



356 KILLED IN ISRAEL'S DEADLIEST ATTACK ON LEBANON **WORLD**



HUNT FOR MILITANTS CONTINUES FOR 3RD DAY IN KISHTWAR **J&K**



93% F&O TRADERS INCURRED LOSSES IN THREE YEARS BUSINESS

SHARE MODI'S COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING TIES: LANKAN PREZ **BACK PAGE**



Mere download of child porn an offence under POCSO and IT laws: SC

Says social media platforms can't claim exemption

SATYA PRAKASH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

Mere downloading, storage or watching of sexually explicit and abusive material involving children would amount to offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Information Technology laws, the Supreme Court ruled on Monday.

In a landmark judgment, a Bench of CJI DY Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala said, "Child sexual exploitation is one of the most heinous crimes imaginable, and the offence of child pornography is equally heinous, if not more, as in the latter the victimisation and exploitation of the child does not end with the initial act of abuse."

Writing the judgment for the Bench, Justice Pardiwala said Section 15 of the POCSO Act penalised the mere storage or possession of any pornographic material involving a child when it's done with a specific intent prescribed under the provision without requiring any actual transmis-

MADRAS HIGH COURT ORDER SET ASIDE

SC set aside Madras HC order that had said mere downloading & watching child pornography was not an offence under POCSO Act and IT Act

REPLACE TERM 'CHILD PORNOGRAPHY': BENCH

Parliament must amend POCSO Act to substitute term "child sexual exploitative and abuse material" to accurately reflect offences

Says child sexual exploitative material strips kids of their humanity and violates their fundamental rights

STRESSES BENEFITS OF SEX EDUCATION

Says promoting a comprehensive understanding of the benefits of sex education is essential for reducing the incidence of sexual crimes in the country

sion, dissemination etc. "We are of the considered view, that wherever a person indulges in any activity such as viewing, distributing or displaying, etc.,

pertaining to any child pornographic material without actually possessing or storing it in any device or in any form or manner, such act would still (be) tantamount to 'possession' in terms of Section 15 of the POCSO, if he exercised an invariable degree of control over such material, applying the aforesaid doctrine of constructive possession," Justice Pardiwala wrote.

It directed courts across India not to use the term "child pornography", saying it failed to capture the full extent of the crime and could lead to a trivialisation of the crime, undermining the victimisation. "We... forbid the courts from using the term 'child pornography' and instead the term 'child sexual exploitative and abuse material' (CSEAM) should be used in judicial orders and judgments of all courts across the country which involved the actual abuse of a child," the Bench said.

The top court said: "Parliament should seriously consider bringing about an amendment to the POCSO (Act) for

Humanity's future doesn't lie on the battlefield: PM Modi at UN summit

AJAY BANERJEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the "success of humanity lies in our collective strength, not on the battlefield". He was addressing the UN Summit of the Future held against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Gaza conflict.

Speaking in Hindi, Modi said he was representing 140 crore people or one-sixth of humanity. He stressed the need for having a human-centric approach. "When we are discussing global future, we must accord the highest priority to a human-centric approach. While prioritising sustainable development, we must ensure welfare, food and health security," he said.

He mentioned how India had lifted 25 crore citizens out of poverty, saying that the country had demonstrated that sustainable development could be a success. "We are ready to share this success with the entire Global South community," said Modi.

In August, India had hosted the third Global South summit in the digital format, which was attended by 129 countries.



HOLDS TALKS WITH NEPALESE PM

On the sidelines of a United Nations meet in New York, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also met Nepalese counterpart KP Sharma Oli

"The India-Nepal friendship is very robust... Our talks focused on issues such as energy, technology and trade," Modi said in a post on X

Modi also met Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Sabah. This was the first meeting between the PM and the Crown Prince of Kuwait

<< Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas in New York. ANI

Worried over Gaza crisis, tells Palestine Prez

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23 Amid the ongoing strife in West Asia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas on the sidelines of the UN Summit of the Future in New York on Sunday.

The Ministry of External Affairs posted details of the meeting on its website on Monday morning (Indian time) saying, "The PM expressed deep concern over the

humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza and the deteriorating security situation in the region, and reaffirmed India's unwavering support to the people of Palestine."

The meeting came days after India abstained in the UN General Assembly on a resolution that demanded that Israel bring an end, "without delay", to its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory within 12 months. The 193-

member General Assembly adopted the resolution with 124 nations voting in favour, 14 against and 43 abstentions.

Modi reiterated India's time-tested principled position to Abbas on the Israel-Palestine issue and called for a ceasefire, release of hostages and return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy. Modi said, "Only a two-state solution will deliver enduring

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TNGuv: Secularism European concept, not needed in India

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi on Monday sparked a debate by saying that secularism was a European concept that was not needed in India. Addressing an event in Kanyakumari, he said, "Lot of frauds have been committed with the people of this country, and one of them is that they have been given a wrong interpretation of secularism." He said secularism was a European concept and should remain there as there was no need for it in India. **INSIDE**

Badlapur accused opens fire, shot dead by police

MUMBAI: The man accused of sexually assaulting two girls at a school in Badlapur town of Maharashtra died in retaliatory firing by police after he snatched a cop's gun and opened fire, an official said on Monday. Akshay Shinde, who worked as a sweeper in the school, snatched the revolver of one of the policemen taking him from Talaja jail to Badlapur on Monday, the official said. He was rushed to a hospital in Kalwa where he succumbed to his injuries. **BACK PAGE**

J&K poll campaign for 2nd phase ends

SRINAGAR: The campaigning for the second phase of the Assembly elections in J&K concluded on Monday as leaders tried to woo voters of 26 constituencies spread across six districts of the UT. According to an official spokesperson, over 25.78 lakh voters will decide the fate of 239 candidates on Wednesday. The second phase of the elections will cover 26 Assembly segments, including Ganderbal, Srinagar and Budgam in Kashmir division, and Reasi, Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu division. **INSIDE**

MUSICAL CHAIRS?



AAP leader Atishi takes over as the eighth Delhi CM on Monday. She left the chair used by her predecessor Arvind Kejriwal vacant, expressing the hope that he would occupy it soon. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MANAS RANJAN BHUI

5 first-time MLAs join Mann Cabinet

Three from Malwa region, two Doaba | CM reallocates 3 of his portfolios

RUCHIKA M KHANNA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23 Midway through its five-year tenure, the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP government inducted five first-time MLAs into the Cabinet by dropping four sitting ministers here today.

Governor Gulab Chand Kataria administered the oath of office and secrecy to Hardeep Singh Mundian, Barinder Kumar Goyal, Tarunpreet Singh Sond, Dr Ravjot Singh and Mohinder Bhagat in CM Mann's presence at the Punjab Raj Bhawan.

The CM also redistributed three key portfolios held by him — Housing, Jails, and Industry and Commerce — among his ministers. Mann now holds nine portfolios — Personnel, Home Affairs and Justice, General Administration, Vigilance, Cooperation, Legal Affairs, Civil Aviation, Science & Technology and Environment, and Sports and Youth Welfare.

The fourth Cabinet reshuffle clearly bears the stamp of AAP's central leadership. Sources told *The Tribune* the central leadership led by AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal had sought a list of "honest MLAs" from party MPs,



From left: Dr Ravjot Singh, Tarunpreet Singh Sond, Barinder Kumar Goyal, Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, CM Bhagwant Mann, Hardeep Singh Mundian and Mohinder Bhagat at Punjab Raj Bhawan in Chandigarh. ANI

CM SACKS OSD OVERSEEING DHURI SEGMENT AMID COMPLAINTS

Mann on Monday sacked his OSD Prof Onkar Singh following multiple complaints, including one by a Delhi MLA who had campaigned in Jalandhar West in July

Mann had appointed Onkar, who hails from a village near Lambi, OSD to the Chairman of Punjab Rural Development Board, a charge held by the CM

Onkar's term was co-terminus with that of CM; considered Mann's close aide, he oversaw CM's Dhuri segment had earlier taught at Punjabi University, Patiala

some ministers and key leaders. Sitting ministers Chetan Singh Jouramajra, Anmol Gagan Maan, Brahm Shankar Jimpa and Balkaur Singh had resigned from the Cabinet yesterday. While Mundian has got the Housing

department, besides Revenue, Water Supply and Sanitation, Sond has been assigned Industry as also Rural Development, Investment Promotion, Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Labour and Hospitality. The Jails

department has been given to sitting minister Laljit Singh Bhullar, who, however, has been divested of the charge of Rural Development. Goyal has been assigned Mines and Geology, Water Resources

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At Y'nagar rally, Shah attacks Congress, calls it anti-Dalit

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
& ANIL KAKKAR

YAMUNANAGAR/SIRSA, SEPT 23 Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday alleged that the Congress had always followed the policy of appeasement for vote bank and was anti-Dalit. He was addressing Jan Ashirwad rallies at Jagadhri and Tohana in Fatehabad.

He alleged that the Congress wanted to release terrorists and stone-pelters from jails,

but it would never happen. "As long as every person of the BJP is alive, we will not let terrorism flourish in Haryana, Punjab and Kashmir," he said. Calling Haryana as the land of brave warriors, Shah accused the Congress of rampant corruption during its rule, highlighting the party's failure to implement the 'One Rank, One Pension' scheme, and specifically targeted Rahul, alleging that he

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Selja slams BJP overtures, says Cong is in her blood

BHARTESH SINGH THAKUR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

Sirsa MP and former minister Kumari Selja today hit back at BJP leaders asking her to join the saffron party. She said those making these statements were much junior to her in politics.

"I have a much longer political career than most BJP leaders issuing such statements. Don't counsel me. My party and I will decide my path. We

To start campaign for party soon

will move forward with full strength...They are creating confusion...The Congress is in my blood," she said.

Recently, Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had extended her an offer to join the BJP. On reports of her being miffed with the Congress, she said, "It appears

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Haryana Congress ex-MLA's arrest by ED illegal, says HC

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Monday allowed former MLA and Congress' Sonepat candidate Surrender Panwar's petition against the ED for declaring his arrest illegal. Panwar's contention was that his arrest and detention in the matter were driven by political motives, rather than legitimate legal grounds, and that the legal process was not properly followed by the authorities concerned. **INSIDE**

Laapataa Ladies finds way to Oscars, is official entry for Best Foreign Film



Filmmaker Kiran Rao in Mumbai after her film *Laapataa Ladies* was picked as India's official entry for the 2025 Oscars. PTI

INDIA's official entry to Oscars, more often than not, causes heartburn. But with Kiran Rao's heart-warming *Laapataa Ladies* becoming India's bet in the Best Foreign Film Category for Oscars 2025, the naysayers are likely to be on the same page as cine buffs. Since its release in 2024, the film has emerged as the favourite of viewers and critics alike. In competition with big-time grossers like *Ani-*

mal and the much-feted ones like Payal Kapadia's *All We Imagine As Light*, this joyous fare, busting patriarchy, was one of the 29 films in contention.

In a unanimous vote, it was selected by the Film Federation of India's 13-member committee, headed by Assamese director Jahnur Barua. Sceptics, however, will wonder why Kapadia's Cannes winner was snubbed, and might link the selection to one of *Laapataa Ladies* producers, Jio Studios —

part of Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Limited.

Yet, one can't take away the beauty of Rao's second directorial film, which lies in its simplicity and felicity to drive home a message or two on women empowerment in a light-hearted manner. The film, with no big stars to boast of, earlier, was a limited box office success. But it got more attention and praise when it streamed on Netflix.

Its citation, "Indian women are a strange mixture of submission and dominance. Well-

defined, powerful characters in one world, *Laapataa Ladies* (Hindi) captures this diversity perfectly, though in a semi-idyllic world and in a tongue-in-cheek way," is on point.

Set in 2001, can this socially relevant comedy, entertaining and meaningful at the same time, fetch India the elusive Oscar for the Best Foreign Film?

India's Oscar race, even in the best of times, has been restricted to a few rays of sunshine, like in 2023, when it won two Oscars for Best Song

(*Naatu Naatu*) and Best Documentary Short (*The Elephant Whispers*). Best Film honour, even in foreign language, however, is elusive.

Much has been written about why a country that produces hundreds of films each year can't make the Oscar cut, but there are no easy answers. Often, the reasons are convenient: not picking the better film as official entry, or not having sufficient budget to publicise the film among the voting members of the Academy.

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BJP candidates heckled: Union tells farmers to show restraint

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMBALA, SEPTEMBER 23

A day after BJP candidates faced massive protest in Naraingarh and Ambala Cantonment, BKU (Shaheed Bhagat Singh) spokesman Tejveer Singh urged farmer activists to stay disciplined, maintain peace and brotherhood.

On Sunday, BJP Ambala Cantonment candidate Anil Vij, and Naraingarh candidate Pawan Saini faced protests from farmers. Saini was surrounded by farmers and police officials had a tough time in ensuring him a safe passage.

Singh said: "We have appealed to the activists and young farmers to maintain peace while questioning the candidates. The union has prepared its nine-point demand charter and it has been decided to ask the questions from candidates of both ruling and opposition parties. All efforts are being made to maintain peace and discipline."

Former MLA Panwar's arrest by ED illegal, declares HC

SAURABH MALIK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

In a major relief to former MLA and Congress' Sonepat candidate Surender Panwar, the Punjab and Haryana High Court today allowed his petition against the Directorate of Enforcement for declaring his arrest illegal. The order was pronounced in the open court today by Justice Mahabir Singh Sindhu of the high court, but the detailed judgment was not yet available.

Panwar's contention was that his arrest and detention in the matter were driven by political motives, rather than legitimate legal grounds, and that the legal process was not properly followed by the authorities concerned.

In his petition placed before Justice Sindhu's Bench, Panwar was also seeking directions for declaring his arrest "non-



'DRIVEN BY POLITICAL MOTIVES'

Congress' Sonepat candidate Surender Panwar's contention was that his arrest and detention in the matter were driven by political motives, rather than legitimate legal grounds, and that the legal process was not properly followed by the authorities concerned.

and against the statutory provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the provisions of the Constitution.

Among other things, Panwar through senior advocate RS Cheema with Arshdeep Singh Cheema and Tanu Bedi submitted that his politically motivated arrest was linked to the upcoming state Assembly elections and a part of vendetta. He was not named in the original FIRs and had no direct involvement in the alleged crimes, but was

arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

"His arrest is due to political reasons, being one of the few arrested among many accused. The ED repeatedly sought the petitioner's custody remand on similar grounds, asserting non-cooperation, misleading behaviour, and the need for confrontation with others. The petitioner challenges these claims, arguing that no new evidence was presented to justify the continued custody. The special court initially granted remand, but ultimately

rejected the final request for an extension, noting the repetitive and unsubstantial nature of the ED's applications," it was added.

The Bench was also told that the petitioner's counsel at the onset raised objections to the remand process, pointing out that the grounds for arrest were not properly provided and that the remand applications lacked specificity and legal basis.

The special court's initial remand orders were criticised for not adhering to legal principles, particularly in light of the petitioner's cooperation with the investigation. The special court eventually denied further custody, agreeing with the petitioner's counsel that no substantial grounds were presented by the ED to justify continued detention. The petitioner was subsequently placed in judicial custody, his counsel added.



Samiksha, daughter-in-law of Surender Panwar, along with supporters celebrates in Sonepat.

Cong campaign gets boost in Sonepat

MUKESH TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SONEPAT, SEPTEMBER 23

The campaign of Congress candidate Surender Panwar got a boost after the Punjab and Haryana High Court declared his arrest by the ED illegal in a money laundering case. The judgement will be delivered tomorrow and in all likelihood he would be set free, paving the way for him to take the command of the campaign.

As the news reached his supporters, they gathered at Panwar's residence and celebrated. The ED arrested Panwar in connection with a money laundering and illegal mining case on July 20. But, the Congress trusted him and fielded him from Sonepat. He reached Sonepat on September 12 to file his nomination in custody. He had filed a petition against the ED for declaring his arrest illegal in the high court.

In the absence of Panwar, his son Lalit Panwar and daughter-in-law Samiksha Panwar were leading his campaign in the Sonepat segment. Congress media in charge Manoj Rihau said most likely Panwar would be released tomorrow and he would join the election campaign from Wednesday. He said ex-CM Bhopinder Singh Hooda would address a rally in the old grain market in Sonepat in support of Panwar.

Will reopen Shambhu border after forming govt, asserts Hooda

NITISH SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMBALA, SEPTEMBER 23

Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda today slammed the BJP government for keeping the Shambhu border barricaded and said after the Congress came to power, he would reopen the Haryana-Punjab border.

The Shambhu border has been lying closed due to the ongoing farmers' protest since February. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who was scheduled to address the rally today couldn't reach as he had been advised rest.

Addressing the rally in Ambala City in support of party candidate Nirmal Singh, Hooda said, "The people of Haryana have compared the 10-year tenures of the Congress and the BJP, and have decided to form the Congress government in Haryana. During the Congress rule, Haryana was No. 1 in terms of development, but under the BJP's rule, Haryana is No. 1 in unemployment, inflation, corruption and crime."



'SELJA NOT UPSET, DEDICATED TO CONG'

Kamal: Calling Selja a senior and dedicated Congress leader, Former CM Bhopinder Singh Hooda on Monday dismissed rumours of her being upset. "Selja is a senior leader of Congress and comes from a long line of Congress loyalists," said Hooda in response to a question on the sidelines of a rally in Gharaunda in favour of party candidate Virender Rathore. TNS

Former CM Bhopinder Singh Hooda at a rally in Gharaunda.

mer CM said, "India is a democratic country. I fail to understand why the farmers were stopped at the Shambhu border in an undemocratic manner. The government should have listened to the farmers and resolved their problems but they were cane-charged."

"After forming the government, we will try and open the border. The Congress will also give a legal guarantee of MSP to farmers in Haryana. Even in the Centre, we have a strong

leader (Rahul Gandhi). We will force the Modi government to give a legal guarantee of the MSP to the farmers and implement the recommendations of Swaminathan report," he said.

Party's Mullana Assembly candidate Pujja Chaudhry and Yamunanagar candidate Raman Tayagi were also present in the rally. However, Ambala Cantonment candidate Parvinder Pari and Naraingarh candidate Shalley Chaudhary, who belong to Kumari Selja fac-

tion, were not there.

However, in his appeal, the former CM called upon the voters to vote in the favour of the Congress candidates in Ambala Cantonment and Naraingarh.

Congress state president Udai Bhan said, "The Haryana CM should apologise to the people of Haryana for mistakes in the family IDs and 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora', causing harassment to the old-aged persons and farmers."

Former CM vows 2 lakh jobs on merit

RAVINDER SAINI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, SEPTEMBER 23

Former CM Bhopinder Singh Hooda said 2 lakh permanent recruitments would be provided to the youth on the basis of merit if the Congress was voted to power in the state. He also assured that Congress was committed to eliminating the paper leak and recruitment mafia. Hooda, who was accompanied by Congress state president Udai Bhan here on Monday, said this in his response to a question posed by the mediapersons.

On the occasion, BJP Mahila Morcha state vice-president Neena Rathee and her husband Satpal Rathi, who is the state vice-president of BJP Kisan Morcha, joined the Congress.

Hooda claimed that the BJP was resorting to lies as there was panic among the leaders over its impending defeat. "To deceive the unemployed youth, the BJP is now talking about providing a large number of jobs to them, but this government kept the recruitments hanging for the five years," he said.

Khatter was sad after his removal as CM, wanted to join Cong Khara

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

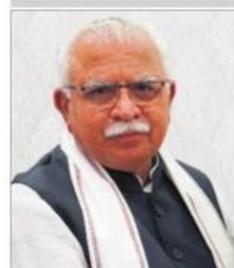
Congress senior leader Pawan Khara today alleged that Union Minister of Power and Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar, approached the Congress after being removed from the Chief Minister's post.

Holding a press conference, Khara, who is the chairman of the media and publicity department of the AICC, said Khattar was very sad after his removal and had sent messages expressing his desire to join, along with some associates. "It couldn't have materialised. It didn't materialise... one of our top leaders will reveal the whole story. Let him deny it," he added.

While criticising the last 10 years of the BJP rule, Khara questioned why, after keeping Manohar Lal Khattar in the CM's seat for nine and a half years, he was suddenly removed, and why his face was now missing from the posters. The BJP leadership has yet to clarify this, Khara added.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi often covered up India's poverty to hide it from foreign guests and he did

Asks BJP why ex-CM missing from posters



something similar in the case of Khattar. However, covering up Khattar's failures wouldn't quell the anger of the people of Haryana this time. "Voters are so furious that when they press the EVM button, there is a real danger that the machines may break down," he said.

Khara denied the allegations of internal discord within the Congress. He acknowledged that some individuals might be upset but stressed misunderstandings were common in any family and that the party was united for the upcoming elections.

When asked about Kumari Selja's reported displeasure,

Khara said she herself had dismissed these claims, while the BJP was exploiting the issue for petty political gain. He pointed out that everyone was aware of how the BJP had disrespected its senior leaders.

He also claimed that Khattar was allegedly working to defeat his own party's candidates. "We know who is conspiring there to defeat each other. A senior leader of the BJP was in touch until the announcement of the last list of tickets, but it didn't materialise."

When questioned about the BJP portraying the Selja issue as an insult to Dalits, Khara responded that if Dalits had faced the most atrocities, it had been during the BJP rule. He added that the BJP had appointed only one Dalit president in its history, and even he was removed in a humiliating manner, whereas the Congress has appointed four Dalit presidents.

On reservations, Khara said the Congress had never opposed reservations and never would. He reiterated that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has clearly stated that as long as inequality existed, reservations would continue.

DECLARATION ABOUT CRIMINAL CASES

(As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of candidate: Vardhan Yadav, R/o H. No. Badshahpur, Block 4, Tyagi Mohalla, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122018

Name of political Party: Indian National Congress

Name of Election: Haryana Legislative Assembly Elections 2024

*Name of Constituency: 76 - Badshahpur Assembly Constituency I, Vardhan Yadav, a candidate for the abovementioned el

(A) Pending criminal cases

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Case No. and dated	Status of case(s)	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)
1.	Ld. MM Court, Tis Hazari (Central District), New Delhi	Cr. Case 295096/2016 Fir dt. 21.12.2011	Charges not framed	Section 420, 467, 468, 471, 120b, Indian Penal Code, 1860
2.	Ld. MM Court, Tis Hazari (Central District), New Delhi	Cr. Case 295097/2016 Fir dt. 19.12.2011	Charges not framed	Section 420, 467, 468, 471, 120b, Indian Penal Code, 1860

(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences

Sl. No.	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	Maximum Punishment Imposed
Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

Rao Inderjit's prestige at stake in Ateli

RAVINDER SAINI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MAHENDRAGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

The Ateli Assembly constituency has become a hot seat following the entry of Arti Singh Rao (45), daughter of Union Minister and Ahir stalwart Rao Inderjit Singh, in the electoral battle. This is her debut Assembly election. She is locked in a multi-cornered contest in this Ahir-dominated constituency being represented by BJP MLAs for the past two elections.

Interestingly, three women are among the main contestants and two of them are trying their luck in the electoral battle for the first time. Besides Arti, another debutant Aayushi Yadav (37), a niece of former minister and BJP candidate from Badshahpur (Gurugram) Rao Narbir Singh, has been fielded by the JJP. Aayushi had served as a sarpanch of Shaharanw village in Rewari district.

The third woman is Anita Yadav (60), a three-time former MLA, who is in the fray on the Congress ticket. She also served as the Chief Parliament



Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh and his daughter Arti during a poll meeting in Ateli constituency of Mahendragarh. TRIBUNE PHOTO

ary Secretary (CPS) in the then Congress government led by Bhopinder Singh Hooda.

Thakur Attar Lal (66) has again jumped into the battle as the BSP candidate. He had sprung a surprise in the previous Assembly polls in 2019 by emerging a runner-up with 37,387 votes. A considerable number of Rajput votes and the cadre of BSP in the constituency have brought him

in the main contest. Suneel Rao is trying his fortune on the AAP ticket. Rao is the brother-in-law of Bollywood actor Rajkumar Rao.

Arti Singh Rao is seeking votes by striking an emotional chord with voters during her poll campaign. "I have come here to be part of your joys and sorrows. My grandfather, Rao Birender Singh, became the Chief Minister

after he won from Ateli. My father has also worked here. It is your affection that you have never left my family. Whenever my family has come here, you have supported us wholeheartedly," she asks the people.

Arti has also promised the people of ensuring holistic development of Ateli constituency. His father Rao Inderjit too is carrying out canvassing for her. Rao Inderjit, a six-time MP and a four-time MLA, is an influential leader of the Ahirwal region.

Similarly, Anita Yadav is seeking votes on the basis of development works undertaken in the constituency during the previous Congress regime. She is also banking upon the anti-incumbency of the BJP government. Besides them, Thakur Attar Lal and Aayushi Yadav are putting both — the BJP and the Congress — in the dock in terms of development in Ateli during their regimes.

Thakur is promising to set up industrial model township (IMT) in the constituency to generate employment avenues for locals.

Govt disrupting my campaign, says Deepender

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JHAJJAR, SEPTEMBER 23

Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda has claimed that the Congress' poll programmes are being disrupted by the district administration concerned by not making proper police arrangement for that. It is happening almost every day.

"We had the permission to land our chopper in Pundri for a poll meeting but no police arrangement was made there. It forced the chopper to take off immediately after dropping us there. It is not good for democracy. We too have an equal right to do canvassing for our candidates. We will approach the Election Commission of India in this respect," said Deepender while talking to the media here today.

Earlier, the MP addressed a series of poll meetings in various villages of Beri and Badli Assembly constituencies. He said the day which was eagerly awaited by the people of Haryana has arrived.

MANAGING CROP RESIDUE-V: The Tribune deep dives into factors behind annual farm-fire crisis

Farmers turn motivators, lead fight against farm fires

DEEPAK KAL KAUR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, SEPTEMBER 23
More than any environmentalist, it is the farmers themselves who have become the biggest motivators for their own community urging them to shun the practice of burning stubble.

Sarwan Singh of Naseerwal village of Sultanpur Lodhi has been going around in villages of Kapurthala district, informing farmers about the benefits of using a combination of plough, rotavator and mulcher machines for in-situ management of paddy straw.

Growing paddy on 100 acres, the farmer says, "Officials from the Agriculture Department and Punjab Agricultural University have prepared a schedule of seminars and demonstrations for me. It has been 10-12 years since I stopped setting my fields on fire. Now, almost 95 per cent farmers in my area, most of whom follow three-crop-a-year pattern of paddy-potato-maize, are using the in-situ technique and are getting increased yield of potato, ranging from 80 to 100 quintals/acre. The fertiliser requirement has also gone down to almost half."

Like him, there are other farmers in Kapurthala, including Gurnam Singh Mutti and Hardev Singh, whose fields are used as demonstration sites by the Agriculture



LEADING BY EXAMPLE Sarwan Singh (centre) along with the agriculture officer of Naseerwal village of Sultanpur Lodhi encourages farmers to go in for in-situ management of paddy straw. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Department and PAU teams. For the farmers preferring ex-situ management, there are several options available in the region. MD of the Rana Sugar Mills and Sultanpur Lodhi MLA Rana Indar Paratap says he has been going around and telling farmers not to burn paddy straw and instead use the services of baler operators.

"We have tied up with people collectively owning 125-150 balers in the area. They lift 20,000 tonne paddy straw every year covering around 1 lakh acres. We have set up stockyards for paddy straw around our two sugar mill units at Baba Bakala and Tarn Taran. Both our mills use paddy straw for fuel in boilers," he said.

Likewise, Nakodar-based

farmers have also an option of ex-situ management of paddy straw. About 80,000 tonne stubble from 40 villages in the area is fed to the 6MW private power plant at Bir Pind here.

Nakodar MLA and farmer herself Inderjit Kaur Mann says, "Those operating baler machines in Nakodar, Mehatpur, Nurmahal and even Shahkot areas have been bringing in straw to the plant. The plant also uses wheat and maize straw as raw material. The plant has been operational for the past 12-13 years and has been a huge profitable asset for the owner. There are hardly any farmers in our area who set farms on fire. I have urged the administration to issue a strict warning to anyone indulging in such

a practice this time to end the menace completely."

Even the administrative officials are on the alert. A complete roadmap to check farm fires has been planned in Hoshiarpur, which saw 118 fire cases last year. "We shall be managing 50 per cent stubble via in-situ measures. About 25 per cent straw will be diverted to the Gujjar community that uses it as fodder for animals. For the remaining 25 per cent straw, we have tied up with the industry in the district as well as nearby areas of Himachal for use as fuel. We also have a paddy straw pellet manufacturing unit in Hoshiarpur that utilises 10,000 tonne straw," said Komal Mittal, Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur.

Patiala law varsity shut amidst protests over VC's hostel visit

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, SEPTEMBER 23

The Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL) in Patiala has been closed indefinitely following escalating tensions between university authorities and students. The conflict began after Vice Chancellor Prof Jai Shankar Singh allegedly entered the girls' hostel without prior notice, prompting protests. Students have accused the VC of infringing on their privacy and making inappropriate comments during his visit.

The incident, which took place on Sunday, sparked an overnight sit-in protest outside the VC's office, with students demanding his resignation. According to a representation sent to the university Chancellor, the VC's unannounced entry into girls' students' rooms led to uncomfortable situations. The VC defended his actions, stating that his visit aimed to address complaints about students smoking and drinking after midnight. He reportedly referred to the students as his "daughters" and dismissed concerns about his behaviour. In response to the protests, the university has formed a nine-member committee to mediate, but students have refused to engage, insisting on speaking directly with the VC. The administration has now closed the university until further notice.

Efforts to contact the VC for his response have been unsuccessful.

प्रत्येक परिवार को ₹10 लाख तक मुफ्त इलाज मिलेगा
70 वर्ष से अधिक आयु के वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को ₹5 लाख का मुफ्त इलाज

भरोसा दिल से बीजेपी फिर से

कमल का बटन दबाएं बीजेपी को जिताने

New postings for 124 officers

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23
In a major administrative reshuffle on Monday night, 25 IAS and 99 PCS officers were issued new posting orders.

Amongst IAS officers, Rahul Bhandari, who was without posting for the past several months, has been

given charge of the Animal Husbandry Department. DK Tiwari has been given additional charge of the Transport Department. Pathankot has got a new DC in Aditya Uppal. Abhijit Kaplish is the new Director of Mines and Geology. — TNS

ADDRESSING ISSUE OF DETERIORATING AIR QUALITY IN DELHI-NCR

PMO reviews stubble burning challenge, asks Punjab, Haryana, UP to keep pledges

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

Ahead of the stubble burning season, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister PK Mishra on Monday chaired a high-level task force meeting on air pollution in Delhi-NCR and instructed Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to implement anti stubble burning plans as committed.

The meeting was held to assess readiness of stakeholders in addressing the issue of deteriorating air quality in Delhi-NCR, particularly as the winter season approaches.

A government note said the meeting focused on evaluating ongoing efforts to tackle pollution from various sources, including paddy stubble burning, vehicular emissions, road and construction dust, solid waste management, and diesel generator sets.

Chairman, Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), Rajesh Verma, present at the meeting gave details on the upcoming paddy straw generation, estimating 19.52 million tonnes in Punjab and



Commuters on a road shrouded in smog amid hazy weather conditions in New Delhi. PTI FILE

CHIEF SECYS TOLD TO MONITOR, IMPLEMENT ACTION PLANS

- PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to PM, asked Chief Secretaries of Punjab, Haryana, and UP to rigorously monitor and implement action plans aimed at eliminating stubble burning, as committed in their action plans
- He stressed the need for full utilisation of crop residue management machines,
- strengthening the supply chain for ex-situ management and supporting small industries in briquetting and pelletising operations to enhance the economic use of paddy straw
- Strict enforcement actions against violators, with appropriate penalties and record entries, were also highlighted at the meeting

8.10 million tonnes in Haryana. "Both states have committed to eliminating stubble burning this year. Punjab plans to manage 11.5 million tonnes of its paddy straw through in-situ crop residue management and the rest via ex-situ methods. Haryana will similarly manage 3.3 million tonnes in-situ and use ex-situ methods for the remainder. Over 1.50 lakh crop

residue management (CRM) machines will be available in Punjab, supported by 24,736 Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs), while Haryana has 90,945 CRM machines supported by 6,794 CHCs. In addition, 2 million tonnes of paddy straw will be co-fired in 11 thermal power plants across the NCR region," a government note said.

The meeting stressed the need for regular monitoring of thermal plants to ensure co-firing targets are met, with penalties for non-compliance. Mishra emphasised the critical importance of strict and timely implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan by all relevant agencies to mitigate worsening air quality during the winter months.

Akali Dal factions to celebrate 100th birth anniv of Tohra today

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, SEPTEMBER 23

Years after his death, the Shiromani Akali Dal and its breakaway faction are finally united over the issue of celebrating the 100th birth anniversary of late Akali stalwart Jathedar Gurcharan Singh Tohra on Tuesday, albeit separately.

Both factions eye the rich legacy of Tohra who was the longest serving president of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and still commands a lot of respect among the panthic Sikh vote bank, a rarity for anyone who died almost over two decades ago.

The Shiromani Akali Dal and the rebels who have formed the SAD Sudhar Lehar want to make the most of the Tohra's rich panthic legacy with separate programmes planned for Tuesday. The SAD will celebrate Tohra's 100th birth anniversary at Gurdwara Dukhniwaran Sahib where the SAD working president Balwinder Singh Bhunder will lead the events. The event is



likely to be attended by almost the entire senior SAD leadership, including former ministers and SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhani among others. Following the bhog, there will be a kirtan darbar to be attended by SAD leaders and workers.

The other faction, which includes former ministers Prem Singh Chandumajra, Surjit Singh Rakhra and Tohra's family, has planned a parallel event at Tohra village. "Tohra Sahib was a tall leader and we are holding an event at his native village to be attended by his family and all other leaders who believe in his rich legacy. The SAD event in Patiala is merely opportunist politics to cash in on panthic votes," said Prem Singh Chandumajra.

R. O. : HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, West Mumbai.
Branch Office: Narnaud District, Haryana, Haryana

POSSESSION NOTICE APPENDIX IV (RULE 8(1))

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the HDFC BANK LTD. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(1)(c) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice dated 08/07/2024 calling upon the borrower(s) **Sumit Lamba S/o Dinesh Lamba** Rio 947/13 Jagdish Colony Hansi Haryana, Pin Code 125033 Ph. No. 9812058279. Applicant / Borrower **Meenakshi w/o Sumit Lamba** Rio 947/13 Jagdish Colony Hansi Haryana, Pin Code 125033 Ph. No. 9812058279. Co Borrower **Rampyari W/o Dinesh Lamba** Rio 947/13 Jagdish Colony Hansi Haryana, Pin Code 125033 Ph. No. 9812058279. Also At: **Rampyari w/o Dinesh Lamba** Rio Bearing House Tax Unit No. 486/13, measuring 65.5 Sq. yards residential 12 Sq. yards Commercial - 77.5 Sq. yards situated at Jind Road, Near Multan Nagar Colony, Tehsil Hansi & Distt Haryana. Co Borrower **Abhishek s/o Ajit Singh** Rio Keri Gagan (123) Hansi, Haryana, Pin Code 125049 Ph. No. 7988842199. Guarantor to pay the amount mentioned in the notice Rs. 57,64,822/- (Fifty Seven Lacs Sixty Four Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Two Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002 on this **21st day of Sep., 2024 (Saturday).**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to charge of HDFC BANK LTD. for an amount of Rs. 57,64,822/- and interest thereon together with expenses and charges etc, less amount paid if any.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY : Schedule A- Property Bearing House Tax Unit No. 486/13, measuring 65.5 Sq.yards Residential 12 Sq. yards commercial - 77.5 yards situated at Jind Road, Near Multan Nagar Colony, Tehsil Hansi & Distt. Haryana. East-Danda 31'-00" House of Sh. Bharat Singh, West-Danda 31'-00" Plot of other. North-Danda 22'-06" Property of others. South - Danda 22'-06" Jind Road.

Authorised Signatory,
HDFC Bank Ltd.

Date: 21.09.2024 Place: Narnaud, Haryana, Hry.

Form No. 3 [See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)
SCD 33-34-35, F.F. Sector 17-A, Chandigarh (additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)

Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1983.
Exh. No. 23696 **SUMMONS** Case No. OA/519/2024

HDFC Bank Vs Baljeet Singh

1. Baljeet Singh S/o Nachhattar Singh Baljeet Singh Son of Nachhattar Singh R/o Village Patli Dabar 59, Tehsil and District Sirsa, Haryana 125054
2. Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal S/o Nachhattar Singh Village Patli Dabar 59, Sirsa, Haryana 125054
3. Parminder Kaur W/o Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal Village Patli Dabar 59, Sirsa, Haryana 125054
4. Nachhattar Singh S/o Bhag Singh Village Patli Dabar 59, Sirsa, Haryana 125054
5. Harpreet Singh S/o Mool Singh Village Patli Dabar 59, Sirsa, Haryana 125054

WHEREAS, OA/519/2024 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 14.08.2024.

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act. (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 82,10,567/- (Application along with copies of documents etc. annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

(i). to show cause within thirty days of the service or summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii). to disclose Particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the Application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and Properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 03/10/2024 at 10:30A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 17.08.2024 **Sd/-**
Signature of the officer Authorised to Issue Summons.

CM inaugurates 30 Aam Aadmi Clinics

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHAUKE (BATHINDA), SEPT 23

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann criticised those who he claimed were spreading falsehoods to derail the state's progress. Speaking at the inauguration of 30 new Aam Aadmi Clinics, Mann accused his predecessors of neglecting the state's welfare, prioritising their own interests instead.

He took aim at SAD leader Sukhbir Singh Badal, claiming that despite his tenure as the Deputy Chief Minister, Badal remained ignorant about the state's basic geography. Mann quipped that Badal couldn't even differentiate between a pumpkin (kaddu) and a bottle gourd (lauki), suggesting that such leaders had deceived the public for years. He emphasised that the common people have

now chosen a government that truly represents them. Highlighting the government's achievements, Mann mentioned the ongoing construction of the Malwa canal, which he believes will bring unprecedented progress and prosperity to the region. He also spoke about the "Sarkar Tuhaade Dwaar" initiative, which aims to provide citizen-centric services through village-level camps.

Bajwa first Sikh candidate in Austrian parliamentary poll

AVNEET KAUR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, SEPTEMBER 23

Gurdial Singh Bajwa, a 51-year-old Sikh man of Indian origin, is set to contest the Austrian National Council elections. Representing the Social Democratic Party of Austria (SPÖ), Bajwa will run for the Gaensersdorf and Bruck an der Leitha constituencies in the elections scheduled for September 29.

Bajwa's candidacy is a proud moment for Austria's Indian and Sikh communities, highlighting the increasing diversity in the country's political landscape. Originally from Mudowal village in Punjab's Bholath, Bajwa moved to



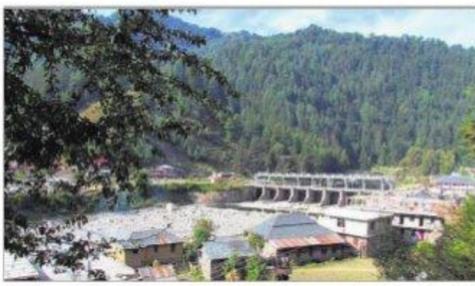
Gurdial Singh Bajwa

Austria with his family at the age of seven. Since 2020, he has served as a city councillor in Deutsch-Wagram and has also held the position of Deputy Chairman for Transport and Traffic at the Vienna Chamber of Commerce. Bajwa's dedication to pub-

lic service and social causes has earned him widespread respect. "My candidacy is not just a personal milestone, but a victory for diversity and inclusion in Austria's political landscape," he said. His campaign centres on economic growth, equality and fostering a brighter future for all Austrians, resonating with the Indian diaspora and the wider Austrian population. Despite facing challenges, including racist attacks targeting his Sikh turban, Bajwa remains committed to his mission. "If elected, I will make history as the first Sikh in the Austrian parliament, scripting a new chapter in Austria's political history," he added.

Shanan project: SC to first hear HP plea against Punjab suit's maintainability

SATYA PRAKASH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23
The Supreme Court on Monday said it would first hear the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Government's plea against the maintainability of the Bhagwant Mann Government's suit over the Shanan hydropower project. The Himachal Pradesh Government has sought the dismissal of the Punjab Government's suit against the former's attempt to take control of the Shanan Hydropower Project from the latter on the expiry of the 99-year lease. On the expiry of the lease on March 1, the Centre had asked both the states to maintain the status quo. "We will have to first hear the preliminary objections (raised by the Himachal Pradesh Government) against the suit," a Bench of Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Pankaj Mishra said on Monday, posting the matter for hearing on November 8. The British-era Shanan hydropower project at Jogindernagar in Mandi district, was constructed in 1925 under a lease executed between Raja Joginder Sen, the ruler of the then Mandi



The Shanan hydropower project at Jogindernagar in Mandi district.

state, and Col BC Batty, a British representative. The project - which used to feed the undivided Punjab, Lahore and Delhi before Independence - is said to be in a poor condition as the Punjab Government allegedly stopped its repair and maintenance work. The Punjab Government has filed an original suit against the Himachal Government and the Centre under Article 131 of the Constitution which deals with original jurisdiction of the top court in a dispute between the Centre and one or more states or a dispute between two or more states. The Punjab Government has contended that it was the owner and in lawful possession of the Shanan Power House Project and its extension project along with all assets currently under its formative control through Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd. (PSPCL), erstwhile PSEB. The Punjab Government has sought a "permanent prohibitory injunction" restraining the Himachal Pradesh Government from disturbing the lawful peaceful possession and smooth functioning of the project. Now, the Himachal Pradesh Government said the Punjab Government's suit was barred by law, didn't disclose any cause of action, and was not at all maintainable. The 1925 agreement was the basis for the project.

ect the grant of lands and the recognition of rights between the parties, it said. "Since the agreement in question has a force of law as per Section 2(f) of the 1970 Act (Himachal Act), therefore by the operation of law the suit property is vested in the state of Himachal Pradesh (Defendant No.1). Hence, the plaintiff has no cause of action to maintain the present suit against the true owner and therefore, the plaintiff is liable to be rejected as the same is barred by law as well as discloses no cause of action," the Sukhu government submitted. The Punjab Government was never a signatory to the land lease agreement; hence the present suit seek-

CONTENTIONS OF TWO GOVTS

- The Punjab Government has contended that it is the owner and in lawful possession of the Shanan hydropower project and its extension project along with all assets.
- The Punjab Government has sought a permanent prohibitory injunction, restraining the Himachal Pradesh Government from disturbing the lawful peaceful possession and smooth functioning of the project
- The Himachal Government has said the Punjab Government's suit was barred by law, as it didn't disclose any cause of action and was not at all maintainable
- On the expiry of the lease on March 1, the Centre had asked both states to maintain status quo

ing a prohibitory injunction was not maintainable against the true owner of the land, it said. A dispute arising out of a pre-Constitution treaty or agreement was not amenable to the jurisdiction of this court under Article 131 of the Constitution, it added. The top court had on March 4 issued summons to the Centre and the Himachal Government on the Punjab Government's suit against the Himachal Government's attempt to take control of the Shanan Hydropower Project from Punjab. On July 29, it had given time till September 9 to the Himachal Government and the Centre to respond to the Punjab Government's suit.

Congress threatens to sue Kangana for defamation

Mandi MP less educated, makes idiotic remarks: Minister

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 23
Mandi MP Kangana Ranaut and controversy go hand in hand. She has sparked a controversy by claiming that the "Himachal Government takes loan and then diverts it to Sonia Gandhi". The Himachal Congress is furious and the party leaders are threatening to file a defamation case against her. "The party will file a defamation case against her if she doesn't back her absurd claim with documentary evidence or seeks an apology," said Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Vikramaditya Singh here today. The livid minister went to the extent of calling Kangana "less educated" and her statement "idiotic".



PWD Minister Vikramaditya Singh addresses mediapersons at the Congress office in Shimla on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

'STATEMENT UNFORTUNATE, SHOWS HER MENTALITY'

Can someone in his or her right mind think that the money coming from the Centre will go to Sonia Gandhi? The statement is unfortunate and shows her mentality. Pratibha Singh, HPC President

"There can't be a more idiotic statement than this. It reflects her intellectual bankruptcy. She is not well educated and this gets reflected in her statements time and again," Vikramaditya said. Kangana made the allegation while interacting with mediapersons in Manali. She accused the Congress government of destroying the state and said, "the government takes loans and gives that money to Sonia Gandhi. And even if we get

disaster relief from the Central Government, it will end up with Sonia Gandhi. There's a conspiracy to destroy the state." HPC president Pratibha Singh was also upset over the Mandi MP's allegation. "Can someone in his or her right mind think that the money coming from the Centre will go to Sonia Gandhi? The statement is unfortunate and shows her mentality," she said. Kaul Singh, a senior Congress leader, said that Kangana should not be taken seriously. "In the past, she has said that India got independence after 1947 and Subhas Chandra Bose was the first Prime Minister of India. She is in a habit of making ridiculous statements and hence she should not be taken seriously," he added. Meanwhile, Vikramaditya said that the BJP should also take cognisance of her statement. "The BJP has already told her not to speak on sensitive issues but she seems uncontrollable," he added.

CM, DyCM miss meeting called to introduce co-incharge

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 23
Several ministers, Chief Parliamentary Secretaries (CPSs) and MLAs skipped a meeting held at the Congress headquarters here today. While Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu missed it for health reasons, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri and Education Minister Rohit Thakur were on tour. Other ministers had other pro-

grammes and engagements. HPC president Pratibha Singh had convened the meeting to introduce Vidit Chaudhary, All India Congress Committee (AICC) secretary and newly appointed co-incharge of the party affairs in Himachal, to the party office-bearers and discuss other issues of the party and the government. Chaudhary said that he

would make all efforts to ensure that hardworking party workers get their due in the government. "Workers are the backbone of any party and it is only due to their strength that a party comes to power. The party workers should be heard and they should get full respect," Chaudhary said while addressing office-bearers here. Chaudhary said that his

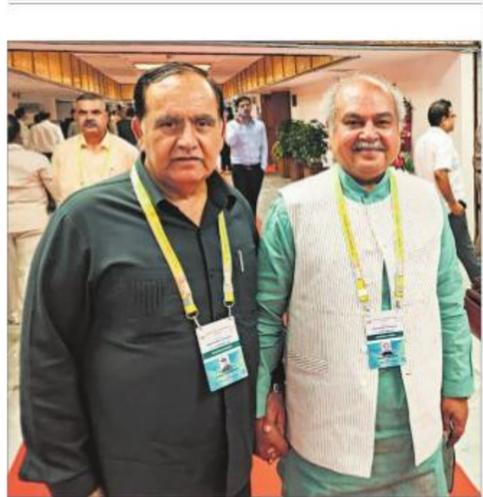
aim was to strengthen the party organisation and he would strongly take up its issues with the party high command. Pratibha said that loyal and hardworking workers need to be given an opportunity in the state executive to strengthen the party. "People, who have been working for the party for a long time, should get a role in the state government," she added. She said that there was

need to seriously introspect the reasons for the party's defeat in the Lok Sabha elections. Ministers Chander Kumar, Rajesh Dharmani and Vikramaditya Singh; former ministers Kaul Singh Thakur and Rangeela Ram Rao; CPS Sanjay Awasthi and Ramlal Thakur also addressed the meeting.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr.DEE/TR/JAT acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders (www.irops.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revise bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
251J-Elect-T-03-2024-25	Electrical Work in c/w Provision of covered shed over washing line and other allied works at BDGM on BAHL-BRML section.	Rs. 1,43,13,470.11p	2,21,600.00	06 Month	14.10.2024 after 15:00 Hrs	www.irops.gov.in

251 J-Elect/T. Notice No. 03-Elect/2024-25 Dated: 23.09.2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2958/24



HP Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Pathania at the 10th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association India Region Conference in New Delhi. ANI

Give assemblies fiscal autonomy: Pathania

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 23
Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kuldeep Pathania today raised the issue of the grant of financial autonomy to the state assemblies to bring about a change in their functioning, at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association India Regional Conference being held in New Delhi. Pathania, while speaking at the executive meeting of the conference, said that the Vidhan Sabha Secretariat was independent and as such it should have its own financial autonomy to ensure smooth proceedings of the Assembly. "Money is required for holding any event, for which the support of the government is required. So, the assemblies should be given financial autonomy so that they can reach out to the last person in society," he added. Pathania said that every Vidhan Sabha had its own

rules of functioning and its own way of conducting the session and he, too, had made some changes at his level in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly. "I believe that we can get positive results only through dialogue and discussion, which can be done only by ensuring everyone's participation," he added. He said that the Himachal Pradesh Assembly always had 94 per cent productivity while in one session it was 132 per cent. "My endeavour has been that all MLAs should get a chance to speak, whether senior or junior or belong to any party. This will bring efficiency in work and everyone will get a chance to contribute," he added. Pathania said school students were regularly invited to watch the proceedings of the House. "When children are watching the proceedings of the House, the honourable members will also behave responsibly," he added.

UMMEED HOUSING FINANCE PVT. LTD.
CIN:U65922HR2016PTC057884
Registered office at: Unit 899-815, 8th Floor, Tower -A, EMAAR Digital Greens Golf Course Extension Road, Sect-61, Gurugram (Haryana)-122002

APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the UMMEED HOUSING FINANCE PVT. LTD. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(1) read with clause (f) of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notices to the Borrowers as details herein under calling upon the respective Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with all costs, charges and expenses till actual date of payment within 60 days from the date of the issue of the said notice.

The said Borrower/Co-borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/Co-borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said act read with rule 8 of the security interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date:

The Borrower/Co-borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the UMMEED HOUSING FINANCE PVT. LTD. For the amount specified therein with further interest, costs and Charges from respective dates thereon until full payment.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Details of the Borrowers, Co-borrowers and Guarantors, Outstanding Dues, Demand Notices sent under Section 13(2) and Amount claimed thereunder and Date of Possession is given as under:

Sr. No.	Name and Address of the Borrower, Co-Borrower/Guarantor/Loan Account No. And Loan Amount	Details of the Secured Asset	Date of Demand Notice Issued	Amount Due in Rs.
1.	(1) Amit Prashar S/o Avinash Kumar, (Borrower) (2) Avinash Kumar S/o Vashno Dass (Co-Borrower) (3) Saksharsha W/o Avinash Kumar (Co-Borrower) All Above Residing At, H. No. 2679 Sector 79 Sas Nagar Mohali 140308 Also At H. No. 1175 Progressive Society Sector 508 Chandigarh 160047. Also At Old H. No. 1923 A And New 472 Sector 10 Doctor Kara Street Nagar Council Kharar Tehsil Kharar District Sas Nagar 140301. Loan No. LXCHD001816-17000090 & LXCR002016-17000092 Loan Agreement Date: (Both Dated) 26-02-2017 Loan Amt. Rs. 11,13,554 & Rs. 15,19,476	All That Part And Parcel Of Property Of Residential Old H. No. 1923 A And New 472 Sector 10 Doctor Kara Street Nagar Council Kharar Tehsil Kharar District Sas Nagar Mohali, Boundries As East Street West: House East: Rasta West: Arazi Nkar Hall Rastah North-Arazi Rastah Shyam South-Rasta	8-July-2024 19-Sep-2024	Rs. 10,94,628 + Rs. 13,79,888/- Total Aggregate Amount of Rs. 24,74,516/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lacs Seventy Four Thousand Five Hundred Sixteen Only) As On 08-July-2024 + Further Interest And Other Charges From 09-July-2024
2.	(1) Sudesh Kumar W/o Kuldeep (Co-Borrower) (2) Kuldeep S/o Inder Singh (Co-Borrower) All Above Residing At H. No. 494 Village Garhi (139) Teshil Hansi District Hsar Haryana 125033 Loan No. LXHS02019-200007357 & LXHS03042-210009392 Loan Agreement Date: 28-01-2020 & 27-11-2020 Loan Amt. Rs. 4,50,000 & 1,50,000	All That Part And Parcel Of Property Part Of Bearing Khewat No. 265 Khatoni No. 397 Kharsa No. 9015 Min(0-6) Share 6/1564 Of Total Land 78 Kanal 4 Mare Measuring 6 Mare (180 Sq.Yard) Situated In Village Gad Teshil Hansi District Hsar Haryana Vide Sale Deed No.6036 Dated 31.01.2019 Bounded As East-Rasta West-Arazi Nkar Hall Rastah North-Arazi Rastah Shyam South-Rasta	8-July-2024 18-Sep-2024	Rs. 3,23,978+ Rs. 1,51,408/- Total Aggregate Amount of Rs. 4,75,403/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lacs Seventy Four Thousand Five Hundred Sixteen Only) As On 08-July-2024 + Further Interest And Other Charges From 09-July-2024
3.	(1) Krishan Kumar S/o Isam, (Borrower), (2) Mamta Devi W/o Krishan Kumar (Co-Borrower) Both Above Residing At Koer 26 Majra Rodan Karnal Tehsil & District Karnal Haryana 132157 Loan No. LXKR03022-230017685 Loan Agreement Date: 25-Jun-22 Loan Amt. Rs. 1,30,00,000/-	All That Part And Parcel of Property Measuring 1k .0m Out of 40k-12m Which Comprised Khewat No. 222/1 Kharsa No. 191 Kile 1 Situated At Koer Tehsil Nigdu District Karnal Haryana Vide Transfer Deed Vaska No. 19711 Dated 26.05.2022 Registered In The Sub-Registrar Office Nigdu District Karnal Haryana. Boundaries As Per Technical Report Di-11-06-2022, North- Others Property, South- Street 14' Wide, East-Property Raj Kumar, West-Property Dhan Singh	8-July-2024 19-Sep-2024	Rs. 12,96,909 (Rupees Twelve Lacs Ninety-Six Thousand Nine Hundred And Nine Rupees Only) As On 08-July-2024 + Further Interest And Other Charges From 09-July-2024
4.	(1) Shishpal S/o Syochand, (Borrower) (2) Dewali W/o Syochand, (Co-Borrower) (3) Rishi W/o Shishpal (Co-Borrower) (4) Syochand, S/o Sadhu Ram (Co-Borrower) All Above Residing At Bhurat Wala Mehna Khara (104) Near Water Works Elenabad District Sira Haryana 1251 Loan No. LXSR02921-220013007 Loan Agreement Date: 30-Sep-21 Loan Amt. Rs. 11,00,000/-	All That Part And Parcel Of Property Of Plot Measuring 0 Kanal 5 Marla Being 553 Share Of Area Measuring 2 Kanal 13 Marla Comprised In Sano 65 Kile Min. 1411 (2-13) Khewat No.430 Min. Khatusi No.551, Situated Village Bhuratwala, Tehsil Elenabad District Sira Vide Sale Deed 1526 Dated 22.08.2014 Bounded As- East- Yagob Khan 27-6' West- Rasta 27-6' North- Baya 49-6' South-Rasta 49-6'	9-July-2024 18-Sep-2024	Rs. 11,48,368 (Rupees Eleven Lacs Forty-Eight Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Eight Only) As On 08-July-2024 + Further Interest And Other Charges From 10-July-2024
5.	(1) Vikram Kumar S/o Rama Ram (Co-Borrower) (2) Sulea Rani W/o Vikam Kumar, (Co-Borrower) Both Above Residing At Plot No. 19 Basant Vihar Colony Near Sarai Dharmshala Bank Colony Jagadhari Near Town Park Yamunanagar Haryana 135001 Also At Kansapur Road, Bank Colony, Yamuna Nagar Haryana-135001 Loan No. LXKYM02625-240002555 Loan Agreement Date: 20-Jul-23 Loan Amt. Rs. 5,50,000/-	All That Part And Parcel Of Property Which is Built On Plot No.19 (Southern Part) Bearing Municipal Property Id No. 258C96U2848 Measuring 02 Marla 1e 60 Sq.yd Comprising In Khewats/Kharsa No. 58/8/9 Kharsa No.34/118 (8-0) Being 1/80 Share 1e 02 Marla Situated At Mauja Ratoli HB No. 422, Now Known As Basant Vihar Colony Tehsil Jagadhari Yamuna Nagar, Bounded As- North- Rest Part Of Plot No.19, South- Others Plot, East- Other 3 Plot, West- Rasta 20' Wide.	09-July-2024 18-Sep-2024	Rs. 5,48,265/- (Rupees Five Lacs Forty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Five Only) As On 09-July-2024 + Further Interest And Other Charges From 10-July-2024

Date: 24-Sep-2024 Place: Gurugram Authorized Officer, Mr. Garv/Tripa/Mohi: 9810505701 UMMEED HOUSING FINANCE PVT. LTD.

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The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Dousing farm fires

Much more is expected of Punjab

IT'S that time of year again, when Punjab and Haryana come under intense scrutiny to gauge the success of their efforts to control farm fires. Punjab claims to have taken several proactive, even penal, measures. A series of reports in *The Tribune* has brought out the trials and tribulations as well as the hits and misses in the state's campaign. Red entries are being made in the revenue records of farmers who burn crop residue. They can't apply for or renew arms licences. In Amritsar, as stubble management plans falter and baler operators cry foul, quickfix options are being tried out. In Sangrur, the district with the most farm fires in the past, scientific solutions have been chalked out. Ludhiana, strangely, is seeing opposition to such interventions. It's a long, tough road ahead. Much more is expected than a strategy that can at best deliver a slight drop in count.

Like last year, paddy harvesting, and stubble burning as a result, has started early in Punjab this season. Those setting stubble on fire insist that since the window for sowing wheat is short, this is the quickest way to get rid of the paddy residue. Several districts have been identified as stubble-burning hotspots. Teams of government staff have been activated. With farmers' unions warning against coercive methods, any stringent action is unlikely. A reassuring aspect is the growing awareness among farmers of the need to desist from stubble burning and how it is in everyone's interest, in particular their own. The worrying part is the inefficacy of policy initiatives. State support and optimum incentivisation have to be at the core of plans to counter the resistance.

The farm fire season often becomes a rallying point against the farmers. Irresponsible and uninformed reactions only complicate the pressing issue and dilute the debate.

Chess success

India's Olympiad golden double a great feat

OUR cricket-crazy nation is going gaga over a sport that usually doesn't grab many eyeballs. That's because the Indian men's and women's teams have touched the stars by winning the gold in the 45th Chess Olympiad in Hungary. With this magnificent achievement, India has joined a select club of nations, which includes China as well as the erstwhile Soviet Union — both clinched the golden double in the same edition of the Olympiad. It is befitting that Viswanathan Anand, the colossus of Indian chess with five World Championship titles, was present to watch these young players assert their dominance in the global arena.

The men's team comprised World Championship challenger D Gukesh, R Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi, Vidit Gujrathi and P Harikrishna. Barring Harikrishna, none of them was even born when Anand became India's first Grandmaster in 1988. Gukesh is just 18 years old, while Erigaisi is 21. Both are among the top 10 players in the world. At 54, Anand is a 'semi-retired' player who is still good enough to be ranked World No. 11. What's more, he has been a huge source of inspiration for Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa. On the eve of the Olympiad, he said: 'If I had to roll the dice, these are good teams to roll them with.'

The team triumph will surely boost Gukesh's confidence for his World Chess Championship summit clash with reigning world champion Ding Liren in Singapore later this year. The women's team — Harika Dronavalli, R Vaishali, Divya Deshmukh, Vantika Agrawal and Tania Sachdev — deserves kudos for emerging victorious despite the absence of star performer Koneru Humpy. These are good days for Indian chess, which is no longer a one-man/one-woman show. The Global Chess League, whose second season will begin in London early next month, will provide another big opportunity to these players to sharpen their skills and further popularise the sport in India.

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1924

Hindu-Muslim unity

IT is obvious that the fast which the Mahatma has imposed upon himself has roused the great heart of India. From one end of the country to the other, there is a strong and unanimous feeling in all who have reached the stage of national self-consciousness and many who have not yet reached it that nothing should be left undone that could contribute to the solution of the Hindu-Muslim question and so restore peace to the Mahatma's agonised heart. As might have been expected from the very nature of the case, this feeling has found particularly strong expression among our Muslim fellow countrymen. Along with such men as Hakim Ajmal Khan, Maulana Mahomed Ali and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, whose love of the country and the Mahatma is as well-known as their position in the public life of the country is eminent, and who were bound in any case to take a conspicuous part in this movement, even the average Mussalman seems to have been touched by the Mahatma's penance as few other things could have touched him. The Mussalman seems to think that while this great act of self-sacrifice is a challenge to the patriotism of the whole country, it is particularly a challenge to his own patriotism. At Delhi, the Anjuman Islamia has adopted a resolution to recommend to its Working Committee to accept the Mahatma as the sole arbitrator in all disputes between Mussalmans and Hindus, and has also resolved to send a Mussalman deputation to the Mahatma to assure him that they would do everything in their power to bring cordial relations between the two communities and to request him to give up his fast.

The rise of Anura Kumara Dissanayake

India must recognise the mandate as an expression of the Lankan people's will for real political change

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
SENIOR JOURNALIST

IN January 2020, weeks after becoming the President of Sri Lanka, Gotabaya Rajapaksa set up a commission of inquiry "to investigate allegations of political victimisation, 2015-19". Anura Kumara Dissanayake, or AKD, sworn in as Sri Lanka's ninth President on Monday, was among the many named by the commission for punitive action as he was part of an anti-corruption panel set up after Mahinda Rajapaksa's authoritarian and nepotistic presidency was voted out in 2015 to investigate the alleged misdeeds of the Rajapaksa clan and cronies. Had the economic meltdown in 2021 not interrupted the Rajapaksa's nightmarish rerun from 2019, Dissanayake may have been stripped of his civil rights for seven years and imprisoned.

The incident may be a footnote in Dissanayake's political journey from a student cadre of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) in rural Sri Lanka during its blood-soaked armed insurrection of 1987-90 to a pragmatic leader of his party and its National People's Power (NPP) alliance, and now to the country's most powerful office, the executive presidency. It is also true that this historic, politically shape-shifting election victory may not have come about had it not been for the Rajapaksa, and not just for their mismanagement of the economy.

A quick flashback: Through the first dozen years of the new millennium, the JVP split twice on the question of whether its alliances with the main ruling coalitions of that period, led by President Chandrika Kumaratunga first and then her successor, Mahinda Rajapaksa, had identified the party with Sri Lanka's entrenched power elite, robbing it of its unique identity as an anti-establish-



HIGH HOPES: Huge expectations are riding on Anura Kumara Dissanayake. He has to deliver, and quickly. AP/PTI

ment, 'pro-people' entity.

In those years, the JVP was an eager partner in the war against the LTTE, with no daylight between it and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, of which Rajapaksa was then the leader. JVP's charismatic leaders of that period favoured the alliance and quit the party, hoping to reap electoral benefits from the war. AKD, who had been a parliamentarian since 2000, stayed put. By 2014, he had risen to the leadership of the JVP.

In the presidential elections of 2015, held against the backdrop of popular discontent against the authoritarian regime of Mahinda Rajapaksa, AKD's JVP backed the common Opposition candidate, Maithripala Sirisena, the main challenger to Mahinda. But the association with the dysfunctional successor government — this was the period in which AKD was part of the anti-corruption committee against the Rajapaksa — burnt the JVP once more.

In 2019, AKD stepped out of the mould. He formed a 'socialist coalition', the NPP, with 27 other leftist and like-minded groups such as trade unions, women's rights groups and youth organisations, and announced himself as a candidate in the presidential election of that year. He polled just 3.16 per cent of the votes. Gotabaya Rajapaksa won with 52 per cent of the votes, while Sajith Premadasa, then the main Opposi-

The seeds of AKD's victory were sown when people saw the Rajapaksa clawing their way back to power by propping up Wickremesinghe as the President.

tion candidate, representing the United National Party (UNP), polled 42 per cent.

In the parliamentary elections of 2020, the NPP did just as badly. It won just three seats. This was still slightly better than Ranil Wickremesinghe's UNP, which was wiped out after most of its members walked out with Premadasa, whose new party, Samagi Jana Balawegaya, emerged as the main Opposition party in Parliament. Undeterred by the double defeat, AKD set to work. He saw the 2022 Aragalaya, the people's movement to demand accountability from the Rajapaksa for the economic crisis, as an opportunity to stay relevant in the Sri Lankan polity. The JVP's participation in the movement leading to the ouster of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, without grabbing its leadership from the disparate stu-

dent and youth entities at its helm, was the turning point for the party.

The seeds of AKD's victory were sown right then, when people saw the Rajapaksa clawing their way back to power by propping up Wickremesinghe as the new President.

What this means is that AKD is perhaps the most pragmatic leader that the JVP has had since it was founded in 1965 as a Marxist-Leninist group that wanted to bring total revolution in Sri Lanka. In this election, Sri Lanka's Tamil question was not an issue, and the JVP's past as a vehicle for Sinhala nationalism did not come into play. To the Tamil community that expectedly did not vote for him, AKD's message is that he will be an inclusive President. The true test will come with the 13th amendment, made in the Constitution at India's behest, for devolution to the Tamil north and east. It was the trigger for the JVP's 1987 armed insurrection. Will AKD do away with it? The new President himself has been keen to anchor the party in economic policies, but not of the radical left with which it was earlier associated. Observers have noted that the NPP flag is not red but a shade between purple and pink, also the predominant colour at its rallies. Dissanayake's sartorial choices, too, eschew the bright red of the JVP's past.

What this also means is that huge expectations are riding on

AKD. He has to deliver, and quickly. He will be judged within months on his promise that he has the solutions to fix the economy without imposing financial burdens on the people. He has promised to renegotiate the terms of the \$2.9-billion IMF package that was negotiated by Wickremesinghe. He will be expected to dismantle the punishing regime of indirect taxes set up by his predecessor. AKD has claimed himself open to foreign investments, including from India, though the non-tendered, secretive Adani deal with the hated Rajapaksa in 2021 will certainly come under scrutiny. A parliamentary election will have to be held soon in which the JVP/NPP will need to win many more seats than the 33 it had at its peak in 2005. A majority may remain elusive, so it will need to find coalition partners that will not taint it.

India has not been unprepared for this moment. AKD visited India in February this year on Delhi's invitation, as opinion polls began to read the tea leaves. He had also visited as a minister in 2005, when the JVP was in the coalition with President Kumaratunga. He is as much a pragmatist on foreign policy as he is on domestic issues. Early on, he declared that it was China and India in geopolitical rivalry with each other, not Sri Lanka. Good ties with India were in Sri Lanka's best economic interests, he said. AKD has also said his party is mindful of India's security concerns. Setting loyalty tests for him or painting him as a pro-China leftist in the media will not help.

True, the JVP has had longstanding ties with the Communist Party of China. But India must recognise this peaceful but momentous political change in Sri Lanka for what it is — an expression of the Sri Lankan people's will for real political change. Just as Delhi walks a tightrope between Moscow and Washington to get the best for itself from both, other countries too have their strategic autonomy. Unless India's security is threatened, the highly vaunted Indian Foreign Service should be able to deal with a not entirely unexpected change in Colombo.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Change is inevitable, change for the better is a full-time job. — Adlai Stevenson

Ghosts of Shoghi's foggy hills

SAURABH MALIK

THE mist in Shoghi was so thick that afternoon, I could barely see a few feet ahead. I hadn't been back here in years, and everything felt unfamiliar — shrouded in this heavy, ethereal veil.

As I made my way to the old family cottage, I heard footsteps behind me — slow and deliberate, almost in sync with mine. I turned, peering into the swirling haze, but saw nothing. A chill crept up my spine.

I reached the cottage, its outline barely visible through the dense vapour. I fumbled with the keys before finding my way in. The cottage was just as I remembered it — rustic and simple.

Just as I started to relax on the creaky rocking chair, there was a knock at the door.

I froze. The footsteps, the feeling of being followed... had someone really been out there?

I opened the door slowly. But there was no one. Amidst the thick mist rolling in waves, I saw something on the ground — a crumpled piece of paper. I picked it up, my hands shaking slightly. It was damp from the moisture in the air, and the writing was smudged, but I could still make out the words:

'Welcome back.'

My heart skipped a beat. It looked like my handwriting. The knock came again, louder and more insistent.

I yanked the door open. A man, soaked to the skin, with an umbrella hanging limply at his side, asked with a sheepish grin: 'Lost in the fog, too?'

He introduced himself as Ruhan: 'We played cricket as kids.'

The name evoked a distant memory. Ruhan had been the neighbourhood kid always hanging around. I hadn't thought about him in years.

As we sat by the fire, his presence seemed strangely comforting, though something about him felt odd. The murk outside began to lift, and Ruhan stood up to leave.

As he stepped out, he turned back with a grin. 'You were right to leave this place. It's easy to get stuck here, lost in the fog,' he said.

As he walked away, disappearing into the thinning haze, I suddenly remembered something — Ruhan had fallen off a cliff and died shortly after I left Shoghi, nearly two decades ago.

I called out his name, but there was no answer, just the empty path stretching into the vaporous gloom. Had my mind played tricks on me, weaving memories with reality?

As I closed the door, a thought struck me — perhaps Ruhan had never left, and maybe it was I who had been lost, wandering in the mist of my memories. As I sat by the fire, I realised that the real ghosts aren't those of the dead, but the memories that linger, shaping our present with echoes of the past.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A new dawn in Sri Lanka

Apropos of the editorial 'Lankan mandate': the outcome of Sri Lanka's presidential election is of a piece with the global trend that has seen voters reject parties that have an old frame of mind. The electorate has had enough of leaders who fail to provide solutions to the everyday difficulties that the masses face. As the President, Ranil Wickremesinghe turned to the IMF in a bid to tide over the extraordinary economic crisis in the country. But the fact is that most Sri Lankans were better off in 2022 than they are now. The tax burden on the middle class must be eased. Adopting a people-centric approach on the economy is the need of the hour.

ABHIJIT ROY, JAMSHEDPUR

Scrapping subsidies is pragmatic

Refer to 'Balancing the books'; state governments generally do not have too many options to earn revenue. Hence, withdrawing power subsidies to large industries is a pragmatic move on the part of the Himachal Pradesh government. Even the withdrawal of subsidies for domestic consumption is not a drastic step that can adversely impact people. Besides, the state government must focus on boosting tourism, which is a key source of revenue for the hill state. The state authorities should take steps that can enhance the experience of tourists, both domestic and foreign. Further, the state government can attract investments by creating more opportunities for industrialists to grow their businesses.

BAL GOVIND, NODA

'One nation, one poll' not feasible

Apropos of the article 'One nation, one poll faces trust deficit'; the Union Government's decision to accept the Kovind Committee recommendations on holding simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies and that of local bodies within 100 days from then is fraught with several challenges. Since the proposal involves making the term of state Assemblies coterminous with that of Par-

liament, will it not in a way diminish the status of the Vidhan Sabha? Moreover, even if the panel's recommendations are accepted, how would it be ensured that the polls are held only once every five years? It is better to leave the issue open for debate by academics, legal luminaries, political parties and other stakeholders.

RAJ KUMAR GOYAL, PATIALA

Uphold the rule of law

Refer to the article 'Don't let the State trample over the law of the land'; the author has brilliantly presented 'bulldozer justice' as the unconstitutional overreach of power — which it is — that has left an indelible scar on our nation's conscience. Such discriminatory, high-handed steps — which run counter to the notion of due process — undermine the very foundation of our democracy and blatantly violate the principles enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution. The judiciary's intervention, although belated, is a much-needed response to restore the sanctity of constitutional governance. The government must abandon retributive justice and demonstrate accountability, lest it should erode public trust. Citizens deserve a State that respects their dignity, not one that shamefully tramples on it.

HARBINDER SINGH DHILLON, UNA

Farmers get a raw deal

Farmers under the banner of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (non-political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha recently held a 'Kisan Mahapanchayat' in Pipli, urging people to defeat the BJP in the upcoming Assembly polls. The farm leaders have also decided to hold a 'rail roko' protest next month to push for their demands. The growers' demand for a legal guarantee of MSP is vital for their survival. The failure of the government to address their demands or act on critical agricultural reforms highlights its indifference to the growers' concerns. It is time for the powers that be to take steps to ease the agrarian distress.

BIKRAM SINGH, PATIALA

1977 J&K Assembly elections were a watershed



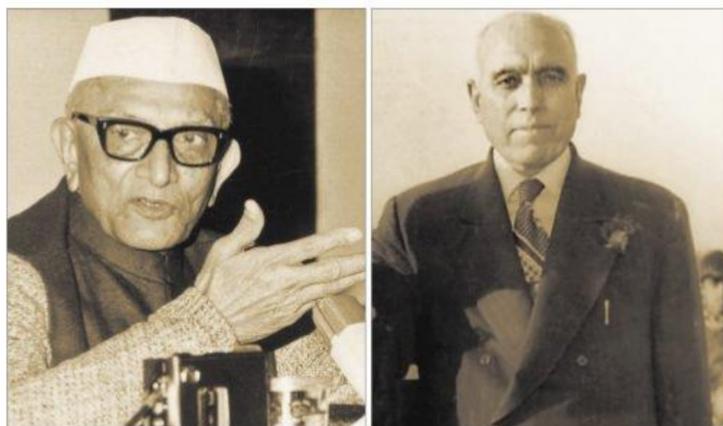
WAJAHAT HABIBULLAH
FORMER BUREAUCRAT, J&K CADRE

EVEN though these are but UT elections to limp Assembly in Jammu and Kashmir, they have evoked reminiscences of the Assembly elections of 1977. Those elections, held under Governor's rule, are often cited as a watershed. All shades in Kashmir's political firmament had leaped eagerly into the fray. Pro-independence Mirwaiz Farooq of the Awami Action Committee put up candidates but, like the Jamaat-e-Islami now, not under the party's name. The pro-Pakistan Jamaat-e-Islami led by Ali Shah Geelani was a contender, as it had been in 1972, when it won five seats, and is contesting again today, in thin disguise. Former supporters of Sheikh Abdullah become antagonists and set up a branch of the Janata Party, the ruling party at the Centre. Among its leaders was Hameed Karra, nephew of Mohiuddin Karra — one of the Sheikh's lieutenants in the 1940s and 1950s. Maulana Masoodi, another of the Sheikh's former close associates and the Assembly Speaker in 1953, threw his considerable clout with his Gujjar community behind

the Janata Party. Maulana Iftikhar Ansari, the leading Shia cleric, was a formidable opponent. The Sheikh's party stood alone. Yet, his appeal, as always, was his promise to restore to the people their dignity. His son Farooq is heir to that promise.

The Janata Party pulled out all stops in its campaign. Among the leaders who descended on Kashmir were Home Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh, Industries Minister George Fernandes, Minister for Works and Housing Sikander Bakht and Defence Minister Babu Jagjivan Ram, once a pillar of the Congress. Finally, on the eve of polling, then Prime Minister Morarji Desai, like the present PM, made a campaign visit.

The initial effort of the state administration was to 'arrange' the election, as had been the practice. As deputy commissioner, I was the returning officer for the district of Srinagar. Hameed Karra soon came calling to ask that I make appointments of the election staff in consultation with him. He was the secretary to the state unit of the Janata Party. When I stated clearly that any such step was illegal, he was surprised. I was a promising young Muslim officer, he averred, and it would break his heart to have to destroy my career. The morning after my meeting with Karra, my boss, the commissioner of Kashmir, called me to his office. Upon entry to his chamber, whom did I find but Karra! 'What is the diffi-



HISTORIC: Then PM Morarji Desai (left) visited J&K during the 1977 Assembly elections, in which Sheikh Abdullah led the National Conference to victory. FILE PHOTOS

culty Karra sahib is facing?' asked Commissioner Ghulam Mustafa Khan. I told him of Karra's demand. But the commissioner's response, uttered with endearment, was that I was an innocent person, that administering Poonch, where I had just conducted parliamentary elections, was another matter, and I should now recognise that the demands of Srinagar were different.

As the election approached, the strong support base of Sheikh Abdullah's National Conference (NC) became increasingly manifest. He suffered a heart attack that confined him to his home, but that led to an upsurge of support, causing his opponents to claim that the reports on the Sheikh's health were fake. The administration decided to attempt to cripple his elec-

The initial effort of the state administration was to 'arrange' the election, as had been the practice.

tion campaign. All deputy commissioners in Kashmir were given orders requiring that leading NC volunteers be arrested under the Preventive Detention Act, which permitted detention without trial. Up all night, I approved nine arrests, only to receive a call early next morning from Chief Secretary Pushkar Nath Kaul, asking why I had been so slow. He told me that the deputy commissioners of other districts had each issued 30 to 80 warrants in one night. When I protested that a deputy commissioner was expected to satisfy himself that the grounds for detention made a convincing case of a threat to public security, he suggested that time spent scrutinising grounds was time wasted.

Prime Minister Desai paid a visit on June 25, 1977. As we

prepared for our meeting, I was told by the IG of the state police, Peer Ghulam Hassan Shah, that the PM would ask that we ensure his party's victory and that we should comply, for this was a duty to the nation. I told him that in that event, I, inexperienced in this art, must be replaced. As it happened, our meeting with the PM witnessed an amiable chat. When asked by the chief secretary if he had any advice for the state's administration on the elections, the PM's response was simple: "One doesn't know whom to trust in Kashmir."

The state police, frustrated with my insistence on adhering to the law, launched a flurry of arrests of NC activists, particularly of its youth wing, under Section 107 of the CrPc. Then party president Ghulam Mohiuddin Shah, brother of the Sheikh's son-in-law, visited my office to object formally to this repression. I explained that this was the way the police wished to display their national commitment and asked him whether this would hamper or, in fact, strengthen his campaign. At this, Shah allowed himself a grin.

On election day, as I raced about the city, responding to calls, allegations and threats, Farooq Abdullah called on the IG, ensconced in the police control room, to complain that the elections were a farce. When results began to be announced and it was clear that the NC would win, I drove around Srinagar with the IG. The city rejoiced. Our car was

repeatedly stopped, our hands kissed, blessings showered, as is the Kashmiri's wont.

The June 1977 elections were a milestone in the political evolution of the state. Because of the high public participation and the healthy slate of candidates across the state's political leadership, some believe that these were the fairest elections ever held there. Others have gone even further to declare them the only real elections ever held in J&K. Are the 2024 elections a resonance of that?

After his father's death in 1982, Farooq became the CM. Then PM Indira Gandhi expected a political alliance with him and strengthening of the Congress' presence in the state. She was to be rudely disappointed. And so the elections of 1983 again saw a confrontation between the ruling party at the Centre, the Congress, and the state's ruling NC. Although former prime ministers had visited the state to boost their parties' election prospects, it was unprecedented for a serving PM to run a campaign for a state election, visiting every constituency to canvass support, as did Indira in 1983. But the Congress lost roundly, winning only one seat in the Kashmir valley, 23 in the Jammu region and one in Ladakh, while the NC got 38 of the 42 seats in the Kashmir division, eight in the Jammu division and one in Ladakh's Kargil.

So, once more, J&K returns to a semblance of democracy, although not yet to the substance.

Punjab's agri draft policy fails to tick all the boxes



SUKHPAL SINGH
PROFESSOR, IIM, AHMEDABAD

THE absence of an agricultural policy in Punjab is baffling, given that there are policies for the industry and other sectors. In the past decade, two drafts remained on paper only. Now, we have a draft of the much-awaited agricultural policy in the public domain almost a year after it was submitted. Let us hope that this will not meet the fate of previous drafts. However, it had a flawed start as the policy committee was set up without any terms of reference (ToR); the committee, too, did not deem it fit to frame the ToR.

The policy vision "to continuously improve the livelihoods of farmers, farm workers and those dependent on agriculture by making farming healthier, profitable and globally competitive... for future generations" is silent on the sector's social sustainability, which includes equity, concern for small producers, etc. In 2018-19, 27.8 per cent of the area in Punjab was under lease. Some field-based stud-

ies suggest it to be even 50 per cent in some regions.

The practice of reverse tenancy and a reduction of small and marginal farmers in the state's agriculture, both in terms of numbers (35 per cent of the total, compared to India's 86 per cent) and the area operated by them (9 per cent against 45 per cent in the country), underline the need for incorporating this sustainability dimension. The draft proposes land leasing reforms but fails to mention the draft land leasing Bill, which is problematic. Punjab can end up with only large farmers with higher incomes if the policy remains blind to social sustainability.

The report terms the task of rejuvenating the agriculture sector as a 'holy' one by setting up a system and the use of science, which can lead to agricultural per capita income being comparable to other sectors of the economy. It is difficult to understand how the farm sector can create value comparable to that in other sectors. The very idea of such a 'holy task' makes the theory of structural transformation stand on its head.

The major objective of the policy — to promote healthier agricultural production, value addition and marketing systems for globally competitive agriculture — is intended to be achieved through the coopera-



LACUNA: The draft doesn't offer ways to ensure social sustainability in the agriculture sector. FILE PHOTO

tive mode. This is like betting on a lame horse, as traditional and state-controlled cooperatives have failed in Punjab or are no more than a part of the state system. The report itself confirms this when it says that these public sector organisations should not behave like private enterprises to earn super-normal profits.

Termining these agencies as PSUs also reflects the poor understanding of the committee. Unfortunately, the more promising alternative of farmer producer organisations (FPOs) is not even recognised in the draft policy when the Centre is promoting it with plenty of resources. There are more than 25,000

The draft policy proposes to promote production and marketing through the cooperative mode, even though state-controlled cooperatives have failed in the state.

such entities in India, while Punjab has only a few dozen despite having a so-called FPO policy since 2018.

It is surprising that the draft has not specified any time frame for achieving the objectives and has no milestones, except in saving water. It was important to specify these, as by the time the policy is finalised and as and when accepted for implementation, just two years will be left for the present government to deliver on it.

The biggest weakness of the draft is its neglect of the marketing issues of the state's farm sector, which are well known and debated for long. It recognises that there

is a potential (not real) exploitation of farmers by commission agents. But it does not suggest the abolition of commission agents unlike Madhya Pradesh, which did it decades ago.

It is a sad commentary on the agricultural markets of the state that today no farmer can sell directly, and no buyer can buy directly in the state's agricultural markets, especially grain markets. The irony is that the state has not conducted elections to APMCs (Agricultural Produce Market Committees) for more than 40 years, and this absence of governance has not been even pointed out.

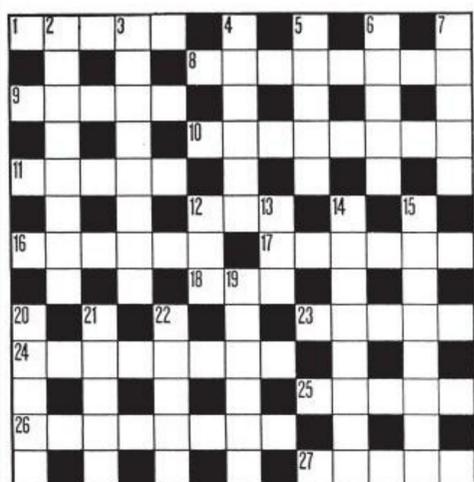
Opening up of regulatory market space can provide alternative marketing channels for farmers; that too has not been discussed. Another doable mechanism that can protect farmers from low prices and exploitative credit linkage — warehouse receipts — does not even find a mention in the report.

The draft recommends a legal guarantee of procurement of all crops, including perishables like milk and poultry, at the MSP and a state-level commission to provide cost estimates for all produce to determine the MSP. How can a committee make such definitive recommendations regarding the MSP issue that is not even a state mandate? It is also not clear why the committee

did not propose a state-level mechanism for MSP for perishable produce like in Kerala or Haryana. It could have mandated all purchases in APMC mandis at or above the MSP for all buyers under the APMC Act as in MP's legislation. It also goes beyond its mandate while recommending 200 days of MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) work as this is not a state government programme.

The report points out that the power subsidy per connection varies from a low of Rs 21,234 to as high as Rs 89,556 across districts. Sadly, it does not recognise the equity issue in this wherein bigger and better-placed farmers get bigger subsidies and those who don't own tubewells (mostly small and marginal farmers) are left out. It is also a wasteful subsidy which perpetuates the cultivation of paddy (except basmati), which should be eliminated from the state. The committee should not have been so mindful of political considerations if it was serious about addressing the issues of the sector and farmers therein. A policy should be framed at the level of ideas and innovations with adequate reference to various worldviews on the state's farm sector, which, unfortunately, are found missing in this draft policy.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Force of explosion (5)
- A few (3,2,3)
- In the present age (5)
- High-ranking military (3,5)
- Considering (5)
- Uncooked (3)
- Accustom (6)
- Brief pleasure trip (6)
- Small secluded room (3)
- Concord between people (5)
- To free from restraint (3,5)
- A wild card (5)
- If justice were done (2,6)
- Lacking spontaneity (5)

Yesterday's solution

Across: 1 Lucky break, 6 Flip, 10 Comic, 11 Dissemble, 12 Software, 13 Realm, 15 Adamant, 17 Explain, 19 Stellar, 21 Bitumen, 22 Upper, 24 Pugilism, 27 Terminate, 28 Maize, 29 Rule, 30 Ne'er-do-well.

Down: Lice, 2 Come of age, 3 Yacht, 4 Radiant, 5 Austere, 7 Libya, 8 Pre-eminent, 9 Decrepid, 14 Pass muster, 16 Allergic, 18 Armistice, 20 Replace, 21 Bugbear, 23 Peril, 25 Limbo, 26 Seal.

DOWN

- Examine (4,4)
- Drastic retrenchment (8)
- Country of southwest Africa (6)
- Hesitate to believe (5)
- Thick slice of meat (5)
- Promote reputation of (5)
- Supposedly revolutionary (3)
- Gained (3)
- Be conspicuous (5,3)
- Intrinsically (2,6)
- Inferior substitute (6)
- The planet earth (5)
- Sharply evident (5)
- Approximate (5)

SU DO KU



V. EASY

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

CALENDAR

- SEPTEMBER 24, 2024, TUESDAY**
- Shaka Samvat 1946
 - Aashwin Shaka 2
 - Aashwin Parvishte 9
 - Hijari 1446
 - Krishna Paksha Tithi 7, up to 12.39 pm
 - Vyatapala Yoga up to 1:27 am
 - Mrighshikha Nakshatra up to 9:54 pm
 - Moon enters Gemini sign 9:56 am

FORECAST

CITY	TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
	MAX	MIN	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	37	27		
New Delhi	37	26		
Amritsar	37	28		
Bathinda	38	26		
Jalandhar	35	27		
Ludhiana	37	27		
Bhiwani	35	28		
Hisar	37	26		
Sirsa	38	28		
Dharamsala	30	18		
Manali	26	14		
Shimla	27	15		
Srinagar	33	15		
Jammu	35	25		
Kargil	26	08		
Leh	23	05		
Dehradun	34	24		
Mussoorie	26	18		



High-octane campaigning for Phase 2 ends

27.78 lakh voters to decide fate of 239 candidates tomorrow | Omar, BJP chief Raina in fray

Srinagar, September 23

The poll campaigning for the second phase of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir concluded on Monday as leaders tried to woo voters of 26 Assembly constituencies spread across six districts of the UT.

According to an official spokesperson, over 25.78 lakh voters would decide the fate of 239 candidates on Wednesday.

The second phase of the elections would cover 26 Assembly segments, including Ganderbal, Srinagar and Budgam in the Kashmir division, Reasi, Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu division. There are 15 Assembly constituencies in the Kashmir division and 11 in the Jammu division.

Prominent candidates in the fray in Kashmir include former Chief Minister and National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah; Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari; BJP's Aijaz Hussain from Lalchowk Assembly segment; J-K Congress chief Tariq Hamid Karra, pro-separatist and jailed cleric Sarjan Barkati.

In the Jammu region, the key candidates include, BJP UT chief Ravinder Raina contesting from Nowshera; BJP's Chowdhary Zulfiqar Ali from Budhal; NC candidate Javed



(Clockwise from top) Health Minister JP Nadda holds a roadshow in Jammu; Peoples Conference supporters on shikaras at Dal Lake; Omar Abdullah takes a selfie with supporters; Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) chief Chandrashekhar Azad Ravan campaigns in Samba, and DPAP chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad addresses a gathering, ANI

Ahmed Rana and Mohd Shah-nawaz, Congress' candidate from Surankote.

During the second phase of campaigning, ruling and opposition bigwigs led by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi locked horns on the political stage. According to latest electoral rolls, 25,78,099 lakh voters, including 13,12,730 lakh male voters, 12,65,316 lakh female voters

and 53 third-gender voters, would exercise their franchise.

This is the first assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir post the abrogation of Article 370 which granted special status to the region and its bifurca-

tion into two union territories in August 2019. The last assembly elections were held in 2014.

Officials also said to facilitate the voters for smooth and hassle free electoral participation, the Election Commission

has established 3,502 polling stations with 100 per cent web-casting facility across 26 Assembly constituencies. These include 1,056 urban polling stations and 2,446 rural polling stations. —OC

J&K should be run by locals, not Delhi: Rahul in Srinagar

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 23

'Taking a jibe at the Centre, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Monday said Jammu and Kashmir should be run by locals and not from New Delhi promising that he would put pressure on the Centre to restore J&K's statehood.

"It has happened many times in India when a Union Territory (UT) has been upgraded to a state. Many times states have been divided into two parts. But this happened for the first time in history, when the rights of J&K were snatched away by turning a state a Union territory. Therefore, we want statehood to be returned to J&K. We

will put pressure on the government for this and if they don't do it, we will get it done" Rahul Gandhi said during a rally at Surankote in Poonch district.

He lashed out at the Centre for allegedly taking away the rights of the people. He said earlier governments in J&K were run by locals and their decisions were meant for a better future of the locals. "Now, outsiders are making decisions for you and your voice is not being heard by the government. Your government is run from Delhi, orders are coming from Delhi. We want your government to be run from J&K," he said. —OC



Rahul Gandhi during a public meeting at Zainakote in Srinagar. ANI

Hunt for ultras continues in Kishtwar

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 23

The encounter between security forces and terrorists in the Danna Dhar forest of Kishtwar district entered its third day on Monday as the search and cordon operation continued for the ultras, who are taking the cover in the thick forest area.

Danna Dhar in upper reaches of Gurinal village is located in the jurisdiction of Chatroo police station in the

district. An operation was launched by the Army and police on September 21 after information was received about presence of 2-3 ultras in the forest area.

The police informed that firing between terrorists and security forces has taken place at least twice on September 21 and 22. There was no firing on Monday but the operation to eliminate the

hiding ultras continued.

A police spokesperson said based on specific intelligence about presence of terrorists, a joint search operation was launched by the security forces near Danna Dhar forest area in the upper reaches of Gurinal village. The area has been cordoned and sniffer dogs and drones are being used to locate the ultras, believed to be of Jaish-e-Mohammad. —OC

Jailed cleric's daughter strikes emotional chord with voters

ADIL AKHZER

Srinagar, September 23

After Lok Sabha MP Engineer Rashid's son created ripples in the political circles by campaigning for him, a similar story is playing out in Central Kashmir's Beerwah, which goes to polls on Wednesday.

Sugra Barkati, the 17-year-old daughter of jailed cleric and pro-separatist Sarjan Ahmad Wagay, alias Sarjan Barkati, has become a face of poll campaigning for Barkati.

She has been doing extensive campaigning for her jailed father and trying to strike a



Sugra Barkati in Budgam. ANI

emotional chord with voters.

"My father got a call from the police regarding some verification. Since that day, I have been waiting for him to return home. No one has helped us, but I request you to help us. Please

vote for us," says Sugra.

"I'm receiving an overwhelming response from the public. I tell people that I want to release my parents from jail," she adds, while talking to *The Tribune*.

"Ever, since my parents have been jailed, no one has visited our home. We have suffered a lot in their absence. Only we know what kind of life, we have lived. It was full of thorns," she says.

Sugra refers to Rashid's son, Abrar Rashid, who campaigned for his father in the Lok Sabha elections from Baramulla.

Rashid defeated former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah by

over two lakh of votes.

"After Rashid sahib's son fought for his father, I decided to fight for my father and mother," she says. "I am hopeful that if he (father) is elected, he would be released," she adds.

Her intense campaigning has unnerved key opponents such as Nazir Ahmad Khan, the candidate of Rashid's party. In a viral video, Khan has alleged that Sugra is campaigning to divide the votes and helping the NC, a charge denied by Sugra.

During the first phase, Wagay had filed the nomination from Zainapora area of South Kashmir. It was, however, rejected

due to improper documentation. Later, he decided to fight from Beerwah's Budgam and Ganderbal seats. However, Sugra has focused her campaign in the Beerwah segment only.

Barkati shot to prominence during the protest that followed after the killing of Hizbul commander Burhan Wani in 2016.

He remained a central figure in the massive protests and got name of 'Freedom chacha'. Last year, the State Investigation Agency had arrested him for his alleged involvement in "orchestrating an extensive fund-raising campaign through crowd funding."

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD
8, JAN MARG, SECTOR 9-D, CHANDIGARH.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the General Public that the following person(s) have applied for Permission for the Sale/Purchase of Dwelling Unit in their names under Regulation of the Chandigarh Housing Board (Allotment, Management and Sale of Tenements) Regulations 1979:-

Sr. No.	NAME OF THE PURCHASER SH/SMT/MS	NAME OF THE SELLER SH/SMT/MS	D.U. No.	Cat.	Sector
1	SH. JAGDISH SINGH S/O SH. DARSHAN SINGH	(1) SMT. RAJINDER PAL KAUR D/O LATE SH. JASPAL SINGH, W/O SH. MAN MOHAN SINGH (HAVING 1/3rd SHARE), (2) SMT. MANINDER PAL KAUR D/O LATE SH. JASPAL SINGH (HAVING 1/3rd SHAE) 3) (a) SH. SATINDER SINGH S/O SH. SARDUL SINGH (b) SH. GURDEEP SINGH S/O SH. SATINDER SINGH S/O (c) SH. HARNEET SINGH S/O SH. SATINDER SINGH (ALL THREE HAVING 1/3rd SHARE)	322	III (MIG)	45-A Chandigarh

In case anybody has any objection for the Sale/Purchase in respect of above said dwelling Unit, he/she may submit the objection, if any, in writing within 21 days of the publication of this notice before the undersigned alongwith documentary evidence, if any.

Secretary
Chandigarh Housing Board,
Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD CHANDIGARH
8, Janmarg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE

SH. RAJEEV VIKRAM SETH S/O SH. VIKRAM SETH R/O House No. 129 Sector 21-A, Chandigarh has approached to the Chandigarh Housing Board for the issuance of Duplicate copy of POSSESSION FORM & POSSESSION INTENT LETTER in respect of Dwelling Unit No. 2045-D, Sector 63, Chandigarh due to loss of this document. There has also furnished application P.S.19 serial No. 173047 LAR NO. 2024/028629 registered with CHANDIGARH Police on dated 13.09.2024 regarding the loss of above said document. Any person having any objection, against the issuance of Duplicate copy of POSSESSION FORM & POSSESSION INTENT LETTER in respect of the above said Dwelling Unit, he/she should file the objection before the undersigned in writing within 15 days from the publication of this notice, failing which the documents shall be issued. Further, in case original documents as mentioned above are found by anyone, the same should be submitted in the above noted Police Station or in the office of the undersigned.

Secretary
Chandigarh Housing Board,
Chandigarh

NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI
Ministry of Education
(Department of School Education & Literacy)
(Govt. of India)
(Regional Office)
Bay No. 26-27, SECTOR 31-A, CHANDIGARH — 160030

NOTICE FOR EMPANELMENT/ENGAGEMENT OF SERVICES OF HOSTEL SUPERINTENDENT ON CONTRACT BASIS FOR THE SESSION 2024-25

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (residential co-educational school system under Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, Ministry of Education, Department of School Education & Literacy, Govt. of India), invites applications from the eligible candidates for empanelment and engagement of Hostel Superintendent, purely on contract basis for the Academic Session 2024-25 in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir (U.T.), Ladakh (U.T.) and Chandigarh (U.T.)

Applications are invited through online mode only (Through Google Form, no other mode will be entertained), whose link is placed on the website of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, Regional Office, Chandigarh i.e. <https://navodaya.gov.in/nvs/ro/chandigarh/en/home/index.html>. JNVs being residential in nature, makes it mandatory for the Teachers and other staffs to reside in the Vidyalaya Campus, to attend residential school duties besides their routine duties. Boarding and Lodging would be provided as per the availability in the JNV and as per NVS norms.

The detailed guidelines for the engagement of services of Hostel Superintendent purely on contract basis for the session 2024-25 as applicable are available on RO website as stated above. Only the shortlisted candidates (as per criteria fixed by the Samiti) will be informed for personal interaction on their registered E-mail address/Mobile No. Personal interaction will be held at the designated centres which will be communicated to the candidates on their registered email id. Candidates are requested to visit NVS RO Chandigarh website regularly for any updates.

The schedule for inviting online application forms for the engagement of services of following is given below:

Post	Online Application Form Starts from	Closing Date for submission of Online Application Form
Hostel Superintendent	25.09.2024	05.10.2024

Sd/- DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

At Y'nagar rally, Shah attacks...

advocated the end of reservation and had shown consistent disrespect toward Dalit leaders.

Shah claimed that anti-national slogans were raised at Congress rallies and raised questions about Rahul's motives. He alleged that the Congress was an anti-Dalit party and consistently humiliated Dalit leaders, be it Ashok Tanwar or Kumari Selja.

Shah alleged that the Congress exploited farmers by purchasing their land at meagre rates and claimed that jobs were handed out based on bribe and recommendations rather than merit. Under the BJP youth were getting jobs without the need for 'parchi'

(recommendations) or 'kharchi', he claimed.

Shah said Haryana had become the first state to abolish lal dora, which restricted land ownership in rural areas, and now purchased 24 crops at MSP. He praised the Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojana, stating that it had benefited farmers and improved their livelihoods, and promised the crowd that the BJP government was committed to social welfare, promising LPG cylinders at Rs 500 and the construction of 5 lakh houses for the poor. He emphasised the party's dedication toward women's empowerment, saying that 50% seats in panchayats were reserved for women.

FROM PAGE 1

Laapataa Ladies...

When smaller nations like South Korea pick up the Best Film Oscar, breaking the "one-inch-tall barrier of subtitles", as it did with *Parasite* in 2020, it makes it even harder to comprehend what exactly we lack.

For the moment, however, there is a reason to cheer. But, the applause can wait. The film's real chances will emerge only after it finds a place among the prestigious final five nominees — a list in which, incidentally, Rao's ex-husband Aamir Khan's *Laapataa Ladies*, too, figured way back in 2002. Based on an award-winning story by Biplab Goswami, *Laapataa Ladies* is produced by Khan, and as someone who understands the drill, he can perhaps move things this time around.

Selja slams BJP overtures...

BJP leaders are more worried (about me). A hundred discussions are going on, but these are within the party. We worked hard during the Lok Sabha poll for the party's victory. Our fight for the people of Haryana will continue and the Congress will form the government in the state."

She said since she was staying silent, BJP leaders were trying to project that she was upset with the Congress and feeling insulted. "They are doing it for politics, and they know it. They also know, as does everyone else, that Selja is with the Congress," she said.

She clarified that she would start campaigning within three days. She has declared herself as a contender for the CM's post

while simultaneously maintaining that the high command will take a call on it.

She is reportedly upset as a majority share of the party ticket has gone to former CM Bhopinder Singh Hooda's camp. She wanted to contest from Uklana to strengthen her case for the CM's post, but failed to get the green light. The seat went to Hooda loyalist Naresh Selval. She couldn't secure the Narnaul ticket for Ajay Chaudhary and it went to Jasbir Singh.

She said, "I may have suffered because I declared my candidacy for the CM's post. Probably, some people may have sensed fear."

She said her struggle was not for herself, but for all communities, especially weaker sections, Dalits and women.

5 first-time MLAs join...

and Conservation of Land and Water; and Dr Ravjot Singh Local Government and Parliamentary Affairs departments. Bhagat, who won the recent Jalandhar West bypoll and was assured a Cabinet berth by CM Mann, has been entrusted with Defence Services Welfare, Freedom Fighters and Horticulture.

While there is no change in the portfolios of other sitting ministers, Education Minister Harjot Bains has got the additional charge of the important Information and Public Relations department. The Punjab Cabinet now has 16 ministers, including CM Mann. Since the Cabinet can have a maximum of 18 ministers, two berths still remain vacant.

By inducting three new ministers from the Mahwa region and two from Doaba, the AAP government has tried to strike a regional balance. Mahwa now has 10 ministers, including CM Mann, while Majha has four and Doaba two.

In Mahwa, Sangrur district continues to get the highest representation with four ministers, while Muktsar is second with two. As many as 12 districts, however, remain unrepresented. The AAP government's commitment to social engineering is also evident as the Cabinet now has six Dalit and two Hindu ministers. Dr Baljit Kaur remains the lone woman face with Anmol Gagan Maan's exit.

Mere download of child porn an offence...

the purpose of substituting the term "child pornography" with the CSEAM to reflect more accurately on the reality of such offences.

The Union of India, in the meantime, may consider bringing about the suggested amendment to the POCSO Act by way of an ordinance. The verdict came on a petition filed by Just Right for Children Alliance and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights challenging the Madras High Court's January 11, 2024, verdict that quashed criminal proceedings against a 28-year-old man charged with down-

loading pornographic content involving children on his mobile phone. Terming it "an egregious error", the top court set aside the high court's order.

The Bench said "social media intermediaries, in addition to reporting the commission or the likely apprehension of commission of any offence under the POCSO Act to the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), is also obligated to report the same to the authorities specified under Section 19 of POCSO Act i.e., the Special Juvenile Police

Unit or the local police."

It said, "In view of the salutary object and the mandatory character of the provisions of Section 19 and 20 of the POCSO Act read with Rule 11 of POCSO Rules, we are of the considered view, that an intermediary (social media platform) cannot claim exemption from the liability under Section 79 of the IT Act for any third-party information, data, or communication link made available or hosted by it unless due diligence is conducted by it and compliance is made of these provisions of the POCSO (Act).

CLASSIFIEDS

MEDICAL/SURGICAL

Radiologist required at Charitable Center Mohali. Contact: 98884-69965. (CL24057863)

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Chandigarh: Sector 43B, HIG (Upper) First Floor, Parking, Well maintained. Freehold. 93161-12756. (CL24057909)

Double showroom freehold available Motor Market, Mani Majra. Immediate Position genuine buyer. Dealers welcome. 97118-11845. (CL24057921)

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Zainab w/o Mohd. Rezwana R/o 32-B, small flats, Dhanas (Chandigarh), have changed my name from Zainab to Jenab. (CL24057906)

I, MD. Razwan S/o late Mohd. Farook R/o 32-B, small flats, Dhanas (Chandigarh), have changed my name from MD. Razwan to Mohd. Rezwana. (CL24057910)

I, Raj Kumar s/o Diwan Chand r/o Haidrawala (Fatehabad), have changed my name as Tota Ram. (CL24057910)

I, Krishna Devi Jamwal w/o Subhash Chander Jamwal r/o # 1267, Sector 50-B, Progressive Society, Chandigarh have changed my name from Krishna Jamwal to Krishna Devi Jamwal. (CL24057919)

I, Smt. Parkasho W/o Pritvi Raj R/o Ward No. 21, Ravidas Nagar, Materkota, Punjab, have changed my name to Prakash Devi. (CL24057920)

For Circulation and Advertisement booking and other related queries please call at following numbers from Monday to Saturday between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.
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Display: 0172-2670256, 2670342
E-mail at: advt@tribunemail.com

COURT NOTICES

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Sh. Manpreet Sohi Civil Judge (Jr. Division), Jagraon Harpreet Singh Vs. Darshan Pal Singh @ Paul Singh CNR No. PBLDB0-000666-2024 Next Date: 24.10.2024

Publication issued to: Darshan Pal Singh @ Paul Singh s/o Sh. Nachhattar Singh r/o Village Noorpura, Tehsil Raikot Jagraon, District Ludhiana, Second Address:- 7495-N-Vanness BLV FRESNO CALIFORNIA 93711 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA).

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 24.10.2024 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to: https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=ludhiana Dated, this day of 19.09.2024. Sd/- Civil Judge (Junior Division), Jagraon CL24054297

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Ms. Krishnanuja Mittal Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Division), Fatehgarh Sahib Varun Gupta Vs. General Public CNR No. PBF02-000326-2024 Next Date: 24.10.2024

Publication issued to: General Public :- General Public In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 24.10.2024 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to: https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=fatehgarhsahib Dated, this day of 16.09.2024. Sd/- Addl. Civil Judge (Senior Division), Fatehgarh Sahib CL24057864

DISCLAIMER

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COURT NOTICES

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Ms. Krishnanuja Mittal Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Division), Fatehgarh Sahib Varun Gupta Vs. General Public CNR No. PBF02-000327-2024 Next Date: 24.10.2024

Publication issued to: General Public :- General Public In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 24.10.2024 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to: https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=fatehgarhsahib Dated, this day of 16.09.2024. Sd/- Addl. Civil Judge (Senior Division), Fatehgarh Sahib CL24057865

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Ms. Krishnanuja Mittal Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Division), Fatehgarh Sahib Varun Gupta Vs. General Public CNR No. PBF02-000328-2024 Next Date: 24.10.2024

Publication issued to: General Public :- General Public In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 24.10.2024 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to: https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=fatehgarhsahib Dated, this day of 16.09.2024. Sd/- Addl. Civil Judge (Senior Division), Fatehgarh Sahib CL24057866

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Ms. Krishnanuja Mittal Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Division), Fatehgarh Sahib Varun Gupta Vs. General Public CNR No. PBF02-000329-2024 Next Date: 24.10.2024

Publication issued to: General Public :- General Public In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 24.10.2024 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to: https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=ludhiana Dated, this day of 19.09.2024. Sd/- Civil Judge (Junior Division), Jagraon CL24054297

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Ms. Krishnanuja Mittal Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Division), Fatehgarh Sahib Varun Gupta Vs. General Public CNR No. PBF02-000326-2024 Next Date: 24.10.2024

Publication issued to: General Public :- General Public In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 24.10.2024 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to: https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=fatehgarhsahib Dated, this day of 16.09.2024. Sd/- Addl. Civil Judge (Senior Division), Fatehgarh Sahib CL24057864

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Ms. Vijeta Singh Rawat District Judge-01 New Delhi District Room No. 14, Main Building Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

Proclamation Requiring Attendance of Defendant (Order 5 Rule, 20 of the Civil Procedure, 2002) CS-374/2018 NDOH-04/11/2024 M/S Tata Steel Ltd. Plaintiff Vs. Rakesh Arora Defendant

To Sh. Rakesh Arora Proprietor of M/s Radha Krishna Steels Having its Office at - 36, Krishna Market, Overlook Road, Miller Ganj, Ludhiana, Punjab. Also at - House No. 100, Mahaveer Nagar Opposite MBD Mall, Ferozpur Road, Ludhiana, Punjab. Whereas plaintiff has filed the above noted suit for recovery against you. You are hereby notified to appear in this court in persons or by a pleader on the 04th day of November, 2024 at 10.00 a.m., to answer the same, failing which the suit will be disposed of ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this 05th day of August, 2024. Sd/- District Judge-01, New Delhi. CL24057869

COURT NOTICES

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Sh. Arun Gupta District & Sessions Judge, Fatehgarh Sahib CNR No.: PBF01-000503-2024 Next Date: 24.10.2024

Hardeep Singh Vs. Guralp Singh Publication issued to: Guralp Singh son of Bakhtaur Singh alias Bhaktawar Singh son of Kisan Singh, resident of Village Jandali (Jandiali), Tehsil and District Ludhiana, resident of 23 Fulthorpe Avenue, Darlington (England) DL3 9XT since deceased through his following legal representatives:-

a) Jasvir Singh son of Guralp Singh, b) Kuljit Kaur daughter of Guralp Singh, c) Gurpreet Kaur daughter of Guralp Singh All residents of 23 Fulthorpe Avenue, Darlington (England) DL3 9 XT.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 24.10.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to: https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=fatehgarhsahib Dated, this day of 19.09.2024. Sd/- District & Sessions Judge, CL24057870 Fatehgarh Sahib.

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Sh. Harshbir Sandhu Civil Judge (Junior Division), Phagwara Canara Bank Vs. Chandan Sharma CNR No. PBKPA0-000296-2022 Next Date:- 24.10.2024

Publication issued to: Chandan Sharma Father:- Som Dutt Sharma 214 10, Preet Nagar, Ladowali Road Jalandhar.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 24.10.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to: https://highcourthd.gov.in/?mod=district_notice&district=kapurthala Dated, this day of 11.09.2024. Sd/- Sh. Harshbir Sandhu Civil Judge (Junior Division), Phagwara CL24057872

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Sh. Vijay Singh Dadwal Civil Judge (Junior Division), Phagwara Sunita Rani Versus Kewal Singh & Ors. CNR No.: PBKPA0-000547-2023 Next Date: 22.10.2024

Publication issued to: 1. Kewal Singh s/o Sh. Rattan Singh r/o Mehtiana, Distt. Hoshiarpur, 2. Hamek Singh s/o Sh. Mohinder Singh r/o Village Hardaspur, Teh. Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 22.10.2024 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to: https://highcourthd.gov.in/?mod=district_notice&district=kapurthala Dated, this day of 19.09.2024. Sd/- (Vijay Singh Dadwal) Civil Judge (Junior Division), Phagwara CL24057873

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Jagbir Singh Mehndiratta Civil Judge (Senior Division) Fatehgarh Sahib Gurdeep Singh Versus Harinderjit Singh alias Lucky CNR No. PBF02-000892-2024 Next Date: 23.10.2024

Publication issued to: 1. Harinderjit Singh alias Lucky son of Harbans Singh resident of Village Chhaleri Kalan, Post Office Pola, Tehsil and District Fatehgarh Sahib. 2. Amarjeet Kaur wife of Harbans Singh resident of Village Chhaleri Kalan, Post Office Pola, Tehsil and District Fatehgarh Sahib.

Secularism a European concept, not needed in India: TN Guv sparks row

Says it was added to the Constitution by an 'insecure PM' to appease some sections

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

Secularism is a European concept, evolved following a conflict between the Church and the king, whereas Bharat is a dharma-centric nation and there was no such conflict and it (secularism) was, hence, not included in the Constitution, but added to it during the Emergency, Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi has said, leading to a row.

A lot of frauds have been committed on the people of the country, and one of them was a wrong interpretation of secularism, he said addressing an event in Kanyakumari district on Sunday. "What does secularism mean? It is a European concept, secularism is not a



RN Ravi made the remarks at an event in Kanyakumari. FILE PHOTO

Bharatiya concept," Ravi said. In Europe, secularism emerged as there was a fight between the Church and the king and in order to end this conflict, which went on for a long time, this concept was

evolved, he added. At the time of Independence, when the Constitution was being drafted, a discussion came up on secularism and the Constituent Assembly rejected it, observing that

Bharat is a dharma-centric country and there has been no conflict, similar to what was witnessed in Europe, the Governor said. Citing Constituent Assembly discussions, he added that it was deliberated there that Bharat is a country of dharma and, "how can there be a conflict with dharma? How can Bharat be away from dharma? It cannot be! Hence, they said secularism was a European concept and let it be there. In India, there was no need for secularism, they said and hence, it was not included in the Constitution." Decades later, during the Emergency (1975-77), "one insecure Prime Minister" introduced secularism in the Constitution in order to appease some sections of people, the Governor alleged.

Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister during Emergency. CPI leader D Raja on Monday condemned Ravi's remarks, questioning his understanding of the concept and India's Constitutional values. Raja said Dr BR Ambedkar had expressed that the nation would face a calamity if a Hindu Rashtra were to become a reality. "What does he know about India? He is a governor. He must abide by the Constitution," Raja said. Congress MP Manickam Tagore said Ravi's remarks were "unacceptable" and against the Constitution. "The statement is against against the Idea of India by Mahatma Gandhi, Ambedkar, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhai Patel," he said. (With agency inputs)

Centre issues notice to ghee supplier of Tirupati temple

LADDOO ROW

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

The Health Ministry has issued a show-cause notice to AR Dairy Food Private Ltd, one of the companies that supplied ghee to the Tirupati temple to prepare laddoos. The notice sent by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the gov-

ernment's food regulatory authority, said the samples of ghee manufactured by AR Dairy had failed to meet the required parameters. "The ghee procurement committee of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has sent all the samples supplied for testing to NDBB CALF Lab at Anand, Gujarat," the FSSAI said. — TNS

SC bats for comprehensive sex edu to tackle child porn menace

SATYA PRAKASH TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

Noting that positive sex education promotes healthy attitudes towards sexuality and relationships, which can counteract the distorted perceptions often associated with the consumption of child pornography, the Supreme Court on Monday called for comprehensive sex education to deter potential offenders and address common misconceptions.

A Bench of CJI DY Chandrachud and Justice JB Paridwala, which ruled that mere downloading, storage or watching of sexually explicit and abusive material involving children amounted to offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act) and the Information Technology (IT) Act, asked the Centre

Asks Centre to set up expert panel

to consider constituting an expert committee to devise a comprehensive programme or mechanism for health and sex education. The panel may also work out modalities for raising awareness about the POCSO Act from an early age, for ensuring a well-informed approach to child protection, education, and sexual well-being, it said. "Positive age-appropriate sex education plays a critical role in preventing youth from engaging in harmful sexual behaviours, including the distribution, and viewing of CSEAM (child sexual exploitative and abuse material)," the top court said, adding it promoted healthy attitudes towards sexuality and relationships. A study of over 900

adolescents in Maharashtra found that students not exposed to scientific literature on reproductive and sexual health were more likely to initiate sex early, it noted. "One prevalent misconception is that sex education encourages promiscuity and irresponsible behaviour among youth. Critics often argue that providing information about sexual health and contraception will lead to increased sexual activity among teenagers. However, research has shown that comprehensive sex education actually delays onset of sexual activity and promotes safer practices," it said. It favoured comprehensive sex education, including information about the legal and ethical ramifications of child pornography.

Worried over...

FROM PAGE 1

peace and stability in the region." Recalling that India was one of the first countries to recognise Palestine, he conveyed India's continued support to the Palestine membership of the UN. The two leaders held discussions on various facets of the bilateral relations, including India's ongoing assistance and support to Palestine in the field of education, health and other capacity-building efforts.

The issue of Gaza had also cropped up at the Quad Leaders' Summit in the US on Saturday. The leaders, in joint statement, said, "We share great interest in achieving peace and stability in West Asia. We condemn the terror attacks on October 7, 2023." On the sidelines of the UN meet, Modi also met Nepal PM KP Sharma Oli. — TNS

Must adhere to timeline for grant of prosecution sanction under UAPA: SC

FROM PAGE 1

While briefing about the proceedings of the summit then, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had said, "As we go to New York to attend the UN General Assembly summit, we feel much more confident about seeking reforms in UN bodies. It is more like solidarity of countries (of Global South) with similar thoughts". Jaishankar will address the UNGA later this week.

In New York today, Modi also stressed the need for reforms in global institutions, saying "reforms were essential and the key to relevance". India has been seeking an expansion of the UN Security Council with a permanent seat for itself. The PM said while terrorism continued to be a threat to peace, new theatres of conflict were emerging in the cyber and maritime domains. The PM laid stress on global digital governance to ensure national integrity and sovereignty.

Humanity's future doesn't lie on...

FROM PAGE 1

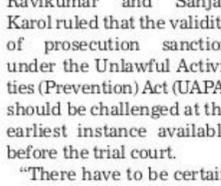
in such cases are "unquestionably important". A bench of Justices CT Ravikumar and Sanjay Karol ruled that the validity of prosecution sanction under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) should be challenged at the earliest instance available before the trial court.

"There have to be certain limitations within which administrative authorities of the government can exercise their powers. Without such limitations, power will enter the realm of the unbridled, which needless to state is antithetical to a democratic society. Timelines in such cases, serve as essential aspects of checks and balances and of course, are unquestionably important," the Bench said. — PTI

Majhi orders judicial probe into Army officer's custodial 'torture'

BHUBANESWAR, SEPTEMBER 23

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has ordered a judicial inquiry into the alleged torture of an Army officer and the "sexual assault" of his fiancée at a police station here. The state government has appointed a commission of inquiry to be headed by Justice Chittaranjan Dash, a retired High Court judge, an official notification said.



Odisha CM Mohan Majhi

The panel will examine the sequence of events and circumstances, as well as the suggest measures to be taken to avoid the recurrence of such events in future and ensuring safety of women," the notification said. Meanwhile, the Army officer, his fiancée and her father met Majhi at the state Secretariat here in the morning, an official said. Majhi had on Sunday evening said the Odisha Government was committed to taking strict action against all persons or officials who are found guilty. — PTI

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD CHANDIGARH
8, Janmarg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE
Before Secretary, CHB Exercising the Powers of the Estate Officer, UT Chandigarh.

Subject:- Mutation/ Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No. 2365-B (Second Floor) of ONEROOM FLAT (EWS) Category in Sector 63 Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of SMT. SHARMJIT W/O SH. ASHOK KUMAR from the name of allottee/transferee SH. VINEET KUMAR S/O SH. PARMESH KUMAR.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned the Dwelling Unit No. 2365-B (Second floor) of ONE ROOM flat (EWS) Category in Sector 63 Chandigarh stands in the name of allottee/transferee SH. VINEET KUMAR S/O SH. PARMESH KUMAR. Now, SH. VINEET KUMAR S/O SH. PARMESH KUMAR has sold the above said dwelling unit to SMT. SHARMJIT W/O SH. ASHOK KUMAR vide Sale Deed Executed and registered in office of Sub-Registrar Chandigarh 06.09.2024.

SMT. SHARMJIT W/O SH. ASHOK KUMAR has requested this office for transfer the above said dwelling unit in her name on the basis of sale deed. If any body has any objection upon the mutation of the said property in favour of applicant, he/she/they may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the publication of this notice, failing which, the ownership of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of above said claimant(s).

Secretary
Chandigarh Housing Board,
Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD CHANDIGARH
8, Janmarg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE
Before Secretary, CHB Exercising the Powers of the Estate Officer, UT Chandigarh.

Subject:- Mutation/ Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No. 3093-1 (First Floor) of LIG Category in Sector 47-D, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN from the name of allottee/transferee SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that the Dwelling Unit No. 3093-1 (First Floor) of LIG Category in Sector 47-D Chandigarh stands in the name of allottee/transferee SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE. Now SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE has sold the above said dwelling unit to SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN vide Sale Deed Executed and registered in office of Sub-Registrar Chandigarh on 12.09.2024.

SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN has requested this office for transfer the above said dwelling unit in his name on the basis of sale deed. If any body has any objection upon the mutation of the said property in favour of applicant, he/she/they may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the publication of this notice, failing which, the ownership of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of above said claimant(s).

Secretary
Chandigarh Housing Board,
Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD CHANDIGARH
8, Janmarg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE
Before Secretary, CHB Exercising the Powers of the Estate Officer, UT Chandigarh.

Subject:- Mutation/ Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No. 3093-1 (First Floor) of LIG Category in Sector 47-D, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN from the name of allottee/transferee SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that the Dwelling Unit No. 3093-1 (First Floor) of LIG Category in Sector 47-D Chandigarh stands in the name of allottee/transferee SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE. Now SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE has sold the above said dwelling unit to SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN vide Sale Deed Executed and registered in office of Sub-Registrar Chandigarh on 12.09.2024.

SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN has requested this office for transfer the above said dwelling unit in his name on the basis of sale deed. If any body has any objection upon the mutation of the said property in favour of applicant, he/she/they may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the publication of this notice, failing which, the ownership of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of above said claimant(s).

Secretary
Chandigarh Housing Board,
Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD CHANDIGARH
8, Janmarg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE
Before Secretary, CHB Exercising the Powers of the Estate Officer, UT Chandigarh.

Subject:- Mutation/ Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No. 3093-1 (First Floor) of LIG Category in Sector 47-D, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN from the name of allottee/transferee SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that the Dwelling Unit No. 3093-1 (First Floor) of LIG Category in Sector 47-D Chandigarh stands in the name of allottee/transferee SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE. Now SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE has sold the above said dwelling unit to SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN vide Sale Deed Executed and registered in office of Sub-Registrar Chandigarh on 12.09.2024.

SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN has requested this office for transfer the above said dwelling unit in his name on the basis of sale deed. If any body has any objection upon the mutation of the said property in favour of applicant, he/she/they may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the publication of this notice, failing which, the ownership of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of above said claimant(s).

Secretary
Chandigarh Housing Board,
Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD CHANDIGARH
8, Janmarg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE
Before Secretary, CHB Exercising the Powers of the Estate Officer, UT Chandigarh.

Subject:- Mutation/ Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No. 3093-1 (First Floor) of LIG Category in Sector 47-D, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN from the name of allottee/transferee SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that the Dwelling Unit No. 3093-1 (First Floor) of LIG Category in Sector 47-D Chandigarh stands in the name of allottee/transferee SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE. Now SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE has sold the above said dwelling unit to SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN vide Sale Deed Executed and registered in office of Sub-Registrar Chandigarh on 12.09.2024.

SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN has requested this office for transfer the above said dwelling unit in his name on the basis of sale deed. If any body has any objection upon the mutation of the said property in favour of applicant, he/she/they may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the publication of this notice, failing which, the ownership of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of above said claimant(s).

Secretary
Chandigarh Housing Board,
Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD CHANDIGARH
8, Janmarg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE
Before Secretary, CHB Exercising the Powers of the Estate Officer, UT Chandigarh.

Subject:- Mutation/ Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No. 3093-1 (First Floor) of LIG Category in Sector 47-D, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN from the name of allottee/transferee SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that the Dwelling Unit No. 3093-1 (First Floor) of LIG Category in Sector 47-D Chandigarh stands in the name of allottee/transferee SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE. Now SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE has sold the above said dwelling unit to SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN vide Sale Deed Executed and registered in office of Sub-Registrar Chandigarh on 12.09.2024.

SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN has requested this office for transfer the above said dwelling unit in his name on the basis of sale deed. If any body has any objection upon the mutation of the said property in favour of applicant, he/she/they may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the publication of this notice, failing which, the ownership of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of above said claimant(s).

Secretary
Chandigarh Housing Board,
Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD CHANDIGARH
8, Janmarg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE
Before Secretary, CHB Exercising the Powers of the Estate Officer, UT Chandigarh.

Subject:- Mutation/ Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No. 3093-1 (First Floor) of LIG Category in Sector 47-D, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN from the name of allottee/transferee SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that the Dwelling Unit No. 3093-1 (First Floor) of LIG Category in Sector 47-D Chandigarh stands in the name of allottee/transferee SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE. Now SH. VIKAS WALIA S/O LATE SH. BRU KISHORE has sold the above said dwelling unit to SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN vide Sale Deed Executed and registered in office of Sub-Registrar Chandigarh on 12.09.2024.

SH. JUNAID MUSTAFA SIDDIQUI S/O SH. MUSTAFA HASSAN has requested this office for transfer the above said dwelling unit in

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 09

COURT NOTICES

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Ms. Tejinder Preet Kaur
Civil Judge
(Junior Division),
Jagraon
Kartar Singh
Versus
Balvir Singh
CNR No.:
PBLDB0-001091-2017
Next Date: 30.10.2024
Publication issued to:
Jagir Singh s/o Jaswant
Singh s/o Sunder Singh r/o
Village Manuke, Tehsil
Jagraon, Dist. Ludhiana,
Punjab.

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 30.10.2024 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=ludhiana
Dated, this day of
19.09.2024.

Sd/- Civil Judge
(Junior Division),
CL24057876 Jagraon

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Ms. Tejinder Preet Kaur
Civil Judge
(Junior Division),
Jagraon
Manjit Singh
Versus
Nimal Singh
CNR No.:
PBLDB0-000950-2023
Next Date: 06.11.2024
Publication issued to:
Gurmair Singh Sandhu
owner of Bharat Petroleum
Vill. Roomi, near Dholan
Gate, Tehsil Jagraon, Dist.
Ludhiana.

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 06.11.2024 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=ludhiana
Dated, this day of
05.09.2024.

Sd/- Civil Judge
(Junior Division),
CL24057877 Jagraon

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Ms. Tejinder Preet Kaur
Civil Judge
(Junior Division),
Jagraon
Roop Chand
Versus
Gurdev Singh
CNR No.:
PBLDB0-000179-2024
Next Date: 06.11.2024
Publication issued to:
1. Gurdev Singh s/o Wazir
Singh s/o Bachan Singh, 2.
Satwinder Kaur w/o Gurdev
Singh s/o Wazir Singh, 3.
Kulwant Singh s/o Bishan
Singh s/o Narain Singh all r/o
Village Chaukmaan, Tehsil
Jagraon, Dist. Ludhiana.

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 06.11.2024 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=ludhiana
Dated, this day of 05.09.2024.

Sd/- Civil Judge
(Junior Division),
CL24057878 Jagraon

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Ms. Tejinder Preet Kaur
Civil Judge (Junior Division)
Jagraon
Shangara Singh
Versus
Parminder Kaur
CNR No.
PBLDB0-000072-2023
Next Date: 13.11.2024
Publication issued to:
1. Parminder Kaur W/o
Kanwaljit Singh 1(A) Parveen
Kaur D/o Kanwaljit Singh,
1(B) Gurkiran Singh S/o
Kanwaljit Singh, All R/o Bhai
Nura Mahi Nagar Ward No. 1,
Near Bus Stand Raikot, Dist.
Ludhiana at present R/o Burj
Littan, Tehsil Raikot, Dist.
Ludhiana

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 13.11.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=ludhiana
Dated, this day of 05.09.2024.

Sd/- Civil Judge
(Junior Division),
CL24057879 Jagraon

COURT NOTICES

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Ms. Ekta
Civil Judge (Jr. Division),
Muktsar
Union Bank of India
Vs.
Lakhwinder Singh and others
CNR No.
PBSMA0-000035-2024
Next Date: 16.10.2024
Publication issued to:
Defendant No. 1. Lakhwinder
Singh and others s/o Major
Singh s/o Surjeet Singh r/o
Butter Sarhin, Tehsil
Gidderbaha.

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 16.10.2024 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=muktsar
Dated, this day of 14.09.2024.

Sd/- Ms. Ekta
Civil Judge
(Junior Division),
CL24057895 Muktsar

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Sh. Jagmilap Singh Khushdil
Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division), Moonak
Chajju Singh S/o Budh Singh
Vs.
Chuhar Singh S/o Mehar Singh
CNR No.
PBSGD0-000424-2021
Next Date: 14.10.2024
Publication issued to:
Def. No. 06 Sukhdev Singh
S/o Gian Singh S/o Sito @
Santo R/o Village Bansipura,
Tehsil Jagraon, District
Ludhiana.

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 14.10.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=sangrur
Dated, this day of 16.09.2024.

Sd/-
Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division),
CL24057898 Moonak

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Sh. Ankant Atri
Civil Judge Jr. Div., Chandigarh
State Bank of India
Vs.
M/S L.V. Enterprises
CNR No.
CHCH02-000565-2020
Next Date: 20.12.2024
Publication issued to:
M/S L.V. Enterprises
Plot No. E-172, Industrial Area,
Phase-VII, SAS Nagar, Mohali
through its partners.
2nd Add. Plot No. D-86, Inds.
Area, Phase VII, SAS Nagar
Mohali.
3. Rakesh Walia Partner and
Guarantor M/S LV Enterprises
Plot No. 172, Ind. Area Ph. 7,
Mohali.
4. Sabita Sahi M/S LV
Enterprises PH 7, Mohali.

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 20.12.2024 at
10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=chandigarh
Dated, this day of 19.09.2024.

Sd/- Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.),
CL24057904 Chandigarh

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Sh. Jasvir Singh
Civil Judge (Senior Division)
-NRI Court, Jalandhar
Parvinder Jit S. Cheema
Versus
Balwinder Jit Kaur
CNR No.
PBJL02-000740-2024
Next Date: 26.11.2024
Publication issued to:
1. Balwinder Jit Kaur D/o Shri
Swaran Singh R/o H.No. ES-
232 Makhdoom Pura Jalandhar
City also at C/o Jasvir Singh
R/o Village and Post Office
Nagra, Tehsil and District
Jalandhar. 2. Paramjit Kaur
W/o Jasvir Singh D/o Swaran
Singh R/o Village and Post
Office Nagra, Tehsil and Dist.
Jalandhar.

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 26.11.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar
Dated, this day of 20.09.2024.

Sd/- Civil Judge
(Senior Division)-NRI Court,
CL24057914 Jalandhar

356 dead in Lebanon as Israel strikes 800 Hezbollah targets

JERUSALEM/BEIRUT, SEPT 23
The toll from Israeli strikes on Lebanon reached 356, with 1,246 others injured since Monday morning, Lebanon's health ministry said, adding that 24 children and 42 women were among the dead.

Monday was Lebanon's deadliest day since the end of its brutal 15-year civil war, a Lebanese official said, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorised to speak to the press.

After some of the heaviest cross-border exchanges of fire since the hostilities flared, Israel warned people to evacuate areas where it said the armed movement was storing weapons.

After almost a year of war against Hamas in Gaza on its southern border, Israel is shifting its focus to its northern frontier, from where Hezbollah has been firing rockets into Israel in support of its ally Hamas. "The actions will continue until we achieve our goal to return the northern residents safely to their homes," Israeli Defence Minister Yoav



Smoke rises amid ongoing cross-border hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces. REUTERS

CONCERNED BY ISRAEL SHUTTERING AL JAZEERA OFFICE: US STATE DEPT

Washington: The US was concerned by the IDF's raid and shutdown of media network Al Jazeera's office in Ramallah, a state department spokesperson said on Monday. "This action is

inconsistent with US support for freedom of the press in the West Bank and all over the world." The US was still gathering information about the IDF operation on Sunday, they said.

Gallant said in a video published by his office, setting the stage for a long conflict as Hezbollah has vowed to fight on until there is a ceasefire in Gaza. "These are days in which the Israeli public will

have to show composure." Gallant was speaking after the Israeli military targeted Hezbollah in Lebanon's south, eastern Bekaa valley and northern region near Syria in its most widespread strikes. The Israeli military said it had struck around 800 targets connected to the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group in southern Lebanon and the area of the Bekaa valley on Monday. — Reuters

Bangladesh lodges protest over Shah's 'infiltrator' remarks

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23
Bangladesh on Monday lodged a protest against Home Minister Amit Shah's recent remarks in Jharkhand where he reportedly said once BJP came to power in the state it would "straighten out every single Bangladeshi infiltrator by hanging them upside down".

Bangladesh Foreign Ministry in a statement said: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh lodged a strong protest against the highly deplorable remarks reportedly made by Union Home Minister of India Mr Armit Shah about Bangladeshi nationals during

his recent visit to Jharkhand, India. Through the protest note handed over today to the Deputy High Commissioner of India in Dhaka, the Ministry conveyed its serious reservation, deep sense of hurt and extreme displeasure and called upon the Government of India to advise the political leaders to refrain from making such objectionable and unacceptable remarks." Bangladesh also "emphasised that such remarks, coming from responsible positions against the nationals of a neighbouring country, undermine the spirit of mutual respect and understanding between two friendly countries".

Pak SC says poll panel failed to perform duties in general election

ISLAMABAD, SEPTEMBER 23

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday released its detailed judgment on the July 12 order in the reserved seats case and said the top election body of the country failed to perform its duties as per law in the February 8 general elections.

The 8-5 majority order had declared jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) eligible for more than 20 seats reserved for women and minorities, dealing a major setback to the ruling coalition led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz. Justice Man-

LT GEN MALIK NEW ISI DG

Islamabad: Lt Gen Muhammad Asim Malik has been appointed as the new Director General of Pakistan's spy agency - Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), state-run TV announced on Monday. Lt Gen Malik, currently serving as an adjutant general at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, will assume his new role on September 30, replacing the current DG Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum.

soor Ali Shah penned the 70-page verdict, more than two months after the short verdict was issued earlier. — PTI

Ukrainian shelling kills 3 Russians

MOSCOW, SEPTEMBER 23

Three civilians, including a child, were killed by Ukrainian shelling of a village in Russia's Belgorod region, Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said.

The Belgorod region has come under frequent cross-border shelling and drone attacks in the course of the war. It is adjacent to the Kursk region where Ukrainian forces pierced Russia's western border last month in an incursion that Moscow's forces are still fighting to repel. — Reuters



Ukrainian forces fire a canon in Zaporizhzhia. REUTERS

Harris to outline economic vision

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 23

US vice-president Kamala Harris said she would deliver a speech Wednesday outlining her economic vision, saying there is "more we can do to invest in the aspirations and ambitions of the American people while addressing the challenges they face".

She cited the high cost of home ownership and stubbornly high grocery bills as examples. — AP

BUSINESS

USD (\$)	EURO (€)	POUND (£)	JPY (¥)	YUAN (¥)	CAD (C\$)	AUD (A\$)	SGD (S\$)	HKD (HK\$)
₹83.57	₹92.83	₹111.4	₹0.58	₹11.85	₹61.88	₹56.81	₹64.76	₹10.73

BSE	NSE	GOLD	SILVER
384.30 84,92,361	148.10 25,939.05	₹74,263 (MCX) Mumbai	₹89,058 (MCX) Mumbai

CORPORATE BROADBAND

Max reduces carbon footprint

Max Healthcare, is making progress on its sustainable growth journey and has managed to reduce its carbon footprint by achieving greater energy efficiency, reducing emission of green-house gases, installing renewable energy solutions and adoption of alternative technologies for processing of organic waste.

Dholera SIR hotspot

Gujarat's Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR) has become a hotspot for investors, attracting investments in the range of Rs 2,000 to 3,000 cr per annum.

HDFC Bank's loan mela

HDFC Bank will organise a 'mega two-wheeler loan mela' across its branches in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, J&K and Ladakh on September 24 & 25.

Paras Health awarded

Paras Health Panchkula has been awarded Smart & Future-Ready Cancer Hospital Award. It was given at a function held in Gurugram recently.

Manba Finance IPO

Manba Finance Limited has fixed the price band of Rs 114 to Rs 120 per equity share of face value Rs 10 each for its maiden IPO. The IPO will close on September 25.

NTPC Green to raise ₹10K cr

NTPC Green Energy Ltd, a subsidiary of NTPC, has filed papers with the SEBI to raise Rs 10,000 crore through an IPO.

Motorola razr 50

Motorola has launched its highly anticipated foldable smartphone razr 50. With 3.6" external display, direct Google Gemini access and 50MP camera, it is priced at Rs 49,999 onwards.

KRN Heat Exchanger IPO

KRN Heat Exchanger and Refrigeration Ltd shall open its bid/issue in relation to its IPO of equity shares on September 25.

Seminar on premature delivery

A seminar on premature delivery was held at the IMA, Chandigarh, recently. It was organised by Dr Neeraj Kumar, former

president of IMA, and Director of Motherhood Hospital.

Cardiac services in Kamal

Amrtdhara My Hospital Kamal has introduced cardiac services. It is equipped with facilities to deal with all emergencies, including ICU, NICU, dialysis, MRI, and CT scan.

Toyota showcases Hilux

Toyota Kirloskar Motor showcased special-purpose Hilux at the Himtech 2024 symposium organised recently by the Indian Army jointly with FICCI.

JSW MG Motor initiative

JSW MG Motor India has extended its unique 'Battery-as-a-Service' (BaaS) programme to its Comet EV and ZS EV models.

Jaipur Rugs Utsav

Jaipur Rugs has announced the inception of its much-awaited cultural event 'Rug Utsav.' It brings together Indian craftsmen and the discerning tastes of customers worldwide.

PHDCCI hails OTS scheme

PHDCCI, Punjab chapter, has hailed the order issued by the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission for introducing a one-time settlement (OTS) scheme for defaulting industrial consumers.

Vogue Eyewear

Vogue Eyewear has unveiled its latest collection with its brand ambassador Taapsee Pannu. It features five models - three sunglasses and two optical frames.

Lenovo stores in Hisar

Lenovo has unveiled two stores in Hisar. These stores are a one-stop shop for tech enthusiasts and gamers and showcase a range of consumer and gaming products.

JSW MG unveils Windsor

JSW MG Motor India has launched India's first intelligent CUV MG Windsor at the price of a manual compact SUV.

93% retail traders lost money in F&O in 3 years: Sebi study

VIJAY C ROY
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

When it comes to equity derivatives trading, retail investors are on the back foot, as 93 per cent of them incurred losses with average loss of around Rs 2 lakh per trader during the last three financial years (FY 22 to FY 24), according to a new study conducted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). There are over one crore individual (Futures & Options) traders. Despite consecutive years of losses, more than 75 per cent, of loss-making traders continued trading in F&O.

The aggregate losses of individual traders exceeded Rs 1.8 lakh crore over the three-year period, the study pointed out. The top 3.5 per cent of loss-makers - around 4 lakh traders - faced an average loss of Rs 28 lakh per person over

and Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) as a class booked gross trading profits of Rs 33,000 crore and Rs 28,000 crore, respectively, in FY24 (before accounting for transaction costs). Against this, individuals and other investors incurred a loss of over Rs 61,000 crore in FY24, before accounting for transaction costs. Most of the profits were generated by larger entities that used trading algorithms, with 97 per cent of FPI profits and 96 per cent of proprietary trader profits coming from algorithmic trading.



the last three financial years. Only 1 per cent of individual traders managed to earn profits exceeding Rs 1 lakh, after adjusting for transaction costs.

Also, during the period, the proportion of young traders (below 30 years) in the F&O segment rose from 31 per cent in FY23 to 43 per cent in FY24. Individuals from Beyond Top 30 (B30) cities made up over 72 per cent of the total F&O trader base, a higher proportion compared to mutual fund investors, 62 per cent of whom are from B30 cities.

In contrast to individual traders, proprietary traders

F&O are financial derivatives that allow investors to trade on the price of underlying assets like commodities, stocks, bonds and currencies. The main difference between the two is that futures contracts require the buyer to purchase the asset, while options contracts give the buyer the option to buy or sell the asset.

Fresh formal hiring increased to 10.52 lakh in July: EPFO

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

Signaling recovery in the formal labour market, the number of monthly fresh formal hiring increased in July as compared to June 2024. According to the latest monthly payroll data (provisional) released by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on Monday in July, the number of new monthly subscribers under the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) increased by 2.66 per cent to 10.52 lakh from 10.25 lakh in June.

The July enrolment represents a 2.43 per cent rise compared to July 2023. This surge in new memberships can be attributed to growing employment opportunities.

Of the total enrolment in July, the highest growth was observed in the 18-25 age group, with 8.77 lakh net additions. This age group represents 59.41 per cent of all new members added during the month. Further, around 3.05 lakh new female members joined EPFO in July, reflecting a year-over-year growth of 10.94 per cent.

SpiceJet raises ₹3K-cr via QIP

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 23

Domestic carrier SpiceJet on Monday said it has raised Rs 3,000 crore through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP).

The QIP, which opened on September 16 and closed on September 18, received an overwhelming response, SpiceJet said in a statement. The carrier said it would also receive an additional Rs 736 crore from the previous funding round. The newly-raised capital would be used to operationalise grounded fleet, acquire planes, invest in technology and expand into new markets, the airline said. — PTI

BRIEFLY

GALLE
Jayasuriya spins Sri Lanka to victory against NZ
 Left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya took two overs to polish off the New Zealand tail and complete a five-wicket haul as Sri Lanka sealed a 63-run victory in the opening Test. Chasing 275 for victory, New Zealand were all out for 211 despite Rachin Ravindra's gallant 92, their batters unable to negotiate the sharp turn and low bounce at the venue.

KOLKATA
Late strike seals victory for Mohun Bagan against NEUFC
 Mohun Bagan Super Giant secured a dramatic 3-2 victory over NorthEast United FC, twice overturning deficits to exact revenge on the Durand Cup champions in a pulsating Indian Super League clash. Mohun Bagan now have four points from two matches, while the Guwahati franchise have three points.

NEW DELHI
Bhambri reaches ATP 250 doubles final in China
 Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, Vijay Sundar Prashanth and Yuki Bhambri reached the men's doubles finals in two different ATP 250 meets in China. At the Hangzhou Open, the seeded Indian pair of Jeevan and Vijay staged a remarkable comeback to upset the third-seeded duo of Ariel Behar (Uruguay) and Robert Galloway (USA) 6-2 10-4. Meanwhile, at the Chengdu Open, the third seeded Indo-French pair Yuki and Albano Olivetti edged out Ivan Dodig of Croatia and Rafael Matos of Brazil 6-3 7-6.

BARCELONA
Barcelona goalkeeper Ter Stegen undergoes surgery
 Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen has undergone a successful surgery after suffering a complete rupture of the patella tendon in his right knee, the LaLiga club said. The 32-year-old Germany international picked up the injury during Barcelona's 5-1 win at Villarreal in LaLiga on Sunday.

MUMBAI
Maharashtra government allots plot to Rahane
 The Maharashtra cabinet approved the transfer of a 2,000 square metres land parcel in the Bandra area on lease to Ajinkya Rahane to develop a sports complex. The plot was originally allotted to Sunil Gavaskar in 1988 for setting up an indoor training academy but the cricketer could not utilise it for more than 30 years.

MADRID
Nadal added to Spain's Davis Cup Final Eight squad
 Rafa Nadal has been added to Spain's Davis Cup Final Eight squad. The Spanish squad will also include Carlos Alcaraz, Roberto Bautista Agut, Pablo Carreno Busta, and Marcel Granollers. AGENCIES

Dominant India tighten grip on top spot in WTC standings

DUBAI, SEPTEMBER 23
 A dominant India tightened their grip on the top spot in the World Test Championship table with a 280-run victory over Bangladesh, while Sri Lanka saw off New Zealand in Galle to help their move towards a potential spot in the final at Lord's next year.

The two results have led to shifts in the race for the two final spots, with Sri Lanka leapfrogging their current opponents into third spot. India's win in Chennai and the 12 WTC points reassert their status at the top of the table, moving to a percentage of 71.67%, extending their lead over second-placed Australia (62.50%). Bangladesh, who had jumped to the fourth position following an exceptional 2-0 win against Pakistan, dropped to sixth place (point percentage of 39.29%) behind England. The Indians still have nine

Tests remaining in this WTC cycle to decide their fate and make it to their third consecutive final of the tournament. They had ended as the runners-up in the previous two editions — losing to New Zealand in 2021 and Australia in 2023.

Bumrah the best: Smith
 Seasoned Australian batter Steve Smith has spoken glowingly of Jasprit Bumrah ahead of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, calling the Indian arguably the best fast bowler across formats. The five-Test series between India and Australia begins in Perth on November 22. India have won the past two series Down Under. If India are to do a threepeat, Bumrah's rare skills will be heavily relied upon in Australia. "He's a wonderful bowler, whether I face him with the new ball, slightly older ball, or even the old ball. He's got



India are looking to qualify for the World Test Championship final for the third consecutive time. PTI

great skills with all of them. He's a great bowler, arguably the best fast bowler across the three formats. It's always going to be a challenge," Smith said. The 35-year-old opened for

Australia in the past couple of series and is expected to do the same against India. Smith, a veteran of 109 Tests, is likely to cross the 10,000-run milestone in the high-profile series, having

so far made 9685 runs. Bumrah, on the other hand, has done remarkably well since making his Test debut in January 2018, taking 164 wickets in 37 games at an average of 20.51. — PTI

Pant enjoyed setting field against himself

Rishabh Pant enjoyed the experience of setting the field against himself in the opening Test against Bangladesh, the wicket-keeper-batsman said. Pant made a belligerent hundred in his first Test since a horrific car accident in 2022. As entertaining with the bat as with his relentless chatter from behind the stumps, Pant was seen advising Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto what the field setting should be while he was batting. "One fielder here, midwicket," Pant was caught saying in the stump microphone gesturing to the leg side. Shant even obliged him by deploying a player there on Day 3 of the contest. "I was just trying to help the team that you can set a fielder here, and it was amazing... I enjoyed it." REUTERS

Sahilton leads India U-19 to victory over Oz

PUDUCHERRY, SEPTEMBER 23
 Opener Sahil Parakh made an aggressive unbeaten hundred as India Under-19 brushed aside Australia by nine wickets to take an unsailable 2-0 lead in the three-match youth ODIs. Parakh's hundred (109 not out off 75 balls, 14x4, 5x6) helped India achieve the target in just 22 overs. Parakh, a 19-year from Mumbai, stitched a fine partnership of 153 with Abhigyan Kundu (53 not out off 50 balls, 9x4). Earlier, medium-pace Samarth Nagaraj (2/34), leg-spinner Mohammed Enaan (2/30) and off-spinner Kiran Chormale (2/29) helped India restrict the Aussies to 176. **Brief scores: Australia U19:** 176 all out in 49.3 overs (Sheriff 39; Chormale 2/29, Enaan 2/30); **India U19:** 177/1 in 22 overs (Parakh 109*, Kundu 53*). — PTI

Smells like team spirit

'Dream come true' for players, who credit team effort for historic gold medals



Viswanathan Anand with the Indian teams at the presentation ceremony of the 45th Chess Olympiad in Budapest. PTI

CHESS OLYMPIAD

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23
 The maiden Chess Olympiad gold is a dream come true for the five-member Indian men's team, spearheaded by the youngest ever challenger to the world title — D Gukesh. The 18-year-old issued a statement of sorts ahead of his eagerly-anticipated World Championship clash against Ding Liren of China in November by registering one of the best individual performances in the just-concluded 45th Olympiad. "I am just super happy right now," said Gukesh, who notched up nine points out of 10 games, conceding just a couple of draws besides eight wins. This phenomenal performance helped the team clinch gold as India scored a domi-

inating 21 points out of a possible 22, winning 10 and drawing just one. "It was a very nice experience for me personally and for the team... this was basically a dream come true," Gukesh said. Another key contributor to the men's success was Arjun Erigaisi, who scored 10 points playing all the 11 games in the event. He has now elevated himself to No. 3 in live world rankings behind Magnus Carlsen of Norway and Hikaru Nakamura of the US. With a rating of 2797, Arjun is just three points shy of the magical 2800 mark and five behind Nakamura. Carlsen, on 2830, is still some distance away. On why he played on Board 3 despite being the highest rated player in the Indian team at the start of the Olympiad, Erigaisi said it was

part of the strategy. "We thought Gukesh would do well on Board 1 and I would do good on Board 3. It worked out well, so obviously no regrets," he said. While both Gukesh and Erigaisi won individual gold for their best performances on Board 1 and 3, respectively, Vidit Gujrathi missed out on personal glory. He scored 7.5 points from his 10 games but could only finish fourth in performance rating on Board 4. R Praggnanandhaa's performance might not have been up to his own lofty expectations but he played the perfect anchor, especially till the ninth game, giving the much-needed stability to the team. Team captain N Srinath was obviously delighted. "I don't have to give them a lot of advice as these guys are

professionals, they know what to do. Basically it was some preparation, bringing them together but mostly just sitting back and watching them flow," he said. **20-year wait ends**
 Veteran D Harika had to endure a long wait to realise her dream of winning the Olympiad title but she was finally glad to have achieved it even though she was not satisfied with her performance. "Definitely for me it is much more emotional. I have been playing for 20 years," the 33-year-old said. "I am extremely happy and proud of the girls, youngsters came up in the team and they did extremely well. I am glad that we managed to come back strongly after the setback," she added.

After seven successive wins, India suffered a setback with a defeat to Poland and a draw with the US. However, they won the final two matches to finish at 19 points, one more than Kazakhstan. "It started off quite well, but in the middle we had a few setbacks and I am really proud of the way my team and I handled it," Divya Deshmukh said. "I am overwhelmed with emotions," the 18-year-old added. Playing on the third board, Divya ended with 9.5 points from her 11 games and her performance also netted her the individual gold medal. Vantika Agrawal was in a class of her own, scoring 7.5 out of nine. Vantika also won a gold medal for her individual performance on the fourth board. — PTI

Former player Somdev challenges tennis body elections in Delhi HC

VINAYAK PADMADEO
BHUBANESHWAR
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23
 Former Davis Cup teammates Somdev Devvarman and Purav Raja have put a spanner in the upcoming All-India Tennis Association (AITA) elections. Devvarman, former India No. 1 singles player, and Raja, who won two doubles ATP titles, have challenged the September 28 elections in the Delhi High Court, seeking a stay till the time AITA is fully compliant with the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011. Chintan Parikh and Rohit Rajpal are fighting for the top post, while Sunder Iyer and Dinesh Arora are set to be appointed uncontested for the posts of secretary general and treasurer, respectively. The main grouse of Devvarman and Raja is that AITA, despite being a signatory to the Sports Code, has failed to provide seats for athletes in the central council/general assembly as well as in its executive committee. "It is submitted that it is essential that AITA as well as

its constituents must comply with the Sports Code and the Ministry ought to be directed to ensure that AITA and its constituents are fully compliant with the requirements of the Sports Code as a condition for continued recognition only thereafter fresh elections may be directed to be held in fair transparent and democratic manner," the petition said. In the prayer, the duo has sought directions from the court to ensure that the sports ministry ensures that elections are held strictly as per the Sports Code and appoint an administrator to run the national federation. "Appoint a retired judge of the Hon'ble Court Supreme Court or of this Hon'ble Court or any other High Court as an Administrator of the Respondent No.2 AITA, with an honorarium to be paid by the Respondent No.1 and / or Respondent No.2 AITA, and with permission to employ such professionals and other qualified individuals to assist the Administrator in this process," it added.

Alcaraz clinches Laver Cup for Team Europe

BERLIN: Four-time Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz overcame Taylor Fritz 6-2 7-5 as Team Europe rallied to beat Team World 13-11 and win the Laver Cup. Alcaraz broke the US Open runner-up Fritz in the 11th game and then closed out victory on serve, sparking celebrations as the Europe team rejoiced with captain Bjorn Borg. Team World was favourite to win for a third straight time after leading 8-4 on points heading into the last of the three days. Europe began the comeback Sunday when Alcaraz and Casper Ruud won the doubles 6-2 7-6(6) against American pair Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe. AP

Arsenal get under Man City's skin

MANCHESTER, SEPTEMBER 23
 Call it the dark arts. Call it anti-football. Call it doing whatever it takes to win. Arsenal tried it all against Manchester City in the latest chapter of the Premier League's new heavyweight rivalry — and came within seconds of victory. "There was only one team that came to play football," Manchester City midfielder Bernardo Silva grumbled after an intense, absorbing and incident-packed 2-2 draw at Etihad Stadium. "The other came to play to the limits of what was possible to do and allowed by the referee, unfortunately." John Stones' equaliser for City in the eighth minute of second-half stoppage time denied Arsenal, who played with 10 men for the entire second half, what would have been a defining victory for a team that is getting closer and closer to Pep Guardiola's repeat champions. City's players know it, too. Hence Bernardo's outspoken



City and Arsenal played out an intense, absorbing and incident-packed 2-2 draw on Sunday. REUTERS

post-match comments on Arsenal. Notice how Erling Haaland chucked the ball at the back of Arsenal defender Gabriel's head in City's wild celebrations after Stones' late intervention. Look, too, at Pep Guardiola kicking his seat in the dugout after feeling a sense of injustice at the manner of Arsenal's equaliser by Ricardo Calafiori. Arsenal have gotten under

City's skin. Roll on the return match at Emirates Stadium in early February. "As a football match, it is a great spectacle for the Premier League," City captain Kyle Walker said of the new rivalry with Arsenal, who have been runners-up in the last two seasons. "Probably not so much certain stuff — I think it's part and parcel of the game and

we'll say the dark arts." Stones spoke of Arsenal's attempts to slow the game down by what he perceived as feigning injuries to allow manager Mikel Arteta to "get some information on to the pitch." "I wouldn't say they have mastered it but they have done it for a few years now so we knew to expect that," Stones said. — AP

Leverkusen complete 4-3 comeback win

LEVERKUSEN: Victor Boniface's added-time goal lifted Bayer Leverkusen to a 4-3 comeback win over Wolfsburg in the Bundesliga as the German champions produced another of their trademark late breakthroughs ahead of facing Bayern Munich next week. It seemed Xabi Alonso's team might have missed its chance when Granit Xhaka rattled the goalpost with a stoppage-time curling shot, but soon after Boniface made the breakthrough. AP

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Chief Electrical Engineer/Project, Ambala Cantt for & on behalf of the President of India invites **OPEN E-TENDER** on web site www.ireps.gov.in for the following works. Tenderer may submit their original/revised offer up to prescribed closing time & date. No tender will be accepted manually.

Tender No. & Tender Title	App. Cost (Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Completion period (Months)	Cost of Tender document (Rs.)	Date of Closing
Tender No. NR/Proj/UMB/25001	103.40 Cr.	53,20,500/-	18 Months	Nil	08.11.2024 at 15:30 Hrs.

"Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of feeder work for Upgradation of existing 1x25 KV Electric Traction System into 2x25 KV Electric Traction System in between Sanehwal-Jalandhar - Amritsar section of Firozpur Division of Northern Railway (164 RKM/328TKM)"

Similar nature of work: "Design, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 50 Hz, single phase 25 KV AC OHE or 2x25 KV OHE Work"

Tender documents are available on Railway website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in and the same can be downloaded from there. Earnest Money deposit (EMD) and Tender document cost (TDC) in respect of e-tendering will only be accepted through net banking and payment gateway only. Details of bank account number and technical details have been provided for in the software (IREPS) to which prospective registered tenderers will have access at the time of tendering. **Note:** Technical and Financial Eligibility and all other terms & conditions, may be seen in Tender document and downloaded from Railway website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. **Tender Notice No: NR/Proj/UMB/Advt/01 Dated: 23.09.2024** 2961/2024

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Annexure "A" HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
 Telephone No.01893-256602 Email-ee-fat-hp@nic.in
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Division, Fatehpur Distt Kangra H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bid in electronic tendering system from the eligible Class of contractors registered in link works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Starting date for opening bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of bid	Time Limit	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of Contractor
1	Construction of link road Ghath to Kohliar in km 0/0 to 2/700 (SH- P/L Grading-II, Grading-III and metalling and tarring at RD 2/200 to 2/700).	Rs. 957111/-	27.09.2024	Rs. 19200/-	03.10.2024	One Month	Rs. 500/-	D&C
2	Construction of Kandore to Santwan road km 0/0 to 2/700 Under SCDP (SH- P/L Wearing (Grading-II) and tarring at RD 2/100 to 2/700	Rs. 646201/-	27.09.2024	Rs. 13000/-	03.10.2024	One Month	Rs. 500/-	D&C
3	Construction of road from Kangar to Kandore in GP Rehan and Kandore km 0/0 to 1/0 Under SCDP (SH-Providing and laying tarring at RD 0/190 to 0/940).	Rs. 1077001/-	27.09.2024	Rs. 21600/-	03.10.2024	One Month	Rs. 500/-	D&C
4	Repair of road from Dhoipur to Village Damad Km 0/0 to 1/0 Under NDRF (SH-Providing and laying tarring at RD 0/190 to 0/940).	Rs. 754307/-	27.09.2024	Rs. 15100/-	03.10.2024	One Month	Rs. 500/-	D&C
5	Up-gradation of Raja Katalab to Panjara road km 0/0 to 1/700 Under PMGSY (Batch-1 2018-19) World Bank RRP-II Package No. HP_04-269 (SH- Routine Maintenance of road after completion of work).	Rs. 849239/-	27.09.2024	Rs. 17000/-	03.10.2024	Four Year	Rs. 500/-	D&C
6	Retrofiting of Community Health Center building Fatehpur (SH- Seismic Vulnerability Assessment and Retrofiting of Community Health Center Fatehpur, Kangra HP Under State Disaster Mitigation Fund)	Rs. 5304097/-	27.09.2024	Rs. 106100/-	03.10.2024	One Year	Rs. 2000/-	D&C

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in. Date of Opening of tender 04.10.2024. **ON BEHALF OF GOVERNOR OF HIMACHAL PRADESH** Sd/- Executive Engineer Fatehpur Division HPPWD, Fatehpur. ee-fat-hp@nic.in [01893-256602](tel:01893-256602)

DPR/HP/2249



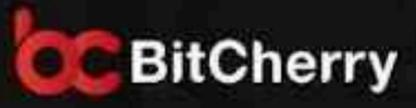
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