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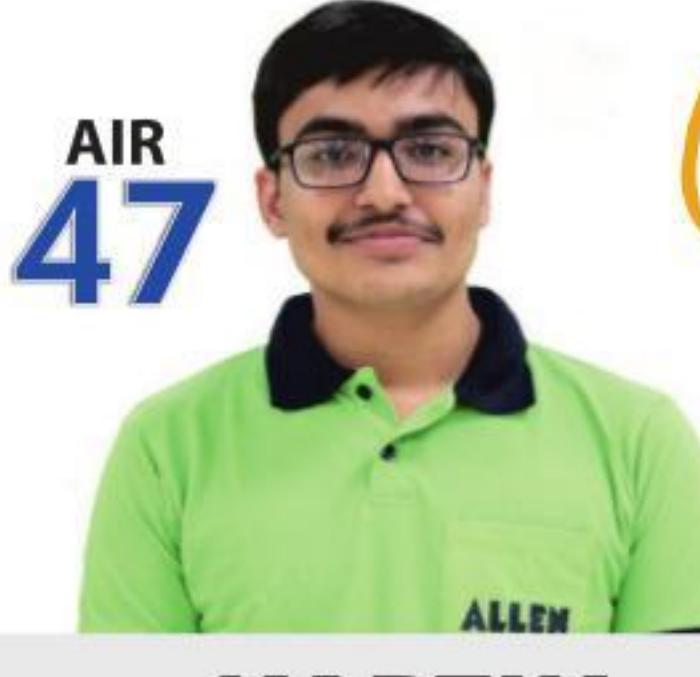
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Jasleen Kaur Classroom	Ayushi Gupta Classroom	Tarun Choudhary Classroom	Maria Mathew Classroom	Daksh Kataria Classroom	Aditi Mahajan Classroom	Khushi Jindal Classroom	Chakshu Sabherwal Classroom	Abhedya Classroom	Kamiksha Classroom
AIR: 366	AIR: 382	AIR: 445	AIR: 448	AIR: 458	AIR: 484	AIR: 563	AIR: 792	AIR: 955	
Ehsaas Classroom	Ridham Jindal Classroom	Devang Singla Classroom	Varun Bansal Classroom	Sukhmanjot Singh Classroom	Nishtha Bansal Classroom	Ananya Mehta Classroom	Shivam Classroom	Priya Classroom	
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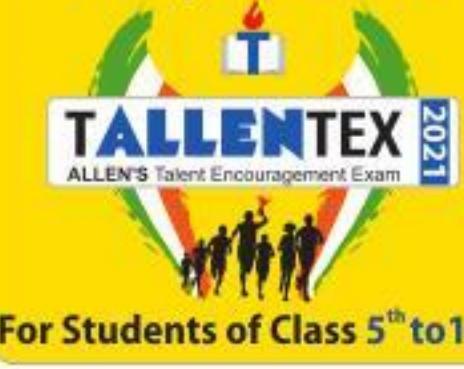
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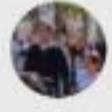
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NATH SLAMMED FOR REMARK ON WOMAN MINISTER BACK PAGE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020

Tractors, black capes & dharnas, high drama in and outside Vidhan Sabha

RUCHIKA M KHANNA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 19
There was high drama both within and outside the Punjab Vidhan Sabha on the first day of the special session convened by the Capt Amarinder Singh government to counter the Centre's new farm laws. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) staged a dharna inside the House and the Shiromani Akali Dal outside the Punjab Bhawan.

Ahead of the session, Opposition MLAs were stopped from entering the Vidhan Sabha — AAP legislators because they were in black capes as a mark of protest against the agriculture laws and Akali MLAs for trying to enter the Vidhan Sabha on tractors with "rosh" stickers. The AAP MLAs, who burnt copies of the controversial farm laws, were allowed inside the House later. So were the Akali MLAs.

The session began with obituary references. Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh led the House in paying homage to the farmers who lost their lives during the ongoing agitation against the farm laws.

Akali legislators staged a sit-in outside the Punjab Bhawan where Tippi Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Sukhjinder

SPECIAL SESSION EXTENDED BY A DAY

The Business Advisory Committee of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha on Monday decided to extend the special session by another day, till October 20. The committee will meet on Tuesday again to decide on further extension of the session, till October 21.

TALKS WITH FARMERS END IN STALEMATE, STIR TO CONTINUE

A meeting between a three-member Punjab Cabinet ministerial panel and representatives of the BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) on Monday remained inconclusive. The farmers said they would continue with their agitation till they were convinced about the steps taken by the state to counter the new farm laws.

CM, SIDHU SHARE COLD VIBES

Congress MLA Navjot Singh Sidhu, who ended his self-imposed political exile by attending the Assembly session on Monday, and Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh did not exchange pleasantries.

Pb proposes 3 legislations to counter Centre's farm laws

- The Punjab Government will table a resolution rejecting the recently enacted laws.
- It may bring three legislations to counter 'anti-farmer' provisions in these Acts. The legislations will require Prez nod.



Congress legislators want a provision in the proposed Bill that provides for action against those purchasing foodgrain below the MSP, emphasising that protection of MSP is one of the key demands of farm unions.

Singh Randhawa and Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria were holding talks with BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) leaders. The Akalis planned to gherao the ministers but they quietly left from the rear gate.

There was acrimony at the Business Advisory Committee meeting with the Opposition members insisting that they be provided copies of the Bill that the government proposed to table in the House on Tuesday to counter the Centre's farm laws. However, Manpreet said that legal experts were still on the job.

Sources said while central laws could not be nullified by states, Punjab could make the minimum support price (MSP) mandatory and penalise the violators. Leader of the Opposition Harpal Cheema, furious at being denied copies of the proposed Bill, led a protest in the well of the House. The AAP members refused to budge even as Speaker Rana KP Singh urged them to vacate the House so that it could be sanitised for the House sitting on Tuesday. Led by Sharanjit Singh Dhillon and Bikram Majithia, the Akali MLAs too held a protest in the well of the House just before it was adjourned.

PLA soldier to be repatriated

Had strayed across LAC in Demchok sector: Army

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

A soldier of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), identified as Corporal Wang Ya Long, was apprehended by the Indian Army on Monday morning.

The PLA soldier had strayed across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Demchok sector of eastern Ladakh. He has been provided medical assistance, including oxygen, food and warm clothes to protect him from the vagaries of high altitude and harsh climatic conditions.

A request has also been received from the PLA in the matter. As per established protocols, the soldier will be returned to Chinese officials at the Chushul-Moldo meeting point after completion of formalities, the Indian Army said.

On September 3, the Indian Army had helped three Chinese nationals, who had lost their way in the



US JACKETS FOR TROOPS IN LADAKH

New Delhi: The government has started transporting winter jackets for troops in Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) from the storage base in North Delhi. The jackets will be part of the reserve stock for more than 45,000 troops stationed along the 826-km LAC in Ladakh. The jackets have been imported from the US as part of emergency purchase. BACK PAGE

higher reaches of the Tibetan plateau. The three were travelling in a car, and reached northern Sikkim.

The Indian Army had immediately reached out and provided them medical assistance, food and warm clothes.

On September 7, the Army returned 13 yaks and four calves that had strayed into Arunachal Pradesh.

On September 12, the PLA had returned five Arunachal youths, who had lost their way and strayed across to Tibet.

Australia to rejoin Malabar naval exercise

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

Australia will rejoin the Malabar series of the joint naval exercises scheduled for next month, according to an official announcement here on Monday.

The significance of Australia joining the Indo-US-Japan exercise, held every year, could be gauged from statements welcoming the development by the US Navy and the Australian foreign and defence ministers.

With the missing element of Australia getting added, Malabar gets converted into a naval force of strength by the four-member Quad. BACK PAGE



Modi: Efforts on to accelerate growth

MYSORE: PM Narendra Modi on Monday said necessary changes were being made in every sector to ensure growth. "Whether it is agriculture, space, defence, aviation or labour, changes are being made in every sector," Modi said during the centenary convocation of the University of Mysore. —PTI

CBI books BSP MLA, wife in fraud case

NEW DELHI: The CBI has booked BSP MLA Vinay Shankar Tiwari and his wife Rita Tiwari in connection with an alleged bank fraud to the tune of Rs 754.25 crore. The CBI raided the residence of the MLA and the premises of Gangotri Enterprises in Lucknow. —TNS

PIO held in Canada for phone scams

TORONTO: Indian-origin Naman Grover (22), who lives in Mississauga, Ontario, has been arrested for his alleged involvement in a series of transnational telephone scams, wherein he was recruited by overseas scammers to process and launder locally-received money. —PTI

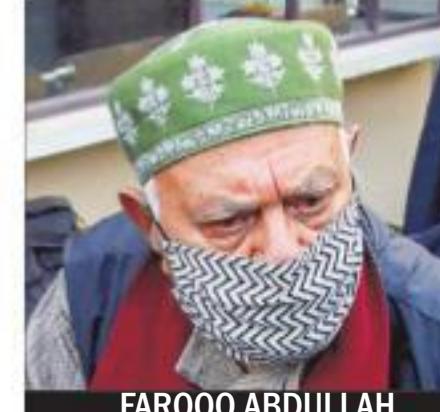
Ex-bureaucrat Dhesi CPS to Haryana CM

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



ED quizzes Farooq in JKCA fund embezzlement case

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



VINDICTIVE MOVE BY CENTRE: GUPKAR ALLIANCE INSIDE

The investigation in the case has been going on for the past two years, they added.

The officials said the National Conference leader recorded his statement, as he did on an

earlier occasion when the agency had questioned him.

They said the ED case was based on an FIR filed by the CBI, which booked former JKCA office-bearers, including general secretary Mohammed Saleem Khan and former treasurer Ahsan Ahmad Mirza in the case.

"As evidence has revealed, high numbers of testing on a sustained basis have aided in bringing down the positivity rate. The decline in the cumulative positivity rate has demonstrated that the rate of spread of infection is being effectively contained," it said.

The total number of Covid tests has crossed 9.5 crore so far, according to the ministry. The average daily positivity rate for the third week of October is 6.13 per cent, it said.

"This is a result of a suc-

cessful test, track, trace, treat and technology strategy of the Central Government effectively followed by states and UTs," it underlined. —PTI

HC to examine if death by heart attack after assault is 'natural'

SAURABH MALIK

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



ABOUT THE CASE

- The victim was allegedly beaten up and death occurred at subsequent stage
- HC wants a board of doctors to examine if heart attack amounted to natural death in such cases
- The court has called for adoption of more scientific medical investigation

es levelling specific allegation of injuries inflicted following fist or kick blows.

Justice Sangwan said the FIR in some cases was registered at the instance of an injured, who gave the "history of assault" before he died. But injury was not noticed while preparing the MLR and conducting the post-

mortem examination. It was simply observed external injury was not visible.

Justice Sangwan asked Punjab Director-General, Health Services, to constitute the board of senior doctors, experts on the subject matter, to also suggest whether ultrasound scan or any other scientific investigation could be conducted to find out internal injury while conducting MLR/post-mortem examination.

The directions came in a case where a cancellation report was prepared and submitted by the police in the trial court after the post-mortem report described the cause of death as myocardial infarction ante-mortem in nature and sufficient to cause death. The victim in the case was allegedly beaten, resulting in injuries on his head and back.

Justice Sangwan also asked the board to give opinion on chemical examiner's report describing the cause of death as myocardial infarction.

Stubble: Kejriwal for monthly meets with Pb, Hry

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday requested Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar to hold monthly meetings with the CMs of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and UP to curb air pollution in the National Capital.

He said there was a lack of political will at the level of the states to address the problem of stubble burning.

In a virtual press briefing, he said the affected states had been unable to find a solution to stop stubble burning and



pollution due to farm fires can be controlled in a short span of time, but there is lack of political will. Arvind Kejriwal

prevent air pollution. The crop residue could be biodegraded or converted into bio-gas, coal and even cardboard. Kejriwal said he agreed with Javadekar that air pollution

was not limited to one state.

He, however, added that Javadekar had said it would take at least four years to control pollution, but he believed if all states and political parties "work honestly by keeping aside their political differences then we can check air pollution in much less than four years".

He said: "Although scientists and engineers have come out with solutions to reduce the incidents of stubble burning, there is no political will to adopt these methods." —PTI

TRP: Issue summons to Arnab before arraigning him, says HC

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 19

The Bombay High Court on Monday said if the Mumbai police crime branch proposed to arraign Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami in the television rating points (TRP) case, it should first issue summons to him by November 5 when it would hear the matter. —PTI

Told to cooperate in probe, if summoned

others in the case. The court told the police to submit probe papers in a sealed cover by November 5 when it would hear the matter. —PTI

Paper for HRTC posts leaked from Shahpur HIET: Cops

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 19

The test paper for recruitment of HRTC conductors was leaked from the HIET centre in Shahpur, Kangra, reveals a preliminary probe. Pictures taken on the cellphone by accused Lucky, who hails from Rohru, were circulated on WhatsApp. Lucky, who also

Accused arrested, his brother quizzed too

Took a photograph of the exam paper at the APG Shimla University centre, has been arrested. His brother is also being questioned. —TNS

Schools reopen, most students stay home

TREBUNE REPORTERS

JALANDHAR, OCTOBER 19 While schools in the state today reopened after a gap of nearly seven months following the Covid-19 outbreak, the attendance in most of the schools here remained abysmally low.

Teachers, who had made all arrangements as per the standard operating procedures (SOPs) issued by the Education Department, were surprised to see only a limited number of students. Out of 400 students at Government Senior Secondary Smart School (GSSSS), Maqsoodan, only one student today attended class.

Deepak Thakur, a Class X student, who was the lone student in his class at GSSSS, Maqsoodan, said all his excitement got over when he was told that all his classmates were absent and he was the only student present in the school.

The principal of the school, Arvinder Kaur, said though she was expecting a good response



A student being screened at a school in Patiala on Monday. RAJESH SACHAR

from the students today, nobody came. "One of the reasons behind the low attendance was speculated that the parents of most of the students were not willing to send their wards to the school and didn't sign the consent forms," she added.

Baljit Kaur, principal, Government High School For Girls, Gandhi Camp, said only 12 out of 146 students

turned up today. Apart from the unwillingness of the parents, migrants who have moved to their native states during the lockdown and are still there was considered another major reason behind low attendance. Out of 1,200 students from Classes IX to XII, only 30 turned up at Nehru Garden Girls School and 15 out of 78 at Government Sec-

ondary School, Lidhian. **Patiala:** Though most schools registered low count on the first day, some schools went ahead to organise a small ceremony to welcome the students.

School officials said they registered low count of students as they were supposed to get consent letters from parents. Some were misinformed that the schools were

opening on a later date. "We have strength of 650 students in Classes IX-XII of which a little over 200 students reached the school on the first day," said Principal Tota Singh of Government Co-ed Multipurpose Senior Secondary School, Passi Road.

Government Girls' Multi-purpose Senior Secondary Smart School, Model Town,

welcomed students with garlands. Balbir Singh Jaura, principal of the school, said, "About 100 students out of 900 reached the school today. We organised a small ceremony and welcomed the students."

About 10 per cent students of Government Senior Secondary Smart School, Kalyan, reached the school. Sukhwinder Kumar Khosla, Deputy District Education Officer, said, "There are around 109 senior secondary and 94 government high schools in the district. All were opened, but most witnessed low count of students as it was the first day."

Abohar: Gurdeep Kumar, principal of a school, said at present the lockout was almost over and many activities were going on as usual. Just as precautions were being taken for other activities, care would be taken in schools as well.

Students from various villages said they had been eagerly waiting for the schools to reopen.

Man arrested for UCO bank robbery-murder

JALANDHAR, OCTOBER 19

The Jalandhar rural police have arrested a suspect involved in the UCO Bank robbery at Kalra village in Adampur and recovered Rs 39,500 from his possession.

SSP Dr Sandeep Kumar Garg said Surjeet Singh, alias Jeeta, a resident of Adampur, Hoshiarpur, was arrested by the Jalandhar rural police and the CIA staff from Neher Puri Khurdpur on October 18.

On October 15, Surjeet along with three of his associates had robbed Rs 5.97 lakh from the bank before gunning down 50-year-old guard Surinder Pal Singh.

The police have found three recent incidents—two bank robberies and a snatching—linked to the gang. The gang members have over 25 cases registered against them. They had looted Rs 17 lakh in the heists at Hoshiarpur and Jalandhar between September 4 and October 15. Days before the Adampur

Gang involved in 3 recent crimes; planned 2 more heists

robbery, they had snatched a bike from the highway.

The SSP said while the gang had five members, only four were present during the UCO robbery. The gang looted Rs 10.8 lakh from Indian Overseas Bank at Hoshiarpur, snatched a Pulsar bike from a highway at Tanda Urmur 3-4 days before the Adampur robbery, and looted Rs 5.69 lakh from Punjab and Sindh Bank at Bhagwali village in Hoshiarpur on September 4.

During investigation, Surjeet Singh said they robbed nearly Rs 6 lakh out of which he got a share of Rs 45,000. The police have recovered Rs 39,000 from him. The police also recovered a new Activa scooter bought from the heist money. —TNS

473 infections take tally to 1.28L

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 19 The downswing in the daily Covid count continues, with the state having reported 473 cases and 17 deaths in the last 24 hours.

The tally has risen to 1,28,103 and toll has reached 4,029. In the district-wise breakup of cases, Hoshiarpur topped the chart with 97 cases, followed by Jalandhar (51), SAS Nagar (42), Ludhiana and Amritsar (28 each), Gurdaspur (25), Patiala and Bathinda (24 each).

The number of active Covid cases has further declined to 5,307. At present, 117 patients are on oxygen support and 27 on ventilator support. Of the deaths reported, Amritsar and SBS Nagar have topped the chart with three deaths each, followed by Gurdaspur, SAS Nagar, Pathankot and Patiala (two each), and Bathinda, Ferozpur and Ludhiana (one each). —TNS



A health worker collects the swab sample of a woman.

COVID CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS	DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Ludhiana	19,701	820	Moga	2,432	78
Jalandhar	14,503	454	Fatehgarh Sahib	2,086	99
Amritsar	11,463	431	Tarn Taran	1,940	81
Patiala	12,479	367	Kapurthala	3,902	163
Sangrur	3,823	162	Fazilka	2,812	46
SAS Nagar	11,794	224	SBS Nagar	1,844	61
Gurdaspur	6,721	192	Faridkot	3,075	54
Bathinda	6,679	134	Barnala	2,007	49
Hoshiarpur	5,431	195	Ropar	2,368	104
Ferozepur	4,107	118	Muktsar	2,848	59
Pathankot	4,255	104	Mansa	1,833	34
Total	1,28,103	4,029			

2 students killed as car rams into tree

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FATEHGHAR SAHIB, OCTOBER 19

Two students of Mandi Gobindgarh town were killed on the spot and two others seriously injured when their car rammed into a tree on the Fatehgarh Sahib-Chandigarh road near Bhaironpur, the driver lost control and the car rammed into a roadside tree. Two students identified as Jashanpreet Singh (22) of Tooran village and Kewal Bansal (21) of Kukar Majra, Mandi Gobindgarh, died on the spot, while Gagandeep Singh and Navjot Sandhu received injuries.

Inspector, said four students of Mandi Gobindgarh were going to Chandigarh to take admission in Chandigarh University. He said as their car reached near Bhaironpur, the driver lost control and the car rammed into a roadside tree. Two students identified as Jashanpreet Singh (22) of Tooran village and Kewal Bansal (21) of Kukar Majra, Mandi Gobindgarh, died on the spot, while Gagandeep Singh and Navjot Sandhu received injuries.

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2 cops held for running drug racket

Were active since 2015; 1 kg opium, 7 kg poppy husk seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FATEHGHAR SAHIB, OCTOBER 19 The district police have arrested two senior police personnel, one posted in the anti-narcotics cell of the Ludhiana police, for allegedly running a drug racket in the state since 2015 with the recovery of 1 kg opium and 7 kg poppy husk, besides vehicles purchased from drug money, from their possession.

Addressing mediapersons today, SSP Amneet Kondal said during a special drive, the police busted a drug racket allegedly being run by some "men in uniform", which was a matter of concern. She said a police team led by Khamano SP (Investigation) Jagjit Singh Jallal set up a checkpoint near a dhaba on the Chandigarh-



The accused cops in police custody at Fatehgarh Sahib.

ONE POSTED WITH ANTI-NARCOTICS CELL

- One of the suspects, Ranbir Singh, is a senior constable with the anti-narcotics cell of Ludhiana police
- A car, bike and scooter purchased from drug money have been impounded from their possession

Ludhiana road at Khamano. Around 11 pm, the police signalled the driver of a Breeze

car to pull over but he sped away. After a chase, the police nabbed the driver, who identi-

fied himself as Navjot Singh, a senior constable and a resident of Samrala, Ludhiana.

On search, the police recovered opium and poppy husk from the vehicle. During preliminary interrogation, the constable revealed he used to get the supply from a relative, Ranbir Singh, a senior constable in the anti-narcotics cell of Ludhiana police, she said. He too was arrested.

Another name, Harchand Singh, alias Chand, had cropped up in the investigation and raids were on to arrest him, said the SSP.

During interrogation, both suspects confessed to their involvement in the sale of drugs since 2015, she added.

A car, bike and scooter have been recovered from their possession.

Taking care of an aged parent is tough even in normal times and the lockdown isn't helping. My Mother who has never been fond of visiting a Doctor, was now missing the reassuring noises the Doctor would make whenever she visited him. Or perhaps she was just unhappy with the lockdown. Whatever the reason, when Mothers are unhappy, the entire family knows it! I called her doctor up for some advice and was delighted to hear that he was consulting patients over video calls. An appointment was fixed for the evening and a happier Mother rose with the sun the next morning; what's more, the family got to enjoy her Aloo Parathas for breakfast. Not quite the same, but not bad 'cause life has changed, it hasn't stopped!

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PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Rupinder Kaur w/o Gurpreet Singh r/o Village Daulatpura, PO Jhanduke (Bathinda), have changed my name to Bhupinder Kaur. (CL20053390)

I, Nidhi Kumari w/o Sunny Goyal r/o 454/B, Ward-21, New Anaj Mandi, Tohana (Fatehabad) have changed my name to Nidhi Goyal. (CL20053419)

I, Anurag s/o Vijay Kumar Sharma r/o H.No. B-40/284/2, Arna Barna Chowk, Patiala, have changed my name to Anurag Sharma. (CL20053192)

I, Vijay Kumar s/o Ram Parkash Sharma r/o H.No. B-40/284/2, Arna Barna Chowk, Patiala, have changed my name to Vijay Kumar Sharma. (CL20053350)

I, Sanju Kumar son of Sushil Kapoor r/o Kapoor Niwas, VPO Saloni, Hanimpur- 174311, has changed my name to Neel Kapoor for all purposes. (CL20053376)

I, Gurtej Singh Village Talwandhi Aklia, Tehsil Mansa, have changed my minor daughter name Amandeep Kaur to Amandeep Kaur Sidhu. (CL200533401)

I, Krishan Dutt S/o Sh. Munshi Ram Sharma R/o # 2863, Phase-7, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali), Punjab have changed my name Krishan Dutt to Krishan Dutt Sharma. In future I may be known as Krishan Dutt Sharma for all intents and purposes. (CL20053364)

I, Amrinder Singh Bajwa s/o Jasbir Singh Bajwa r/o 653 Phase-3B1, Sector-60, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) have changed my minor son's name from Manjeet S. Bajwa to Manjeet Singh Bajwa. (CL20053388)

I, Kuljot Kaur spouse of Balwan Singh, resident of Moh. Balochan Mehatpur Tehsil Nakodar, Jalandhar, have changed my name from Kuljot Kaur to Sukhbir Kaur vide affidavit dated 30.09.2020 before Executive Magistrate Sub Tehsil Mehatpur Jalandhar. (CL20053396)

I, Paramjit Kaur w/o Ran Krishan, Village New Bagrian, P.O. Alma, Distt. Gurdaspur, have changed my minor twins baby boys name from Mandeep Singh to Mehransh Singh and Tarandeep Singh to Taransh Singh for all future purposes vide affidavit number 279 dated 12.10.2020. (CL20053347)

I, Dinesh Kumar s/o Sh. Yash Pal Sharma, r/o H.No. 584, Sector 69, SAS Nagar, Mohali, have changed my name from Dinesh Kumar to Dinesh Sharma. Hereafter I may be known and called as Dinesh Sharma. Concerned may note. (CL20053440)

I, Sumit Bansal s/o Sh. Pawan Bansal r/o Royal Estate Zirakpur have lost the sale deeds Bashiha No. 9331 Dated 17.02.2010, Bashiha No. 3558 Dated 03.08.2006, 849 Dated 28.04.2006, Bashiha No. 305 dated 12.04.2006, Bashiha No. 6465 Dated 21.12.2006 on my visit in Sector 15, Chandigarh. To all concerned please note if anyone found. Please contact 70092-71546. (CL20053459)

Drug peddler, 2 bootleggers held**THE RIGHT****CHOICE****DISCLAIMER**

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Sangrur RTA office under lens over 'fraud'

PARVESH SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Outsourced staff accused of forging stolen vehicles' papers

TWO EMPLOYEES SUMMONED BY STF

■ A Delhi STF has summoned two private firm staffers, employed by the Sangrur RTA, after stolen luxury vehicles were found registered on forged documents

■ Luxury vehicles were stolen in Delhi after getting these registered by changing their engine numbers. Two of these were registered at the Sangrur RTA office

■ The two employees were responsible for checking online bills of vehicles

up the matter with the higher authorities for a CBI inquiry as we suspect many vehicles have been registered at the Sangrur RTA office using forged documents," said advocate Dasvir Singh Dalee, who wrote to the Transport

Minister on Monday.

Sources say for getting a vehicle registered, one has to approach the employees of a private company, hired by the Punjab Government due to shortage of staff.

"The private company employees are responsible for checking online bills of vehicles, however, they are not doing their job properly. The staffers deliberately helped gang members in getting stolen vehicles registered," alleged Karnvir Singh Chhina, secretary, Sangrur RTA.

He said senior officials at the office were questioned by the STF on October 6 over the registration of stolen vehicles.

"We appeared before the STF. It has now summoned two employees of the private company, who were terminated for their involvement in the scam on October 9, besides two others. We have done nothing wrong and are open to inquiry. The private company's employees are, however, evading the STF signalling their role in the wrongdoing," Chhina said.



Farmers protest against the Cotton Corporation of India in Abohar on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Bhoa Congress MLA threatens to tear cops' uniforms, faces flak

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LAND DISPUTE

■ Tell your SSP that by virtue of being a ruling party MLA, I am the government. Also tell him I will not allow the village to be used as a dumping ground.

Joginder Pal, MLA, BHOA

have gone out of control had they reacted," said a Cabinet Minister, preferring anonymity. Irked at the Pathankot Municipal Corporation's decision to use 300 acres lying vacant in Deriwal as a garbage dump, residents approached the legislator. Joginder Pal visited the site with a group of locals and unleashed his fury at women constables present there. In no uncertain terms, he directed the cops "to go away and never come again, and if they did, he will get their uniforms torn".

Officials are alarmed at the sheer audacity and impudence with which he dared to tear into the officialdom. DC Sanyam Aggarwal and SSP Gulneet Khurana refused to comment on the issue.

"By remaining silent, both officers have maintained their dignity. They do not want to stoop to the abysmally low levels of public discourse to which the legislator slip. They have set certain standards of decency for themselves and follow them assiduously. Things could

not have gone out of control had they reacted," said a Cabinet Minister, preferring anonymity. Irked at the Pathankot Municipal Corporation's decision to use 300 acres lying vacant in Deriwal as a garbage dump, residents approached the legislator. Joginder Pal visited the site with a group of locals and unleashed his fury at women constables present there. In no uncertain terms, he directed the cops "to go away and never come again, and if they did, he will get their uniforms torn".

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Drug peddler, 2 bootleggers held**ANIRUDH GUPTA****FEROZEPUR, OCTOBER 19**

Effigy makers, who wait around for Dassehra every year, are in distress as this time no effigies will be burnt in the wake of restrictions on mass gatherings due to Covid.

In the past 32 years, this will be the first time when no effigy burning will take place. The pandemic has indeed dampened the festive spirit, dashing the hopes of the effigy makers.

Craftsmen Rajesh Kumar and Sunil Kumar said they had been making effigies for several years. "I learnt the craft from my father and grandfather. During this time every year, we used to make good money. But now, we will be out of work. This has never happened before. Even during insurgency days, people used to come to

Dassehra grounds to celebrate the victory of good over evil," said Rajesh.

Effigy makers' plans go up in smoke

ANIRUDH GUPTA**FEROZEPUR, OCTOBER 19**

Covid dampens Dassehra festivities in Ferozepur



A man makes an effigy of Ravan in Ferozepur. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Dassehra grounds to celebrate the victory of good over evil," said Rajesh.

Sunil said he would make a good profit by selling one effigy for around Rs 70,000. "We will suffer a heavy loss this year. We even met with officials and some influential persons in the hope of finding a solution, but in vain. Nevertheless, we still have hope that the administra-

Takht opposes same sex marriage in US

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**AMRITSAR, OCTOBER 19**

With no room for 'same sex' marriage in Sikhism, the Akal Takht has taken notice of a wedding of two homosexual persons solemnised under the patronage of a Guru Granth Sahib 'saroop' in the US.

Akhal Takht officiating Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh has issued directions to US couple Sarjeet Singh Neel and Leela, who allegedly got the "unholy" ceremony conducted recently in Sacramento in the presence of a 'saroop' which was in their possession.

Giani Harpreet Singh directed the North American Sikh Gurdwara Management to take the 'saroop'

from their possession immediately and place it in a gurdwara. The personal assistant of Giani Harpreet Singh said a strongly worded letter had been posted to the 'erring' US couple as the Sikh code of conduct did not allow such marriages. "It was a blasphemous act of accomplished marriage of two males performed in the presence of the 'saroop'. It was also a violation of the Akal Takht's directions," he said.

Describing Gurdwara

SC asks Maha Govt to take call on religious events in Nanded

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19**

The Supreme Court today left it to the Maharashtra Government to take a final call on holding Dashera, Takht Isman, Deepmala and Gurta Gaddi events as per the three-centuries-old custom of Sikhs in Nanded.

A Vacation Bench, headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao, asked the Nanded Sikh Gurdwara Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib Board to approach the Maharashtra State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) by Tuesday for permission to hold the events amid the Covid pandemic.

The Bench, which specifically assembled to hear the case, directed the SDMA to take a decision on the representation taking into account the ground situation.

If it was not satisfied with the SDMA's decision, the gurdwara management board could move the Bombay High Court, the top court said. The board had approached the top court seeking permission to carry out the customary procession with certain conditions.

On behalf of the Centre, Solicitor General Tushar



BOARD WANTS TO HOLD DASHERA FUNCTION

A Vacation Bench, headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao, asked the Nanded Sikh Gurdwara Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib Board to approach the Maharashtra State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) by Tuesday for permission to hold Dashera, Takht Isman and Deepmala events amid the Covid pandemic

Mehta told the Bench that the Centre had been unlocking the country since May 30 and religious functions had been allowed since September 21.

However, the Maharashtra Government opposed the petition. It said allowing the Nanded gurdwara to hold a Dashera procession as per the custom wouldn't be a "practically feasible option" during the Covid pandemic. The state government had taken a conscious decision of not allowing religious functions to check the spread of the virus, it added.

No relief for docs as dengue cases spiral

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**BATHINDA, OCTOBER 19**

Before health workers could breathe a sigh of relief in the wake of downward turn being witnessed with respect to Covid cases, a sudden spike in dengue and malaria cases has health officials back on their toes.

There seems to be no respite in the offing for the workers, who have been slogging beyond their working hours to make up for the staff crunch.

As per the records of the Health Department, as many as 416 dengue cases have been reported in Bathinda and Mansa districts this year, with 199 cases in Bathinda and the remaining in Mansa.

With more than 65 staff members having retired in Bathinda recently, the existing staff members are sharing the added burden.

The BKU warned that if the CCI did not mend its ways, the farmers would be forced to intensify the stir.

CCI official Rajeev Sharma said the allegations were baseless. There was no discrimination at the time of bidding in the market. The agency had so far purchased 6,000 bales of 'narma' cotton in the local market, he said.

Dr Amrik Singh Sandhu, Civil Surgeon, Bathinda,



RISING INFECTIONS

As per the records of the Health Department, this year, as many as 416 dengue cases have been reported in Bathinda and Mansa districts, with 199 cases in Bathinda and the remaining in Mansa.

said, "A total of 199 dengue cases have been reported in Bathinda district so far. We are trying to utilise our workforce and available resources optimally so that both Covid and dengue spread are brought under check effectively. The higher authorities have started the recruitment process after we apprised them about the problem."

He said residents of the district, especially those living in urban areas, needed to take precautionary measures and not let water get accumulated, as maximum cases had been reported from the urban areas.

8 succumb; 1,201 cases

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 19
With 1,201 fresh cases, the Covid tally reached 1,51,234 on Monday. The state reported eight more deaths, taking the toll to 1,648. The maximum cases were reported from Gurugram (228) followed by Faridabad (153). —TNS

COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Gurugram	25,631	191
Faridabad	22,839	238
Sonepat	9,378	48
Ambala	8,711	105
Hisar	8,317	101
Karnal	8,037	115
Panipat	7,787	99
Rohtak	7,042	72
Rewari	6,866	34
Panchkula	6,855	107
Kurukshetra	6,357	97
Yamunanagar	4,898	95
Sirs	4,701	74
Mahendragarh	4,188	7
Bhiwani	3,343	47
Palwal	3,078	19
Jhajjar	3,064	32
Kaithal	2,819	41
Fatehabad	2,731	50
Jind	2,555	46
Nuh	1,223	25
Charkhi Dadri	814	5
Total	151,234	1,648

Shot in the arm for Cong candidate

Two Independents withdraw nomination in Induraj Narwal's support

MUKESH TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

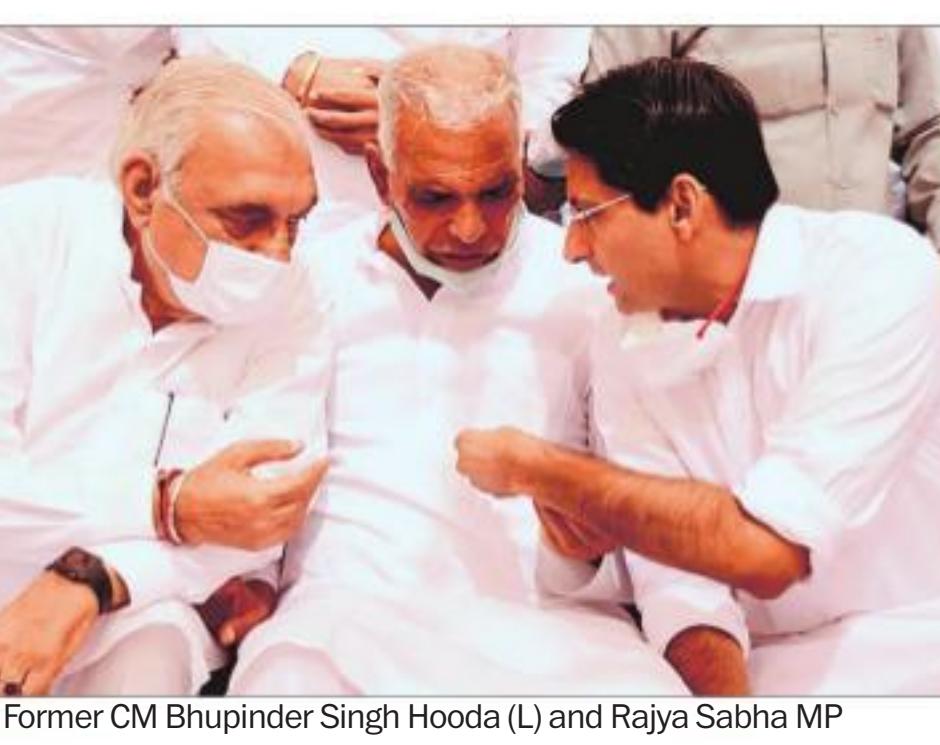
PANIPAT, OCTOBER 19
The Baroda constituency witnessed a big development on Monday after independent candidate Kapoor Singh Narwal, who was seeking ticket from the BJP as well as from Congress and had filed nomination as an independent candidate, withdrew his nomination in support of Congress candidate Induraj Narwal alias Bhalu in presence of former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

Another independent candidate Joginder More also withdrew his nomination in support of the Congress candidate in presence of Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda. Independent MLA from Meham Balraj Kundu also announced to support former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, while addressing the gathering, welcomed the decision of

BARODA BYPOLL

POLITICKING

■ The Baroda bypoll will decide the future of Haryana. The electorate has to decide whether they want to retain the BJP-JJP government or to overthrow it. This byelection has given the state a chance to uproot the government. ■ Deepender Hooda, RAJYA SABHA MP



Former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda (L) and Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Hooda (R) with Kapoor Singh Narwal in Gohana.

Kapoor Narwal said that Narwal's decision has changed the scenario in Baroda constituency. Narwal's joining has made the electoral battle a one-sided affair, he claimed.

Hooda assured the people present at the meeting that he would lead the fight for change and no one would be allowed to snatch the steering wheel handed over to him by the farmers and people of the

state. Taking a dig at the BJP, former CM Hooda said that they have derailed Haryana, pushed the state into debt and made the state number one in unemployment and top in crime.

The time has come to oust the government which has pushed the youth towards drugs and crime, Hooda alleged.

Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda said the

time for change has come. As the counting of votes in Baroda ends, the countdown of the BJP-JJP coalition government would start. The people of the state are now demanding change because this government has wasted six years of the state, he said.

"Baroda's election is not just a contest between Congress versus BJP, Hooda versus Khattar or Induraj versus Yogeshwar Dutt. The election is to

decide the future of Haryana. In this election, the people of Baroda have to decide whether they want to retain the BJP-JJP coalition government in Haryana or to overthrow it. This byelection has given Haryana a chance to uproot the government," Deepender added.

On this occasion, Kapoor Narwal said he took the decision to withdraw from the race for the honour of Baroda and for change in Haryana.

He hoped that Bhupinder Singh Hooda would carry this fight to the end and would work to oust the BJP from power and the change would begin from Baroda, Narwal added.

Besides, Jitender Hooda alias Jeeta, son of deceased MLA Sri Krishan Hooda who was seeking ticket on the Congress symbol, has extended support to Congress candidate Induraj Narwal.

Former Union Minister Jai Prakash and other MLAs of the Congress were also present during the occasion.



EARLIER RESULTS

■ From 1977 to 2005, the INLD or its previous avatars have won the Baroda seat on seven consecutive occasions. The seat was reserved for SCs till 2005

■ In the three elections held after delimitation exercise, Sri Krishan Hooda of the Congress won Baroda seat on all the three elections consecutively

Chautala without naming him when he said, "Those with just one seat in the Assembly are talking about change in government after this bypoll."

From 1977 to 2005, the INLD or its previous avatars won the Baroda seat on seven consecutive occasions. The seat was reserved for SCs till 2005.

In the three elections held after delimitation exercise, Sri Krishan Hooda of the Congress won Baroda seat on all three elections consecutively with Kapoor Singh Narwal, who was INLD candidate then, finishing runner-up to Hooda.

In October 2019, INLD candidate Joginder Malik (also contesting this time) had finished a poor fifth after Congress, BJP, JJP and BSP with just 3,145 (2.56 per cent) votes.

Battered by the setting up of JJP, the INLD had fared very badly in the 2019 Assembly poll with only Abhay winning his Ellenabad seat.

Battle lines drawn: BJP, Cong direct contest on cards

SUSHIL MANAV
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 19
The battle lines are drawn for the Baroda Assembly bypoll. After the withdrawal of nominations today, the election is poised to be almost a direct contest between the BJP and Congress though the INLD can try to make it a triangular fight.

With three candidates, including the "panchayati" independent candidate Kapoor Singh Narwal, withdrawing their nominations, 14 are left in the fray. These developments have made the picture for the November 3 bypoll clearer.

In a shot in the arm for Congress candidate Induraj Narwal, two out of three — Kapoor Singh Narwal and Joginder More — have vowed to support him in the election in presence of former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

Jitender Singh Hooda, alias Jeeta, a son of former Congress MLA Sri Krishan Hooda whose death had necessitated this byelection, also came in support of the Congress candidate today.

Jeeta and his wife Gayatri were among those who had applied for Congress ticket.

The former CM as well as Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Hooda went to Jeeta's office in Gohana today where the late MLA's son announced his support for the Hoodas and the Congress candidate.

Meanwhile, JJP national president Ajay Chautala today directed his party's rank and file to consider BJP candidate Yogeshwar Dutt as him (Ajay) and work for his victory. He took a dig at his younger brother Abhay

HC allows 17-year-old to stay with her 'mother-in-law'

SAURABH MALIK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 19
A girl does not magically attain majority, to stay with her "mother-in-law". The judgment makes a clear-cut departure from the standard procedure of protecting the "minor" girl's interest by either entrusting her custody to her parents or sending her to a women's home.

"Most times, this course of action is not to the liking of the girl, who would have approached this court along with her paramour seeking protection," Justice Kumar asserted. The Bench stated that the High Court had

always exercised "parens patriae" (legal protector) jurisdiction in protection matters when the girl was found to be a minor, but unfortunately, there was no consistency as to how decisions in these cases turned.

Referring to the facts of the case in hand, Justice Kumar observed that the girl had claimed having overheard her parents planning her marriage with a boy of their choice, after which she ran away from home and contacted the boy. Justice Kumar

added that the minor was certain and unshaken in her opinion and desire and it would not be right and proper for the court to brush aside her views on the grounds that she was not 18 years old.

The Judge asserted the age of majority stood frozen at 21 for boys and 18 for girls. He pointed out it was an acknowledged fact that children these days attained both physiological and psychological maturity long before they completed the age of majority fixed for them by the statute long ago.

CONCLUSIONS FROM RULING

- The law does not require any certification as proof of marriage and registration, yet to be made compulsory, can be affected any time post facto
- In a protection matter, the High Court is not required to deny the factum of marriage or affirm its validity
- A husband will not be liable to be prosecuted for rape under Section 376 of the IPC if his wife is over 15 years of age, but will be liable to be prosecuted under provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act if she is less than 18 years old
- An offence under Section 361 of the IPC, dealing with kidnapping, is not made out if the accused does not compel the minor girl to leave her house

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The Tribune

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More effective FATF

Pakistan will mend ways only if pushed to brink

FORMER US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright once called Pakistan an 'international migraine'. The failure to fulfil six key obligations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) only indicates Islamabad's lack of commitment in the fight against money laundering and terror financing. Terror groups operating from its soil continue to be provided immunity. The virtual plenary of the FATF from October 21 to 23 is likely to retain the country on its grey list. However, if the adverse economic ramifications the tag entails have not pushed Pakistan to mend its ways till now, there is little hope that the desired global standards would be met in the future. FATF's ability to secure concrete results is under the scanner.

Pakistan has been repeatedly red-flagged on issues of terror financing and for not acting against proscribed persons and entities, but to no avail. The failed mandates include action against all UN-designated terrorists and the sudden disappearance of the names of more than 4,000 terrorists from the original list of 7,600. Given the geo-political complexities involved, any switch to the black list, with stringent restrictions, is difficult. Arming FATF with powers to impose severe sanctions under the grey list could be a plausible option in a country like Pakistan, which lacks the will to implement and refuses to act despite repeated assurances. New Delhi needs to take keen interest as the international watchdog undertakes the process to increase its effectiveness by reviewing the methodology of risk-based assessment. Under the proposed approach, critical failing in even one criterion can lead to black listing.

After prematurely taking Pakistan out of the grey list in 2015, the FATF put it back in 2018, with more regular periodic monitoring and stricter deadlines. No genuine policy action has been forthcoming. Unless non-cooperative regimes are made to pay a high cost for their inaction, mere listings will be inconsequential. Islamabad's expectation of being let off lightly for playing a favourable role in the US-Taliban peace agreement only points to the need for a more effective FATF.

Agitation impact

Punjab hit hard by impairment of economic activities

THE effect of the agitation over the farm legislation is being felt acutely in Punjab, with both industry and agriculture getting affected. Industrial production has shrunk badly due to a shortage of raw material because of the obstruction caused to railway traffic by the protesters, while the farmers are staring at unfair competition because of the crop, procured at cheaper rates in other states, being brought for sale in Punjab by the traders. It is an irony that the 'rail roko' stir should push industry in the state off track, for when the lockdown had begun, the railways played a critical role in ensuring the supply of essential commodities to ensure a semblance of normalcy. The 'rail roko' agitation is familiar to Punjab, with farmers having resorted to it in the past, too, but care is usually taken to ensure that it is only for a fixed duration and that no damage is caused to railway property. With passenger services yet to resume fully, it is only the movement of goods trains that will get affected, thus impacting economic activities adversely.

The outcome of the special Assembly session called by the Punjab Cabinet remains to be seen. While the state government says it is mulling legislative and legal action, the farmers have been insisting on talking to the Centre to find a way out of the impasse. The priority, both for the government and the farmers for now, especially with the festive season approaching, should be the smooth lifting of paddy crop this season and prepare the fields for the rabi crop.

The Centre needs to take the farmers into confidence and allay their apprehensions over protecting the MSP and the mandi system. The unrest is only increasing as farmers are stopping trucks bringing crops from other states and demanding the registration of cases against those involved in this trade. The agitation also has implications for the law and order situation in the state. All political parties need to come together to find a way out of the imbroglio.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

History teaches us that war begins when governments believe the price of aggression is cheap. — Ronald Reagan

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

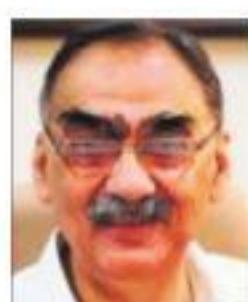
LAHORE, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1920

AN IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

SIR Sam Hughes's motion in the Canadian Parliament "advocating an Imperial Parliament in which the whole Empire might be represented to deal only with imperial and international questions, over which it might exercise authority without infringing the material privilege at present enjoyed by various parts of the Empire", raises a question of interest, which has again been discussed in the past, but the solution still seems distant. Except in form, the present proposal is identical with that made by Seeley in his lectures on the expansion of England in the eighties and by Mr. Forster even before Seeley. And many of the considerations that weighed with the thinking British and colonial public in those days in practically rejecting the proposals are still operative. There are still the same difficulties about the constitution of the Cabinet responsible to that Parliament, and the sanction behind any degree, levy or ordinance of the Imperial Executive or the Imperial Parliament. How are countries differing so widely from one another as the component parts of the present British Empire do, in so many of the elements that make national life what it is, to be fairly represented at the Imperial Parliament? Are they to be represented according to their respective populations or according to the stage of political development that each has reached, or according to the interests they have at stake, or is the representation to be of Governments and not of peoples and each Government to count for one and none for more than one? Secondly, what is to be the relation between the new Imperial Executive and the present British Cabinet? Will the latter consent to be reduced to the position of a subordinate, a merely State executive, if the Imperial executive is to be worth anything? And lastly, how is the Imperial Parliament to deal with any member of the Empire who refuses to carry out the behests of the Imperial authority?

What Pakistan really wants

It is interested in theatre, not popular welfare or in normalising ties with India



VIVEK KATJU

EX-SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



AGENDA-DRIVEN: NSA Moeed Yusuf is being lauded in Pakistan for strongly conveying 'home truths' to India, and that too on Indian media.

Pakistan is taking comfort in the unhappiness in some liberal global circles at the social and cultural direction of the Modi government.

MOEED YUSUF, special assistant to the Pakistan PM 'on national security division and strategic policy planning', gave a long interview to a well-known Indian TV personality last week. Yusuf, an academic with a background, inter alia, in India-Pakistan studies, has been in his job since December last year. Earlier, he had a long stint with the US Institute of Peace, a US Congress funded think-tank in Washington DC.

Yusuf had sought an Indian media platform since some time to assert his establishment's propagandist views to an Indian audience. His offer was ignored till he was interviewed recently. He used the interview to peddle the themes in a highly offensive manner that Pakistan has been pursuing against India, especially since the constitutional changes in J&K in 2019. These themes are: the illegitimacy of the constitutional changes, allegations of India supporting Pakistani Taliban and Balochi nationalist groups that Pakistan claims have undertaken terrorist acts on its territory, the nature of the Sangh Parivar's ideology, which it claims is casting a malign shadow on the region, and Pakistan's adherence to the International Court of Justice's ruling in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case.

After spouting venom against India on all these issues, Yusuf claimed that Pakistan had received Indian messages expressing a desire to have a conversation between the two countries. As he put it '...in the past year, we've got the messages about a desire of (sic) conversation...' He said Pakistan would like to first ascertain 'whether there is intent to talk to get

somewhere'. He expressed the apprehension that India only wished to talk to show the world that everything is 'settled' between India-Pakistan. In addition, he laid down the condition that talks would only take place if Kashmiris were a party to them. The Ministry of External Affairs did well to set the record straight by categorically denying that messages for talks were sent to Pakistan.

Yusuf is being lauded in Pakistan for succeeding in strongly conveying 'home truths', and at substantial length to India, and that too on an Indian programme. While this may give the Pakistani establishment some satisfaction, will it succeed in effectively pushing forward globally the Pakistani line on India? This is doubtful, not only because the facts are at odds with Pakistani assertions, but also because Pakistan lacks credibility on issues relating to terrorism, social harmony and democratic values and on J&K-related issues as well. This also applies to the follow-up on the Jadhav matter in the ICJ.

Pakistan has, for long, emphasised that India is involved in sponsoring terrorism on its soil through disaffected Pathans and Balochis. It wishes to do so to dilute the international focus on Pakistani terror in its neighbourhood. The entire purpose of the Jadhav abduction and putting him on display was to convince global opinion that India was undertaking terrorist acts against Pakistan, but it has simply made no headway in this propaganda exercise. Now, another attempt has begun with direct allegations that Yusuf made in the interview, including the charge that Indian representatives were in touch with the mastermind of the horrific Army Public School terrorist attack in 2014. This particular reference is an attempt to shift attention from the Mumbai attack and Pakistan's continuing sponsorship of terrorism through tanzeems like the LeT and JeM that are based on its soil.

Pakistan's continuing anguish is that except for China, all major countries have not been bothered by the J&K constitutional changes, and except for Turkey and Malaysia, no important Islamic country has spoken against it. The Arab peninsular states are also on terrorism. What Pakistan is overlooking is that there is, to put it mildly, scepticism about its internal and external policy choices. This will be enhanced by it giving a clear chit to China on that country's treatment of Uighur Muslims.

As long as Pakistan does not change course fundamentally, it has no real future. The Yusuf interview is a confirmation that the Pakistani establishment is interested in theatre, not popular welfare or in normalising relations with India, despite his repeated claims that it seeks peace with India.

The cool magic of comic books

RAAJA BHASIN

OPENING to the wide road and located where the office of the general manager of the elegant Cecil Hotel in Shimla stands, was once a small shop named 'Broadway'. Decades back, the Cecil would open only for the summer months, and matching step, 'Broadway' would raise and lower its shutters accordingly. This little shop sold toothpaste, shaving cream and other such essentials that hotel guests may have forgotten to carry along. It also attracted a fair bit of custom from passers-by.

Returning from a birthday party and with a king's ransom of an unspent Rs 2 burning a hole in my pocket, I surreptitiously bought two *Superman* comics from a stack that 'Broadway'

sold. We children were not allowed to read comics as my parents' generation, and academics at that—who had been raised on classics and fine language—were convinced that reading comics was harmful to young children. Big blurbs of 'Ow!', 'Pow!' and 'Kerplam!' were not considered desirable additions to our vocabulary. I managed to retain those two prized items, which would have been worth a fortune had I had them today.

Gradually, my parents relented and now, decades later, it was the response to a social media post by a much-younger cousin that made me remember the hundreds of comic books that had been collected by the time I exited my teens. What a trove it was! There were the small-sized *Commando* comics which moved back and forth,

in black and white, through World War II. There were 'westerns', where the good, the bad and the ugly were clearly defined—though today, the lines would have been more blurred and the native Americans—who were mostly portrayed as bad—would have emerged in a far kinder light.

Archie's were filled with flirting and silliness; with Reginald's machinations and Jughead's insatiable appetite. Hanna-Barbera cartoons and Walt Disney's brilliance came out on paper—which steadily moved to screens and TV sets. The newspaper man, along with the dailies, twice a month, brought the latest *Phantom* comic and that of *Mandrake the Magician*, who, with the help of the trusty Lothar, sorted out the world. There were the absolutely wonderful *Classics*

Illustrated series that introduced me to some of the best reading in the world. Long before one gathered the courage to tackle the book, one knew the story of *A Tale of Two Cities*, or of the art of Cellini and Michelangelo.

Steadily, the collection of *Amar Chitra Katha* stories built up—largely thanks to my much-relented mother to whom the knowledge of one's own culture and language was all-important.

Then came a time when this somewhat unwieldy collection had to be sorted, and in keeping with a trend of the times, a selection of the not-so-tattered ones was bound into sets of hard-backed volumes. These are still with me, and the cupboard that holds this treasure of a long gone time is only opened to be dusted.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Exempt 6% farmers

The best solution to the ongoing problem created by the new farm Acts is to exempt Punjab, Haryana and western UP from the new laws for five years. The above region consists of only 6 per cent of the total farming population of the country. Let the private players prove during the next five years the benefits of the new Acts to the remaining 94 per cent farmers. There would be a healthy competition between the old APMC Acts and new farm Acts to prove which is more beneficial to the farmers' community.

NARESH MOHAN JOHAR, AMRITSAR

Resolve farmers' issues

Refer to 'No minister, angry farmers walk out of meet'; the issues raised by the agitating farmers are serious and need immediate redress. Widespread agitation is causing heavy loss to the economy. Humiliating treatment was meted out to the farmer leaders who visited Delhi for talks, but no minister turned up to listen to them. This attitude must be condemned. If the new farm laws are really beneficial for the farmers, why has the government failed to convince the agitating farmers? And if the fears raised by the farmers are genuine,

the government must listen to them and resolve the matter forthwith. Farmers are very important to sustain the economy of India. Farmer-friendly laws are needed to enhance their income, as promised by the Prime Minister.

KARNAIL SINGH, KHARAR

Will it yield anything?

This refers to the appointment of the toothless Justice Lokur Committee aimed at containing environmental pollution due to unabating crop residue fires. It is a moot point why the apex court should take on itself the responsibility of the executive? There are instances when orders of the SC have remained on paper only, with no heads rolling for defiance—blocking of rail track by protesters against the new farm laws is the latest example, despite the mounting public inconvenience and loss to the economy. Vote bank politics is the culprit. But, who bothers?

LALIT BHARADWAJ, PANCHKUL

Migrants forgotten

The lone wish expressed by Sudha Murty at the first digital KSLF that poor kids should get three meals a day, have three sets of clothes, get education till class 12 and learn survival skills is,

indeed, a bare necessity (*The Sunday Tribune*; 'When pandemic forces...'). During the litfest, the plight of millions of migrant labourers was also highlighted, which, with the passage of time, has been forgotten in the wake of the Bihar Assembly elections. As of now, the political parties are not concerned about the distress of the workforce of the state and other burning issues.

SHADI LAL, BY MAIL

No end to rape incidents

Every other day we read news of rape, murder, loot, snatching etc. Despite stringent laws to curb rape incidents, they are still occurring. Even the execution of three rapists was not a deterrent. In the recent Hathras rape case, the girl's family says that she was raped, but, surprisingly, the charge has been denied by the police. It is also shocking that the police cremated the body by stealth at night against the family's wishes. The police's apathetic attitude is condemnable. Such rape incidents bear testimony to the fact that women are not safe anywhere and they are being objectified. Mindsets need a massive change. At the same time, the perpetrators must not be allowed to go scot-free and should be

awarded the strictest punishment.

SANTOKH SINGH, JALANDHAR

Demand for democracy

In Thailand, there is a big agitation against the monarchy. People are on the roads, seeking the implementation of democracy. In modern era, there is no place for monarchy. Britain also has monarchy, but its powers are limited. In Thailand, too, the king should make way for democracy. He will earn the respect of his people.

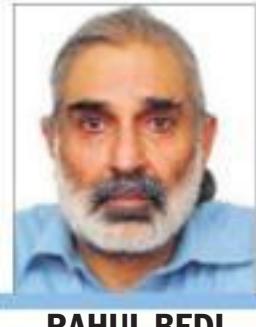
ROHAN KUMAR, MOHALI

Power of youth

October 20 is observed as National Youth Confidence Day, which celebrates the energy, spirit and potential of youth, and encourages us to connect and inspire today's youngsters for tomorrow's success. India is home to a fifth of the world's youth, while the rest of the world is ageing. From a young student's perspective, I know how hard the path to success is, but with confidence and hard work, there are no limits. The youth of a nation are trustees of prosperity. So, what we invest into young people will impact their success in future, which, in turn, will impact the success of the country.

BEEFATHIMA, VIA MAIL

Why Army shuns local high-altitude clothing



RAHUL BEDI

SENIOR JOURNALIST

THE Indian Army's near complete dependence on imported high-altitude clothing and associated mountaineering equipment for nearly four decades will be highlighted yet again when its troops deploy against the irredentist People's Liberation Army (PLA) in eastern Ladakh during winter.

After mid-August, when the PLA's pullback from the occupied Indian territory along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) appeared doubtful, the frantic and costly procurement of special clothing and mountaineering equipment (SCME) began. It was done to equip the over 40,000 troops positioned at heights between 12,000 and 18,000 feet to prevent further PLA ingress.

Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Army officials fanned out across Europe, Australia, Canada and the US to procure assorted high-altitude gear under 'emergency purchase' procedures in times of massive financial indigence of kit that can easily be sourced locally.

The Army's Vice-Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General SK Saini, stressed as much recently when he lamented the fact that the force continued importing SCME due to lack of 'viable indigenous solutions'. Speaking at a webinar earlier

this month, Lieutenant-General Saini reiterated the need for collaborative efforts under the Atmanirbhar Bharat or self-reliant India initiative to meet critical SCME requirements, which have astonishingly endured since 1984, after the Army took control of the 17,000-foot high Siachen glacier.

Despite India being one of the world's largest garment and footwear producers, it had failed miserably in making clothing items like Down jackets, insulated trousers, gloves, socks, mittens, caps or even triple-lined snow boots for its soldiers to combat temperatures averaging minus 20 degree Celsius. These drop precipitously further to minus 40 degree in the upper Himalayan reaches, accentuated brutally by the merciless wind chill factor.

The Army was also wholly dependent on imported Arctic tents, sleeping bags, backpacks, ice-picks and associated rudimentary mountaineering survival equipment, essential for survival at those vertiginous heights. The limited Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)-made extreme cold climate clothing and equipment (ECCCE) supplied to the Army, like jackets, trousers and boots, were not only ill-fitting and operationally restrictive, but also inadequate against the cold even at heights far less than that of Siachen or the LAC.

Sporadic attempts over the decades to indigenously source SCME through a handful of collaborative ventures had come to nought. Deposing before the parliamentary standing committee on Defence in late 2019, an Army representative declared that some 80 per cent of the essential three-layered special clothing with thermal insulation and other items



essential for soldiers at climatically murderous heights continue to be imported. Attempts to domestically acquire such kit, he regretted, had not met with the Army's 'acceptable standards'.

The officer was merely echoing what the MoD and the state-owned OFB responsible for equipping the Indian military with weapons and materials, too, told the committee of their inability to kit out the Army in such a testing environment. Thirty-six years after the Army had installed itself permanently at Siachen, the MoD and OFB said technical collaborative efforts with technical institutions were still under way to develop electrically heated vests, but little had emerged.

The experience of a senior MoD official, who travelled to some European countries a decade ago to inspect the

manufacturing and testing facilities for SCME, ahead of finalising contracts for these items for the Army, are instructive. He said a Swiss vendor who was a regular SCME supplier to the Indian Army, told him that he had advised the MoD that most of the high-altitude gear it imported recurrently could easily be made indigenously. He indicated his willingness to collaborate in a venture to domestically kickstart winter clothing units after visiting a potentially capable manufacturing unit near Agra during one of his India trips.

Thereafter, he said that the MoD continually prevaricated on the project, before eventually letting the proposal lapse. But in a telling and somewhat embarrassing comment, the Swiss dealer candidly told the visiting MoD official that the putative collaborative project

had not evoked interest as its success would have obviated the need for visits by Indian officials to European countries to source SCME. He was dead right as several years later, high-altitude clothing procurement missions continue their overseas travel uninterrupted, even more assiduously in recent months to meet the Army's requirements for its pan-winter deployment along the LAC till April 2021.

Desultory endeavours to locally source SCME were repeatedly rejected by the Army, which sounds somewhat incredulous as manufacturing winter clothing involves no advanced technology or knowhow. Besides, it's a goal impossible to achieve for the Army's much-feted Directorate of Indigenisation, mandated over a decade ago to propagate product import substitution. More-

LAMENTABLE: 80 per cent of special clothing for soldiers at heights is imported.

over, it further stretches disbelief that India, which designs and manufactures long-range nuclear and other missiles, nuclear submarines, fighter aircraft, helicopters and tanks, simply cannot make SCME.

Around 2006-07, the Army instituted buffer stocks of certain SCME items, but puzzlingly, a suggestion to recycle hugely expensive down feathers from discarded clothing into locally manufactured high-altitude clothing was rejected on specious grounds. In short, such tactics only ensured the continuation of overseas visits by the MoD and Army personnel for expensive SCME purchases which, surprisingly, were also recently revealed to be in short supply.

In February this year, the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) censured the Army for enduring shortages of essential SCME that had persisted for four years till 2018 and included snow goggles and multi-purpose boots. The national auditor disclosed that the paucity of snow goggles ranged from 62-98 per cent, whilst those of multi-use snow boots had compelled soldiers on Siachen to use 'recycled' footwear.

The CAG further castigated the Army for purchasing 31,779 'substandard' sleeping bags at inflated rates, in addition to acquiring 'inferior' backpacks that had failed to meet stipulated specifications. Army personnel, the CAG added, had to make do with 'older versions' of essential items like face masks and jackets, instead of the better and more modern varieties at high altitudes.

Let's hope that with a bit of luck, perspicacity, and possibly hindsight, such circumstances will not be perpetuated in the ongoing LAC deployment.

Mapping of victim data can help reduce crime



GS BAJPAI

PROFESSOR, NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, DELHI

The core issue is that victimological data and information remain undeveloped and under-utilised by the police. There are potential victims and offenders and there is need to identify them before the commission of a crime.

Like Nirbhaya, the Hathras case will be forgotten soon. The lessons we choose to learn from such cases are lacking in terms of a significant impact on our criminal justice system (CJS), other than continually ineffectual penalty enhancements. Nobody asks if the police or other agencies had any role to play before such incidents occur. Over reliance on post-incident trajectories than pre-crime ones only ensures a free flow of the spate of such incidents. And, hence, incidents like Nirbhaya, Unnao, Kathua and Hathras recur.

There are three aspects of Hathras-like incidents, an understanding of which can have fundamental implications upon improving our CJS.

First, is there any process of victimisation in such type of cases where multiple processes culminate into the occurrence of the incident? Secondly, who are the likely victims, what is their profile and how do they become vulnerable to such victimisation? Thirdly, do our police have the competence for crime prevention?

It is naive to believe that the



AVERTING CRIME: Police should carry out risk surveys to check vulnerability.

Hathras case occurred in a vacuum or that the choice of victim and her victimisation was coincidental. Victimological research proffers that several unnoticed interactions take place before the incidence of crime. In Hathras, the process of victimisation must have occurred subtly and must be chronologically traceable. The families of the accused and the victim were known to each other. Reportedly, they also had interaction at several levels. This process also includes various subtle and minor developments until the incidence.

Generally speaking, casual friendships, conflict in relationships, or other aspects in relationships are crucial in forming a chain, culminating into an incidence of crime. This is how a target of crime becomes a 'just' target.

Victimology pre-supposes a set of factors which tend to make a person vul-

nerable to crime. The profiling of the victim in the Indian society is crucial. It can be inferred from the Hathras incident that the victim came from a humble background, was a Dalit and had a relatively lower socio-economic profile. Poverty and disadvantage make people vulnerable to all manners and forms of suffering. Poverty is not merely about a lack of financial resources but also about a weakened ability to resist. Access to justice and exercising of fundamental rights is difficult, if not impossible, where a person lacks resources. All such factors of disadvantage converge to make a person vulnerable. One would hardly find a resourceful person confronting such risk exposures in India. Those working under poor conditions in unorganised sectors—labourers, domestic servants, and contractual workers — have greater chances of being victimised.

In fact, the socio-economic background and occupational characteristics of a person influence their lifestyle. Such a lifestyle, according to victimologists, is a crucial factor in exposing such persons to several high-risk situations. This knowledge would explain the victimisation incident of Hathras.

Vulnerability or risk of victimisation is not limited to such individual factors alone. Geographical locations also determine the likelihood of proneness to crime due to environmental vulnerabilities. This also means crimes are not random probabilities, but are bound by temporal and spatial constraints. The 'Broken Window' theory in the US became very attractive inasmuch as it spurred the police towards locational and situational crime prevention planning in neglected localities.

The core issue is that victimological data and information remain undeveloped and under-utilised in this country by the police. There are ways and means to collate and use such information to plan effective crime prevention and victimisation reduction programmes by the police.

For example, the police can map victim data and information to carry out risk mapping and analysis of vulnerability. There are potential victims everywhere. There are victimological conditions which have reached their 'tipping point' and are likely to culminate into full-fledged incidents. If such mapping and risk surveys are carried out by the police to identify vulnerable groups or individuals, prevention plans can be used to avert such incidents.

Both crime profiling or victimisation profiling are yet to reach the shores of our nation. There is a need to under-

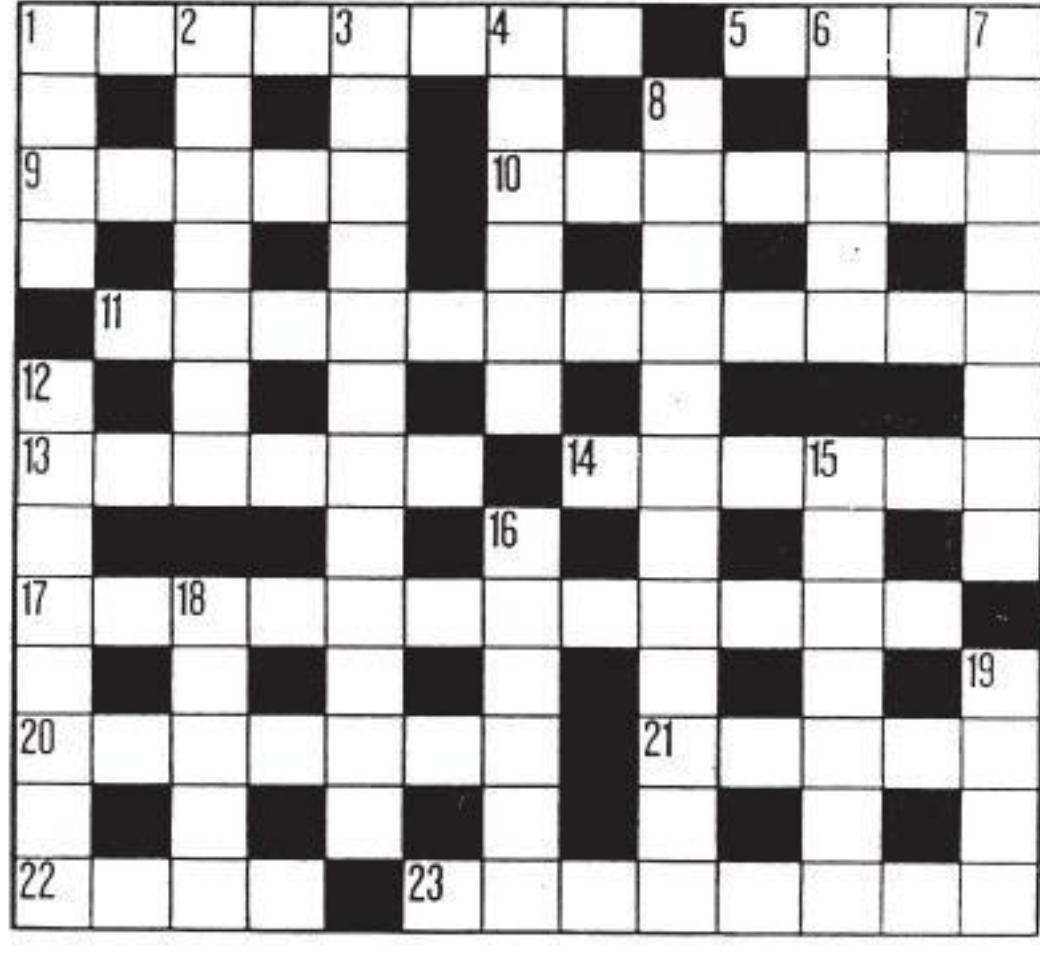
stand that crime is independent of the law as well as the institutions mandated by law to enforce itself. The crime rate will automatically go down if victim-proneness — the factors affecting victimisation — are reduced and vice versa. The police have failed in the past and will fail again in the future, unless factors of victimisation are addressed and criminogenic conditions are controlled.

There are potential victims and offenders and there is need to identify them before the commission of a crime. Every person becomes vulnerable to crime before becoming a victim of crime and if the interventions are deployed at the former stage, crime can be averted.

As a measure of crime prevention, this is more effective than deterrence through harsher punishments. As much as 45 per cent crime in every society is situational. The remaining crime is due to fundamental reasons linked with the motivation, socialisation and personality of the offenders. The former can be controlled more easily than the latter.

Situational crime prevention (SCP) is now the default approach in several countries. SCP is a crime-reduction technique based on the premise that by plugging the opportunities of crime commission, crime can be reduced significantly. Crimes are committed if they are easy to commit. It is, therefore, important to make the occurrence of crime difficult. To do that, a 'target hardening' is necessary — victims must be better guarded and more empowered. If we do not take note of these lessons from Hathras, its recurrence is inevitable.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 White flag, 8 Again, 9 Admiral, 10 Finish, 11 Asylum, 12 Emphasis, 15 Mainstay, 18 Shrimp, 20 Sloppy, 21 Ecstasy, 22 Tutor, 23 Be all ears.

Down: 2 Hades, 3 Triple, 4 Fragment, 5 Garish, 6 Matisse, 7 In the soup, 11 Animosity, 13 Physical, 14 Riposte, 16 Superb, 17 Writhe, 19 Miser.

ACROSS

- 1 Receive academic degree (8)
- 5 Largest continent (4)
- 9 Praiseworthy quality (5)
- 10 Falsehood (7)
- 11 Suddenly from nowhere (3,2,4,3)
- 13 Really (6)
- 14 Appoint to a task (6)
- 17 Finest French cooking (5,7)
- 20 Made different (7)
- 21 Become mouldy (2,3)
- 22 Dutch portrait painter (4)
- 23 Detested thing (8)

DOWN

- 1 Willing and eager (4)
- 2 Stranded (7)
- 3 Deeply involved (2,2,4)
- 4 Dependable (6)
- 6 US composer of marches (5)
- 7 Follower (8)
- 8 Prima facie (2,5,5)
- 12 Ajumble (8)
- 15 Dishonourable (7)
- 16 Oppressive duty (6)
- 18 Up to such time as (5)
- 19 Notion (4)

SU DO KU



HARD

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 20, 2020, TUESDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat 2077

■ Shaka Samvat 1942

■ Ashwin Shaka 28

■ Kartik Parvishtha 4

■ Hijari 1442

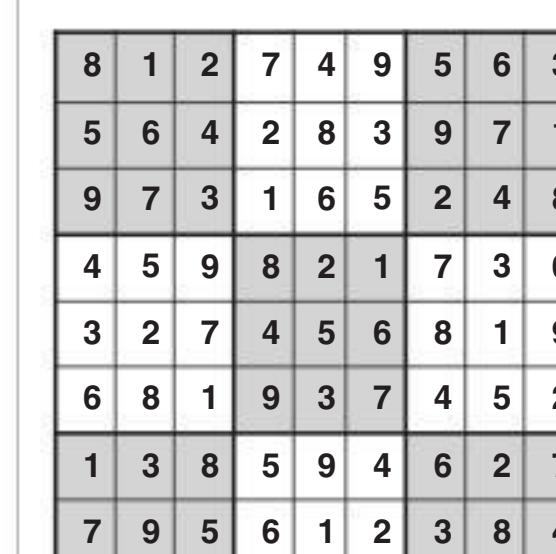
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 4, up to 11:19 am

■ Saubhagya Yoga up to 9:48 am

■ Jyeshta Nakshatra up to 2:12 am

■ Moon enters Sagittarius sign 2:12 am

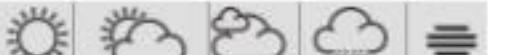
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



FORECAST

SUNSET: TUESDAY 17:45 HRS

SUNRISE: WEDNESDAY 06:29 HRS



CITY MAX MIN

Chandigarh 34 16

New Delhi 35 16

Amritsar 33 15

Bathinda 34 13

Jalandhar 33 14

Ludhiana 33 16

Bhiwani 34 17

Hisar 35 13

Sirsia 34 15

Dharamsala 25 14

Manali 25 04

Shimla 24 13

Srinagar 25 04

Jammu 33 16

Kargil 16 01

Leh 21 -05

Dehradun 31 17

Mussoorie 23 13

TEMPERATURE IN °C

paper.tribuneindia.com

Curbs gone, tourists enjoy paragliding at Bir Billing

OUR CORRESPONDENT



PALAMPUR, OCTOBER 19
Hundreds of tourists thronged Billing at the weekend to enjoy paragliding. Earlier, the state government had imposed a complete ban on the sport following Covid-19 outbreak and all paragliding activities had come to a standstill.

A visit to Bir Billing revealed that most of the hotels at Bir were full to capacity. It was after six months that such a huge inflow of tourists was witnessed in Bir Billing. Hundreds of paragliders of different colors could be seen sailing in the sky.

standard guidelines issued by the Government of India and proper precautions were being taken. Efforts are being made by the state tourism department to revive the tourism sector.

The sector plays an important role in boosting the economy of the state, besides being a major source of employment. The sector alone contributes 7 per cent to the state GDP. Because of Covid-19 crisis, the industry remained shut for the past over six months, hitting state's economy adversely.

Bir Billing is Asia's best paragliding site. It stands among the top paragliding sites in the world.

After the state government withdrew restrictions and threw open its borders for tourists last month, the business and tourist activities have picked up in most of the tourist destinations like Palampur, Bir Billing and Gopalpur of the Kangra valley. All hotels are following

Panchayat head's husband booked

PALAMPUR, OCTOBER 19

The Baijnath police booked the husband of a panchayat pradhan for allegedly threatening and misbehaving with a technical assistant in the BDO office, Baijnath.

Official sources said technical assistant Rajesh

Kumar had filed a complaint before the BDO against the husband of the panchayat pradhan, who had harassed him and interfered in his official work.

Later, the matter was referred to the police by the BDO. The complainant told

the police that he came to panchayat bhawan and asked him to clear the documents of his wife in the threatening manner.

The police summoned both parties and later registered a case against the husband. — OC

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against below titled tenders with closing date 11.11.2020 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against these tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type	Open	Tendering Section	Works	Bidding System	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	19.10.2020	Bid Starting Date	28.10.2020	Bid Closing Date/Time	11.11.2020 15:00 Hrs
SN.	Tender Number	Details of Tender			
1	35-2020-21-ASR-II-DRM-FZR	Name of Work:- The work of various Base depot /site activities in c/w complete Track renewal 13.876Kms.) Primary) Km.471.00 to 482.75(DN), Km.467.826 to 469.104(UP) & Km.472.243 to 473.091 (up) of already laid 52Kg/90/72UTS rails on PSC-6 mew sleepers (M7) density with 60kg 90UTS rails laid in PSC-6 mew sleepers to m+8 density with elastic fastening along with raising cushion from 250mm to 350mm on JUC-ASR section under SSE/P-way/BES.			
		Advertised Value	Tender Doc. Cost	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
		17730075.93	0.00	238700.00	45 days
		Period of Completion			12Months
		Similar Nature of Work:- "Any manual or mechanized track work involving CTR/TRR/TSR/Deep screening/Shallow screening/overhauling/ de-stressing /raising / end cropping of track Pre & post work by T-28."			2270/20
		SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Department "NOTICE INVITING E- TENDER"

Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Kaza, District Lahaul and Spiti Himachal Pradesh on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in three covers for the undermentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Department/PWD/CPWD/other departments and Govt. undertaking departments.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	E/Cost	E/ Money	Cost of Form	Time
1	Providing LWSS to ITBP and Dogra Scout Samdu in G.P. Gue in Tehsil Spiti Kaza Distt. L&S (H.P). (Sh:- Supply and Erection of submersible pump set, Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 82.50 KVA DG Set and Providing and Laying of API 5-L Gr -56 Flanged Pipe in R/Main)	Rs. 4048558/-	Rs. 68300/-	Rs. 800/-	Two Working Season
2	Providing LWSS to ITBP and Dogra Scout Samdu in G.P. Gue in Tehsil Spiti Kaza Distt. L&S (H.P). (Sh:- C/o Pump House, C/o R.C.C Stank 25000 litres capacity, Laying, Jointing 50 mm dia HDPE pipe =1800 mtrs, C/o R/Wall behind the Pump house, Site development for P/ House, S/ Tank and Providing crate work)	Rs. 2544609/-	Rs. 45670/-	Rs. 400/-	Two Working Season
1. Tender documents and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal http://htenders.gov.in by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.					
2. As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency at the earliest.					
3. KEY DATES WILL BE AS UNDER:-					
1	Date of online publication	13.10.2020 5.00 P.M.			
2	Downloading of e-tender Documents	From 13.10.2020 at 5.00 P.M. up to 19.10.2020 at 5.00 P.M.			
3	Date of submission of e-tendering	From 13.10.2020 at 5 P.M. up to 19.10.2020 at 5.00 P.M.			
4	Physical submission of earnest money deposit and cost of tender form	Up to 20.10.2020 11.00 A.M.			
5	Date of opening bid	11.30 A.M. on 20.10.2020			
	(i) Cover-1 Eligibility Criteria and Technical Bid				
	(ii) Cover-2 Financial Bid	Shall be intimated separately			
6	Site Visit				
7	Pre-Bid Meeting				
TERMS AND CONDITIONS					
The e-tender documents shall be uploaded online in Two (2) covers:-					
Cover-1 shall contain scanned copies of "Eligibility information and Technical Bid"					
Cover-2 shall contain "Financial Bid" on the prescribed form.					
4. Cover-1 shall contain scanned copies of following "Eligibility Information" (Scanned copies to be uploaded in pdf. File).					
a). The earnest money shall be strictly through online mode (e-payment). Certificate of exemption of earnest money deposit, in case of works Rs. _____ the benefit will be allowed up to in order to ensure correctness of information supplied by the contractor about number of tenders in which he has participated and total value of their EMD involved furnish an affidavit stating that he has participated such number of tenders and value of Earnest money involved.					
b). The cost of tender form as shown above shall be in the shape of online (e-payment)					
c). Certificate of registration with Jal Shakti Department in appropriate class and latest renewal thereof.					
d). Income Tax Clearance Certificate thereof.					
e). Registration of GST.					
f). PAN (Permanent Account No).					
g). EPF with documentary proof					
h). The authorization letter regarding digital signature certificate (DSC) of the person authorized by the registered tenderer to upload the bid, be uploaded along with the other documents online.					
i). The contractor/Firm shall submit/upload the scanned copies of the documents as required in NIT through online mode only. No physical submission of documents will be allowed.					
j). A scanned copy of undertaking that I have carefully studied all the Terms & Conditions stipulated in form PWD 6 & 8/12 as well as special Terms & Conditions appended along with schedule of quantity along with special terms and conditions before quoting the rates in the BoQ chart and that I have visited the site of work before quoting the rates.					
Technical bid shall contain					
i) The contractor/firm who are having dealership/sub-dealership or authorized for offered pumping machinery have to upload the performance curve chart along with selection of pumps and motors as per duty conditions(+10% duty head and -15% duty head). The hard copy of original curve chart of pump equipment shall be supplied separately duly indicating points and other conditions along with BHP, to ascertain the uploaded documents.					
5. Cover-2: shall contain "Financial Bid" which will be opened at a later date to be notified separately and opened only of eligible contractors/Firms whose documents are as per Eligibility Information "Cover-1". And Cover-2 shall contain only Financial Bid/Offer on Departmental schedule of quantity/BoQ where contractor/Firms will quote his/her offer for each item.					
6. Earnest Money of L1, L2 and L3 shall be retained for a period of 120 days.					
7. No subtlety of work as a whole by the contractor is permissible.					
8. In case, opening day is a holiday, the tender shall be opened on next working day at the same time.					
9. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.					
10. Ambiguous/Conditional tenders or tenders by Fax/E-mail shall not be entertained/ considered in any case.					
11. Conditional bids are liable to be rejected without assigning any reason. The Executive Engineer, reserves the right to reject/cancel any or all the tenders/bids without assigning any reason(s).					
12. Any enquiry regarding tender can be obtained on e-mail of the Divisional Officer under e-mail address eiehpka@rediffmail.com					

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division Kaza.

Covid cases in Nahar jail, little space for isolation

20 inmates test positive while 25 found infected last fortnight

AMBHIKA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, OCTOBER 19

The emergence of Covid cases in the Central Model Jail at Nahar has left the authorities worried as there is little space to isolate the rising number of patients.

As many as 20 inmates tested Covid positive today while about 25 had tested positive last fortnight.

Deputy Commissioner RK Pruthi said the provision of a safe isolation facility outside the jail premises was explored but owing to safety reasons, it was not accepted by jail authorities.

Measures, but it had not

AUTHORITIES WORRIED

The authorities are worried as there is little space to isolate the rising number of patients.

Deputy Commissioner RK Pruthi said safe isolation facility outside the jail premises was explored but owing to safety reasons, it was not accepted by jail authorities.

A suggestion to separate patients who are hardcore criminals was also explored so that others could be shifted outside but due to the lack of security, it could not be accepted

measures, but it had not yielded the desired result.

A suggestion to segregate patients comprising hardcore criminals was explored so that the others could be shifted outside but following lack of security, it was not accepted by jail officials.

The rising cases have become a cause for concern for the district administration as Sirsa has regis-

tered more than 2,000 cases. A visible decline has, however, been witnessed in the new cases. The DC said it was worrisome that Covid cases were rising in the jail and this would offset their efforts to contain the infection in the district.

The recovery rate in the

district was around 91.7 per cent as 1,940 people had been cured. The rate had

fallen to less than 65 per cent in September when the maximum cases were registered in the district.

DGP Prisons, Somesh Goyal said that the infected inmates should be kept at Covid care centre.

Such centres would have to be provided security by the police and all facilities like toilet, cook house, etc., should be located on the campus.

Goyal added that 25 patients had cured now and the new patients would be housed in the isolation facilities created in the jail. Such problems had also occurred in Hamirpur where the local administration refused to house the Covid inmates in the Covid care centres.

Thakur tests negative

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 19

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur tested negative for Covid-19 here today. He was found infected with the virus on October 12.

Thakur had been in home isolation for almost a week before he tested Covid positive. In fact, the Chief Minister had been confined

ਦੱਡਰ ਨਗਰ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ, ਘੜੋਂ ਪਲਿਕ ਨੋਟਿਸ

ਹਰ ਅਮ ਅਤੇ ਖਾਸ ਨੂੰ ਸੁਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਨਗਰ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ, ਘੜੋਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਆਪਣੇ ਮਹਾ ਨੂੰ, ਮਿਤੀ 30.09.2020 ਨਾਲ ਗਾਰਬ ਕੀਤੀ ਸ਼ਾਮ ਭਿਲੋਕ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਾਮ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਸੇਵਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਿਅਕਤੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਸ਼ਾਮ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਾਰਜ ਵਿੱਚ ਨਾਲ ਗਾਰਬ ਕੀਤੀ ਸ਼ਾਮ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਾਰਜ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਾਮ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਨੀਂਟਾਂ ਛਾਪ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਕਾਰਜ ਵਿੱਚ ਨਾਲ ਗਾਰਬ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ, ਘੜੋਂ ਦੀ ਦੱਡਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸ਼ਕਤੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਹੋਏ ਰਿਹਾ ਸ਼ਾਮ ਤੋਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਨਾਲ ਗਾਰਬ ਕੀਤੀ ਸ਼ਾਮ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸ਼ਰਕਰ ਨੂੰ ਲਿਖ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਸ਼੍ਰੀ/ - ਕਾਰਜਾਧਿਕ ਅਫ਼ਰ, ਨਗਰ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ, ਘੜੋਂ

Sr. No.	Last Date for Online Sale of Bidding Document	Last Date of Online Submission of Bidding Document	Opening of Technical bid Document
1	12.11.2020 17.00 PM	12.11.2020 17.00 PM	13.11.2020 11.15 AM

ਸ਼੍ਰੀ/ - ਪਾਲਕ, ਸ਼੍ਰੀ/ - ਕਾਰਜਾਧਿਕ ਅਫ਼ਰ, ਨਗਰ ਕੌਂਸਲ, ਰਾਈਕੋਟ

DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING HIMACHAL PRADESH, SUNDER NAGAR

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EoI) to engage the 'Chartered Accountancy Firm'

The Directorate of Technical Education, Vocational and Industrial Training, Himachal Pradesh, Sunder Nagar intends to engage the 'Chartered Accountancy Firm', under the STRIVE project funded by Govt. of India under World Bank Assisted Scheme, to conduct integrated procurement and financial management of internal audit on half yearly basis of the Project. The operational area of the project is Himachal Pradesh. The interested firms may visit 'Tender Notice' tab of our websites <http://techedu.hp.gov.in> for further details. Last date for submission of EoI in sealed envelope is 11.11.2020 (Wednesday).

Sd/- Director (TE)

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (B&R-III BRANCH)

Whereas it appears to the Government of Punjab that the land is required in the Jurisdiction of Punjab Government, at public expense, for public purpose, namely, for construction of Rajpura-Bathinda Double Line Project of Ambala Division of Northern Railway. It is hereby notified that land in the area specified below is likely to be required for the above purpose.

This notification is made under the provisions of Section 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, to all whom it may concern.

The Social Impact Assessment Study for these Villages has already been carried out by the SIRD and Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh under Section 4 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, for the same project as above and the same was reviewed by the Expert group, the recommendations of which have been accepted by the Government of Punjab. The Social Impact Assessment Report is available in Punjabi & English in the office of the Sub Divisional Magistrate-cum-Land Acquisition Collector, Rampura Phul, District Bathinda and is also available on website of Punjab Govt. Therefore there is no need to conduct new SIA Study.

In exercise of the powers conferred by aforesaid Section, the Government of Punjab is pleased to authorize the officer for the time being engaged in the undertaking with their servants and workmen to enter upon and survey any land in the said area and do all other acts required or permitted by that section.

Under Section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase etc. or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of this notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the persons interested within 60 (Sixty days) from the date of publication of this notification as provided under Section 15 of the Act before Sub Divisional Magistrate-cum-Land Acquisition Collector, Rampura Phul, District Bathinda regarding the issues to:

(a) The area and suitability of land proposed to be acquired.

(b) Justification offered for Public purpose.

(c) The findings of the Social Impact Assessment report.

Plans of the land can be inspected in the office of the Sub Divisional Magistrate-cum-Land Acquisition Collector, Bathinda, District Bathinda on any working day during the working hours.

For the purpose of Rehabilitation and Resettlement, Sub Divisional Magistrate-cum-Land Acquisition Collector, Rampura Phul, District Bathinda is appointed as Administrator.

The details of the Khasra numbers of the land to be acquired are as below:

Tehsil: Rampura Phul

Village list with Area Details

Village – Rampura (72)

Sr. No.	District	Tehsil	Village & H.B.	No. Khasra	Type of Land	Area K.M.	Remarks
1	Bathinda	Rampura Phul	Rampura (72)	22//24 Min	G.M	2-9	
2				25 Min	G.M	3-11	
3				23//21 Min	G.M	0-16	
4				46//3 Min	Chahi	3-11	
5				4 Min	Chahi	1-2	
6				9 Min	Chahi	3-12	
7				10 Min	Chahi	1-0	
TOTAL AREA						16-1 or 2.00625 Acre	
Village – Gill Kalan (40)							
Sr. No.	District	Tehsil	Village & H.B.	No. Khasra	Type of Land	Area K.M.	Remarks
1	Bathinda	Rampura Phul	Gill Kalan (40)	159//10 Min	Chahi	1-3	
2				160//6 Min	Chahi	1-3	
3				13 Min	Chahi	3-3	
4				14//1 Min	Chahi	1-12	
5				14//2 Min	Chahi	0-12	
6				18//2 Min	Chahi	0-6	
7				19 Min	Chahi	3-11	
8				20 Min	Chahi	2-6	
9				21 Min	Chahi	0-8	
TOTAL AREA						14-4 or 1.7750 Acre	

SUMMARY

Sr. No.	Village & H.B.	Additional Area	Remarks
1	Rampura (72)	16-1 2.00625	
2	Gill Kalan (40)	14-4 1.7750	
	Total	30-5 3.78125	

Area of Total Additional Land to be Acquired in two villages 30 Kanal 5 Maria.

Sd/- (Vikas Pratap, IAS)

Dated, Chandigarh

The: 28.10.2020

Principal Secretary to

Government of Punjab,

Department of Public Works (B&R)

Imran Khan's governance worse than dictatorship: Oppn leaders

KARACHI, OCTOBER 19

Prime Minister Imran Khan is "incapable and clueless", and his government is worse than a dictatorship, Pakistan's opposition leaders have said at the second rally of an alliance formed to oust the premier.

The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an alliance of 11 opposition parties formed on September 20, has launched a three-phased anti-government movement under an "action plan" to remove the Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government.

Under the plan, a number of rallies, public meetings and demonstrations will be held across the country, before a "decisive long march" to Islamabad in January next year.

"This incapable and clueless prime minister will have to go home," Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Sunday at the Bagh-e-Jinnah, which was

packed with people including supporters and workers of the alliance's members.

History has proved that the biggest dictators could not survive and "what standing does

this puppet have?", Zardari said targeting Prime Minister Khan and added that "this is not a new fight but this will be a decisive fight".

The rally here also marked the 13th anniversary of the twin blasts in Karsaz that targeted the homecoming procession of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto in 2007. The blast left around 200 people dead and several injured.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice-presidents Maryam Nawaz and Shahid Khakan Abbasi, Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party chairman Mahmood Achakzai and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman were among the leaders of opposition parties who attended the rally. The PPP also invited Mohsin Dawar who heads the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM), to address the gathering at the Bagh-e-Jinnah. — PTI

Opposition leaders Maryam Nawaz and Bilawal Bhutto in Karachi. AP/PTI

MARYAM NAWAZ CALLS HIM A COWARD

■ Maryam Nawaz, daughter of exiled former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, attacked the PTI government for

declaring opposition leaders and her father as "traitors". "When answers are

demanded, you say we are traitors," she said.

Calling PM Khan a "coward", Maryam accused him of using the armed forces

for his face-saving and declaring opponents as traitors only to save his skin and hide incompetence.

"Do not scare us," the PML-N vice-president said.

History has proved that the biggest dictators could not survive

BRIEFLY

ST. ANDREWS (SCOTLAND)

Shubhankar finishes T-37

Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma shot a 4-under 68, on the final day, gaining six spots to finish tied-37th in the Scottish Championship. Sharma finished with a total of 7-under. SSP Chawrasia shot a 70 for a total of 5-under and a tied-51st finish. Spaniard Adrian Otaegui shot a 63 to win the title by four shots. He finished at 23-under.

LONDON

Villa maintain perfect start

Aston Villa preserved the Premier League's only 100% record as Ross Barkley's late goal earned them a 1-0 win at Leicester City. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

IPL
PUNJAB VS DELHI
STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
DYNAMO VS JUVENTUS 10:25PM
PARIS VS MAN UNITED
BARCELONA VS FERENCVAROS
00:30AM (WEDNESDAY)
SONY TEN

Kings XI living on the edge

DUBAI, OCTOBER 19

The big-hitting Chris Gayle revealed that he felt "angry and upset" going into the Super Over after Kings XI Punjab were in a comfortable position to win the IPL match against Mumbai Indians in regulation period. After their last-ball win against Royal Challengers Bangalore, KXIP again took the run chase too deep against Mumbai, forcing the game into two Super Overs on Sunday.

Chasing 11 runs in the second Super Over, the 'Universe Boss' cracked a six off the first ball before Mayank Agarwal smashed successive fours to give KXIP their second consecutive win. "No, I wasn't nervous. I was a bit more angry and upset that we got ourselves in this position," Gayle told Agarwal and Mohammad Shami during a post-match show. "Even when we were going out to bat (in the second Super Over) you (Agarwal) asked

After slipping during chase, Punjab seal thriller win after two Super Overs



Kings XI Punjab's Chris Gayle celebrates after the win; RIGHT: Mohammed Shami is embraced by a teammate after he defended five runs in the first Super Over. PTI

me 'who is going to face the first ball'. I said 'Mayank you really asked that question? It has to be the boss who faces the first ball,'" Gayle added.

For Punjab, Shami bowled a brilliant first Super Over, defending five runs. "Shami is the Man of the Match for me," Gayle said. "To defend six runs (target) against Rohit (Sharma) and (Quinton) de Kock, that's

fantastic. I have faced you (Shami) in the nets and I know that you can nail those Yorkers," he added.

Shami said with the margin of error being so less he just focussed on what he could do best. "When you get 15-17 runs to defend, it's different," Shami said. "But when the margin of error is so less, you focus on what you can do best. When I was

IPL STANDINGS

Team	P	W	L	Pts
Delhi	9	7	2	14
Mumbai	9	6	3	12
Bangalore	9	6	3	12
Kolkata	9	5	4	10
Rajasthan	10	4	6	8
Hyderabad	9	3	6	6
Punjab	9	3	6	6
Chennai	10	3	7	6

*Read under Team, Played, Won, Lost, Points

going back on the top of my mark every ball, I was saying to myself, 'This last ball was great. The next ball will be great too,'" he added.

KXIP captain KL Rahul lauded Shami for his clarity of thought. "You can never prepare for Super Overs. So you have to trust your bowler's gut," Rahul said at the post-match presentation.

"Shami was very clear he wanted to go with six Yorkers," said Rahul, who was named the Man of the Match for his 51-ball 77. — PTI

National throwing meet at Patiala postponed

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

The much-awaited National Open Throws competition has been postponed by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI). Scheduled to be held on October 26-27 at the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports in Patiala, it was postponed over concerns about the wellbeing of trainees residing at the campus.

It would have been the first track & field competition during the Covid-19 times.

It is understood that the Sports Authority of India (SAI) had concerns about

Risk of exposure, says Sumariwalla

"We consulted the chief coach, high-performance director and other coaches and they expressed their concern on the risk of exposure of athletes to Covid-19," AFI president Adil Sumariwalla said in a statement. "We feel the conditions are still not conducive to hold a competition due to Covid-19 pandemic situation. Since it was an open competition there was a risk for athletes travelling from outside... competitions will be held only when the situation is conducive."

participants travelling to Patiala. It had sought a

detailed plan about checking the flow of the outsiders during the meet. To check the Covid virus, SAI has been using a colour-coded segregation system to manage the interaction among elite athletes at all its training centres, and hosting a competition would break its protocols.

"We are in touch with the AFI and once all the plans are worked out and we are satisfied, the event will be held," an SAI official said. AFI consulted the coaching staff, including the high performance director Volker Hermann, before postponing the competition.

Indian women enter quarterfinals in Asian chess

CHENNAI: The Indian women recorded three wins today to finish on top in the preliminaries and qualify for the quarterfinals of Asian Online Nations (Regions) Cup Team Champi-

onship. The top seeds will face Kyrgyzstan in the last-eight after topping the preliminary phase with 16 points. India beat Philippines, Kazakhstan and Vietnam today. PTI

Bala back in action in Rangers' 5-1 win

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

Bala Devi, the first Indian woman to sign a professional contract aboard, was in action as the Scottish Women's Premier League resumed on Sunday. Bala Devi came in as a second-half substitute for Rangers FC as her team beat Hearts Women FC 5-1 in Glasgow.

The 30-year-old Manipuri stayed back in Glasgow during the global lockdown due to the Covid pandemic. "It was really good to be back on the football pitch once again. Being away from the pitch for so many months is not a good feeling," Bala said.

Bala had been training for two months even as the



Bala Devi had been training in Glasgow for two months.

PHOTO: RANGERS WOMENS FC

league was halted. "I have been training with the team for a couple of months," Bala said. — TNS, AIFP

(Haryana Government University under Act 28 of 2014)
Recognized u/s (2F) & 12-B of UGC Act, 1956
Phone. No. 01681-241004, 241002
Advt. No. 06/2020

RECRUITMENT FOR FACULTY POSITIONS
(ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/ASSISTANT PROFESSOR)

Online applications are invited for the posts of Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in Commerce, Economics, Physics and Psychology for Direct Recruitment on regular basis in various Departments. The last date to apply online is November 08, 2020.

For details, please visit: www.crsu.ac.in

PRDH/83277

REGISTRAR

सार्वजनिक सूचना

जन साधारण को सुचित किया जाता है कि मार्किट कमेटी, नन्यौला की सभी मंडियों (नई अनाज मंडी, नन्यौला व खरोद क्रॉड-चॉक्स/खेड़े) को वर्ष 2020-21 (31.10.2021) के लिए तेरे पर उठवाने के लिए खुली नीलामी दिनांक 23.10.2020 को दोपहर बाद 02.00 बजे कार्यालय, मार्किट कमेटी, नन्यौला में की जायेगी। ओर भाग लेने के इच्छुक वाणीदाता को मू. 50,000/- रुपये की धरोहर राशि उत्तरी दिन प्रातः 11.00 बजे से दोपहर 02.00 बजे तक कार्यालय, मार्किट कमेटी, नन्यौला में बैंक इच्छुक द्वारा जमा करवानी होगी। धरोहर राशि नकद या चेक द्वारा स्वीकार नहीं की जाएगी। वाणी की अन्य शर्तें मैक्र पर सुनवाई जायेंगी।

अधिक जानकारी के लिए कार्यालय, मार्किट कमेटी, नन्यौला में संपर्क किया जा सकता है।

सचिव-एवं कार्यकारी अधिकारी,
मार्किट कमेटी,
नन्यौला। 0171-2851325 PRDH-83283

प्रशासक,
मार्किट कमेटी,
नन्यौला।



BJP MP Tejasvi Surya assumes charge of the president of the party's youth wing (BJYM) on Monday. PHOTO: MANAS RANJAN BHU

₹550-cr package for Telangana flood-hit

HYDERABAD: Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR) has announced a financial package of Rs 550 crore for flood-hit people residing in low-lying areas in state's various urban local bodies. He said people residing in low-lying areas had suffered severe losses after rainwater entered their houses. The state government will provide Rs 1 lakh each for completely collapsed houses and Rs 50,000 each for partially damaged houses. An aid of Rs 10,000 will be provided to each flood-hit family. PTI

With eye on China, Australia to rejoin Malabar naval exercise

Oz will participate in drills with India, America and Japan

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19
Australia will rejoin the Malabar series of the joint naval exercises scheduled for next month, according to an official announcement here on Monday.

The significance of Australia joining the Indo-US-Japan exercise, held every year, could be gauged from statements welcoming the development by the US Navy and the Australian foreign and defence ministers.

With the missing element of Australia getting added, Malabar gets converted into a naval force of strength by the four-member Quad grouping of the US, Japan, Australia and India aimed at countering China in the Indo-Pacific. The exercise will take place in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea this year.

However, the official news release did not say whether Australia will join as an



The exercise will take place in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. FILE

observer or a permanent member. In case of the former, it would be a one-off affair while the latter means that Quad has formalised into a military group.

"As India seeks to increase cooperation with other countries in the maritime security domain and in the light of increased defence cooperation with Australia, Malabar-2020 will see the participation of the Australian Navy," said the official news release.

Australian Defence Minis-

ter Linda Reynolds said the Malabar drills were a milestone opportunity for the Australian Defence Force.

— Linda Reynolds, AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MINISTER

The Malabar series of naval exercises started in 1992 as a bilateral India-US exercise. But its China-oriented focus evolved in the mid-2000s as countries under America's military umbrella would join as observers. Australia became a part of Malabar for a year over a decade back and then pulled out. But Japan joined in 2015 and Australia's re-entry was on

Participants will enhance security in the maritime domain and remain committed to a rules-based international order

— Defence Ministry

the cards after Chinese aggression increased on the LAC as well as in the maritime domain.

The location of the annual Malabar exercise has also become a point of strategic interest. For instance, it was conducted off the coast of Guam in the Philippine Sea in 2018 and off the coast of the Japan in 2019.

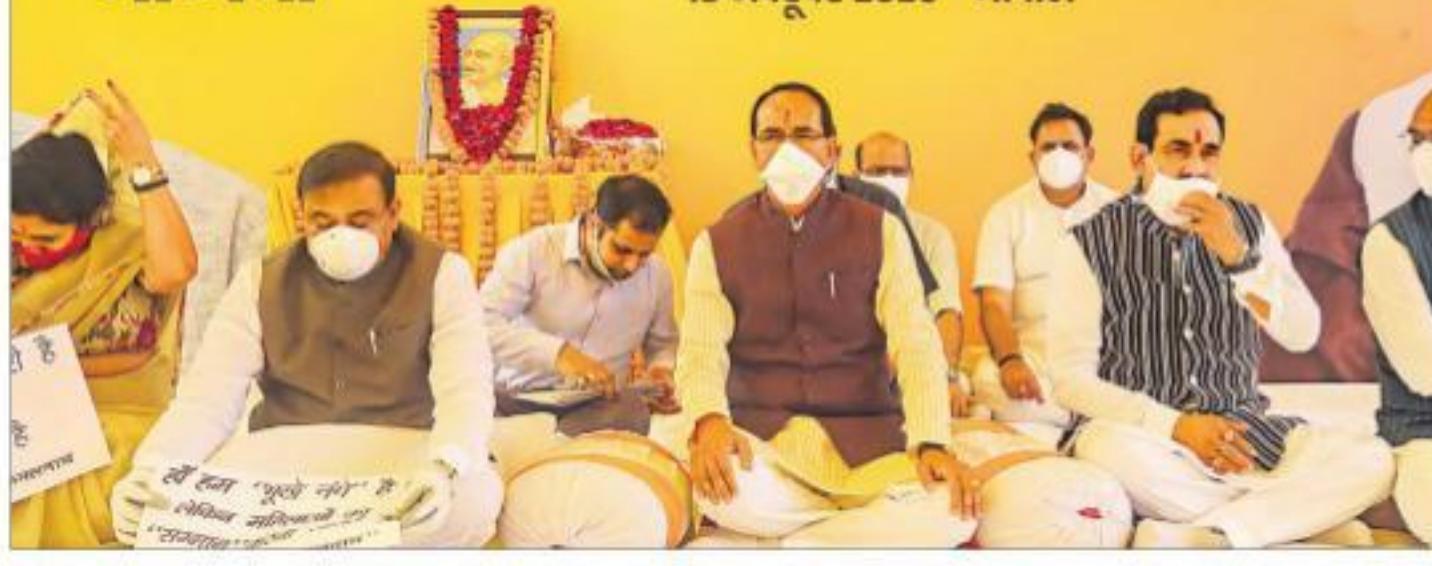
Australia's participation in the exercise comes after the foreign minister-level Quad meeting in Tokyo earlier this month.



माजपा

मौन उपवास

19 अक्टूबर 2020 - भोपाल



MP CM Shivraj Chouhan during a silent protest against Congress state chief Kamal Nath in Bhopal. PTI

BJP slams Kamal over 'item' remark against minister

Chouhan writes to Sonia seeking action against ex-CM

Tribune News Service

EC SEEKS DETAILED REPORT

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19
The BJP today slammed former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath for his "derogatory" comment against state minister Imarti Devi. The EC has also forwarded the matter to the Election Commission for necessary action. PTI

Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, BJP MP Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar and other party leaders sat on a two-hour silent fast to protest Nath's "item" remark.

Reminding that it was not the first time a senior Congress leader from the state has made a "derogatory" remark against a woman politician, senior BJP leaders questioned the "silence" of Congress president Sonia Gandhi on the matter and demanded immediate action from her.

Chouhan appealed to Sonia to immediately remove Nath from all party posts.

"Your silence would compel me to think that you agreed with Nath's statement," he

said in a letter. Referring to Digvijaya Singh's "tanch maal" comment on a woman politician from his own party, Union minister Smriti Irani said: "I cannot find any justification that Nath can give for using such derogatory word against a woman leader. I also cannot understand why the Gandhi family chooses to be silent."

Chouhan said Nath committed a shameless act by insulting a woman member of the Scheduled Caste and then attempted to justify the statement.

Addressing a poll meeting, Nath said his party candidate was a "simple person" unlike his opponent who is an "item".

Meanwhile, Nath on Monday evening alleged in a letter to Chouhan that the BJP was misleading people. Nath, in his own missive to Chouhan, said, "I didn't make any disgraceful remarks, but you served lies....The word I said has a lot of meanings. Your party is serving lies and misleading by interpreting the word arbitrarily."

BJP calling LJP 'vote katua' to appease Nitish: Chirag

PATNA, OCTOBER 19
Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief Chirag Paswan on Monday voiced strong displeasure over the use of term "vote katua" for his party by some BJP leaders to keep Bihar CM Nitish Kumar happy, and asserted his party would win more seats in the Bihar Assembly polls than the JD(U).

"Vote katua" is an expression used in the Hindi heartland for political parties and candidates in elections who are in the fray to eat into the votes of others without benefiting themselves.

"I am pained at the term

'HURT BY ACCUSATION'

— I urge more respect from the BJP leaders towards my late father who was their colleague in the government just until 11 days ago. I am pained at the usage of term vote katua

Chirag Paswan, LJP CHIEF



vote katua being used against the LJP. They should apply their own wisdom and not use such words just to make somebody happy. I don't mind whatever BJP leaders say because I know they are just putting words to the Chief Minister's thoughts," said the 37-year-old son of the

late Ram Vilas Paswan. Several top BJP leaders, including Union Minister Prakash Javadekar and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, have called the LJP a "vote katua" in the Bihar election fray. They have also accused him of creating confusion in

the minds of the electorate by claiming close proximity to senior BJP leadership, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Chirag, who has the responsibility of carrying his father's impressive political legacy forward, has repeatedly professed his unflinching loyalty to Modi, saying he was like "Hanuman" to the Prime Minister.

Urging more respect from the BJP towards his late father and former Union minister, he said he should not use such terms for a party built painstakingly by somebody who was their

colleague in the government just until 11 days ago.

"Ultimately, a BJP-LJP government will be formed in the state after November 10," he said.

The LJP which has dissociated itself from the NDA in Bihar, has put up candidates against JD(U) nominees in many places.

1,510 in fray for 2nd phase
A total 1,510 candidates are left in the fray for the second phase of polling to 94 Assembly seats in Bihar after the scrutiny of nomination papers, state Chief Electoral Officer said on Monday. — PTI

Rahul again questions BJP's Covid handling

Tribune News Service



Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi with Kavalappara landslide victims in Malappuram on Monday. PTI

ASSURES ASSISTANCE TO MALAPPURAM

■ Amid surging Covid-19 cases in Malappuram, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said all necessary assistance would be provided to the Malappuram district administration to fight the virus.

■ Gandhi was speaking at a Covid-19 evaluation meeting at the collectorate here. The rate of spread of the infection, the facilities arranged in the medical sector, and other matters related to the pandemic were discussed.

■ He reached here on Monday on a three-day visit to his constituency, spread over the three districts of Malappuram, Wayanad and Kozhikode districts. PTI

after the latter called Gandhi "Rahul Lahori", saying Rahul would now contest elections from Pakistan.

Indian-American teen wins \$25K for Covid cure work

HOUSTON, OCTOBER 19

A 14-year-old Indian-American girl has won a US \$25,000 young scientist challenge for a discovery that could provide a potential treatment for Covid-19. Anika Chebrolu, an eighth grader from Frisco in Texas, won the 3M Young Scientist Challenge, regarded as the US' premier middle school science competition, for her work using in-silico methodology for drug discovery to find a molecule that can selectively bind to the Spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 virus in an attempt to find a cure for the virus, as per 3M Challenge. PTI

Class apart



Students attend a class after the authorities allowed opening of schools for Classes IX to XII with certain restrictions in Ghaziabad on Monday. PTI

Virtual courts: Govt procuring 1,500 additional licences

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

In a bid to facilitate virtual court hearings amid Covid-19 pandemic, officials said the government has initiated the process of procuring 1,500 additional video-conferencing licences at a cost of Rs 9 crore. The proposed facilities would be deployed at high courts and district courts, they added.

According to the data collated by the Ministry of Law & Justice since the government imposed the lockdown, the high courts and the district courts have heard over 26 lakh cases in virtual medium.

Between March 24 and September 31, the 25 HCs of the country collectively heard 6,88,318 cases via video-conferencing and nearly 19,000 district courts heard 19,33,492 cases virtually in the period.

"The new proposed licences are required for legal and extended use of the video-conference facility software," the officials said. — TNS

Over 50% posts of info commissioner in CIC vacant: Plea

Satyendra Prakash

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

With six out of 11 posts of information commissioner, including that of the chief commissioner, lying vacant in the Central Information Commission (CIC), an RTI activist has moved the Supreme Court, highlighting the problems of the functioning of India's top transparency watchdog.

"There is currently a backlog of over 36,600 cases in the CIC," RTI activist Anjali Bhardwaj said in an application filed in the top court.

Highlighting the twin problems of vacancy and pendency, Bhardwaj urged the top court to take up the matter urgently.

The Supreme Court is already seized of a PIL regarding timely and transparent appointment of

Says commission has a backlog of more than 36,000 cases

information commissioners in CIC and SICs under the RTI Act, 2005.

The top court had in February last year directed the government to fill all vacancies in CIC and SICs in a timely and transparent manner.

It had said the government should ensure that non-bureaucrats were also appointed as information commissioners in CIC and SICs.

Pointing out that in December last year the top court had given three months to the Centre to fill the vacancies that existed in the CIC, Bhardwaj alleged that the order has not been complied with. — TNS

AIKSCC: No role in Bihar elections

Apropos the report titled

"Bihar Election: Farm unions to rally against BJP", published in The Tribune on Monday, the All-India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) has clarified that it has not taken a decision to this effect. The AIKSCC does not participate in or play any direct role in electoral politics, it said.

"No decision has been taken by the Working Group of the AIKSCC to campaign in the Bihar elections. However, many constituents of the AIKSCC who are active in Bihar may do so on their own," it added.

Nadda: CAA to be implemented soon

Kolkata, October 19

BJP national president JP Nadda Monday said the execution of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) has been delayed due to the pandemic and asserted that the law would be implemented soon. — TNS

US-made jackets for soldiers in Ladakh

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19
The government has started transporting winter jackets for troops in Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) from the storage base in North Delhi.

The jackets will be part of the reserve stock for more than 45,000 troops stationed along the 826-km LAC in Ladakh.

The jackets have been imported from the US as part of emergency purchase. The first lot of 15,000 arrived in Delhi two weeks ago. With additional troops along the LAC in Ladakh, the emergency purchase was needed.

The night temperature dropped below freezing a couple of weeks ago at altitudes over 14,000 feet near the LAC.

Soldiers will also be provided arctic tents and special high-nutrient diet

Troops will also be provided arctic tents, high-nutrient diet

tinted during winter in eastern Ladakh. Under normal circumstances, there are no more than two brigades (around 10,000 troops). This year, 30,000 additional troops have been stationed since May to ward off any misadventure by China.

Clothing and boots are provided in multiple pairs as they tend to get wet in the snow. Just the clothing and gear to tackle the cold — night temperatures are expected to hover around minus 30°C in peak winter — will cost over Rs 1 lakh for each soldier, sources said.

Normally, patrolling is curtailed in winter. But this time, it is expected to be different as the People's Liberation Army is stationed just across the LAC. The winter set in in the first week of September.

PM: India at forefront of vaccine development

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

Asserting that future would be shaped by societies that invest in science and innovation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday cited India's handling of Covid to state that the country's scientific institutions were its "greatest assets and had done wonders" in tackling the disease.

In his virtual keynote address at the Grand Challenges Annual Meeting, he said India was at the forefront of Covid vaccine develop-

ment and that some of the vaccine candidates were in advanced stages of the trial.

With India's experience and research talent, the country would be at the "centre of global healthcare effort" and will want to help other nations, he said, noting that more than 60 per cent of vaccines used for global immunisation programmes were produced here.

India has proven capacity for producing quality medicines and vaccine at low cost, he said. — PTI