

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | VOL. 140 NO. 272 | 12 PAGES | ₹5.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2018-2020 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

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TRUMP DENIGRATES OFFICE OF US
PRESIDENT: KAMALA BACK PAGE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2020



All 32 accused in Babri case acquitted

Advani & co cleared of conspiracy charge | Verdict against constitutional spirit: Oppn

Tribune News Service & PTI

NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW, SEPT 30 A special CBI court here on Wednesday acquitted all the 32 accused, including senior BJP leaders LK Advani, MM Joshi, Kalyan Singh and Uma Bharti, in the Babri Masjid demolition case, saying there was no conclusive evidence against them.

2,300-PAGE VERDICT

SPECIAL JUDGE SAYS NO CONCLUSIVE PROOF

FINDINGS AT VARIANCE WITH LIBERHAN COMMISSION

COMMITMENT TO MOVEMENT VINDICATED, SAYS ADVANI

In his 2,300-page verdict, Special Judge SK Yadav said the CBI could not produce any conclusive proof against the accused. The verdict, which came 28 years after the demolition of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992, by kar sevaks, noted that late VHP leader Ashok Singhal wanted to save the structure because Lord Ram idol was inside.

The court's findings are at variance with those of Justice MS Liberhan Commission, which had concluded in its 2009 report that the masjid demolition was

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

EDIT: BABRI ACQUITTAL

- FACED TRIAL FOR...**
- 1 Criminal conspiracy in addition to promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion
 - 2 Accused made assertions prejudicial to national integration and injuring or defiling a place of worship
 - 3 Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings
 - 4 Uttering statements leading to public mischief, rioting and unlawful assembly



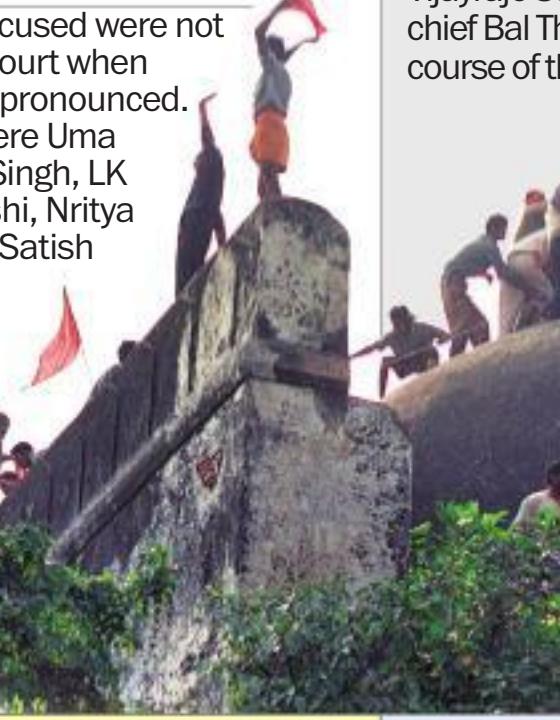
TIMELINE	
1949:	Idols of Ram Lalla placed under central dome outside disputed structure
1950:	Suit in Faizabad court for worship right
1959:	Nirmohi Akhara files a suit
1961:	UP Sunni Waqf Board files suit
Feb 1986:	Local court orders opening of site
Dec 6, 1992:	Masjid razed; 2 FIRs filed against kar sevaks & BJP leaders Advani, Joshi and others for 'communal' speeches
Oct 1993:	CBI's chargesheet accuses Advani, others of criminal conspiracy
May 2001:	Special CBI court drops proceedings against Advani, Joshi, Uma Bharti, Bal Thackeray and others
May 2010:	The Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court dismisses CBI's plea
Sept 2010:	Allahabad HC rules division of disputed area between Sunni Board, Nirmohi Akhara, Ram Lalla
April 19, 2017:	SC revives criminal conspiracy charge against Advani, others
Nov 9, 2019:	SC grants disputed land in Ayodhya to deity Ram Lalla, alternative five-acre plot to Muslims for mosque

JUDGE RETIRES AFTER VERDICT

Special Judge SK Yadav, who had been given one-year extension till Wednesday by the SC, retired after pronouncing the judgment. The criminal conspiracy charge was dropped by a trial court in 2001. However, the SC on April 19, 2017, revived the charge and asked the Special CBI Judge to conduct day-to-day hearing and complete the trial in two years. Later, it extended the time till September 30, 2020.

ADVANI, JOSHI SKIP HEARING

Six of the 32 accused were not present in the court when the verdict was pronounced. Among them were Uma Bharti, Kalyan Singh, LK Advani, MM Joshi, Nitanya Gopal Das and Satish Pradhan.



VHP'S SINGHAL TRIED TO SAVE STRUCTURE, SAYS CBI COURT

The CBI special court pronounced that VHP leader late Ashok Singhal tried to stop the kar sevaks assembled around the mosque in Ayodhya from demolishing the disputed structure because the idol of Lord Ram was also inside the structure. Among others, BJP veterans late Pramod Mahajan and Vijayraje Scindia and Shiv Sena's then chief Bal Thackeray died during the course of the trial.



CRIMINAL ACT BRUSHED ASIDE: MUSLIM BODIES

Prominent Muslim organisations on Wednesday raised questions over the Babri mosque verdict saying it was "far from justice" and not only witnesses were ignored but the criminal act was brushed aside too. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board urged the CBI to file an appeal against the judgment.

REVIEW APPEAL MUST

“The decision runs contrary to SC judgment and constitutional spirit. Every Indian who has faith in Constitution and in the spirit of communal amity expects the government to file a review appeal.

Randeep Surjewala, CONG SPOKESPERSON

TIME CAN ALTER JUSTICE

“While I do not wish to comment, I must say time has the capability of changing the course of justice. The evidence tends to get diluted over the years as, among other things, memory of witnesses fades.

Justice MS Liberhan, (PROBED BABRI DEMOLITION)

China tones down vitriol, envoy decries talk of confrontation

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

India and China on Wednesday held an inter-ministerial meeting to review the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) while Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong called on both sides to follow up the five-point consensus reached by the two Foreign Ministers in Moscow on September 10.

The 19th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) held "frank and detailed discussions" on the developments since its last meeting on August 20.

In the Chinese Ambassador's address, there was no trace of the rancour expressed by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) just a day ago.

China is committed to seeking a solution through dialogue, said the Chinese envoy. "We need to remain rational and calm, and resist the talk of confrontation," he said during a virtual meeting to commemorate China's 71st national day. The MEA said the WMCC also underlined the importance it attached to

WMCC holds 'frank discussions' on LAC



INDIGENISED BRAHMOS TEST-FIRED SUCCESSFULLY

New Delhi: India on Wednesday successfully tested the BrahMos surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile, featuring indigenous 'booster' and 'airframe' section along with other 'made in India' sub-systems. Tested from Balasore in Odisha, it cruised at a top speed of Mach 2.8, three times that of sound. TNS

the discussions earlier this month between the two Defence Ministers followed by an agreement between the two Foreign Ministers to ensure disengagement at all friction points. The meeting also decided to hold the seventh round of commanders' meet at an early date. —TNS

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PROHIBITED

- International air travel, except as permitted by MHA
- Entertainment parks

Deadline for income tax returns extended

NEW DELHI: The Income Tax Department has again extended the deadline for filing returns for financial year 2018-19. Belated and revised returns can now be filed by November 30. TNS

Forced to perform last rites: Rape victim's kin

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30 The body of 19-year-old Hathras gang-rape victim was cremated early Wednesday with family members alleging they were forced by the police to hurriedly conduct the last rites.

"The cremation was done at 3 am," her father said, a day after his daughter succumbed to critical injuries. She was allegedly gang-raped and tortured by four men.

The victim's brother alleged: "The police forcibly took my father for cremation as soon as he reached Hathras from Delhi." Denying the charge, Hathras Joint Magistrate PP Meena said the final rites were carried out as per the procedure and with the permission of the family. PM Narendra Modi spoke to UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and asked him to ensure strictest possible action

Act tough against culprits, PM tells Yogi



NHRC NOTICE TO UP

₹25L RELIEF FOR FAMILY against the culprits. Uttar Pradesh has set up an SIT to probe the case. It will submit its report in seven days. —TNS

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31 Pb farm groups to launch protest today

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30

Vehemently opposing the Centre's new farm laws, 31 farmer organisations in Punjab will go on an indefinite protest from tomorrow. People from various sections are contributing dry ration for langar to be served to the protesters, who will squat on rail tracks and outside the residences of BJP leaders, gherao offices of multinational firms and ask gram sabhas to pass resolutions against the laws.

The farmers will hold protests tomorrow outside the residences of Union Minister Som Parkash in Phagwara, former Punjab BJP president Shrawan Malik in Amritsar and former MLA Sukhpal Nannu in Ferozepur. Artistes have been meeting villagers to mobilise support

In HP, 35% secondary schools sans computers

BHANU P LOHAMI

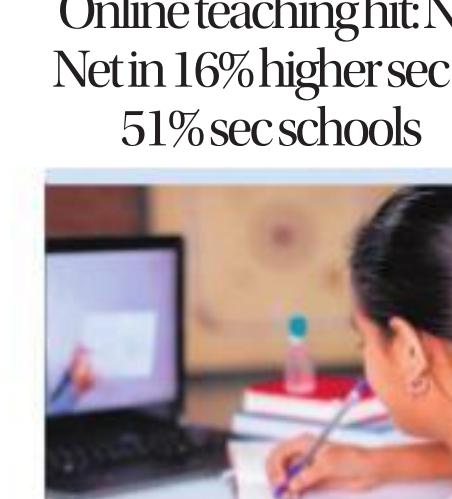
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 30

Despite the thrust on online teaching and focus on smart classrooms with information and communication technology (ICT) labs, 8.89 per cent government higher secondary schools and 34.72 per cent government secondary schools in Himachal have no computer facility.

The situation in primary and middle schools is worse. Only 3.44 per cent primary and 17.2 per cent middle schools have computers. Also, 16.48 per cent higher secondary schools and 51.44 per cent secondary schools in 418 schools but Internet connectivity in remote tribal areas like Lahaul and Spiti, Kinnaur, Pangi and Bharmour remains a problem, sources said.

Online teaching hit: No Net in 16% higher sec & 51% sec schools



1,948 middle, 939 secondary & 1,857 higher secondary. The Education Department has floated tenders for computers in 418 schools but Internet connectivity in remote tribal areas like Lahaul and Spiti, Kinnaur, Pangi and Bharmour remains a problem, sources said.

The Tribune INTERVIEW
‘GOVT PROCUREMENT,
MSP TO STAY’

Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur, in an exclusive interview with The Tribune, allies apprehensions and concerns raised by the farming community over the new farm laws

DETAILS INSIDE

for the protest. Youth clubs, traders and government staff are backing farmers. So are the political parties. The Congress will launch a signature campaign on October 2. AAP has been reaching out to villagers. The SAD plans a march from the three Takhts tomorrow. —TNS



Activists of the Kirti Kisan Union hold a protest march; and members of various farm organisations rally in Jalandhar on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTOS: MALKIAT SINGH



The Tribune INTERVIEW: ANURAG THAKUR, MoS, FINANCE

Farmers needn't fear, MSP, procurement to stay

WITH the protests against the contentious agricultural legislations refusing to die down, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur, in an exclusive interview with *Sanjeev Singh Barniana*, tries to allay fears of the farming community.

■ How true are the fears of farmers that the government will withdraw completely from purchasing the farm produce and leave it entirely open to the private sector?

The government is neither going to withdraw from purchasing the farm produce nor going to do away with the "Kisan March" starting from the three Takhts to Chandigarh, where the SAD will hand over a memorandum, demanding revocation of the Acts, to the Central Government through the Punjab Governor.

SAD senior vice-president Dr Daljit Singh Cheema said party chief Sukhbir Singh Badal would lead the "Kisan March" from Akal Takht in Amritsar, former Union minister Har-simrat Kaur Badal from Damdama Sahib at Talwandi Sabo and Prof Prem Singh Chandumraja from Keshgarh Sahib at Anandpur Sahib.



“The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, enables contract farming through an agreement between farmers and buyers prior to the production at a fixed price.”

■ Farmers also have their misgivings on electricity and fertiliser subsidies. What's the truth?

We have not taken away any electricity and fertiliser subsidies. Instead, since 2013-14, the MSP for wheat and paddy has increased by 41 per cent and 43 per cent, respectively, while there has been up to 65 per cent hike in MSP for pulses and oilseeds. The quantity of wheat and paddy procured has also increased by 73 per cent and 114 per cent, respectively, compared to 2014. Increased agriculture credit, higher loan subsidy, soil health card to 16.38 crore has also helped farmers.

■ Aren't the farm laws harsh on arthiyas who play a crucial role in procurement of crops?

The government is simply working to ensure that the farmers get better price discovery for their produce. The Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, also enables contract farming through an agreement between the farmer and the buyer prior to the production at a fixed price.

Slight dip in state's toll, 14 deaths, 1,435 new cases

VISHAV BHARTI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30
The number of Covid cases has declined in the state in past few days. Between September 14 and 20, around 18,000 cases and 450 deaths were reported.

In the week prior to that, between September 7 and 13, 16,000 cases were recorded and number of deaths was 500. However, the number showed a decline in the following week from September 21 to 27, with around 420 deaths. The cases dropped drastically to 12,000.

In the same period, the state's contact tracing ratio has also increased significantly to 7.7 per positive case. The ratio had declined to around 4.4 per positive case. The central expert team had raised the issue in its report that Punjab needed to improve the contact tracing ratio.

With 1,435 fresh cases and 47 deaths reported in 24 hours, the state count of Covid cases reached 1,13,886 on Wednesday. The number of casualties has reached 3,406. Besides, 93,666 patients have recov-

COVID CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS	DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Ludhiana	17,958	741	Moga	2,338	68
Jalandhar	13,030	390	Fatehgarh Sahib	1,904	82
Amritsar	9,987	361	Tarn Taran	1,642	65
Patiala	11,565	321	Kapurthala	3,221	138
Sangrur	3,544	146	Fazilka	2,377	35
SAS Nagar	10,350	191	SBS Nagar	1,622	48
Gurdaspur	5,903	145	Faridkot	2,764	44
Bathinda	5,892	113	Barnala	1,832	43
Hoshiarpur	4,500	157	Ropar	2,089	75
Ferozepur	3,727	99	Muktsar	2,486	70
Pathankot	3,678	74	Mansa	1,577	30
Total	113,886	3,406			



DATA OVER WEEKS

DISTRICT	CASES	DEATHS
Sept 7-13	16,000	500
Sept 14-20	18,000	450
Sept 21-27	12,000	420

ered from the deadly virus and at present 16,814 cases are active in the state. Apart from that, 372 patients are on oxygen support and 49 are on ventilator support.

In district wise break-up of fresh cases reported today, Amritsar topped the chart with 167 cases, followed by Ludhiana (163), Jalandhar (143), SAS Nagar (123), Patiala (96), Bathinda (90) and Pathankot (89).

The state reported 47 casualties in last 24 hours. Among districts, Hoshiarpur topped the chart with seven deaths, followed by Ludhiana (6), Jalandhar and SAS Nagar (five each), Bathinda and Gurdaspur (four each), Ropar (three), Amritsar, Ferozepur and Sangrur (two each), Barnala, Fatehgarh Sahib, Fazilka, Moga, Muktsar, SBS Nagar and Patiala (one each). —TNS

Hospital installs CCTV cameras in Covid wards

PATIALA, SEPTEMBER 30
Amid allegations of lack of patient care, the management of Government Rajindra Hospital has installed 123 CCTV cameras in the Covid wards.

The decision comes days after a woman was found unattended on the stairs of the Covid ward. She had died within a few hours of being rushed to the ICU. Dr Rajan Singla, Principal, Government Medical College, said 123 CCTV cameras have been installed in both the Covid-19 buildings at the hospital. A mike system will also help improve the coordination among the Covid staff and to handle emergency situations.

123 cameras to keep vigil on patients, doctors

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1 अक्टूबर, 2020



विश्वभर में वृद्धों के साथ होने वाले अन्याय, उपेक्षा व दुर्व्यवहार पर लगान लगाने के उद्देश्य से यह दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष 1 अक्टूबर को मनाया जाता है। कोविड-19 महामारी के दौरान वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के स्वास्थ्य पर विशेष लुप से ध्यान देने की जरूरत है, अतः पूरे समाज का दायित्व है कि सभी उनके अच्छे स्वास्थ्य के लिए प्रयत्न करें।

कोरोना महामारी के दौरान वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को निम्न बातों का ख्यास ध्यान रखना चाहिए।

- उचित सामाजिक दूरी बनाये रखें, यदि मिलना आवश्यक हो तो एक मीटर की दूरी अवश्य बनायें।
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COVID -19 से सम्बंधित अधिक जानकारी के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर- 104 पर संपर्क करें।



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The Norwood School, Chahal, PO Kathgarh, Teh. Balachaur, Distt. SBS Nagar requires Kindergarten Teacher & TGT (English, Social Science, Hindi, Computer Science). Candidate should be well qualified, experienced having excellent communication skills in English. Apply within 7 days with resume and latest photo on Email thenorwoodschool2020@gmail.com or WhatsApp on: 62839-00074. (CL20045411)

Miri Piri Institute of Medical Sciences & Research (Charitable Trust), Shahabad (M). Distt. Kurukshetra, Haryana invites applications from reputed firms of Chartered Accountants for Pre-Audit and Internal Audit of the Institute being run under the Management of Trust. Interested parties may apply to the Chief Executive Officer, MPIMSR, Shahabad (M), with complete details along with expected compensation including all expenses of travelling etc. within a period of 15 days from the date of this advertisement. Sd/- Chief Executive Officer. (CL20045465)

Baba Banda Singh Bahadur College of Education, Mullianwal, Dharialwala (M: 96460-00609) invites applications for the posts of Principal & Assistant Professors on regular basis for teaching of perspectives in Education/ Foundation Courses (Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology), Pedagogy (Science, Education, Phy, Education, Computer) Performing Arts (Music, Dance, Theatre). Qualifications and grade as per UGC/ NCTE/ Pb. Govt/ GNDU norms. Apply within 15 days under registered cover to the President, Baba Banda Bahadur Educational Trust. A Copy of the application may also be sent to Dean, CDC within 15 days in the case of Principal. (CL20045470)

COURT NOTICE

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
(Succession Case)

In the Court of
Amita Singh
Civil Judge,
(Senior Division)-NRI Court,
Jalandhar.
Nirmal Kaur
Versus
Nirmal Singh

Petition for grant of Succession Certificate Under Section 372 of Indian Succession Act.
CNR No.:
PBIL02-001213-2019
Next Date: 28.10.2020

Notice to:
1. Union of India through the Secretary Finance (Banking) to be served through Collector Jalandhar at Administrative Complex, Jalandhar.
2. General Public
In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 28.10.2020 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar
Dated, this day of 29.09.2020.
Sd/- Civil Judge,
(Senior Division)-NRI Court,
CNR No.: 09177501750

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Chandigarh: Sector 23D, old triple storey 8 marla kothi. Freehold. Ordinary location. Contact: 93161-12756. (CL20045494)

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Anoop Kumar Saini s/o Sukhdev Singh Saini r/o 1468 Pushp Complex, Sector 49B, Chandigarh have changed my minor son's name Shreshth Saini to Tapur Saini. (CL20045494)

I, Ankita Dadwal w/o Rishi Gupta # 672, Sector 26, Panchkula, have changed my name Ankita Gupta after marriage. (CL20045512)

I, Amar Singh s/o Sh. Lal Singh r/o Jamula Mandi, HPT, that my service record my son name Parvesh is wrong. But my son correct name is Pravesh Kumar. (CL20045499)

I, Ashok Kumar s/o Late Sh. Khushal Chand Kapoor, r/o House No. E-3/0398/01, Gali No. 2, Chandigarh Colony, near Truck Union, Malerkotla (Sangrur) have changed my name from Ashok Kumar to Ashok Kapoor. (CL20045489)

I, Ajay change my name Ajay Ajay to Ajay. In future call me Ajay. Ajay s/o Sh. Satish Pal, Vill. Uchana Khurd (Uchana) Distt. Jind. (CL20045414)

I, I am notified for the information that my original examination certificate of year 2011- 2013 & 2015 and Roll No. 2207829 & 2695881 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Prabhjot Kaur R/o Saraihatpura Kasba, PO Manakheri, Distt. Hoshiarpur. 95015-76140. (CL20045148)

I, Amandeep Singh Bhullar s/o Jeet Singh Village Joganand (Bathinda) have changed my name to Amandeep Singh. (CL20045421)

I, Shyam Sunder s/o Raghubir Singh resident 1174/21, Prem Nagar, Rohtak, declare my son Ajay his wife Nisha are out of my control. I disown them from my all properties. My family are not responsible for any act. Anybody dealing with them at own risk. (CL20045424)

I, Santosh Kumari w/o No. JC-574386-L Rank Ex-Sub. (Hon'y Lieut./ Capt.) Vijay Kumar s/o Kuldeep Chand, VPO, Badoh, Tehsil Ghanari, Distt. Una (HP). In Army documents record my DoB be corrected as 21.03.1962 instead of 18.05.1964. (CL20045429)

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Display: 0172-2670256, 2670342
E-mail at advt@tribunemail.com

I, Shuchi Goyal d/o Sh. Narinder Goyal, 109, Sector 12-A, Panchkula, has changed my name Sushita Goyal to Shuchi Goyal. (CL20045437)

I, Rajesh Anand s/o Sh. Prem Nath Anand, resident of 709, Sector-13, Urban Estate Karnal, I have changed my minor daughter's name from Vacchi R Anand to Vacchi Rajesh Anand. (CL20045439)

I, Anjali Bhagat w/o Rakesh Kumar Bhagat, B-II/150 Gandhi Camp, Jalandhar declare that in my son Rivesh Bhagat school record my name and my husband name written wrong i.e. Anjali and Rakesh Kumar. My correct name is Anjali Bhagat and my husband name is Rakesh Kumar Bhagat. (CL20045440)

I, Neha Sharma d/o Prem Chand Gupta r/o 8, Prem Hospital, Prem Nagar, Bhadson Road Patiala have changed my name to Neha Gupta. (CL20045443)

I, No. 914527 A Ex NK Tejender Kumar S/o Rameshwar Kumar R/o Vill Kohi Teh. Sadar, Distt. Mandi declare that my wife name wrongly entered in Army record as Vandana instead of Bandna Kumari which is correct. Concerned may note. (CL20045447)

We, K Satveer Singh S/o Late Bhawani Singh, Meera Singh W/o K Satveer Singh, Resident of 228, Sector-D, Defence colony, Ambala Cantt declare that our daughter Shallu Singh is out of control, we therefore disown her from our moveable/immovable property. Anybody dealing with her, will do so at own risk and responsibilities. We will not be responsible and liable for any of her activities. (CL20045330)

I, Sham Lal Saini s/o Ram Parshad r/o H.No. 662, Mohalla Goharpan, VPO, Sadhuwa, Distt. Yamunanagar, declare that my son Ravi Saini his wife Pankaj Saini their daughter Prisha and my son Bharat Saini his wife Vijeta are out of my control. I disown them from all my moveable/immovable property. I shall not be responsible for any of their acts and anybody dealing with them shall do so at their own risk. (CL20045451)

It is 4.30 pm and Amaan Idris, 16, is busy understanding the concepts of trigonometry from her mentor, who she discovered online.

When the lockdown happened, Sanjeev Kumar from Bharat Nagar in Bathinda, decided to make the most of his time by tutoring students all over the country free of cost.

With over 18 years of academic experience, Sanjeev (42), a teacher at Kendriya Vidyalaya school in Bathinda Cantonment has devoted his last six months in imparting education to students of classes VIII to XII, and over 2,500 pupils preparing for NTSE scholarship entrance. His online lectures have also pulled in people from the UAE and Malaysia.

Tanveer Kaur from Srinagar,

"The Tribune Trust does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting thereupon."

Capt's nod to 50% fee waiver for bars, marriage palaces

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CLEAR'S FINANCE PANEL ARREARS

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30 After concurring with the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM), Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh today gave a nod to waive 50% of the annual licence fee of bars, marriage palaces, hotels and restaurants for the months of April to September. Besides, he also assented to waive the quarterly assessed fee for the first two quarters i.e. from April to June and July to September.

A spokesperson for the Chief Minister's office said the financial implications of waiving 50 per cent of the annual licence fee of 1,065 bars in hotels and restaurants for the period from April 1 to September 30 would be to the tune of Rs 1,355.50 lakh, which was half the estimated revenue collection for 2020-2021. Likewise, the financial implications of waiver for 2,324 marriage palaces would be Rs 350 lakh, which would be half of the esti-

mated revenue collection for 2020-2021.

With respect to the waiver of advance quarterly assessed fee on bars licences, there would be no financial implications, as the waiver would only be on assessed fee collected in advance, which is adjustable, and now the collection is being proposed to

be deferred to the point of purchase by bars.

It may be recalled that the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Punjab, the Hotel Restaurant and Resort Association, the Punjab and the Marriage Palace Association, Punjab, in their representation to the GoM, had sought relaxation in the licence fee and the quarterly assessed fee in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent imposition of curfew and lockdown.

The matter was then discussed with Excise Commissioner Rajat Agarwal and Financial Commissioner (Taxation) A Venu Prasad, and subsequently referred to the Chief Minister for approval.



'Unwell' Saini fails to join SIT probe

MOHALI, SEPTEMBER 30

Former DGP Sumedh Singh Saini today failed to join the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the Balwant Singh Multani disappearance and murder case of 1991.

The SIT had issued summons to Saini yesterday, asking him to appear today at the Mataur police station for further questioning.

However, an application was received through his counsel Ramanpreet Sandhu along with a medical prescription, citing reasons for not joining the probe.

Saini had travelled to Chandigarh from Delhi only on September 25, his only appearance before the SIT, and there was no reason for him to travel to Delhi after



joining the investigation on that day, said sources in SIT.

SIT, which was not satisfied with questioning of former DGP Sumedh Singh Saini two days ago, had issued summons for the third time. Police sources further added that Saini would also be questioned over the disappearance of other persons, the names of whom had cropped up during the statements recorded by the eyewitnesses. —TNS

PBI varsity to mark asst profs recruitment issue to Vigilance

RAVNEET SINGH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, SEPTEMBER 30

Punjabi University, Patiala, has now decided to send the matter of recruitment of 62 assistant professors on the basis of PhD, exempting them from NET qualification, to the Vigilance Bureau.

The university during its syndicate meeting held today also decided to fix responsibilities of officials in other cases of misappropriation of university funds regarding purchases and sale of equipment along with recruitments of faculty done on basis of "fake" SC, BC certificates.

The university had hired 62 assistant professors from 2009 to 2016 without following UGC regulations of June 2010 which made NET/SLET/SET as minimum eligibility condition for the recruitment. As per an internal committee report, this was done after the university Vice-Chancellor approved recommendations in June 2011 and the syndicate in March 2012.

in March 2012. An official who was part of the syndicate meeting today said members decided to send the matter to the Vigilance Bureau for proper investigation.

Meanwhile, the university syndicate has also decided to fix responsibilities of erring officials in hiring of seven assistant professors on the basis of "fake" SC and BC certificates.



HAD HIRED 62 ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

■ The university had hired 62 assistant professors from 2009 to 2016 without following UGC regulations of June 2010

■ As per an internal committee report, this was done after the university Vice-Chancellor approved recommendations in June 2011 and the syndicate in March 2012

A member of the committee said the syndicate decided to fix responsibilities of all officials and recruits wherein the submitted certificates were found fake and sent them show-cause notices. An internal committee of two senior professors in 2017 had also stated that the complaints of use of fake certificates in the matters were found to be correct.

The "fake" beneficiaries

Two months on, ₹9K recovered from 70K 'fake' pensioners

ARCHIT WATTS

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUKTSAR, SEPTEMBER 30

The Department of Social Security and Women and Child Development had identified 70,137 "ingenue" beneficiaries of its pension schemes, who had drawn Rs 162.35 crore illegally in the mid of July. Subsequently, the department had asked the Deputy Commissioners to constitute the district-level committees to review the recovery process every 15 days. However, recoveries made so far has been negligible.

In Muktsar alone, 7,441 "fake" beneficiaries were detected, from whom Rs 15.7 crore is to be recovered.

The department gives Rs 750 per month to widows, old-age people, destitute children and disabled persons under its social welfare schemes.

The "fake" beneficiaries

Road linking 3 Malwa districts not metalled

SAMEER SINGH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, SEPTEMBER 30

The demand of the residents of Goniana block, Bathinda, to metall the 3 km dirt stretch (kutchha road) that connects three districts of Malwa region — Bathinda, Muktsar and Faridkot — has been lying pending for over a decade.

The stretch begins at Ganga Abli Ki village, goes via Kothe Naiwala and meets at Ramiana village in Far

Paddy 'not bought', farmers protest

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

10,190 MT PROCURED

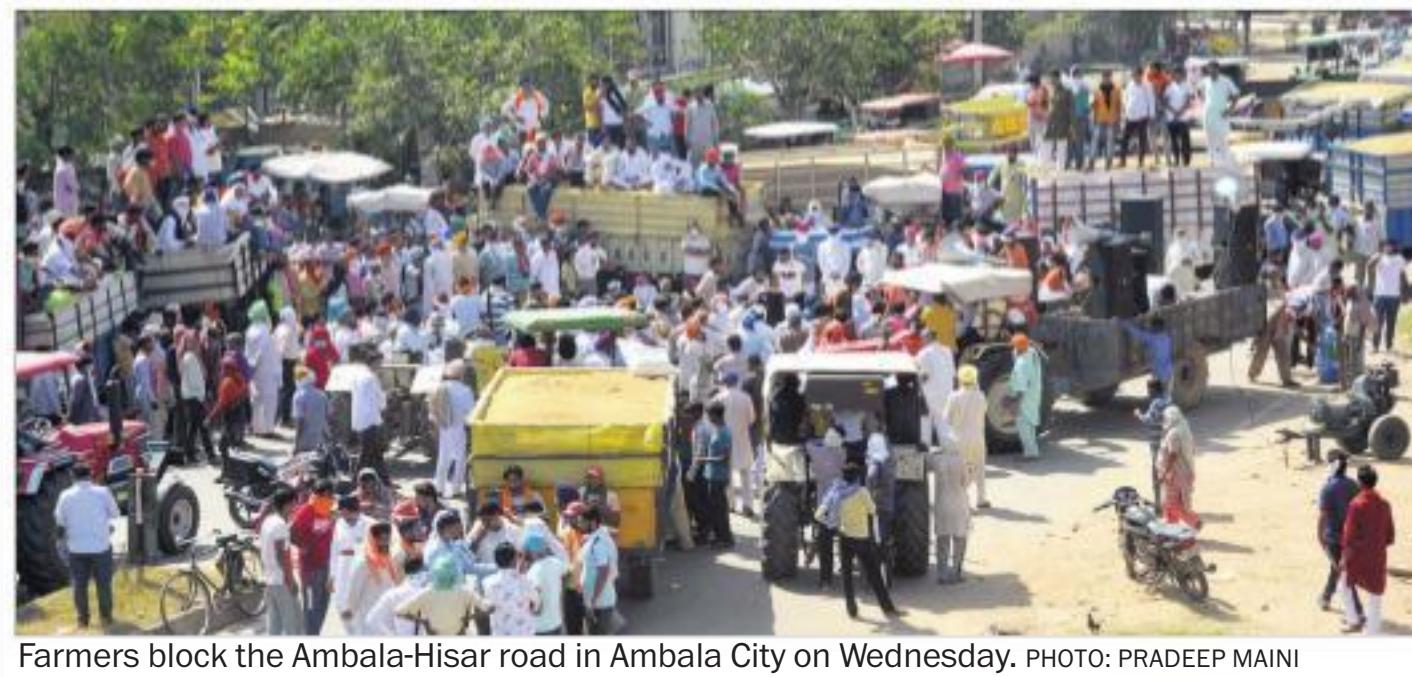
KURUKSHETRA, SEPTEMBER 30 Farmers under the banner of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni) blocked roads, including state highways, and staged dharna in front of grain markets in Ambala and Kurukshetra on Wednesday. They have decided to go on an indefinite dharna from Thursday till their demands are met.

They are demanding streamlined paddy procurement, relaxation in condition of 17 per cent moisture content, and lifting through millers. The farmers parked their tractors trailers in the middle of the roads and sat on a dharna.

Farmers blocked the Barara road, Yamunanagar road, Pehowa-Ambala road, Ismailabad-Ambala road and BR Chowk in Kurukshetra and Ambala-Hisar road, Jagadhri road, and Ambala-Naraingarh road in Ambala.

Due to the blockade, vehicular traffic got affected and traffic was diverted through various routes.

BKU chief Gurnam Singh accused the state government of making attempts to weaken the farmers' protest and sending officials at grain markets for artificial purchase.



Farmers block the Ambala-Hisar road in Ambala City on Wednesday. PHOTO: PRADEEP MAINI

Dharna at Hisar mandi

HISAR, SEPTEMBER 30

Enraged over the non-procurement of paddy, farmers staged dharna at the new grain market in Utkal town of the district on Wednesday.

The agitated farmers said that they have brought the paddy produce to the mandi after the government announced the start of procurement on September 25.

But there are no arrangements for the procurement of their produce in the grain market.

They said that they have been staying at the market for the past couple of days with their produce but the

authorities are not cooperating with them.

The farmers raised anti-government slogans during the dharna at the grain market. They said that the claim of the state government to purchase every grain on MSP has fallen flat at the start of the procurement season.

The police were deployed at the grain market to ensure law and order. Barwala SDM Rajesh Kumar, DSP Rohtas Singh and SHO Sukhjot Singh reached the grain market to placate the agitated farmers. The traders and labourers also supported the farmers. — TNS

Growers will benefit from laws: Morcha

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30

The national president of the Kisan Morcha of the Bharatiya Janata Party, MP Raj Kumar Chahar, said the recent agriculture laws were revolutionary steps for farmers.

Addressing the media here today, Chahar said the laws would economically strengthen farmers. He added the Centre was working to give remunerative prices to farmers for their crops.

"The Modi government has brought many schemes related to farmer welfare," he added. — TNS

Former MLA quits BJP over farm Acts

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH/YAMUNANAGAR, SEPTEMBER 30

While the "anti-farmer" tirade of the Opposition against the BJP-JJP government rages on in Haryana over the three farm Acts of the Centre, it has claimed the first casualty for the BJP with former chief parliamentary secretary (CPS) Shyam Singh Rana resigning from the party to stand by the farmers.

CAN UNDERSTAND FARMERS' PROBLEMS

"I was a farmer and can understand the problems faced by them in selling their paddy. The state government knew that the paddy arrival season was approaching. So, arrangements for procurement should have been made in advance." — Shyam Singh Rana, former CPS

bestowed upon the former CPS by the party.

Accepting Rana's resignation, Dhankar did not forget to mention that the party gave him a ticket from Radaur, made him CPS and even appointed him the district president (from 2009 to 2014). Since Rana had stated his intention to stand with the farmers, whose interests were being overlooked by the BJP, the state chief said the party was with the farmers and every grain would be procured at the MSP.

26 succumb, 1,625 cases

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30

With 1,625 new cases today, the Covid tally reached 1.28 lakh. With 26 deaths, the toll went up to 1,382. Four deaths were reported from Panipat, three each from Jhajjar and Yamunanagar; two each from Fatehabad, Sirsa, Hisar, Karnal, Gurugram and Faridabad and one each from Ambala, Rohtak, Bhiwani and Kurukshetra. — TNS

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Gurugram	20,713	173
Faridabad	19,819	219
Sonepat	8,261	44
Ambala	7,910	91
Karnal	7,327	106
Panipat	7,320	77
Hisar	6,187	61
Panchkula	5,992	86
Rohitak	5,924	63
Rewari	5,710	27
Kurukshetra	5,645	91
Yamunanagar	4,181	72
Sirsa	3,769	62
Mahendragarh	3,453	7
Bhiwani	2,746	36
Palwal	2,596	16
Jhajjar	2,489	24
Kaithal	2,439	40
Fatehabad	2,331	36
Jind	2,059	27
Nuh	1,117	22
Charkhi Dadri	611	2
Total	12,859	1,382

Cops in dock for sending back accused meant to be held

SAURABH MALIK

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30 The Haryana Police are in the dock for sending back an accused required to be arrested in an alleged Rs 30 crore VAT evasion case. Taking cognisance of the matter, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has asked the Director General of Police (DGP) to explain the circumstances in

which the accused was sent back when he was required to be arrested.

The direction by Justice Arvind Singh Sangwan came on a petition filed against Haryana and another respondent by Govind for grant of anticipatory bail in connection with an FIR registered on July 11, 2019, for cheating, forgery and other offences at the Chandni Bagh police sta-

tion in Panipat district.

The matter was placed before Justice Sangwan's Bench after his anticipatory bail plea was dismissed by the Panipat Additional Sessions Judge. When the petition was filed in the High Court, interim protection was not granted to the petitioner considering the seriousness of allegations. The state was directed to file an affidavit on

the petitioner's role. Justice Sangwan expressed surprise that the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), State Crime Branch (H), Madhuban, had filed an affidavit, stating that there were serious allegations against the petitioner. He was called to join the investigation on September 23 and certain admissions were made in his statement. From the investigation, his role was

found to be highly dubious and he was found not to be cooperating in the investigation. Without any protection, the petitioner was not arrested and released by the DSP.

The Judge asserted: "It is very strange and surprising that the affidavit itself speaks about the mala fide on the DSP's part and further smells out favouritism to the petitioner for some extraneous consideration."

DAV UNIVERSITY JALANDHAR**Ph. D. Admission 2020-21
Entrance Test : October 12, 2020**

Physics • Chemistry • Mathematics • Botany • Biotechnology
Zoology • Agriculture • Commerce & Business Management • CSA
Physical Education • Psychology • Mechanical Engineering
ECE • CSE • Civil Engineering

Last Date of Application
October 7, 2020Time
11 amExamination Centre
DAV UniversityVisit www.davuniversity.org for other details or call

70870-17551 | 70870-17552

**OCTOBER 1, BLOOD DONATION DAY
BLOOD DONORS ARE FRONT LINE WARRIOR TOO!****CARNIVAL**

The Blood Bank Society has been organising a grand Carnival for blood donors and their families to thank them for taking on the onerous task of being the providers of the precious life saving fluid - blood.

However last year all arrangements had to be cancelled at the last minute, when the deluge came, which continued for 3 days with more rain predicted.

But as they say all's well that ends well, and the Carnival, when finally held 2 months later, was a whopping success. It was Blood Donors with their families in tow that poured in, instead of the rain!!

**THE ROSE FESTIVAL AT THE PANJAB UNIVERSITY**

The Blood Bank Society is invited every year to put up a stall at the PU Rose Festival to disseminate information on voluntary blood donation and Thalassemia control. This February an inter-active game was prepared in which each participant picked out a question on Thalassemia and had to find the relevant answer. Colourful highlighter pens were given as prizes which encouraged the visitors to come back to try their hand with the game again. It was gratifying to see over 180 visitors, the young and the not-so-young, come to our stall over the three days. This was an effective way to get the message across.

**FUNCTION TO HONOUR REPEAT DONORS**

On the annual calendar of the Blood Bank Society is a function to honour blood donors. On Feb. 8, our charming Chief Guest Mrs. Lippi Parida, enchanted the awardees by her warm and gracious presence. Star Donors of the Rotary & Blood Bank Society Resource Centre, with 4 donations in 2019 and camp organisers were awarded by Mrs Parida at the Panjab University English Auditorium. The award function was followed by high tea. A souvenirs was also released by the Chief Guest. For donors with more than 2 donations in 2019, a special MOVIE SHOW was organised on 3 days, with mouth watering snacks served at the interval. Our special thanks to the management of Piccadilly Group for co-sponsoring the event.

**AN APPEAL**

DUE TO THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC THERE IS A MASSIVE SHORTAGE OF BLOOD.

DONORS ARE AFRAID TO GO TO DONATE.

BE ASSURED ALL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS ARE BEING TAKEN TO ENSURE SAFETY OF THE DONORS AS WELL AS THE STAFF.

WE APPEAL TO EVERYBODY TO HELP BY DONATING BLOOD.

PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS NEED YOU.

PLEASE DONATE BLOOD

&

HELP ORGANISE BLOOD DONATION CAMPS.

**DEEP GRATITUDE**

The pandemic has put the spotlight on many heroes. Some are working in hospitals, risking their lives to look after those who have been caught in the clutches of this dreaded virus, some are helping the homeless, some are feeding the jobless. Amongst these heroes, blood donors stand tall...those caring people who come out of the comfort and safety of their homes to help save the lives of unknown people.

A special mention must be made about the 'Life Line Blood Donors Society, Ropar' who, under the leadership of Mr. Kawaljeet Singh have come regularly in batches of 20-25 to donate blood, the Vishwas Foundation, Panchkula, CATS, Mohali, Kranti Club, Nalagarh, Rotary Club of Silver City, Minerva Academy, Neerja Banot Trust and Competent Foundation.

They help by organizing camps for the Blood Banks.

It is heartwarming to see many other regular blood donors stick to their commitment of donating blood every 3 months despite the trying conditions. You are true heroes!

Deep gratitude to all the good samaritans who have helped the Blood Banks by donating personal protective gear, hand sanitisers, face masks etc. and CSR donations which make it possible to carry on the work.

Thank you so much for your generosity.

WHATSAPP FUN GAMES

Thanks to the brain child of our blood donor and star motivator Vivek Sood, Blood Donation Day was celebrated on Sept. 27, 2020 from the safety of our homes by taking part in a fun filled WhatsApp activity meant for the whole family....a quiz to promote and encourage voluntary blood donation. The event included a crossword puzzle, unjumbling words, idioms in Hindi and English, a general quiz related to blood donation & 'Figure me out'. Entries were received from India & abroad. There was a face mask worth Rs. 100 for each one, along with multiple prizes for winners in different categories. The event was sponsored by the BLOOD BANK SOCIETY, SJOB & CES.

JUNE 14, WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY

To say Covid 19 as played havoc with the world is an under-statement. In step with its policy of popularising blood donation while keeping the current events in mind, the Blood Bank Society got 3000 good quality face masks made for general distribution at the 4 Blood Banks of Chandigarh and at popular shops, on June 14, World Blood Donor Day. Sourced from the NGO Gulmehar, they proved to be a great hit. We hope this endeavour helped to prevent the spread of this deadly virus to some extent, however small and pass on the message of the importance of blood donation, particularly during these days of shortage, caused by the fear of the pandemic.

**PURPOSE, PASSION, PERSEVERANCE 50 YEARS OF THE BLOOD BANK SOCIETY**

Trying to condense into a limited space, 50 years of uniting service is no mean task. But what seemed like an impossibility was achieved thanks to the Sarin Memorial Legal Aid Foundation and Mr. Sanjay Sethi of Roots and Shoots. The end result was a beautiful Coffee Table book, which was released at the Annual Function for blood donors last year. The book has found its way to many corners of India and abroad and the resulting accolades received are truly heartwarming. It traces the history of the Blood Bank Society from its inception and is of great value to other organizations working in the field of voluntary blood donation. The Indian Society of Blood Transfusion & Immunohaematology (ISBTI), which was formed in 1972 by the Blood Bank Society in Chandigarh, is so inspired by the book that they have decided to bring out a similar one!

BLOOD BANK SOCIETY, CHANDIGARH**YOU CAN DONATE BLOOD AT - R&BBS Blood Centre 37, PGI-12, GMCH-32, GMSH-16.**

Compiled by: Mrs. Niti Sarin

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Babri acquittal

No closure as CBI case falls flat

ALMOST 28 years after one of the worst communal outrages in the history of independent India, there is still no closure to the Babri Masjid demolition case. Truth and justice lie buried deep under the debris. A special CBI court has acquitted all 32 accused, including BJP veterans LK Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi, citing lack of 'conclusive' proof of their involvement. The CBI produced as many as 351 witnesses and around 600 documents as evidence before the court, but it all came to nothing in the end. Who hatched the conspiracy to demolish the mosque? Who incited the frenzied mob — comprising tens of thousands, if not lakhs, of *kar sevaks* — that went berserk with hammers and axes? What about the well-documented role of senior politicians in fanning the flames? Appallingly, the premier investigation agency has no answers to these all-important questions. The CBI, once described as a 'caged parrot' by the Supreme Court, owes an explanation for the case falling flat despite all the oral evidence, TV footage and newspaper reports.

While awarding the disputed site at Ayodhya to Hindu claimants, the apex court had noted on November 9, 2019, that the demolition was 'an egregious violation of the rule of law'. The settling of the land dispute, however, paved the way for giving a quiet burial to the demolition case, which was no longer considered to be politically encashable. But the fact that a televised monstrosity — which had a ghastly aftermath in the form of riots that broke out in several states, followed by the 1993 Mumbai bombings — has gone unpunished is a new low for the country's criminal justice system.

Even as the construction of Ram Mandir is underway, the razed of the Babri Masjid continues to be a festering wound for Indian democracy and constitutional values. It's a telling reminder of the abject failure of Central and state governments to prevent a free-for-all. Mandir-masjid politics might have outlived its utility, but the scourge of communalism rages on, as witnessed during the February 2020 riots in Delhi. Alas, the State continues to be as powerless as ever before the rabble-rousers.

Haryana ban on outside crops

Weed out middlemen, but protect farmers

THE lack of clarity over the farm laws is now more than apparent with Haryana barring farmers from Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan from bringing paddy and *bajra* for sale in the state's markets. The decision by the BJP-JJP coalition government has come at a time when paddy procurement has just begun and in neighbouring Punjab, the Shiromani Akali Dal has chosen to opt out of the government at the Centre of which it was a part, following disagreement over the matter, even as farmer unions have decided to intensify their agitation and the Captain Amarinder Singh-led Congress government is exploring legal options to challenge these Bills.

Haryana's decision is contrary to the claims made by the Centre that farmers would be free to sell their produce anywhere, with Prime Minister Modi accusing the Opposition of disregarding their welfare and favouring only the middlemen. To justify its policy, the state has blamed unscrupulous traders who procure crops from outside at a lower price and then sell it in Haryana at a higher MSP. While the state has made it mandatory for farmers, even those from outside the state, to register and mention the area on which the crop was sown to weed out fake entries, the lack of support price in the adjoining states is a matter of concern because the government has clarified that the MSP regime would remain. There are already demands that crop sale in any area should only be at the support price. It also calls for coordination between the states to help farmers navigate the official requirements.

The Centre has been claiming that the agricultural reforms will be progressive, but it is hard put to dispel the notion about the farmers not being shortchanged because of the diversity in agricultural operations across the country. The dilemma of changing the lopsided nature of farming without affecting the stakeholders is proving to be a challenge. More than convincing, transparent mechanisms will be needed to inspire trust and allay apprehensions.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

We can forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light. — Plato

ON THIS DAY...50 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

CHANDIGARH, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1970

And Now, Goa

ECHOES of the 1967-68 events in West Bengal and of last week's in U.P. are now being heard in Goa. There is the same conflict between the Governor and the Chief Minister on more or less the same issues involving constitutional proprieties and the respective spheres of jurisdiction. As elsewhere, the eagerness of the top incumbent to stick to power by winning over other supporters and filling the dent caused by desertions are the principal causes. Last August, Mr. Bandodkar survived a vote of no-confidence in the Assembly through the timely help of some Opposition legislators following a split in his Maharashtra Gomantak Party. Since then, he has been trying to reconstitute his ministry to reflect the realities. In the process, he is out to transform it into a coalition. Members of the Opposition splinter group who rescued Mr. Bandodkar naturally expect an adequate reward — ministership. Exercising the recognised right of a Chief Minister to expand his Council of Ministers in any way, Mr. Bandodkar has decided not to tender resignation as a pre-requisite. In this, he is on safe ground, legally. For a Governor to question either the Chief Minister's motives or the manner of his building up a majority is clearly to exceed his functions. Neither he nor the Chief Minister can lawfully bypass the Assembly which is the final forum where both the bonafides and the actual majority of the leader are put to the test. After all, a ministry's collective responsibility is to the House. For a change, no Attorney-General figures in the Goa story. In selecting his ministerial colleagues and excluding anyone he deems undesirable from any standpoint, Mr. Bandodkar is within his constitutional rights, though ethically he may be in the wrong while disregarding principles.

Imran's blunders continue

Internal criticism and pressures have weakened him & his government



G PARTHASARATHY

CHANCELLOR, JAMMU CENTRAL UNIVERSITY &
FORMER HIGH COMMISSIONER TO PAKISTAN

TALIBAN KHAN: Imran has been exposed as a hardcore, radical Islamist.

Modi ignored Imran's crude ranting at the UNGA as
being unworthy of a high-level response from India.

ing him adequately against India on J&K. His motor-mouth foreign minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, warned that Pakistan would bypass Saudi Arabia and convene a meeting of 57 members of the OIC countries if Saudi Arabia sought to prevent India from being condemned.

Imran, more than any other Pakistani leader, except perhaps Gen Zia-ul-Haq, is a radical Islamist. He recently described Osama bin Laden as a 'martyr'. The American Special Envoy for Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, deals primarily with the army chief, Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa. Imran Khan is merely a bystander. As a hardcore Islamist, he believed that he could turn the Islamic world led by Saudi Arabia, against India. He forgot that it was his rival Nawaz Sharif, who enjoyed the highest respect of the Saudi royalty. Left to himself, General Musharraf would have hanged Sharif at the earliest opportunity. He, however, exiled him to Saudi Arabia. He was all too aware that offending the Saudis would open the door to economic bankruptcy for Pakistan.

Disregarding such personal equations, Imran went on the warpath against Saudi Arabia for not back-

ing him adequately against India on J&K. His motor-mouth foreign minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, warned that Pakistan would bypass Saudi Arabia and convene a meeting of 57 members of the OIC countries if Saudi Arabia sought to prevent India from being condemned. Imran also offended the Saudis by backing a proposed partnership of Malaysia, Turkey and other Islamic countries — a move which would have undermined Saudi Arabia's role in the Islamic world. The Saudi reaction was immediate. Pakistan's de facto ruler, General Bajwa, was cold-shouldered and denied a meeting with Crown Prince Salman when he visited Saudi Arabia. Pakistan was told to repay its dues to Saudi Arabia immediately. China had to yet again bail out Pakistan to repay its debts.

Pakistan, thereafter, landed itself in deeper trouble with influential Arab countries, like the Gulf monarchies, Egypt and Jordan. Imran echoed their rivals, Turkey and Iran, with his virulent condemnation of Israel, immediately after the UAE and Bahrain recognised and established diplomatic relations with Israel. This amounted to condemnation of actions taken by the UAE and Bahrain, evidently

with Saudi support. India, on the other hand, has avoided getting drawn into rivalries between Arab and Islamic countries, while maintaining good relations with Israel. Trade and investment cooperation between India and the Gulf states, notably Saudi Arabia, is set to grow substantially, with major investments proposed by these countries in the energy sector. Moreover,

the Gulf states depend on the Bahrain-based US Fifth Fleet to guarantee their maritime security. There are now close links between the US fleet and India's Western Fleet.

While Imran's bungling in foreign policy was inevitable, he is now also facing internal criticism and pressures that have weakened him and his government. Pakistan's economic woes, particularly its growing foreign debt and its low rates of savings and growth, continue. Imran,

however, remains vicious and vindictive, trying to get political opponents harassed and jailed by the state machinery. Sharif has lashed out at Imran and the army, from his home in London. The army is itself under pressure, because of highly damaging charges of corruption against one of its most prominent officers, Lt Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa, who heads the multi-billion-

dollar CPEC. Bajwa has also been appointed media adviser to the PM, who has vigorously defended him.

Sharif was unsparing in his criticism of Imran. He also held the army directly responsible for the country's woes. He said after having been a 'state within a state', the army was now a 'state above a state'. This, he added, is 'the root cause of all our problems'. Sharif added that while political leaders are constantly victimised in the name of 'accountability', army dictators got away, despite subverting the constitution and committing any number of crimes. Pakistan's army has never been lashed out at in such a manner. Never before has the army resorted to such a crude and unconstitutional exercise of power, as in recent years.

Imran's subservience to the army was recently exposed when reports emerged about the financial assets of Asim Bajwa. A devastating report on Bajwa's family (wife, two younger brothers and two sons), based on documents, including from the Pakistan Securities and Exchange Commission, was published recently. It notes that Bajwa family owns a business empire comprising 99 companies in four countries, named the 'BAJCO Group', valued at \$52.7 million. Imran promptly declared the charges as baseless.

Asim Bajwa's quest for wealth evidently commenced after he joined Musharraf's staff in 2002. Musharraf himself owns properties in London and Dubai. His successor, Ashfaq Kayani, mysteriously took off, soon after his retirement, to spend a few years in Australia. Kayani's successor, Raheel Sharif, lives cosily in Saudi Arabia. All these worthies, while still in service, got themselves allotted plush 'residential plots' in elite localities in Karachi, Lahore and elsewhere, at little or no cost! Pakistan's Generals know very well how to drive fast on the road to living luxuriously.

Imran has, meanwhile, excelled himself with his crude and repeated condemnation of India in the UN General Assembly. PM Modi ignored his raving and ranting as being unworthy of a high-level response from India.

Whither gone the charm of weddings!

SATYA KIRAN

THOSE were the days when weddings would exhibit a natural charm and glamour during celebrations. Now, they have acquired a tint of artificiality — a mere pomp and show, and hypocrisy. In the past, weddings were simple and sacred. These days, we often see deceit.

Even the songs sung at the wedding of a daughter used to be such that they would touch one's emotions. Today, there are mostly disco dances and DJ bands. The old-timers would recall wedding songs on recorded discs — *Doli chahdhaan maariaan heer*

cheekan, menu lei chalay Baabla lei challey (Heer started crying bitterly, telling her father that she was taken away from her parents to the family of her in-laws). Things have changed now. Brides rarely shed tears while leaving for their in-laws' house.

The bride going to be married was generally addressed as 'Radha' in the songs. Before the *pheras*, a song was sung: *Doli de andar tenun kaahin bulaye, doli de andar kyon nahin aundee ne rang ratdiye Radha* (O bride in red attire, your Krishna-like groom is calling you under the canopy, why do you delay in joining him there?). Where does one hear

such songs now?

The most emotional song that used to be often played was the one sung by Bibi Surinder Kaur. It was played at the time of the departure of the *doli* — *Mavaan dhiaan miln lagiaan, chaare kandhaan nee chubare diaan hilaaan* (When mother hugs her daughter at the time of the latter's departure, all four walls of the room move under the emotional sway).

Such a painful parting scene not only moved the bride's mother and other women, but also the father and other relatives would start shedding tears. At this time the women would also sing: 'Saare pind de banere roye, Baable ne tori

laadli' (Even the small protection walls on the terrace of all houses shed rain-like tears when a daughter leaves her father's house).

But there was no dearth of songs with a different tilt, too! One such was about the *bhabis* of the bride — *Nand dee doli tor ke, jhatt bhabiyan ne payee iudee* (The sisters-in-law of the bride would dance in utter joy after their husband's sister finally leaves their house)!

There is no doubt that these songs were only to sing along and added a kind of lustre and joy to the ceremonies. But at the same time, it can't be denied that they represented the socio-cultural touch rooted in families.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Heinous crime

Refer to 'Another reprehensible rape' (Sept 30); when lawmakers (MPs and MLAs) involved in gruesome and heinous crime like rape and murder roam free, especially in UP, such incidents are bound to recur. What a shameful picture we are displaying in front of the whole world! We want reforms in the UN for permanent membership, but one of the main objectives of the organisation — to save humanity — is not being adhered to in our own country. Poor conviction rate, police inaction, involvement of politicians and interference have helped rapists in such incidents. Construction of 'freedom' mandirs would be more useful than religious temples to save girls in India.

WG CDR JASBIR MINHAS (RETD), MOHALI

ary usually takes a long time to punish the culprits. Seems like we have another Nirbhaya whose family will have to fight for justice until they exhaust and break down.

AYUSHI BISHT, DEHRADUN

Educate men

Apropos of 'Another reprehensible rape', it is scary and upsetting. This is the model they wish to implement in every state. When humans act with cruelty, we call them 'animals', yet the only animal that displays cruelty is a human being. Boys need sex education and guidance. We don't need to empower women, we need to educate men.

MEHAK CHATURVEDI, MOHALI

Law of the jungle

The BJP leadership at the national level must take immediate action against those responsible for the law of the jungle prevailing in Uttar Pradesh. Any doublespeak on its part to let the guilty, however powerful and influential, circumvent the law, will only expose the party's much-touted concern for the welfare of women.

TARSEEM SINGH, MAHILPUR

Fast-track case

Reference to 'Another reprehensible rape'; the 19-year-old Dalit

woman's death has sparked outrage just like the 2012 Nirbhaya rape-murder. Since all the four accused have been arrested, their trial must take place in a fast-track court and they must be given capital punishment. With this incident, Uttar Pradesh under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has become symbolic of the jungle raj.

BHAGWAN THADANI, MUMBAI

Negotiate with farmers

It is high time the government negotiates with farmer organisations to resolve their issues, else blocking of tracks and national highways would cause huge losses to the Railways and hamper the supply chain that could further lead to inflationary pressures on the economy to both the state as well as the country.

JASHANDEEP SINGH, AMRITSAR

BJP in Bihar

Apropos of 'Tejashwi looks to turn the tables on Nitish' (Sept 30); Bihar in 2020 is radically different from what it was in 2015. Nitish Kumar has failed on numerous fronts during his last three tenures, be it the prohibition misadventure, dismal state of healthcare and education, long hibernation in his bungalow, and above all, mishandling

of the return of migrant workers. The BJP's 'Chanakya', Amit Shah, may now try to ensure that his party gets the coveted CM's chair. The BJP will be the clear winner, leaving JD(U) and LJP far behind, and be the next ruler of Bihar. Tejashwi has no 'surya' in him to face the onslaught of the BJP leadership.

RAJIV BOOLCHAND JAIN, ZIRAKPUR

Paddy fields on fire

The report 'Pb sees 600 farm fires in 10 days' (Sept 30) rightly points to the rising severity of air pollution in Punjab and non-implementation of anti-pollution legal measures. The practice of burning paddy stubble for its adverse environment and health consequences needs to be curbed forthwith. The approach of going soft on stubble-burning activity during the ongoing farmers' agitation against the recently passed agricultural Bills for fear of reprisals brings to fore the need of prioritising the community health and the acts of pragmatism. Burning of stubble is not an essential part of the production process and it undermines the existing laws against pollution.

JAGVINDER SINGH BRAR, PATIALA

Letters to the Editor, typed in double space, should not exceed the 200-word limit. These should be cogently written and can be sent by e-mail to: Letters@tribunemail.com

Spectre of Dragon's spies over our skies



ABHIJIT BHATTACHARYYA

COMMENTATOR AND AUTHOR

THE issue is surveillance and espionage by the Communist Party of China (CPC), spanning the who's who of sovereign India. Not the other way around. Not Indian spies snooping on Chinese President Xi Jinping, his CPC cohorts or the PLA top brass. It's the deep-penetrating, omniscient Dragon at work, defiantly entering India's territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and eyeing New Delhi's western naval command-deployed combat vessels.

Contextually, therefore, Indians may recall what Brigadier John P Dalvi of the ill-fated 7th Brigade had said in his seminal *Himalayan Blunder* after (seven months of prisoner-of-war days) his release from Lhasa in May 1963: "... the Chinese PLA had successfully planted local tribal boy spies deep inside the Indian garrison much before the Chinese attacked NEFA (now Arunachal) in October-November 1962. Deep penetration and accurate espionage give advance info to PLA ops. The classic/cardinal principle of the Dragon's deception

and deceit developed through thousands of years, taking a cue from Sun Tzu's *Art of War*."

The CPC simply cannot live without all-embracing espionage, which India has seldom noted, and consistently ignored for some strange, unfathomable reason, with fancied hope for Chinese money rejuvenating the shrinking Indian economy. Thus, even today, the alarming national health scenario due to the pandemic caused by a Chinese-origin virus and the resultant adverse effects of the lockdown don't seem to have impacted Delhi's psyche over recurrent monumental mistakes.

Not unexpectedly, therefore, when Delhi Police Deputy Commissioner Sanjeev K Yadav announced on September 20 the arrest of Chinese woman Qing Shi, Nepalese national Sher Singh (aka Raj Bhora) and Indian journalist Rajeev Sharma (writing for CPC mouthpiece *Global Times* since 2010) on espionage charges against the Indian State, a tri-national nexus strategised and masterminded by the CPC came to light. That's the superpower's ultimate device to fulfil the Han Chinese slogan: "Our time has come. It's now or never." The command, control and communication baton in the hands of the Beijing central authority is ready to go for the kill.

Hence, India needn't be apologetic, or defensive, pertaining to any citizen playing along with the



ESPIONAGE: An Indian journalist, a Chinese woman and a Nepalese man have been held.

CPC to penetrate and wreck the Indian system from within. He surely deserves to face the law. And now, ask those few, not yet contaminated by the lure for the CPC cash, and who witness the world media report on the modus operandi of the Dragon. CPC espionage would surface — from Washington, London, Canberra, Ottawa, Tokyo to Gurugram. Six countries (the US, the UK, Australia, Canada, Japan, India) top the 'hit list' of the CPC.

Contemporary China's aggressive espionage, however, has its origin in the rise of CPC general secretary Xi Jinping as the head of State in 2013. Xi decided to flaunt the 'CPC money bag' to win anyone, whatever the cost.

Indeed, in a worsening ambience, the CPC-run State spies have spread across the Indian hinterland. Their motto is to create a band of loyal supporters deep inside India, the way the East India Company traders did. First, winning trading rights from the Mughal emperor, and slowly, steadily exploiting the faultlines of the hinterland to create hubs of Indian clubs, working as pressure groups consisting of the indigenous elite, and elders who will forcefully speak for the CPC Hans and try to protect and justify each/every action, even if illegal.

Today, however, what's most interesting is the way Hu Xijin, the *Global Times* editor-in-chief, personally and openly defended the CPC-con-

trolled media and belittled the efforts of the Delhi Police for unearthing the Dragon's ploy.

Hu Xijin, the *Global Times* editor-in-chief, openly defended the CPC-controlled media and belittled the efforts of the Delhi Police for unearthing the Dragon's ploy. Xijin also defended the accused Indian journalist.

This brazen display of support by *Global Times* for the accused Indian hides more than what's revealed.

ans to work for the *Global Times*."

Simultaneously, however, the Chinese distanced themselves from the espionage case in which one of their nationals is allegedly involved, saying: "It's very inappropriate to publicly link the *Global Times* to this case."

Be that as it may, the CPC-controlled media criticism notwithstanding, the much-maligned Delhi Police have done a good job by unearthing the Chinese espionage racket. Hence, they do deserve a big 'thank you' from the Indian citizens, those millions of patriotic citizens who are fed up with the Chinese going scot-free despite committing all types of illegal activities in the Indian hinterland, owing to the lamentable failure of the Indian State to bring them to justice and jail.

Finally, a question comes to mind. What if a freelance Chinese scribe writing for an Indian media house had been caught for espionage against the CPC-controlled PLA and passed on military intelligence on Tibet, Taiwan or Xinjiang to the Government of India? How would the Chinese have reacted if the editor-in-chief of an Indian publication had written an edit-page article, launching a scathing attack on the Chinese police and the State, referring to the espionage case as "rubbish, false or a petty trick?" This is the new CPC under general secretary Xi: "It's my way or the highway." Will India wake up even now?

Need to marry farming with industrial growth



M RAJIVLOCHAN

HISTORIAN & AUTHOR OF FARMERS SUICIDE: FACTS & POSSIBLE POLICY INTERVENTIONS

In parts of some states, farmers became prosperous enough to start controlling political processes.

However, the ones who prospered were those who added a business to their portfolio. Those who stuck to farming were quickly reduced to subsistence level

— as is the case with 80 per cent of the farmers in India. Even the MSP mechanism has been of use to only a handful of farmers.

It is important to be able to ride the wave of inevitable change, lest one drowns in it.

AFARMAGEDDON is staring at the Modi government in the aftermath of it passing the latest three laws on farming. While most political parties may be opposing the laws to gain political mileage, the fact remains that a large number of farmers, especially in rice-wheat-producing states like Haryana and Punjab, are truly scared about these three laws. The new laws will bring about a change, and it is sufficient to spook them. That is in the nature of farming communities, across the world, for over 200 years, ever since the onset of the industrial revolution began to marginalise farmers by opening up new avenues for creating wealth and power in society.

The Modi government will have to move fast to regain the trust of farmers. Especially, because the profits that these three laws will unlock for the farmers will flow in only at the end of the harvest season. Till then, it does not matter what the facts on the ground are.

At the root of the problems of farmers is the fact that they are located at the bottom of the value chain. In this location, they suffer most from economic downturns and gain the least from any upswing in the market. You would recall that each year, with every bumper harvest, the price of farm produce comes down ever more, the cost of inputs to farming keeps increasing and the condition of the farmer worsens. That has been the case across the world since the advent of industrialisation.

The wiping out of farmers from farming has often been brutal and harsh. British farmers faced this dilemma in the 19th century. Lenin worried about this when he talked of the irresolvable scissors crisis that



APPREHENSION: Farmers, especially in Haryana and Punjab, are scared of the new laws.

haunted farming in Soviet Russia. Stalin simply killed about three million farmers. The American farmer, who had upstaged the Indian farmer as the largest exporter of foodgrains in the world in the 20th century, went into a crisis in the 1920s and was finally wiped out during the depression of 1929-33. The transformation of farming in Europe was overshadowed by the two world wars in Europe that between them killed about 30 million Europeans.

In contrast, the farmer in India has been spared such brutality, thanks to his romanticisation by leaders like Gandhi and a general disinclination in India to use harsh measures against anyone. This resulted in the creation of policies, since Independence, to help farmers. They included laws to take surplus land from landlords, efforts to provide land to the tiller and laws to ensure that tenant farmers were not cheated by landlords. Develop-

mental efforts were initiated in the mid-1950s with the *gram sewak* and agriculture extension officer as foot soldiers and the block development officer helming the effort to transform farming communities into modern entrepreneurs.

Those were the years when government officers revelled in setting up farmers' cooperatives to use farm machinery, preened themselves on having electrified villages and boasted about the number of farmers whom they had convinced to use modern tools and techniques. Inevitably, the amount of foodgrains produced increased. The APMC Acts that were implemented in the 1950s in some states were designed to ensure that farmers got a fair deal in marketing their crop. That the Acts effectively became millstones around the neck of farmers and ended up forcing the farmer to pay humongous sums of money to middlemen for

services not rendered is a different story altogether.

In parts of some states, farmers even became prosperous enough to start controlling political processes. However, the only farmers who prospered were the ones who added a business other than farming to their portfolio. Those who stuck to farming were quickly reduced to subsistence level — as is the case with 80 per cent of the farmers in India. The implementation of the mechanism of a minimum support price since the 1980s worked as a game-changer in protecting farmers against sharp downturns in agricultural prices. But even this mechanism has been of use to only a handful of farmers. Even in Haryana and Punjab, where it has been the most successful, it benefits not more than four out of five farmers while the granaries overflow.

Under the circumstances, the best that farm unions, political parties and others who are concerned about the well-being of farmers can do is to help ease the farmer out of farming. For, I dare say that the farmer has been on ventilator for decades, and now, the plug is about to be pulled. Neither the world, nor India, needs so many farmers. Already, landowners in the US and in most countries of Europe are paid money by the government to not cultivate any land.

It is important to be able to ride the wave of inevitable change, lest one drowns in it. Protests on the streets of India will not change the inevitable drowning. They will only turn the rest of the society hostile to farmers or invite the state in India to use harsh tactics against farmers, such as were used in Europe, the USSR, China and the US.

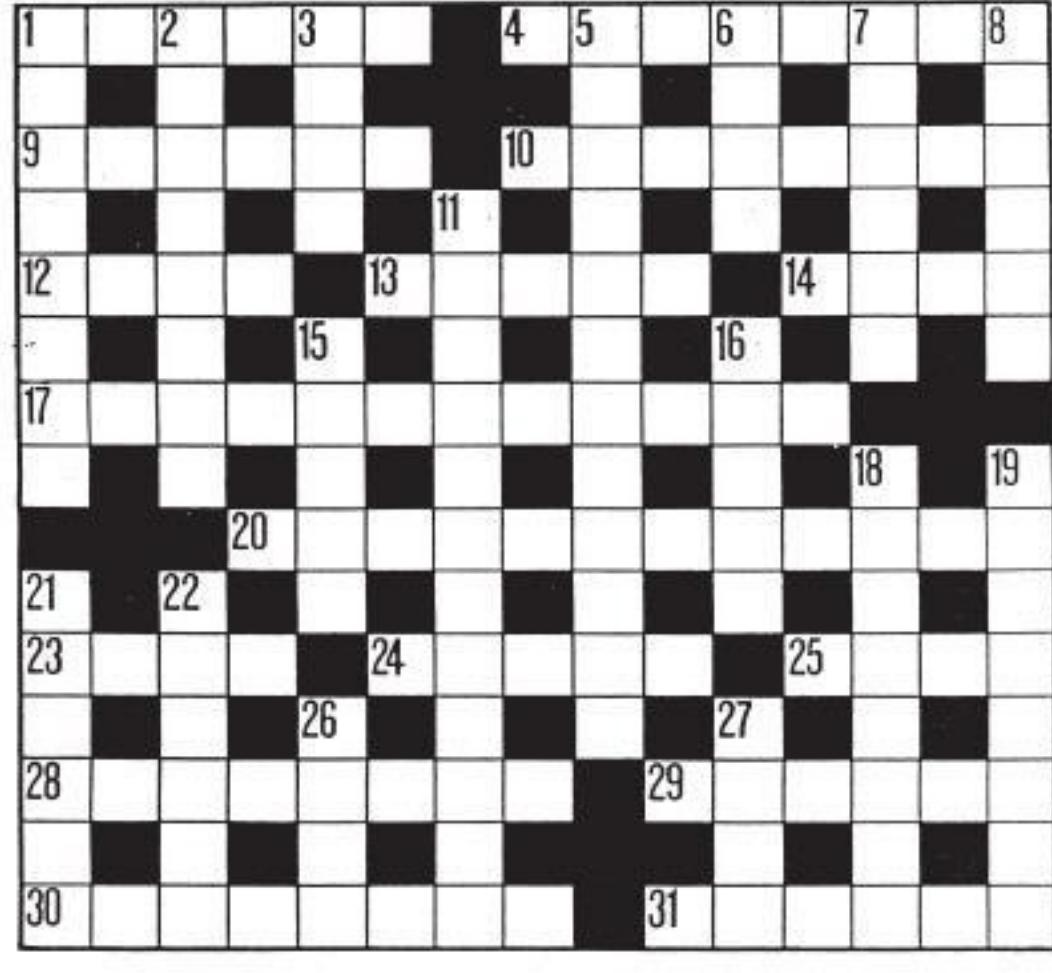
Marrying farming with industrial

growth is the thing for farm unions to do. They would have to certainly find out their own local mechanisms for raising funds for setting up industries, finding industries that are best suited to their locality and the local population, ensure that the locals have a stake in whatever growth that happens. In this respect, a visit to the small town of Baramati in western Maharashtra would be quite instructive to the farm leaders of Haryana and Punjab.

This small town was nestled among dry fields in the rain shadow area of the Western Ghats, receiving about 19 mm of rain each year. Expectedly, everyone was poor. But while the rest of the country was dissing the projects of development in the 1950s and 60s, the farmers in Baramati, led by Appasaheb Pawar, collectively decided to industrialise their agriculture. This resulted in the healthy growth of horticulture, animal husbandry and poultry. Later, a milk federation was set up with the help of Operation Flood, along with cooperative sugar factories. The farmers were well poised to grow when the government liberalised the economy in the 1990s. They went out of their way to invite all sorts of enterprises to their fields. Agriculture soon became just one of the minor activities, even while everyone became prosperous due to the add-on businesses.

In the 1960s the local council had a budget of about Rs 50 lakh, in 1990, the budget was Rs 5 crore and by 2015, it had grown to Rs 224 crore. If Punjab today boasts of clean villages due to wealth imported by NRIs, Baramati is an example of an oversized village generating its own wealth by marrying agriculture to industry in ways that are beneficial to the farmer.

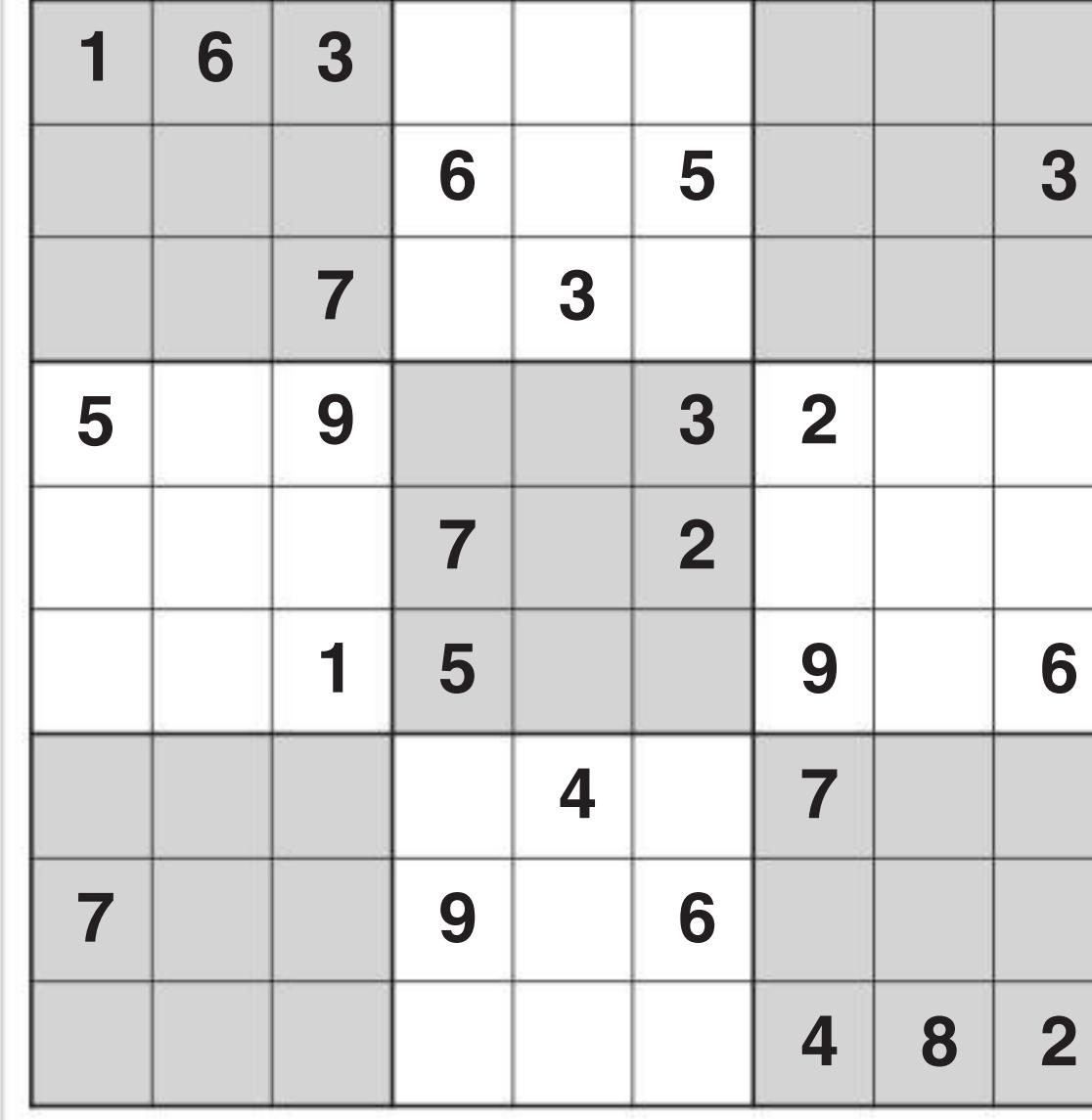
QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Cobra, 4 Sparing, 8 Out, 9 Eagle-eyed, 10 Scatter, 11 Abbey, 13 Shindy, 15 Decamp, 18 Bonus, 19 Doleful, 21 Tiger lily, 23 UFO, 24 Suggest, 25 Ritzty.
Down: 1 Croesus, 2 Battalion, 3 Adept, 4 Sugary, 5 Average, 6 Ivy, 7 Godly, 12 Bear fruit, 14 Deserve, 16 Pillory, 17 Adrift, 18 Butts, 20 Layer, 22 Gag.

SU DO KU



MEDIUM

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 1, 2020, THURSDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Ashwin Shaka	9
■ Ashwin Parvishtha	16
■ Hijari	1442
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 15, up to 2.35 am	
■ Vridhhi Yoga up to 7.49 pm	
■ Uttarabhadrapad Nakshatra up to 5.57 am	
■ Moon in Pisces sign	
■ Ashwin Purnima	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: THURSDAY 18:08 HRS

SUNRISE: FRIDAY 06:17 HRS

Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Rainy	Foggy

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	35	21
New Delhi	37	22
Amritsar	35	21
Bathinda	36	21
Jalandhar	35	21
Ludhiana	35	21
Bhiwani	38	23
Hisar	37	21
Sirsia	36	21
Dharamsala	27	17
Manali	25	06
Shimla	26	16
Srinagar	37	07
Jammu	34	20
Kargil	19	07
Leh	21	01
Dehradun	32	19
Mussorie	24	15

TEMPERATURE IN °C

2 days ahead of PM's visit, CM reviews preparations



OUR CORRESPONDENT

KULLU, SEPTEMBER 30 Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur today reviewed the final preparations for the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for inaugurating the Atal Tunnel Rohtang on October 3. He visited the public meeting venue at Sissu in Lahaul, north and south portals of the tunnel, the SASE helipad in Manali and rally venue at Solang Nullah near Manali.

Later, he held a meeting with senior officers. He said fool-proof arrangements must be made for ensuring the success of the event. He

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate offline tender on form No. 6&8 are hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from the eligible registered contractors in any Department/Government undertaking as per his/her class of enlistment should be allowed for 7 No. works. Detail i.e. name of works terms and condition is also available on SJPNL website www.sjpnl.com. The tender forms can be had from this office against cash payment (Non-refundable) up to 06.10.2020 till 04.00 p.m.

Additional General Manager,
Sewerage SJPNL US Club Shimla – 171001.
“HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK”

DPR/HP/433



PUNJAB AGRO INDUSTRIES CORPORATION

Plot No. 2A, Sector-28A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh 160002

Phone: 0172 2651561, 2657472 CIN: U51219CH1966SGC002630 www.punjabagro.co.in

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Tender bids are invited from eligible bidders for the project/works detailed in the following table:

Name of Project / Work / Works	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Tender Fee (Rs.)	Approx. rate per pallet (in Rs.)
Supply of material handling equipments i.e. steel reinforced 100% virgin HDPE, perforated pallets & hand pallet truck at PAIC Hoshiarpur & Ludhiana.	Rs. 25,000/-	Rs. 5,000/-	To be furnished by the bidder

Last date for submission of online bid is 08.10.2020 upto 2.00 PM. Technical bids will be opened on the same day at 4.30 PM. The date for opening of financial bids will be intimated after evaluation of technical bids.

The details of the tender can be downloaded from Punjab Govt.'s website i.e. <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. For any clarification, please send an email at bhupinder.singh28@punjab.gov.in or contact us at: 9914500655.

DPR/PB/84158

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH

TENDER NOTICE-2020-21/10 ALLOTMENT OF SHOPS/SITES

Searched tenders are invited for licensing out following Shops/sites at PGI, Sector 12, Chandigarh.

Sr. No.	Shops/sites	Last date for download of tender forms from PGI Website	Last Date and time for submission of tenders and opening of Tender document/Technical Bid	Price Bid shall be opened on
1	Built up Cafeteria, Advanced Cardiac Centre, PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh.	26.10.2020 (Monday) up to 04.00 p.m.	27.10.2020 (Tuesday) up to 01.00 p.m. and Technical Bid shall be opened at 02.00 p.m.	28.10.2020 (Wednesday) Price Bid at 04.00 p.m.
2	Built up shop for Canteen, Nivedita Nurses Hostel, PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh.	26.10.2020 (Monday) up to 04.00 p.m.	27.10.2020 (Tuesday) up to 01.00 p.m. and Technical Bid shall be opened at 02.00 p.m.	28.10.2020 (Wednesday) Price Bid at 04.00 p.m.
3	Open site measuring 5'x5' for running Tea/Coffee/Soup Vending Machine Site, 3rd Floor, Waiting Hall, CLR, Nehru Hospital, PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh.	26.10.2020 (Monday) up to 04.00 p.m.	27.10.2020 (Tuesday) up to 01.00 p.m. and Technical Bid shall be opened at 02.00 p.m.	28.10.2020 (Wednesday) Price Bid at 04.00 p.m.
4	Shop No. 10, New Shopping Complex, PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh.	26.10.2020 (Monday) up to 04.00 p.m.	27.10.2020 (Tuesday) up to 01.00 p.m. and Technical Bid shall be opened at 02.00 p.m.	28.10.2020 (Wednesday) Price Bid at 04.00 p.m.
5	Built up space for Food/Snacks counter (for sale of tea/coffee, Cold Drinks, Snacks & Packaged meals/food etc.) on 4th Floor, Advanced Eye Centre, PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh.	26.10.2020 (Monday) up to 04.00 p.m.	27.10.2020 (Tuesday) up to 01.00 p.m. and Technical Bid shall be opened at 02.00 p.m.	28.10.2020 (Wednesday) Price Bid at 04.00 p.m.

Tender form containing terms and conditions can be downloaded from PGI website and same can be submitted personally in the office of Administrative Officer (Estate), PGIMER, Chandigarh along with Demand Draft/Banker Cheque of Rs. 500/- payable at Chandigarh drawn in favour of Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh along with other documents. The Director, PGI, Chandigarh reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever without prior notice to the tenderers. Website: <http://pgimer.edu.in>

DI-10719

DIRECTOR

PUNJAB ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Solar Passive Complex

Plot No. 1 & 2, Sector 33-D, Chandigarh

Short Notice Inviting Tender

E-Tender notice no. PEDA/2020-21/22

Name of Work:- E bids are invited for the following works:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	EMD (in Lacs)	Date of start of downloading E-tender document	Last Date & time for submission of E-bids	Date & time of opening of Techno-commercial bids
1	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Solar Water Heating System of capacity 2x3500 LPD and 1x1000 LPD at Block-B (with Heat Pumps and Plate type Heat Exchanger) and replacement of 3500 LPD hot water tank (with Heat Pumps and Plate type Heat Exchanger) at Block-A, Punjab Bhawan, New Delhi along with dismantling of old Solar Water Heating System of Capacity 8000 LPD.	2.00 lac	01.10.2020	15.10.2020 up to 5:00 PM	16.10.2020 at 11:30 AM

Cost of Tender Document Non-refundable Tender Document fee Rs. 5,000/- through online Mode only.

Earnest Money Deposit Earnest Money as mentioned above shall be deposited through online mode.

- Eligibility criteria and other terms & conditions for the works are given in the Tender Document which can be downloaded from www.eproc.punjab.gov.in.
- For participating in the above e-tendering process, the developers shall have to get themselves registered with <http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in> and get user ID, Password. Class-2/3 Digital Signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering process. For any clarification/difficulty regarding Bid document, please contact us on 0172-2663328 , 2663382 , 09417077300 and for any Bid uploading or Portal related issues please contact 0172-2970263, 2970284.
- Corrigendum / Addendum / Corrections, if any will be published on the e-tender website and no separate notices shall be issued
- PEDA reserve the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Director

Shimla set for a makeover by 2022

Smart City advisory forum holds meeting, reviews progress of works undertaken

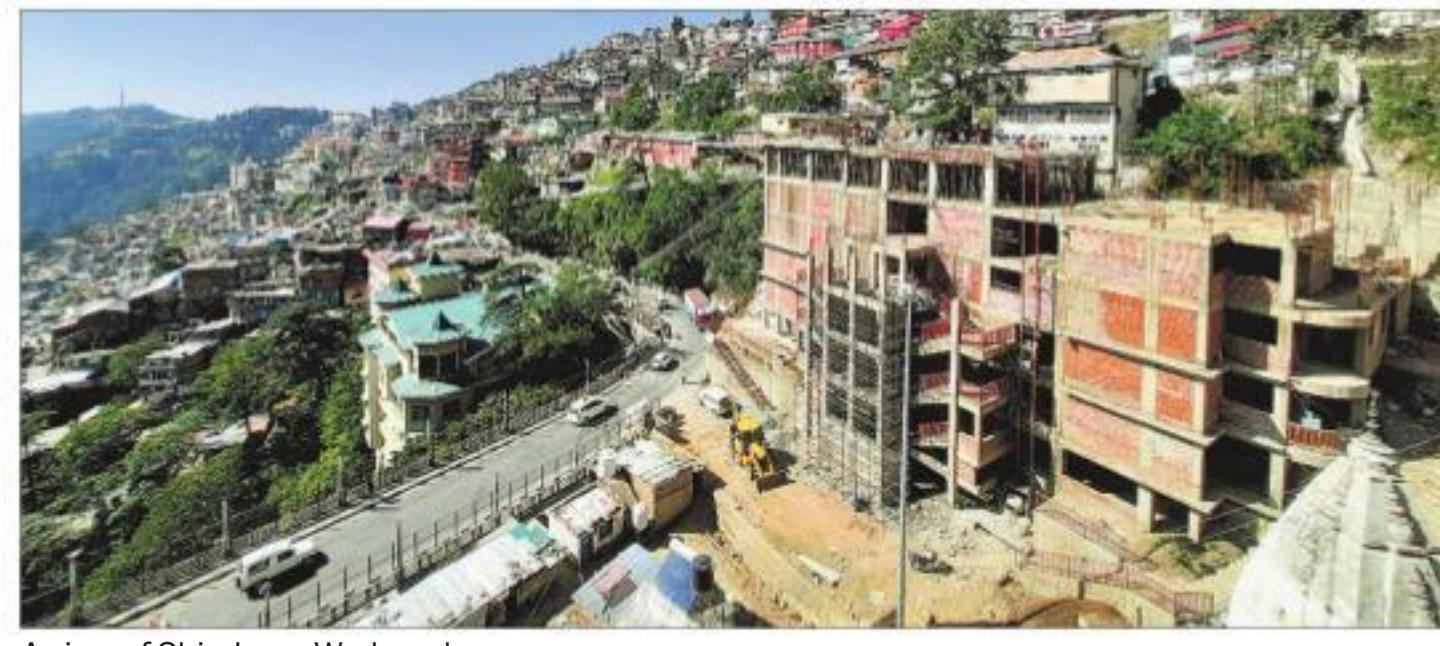
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 30

Shimla seems all set for an impressive makeover by the end of 2022, courtesy several Smart City projects worth Rs 900 crore in the pipeline. Out of these projects which include widening of several congested junctions, construction of foot over bridges, pedestrian paths, parking lots, parks, lifts, escalators, etc., work on projects worth Rs 160 crore is already afoot and projects Rs 235 crore are being implemented.

At a virtual meeting of the City Advisory Forum of the Shimla Smart City Limited, which was attended by Urban Development Minister Suresh Bhardwaj, too, MC Commissioner Pankaj Rai apprised about the headway the projects had made in the last three months.

Rai, who is also the Manager-



A view of Shimla on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

WORK ON PARKING LOT NEAR IGMC UNDERWAY: MC COMMISSIONER

■ MC Commissioner Pankaj Rai said at the meeting that the work on a parking space near the Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital had begun

■ Parking lots are being planned at several

other spots such as Vikas Nagar, Kasumpti

■ The other project which is in the final stages of being awarded involves lifts/escalator from Lakkar Bazar to the Ridge and an escalator to the Jakhu temple.

tions, roads, and the availability of parking will make driving in the city a far more pleasant experience for residents as well as tourists.

The other high profile project which is in the final stages of being awarded involves lifts/escalator from Lakkar Bazar to the Ridge and an escalator to the Jakhu temple. These lifts and escalators will spare the elderly, children, patients and tourists from the hassle of climbing stairs. The foot over bridges near the Lift and the Deen Dayal Upadhyay hospital, too, will add to the comfort of locals and the tourists.

Sounding quite satisfied with how the Smart City projects have picked up pace in the last few months, the Urban Development Minister said all agencies needed to work fast to complete the projects within the given time frame.

3 detained in shooting case

SOLAN, SEPTEMBER 30

The police have detained three persons from nearby areas of Punjab in a shooting case of September 22 where armed motorcycle-borne miscreants had fired at a scrap dealer's shop at a Nalagarh village in broad daylight.

According to aggrieved scrap dealer Sahib Singh, an attempt was made to scare him for business reasons. He had been receiving threats since December last year.

Police sources said those involved in the incident were yet to be arrested and those detained were their accomplices. It was being ascertained whether they had sheltered the main accused after they committed the crime. — TNS

Covid tally set to cross 15,000 mark

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 30

As many as 290 Covid cases were reported in the state today, taking the tally to 14,976. Besides, three persons died of coronavirus in the last 24 hours and the total number of fatalities rose to 181.

One death each occurred in Solan, Shimla and Sirmaur. The highest number of 44 cases were reported in Mandi, followed by 43 in Kullu, 36 in Kangra, 30 in Solan, 20 in Bilaspur, 17 in Chamba, 16 in Shimla, 10 in Sirmaur, five in Una, four in Hamirpur, three in Lahaul and Spiti and one in Kinnaur. The total number of active cases in the state stood at 3,400. — TNS

STATE TRACKER

	Recovered	11,370
	Positive cases	14,976
	Deaths	181

DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+	DEATHS
Una	1,272	12
Solan	3,018	27
Kangra	2,276	44
Chamba	846	10
Hamirpur	917	7
Sirmaur	1,818	14
Mandi	1,715	25
Bilaspur	820	1
Shimla	1,300	33
Kullu	646	6
Kinnaur	191	2
Lahaul & Spiti	157	-
Total	14,976	181

Education regulator seeks bio-data of pvt varsities VCs

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 30

Taking cognisance of complaints that vice-chancellors (VCs) of some private universities are not meeting the required qualification and other conditions, the Himachal Pradesh Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission (HPPEIRC) has sought their bio-data to verify their eligibility.

"There are complaints that either the VCs are overaged or are not fulfilling the qualification and experience criteria. The commission has asked the universities to furnish the details with documents," Chairman, HPPEIRC, Maj Gen Atul Kaushik (retd) said.

If any irregularity is

Action follows after complaints that some VCs are not eligible for the post

found, action would be initiated and trustees would be asked to appoint qualified and eligible persons, he added.

The education regulator has asked the management to follow norms and point out deficiencies in faculty and infrastructure. "It has come to the notice that in some universities, the faculty is inexperienced or engaged for short duration, infrastructure is not eco-friendly, laboratories are outdated and don't

have equipment," he said.

No. XEN(O&M)/35 Dated: 30.9.2020
The MCA invites online bids from eligible bidders for Work Repair & Replacement of W/S Line & Sewer Line, MHC/Frames, Const. of New MH Chambers, Desilting of Sewer Lines, and P/Instt of 2 Nos of Handbore Tubewells in various Wards of Amritsar City. Last Date of submission for Cooperative societies is 22.10.2020. Opening Date next working day. For further details, kindly visit <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> (E-Tender). Further any Corrigendum/Amendment shall be published in the above said Website only. Helpdesk No. 83608-84878, 81968-9325.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (O&M) Cell,
Municipal Corporation, Amritsar

PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
RE-TENDER NOTICE No. 9 of 2020-21 PWSSD Gurdaspur (2nd Time)

<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

On behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, Pb. W/S & Sew. Board, Chandigarh, Executive Engineer, Pb. W/S & Sew. Division, Gurdaspur. The E-tendering Notice No. 9 issued vide this office endst. No. 2928-42 dt 03.09.2020 are hereby recalled due to reason that no bidder participate received for below tender. Now these tender will be opened as per detail given below:-

Sr. No.	Description of Work	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of Document/Tender Fee (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Approx. Value of the Work
1	DNIT for Construction Installation, Commissioning of Sewage Treatment Plant of 4.0 MLD Capacity Based on any Suitable, Sustainable and Proven Technology including other Appurtenant Works on Turnkey Basis as DNIT, Including operation & maintenance for a period of Sixty months after stabilization period of Three months and all other works contingent thereto Daburji Village and all other work at Dimanagar. (HUDCO Scheme)	@ 1% of DNIT cost Rs. 8,00,000/-	Rs. 1000/- + As applicable on website	18 Months	Rs. Lum Sum

Important dates are as under:

1. Period of availability of tender online shall be : 01.10.2020 up to 5:00 P.M.

2. Last date and time for online submission of bid shall be : 15.10.2020 up to 5:00 P.M.

3. Date and time of opening of Technical Bid : 16.10.2020 at 2:00 P.M.

Note: Detailed terms and conditions refer to website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

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

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Punjab W/S & Sew Division,
Gurdaspur.

DPR/Pb/84105



GLOBE TROT



ENTRENCHED: People take shelter in a dugout during the Azerbaijan-Armenia fighting over a region, in Terter. REUTERS

US tariffs on Scotch whisky can't be right: UK PM

LONDON: UK PM Boris Johnson has said tariffs placed on Scottish malt whisky by the United States "cannot be right" and should be removed. "We will continue to take a very robust line. It cannot be right that US consumers continue to pay over the odds for Scotch (whisky)," Johnson told parliament. "It cannot be right that this discrimination should continue and we will fight it every step of the way," he said, adding he had already raised the matter with Trump. REUTERS

Zoo separates parrots after swearing a blue streak

LONDON: Officials in a zoo of the United Kingdom had to separate five foul-mouthed parrots who keepers say were encouraging each other to swear. Billy, Eric, Tyson, Jade and Elsie joined Lincolnshire Wildlife Centre's colony of 200 gray parrots in August, and soon revealed a penchant for blue language. "We are quite used to parrots swearing, but we've never had five at the same time," said zoo's chief executive Steve Nichols. AP

Trump denigrates office of US Prez, says Kamala

Democrat V-P candidate accuses him of fomenting racial divisions

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 30

US Senator Kamala Harris has criticised President Donald Trump's conduct during the first night of the presidential debates as one that "denigrates the office", as she extended support to the Democratic Party's presidential nominee, saying Joe Biden understands who are important — the American families.

Trump and Biden had heated exchanges on the first of three Presidential Debates in Cleveland, Ohio, on Tuesday night. "I think the American people deserve to have an ability to compare and contrast the candidates. I think tonight provided a very clear contrast. On the one hand, you have Joe Biden who looked into the camera, who spoke to the American people continuously, who understood who was important on that stage, which is the American families," Harris told CBS News in an interview.

"And then you have Donald Trump, who I think really denigrated the office of the United States President as much as he has done over the course of the last four years," Harris, the Democratic Party's vice presidential nominee, said in her first reaction to the conclusion of the first round of debates.



Trump and Biden during their first 2020 presidential campaign debate at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland. AP

DEMOCRATS WANT INTEL OVERHAUL

Washington: US House Democrats said intelligence agencies had failed to adapt to the growing threat posed by China and warned that the US would not be able to compete with Beijing in the future without significant changes. A report released by Democrats on the House Intelligence Committee called for a review of intelligence gathering. REUTERS

1ST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE: TRUMP, BIDEN CLASH OVER COVID, RACISM

Washington: Democratic challenger Joe Biden has termed Trump a liar and a clown as the pair clashed in a fiery start to their first presidential debate. Trump fired back, telling Biden, "There's nothing smart about you, Joe. Forty-seven years, you've done nothing."

During the first of the three debates in Cleveland, Ohio, on Tuesday night, Trump and Biden clashed over each other's personality, past record, family, Covid, racism and their visions. "The fact is that everything he's saying so far is simply a lie," Biden said. PTI

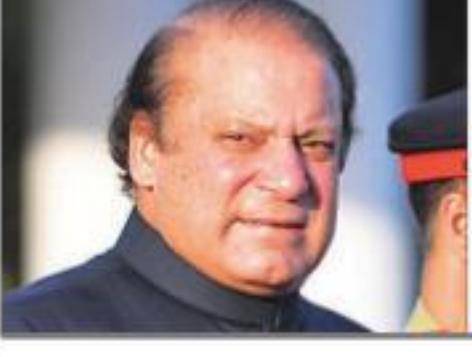
ing the Supreme Court.

Later, she tweeted, "Tonight, America was presented with a choice: a leader who offers a clear path forward vs an angry, interrupting bully. Trump has inflamed the racial divides in our country these past four years." — PTI

Harris, 55, is the first-ever Black African-American and Indian-American woman to be the vice-presidential (V-P) candidate of a major political party.

She dodged questions on whether Biden supports ending the filibuster and expand-

Pak to push for Nawaz's deportation



'Mockery of system'

Ex-PM Nawaz Sharif, who faces several corruption cases, left for Britain last year for treatment. His exit from Pakistan is a mockery of the system, said an Islamabad High Court bench.

authorities to pursue the matter vigorously, the paper said.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, the Dawn News reported, quoting a Cabinet member whose identity was not revealed. Khan asked the

Kingdom, wanted people can be repatriated under special arrangements as we had also handed over some people to the UK," the member said.

On Wednesday, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) said that it needs to be determined if 70-year-old Sharif was evading court proceedings on purpose.

Sharif's exit from Pakistan is a "mockery of the system", said a two-member IHC bench, comprising Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani and Justice Aamer Farooq.— PTI

Travel slump threatens 46 million jobs globally

PARIS, SEPTEMBER 30

The Covid impact on travel may cost as many as 46 million jobs globally, said the Air Transport Action Group. It predicted that the travel slump and a slow recovery will threaten 4.8 million aviation workers and more than half of the 87.7 million total jobs.

Meanwhile, Donald Trump said India is among the countries that do not accurately disclose the number of Covid deaths— Reuters

TRACKING VIRUS

NATIONS	DEATHS
US	2,11,273
BRAZIL	1,43,243
MEXICO	77,163
UK	42,143
PERU	32,396



WORLDOMETER
TILL SEPT 30, 11 PM

BUSINESS

USD \$	EURO €	POUND £	JPY ₣	YUAN ₩	CAD ₦	AUD ₧	SGD ₩	HKD ₮	BSE 94.71	NSE 25.15	GOLD ₹50,500	SILVER ₹61,246
₹73.76	₹86.35	₹94.69	₹0.70	₹10.82	₹55.08	₹52.49	₹53.85	₹9.51	38,067.93	11,247.55	(MCX)	(MCX)

General Atlantic picks up stake in Reliance Retail for ₹3,675 cr



THIRD PE INVESTMENT

■ This is the third private equity investment in Reliance Retail, following Silver Lake's ₹7,500-crore investment for a 1.75% stake and KKR's ₹5,550-crore investment for a 1.28% stake earlier this month

■ The transaction values Reliance Retail at a pre-money equity value of ₹4,285 lakh crore

■ Earlier this year, General Atlantic had invested ₹6,598.38 crore in Jio Platforms

stake earlier this month.

"This marks the second investment by General Atlantic in a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, following a Rs 6,598.38 crore

investment in Jio Platforms announced earlier this year," the statement said.

Reliance Retail operates India's largest, fastest-growing

and most profitable retail

business spanning supermarkets, consumer electronics chain stores, cash and carry wholesale business, fast-fashion outlets, and online grocery store JioMart.— PTI

No change in govt borrowing plan

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

■ Revenues are looking up and we had borrowed heavily in the first half of the year. This will suffice

Tarun Bajaj, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SECRETARY

ing on behalf of states and corporates, he said.

The government had originally planned to borrow Rs 7.8 lakh crore. After the Covid hit the country, the government decided to raise its borrowing to Rs 12 lakh crore.

However, the ways and means limit of Rs 2 lakh crore for states after May is being reduced to Rs 1.25 lakh crore in consultation with RBI. As the Centre will end its borrowing programme by January 29, it will keep the next two months open for borrowing

plans upwards, said Bajaj.

Core sector output shrinks 8.5% in August

VIJAY C ROY
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30 Contracting for the sixth consecutive month, the output of eight core infrastructure sectors dropped by 8.5% in August, mainly due to decline in production of steel, refinery products and cement. The production of eight core sectors had contracted 0.2% in August 2019, showed data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Wednesday.

Barring coal and fertiliser, all sectors — crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement and electricity — recorded negative growth in August. — PTI

bottom lines of the exporters," said SC Ralhan, president, Ludhiana Hand Tools Association.

According to the exporters, at this juncture when exporters are getting orders from new customers, the government must disburse benefits at the earliest so that they could execute the orders. In the absence of liquidity, many exporters are not in a position to meet export obligations, they said.

Introduced in April 2015, the MEIS objective is to offset infrastructural inefficiencies and associated costs involved in exports of



goods and products, which are produced or manufactured in India, especially those having high export intensity, employment potential and thereby enhancing India's export competitiveness.

The MEIS entitlement is around 3% of freight on board (FOB) for engineering exports to notified markets.

The scheme will be wound up by December 31, and the government has already announced the Remission of Duty or Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme to replace the MEIS.

According to the exporters, due to the delay in refunds they have to seek additional borrowing from banks which is not a viable proposition especially when working capital is stuck in the form of refunds.

THIEM GETS PAST SOCK
Dominic Thiem, the runner-up in 2018 and 2019, staved off a late comeback attempt by American qualifier Jack Sock in their first meeting on clay to win 6-1 6-3 7-6(6). "I'm very happy," Thiem said. "I messed up a bit in the third set, up 4-3 and 40-15. I found myself in the tiebreak and he played very well, particularly in the second and third sets. I was lucky to save the three set points in the tiebreak."



Dominic Thiem serves against Jack Sock. REUTERS

WAWRINKA THROUGH

Swiss 16th seed Stan Wawrinka suffered a mid-match blip before dismissing German Dominik Koepfer 6-3 6-2 3-6 6-1.

Achilles dashes Serena dream

Pulls out an hour before second round, may not play again this year

PARIS, SEPTEMBER 30

Saying she is "struggling to walk," Serena Williams ended her latest bid for a 24th Grand Slam title and withdrew from the French Open before her second-round match Wednesday because of an injured Achilles heel. Williams hurt herself during her semifinal loss at the US Open three weeks ago and said she hasn't had "enough time to properly heal" and needs "four to six weeks of sitting, doing nothing."

The sudden announcement came roughly an hour before the 39-year-old American was supposed to head out onto Court Philippe Chatrier to face Tsvetana Pironkova. Williams said it is "more than likely" she will not play another tournament in 2020.

This is Williams' earliest exit at any Grand Slam tournament since a second-round loss in Paris in 2014.



She spoke to coach Patrick Mouratoglou and, she said, "We kind of both thought about it and we decided it wasn't the best for me to try and play today."

She said she tried warming up for the match but knew she wasn't able to

"I was struggling to walk so that's a tell tale sign that I should try to recover. I think I need four to six weeks of sitting and doing nothing. At least two weeks of just sitting down." — Serena Williams

«Serena Williams after a press conference prior to her second-round match in Paris on Wednesday. AP/PTI

compete. She also pulled out of the French Open in 2018 prior to what would have been a fourth-round match against Maria Sharapova, citing a pulled muscle in her chest. That was Williams' first major tournament back on tour after having a baby.

She would go on to reach

the finals at four of the next six Slams, losing each time, as she tries to add to her professional-era record of 23 major singles trophies and equal Margaret Court's all-time mark. Earlier this month in New York, Williams made it to the semifinals before bowing out 6-1 3-6 3-6 against Victoria Azarenka.

It was in the third set of that match that Williams stretched her Achilles during a point and then leaned over, clutched at her lower left leg and asked for a trainer. She took a medical timeout for a tape job and continued to play but was unable to pull off a win. Now the question becomes when the world will see Williams compete next. "I think I need four to six weeks of sitting and doing nothing," she said today. "At least two weeks of just sitting down." — AP

played deep, using his forehand to devastating effect. After world No. 236 McDonald won the second game, Nadal bagged 11 games in a row to move two sets up and despite some resistance from his opponent early in the third set, he had no trouble improving his win-loss record at Roland Garros to 95-2. "My objective is to play as well as I can. It was a good match for me today. I'm very happy," said Nadal. REUTERS

RAFA BREEZES INTO ROUND 3

Rafael Nadal continued his quest for a record-extending 13th French Open title with a 6-1 6-0 6-3 crushing of American Mackenzie McDonald to advance into the third round today. The Spanish second seed, also looking to equal Roger Federer's men's record of 20 singles Grand Slam titles, was never bothered. The claycourt master

AZARENKA THRASHED BY SCHMEIDLLOVA

Victoria Azarenka's unhappy French Open campaign ended as the former world No. 1 was beaten 6-2 6-2 by Slovakia's Anna Karolina Schmidlova in the second round. The Belarusian 10th seed, who was criticised for moaning about the cold and damp conditions in her opening-round win, capitulated in feeble fashion against her 161st-ranked opponent. Her defeat continued an exodus of leading seeds with Johanna Konta (9), Madison Keys (12), last year's runner-up Marketa Vondrousova (15) and another former world No. 1 Angelique Kerber (18) having already been beaten. REUTERS



Former India U-19 teammates Kamlesh Nagarkoti (3rd from left) and Shivam Mavi (extreme right) took two wickets each against Rajasthan. The 2018 U-19 World Cup-winning fast bowlers dismissed four of the top five batsmen in the Royals lineup. BCCI

BRIEFLY**NEW DELHI****AFI cancels national championships this year**

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) today cancelled this year's national championships in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, virtually bringing the season to an end without any competition.

NEW DELHI**Women's Challenger series to be held in UAE on Nov 4-9**

The much-awaited Challenger series, popularly known as women's mini IPL, will be held in the UAE from November 4 to 9, a senior IPL official said.

BRISBANE**NZ women end 13-game losing streak vs Australia**

The New Zealand women's cricket team ended a 13-game losing streak against world champions Australia with a five-wicket win in the third T20I today. Amelia Kerr took 2/18 to restrict Australia to 123/7 before scoring 18 off 10 balls as NZ scored 125/5. The hosts, though, won the series 2-1.

BARCELONA**Lionel Messi says it's time for Barcelona to unite**

Lionel Messi wants to put his dispute with Barcelona behind him and called for the club and its fans to unite. "After so many disagreements, I would like to put an end to it all," he said.

LONDON**Spurs beat Chelsea to reach League Cup quarters**

Tottenham beat Chelsea on penalties to reach the League Cup quarterfinals. Tottenham advanced 5-4 in the shootout after the game ended 1-1. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

IPL
PUNJAB VS MUMBAI
STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

TENNIS
FRENCH OPEN
STAR SPORTS 2:30PM

SPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

HALEP TOO GOOD
Simona Halep beat Irina-Camelia Begu 6-3 6-4 to improve her overall record against her Romanian compatriot to 8-0. Top seed Halep, the 2018 champion, is chasing her third Major title.

SVITOLINA FIGHTS ON

Third seed Elina Svitolina, who won the Strasbourg title on Saturday, was handed a bagel in the second set of her match against Mexico's Renata Zarazua but regained focus to claim a 6-3 0-6 6-2 win and reach the third round.

MERTENS WINS

Belgian 16th seed Elise Mertens beat Estonia's Kaia Kanepi 6-4 7-5.

BERTENS SURVIVES

Fifth seed Kiki Bertens narrowly avoided joining the exodus of women's favourites as she survived a match point against Italian former runner-up Sara Errani before hobbling into the third round. Bertens eventually won 7-6(5) 3-6 9-7 in a claycourt duel lasting more than three hours but her prospects of continuing look bleak after she left the court in a wheelchair after struggling physically in the final set.

Camp cancelled, shooters left clueless

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has postponed the proposed camp for the national squad. In a short email to the prospective national campers — over 100 in number — and 20-odd coaches, NRAI announced this, citing administrative reasons. The rifle/pistol camp was scheduled from October 5 to November 8 and the shotgun camp was to be held on October 20-30.

The decision took the shooters and coaches by surprise as they had been making training plans to be executed during the camp.

This is the second time in two months that NRAI has cancelled the camp. It had previously called off the camp for the Olympic Core Group for the Tokyo Olympics in July after some shooters decided to stay away due to the rising number of Covid-19 cases in the national capital.

Surprise, surprise
"We don't know the actual reason for the postponement. All we have been told

We had sent all our training plans only yesterday, and now this! We don't know what is happening" A shooter

is that the camp has been postponed for administrative reasons," said a coach on condition of anonymity.

"We had sent all our training plans only yesterday, and now this! We don't know what is happening," said a shooter.

NRAI president Raninder Singh was unavailable for comments.

Interestingly, when the plans were first announced to hold the camp in October, some shooters did not want to spend seven days in quarantine. But they accepted this condition after some persuasion.

Only NRAI advisor Ronak Pandit, who has been tasked with overseeing training in rifle/pistol disciplines, was against holding the camp with a large number of shooters. He had recommended that training be started with only the Olympic Core Group of roughly 35 shooters and a few coaches; if it went well, the complete national squad could be called to train.

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA REGIONAL OFFICE (PUNJAB) BAY NO. 34-38, SECTOR-31-A, Chandigarh		
Dated : 01.10.2020		
Sale of Wheat under OMSS (D) through E-AUCTION during October-2020		
Scheme I		Scheme II
Sale of Wheat to Bulk Buyers/Pvt. Traders		Sale of wheat under Dedicated Movement to Bulk Buyers/Pvt. Traders*
Following are the dates of events for all above schemes of E-auctions.		
Tender Uploading Date & Starting Date for Deposition of EMD	Last Date for Depositing EMD	Starting and Ending Date and Time for Online Bidding
01.10.2020	06.10.2020	07.10.2020 from 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM
09.10.2020	13.10.2020	14.10.2020 from 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM
16.10.2020	20.10.2020	21.10.2020 from 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM
23.10.2020	27.10.2020	28.10.2020 from 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM
29.10.2020	03.11.2020	04.11.2020 from 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM

From 01.10.2020 Tax collection at Source (TCS) @ 0.1% needs to be collected from buyer on the sale consideration exceeding Rs. 50 lakh towards sale of food grain under OMSS(D)(but excludes the sale of food grains to State Government/Central Government)
For any query M/s Metal Junction Services Ltd. may be contacted in helpline at 18001027136, E-Mail ID: fcihelpdesk@mjunction.in/www.valuejunction.in/fci and fci.gov.in, and Regional Office (Punjab) Chandigarh at agmcpinpj.fci@gov.in, Phone No- 0172-2638048.
Asst. Genl Manager (Comml) for General Manager (Region)

CANCELLATION / PARTIAL CANCELLATION / DIVERSION / SHORT TERMINATION / SHORT ORIGINATION OF TRAINS

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to Cancel / Partially Cancel / Divert / Short Terminate / Short Originate following Passengers Special and Parcel Express Trains in view of the Kisan Agitation:-

CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02425 New Delhi - Jammu Tawi Rajdhani Special	01.10.2020
02426 Jammu Tawi - New Delhi Rajdhani Special	01.10.2020

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at/ Short originate from	Partially Cancelled between Station	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02903 Mumbai Central-Amritsar Golden Temple Mail	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 29.09.2020
02904 Amritsar-Mumbai Central Golden Temple Mail	From Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	01.10.2020
02925 Bandra Terminus-Amritsar Express	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 30.09.2020
02926 Amritsar-Bandra Terminus Express	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	02.10.2020
02715 Nanded-Amritsar Sachkhand Express	at New Delhi	New Delhi-Amritsar	of 30.09.2020
02716 Amritsar-Nanded Sachkhand Express	From New Delhi	Amritsar-New Delhi	02.10.2020
03037 Dhanbad-Firozpur Exp.	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Firozpur	of 29.09.2020
03308 Firozpur-Dhanbad Exp.	from Ambala Cantt.	Firozpur-Ambala Cantt.	01.10.2020
04673 Jaynagar-Amritsar Shaheed Express	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 30.09.2020
04674 Amritsar-Jaynagar Shaheed Express	From Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	01.10.2020
02057 New Delhi - Una Himachal Express	at Chandigarh	Chandigarh - Una Himachal	01.10.2020
02058 Una Himachal - New Delhi Express	From Chandigarh	Una Himachal - Chandigarh	02.10.2020
02407 New Jalpaiguri-Karambhoomi SF	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Karambhoomi	of 30.09.2020
02408 Amritsar - New Jalpaiguri Karambhoomi SF	From Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	02.10.2020
05933 Dibrugarh-Amritsar Exp.	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 29.09.2020
05934 Amritsar-Dibrugarh Exp.	From Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	02.10.2020

DIVERSION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

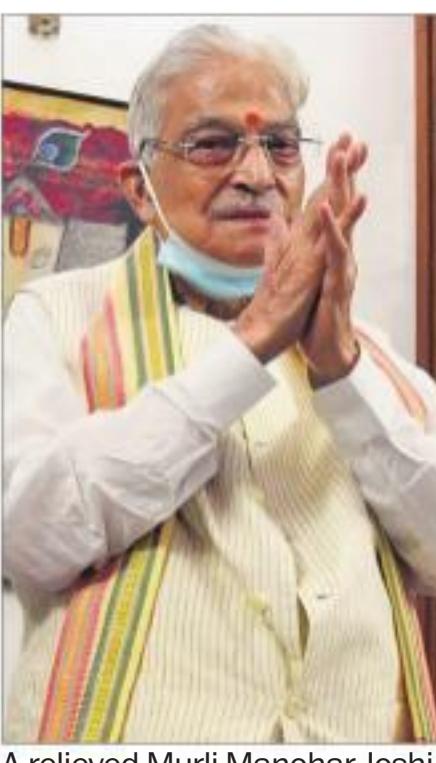
Train No. & Name	Diverted Via	Date (from the Originating Station)
05909 Dibrugarh-Lalgash Exp.	Rohtak-Bhiwani-Hisar-Hanumangarh	of 29.09.2020
05910 Lalgash-Dibrugarh Exp.	Hanumangarh-Hisar-Bhiwani-Rohtak	of 30.09.2020

<tbl

ACQUITTED



BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj after being exonerated, in Lucknow. REUTERS



A relieved Murli Manohar Joshi in New Delhi. MUKESH AGGARWAL



Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, one of the accused, in Lucknow. PTI



Sadvi Ritambhara is all smiles after the acquittal in Lucknow. PTI

2,000 LIVES WERE LOST ACROSS INDIA IN THE RIOTS THAT FOLLOWED THE BABRI DEMOLITION

NHRC notice to MHA over Amnesty ops

NEW DELHI: The NHRC has issued notice to the Union Home Secretary over rights organisation Amnesty International winding up its operations in the country after alleging "witch-hunt" by the government, officials said on Wednesday. — PTI

Maoist leader held in Andhra Pradesh

HYDERABAD: The Andhra Pradesh Police on Wednesday arrested a Maoist leader identified as Hari, Galikonda area committee member of the Maoist party. Galikonda is located in the Araku valley in Andhra Pradesh. The police said Hari was an important leader and was involved in over 50 cases. He carried an Rs 4 lakh reward on his head. — TNS

SC nixes plea to defer Civil Services exam

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to postpone the Civil Services Preliminary exam (scheduled to be held on October 4) saying the aspiring civil servants should come out of their comfort zone. — TNS

SC notice to Maha Assembly Secretary

NEW DELHI: The SC on Wednesday issued a notice to the Maharashtra Assembly Secretary on Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami's petition challenging a notice for breach of privilege issued to him for his alleged remarks against CM Uddhav Thackeray in Sushant Rajput case. — TNS

BABRI MASJID DEMOLITION VERDICT

Liberhan panel had indicted BJP top guns for 'intolerance'

SAURABH MALIK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

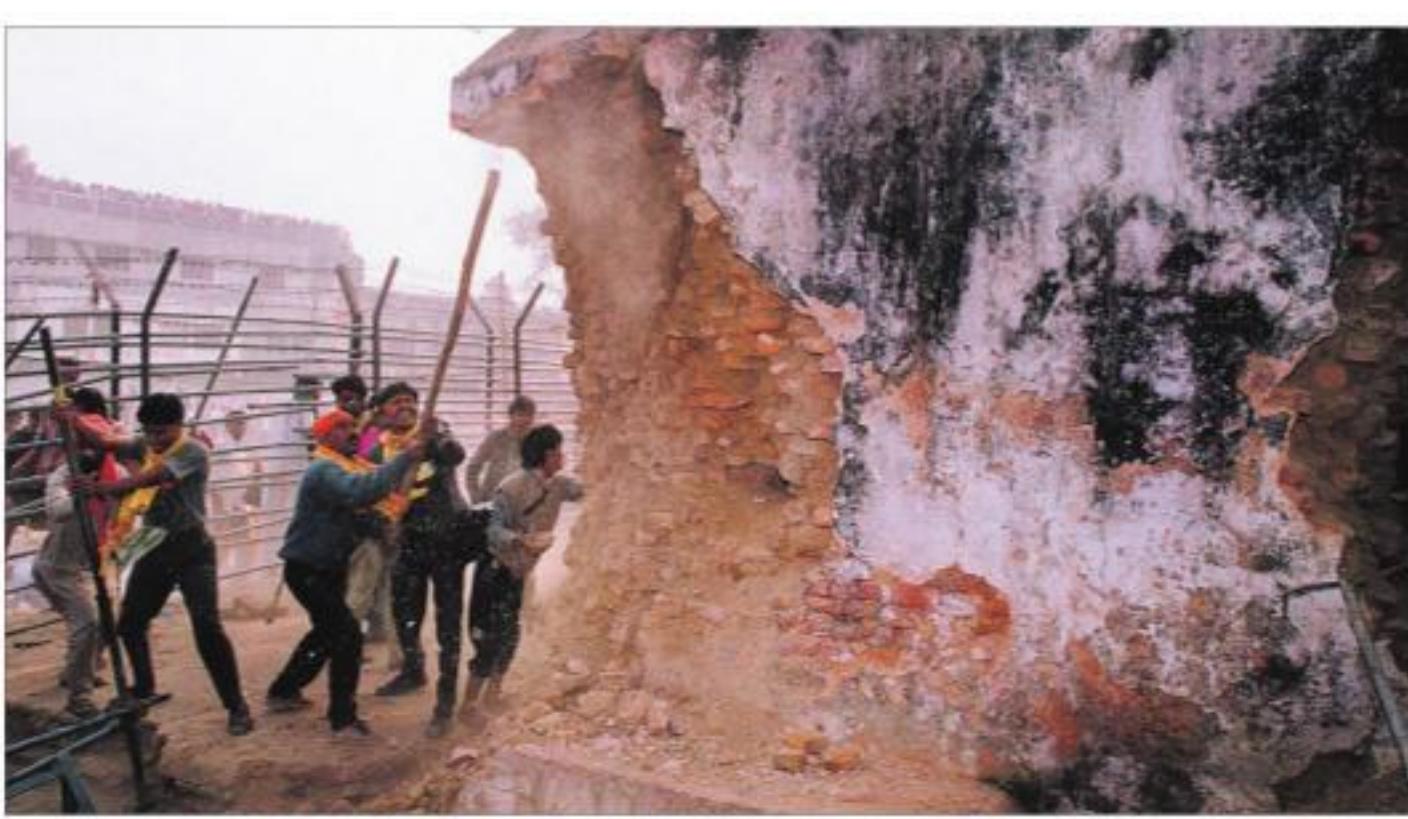
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30 Justice Manmohan Singh Liberhan, who probed the 1992 demolition of Babri mosque at Ayodhya, had indicted the perpetrators for having reduced "the oldest civilisation to stark intolerance and barbarianism, all for petty political gains".

In his 1,029-page report, Justice Liberhan admonished senior BJP leaders, calling them "pseudo-moderates" and "icons" of the movement. "It cannot be assumed even for a moment that LK Advani, AB Vajpayee and MM Joshi did not know the designs of the Sangh Parivar," said the one-man commission in its findings.

The Liberhan Commission, set up by the PV Narasimha Rao government days after the Babri Masjid was demolished on December 6, 1992, submitted its report to the Centre in June 2009.

"Unable to hold even these pseudo-moderates innocent of any wrongdoings.... This commission has no hesitation in condemning the pseudo-moderates for their sins of omission," it said.

The commission had also indicted Uma Bharti, Shankersinh Vaghela (has quit BJP), late party leaders Pramod Mahajan and Vijaya Raje Scindia, RSS ideologue K Govindacharya and Shiv



This file photo shows kar sevaks demolishing the Babri mosque at the disputed site in Ayodhya.

FOR POLITICAL GAINS

“The leaders saw the Ayodhya issue as their road to success and sped down this highway mindless of the casualties... all for petty political gains”

Liberhan Commission report

‘EVENTS WERE NOT SPONTANEOUS’

“The court has decided the case according to its conscience and proof available to it. It stands beyond doubt that the events of the day were neither spontaneous, nor unplanned, nor an unforeseen overflowing of people’s emotion. No evidence, lead or information was provided to the commission with respect to the conspiracy.”

Justice Manmohan Singh Liberhan who headed probe panel

Sena’s then chief late Bal Thackeray. Among the bureaucrats named in the report were then UP Principal Secretary (Home) Prabhakar Kumar, IG (Security) AK Saran and Faizabad SSP DB Roy.

(Then CM) Kalyan Singh entered into a ‘joint common enterprise’ for the purpose of demolition of the disputed structure. This was (either) to construct or... show to kar

sevaks that the Ram temple construction had been started by the government. This was essential for use in future elections,” the report said.

The police and the administration were openly supporting the RSS agenda. There was active and willing collusion between the state administration and the political executive... did not take even token steps to stop the demolition

tion or control the mob.

“The leaders saw the Ayodhya issue as their road to success and sped down this highway mindless of the casualties they scattered around. The BJP was and remains an appendage of the RSS, which had the purpose of only providing an acceptable veneer to the less popular decisions and a facade for the brash members of the Sangh Parivar;” the report noted.

BJP looks to gain from verdict in Bihar Assembly poll

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

The acquittal of senior BJP leaders and Hindutva activists in the Babri mosque demolition case on Wednesday has come as a big boost to the saffron party, whose leaders have always insisted that the razing of the disputed structure in Ayodhya was a spontaneous act and not part of any conspiracy.

With the party set to intensify

its campaign for the Bihar Assembly poll, besides byelection to one Lok Sabha and 56 Assembly seats, the court verdict has again brought the emotive issue, which has animated political discourse for long, to the centre stage and given the BJP a handy plank.

The special CBI court’s order effectively absolves the BJP of any responsibility from the most controversial

aspect of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and what the Supreme Court had described as an “egregious violation of the rule of law” in its last year verdict that handed over the disputed site in Ayodhya to pro-temple parties in that dispute.

The court said there was no conclusive proof against the accused. The verdict will ensure that the BJP while

owning up the movement’s success in ensuring the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya can legitimately disassociate itself with the demolition.

It has also snatched a potent weapon from opposition parties, most of whom have targeted the BJP for the mosque’s fall while either refraining from criticising or even welcoming

the temple’s construction.

It was the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and Advani’s “Rath Yatra” in 1990 to mobile the masses in favour of building a temple at the disputed site, where believers hold that Lord Ram was born, that brought the issue to the center stage of national politics and helped the BJP emerge as an alternative to the Congress.

As part of the movement,

Hindutva organisations had brought a large number of “kar sevaks” at the site when the mosque was taken down by the mob.

A BJP leader said the judgment has ensured that the Ram Janmabhoomi movement leaves behind a “proud legacy” for the party without having any dimension to it about which it might have felt defensive. — PTI

BJP: Will contest Bihar election with JD(U), LJP

Tribune News Service

Yadav, Fadnavis in Patna for talks on seat sharing

ership on Thursday, party sources said. Yadav said the NDA would contest the elections under the leadership of Nitish Kumar.

It has been learnt that the JD(U) will contest more number of Assembly seats than the BJP so that the party can accommodate the outfit led by former state Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi.

It is also learnt that the

BJP may get the LJP to settle with 27 seats.

“At a meeting, which was attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP chief JP Nadda, organisational secretary BL Santosh and Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi, the leaders took stock of the Assembly constituencies divided into A, B, C, D and E categories on the basis of perceived strengths of the NDA constituents,” a source said.

Shah stressed on harmonious seat sharing among the alliance partners, the sources said.

Lt Gen Menon takes charge of 14 Corps

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

Lt Gen PGK Menon will be the new Commander of the Indian Army’s Leh-based 14 Corps, which is dual tasked to face China in Ladakh and also Pakistan in the Drass-Kargil-Batalik and the Siachen sector.

Lt Gen Menon will replace Lt Gen Harinder Singh, who has completed his tenure at Leh and moves to Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun. Lt Gen Menon will take over in mid-October.

He was commissioned into the 17th Battalion of the Sikh Regiment. At present, he is Colonel Commandant



Lt Gen PGK Menon
of the Sikh Regiment.

In the past, he has served in the sector as a Brigadier. Gen Menon was present along with Gen Singh at the last round of military talks between Indian and Chinese commanders in eastern Ladakh on September 21.

NDB approves loans for Mumbai metro, Delhi-Meerut RRTS

BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 30

The New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS countries has approved US \$241 million loan for Mumbai metro and US \$500 million for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project.

The two loans were approved by the NDB Board, the Shanghai-based bank set up by the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) said in a statement.

The US \$241 million loan for the Mumbai metro rail II project will be used for the purpose of implementing a metro rail line 6 with a length of about 14.47 km in the city of Mumbai.

The Mumbai metro rail II project aims to improve Mumbai’s transport and traffic conditions by providing a modern metro system, featuring high-capacity, safe and comfortable mode of transport, it said.

Line 6 will provide much-needed rail-based connectivity between the western and eastern suburbs and will contribute towards an integrated seamless public transport network in Mumbai.

The NDB is supporting the implementation of metro lines in Mumbai with length

tolling to about 58 km (line 6 and line 7) by financing of the Mumbai metro rail II project approved by the NDB in November 2018, it said.

The NDB Board also approved a loan of US \$500 million for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS project.

The loan would be used by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited (NCRTC) for construction of a rapid rail corridor connecting the National Capital Territory of Delhi with the cities of Ghaziabad and Meerut located in the state of Uttar Pradesh. — PTI

For better connectivity

■ \$241 million loan for the Mumbai metro rail-II project will be used for implementing a metro rail line 6 with a length of 14.47 km in Mumbai.

■ A loan of \$500 million has been approved for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS project

Vardhan is Hry Chief Secretary

FROM PAGE 1
planned and systematic. The demolition had triggered riots that claimed nearly 2,000 lives across India. The acquittal of senior BJP leaders comes less than a year after a five-judge Bench led by then CJI Ranjan Gogoi on November 9, 2019, decided the Ayodhya title dispute and ruled in favour of Ram Lala, paving the way for construction of Ram Temple.

When Special Judge Yadav entered the courtroom at 12.10 pm, 26 of the 32 accused were present along with their lawyers. As the judge pronounced acquittal of all the accused, some of them shouted "Jai Shri Ram".

Asked if the probe agency will challenge the verdict in the high court, CBI counsel Devendra Singh, currently holding the charge of ACS (Irrigation and Water Resources and Public Health Engineering), will also hold the charge of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

32 accused in Babri...

FROM PAGE 1
currently posted as Chairman, Haryana Minerals, being senior to him.

Sanjeev Kaushal will replace Vardhan as FCR, while Rajeev Arora, ACS (Health), will also hold the charge of ACS (Home).

Alok Nigam, ACS (Forests and Wildlife and Medical Education and Research) has been given additional charge of the Public Works Department.

Devendra Singh, currently holding the charge of ACS (Irrigation and Water Resources and Public Health Engineering), will also hold the charge of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Covid recovery rate increases to 83.33%

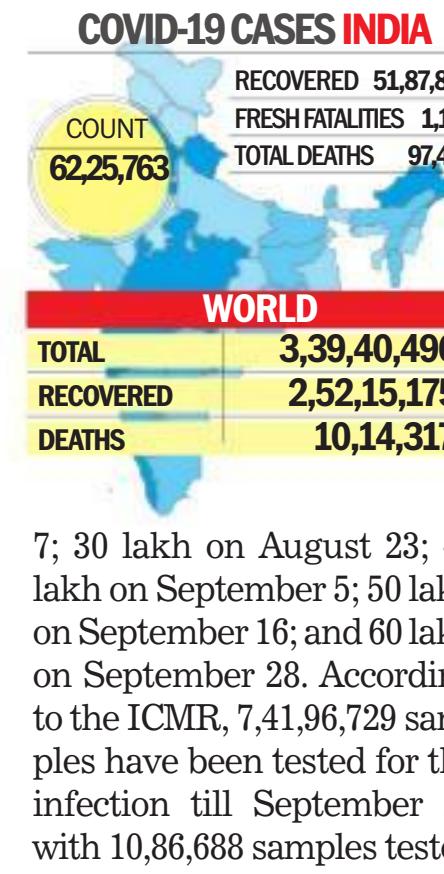
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

India’s Covid-19 caseload raced past 62 lakh on Wednesday with 80,472 infections being reported in a day, while the number of people recuperating from the disease surged to 51,87,825, pushing the recovery rate to 83.33 per cent.

The total number of cases mounted to 62,25,763, while the death toll climbed to 97,497 with 1,179 people succumbing to the disease in a day. There are 9,40,441 active Covid cases in the country, which comprise 15.11 per cent of the total case-load. The case fatality rate stands at 1.57 per cent.

The Covid tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August

7; 30 lakh on August 23; 40 lakh on September 5; 50 lakh on September 16; and 60 lakh on September 28. According to the ICMR, 7,41,96,729 samples have been tested for the infection till September 29 with 10,86,688 samples tested on Tuesday alone. — PTI



Let's all now live in peace: Main litigant

LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 30

Iqbal Ansari, the main litigant in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute, welcomed a special CBI court’s decision acquitting all accused in the mosque demolition case on Wednesday and appealed to all Muslims to honour it.

“It is good that all have been acquitted. Whatever had to happen happened on November 9 last year. This case should also have ended the same day. This is the CBI’s case and the court has given its ruling today. I appeal to Muslims not to take any further action on this. Just as they honoured the November 9 decision, this verdict too needs to be accepted similarly,” he said. Ansari said he did not

want any dispute between Hindus and Muslims in the country. “Only those who want to break the country try to continue with disputes,” he added. — PTI

There is no difference between Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians in Ayodhya and the same atmosphere needs to prevail in the entire country.

Iqbal Ansari, MUSLIM LITIGANT IN CASE

want any dispute between Hindus and Muslims in the country. “Only those who want to break the country try to continue with disputes,” he added. — PTI

‘IT’S TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE’

“All charged with criminal conspiracy acquitted. It (mosque) imploded on its own? The SC Constitution Bench headed by then CJI had said the demolition was an egregious violation of law. Now this verdict!

Sitaram Yechury, CPM LEADER

This judgment satisfies the collective consciousness of Hindutva and its followers and its ideology. Justice is not done in the case. Everyone is unhappy over the special CBI court verdict

Asaduddin Owaisi, AIMIM PRESIDENT AND HYDERABAD MP

Hindutva organisations had brought a large number of “kar sevaks” at the site when the mosque was taken down by the mob.

A BJP