

ANALYSIS 9
EDUCATIONAL REFORMS MUST

HYDERABAD 11
ARTICLE 370 AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS: CITIZENS

SPORTS 16
KOTLA TO HAVE VIRAT KOHLI STAND

HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA

HYDERABAD, MONDAY AUGUST 19, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3



the pioneer



RAM IN A DILEMMA!

Page 13

www.dailypioneer.com

Journalist, brother shot dead in Saharanpur

LUCKNOW: A photojournalist with a prominent Hindi daily and his brother were shot dead in Saharanpur district on Sunday morning following an altercation over disposal of cow dung, police said. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each for the kin of the deceased, however, the SP and the Congress slammed the ruling BJP over the alleged collapse of law and order and failure to provide adequate compensation. Ashish (23), a photographer with Dainik Jagran newspaper, and his brother Ashutosh (19) were killed by their neighbour Mahipal Saini and his sons, Senior Superintendent of Police (Saharanpur) Dinesh Kumar P said.

'Country facing financial emergency-like situation'

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Sunday expressed concern over what it called the "slowdown" of economy and said the country is facing a situation like that of a "financial emergency". Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi accused the BJP of diverting the people's attention from its failures. Expressing concern over the economic slowdown, Singhvi said the situation is like that of a "financial emergency". He raised the issue of slowdown in automobile sector.

Sena leader booked for abetting dalit woman's rape

AHMEDNAGAR: Shiv Sena leader and former mayor of Ahmednagar in Maharashtra, Bhagvan Phulsundar, has been booked for allegedly abetting rape of a dalit woman by two of his brothers over a land dispute, police said on Sunday. While Bhagvan Phulsundar (55), the former mayor, and his brother Arun allegedly abetted the crime, their two brothers Ganesh (30) and Mahesh (34) allegedly committed the act, said police inspector and Kotwali police station incharge Vikas Wagh. No arrest is made so far. An FIR was registered against the four on Saturday night on a complaint lodged by the woman belonging to a Scheduled Caste (SC) community, he said.

Nadda vows to dethrone 'Shehanshah' KCR

- Targets CM and his family for corruption on all fronts
- Alleges KCR demolishing Secretariat for vastu

DEEPTHI NANDAN REDDY
HYDERABAD

BJP national working president Jagat Prakash Nadda has vowed to dethrone Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao in 2023.

Describing KCR as 'Shehanshah' concerned only with the welfare of his family and oblivious to people's hardships, Nadda, on his maiden visit after becoming the saffron party's working president, launched a scathing attack on the TRS chief while addressing a public meeting at the sprawling Exhibition Grounds at Nampally here.

"Centre has been implementing many schemes for the welfare of people of all sections, but Shahenshah KCR has been obstructing them in Telangana. While Ayushman Bharath scheme covers 55 crore people in India and 26 lakh families are eligible in Telangana, KCR has been opposing it, as he does not



BJP national working president Jagat Prakash Nadda being received by party leaders. Union Minister Kishan Reddy, State BJP president K Laxman and ex-IP Jithender Reddy are seen

want Modi to win hearts of Telangana people. Neither is he implementing Arogyasri scheme. As a result, people are suffering. Such is the autocratic behavior of KCR that he is just

concerned about his family and cares for none. There is no woman or an SC in KCR's cabinet. Now KCR is demolishing the Secretariat for vastu reasons. BJP will show the true

vastu to KCR in 2023. The BJP will dethrone KCR lock, stock and barrel, and form the next government in Telangana," Nadda declared.

Continued on Page 4

PFC CHAIRMAN MEETS CM



Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao felicitating PFC chairman Rajiv Sharma as Transco CMD Devulapalli Prabhakar Rao, Government's Chief Advisor Rajiv Sharma and Chief Secretary SK Joshi look on at Pragathi Bhavan on Sunday

KCR moots comprehensive national power policy

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has underscored the dire need for a comprehensive national policy to ensure 24/7 quality power to all sectors.

KCR pitched this when Power Finance Corporation (PFC) chairman Rajiv Sharma, who had toured the state for three days and visited power plants as well as the Kaleswaram project, paid a courtesy call on the Chief

- Pitches for 24/7 quality power nationwide
- Rajiv Sharma praises CM for doing wonders in power and irrigation sectors

Minister at Pragathi Bhavan on Sunday.

Not even half of the total captive power generation capacity in the country was being utilized at a time when several parts in the country

were going without power and there were frequent power cuts in many places. There was need to get over this situation, the Chief Minister stated.

TS Genco, Transco CMD Devulapalli Prabhakar Rao, Government's Chief Advisor Rajiv Sharma, Chief Secretary SK Joshi, CMO Principal Secretary S Narsing Rao, CMO Secretaries Smita Sabharwal, Bhupal Reddy and others participated.

Continued on Page 4

CM convenes collectors' meet today to discuss new Revenue Act

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao will meet district collectors on Tuesday at Pragathi Bhavan. Ministers have been invited to the meeting, which will start at 11.30 AM.

Against the backdrop of bringing a new Revenue Act, the Chief Minister wants to take the views, opinions and suggestions of collectors, who have hands-on experience in land management. During the meeting, detailed discussions will be held on the guidelines to be formulated for effectively implementing the new Revenue Act so that people

and farmers will have no hassles and there is no room whatsoever for corruption.

Instructions have been issued to the Collectors to come prepared and give their opinions and suggestions and be an active part of the discussions. The meeting will also discuss the implementation of the new Panchayat Raj and Municipal Act.

In addition, the participants will deliberate on the proposed 60-day Action Plan to be implemented in villages and towns. Since there is a need to discuss these three aspects in depth, the meeting may extend over two days.

CBI to probe phone-tapping charges in Karnataka: Yedi

PNS BENGALURU

Days after charges of phone tapping during the previous coalition government headed by JD(S) surfaced, Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Sunday said he will order a CBI probe into the allegations citing demands by several political leaders including Congress.

While former CM H D Kumaraswamy, who headed the coalition government said he was ready for a probe by even an "international agency", his alliance partner the Congress, however, seemed to be a divided house. "On the telephone tapping issue. Several leaders, including Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah, have said it should be probed and truth should come out, so I have decided to order a CBI probe. Tomorrow



Several leaders, including Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah, have said it should be probed and truth should come out, so I have decided to order a CBI probe. Tomorrow itself I will order the probe

— YEDIYURAPPA, Chief Minister of Karnataka

itself I will order the probe," Yediyurappa told reporters here.

He also said it was the expectation of the people of the state that a detailed inquiry should be made and the culprits punished. Yediyurappa's announcement comes amid signs that the scandal was gaining political steam ever since disqualified JD(S) MLA A H Vishwanath, who served as JD(S) state president and turned rebel later, last week

dropped the political bomb, accusing the HD Kumaraswamy government of tapping phones and spying on more than 300 people, including him. Congress leaders, including Siddaramaiah, M Mallikarjunacharya and home minister MB Patil, had sought a probe while another key party leader DK Shivakumar has rejected the snooping charges and appeared to side with Kumaraswamy.

Minor girl impregnated by grandfather

- The culprit is a retired headmaster

RAMAKRISHNA PERALA
KARIMNAGAR

In a disgusting incident that has shaken the entire Jagtial district, a 15-year-old girl has conceived after being molested under threat by her grandfather in Purnanipeta area of the district headquarters.

The sordid crime was kept under wraps for many weeks, with both inducements and threats from the culprit, until the victim's family members chose to place it before the media. They are now demanding justice for the hapless girl.

According to them, the girl, a Class X student of a school in Sarangapur mandal, came to her relatives' house in the



Pochamma temple area of Purnanipeta in Jagtial town during the month of April. The younger brother of her grandfather, Brahmaiah (70), who stays with the family, sexually assaulted the girl twice. This happened when his family members had gone to Hyderabad.

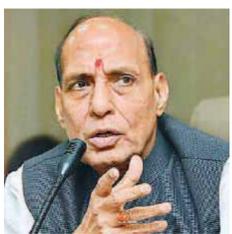
Continued on Page 4

Rajnath, Jitendra raise voice on POK

PNS KALKA/JAMMU

Raising the pitch on PoK issue, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said any talks with Pakistan in future would be only about Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, while his ministerial colleague Jitendra Singh voiced hope that the region would be integrated with India.

Rajnath Singh, who was addressing a public rally in Haryana's Kalka, said there would be no talks with Pakistan unless it acts against terrorists and stops supporting terror activities.



"If talks take place (with Pakistan), it will be on PoK and not on any other issue," he said.

Referring to scrapping of the

If talks take place (with Pakistan), it will be on PoK and not on any other issue

— RAJNATH SINGH, Defence Minister

provision granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution, Singh said the decision had sent jitters in Pakistan.

Addressing a meet organised by the BJP's J-K unit at party headquarters in Jammu, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said after the revocation of Article 370 provisions, people should

now pray for the integration of PoK with India in their lifetime.

"We are lucky that it (revoking of the special status) happened in our lifetime. It is because of the sacrifices of our three generations," Singh, who is Minister of State for the Prime Minister's Office, said.

He said, "After this historic step, let us move forward with a positive thinking of freeing PoK from the illegal occupation of Pakistan and making it an integral part of the country in accordance with the unanimously passed resolution in Parliament (in 1994)."

'Appeasement politics continued triple talaq'

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday the politics of appeasement, which led to the Partition, was the reason for the continuance of the "evil practice" of triple talaq for so long. Speaking at an event here, Shah defended the law criminalising triple talaq, asserting

that it establishes gender equality.

"Some people level allegations against BJP government that such action is anti-Muslim. I want to make it clear that this is only and only to benefit Muslims," he said.

It was a "nightmare" for crores of Muslim women who were denied of their rights, he said.



Rename JNU after PM Modi: BJP MP Hans Raj Hans

PNS NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party MP and singer Hans Raj Hans suggested renaming the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) here after Prime Minister Narendra Modi. His remarks on Saturday drew sharp reaction from some quarters including the JNU students' union. The northwest Delhi MP made the suggestion at an event titled 'EK Shaam ShaheedonKe Naam' organised by the RSS-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) in respect of the country's fallen soldiers.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari was the chief guest at the event which was also attended by Bhojpuri singer-actor Dinesh



Lal Yadav 'Nirahua'. While talking about the abrogation of provisions of Article 370, Hans Raj Hans said, "Kashmir will become a paradise now. Pray

that everyone remains peaceful and no bombs are set off. We are bearing the brunt of the mistakes made by our elders." He went on to add, "The JNU

His remarks elicited sharp reaction from JNU students' union president N Sai Balaji. "Now, when universities are turning into jumla (rhetoric) manufacturing centres why not rename all universities after Modi?" he said

should be renamed MNU. Something should be named after Modiji." His remarks elicited sharp reaction from JNU students' union president N Sai Balaji. "Now, when universities are turning into jumla (rhetoric) manufacturing centres why not rename all universities after Modi?" he said.

"It is unfortunate that rather than talking about the Rs 515 cr

HEFA (Higher Education Financing Agency) loan, massive hostel crisis, 80 per cent budget cut in library and other anti-students policies, this is being talked about.

"At a time, libraries are empty and without books, walls are barren without posters, minds are rigged with hate, it might sound ideal to name the varsity after Modiji under whom

these policies of destruction have been implemented," Balaji alleged. He alleged that public universities are being shut in India to start foreign universities and students are not being given fellowships. "We are only destroying learning and critical thinking. Teachers and students are being attacked for wanting to teach and learn. What's in a name when universities are turning into jumla (rhetoric) universities.

"It would be ideal to name the varsity after Modi under whose regime only jumlas were delivered for students," he said.

Former JNUSU general secretary Rama Naga latched onto the remarks to take a dig at vice-chancellor M Jagadeesh Kumar.



Heavy rain likely in TS districts

PNS HYDERABAD

Heavy rains lashed across eastern districts of the Telangana State on Sunday. The Indian Metrological Department (IMD) has forecast more showers during the next two days. "The incessant rains on Sunday were due to the formation of upper air circulation," an IMD official said.

Ramagundam of Peddapalli district received the maximum rainfall of 92.3 mm, followed by Thorru of Mahabubabad, which received 80.3 mm. Otherwise, Janaganam, Mancherla, Warangal and Bhadradi Kothagudem districts also recorded heavy rainfall above 60 mm on Sunday.

"During the next 24 and 48 hours, due to upper air circulation, heavy or moderate rainfall may occur across isolated places in the State," said IMD official. For Hyderabad and its neighbourhood, IMD official said, the sky is likely to be cloudy with one or two drizzles during the next 24-48 hours.

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Shrawana & Krishna Paksha
Panchangam
Tithi: Chaturthi 03:29 am (Next Day)
Nakshatram: Uttara Bhadrpadra 07:49 pm
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)
Rahukalam: 07:37 am - 09:11 am
Yamagandam: 10:45 am - 12:19 pm
Varjyam: NIL
Gulika: 01:53 - 03:27 pm
Good Time: (to start any important work)
Amritkalam: 02:26 pm - 04:14 pm
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:54 am - 12:44 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms
Temp: 29/24
Humidity: 86%
Sunrise: 05:59
Sunset: 06:39
Current Weather Conditions
Updated August 18, 2019 5:00 PM

Several politicians are switching loyalties and walking over of the BJP. There has even been a mass defection to the saffron camp in the districts. Of all the political players, it is TDP that has bore the brunt most. Those jumping on to the saffron bandwagon are doing so out of need to stay relevant, while also getting drawn to policies and actions like scrapping Article 370 in Kashmir etc. But, whether there is space in the BJP to accommodate such senior and experienced new entrants is matter that still has to pan out.

Uranium mining and pitfalls

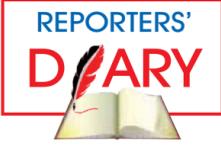
Uranium mining has become a hot-button issue in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district with com-

Accommodating new entrants in BJP

peting forces with divergent standpoints. The Adivasi belt of Nallamala in Mahabubnagar are frequented by political leaders and mass organisations that seek protection of Adivasi's interests. Thrown in the mix are mine operators who eye very intently the vast mineral wealth of the terrain. However, youths in the district have come to realise that precious mineral resource reserves the region possess are eyed by many with nefarious designs.

Water in streams sans rains

River Krishna is in full spate and so Nagarjuna Sagar received good inflows. The project area has turned into a tourism spot overnight. However, Bhongir and Suryapet districts themselves have not received much rain over the past fortnight. On the other hand, inflows to the dam projects have paved allowed water to flow into streams which will help in recharging of water tables, much to the delight of farmers.



Woman of 'mettle'

TPCC's Vijayashanthi is facing a peculiar situation with rumours suggesting that she might join rival BJP. This has infuriated her no end. At a recent event, she blasted

Congress leaders, saying some of them were spreading these rumours deliberately to push her out of the party. Party leaders were left wondering how she got such 'information' when she seldom goes to Gandhi Bhavan, the Congress' state HQ. One leader remarked 'Ramulamma... Majaakaa' (can't take someone of her stature lightly).

Demolition, ruins and TDP

The GVMC's action of demolishing a four-storey building constructed by former Anakapalle

MLA Peela Govinda Satyanarayana of TDP on Saturday came on the eve of his birthday. Interestingly, the day's papers carried news about his birthday celebrations as well as the building demolition. Sources said many TDP leaders had gone on a building spree, violating CRZ norms. A Town Planning wing official said many more illegal constructions will be brought down.

Political university w/o students

With BJP working president JP

Nadda touring Telangana currently, several more cadres of Telangana TDP took the opportunity to join the saffron party. The BJP is trying to attract whoever is left in TDP to suck out all life from that party. Against all odds, office bearers of Telangana TDP have still been putting up a brave face. A TDP leader recently said his party is a 'university' and it will keep producing leaders. The observation, however, drew only chuckles. Now, the TDP is at best a 'university without any student'.

(PV Kondal Rao, Avinash Deepak Puli, Bakka Tennyson, Kolishetty Venkateshwarlu, KMP Patnaik, Deepthi Nandan)

Gold continues to scale newer peaks

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Amidst unpalatable utterances of US President Trump that India and China are taking undue advantage of WTO, gold continued to scale newer peaks during the week ended Saturday. Silver also moved up in tandem and is expected to cross US \$ 21 (per oz) in a near future. In the recent history, silver had touched the highest level of \$ 35.30 in February, 1980 while the lowest of \$ 3.50 in January 1993. Gold remained buoyant in higher brackets and closed at US \$ 1,525 (per ounce) while silver, followed suit and closed at \$ 17.20 (per ounce). Platinum and Palladium also marched forward and closed at \$854.10 (per 10 gms) and \$ 1,452.75 (per 10 gms) respectively.

Other economic parameters moved northward. Brent closed at US\$ 59.49 (per barrel) while Crude oil was quoted at Rs.3,902 (per barrel). Gold MCX stood at Rs.38,010 (per 10 gms) and Silver MCX at Rs.43,835 (per kg). Sensex and Nifty 50 closed at 37,350.33 and 11,047.80 points respectively. Leading foreign currencies' exchange rates were:

US \$: Rs.71.14, British Pound: Rs.86.42, Euro: Rs.78.91, Singapore \$: Rs.51.40, Canadian \$: Rs.53.62, Swiss Franc: Rs.72.71, Australian \$: Rs.48.22, Saudi Rial: Rs.18.97, Kuwaiti Dinar: Rs.233.83, Omani Rial: Rs.184.81 and UAE Dirham: Rs.19.34.

At home, despite higher prices, big market players were quite active. Therefore, both the precious metals attained new heights and closed at higher levels as compared to the previous week. Standard gold (24 carats) appreciated by Rs.470 and closed at Rs.37,970 (per 10 gms). Ornamental gold too, moved up in tandem and was quoted in the range of Rs.36,080 - 36,190 on the closing day. Silver (0.999), too, appreciated by Rs.500 and closed at Rs.43,800 (per kg).

In a development with far-reaching positive results, the

Ornamental gold too, moved up in tandem and was quoted in the range of Rs 36,080 - Rs 36,190 on the closing day. Silver, too, appreciated by Rs 500 and closed at Rs 43,800 (per kg)

government is likely to give a green signal for setting up the Spot Exchange to provide a common platform to all the stake holders in gold trading, viz. Jewellers, banks, importers etc. The new Exchange to be established after the suggestion to this effect from the World Gold Council (WGC), 12 commercial banks and 8 Foreign Institutions, including trade organisations, will strive to bring much-needed transparency in gold business.

COMMODITIES

The sentiment in principal wholesale commodity markets in the twin cities remained moderate. Rythu Bazars and various commodity markets located in Begum Bazar, Kishanunj, Mukthiyarjunj, Risala, Abdullah, Mir Alam Mandi, Dilsukhnagar, Bowenpally, General Bazar localities were from moderate to strong.

During the week, common pulses such as tuar dal, moong dal, urad dal and masoor dal remained unchanged, while staple food grains and common edible oils moved within a narrow margin. Chillies, copra and til seeds recorded smart gains while sagodana and jeera remained subdued. Coriander and mustard remained unchanged. The prices of common vegetables recorded an appreciation as the rains took a halt in the vegetable growing areas. Common vegetables along with other leafy vegetables recorded appreciation in prices in the range of 9 per cent to 17 per cent.

Take up road works, Cong tells KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress MP from Bhongir Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has alleged that the government failed to complete the road from Thatti Annaram Crossroads to Pedda Amberpet Road worth Rs 5.80 crore though the then Minister KT Rama Rao laid foundation stone a year ago.

Venkat Reddy alleged that KTR laid foundation stone expecting votes in Ibrahimpatnam constituency only. He alleged that the TRS government issued about 4,000 GOs before the Assembly elections. But the government failed to complete a single work. He demanded KTR, who used to respond on twitter over every issue, to respond on this issue immediately.

asked the government to take up Thatti Annaram and Pedda Amberpet road works immediately or else KTR has to accept his mistake tendering apologies to the people and saying that the foundation was laid only for the sake of votes.

BJP EYES LOCAL BODY POLLS

■ JP Nadda holds meet with Telangana leaders to work out strategies

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) working president J P Nadda on Sunday discussed with the party's Telangana leaders the strategy to be adopted in the upcoming elections to urban local bodies in the state.

On his maiden visit to Telangana after taking over the party post, he exhorted the party leaders to work together with those joining the BJP from other outfits. According to BJP sources, Nadda gave broad guidelines to the party leaders to strengthen the organisation in the state ahead of the local bodies elections.

He asked state BJP chief K Laxman and other leaders to ensure proper coordination at all levels. The meeting discussed the steps required to make the party strong in all the districts. Nadda will participate in a membership drive and address a public meeting in Hyderabad later on Sunday. Several leaders from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and other parties are expected to formally



BJP working president JP Nadda addresses party workers in Hyderabad on Sunday



The meeting discussed steps required to make the party strong in all the districts across the State

join the BJP at the public meeting.

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, the three other party MPs from the state and other senior leaders attended the meeting with Nadda. Nadda's visit is part of BJP's attempts to strengthen itself in the state and project the party as an alternative to the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS). The

BJP's morale is high after winning four Lok Sabha seats in the state. The party not only retained Secunderabad seat

but also wrested three seats from the TRS. BJP President and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had visited

Hyderabad last month to launch the membership campaign.

Laxman has already announced that the BJP President will visit Telangana every month as part of the party's plans to strengthen itself. He is confident that the BJP will come to power in Telangana in 2023 Assembly polls.

Review graft in TS projects: Bhatti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has stated that he will meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah demanding the latter to order an inquiry into the alleged corruption in construction of irrigation projects in the state. He demanded the state BJP leadership to mount pressure on the Centre to order an inquiry into the TRS government corrupt practices. He challenged BJP to take up inquiry into the corrupt practices of TRS government if BJP is not colluded with the TRS politically.

Ridiculing BJP state president Dr K Laxman for criticising TRS government suddenly alleging that 'every scheme is a scam', Bhatti said that the Congress has been criticising the TRS government on same issues for the last six years. He demanded the Centre to take up inquiry with central inquiry institutions on the corruption took place in



Kaleswaram project, Mission Bhagiratha, Seetharama Project, Palamuru-Rangareddy projects besides ordering inquiry into redesigning of these projects.

On Sunday, Bhatti questioned the state BJP to tell whether TRS's support to BJP in Parliament is correct or not. Reminding the support extended by the TRS in Parliament to BJP in recent session, Bhatti said that the people knew very well that both TRS and BJP were working together since 2014 elections. TRS is extending its support to BJP whenever it needed, he pointed out.

Finding fault with Laxman

for criticising TRS government's schemes as 'every scheme is a scam', Bhatti said that the Congress party is waging movement against the TRS government for the last six years. Kaleswaram project, which was a redesigned, was a big scam, Bhatti alleged saying that the government released more water to downstream than it pumped to Sripada Yellampally project. "In what way this act will benefit state treasury?", he questioned.

Bhatti alleged that the TRS government made one contractor to file tenders for one lakh crore Kaleswaram project. He described Seetharama, Palamuru-Rangareddy projects as big scams. He demanded BJP to take up inquiry into projects redesigning. CLP leader alleged that single family is looting the funds of the state. In every tender, only L1, L2 and L3 only participated in every tender process. These only got works also.

Will fight against river linking: TJS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) has made it clear that it was against the state government's policies in regard to river linking. Stating that the move will harm Telangana further, TJS alleged that the Chief Minister Chandrashekar Rao is contemplating to do injustice to Telangana in the name of Krishna and Godavari rivers linking.

On Saturday, TJS Chief Prof Kondandaram said that it was not proper to KCR to state that he will transform the Rayalaseema as a 'Rathnalaseema' (gemstone). Andhra will get benefited more than Telangana with the river linking, he said informing that TJS discussed with the

experts on river linking. He said that river linking is not a first effort in India and serious discussion is going on river linking internationally. Severe criticism occurred against river linking across the world, he said.

The reason for Telangana movement was water, funds and jobs. But still, there are no plans regarding distribution of water in many places of Telangana, Kondandaram lamented. Demanding the state government to release white paper on pending projects, Kondandaram said that water will be supplied to many places from Krishna catchment areas. He said that there is water availability in many places of erstwhile Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar and Warangal districts.



Buddha Vanam project soon: Errabelli

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Panchayath Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao on Sunday said Gautama Buddha was regarded as democratic, humanist and a great teacher of his times in the entire world. He was speaking at a seminar conducted on 'Buddha Dhamma'.

The Minister said endeavors covered the aspects pertaining to the women's independence, casteless society, and other aspects of the society. To attain this, he had faced many hardships, the Minister said and added that Bimbisara and Ashoka have followed the preachings of Buddha. During the present day context, Babasaheb Ambedkar had also followed the preachings of Buddha and he had in a way helped the revival of Bodhdha Dharma, the Minister said. On the initiatives undertaken by the K Chandrashekar Rao regime in the state, the Minister said the government has undertaken a Buddha Vanam project at Nagarjuna Sagar.

The Minister lauded the efforts of Buddhist society and exhorted the people to follow the preachings. He hailed the appointment of Buddhist leader Bommala Kattaiah as the member of Telangana Minority commission and assured that every possible step would be taking a shape with the proper guidance.

A meditation centre will also come up there and all historical finds collected from Buddhist sites will be kept in the Buddha Vanam.

Yeh dil maange more: Let India recast history!

HC UPADHYAY ■ HYDERABAD

Post nullification of Articles 370 and 35A and the positive response from people of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh in particular and elsewhere in the country in general, coupled with overwhelming support from the community of nations, including the UNSC, there are high hopes of reunification of India as it was before Independence.

Dissenting voices from disgruntled elements, whose bread and butter lies in fractured India and whose loyalty rests with Pakistan, have been humbled effectively by the authorities. The goings-on in the newly created Union Territories have been smoother than expected. The international community has welcomed the bold decision of the Indian Parliament. It is noteworthy that paper tigers such as Tukde Tukde gang, criminals supporting Afzal Guru and Burhan Vani and the local agents of ISI have been exposed, crushed and finished once and for all. Their sup-

porters wearing the masks of intellectuals, politicians, well-wishers and representatives of minorities too, are crest-fallen. Practically, there is no one in the whole country to shed a tear for such elements.

Indeed, the nation has come of age. Of late, there has been a realisation among the new generation of Indians that Partition was done under coercion and threat of violence. The Mohammed Ali Jinnah gang of Islamic fanatics, fully supported by the waning British rule, had indulged in arm-twisting and large scale bloodshed and snatched away forcibly much against the wishes of the people, a sizeable piece of land which is known as Pakistan. This new entity was obviously carved out of religious fanaticism and utmost hate for the Hindus. Unfortunately the subsequent governments, after creation of this hate State, failed to deliver results and pampered the fanatic elements of Pakistan and also within India to the core.

The new dispensation at the Centre is committed to setting

Dissenting voices from disgruntled elements, whose bread and butter lies in fractured India and whose loyalty rests with Pakistan, have been humbled effectively by the authorities. The international community has welcomed the bold decision of India

right the wrong in proper perspective. Scrapping Articles 370 and 35A is only the first step

Three-year jail for illegal buildings proposed

To put an end to rampant illegal constructions in Telangana, the new Municipal Bill - 2019 proposes either imprisonment up to three years for anyone raising unauthorised buildings or a penalty of 25 per cent of the total value of the land/building fixed by the Registration Department.

The move, welcomed by all parties, comes at a time when authorities are struggling to cope with the problem of rising illegal constructions across the Greater Hyderabad Municipal

Corporation (GHMC) area. Out of 22 lakh buildings in Hyderabad, at least 50% have some buildings plan deviation and 10% are illegal structures altogether, it is learnt.

Delayed execution against rights: HC

In September 2012, the Bombay High Court had confirmed the death sentence and the Supreme Court in May 2015 upheld the capital punishment.

The Maharashtra Governor rejected the mercy petitions of condemned prisoners. On April 10, 2019, a Pune Sessions Court had issued warrants setting their date of execution as June 24.

"The delay in execution of death penalty in the present matter is undue, inordinate and unreasonable," said the bench.

Revamped consumer protection bill passed

The revamped Consumer Protection Bill has been passed by both houses of Parliament. The new law provides, inter alia, jail term for adulteration and misleading advertisements by companies, celebrities endorsing, misleading advertisements etc; They will face the risk of paying fine of up to Rs 10 lakh for first offence. They can be banned for one year from endorsing any product or service. Subsequent offences will attract fine up to Rs 50 lakh and ban up to three years.

Buyer can't be forced to take delayed delivery: SC

A builder cannot "impose" upon a buyer to take possession of a ready house if it is justified in seeking a refund, the Supreme Court has held. Upholding an order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission to a Pune-based builder, an SC bench comprising Justices U U Lalit and Vineetn Saran said, "Even assuming that the villa is now ready for occupation (as asserted by the appellants), the delay of almost five years is a crucial factor and the bargain cannot now be imposed upon the respondents. The respondents were, therefore, justified in seeking refund of the amounts that they had deposited with reasonable interest on said deposited amount.

lenders banks and rejected the plea of 200 real estate firms which had challenged its Constitutional validity.

A bench of justices R F Nariman, Sanjiv Khanna and Surya Kant said IBC is a beneficial legislation to protect homebuyers who had invested their money to realise their dream of a house and there was no illegality in giving them a say in insolvency proceedings against a builder which failed to keep its obligation to hand over possession of flats on time.

Centre pays cost to whistleblower

At last, after being issued notice for contempt by the Uttarakhand High Court for non-compliance of its order, the Centre has paid the cost of Rs 25,000 to whistleblower IFS Officer Sanjiv Chaturvedi. Besides, another sum of Rs 25,000 as also been paid to the Supreme Court legal Services Committee as order by the Apex Court, while dismissing the centre's appeal against the High Court order.

Homebuyers on par with lending banks: HC

In a big relief to homebuyers, the Supreme Court has upheld amendment in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) that gives them the status of financial creditors on par with

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not, for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group will not be held responsible for any kind of claim, damage or loss to the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

CRIME CORNER



Rs 23 lakh hawala money seized

The Sultan Bazar police seized an amount of Rs 23 lakh from a hawala trader during vehicle checking on Saturday night. According to the police, Bhavani Singh, a native of Rajasthan was transporting the cash in a Honda Activa car. During the vehicle checking at Sultan Bazar road, the police found the cash in the compartment of the vehicle, said the Station House Officer of Sultan Bazar police, Subbarani Reddy. "Upon questioning, Singh could not give a satisfactory reply about the source of the money and failed to produce the receipt in support of the cash. Following a preliminary inquiry, the money was seized and forwarded to the Income Tax department authorities," said the official, adding that they suspect that Bhavani Singh was into hawala trade and the money was being transported to Karnataka.

Man found dead, murder suspected

A 56-year-old man was found dead near pillar number 1175 in Khairatabad area on Sunday. Police suspect that the man was murdered by unknown assailants as the body had severe head injuries. Police identified the deceased as Bangariah, a resident of Chintal Basti. His head was smashed by a boulder. Preliminary enquiry has revealed that the man had stepped out following a heated argument with his wife on Saturday night, and was found murdered later, police said. Following an alert, a police team arrived at the scene with the CLUES Team and collected evidence. A case was booked under Section 302 (murder) of IPC and a probe was launched. The body was shifted to Osmania General Hospital for postmortem examination.

Priest, aide nabbed for stealing offerings

A temple priest and his aide were arrested by Gopalapuram police for stealing sarees and edibles offered by the public. According to police, Bhaskarabhatla Rama Sharma of Regiment Area works as a chief priest in Santoshi Mata temple, and Baburao as his assistant. Devotees and former trustees observed that the chief priest had been carrying sarees and rice to his house for the past few days. The priest also asked Baburao to carry the 42 sarees, offered by devotees to the goddess during Sravana Masam, to his house. On Friday night, Baburao was on his way to Rama Sharma's house when former chairman of the temple Rai Venkatesh and trustee Ram Mohan caught him and informed the police. The Gopalapuram police arrested him and registered a case based on a complaint lodged by temple EO Vittalaih.

New degree courses remain on paper, jobs a pipedream

■ TCE was to start job-oriented courses, but none have materialised

SUSHMA NAGARAJU ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Collegiate of Education (TCE) had announced with big fanfare last year that it would start several new undergraduate courses to match the changing job and industry scenario. While the announcement created a lot of excitement among students, the promises have not quite been kept. What happened to the plan to introduce new degree courses?

As things stand, only two new courses - BCom with Banking and Finance and BCom with Advertising and Management - were introduced after they got sanction in 2018. What is worse is that these two courses too exist only on paper because universities are delaying the framing of curriculum, examination and evaluation pattern for them.

The TCE in 2018 also ordered the restructuring of all other courses. But no major restructuring has been done in the courses, barring the addition of Computer Applications to the BA courses such as BA History and BA Economics. "The Telangana Collegiate of



The need for new courses and restructuring of existing ones was felt as the current situation, where many students who pass and get degree certificates remain unemployed, had to be rectified

Education and TSCHE officials are good at making announcements about strengthening degree education through revised curriculum, new courses etc, but their promises lie only on paper," said Lakhman

Reddy, president of Association for Strengthening Private Initiative in Rural Education (Aspire).

"Last year, the higher education department said that courses would be restructured

and that new courses will be introduced. The only two courses, that became available this year, lack teaching faculty and syllabus. The university has not yet designed the curriculum or the examination pattern for these new courses," Lakhman Reddy said.

The need for new courses and restructuring of existing ones was felt as the current situation, where many students who pass and get degree certificates remain unemployed, had to be rectified.

"Students get exposure to only the degree syllabus, and not the required skill-sets that would equip them for jobs in the industry. For every 200 students, about 150 remain unemployed. Job opportunities do exist, but the graduate students are not qualified enough for them. Therefore, many take up higher studies like MCom and MBA instead of taking up a job, Aspire president Lakhman Reddy said.

"Higher studies will add to students' educational qualifications but not help them get jobs because they continue to lack the necessary job skills," he said.

Prisoner commits suicide in hospital

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A prisoner, who was under treatment at the Institute of Mental Health in Erragadda, committed suicide by hanging himself inside the hospital washroom on Sunday morning.

According to SR Nagar police, the deceased, Feroz Khan, 24, was a prisoner from Cherlapally and was admitted in the hospital on August 5 for treatment.

Feroz hanged himself with a bed sheet from the exhaust fan in the criminal closed male ward at around 6 am on Sunday. Hospital authorities informed police who shifted the body to Gandhi Hospital mortuary. Police registered a case under section 174 (Suspicious death) of CrPC and are investigating the case.

Son kills father, stuffs body parts in buckets

■ Accused absconds; cops called after foul smell spreads

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a shocking incident, a man butchered to death his own 80-year-old father at their residence in Malkajgiri and later segregated the body parts and stuffed them in plastic buckets.

The incident came to light on Sunday evening when the area locals called the police complaining about foul smell. "We found three-four buckets full of human flesh. The CLUES Team was called in to collect evidence, which was sent to the laboratory for tests," said Malkajgiri ACP G Sundep.

The deceased was identified as M Kishan and the suspect

Preliminary enquiry revealed the man may have been killed on Friday night. Police recorded statements of the accused's mother and sister

live in the house. Based on preliminary enquiry, it was learned that the murder was committed on Friday night. We have taken statements from the accused's mother and sister who talked about financial disputes in the family, and that they suspect Kishan to have committed the crime," ACP Sundep said.

The family had not filed any missing person report after M Kishan went missing three days ago.

Based on a complaint, a case was booked under Section 302 (murder) of IPC and an investigation was launched. The Malkajgiri police started a hunt for the absconding suspect.

is said to be his son, also named Kishan, who is currently at large. "The family of four, which includes father, mother, son and daughter,

TS police to verify credentials of domestic helps

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Following a series of property offences involving domestic helps, the Telangana police will soon take up a verification drive to ascertain their credentials.

Addressing a face-to-face programme organised by FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), DGP M Mahender Reddy said people can download the Hawk Eye app and file a request for domestic help ver-

ification.

"We had started a domestic help verification programme earlier, but the public didn't come forward. Nevertheless, now as the request has come from the society, especially women, we will start a verification drive," he said.

The DGP also said the police would take up issues concerning security guards with the managements and ensure that only registered firms operate in the city. "It



is essential to check the background of security guards as they are tasked with ensuring safety. So, security agencies have to

follow the rules," Reddy said. Listing out the priorities of the Telangana police, the DGP said women's safety was the top priority, and pointed out that a Women's Safety Wing was launched towards that end. Other priorities were

fighting cybercrime, traffic management and uniform service delivery across the state, irrespective of social background, gender, community, region or religion. Sona Chatwani, FLO chairperson, moderated the interaction.

M MAHENDER REDDY, DGP

Brahmani, son travel by Metro

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Daughter-in-law of former CM N Chandrababu Naidu, Brahmani, and her son Devansh travelled by Metro train from Jubilee Hills check post to Lakdi-ka-Pul on Sunday.

She left Lakdi-ka-Pul metro station in a waiting car as soon as she arrived there. They took the Metro ride as part of a private programme.



Holes in repairs reappear; crater count zooms to 9,200

■ It's back to square one, thanks to wear-and-tear caused by road use, coupled with intermittent rains

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The GHMC has a never-ending problem on its hands in the form of pot-holes. While it is covering up a few while monsoon is still on, more are popping up with each passing day. So if road conditions were bad, they have gotten even worse now.

"There are over 9,200 potholes on city roads, of which 8,000 have been covered," said Chief Engineer (Maintenance) Mohd Ziauddin. Potholes surfaced after water on roads receded after a prolonged wet spell.

Teams are out filling up ditches to prevent them from expanding in the next spell of rain. GHMC sources said workers have filled up more

While the GHMC is covering up some potholes with fresh asphalt while monsoon is still on, more keep popping up with each passing day

than 8,000 potholes since late July to early-August.

The corporation has undertaken road patchwork at the cost of Rs 44 crore. But not many are convinced by the effort. "Potholes are just too

many. I don't think what GHMC claims is right," said a driver. "These ditches mess up the car quite a bit. I have to keep maneuvering the vehicle around potholes to avoid a bumpy ride."

A fortnight ago, the GHMC had said that there were about 4,000 potholes on the roads. This number has more than doubled this week.

GHMC says it is covering up the potholes but the fact is that the same ones keep showing up due to wear-and-tear caused by road use, coupled with intermittent rains. "I must be hitting at least 70- 80 potholes on my route every day," said Ratnesh, a food delivery man. "I have got punctures repaired four times this week," he added.



The truck that crashed into the house

Parked truck starts rolling, rams into house wall

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Mild tension prevailed in Rajendranagar area when a 10-wheeled truck rammed into the wall of a house on Sunday morning, scaring local residents and damaging the property. The family inside had a miraculous escape, said police.

According to sources, the incident happened around 9 am when the driver of the stone crusher vehicle parked his truck on the main road and

went to have tea.

Police said the driver failed to apply the hand brake and so the vehicle rolled in the reverse direction and rammed into the wall of a house before stopping. On hearing the loud thud, family members living inside rushed out of the house. Later, a local informed the police who reached the spot and inspected the damage. The driver of the truck was taken to the police station and the vehicle was seized. Police are probing the case.

'Green challenge' catches Hyderabadis' fancy

■ STARTED BY PRIVATE BODY, GREEN DRIVE ENCOURAGES PLANTING AND NURTURING TREES

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

'Hara Hai Toh Bhara Hai' and #GreenChallenge, started by Hyderabad-based social enterprise Igniting Minds, is striking roots and doing well in its efforts to increase the city's green cover. It has been urging policymakers, influencers and citizens to plant three trees each, nurture them for three years and pass on the challenge to three others to bring about a green revolution.

On Sunday, Rajya Sabha MP J Santosh Kumar shared a selfie on Twitter with the saplings he planted in 2018. He said, "I planted three saplings last year, and nominated Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, Governor Narasimhan and Actor Nagarjuna who had propagated the #Greenchallenge," and added, "Saplings shall not just be planted, but nurtured."

Santosh Kumar said, "Citizens of Telangana accepting (sic) the #GreenChallenge



Rajya Sabha MP J Santosh Kumar with the trees he planted

had planted 1 crore saplings last year. I have shared the picture today. I am sure others who accepted the challenge will do the same, we are expecting to make the count to 2 crore this year."

The #GreenChallenge was observed on July 17 to commemorate the death anniversary of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam which falls on July 27. The challenge received wide acceptance from

The challenge involves planting 3 trees, nurturing them for 3 years and getting 3 others to do the same

Hyderabad residents as also policymakers and influencers who played a vital role in its promotion.

Igniting Minds website says: "Each plant is going to be geo-tagged and those who plant the trees will be called as 'Vanamali' and those who nurture the plants for three years will be called as 'Vanamitra'."

The green challenge has also got a push from the Telangana government which is promoting its own 'Haritha Haram' initiative which aims to increase the state's green cover to 33 per cent by 2019.

50k 'seed balls' planted in Ibrahimpatnam forest

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Youth associated with Mata Amritanandamayi Ashram, an NGO based in Hyderabad prepared and dispersed over 50,000 'seed balls' into Chittapur forest reserve, Ibrahimpatnam on Sunday.

"These seed balls, also referred to as seed bombs, are composed of a fine mixture of fertile soil, compost, and plant seeds, to make the seeds to sprout into plants and trees," said one of the members of NGO.

"With the monsoon setting in, these seed balls can sprout into trees, resulting in increased green cover, providing oxygen, improving air quality and climate, conserving water, preserving soil and supporting



wildlife," Says Raghu Nath, coordinator of Mata Amritanandamayi Math, Telangana.

As a member organisation of the United Nation's Trillion Tree campaign, and to support the states, Haritha Haram Project Mata

Amritanandamayi Math has organised the planting of more than a million trees globally.

Students of CMR Institute, Aurora College and Amrita Vidyalayam joined hands in preparing and dispersing 51,000 seed balls into the Chittapur forest reserve.

Minor crashes car into auto; infant killed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 14-month-old infant died when the auto-rickshaw the family was travelling in was rammed by a car driven by a minor boy at Dairy Farm road in Bowenpally on Sunday evening. Police are likely to book the minor's father for allowing him to drive the car.

Police said the deceased infant, Mahadev, was in the auto with his mother Sandhya, grandmother Nagamani and his twin Mahender. The family was travelling from Kukatpally to Yarpal. The accident occurred when the auto was rammed head-on by a car driven by Hassan, 16, said Bowenpally police inspector P Chandra Shekar.

Little Mahadev was declared dead at the hospital. Police said following an investigation, the boy's father is likely to be booked. Police booked cases against the minor under Section 304-II of IPC. He was taken into police custody for investigation.

Errant cops to face music in Gadwal

PNS ■ WARANGAL

A police officer in the district has been placed under suspension for omissions and commissions. Many more appears to be in the pipeline. The suspension has been sending shivers down the spine of errant police officials in the district.

Acting on the orders of police bosses, a team went round the district gathering evidence on involvement of various police officials in deals like sand deals, poking their nose in civil affairs, land disputes, intervention in private deals and so on.

The top brass has received information about the conduct of the Gadwal police. Therefore, the higher authorities in Gadwal district received orders from above asking them to submit a comprehensive report on the functioning of police in Gadwal. The team went round the district for three months and gathered evidence and submitted it to the government.

Erstwhile SP Vijayakumar viewed the offences committed by police very seriously. His successor SP retired from service only recently. Wanaparty district SP Apurva Rao has been put as in-charge SP for Gadwal district.

IN TELANGANA, IT'S CURTAINS FOR TDP

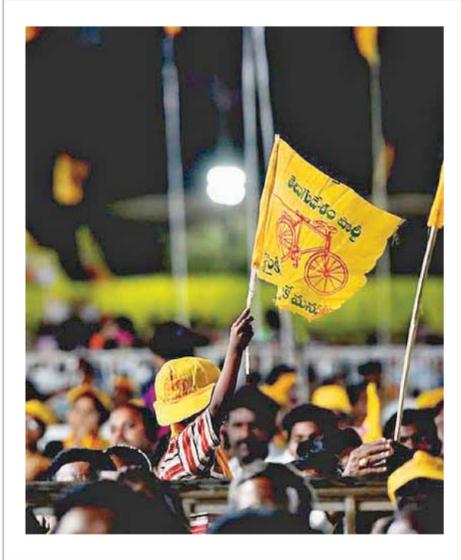
PNS ■ WARANGAL

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP), founded by late NT Rama Rao in 1982, has always been a strong force in Telangana. Even during the statehood movement for Telangana in 2009, it managed to get 47 seats as part of the 'Mahakutami' with TRS and Left parties against YS Rajasekhara Reddy's Congress. The decline of the party began after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and it gradually waned by the time Assembly and Lok Sabha elections held recently.

Finding their career prospects to be bleak if they continue in TDP, many leaders, including TDP leader Garikapati Mohan Rao and former MP Chada Suresh Reddy and former Minister Peddireddy, deserted the sinking ship to join the BJP.

As regards Bhupalapalli, Warangal Urban, Jangoan urban TDP presidents and several TDP constituency in-charges joined the BJP in the presence of JP Nadda.

At the height of movement for Telangana, former minister and senior TDP leader Kadiam Srihari came out of the party on May 11, 2013. Vexed with the ways of TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu, Errabelli Dayakar Rao followed suit. He dealt a severe blow to the party by merging the TDLP with the



TRS. While exiting from TDP, Revanth Reddy joined Congress along with other TDP leaders - Dhanasari Anasuya (Sitakka) and former MLA Vem Narendar.

Once strong fortress of the TDP, the party unit of Warangal undivided district is in a pitiable condition reeling under the blow dealt due to migration of its leaders to other parties. In the 2018 Assembly polls, TDP con-

tested for only one out of the 12 Assembly seats - Warangal West - and lost the election. In the elections held subsequently like Lok Sabha elections, gram panchayat and other elections the party failed to make at least its presence felt. The three-time MLA from Narsampet - Revuri Prakash Reddy, contested from Narsampet as joint candidate of Congress and the TDP unsuccessful.

Party down to zero in Medak

PNS ■ MEDAK

Almost all the constituency in-charges of TDP in Medak, Sangareddy and Siddipet districts have joined the BJP on Sunday and following this, the TDP is completely wiped out in the erstwhile Medak district.

Vijayapal Reddy, the constituency in charge of Narayanekhed joined the BJP along with his followers, while one more former MLA Nandeeshwar Goud has also joined the BJP along with his followers on Sunday. Goud was the MLA from Pathancheruvu constituency and he joined TDP defecting from the Congress party. Similarly the constituency in charges of all the constituencies of Medak along with the second rung leaders are also expressing their inclination to join the BJP in the coming days.

file photo



Inflows into Jurala recede

PNS ■ SRISAILAM

The inflows into Jurala project have been reduced as rains in Karnataka and Maharashtra are on the wane. Currently the inflows into Jurala project are put at 5.54 lakh cusecs while the outflow is measured as 5.35 lakh cusecs. The water is being discharged downstream by opening 34 gates.

The full storage capacity of Jurala project is 9,657 tmc, but the water level in the reservoir measured as 7,759 tmc. Against the FRL of 885 feet, the

water level in the project stands at 881.40 feet. Out of 215.81 tmc storage capacity, the water level in the reservoir stood at 195.66 tmc.

The project's right bank hydel power station is releasing 31,031 cusecs and 42,378 cusecs are being released through the left bank. The Kalwakurty LI scheme is discharging 2,400 cusecs, while Potireddy padu Head Regulator is discharging 34,000 cusecs. The officials also released 5.43 lakh cusecs through Nagarjunasagar. The

water level in Nagarjunasagar measured as 586 feet as against FRL of 590 feet. Out of the total storage capacity of 312 tmc, it stores currently 301 tmc.

Meanwhile, the flood flow into Pulichintala project eased to an extent. While the inflow is measured as 5.61 lakh cusecs in the reservoir, the outflow is put at 5.89 lakh cusecs. The FRL of Pulichintala project is measured as 175 feet. Currently, water level in the reservoir is measured as 169.19 feet.

Minor girl impregnated by grandfather

Continued from Page 1

After summer holidays, when the young girl complained of uneasiness, she was brought to the district hospital, where the doctors confirmed her pregnancy.

The shocked parents could extract information relating to sexual assaults from the terrified girl, but were unable to obtain justice as the culprit was an influential person in the Police Department. One of his sons is a Sub Inspector. The culprit reportedly warned the victim's family of dire consequences should they take the issue to the notice of the police.

Undeterred, Bhagyalakshmi, the mother of the victim, elected to go via the media route to ensure that the culprit is brought to book. She revealed that Brahmaiah, a retired headmaster, had offered her Rs 1 crore for burying the issue.

Stree Nidhi: Rs 134 cr loan extended so far

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Against the targeted extension of Rs 134 crore towards loans under Stree Nidhi scheme, only Rs 26.68 crore could be extended in the first five months of the current fiscal, affecting the economic self-reliance of self-help groups. The Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty and Stree Nidhi Bank extend loans to self-help groups women to sustain their operations.

There are at least 18,526 self-help groups with a total membership of over 1,91,893 in the district. The DRDA and MEPSMA extend them loans under bank-linkage programme. The Stree Nidhi bank extends loans up to Rs 10,000 to each of the SHG members. However, during the current year, the Stree Nidhi Bank could meet only 20 per cent of the target for loans. Only 7,625 members belonging to 2,706 members could get the loans. However, the progress of

extending loans to the SHG groups under bank-linkage programme is somewhat better. Under the bank-linkage programme, it was targeted to extend Rs 208 crore as loans to 11,041 SHGs in the district. However, only Rs 93.60 crore could be given as loans to about 3,305 members so far, reaching only 45 per cent of the targets.

The tardy progress in extension of Stree Nidhi loans is attributed to lack of coordination between the Stree Nidhi and SERP employees. Discontent is apparently brewing among SERP employees as higher authorities in the state have been initiating measures to put the intervention of SERP employees in Stree Nidhi loan disbursement at field level at minimalist level.

As a result, the SERP employees evince no interest in extending loans to more members and their recovery. Apparently, a cold war-like situation prevailed between SERP and Stree Nidhi.

TS police ahead of others in using technology: DGP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

"Certainty of being caught and certainty of being punished make people afraid of committing crime rather than death penalties," said DGP Mahendar Reddy. He was speaking during a face-to-face interaction with over 100 FICCI Ladies (FLO) members here in the city. Swati Lakra, Inspector General of Police (Women's Safety), accompanied the top cop.

Speaking on the occasion, the DGP said, "Death penalties may not stop people from committing crime, but certainly the certainty of being caught and punished may prevent them from committing the crime. The very same people who are more law abiding in the west behave otherwise here, because, there they know that they can't escape. But, there are more chances of going scotfree and unidentified. But, this will soon be the thing of past. We are working more towards this aspect. The ability to detect and punish the offenders is the



DGP Mahendar Reddy, Swati Lakra, Inspector General of Police (women's safety) and Sona Chatwani at an interaction in Hyderabad

basic foundation of law enforcement in this state."

Many big cases were solved in 24 to 48 hours. The next big thing after solving a case and finding offenders is getting them convicted. We were successful in getting culprits punished in many sensational cases including recent 9-month-old baby rape case in Warangal, he said.

Sona Chatwani, Chairperson of FLO while welcoming gathering quoting Albert Einstein said, "The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but

because of the people who watch it and don't do anything about it". Progress is possible where there is a peace and harmony, she stated. "We have 67,000 police force in the Telangana. We have added 194 new police stations and 50 new supervisory offices. We have appointed 10,000 force and recruitment of another 18,000 force is in process. We are way ahead of our peers in other states as far as police force modernization is concerned. We are committed for the uniform delivery services," he shared.

Nadda vows to dethrone...

Continued from Page 1

"Though BJP is ruling 17 states, our leader Amit Shah says that the best of BJP is yet to come and it will happen when BJP comes to power in 26 states. For that to happen, BJP has to come to power in Telangana. The people of Telangana have a history of fighting with dynastic, autocratic and communal politics. Today they have an option in the form of BJP to fight the combination of aristocracy of TRS and communalism of AIMIM," Nadda observed, while urging Telangana populace to back the saffron party.

Nadda came down heavily on the administration of KCR, saying that TRS government was corrupt "from top to bottom".

"Shahenshah KCR only wants 'Main aur mera parivar'. Whatever scheme KCR implements, there will be commissions in it. 'Kaleshwaram' is a pavitra naam (sacred name). But KCR is doing 'gandhaa kaam' (dirty work) in the name

Nadda came down heavily on KCR, saying that TRS govt was corrupt "from top to bottom"

of Kaleshwarm and pocketing commissions. He escalated the cost to Rs 80,000 crore from Rs 30,000 crore, but not even one acre has been irrigated. Even leaders in TRS are not happy. People are fed up with TRS rule. BJP is determined to dethrone. We will stand by people who are ready to fight against TRS," Nadda remarked, as the crowds cheered.

During the public meeting, several second-rung TDP leaders joined the BJP. Former MLAs Yerra Shekar, Ooke Abaiah, TTDP TDP women's wing in-charge Bandru Shobarani, Sama Ranga Reddy and others joined the saffron party.

KCR moots comprehensive national power policy

Continued from Page 1

"At the formation of Telangana State, there was a severe power crisis. Power deficit became a hindrance to the State's development then. We decided that unless we solve the power problem, the State cannot progress. We adopted a comprehensive plan to set the power sector in order. Within six months, we could lift the power cuts. Now we are able to supply quality power to all sectors. We are providing 24-hour uninterrupted, quality free power to the farm sector, which is first of its kind in the country. This led to an increase in the agricultural output. Industries in Telangana State

are working in three shifts. This boosted employment and resulted in an increase in the state's income. We have bettered the distribution and supply network so that there is no low voltage problem and burnout of transformers. As on date, we have network in place to utilise 20,000 MW," the Chief Minister explained.

KCR appreciated that financial assistance extended by PFC had helped the State a lot in the setting up of power plants and revamp of power utilities. The Chief Minister thanked PFC chairman Rajiv Sharma for extending financial assistance to irrigation projects in the state. PFC's aid had helped the State in solving its

power crisis in a very short time and marching towards becoming a power surplus state.

The CM later felicitated Rajiv Sharma and his wife and presented mementos to them.

In his acceptance speech, Rajiv Sharma said that in Telangana State, under the visionary leadership of CM KCR, power plants and irrigation projects were being completed in record time. He said he had not seen anywhere power plants and irrigation projects being completed in such a short time. Generally, they would take substantial time as completion of plants and projects depended on land acquisition, inter-state under-

standings and the like. He said he was happy that the funds extended by PFC for the power plants and irrigation projects had been properly utilised 100 per cent for the purpose. PFC would take pride in being associated with the Telangana State's development, he assured.

"Three and half years back, when we came to Hyderabad, CM KCR told us about Kaleshwaram project. He has shown us how the project is going to be on a screen. I was surprised after watching that. I wondered whether it would be possible. But I visited Kaleshwaram project yesterday. I have seen barrages and the pump houses. I also saw the

way water from Godavari is pumped. It is a sheer wonder. What CM KCR told me three and half years ago was in front of my eyes today. To complete such a project in a short span of time is not easy. The efforts of CM KCR bore fruit and the dream is realised. The whole country is talking about the Kaleshwaram project. At New York's Time Square, there are showing the Kaleshwaram project's success story," Rajiv Sharma said.

KCR, PFC chairman Rajiv Sharma and CS SK Joshi later praised TS Genco and Transco CMD Prabhakar Rao, saying that he was behind the success of the State in the power sector.



10,000 saplings planted on 150 acres

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Elected people's representatives, government officials and others planted over 10,000 saplings in 150 acres as part of the Harita Haram programme organised by Phoenix civil society organisation at Chilukuru, here, on

Sunday.

Minister Malla Reddy, MP Ranjit Reddy, MLA Kale Yadaiah, Chief Secretary Dr SK Joshi, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Sobha, Security Wing IG Singh, TSIIC Managing Director Narasimha Reddy and other forest department officials

took part in the plantation drive. Employees of the civil society organization also planted saplings.

As part of the corporate social responsibility, Phoenix chairman Suresh Chukkappali agreed to set up an urban forest park in the reserve forest at Chilukuru.

Works on 1,000 2BHKs to begin soon

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Lahari constructions have bagged the tenders for the construction of around 1,000 double bed room houses in Narsampet town. The houses would be built in 22 acres of land, said legislator Peddi Sudarshan Reddy.

As preliminary works, roads would be laid, power connections would be accorded and the basic infrastructure would be provided, the MLA said.



Cattle grazers expressed concern over not getting any compensation for the death of livestock in wild cat's attack

Fear of leopard stalks 2 districts

PNS ■ YELLAREDDY RURAL

Cattle and sheep grazers in Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts are distressed and are apprehensive to take cattle or sheep out for grazing fearing leopard attack. Many calves, goats and sheep have become prey in the forest fringe mandals of Yellareddypeta, Lingampet, Gandhari, Varni, Machareddy, Sirikonda, Indalvai, Bichkunda and so on.

In over a month, 12 goats, four calves were killed by the wild cat. But, the forest officials are not bothered to take reme-

dial action, the victims allege. Because of the series of attacks by leopards on sheep, goats, and calves, cattle grazers and sheep and goat-rearers are apprehensive to take their cattle or sheep and goats out for grazing.

They express concern over not getting any compensation for the death of livestock in wild cat's attack and are worried about losing their livelihood in the death of livestock. In spite of taking the issue to the notice of officials seeking compensation for the same, but so far not a single penny has

Following a series of attacks by leopards, many are apprehensive about taking their cattle or sheep and goats out for grazing

a leopard attacked his goats when he had taken them out for grazing. It was two years since the death of five goats but not a single penny was paid. Responding to this, forest range officer Chandrakant Reddy said that the compensation did not apply to the death of goats in the wild beast attack. It applies to cattle and humans alone, he clarified. He said the people have been taking their animals to the forest region for grazing in spite of advising them against taking them to the woods for the animals to graze.

SHORT READS



Nigerian held with 32g cocaine in Maha's Palghar

PALGHAR: A Nigerian national was arrested on Saturday in Maharashtra's Palghar district with 32 grams of cocaine, a senior police official said. Palghar police spokesperson Hemant Katkar said Nigerian national Laysan Emanuel (57) was held from Tulinj after a police patrol party found him moving suspiciously in the area. "We recovered 32 grams of cocaine from him. He has been arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act," Katkar said on Sunday.

2 stabbed in Delhi for defending sister

NEW DELHI: Two brothers were stabbed for allegedly asking a group of men to stop troubling their sister in south Delhi's Sangam Vihar, police said on Saturday. One of the accused was arrested, they added. The victims were identified as Nitesh, a first-year student at the Delhi University, and Mahesh, working at a private hospital, the police said, adding that they were allegedly stabbed by Anoop Rathore, an autorickshaw driver. "The victims had gone to a nearby market where the accused was already present with his friends. They asked Rathore not to trouble their sister and to stay away from her, following which, a scuffle broke out between the two groups," a senior police officer said. During the scuffle, Rathore and his friends stabbed the duo and fled the spot. The victims were rushed to a hospital, where they were undergoing treatment, the police said, adding that a case under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code was lodged against the accused.



Spa sex racket busted in Mumbai; six Thai women rescued

MUMBAI: The crime branch has busted a sex racket being operated from a spa centre in suburban Vile Parle and rescued six Thai women after conducting a raid, police said, adding the owner and the manager have been arrested. Sleuths of unit-9 of crime branch seized Rs 1.23 lakh, a laptop, a swipe machine, three voucher books and some documents from "The Thai Villa", located at Rishi Building on Dixit Road, on Saturday evening, an official said on Sunday. The rescued women were found to be in possession of tourist and business visas, he said. A case has been registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Prevention of Immoral Trafficking Act (PITA). Vile Parle police are investigating the case.

In Maha, Haryana & J'khand, BJP to fight polls under CMs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP is likely to fight the assembly polls in Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand, all three ruled by the saffron party, under the leadership of incumbent chief ministers, party leaders have said.

While BJP president Amit Shah made it virtually clear at a rally in Haryana on Friday that Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar will again be the party's choice for the post, sources said Maharashtra's Devendra Fadnavis and Jharkhand's Raghubar Das will be the party's chief ministerial candidates in their respective states.

At the rally in Jind, Shah urged voters to give his party 75 seats in the 90-member assembly for the return of a "Manohar Lal Khattar sarkar".

"All three chief ministers have ruled their respective states for five years. Their performance is one of our key planks. They are the obvious choice for heading the respective government if the BJP returns to power," a party leader said.

The BJP had fought the



The saffron camp is confident of retaining power in all three states riding on popular support to recent decisions by the Modi Cabinet, work of their own governments in the states and "disarray" in the opposition camp

2014 assembly polls in the three states without projecting a chief ministerial face and announced its picks only after the results were declared.

While in Haryana, the BJP won 47 Assembly seats, it bagged 122 of Maharashtra's 288 seats and 37 of Jharkhand's

81 constituencies.

A senior BJP leader said all three leaders have run "scam-free and honest" governments in the states which, under the preceding dispensations, were associated with "corruption of huge proportions".

"Be it Khattar, Fadnavis or

Das, all three enjoy a clean image among the people," he claimed. Assembly polls in Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand are slated for later this year.

The saffron camp is confident of retaining power in all three states riding on popular support to recent decisions by the Modi Cabinet, work of their own governments in the states and "disarray" in the opposition camp.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal popularity, which was the biggest factor behind the BJP's impressive show in the 2014 assembly polls in these states, remains high, BJP sources said.

The party believes that the central government's decision to nullify provisions of Article 370, which granted Jammu and Kashmir special status, has received people's endorsement, forcing even some opposition leaders to welcome it.

The induction of a number of local satraps from the opposition camp into the BJP in these states, especially in Maharashtra and Haryana, has also boosted its prospects, the

Govt mulling options to enforce ban on e-cigarettes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government is mulling various options like bringing an ordinance to enforce a ban on the manufacture, sale and import of ENDS devices, including e-cigarettes, if it fails to get a reprieve from the Delhi High Court, which had earlier stayed its order to ban such products, sources said.

Banning such alternative smoking devices like e-cigarettes, heat-not-burn devices, vape and e-nicotine flavoured hookah, among others is one of the priorities of the Health Ministry as part of the first 100 days agenda of the second term of the Modi government.

With more than 75 days having passed, the Union Health Ministry has swung into action wanting to implement the ban on the manufacture, sale, distribution and import of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS).

"The ministry is exploring various options, including bringing an ordinance to enforce a ban on the manufacture, sale and import of ENDS devices," the sources said. The ministry is also learnt to have sought a legal opinion over the issue. If the government bring an ordinance, it



will have to replace it with a Bill in the next session of Parliament. Once Parliament approves the Bill, the proposed ban on such products will get a legal backing.

The Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) had written to all state drug controllers, saying they should not allow sale, online sale, manufacture, distribution, trade, import or advertisement of ENDS.

A single-judge bench of the Delhi High Court, in March this year, had granted an interim stay on the Centre's circular banning sale and manufacture of ENDS, saying as the products were not "drugs", authorities did not have the jurisdiction to issue such a direction.

The Centre appealed against the order before a division

bench of the high court, which dismissed the appeal against the interim stay. It further directed the government to approach the single judge bench with its plea, the sources said.

The government recently filed a counter-affidavit and an application for vacation of order before a single-judge bench of the high court, which is scheduled to hear the case on August 22, they said.

A high-decibel debate is on globally over harm-reduction aspects of ENDS, with some organisations claiming that these devices help in smoking cessation and are less harmful alternatives to traditional cigarettes, while the government is seeking to ban them contending that they pose health risks to users, similar to those caused by conventional cigarettes.

People have right to know about Netaji's disappearance: Mamata

PNS ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday asserted that people have the right to know what happened to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, while remembering the "son of the soil" on the day he reportedly went missing 74 years ago.

She said the whereabouts of Netaji after he "disappeared" on August 18, 1945 were still not known.

"On this day, in 1945, Netaji went on a flight from Taihoku Airport in Taiwan, only to disappear forever. We still do not know what happened to him. People have a right to know

about the great son of the soil," Banerjee tweeted.

Several reports have claimed that Netaji had boarded a plane from Taihoku Airport in Taiwan, which crashed leading to the death of the great leader. There is, however, no confirmation on his death as experts came up with different theories about his disappearance.

The Centre from time to time had constituted panels — Shah Nawaz Committee in 1956, the Khosla Commission in 1970, the Mukherjee Commission in 2005 — to shed light on the mysteries surrounding the death or the disappearance of Netaji, but none could render any answer.



'BJP pinching leaders groomed by NCP'

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra NCP president Jayant Patil on Sunday hit out at the BJP for poaching leaders "groomed" by his party and the Congress, likening it to "buying ready-made clothes".

He was speaking on the sidelines of a state-level NCP meeting here which was attended by several senior leaders, amid speculation that some of those absent may be on their way to the ruling BJP or Shiv Sena.

"Leaders groomed by us (NCP-Cong) are now picked up by the BJP ahead of Maharashtra Assembly elections. It is the Congressification of the BJP," Patil said. He added, "The BJP should give a chance to its party workers, rather than inducting our workers. Has the BJP lost credibility and is thus inducting leaders from out party?"

"It is more important to have people who can stitch (groom leaders) than the ones who simply buy ready-made clothes.



The leaders have switched their loyalties but what about their followers and party workers," he asked. Patil said talks for a pre-poll alliance with the Congress were underway.

The discussion between the two main opposition parties was suspended for one week due to severe floods in some parts of the state. Patil, without mentioning NCP women's wing state president Chitra Wagh, said her switching over to the BJP did not affect the party at all.

Among those who skipped Sunday's meeting was Dileep Sopal, MLA from Barshi in Solapur.

Sopal instead organised a meet for party workers in his constituency, with posters on the stage having no images of NCP leaders.

"My meeting with party workers here in Barshi is more about planning for Assembly polls and has nothing to do with switching over to any other party," he said.

Ramraje Nimbalkar on way to BJP?

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Senior NCP leader and Chairman of the Maharashtra Legislative Council, Ramraje Nimbalkar, may follow in the footsteps of his erstwhile counterpart in the Assembly, Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil of Congress, in joining the ruling BJP ahead of the assembly polls. A close aide said on Sunday that Nimbalkar's ongoing feud with Satar NCP MP and Maratha royal Udayanraje Bhosale could be the likely trigger, if he were to jump the ship. Nimbalkar comes from a royal family in Phaltan taluka of Satar district while Bhosale is a descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. It is also expected that Nimbalkar might continue to serve as the chairman of the council even after he switches his loyalties.

Spl grievance redressal plan in TN

PNS ■ CHENNAI

A special grievance redressal programme of the Tamil Nadu government, where petitions would be stored in a computer, forwarded to departments concerned and issues redressed within a month will be unveiled by Chief Minister K Palaniswami at Salem on Monday. This follows his announcement made in the state assembly, an official release said. "Under the scheme, based on orders by District Collectors, a panel comprising officials from various departments would collect petitions from people across the state.

These will be stored in a computer, forwarded to respective departments in a week and issues will be resolved in a month", the release said.

Ladakh leaders seek tribal area status to protect land, identity

PNS ■ LEH

Prominent leaders of Ladakh have made a fervent appeal to the Centre to declare the region a tribal area under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, saying the biggest concern for its people is to protect their land and identity.

Though locals have welcomed the Centre's decision to revoke Article 370 and make Ladakh a Union territory, they fear the influx of outsiders would lead to a change in the region's demography, jeopardize their culture and identity.

In a memorandum to Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda, Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal said the region is a



predominantly tribal area with tribals making up to 98 per cent of its population.

"After the Centre announced its decision to make Ladakh a Union Territory, the biggest concern of the tribal population here is to protect their identity, culture, land, and

economy," the BJP MP said at the launch of a nine-day Aadi Mahotsav here on Saturday.

Namgyal appealed to Munda to declare it a tribal area under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to protect the interests of its people. Based on Articles 244(2)

and 275(1), the Sixth Schedule provides for the administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram after setting up autonomous district and regional councils.

"I appeal to you to make a representation to Home Minister Amit Shah on our behalf to protect the demography and culture of Ladakh," Namgyal said.

"Under the Jammu and Kashmir government, many tribal schemes could not be implemented in Ladakh. Scholarships, hostels, and schools for tribals... not much development work took place here under tribal sub-plans," the 34-year-old said.

China entered Demchok as Cong didn't focus on defence: Namgyal

PNS ■ LEH

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, the BJP MP from Ladakh who shot to fame after his impassioned speech on Article 370 in Parliament, feels the region did not get due importance in defence policies under the Congress rule and that was why "China has captured its area up to the Demchok sector".

The first-time parliamentarian also claimed that the Congress governments ruined Kashmir by following the policy of "appeasement" in hostile situations and Ladakh became a "collateral damage".

(Former prime minister) Jawaharlal Nehru formulated the 'forward policy', which said we should move towards China



inch by inch. During its implementation, it became a 'backward policy'. The (Chinese troops) continued to intrude into our territory and we continued to retreat," Namgyal told PTI in an interview. "It's the reason Aksai Chin is completely under China. The People's Liberation Army personnel have come up to

Demchok's 'nallah' because Ladakh didn't get due importance in defence policies in the 55 years of Congress rule," the 34-year-old added.

In July last year, Chinese and Indian troops engaged in a stand-off after the People's Liberation Army objected to India constructing a 'nallah' or canal in its own area near Demchok.

In July this year, Chinese troops crossed the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and entered the Demchok sector after some Tibetans hoisted Tibetan flags on the occasion of Dalai Lama's birthday. Army chief General Bipin Rawat had later said: "There has been no intrusion. Chinese come and patrol their perceived line of actual control."

200 ex MPs yet to vacate their official bungalows

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More than 200 former MPs have still not vacated their official bungalows in Lutyens' Delhi, over two months after the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha, sources said. According to the rules, former MPs have to vacate their respective bungalows within one month of dissolution of the previous Lok Sabha.

President Ram Nath Kovind had on May 25 dissolved the 16th Lok Sabha with immediate effect on the recommendation of the Union Cabinet after the Modi government was formed for a second term.

"More than 200 former Lok Sabha MPs have still not vacated their official bungalows, which had been allotted to them in 2014," a source told PTI.

The sources said as these former MPs have not vacated their bungalows located in Lutyens'

Delhi, newly-elected MPs, who won in the Lok Sabha election, have been staying at temporary accommodation. Newly-elected MPs have been provided temporary accommodation at Western Court and several guest houses till the time they are allotted a full-time residence in Lutyens' Delhi," the source also said. This has been done to reduce the cost of accommodation for MPs. Earlier, newly-elected MPs used to stay in five-star hotels till they were allotted a full-time official bungalow.

The 17th Lok Sabha has more than 260 MPs who have been elected for the first time to the Lower House, including cricketer-turned-politician Gautam Gambhir, Union ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad and Smriti Irani, Sufi singer Hans Raj Hans and Bengali actresses Mimi Chakraborty and Nusrat Jahan Ruhi.

Ready for any probe into phone-tapping case

PNS ■ BENGALURU

With Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa announcing a CBI probe into the alleged phone tapping case during the previous JD(S)-Congress coalition government, former Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Sunday said he was ready for probe by even an international agency.

The Congress, however, seemed to be a divided house.

"Let them do any inquiry, whether it is a CBI inquiry or any other agency of international standard, or let them talk to Trump (US President Donald Trump), and get it inquired through some one from his side," Kumaraswamy, who has already the allegations, told reporters here.

While Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah has welcomed the CBI probe hoping the BJP does not use the



central investigating agency for "political vendetta," the Congress party on its official Twitter handle has said telephone tapping "was a lie" and a conspiracy for hate politics.

Kumaraswamy, who is also the JD(S) leader, hit out at the electronic media for its coverage on the issue, saying no one

Kumaraswamy, who is also the JD(S) leader, hit out at the electronic media for its coverage on the issue, saying no one can do anything to him

can do anything to him. "I have been observing the conduct of electronic media, their intention and attempts are to keep Kumaraswamy away from people in the state politics. They will not be successful in it," he said.

Stating that he was not aware as to why his name was linked to

the phone tapping case, Kumaraswamy stressed, "If I was involved I would have panicked, I'm open... There is not even an iota... to point fingers at me."

Yediyurappa's announcement comes amid signs that the case is gaining political steam ever since disqualified JD(S) MLA A H Vishwanath, who served as the JD(S) state president and turned rebel later, last week dropped the political bomb, accusing the Kumaraswamy government of tapping phones and spying on more than 300 leaders, including him.

Several BJP leaders, including former chief minister Jagadish Shettar, have directly accused Kumaraswamy of being behind the episode to save his government which was then rocked by dissonance within. The coalition government ultimately collapsed last month with the chief minister losing the trust vote in the assembly. Yediyurappa on Sunday said he will order a CBI probe into the allegations citing demands by several Congress leaders. Congress leaders, including Siddaramaiah, M Mallikarjuna Kharge and home minister in the previous alliance government M B Patil, have sought a probe. Another key party

leader and former minister D K Shivakumar has rejected the snooping charges and appeared to side with Kumaraswamy.

"I welcome the decision of @BSYBJP to hand over the phone tapping case to CBI. But, in the past, @BJP4India has used CBI as its puppet to unleash its venomous political vendetta. Hope @BJP4Karnataka leaders does not have similar intentions this time," Siddaramaiah tweeted on Sunday following announcement of probe by the chief minister.

Asserting that allegations of 'Operation Kamala' being done in Karnataka is as serious as allegations of phone tapping, he, in another tweet, said, "I urge @BSYBJP to order CBI investigation into alleged Operation Kamala also. I heard they acted on my advice in phone tapping case & I hope they act on this issue as well."

'We will isolate terrorists, not let them mislead people'

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir police is maintaining pressure on terrorists to isolate them so that they cannot mislead the general public, Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh has said.

Singh, who has been leading the force since last year, thanked the people of the state for their cooperation in maintaining law and order. "While the security teams comprising police, paramilitary forces and army have done a splendid job, one should not neglect the cooperation extended by people of the state," he said. Security presence in the state has been stepped up and stringent restrictions put in place since August 5 when the Centre scrapped provisions of Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and also divided the state into two Union Territories.

Singh, a 1987-batch IPS officer, refused to comment on the Constitutional changes made in the state, but said, "I believe an era of positive development has been ushered in the state. And people should understand good things about it." He said as a police force head it was his



While the security teams comprising police, para-military forces and army have done a splendid job, one should not neglect the cooperation extended by people of the state

— DILBAGH SINGH
DGP of Jammu and Kashmir

duty to ensure that a handful of terrorists, who are mainly from Pakistan, are not allowed to misguide the general public in Jammu and Kashmir. "Our counterinsurgency unit is main-

taining pressure to keep these terrorists at bay and definitely we have been able to do it," he said.

Singh, who is busy talking to district superintendents of police and giving them a pep-talk on phone, says the force is following a two-pronged strategy to maintain peace and tranquillity in the state.

"While the counterinsurgency grid is maintaining pressure on terrorists, the remaining security forces are ensuring that law and order is under control." Security forces would not allow either of the situation to get out hand, he said.

11 rescued in Gurdaspur after Beas overflows

PNS ■ GURDASPUR

Eleven people, including four women, have been rescued after they got stuck when the overflowing water of Beas river flooded their village in Gurdaspur district, an official said on Sunday. Deputy Commissioner Vipul Ujwal said he got information about some people from the Gujjar community and their herd of buffaloes getting stuck near Chachian Shorian village due to the sudden rise of the water level in the Beas after incessant rainfall.

They were rescued in a joint operation by the district administration and the Army, the official said. The deputy commissioner has appealed to the people to not go near the Ravi and Beas river and avoid low-lying areas near the river as the meteorological department had forecast heavy rainfall in the day.

Car hits pilgrims in Rajasthan, three killed

PNS ■ JAIPUR

A speeding car ran over seven pilgrims en route the Ramdevra Temple in Rajasthan's Pali district, killing three women on the spot, police said on Sunday. The devotees were walking on the Beawar-Ahmedabad national highway on Saturday when the accident occurred, SHO Sendra police station Premaram said. Three women were killed and four injured, he said. The victims were identified as Sugri Mehrat (40), Pujja Rawat (18) and Patashi Mehrat (58). The bodies were handed over to their family members after post-mortem, the SHO said. Car driver Dev Karan has been arrested, he said.



Houses cave in as tidal waves lash Odisha's Ganjam

PNS ■ BERHAMPUR (ODISHA)

As many as 27 houses have caved in at Ramayapatna village in Odisha's Ganjam district in the past one week due to coastal erosion, officials said here on Sunday.

Around a dozen more are on the verge of collapse as high tidal waves continue to lash the fishermen's village in Chikiti block of the district, they said.

Hara Prasad Bhoi, the tehsildar of Chikiti, said the district collector's attention has been drawn to the situation and measures were being taken to deal with the situation. According to the officials, Berhampur Sub-Collector S D Bhausaheb, who visited the village on Saturday, has asked the fishermen to shift to new

houses constructed under the Odisha Disaster Recovery Project (ODRP).

A villager, however, said many people were reluctant to move to their new houses as it was easier to go fishing from Ramayapatna. Moreover, not all of them have been allotted houses under the scheme, L Bhagi Raju explained.

"People here are in the grip of fear... Several houses close to the sea are on the verge of collapse," Raju, who is also the member of a village committee, said.

Girija Bhusan Mallick, the revenue inspector of Sonepur, said people living in thatched houses in the village have been provided with pucca houses at Chandrabedha, about one-and-a-half km from their village.

Jawans on their toes when night falls over the city

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

From dawn to dusk, and sometimes from dusk to dawn as well, the hours pass by in wakeful alertness for paramilitary troopers tasked with ensuring law and order in a land that is many hundred miles from home.

In the long hours of the night, as others try to get some sleep, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans can be heard stomping through the silent streets, armed with lathis and alert to any signs of trouble that might break out in Kashmir's main city.

The days go in maintaining law and order and manning checkpoints set up in Srinagar and across Kashmir Valley, where restrictions were eased this weekend after August 5 when the Centre revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 and announced its bifurcation into Union territories.

The night brings with it more challenges for some jawans whose workday doesn't end, but continues in ever watchfulness till the early hours of the morning, officials said.

CRPF Assistant Commandants Sanjeev Yadav from Uttar Pradesh and Bhanushekar from Bihar are among those frequently patrolling through the city at night. "Precaution is better than



After August 5, barricades came up across the city, particularly in the sensitive downtown area where protesters often pelt stones. Thousands of forces have been deployed in Srinagar and other parts

care," Yadav said while marching with his team in the interior areas around Dal Lake.

A breeze with the hint of autumn cools the air as the jawans take to the streets after a day of hectic law and order duties.

It's not just about patrolling. The day for a paramilitary jawan begins early because morning deployment has to be completed before sunrise, said Yadav. Special care has to be taken to ensure that terrorists have not planted IEDs (impro-

vised explosive devices).

After August 5, barricades came up across the city, particularly in the sensitive downtown area where protesters often pelt stones at security forces. The important strategy of round-the-clock deployment of paramilitary troops has yielded dividends with stone pelting incidents localised at the 'mohalla' level, officials said. Thousands of CRPF personnel and other forces have been deployed in Srinagar and other parts of the

Valley since August 5.

Purushottam Kumar, an assistant sub-inspector of the Sashtra Seema Bal (SSB), a force placed at the disposal of the CRPF, is posted near downtown Srinagar's Sekidafar area.

The makeshift checkpoint he is manning came up on the intervening night of August 4 and 5, said Kumar.

"Small group of youths emerge from lanes and bylanes and disappear after hurling stones at us," Kumar, who hails from Himachal Pradesh, said.

His senior, Khobram Drai from Arunachal Pradesh, said the challenges are many.

Guarding the area leading to SMHS hospital near Sekidafar, Drai said his team has to make sure the road is clear, day and night. "People come for treatment here and we do not wish to delay their entry into the hospital. Some rowdy elements do not understand this. We have been meeting elders of the nearby locality but not much has changed," he said.

Across the city, alert jawans can be seen moving around through the day.

A checkpoint set up near Ail Masjid, the second oldest mosque after historic Jama Masjid, is buzzing with activity. It is the main entry point into Srinagar from Ganderbal in central Kashmir and CRPF Assistant Commandant Bhanushekar carefully checks.

3 killed as SUV skids off expressway

PNS ■ NOIDA (UP)

Three people were killed and six others injured on Sunday after their SUV skidded off the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway and fell into a 30 feet ditch alongside the road, police said. The incident took place around 10 am near the Zero Point in Greater Noida's Knowledge Park police station area, a senior official said.

"The Ford Endeavour was apparently taking a U-turn near Pari Chowk when it skidded off the expressway and fell into a ditch, about 30 feet low from the road," Circle Officer, Greater Noida-1, Tanu Upadhyay said.

Three people were killed and six others, who were injured, were rushed to a private hospital where they are undergoing treatment, she said. A survivor told police that all of them worked at a call centre and had gone out to celebrate in the "new car", Upadhyay said.

SC judge stresses on pre-litigation mediation

PNS ■ NAGPUR

Justice Sharad Bobde of the Supreme Court emphasised the need for pre-litigation mediation and the role of the legal aid system to ensure people get speedy justice.

He was speaking on Saturday at the inaugural function of the 17th All India Meet of State Legal Services Authorities here.

Justice Bobde said 1,07,587 matters were settled through mediation between April 2017 to March 2018, adding that in Gujarat, recently, 24,000 cases were settled in a single day.

"An emphasis is developing on mediation. Therefore, we are thinking of compulsory 'pre litigation mediation' which need not be restricted to only commercial disputes," the apex court judge said.

There should be degree, diploma courses in mediation in law universities in the country, he added. He said legal aid provided to disadvantaged sec-



An emphasis is developing on mediation. Therefore, we are thinking of compulsory 'pre litigation mediation' which need not be restricted to only commercial disputes

— APEX COURT JUDGE

tions of society has helped them have their voices heard. "Many from the disadvantaged sections of society do not

even know they have legal rights under law and welfare schemes," Justice Bobde said.

Citing figures, he said about 80 per cent of people in the country are entitled to legal aid but it is provided to not more than 0.05 per cent of the population.

He commended the state legal service authorities on their work and said the system was gaining momentum across the country with active support from the high courts.

LED screens for live telecast of Ganga Aarti

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CPWD will install big LED screens for the live telecast of 'Ganga Aarti' at all ghats and the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency. According to the Central Public Works Department, the prime construction agency of the central government, the LED screens will also be installed at the proposed corridor between Kashi Vishwanath Temple and the River Ganga.

As per the plan, aarti will also be live-telecast on these LED screens.

According to an official,



the project cost is estimated to be around Rs 11.5 crore.

The official said a big event for Ganga Aarti is held at Dashashwamedh Ghat.

"For those who are away from this ghat and cannot attend Ganga Aarti, the CPWD will install several big LED screens at other ghats, Kashi Vishwanath Temple and the proposed corridor," the official said.

48-day festival ends; Athi Varadar placed inside temple tank

PNS ■ KANCHEEPURAM (TN)

Amid religious fervour, the fig wood idol of Lord Athi Varadar was immersed in the temple tank of Sri Devarajaswamy shrine here early on Sunday after being kept for 48-day darshan, a once-in-40 year event that drew over one crore devotees since July 1. After completion of special rituals and applying of traditional herbal paste, the life-size idol was brought to the holy "Anantasaras" tank by the priests and immersed into a special underground chamber to the chanting of Vedic hymns.

The return of the deity to its permanent underwater abode marked the culmination of the 48-day long festival which began on July 1 and saw lakhs of devotees thronging the temple town, over 50 km from Chennai,



every day. On Saturday evening, the processional idol of the presiding deity Sri Devarajaswamy was brought to the Vasantha Mandapam, where Lord Athi Varadar had been kept for public darshan, ahead of the immersion ceremony and special pujas were per-

formed. The event had commenced with the centuries-old idol of Athivaradar being taken out of the tank last month.

From July 1 to July 31, the idol was in "sayana kolam" (lying down posture) and from August 1 in "nindra kolam" (standing). On August 17, there was no

From July 1 to July 31, the idol was in "sayana kolam" (lying down posture) and from August 1 in "nindra kolam" (standing). On August 17, there was no public darshan

public darshan. The festival witnessed a daily rush of over one lakh devotees with the crowd exceeding three lakhs on several days, especially on weekends. According to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami, more than one crore devotees offered prayers to the deity during the festival.

President Ram Nath Kovind, Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Palaniswami, former prime

are Creteuchiloglanis tawangensis, found in the Tawangchu river in Tawang district, Garra ranganensis, found in Ranga river and Physoschistura harkishorei, found in Dibang and Lohit rivers in Lower Dibang Valley district, it said.

"Majority of the water bodies in remote areas of the state are still not easily accessible to the researchers due to a difficult terrain that includes rain forests, steep hills besides communication problems," Das said.

SHORT READS



President Kovind meets Lata Mangeskar

MUMBAI: President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday met veteran singer and Bharat Ratna awardee Lata Mangeskar at her home in south Mumbai and conveyed his best wishes for her good health. Kovind was in the city to inaugurate the underground 'Bunker Museum' at the Raj Bhavan. "Delighted to meet @MangeskarLata ji at her residence in Mumbai. Conveyed my best wishes for her good health. Lata ji, the pride of India, has sweetened our lives with her soulful melody. She continues to inspire us with her simplicity and grace," he wrote on Twitter. In response, the 89-year-old singer Tweeted, "Namaskar, was deeply honoured and humbled, when The President of our country, Shri Ramnath Kovind ji, so gracefully came and met me at my residence. I stand in gratitude. Sir, you make us proud!"

Noted journalist Ranjit Guru passes away

BHUBANESWAR: Noted journalist and columnist Ranjit Guru passed away at a private hospital here following a brief illness, family sources said on Sunday. He was 61 and is survived by wife and a daughter. Guru, who was admitted to a private hospital here a few days ago, breathed his last in the early hours at around 12.30 am, they said. A host of dignitaries including Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Union Petroleum and Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan have condoled the demise of Guru. Guru had carved a special identity for himself by highlighting important issues through his writings and columns, Patnaik said on Twitter while expressing grief over the passing away of the senior journalist.

Man killed over property dispute in UP's Muzaffarnagar

MUZAFFARNAGAR (UP): A 40-year-old man was shot dead by his cousin over a property dispute in Muzaffarnagar district on Sunday, police said. The incident took place in Baghra village, where Shahid was shot dead by his cousin Azmat (30) and four others, including a woman, SP (Rural) Alok Kumar Sharma said. A murder case has been registered against the accused and efforts are underway to nab them, the SP added.

Train services on Shimla-Kalka route hit by landslides

SHIMLA: Train services between Shimla and Kalka were disrupted on Sunday after multiple landslides blocked the rail route in Himachal Pradesh, a rail official said. Landslides occurred at four-five places on the Shimla-Kalka track following heavy rains in the region, he added. A Shimla-bound train from Kalka had started at 3 am but had to be terminated midway at Dharampur Railway Station at 5 am due to landslides, he added. Subsequently it was decided not to run any train till the clearance of the track, he added.

hard work in facilitating darshan for devotees. However, there were widespread complaints about lack of adequate amenities for devotees and poor management of crowd.

Visitors had a tough time navigating through serpentine queues, which took several hours, at times over 12 hours, to have darshan of the deity.

Last month, four devotees who had visited the temple died in separate incidents after offering prayers, leading to anxious moments. The government, however, said they died due to pre-existing health conditions.

Attempts were made in the Madras High Court to seek extension of the festival period beyond the 48 days, but the court dismissed the petitions after the state government said it cannot be done.

100,000 hit streets as protests continue to roil HK

IAN S ■ HONG KONG

Over 100,000 people dressed in black took part in the pro-democracy protests here on Sunday, amid severe warnings from Beijing. Rains couldn't dissuade people from filling the Victoria Park then spilling out to occupy major roads in all directions, the BBC reported.

The protests were sparked by an extradition bill, which has since been suspended by the Hong Kong Government.

Subway railway stations were forced to shut after getting clogged with protesters heading to the rally.

Though the authorities didn't grant permission to



organisers Civil Rights Human Front for the march, the sheer weight of numbers around the park meant that activists had to shift to streets. However, the police had allowed demonstration in Victoria Park.

Wong, a protester, said, "We have been fighting for more than two months, but there has been no government response. We could just come out again and again."

Activists and the police have clashed over the past 10 weeks with the security forces

frequently firing tear gas and rubber bullets, but this weekend's rallies have been peaceful.

China, which has built up security forces in nearby Shenzhen, has likened the protests to terrorist activity.

After increasingly violent clashes in recent weeks, there's been a concerted effort to win back public support for the democratic reforms by focusing on larger peaceful gatherings.

Last weekend, activists

occupied the airport, leading to cancellation of hundreds of flights.

The turmoil has plunged one of Asia's leading financial centres into crisis. Many businesses remained closed on Sunday, amid fears of violence.

Mass protests erupted in June over the Hong Kong Government's now-shelved extradition bill, the South China *Morning Post* reported. The administration dropped the draft legislation on June 15 and city leader Carrie Lam later declared it dead.

Since then protesters have escalated the campaign with street demonstrations and non-cooperative action.

Protesters gather on Victoria Park in Hong Kong on Sunday. Thousands of people streamed into the park for what organisers hope will be a peaceful demonstration for democracy in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory AP

63 killed in Kabul blast, ISIS owns responsibility

Kabul: At least 63 people were killed and over 180 injured in a suicide bombing at a packed wedding hall here, reports said on Sunday. The ISIS has claimed responsibility for the attack, which has left many relatives of the couple getting married dead.

Citing an ISIS statement issued in Arabic, Khaama Press reported that the attack, "which targeted a gathering of non-believers", was carried out by IS suicide bomber Abu Asim Al-Pakistani.

Earlier, the Taliban, in a statement, rejected any involve-

ment in the Saturday night attack, saying that they condemned incidents which target women and children.

A suicide bomber targeted a wedding hall, packed with hundreds of guests, late on Saturday night.

Interior Ministry spokesman Nusrat Rahimi said the blast, that took place around 10.40 p.m. was a suicide bombing, TOLONews reported. He also expressed apprehensions that the number of casualties might increase.

Sources and witnesses said

the Shahr-e-Dubai wedding hall, located in police district 6 (PD6), was packed with guests when the explosion occurred.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani condemned the attack.

"I strongly condemn the inhumane attack on the wedding hall in Kabul last night. My top priority for now is to reach out to the families of victims of this barbaric attack. On behalf of the nation I send my heartfelt condolences to the families of those who were martyred," he said in a tweet.

IAN S



Damage of the Dubai City wedding hall is seen after an explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan on Sunday. A suicide-bomb blast ripped through a wedding party on a busy Saturday night AP

Pak approaches FB, Twitter over suspension of accounts on Kashmir

IAN S ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistani officials on Sunday said they have taken up the suspension of Pakistani social media accounts that posted messages in support of Kashmir with social networking giants Facebook and Twitter, local media reported.

"Pakistan authorities have taken up the case with Twitter and Facebook against suspending Pakistani accounts for posting in support of Kashmir," Director General (DG) Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Maj Gen Asif Ghafoor was quoted as saying by the Dawn.

Ghafoor reportedly urged social media users to share information about accounts that have been suspended already.

He also added that the reason behind the suspension of social media accounts was Indian employees working at the regional headquarters of the social media giants.

Facebook has the highest number of fact-checking partners in India, followed by the US, said data from the Poynter Institute, according to the report.

UK PM to tell EU leaders to renegotiate Brexit deal

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will tell European Union (EU) leaders that there needs to be a new Brexit deal when he makes his first trip abroad as the Prime Minister later this week.

The UK will leave the European Union (EU) on October 31 with or without a deal, Johnson will insist.

Meanwhile, the Sunday Times has printed leaked government documents warning of food, medicine and fuel shortages in a no-deal scenario, the BBC reported.

A source told the BBC that a former minister leaked the dossier to try to influence discussions with EU leaders.

The documents say the cross-government paper on preparations for a no-deal Brexit, code-named Operation Yellowhammer, reveals that the UK could face months of disruption at its ports.

It also states that plans to avoid a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are unlikely to prove sustainable.

According to the dossier, reported by the Sunday Times, leaving the EU without a deal could lead to the following situations:

- * Fresh food becoming less available and prices rising.
- * A hard Irish border after

plans to avoid checks fail, sparking protests.

- * Fuel becoming less available and 2,000 jobs being lost if the government sets petrol import tariffs to 0 per cent, potentially causing two oil refineries to close.
- * UK patients having to wait longer for medicines, including insulin and flu vaccines.
- * A rise in public disorder and community tensions resulting from a shortage of food and drugs.
- * Passengers being delayed at EU airports, Eurotunnel and Dover.
- * Freight disruption at ports lasting up to three months, caused by customs checks, before traffic flow improves to 50-70 per cent of the current rate.

The Downing Street source told the BBC the leaked document "is from when ministers were blocking what needed to be done to get ready to leave and the funds were not available".

Michael Gove, who is responsible for overseeing the devolution consequences of Brexit, said in a tweet that Operation Yellowhammer was "a worst case scenario".

"V significant steps have been taken in the last 3 weeks to accelerate Brexit planning," he added.

Energy Minister Kwasi

Kwarteng told Sky News's Sophie Ridge on Sunday: "I think there's a lot of scaremongering around and a lot of people are playing into project fear," he said.

But a former head of the British civil service, Lord Bob Kerslake, who described the document as "credible", said the dossier "lays bare the scale of the risks we are facing with no-deal Brexit in almost every area".

"These risks are completely insane for this country to be taking and we have to explore every avenue to avoid them," he told BBC Radio 4's Broadcasting House.

Irish Deputy Prime Minister Simon Coveney said, in a tweet, that Ireland had "always been clear" a hard border in Ireland "must be avoided".

The Irish backstop -- the provision in former British Prime Minister Theresa May's withdrawal agreement that could see Northern Ireland continue to follow some of the same trade rules as the Republic of Ireland and the rest of the EU, thus preventing a hard border -- was an "insurance policy" designed to protect the peace process, he said.

The leak comes as Johnson prepares to travel to Berlin to meet German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday, before going to Paris to meet French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday.

IAN S

Iceland commemorates 1st glacier lost to climate change

AFP ■ REYKJAVIK

Iceland on Sunday honours the passing of Okjokull, its first glacier lost to climate change, as scientists warn that some 400 others on the sub-arctic island risk the same fate.

A bronze plaque will be unveiled in a ceremony starting around 1400 GMT to mark Okjokull -- which translates to "Ok glacier" -- in the west of Iceland, in the presence of local researchers and their peers at Rice University in the United States, who initiated the project.

Iceland's Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir, Environment Minister Gudmundur Ingi Gudbrandsson, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson are also due to attend the event.

"This will be the first monument to a glacier lost to climate change anywhere in the world," Cymene Howe, associate professor of anthropology at Rice University, said in July.

The plaque bears the inscription "A letter to the future," and is intended to raise awareness about the decline of glaciers and the effects of climate change.

3 Palestinians killed by Israeli troops at Gaza border

Gaza City: Three Palestinians were killed by Israeli soldiers in the northern Gaza Strip, the Palestinian health ministry said Sunday, hours after three rockets were fired at Israel from the blockaded enclave.

The ministry said another Palestinian was hospitalised in the shooting that came after the Israeli army said an attack helicopter and tank had fired at "armed suspects" along the barrier that separates Israel from Gaza.

"We just identified a num-

ber of armed suspects from Gaza approaching the security fence with Israel. We fired towards them," the army said in a statement posted on its Twitter account.

The latest violence came after Palestinians in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip fired three rockets at southern Israel late Saturday, the Israeli army said, in the second such attack in 24 hours.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The army said two of the

projectiles had been intercepted by its Iron Dome aerial defence system but it did not specify what happened to the third rocket.

Air raid sirens had sounded in the southern town of Sderot and its surroundings.

On Friday Palestinians in Gaza fired a rocket at Sderot, in what the army said was the first such attack since July 12.

In response, Israeli warplanes struck at least three targets in the Gaza Strip early on Saturday but caused no casualties, a Palestinian security source said.

The strikes hit a Hamas observation post in Beit Hanoun, in the northern Gaza Strip, an unidentified target near Gaza City and open ground near Deir El Balah in the central part of the territory, the source said.

An Israeli army statement mentioned only two strikes, against "underground targets belonging to the Hamas terror organisation in the northern and central Gaza Strip". AFP

Leaked UK memos warn of food, drug shortages in Brexit chaos

London: Leaked British government documents have warned of disruptions across the country in the event that the UK leaves the European Union without a trade deal on October 31.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said he is prepared to charge out of the EU regardless of whether he is able to renegotiate the Brexit deal struck with Brussels by his predecessor, Theresa May, over the next 10 weeks.

The Sunday Times pub-

lished what it said were confidential Government memos outlining the consequences of tearing up May's deal, warning that a sudden British exit could lead to a decrease in the supply of fresh food.

The memos also warn of "significant" disruptions to drug supplies that could last for up to six months. Britain's Cabinet Office did not immediately respond to a request for comment by The Associated Press.

AP

Wildfire forces 2,000 to evacuate in Spain's Canary Islands

Madrid: Authorities in Spain's Canary Islands say around 2,000 people have been evacuated due to a wildfire that has ravaged more than 500 hectares (1,235 acres) since it broke out less than 24 hours ago.

At least 250 firefighters,



nine helicopters and two planes were working Sunday to tackle the flames near the town of Valleseco on Gran Canaria island in the Atlantic Ocean archipelago, the provincial government said in tweets.

Officials say the blaze "has great potential" to spread and have ordered evacuations in at least six towns.

The island suffered another ravaging fire last week.

Wildfires are common in southern Europe during the hot, dry summer months.

Nearly half of Spain's provinces were on alert Sunday for high risk of fires, according to the country's weather agency AEMET.

AP

French waiter shot dead over 'slow service'

London: A waiter in a cafe near Paris was shot and killed by a customer irate over delay in preparing the sandwich he had ordered, reports said on Sunday.

The incident occurred in the Paris suburb of Noisy-le-Grand on Friday evening.

According to the deceased man's colleagues at the pizza and sandwich shop, the customer shot the waiter in the shoulder after losing his temper over the time it took to deliver the meal, the BBC reported.

Though medical aid arrived soon, the waiter succumbed to his injuries on the spot.

The attacker fled the scene and is still to be apprehended.

The killing has stunned local residents and shopkeepers, though some of them complained that crime has increased in the area and more instances of drug trade and public drunkenness were being reported.

IAN S

50,000 people homeless after fire razes Bangladesh slum

AFP ■ DHAKA

At least 50,000 people are homeless after a massive fire swept through a crowded slum in the Bangladesh capital and destroyed thousands of shanties, officials said Sunday.

The fire broke out at in Dhaka's Mirpur neighbourhood late on Friday and razed around 2,000 mostly tin shacks, fire services official Ershad Hossain told AFP.

"I could not salvage a single thing. I don't know what will I do," 58-year-old Abdul Hamid, who ran a tea stall inside the slum, told AFP as he broke down in tears.

Authorities eventually got the blaze under control and no-one was killed, although several people had minor injuries, firefighters said.

Many residents -- largely low-income garment factory workers -- were not in the slum as they had left their homes to celebrate the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday with their families. "Otherwise, the damage would have been bigger," local police chief Golam Rabbani said.

Around 10,000 people have taken refuge in crammed camps at nearby schools closed for the weeklong holiday, according to Hossain.

"We are providing them with food, water, mobile toilets, and electricity supply," municipal official Shafiqul Azam told AFP, adding that authorities were trying to find permanent accommodation.

Some families have erected tarpaulins to shelter them from bouts of rain during the monsoon season, but the wet conditions have turned the fields muddy.

Experts say fires are frequent in Dhaka due to lax safety measures. At least 100 people have been killed so far this year in building fires across the densely populated metropolitan city.

Lankan presidential hopeful claims threat to his life: Report

Colombo: Sri Lanka's presidential hopeful Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, who played a key role defeating the LTTE to end the country's brutal civil war, has claimed that a terrorist group in the North is planning to harm him during the election campaign, according to a media report.

Gotabhaya, 70, the brother of former strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa, complained to President Maithripala Sirisena that his intelligence officers have informed him that there is an attempt to use a sniper rifle and a special type of gun imported from Malaysia for this attack.

He asked the president to investigate the matter and take appropriate action, Sri Lanka Mirror reported. The former defence secretary told the media that not only him but Douglas Devananda, a Sri Lankan Tamil politician, and Karuna Amman, a politician and a former rebel, are also at risk. PTI

Libyan navy says 335 migrants rescued

AFP ■ TRIPOLI

The Libyan navy said on Sunday 335 migrants had been rescued and one body recovered in separate operations off the coast, as they tried to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe.

Nine children were among 57 migrants in a wooden boat rescued Saturday about 40 nautical miles from the town of Zuwara, west of Tripoli, navy

spokesman General Ayoub Kacem told AFP.

He said they were from Ethiopia and Egypt.

It came days after Libyan navy patrols on Tuesday "rescued 278 migrants on board four inflatable boats north-west and northeast of Tripoli", Kacem added.

The operations took place off the coasts of the cities of Khoms, 120 kilometres (75 miles) east of Tripoli, and

Sabratha, located 70 kilometres west of the capital.

According to the statement, 128 Sudanese were in the boats, in addition to migrants from Chad, Egypt, Niger, Benin and Eritrea, including 35 women and 11 children.

One body was also recovered by the coastguard. Libya, which has been wracked by chaos since the 2011 uprising that killed dictator Moamer Kadhafi, has long

been a major transit route for migrants, especially from sub-Saharan Africa.

In general, migrants rescued at sea are first met by humanitarian agencies that provide medical care and food.

They are then taken into the charge of the body working to combat immigration at the interior ministry of the UN-recognised Government of National Accord.

On August 9, the Libyan

navy accused the authorities of failing to manage migrants rescued at sea, claiming that it could be forced to let people go free once brought back to land.

Despite the risks, migrants continue to attempt to reach Europe by sea, preferring to take their chances than stay in Libya, where they are subject to abuse, extortion and torture, according to humanitarian organisations.

Nepal: Branded 'witch', woman force-fed human excreta

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

A 35-year-old woman in Nepal was allegedly thrashed and forced to eat human faeces by a group of villagers in the latest attack linked to accusations of witchcraft, police said on Sunday.

A group of five women beat the victim and force-fed

her human excreta at Birta village of Bhangaha area in Mahottari district on Monday, they said.

The accused have been identified as Sabita Devi, Poshila Danuwar, Indira Devi Singh Danuwar, Sukeshwori Devi and Rajeshree Anuwar, Superintendent of Police Shyam Krishna Adhikari

said.

Sukeshwori and Rajeshree have been taken into police custody, he said, adding that they have initiated an investigation into the matter.

The practice of accusing women of being witches and assaulting or killing them is still common in some parts of Nepal, although it is illegal.

India wins at UNSC

Our diplomatic offensive at UNSC was weather-proofed enough to drown out both Pakistan and China



Given the suddenness of the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, its bifurcation and changed status to a Union Territory, Modi 2.0, in contrast, had amply prepared its diplomatic offensive, anticipating queries, anxieties and sensitivities of the Big Five members of the United Nations, other world leaders and predictable hitbacks from neighbours Pakistan and China. So although China, being an all-weather friend of Pakistan, backed its push for an informal consultation on Kashmir in the UN Security Council, in the end there was

status quo on it being a bilateral matter and acceptance that abrogation of Article 370 was facilitated by a legal clause and, therefore, qualified as an internal matter of India compliant with its statutes. Even US President Donald Trump, who had stirred up a hornet's nest by offering to mediate, has now advised Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to settle the issue within the bilateral framework. Having failed to internationalise Kashmir enough, a desperate Pakistan did not relent, calling Kashmir a "nuclear flashpoint" even after the UNSC rebuff. While it is but expected to keep the storm and fury going, if only to justify its long-term politics, fact is that the US has made its value to it contingent upon its role in managing the Taliban in Afghanistan post its intended pullout from the region. Besides, the Trump administration has also cut back some funding to it despite Khan's latest visit to Washington. The huff and puff is, therefore, posturing for a long-held constituency that it has nurtured in the Valley, which has been tamed by India's pitch of Pakistan-exported terror camouflaging itself as self-determination, and now the complete revocation of special status which swamps all separatist sentiments. Truth be told, even India had clouded the "no first use" theorem a day before, saying it could be reviewed depending on the nature of external provocation. Our western neighbour, too, took off on this statement. India has anyway been predicating the Kashmir question on a tremendous threat perception from Pakistan just as the latter is seeking to externalise our internal matter. To that extent, this bluster works for both. Of course, the lockdown of the information highway has not helped either and strengthened stereotypes rather than reconciliation. If the government indeed wants to push its development narrative, then a tight-fisted channelisation of information is clearly counter-productive. There has to be a mature way of dealing with protests on the subversion of what has held together Kashmir's matrix with us since Independence. And a jackboots approach to suppressing debate in a digital age may actually quite backfire and damage the tide of opinion in our favour at the moment.

China may not be too happy about the UT status to Ladakh that would give India strategic heft in a region that lies next to Aksai Chin. But so long as the Line of Actual Control is as it is, it won't have any ground to push its belligerence on Kashmir. China, which got the Shaksgam Valley in 1963 from Pakistan, has so far argued that its claim there is contingent on the final resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Now it is part of the UT of Ladakh, nullifying that legitimacy. But China will have to unwillingly accept this considering that it is looking at greater economic cooperation with India and wouldn't want to jeopardise that template of neutrality with a resurrection of border issues. Besides, if it accuses India of making territorial changes, then it also is not exactly immune to helping Pakistan make those changes courtesy the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Its own oppressive role in the Hong Kong protests and Tibet has denied it a moral standpoint at a global forum. And it is this record that didn't wash with other members. Over the years, China has been pushing its agenda of winning hearts of Ladakhis through its own kind of cultural diplomacy, influencing several Buddhist sects and groups and playing them against each other. It has been funding monasteries in the area to link them to the larger Chinese Buddhism, a strategy which has allowed it to make inroads in the Buddhist countries of Southeast Asia too. Given Dalai Lama's ill health, China is already preparing to have a say in the dominant Tibetan Buddhism in the region. The reorganisation now allows New Delhi direct decision-making and first-hand engagement with the Buddhists of Ladakh and could well strengthen Himalayan Buddhism as a counterpoint. China may be an irritant but depending on the relevance of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), that allows it a backhand entry to India without pushing the Belt and Road Initiative, and its stumbling trade block with the US, it is but posturing at the moment.

Plastic problem

It may be a wonder material but its overuse has an environmental cost. Are replacements worthy?



When we first synthesised plastic polymers from crude oil residues, mankind hardly knew how dominant a part they would become of modern life. Like it or not, we cannot imagine modern life without plastics. Think of it this way — it is cheaper today for us to manufacture plastic cutlery than hand out wooden spoons. From the cars we drive and the planes we fly, to almost every product that every single human being comes in contact with, there is a bit of plastic somewhere. And this is a result of not just

the fact that it is cheap but also extremely durable, immune to most types of corrosion and weather. Ergo, it has become the material of choice in several applications. Most beverages, for example, are not sold in glass bottles but in breakage-free plastic containers.

But since it takes centuries to degrade, landfills and oceans are getting filled with its remains. With animals, birds and marine life also being impacted, many humans have ingested it through food. Make no mistake, plastics are harmful — they can block digestive passages of animals. Several whales have starved to death because of choking. In major metropolitan areas though, such as Delhi, plastic pollution has moved from being a potential danger to a threat to life itself. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) found that the capital city topped the nation in the amount of plastic waste it generates. This has spurred the authorities into action. The change, however, must not be driven by the Government alone. Human behaviour and buying habits have to radically change for plastic use to decline. At the same time, we should not rush for solutions without studying the replacement material's impact on the earth. Paper-fibre bags, which are quite popular as a being "environmentally friendly", also degrade slowly and are equally damaging to drains. And unlike many plastics, they cannot even be recycled. While we can do a lot better such as reuse bags, buy fewer packages — a big bottle instead of sachets for example — we should also not go down a route of damning plastics altogether, because they are essential in far too many aspects of our lives. We should develop better ways of recycling them and disposing variants we can't instead of dumping them.

Any passenger comforts?

There is little doubt that mass production of commercial airliners has made flying more affordable but is it time for an international bill of rights for the passengers?



KUSHAN MITRA

Obviously, the Airbus A320neo series of aircraft is an incremental change over the extremely successful Airbus A320 series of commercial aircraft built by the European manufacturer, one of the most successful airliners in aviation history. By using next-generation high-bypass turbofan engines, including some with a gearing mechanism to make them even more efficient, these aircraft are able to burn 15-20 per cent less fuel per passenger kilometre than the previous generation of the same aircraft. The increased fuel efficiency not only adds to the profit of the airlines but also allows some to pass on the cost benefits of the more economical engines to fare-paying passengers. These cost reductions will make flying even more democratic.

But not all the savings are from the engines as weight is of critical concern for airlines. They have saved weight not just by using exotic composite materials in parts of the construction but also in the cabin. Then there's also the fact that the weight of installed seats has been brought down. Thanks to low-cost airlines, which do not offer hot-food options, the amount of space in the galleys for food carts and ovens has come down. This coupled with narrower, slimmer seats and a tight spacing between them, the so-called "seat pitch", have meant that some low-cost carriers like IndiGo are able to offer an additional row of six seats on the A320neo over the previous generation. That may not seem like much but in a cut-throat world of low-cost airlines, where margins are frightfully tight, an additional row of seats at little-to-no-additional cost on a similar aircraft can make a profitable difference.

However, when you fly an A320neo configured with 31 rows instead of the usual 30 on the previous generation, now called the A320ceo, you realise another way they made space for the additional row. The rear toilets have been removed, or rather the rear toilets as we knew them. They are now horribly narrow, best described as a tiny broom closet where a part of the galley used to be. To save space further, the cabin attendant seats are attached to the front door. The toilet is an affront to the dignity of some human beings because there is no way a large person can possibly use it.

One could argue that most A320neo flights are relatively short domestic hops but this thinking ignores the fact that several domestic routes are touching three hours of flight time and with delays on the ground and in the air, thanks to air traffic congestion, it could be four-five hours between the time a passenger can use toilets attached to mother earth. That, you will have to admit, is a fair bit of time. The other problem is that because of the A320neo's new fuel economical engines, coupled with the fact that it has slightly better fuel capacity, it can fly



longer than the A320ceo. This is particularly evident in the fact that earlier this year, during the Paris Air Show, Airbus announced an extremely long-range version of the bigger brother of the A320neo, the A321neo, called the A321XLR. With an announced range of 7,400 km, the plane could potentially fly between Delhi to most of western Europe, carrying a full load of 244 passengers if configured in a dense all-economy configuration. That is eight hours of flight time and possibly nine to 10 hours between the time a passenger boards the plane to the time he/she disembarks.

There is no doubt that an aircraft like the A321XLR has immense potential — not only can it serve major Indian cities to smaller destinations in Europe and north-east Asia, it can also connect smaller Indian airports like that of Pune, which has a short runway, to major aviation hubs. But if the thought of spending eight hours on a narrow-body plane was not bad enough, the thought of spending time on such a plane with cramped toilets — just three of them or an average of one per 80 passengers — and the possibility of poor toilet hygiene by some fellow passen-

“THE FACT IS THAT THANKS TO BETTER NUTRITION, AN AVERAGE HUMAN IS GETTING LARGER AND WHILE THE CONVENIENCE OF A NON-STOP FLIGHT MIGHT OVERRIDE OTHER CONCERNS FOR SOME PASSENGERS, EVERYONE WILL EVENTUALLY NEED TO USE THE FACILITIES ON A PLANE ONE DAY, AND THAT DAY, THEY WILL UNDERSTAND WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT”

gers make for a truly terrifying experience. One cannot even imagine how the poor cabin attendant, who will have to sit on that seat attached to the toilet door, will feel at the end of a flight. After a long haul, that should qualify for a distress allowance.

Which is why, may be it is time for civil aviation authorities across the world to step in for the passengers. The lackadaisical attitude of regulators in certifying the Boeing 737 Max, the American Federal Aviation Administration being a case in point, has allowed years of reduced passenger comfort to pass unchallenged. It is not just the overwing exits that are ridiculously small but things like smaller seats and cramped toilets are problems that need to be redressed.

Again, an argument will be made that passengers have a choice; they can pay more and fly on an airline that offers better facilities like a larger toilet and more space between rows. But as the collapse of Jet Airways and Kingfisher Airlines proves, the aviation sector is in dire straits, forcing even larger airlines to offer fewer amenities or cutting back on those that remain. Even if Air India, which also operates

A320neo aircraft and has not crimped on the toilet size or passenger meals, does offer competitive fares, the crisis won't blow away.

There is not always a choice but to travel on a low-cost airline, which wishes to fit as many travellers on seats as possible, either for time reasons or just because of the fact that they dominate the skies. This is true not just in India but pretty much everywhere else in the world, too.

The race to the bottom will continue unless authorities step in. Regulations need to be set for minimum seat pitches being allowed on aircraft and the size of toilets as well as the doors. The fact is that thanks to better nutrition, an average human is getting larger and while the convenience of a non-stop flight might override other concerns for some passengers, everyone, who flies frequently or infrequently, will eventually need to use the facilities on a plane one day, and that day, they will understand why this is important. Hopefully, that day will not be too late and small airline toilets would not have become *fait accompli*.

(The writer is Managing Editor, The Pioneer)

SOUND BITE

Amid concerns of widespread unemployment, poverty, inflation, illiteracy, health, stress and violence, there is now a danger of economic slowdown.



BSP chief —Mayawati

If I have to be a good feminist, I would want to contribute to the society in such a way that all get an equal opportunity to show their talent.



Actor —Taapsee Pannu

The vitality of US-India ties is critical to keep a check on China's actions to rewrite Indo-Pacific for its own interests.



US Deputy Secretary of State —John Sullivan

The revival of the Congress largely depends on the weakening of regional parties which lack ideology. So, the future of the Congress is bright.



Congress leader —Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop interference

Sir — China, being a permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC), seems to be pandering to the whims of its all-weather friend, Pakistan. The decision, at the goading of China, to hold a closed-door discussion on Kashmir is a matter of surprise as it is a subject that involves the internal affairs of India.

Much has changed since 1947. The move also shows the big brother attitude of China, which is struggling with many problems back home. China must first concentrate on making peace with protesters in Hong Kong and also show some respect for Tibet and the Uighur Muslims. It has no right to be sermonising about Kashmir, which is being sorted out in a peaceful manner in democratic traditions.

Sravana Ramachandran
Chennai

Capable coach

Sir — The decision made by the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) to retain Ravi

The hidden cost of smartphone addiction

With 41 million obese people, India ranks third after the US and China in having the highest number of overweight people in the world. Obesity is a known cause of health problems. However, overweight has to be differentiated from obesity, which is usually done by Body Mass Index (BMI). People with too little physical activity, coupled with excessive food intake, fall in the category of obesity. Diabetes mellitus and hypertension (high blood pressure) are two important lifestyle deviations that can lead to a series of serious diseases. Studies have proved that smartphone technology has led to a sedentary lifestyle. Spending too much time with it can reduce one's portability, keep him/her confined to the chair or bed. As in television addicts, smartphone users are likely to "relax" with alcohol, sweets and snacks.

All these items for relaxation are direct/indirect causes of obesity. The number of hours spent with the smartphones can be detrimental. More than five hours of interrupted or continuous use of smartphones for more than

Shastri as the head coach of the Indian cricket team was on expected lines. The cricket team is currently at a crucial stage post the World Cup loss in England and needs his leadership to evolve stronger to win future games.

Over the years, Shastri has developed a deep understanding with the team, especially with Captain Virat Kohli, and knows

the nuances of cricket and the team through strength, weakness, opportunity and threat (SWOT) analysis very deeply. He is best suited to lift the boys' morale to the next level and help ensure that the team benefits from his leadership.

It is learnt that during an interview on Skype, Shastri demonstrated a clear road map for team India. There's no case

of doubting his credentials and his election for the third time will help India retain top notch talent and win games successfully.

The Indian team should now make the best use of Shastri's availability and look ahead to retain many more titles, especially on foreign soil.
Varun Dambal
Bengaluru



six months cause unwanted changes. The danger of smartphones is no less than the perils of television. It is, in fact, more injurious because of its portability, comfort, range and the sheer variety of information and entertainment. Every innovation has its attendant risk. In the era of technology marvels, it is crucial to sift good from the bad.

Ganapathi Bhat
Akola

Failing humanity

Sir — To celebrate modern civilisation and humanity's achievements as something miraculous is to delude ourselves to the mediocrity of our species. We cannot celebrate everything that humanity accomplishes. In retrospect, we need to express, regret and repent sufficiently for the damage we have caused to the environment.

For this, the chief agent is religion, which glorifies humanity as an outcome of divine providence, and places every other creation of the almighty on a lower strata. It is this narcissism and hubris that make us behave like masters of the universe. The need to find a solution must begin with examining deeply as to why the problem arose in the first place. The answers will be obvious and won't surprise anyone. If not for global warming and climate change, one wonders what kind of a catastrophe can infuse sense into the human psyche?

Anoop Hasmath
Mysuru

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

An opportunity to reinvent

The proposed investors' summit in J&K holds the potential to bring out the best of this State. However, Ladakh must not be left out



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

At the time of writing these lines, news had just come that the Jammu & Kashmir administration will host a three-day global investors' summit from October 12 in Srinagar. Part of it will also be held in Jammu. An MoU has been signed by the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) to organise and manage the event. Supposedly, the meet will give the State an opportunity to showcase its approach and a possibility of it entering the global market in a major way. It will also presumably put to rest some anxieties that have arisen due to recent changes in the functioning of the State. It should be a useful occasion to familiarise those who are interested in knowing the potential of the natural resources of this idyllic State and its infrastructure. This should not be a template meet like the ones that have been held in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh or West Bengal. Reasons for this are different. Natural resources found in Jammu & Kashmir are unlikely to be found in any other Indian State. And it's not just the horticulture and a wide range of agricultural products but also raw materials and the perception there of.

Consider the case of Taiwan, a small island in the East Asian region — small enough not to have any significant raw material but is large enough to innovate with foresight. Ceramic products of this nation is celebrated globally for their design and finesse. They range from tea cups to plaques. Their quality sets its own standards. Couple this with the place Taiwan has earned in the world of information technology, which is also the key to its incredible prosperity. The knowledgeable are aware that Taiwan has resources of foreign exchange in excess of its needs. Indeed, it also has all the problems of plenty. Learning from the example of Taiwan can be a source of policy challenges in its own right.

The hills of the Kashmir Valley and the rugged terrain of Udhampur or of the Kathua region hold a huge potential of literally converting the hill dust to aesthetic and functional products. What is needed is raw material and the vision to redesign products out of it. Some of this is already being done. It is now possible to buy from the markets of Kashmir tea sets or dinner sets, which are a visual and utilitarian delight. The only deficiency is that they do not have brand value. Whether the proposed investors' summit will be able to plug this gap is an interesting question, to which, time alone can provide the answer. Clearly, it has to do much more than just famous names descending in the Valley to lend celebrity value to an area, which has already been reeling under severe challenges of mental recalibration. At this stage of development, equal attention needs to be paid to reconstructing mindsets as well. Locals were earning a livelihood and had the propensity to multiply the business under the pre-August 6 dispensation. The uninitiated would have to be helped to trust the new dispensation. They would begin to believe when results start rolling.

The unmatched skills of artisans in Jammu & Kashmir in Pashmina shawls and the sheer hard work on different types of base material have a rich potential of being converted into useful and marketable products. This can have a global demand, too. It can also leverage the income potential of a region, which is not always identified with prosperity but is always known for its acumen. Talking of tourism and fruit production is to talk about costs as well as gainful employment of a substantial part of the population. However, a much more significant dimension of the State's economy is its potential in aesthetics and revenue generation, supported by business-friendly policies of the Government. What is needed is infrastructure for connectivity, which is now beginning to bloom. The skilled as well as unskilled manpower now has a lot of opportunities knocking at its door. They hold the potential of being unprecedented in its boom. Investment in this region and the coupling of the potential with possibilities may well open a new chapter for their trouble-riddled existence.

Hopefully, Ladakh will not be left out from the focus of the investment summit. With its own version of aesthetics and knowledge management of tribal products, this region has an untold story of humongous dimension. In a joint initiative, the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) is organising a Aadi Mahotsav or National Tribal Festival in the third week of August. This is the first of its kind. It knocks at the door of immense possibilities. In a wonderful country like India, sky is not the limit of innovation and rediscovery. If it can soar anywhere, it can soar in India. Jammu & Kashmir may just be a fitting locale of TRIFED's next frontier. The global investors meet could possibly pick up threads from there, too.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant)

THEY (KASHMIRIS) ARE NOT ALONE. THE VOICES OF THE PEOPLE OF JAMMU & KASHMIR WERE HEARD IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. —PAKISTAN'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UN

MALEEHA LODHI



OUR POSITION WAS AND REMAINS THAT MATTERS RELATED TO ARTICLE 370 OF THE CONSTITUTION ARE ENTIRELY AN INTERNAL MATTER OF INDIA. —INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UN

SYED AKBARUDDIN

Educational reforms must

There are over 10,000 schools in J&K, yet the dropout rate is high in the State. Abrogation of Article 370 will help bring about a positive change to a flawed system



CB SHARMA

Academics are lost for words on how to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the historic decision to abrogate Article 370 as, out of all things that have been thrown out of gear in Jammu and Kashmir, education has been the worst hit because of it.

Now, academicians hope to witness a swift and drastic change in the levels of education in the coming months and academic years. Successive governments in J&K, no matter what their political doctrine, have deliberately kept participation in and quality of education low so that common people of the state do not understand the injustice being done to them by their political masters. If this grim scenario has to change quickly and have a long lasting effect on the minds and the psyche of the people of J&K, then quality education will have a major role to play as a catalyst of change.

The Modi Government, and all future state governments that actually want real integration of J&K with the rest of the country, will be required to address this very urgent need of the students on a war footing. This push for quality education will no doubt find resonance with most families of the State as each invariably has a few learners.

There are over 10,000 schools in the State, yet the dropout rate is high in J&K and it's not a secret that it is this early age group which is most vulnerable to provocations and radicalisation. Also, the subversive and anti-national forces would force students, both boys and girls, to participate in stone-pelting failing which they would be subjected to coercion and public humiliation, especially girls.

Apart from middle and high school education, the government will do well to give a fillip to pre-school and childcare facilities that are pathetic at this juncture. It will not be a difficult task to bring visible change in education and childcare facilities as the government can expect wholehearted support of families for the sake of the future of their wards.

It's not a secret that Article 370 always remained a barrier in the implementation of measures taken by the Centre and statutory bodies to provide quality education in the state. Students from J&K were denied the crucial Right to Education (RTE) which all children of the country are entitled to. RTE not only makes it mandatory for the Government to ensure education for all children of school-going age, but also provide quality education.

It's no secret that curriculum is the most important component of education. What we teach today decides the future of the nation a few years later. India has witnessed how TB Macaulay's 'Minute on Education' written in 1835 for Lord William Bentinck, the governor general of British India, changed the future of Bharat. India has not been able to reverse the effects of Macaulay's policies even after over 70 years of Independence.

Hence, the curriculum and the local textbooks prescribed for the children of the State need to be reviewed immediately. It was decided two years ago by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) that all CBSE schools must prescribe National



Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) books for their students. Now, the Centre can examine the possibility of replacing the textbooks in J&K with NCERT books and give the children the option to do so free of cost.

The government will have to provide opportunities to in-service but untrained teachers to undergo training at the earliest. Training through distance mode can be started immediately. Teachers with degrees from institutions not recognised by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) will require to be re-trained so that they not only become eligible to teach but also become worthy of the job. This will benefit students in the long run as the degrees and diplomas awarded to those educated in J&K are often questioned because of the sub-standard education provided to them. There exist a large number of dummy teacher education institutions as NCTE norms did not apply to J&K. Review of these colleges can be taken up immediately by the NCTE and those which do not make the cut can be shut down or given time to follow the council's procedures.

Simultaneously, the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) can be equipped to undertake refresher programmes for the elementary level teachers. The MHRD in 2017 had decided to provide opportunities to untrained in-service teachers to acquire teaching diplomas though the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) in a record time of 18 months. A similar exercise can be undertaken in J&K so that the quality of education improves exponentially. Teachers from higher education institutions may also be provided liberal facilities to undergo special orientation and refresher programs, at the Human Resource Centres established in uni-

IT'S NOT A SECRET THAT ARTICLE 370 ALWAYS REMAINED A BARRIER IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES TAKEN BY THE CENTRE AND STATUTORY BODIES TO PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE STATE. STUDENTS FROM J&K WERE DENIED THE CRUCIAL RIGHT TO EDUCATION (RTE) WHICH ALL CHILDREN OF THE COUNTRY ARE ENTITLED TO

versities across India, where the positive impact of the abrogation of Article 370 can be explained. Teachers are opinion makers and they can become the messengers of change. The exercise of re-orienting all teachers, catering to all levels of learners can bring a positive impact at the earliest.

Without losing time in creating infrastructure, we can use broadcast technology to bring education to all levels of learners at their doorstep by best teachers from across the country. DD Kashir or other Direct to Home (DTH) channels of Swayam Prabha can be used to reach lessons prepared by distance teaching institutions like NIOS and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to learners in the comfort of their homes.

Once normal telephone services are resumed for the long term, two way communications can also be started so that people can ask questions from experts sitting in the NIOS studios in Delhi. NIOS already has a large number of programmes recorded keeping Kashmiri Secondary and Senior Secondary children in mind.

Fifty madrasas from Kashmir became NIOS centres two years ago. The children, who were pursuing religious education in these madrasas are now being provided modern education too. These madrasas can be provided DTH dish and TV sets so that they can receive the educational broadcasts.

The Central Government may consider forming a task force to suggest various measures to improve various levels of education right from pre-school to doctoral studies. A swift reform, which can be visible on the ground in J&K, will be hugely appreciated.

(The writer is Professor of Education at the Indira Gandhi National Open University. Views expressed are personal)

Reforms, equity in central staffing scheme needed

For better governance at the Centre and State, there should be adequate exchange of CSS officers with IAS/IPS officers on deputation in State administration so that there is a two-way exchange of experience and knowledge



DEEPAK JHA

Even after 72 years of independence, the country has failed to bring in the much-needed administrative reforms in civil services and link promotions to acquired knowledge and performance.

In fact, favouritism and preferential treatment to some services is the norm rather than an exception, say senior officers.

This is ironic, given the fact that in the historic judgment given by the Supreme Court (SC) in 1991 in the Mohan Kumar Singhania vs Union of India case by a three judge Bench, it was recorded that "there is no denying the fact that the civil services being the top most service

in the country has got to be kept at height, distinct from other services since top echelons have to govern a wide variety of departments."

However, despite the apex court establishing civil services as the top service of the country the fact remains that the Government of India (GOI) is not treating all services on a par. This is despite the fact that in a few services, especially the Central Secretariat Services (CSS) the candidates selected have higher merit in comparison to a few other Group A services.

"Promotional prospects and the empanelment process are not uniform and there is serious favouritism towards a few services. It is generally believed that IAS/IFS candidates are brighter than other services and similarly Group A officers have more merit than Group B officers. But in reality the situation is different," explained a government official of CSS cadre who is fighting for equity.

In fact, CSS cadre officers feel that they are treated as "inferior" to

other Group A services officers recruited by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) like the Indian Engineering Services (IES), Indian Economic Service (IES), Indian Statistical Services (ISS) and so on.

The CSS is the most important organ of the Central Government and earlier its officers used to rise to the post of Secretary to the Government of India, but gradually the IAS lobby muscled in to get postings in the national Capital. Delhi has always been considered a plum posting due to the amenities, facilities and good schools in the Capital, apart from proximity to the corridors of power. Hence over the years, the CSS has been reduced to just a subordinated service.

For instance, in Group A services, all officers get the Junior Administrative Grade (JAG) and Non-Functional Selection Grade (NMSG) in the 9th and 13th year of selection. However, candidates selected in 1998 through UPSC civil services exam who were allo-

cated CSSC got JAG in the 16th year of their selection and are yet to get NMSG.

While IAS/IFS/IA&AS officers get their Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) in the 16th year of selection and other services start getting benefits from the 18th or 22nd year of selection, for CSS officers there is no SAG. To claim SAG the CSS officers have to undergo an empanelment process for the post of Joint Secretary.

In fact, promotions for CSS men virtually stop at the level of Director, which is allocated to all officers of Group A services upon completion of 13 years of service.

In some cases, candidates were allocated Group B services since they did not give the complete service preference in spite of having higher merit than several Group A officers.

A close examination of scores of candidates selected in 1998 reveals that the first ranker of IAS scored 63.56 per cent and 28th ranker 59.39 per cent. Both belonged to the General Category

(GC) and there was a difference of 4 per cent in the score. An OBC candidate securing rank 143 for the same year scored 55.52 per cent and a Scheduled Caste (SC) category candidate with 195th rank scored 54.73 per cent while a Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidate with 370 rank scored 52.95 per cent.

Therefore, the difference in percentage of marks in comparison with the topper is mere 4 per cent in respect of GC, 8 per cent for OBC candidates, 8.7 per cent for SC candidates and 10.5 per cent in respect of ST candidates. Given that within the GC there is a difference of 4 per cent, if we take it as a single unit for the GC candidates, then the difference of marks of OBC, SC, ST candidates in comparison with the last selected candidates within the GC in IAS is 3 per cent, 5 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively.

But promotions of candidates selected for IAS from various categories (GC, SC, ST, OBC) show that all got the SAG scale at the same time. And for Joint Secretary

empanelment also GC candidates as well as OBC, SC and ST candidates were empanelled together.

"Our point is that when all take the same exams and qualify and within few percentages there is differences in service category then the terms of promotions and career prospects within the service and empanelment should be done for the whole batch, may be through the process of a written examination so that the best will again get a chance to hold the senior level posts in the Government of India under the central staffing scheme," explained the official.

Though selected in 1998, Group B services officials are still working as Deputy Secretary at JAG level whereas the 2010 batch of other Group A services selected through either civil services or non-civil services are eligible to join GOI as Deputy Secretary from July 1, 2019. In effect, this means that someone 12 years junior becomes equivalent to an officer of the 1998 batch of Group B services. Several 1998 batch Group A

officers with lower merit than Group B services have been approved for SAG. "This is major discrimination against Group B officers. It's like someone who aced the IIT-JEE Exam was asked to join some diploma course because of a lower rank or for failing to submit preferences," the officer explained.

Fortunately, the Modi Government, during the last few years has made attempts to rationalise the central staffing postings by giving opportunities to other cadres like, Indian Telecom Services (ITS), Indian Trade Services (ITS) Railway Services, Indian Forest Services and likewise, instead of just the elite IAS officers.

For better governance at the Centre and State, there should be adequate exchange of CSS officers with IAS/IPS officers on deputation in State administration so that there is a two-way exchange of experience and knowledge that would be beneficial to all.

(The writer is with the national bureau of The Pioneer)

CAPSULE



Amatra Hotels and Resorts to add 7 properties this year

NEW DELHI: Hospitality firm Amatra Hotels and Resorts is looking to add seven properties across the country this year under its expansion plans, a top company official said. The company, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Malaysian firm Amatra Group Holdings SDN BHD, has two properties in India with a total of 81 rooms. "We plan to add seven properties in India by the end of this year. This would add around 350 rooms to our portfolio," Amatra Hotels and Resorts COO Anurag Dua told PTI. The properties that will be in mid-scale segment will be in Jaipur, Jim Corbett National Park, Nainital, Mukteshwar, Coorg and Goa, he added. With the expansion, the company will be adding 800 jobs this year, he added.



Bunder diamond mine, 12 other blocks to go under hammer

NEW DELHI: The government will auction 13 mineral blocks, including Bunder diamond mine in Madhya Pradesh, next month. The Bunder diamond mine in Chhatrapur district of Madhya Pradesh has reserves of around 34.20 million carats of diamond, according to the mines ministry. Two gold blocks, Chakariya mine at Singrauli and Imaliya gold block at Katni in Madhya Pradesh, are also among the 13 mines to be up for auction, it said. The government also plans to auction mines of limestone, base metal, bauxite and graphite, it said.



Tech Mahindra divests 73.38 pc stake in subsi to US-based firm

NEW DELHI: Software major Tech Mahindra on Sunday announced the divestment of 73.38 per cent stake in its subsidiary FixStream Networks Inc to US-based Resolve Systems LLC for USD 2 million (approx Rs 14.22 crore). "...In terms of the authority delegated by the Board of Directors we wish to inform divestment of 73.38 per cent equity investment held by the company in FixStream Networks Inc, USA, a subsidiary company," Tech Mahindra said in a BSE filing. The company said consideration received from this divestment is USD 2 million for the equity held by the company, subject to necessary adjustments. Tech Mahindra said FixStream Networks Inc reported a revenue of USD 5.15 million and a loss of USD 5.19 million in 2018-19. The transaction is expected to be completed by November 15, 2019 subject to receipt of all statutory approvals.

OPEN ACREAGE LICENSING POLICY

GOVT INCREASES OIL, GAS BIDDING ROUNDS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delays in bidding rounds notwithstanding, the government has increased the expression of interest (EoI) submission cycle for oil and gas acreage to three times a year from two times earlier, the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) said.

India had in July 2017, allowed companies to carve out blocks of their choice with a view to bring about 2.8 million sq km of unexplored area in the country under exploration. Under this policy, called open acreage licensing policy or OALP, companies are allowed to put in an EoI for prospecting of oil and gas in any area that is presently not under any production or exploration licence.

The EoIs can be put in at any time of the year and were accumulated twice annually. But now, this cycle has been increased to three.

"In view of recent policy reforms and changes aligned to promote 'Ease of Doing Business', the EoI submission cycle is increased from two, to three times in a year," the DGH said in a notification.

Previously, the two window of accumulating EoIs ended on May 15 and November 15 every year. EoIs accumulated till May 15 were supposed to be put on auction by June 30 and those in the second window by December 31.



India had in July 2017, allowed companies to carve out blocks of their choice with a view to bring about 2.8 million sq km of unexplored area in the country under exploration

According to the revised EoI submission cycle; the first window for submission will be from April 1 to July 31, second from August 1 to November 30, and the third from December 1 to March 31 every year, DGH said.

The overhauled oil and gas exploration licensing policy will be implemented from the 4th bid round.

Junking two-year-old revenue bidding model for award of acreage for exploration and production of oil and natural gas, the Union Cabinet had in February approved a policy for awarding blocks based primar-

ily on exploration commitment such as drilling of wells.

This was aimed at attracting the elusive private and foreign investment to raise domestic output.

The first OALP round was launched in 2017 and bids came in by May 2018. EoIs for second round closed on May 15, 2018 and the blocks were supposed to be put for auction by June but the round was delayed for reasons unknown.

OALP-II was clubbed with OALP-III and finally launched in January. EoI submission window for OALP-IV has closed but the government is yet to

announce the bid auction.

The government has, under the first three rounds of OALP, awarded 87 oil and gas fields to private and public entities.

The fifth window of EoI submission has started on May 16, 2019 and will end on November 30, 2019, DGH said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target of cutting oil import bill by 10 per cent to 67 per cent by 2022 and to half by 2030.

Import dependence has increased since 2015 when Modi had set the target. India currently imports 83 per cent of its oil needs.

The new policy replaced the old system of government carving out areas and bidding them out. It guarantees marketing and pricing freedom and moves away from production sharing model of previous rounds to a revenue-sharing model, where companies offering the maximum share of oil and gas to the government are awarded the block.

The government prior to this had been selecting and demarcating areas it feels can be offered for bidding in an exploration licensing round.

Under this, 256 blocks had been offered for exploration and production since 2000. The last bid round happened in 2010. Of these, 254 blocks were awarded. But as many as 156 have already been relinquished due to poor prospect-

ONGC 'Energy Strategy 2040' to double production

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) has set a target to double oil and gas output from its domestic and overseas fields and expand its refining capacity three-fold alongside diversification into renewables in a new vision document for 2040, its Chairman Shashi Shanker said.

ONGC Energy Strategy 2040 envisions the company as "A diversified energy company with a strong contribution from non E&P business; 3x revenues and about 5-6x market capitalisation," he said.

The firm produced 24.23 million tonnes of crude oil in the 2018-19 fiscal year and 25.81 billion cubic metres (bcm) of natural gas from its domestic fields. Another 10.1 million tonnes of oil and 4.736 bcm of gas were produced from its overseas assets.

It had a turnover of Rs 109,654 crore and a net profit of Rs 26,715 crore in the year ended March 31, 2019. As on August 16, it had a market capitalisation of Rs 164,458 crore.

In the company's latest annual report, Shanker said the ONGC board recently approved the business roadmap for the company and its other group entities -- 'ONGC Energy Strategy 2040'.

The 'Energy Strategy 2040' entails ONGC achieving "three times revenue distributed across exploration and production, refining, marketing and other businesses; four times current profit-after-tax (PAT), with 10 per cent con-



It had a turnover of Rs 109,654 crore and a net profit of Rs 26,715 crore in the year ended March 31, 2019. As on August 16, it had a market capitalisation of Rs 164,458 crore

tribution from non-oil and gas business; and 5-6 times current market capitalization," he said.

"The strategic roadmap envisions a future-ready organization whose growth is predicated on a few important planks: consolidation of our core upstream business (domestic and international); expansion into value accreting adjacencies in the oil and gas

value chain (downstream and petrochemicals) and diversification into renewables (off-shore wind) and select new frontier plays through dedicated venture fund," it said.

The document targets cumulative upstream output (local and overseas) almost doubling from current levels with 2 per cent and 5 per cent CAGR in domestic and international operations respectively.

With two 35 million tonnes per annum of oil refining capacity vested in its two subsidiaries -- HPCL and MRPL, ONGC is targeting to raise this capacity to around 90-100 million tonnes. Also, expansion in petrochemicals will be prioritised.

Besides, ONGC plans to make investments in renewables energy sources with a target to create 5-10 gigawatts portfolio with a focus on off-shore wind power.

ONGC has been under pressure to reverse the falling output from its aging fields, where natural decline has set in.

Ensure equitable work under access coverage scheme: COAI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Industry body COAI has pushed for an "equitable" distribution of work and subsidy for all four access services providers in covering unconnected villages and asserted that the programme "should not create any monopoly".

Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad during his interaction with CEOs of telecom companies last month had asked the industry to prioritise connecting 43,000 villages that are without mobile services, by pooling in resources to cover these locations within one year.

In a letter addressed to the new Telecom Secretary, COAI has pledged industry's full support in collaborating with the government to take forward the initiative of accelerating mobile connectivity in villages.

The Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) further highlighted that the scheme should be for compensation of cost and should not become a "profiteering scheme".

"Distribution of work and subsidy should be equitable for all the four access providers...It should not create any monopoly," COAI said.

The association has submitted a joint proposal to the government on uncovered villages programme, making specific suggestions on how the scheme should be designed, its principles, methodology and various other aspects.

In the letter dated August



"Distribution of work and subsidy should be equitable for all the four access providers...It should not create any monopoly," COAI said

16, 2019, COAI has said that there should be no duplication of infrastructure and only one telecom player should build tower infrastructure (passive infrastructure) which should be shared by all operators.

"Infrastructure sharing amongst telecom service providers should be mandatory and integral part of the scheme," COAI said. About 60 per cent of the subsidy should be given upfront and the balance 40 per cent on a quarterly basis, it added.

It has also suggested that the lowest bidder should become the lead bidder and should be awarded both passive and active work, and the second-lowest bidder should become the second operator and be subsidised only for active equipment.

Govt to clarify on applicability of FDI to digital media

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government is likely to come out with a clarification on applicability of the foreign direct investment policy on the digital media sector, official sources said.

The present FDI policy is silent on the fast-growing digital media segment.

In the print media sector, 26 per cent FDI is allowed through government approval route. Similarly, 49 per cent FDI is permitted in broadcasting content services through government approval route.

But 100 per cent is allowed for up-linking of non-news and current affairs' TV channels, and down-linking of TV channels through automatic approval route.



"In the FDI policy, digital media does not find a place. As the sector is growing fast, we are looking at it will come under FDI cap or not," a source said.

The proposal is worked out by the commerce and industry ministry, sources said.

On in the proposal, Deloitte Partner Jehil Thakkar said that this is a great move by the

government as it would help media companies to raise additional capital for their digital media segment.

The government should clarify about the FDI cap in the sector and whether that FDI will be coming through automatic route or not, he said.

Thakkar added that at pre-

The present FDI policy is silent on the fast-growing digital media segment

sent a significant part of the growth in the media sector is coming from the digital area. "Additional capital is needed to keep this growth going and FDI would be the most welcoming thing in this."

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech in July had stated that the government would examine suggestions of further opening up of FDI in aviation, media (animation, AVGC) and insurance sectors in consultation with all stakeholders

with a view to attracting more overseas investment. FDI in India dipped 1 per cent to USD 44.36 billion in 2018-19.

Last year, the government had relaxed FDI rules for several sectors, including single-brand retail, non-banking financial companies and construction.

Foreign investments are considered crucial for India, which needs billions of dollars for overhauling its infrastructure sector such as ports, airports and highways to boost growth.

FDI helps in improving the country's balance of payments situation and strengthening the rupee value against other global currencies, especially the US dollar.

Global factors to determine market trend this week: Experts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid lack of domestic triggers, equity markets would focus on global cues such as FPI investment trend, US-China trade talks and movement of oil and rupee this week, say experts.

Participants are also awaiting measures from the government to boost growth and revive consumer sentiment, they added.

"The result season has come to an end and majority of the companies delivered a disappointing quarter. With the slowdown looming on the economy, the companies could do very little to revive this quarter and are

now mostly dependent on the government to boost sentiment and bring about a change at the grassroots level. "Markets are likely to receive some boost this week due to government's impetus unless the trade war issue intensifies further," said Jimeet Modi, Founder & CEO, SAMCO Securities & StockNote.

Ajit Mishra, Vice President - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said, "The earnings season has ended and there are no fresh key domestic triggers. Hence, the focus will now shift to earnings recovery and investors will also take cues from global developments. Investors

would keep a close watch on progress on US-China trade talks, movement of crude oil price and rupee/dollar." Concerns over economic slowdown, muted earnings, crisis in the auto industry and global trade issues have been weighing on investor sentiment, experts said.

"This week, Nifty will be looking at global cues since there has been a lot of events that are going on. There are possible trade talks between US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart which is expected in September," said Mustafa Nadeem, CEO, Epic Research.

Slowdown hit super luxury segment but Lamborghini plans intact

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The ongoing slowdown in the auto industry has also impacted the super luxury segment but Lamborghini expects sales to grow around 50 per cent this year, according to a top company official.

With its new offering, the super sports car Huracan Evo, starting deliveries from September to add to the Urus SUV, which has been sold out for 2019, Lamborghini India is confident of clocking high double-digit sales growth, although it had earlier pegged the outlook for the year at around 60 per cent.

"There is a downturn in the overall auto industry. There are some challenges even in the super luxury industry. Thankfully we are able to bring products at the right time and we are able to create excitement in the marketplace despite the challenges," Lamborghini India Head Sharad Agarwal told PTI.

Following the launch of Urus SUV, last year the company emerged as the leader in the overall super luxury cars segment (cars priced above Rs 2.5 crore) where it competes with the likes of Rolls Royce, Bentley, Ferrari, Aston Martin and top end products from German manufacturers Mercedes, BMW and Audi.

When asked about the outlook for the year under the current circumstances, he said, "What we are looking is that for 2019 we are right now on track with our plans and we



We will announce one more launch during this year sometime around the end of this quarter or early next quarter. We will continue to bring more products to India —SHARAD AGARWAL, Lamborghini India Head

will be growing by 40-50 per cent over last year."

The company, which sold 45 units in India last year, had earlier in the year pegged growth for 2019 at around 60 per cent. "We are still optimistic and we have a strong year until now. Urus has been the growth driver but Huracan Evo, which was launched in February, we will start delivering the cars from September onwards in the market. That will also help us help in achieving the growth," Agarwal said.

He further said the company will be reinforcing its product portfolio.

"We will announce one more launch during this year sometime around the end of this quarter or early next quarter. We will continue to bring more products to India," he said.

Maruti seeks tax relief for hybrid, CNG cars

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) is pitching for tax relief for hybrid and CNG cars in addition to electric vehicles in order to promote green mobility in the country.

MSI Chairman R C Bhargava said there is a need to promote hybrid and CNG cars as it will take some time for mass acceptance of electric vehicles (EVs) considering the high cost of technology right now.

"Personally we would like to see GST benefits linked to greener/cleaner cars. The Government gave tax cut on EVs but hybrid should be given duty cut. There should be tax cut on CNG vehicles as well," he told a news channel.

The hybrid cars are 25 to 30



per cent more efficient and will help reduce oil imports, he added.

"For industrial development, reducing oil import costs is important. Hybrids and CNG will help. Government should

look at both hybrids and CNG options before we transition to EVs," Bhargava noted.

The GST Council last month reduced the tax rate on EVs to 5 per cent from the existing 12 per cent, effective from August

The GST Council last month reduced the tax rate on EVs to 5 per cent from the existing 12 per cent, effective from August 1. It also slashed the GST on EV chargers from 18 per cent to 5 per cent

1. It also slashed the GST on EV chargers from 18 per cent to 5 per cent.

However, there is no tax relief for hybrid and CNG cars. GST rate for petrol and diesel cars and hybrid vehicles is already at the highest bracket of 28 per cent plus cess.

Bhargava said so far the government has not announced any target for EV four-wheelers in the country.

He added that customers' acceptance depends on avail-

ability of charging infrastructure, range and cost. Even the FAME scheme did not have any subsidy for private cars, he added.

"The cost of the EVs with the current technology will be very high. It could be more than double the price of internal combustion vehicles. This may not attract private car buyers...not the right time for mass acceptance for EVs," Bhargava said.

The company, however, is

working on bringing a small EV which would primarily target cab aggregators like Ola and Uber, he added.

Similarly, the company will also continue to bring in more CNG vehicles, Bhargava said.

"Last year, CNG saw an increase of 40 per cent in volumes. All small cars in our portfolio will get converted to CNG," he added.

"To promote 'Make in India', the government must encourage factory-fitted CNG vehicles, Bhargava said.

He added that the company will discontinue 1.3-litre engine diesel vehicles. "But that doesn't mean we will discontinue Vitara Brezza. It will continue. We will introduce a petrol variant of Vitara Brezza before the end of 2019-20 fiscal. We are not phasing out the model," Bhargava clarified.



CLASS IX BOY RAPS for ringing in societal change

Music has always been an influencer and a medium to showcase the good, bad and evil in society. Another addition to the Hyderabad music scene is Pradyumna, who wishes to encompass the culture and heritage that our country is famous for, in his debut album.

Fundamentals, an album on social causes by Pradyumna was recently released in the city. He released the first song titled *Yeh Hai India*, which explores Indian culture and traditions.

Pradyumna says, "I am happy to release my song on Independence Day. This song describes the greatness of India. During the making of this song, I understood and witnessed many cultures and traditions of our country and observed that each state has its own speciality."

This class IX student is a talented rap artiste who aspires to make more videos on social causes to connect with the younger generation and help them learn good moral values. He aspires to create a niche for



himself in the independent music industry.

Fundamentals is an album of seven songs. The first one is *Yeh Hai India* that is based on Indian culture and heritage; while the others talk about Hyderabad's traffic, water conservation, pollution control, abolishing child labour, career choices and health and nutrition for a healthy India. The next song would be released on September 15.

He adds, "*Yeh Hai India* took us several months to complete as we needed to compile the footage of

various cultural events, heritage buildings, landscapes and people. The song portrays the journey of a young boy experiencing and learning Indian culture and heritage." All songs in the album speak about the fundamental values that would make us better citizens and pave the way for a better society.

Music director Sashi Preetam says, "Music is a very strong, influencing medium. Songs were sung before war to motivate and create patriotic fervour among soldiers and are also sung to celebrate victory. For that matter,

music is even effective as therapy. Such a strong medium of expression and communication will always help propagate social messages of relevance. So we at M Files have always guided and advised our aspiring talents to choose a path that a lot of upcoming artists would seldom choose. We propose to complete this album very soon with a target of launching two songs every month or perhaps a song every fortnight starting September 15."

Preetam adds, "We travelled the length and breadth of India

Hyderabad-based rapper Pradyumna recently released his album *Fundamentals*, which talks about various social issues, finds, V SATEESH REDDY

from time to time since the start of this year. We tried to include the daily lives of people living in the country and their diversity, religious beliefs, culture, heritage, cuisine, travel logs, landscapes, and weather and climate of the particular location to justify the song and reflect the image of India. However, this is not even a drop in the ocean of our country's rich culture. It is just our humble effort to showcase the vastness in a pebble."

"We travelled the length and breadth of India since the start of this year. We tried to include the daily lives of people living in the country and their diversity, religious beliefs, culture, heritage, and cuisine to justify the song and reflect the image of India. However, this is not even a drop in the ocean of our country's rich culture."

PRADYUMNA



'Most Handsome Man' title is not an achievement

Actor Hrithik Roshan probably scores 10 out of 10 in the looks department, and it seems like a US-based agency has also noticed it.

The *Kaabil* actor, popularly known as 'Greek God' among his admirers, has been reportedly named the 'Most Handsome Man in the World' by the agency. He is thankful for this title, though it's not an achievement for him.

The secret behind his good looks, "Well, it's broccoli. Just kidding," Hrithik said in an interview. "I'm thankful for this title although, on the face of it, it's not an achievement."

According to me, if there's anything one should aspire for and value the most in this world, it's their character. A good character will always make you look more attractive," he said in an interview with *hindu-stan-times.com*.

On the work front, his latest release *Super 30* has been praised by many. He is also looking forward to

the release of *War*, which will bring him and his fan and actor Tiger Shroff on the big screen together.

Sharing his excitement, Hrithik had tweeted, "It's a #WAR. I'll let my actions speak louder than words @iTIGERS HROFF :) See you on 2nd October #HrithikvsTigerTeam #Hrithik (sic)" — IANS

IANS



Article 370 against human rights: Citizens

A discussion held on the abrogation of Article 370 had Hyderabadis discussing the various facets behind the issue including human rights, legality, and psychology, reports SREENATH S KURUP

The abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir has been a hot topic in the country for over two weeks now. Debates on prime time televisions regarding the issue have also been common of late.

A discussion on this topic was recently held at Lamakaan. People from all walks of life, from human rights activists to students attended the event. The session started with a video displaying the current plight of the people in the valley.

Speaking about the issue Fatima Shahnaz, a human rights activist said, "Inhuman activities and collateral damage has to be avoided at any cost or it would turn out like Iraq, which is not good. At the end of the day, we are all humans. I am against inhumanitarian democracy and this whole fiasco has terrorised Kashmiris. They have become mere pawns. The only way to mediate this is through dialogue."

When asked about the plight faced by Kashmiri Pundits, owing to which they had to relocate themselves to other places, Shahnaz replied, "I agree that Kashmiri Pundits have been displaced. Unfortunate things have happened in the past, but that doesn't mean that one must take vengeance. Kashmiris have also been displaced all around the world in the last 70 years. There are Kashmiri refugees in Hyderabad. Their livelihood and crafts have vanished. They have suffered a lot — raped, murdered and even the term



'fake encounter' was started in Kashmir."

Apoorva YK, a law student opined, "How can the government morally take off Article 370 which can only be scrapped with either a plebiscite or consent of a legislative assembly. People also say that this move is to empower women living in the valley, but Kashmiri women undergo sexual harassment every day. There is a societal and military patriarchy in the state. I believe only talks would suffice this issue."

Another debater Sanjay urged that

the decision came out of the blue and said the psychology of the issue must be looked into in detail. He said, "Kashmir had its own challenges. The princely state was not comfortable joining the Indian Union. I think the most important part of a democracy should be to have an inclusive mind and people's voice must be considered before taking a decision." He further adds, "Although the intention is to improve their life, there is no point in including someone in the inner circle when they do not want to accept you. Allow this particular state their

own franchise and come to a referendum and decide what they want to do."

Eashwar, a soldier who has served in Kashmir, observed the need to make the state inclusive. He also recounted his experiences in the valley. "Things we see on TV about Kashmir, be it stone pelting or attacks on soldiers are true. There are people who take the forces for granted as we wouldn't retaliate. People have

also thrown wastes at us. This kind of reaction elevated tension and I believe the only way out was with a reform, the way the government has done now." He also hopes that various schemes of the government would reach the people of J&K.

'ALTHOUGH THE INTENTION IS TO IMPROVE THEIR LIFE, THERE IS NO POINT IN INCLUDING SOMEONE IN THE INNER CIRCLE WHEN THEY DO NOT WANT TO ACCEPT YOU. ALLOW THIS PARTICULAR STATE THEIR OWN FRANCHISE AND LET THEM DECIDE WHAT THEY WANT TO DO'



what's brewing?



Shalika

Sapna

Shravya

EXPO AND SALE

Many Hyderabadis were spotted at the one-day exhibition and sale — The HLabel — organised at a star hotel in the city. The event featured designers from all over the country exhibiting their different collections, including ethnic and modern trends



Sravanthi Juluri

Srinithi

Maya Nelluri

ART SHOW

Many art enthusiasts from Hyderabad gathered at Siddheshwari Designer Studio for an art edition — The Divine Duality — curated by Sravanthi Juluri. The event, which was graced by director Sudheer Varma, was also attended by prominent artists from the city



Ajitha Reddy

Pavani

Tanisha

PARTY

Photos by SV Chary

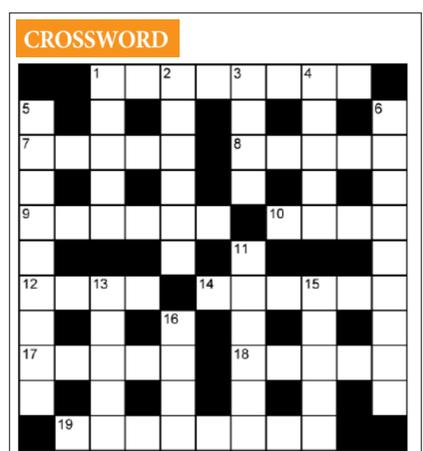
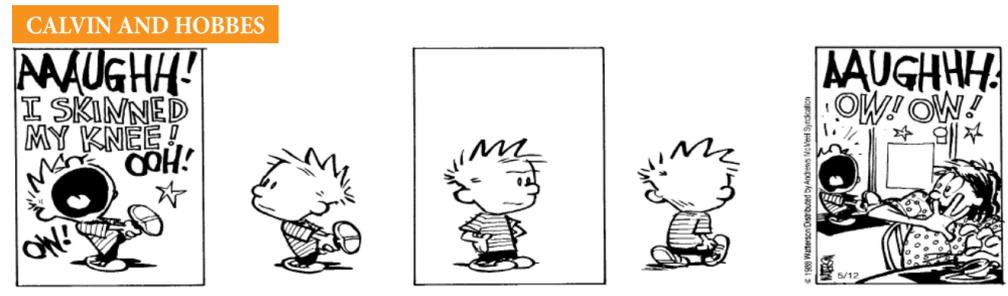


Farzana Khanoom

Dolzie

Sudheer Varma

FUN TIME



Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

ACROSS

- A Dutch building with sails
- A warm thick cover for a bed
- Prepared
- Breathe in
- Say this to make a person or animal go away
- Small rodents
- The language spoken in Paris
- Loud sound
- Not decorated
- Sightseers
- The things you need for doing something
- A musical instrument that you hit with a small hammer
- Make wine from these
- The capital city of Egypt
- Gets closer
- Expensive

DOWN

- Use scales to do this
- A fangling plant
- A female horse
- A dog's lead

SOLUTION

D	A	F	F	O	D	I	L	T
A	E	U	E	E				
G	E	L	T	S				
E	A	R	T	H	S			
R	R	C	A					
O	C	E	A	N				
U	N	H	A	B				
S	P	O	N	G	E			
E	E	E	P	I	L			
T	R	E	L	E	A	S	E	D



‘WRITING AN ORIGINAL is easier than rewriting a remake’

Director Venkat Ramji talks to NAGARAJ GOUD about the struggles he faced while trying to script *Evaru*, casting, his long journey to direction, and the support he received from the industry

When director Venkat Ramji saw 70 per cent of *Evaru*, starring Adivi Sesh, Regina Cassandra and Naveen Chandra, last December, he was convinced that he made a good product. He was aware that moving ahead with the remaining work would only make it better. Moreover, with the film opening to critical and commercial acclaim last Thursday, he is a happy man. “I thought the film would only appeal to ‘A’ centres but never did I expect ‘B’ and ‘C’ centres to enjoy it the way they did. I’ve been to some single screens in Hyderabad on Saturday and the response has been overwhelming, to say the least. People are especially in love with Adivi Sesh’s role,” Ramji exclaims.

Initially, he approached producer PVP, with whom he travelled as a marketing head for his production ventures — *Size Zero*, *Brahmotsavam*, *Kshanam* and *Oopiri* — with an original screenplay. This is when the producer shared him the line of 2016 Spanish film *Contratiempo* (*The Invisible Guest*). “I remember seeing the original when it released and I didn’t like it, as I felt that it was too cold. PVP *garu* briefed the plotline differently. I liked it and agreed to develop it further. He, to my disbelief, later told me that it’s *Contratiempo*’s remake,” Ramji narrates, adding that the original’s climax didn’t end on a high and his first task was to tweak it. “Since it was a cold film, I’ve decided to give the film an emotional arch and added more layers to the central roles. I’m a firm believer that repeat value warrants emotions. People who watched *Evaru* told me it’s a completely different film than the original and its Hindi remake *Badla*, and I take pride in that.”

He admits that writing an original screenplay is easier than writing a remake. “In your own story, characters come within, which makes your job easy. When you are recreating something, it’s hard because you have to understand why the characters in the original behaved in a certain way and then you have to localise those emotions in the remake. Also, you have to retain the essence of the original, a factor which led you to consider remaking it in the first place,” he notes.

It was PVP, Ramji says, who wanted Sesh for the film. “Since the producer was into politics and business, he wanted to make a small film and handover the project to someone he trusts. Sesh was

that person, having worked with him for *Kshanam*. He also wanted to replicate the *Kshanam*-model wherein you work with a small budget emphasising more on content,” the director mentions, adding the actor-writer’s expertise in thrillers came in handy for *Evaru*. “If you throw him 100 ideas, he’d pick the right one. First-time writers and directors tend to deviate from the story at places and it is where he guides you in the right path.”

Casting Regina, who has been receiving widespread acclaim for her role of Sameera, was his choice, Ramji points out. “I felt she has in her to be a girl-next-door in one minute and a sinister woman in the next. She has expressive eyes,

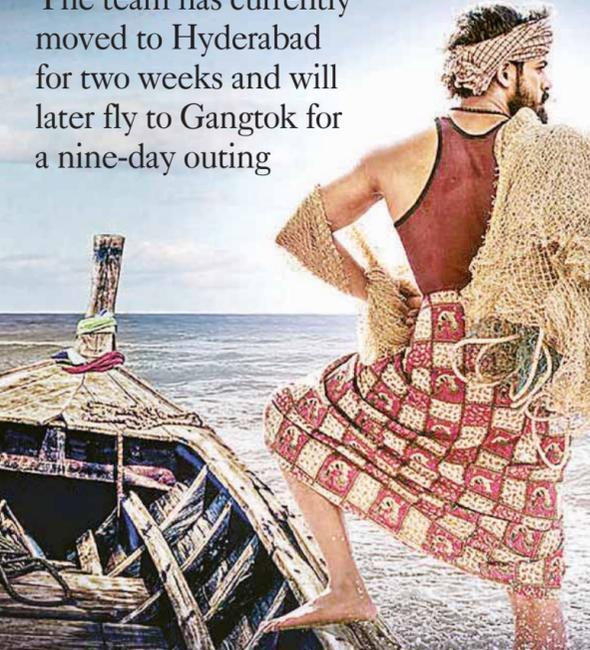
which is why I took multiple close-ups of her in the film. I met her along with Sesh and while narrating the story, a couple of her expressions as the character sealed the deal for me,” he informs.

From assisting the likes of Gunnam Gangaraju, K Raghavendra Rao, and Prakash Kovelamudi to being line producer and marketing head for PVP, it has been a long journey for Ramji, which has helped him to make *Evaru*. “People from the industry know me in different capacities. Avinash did the production design of the film without charging a single penny, while I can’t forget Annapurna Studios’ CV Rao, who helped with the post-production. Writer Abburi Ravi was instrumental in the interval twist,” he explains.

On his next, he reveals it will be a thriller, which he first narrated to PVP. “I’m in the process of meeting a couple of actors for it. Firstly, I want the success of *Evaru* to sink in. I guess it will take another 10 days,” he signs off.

PRODUCER PVP SUGGESTED ADIVI SESH’S NAME, AS THE LATTER IS SOMEONE HE TRUSTS, AND DIRECTOR VENKAT RAMJI MENTIONS THAT THE ACTOR-WRITER’S EXPERTISE IN THRILLER CAME IN HANDY FOR *EVARU*

The team has currently moved to Hyderabad for two weeks and will later fly to Gangtok for a nine-day outing



Kolkata, Lakshadweep and Puri to host UPPENA’S SHOOT

Having been shot predominantly in Kakinada, the filming of Vaishnav Tej’s debut, *Uppena*, directed by Sukumar’s long-time associate Buchi Babu Sana, will shift to Hyderabad from today. Monday will also be the first day when reputed Tamil actor Vijay Sethupathi, who is on board for a prominent supporting role, will be participating in the shoot.

“Sarathi Studios in Hyderabad will host the shoot for another two weeks, after which the unit will fly to Gangtok for a nine-day outing. It will be followed by brief spells in Kolkata (two days) and Lakshadweep (four days). The director has already shot portions of Jagannath Ratha Yatra live for a day last month but he will be shooting in

other parts of Puri for another four days in the next couple of months. The film’s story span is huge, which is why multiple locations are the order of the day,” confirmed a source close to the unit.

A joint production venture between Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings, the film features Mangalore girl Krithi Shetty as Vaishnav’s love interest, while veteran actor Sai Chand will be seen in a supporting role. Devi Sri Prasad is the film’s music composer. The release date will be decided upon the completion of the film. “Since the film launches Chiranjeevi’s nephew, the makers want everything to be perfect before they make the release date official. Also, it lessens the burden on Buchi Babu, who can film without any pressure,” added the source.

— NG

RAM IN A DILEMMA!

Since the huge success of *iSmart Shankar*, the actor’s uncle Sravanthi Ravi Kishore asked him to stay away from experimental projects

As *iSmart Shankar* emerges as his biggest blockbuster to date, grossing nearly ₹70 crore, Ram is in a difficult spot trying to make a decision. The actor was to commence work on *Thadam* remake after Puri Jagannadh’s film and the project was in full swing with producer Sravanthi Ravi Kishore handing over responsibilities to Kishore Tirumala. However, *iSmart*’s massive success caused Ram to have a change of heart.

Thadam remake is not the only film he had reconsidered of late. Sources close to the actor point out that *Taxiwaala* director Rahul Sankrutyan also narrated a story to him and though the actor initially evinced keen interest in it, as it was a role that he hasn’t done before, *iSmart*’s result took an effect on it as well. “Ram’s uncle Sravanthi Ravi Kishore advised him to maintain a distance from experimental projects for a while and consolidate on the market he has attained with *iSmart*. The actor is now looking at commercial stuff with a certain sense of newness. Ravi Kishore is also hearing multiple stories but none has been accepted so far. Be prepared for a surprise announcement, though,” sources added.



“

The actor is now looking at commercial stuff with a certain sense of newness. Ravi Kishore is also hearing multiple stories but none has been accepted so far. Be prepared for a surprise announcement, though

SOURCE

ASHOK’S tryst with female-centric films to continue?

The director has pitched a story to Tamannaah, but the actress, even though she liked what she heard, is yet to take a call

With his last *Bhagamathie*, starring Anushka Shetty, doing well at ticket counters, one would’ve expected director G Ashok to have kick-started his next by now. However, it didn’t happen. He was in talks with some premier production houses

for his Hindi debut but as the casting didn’t work out, the project has been kept on hold. Now, it is said that he is planning to make a Telugu film, which will be another female-centric drama. Before *Bhagamathie*, he made Anjali-starrer *Chitragada*, which was a box-office turkey.

According to the buzz, Ashok has pitched a story to Tamannaah recently. She liked what she heard but she hasn’t taken a call yet. Apparently, she wants to take some time before committing to her next Telugu project. The director couldn’t be reached for a comment despite repeated attempts.

Right now, the actress, who was earlier seen in the Sankranti blockbuster *F2 — Fun and Frustration*, is awaiting the release of *Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy*.



AN AFFAIR WITH SAREE

Designer Anavila Misra says that her biggest inspiration has come from the hand embroidery that her grandmother had mastered. She wanted to look exactly like her mother did in ethnic wear



How has fashion consumption changed over the years? In India, fashion was created through local tailors in small towns, who crafted personalised styles. As industrialisation and foreign brands paved their way to the country, we started looking towards fast fashion in the market. The young consumers were largely attracted. However, over the last few years, with the garment industry creating awareness, there is more thought put into what we leave behind as a brand. The fashion industry is showing a sustainable way to consumers. We are the ones sitting close to craft clusters and natural materials. It is our duty to create fashion, which is classic, sustainable and doesn't die with any season, especially handcrafted works and textiles. Things are rapidly changing, creating classic wardrobes and working towards thoughtful consumption is the new trend.

Q How have you evolved as a designer?
As the brand became popular, it started living as a natural textile. Since our essence is sarees, which are worn occasionally and daily as well, it helped me grow in all aspects. I have recreated the thought of wearing a saree and being comfortable in it. I have grown with the creation and with the innovation of linen as a textile.

Q When and how did your love affair with saree start?
I have always been fond of sarees. I still remember wearing a saree on Teacher's Day when I was in sixth standard. My love for the fabric initiated from my mother as she used to wear it very often. I wanted to grow up and look exactly like her. She was my inspiration. During my college days, I wore a saree, which I painted myself. I thought of making a career in it, when I started working with the Ministry of Textiles and understood what textile actually means and what goes behind into its making.

Q As your upbringing was in Karnal, how far did that influence your design sensibilities?
It completely affected my



whole demography of hand-woven saree changes automatically and handloom takes a front seat. People get an idea of how it can be styled in a certain way. With the acceptance of handloom by celebrities, women see that as a style quotient. It definitely helps the entire sector.

Q You have been experimenting with home furnishings,

Q What drives your passion for sustainable fashion. Do you think sustainable fashion would also impact the way we live?

Yes, definitely, it is already doing that. One can see it at new restaurants and food outlets. More and more people are following a vegan approach and they are curious to know where the food is grown and where it is coming from. It is catering to the popularity of the organic food and farmer's markets all around. The way we are using sustainable textiles in our houses and how plastic has been completely banned says it all. How people consume fashion indicates how people are consuming other things in their life too. I see so many young people working on sustainable products thinking of environment. A very good example from India is of the guy who is working with cork rather than leather to create bags. It is impacting our lives all around.

Q Fashion runs in cycles. Do you think that saree is gaining popularity because of movements like the hundred saree pact?

it is another binary you have taken to. How do you see that developing?

Home furnishings are developing in India right now. It has not taken centre stage but I am definitely going to give it my best shot. I will come out with a collection very soon. It is a natural extension because my heart lies there.



I see social media taking this all across. Movements like this have very strong impact on making the fabric popular right now.

Q The sarees by Anavila can be immediately spotted. What would you attribute it to?

The first thing is our material which has not changed over eight years of working in the industry. We keep our sensibility alive while creating our collection. The easiness and comfort with which our styling is done sets us apart.

Q Statement blouses and experimentation with drapes is something that's trending. How do you cater to that?

For me, it's all about simple minimalist sarees from my very first show in 2014. The fabric should be beautiful and the texture should be nice. Sarees must give a message that they are comfortable everyday wear. Our styling ideas come from the rural India because they wear sarees 24x7 and have adapted it so beautifully.

Q Why did you decide to come on board with the etsy design awards?

My first interaction with etsy was when they were launching it in India. They conducted an event in Delhi and invited me. That's when I got to know about what they do. Their thought of building it across India fascinated me. There were so many women and artisans who work from home and don't have a platform to sell their products. They give them education and help them create that window. I completely got hold of that idea. So I thought of helping and partnering with them. They have reached quite far and have tried to connect to the villages also.

Q What are your future plans as a brand?

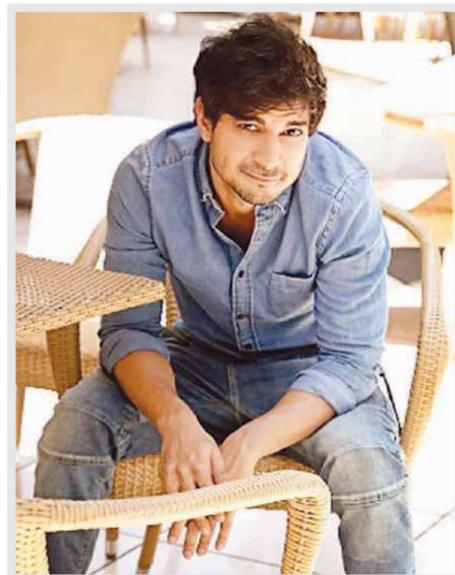
I keep thinking about the different products we can offer for a sustainable lifestyle. I always have a meaningful collaboration with the artisans and women. I want to find sustainable materials and take more and more people on board. We want to make a community which can help each other grow.

LIFE IS A FULL CIRCLE: TAHIR

Tahir Raj Bhasin has always been regarded as an actor to watch out for. He debuted as a villain in *Mardaani*. In his next, he will be seen playing a sports champion in Nitesh Tiwari's *Chhichhore*. The actor moved to IIT Bombay and stayed with students before the shoot of the film began.

Nitesh had graduated from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) in 1996 with a Bachelor's degree in Metallurgy and Material Science engineering. *Chhichhore* is inspired from his life and times at the college. The film is about the campus life in the engineering college. Tahir wanted to study and soak in college life and see inter-personal dynamics of various hostels before he started filming.

Tahir says, "I moved to the campus to spend a week at the hostel before filming began. I internalise every role that I do and immerse myself with the setting and the character that I have at hand. I worked out at the same gym as the students and ate in the canteens to get an actual feel of how their campus life is. I studied the young students closely and observed the dynamics between hostels. Moving to the campus made me ready for the role. I am hoping that the



audience will connect with my character."

The actor also reveals that living and shooting in IIT was uncanny for him. "Mood Indigo, the IIT cultural festival is coincidentally also where I performed theatre for the first time as part of my college theatre group. This was the place where the germ of becoming an actor was set for me. Life is a full circle. The end

of one journey is the beginning of the next," he says and adds, "What's further uncanny is that my opening scene in the film is also shot in the same corridor where I lived in for the theatre. What are the chances! I think I was destined to do this role and revisit the campus that I so fondly remember. *Chhichhore* will always be one of the most cherished films of my career."



R MADHAVAN
Yemmadhanam Samadham (I respect each religion as my own) I hope that my son follows that too. I have prayed at every Darga, Gurudwara and Church. I have had the good fortune to visit when a temple was not around. They have shown me utmost love and respect knowing that I am a Hindu. How can I not reciprocate that?



SANYA MALHOTRA
When I heard the story of *Badhaai Ho*, I knew it would be a very special film because the subject was different. This was one of those films where I took no time to say 'yes.' The amount of appreciation we have got from the audience and critics is unimaginable. That is why the National Award win is gratifying. I had the same feeling while *Dangal* too.



SHEKHAR KAPUR
Thank you PM Narendra Modi for putting water issues to the forefront. And emphasising that each one of us must resolve them. That drop of water you see dripping from your tap is not yours. It's a common resource that belongs to everyone. When you waste that drop of water, you are depriving others too.



ARJUN KAPOOR

I have grown-up being a cinephile and a binge-watcher seeking good content to learn and enjoy. I have always recommended them to my friends. I treat my social media followers as my family and I wanted to start a digital property through which I would jam with them more intimately and share my recommendations.



SHARMAN JOSHI

We have put a lot of efforts into making this film (*Mission Mangal*) and we always hoped the audience would love it, because we loved it while making it. The reaction has been overwhelming so far and it's only been one day. We're thrilled with the response and we hope people will remember this film for long.

SHORT circuits



A fierce character

Actress Carla Gugino says that while there are great positive women oriented characters, but female villains still have a long way to go

From her first appearance in a TV series *Spin City* in 1996 to playing the eccentric mother in *The Haunting of the Hill House* to some terrific work in *Gerald's Game*, actress Carla Gugino has come a long way and with *Jett*, she says that she has found a character only she could have played best.

Jett is a fun show but a little different. It's a character that she hasn't played yet. What made her say yes to it? Carla says, "It's something that Sebastian Gutierrez (director and husband) and I have been working on for a long time. He wrote such an amazing role for me. He said, 'I want you to play Daisy Jett Kowalski. The name itself is a great thing to begin with. You always got to start with a good name. Though television is a wonderful place for female characters right now, there is still some way to go with a female villain. We have a lot of male references for that but not

so much women. So yes. She is cool. She keeps her own council and lives her life the way she wants to. She is a super fierce character."

So is there anything that she did different to prepare for the role? "A lot of things," she says. But one thing, "As I am an Italian, I have the habit of using my hands a lot while talking. My face is very expressive. Think of Lee Marvin, basically she reveals very little and that was much harder for me than I'd have thought," she tells us.

Sebastian wrote all nine scripts about four years ago. Carla shares that they wanted to put it the right way but were not sure if they'll be able to do it or not.

There are many people out there, may not be in Hollywood, but working with their partner in every field. So how difficult or easy is it to have someone by your side professionally as well as in personal life? She tells us, "I don't know. I didn't take any magic bullet. What is great is that

we are good at different things and therefore it makes it a good balance. If we were both actors that might've been different. But for some reason, it's just a very natural thing and we really love and enjoy it. We trust each other so much and I think it's great as well as important in terms of creativity."

The actress listens to different playlist with each character. What songs might be on her list for *Jett*, which also recently premiered on *Star World*? She tells us some, "I can give you a couple. *Walk a Mile* by Holly Golightly, *Easy Money* by Karen Anne."

Carla's *Haunting of Hill House* is the scariest of all. She tells us that she know so many people who already knew what's going to happen in the series still they preferred to watch it during the day time. So is the series coming back with new and scarier episodes? She says, "Yes. It is an anthology so it will be a different story. But you will see some actors returning."

Chase for Gold

Sindhu, Saina chase elusive yellow metal at Basel World Championships

PTI ■ BASEL

India's double Silver medallist P V Sindhu will look to produce another masterclass when she resumes her quest for an elusive Gold at the BWF World Championships beginning here from today.

Sindhu has been the most consistent performer in the World Championships in the last few years with two back-to-back Silver and as many Bronze medals but a Gold medal has so far eluded her.

The 24-year-old Indian ace has always managed to find her best form in the World Championships, producing stellar performances but she missed the trick in the summit clash twice.

While she lost to Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in an epic battle, lasting 110 minutes in the 2017 edition, Olympic champion Carolina Marin of Spain stopped her in the summit clash in 2018.

Sindhu, who is seeded fifth, is coming into the prestigious event with a runner-up finish at the Indonesia Open last month and has been working on her fitness and defence in her pursuit to outlast her opponents.

She received a bye in the first round and will open her campaign against either Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po or Bulgaria's Linda Zetchiri.

"I've been working on my defence, physical fitness and also on-court skills. I have trained hard and I hope I can do well. I have to perform well but there is no pressure," Sindhu said.

If she wins her first match, Sindhu is likely to meet Beibei Zhang of USA



Saina Nadal prepares to return a shot during her match



Pusarla Venkata Sindhu falls on the court in attempt to make no look return

BWF/File Picture

BWF World Tour
Live from 7:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

SINDHU HAS BEEN THE MOST CONSISTENT PERFORMER IN THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THE LAST FEW YEARS WITH TWO BACK-TO-BACK SILVER AND AS MANY BRONZE MEDALS BUT A GOLD MEDAL HAS SO FAR ELUDED HER

in the third round and is expected to face Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying in the quarterfinals.

If everything falls into place, then Sindhu may collide with compatriot Saina Nehwal in the semifinals, provided the former world number 1 too crosses the initial rounds.

Eighth-seeded Saina, who boasts of a Silver and Bronze medal in the World Championships, will take on the winner of the match between Switzerland's Sabrina Jaquet and Netherland's Soraya De Visch Eijbergen in the second round after getting a bye. She is likely to face Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark next.

BWF/File Picture

Djoker dumped in Cincy semis

AFP ■ CINCINNATI



World number one Novak Djokovic wilted under pressure from Daniil Medvedev, falling 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to the ninth-seeded Russian in the Cincinnati Masters semi-finals.

Medvedev's upset win on Saturday sent him into a title showdown with another unexpected finalist, 16th-seeded Belgian David Goffin, who defeated France's Richard Gasquet 6-3, 6-4 to reach his first ATP Masters 1000 final.

"I don't know how I turned it around, I was so tired after the first set and I thought I might not be able to keep up the intensity," said Medvedev, who has competed in 15 hardcourt matches since July 30.

"But I had a momentum change in the second set and the crowd gave me energy," added the Russian, who will be playing his second Masters series final in eight days, after falling to Rafael Nadal in Montreal last Sunday.

"It's a great feeling to win and beat the number one. That shows I deserve to be in this final."

"I played an unbelievable match, I'm very happy," Medvedev also beat Djokovic in their last meeting, on clay at Monte Carlo in April.

He's 1-1 against Goffin, with both of their matches played this season — at the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

Kuznetsova, a two-time Grand Slam champion who sent Barty packing, will be in search of her 19th WTA title — when she takes on American Madison Keys in the final.

Keys, the 2017 US Open runner-up, defeated compatriot Sofia Kenin 7-5, 6-4.

"I'm super-happy to be in my first final here. I love getting matches under my belt before a Grand Slam."



Indian, Aussie player battle for ball possession HI/Twitter

India, Australia play 2-2 draw

PTI ■ TOKYO

The Indian women's hockey team came back twice from a goal deficit to hold world number 2 side Australia 2-2 in a hard-fought round-robin league match of the Olympic Test Event here on Sunday.

Vandana Kataria (36th) and Gurjit Kaur (59th) scored for India to cancel out strikes from Kaitlin Nobbs (14th) and Grace Stewart (43rd) in their second match of the tournament. India had beaten hosts Japan 2-1 in their first match on Saturday.

World number 10 India began the match aggressively, matching Australia's attacking hockey with their own brand.

And in the 14th minute, Nobbs made no mistake in converting from the spot to give Australia a 1-0 advantage.

India struck on the break as Vandana Kataria finished off a superb move to equalise in the 36th minute. But the lead did not last long as Australia started to look for their second goal.

It was in the 43rd minute that Australia found their second goal through some exquisite team work, which saw Grace Stewart also registering her name on the score-sheet to give Australia a 2-1 lead.

With moves breaking down, and chances going waste, it looked like Australia would hold onto their 2-1 lead, but with just a couple of minutes remaining on the clock, India won a crucial penalty corner in the 59th minute.

And, prolific drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur stepped up and struck a sweet blow into the back of the net to earn India a well-deserved draw.

The Indian women's team will face China on Tuesday in their third and last round-robin match of the tournament.

Meanwhile in the men's game, India squandered an early lead to go down fighting 1-2 to New Zealand in their second match.

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh put India ahead in the second minute by converting a Penalty Corner, but New Zealand struck back in the last quarter through two well-crafted field goals — Jacob Smith (47') and Sam Lane (60') to have the last laugh.

India had made an impressive start to the tournament, thrashing Malaysia 6-0 in their opening match but the second-match defeat means they are currently sitting at the second spot in the points table with one match to go.

India will face hosts Japan on Tuesday.

HIMA WINS GOLD IN CZECH

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Top Indian sprinters Hima Das and Mohammad Anas won a Gold each in women's and men's 300m races respectively at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter event in Czech Republic on Saturday.

This was Hima's sixth Gold in European races since July 2 though the field in most of them has been mediocre. Her last win was on July 20 when she clinched a Gold in her pet 400m event at Nove Mesto in Czech Republic.

"Finished on the top in 300 m in the Athleticky Mitink Reiter 2019 today in Czech Republic," Hima tweeted after winning the race.

Anas, on the other hand, won the men's 300m race in 32.41 seconds.

"Glad to have won the Gold in men's 300m at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter 2019 in Czech Republic in a timing of 32.41 secs," he tweeted.

National record holder Mohammad Anas has already qualified for 400m event for the World Championships to be held in Doha in September-October while Hima is yet to achieve make it to the Qatar.



Hima Das, center poses for photo after win Hima/Twitter

Hima Das, center poses for photo after win Hima/Twitter

VAR comes again to rescue Spurs

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

I am in love with VAR," joked Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino after his side escaped with a 2-2 draw at Manchester City thanks to Gabriel Jesus's late winner for the Premier League champions being ruled out on review.

Yet, the scoreline masked the fact that Spurs, despite reaching the Champions League final last season and breaking the club's transfer record for French midfielder Tanguy Ndombele, still look well off potential challengers to City's throne as champions.

Mauricio Pochettino's men finished 27 points behind City last season, on Saturday 27 was the difference in the shot count as Tottenham mustered three to the hosts' 30.

City will bemoan their luck and lacklustre defending that allowed Erik Lamela and Lucas Moura to cancel out goals from Raheem Sterling and Sergio Aguerro with Spurs' only two efforts on target.

However, there was no evidence in the performance of a slipping of standards after winning the first domestic treble of trophies English football had ever seen last season.



Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino chats with Pep Guardiola after PL match AP

"When the people say: 'you can do better', better than this I don't know if it is possible," said a proud City manager Pep Guardiola.

"We played incredible. The best game we have played in our time together, it was so good. We played good, but we could not win."

"If we continue to play in that way we won't have regrets and that is the most important thing."

City were pushed all the way last season by a Liverpool side who recorded the third highest points tally in English football history with 97 and yet still could not topple Guardiola's men for the title.

The European champions have started the Premier League season with two wins to take an early two-point lead over the champions and are clearly the most likely challengers to prevent City a hat-trick of titles.

However, if anything Guardiola's men look stronger last season with Kevin de Bruyne restored to full fitness, while Spanish international Rodri was slotted seamlessly into midfield.

"We have to be proud because to play at this level against a team like Tottenham is really good for the rest of the season," said De Bruyne, who set up both City goals.

"It's always more difficult in a big game but we almost totally dominated them."

VAR may have ridden to Spurs' rescue for now, but on this evidence they face a long season ahead if they are to keep up with the relentless pace set by City and Liverpool.

Ramsey makes Juve debut

AFP ■ TURIN

Aaron Ramsey made his debut for Italian champions Juventus on Saturday in their final pre-season friendly, a 1-0 win over Serie C side Triestina.

The Welsh international midfielder and former Arsenal star, who signed a four-year deal in February worth a reported seven million euros (\$7.9 million) a season, came on for Federico Bernardeschi in the 70th minute of the game in Trieste.

"This was a very proud moment for me to put on this famous jersey," said Ramsey who hadn't played since April due to a hamstring injury.

"I am happy that I got a few minutes out there tonight. I have been working hard to get back fit and hopefully now I can stay fit."

"I know I haven't had the minutes on the pitch, apart from tonight, but I feel good physically. It will take a few games to get there."

Ramsey won three FA Cups in his 11 years at Arsenal and played a key role in Wales reaching the semi-finals of Euro 2016.

"I am really excited to be a part of it and experience the Italian league," he continued.



Aaron Ramsey taps Federico Bernardeschi as he replaces Italian winger to make his maiden appearance for Bianconeri Juve/Twitter

"We start now on Saturday, so I am looking forward to that and playing my first competitive match."

Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo did not make the trip to north-eastern Italy because of muscular problems, while coach

Maurizio Sarri was also absent because of flu.

A stunning Paulo Dybala goal after 38 minutes was enough to seal a win for the reigning Serie A champions.

The Argentine, who has been linked with a move away from

Turin, celebrated wildly but then missed a penalty in the second half.

Ramsey, meanwhile, threatened with a quick one-two with Gonzalo Higuain, back from a loan spell to Chelsea, but sent the ball just wide of the goal.

Desai stars in Titans win

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Siddharth Desai starred in Telugu Titans' 40-29 win over Haryana Steelers in a Pro Kabaddi League match at the Nehru indoor stadium here on Sunday.

Desai with 18 points, including a 'Super 10' (a Super 10 is achieved when a raider scores 10 or more raid points in a single game), played a key role and helped Titans' snap the Steelers' three-match winning run.

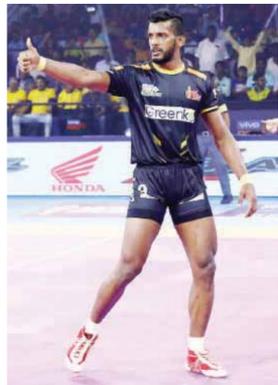
Siddharth, who scored his second Super 10 of the season, took the fight to the opponent, along with his brother Suraj.

Titans went into the match with just one win in eight matches, but the lack of confidence was certainly not evident from the outset as the Desai brothers of Siddharth and Suraj showed their class.

In-form Vikash Kandola, on the back of a hat-trick of Super 10s, was in no mood to let the Titans run away with the match though as he kept pace with the South Indian team.

The most crucial point of the first half came with Siddharth Desai remaining when Siddharth Desai combined well with his team to tackle Kandola.

Vishal Bhardwaj, playing his 50th match in the PKL, brought



Siddharth Desai celebrates after win PKL/Twitter

about the first all-out in the match, assisting Abozar Mighani to tackle Naveen with four minutes remaining to half time.

The first half ended 21-13 in favour of the Titans.

In the second half too, the Titans' defence kept Kandola at bay and they inflicted a second all-out on Haryana with 11 minutes remaining till the end with Siddharth Desai at the forefront.

It was Titans' second win of the season.

Archer double rattles Aus early

English pacer's early strike put hosts in command after Stokes' unbeaten 115 help Poms to set 267 run target

AFP ■ LONDON

Jofra Archer took two wickets and struck Test cricket's first concussion substitute, Marnus Labuschagne on the grille of his helmet as England pushed for an unlikely series-levelling victory in the second Ashes clash at Lord's on Sunday.

Australia were 46-2 in their second innings at tea on the final day of the second Test.

That left them needing 221 more runs in a minimum of 35 overs to reach an unlikely victory target of 267.

Test debutant Archer also struck Steve Smith on the neck with a rapid bouncer during the star batsman's 92 on Saturday.

Smith was passed fit to resume his innings on Saturday but further tests on Sunday sidelined him with concussion.

Now there are doubts over Smith's availability for the third Test at Headingley starting Thursday, with an Australia spokesman saying the "short turnaround is not in his favour".

Australia, bidding for their first Ashes campaign triumph on English soil in 18 years, lead the five-match series 1-0 after a 251-run win at Edgbaston last week.

In that match, former captain Smith marked his first Test since completing a 12-month ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa with superb innings of 144 and 142.

Under new protocols introduced for the inaugural World Test Championship, Australia could replace Smith with a full, batting substitute in Labuschagne.

World Cup-winning fast bowler Archer also took an impressive 2-59 in 29 overs on Saturday and the 24-year-old Sussex quick was in the wickets again on Sunday with two for two in seven balls.

David Warner's miserable series continued when the left-hander fell for five — his fourth single-figure in as many innings — when he edged



Ben Stokes celebrates after scoring 100 runs not out during play on day five of the 2nd Ashes Test against Australia at Lord's

Archer to Rory Burns in the slips. And Australia were 19-2 when Usman Khawaja was caught behind off a fine ball just outside off stump for two.

Archer's first ball to Labuschagne, a bouncer that sailed over the batsman's head, was called wide.

His second, timed at 91.6 mph, was much straighter and Labuschagne could not get out of the way.

The batsman required several minutes of on-field attention before

resuming his innings and later bravely drove Archer down the ground for a well-struck four.

Earlier, Ben Stokes, missed twice on Saturday and the beneficiary of an Australia decision not to review a rejected lbw appeal, scored 115 not out before captain Joe Root declared England's second innings on 258-5.

The left-handed batsman slog-swept off-spinner Nathan Lyon for two sixes in as many deliveries on the way to a 160-ball century, his seventh in Tests and second against Australia.

Stokes also hoisted paceman Peter Siddle for a six into the Grandstand before Root eventually called a halt. His innings included 10 fours.

Jos Buttler (31) gave Stokes good support in a fifth-wicket stand of 90 before hooking Pat Cummins to long leg.

Although the sun was shining by the tea interval, rain — which had already washed out five sessions in this match, delayed the start of Sunday's play by over an hour and so made a draw more likely.



'No intention to hurt'

AFP ■ LONDON

England fast bowler Jofra Archer insisted he had no intention to hit Australia's Steve Smith during the second Ashes Test, saying "everyone's heart skipped a beat" after he felled the star batsman with a fearsome bouncer at Lord's.

In an interview with BBC Radio before Sunday's final day, he insisted: "That is never the plan (to hit a batsman)."

"You are trying to get a wicket first. To see him go down, everyone stopped and everyone's heart skipped a beat," he added.

"After he got up he was moving around and you breathe a sigh of relief. No-one wants to see anyone getting carried off on a stretcher. It was a good challenge, a really good spell.

"For me, I wouldn't like to see it end like that."

Archer insisted he was just trying to force Smith out of his comfort zone.

"I've never seen Smith get out of his own accord until yesterday, so I was just trying to rattle him," he told Sky Sports.

"I was trying to get him out. You don't ever want to see anyone carried off on a stretcher, or you don't want to see them missing a day, or a game, especially with what happened a few years ago as well," said Archer.

"It's never a nice sight."

Smith out with concussion



Steve Smith receives treatment as he lies on the ground after being hit on the head

AFP ■ LONDON

Australia's Steve Smith has been ruled out of the last day of the second Ashes Test with concussion against England at Lord's, saying he felt "groggy" on Sunday morning.

"I started to feel a little bit of a headache coming on last night as the adrenaline got out of my system but I was able to get a good night's sleep in, but I woke up feeling a bit groggy and with a headache again," Smith said.

"I had some tests done and then some further assessments deemed to be a mild concussion, so I've been ruled out of this Test match unfortunately."

The series is the first being played under the International Cricket Council's new concussion substitute regulations, part of the inaugural World Test Championship.

These allow players who have suffered head or neck injuries to be

replaced fully by a substitute, who was previously restricted to fielding alone.

Marnus Labuschagne, on the field as 12th man when play resumed on Sunday, became the first concussion substitute in Test history after Australia's request was approved by match referee Ranjan Madugalle.

There are doubts whether star batsman Smith will feature in the third Test at Headingley starting on Thursday, with an Australia team spokesman saying "the short turnaround is not in his favour".

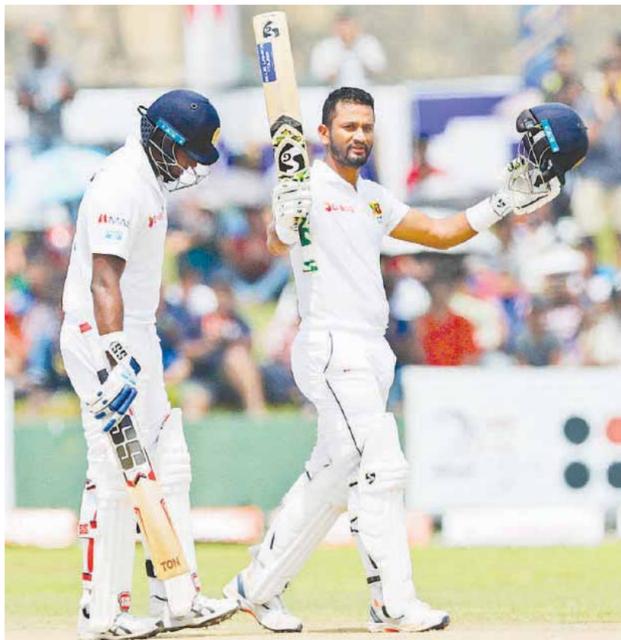
As for his prospects of playing in the third Test, Smith said: "Obviously, there's a quick turnaround between Tests."

"I'm going to be assessed each day, hopefully I will be available, but it's certainly up to the medical staff."

"It's certainly an area of concern, concussion, and I want to be 100 percent fit. There's obviously a few tests I have to tick off and time will tell."

Captain fantastic

Karunaratne's ton leads Sri Lanka to historic win in Galle Test



Dimuth Karunaratne, right, celebrates after scoring a century against New Zealand

AFP ■ GALLE

Captain Dimuth Karunaratne scored 122 as Sri Lanka chased down 268 for the loss of just four wickets to win the first Test against New Zealand at Galle on Sunday and take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

Karunaratne posted his ninth Test hundred along with enjoying a record-equaling opening partnership of 161 with Lahiru Thirimanne, who made 64, as Sri Lanka collected their first points of the World Test Championship.

Former captain Angelo Mathews chipped in with an unbeaten 28 as Sri Lanka finished off the game before lunch after the morning session was extended because only 22 runs were needed at the scheduled time for the interval.

Karunaratne enjoyed some luck on the way to his century, dropped on 58 at forward short leg by Tom Latham while wicketkeeper BJ Watling missed a stumping chance on the same score. He batted for over five hours, facing 245 deliveries, and hit six fours and a six.

Karunaratne and Thirimanne's stand equalled the record for the highest opening partnership in Tests between the two countries. In 1991, John Wright and Trevor Franklin had also put on 161 for the first wicket in Hamilton.

The opening stand was pivotal in Sri Lanka achieving the highest successful run chase in Galle, easily surpassing the pre-

Score	Overs	Team	Opponent	Season
268-4	86.1	Sri Lanka	New Zealand	2019
99-3	16.2	Sri Lanka	Pakistan	2014
96-0	14.1	Sri Lanka	India	2010
93/0	18.3	Sri Lanka	New Zealand	2012-13
92-0	11.2	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	2015

Faisal Features

vious best of 99. Resuming play on 133 for no loss, Sri Lanka required 135 from the remaining three sessions.

New Zealand finally got their breakthrough when Thirimanne was trapped leg before by William Somerville. Given not out by umpire Richard Illingworth, New Zealand overturned the decision on review.

Kusal Mendis soon fell after taking on Somerville, hitting him for a four and a six from the second and fourth balls he faced.

Angelo Mathews joined Karunaratne and the pair put on 44 runs for the third wicket to steady the ship.

Sri Lanka lost Kusal Perera after Karunaratne's dismissal but Dhananjaya de Silva (14) joined Mathews and helped Sri Lanka knock off the remaining runs with two sessions to spare.

Mathews brought up the winning runs with a single to fine leg off Boult.

The second and final Test begins in Colombo on Thursday.

Pujara scores 100 in warm-up game

PTI ■ COOLIDGE

Ishant Sharma grabbed two early wickets as India produced a disciplined bowling effort to reduce West Indies A to 79 for four at lunch on the second day of the three-day warm-up game here on Sunday.

Ishant was the peak of the bowlers as he claimed the wickets of opener Jeremy Solozano (9) and first-down Brandon King (4) in his first spell of five overs, while Umesh Yadav too found his rhythm early, dismissing Darren Bravo during his five overs giving away just seven runs.

Opener Kavem Hodge (45), who was dropped at slips in the third over, held on to one end but regular loss of wickets at the other end affected the hosts' innings.

Hodge was five runs short of a half-century at the break and giving him company was Jonathan Carter (2).

West Indies A still trail India 218 runs with six wickets in hand.

Earlier after a delayed start due to rain, India declared their first innings at the overnight score of 297 for five.

In reply, opener Solozano was the first to leave after his flat-footed drive found



Virat Kohli batting during a warm-up game.

an edge and landed in the safe hands of KL Rahul as West Indies slipped to 16 for one in 4.2 overs.

King (4) was then dismissed in the ninth over when he played a loose drive only to be caught behind by Rishabh Pant as West Indies slipped to 30 for 2.

Bravo (11) then tried to stitch a part-

nership with Hodge but after adding 21 runs he edged an Umesh Yadav delivery to second slip with Rahul completing the formality.

In the 27th over, a direct throw from mid-on by Ravindra Jadeja ended the brief stint of Jason Mohammed (6) as West Indies A were reduced to 77 for four in 26.1 overs.

On the opening day, Cheteshwar Pujara struck form with a fine century while Rohit Sharma hit 68 as India shrugged off initial wobble to score 297 for 5.

Pujara and Rohit stitched 132 runs together for the fourth wicket to take India to a strong position after being reduced to 89 for 3 at lunch on Saturday.

Test specialist Pujara got going in his first competitive match of the West Indies tour as he retired after making 100 off 187 balls during which he struck eight fours and one six.

Rohit fell after making 68 off 115 balls. He hit eight fours and one six. After Pujara retired in the final session, Pant and Hanuma Vihari pushed the Indian total further to reach near the 300-run mark.

Kotla to have Virat Kohli stand

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In recognition of Virat Kohli's phenomenal success in international cricket, the DDCA has decided to name one stand at Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium after the India captain.

Bishan Singh Bedi and Mohinder Amarnath are the two other Delhi players who have stands after their names but the honour came their way after their retirements.

Kohli will be the youngest active cricketer to be bestowed with the honour of a stand being named after him.

"Virat Kohli's outstanding contribution to world cricket has done DDCA proud. We are happy to honour him for achieving certain milestones and unbeatable captaincy record," DDCA President Rajat Sharma said in a statement.

Virender Sehwag and Anjum Chopra are the other Delhi players who have gates named after them while the Hall of Fame has been named after former India captain MAK Pataudi.

The state cricket body will also felicitate the members of Indian team at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on September 12.

The DDCA function will document Kohli's exceptional talent and success ever since he took over charge in all formats of the game and the state body cannot think of a better tribute than this.

"To cherish these memories, DDCA wanted to dedicate a stand in his name. I am sure the 'Virat Kohli Stand' will be a source of inspiration for Delhi's young cricketers. We are also delighted that Team India is not only led by a Delhi player but it also has an opening batsman (Shikhar Dhawan), a wicket keeper (Rishabh Pant) and a lead bowler (Ishant Sharma)."

Klaasen replaces Second for Tests

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Wicketkeeper Rudi Second has been ruled out of South Africa's Test tour of India in October due to an injury and Heinrich Klaasen will take his place in the squad, Cricket South Africa said.

The CSA said Second, one of the new caps in the Proteas squad announced on August 13 to play three Tests in India in October, has suffered an injury while practising with the South Africa A side. He will require immediate surgery and he has consequently been ruled out of the touring party.

Second's place will be taken by wicketkeeper/batsman Heinrich



South African batsman Heinrich Klaasen

Klaasen.

"Klaasen is part of the one-day squad for the South Africa A tour and he will now be added to the squad in Second's place for the four-day series that will assist his preparation for the Proteas Test series," said CSA Acting Director of Cricket Corrie van Zyl.

The Test series begins on October 2 in Visakhapatnam.

CSA also confirmed that the second Test will now be played in Pune (October 10-14) while the final Test will be held in Ranchi (October 19-23).

Klaasen is yet to make his Test debut and has featured in 14 ODIs and nine T20Is for South Africa.

Test format suits Cornwall's game

PTI ■ ANTIGUA

Big-bodied spin bowling all-rounder Rahkeem Cornwall believes he is well-suited to the longest format and credited his consistent performance in first-class cricket to his maiden call up to the West Indies squad for the Test series against India.

Cornwall first played first-class cricket in 2014 and has 260 wickets from 55 first-class matches along with 2224 runs. He recently scored two half-centuries in two unofficial 'Tests' against India.

"I believe the Test format suits my game because of the consistency a player needs over a long period of time to be successful, and I've enjoyed that challenge so far in my career playing first-class cricket."

Cornwall told the Cricket West Indies website. There is a possibility that Cornwall might make his Test debut during the opening Test which starts on August 22 as part of the World Test Championship.

"The feeling (on getting called up) is great — it's something I've been pushing to achieve for a long time," said the 26-year-old, who is 6'6" tall and weighs around 140 kilograms and couldn't make it to the squad earlier due to fitness issues.

"The feeling would be great if I was picked in the first Test. I just would want to go out and perform and don't disappoint my friends and family."

In 2018-19, Cornwall claimed 54 wickets in nine matches at an average of 17.68 to emerge as the leading wicket-taker. In international A-team cricket, most notably in the 2018, he clinched 19 wickets at an average of 18.42 during their 3-0 home series win versus England Lions.

In the recent series against the touring India A, Cornwall took nine wickets in six matches.

"The A-team preparation has been very good," he said.

"England Lions and India A were two quality opposition teams featuring guys that played Test cricket. Overall it has been very challenging and it was a good place to test skills that I've been trying to perfect every year in our domestic competition."