez finished in 39min 36.223 seconds. — AFP

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
TENDER NOTICE REFERENCE NO. 15
The Department of Public Works (Building & Roads) invites online bids for following:-

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1.	Special Repair of various Govt. Buildings under Head 2059 (M&R) Non Plan 1. Kothi No. 3 Gurdaspur 2. Deputy Commissioner Residence, Gurdaspur 3. PWD Rest House, Gurdaspur 4. Kothi No. 2 Gurdaspur 5. PWD Rest House Dera Baba Nanak 6. Superintending Engineer, Office Pathankot in Distt. Gurdaspur.	1

App Cost :- Rs. 21.82 Lacs
Earnest Money :- Rs. 44,000/-
Time Limit :- 1 Month
Tender Fees :- Rs. 5000/- each

Closing Dated & Time :- 16.10.2019 up to 5.00 p.m.
For Details logon to :- <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
Note:- Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- (Er. Harjot Singh),
Executive Engineer,
Provincial Division, PWD B&R Br.,
Gurdaspur.
eepdgdspwdbp@gmail.com
80545-00008

DPR/Pb/D6819

Wolves bite City as Gunners, Chelsea win

FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND, OCT 6
Adama Traore's late double stunned Manchester City as the champions suffered a shock 2-0 defeat at home to Wolverhampton Wanderers today that left them eight points behind Premier League leaders Liverpool.

Wolves forward Traore struck twice in the final 10 minutes to condemn City to their first home league defeat since they lost to Crystal Palace on December 22.

Yet it was City's second defeat in their last four league games following the 3-2 loss at Norwich City last month and it will increase Liverpool's belief that they can win their first league title in 30 years.



Wolverhampton Wanderers' Adama Traore (L) scores his second goal against Manchester City on Sunday. REUTERS

Meanwhile, Arsenal moved up to third in the standings after David Luiz scored his first goal for the club in a nervy 1-0 win at home to Bournemouth on Sunday in which the visitors missed a flurry of chances to level in

the second half. The former Chelsea defender darted across the area undetected to glance a Nicolas Pepe corner into the far corner to give Arsenal the lead in the ninth minute.

At Southampton, Chelsea

closed on the top-4 as striker Tammy Abraham scored his eighth league goal of the season to help them secure a 4-1 win at struggling Southampton on the back of an excellent first-half performance. Mason Mount, N'Golo Kante and Michy Batshuayi were also on target as Chelsea moved into fifth place on 14 points from eight games.

Newcastle United's Matthew Longstaff enjoyed a dream debut by scoring a late winner as his side beat visitors Manchester United 1-0 to move out of the bottom three.

Atletico draw Valladolid
Valladolid: Atletico Madrid lost ground to La Liga leaders Real Madrid as they were held to a 0-0 draw away

to Real Valladolid on Sunday, their third goalless draw in four games, after the hosts squandered a penalty kick in the first half. Striker Sandro Ramirez sent the ball flying over the crossbar from the spot towards the end of a tight first half and came close to breaking the deadlock in the second.

AC Milan beat Genoa
Milan: Goalkeeper Pepe Reina saved an injury-time penalty as AC Milan earned a 2-1 comeback win over fellow strugglers Genoa in which both teams finished with 10 men. Reina had made a nightmare start as he deputised for Gianluigi Donnarumma who had pulled out sick. — Agencies

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Notice Inviting Tender
DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 28.10.2019 at 15:00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts FDR etc are not allowed.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost	Cost of tender form	Date & time for submission of tender	Earnest Money	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
107-TRD-FZR-2019-20	Annual Contract for Provision of supply and filling of coarse grain sand in Electric Locoos as per Spec. No. AAR M-916-51 (Car and Locomotive sand) in 20kg water proof bags for Electric Locoos at ELS/LDH and LDH & ASR outputs in the jurisdiction of DEE/TRD/JUC for One years of Firozpur Division	Rs. 35,68,184.40/-	Rs. 3,000/-	Upto 28.10.2019 15:00 Hrs	Rs. 71,400/-	12 Months	28.10.19 at or after 15:30 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in
108-TRD-FZR-2019-20	Annual Contract for Provision of supply and filling of coarse grain sand in Electric Locoos as per Spec. No. AAR M-916-51 (Car and Locomotive sand) in 20 kg water proof bags for Electric Locoos at RSO Outputs Jammutawi (JAT) and Katra (SVDK) in the jurisdiction of ADEE/TRD/JAT for One years of Firozpur Division	Rs. 17,97,552/-	Rs. 3,000/-	Upto 28.10.2019 15:00 Hrs	Rs. 36,000/-	12 Months	28.10.19 at or after 15:30 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in
109-TRD-FZR-2019-20	POH of ATDS and miscellaneous OHE/PSI works in Electrified section of Firozpur division	Rs. 42,76,764.61/-	Rs. 3,000/-	Upto 28.10.2019 15:00 Hrs	Rs. 85,600/-	06 Months	28.10.19 at or after 15:30 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

No. 107, 108 & 109-TRD/FZR/2019-20 Dated : 05.10.2019 3218/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Legal hurdles cleared for BPCL privatisation

Nationalisation Act repealed, no House nod needed

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

Ahead of a proposed move to fully privatise state-owned fuel retailer Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL), the government had quietly repealed the legislation that had nationalised the company, doing away with the need to seek Parliament nod before selling it off to private and foreign firms.

The Repealing and Amending Act of 2016 had annulled "187 obsolete and redundant laws lying unnecessarily on the Statute-Book", including the Act of 1976 that had nationalised erstwhile Burmah Shell. "The Act has been repealed and there is no need for a Parliament approval for strategic sale of BPCL," a senior official said.

Keen to get multi-nationals in domestic fuel retailing to boost competition, the government is mulling selling most of its 53.3 per cent stake in BPCL to a strategic partner. Privatisation of BPCL will not just shake up the fuel retailing sector long dominated by state-owned firms, but also help meet at least one-third of the gov-

'POWERFUL PSU'

BPCL was previously Burmah Shell, which was nationalised by an Act of Parliament in 1976. Burmah Shell, set up in the 1920s, was an alliance between Royal Dutch Shell and Burmah Oil Co and Asiatic Petroleum (India). BPCL operates four refineries in the country. It has 15,078 petrol pumps and 6,004 LPG distributors

WHY TO DIVEST

Keen to get multi-nationals in domestic fuel retailing to boost competition, the government is mulling selling most of its 53.3 per cent stake in BPCL to a strategic partner. Privatisation of BPCL will not just shake up the fuel retailing sector, but also help meet one-third of the government's ₹1.05 lakh crore disinvestment target

ment's Rs 1.05 lakh crore disinvestment target.

BPCL at the close of market on October 4 had a market capitalisation of about Rs 1.11 lakh crore and a government stake sale could get upwards of Rs 60,000 crore,

including a control-and-fuel-market-entry premium, officials said.

The Supreme Court had in September 2003 ruled that BPCL, as well as Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd, can be privatised only after Parliament amends a law it had previously passed to nationalise the two firms. The ruling had followed a plan of the then BJP-led NDA government headed by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to privatise the two firms.

The SC ruling had stalled the plan to sell 34.1 per cent of government's 51.1 per cent stake in HPCL to a strategic partner along with management control. Reliance Industries Ltd, BPCL of UK, Kuwait Petroleum, Petromas of Malaysia, the Shell-Saudi Aramco combine and Essar Oil had expressed their interest in acquiring that stake before the SC stalled the process.

But the SC mandated condition is no longer applicable, they said citing the May 9, 2016, Gazette notification following President's assent to The Repealing and Amending Act, 2016. — PTI



The Hindon Airbase observed a full dress rehearsal, which is being carried out by the Air Force personnel ahead of the Indian Air Force's 87th anniversary on October 8. The Air Force will showcase its newest acquisitions — the Apache and the Chinook helicopters — on the occasion. The IAF had inducted eight Apache attack helicopters in September and Chinook helicopters in March.

IAF personnel perform a drill with rifles during the Air Force Day celebrations at the Hindon Airbase, Ghaziabad, on Sunday. MUKESH AGGARWAL

Honour for Abhinandan's, Mirage 2000 squadrons

New Delhi: The Mirage 2000 squadron that carried out the Balakot airstrikes and the squadron of Wing Commander Abhinandan will be honoured by IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria on Air Force Day in Ghaziabad on October 8.

"Citations will be presented to the 51 Squadron of the IAF as also the 9 Squadron. Air Chief RKS Bhadauria will present the citations to the group commanding officers of the squadrons on Air Force Day," a senior IAF official said. The 601 Signal Unit that foiled Pakistan's aerial attack on February 27 will also be presented with a citation.

The 51 Squadron is based at the Srinagar Air Force Station and comprises MIG 21 Bison fighter aircraft. Wing Commander Abhinandan, who belongs to the 51 Squadron, had shot down a Pakistani F-16 jet that had intruded into the Indian borders on February 27.

The 9 Squadron of the IAF is based at the Gwalior Air Force Station and comprises Mirage 2000 fighter jets. IANS



By the way...



COLOURS OF INDIA: Visitors take pictures of a puja pandal decorated on the theme 'We are one, Not alone' in Kolkata. PTI

B'desh, China, UK tourists throng Kolkata

Kolkata: Visitors from Bangladesh, China and the UK have topped the list of people from abroad who are thronging the city during Durga Puja, a travel e-commerce company claimed. Kolkata's Durga Puja is India's official nomination for UNESCO's 2020 list of cultural institutions from around the world that require protection and preservation. PTI

Man kills self after losing ₹78 lakh in poker

Rajkot: A man allegedly committed suicide after losing Rs 78 lakh while playing an online poker game in Rajkot district, the police said. Krunal Mehta (39), an IT professional, ended his life by jumping into a well in the Mota Mava area late Wednesday night. The body was found floating in the well the next morning. "Our probe has revealed that he took the extreme step as he lost ₹78 lakh while playing poker online. We have recovered a suicide note from his home in which he purportedly stated that he borrowed Rs 78 lakh from his friends and relatives to play 'PokerBaazi'," the police said. PTI

Legendary drummer Ginger Baker dies

London: British drummer Ginger Baker, who founded the rock band Cream, has died at the age of 80. The news of his demise was confirmed on Sunday morning on his Twitter page. "We are very sad to say that Ginger has passed away peacefully in hospital this morning. Thank you to everyone for your kind words over the past weeks," a statement read. The musician whose real name was Peter Edward Baker suffered from osteoarthritis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and a long battle with drug addiction, and underwent heart surgery three years ago. The exact cause of his death is not known yet. IANS



Nizam's heirs ready for legal battle over £35 m legacy

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 6

A battle royale appears on cards as 120 descendants of the last Nizam of Hyderabad are ready to challenge in court any move to deny them their due share in £35 million deposited in a London bank seven decades ago.

With the UK High Court on October 2 ruling in favour of India in the 70-year-old dispute, the focus is on the legal heirs of seventh Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan, the last ruler of Hyderabad State which acceded to India in 1948.

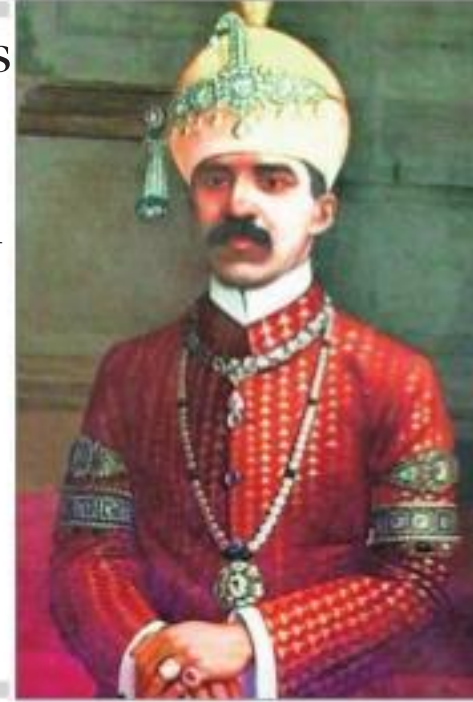
With some reports following the court verdict suggesting that the money will go to Prince Mukarram Jah Bahadur, the titular eighth

Nizam and his younger brother Muffakham Jah, other descendants of the last Asaf Jahi ruler are gearing up to claim their share.

Nawab Najaf Ali Khan, one of the grandsons of Mir Osman Ali Khan, said it was he who took the initiative to get the money stuck in the bank by digging out old records and holding negotiations. "If those two grandsons are the only claimants as being claimed, why they were sitting quiet till 2013," he asked.

He claims that he had a solicitor in London to fight the case till 2016, but he was persuaded to come under Nizam Estate to jointly fight the case. Khan, who claims to be repre-

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



sending interests of 120 descendants, said they were party to the agreement between Nizam Estate and the Indian government to

jointly fight the case. They were assured that the money will be distributed among all legal heirs of Nizam.

The UK High Court rejected

Pakistan's claim over the funds deposited in a NatWest Bank Plc during Hyderabad's accession to India in 1948. After Partition and before the merger of the then Hyderabad state with India, Nizam's Finance Minister Moin Nawaz Jung had transferred 10,07,940 pounds sterling and nine shillings in the name of then Pakistan High Commissioner in London, HI Rahimtoola in the NatWest Bank.

India raised an objection to the transfer, saying the Nizam was not an independent ruler and prevailed upon the bank to freeze the account. Since then, the matter was hanging fire.

Pakistan has four weeks to challenge the UK court's rul-

ing. Nizam's descendants expect some clarity in the case in next 10 days.

"If the two brothers deny us our share, we will go to court. We will not keep quiet," said Najaf Ali Khan, son of Prince Hasham Jah Bahadur. "We will decide after consulting our legal advisers," he said when asked if they would approach London HC or a court in India. He claimed that his grandfather never stated that only Mukarram Jah and Muffakham Jah are his two legal heirs. "All his sons, grandsons and granddaughters are his heirs," said Khan, who is also president of Nizam Family Welfare Association. — IANS

Kerala family may not be sole target: DGP

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT 6

Spy movies often feature cyanide as a perfect killer poison but in Kerala, a couple involved in serial killings actually used the deadly chemical to wipe out an entire family of six over a period of 14 years.

Potassium cyanide, a highly toxic colourless salt like substance, was allegedly used by Jolly Thomas and her two aides to eliminate the family in Kozhikode.

The planned killings, executed by Jolly (now 47), may not be limited to the elimination of only one family in Kozhikode, suspects Kerala DGP Lok Nath Behera. "It is too early to comment on the entire dynamics of the crime carried out by Jolly and her

SIX CYANIDE KILLINGS OVER 14 YEARS

Investigation revealed that Jolly Thomas served cyanide laced with food to the victims. The first reported killing was executed in 2002. The probe confirmed that all victims died soon after consuming food.



aides. Although it is a complex case, I do not rule out the possibility of more such killings executed by them," Behera said.

"We are still following certain leads and gathering previous linkages of Jolly to ascertain her criminal profile. At this moment, the big picture emerging out of these gruesome murders is not much clear. I can only say that the police have done a great job to unravel the

killings which could have gone unnoticed." So far the Kozhikode Police have arrested Jolly, her friend M Mathew and a jewellery worker who arranged the potassium cyanide for the execution of the murders.

Investigation revealed that Jolly served cyanide laced with food to the victims. The first reported killing was executed in 2002 by Jolly where in the victim was identified as her mother-in-law, Anam-

ma Thomas. Six years later in 2008, Jolly allegedly killed her father-in-law Tom Thomas. In 2011, it was the turn of Jolly's then husband Roy Thomas. The killing spree continued at regular intervals in the residence of the Thomas family. The next victim in queue was Roy Thomas' maternal uncle Mathew who died under similar circumstances in 2014. Two years later, another close relative Sily, the wife of Shaju (Jolly's paramour), and her one year old child died under similar circumstances.

Sources said that during her interrogation, Jolly confessed to the police that potassium cyanide, arranged by her friend Mathew, was used to kill the victims. — IANS

Agra orphanage sealed, inmate alleges gangrape

AGRA, OCTOBER 6

The administration on Sunday sealed an orphanage here and booked its management, citing irregularities, days after an inmate alleged that she was raped by three men inside the premises, officials said.

Chief Development Officer (CDO) J Reebha said the sealing was initiated at 7 pm and a case registered against the management of the orphanage. She said 28 boys in the orphanage had been moved to a shelter home in Shahganj here while three of 10 girls were shifted to 'Aasha Jyoti Kendra'. The younger girls have been moved to the Shahganj children's shelter home, the CDO said.

A 16-year-old inmate had jumped off the terrace into the Yamuna on October 3. She was rescued by locals. The girl alleged she was gang-raped inside the orphanage. A case was registered at the Itimad-ud-Daula police station and the three accused were arrested and sent to jail.

Vice-Chairperson of the State Women's Commission Sushma Singh inspected the orphanage. Empty

776 KIDS WITH ADOPTION AGENCIES DIED IN 3 YRS

Unsafe abandonment — including instances of infants found left in the open — diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections are among the leading causes of death of 776 children in specialised adoption agencies over the last three years, government agency CARA has said

Other reasons for the deaths of the children in the age group of 0-6 in SAAs, run by state governments and NGOs, are pre-term birth complications and congenital anomalies, the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) said in response to an RTI query

In July this year, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani had said in response to a question in the Lok Sabha that 776 children had died over the last three years in specialised adoption agencies

MAX CASUALTIES

State	Casualties
UTTAR PRADESH	124
BIHAR	107
MAHARASHTRA	81

beer bottles were found on the premises. Used condoms were found in the orphanage toilet. — PTI

A challenge for govt to store sensitive data locally

Information Technology Ministry empanels Amazon Web Services to deliver public Cloud services

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

As the government plans to embrace Cloud across ministries and departments, the key challenge is to ensure that sensitive data and regulated workloads remain safe from nation-state bad actors and must be stored at data centres or Cloud regions within the country.

At a conference last month, IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the government will not let data sovereignty to be compromised, stressing that sensitive and super-sensitive data must reside within the boundaries of the country. There are very few Cloud

players who offer extra-secure Cloud for government data. One of them is Amazon Web Services (AWS) which has AWS GovCloud (US-East) and (US-West) regions — only accessible to US entities and root account holders who pass a stringent screening process to manage Cloud services got government clients with sensitive data and regulated workloads.

In India, AWS is the first Global Cloud Provider (GCP) that has achieved full empanelment with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology for delivering Cloud services to government

'FB CAN'T BE NET POLICE'

Facebook is working towards sanitising its platform, but cannot be doing the job of policing the Internet, Facebook V-P, Global Affairs, Nick Clegg said. Clegg said the company is working organisations that monitor whether something is true or not. "But we cannot be an Internet police saying what things are acceptable, or those that are absolutely true."



customers. The company launched AWS Asia Pacific (Mumbai) Region with two



THE CLOUDY FUTURE

The industries currently making the largest investments in big data and business analytics solutions are banking, discrete manufacturing, professional services, process manufacturing, and federal/central govt

\$189.1 billion worldwide revenue expected for data & analytics solutions this yr

\$7.1 billion the Cloud market in India expected to reach by 2022

availability zones in 2016 and has seen growth in adding customers in the region via its

subsidiary Amazon Internet Services Private Limited (AIS-PL) which undertakes the

resale and marketing of AWS Cloud services in the country.

According to Teresa Carlson, Vice President, Worldwide Public Sector, AWS, adopting the secure Cloud-first approach is the top priority for governments the world over. "Data is like currency because that's where all information and the opportunities lie, which can make a real difference in the lives of millions of people," Carlson said recently.

"It is high time for the Indian government to deploy Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning-driven Cloud models to make sense of humongous sets of data." — IANS