

NADAL REACHES FRENCH OPEN SEMIFINALS SPORT

HDFC BANK TIES UP WITH APOLLO FOR TREATMENT LOANS BUSINESS

CENTRE BANS 7 HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS BACK PAGE

Two win Nobel Prize for genome editing

Stockholm: Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in chemistry on Wednesday for developing a method of genome editing likened to "molecular scissors" that offer the promise of one day curing inherited diseases and even cancer. The method can be used to change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with high precision.



ITS SIGNIFICANCE

The method can be used to change DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with high precision. It offers the promise of one day curing inherited diseases and even cancer.

REPORT ON WORLD PAGE

Hathras: Kerala scribe booked for sedition

Tribune News Service

SIT GETS 10 MORE DAYS

■ The SIT probing the Hathras case was given 10 more days to wind up its investigation
■ UP cops claim they have evidence victim's brother was in touch with prime accused

today given 10 more days to wind up its investigation amid claims by cops of fresh evidence that the brother of the victim was in touch with the prime accused in the gang-rape case.

The Congress, meanwhile, described the turn of events in UP as "Orwellian", saying that it was the first time that a government was harassing the victim's kin instead of the perpetrators. Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi slammed the UP Government for slapping sedition charges. "They are using sedition as if it is a pickpocketing offence," he said.

Haryana offers reward to tackle stubble burning

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 7 The Haryana Government has come out with a scheme to reward panchayats falling in the "red zone" for taking steps to prevent stubble burning in their respective villages.

Chief Secretary Vijai Vardhan said the efforts would be evaluated and the top three panchayats would be given Rs 10 lakh, Rs 5 lakh and Rs 3 lakh, respectively.

Addressing a virtual meet with deputy commissioners, Vardhan said the officers must ensure proper management of crop residue in compliance with the Supreme Court order.

He said sarpanches should hold a meeting of the respective gram sabhas and pass a resolution against stubble burning. He also directed the DCs to ensure the availability of crop residue management machines to small and marginal farmers.



M Rajeshwar Rao is RBI Dy Governor

NEW DELHI: The government has appointed RBI's senior-most executive director M Rajeshwar Rao as the Deputy Governor of the central bank. The post fell vacant after NS Vishwanathan quit three months ahead of his extended tenure on health grounds. PTI



Rhea walks out of jail after 28 days

MUMBAI: The Bombay HC on Wednesday granted bail to actor Rhea Chakraborty in a drugs case related to her boyfriend Sushant Rajput's death. She spent 28 days in Byculla prison. PTI

UGC names 24 fake varsities, most in UP

NEW DELHI: The UGC on Wednesday announced a list of 24 "fake and unrecognised" universities. Eight of these are in UP, seven in Delhi and two each in Odisha and WB. Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Puducherry and Maharashtra have one each. **BACK PAGE**

Can't occupy public space 'indefinitely'

Shaheen Bagh Supreme Court faults the authorities for failing to clear obstructions

SATYA PRAKASH
Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 7 Maintaining that "democracy and dissent go hand in hand", the Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that roads and public spaces can't be blocked indefinitely and demonstrations expressing dissent have to be in designated places alone.

Deciding petitions seeking the removal of those protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) from Delhi's Shaheen Bagh, a three-judge Bench headed by Justice SK Kaul said: "We have no hesitation in concluding that such kind of occupation of public ways, whether at the site in question or anywhere else for protests, is not acceptable and the administration

'ONLY DESIGNATED PLACES FOR PROTESTS'

Democracy and dissent go hand in hand, but then the demonstrations expressing dissent have to be at designated places alone. Three-judge Bench



ought to take action to keep the areas clear of encroachments or obstructions."

Though the protesters blocking the Kalindi Kunj-Shaheen Bagh stretch, including the Okhla underpass since December 15, 2019, were removed on March 24 after the Covid-19 lockdown was enforced, the apex court had chosen to keep the mat-

ter pending to clarify legal position on the issue.

The court faulted the authorities for not taking any decision, saying: "Unfortunately, despite the lapse of a considerable period of time, there was neither any negotiation nor any action by the administration, thus warranting our intervention."

The court said: "In what

DELHI RIOTS WERE PLOT TO DISTURB PEACE: MoS

New Delhi: Nityanand Rai, MoS (Home), claimed that the Delhi riots this year were a "big conspiracy" to disturb peace in the country but security forces like the RAF played a key role in "suppressing elements that spread anarchy".

manner the administration should act is their responsibility and they should not hide behind the court orders or seek support therefrom for carrying out administrative functions. The courts adjudicate the legality of the actions and are not meant to give shoulder to the administration to fire their guns from." To emphasise the impor-

tance of right to peaceful protest, the Bench headed by Justice SK Kaul quoted Pulitzer Prize winner Walter Lippmann, who said: "In a democracy, the opposition is not only tolerated as constitutional, but must be maintained because it is indispensable."

However, it said, "While appreciating the existence of the right to peaceful protest, we have to make it unequivocally clear that public ways and public spaces cannot be occupied in such a manner and that too indefinitely."

Rejecting the contention of the protesters against the CAA, the Bench said: "The present case is not about one of the protests taking place in an undesignated area, but about the blockage of a public way that caused inconvenience to commuters."

Himachal ex-DGP commits suicide

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 7

The body of Ashwani Kumar, 70, a former DGP of Himachal Pradesh (August 2006 to 2008), was found hanging at his residence here on Wednesday evening. Sources said he had recently returned from Mumbai where he had been taking treatment for depression. He is survived by his wife and son.



ASHWANI KUMAR
HE TOOK OVER AS CBI CHIEF MIDST TALWAR CASE PROBE

WAS NAGALAND GUV FROM MARCH 2013 TO JUNE 2014

2014. He resigned from the post after the NDA came into power. He later joined as Pro Vice Chancellor of APG Shimla University, and was elevated as Chancellor. He resigned last year.

Expressing shock, Shimla SP Mohit Chawla said he was a role model to many officers. —TNS



Foreign Minister S Jaishankar follows his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi in Tokyo. REUTERS

Pact with Japan on 5G tech

Effectively shuts door on Chinese cos like Huawei, ZTE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 7 External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held the 13th India-Japan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi in Tokyo on Wednesday.

The ministers highlighted the need for robust and resilient digital and cyber systems and welcomed the finalisation of the text of the cybersecurity pact which will effectively shut the door on Chinese companies like Huawei and ZTE to sell their advanced telecom equipment in India.

The agreement promotes

US cites PLA's Ladakh coercion for Pompeo's attack on China

cooperation in capacity building, research and development, security and resilience in the areas of critical information infrastructure, 5G, internet of things, artificial intelligence (AI), among others, stated a Ministry of External Affairs news release.

Reaffirming the similarities in their respective Indo-Pacific visions, the Japanese side agreed to be the lead partner

in the connectivity pillar of the Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative. The duo also discussed convergence in several areas, including maritime security, trade and investment, manufacturing, skill development, health and wellness and UN reforms.

They emphasised that a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region must be premised on diversified and resilient supply chains; and in this context, welcomed the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative between India, Japan, Australia and other like-minded countries. —TNS

EDIT: QUAD COOPERATION

No festivities in containment zones

Tribune News Service

Cure rate in Pb 87%

Haryana 90.6%

COVID-19 CASES INDIA

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| COUNT | 67,57,31 |
| RECOVERED | 57,44,693 |
| FRESH FATALITIES | 986 |
| TOTAL DEATHS | 1,04,555 |

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| WORLD | 3,62,76,890 |
| RECOVERED | 2,72,98,533 |
| DEATHS | 10,57,867 |

have adequate measures to ensure a cap on gatherings. Staggered timings and restricted entry

may be considered," say the guidelines. The ministry said the guidelines were meant to sustain recent gains in stabilisation of cases. The national recovery rate surged to 85 per cent today with daily new recoveries at 82,203, outpacing daily new cases at 72,049.

Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala are reporting over half of all new cases. The sharpest recent surge of new infections was seen in Kerala (being linked to Onam celebrations). The recovery rate in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh is more than the national average.

US slaps fresh H-1B restrictions ahead of poll

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 7

The Trump administration has announced new curbs on H-1B visa to protect American workers and better guarantee that H-1B petitions are approved only for qualified beneficiaries. The move is set to hit thousands of Indian IT professionals.

Announced ahead of the US presidential election on November 3, the curbs will narrow the definition of "specialty occupation" that allowed firms to game the system. It will require companies to make "real" offers to "real staff" by closing the loopholes and preventing displacement of American workers. **WORLD**

No dialogue, will step up stir, say Punjab farmers

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 7 Rejecting the Centre's offer for talks, Punjab farmers have decided to intensify their agitation against the new farm laws over the next seven days.

contentious laws in the Supreme Court. Buta Singh Bedi, BKU (Dakaunda) chief, claimed the Centre seemed in no mood to withdraw the laws. "The invitation

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

Shimla hospital suicide probe hints at negligence

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
Tribune News Service

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 7 The report of inquiry into the alleged suicide by a Covid patient at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital here on September 22 points towards medical negligence with no conclusive evidence of her being under psychiatric treatment, as claimed by the doctors attending to her.

The 54-page report submitted by Additional District Magistrate, Shimla, Prabha Rajeev says the 54-year-old woman, hailing from the Chopal area, was not given any medication for hypertension for three days ever since she was admitted to the hospital after testing positive for Covid-19. The report men-

Debunks claim that patient was depressed

tions that the woman had to sleep on the floor of the ward for three days and she had been feeling very low. The report debunked doctors' claim that the patient was suffering from depression. The doctor who treated the woman at Chopal and had referred her to DDU Hospital said the woman suffered from hypertension only. The post-mortem report cited asphyxia as the cause of her death. The woman committed suicide by hanging herself at the hospital on the intervening night of September 22 and 23.

₹3.05-cr fine slapped on Patiala brewery for smuggling liquor

RUCHIKI M KHANNA
Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 7 In a major offensive against liquor smuggling, the Punjab Excise Department has imposed a penalty of Rs 3.05 crore on a prominent Patiala-based brewery.

Sources said a raid was conducted on the brewery by the Excise Department recently after a tip-off about a large quantity of beer being unaccounted for on its premises. "Upon searching, we found a brand of strong beer was 1,050 cases short of what was recorded in the ledger, and 468 cases of another strong beer brand were in excess of what was accounted for in the company records. Other than this, 2.27 lakh bulk litres of



BOOZE SCAM

1,518 cases of beer show mismatch in ledger

2.27 lakh bulk litres unaccounted for

₹22.77-lakh penalty for mismatch in beer cases

₹2.83 crore fine for mismatch in bulk litre stock

Excise officials say manufacturers account for just 600-700 cases per month in lease lines while actually sell thousands of cases

beer was also found less than what was projected," said a senior excise officer.

This meant that what was less or more than accounted for was kept for sale without paying the excise duty, the sources said. "The intent was prima facie suspicious. After a thorough investigation, we have now imposed a penalty of Rs 22.77 lakh on the brewery for the mismatch in stock of beer cases and Rs 2.83 crore for the mismatch in the bulk beer stock," said the officer, requesting anonymity.

As a measure to check smuggling, all distilleries and breweries are now required to bottle at least 6,000 cases per month to ensure that all liquor bottled

3 militants shot in Shopian gunfight

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 7

Three militants were killed during an anti-terrorism operation in Shopian area of south Kashmir after repeated persuasions and even halting up the operation to enable their surrender failed to yield any positive results.

The operation, which began at 4 pm yesterday at Sugan area of Shopian district, was halted around 8.30 pm by the Army's 44 Rashtriya Rifles after the troops decided to rope in prominent locals to persuade the terrorists to surrender, officials said.

The Army resumed its operations at daybreak after the militants lobbed grenades at those making appeals for surrender. In no time, the militants, belonging to Al-Badr terror outfit, were neutralised, the officials said. **INSIDE**

Protesters up ante, corporates feel heat

Losses mount as toll plazas, mega stores & petrol stations rendered non-functional

Tribune News Service

PATIALA/BATHINDA, OCTOBER 7 Upping the ante in their protest against the contentious agriculture Acts, farmers are now not letting the toll plazas on the national and state highways here to collect the charges from commuters, thereby, almost turning these into freeways.

In Patiala, farmers are protesting at toll plazas at Dhareri, Chahal on Amloh road, Rakhra on Nabha road and Asarpur Chupki on Samana road. The plazas haven't been operative for the past six days.

They have also laid siege to three petrol stations owned by corporate houses and plan to protest outside departmental stores and malls in the district.

"The farm Acts have been enacted to profit the corporate houses. We, therefore, have decided to stop the toll plazas from collecting the charges to send a message to business houses that we won't let them spoil our future," said Bhinder Singh, a protester from Badholi Gujran village.

Swaran Singh, general secretary, Bhartiya Kisan Union (Sidhpur), said they would continue to lay siege to toll plazas until the Union Government withdrew the dra-



Farmers lay siege to Lehra Bega toll plaza in Bathinda on Wednesday; and protesters raise slogans outside a mall in Jalandhar. TRIBUNE PHOTOS



'DON'T TEST COLLECTIVE WILL OF FARMERS'

“The collective will of the people forced the Britishers to leave the country. Similarly, big corporates will meet the same fate, if our concerns aren't addressed. Swaran Singh, GENERAL SECRETARY, BKU (SIDHPUR)



conian Acts. He said, "Before the Independence, Britishers had developed railway lines, roads and other infrastructure for their commercial interests in India. But the collective will of the people forced them to leave the country. Similarly, big corporates will meet the same fate, if our concerns aren't addressed."

Ranjit Singh, a farmer leader, said they had been getting support from commuters, who gave them salutes and thumbs up to continue their battle.

In Bathinda too, losses are mounting for toll plazas, mega wholesale stores, petrol pump companies and the Railways.

Farmers are not allowing officials of the toll plazas on the Bathinda-Chandigarh

National Highway to collect the fee from commuters.

At some petrol pumps, even dealers have announced support to the farmers' protest. A petrol pump dealer said: "I also

come from a farming back-

Bucho Khurd on the Bathinda-Chandigarh National Highway is also facing huge losses as it has been closed for the past seven days with farmers protesting at its main gate and not allowing it to operate.

Meanwhile, BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) leaders said the anger of farmers against the Centre was increasing by the day. They claimed that the Centre wanted to hand over their land and crop in the hands of big

corporate houses.

Will not appease, Capt on farmers' ultimatum

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 7

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has ignored the one-week ultimatum given by the kisan unions for holding a special Assembly session to negate the farm Acts, saying he would do what he felt was necessary in farmers' interest.

It was decided to call a special session of the Vidhan Sabha to bring in necessary amendment Bills, but giving ultimatums was not the way to force the government into taking hasty steps, the CM said. His sole interest lay in protecting the farmers of the state and the farm sector at all costs, and not in appeasing the farmer organisations, said the CM, adding that he would take decisions which were in the best interest of the farming community.

At a meeting held today, the kisan unions had issued an ultimatum to the state government for convening a special session of the Vidhan Sabha to amend laws to counter the Centre's agricultural legislations.

The unions' threat to gherao his residence, the houses of the state ministers and Congress leaders would not force him into taking any decision which might turn out to be detrimental for the interest of both farmers and the state, said Amarinder.

'RAIL STIR REGRETTABLE'

“The government needs to urgently transport foodgrain, coal, fertilisers and petroleum. It is regrettable that the kisan unions have decided not to stop their 'rail roko' stir.

Capt Amarinder Singh, CHIEF MINISTER

FLAYS LAKHOWAL GROUP
CM Capt Amarinder Singh on Wednesday said the BKU (Lakhowal) group's U-turn on its petition against the farm laws in the Supreme Court was the result of pressure from the SAD.

munity, said Amarinder.

The suggestions given by the unions on the way forward on the farm Acts had been taken into consideration. Besides, it would be ensured that nothing was allowed to obstruct his government's efforts to save the livelihood of farmers, said the CM. It was regrettable that the kisan unions had decided not to stop their 'rail roko' agitation, as it would prove to be damaging for the interest of both farmers and the state, said Amarinder.

AAP: Both state, Centre to blame for farm laws

MANDI AHMEDGARH, OCTOBER 7 State Leader of Opposition in Vidhan Sabha and AAP MLA Harpal Singh Cheema has condemned both Union Government and state government over the enactment of three "draconian" farm Acts.

Cheema alleged that the state government led by Capt Amarinder Singh had "deliberately" delayed in presenting the communication of resolution, which opposed the farm Acts, as it had a hidden agenda of facilitating the Union Government in implementation of the three "draconian ordinances" as constitutional Acts.

"If the Punjab Government intends to contradict my claim then I ask Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh to explain why a resolution, which was passed on August 28, was communicated to the Union Government on September 14? Even, the Congress MPs should have placed the copies of the resolution in house during the session earlier," argued Cheema. — OC



Farmers stage a dharna on tracks at the Moga railway station on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Farmers block transport of diesel, coal

Railways incurring a daily loss of ₹12 crore

Ropar Thermal plant.

They also gheraoed the Reliance petrol station at Chuni village on the Fatehgarh Sahib-Chandigarh Road. Protesters laid siege to the pump and no one was

allowed to enter the petrol station. They raised slogans against the Narendra Modi government and demanded an immediate rollback of the farm laws. AAP leaders also joined the protesters.

BKU (Sidhpur) district president Gurmeet Singh Roorki and general secretary Surinder Singh Lohari, BKU (Ruldu Mansa) general secretary Mohan Singh Bains and other leaders were on the forefront of the protests in the district. AAP leaders also joined the agitation. — OC

Experts issue advisory on early sowing of wheat

CCI begins procurement, Bathinda cotton growers lament low price

Tribune News Service



'EVEN PRIVATE PLAYERS QUOTING VERY LESS'

“On the one hand, CCI officials wouldn't procure cotton from me. On the other, private players are quoting a very low price for the produce. Gurcharan Singh, A FARMER

<< Cotton farmers show their produce to SAD leader Sikander Singh Maluka in Bathinda.

Singh from Katar Singh Wala village said, "The moisture content in my cotton was measured at 12 per cent. However, the price quoted was Rs 5,446 when the minimum support price (MSP) is Rs 5,725."

Conducting procurement at the grain market in Bathinda, Harjit Singh, senior commercial officer, CCI, said: "We have pro-

cured around 200 quintals of cotton. While making the purchase, the quality of cotton, along with the moisture content, is in focus."

Meanwhile, former senior SAD minister and Akali Dal's Kisan wing president Sikander Singh Maluka met cotton farmers at the grain market and assured them that he would take up the matter with authorities con-

cerned to facilitate the MSP or at least remunerative prices on their produce.

"I would also urge farmers to dry the cotton properly and ensure it's in rich form and within the permissible limit of moisture content before bringing it to mandis for procurement," said Maluka. He also met CCI officials and urged them to make the purchase of cotton on MSP. — TNS

Clear dues offarmers in 24 hrs: Capt

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 7

With the Reserve Bank of India today sanctioning a Cash Credit Limit (CCL) amount of Rs 30,220.82 crore for procurement of paddy, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has directed all procurement agencies to pay the pending payments of farmers against the already procured grain within 24 hours.

Expressing satisfaction at the pace of procurement, Capt Amarinder Singh asked the Food and Civil Supplies Minister to ensure prompt lifting of the produce and release of payment to farmers within the stipulated time frame of 72 hours.

The Chief Minister also expressed satisfaction with 15.6 LMT of paddy being procured by various agencies to date. With 27.36 lakh hectares under paddy cultivation, Punjab is targeting procurement of 171 LMT in the ongoing season which began on September 27, the spokesperson said. — TNS

Give farmers relief for not burning straw: SAD

BATHINDA, OCTOBER 7

Reacting sharply to two news reports being carried in The Tribune's Wednesday edition on stubble-burning, former Union Cabinet minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal took to her Twitter handle to criticise the state and Central governments' stance on the matter.

Harsimrat tweeted: "Unfair and unjustified! Governments blatantly ignore the SC order to incentivise farmers for handling paddy straw but don't get punished. However, when our beleaguered farmers, finding no government assistance, burn stubble, they are slapped with criminal cases."

She also reacted to another report on SC order on MSP. She tweeted: "Instead of forcing governments to implement the SC order to incentivise farmers for handling paddy straw, some anti-farmer forces are mootting proposals to impose a cut on #MSP of the crop. For them slapping of criminal cases against 'beleaguered' #farmers isn't enough. It's disgusting. She also shared the photographs of both the news on her Twitter handle.



'DON'T PUNISH THEM'
Unfair and unjustified! Governments blatantly ignore the SC order to incentivise farmers for handling paddy straw but don't get punished.

Harsimrat Kaur Badal, SAD LEADER

Justice Saron is gurdwara poll panel chief

Appointment paves way for SGPC elections as revision of electoral rolls to begin soon

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, OCTOBER 7

The appointment of Justice SS Saron (retd) as the Chief Commissioner, Gurdwara Elections, has paved the way for holding Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) polls.

Justice Saron's selection has been approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as per the order issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

In addition, there are orders to cancel the appointment of Justice Darshan Singh (retd), too, as he had never joined and the post fell vacant.

The appointment of Justice Saron is for two years and the period of service can be extended for another year.



Justice SS Saron

Nonetheless, with Justice Saron's appointment, the process of revision of electoral rolls would begin soon.

Constitutionally, the term

of the House of the SGPC is five years, but the elected representatives have been taking care of the affairs of the apex body since 2011. The reason was that the issue of sehaydhari Sikhs' role in elections was pending in the Supreme Court. In 2016, the court validated the 2011 House to operate.

Votes have been raised over the term of the House several times, but the elections could

not be held for the want of appointment of Chief Election Commissioner by the Centre. The present House has 170 elected and 15 nominated members. The Jathedar of the five Takhts are also members of this House. Eighteen members have passed away and two members have resigned.

SGPC chief Gobind Singh Longowal welcomed Justice Saron's appointment.

Dalit Cong MLAs demand more Cabinet berths

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 7

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi's three-day Punjab visit, that concluded on Tuesday, has become a rallying point for Dalit MLAs in the state Congress to seek due representation in the Council of Ministers.

With 33 per cent vote share and 22 Dalit MLAs — including 12 of the ruling party — in the state Assembly, the Dalit leaders in the Punjab Congress have demanded at least six Cabinet berths, against the present four. At present, there are three Dalit ministers — Charanjit Singh Channi, Sadhu Singh Dharamsot and Aruna Chaudhary.

Ever since the Congress rose to power in 2017, due representation to Dalit leaders is being demanded regularly. Pushing the demand, senior Dalit MLA from Amritsar Raj Kumar Verka on Tuesday met Rahul Gandhi along with Balwinder Laddi, Santokh Singh Bhalaipur and Sukhwinder Danny, and submitted a memorandum. After listening to the leaders, Rahul is learnt to have told the CM to look into the matter.

Verka said among the Dalits, Mazhabi Sikhs and Valmikis needed representation on the basis of their vote share. He said not only in the Council of Ministers, the Dalit leaders should be given due representation while nominating leaders in Rajya Sabha. — TNS

Fazilka man shot dead in Philippines

FAZILKA, OCTOBER 7

A resident of Chack Janisar village of Jalalabad subdivision here was reportedly shot dead by two motorcycle-borne miscreants in Philippines' capital Manila on Wednesday.

"The reason behind the murder is yet to be known," Brar added.

The deceased is survived by his wife and two sons. — OC

MAHARSHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY ROHTAK
(Established under Haryana Act No. XXV of 1975)
'A+' Grade University accredited by NAAC

EXTENSION OF THE ADMISSION DATE FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2020-21 (Advt. PR No. 8 of 2020)

This has reference to the admission notice already published in various leading newspapers. It is notified for information of all concerned that last date for submission of online application form for admission to first semester in Postgraduate Programs and LLB (Hons.) 3 year Program being offered by University Teaching Departments and MDU-CPAS, Gurugram has been further extended up to 26.10.2020. Names of these Programs are available on the University website.

For more information, please visit University website i.e. www.mdu.ac.in. Updates/changes, if any, will be notified on M.D.U. website.

PRDH/83099

REGISTRAR

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

TENDER NOTICE (E-TENDERING MODE ONLY)

Online tenders are invited in percentage above/below/at par of NIT for Sr. No. 1, 2 & in item rates for Sr. No. 3 as under.

| S.N. | Name of Work/ Supply | App. Cost | Who can apply | Last date/time of submission |
|------|---|--------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1. | Const/ upgradation of Golden Jubilee Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (GJCEI) in Existing (Khalsa Heritage) Building within GNDU Campus, Amritsar | Rs.41,19,300/- | Approved contractors of P.W.D. (B & R), C.P.W.D., M.E.S., Co-operative Societies (Regd. as contractor in P.W.D.), Punjab Water Supply & Sanitation Deptt, PUDA & Railways | 23-10-2020 upto 4.00 pm. |
| 2. | Const of Agriculture Farm Lab Bldg. within GNDU Campus, Amritsar. | Rs.26,21,200/- | - do - | - do - |
| 3. | Supplying of Furniture (Three Seater Desk Bench) in Department of School of Social Sciences within GNDU Campus, Amritsar. | To be quoted by the firm | Manufacturers/ specialized firms/ dealers dealing with similar supplies as per technical bid. | - do - |

Corrigendum/ Addendum/ Detailed information can be seen on website www.eproc.punjab.gov.in
Sd/- Incharge, Engineering Department

DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR STATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SECTOR 56, SAHIBZADA AJIT SINGH NAGAR (MOHALI), PUNJAB. PUBLIC NOTICE

No.

Applications on plain paper are invited for the Faculty posts of Professor and Associate Professor on Re-employment basis from retired doctors from Government Medical College of state/Center (AIIMS/PGIMER for Dr. B.R. Ambedkar State Institute of Medical Sciences, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali), Punjab (Under Dr. B.R. Ambedkar State Institute of Medical Sciences Society, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali), Punjab).

Last date for online application 9th October 2020 by 5:00 PM

Detail of the posts is as under:-

| Sr. No. | Department | Professor | Associate Professor |
|---------|--------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 1 | Physiology | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | Biochemistry | 1 | x |
| 3 | Radiology | x | 1 |

E-Mail for communication ---- recruitmentaims2020@gmail.com

Note

1. Eligible candidates will have to appear for interview on 10.10.2020 at Punjab Bhawan, Sector-3, Chandigarh.

2. Please check our website www.punjabmedicateducation.org/mohali for details about time of interview after 5:00 PM on 09-10-2020

Sd/- Director Principal,

9878098181, 9855200011

Rawat hints at role for Sidhu, but says he has to be patient

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 7

After Rahul Gandhi's three-day tour amid the vanishing act by Navjot Singh Sidhu on the last two days of the tractor rally, AICC general secretary and Punjab affairs in charge Harish Rawat said Sidhu had an important role in the future scheme of things in the Congress.

Talking to the media, he said: "Sidhu has the power to shine and no one can stop him. But the Congress is a big party and one should be patient to achieve something."

On Capt Amarinder Singh's take that with three to four years of experience Sidhu could not be made the PPCC

chief, Rawat said the CM was talking of a principled stand but exceptions had been made in case of extraordinary people. "But the PPCC chief's post is not vacant right now." Reacting to Sidhu's taunt on being made to sit out at the Moga rally, Rawat said: "He was asked to stick to time but

sources in the party said deliberations were at an advanced stage to adjust Sidhu but it might take a few months before the announcement was made. — TNS

he in his own style made a remark at Cabinet Minister Sukhjinder Randhawa. But I agree as to why such a competent person was made to sit for so long. I am thinking of using his power at the earliest."

He said during his interaction with Sidhu, he never talked about any position in the government. Later, at a gathering of Youth Congress and NSUI workers, Rawat learnt to have told the CM to look into the matter.

Verka said among the Dalits, Mazhabi Sikhs and Valmikis needed representation on the basis of their vote share. He said not only in the Council of Ministers, the Dalit leaders should be given due representation while nominating leaders in Rajya Sabha. — TNS

Verka said the CM was talking of a principled stand but exceptions had been made in case of extraordinary people. "But the PPCC chief's post is not vacant right now."

Reacting to Sidhu's taunt on being made to sit out at the Moga rally, Rawat said: "He was asked to stick to time but

sources in the party said deliberations were at an advanced stage to adjust Sidhu but it might take a few months before the announcement was made. — TNS

he in his own style made a remark at Cabinet Minister Sukhjinder Randhawa. But I agree as to why such a competent person was made to sit for so long. I am thinking of using his power at the earliest."

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Covid puts brakes on PRTC income

KARAM PRAKASH
TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, OCTOBER 7

The state-run Pepsu Road Transport Corporation (PRTC) seems to be struggling to get on track financially. Following the Covid-induced lockdown, the PRTC has been facing losses worth crores of rupees.

The average daily income of the corporation has not been able to touch even 50 per cent of the pre-Covid times.

Jaskiran Singh, managing director, PRTC, said the average cash inflow of the corporation had been just around Rs 60 lakh for the past one week against Rs 1.25 crore to 1.40 crore earlier.

er. He said, "We are still struggling financially. Earlier, our average daily income was between Rs 1.25 crore to 1.40 crore. However, now it is only Rs 60 lakh for the past one week."

Notably, the government had lifted the restrictions and allowed the buses to ply with full capacity in the last week of June. However, the decision seems to have not borne any fruit due to Covid fear.

Of the total 1,125 buses, the PRTC is currently running a fleet of 610 buses. However, the PRTC MD said people were still reluctant to use

public transport. He said, "Our buses are still not running to their full capacity. Seats remain vacant because people still fear Covid."

For improving its finances, the PRTC is now resting its hope on the launch of interstate buses, likely to start within a week.

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For improving its finances,

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PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Amarpal Rana s/o Charan Singh r/o 315/A, Sector 51-A, Chandigarh have debarred my son Ankit Rana and his wife Smt. Neha who are not under my control and they have strained relation with me and my family members and as such I hereby disown them from all my moveable and immovable properties. Any person dealing with them shall be doing at their own risk. (CL20047879)

I, Dayatwati D/o Parkash Chand R/o # 424 Sector 41-A, Chandigarh have changed my name to Sehaj Saini W/o Sarabjeet Singh Saini. (CL20047891)

I, Sakshi Makhiya d/o Jagdish Kumar r/o # 88, Shivalik City, Sector-127, Kharar, SAS Nagar (Mohali) Punjab-140301 have changed my name to Sakshi. (CL20047934)

I, Anil Kumar Sharma S/o Rameshwar Dass R/o House no. 2652-B, M.I.G Super flat, Sector-70, S.A.S Nagar (Mohali) Punjab declare that I have changed my name from Anil Kumar Sharma to Anil Sharma for all intents and purposes. Concerned please note. (CL20047943)

I, Manjit Singh Lamba s/o Darshan Singh #2497 Sector 65, Mohali (Punjab) have changed my name to Manjeet Singh. (CL20047948)

I, Vipan Kumar Gupta s/o S. Narajan Das R/o B-IX-721, Gulchaman Gali, Tehsil Ludhiana declare that I have changed my name from Vipan Singla to Vipan Kumar Gupta. Concerned notes. (CL20047956)

I, Gurinder Kaur w/o Tehal Singh Ghuman r/o Phagwara, District Sangrur, have changed my name to Gurinder Kaur Ghuman. (CL20047965)

I, Harbars Kaur alias Chanan Kaur w/o Sadhu Singh r/o Khateev, District Gurdaspur have changed my name to Harbars Kaur. (CL20047967)

I, Seema Bansal alias Seema Goel D/o Yoginder Nath Bansal resident 18, Jain Nagar Ambala Cantt have changed my name to Sarika Goel W/o Raj Kumar Goel after marriage. Concerned note. (CL20047987)

I, Ravinder Kumar Goyal S/o Sh. Krishan Chand R/o Flat No. 103, Tower 4-A Suncity Parikarma Sector-20, Panchkula, have changed my minor daughter's name from Muskan to Muskan Goyal. (CL20047988)

It is notified for the information that my original Qualifying Examination Certificate and Marks Statement of Compartment Senior Secondary Examination of Year 2019 and Roll No. 2815346, issued by CBSE, has been actually lost. Simran. H.No. 09436, Gali No. 4, Paras Ram Nagar, Bathinda. (Ph. 62837-52348) (CL20047997)

That I, Jyoti Srawoop S/o Sh. Shiv Dutt R/o Village Brahmianwas, PO Julana, District Jind that I have changed my name from Jyoti Srawoop to Gagan and I will be known as Gagan futer. (CL20048000)

I, No. 4475086X Ex Naik Sukhraj Singh s/o Billa Singh r/o near Petrol Pump, Basti Gobindgarh, Samadhbhai, Moga. Pb. declare that my wife name in my Army service records is wrongly entered as Paramjeet Kaur whereas her correct name is Paramjeet Kaur. (CL20048008)

I, Poonam Sharma wife of Ankush Sharma, VPO Ghallour, Tehsil Jawalamukhi, District Kangra (HP) declare that I have changed my name from Pino Devi to Poonam Sharma. Concerned note. (CL20048026)

It is notified for the information that my Duplicate qualifying Examination certificate of main Secondary Examination of Year March 1976 and Roll No. 1174 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Suman Walia, # 1022, Sector 21-B, Chandigarh. Mob: 99149-00021. (CL20048029)

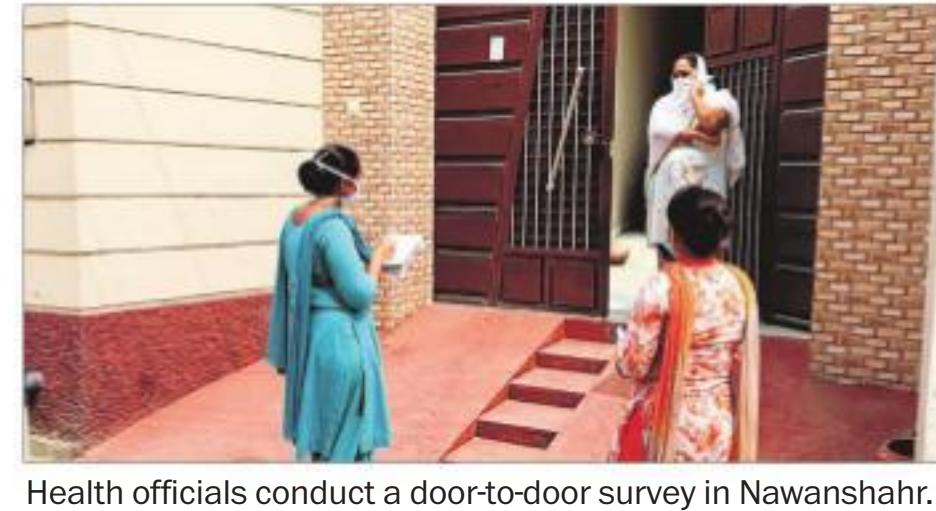
I, Balwinder Kutteria s/o Thunia Ram Village Patta Jattian P.O. Jakhira, Tehsil Fatehpur, Distt. Kangra (HP) declare that I have changed my name from Balwinder Kutteria to Balwinder Singh. Concerned note. (CL20048058)

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Covid claims 33 more lives, tally rises by 852

Tribune News Service



Health officials conduct a door-to-door survey in Nawanshahr.

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 7 The state reported 852 cases and 33 deaths in the past 24 hours. With these cases, the total count of Covid cases has reached 1,20,860. The number of casualties has risen to 3,712.

As far as fresh cases are concerned, Jalandhar reported 120 infections, followed by Ludhiana (114), Amritsar (92), SAS Nagar (62), Kapurthala and Gurdaspur (57), Hoshiarpur (46) and Pathankot (43).

In the district wise breakup of the number of fatalities, Ludhiana topped the list with six deaths, followed by Bathinda and Jalandhar (five each), Amritsar (three), Fatehgarh Sahib, Gurdaspur, Muktsar, Pathankot and Ropar (two each), and Fazilka, Kapurthala, SBS Nagar and Sangrur (one each).

| DISTRICT | >VE | DEATHS | DISTRICT | >VE | DEATHS |
|--------------|--------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Ludhiana | 18,553 | 788 | Moga | 2,345 | 76 |
| Jalandhar | 13,687 | 422 | Fatehgarh Sahib | 1,988 | 93 |
| Amritsar | 10,826 | 396 | Tarn Taran | 1,789 | 73 |
| Pathiala | 11,976 | 345 | Kapurthala | 3,652 | 149 |
| Sangrur | 3,678 | 155 | Fazilka | 2,588 | 41 |
| SAS Nagar | 10,963 | 193 | SBS Nagar | 1,750 | 56 |
| Gurdaspur | 6,314 | 164 | Faridkot | 2,888 | 46 |
| Bathinda | 6,320 | 128 | Barnala | 1,889 | 45 |
| Hoshiarpur | 4,907 | 179 | Ropar | 2,236 | 88 |
| Ferozepur | 3,927 | 107 | Muktsar | 2,648 | 49 |
| Pathankot | 3,933 | 87 | Mansa | 1,703 | 32 |
| Total | | | | 1,20,860 | 3,712 |

Robbery attempt foiled, two held

FEROZEPUR, OCTOBER 7 The police have arrested an impostor and his accomplices who used to rob people in the Guruharsahai subdivision. According to information, one of the accused, Rajinder Kumar, posed as a CBI officer.

He, along with Kamlesh, Bheem and Ravi, forcibly entered the house of Tarsem Lal, a businessman belonging to Guruharsahai. DSP Ravinder Singh said the accused claimed he was from the CBI and wanted to search his house.

"Smelling a rat, Tarsem asked for the identity card of the accused following which the accused took out a pistol. Showing courage, Tarsem snatched the pistol from him. Meanwhile, members of Tarsem's family intervened and thrashed the accused," the DSP said. The police reached the spot and arrested Rajinder and Kamlesh while the other two fled the scene. — OC

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF

VIMAL KUMAR SETIA, IAS

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER-CUM-

MARRIAGE OFFICER, FARIDKOT

Subject: For issuance of Un-married Certificate

NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC

Sh. Iqbal Singh son of Major Singh Village Jiwan wala, Tehsi Kotkupura, Distt. Faridkot has requested that I issue Un-married Certificate for him.

No. 201-5 ARKADAS PARSHAR

AEYKOEDIA 1046, CYPRUS now present living in Flat No. 201, 14 MEGALOU KONSTANTINOU 1057 LEFKOSIA CYPRUS. He is un-married. His date of birth is 21.06.1993. He has requested for the issuance of un-married certificate his son Name: Lovepreet Singh Brar.

The public in general is hereby informed through this notice that if anybody has objection for the issuance of above said Certificate, then he/she can file objections within 30 days from the publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the prescribed period, further necessary action would be taken for the issuance of un-married certificate.

Date: 21.09.20 Spdt.

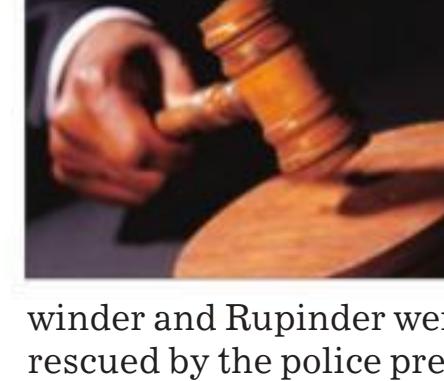
For Deputy Commissioner-cum-

Marriage Officer, Faridkot.

Pay ₹2 lakh relief in illegal detention case, HC tells state

Tribune News Service

Amount may be recovered from erring officials, says court



Harwinder and Rupinder were rescued by the police present on the spot and under the supervision of the senior officers, a duty magistrate and a subdivisional magistrate. It was in good faith and in order to protect their lives from angry mob, the alleged detainees were permitted to stay at the Ropar city police station until the situation normalised.

"Even if it is accepted that some persons had tried to cause harm to the detainees, both of them could not be kept in the police station for two days without even making entry in the 'roznamcha' and also without informing the district/illqa magistrate.

Their continued detention cannot be termed as legal," the Bench ruled.

Claiming that the case was not of illegal detention, the state and other respondents claimed Har-

Minister: No decision yet on reopening schools

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 7

School Education Minister Vijay Inder Singhla today clarified that the government had not taken any decision yet regarding the opening of schools in the state.

He said the Education Department had given its suggestions to the Home Department following its letter regarding reopening of schools. The minister said the final decision regarding reopening of schools would be taken by Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh after taking account all precautions for the safety of students.

In a press communiqué issued here, Singla said in response to the comments on reopening of certain activities in school from October 15, 2020, sought by the Department of Home Affairs and Justice,

Final call to be taken by Chief Minister after reviewing Covid situation



Punjab, the Secretary, School Education, had apprised it about the safety measures to be ensured in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Education Minister said the Additional Chief Secretary, Home Affairs and Justice, had been



SGPC MEMBERS SWEEP STREET

■ SGPC executive members, including its president Gobind Singh Longowal, swept the Heritage Street leading to the Golden Temple on Wednesday

■ This comes in the wake of uncertainty over the number of 'saroops' having been destroyed in a fire incident in May 2016

■ The members were abiding by the 'tankhah' (religious punishment) pronounced upon the entire SGPC executive by Akal Takht for skipping the 'paschhatap path' (remorse prayers) for the fire incident

against drug menace and series of other reformist orders in the realm of education, health and mental health. A Bench headed by Justice Sharma also ordered cracked down on encroachments in Chandigarh and ordered the removal of vendors from unauthorised sites.

Known for his concerns for nature and environment, Justice Sharma delivered landmark judgments such as deletion of caste from FIRs, directives for preventing suicides by farmers and

abolishing centuries old system of solitary confinement of death penalty convicts.

Justice Sharma was also known for his unending trade

hours. He decided, in all, approximately 80,000 cases. He was appointed an Additional Judge of the Himachal Pradesh High Court on April 3, 2007, and was transferred in September 2016 to the Uttarakhand High Court, where he was appointed as the Acting Chief Justice in August 2018. Justice Sharma was transferred to the Punjab and Haryana High Court in November 2018 and remained the Acting Chief Justice for sometime. — TNS

upper limit of taking bank loans, the university has been directed by the Finance Department to reduce its financial burden through manpower audit and rationalisation of posts. Rahul Bhandari, Secretary, Higher Education, said: "We are releasing Rs 8.7 crore monthly, while Rs 30 crore as special funds have also been provided. At present, we don't have any proposal to provide more funds. It is the university's decision to accept donations from its alumni and others in India and abroad."

donate to the university will be eligible for a tax rebate," read a statement released by the university.

The VC has appealed to people settled in India and abroad to contribute towards improving the university's financial condition.

At a time when its coffers have run completely dry and when it has also reached the

Book on Banda Singh released

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 7

A book, which chronicles the life and philosophy of Banda Singh Bahadur, the founder of first Sikh kingdom, was released today at an event organised here.

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Quad cooperation

Group has potential to counter China, and do much more

CHINA'S military muscle-flexing in its neighbourhood — be it in the Indo-Pacific, South China Sea or in the Himalayas — loomed large over the Quad ministerial meeting in Tokyo. The four member-nations — the US, Japan, India and Australia — are working towards building a strong multilateral institution that can make China uncomfortable. In fact, the meeting prompted the Chinese Foreign Ministry to voice its opposition to the formation of 'exclusive cliques' that can harm the third party's interests. Even as India and the other countries have reaffirmed their collective vision for a 'free, open and inclusive' Indo-Pacific, the quadrilateral coalition runs the risk of being reduced to an anti-China forum spearheaded by the US. While America is openly using this platform to indulge in Dragon-bashing, the others have preferred to respond in a guarded way.

In his opening remarks at the meeting, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar reiterated India's commitment to a rules-based world order, respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, and peaceful resolution of disputes. Jaishankar, who had worked out a five-point agreement on de-escalation with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Moscow last month, predictably stopped short of naming (and shaming) the neighbouring country. India should continue to explore the bilateral route for settling issues with China, but at the same time make the most of Quad cooperation for bolstering its security. Every country is justified in safeguarding its interests first before doing its bit to meet regional or global challenges.

Both the US and India have been ravaged by Covid-19. Quad can help them emerge as influential players in the post-pandemic world. Economic recovery should be the top priority as of now rather than countering China's assertiveness. Looking at the larger picture, it's imperative for the coalition to ensure a central role for the 10-nation ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), a major stakeholder in the Indo-Pacific, in the scheme of things. Quad should be open to engaging with other like-minded countries in the region, resisting the temptation of throwing its weight around. That will be a win-win situation for all of them.

Curbing stubble burning

Farmers need incentives to discontinue the practice

THE problem of stubble burning, a major factor behind air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region, is proving to be intractable, with farmers in Punjab claiming that the state government failed to pay them the compensation for not burning crop residue and they are finding it difficult to pay off the loans taken to buy machinery to manage the straw. The Chief Minister, who holds the agriculture portfolio, has claimed he has taken up with the Centre the granting of compensation to the farmers for defraying the cost on the management of paddy straw. With technology increasingly being used in agriculture, the use of farm machinery has gone up. While this has reduced dependence on labour, it has also meant capital investment and the pressure to make the purchase economically viable.

The state recently appointed nodal officers to check straw burning and their services can be utilised to mobilise equipment, estimate straw yield and finalise compensation. Punjab is witnessing an agitation against the farm laws, making the ruling Congress mull taking recourse to steps under the Concurrent list so that the farmers are not affected, and the possibility of dealing with stubble burning can also be examined.

The Supreme Court asking if the MSP can be withheld over farm fires appears to be a bit hasty. It amounts to withholding a portion of the minimum support price and releasing it later only after a verification that the stubble was not burnt. The court should bear in mind that the government provides MSP on 23 crops but not all are purchased at support price, mostly those that are vital for food security. Also, not all farmers are able to sell at the MSP and with their level of awareness, the chances of their getting unfairly penalised are real. It will also give the implementing agencies a handle to harass the farmers. The government should instead examine the possibility of roping in agencies involved in agricultural marketing in the task of managing crop stubble. With its elaborate state machinery, the problem should not be left alone for the farmers to solve.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

To find us, you must be good; to catch us, you must be fast; but to beat us, you must be kidding. — Indian Air Force

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1920

Lord Willingdon and the Punjab Question.

WITH the bitterness of the attack made by His Excellency upon Mr. Gandhi, we are not particularly concerned. When a man sets out to do what Mr. Gandhi has taken it upon himself to accomplish in India, he should be prepared for the bitterest attack on himself on the part of men in authority, and from all that India knows of Mr. Gandhi, he is prepared for all such attacks. We pass on to notice one significant observation made by his lordship. "I fully understand," he said, "the depth of feeling which has been roused among Indians over the tragic events connected with the Punjab riots, but I ask every Indian to remember that my fellow countrymen had every reason to feel deeply too, and I am certain that if there are wrongs to be righted, they can, should and will be righted by constitutional means." As regards the first part, His Excellency will permit us to point out that hitherto we have been accustomed to statements of this kind only in the extremist Anglo-Indian Press, and that when a person in his responsible position makes such a statement, he must be prepared to be told that deplorable as were the doings of certain mobs in the Punjab last year, not only they and their leaders but others too have grievously suffered for them. Some have paid the ultimate penalty, many are still suffering, whether in the Andamans or in Indian jails, including some of whose guilt their countrymen at least are not convinced, while a much larger number, most of whom are popularly believed to have been innocent, and some of whom even the bureaucracy has never believed to have had anything to do with violence in any form or shape, have suffered in one form or another. As compared with this, what have been the sufferings of those among Lord Willingdon's fellow-countrymen who were admittedly guilty of excesses, excesses at least as inexcusable as those of the mob, because of the position they held?

The back-end warriors

As the Air Force turns 88, let's acknowledge the crucial role of logisticians



AIR VICE MARSHAL
MANMOHAN BAHADUR (RETD)

DEFENCE COMMENTATOR

THE IAF has turned 88 today. While its professionalism has been showcased many times over, this year brings with it a special responsibility on its young shoulders. As the India-China standoff lingers into the coming winter, all eyes are on the jawans on the front lines and on pilots manning cockpits at IAF air bases. The media lenses stay focused on these war fighters, as they should rightly be, but it is also imperative to acknowledge the invaluable role played by the silent war enablers — the back-end team of logisticians who provision the nuts and bolts that ensure that India's deterrence stays in place to prevent war — and if that fails, to impose our will on the adversary.

A logistician's crib is that he gets remembered only when war is about to break out. To paraphrase Clausewitz, it's because it's his (the logistician's) art that moves armies — practically everything other than strategy and tactics of war that a nation embarks on. A break in the supply chain disrupts progress of a campaign. Patton had to stop his advance into Germany's heartland during WWII as his logistics chain had not kept pace, resulting in his tanks running short on fuel.

It's the welcome smell of fuel — aviation turbine fuel — that greets a person on entering the tarmac of the Air Force Station, Chandigarh. The clock shows 2 am and the auxiliary power units of the giant C-17 and IL-76 transport aircraft, and of the smaller An-32, are whirring away as they are loaded with supplies for the Indian Army garrisons in Ladakh. It's a bee-



LIFELINE: C-17 airlifters are a part of the vital supply chain to Army garrisons in Ladakh.

hive of activity as Army trucks start arriving with items for Leh and Thoise, the two airfields that are the lifelines in the logistics stocking effort. The trucks were loaded much earlier, at the Army base outside the Air Force campus — all items packed in cartons which are then strapped on to pallets that are just rolled-on into the aircraft with fork-lifts. Just a decade back, this was not the case and the IL-76s were manually loaded at Chandigarh and offloaded at Leh! Imagine man-handling 30 tonnes in one aircraft! Thank God for the mechanised loading of the C-17 that can carry 50 tonnes.

But what is it that those aircraft carry? The lay public is tuned to the idea of those flying machines carrying tanks, Armoured Personnel Carriers and troops bristling with weapons who move out in style as soon as the ramp opens on landing — as movies show. Well, this does happen, but only sometimes. Mostly, it's cartons of food, fruits and vegetables, sacks of atta, dal and rice, condiments, milk, medicines, etc.,

that form the bulk. The famous saying, an army marches on its stomach, is true — for a soldier has to be fed well to fight well. In earlier times there used to be 'MOH' (meat on hoof) too — live goats for the non-vegetarians, now replaced with frozen foodstuff. The credit for having a well-oiled procedure goes to the Army Service Corps which runs huge contracts, not only for food items, but also for FOL — fuel, oil and lubricants — that need stocking up, for day to day use as also for a hot war when their consumption increases many times over. The Ordnance Corps does the same for armament, while the logistics branch of the IAF looks after both these aspects in the Air Force.

Logistics is not just bean counting, as it were, but an art and a science. It's not for nothing that Op Logistics has become a specialised study. In war, good logistics and logisticians sometimes become the difference between defeat and victory. During the Korean war, while planning his audacious Inchon

landings that cut off the North Korean and Chinese troops from their sustenance routes, Gen MacArthur said, 'The history of war proves that nine out of ten times an Army has been destroyed because its supply lines have been cut off... we shall land at Inchon and I shall crush them.' And this is what he did. Closer home, during the Kargil conflict, the most telling blow that sapped the Pakistani intruders was the destruction of their Muntho Dhalo logistics camp by IAF's Mirage-2000 fighters.

So, with the load safely secured, the IAF aircraft take off from Chandigarh before sunrise, so as to land at Leh before temperatures rise and before the sun comes above the crest of the hills that overlook the town. If the sun is just cresting the hills, the pilots are looking straight into it and get blinded. Ever thought of such a peculiarity? Well, there are many more that those intrepid pilots who have been flying in these areas will recount. Mi-17, Chinook and Cheetah helicopters then take over and fly those vitally needed items to the forward posts. In terms of tonnage, the choppers may airlift a minuscule of what the transport aircraft carry but their last-mile connectivity flights are vital for the jawans there. This joint effort of the Army and IAF logisticians, the technicians who maintain the aircraft and aircrew who fly them are vital cogs in sustaining the morale of our troops.

As our jawans hunker down for the coming winter and IAF elements keep their skills honed, it would only be appropriate to remember the unheralded back-end men and women of the armed forces. As Gen Chuck Horner of the USAF remarked, 'Be nice to your mother but love your logisticians and communicators.'

And as the IAF keeps its powder dry, its air maintenance of the forward posts carries on regardless. Many happy landings, air warriors! May you always touch the sky with glory!

A mother's heart knows no peace

COL PS RANDHAWA (RETD)

SHE is not able to sleep. It has been five days since her son spoke to her for a brief two minutes. It was a long-distance call put through by the Army exchange operator. Before her instructions to her son could finish, the call was abruptly cut. It has been like that since he got deployed on the China border, since mid-June. The calls were erratic and brief, mostly at the mercy of the operator. Gone are the days when she could pour her heart out to her only son through mobile phone calls and give him all possible instructions, mostly aiming at his well-being, safety and security, eating timely and of course her favourite topic of making up his mind to get married.

The son, like a true *fauji*, does not

talk about 'what is happening there'. She tries to gather information from TV channels and social media but seeing the shoddy display of jingoism, war cries, and sabre-rattling by anchors shuts it off, cursing them that maybe none of their near and dear ones is in the Army and deployed on the border. Her husband advises her not to watch TV and not to believe what appears on Facebook and WhatsApp. Any news about 'meeting' on the border with the Chinese is keenly read, watched, and heard by her. 'Their mothers must be equally worried,' she muses about enemy troops.

She had been an Army wife and suffered long separations from her husband in the prime of her life. Those days there were no mobile phones and letters were the only means of

communication. By the time a letter reached her husband and elicited a reply, a lot would get changed. Some minor problems could get mitigated or she could overcome single-handedly. In the absence of her husband, she miraculously played the double role of father and mother for her kids. Quite naturally, they did not want their son to join the Army and suffer long separations from his family. But fate decided otherwise. The son won't listen and he followed in the footsteps of his father and forefathers; went to the IMA and joined his father's battalion. Though proud of the Adjutant and enquires about his son. The officer assures him all is well. Thanking him, he disconnects the call. Mother, having heard everything, is happy and thanks God. 'I can now sleep peacefully,' she says.

about him as she worries about her son. She tells him that he does not know about a mother's heart. Her son has given a civil number of his unit Adjutant, away from his location, to be used in exceptional cases. She insists on using that number but the old man is reluctant. He doesn't want to 'interfere' in unit routine, and also does not want to sound 'too worried'. 'It is warlike,' he tells her, 'leave it to God. Everything will be fine.' He assures her but she insists. Seeing her restlessness, he gives in. Almost apologetically, he calls the Adjutant and enquires about his son. The officer assures him all is well. Thanking him, he disconnects the call. Mother, having heard everything, is happy and thanks God. 'I can now sleep peacefully,' she says.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No justice for poor

Over the years, crime against women has increased. There is a delay in registering FIRs by the police. A criminal commits the crime when he is confident that nothing can go against him. Unless on-the-spot FIR, noting the minutest details of the crime, along with semen samples, are done, the courts would be helpless in the absence of evidence, and hence the accused are acquitted. Public prosecutors are also not well trained and are not paid handsomely. The victim's family is already financially weak. The justice system is not favourable to the poor. The government has been failing to come up with a foolproof system to create fear among the molesters and rapists.

RK ARYA, BY MAIL

Punishment must

The CJI has rightly termed the Hathras incident as shocking, extraordinary and horrible. The role played by the police and the district administration is extraordinary and unprecedented. There should be a thorough investigation and those found guilty must be punished severely, that too within a short span of time.

ROOP SINGH NEGI, SOLAN

Criminal negligence

The Civil Hospital in Bathinda is guilty of criminal negligence by

infusing HIV-positive blood in unsuspected patients. Exemplary punishment is required as it puts the life of patients at risk. Moreover, such episodes lead to a breach of faith of those who come for treatment. Earlier also, many such cases of negligence have been witnessed. The government should take strict action.

AMITOK KAUR, PATTIALA

LJP game plan

It appears to be the LJP's game plan to downsize the JD(U) in the elections, and help BJP's claim for chief ministership. Many state BJP leaders have chafed for long, playing second fiddle to Nitish. The younger Paswan wants to test his party's independent standing in the elections. The BJP may not like to antagonise him. Even if Nitish wins another term, he will have to contend with a more assertive BJP and govern with diminished stature. The LJP's snub to JD(U) is also another indication that Nitish Kumar cannot keep harping on his earlier achievements. A recent opinion poll points to his unpopularity, while predicting an NDA win.

SK SINGH, BY MAIL

Not CM's fiefdom

The UP CM's ham-handedness in dealing with the Hathras murder is

unbecoming of him. He is slyly following a strategy that is better to be offensive than defensive. He ought not forget that the government is accountable and answerable to the people and nobody is above the law. India is a democracy and not under a despotic ruler. Throttling of voices critical of the government and running the state as a fiefdom is a misplaced approach. Though the erstwhile SP and BSP governments have not covered themselves in glory as far as law and order in the state is concerned, it seems that the Yogi government is striving to outdo them and set a new low in UP politics.

DEEPAK SINGHAL, NOIDA

Diverting public attention

Refer to "Yogi slaps sedition FIR on 'unknown' protesters" (Oct 6); in the Hathras rape and murder case, the UP Government is misusing the Act. The family of the victim is the one that is facing defamation because the government is denying the occurrence of rape. The government is trying to save the culprits by using constitutional means. All the political drama is being enacted to divert the attention of the public and the media to the Bihar elections.

TANVI NAGPAL, NEW DELHI

Satta alone matters

Refer to 'Tales of decadence' (Oct 6); it is no longer impossible to have an authoritarian government, rather a glimpse of it is already here. Their vision is very clear — power or satta at any cost. Presently, grabbing a tenure as an MLA or MP is regarded as an achievement. No job or business can compete with it. Unfortunately, we have to live with it.

D RAJ ARORA, AMBALA CANTT

Dwindling avian numbers

The fading voice of whistling birds' (Oct 6) was a nice read. It is essential to save birds from the onslaught of rapid urbanisation, climate change and habitat destruction. The yester-year experience of rising to the chirping of birds has been replaced by the increasing cacophony of vehicles and pollution. The dwindling bird number is a cause of concern, as they are a link between mankind and its ecosystem. Man's incessant craving for a luxurious life has cast an ugly shadow on the well-being of the other species. We have a moral obligation to protect our environment. Bird diversity is immense in India. Birds must be protected not just for cultural purposes but also to improve the health of the forests and the overall ecosystem.

VIJAY SINGH ADHIKARI, NAINITAL

Why farmers are not keen on agri reforms



SUBIR ROY

SENIOR ECONOMIC ANALYST

THE farmers' agitation in Punjab, Haryana and western UP against the agricultural reforms, initiated to help none other than the farmer himself, continues unabated. Why is this so? Doesn't the farmer know what is good for him? Is he being led up the garden path by the politicians and political parties, which are there only to fish in troubled waters?

Of the two main parties leading the agitation, the Shiromani Akali Dal has been feeling increasingly marginalised in Punjab and, according to some commentators, the farm reform issue has come as a godsend. Ditto with the Congress which is seeking to use the issue to become nationally relevant again.

But it may be wrong to think that the farmer does not have a mind of his own. He is likely without any knowledge of formal economics, but he is intuitively seeing what is good for him and voting with his tractor if not feet.

The reforms have been described by agricultural economist Ashok Gulati as a 1991 moment for agriculture, drawing a parallel with the reforms led by Narasimha Rao-Manmohan Singh combine which ended the licence-permit raj for manufacturing. But agriculture remained untouched.

Essentially, the latest reforms will allow the farmer to sell his produce to whoever he likes wherever in the country, by not having to take his harvest to the APMC yard. He will be able to engage in contract farming which will fetch him a better price. Removal of stock restrictions will enable private sector investment in warehouses and cold storages which will create a more efficient supply chain. This will reduce wastage and eliminate some middlemen, bringing greater price stability and, possibly, price reduction for the consumer. Plus, contract farming will pave the way for farm investment and improvement in productivity and quality.

Why is the farmer looking a gift horse in the mouth? Yogendra Yadav, an academic-turned-government adviser-turned-grassroots activist-turned-politician, has come up with some answers. His point is that economists like Gulati have their ears to the economic theory and data, whereas you need to keep your ears to the ground and understand what is driving the farmer.

Yadav's first point is that ending the so-called monopoly of APMCs is a non-issue as only a quarter of all agricultural produce is sold through APMC mandis. In Maharashtra, there is extensive contract farming between sugarcane growers and cooperative sugar mills. Besides, the reform of APMCs has been a continuous process in many states for several years now.

Yadav asserts that he is yet to meet a farmer who complains about not being able to trade outside the mandis. What farmers want is better run mandis.

His second point is to question the assumption that the reforms will



Decades after the Green Revolution, the farmer has to confront the marketplace of private buyers and live in a world where MSP and procurement are not primarily focused on cereals but other crops.

So, the agitating farmers know intuitively that assured procurement at MSP of what they produce is set to end. Hence, they are insisting on maintaining the status quo.

GIVEAWAY: The government is assuring farmers verbally that the MSP will continue, but it is refusing to write that into the law, raising doubts over how long it will stay.

save farmers from exploitation by arthiyas (commission agents). This is because big businesses will not deal directly with farmers but rely on middlemen as aggregators. So, it is unlikely that delayering of the supply chain will take place. In fact, there may come a time when both the arthiya and the new middleman-aggregator will operate.

He also questions the assumption that under the new system, the farmer will be able to operate in an efficient market and thus get better value. To benefit from the new system, farmers will have to command market power. Currently, farmers, mostly small, are price-takers. Proper market regulating mechanisms will

take time to develop. Farmers will be able to command market power when they organise under farmer producer organisations. But again, these will take time to come up.

Yadav says it will be naive to take the government at its word that it will maintain and raise its investment in agricultural infrastructure. He sees the new laws signalling the withdrawal, over time, of the government from agriculture in terms of investment, regulation and extension work. The new private players will invest in warehouses and cold storages and also carry out extension work by helping farmers adopt new technology.

One manifestation of the farmers'

lack of faith in government promises is to raise doubts over how long the system of minimum support price (MSP) will continue. For them, the giveaway is the government assuring verbally that the MSP will continue, but refusing to write that into the law.

In the last few days, the MSP of crops has been announced, but how long will it last is another matter.

The MSP-supported procurement of cereals gave the north-west farmers a sense of security. As a result, productivity has stagnated.

Decades after the Green Revolution, the farmer has to confront the marketplace of private buyers and live in a world where the MSP and procurement are not primarily focused on cereals, but other crops.

So, the agitating farmers know intuitively that assured procurement at the MSP of what they produce is set to end. Hence, they are insisting on maintaining the status quo.

from cereals and into coarse grains, cash crops and pulses — crops which are not water-guzzlers — and also to encourage dryland farming. The MSP has lost its primary focus on cereals.

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Decades after the Green Revolution, the farmer has to confront the marketplace of private buyers and live in a world where the MSP and procurement are not primarily focused on cereals, but other crops. So, the agitating farmers know intuitively that assured procurement at the MSP of what they produce is set to end. Hence, they are insisting on maintaining the status quo.

A race against time to douse stubble fires



TARA KARTHA

FORMER DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

STUBBLE burning is back in the news. And, as always, bureaucrats and politicians are scrambling to find a solution to the huge amount of pollutants released and moving towards highly populated areas in Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi.

This time, however, the scrambling is a little more energetic. Experts warn that pollutants, including sulphur, particulate matter and carbon dioxide, will worsen the already serious Covid-19 situation. That conclusion should have been logically arrived at by even non-experts in the government, since it doesn't need an Einstein to make the connection between bad air and a virus that hits the lungs. Given that 'solutions' offered have clearly failed, it is necessary to clean the slate and look for solutions that combine a little arm-twisting, political points and practicality.

Warning of stubble burning began around September 12, rising steadily as the weeks passed. NASA imagery provided enough early warning, even indicating exact locations. Even assuming a comatose bureaucracy, there was an additional wake-up call from the Supreme Court-mandated Environment Pollution (Control and Prevention) Authority or EPCA on September 22, advising 'early action'.

Given that the time for early action had run out months ago, this was a clear case of passing the buck. EPCA chief Bhure Lal, however, can't be blamed entirely. Created in 1998, EPCA's mandate covers only the National Capital Region (NCR), which includes 24 districts in Haryana,



MANAGEMENT NEEDED: Experts warn that pollutants caused by the farm fires may worsen the Covid-19 situation.

Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh as well as the 11 districts of Delhi.

And, as a perceptive analysis brings out, not only does it lack members from any state other than Delhi, but also that its members included the head of an automobile association, publicly opposed to restrictions on diesel cars. That's a stark conflict of interest and an example of government indifference to the environment.

So, the end effect is that setting up bodies like the EPCA, which has enormous powers, is not the solution.

There is, of course, the Environment Ministry — which has brought out a draft Environment Impact Assessment report that attempts to sideline the environment altogether — of which the less said the better.

This evidence of an almost criminal delay becomes more evident when it is

considered that the solutions being talked of, like the Happy Seeder — which cuts and lifts straw, sows the seed and drops paddy straw on top — was the result of a task force set up in 2006. More than a decade later, there are still not enough seeders to go around, and are still too expensive for the small farmers, especially compared to the use of a couple of matches that 'solves' the issue in a few hours.

Several alternative solutions proposed by universities in Punjab and Rajasthan include turning straw into biochar, feed, and animal bedding. There are successful start-ups which use straw pellets in power production.

In theory, the farmer is literally burning money. But the reality is that few of these solutions can beat the time factor. Buying up crops takes time, and with just a three-month window to the next

sowing season, farmers can't take the risk. Incidentally, stubble burning was banned in 2015 by the National Green Tribunal (NGT). But, clearly, that doesn't count.

It's as well to remember that this short window is the result of the Punjab Preservation of Subsoil Water Act 2009, which pushed the sowing of seedlings back by a month to time it with the monsoons, rather than using the rapidly depleting groundwater for the water-intensive crop. The intention was good, but the end result is this barrage of pollutants.

Depleting water tables and the resultant debt drive farmer to suicides, underlining the undeniable fact that a state predicted to turn into a desert in 25 years has to turn away from paddy. That's actually the primary solution.

The difficulty is that the state is high-

ly inconsistent in its approach, while the powerful arthiyas (commission agents) have stalled any farm reform at all. Their opposition lies at the heart of the agitation against the farm laws. Sidelining this powerful group should, therefore, be priority number one.

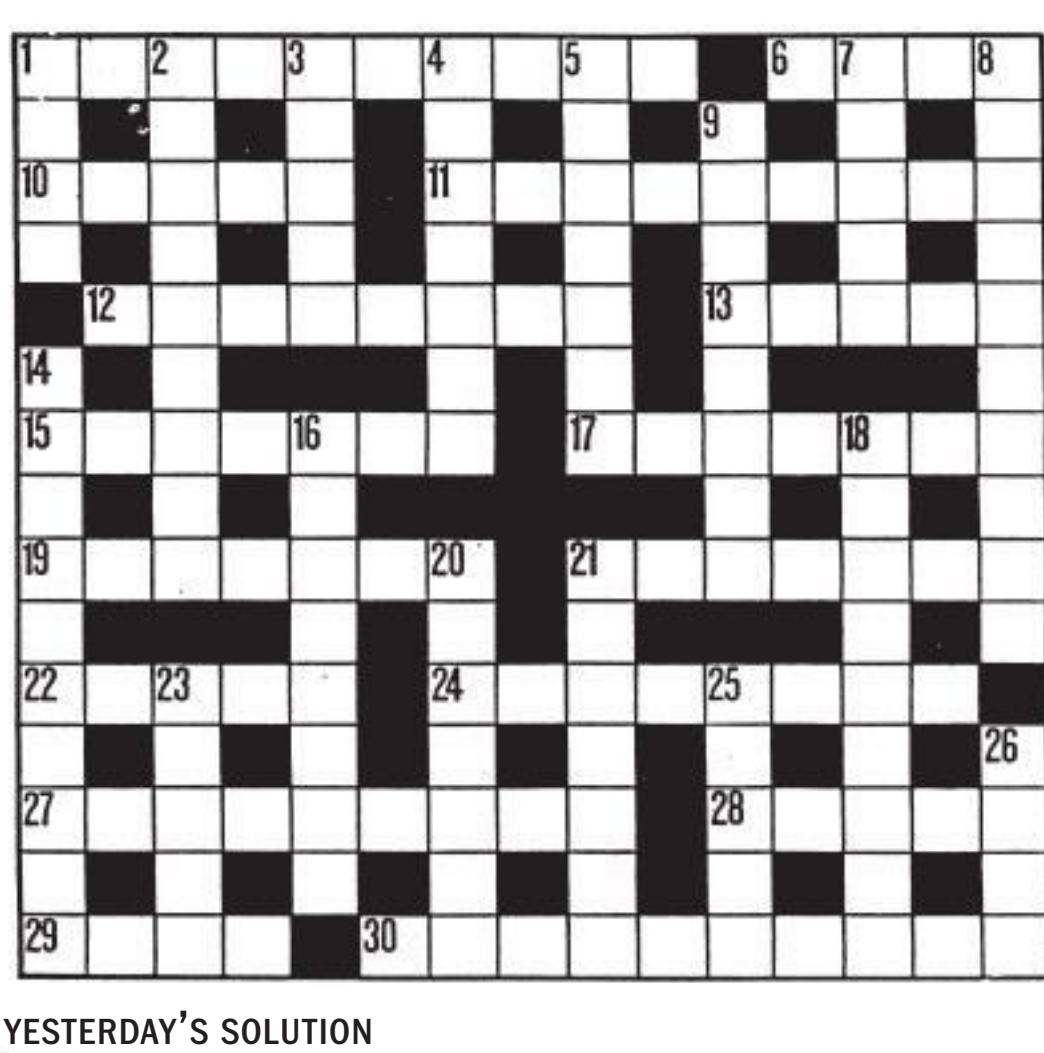
To beat the time factor, 'high-value' farmers — who have merrily taken advantage of subsidies meant for marginal farmers — should be made responsible for implementing solutions in specific villages, with the whole area coming under heavy fines, if not in a kind of corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme with teeth. But solutions have to be decided locally, while bureaucrats only turn their energies to ensuring forcible implementation.

Governments could also take a leaf out of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's proposal for a free and entirely organic spray to turn stubble into manure, which is abundantly good for the soil.

Finally, urgent measures are required as pollutants reach the NCR, endangering the Covid-affected people and others in the impacted states. Armed with the powerful clauses of the National Disaster Management Act, the Centre can use the Indian Air Force to put out fires — as it has done in forest fires in Uttarakhand and elsewhere, using the media to the full, to send a powerful message of a determined leader. That also has potential political benefits.

Meanwhile, naysayers will point to the Chinese threat, and 'waste' of resources. But that particular war is still far away, and right now, it's the several million downwind that count.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Chablis, 5 Belie, 8 Barefaced, 9 Kit, 10 Loot, 12 Tall tale, 14 Nature, 15 Top hat, 17 Take note, 18 Stem, 21 Bar, 22 Audacious, 24 Eased, 25 Someday.

Down: 1 Cabal, 2 Air, 3 Loft, 4 Such as, 5 Bad blood, 6 Like a shot, 7 Entreat, 11 Outskirts, 13 Iron hand, 14 Notable, 16 At odds, 19 Messy, 20 Scum, 23 Old

SU DO KU



V EASY

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 8, 2020, THURSDAY

| | |
|---|------|
| ■ Vikrami Samvat | 2077 |
| ■ Shaka Samvat | 1942 |
| ■ Ashwin Shaka | 16 |
| ■ Ashwin Parvishtha | 23 |
| ■ Hijari | 1442 |
| ■ Krishna Paksha Tithi 6, up to 4.37 pm | |
| ■ Varanya Yoga up to 1.42 am | |
| ■ Mrighshikha Nakshatra up to 10:50 pm | |
| ■ Moon enters Gemini sign 9.47 am | |

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: THURSDAY 17:59 HRS
SUNRISE: FRIDAY 06:21 HRS

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|--|---------------|--|--------|--|-------|--|-------|
| | Sunny | | Partly Cloudy | | Cloudy | | Rainy | | Foggy |
|--|-------|--|---------------|--|--------|--|-------|--|-------|

| CITY | MAX | MIN |
|------------|-----|-----|
| Chandigarh | 35 | 19 |
| New Delhi | 36 | 19 |
| Amritsar | 36 | 19 |
| Bathinda | 36 | 19 |
| Jalandhar | 35 | 19 |
| Ludhiana | 36 | 19 |
| Bhiwani | 37 | 19 |
| Hisar | 37 | 18 |
| Sirsia | 36 | 21 |
| Dharamsala | 26 | 17 |
| Manali | 26 | 07 |
| Shimla | 25 | 14 |
| Srinagar | 27 | 05 |
| Jammu | 35 | 19 |
| Kargil | 18 | 04 |
| Leh | 23 | -01 |
| Dehradun | 33 | 18 |
| Mussorie | 25 | 14 |

TEMPERATURE IN °C

3 militants killed in Shopian encounter

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 7
Three militants were killed during an anti-terrorism operation in the Shopian area of south Kashmir after repeated persuasions and even halting up the operation to enable their surrender failed to yield any positive results.

The operation, which began on Tuesday at 4 pm in the Sog area of Shopian district, was halted at around 8.30 pm by the Army's 44 Rashtriya Rifles after the troops decided to rope in prominent locals from the area to persuade the terrorists to surrender.

After cordoning off the area, the Commanding Officer of the 44-RR Col AK Singh and his team decided to counsel the holed-up terrorists to surrender and brought some religious leaders and prominent citizens to make an announcement on loudspeakers asking them to concede.

The Army resumed its operations at the first light



of the day after the militants lobbed grenades at the people who were making appeals for surrender. In no time, the three militants were neutralised and the operation was called off, the officials said.

All the three belonged to the banned Al-Badr terror organisation, they said.

The 44-RR has the maximum number of killings to its credit as well as maximum apprehensions and surrenders.

PROMINENT LOCALS INTERVENE IN VAIN

- The operation, which began on Tuesday at 4 pm in the Sog area of Shopian district, was halted at around 8.30 pm by the Army's 44 Rashtriya Rifles after the troops decided to rope in prominent locals from the area to persuade the terrorists to surrender.
- The Army resumed its operations at the first light of the day after the militants lobbed grenades at the people who were making appeals for surrender. In no time, the three militants were neutralised and the operation was called off, officials said.

Rashtriya Rifles was carved out of the Army in the early 1990s as a specialised counter-insurgency force to tackle terrorism in the Kashmir valley and the higher areas of Jammu region.

The 44 RR is known for its people-friendly initiatives in the area. At times it has made pro-people gestures, including frequent visits to the families of active militants in order to persuade them to return from militancy, besides engaging with youths in different activities. — PTI

Pak violates ceasefire in Uri sector

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 7
Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire along the Line of Control in the Uri sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday by firing mortars.

The Indian Army gave a befitting response to the ceasefire violation by Pakistani troops.

"Pakistan initiated an unprovoked ceasefire violation along the LoC in the Uri sector, Baramulla district, this morning by firing mortars and other weapons," Defence spokesman Colonel Rajesh Kalia said.

No casualties have been reported in the incident so far. — PTI

| PRESS NOTICE | | | |
|--|---|----------|-----------------|
| The Executive Engineer, Jai Shakti Division Nohradhar invites following offline tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from eligible Contractors for the following work through offline process:- | | | |
| Sr. No. | Description | E/Cost | E/Money |
| 1 | Refrofitting of LWSS-Kotla Bangi & GWSS Manwa, GWSS-Koti Peth & GWSS Pain Kuffer Tehsil Rajgarh Distt. Shimour (SH- Laying & jointing of GMS pipeline in distribution system and providing FHTC to balance households of habitation Thandhar Ghartot and Baig). | 461909/- | 9250/- 3 Months |
| 2 | Providing LWSS from Peller Khar to PG Habitation in GP Andheri T. Lana Paliar, Ludhiana, Saini and Sangrahan in Tehsil Sangrahan Distt. Shimour (HP) SH- C/O RCC storage tank 100000 litres capacity for WSS Sangrahan. | 488737/- | 9800/- 3 Months |

Cost of Form:- 250/- each

The application for purchase of tender documents shall be entertained up to 4.00 p.m. dated 12.10.2020, non-refundable, in cash or by money order as per cost shown above. The tenders shall be received in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jai Shakti Division Nohradhar up to 2.00 p.m. dated 13.10.2020 and shall be opened on the same day at 3.00 p.m. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives if any.

Executive Engineer,
Jai Shakti Division, Nohradhar.

| HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT E- Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) | | | | | |
|---|--|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. The Executive Engineer, NH Division, HPPWD Rampur on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors registered with HP-PWD for the work as detailed in the table. | | | | | |
| Sr. No. | Name of work | Estimated Cost (Rs.) | Starting date for download-ading bid | Earnest Money | Deadline for submission of bid |
| 1 | Special repair on NH-05 Km. 236.00 to 369.00 (SH- Metalling and tarring work of damaged patch at Km. 316/900 to 317/150 and 316/700 to 316/745). | Rs. 26,75,240/- | 15-10-2020 | Rs. 53,500/- | 05-11-2020 06-11-2020 |

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in.

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh
Executive Engineer, NH Division, H.P.PWD, Rampur Bushahr Tel. 01782-233214 e-mail:enhp-ram-hp@nic.in

DPR/HP/3536

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Hospital Engineer (Civil)- PGIMER, Chandigarh on behalf of the Director PGIMER Chandigarh invites online percentage rate bids from the enlisted contractors in appropriate class of CPWD/Department of Posts/BSNL/Railways/M.E.S./Chandigarh Administration/CHB M.C., Chandigarh/State PWD/S/HUDA/PUDA/State Electricity Boards & Corporations dealing in Civil Works on two bid system (Eligibility & Financial Bid) for the following work:-

NIT No.: PG/Engg/Civil/2020/01, Name of work:- AMC of AWASHING & painting (for 12 months) for various type of houses in PG Campus, Sector 12 and Manimajra, Chandigarh, Estimated Cost: Rs. 58.50 Lakh, Earnest Money: Rs. 1,17,120/-, Period of Completion: 12 Months, Last date and time of submission of bid: 20.10.2020 up to 4.00 p.m. Last date and time of submission of Original EMD: 22.10.2020 up to 4.00 p.m. Date and time of opening of Eligibility bid: 23.10.2020 at 11.30 a.m.

The original EMD as scanned & uploaded shall be deposited physically by all the intending bidders in the office of Hospital Engineer (Civil)-1 as per above schedule failing which the bid shall be treated as invalid. The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and official website of the PGIMER www.pgimer.edu.in. Press notice is also available on www.eprocure.gov.in. The contractors are requested to get their firm registered on the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> for participating in e-tendering process. (Helpdesk No. for registration-09988447883). For any Technical information Contact (0172-2755861, 7087008861).

DI-11104

HOSPITAL ENGINEER (CIVIL-I)

DPR/HP/3536

HARYANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BAYS NO. 1 to 10, SECTOR-4, PANCHKULA-134112 (website www.hpsc.gov.in)

ANNOUNCEMENT

E-tenders are invited from reputed Corporation/Companies/firms/ Societies/agencies having license for Biometric with a Touchless/ Contactless IRIS Scanning Technology, Frisking, Videography of candidates, CCTV Camera with live streaming/without live streaming, Baggage Management for Haryana Public Service Commission, Panchkula. The Tender ID of the same is 2020_HRY_146907_1 and the detailed tender form can be downloaded from the website <https://etenders.hry.nic.in>. The tenderer should have ESI and PF (optional), PAN and GST Number. A Pre-bid meeting will be held on 12.10.2020 i.e. 10.00 AM at Haryana Public Service Commission, Bays-1-10, Block-B, Sector-4, Panchkula. The tender must reach in the office of the Secretary, Haryana Public Service Commission, Panchkula upto 26.10.2020 till 06:00 PM.

Place: Panchkula
Dated: 6.10.2020
SD/- Deputy Secretary
Haryana Public Service Commission
Panchkula

PRDH/83100

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Hospital Engineer (Const.), PGIMER Chandigarh invites on behalf of the Director PGIMER Chandigarh online percentage rate bids from the enlisted contractors of appropriate class in CPWD/Department of Posts/BSNL/Railways/M.E.S./Chandigarh Administration/CHB M.C., Chandigarh/State PWD/S/HUDA/PUDA/State Electricity Boards & Corporations dealing in Civil Works on two bid system (Eligibility Bid & Financial Bid) for the following work:-

NIT No.: PG/Engg/Const/2020/05, Name of Work: Providing painting on external RC surface at various locations in New OPD Block, PGIMER, Chandigarh. Estimated Cost: Rs. 24.77 Lakh, Earnest Money: Rs. 49,540/-, Period of Completion: Two Months, Last date and time of submission of bid: 15.10.2020 up to 3.30 p.m. Last date & time for submission of Original EMD: 20.10.2020 up to 4.00 p.m. Date and time of opening of Eligibility bid: 16.10.2020 at 3.30 p.m. The Original EMD as scanned & uploaded shall be deposited physically by all the intending bidders in the office of the H.E. (Construction) as per above schedule failing which the bid shall be treated as invalid. The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and official website of the PGIMER www.pgimer.edu.in. Press notice is also available on www.eprocure.gov.in. The contractors are requested to get their firm registered on the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>, for participating in e-tendering process (Helpdesk No. for registration - 9988447883). For any Technical information Contact (0172-2755861, 7087008861).

HOSPITAL ENGINEER (CONSTRUCTION)

DI-11111

HOSPITAL ENGINEER (CONSTRUCTION)

POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

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GLOBE TROT



WAITING TO BE HEARD: Members of the Congress of South African Trade Unions protest corruption in Cape Town. REUTERS

Kuwait National Guard minister picked as next crown prince

DUBAI: Kuwait's deputy chief of the National Guard, who spent years in the oil-rich country's security services, was nominated as crown prince on Wednesday, the Kuwaiti state news agency reported. The nomination makes Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah the possible heir apparent to the new emir; 83-year-old Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who was propelled to power following the death of his half-brother. Before Sheikh Meshal can be officially named crown prince, lawmakers must approve the choice during their final session on Thursday. AP

Ukraine secures £1.25 billion from UK for military vessels

KYIV: Ukraine will sign a memorandum with the United Kingdom, securing 1.25 billion pounds (\$1.61 billion) to build new military vessels for the Ukrainian Navy, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Wednesday. The memorandum would be signed during Zelenskiy's state visit to the UK on Oct. 7-8. "This is an important strategic document... we will sign this memorandum for the amount of 1.25 billion pounds," Zelenskiy told local television. Specialised military news agencies have said the funds would be in the form of a 10-year loan and allow the UK to provide 8 Barzan-class fast attack crafts to Ukraine. REUTERS

2 women scientists get Nobel in chemistry for gene editing

STOCKHOLM, OCTOBER 7

Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry on Wednesday for developing a method of genome editing likened to "molecular scissors" that offer the promise of one day curing inherited diseases and even cancer.

Working on opposite sides of the Atlantic, French woman Emmanuelle Charpentier and American Jennifer A Doudna developed a method known as CRISPR/Cas9 that can be used to change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with extremely high precision.

"There is enormous power in this genetic tool, which affects us all," said Claes Gustafsson, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry.

"It has not only revolutionised basic science, but also resulted in innovative crops and will lead to groundbreaking new medical treatments." Gustafsson said as a result, any genome can now be edited "to fix genetic damage", adding that the tool "will provide humankind with great opportunities."

But he cautioned that the "enormous power of this technology means we have to use it with great care". It has already raised serious ethical questions in the scientific community.



Emmanuelle Charpentier (L) and Jennifer A Doudna. REUTERS FILE

CURE FOR INHERITED DISEASES

■ French woman Emmanuelle Charpentier (51) and American Jennifer A Doudna (56) have created 'genetic scissors' that can rewrite the code of life, contributing to new cancer therapies and holding out the prospect of curing hereditary diseases.

■ The two scientists share the

Most of the world became more aware of CRISPR in 2018, when Chinese scientist Dr He Jiankui revealed that he had helped make the world's first gene-edited babies, to try to engineer

resistance to future infection with the AIDS virus. His work was denounced worldwide as unsafe human experimentation because of the risk of causing unintended changes that

10 million Swedish crown (\$1.1 million) prize for developing the CRISPR/Cas9 tool to edit the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with precision.

can pass to future generations, and he's currently in prison.

In September, an international panel of experts issued a report saying it's still too soon to try to make genetically edited babies because the science isn't advanced enough to ensure safety, but they mapped a pathway for any countries that want to consider it.

"I was very emotional, I have to say," Charpentier, 51, told reporters on the phone from Berlin after hearing of the award announced Wednesday in Stockholm by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Asked about the fact that it was the first time that two women have won the chemistry Nobel together, Charpentier said while she considers herself first and foremost a scientist, she hoped it would encourage others.

"I wish that this will provide a positive message to young girls who would like to follow the path of science," she said. "My greatest hope is that it's used for good, to uncover new mysteries in biology and to benefit humankind," Doudna said.

The Broad Institute at Harvard and MIT have been in a long court fight over patents on CRISPR technology. — Agencies

Fresh H-1B curbs to protect US workers

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 7

The Trump administration has announced new restrictions on H-1B non-immigrant visa programme which it said aimed at protecting American workers, restoring integrity and to better guarantee that H-1B petitions are approved only for qualified beneficiaries and petitioners, a move which will affect thousands of Indian IT professionals.



MOVE TO IMPACT INDIAN IT PROFESSIONALS

■ Such a decision by the Trump administration will have an adverse impact on thousands of Indian IT professionals.

■ Already a large number of Indians on the H-1B visa have lost their jobs and are headed back home during the pandemic.

nical expertise. Such a decision by the Trump administration will have an adverse impact on thousands of Indian IT professionals. Already a large number of Indians on the H-1B visas have lost their jobs and are headed back home during the Covid pandemic that has severely hit the US economy.

The White House defended the move, saying the President is improving America's work visa programmes. — PTI

150 million likely to slip into extreme poverty by 2021

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 7

The World Bank on Wednesday warned that by 2021, as many as 150 million people are likely to be in extreme poverty because of the Covid pandemic and countries will have to prepare for a "different economy" post-Covid by allowing capital, labour, skills and innovation to move into new businesses and sectors.

In its report, the bank said the lack of recent data for India severely hinders the ability to monitor global poverty. — PTI

115 million people into extreme poverty this year, with the total rising to as many as 150 million by 2021, depending on the severity of the economic contraction. This would represent a regression to the rate of 9.2 per cent in 2017, according to the biennial Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report.

The pandemic is estimated to push an additional 88 million to

LACK OF DATA ON POOR IN INDIA TO TOUGHEN TASK



■ Absence of recent data on India creates substantial uncertainty around the current estimates of global poverty, the World Bank said.

■ The bank's report says a number of middle-income countries will see significant numbers of people slip below the extreme poverty line.

TRACKING VIRUS

| NATIONS | DEATHS |
|---------|---------|
| US | 216,064 |
| BRAZIL | 147,571 |
| MEXICO | 82,348 |
| UK | 42,515 |
| PERU | 32,914 |

WORLDOMETER TILL OCT 7, 10 PM

Biden: Won't debate if Prez infected

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 7

Democratic Party presidential candidate Joe Biden said he was against participating in his second debate with Donald Trump next week if the President still had Covid-19.

"I think if he still has Covid, we shouldn't have a debate," Biden, a former US vice-president, told reporters on his return from Gettysburg.

The first of the three presidential debates between Biden,

Cleveland Clinic and what the docs say is the right thing to do," he said. "I'm not sure what President Trump is all about now. I don't know what his status is. I'm looking forward to being able to debate him but I just hope all protocols are followed," Biden said.

Trump in a tweet on Tuesday said he is looking forward to the debate. — PTI



BUSINESS

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| USD \$ | Euro € | Pound £ | JPY ¥ | Yuan ₠ | CAD \$ | AUD \$ | SGD \$ | HKD \$ |
| ₹73.33 | ₹86.26 | ₹94.28 | ₹0.69 | ₹10.79 | ₹55.14 | ₹52.25 | ₹53.96 | ₹9.46 |

33-year-old Messi starts yet another pursuit for World Cup glory with Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, OCTOBER 7
Lionel Messi begins yet another quest with the national team, probably for his last shot at World Cup glory, when Argentina take on Ecuador tomorrow in the preliminary qualifying stage of the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

If Messi leads Argentina to their third world title and first since 1986, it would finally win him a place in the hearts of Diego Maradona's faithful. At odds with Barcelona, the 33-year-old Messi will be the key for his team, beginning when they host Ecuador on Thursday.

The 33-year-old, a record six-time winner of the Ballon d'Or, has won everything in the club game with Barcelona several times over but his international trophy cabinet looks bare in comparison. FILE



Lionel Messi has won everything in the club game with Barcelona but his international trophy cabinet looks bare in comparison. FILE

"The only goal I have now is to win the World Cup with the national team," he has said in the past. The closest he has come so far was as

losing finalist against Germany in 2014. Thursday's clash with Ecuador gives him the chance to start working towards one last

attempt at that goal.

Club travails

In the meantime, he has a pair of qualifiers — Argentina also travel to Bolivia next Tuesday — to distract him from his club travails. Messi tried to force his exit from Barcelona in the close season but Barca held firm and a 700 million euro release clause ensured he remained, albeit disgruntled.

Playing Ecuador in his homeland may provide a welcome respite but it is also fraught with potential difficulty.

Four years ago at the start of qualifying for the 2018 World Cup in Russia, Ecuador stunned Argentina 2-0 at River Plate's iconic Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires. It took a hat-trick by an inspired Messi in Argenti-

na's final qualifier, away to Ecuador, to send the twice world champions to Russia.

This is a much-changed Argentina from that which disappointed at the last World Cup. Young coach Lionel Scaloni embarked on an ambitious regeneration of the squad following the abject exit from Russia under the tutelage of Jorge Sampaoli. However, alongside Scaloni's 'new guard' remain several veterans, like Messi. "We can say that there are seven or eight 'memory' players that are the foundation," said Scaloni. "Messi needs two players ahead of him that he can assist, and sit deep, not at the tip. That's how we got results at the Brazil 2019 Copa America," added Scaloni in reference to Argentina's third-place finish. — Agencies



Rafael Nadal hit 37 winners against Jannik Sinner. REUTERS

RAFA on a roll

Defending champ eases past Sinner, enters last-4

BRIEFLY**NEW DELHI**

Boxers to head to Europe for training; Mary Kom to skip
India's Olympics-bound boxers, except for an indisposed MC Mary Kom and two others, will travel to Italy and France starting next week for a 52-day training-cum-competition trip as they gear up for the Tokyo Games. Mary Kom is currently recovering from a bout of dengue. The Europe assignment starts on October 15.

NEW YORK**NBA Finals: Lakers one win away from title**

LeBron James overcame a sluggish start and Anthony Davis made a key three-pointer and block late on as Los Angeles Lakers beat Miami Heat 102-96 to take a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven NBA Finals. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

IPL
HYDERABAD VS PUNJAB
STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

TENNIS
FRENCH OPEN
STAR SPORTS 2:30PM

FOOTBALL FRIENDLIES
RUSSIA VS SWEDEN 9:45PM
ENGLAND VS WALES 00:30AM (FRIDAY)
SONY SIX



FINAL GOODBYE

Former Australia batsman Dean Jones, who died in Mumbai last month, was given a poignant farewell with a final lap in an empty Melbourne Cricket Ground. The casket containing the mortal remains of Jones was draped in an Australia flag and carried in a white hearse adorned with flowers spelling "324", his Test cap number and his highest First-Class score. PHOTO: MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

Tripathi's 81 helps KKR beat CSK

ABU DHABI: Kolkata Knight Riders beat Chennai Super Kings by 10 runs in their IPL match here today. Opener Rahul Tripathi's 51-ball 81 helped Kolkata score 167 all out in 20 overs. Dwayne Bravo took three wickets for Chennai. In reply, Chennai were cruising at 99/1 in 12 overs. But after the 69-run partnership between Shane Watson (50 off 40) and Ambati Rayudu (30 off 27) was broken, Chennai's innings never managed to gather any momentum as they scored 157/5 in 20 overs.

Brief scores: KKR: 167 all out (Tripathi 81; Bravo 3/37, Karn 2/25); CSK: 157/5 (Watson 50, Rayudu 30; Russell 1/18). PTI

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For details of qualifications, terms of appointment of the Consultant (Finance), kindly visit HPPCL website: <http://www.hppcl.in>
Sd/- Director (Personnel)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General Public is hereby informed that one unknown person aged about 40 years, height 5'7", round beard face, wheatish complexion, thin body & wearing pink t-shirt & grey color pant, was found lying in unconscious condition in an Auto No. CH01A2809 parked near Gurudwara, Manimajra, Chandigarh on 03.10.2020. He was declared brought dead at GMSH-16, Chandigarh, vide Cr. No. 2020274178. The dead body has been shifted to mortuary of GMSH-16, Chandigarh. In this regard, a DDR No. 52, dated 03.10.2020 US 174 Cr.P.C has been lodged in Police Station Manimajra, Chandigarh. The legal heirs of deceased are not known. His photograph is given above.

In case of any clue about the whereabouts of deceased person, please inform to SHO, Police Station-Manimajra, Chandigarh on Phone No. 9779580950, 0172-2734082, 2751020 or Police Control Phone No. 0172-2749194 and 112.



Chandigarh Police

ददरत टैंकर, विनल टर्मोप्रेस्ट अवारटी, लुपिआना

हैंडी रसिस्टेन नंबरां दी अनाईन बैल सर्पी पर्शल नेटिस

अम पर्लिक दे पिएन विल लाइन्स जांचा है कि इस ददरत दे रसिस्टेन पीजीज़ PB10HL मीरीज दे हैंडी रसिस्टेन दी अनलाईन बैली लॉलाइन रसिस्टेन वरन दी मिरी 07.10.2020 ते 14.10.2020 ते 21.10.2020 ते 28.10.2020 ते 07.11.2020 ते 14.11.2020 ते 21.11.2020 ते 28.11.2020 ते 05.12.2020 ते 22.12.2020 ते 29.12.2020 ते 05.01.2021 ते 22.01.2021 ते 29.01.2021 ते 05.02.2021 ते 22.02.2021 ते 29.02.2021 ते 05.03.2021 ते 22.03.2021 ते 29.03.2021 ते 05.04.2021 ते 22.04.2021 ते 29.04.2021 ते 05.05.2021 ते 22.05.2021 ते 29.05.2021 ते 05.06.2021 ते 22.06.2021 ते 29.06.2021 ते 05.07.2021 ते 22.07.2021 ते 29.07.2021 ते 05.08.2021 ते 22.08.2021 ते 29.08.2021 ते 05.09.2021 ते 22.09.2021 ते 29.09.2021 ते 05.10.2021 ते 22.10.2021 ते 29.10.2021 ते 05.11.2021 ते 22.11.2021 ते 29.11.2021 ते 05.12.2021 ते 22.12.2021 ते 29.12.2021 ते 05.01.2022 ते 22.01.2022 ते 29.01.2022 ते 05.02.2022 ते 22.02.2022 ते 29.02.2022 ते 05.03.2022 ते 22.03.2022 ते 29.03.2022 ते 05.04.2022 ते 22.04.2022 ते 29.04.2022 ते 05.05.2022 ते 22.05.2022 ते 29.05.2022 ते 05.06.2022 ते 22.06.2022 ते 29.06.2022 ते 05.07.2022 ते 22.07.2022 ते 29.07.2022 ते 05.08.2022 ते 22.08.2022 ते 29.08.2022 ते 05.09.2022 ते 22.09.2022 ते 29.09.2022 ते 05.10.2022 ते 22.10.2022 ते 29.10.2022 ते 05.11.2022 ते 22.11.2022 ते 29.11.2022 ते 05.12.2022 ते 22.12.2022 ते 29.12.2022 ते 05.01.2023 ते 22.01.2023 ते 29.01.2023 ते 05.02.2023 ते 22.02.2023 ते 29.02.2023 ते 05.03.2023 ते 22.03.2023 ते 29.03.2023 ते 05.04.2023 ते 22.04.2023 ते 29.04.2023 ते 05.05.2023 ते 22.05.2023 ते 29.05.2023 ते 05.06.2023 ते 22.06.2023 ते 29.06.2023 ते 05.07.2023 ते 22.07.2023 ते 29.07.2023 ते 05.08.2023 ते 22.08.2023 ते 29.08.2023 ते 05.09.2023 ते 22.09.2023 ते 29.09.2023 ते 05.10.2023 ते 22.10.2023 ते 29.10.2023 ते 05.11.2023 ते 22.11.2023 ते 29.11.2023 ते 05.12.2023 ते 22.12.2023 ते 29.12.2023 ते 05.01.2024 ते 22.01.2024 ते 29.01.2024 ते 05.02.2024 ते 22.02.2024 ते 29.02.2024 ते 05.03.2024 ते 22.03.2024 ते 29.03.2024 ते 05.04.2024 ते 22.04.2024 ते 29.04.2024 ते 05.05.2024 ते 22.05.2024 ते 29.05.2024 ते 05.06.2024 ते 22.06.2024 ते 29.06.2024 ते 05.07.2024 ते 22.07.2024 ते 29.07.2024 ते 05.08.2024 ते 22.08.2024 ते 29.08.2024 ते 05.09.2024 ते 22.09.2024 ते 29.09.2024 ते 05.10.2024 ते 22.10.2024 ते 29.10.2024 ते 05.11.2024 ते 22.11.2024 ते 29.11.2024 ते 05.12.2024 ते 22.12.2024 ते 29.12.2024 ते 05.01.2025 ते 22.01.2025 ते 29.01.2025 ते 05.02.2025 ते 22.02.2025 ते 29.02.2025 ते 05.03.2025 ते 22.03.2025 ते 29.03.2025 ते 05.04.2025 ते 22.04.2025 ते 29.04.2025 ते 05.05.2025 ते 22.05.2025 ते 29.05.2025 ते 05.06.2025 ते 22.06.2025 ते 29.06.2025 ते 05.07.2025 ते 22.07.2025 ते 29.07.2025 ते 05.08.2025 ते 22.08.2025 ते 29.08.2025 ते 05.09.2025 ते 22.09.2025 ते 29.09.2025 ते 05.10.2025 ते 22.10.2025 ते 29.10.2025 ते 05.11.2025 ते 22.11.2025 ते 29.11.2025 ते 05.12.2025 ते 22.12.2025 ते 29.12.2025 ते 05.01.2026 ते 22.01.2026 ते 29.01.2026 ते 05.02.2026 ते 22.02.2026 ते 29.02.2026 ते 05.03.2026 ते 22.03.2026 ते 29.03.2026 ते 05.04.2026 ते 22.04.2026 ते 29.04.2026 ते 05.05.2026 ते 22.05.2026 ते 29.05.2026 ते 05.06.2026 ते 22.06.2026 ते 29.06.2026 ते 05.07.2026 ते 22.07.2026 ते 29.07.2026 ते 05.08.2026 ते 22.08.2026 ते 29.08.2026 ते 05.09.2026 ते 22.09.2026 ते 29.09.2026 ते 05.10.2026 ते 22.10.2026 ते 29.10.2026 ते 05.11.2026 ते 22.11.2026 ते 29.11.2026 ते 05.12.2026 ते 22.12.2026 ते 29.12.2026 ते 05.01.2027 ते 22.01.2027 ते 29.01.2027 ते 05.02.2027 ते 22.02.2027 ते 29.02.2027 ते 05.03.2027 ते 22.03.2027 ते 29.03.2027 ते 05.04.2027 ते 22.04.2027 ते 29.04.2027 ते 05.05.2027 ते 22.05.2027 ते 29.05.2027 ते 05.06.2027 ते 22.06.2027 ते 29.06.2027 ते 05.07.2027 ते 22.07.2027 ते 29.07.2027 ते 05.08.2027 ते 22.08.2027 ते 29.08.2027 ते 05.09.2027 ते 22.09.2027 ते 29.09.2027 ते 05.10.2027 ते 22.10.2027 ते 29.10.2027 ते 05.11.2027 ते 22.11.2027 ते 29.11.2027 ते 05.12.2027 ते 22.12.2027 ते 29.12.2027 ते 05.01.2028 ते 22.01.2028 ते 29.01.2028 ते 05.02.2028 ते 22.02.2028 ते 29.02.2028 ते 05.03.2028 ते 22.03.2028 ते 29.03.2028 ते 05.04.2028 ते 22.04.2028 ते 29.04.2028 ते 05.05.2028 ते 22.05.2028 ते 29.05.2028 ते 05.06.2028 ते 22.06.2028 ते 29.06.2028 ते 05.07.2028 ते 22.07.2028 ते 29.07.2028 ते 05.08.2028 ते 22.08.2028 ते 29.08.2028 ते 05.09.2028

Union Cabinet ratifies ban on 7 hazardous chemicals

Pollutants were listed under Stockholm Convention

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 7

The Union Cabinet today ratified ban on seven Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) listed under Stockholm Convention and hazardous to health and environment.

"With today's decision, India is sending out a positive message to the world that we are active in this area and we do not tolerate health and environmental hazard," Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

The Stockholm Convention is a global treaty to protect human health and environment from POPs, which are identified chemical substances that persist in the environment, bio-accumulate in living organisms, adversely affect human health/ environment and have the property of long-range environmental transport.

Exposure to POPs can lead to cancer, damage to central and peripheral nervous systems, diseases of immune system, reproductive disorders and interference with normal infant and child development.

Considering its commitment towards providing safe environment and addressing human health risks, the Ministry of Environment, Forest



(From left) Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, Prakash Javadekar and Dharmendra Pradhan after Cabinet meet. PHOTO: MUKESH AGGARWAL

Revised cost for Kolkata metro project okayed

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved revised cost for Kolkata East West Metro Corridor Project for Kolkata city and surrounding urban areas, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said. Estimated completion cost of the project is Rs 8,575 crore and the target date of completion is December 2021. The project envisages construction of a metro corridor between Salt Lake Sector-V to Howrah Maidan in West Bengal for a total route length of 16.6 km, Goyal said. PTI

and Climate Change had notified the Regulation of Persistent Organic Pollutants Rules, on March 5, 2018, under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The regulation inter alia prohibited the manufacture, trade, use, import and export of seven chemicals, namely Chlordecone, Hexabromobiphenyl, Hexabromodiphenyl ether and Heptabromodiphenylether (Commercial octa-BDE), Tetra-

Pentabromodiphenyl ether (Commercial penta-BDE), Pentachlorobenzene, Hexabromocyclododecane and Hexachlorobutadiene.

The approval demonstrates India's commitment to meet its international obligations with regard to protection of environment and human health. The ratification process would enable India to access Global Environment Facility financial resources in updating the NIP.

Nod to reforms in natural gas marketing

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 7

Bringing in reforms in natural gas marketing, the government on Wednesday approved a standardised market driven bidding process for discovering the prices of the energy product.

Briefing the media after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) would suggest an e-bidding platform for users. He noted that producers would have a choice to opt for a platform and transparent and open bidding process to be conducted for price discovery.

Besides, the producing company cannot participate in the bidding process to avoid direct conflict of interest, but affiliate companies would be eligible for participating in the bidding process.

The government said, "This will bring uniformity in the bidding process across various contractual regimes and policies to avoid ambiguity and contribute towards ease of doing business." — TNS



Ticket seekers from Jehanabad protest outside the Congress office in Patna on Wednesday. PTI

JD-U list out, Lalu's relative to contest from Nitish party

CONG RELEASES FIRST LIST OF 21 CANDIDATES

New Delhi: The Congress on Wednesday released its first list of 21 candidates for the Bihar Assembly poll. The list was announced after the Congress central election committee cleared their names at a meeting held earlier this week. The Congress has nominated Shubhamand Mukesh, son of Congress Legislature Party leader in Bihar Sadanand Singh, for the Kahalganj Assembly seat. The party fielded Akhaura Nath from Gaya town instead of Mohan Shrivastava, who is facing charges of rape. PTI

the 243-member Assembly to its associate partner Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) of state president Basitha Narayan Singh, party leader in Rajya Sabha RCP Singh and its state working president Ashok Choudhary.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-headed party has already allocated seven seats out of its quota of 122 seats in

well in the 2015 grand alliance ministry, will be in fray from the Parsa constituency in Saran district, which he has represented six times in the past.

Buxar, hometown of Pandey and Shahpur constituency from where it was speculated that he might contest the polls, have gone to the BJP under seat-sharing formula. — PTI



Tamil Nadu CM K Palaniswami with AIADMK coordinator O Panneerselvam in Chennai. PTI

US cites PLA's Ladakh coercion for Pompeo attacking Beijing

SANDEEP DIKSHIT

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

China's claim to fight Covid played down

- Officials played down China's claim of assisting the WHO to fight the pandemic.
- While the US has put \$20.5 billion towards a vaccine, China volunteered \$2 billion in April

was right in explicitly criticising China because of Beijing's "sudden turn toward gross aggression in its entire periphery". This included the conflict in the Himalayas where something that was handled according to unspoken or unwritten rules in the past has now turned to "people beating each other to death".

Another official said if China thought it was a great power, it should participate in arms control talks as well as use WTO in ways acceptable to everybody.

The officials also played down China's claim of assisting the WHO to fight the pandemic. While the US has put \$20.5 billion towards a vaccine, China volunteered \$2 billion in April, and "as far as I can tell, we haven't seen any of that money".

Naga accord draft to be finalised soon

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 7

Rejecting the demand for separate Constitution and flag, the government has decided to begin work on the final draft of the Naga peace accord and sign it with all other armed rebel groups and civil society organisations of Nagaland soon leaving the defiant National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah), sources in the security establishment said.

Demand for separate flag, constitution rejected, say security sources

Noting that a section of NSCN (I-M) led by its secretary general Th Muivah has not yet indicated their willingness to sign the pact, the sources asserted that the government would go ahead to sign the pact with all other stakeholders, who have so far given their approval to the broad contours of the

"final draft agreement", which are aimed at bringing an end to decades-old trouble in Nagaland.

Sources noted that the negotiation between Naga rebel groups on all issues have already concluded and a consensus has been created for signing of the peace accord.

As Centre's interlocutor

for Naga talks and Governor of Nagaland RN Ravi has arrived in New Delhi to finalise the draft of peace accord, the security sources said talks between the NSCN (I-M) leadership led by its general secretary Th Muivah and Intelligence Bureau officers also concluded 10 days ago. They asserted that even during negotiations with IB officials, their demands for a separate flag and constitution for Nagaland have been rejected.

Seeking justice



Depositors of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank protest in Bengaluru on Wednesday. PTI

UGC lists 24 fake universities, most in UP and Delhi

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 7

The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Wednesday announced a list of 24 "self-styled, unrecognised institutions" in the country, terming them as "fake" with the maximum of them operating from Uttar Pradesh followed by Delhi.

"These universities are not empowered to confer any degree," UGC Secretary Rajnish Jain said.

A majority of eight of these universities are from UP — Varanasiya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi; Mahila Gram Vidyapith, Allahabad; Gandhi Hindi Vidyapith, Allahabad; National University of Electro Complex Homeopathy, Kanpur; Netaji Subha Chandrabose Open University, Aligarh; Uttar Pradesh Vishwavidyalaya, Mathura; Maharan Pratap Shiksha Niketan Vishwavidyalaya, Pratapgarh and Indraprashta Shiksha Parishad, Noida.

"Regarding Bharatiya Shiksha Parishad, Lucknow, the matter is sub

Odisha, West Bengal have two such varsities each

judice before district judge in Lucknow," Jain said.

Delhi has seven fake universities — Commercial University Ltd, United Nations University, Vocational University, ADR Centric Juridical University, Indian Institution of Science and Engineering, Vishwakarma Open University for Self Employment and Adhyatmik Vishwavidyalaya (Spiritual University).

Odisha and West Bengal have two such universities each. They are — Indian Institute of Alternative Medicine, Kolkata; Institute of Alternative Medicine and Research, Kolkata; Nababbarat Shiksha Parishad, Rourkela and North Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology.

Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Puducherry and Maharashtra have one fake university each. — PTI

FROM PAGE 1

No dialogue...

₹3.05-cr fine...

by Secretary (Agriculture) Sanjay Agarwal is clearly not to initiate a dialogue, but has been sent merely to 'explain to the agitating farmers' how the laws were beneficial," he said.

Joginder Singh Ugrahan, BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) chief, said the farmers had no choice but to continue the 'Rail Roko' campaign and protest outside the houses of BJP leaders. Union leaders condemned the lathicharge on protesting farmers in Haryana on Tuesday.

"We will observe a two-hour bandh in Punjab on October 9 from 4pm to 6 pm in solidarity with Haryana farmers," said BKU leader Balbir S Rajewal.

in the additional lease lines are accounted for, said Rajat Agarwal, Excise Commissioner, Punjab. In case of failure to adhere to the direction, a security of Rs 2 lakh deposited by the distillery would be forfeited.

Action is also being initiated against other distilleries and breweries, which the department suspects are smuggling liquor in the name of bottling by creating additional bottling capacity (lease lines). Many of these manufacturers, citing shortage of capacity, were allowed to establish new lease lines to bottle 25,000 cases per month. Excise officials allege the distillers account for just 600-700 cases per month, while they sell thousands of cases.

Took action against errants in Palghar case, Maha tells SC

Seeks dismissal of pleas seeking CBI probe into case

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 7

The Maharashtra Government has urged the Supreme Court to dismiss the petitions seeking a CBI probe into the lynching of two Hindu saints and their driver, saying it has taken action against the erring policemen who have been either dismissed or compulsorily retired or subjected to salary cut.

On behalf of the state government, senior advocate R Basant told a Bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan, "One police official has been dismissed, two others have been compulsorily retired and several others have been punished with pay-cuts. A charge-sheet has been filed against 252 persons."

THE CASE

Two saints along with their driver were lynched by a mob in cops' presence in Gadchinchale village of Palghar district in Maharashtra. It is said the accused mistook them for thieves

He said now that everything was over, the top court should dismiss the petitions demanding a CBI probe into the incident.

As petitioner SS Jha opposed his submission, the Bench adjourned the matter to allow the petitioners to read the state's 1,000-page reply and respond to it.

The SC had on June 11 asked the state government to

respond to two petitions seeking separate probes by the CBI and the NIA into the lynching that took place in Gadchinchale village allegedly in police presence on April 16.

The top court is seized of two petitions — one filed by sadhus of Shri Panch Dashban Juna Akhara and relatives of the deceased seers and the other by one Ghanshyam Upadhyay.

While the first petition demanded a CBI probe into the lynchings, the other wanted a probe by the NIA. The petitioners alleged that the state police were conducting the probe in a biased manner.

The victims were travelling from Mumbai to Surat when they were stopped by a mob and killed allegedly on suspicion of being thieves. Last year, 627 LMT paddy

Govt agencies to procure over 700 lakh MT paddy

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 7

The government is expected to procure around 738-lakh-metric-tonne (LMT) paddy at the cost Rs 1.40 lakh crore in the ongoing kharif marketing season, officials said today.

So far, 23 per cent more paddy than last year has been procured at the MSP. As on October 6, as much as 15.26 LMT paddy has been procured against 12.38 LMT last year, an increase of 23 per cent. While 10.08 LMT has been procured from Punjab, it is 4.92 LMT in Haryana, according to official figures.

Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said, "The kharif procurement started early this year on September 26 instead of October 1 because of early arrival of gairin in the market.

The project is estimated to cost Rs 29,560 crore. "Yes, the concession agreement has been signed," said Shailendra Bhatia, NIAL's nodal officer for Jewar airport. The project is in Greater Noida in the presence of Arun Vir Singh, chief executive officer of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority, which is the nodal agency for setting up the airport project, and other senior UP officials. — TNS

UP signs pact with Swiss firm for Jewar airport

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 7

The Zurich Airport International AG and Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) today signed a concession agreement that would allow the Swiss developer to begin work at the site of the upcoming green field aviation infrastructure facility, officials said.

The project is estimated to cost Rs 29,560 crore. "Yes, the concession agreement has been signed," said Shailendra Bhatia, NIAL's nodal officer for Jewar airport. The agreement was signed at the NIAL's office in Greater Noida in the presence of Arun Vir Singh, chief executive officer of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority, which is the nodal agency for setting up the airport project, and other senior UP officials. — TNS

Palaniswami is AIADMK CM face for TN poll

CHENNAI, OCTOBER 7

Incumbent Chief Minister K Palaniswami was on Wednesday named by the AIADMK as the party's Chief Ministerial candidate for the 2021 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, ending a brewing crisis triggered by differences between him and his deputy O Panneerselvam over the leadership issue.

The two top leaders buried the hatchet and reached a workable understanding as AIADMK coordinator Panneerselvam himself announced the name of Palaniswami, while the latter declared constitution of an 11-member steering committee, acceding to a long-pending demand of the former.

Ironing out differences in parleys over a week involving ministers and party leaders, the twin announcements have removed intra-party roadblocks for the AIADMK in gearing up with gusto for the Assembly elections next year. — PTI



Tamil Nadu CM K Palaniswami with AIADMK coordinator O Panneerselvam in Chennai. PTI