

**OPINION 6**  
 PAK IN A  
 PINGER ATTACK

**HYDERABAD 11**  
 ALIA BHAT TO RAISE  
 FUNDS FOR ANIMALS VIA BAKING

**SPORTS 16**  
 SHASTRI NAMES  
 IYER FOR NO 4 SPOT

HYDERABAD, TUESDAY AUGUST 20, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3



# the pioneer



DIDN'T KNOW I  
 HAD TB FOR 8  
 YEARS: BIG B

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## Ex-MPs asked to vacate houses; power, water supply to be cut

NEW DELHI: All former MPs have asked to vacate their government accommodations — mostly the heritage bungalows in the posh Lutyens' zone — the Centre said today.

With overstay being the norm, the government has taken a hard line this time.

The MPs have been given seven days, but at the end of three days, officials have been asked to stop power and water supply to these accommodations, CR Patil, Chairman, Housing Committee said.



## Bihar ex-CM Jagannath Mishra passes away

PATNA: Former Bihar Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra died on Monday following a prolonged illness, family sources said here.

The 82-yr-old leader had been suffering from cancer and was undergoing treatment at the national capital, where he breathed his last in the morning, they said. Condoling his demise, CM Nitish announced a 3-day state mourning. He was an acclaimed political leader and educationist. His death has caused an irreparable loss not just to Bihar but the entire country, Kumar said in a message.

## Double-decker train on Vizag-VJA route soon

NEW DELHI: Railways' second double-decker Uday Express will run between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada to cater to the busy route in the East Coast Railway zone, officials said on Monday. The first Uday or Utkrisht double-decker Yatri Express was a specially-designed air-conditioned chair car which started service between Coimbatore and Bangalore in June 2018.

The trains are primarily allocated to routes with heavy passenger traffic. They are equipped with WiFi facility, have striking interiors, cushioned seating, and display screens.

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Shrawana & Krishna Paksha Panchangam

Tithi: Panchami 05:30 am (Next Day)

Nakshatram: Revati 10:29 pm

Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)

Rahukalam: 03:27 pm - 05:01 pm

Yamagandam: 09:11 am - 10:45 am

Varjyam: 09:09 am - 10:55 am

Gulika: 12:19 pm - 01:53 pm

Good Times: (to start any important work)

Amritakalam: 07:49 pm - 09:36 pm

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:54 am - 12:44 pm

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy

Temp: 31/24

Humidity: 80%

Sunrise: 05:59

Sunset: 06:38

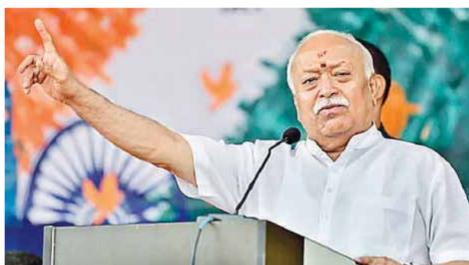
Current Weather Conditions Updated August 19, 2019 5:00 PM

# MOHAN BHAGWAT FOR DIALOGUE ON QUOTA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There should be a conversation in an atmosphere of harmony between those in favour of reservations and those against it, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Sunday, provoking criticism and allegations that he is telegraphing the ruling BJP's intent of ending quota for the poor and backward castes.

Mohan Bhagwat's words had caused a similar flap in 2015, just before the Bihar election, when he called for a review of the reservation policy. At the height of the Bihar poll campaign, the BJP was said to have suffered the brunt of its mentor's views. Months later, Bhagwat tweeted that reservation "is needed" as long as social discrimination remains in the society. In his latest comments, the RSS chief said when he raised the subject earlier, it created much noise and the whole discussion went off the rails. "Those in favour of reservation, when they hear and consider those against reservation and when those against reservation will hear and consider those for reservation, then we can find a solution to this in one minute, without a law, without rules. Till the time that harmony is not there in all of society, no one can answer this question. We have to attempt this and the Sangh is doing so," Bhagwat said at the closing ses-



## Sangh should shed anti-reservation mindset, says Mayawati

LUCKNOW: BSP chief Mayawati on Monday asked the RSS to shed its 'anti-reservation mindset', saying reservation was a constitutional provision and disturbing it would be an injustice. A day after Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat said there should be a conversation in a harmonious atmosphere between those in favour of reservation and those against it, Mayawati said such a debate would generate a dangerous situation of doubt which was not needed. In a tweet, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said, "The RSS saying that there should be open-hearted debate pertaining to reservation given to SC/ST/OBC, generates dangerous situation of doubt, which is not at all needed". She also said, "Reservation is a humanitarian and constitutional provision, and disturbing it is injustice and improper. It would be better if the Sangh sheds its anti-reservation mindset." Bhagwat had yesterday said in New Delhi that he had spoken on reservation earlier as well, but it created a lot of noise and the whole discussion diverted from the actual issue.



## 'Anti-Dalit face of RSS-BJP exposed'

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Monday cited RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's remarks on reservation to allege that the "anti-Dalit-backward face" of the RSS-BJP has been exposed. The attack by the opposition party came a day after Bhagwat said there should be a conversation in a harmonious atmosphere between those in favour of reservation and those against it. "Attack on the rights of the poor, trampling on constitutional rights, snatching the rights of Dalits-backwards. This is the real BJP agenda," Congress' chief spokesperson Randheer Surjewala said.

sion of Gyan Utsav, an event organized by the RSS on competitive exams. Dismissing talk of the RSS influencing the government's agenda, Bhagwat also clarified that the Sangh, the BJP and the party-led government at the centre were "three separate entities" and one cannot be held responsible for the actions of the other. "Since there are Sangh workers in BJP and this government, they will listen to the RSS, but it is not mandatory for them to agree with us. They can disagree as well," he said.

# Somesh Kumar becomes blue-eyed officer of CM

L VENKAT RAM REDDY ■ HYDERABAD

Senior IAS officer Somesh Kumar seems to have become the blue-eyed boy of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao. Somesh has been getting "plum postings" in the TRS government all along, which has become a subject of debate in bureaucratic circles. He is currently posted as Special Chief Secretary in the Revenue department, replacing Rajeswar Tiwari. He was also given additional charge as CCLA (chief commissioner of land administration), which is considered next to Chief Secretary in the administrative hierarchy.

The government issued these transfer orders all of a sudden late on Sunday.

The post of Special Chief Secretary in Irrigation and CAD departments, currently held by Somesh Kumar, has been handed over to Chief Secretary SK Joshi. The CS will hold FAC (full additional charge) of these portfolios, according to order issued by government on Monday. Somesh's appointment as Special CS in the Revenue department assumes significance in the backdrop of the CM deciding to bring a new



- Got plum postings since December 2016
- Appointed as Special CS in revenue department
- Will play key role in drafting new Revenue Act, and its implementation

Revenue Act in September by incorporating "revolutionary measures" to check corruption in revenue department. More importantly, the CM has convened a collectors' conference for two days starting Tuesday at Pragathi Bhavan, exclusively for the purpose of discussing the

new Revenue Act. Somesh will attend this meeting as head of Revenue department.

Somesh was GHMC commissioner, when Telangana State was formed in June 2014. He continued as GHMC commissioner, considered to be the plum post, till October 2015. However, he was transferred as Principal Secretary in Tribal Welfare department in October 2015, considered an insignificant post in bureaucratic circles. This triggered speculations that his equation with the TRS government had strained due to which he was kept in the 'loophole'.

Continued on Page 4

## Father of minor arrested for mishap that killed two

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The father of the minor boy, who was driving an auto-rickshaw killing a 14-month-old boy and his grandmother, was arrested on Monday.

The police had booked cases against the minor and his father Noor Mohammed, who was arrested two days after the accident and booked under Sections 304/2, 324, 326, 109 and 183 of the IPC and Motor Vehicles Act. Police said that the minor boy had taken the car out on a ride with his friends without informing his parents.

While little Mahadev had died on the spot on Sunday, his grandmother Nagamani (65) died during treatment on Monday. The two were in the auto-rickshaw along with Mahadev's, mother Sandhya and his twin brother Mahender when the mishap occurred. The auto was rammed head-on by the SUV driven by the minor boy, police inspector of Bowenpally P Chandra Shekar said. The SUV went on to hit a few other two-wheelers after hitting the auto, police said.

# Karnataka-style politics won't work in TS, KTR warns BJP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS working president KT Rama Rao has called BJP working president JP Nadda as a man full of lies and remarked that BJP and the Congress, which ruled the country for 70 years, are not the kind of parties that would appreciate development projects undertaken by the TRS.

Speaking at a party meeting held at Kukatpally in the city on Monday, KTR scoffed at Nadda's criticism of the TRS government, reminding the BJP that it forfeited deposits in 103 Assembly seats out of the 119 it contested.

He said that BJP's Karnataka-style of politics would not pay dividends in Telangana. He challenged the BJP to cite one state where it is in power that has round-the-clock supply of power. It was ridiculous on the part of Nadda to allege corruption in the execution of Kaleswaram project, which will help irrigate one crore acres of



TRS working president KT Rama Rao addresses a party meeting at Kukatpally

BJP's Karnataka-style of politics will not pay dividends in Telangana. It was ridiculous on the part of Nadda to allege corruption in the execution of Kaleswaram project

— KT RAMA RAO, TRS working president

land, KTR said. He dared Nadda to prove conclusively the charges of corruption he had levelled. In an indirect reference to TPCC president N Uttam Kumar, KTR said in a lighter

vein that the person who vowed not to shave his beard if Congress did not return to power in the state is nowhere to be seen these days.

Continued on Page 4

# HC lifts stay on MBBS, BDS counselling

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a major relief to the state government and Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences (KNRUHS), a division of Telangana High Court on Monday dismissed the petitions filed against them that claimed they were doing injustice to students of reserved categories in counselling for MBBS and BDS courses for year 2019-20.

The division bench said the petitions are devoid of merit, and vacated the stay granted earlier on the second phase of counselling. The court also told the petitioners that it would not intervene in the ongoing admission counselling process as the academic year of the two UG courses is scheduled to begin from September 1.

The decision of the HC has paved the way for officials of the health university to issue a fresh schedule for the second



phase of counselling for medical and dental seat aspirants. The counselling was stayed following a petition by some students alleging that the lone health university of the state was acting against stipulated rules in filling up the seats. They had also alleged that seats in the reservation quota were being filled before filling up those in the open category, which amounted to injustice to students. They urged the high court to instruct the state government and the university authorities to fill up open category seats before taking up the process for the reserved category seats.

# Arrest warrant against Paul over bro's death

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

The Mahabubnagar district court on Monday issued an arrest warrant against Prajashanthi party chief KA Paul in connection with the murder of his brother David Raj. The murder that took place in Mahabubnagar district in January 2010.



The warrant was issued against Paul, an evangelist, after he skipped attending court a few times. His younger brother David Raj had died under mysterious circumstances in 2010 after which word spread that the brothers were involved in a property dispute. Since the property matter was not settled, Paul was made accused in the case relating to David's death. His name figures at number A9 under Sections 302, 220c and 379.

# Gujarat HC dubs tax recovery by state as 'nothing short of extortion'

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat High Court has termed the action of state tax authorities to collect revenue from a private firm as "high-handed and arbitrary".

In an order passed on a petition moved by Micromax Informatics Limited against alleged "coercive action" taken

by authorities to recover Rs 1.49 crore as tax, a division bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and A C Rao called their action as "high-handed and arbitrary".

"The action on part of authorities concerned could be termed as absolutely high-handed and arbitrary," the high court said in its order on August 7.

"This is not the way and the manner to recover tax. The department should not get so

desperate for revenue. The revenue is to be collected in accordance with law. The action at the end of the authorities in the present case is nothing short of extortion," the court said.

After an audit assessment under provisions of the Gujarat Value Added Tax Act, Micromax was on October 30, 2018 directed by the deputy commissioner of state tax in Ahmedabad to pay Rs 1,49,27,723 as tax.

# Amaravati's bleak future to boost Hyd realty

DEEPTHI NANDAN REDDY ■ HYDERABAD

With doubts looming large over Andhra Pradesh capital Amaravati's future under the new YSRCP government, Hyderabad real estate market is expected to get further boost as investors and industrialists may prefer Hyderabad.

After former CM Chandrababu Naidu's bete noire YS Jaganmohan Reddy took over as CM of AP, World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has pulled out of Amaravati, casting shadows over the development of the new capital. This quite unexpected turn of events has pushed the investors, industrialists and real estate players focusing on Amaravati and investing in AP into a cautious mood.

With uncertainty prevailing



over Amaravati, the capital city of another Telugu state, Hyderabad is expected to get a further boost. Hyderabad, with well-developed infrastructure, cosmopolitan nature, with the presence of a large number of global MNCs and talent may continue to attract further investments.

"It is premature to write off Amaravati going by the recent

developments, as whenever a new government comes into power, there are bound to change and it will come up with a new policy. However, the recent developments in Amaravati will definitely impact new investments and investors will wait till the new government gives clarity on its policy and direction. In the meanwhile obviously, Hyderabad will

Hyderabad, with well-developed infra, cosmopolitan nature and the presence of a large number of global MNCs and talent, may continue to attract further investments

appear as a better alternative and attract investors. Even in the past, Amaravati did not quite take off as it was expected and many preferred Hyderabad. Only this trend will only further strengthen, which is already showing up on the land prices in Hyderabad," opined C Shekar Reddy, past national president of CREDAI.

Continued on Page 4

# AROYASRI IMPACT Heavy rush in government hospitals

PV KONDAL RAO ■ WARANGAL

With the Rajiv Arogyasri health services in corporate and private hospitals remaining shut, the rush and crowds at government hospitals have increased in rural Telangana over the past three days.

At MGM Hospital in Warangal in particular, the rush of patients has been rising by the day, with almost all wards and blocks in the hospital filled with people coming from various parts of the erstwhile Warangal district. While some surgery cases in the orthopaedic department have been admitted as in-patients, the general medicine and general surgery

All wards and blocks in MGM Hospital were filled with people coming from various parts of Warangal district

cases that were handled by private hospitals earlier are now shifting to government hospitals. Sources said the MGM Hospital saw a 45 per cent increase in patients. Medical and surgical cases in the prestigious hospital also witnessed heavy intake.

Continued on Page 3

# BJP, TRS are 'secret allies': Uttam

## Dares Central government to order CBI probe against KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) chief and MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy accused both BJP and TRS of enacting the fake drama of political rivalry only to mislead people and damage Congress party.

In a live interaction with Congress party workers on social media platform Facebook and tele-conference on Monday, Uttam Kumar Reddy expressed wonder over the statement of BJP national working president J P Nadda wherein the latter accused Chief Minister

K Chandrashekar Rao of indulging in corruption.

"Congress party has been exposing the corrupt practices and mass irregularities of TRS government for the last five years. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi or his government never took note of our allegations. Instead, PM Modi and many Union Ministers openly praised KCR government. Similarly, he said KCR has always behaved like a true 'Modi Bhakt' and never criticised the BJP Government," he said while asking Nadda to explain the reasons behind sudden change in BJP's policy towards TRS.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that BJP and TRS are secret



allies in Delhi, and are enacting the rivalry drama in Telangana. He challenged BJP leader Nadda to make his party's government at the Centre to order a CBI probe against KCR if BJP was serious against exposing the corruption in TRS government.

He pointed out that TRS supported the BJP government since 2014 and KCR was such a great fan of PM Modi that when the latter visited Telangana for the launch of Mission Bhagiratha, KCR delivered a speech saying he just wanted a little space in Modi's heart and nothing else. He said there were innumerable occasions when KCR supported Modi Government's decisions, although they were irrational and anti-people. Likewise, Modi government

provided the required shield to KCR facilitating him to indulge in huge corruption and irregularities.

The TPCC Chief said that the Congress party has continuously exposed the irregularities and corruption by KCR regime in Mission Bhagiratha, Mission Kakatiya and other irrigation projects. Unlike BJP and TRS, he said Congress party never cheats people with double-talk and dual-standard and it still stands on its allegations.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the BJP leaders were 'day-dreaming' of coming to power in Telangana after the party won four Lok Sabha seats. He said BJP would never gain strength in Telangana as Modi Govt did nothing for the State in the last five years.

## Save Mattapally temple, Cong leader urges CS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy submitted a memorandum to the Telangana state Chief Secretary SK Joshi on Monday asking the latter to initiate appropriate steps to save 1100-year-old Sri Laxmi Narasimha Swamy temple in Mattapally, which is now submerged in the floodwaters of river Krishna.

He also asked the government to give compensation to the farmers of Ravi Pahad, Gundla Pahad,

Gundeboyina Gudem, Sunya Pahad and Vajinepally villages as their crops have been damaged in nearly 1,000 acres due to Krishna river floods.

The TPCC president submitted his memorandum to SK Joshi at Bhudha Bhavan. Uttam also asked the government to release Rs 2 crore to 27 tribal families, who lost their 20 acre land in Pulichintala project land acquisition in Ramachandrapuram thanda in Mattapally mandal.



The TPCC chief submitting a memorandum to Chief Secretary SK Joshi

# Komatireddy to take up 'padayatra' from Aug 26

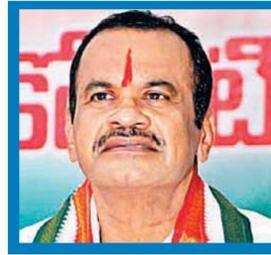
PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress MP from Bhongir constituency Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has decided to take up walkathon from August 26 to 29 from Brahmana Vellemla Reservoir in Narketpally mandal in Nalgonda district to the Jalasoudha Buildings, Errum Manzil in Hyderabad.

He along with around 5,000 farmers will take up the 'padayatra' demanding the state government to release funds and complete Udaya Samudram Lift Irrigation Scheme, the long pending irrigation and drinking water supply project in severe drought prone areas of Nalgonda district.

On Monday, Venkat Reddy submitted a letter to the Director General of Police M Mahender Reddy seeking permission for his 'padayatra'. In his letter, Komatireddy explained that the Udaya Samudram Lift Irrigation Scheme (USLIS) in Nalgonda district is proposed for irrigating 1 lakh acres ayacut as well as provides drinking water supply to 107 fluoride affected villages in severe drought prone upland areas of Nakerekal, Nalgonda, Munugode and Thungathurthy Assembly constituencies.

The scheme was sanctioned



Submits memorandum to DGP on Monday seeking permission  
Alleges the government is delaying the project for the last 12 years

by the government in 2007 and issued a GO in this regard, but nothing has been done since the last 12 years, he said. There is an abnormal delay in work progress and also no work bills being paid for want of financial department clearance for the last one year from August 2018, he lamented.

Reminding Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's statement that Telangana is a surplus state, Komatireddy, in his letter, stated that the state government is neglecting and not at all showing interest on this long-pending Udaya Samudram Lift Irrigation Scheme.

The same government has taken up Kaleswaram project on war foot basis with an estimated cost of Rs 88,000 crore, which shows its partiality on a particular region and also keeping personal grudge on him by not completing the

Udaya Samudram project.

As this scheme is too delayed for more than 12 years and there are no rains and other alternative irrigation sources available, the farmers are being suffered a lot and turning into a frustrated mood to revolt against the government. Before the situation loses out of control, there is a need of bringing the same to the notice of government in which a positive decision has to be taken for completing the above scheme for the satisfaction of the farmers, he said.

I will take up the 'padayatra' along with 5000 farmers from Brahmana Vellemla Reservoir to the Jalasoudha to submit a representation to the Engineer-in-Chief, Irrigation Department, government of Telangana on behalf of farmers as this project falls under his native village as well as his Bhongir constituency.



## Launch movement against mining: VH

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress senior leader V Hanumantha Rao, who entered into Nallamala forests breaking police surveillance, has demanded the party leaders to wage movement against uranium mining in Nallamala forests. He asked the PCC Chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy to gather the people to wage movement against uranium mining. He also asked the PCC chief to convene a meeting with the senior leaders to discuss on the uranium mining issue immediately.

On Monday, Hanumantha alleged that the Congress leaders are confining to mere press meets on the developments taking place in the state. "Chief Minister KCR is taking Congress lightly because he knew very well that Congress leaders would confine to statements only", he lamented. He opined that being a big party, Congress has to play big brother role in the movement to be waged against uranium mining in the state. Alleging that two Telugu states would be affected with uranium mining, VH asked his own party leaders to meet AP Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy in this regard.

# State seeks more urea from Centre

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy has addressed a letter to the Centre seeking the release of Urea quota of the state immediately as the cultivation of paddy, maize and groundnut will increase with the filling of projects with good rains.

On Monday, the Minister addressed a letter to the Central Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Thomar. In his letter, he said the projects under two rivers, Krishna and Godavari are brimming with the water with the floods in these rivers with the incessant rains in Maharashtra and Karnataka.

The cultivation area of Paddy, Maize and groundnut will increase in the catchment areas of Krishna and Godavari rivers. He asked the Centre to release urea to Telangana immediately keeping the increasing demand in view.

He explained that the Centre has released 1.40 lakh tonnes as usual similar to last year but it is in the quota of imported from other countries. The shortage of Urea will arise in Telangana very soon and hence, the Centre has to release more urea to the state from the quota of other states, he mentioned in the letter.

# Gutha elected unanimously as MLC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS senior leader Gutha Sukhender Reddy has been unanimously elected as MLC under MLA quota. The returning officer, Assembly secretary Dr V Narasimhacharyulu, handed over a certificate confirming his election.

On the occasion, Gutha thanked the Chief Minister, K Chandrashekar Rao for giving an opportunity as an MLC. He said that no other government helped the agriculture sector similar to TRS government. He said that he would continue serving the people with the opportunity he got.

"I thank TRS working president KT Rama Rao for

extending his help in winning the election unanimously. I also thank KCR for giving me the opportunity to serve the farmers all these days by giving me the post of chief of Rythu Samanvaya Samithi", he stated. Ministers G Jagadish Reddy, V Prashanth Reddy, Rajya Sabha member Badugula Lingaiah Yadav MLAs, MLCs and others present when Gutha received the winning certificate from Assembly secretary. The returning officer announced that Gutha has been elected unanimously as MLC as no other filed papers for the same. They announced it after the timeout for deadline for withdrawal of nominations on Monday evening.



Gutha Sukhender Reddy receiving a certificate from the Returning Officer confirming his election in Hyderabad on Monday



AK Khan, IPS (ret'd), vice chairman and president of Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS) and B Shafiullah, IFS, Secretary, TMREIS along with the students who participated in Telangana State Open Rifle Shooting Championship 2019, held at SATS range in Gachibowli Monday

## Army to hold recruitment meet from Oct 16

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Army recruitment rally under Unit HQ Quota will be held at 1 EME Centre, Secunderabad from 16th October to 24th November 2019 for sons of war widows/Ex-Servicemen including wards of Territorial Army personnel. The posts include, soldier technician, soldier (general duty) & soldier tradesman 10th standard (steward), 8th Standard (house keeper) categories and these vacancies are available for all States and Union Territories of India.

Eligible candidates are required to report at Milkha Singh Stadium, 1 Training Battalion, 1 EME Centre, Bolarum, Secunderabad at 6 am.

## SFI protests over lack of basic facilities

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The student' federation of India (SFI) staged a protest here at Pragathi Bhavan on Monday against the state government's attitude towards the welfare of students. Referring to KG to PG programme, the students alleged that the state government has failed to provide quality education to the students.

The government gave tall promises during the elections, but after coming to power, they ignored it, the students said.

"The state government is least bothered in issuing scholarships for SC, ST, BC and Minority students. These students are finding it difficult to continue their under-gradua-

tion course and many are forced to quit owing to financial issues," said T Ravi, president, SFI.

Taking on the Gurukul schools, he pointed out that it's been three months since the classes had commenced, but many Gurukul schools are yet to receive textbooks, notebooks, food, and blankets. Many teaching posts are left vacant in both government and gurukul schools, he alleged.

"We will not allow any Telangana Minister to step into their respective constituencies if our demands are not met. We will intensify our protest in the coming days," he added. Later, the police took charge of protesters to control the situation.

## Declare Vikarabad drought-hit: Cong

PNS ■ VIKARABAD

Congress leaders on Monday staged a dharna in front of Collectorate demanding the government to declare Vikarabad district as drought-hit and charged the state government for neglecting development of the district.

In a memorandum submitted to the District Collector, the Congress leaders, DCC president Ramamohan Reddy, former MP Konda Vishweswar Reddy, and others accused the government of neglecting implementation of welfare schemes in the district.

The TRS government in its first regime annulled the Pranahita-Chevella LI scheme without any valid reasons, they contended.

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES	
GOLD	₹ 37,940 (10 gm)
SILVER	₹ 43,500 (1kg)
CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹128
Without Skin	₹145
Broiler at Farm	₹88
EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	315
VIJAYAWADA	332
VISAKHAPATNAM	350
RETAIL PRICE (IN HYDERABAD)	₹3.15

# Regional parties dividing secular votes: Saleem

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC secretary Mohd Saleem has alleged that the BJP is successful in dividing secular votes and creating fear among the citizens. He said that the BJP created an artificial threat from minorities, neighbours or terrorists for political benefit. Regional parties are playing a key role in benefitting BJP by dividing the secular votes. Regional parties are dividing minority votes, dalits, SC, ST, BC and OBCs which are benefitting BJP, he alleged.

In a statement, Saleem said that the emergence of regional parties like AIMIM, TRS, YSRCP, TDP, NCP, Shiv Sena, SP, BSP, JDU, BJD, RLD, RJD, AIDMK, DMK, Lok Dal,

TMC, SAD, NC, PDP and others have divided the secular votes directly or indirectly and benefitted BJP. They are dividing secular votes for their own benefit. These parties have no role in the development of the state or nation except for their selfish goals. Elections are fought on their respective party ticket but after the election they are supporting BJP either through internal or external support, he opined.

He alleged that election is fought on the lines of region, religion and linguistic basis, thereby damaging the secular structure of the country and endangering the democracy and Constitution of India.

It is witnessed in the last five years that BJP government has



done no development but divided the nation on the lines of region and religion. Recent amendments in the RTI, NIA, Triple Talaq interfering in Shariat Law, NRC, Abrogation of article 370 & 35A, have no role in the national development but to target minorities, he pointed out.

Currently, elections are fought on the lines of region, religion and language thereby damaging the secular structure of the country and endangering the democracy and the Constitution

—MOHD SALEEM  
TPCC secretary

which took place during the BJP regime.

As far as development is concerned, nothing was done except to damage the economy by introducing GST and demonetisation. Industries are shut, unemployment rose to all time high, GDP came down drastically. Women & children, minorities, Dalits, BC's are in secured. Farmers, labours, traders, industrialists, jawans are all suffering, he said. In these circumstances, Congress is the only national and secular party which can unite all regions, religions, castes and creeds to save democracy and constitution of India, for the peaceful development. And Sonia Gandhi is a face of humanity, he said.

## Free bank coaching for minority students

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Minorities Welfare Department through Telangana State Minorities Study Circle is arranging free coaching to Telangana State for which the applications are invited from the eligible candidates. Last

date for receiving of applications is September 5.

The classes for free coaching will commence from 9 September. Recently Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) announced notification for recruiting 4,366 posts of Bank Probationary Officer.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
O/o the District Panchayat Raj Engineer, Adilabad  
**e-Procurement Notice**  
NIT. No. 46-80  
Tenders are invited by the undersigned for taking up C/o Anganwadi centres, Community Halls, Youth Buildings works etc. in Adilabad(R), Bela, Jainath Mandals. Total ECV : Rs. 313.00 lakhs. Tender Documents will be available in e-procurement market place from 23.08.2019 to 01.09.2019. Further details can be obtained from e-procurement market place on [www.tender.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in)  
Sd/- Dist. Panchayat Raj, Engineer, Adilabad.  
R.O. No. : 465-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADV7/11/2019-20 Date: 19-08-2019

**CRIME CORNER**

**23-year-old man goes missing from RGIA**

A 23-year-old man who was supposed to board a flight for Chennai was reported missing at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Shamshabad on Sunday. The missing person was identified as Suresh Sirvi, son of an industrialist from Moulali, Punam Chand Sirvi. According to the police, Chand had dropped off his son at the airport at 9 PM where he was supposed to board an Air India flight to Chennai. "Chand returned home after dropping Suresh at the airport. Around midnight, he learned that his son did not reach Chennai. When he tried to contact his son, the phone was switched off. Chand then contacted the airline authorities who informed him that Suresh did not board the flight" said an official. Based on a complaint from Chand, the Police registered a case and began efforts to trace Suresh.

**Man arrested for possessing ammunition**

A passenger was arrested here at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Shamshabad on Sunday for possessing live ammunition. The passenger was travelling to Delhi by Indigo 6E-6362 flight when the airport baggage screening staff found the ammunition in his bag. The arrested was identified as Ankit Singh Mahara, a resident of Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh. According to the police, the Delhi bound passenger had one live ammunition barrel (K.F.12 SPECIAL) and one used ammunition of 7.62 mm bore (324-99) in his bag. The passenger didn't possess and valid documents allowing him to carry such arms. When enquired, officials learned that he did not have an Arms and Ammunition License. The Police arrested Ankit and seized the ammunition. A case has been registered.

**2 held for trying to travel on fake tickets**

Two persons have been arrested for trying to board a Delhi-bound flight with duplicate tickets at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Shamshabad on Monday. The arrested were identified as Doulsab (41) and Lakshmi (23), both natives of Raichur in Karnataka. According to the police, the duo decided to go to Delhi to visit the Tajmahal. They came to the RGIA to board an Indigo Flight 6E-766 to Delhi. "When the security personnel at the entry point checked their identity cards, and tickets, both were found to be fake," said an official. The duo was arrested and sent to judicial remand. The police have registered a case and are investigating the incident.

**Woman murdered by son, daughter-in-law**

Two persons were arrested by Chandrayangutta police on Monday in connection with the murder of a 60-year-old woman that was reported in March. The arrested persons were identified as Chand Pasha and his wife Kausar Begum. Chand and his wife had murdered his mother Khairun Begum at Hashimabad in Bandlaguda on March 30. The post mortem examination report stated that the reason for death was 'ligature strangulation', following which the police arrested the son and daughter-in-law, Falaknuma ACP MA Rasheed said. Police said the duo banged Khairun Begum's head due to which she suffered severe bleeding and fell unconscious. Kausar then strangled her mother-in-law with a saree. The couple cleaned the floor of blood stains after the incident.

**Body of man found in Musi**

The body of a man suspected to be washed away was found floating on Musi river near Amberpet on Monday. Locals who noticed it called the police who in turn alerted GHMC officials. A team of NDRF personnel stationed nearby reached the spot to attempt to rescue the man, but he was already dead.



Principal Secretary Arvind Kumar and other officials inspect the Nizampet-Bachupally road on Monday

**Nizampet road to be congestion-free soon**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Principal Secretary Municipal Administration Arvind Kumar inspected the Nizampet - Bachupally road here on Monday and asked the officials to prepare a road development plan for widening of existing 60-foot road to 100-feet in order to reduce traffic congestion.

Nizampet has a population of more than 2.5 lakhs and as most of the population being IT professionals, there is a huge traffic flow from Nizampet to Hi-Tec City through JNTU and Forum Mall which is heavy causing lot of traffic jams. The total length of the road from Nizampet Crossroad to Bachupally is about 8 kms out

**Traffic flow from Nizampet to Hi-Tec City through JNTU and Forum Mall is very heavy, which results in frequent traffic jams**

of which around 1.50 Kms is under control of HRDCL while the remaining is under the control of R&B Department.

Arvind Kumar observed that for de-congestion of traffic on Nizampet road, alternative parallel road needs to be strengthened and widened to

100-foot road. He suggested to develop two alternative roads parallel to existing Hi-tech city road passing through Forum mall and JNTU. The first option suggested by the consultants was a road from HITEX Kaman of NAC road to Indu Fortune followed by Vasantha Vihar colony adjacent to JNTU which leads to Nizampet duly providing ROB in between Vasantha City and Indu Fortune. The second option was from Miyapur Metro depot to Calvary temple. The Principal Secretary directed the officials to examine both the proposals immediately. J Mohan Naik, CE HRDCL, Ziauddin CE (Maintenance), Harichandana ZC, Serilingampally were also present.

**BEAUTIFICATION UNDONE**

**Beautified flyovers now show off only ugly remains**

NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD

All flyovers in the city that were beautified ahead of international summits last year are now wearing an ugly look. Masab Tank flyover and HiTec City flyover were beautified during the COP11 and GES summits now look far worse than when they were 'beautified'.

Their sorry state is the result of lack of maintenance and poor upkeep. The art work, which once looked truly classy, has either peeled off or got degenerated by moisture. Many flyovers at Punjagutta, Secretariat, Masab Tank and Langer Houz were painted with bright colours, which now lie pock-marked with gutka and pan stains and rusty-brown trails of dripping water and dust accumulation.

The flyovers were beautified keeping in view the large attendance of international delegates visiting the city for the prestigious events. Irrespective of whether delegates like Ivanka Trump saw the beautified flyover during GES or not, several national and international visitors keep arriving in the city and use the same routes used by those delegates of international conferences.

However, the flyovers were never re-painted after those big events. Curiously, the ones that underwent beautification have not even been white-washed as part of regular maintenance that other flyovers receive - they are simply left to



the mercy of elements, instead.

It is only when there are global level summits that these select flyovers get the attention of artists. During such times, the GHMC takes up city beautification efforts under CSR funds contributed by some corporates. While the civic body collects funds for beautification but there is no ownership of the maintenance responsibility, leaving the frequently-used flyovers in shabby condition.

A civic official who chose not to be identified said that the responsibility of maintaining flyovers rests with the wing which has taken up the beautification activity during the summit. Similar is the case with fountains at Masab Tank, which are non-functional currently.

"Typically, flyover beautification is taken up by the biodiversity and engineering wings of the respective zones. The wing

**Vertical gardens cry for maintenance**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Vertical gardens set up underneath the flyovers at Panjagutta, Paradise and Begumpet are crying for maintenance. The vertical garden consists of a racked series of pots with lots of different species of plants put up around the flyover. Besides giving the place an aesthetic look, the vertical gardens also help curb pollution. But some of the plants in the pots couldn't stand the heat and withered away. Officials claim that dur-

ing summer there were casualties to plants in the vertical gardens. Other losses include people damaging the pots or plucking out plants.

A senior official from the biodiversity wing said, "The repairs to the vertical gardens at flyovers are underway and will be completed in a few days. The damage happened during summer due to heat. We give new pattern to the pot arrangement at places where more than 10 plants need to be replaced so that there is change in the look."

which chose the executing agency is responsible to ensure the beautified flyover continues to sustain its beauty."

But as things transpired, each wing kept passing over the buck without owing the responsibility.

**Wasting water? Now, you'll have red blot on your house!**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

HMWSSB as part of Water Leadership and Conservation Alliance (WALC) will conduct survey in various localities of Hyderabad on water usage status of houses shortly.

Based on level of water wastage observed, houses are allotted colours including red, orange, green and blue. Blue color indicates houses which are not wasting water and have rainwater harvesting pits, while green colour indicates houses without any wastage of water. Orange colour indicates houses with leakages in metre chambers and leakages at motors during lifting of water from sump to overhead tanker.

Red colour indicates houses with water coming onto road, washing vehicles or pets or watering plants or cleaning premises with pipes, without bibcocks and those with illegal motor connection. Officials will observe the colour codes and will be updated as per observations from subsequent visits.

HMWSSB linemen, Slum Level Federation members, Community resources persons, SHG women will conduct surveys and categorise the houses based on the guide-



**Houses are allotted colours — red, orange, green and blue — based on the level of water wastage observed by the water board. Blue color indicates houses which do not waste water and have rainwater harvesting pits**

lines and colour coding. For houses found to be wasting water, one-one counselling will be given and once wastage is reduced colour code is changed.

A pilot of the categorisation was done in Kodandaram nagar under Dilsukhnagar by Manager, Priyanka's team.

**'Hara... Bhara' challenge gaining ground**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The 'Hara Hai Toh Bhara Hai' a challenge making waves on Twitter got further momentum after Telangana MP J Santosh Kumar nominated three persons -- YSRC MP Mithun Reddy, Vijay Sai Reddy and actor Akhil Akkineni, who shared pictures on social media, -- to take the drive ahead.

On Monday, Maharashtra MP Supriya Sule, who was nominated by YSRC MP Mithun Reddy, accepted the challenge

and nominated Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Mahila Congress leader Sushmita Dev and BJP national vice president Bajajayant Jay Panda.

Professor Kodandaram of Telangana Jana Samithi also shared a picture of him planting a sapling during the drive. GHMC corporators are also been taking the challenge further in city limits.

The #GreenChallenge is observed to commemorate the death anniversary of India's former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam who used the

term 'Hara Hai Toh Bhara Hai' for the first time. Ever since its launch in July, residents of Hyderabad have widely accepted the challenge.

Supriya Sule tweeted: "I have accepted the #HaraHaiTohBharaHai #GreenIndiaChallenge by @MithunReddyYSRC and thereby have planted trees in Jaujibuvachiwadi Zilla Parishad School in my constituency. I request @RahulGandhi @sushmitadev and @Pandajay to plant 3 trees and continue the chain."



Supriya Sule posing with a sapling she planted, in a post on Twitter on Monday

**Officials crack whip on pvt buses**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Transport Department officials have cracked the whip on buses run by private travels. In raids on Sunday night, which continued till Monday morning, officials filed cases on 44 buses for plying without paying taxes and permissions. Officials have also seized seven buses during the flash inspections.

Officials inspected private buses plying on Hyderabad to Bangalore, Vijayawada and Mumbai routes. About 200 buses were inspected and seven were seized.

**Step-mother arrested for murdering minor girl**

**Woman strangulated girl, mutilated body, dumped it in open plot**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Medchal police on Monday arrested a 30-year-old woman for murdering her step-daughter and dumping her body in an open plot in Medchal. The incident had taken place on July 20.

The crime scene where the mutilated body of the minor girl was found presented a stomach-churning sight. The girl's body was partially wrapped in a plastic bag with the face completely carved away to the bone and eyeballs missing.

The body was found by locals in an open plot in the colony



where the woman lived. The disfigured face of the girl prompted them to call the cops who reached the spot with a CLUES Team and the dog squad. Police had said then that opined that girl was between 12 and 15 years old, and was murdered elsewhere but the body dumped was in the open plot.

The dead girl was later identified as Jyothika, a student of a government school nearby.

The woman accused has been identified as Pitla Nagamani, who works as a labourer. She was married to Subramanyam, who had a 12-year-old daughter, Aravamala Jyothika, from his first marriage.

Following investigations, police determined that Nagamani had murdered Jyothika by strangulating her with a towel, disfiguring her body to make it hard to identify and then dumping it in an open plot.

The CLUES Team took sam-

ples of blood stains and fingerprints of the murdered from the spot. "The girl was murdered in a house at Brundavan Colony in Medchal. The room where she was murdered was covered with sheets of cloth and the blood stains were washed clean. The CLUES Team collected blood stains by using chemicals. They reconstructed the crime scene and seized a towel that was used to strangle the girl," said PV Padmaja, DCP of Balanagar.

Speaking to the media, the official said that Pitla Nagamani married Subramanyam in November 2018.

**City has only 11 Rythu Bazaars against required 50**

**THE POPULAR FARM MARKETS HAVEN'T KEPT PACE WITH TIME, POPULATION**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In the ever-expanding twin cities, which spread over an area of 650 square km, the popular Rythu Bazaars number only 11, against a stipulated figure of 50. This is leading people to spend at least three-four hours on travel to the farm markets to buy vegetables. The city should at the least have 27 Rythu Bazaars, one for each Assembly constituency if nothing else.

The existing Rythu Bazaar were set up in 1999 to keep up with the population size of the city then, but while city's population grew the number of Bazaars did not keep pace with it. The first Rythu Bazaar was set up when the population of greater Hyderabad was 40 lakh, but now it has crossed 1 crore. The agri marketing department has expressed its inability



to set up new Rythu Bazaars citing paucity of space. It says that a Bazaar requires at least an acre to accommodate the outlets. It doesn't want set up them on land less than an acre available on the outskirts, sources say.

As per the National Institution of Nutrition (NIN)

recommendations, the per capita intake of vegetables and fruits should be 300 gm and 100 gm, respectively. Accordingly, the city needs 3,000 tonnes of vegetables.

In fact, the recommendation is that there should be one Rythu Bazaar for every 10,000 population. The GHMC's pro-

**As per the National Institution of Nutrition (NIN) recommendations, the per capita intake of vegetables and fruits should be 300 gm and 100 gm, respectively. Accordingly, the city needs 3,000 tonnes of vegetables**

posal to set up model markets in the city is yet to take off.

Rythu Bazaar themselves too need a makeover and some regulating. Even in the current digital era, old-world scales are still in use here. At some markets, traders even cheat the public by under-weighting. There are discrepancies in prices written on blackboard at the Rythu Bazaars and the sale price of vegetables. It is alleged that consumers who visit the Bazaars often complain about farmers overcharging for their

produce. Buyers also object to the practice of not selling quantities less than half kg, citing reasons as trivial as non-availability of a 250 gm counter-weight. Introduction of digital scale should help resolve such issues.

Besides, middlemen abound, and exercise authority over farmers at the Rythu Bazaars. There are a total of 200-250 shops in all the Rythu Bazaars in GHMC region. Each Rythu Bazaar on normal days trades 1,500-2,000 quintals of vegeta-

bles, while the bigger ones at Yerragadda, Kukatpalli, Sarooranagar and Mehdiptnam sell at least 3,500 quintals a day. On an average about 10,000 customers visit each of the Rythu Bazaars and the average volume of trade is put at Rs 15-20 lakh per day.

On Sundays, the footfall increases to 25,000. The trade volume also goes up to Rs 50 lakh. The sales are carried out by middlemen in the name of farmers. In spite of such high volume of trade, nobody allegedly pays commercial tax here.

Marketing department director Lakshmi Bai said that adequate spaces are hard to find in the city. At least one acre land is needed to set up a Rythu Bazaar. She hinted at increasing the 'Mana Kuragayalu' stalls across the city to meet the people's needs.

**Heavy rush in government hospitals**

Continued from Page 1

Hospitals located in the new district headquarters have also been witnessing heavy rush for the past four days. Patients waited for two days initially in the hope that Arogyasri would be resumed soon, but with the impasse still on patients were guided by the rural doctors to area hospitals and community health centres.

The intake in even primary health centres located in taluq and mandal headquarters saw high intake and the doctors and services in those hospitals were being monitored by medical and health department officials for smooth conduct. Health Commissioner Manik Raj is reportedly making surprise visits to community and primary health centres in an attempt to motivate doctors and patients from the interior parts.

## NCC cadets to the rescue of rural folks

PNS ■ WARANGAL

In a novel initiative, the National Cadet Corps attached to LB College in Warangal city are helping the uneducated in writing their grievance applications. The District Collectors usually receives grievance applications from the public and resolves them through various departments and for this purpose, a grievance day is held every Monday in the district Collectorate offices spread across the state.

As many people from various parts of the district flock the Collectorate and submit their grievances, some uneducated, who are unable to write grievances, are relying on the writers working in the offices at the office complexes till date. Following this, the NCC cadets of the LB College of Warangal took up the task of writing applications for the villagers by erecting a tent on the Collectorate premises and opened a help desk. This help desk, according to NCC officials, would be a continuous process at the Collectorate of Warangal rural district and in Warangal Urban. On Monday, around 100 applications have been filed by 25 cadets of the NCC and this service has received accolades from the public.



Panchayat Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao at a review meeting in Hyderabad on Monday

# DEVADULA PROJECT, A LIFELINE FOR RYOTS

■ ERRABELLI ASKS OFFICIALS TO ENSURE THERE ARE NO GLITCHES IN FILLING MI TANKS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Panchayat Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao has directed the officials to ensure that there are no glitches in filling irrigation tanks while discharging water from J Chokkarao Devadula Lift-Irrigation Scheme. He asked the officials to carry out the schedule drawn for the purpose with the help of irrigation, police and revenue departments.

He said that concerned MLAs would cooperate wholeheartedly in carrying out the task. Reviewing the water release schedule from the

Devadula LI Scheme with officials in a meeting held at Secretariat on Monday, he put the inflows into river Godavari remarkable, despite delayed monsoons, and noted that all tanks across the state, except those in Janagoan district, are full with water.

Therefore, Devadula water is the lifeline for the farmers of the district, which is reeling under the impact of drought-like conditions. To ensure good kharif crops in the district, water should be pumped through canals into the tanks in the rain-starved district's tanks and ponds.

In undivided Warangal dis-

trict, there are at least 418 tanks under Devadula project. A permanent plan to release water to fill these tanks should be implemented in a foolproof way. The government will not tolerate anyone creating hiccups to fill tanks with Devadula water, he said and asked officials to give publicity to it by beating of drums in villages.

He asked the officials to get tough with those who are likely to cause damage to culverts, pump sets and flood banks of tanks. The farmers should be sensitised to ensure that the tail-end lands receive irrigation facility so that farmers would not pose any problem.

The irrigation officials should share information on water release with the revenue and police personnel. The police should take up all measures, including patrolling, to ensure the whole exercise is carried out smoothly. The plan should ensure that the tanks in Devaruppala, Singarayapali, Kadivendi and Satapuram should be filled without fail. The officials should also focus on completing the Uppugal, Chennuru and Palakurti reservoir works as early as possible. While releasing water, farmers of Vardhannapeta and Parakala should not encounter any problems, he said.

## Left parties should unite to counter BJP, says CPI

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

State General Secretary of CPI Chada Venkat Reddy on Monday exhorted the left parties across the country to join hands to counter the BJP and TRS governments and their anti people policies both at the Centre and the state.

Addressing the media persons in Karimnagar, the CPI leader said that the two ruling parties, BJP at Centre and TRS in Telangana, were indulging in framing anti-people policies.

The CPI leader said the BJP in particular was indulging in the violation of Constitution by encouraging various controversial Bills in the country. The ruling party is trying to belittle the Right to Information Act and it is trying to involve in several excesses by introducing



35 bills in the Parliament and securing 32 bills passed with their extra powers.

The CPI leader pooh-poohed the BJP working president, JP Nadda on his claims that the BJP was coming into power in the Telangana in the coming days. "It is ridiculous," he commented. The CPI leader demanded the BJP to spell out what it did for the Telangana state and questioned why the

people of Telangana should give an opportunity to BJP, which has hindered the proposal of the establishment of a steel factory in Telangana.

The CPI leader alleged that the BJP was grossly neglecting the values of democracy and carrying out several anti-people policies in the country. Venkat Reddy questioned why the BJP was mum on the issues pertaining to the increasing expenditure in the Kaleshwaram project.

The Centre should have questioned the TRS regime for this additional expenses," he said. The CPI leader was critical about the role of BJP in the Triple Talaq issue. He said the BJP was day-dreaming about its presence in Telangana and added that this opinion was accelerated with the failures of TRS regime in the state.

## Amaravati's bleak future to boost Hyd realty

Continued from Page 1

"When Hyderabad itself is selling about 25000-30000 units per annum, the past AP government planned for one new lakh homes every year. There is nothing wrong in planning big but unless new investors and industries come, social infrastructure and jobs are created, people do not shift to a new city. About 20 reputed builders started projects in AP capital, but yet to make gains. Though existing

investors may have a plan in place, new investors will wait with a change in government. However, Hyderabad is no alien land to AP citizens and will continue to charm both common people and high profile investors," said a senior member of TREDA, seeking anonymity.

With new launches rising in both office and residential space in Hyderabad, the land prices have been rising at so rapid pace that in hotspot

West Hyderabad locations, where most of Hyderabad IT industry is centered, one square yard of land is costing more than a lakh. With prices skyrocketing in locations like Gachi Bowli, Hitech City, Kokapet, Nanakramguda, Financial District and others areas in west Hyderabad, realtors and construction companies are looking towards less explored East and northern Hyderabad regions for better deals.

## 'BJP spitting venom on TRS'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Niranjan Reddy on Monday objected to Central BJP leaders slinging mud on the government as if state governments are feudatories and the Center is their emperor.

Taking part in a book release function held at Harita Plaza here on Monday, he said contrary to laudatory remarks of some Central Ministers on the state's Mission Kakatiya and Mission Bhagiratha programmes, JP Nadda and other leaders on Sunday criticised the TRS government without rule or rhyme and warned them against earning the wrath of the people.

Against advice of the Niti Aayog to grant of Rs 24,000 crore to Telangana, the Center did not release at least Rs 24 to the state, which emerged as the torch-bearer for the whole country with its schemes. However, the Central leaders

**TRS will not tolerate projecting development in TS in bad light, Niranjan cautioned BJP**

indulged in no-holds-barred criticism of the TRS government, he remarked.

The BJP, which did not build a worthwhile project that is capable of irrigating at least 5-6 lakh acre, but claiming building toilets in UP as a great achievement, he compared. Officials in Union government praised completion of Kaleshwaram project in three years, while the BJP leaders are trying to play with their shameless and brazen allegations. It was not proper on the part of the BJP to spew venom against the TRS, he said adding

that people will always hold KCR close to their chest ignoring conspiracies hatched against the state government. The TRS government is a legitimate government established by stature; he said adding that it was against on having a collision course with the Center.

The TRS would not tolerate projecting development in Telangana under bad light, he cautioned the Center. The TRS MPs voiced in parliament the demand to linking of NREGS with agriculture, he said adding that it would benefit farmers immensely. Two installments have been credited in the farmers bank accounts under the Rytu Bandhu and Rytu Bhima schemes, the brainchild of CM K Chandrasekhar Rao. Further installments would also be credited into their bank accounts as per the schedule, he said adding that the scheme benefits over 51-lakh farmers.

## Kodela alleges he faces threat from YSRCP

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Former Assembly Speaker Kodela Sivaprasada Rao has alleged attacks on his house from rival YSRCP leaders and perceived security threat to him because of the political harassment to him and his family from the ruling party. He alleged foisting of false cases against him and his family members to settle political scores. He said that he would peacefully agitate if the police fail to provide security to him and his family members and register his protest as per the party orders. Tension prevailed in the former speaker's residence, as YSRCP leaders left near the house of Kodela Siva Prasada Rao a tractor laden with cable wires. Earlier, the TDP and YSRCP rivals clashed over cable TV and disconnected sizeable quantity of the wires.



## Flood level in irrigation projects decreases

PNS ■ NAGARJUNASAGAR

The officials on Monday closed 12 gates of Nagarjuna Sagar and discharging inflows into the project, which have albeit diminished, through 14 gates. Currently, the project discharges 2.16 lakh cusecs, while the inflow into the reservoir is put at 4.60 lakh cusecs. The total outflow is 2.55 lakh cusecs.

Against the total storage capacity of 312 tmc, the reservoir has 303.94 tmc. Against

the full reservoir level of the dam 590 feet, the water level reads as 587.70 feet. Meanwhile, officials have closed five of the gates of Srisailem project as the inflows decreased considerably into the reservoir. The inflows are measured as 3.87 lakh with outflows reaching 2.47 lakh cusecs. The water level measured in the project is 883 feet against the FRL of 885 feet.

The right bank hydel power station has been discharging

30,459 cusecs, while the left bank power house has been discharging 42,000 cusecs downstream.

The Potireddypadu head regulator has been discharging 34,000 cusecs downstream. The flood level in Pulichintala project has come down considerably. The inflow into the reservoir is put at 2.99 lakh cusecs, while the outflow is put at 2.09 lakh. Against the 45.77 tmc FRL of the project, the water level in the reservoir measured as 36.66 tmc.



## Three YSRCP candidates elected MLCs

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Three YSRCP candidates on Monday were unanimously elected as MLCs under MLAs' quota. The newly-elected MLCs are: Minister Mopidevi Venkataramana, minority leader Mohammad Iqbal and Kurnool district leader Challa Ramakrishna Reddy. Later, Mohammad Iqbal and Challa Ramakrishna Reddy received certificates from the returning officer.

As the YSRCP has full majority in the Upper House, none from the Opposition TDP filed nomination papers. The returning officer invited nominations on Aug 14, scrutinized them on Aug 16. With the deadline for withdrawal expiring on Monday, the returning officer declared that all YSRCP candidates elected unopposed.

## Cyber security: TS partners with Israel

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyber security Centre of Excellence, Telangana has partnered with an Israeli organisation, Cybertech events to organise a forum for Indian and Israeli minds together to share experiences, network and enrich the conversation surrounding the most pressing issues in cyber security.

Speaking on the occasion, Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce, said, "Telangana, the youngest state in India has a thriving innovation ecosystem, which is evident in the fields of Cyber security and privacy. It is the first state in India to have its own Cyber security policy and established a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Cyber security, which is catalysing the Cyber security ecosystem, especially the startups and the Global Capability Centres of MNCs,

**TS has a thriving innovation ecosystem, which is evident in the fields of cyber security: Jayesh Ranjan**

who have their operations setup here. India and Israel's cyber security partnership could be a potential game changer. This meetup will be an excellent opportunity for the participants to exchange ideas and form global collaborations to foster the growth of the cyber security and privacy industry."

Dr Sriram Birudavolu, CEO, Cyber security CoE said, "Cyber security and privacy are two of the cornerstones of the industry, economy and society in an increasingly cyber-phys-

ical world. The Telangana Cyber security CoE will not only uplift the Cyber security and Privacy quotient in the ecosystem, but also help organisations exploit the burgeoning \$231 billion global market in these areas. Indo-Israel bilateral collaborations will be extremely beneficial in this regard."

Amir Rapaport, Editor-in-chief and Founder, Cybertech, Israel said, "It is our first Cybertech session in collaboration with Cyber security Center of Excellence in Hyderabad: Government officials and companies from Israel and India met for an unprecedented discussion on the challenges and opportunities in cyber, as well as a unique technological display."

Speakers for this event include Jayesh Ranjan, Amir Rapaport, Editor-in-chief and Founder, Cybertech, Israel, Ravi Narayan, CEO, THub,



## NCC cadets help rural folks

PNS ■ WARANGAL

In a novel initiative, the National Cadet Corps attached to LB College in Warangal city are helping the uneducated in writing their grievance applications. The District Collectors usually receives grievance applications from the public and resolves them through various departments and for this purpose, a grievance day is held every Monday in the district Collectorate offices spread across the state.

## Somesh Kumar becomes blue-eyed officer of CM

Continued from Page 1

Somesh continued in Tribal Welfare department till December 2016. He was again given a plum posting as Principal Secretary of excise and commercial taxes in Revenue department in December 2016. Ever since, Somesh has never looked back.

He was promoted as Special Chief Secretary later. In January

2018, he was given additional charge as Excise Commissioner replacing Chandravadan. In May 2019, the government elevated him further and appointed as Principal Secretary of Irrigation and CAD department in addition to the position of Special Chief Secretary for Excise and Commercial Tax, Revenue Department, which he was already holding.

Now, Somesh Kumar has been delegated powers to han-

dle the all-important land related issues in the Revenue department in a minor reshuffle of senior IAS officers on Sunday, replacing Rajeswar Tiwari.

Presently, both Somesh Kumar and Tiwari are Special Chief Secretaries of Revenue. Somesh was dealing with subjects of Excise and GST till now. Tiwari has been transferred as Special Chief Secretary of Environment and Forests.

## Karnataka plans new barrage across Tungabhadra

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Karnataka government has been hatching a ploy to build another barrage across River Tungabhadra at Nawali to make up for the loss of 31 tmc of water due to silt formation in the dam. The government sought Tungabhadra River Board permission to construct the same.

Responding to this, the board asked the government of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to air their views on the proposals. The government of Telangana said that the construction of the barrage would

hamper Telangana meeting its desired quota of water share under the left canal of the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS).

The water storage capacity of the existing dam across Tungabhadra was greatly reduced to 100 tmc from the earlier 132 tmc when the dam was inaugurated in 1953. The earlier tribunals entitled Karnataka to draw 212 tmc of water from Tungabhadra. However, the state could draw only 172 tmc due to silt formation in the project across Tungabhadra. Construction of new reservoir would help the

state make up for the loss. The view was aired at the Tungabhadra board meeting held in December last year in Hyderabad. The plan is to dig a flood canal to transport daily 17,900 cusecs of water to the new reservoir when the river is in spate. Also, it proposed to augment the capacity of the Sivapura and Vithalapura tanks.

The Telugu states told the Board to air their views only after going through the detailed project reports. So far, Karnataka did not submit the DPRs to Telugu states. Depositing before the board at the meeting held in Bengaluru

on Saturday, irrigation E-in-C Muralidhar sought details of water use of Tunga and Bhadra rivers and extent of water pumping through more and more lift-irrigation schemes.

Though Telangana has been allocated 15.9 tmc under the RDS, only 5 tmc could be used, he said highlighting it before the board. The construction of the barrage would affect the water allotments to states by the tribunal.

He said that the government would give its nod for the construction of barrage provided the board gives a categorical assurance that the state

**The govt of TS said the construction of the barrage would hamper Telangana meeting its desired quota of water**

of Telangana gets its due share of water from Tungabhadra and from the proposed barrage at Nawali. The Government of AP also said to have told the board that it would air its opinion only on receipt of the DPR.



SHORT READS



Elephant tramples 29-year old man

**COIMBATORE:** A 29-year old man was trampled to death by a wild elephant on the city outskirts early on Monday, police said. Ganeshan, a driver, was returning home in Pannimadai on the city outskirts, when the single elephant which strayed from a nearby forest area suddenly chased and attacked him. He sustained serious injuries on his head, abdomen and legs, police said. Anti-poaching watchers, who were on patrol, noticed the man lying injured and rushed him to the Government Hospital where he was declared brought dead, police said.

HC stays order to disclose info on tenure extn of LS secy general in 2011

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi High Court on Monday put on hold its single judge's order directing the Lok Sabha Secretariat to disclose information on extension of tenure of secretary general of the Lower House in 2011. While staying the July 2 order, a bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar also issued notice to the RTI applicant, who had sought the information, asking him to file his response by February 3, the next date of hearing. The Lok Sabha Secretariat, represented by advocate Rajshankar Rao, has challenged the single judge's ruling that information on extension of tenure of secretary general of Lok Sabha was not exempted under the RTI Act as it was granted by the speaker of the House.

Only teachers report to schools in Kashmir

**SRINAGAR:** Teachers reported to work in many schools in Kashmir as restrictions were eased further on Monday but not many students were seen. Officials said the government has made necessary arrangements for opening of 190 primary schools in Srinagar city as security forces remained deployed in most of the Valley. But all private schools in the city remained shut for the 15th consecutive day as parents were apprehensive about the security situation in view of violent protests over the past two days. Only Police Public School at Bemina and a few Kendriya Vidyalayas saw a handful of students turning up. "There is so much uncertainty in the situation that sending kids to school at this stage is out of question," Farooq Ahmad Dar, a parent, said. Officials in Baramulla district said schools in five towns remained closed. In the rest of the district, schools were opened, they said. "There is no relaxation in restrictions in Pattan, Palhalan, Singhpora, Baramulla and Sopore towns. Primary schools in the rest of the district are open. We are collecting details about the number of students who have reported at their respective schools," an official said. A senior Srinagar district official said a few schools on the periphery were opened but in the old city and in civil lines areas, they remained shut due to violence over the past two days.

Nation wants closure on Netaji mystery, says Bose

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Chandra Kumar Bose, a BJP leader and one of the grand nephews of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, on Monday took exception to the PIB tweet observing August 18 as the freedom fighter's death anniversary and said the mystery surrounding his disappearance was yet to be resolved.

Any announcement regarding the death of Netaji should only be made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he asserted.

"Nation wants a closure on #NetajiMystery, particularly to stop the false theories spread by persons with vested interest. A tweet by @PIBIndia is not the right approach. Such an announcement must be officially announced by hon'blePM @narendramodi ji based on documentary evidence," he tweeted.

The BJP leader insisted that the Centre should procure files on Netaji's disappearance from Japan and conduct a DNA test of his "remains" preserved in Japan's Renkoji temple.

He also sought the Intelligence Bureau (IB) files in this connection. "Now that the #NetajiMystery issue is raging across the nation-for a proper



**Chandra Kumar Bose (@Chandrabosebjp)**  
Nation wants a closure on #NetajiMystery, particularly to stop the false theories spread by persons with vested interest. A tweet by @PIBIndia is not the right approach. Such an announcement must be officially announced by hon'blePM @narendramodi ji based on documentary evidence

closure please get 3 files kept in Japan, conduct DNA test of remains at Renkoji & release IB files to solve the mystery," Bose posted on Twitter, tagging the PM, Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP National General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, PIB Ahmedabad among others. The Press Information Bureau had on Sunday tweeted, "#PIB

"The Modi government has shown great respect to Netaji and I think if the mystery surrounding his disappearance or death has been solved, it should be announced with respect, not in the manner the PIB did. He may have or may not have died in Renkoji. We are waiting to know the truth," he said.

Several reports have claimed that Netaji had on August 18, 1945 boarded a plane from Taihoku Airport in Taiwan, which crashed leading to his death.

There is, however, no confirmation as experts have come up with different theories.

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

On September 1, 2016, the Narendra Modi government declassified investigative reports of the Japanese government, which concluded that Bose died in a plane crash in Taiwan. Reports have also suggested that his remains are preserved at Renkoji temple in Tokyo.

Will surrender in court in next 3-4 days: MLA Anant Singh

PNS ■ PATNA

Controversial Bihar MLA Anant Singh, evading arrest in a case under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, has said he will surrender in court in the next three-four days.

In a video message, the independent MLA from Mokama, who has several serious cases pending against him, also said he will interact with journalists on his return from hiding.

"I am not afraid of getting arrested. I have come to see my ailing friend and will surrender in the court in next three-four days." But first of all, I will go to my flat and interact with journalists," the legislator said in the video clip sent to media houses on Sunday. Singh was booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) after a police team raided his ancestral house at Ladma village in Patna district and seized an AK-47 rifle, a magazine, live cartridges and two hand grenades on Friday. Parliament had recently passed an amendment to the anti-terror law to give powers to the Centre to design



I am not afraid of getting arrested. I have come to see my ailing friend and will surrender in the court in next three-four days. "But first of all, I will go to my flat and interact with journalists

— ANANT SINGH, Controversial Bihar MLA

nate an individual as terrorist and seize his properties.

The accused legislator claimed he had sought an appointment with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar but failed. Contending that he had not visited his ancestral house in the past 14 years, Singh asked, "Why would I keep weapons like AK-47 in a house which is shared by my enemy?"

Singh has a running feud with his cousin Vivekanand Singh, a gangster.

Police conducted a second raid at the 1, Mall Road, official residence of Singh in Patna on Saturday but he was not present, Superintendent of Police

Kantesh Kumar Mishra said. His accomplice Chhotan Singh was, however, apprehended from there.

A sword and a mobile phone were also seized from the legislator's official residence.

The SP said the raids were carried out in the presence of a magistrate and the caretaker, in accordance with the law. The entire exercise has been recorded on video, the officer said. Mishra also said that a separate FIR was being lodged with Sachivalaya police station in Patna against the MLA for giving shelter and protection to Chhotan Singh, an accused in a criminal case lodged with Barh police station.

Ritesh Batra to direct web series on Indira Gandhi

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Ritesh Batra of "The Lunch Box" and "Photograph" fame will be directing Vidya Balan's debut web-series on Indira Gandhi.

Vidya has bought the rights to Sagarika Ghose's book "Indira: India's Most Powerful Prime Minister" on which the series will be based. "Ritesh is directing the series," a source close to the development said.

Vidya, who was seen in the recently released film "Mission Mangal", had earlier said in an interview, the project has been under development for a while courtesy its subject. "I am doing a web series and it is my debut, Ronnie Screwvala is producing it.

It is taking a long time to put it together as there is so much material. "The web series requires a lot of work. So it is taking time but let's see. I hope it doesn't take longer," the actor had said.

Rahul recalls Rajiv Gandhi's achievements in IT, telecom

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Remembering his father, former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday drew attention to his achievement in bringing an information technology and telecom revolution in the country.

He said to celebrate his father's 75th birth anniversary, the Congress party will organise memorial events across the country.

The former prime minister's

birth anniversary falls on August 20.

"This week we will celebrate my father, Rajiv Gandhi's 75th birth anniversary with memorial events across India.

"To honour him, each day this week, I will draw attention to one of his many incredible achievements. Today, the Information Technology revolution," Rahul Gandhi said on Twitter. He shared a 55-second clip highlighting the IT achievements during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure as prime minister.



Goa court to resume trial against Tejpal from Sept 23

PNS ■ PANAJI

A Goa court will resume trial from September 23 against Tehelka magazine founder Tarun Tejpal in a sexual assault case lodged by his former woman colleague.

North Goa district judge Vijaya Pol fixed September 23 as the next date of hearing after the Supreme Court on Monday dismissed Tejpal's plea seeking quashing of charges framed against him.

A SC bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra asked the lower court to complete the trial preferably within six months. Tejpal is alleged to have sexually assaulted the complainant inside an elevator of a five-star hotel in Goa in 2013. He has denied the allegations. He was arrested on November 30, 2013 by the crime branch after his anticipatory bail plea was rejected by the court. He has been out on bail since May 2014. The Goa Police earlier claimed there were "contemporaneous" WhatsApp messages and e-mails which warrant that the Tehelka magazine founder face trial in the case.

The trial court in Mapusa town of Goa earlier framed charges against Tejpal under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including those related to sexual harassment and provisions related to rape.

Jammu traders demand extension of deadline for filing IT, GST returns

PNS ■ JAMMU

City-based traders' body Monday demanded extending the deadline for filing income tax and GST returns as internet and other communication channels are disrupted following the Centre's move to revoke provisions of Article 370.

In a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman the Chamber of Traders Federation (CTF) said its demand be considered as a special case in view of the prevailing situation in the region.

"We demand extension of dates for filing of income tax and GST returns in view of the peculiar ongoing situation in Jammu and Kashmir following abrogation of Article 370," President CTF, Neeraj Anand

told reporters here.

Anand said it is unlikely that traders would be able to file tax returns as internet and other communication channels are barred in the region.

"We at CTF firmly stand with the government and welcome all the measures that can bring lasting peace to our state that is suffering due to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism," he said.

CTF appreciates the patience of the business community which despite suffering huge losses is supportive of initiatives to permanently rid the state of violence and political uncertainty, Anand added.

"We hope that the government would provide necessary relief to augment trade once situation becomes congenial," he said.

10 killed in rain-related incidents in Uttarkashi

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The scale of devastation caused by heavy rains in Uttarkashi unfolded on Monday with the recovery of more bodies from different villages in the district, taking the total number of people killed so far to 10 while six others were missing.

Search and rescue operations, which were hampered by bad weather on Sunday, resumed on Monday amid relatively clear weather in the affected area with three helicopters including one from the IAF pressed into service to take relief material including food packets and essential medicines to people.

"Ten bodies have been recovered from rain-hit areas of the district so far while six are still missing," Disaster Management Secretary Amit Negi and IG SDRF Sanjay Gunjyal said at a joint press conference on their return from Arakot where a base camp equipped with communication facilities to monitor rescue operations has been set up.

Four bodies each were recovered from Makudi and Arakot while one each was recovered from Tikochil and



Contact has been established with people in around half a dozen affected villages while efforts are on to reach six more which are likely to have been affected by rain-related incidents like cloudbursts, landslides and inundation by swollen rivers

Sanel, Gunjyal said. However, six people are still missing from the affected villages of the district.

Contact has been established with people in around half a dozen affected villages while efforts are on to reach six more which are likely to have been affected by rain-related incidents like cloudbursts, landslides and inundation by

swollen rivers, Gunjyal said. With the improvement in weather on Monday rescue operations are going on in full swing in affected areas with state police, ITBP, PAC and SDRF personnel engaged in the exercise, he said.

The exercise was partially hit by bad weather on Sunday, Disaster Management Secretary Amit Negi said.

ISRO to inject Chandrayaan2 into lunar orbit today

PNS ■ BENGALURU

In a significant milestone for India's Moon mission, ISRO will fire Chandrayaan2's liquid engine on Tuesday to insert the spacecraft into a lunar orbit.

"It's tomorrow morning (tentatively between 8.30 am and 9.30 am). It's challenging," Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation K Sivan told PTI on Monday on the operation to put the spacecraft in an orbit around the Moon.

Following this, there will be further four orbit manoeuvres to make the spacecraft enter into its final orbit passing over the lunar poles at a distance of about 100 km from Moon's



surface, ISRO has said.

Subsequently, the Vikram lander will separate from the orbiter on September 2, according to the Bengaluru-headquartered

space agency. Two orbit manoeuvres will be performed on the lander before the initiation of powered descent to make a soft landing on the

Following this, there will be further four orbit manoeuvres to make the spacecraft enter into its final orbit passing over the lunar poles at a distance of about 100 km from Moon's surface, ISRO has said

lunar surface on September 7, ISRO said. Chandrayaan2, launched on July 22 by GSLV MkIII-M1 vehicle, had entered the Lunar Transfer Trajectory on August 14 after final orbit raising manoeuvre of the spacecraft was successfully carried out.

The health of the spacecraft is being continuously monitored

from the Mission Operations Complex (MOX) at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru with support from Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) antennas at Bialalu, near Bengaluru. All systems on board Chandrayaan2 spacecraft are performing normal, ISRO

said on August 14. According to ISRO, Chandrayaan2 — India's second lunar expedition — will shed light on a completely unexplored region of the Moon, its South Pole. "This mission will help us gain a better understanding of the origin and evolution of the Moon by conducting detailed topographical studies, comprehensive mineralogical analyses, and a host of other experiments on the lunar surface," the space agency has said. "While there, we will also explore discoveries made by Chandrayaan1, such as the presence of water molecules on the Moon and new rock types with unique chemical composition," it said.

South African woman held with heroin at Delhi airport

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A South African woman has been arrested at the Delhi airport for allegedly carrying nearly five kg of heroin worth Rs 20 crore, an official said on Monday.

She arrived at the Terminal-3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) on Saturday from South Africa via Doha by Qatar Airlines flight, he said.

The woman was intercepted by the Customs officers after she had crossed the Green Channel, the official said, adding that her person-



al and baggage search resulted in the recovery of white coloured powdery substance with granules.

The powdery substance, recovered from two brown coloured packets concealed in a checked-in trolley bag, was found to be heroin weighing in total 4,900 g valued at Rs 20 crore, he said.

# Heavy rains to continue in Himachal; toll touches 22

PNS ■ SHIMLA

While heavy rains have already claimed 22 lives in Himachal Pradesh over the past two days, the meteorological department on Monday predicted that the downpour is likely to continue in parts of the state during the next 24 hours.

Light-to-moderate rainfall will occur at many places in the state in the next 24 hours with heavy rains expected at isolated places, Shimla Met centre Director Manmohan Singh said.

Over 500 people are stranded in several parts of the state as a number of roads have been blocked by landslides and flash floods, officials said.

**The National Disaster Relief Force is diverting the water accumulated in Kangra district's Nurpur sub-division by digging an alternative route, an official said. Multiple landslides blocked the flow of water in streams and formed a big artificial lake in Khadetar village in the sub-division**

Efforts are on to clear the roads and restore traffic to move them to safer places.

The National Disaster Relief Force is diverting the water accumulated in Kangra district's Nurpur sub-division by digging an alternative route, an official said.

Multiple landslides blocked the flow of water in streams and formed a big artificial lake

in Khadetar village in the sub-division.

Residents of Trindi, Danni, Mairka, Lador, Thana, Hindorhaat, Letri and Jassur villages have been asked to vacate their houses, the official added.

In Chamba district, several roads remain blocked, another official said.

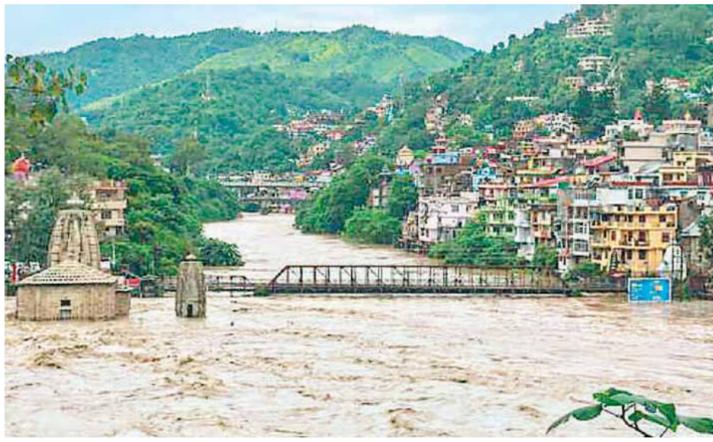
The Chamba-Pathankot

road has been blocked at Parihar, the Chamba-Chowari road via Jot has been blocked at Bhatlwan Ghar and Mathunu.

The Lahru-Sihunta road is blocked at Lahri Bhatti near Lahru; the Lahru-Tunnuhatti road is blocked at Barian Gala.

The Kihar-Chamba road is blocked at Gharatnala and Rohala Nullah near Sundla; the Tissa-Chamba road is blocked at Pangola Nullah; and the Chamba-Pangi road is blocked at Saach Pass.

At least 22 people were killed and 12 injured in rain-related incidents in the state on Sunday, officials said, adding the total loss amounted to Rs 490 crore.



## SHORT READS



### 13 killed, 15 hurt in truck-bus collision in Maharashtra

**DHULE:** At least 13 people, including two children, were killed and 15 others injured when a container truck collided with a state transport bus in Maharashtra's Dhule district, a police official said on Monday. The accident took place around 10.30 pm on Sunday near Nimgul village on Shahada-Dondaicha road, he said. The truck driver lost control over the wheels following which the vehicle collided with the bus which was on way to Aurangabad from Shahada town in Nandurbar district, he said. "Thirteen people, including two women, two children and drivers of both the vehicles, were killed in the mishap," the official said. While 11 of them died on the spot, two succumbed at a hospital in Dondaicha town of Dhule, he said. The injured persons were undergoing treatment at two local government hospitals where the condition of three of them was reported to be serious, he said.



### Sonia Gandhi condoles demise of Jagannath Mishra

**NEW DELHI:** Congress president Sonia Gandhi has condoned the passing away of former Bihar chief minister Jagannath Mishra. In her condolence message, Gandhi said as a three-time Congress chief minister of Bihar, Union Cabinet Minister and PCC president on many occasions, Mishra always stood for the interests of the deprived and the marginalised minorities in society. He will be remembered for a long time to come, Gandhi said. Mishra died on Monday following a prolonged illness, family sources said here. The 82-year-old leader had been suffering from cancer and was undergoing treatment in the national capital, where he breathed his last in the morning, they said.

# Cabinet to be expanded today: says Yediyurappa

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The expansion of the Karnataka cabinet will take place on Tuesday and 13-14 ministers are likely to be inducted, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said on Monday.

"The cabinet expansion will take place between 10:30 and 11:30 am tomorrow. I have already written a letter to the Governor in this regard. I have asked Chief Secretary to make all arrangements," he said. Speaking to reporters here, Yediyurappa said after the expansion, a cabinet meeting will be held. Having run the government with a "one-man cabinet" for over 20 days, Yediyurappa on Saturday got a go-ahead from BJP national president Amit Shah to undertake the exercise on August 20.

Yediyurappa, who took oath as chief minister on July 26 and proved his government's majority on the floor of the Assembly on July 29, is yet to induct any minister into his cabinet.

The chief minister and the state leadership is expected to get clear instructions from the high command about those to be inducted into the Ministry, by Monday afternoon.

"By Monday afternoon we will get a clear instruction on who all to be inducted, I have held discussions with Amit



**The cabinet expansion will take place between 10:30 and 11:30 am tomorrow. I have already written a letter to the Governor in this regard. I have asked Chief Secretary to make all arrangements**

—BS YEDIYURAPPA, Karnataka Chief Minister

Shah and other leaders. We will get to know by the afternoon," Yediyurappa had said soon after his return from Delhi on Saturday night.

Asked about the number of ministers likely to be inducted on Tuesday, he said, "13 to 14 people are likely to be inducted in to the cabinet in the first phase, there may be plus or minus one or two, we have now recommended 13 to 14 of them."

Yediyurappa has a tightrope to walk during the cabinet expansion as he has to craft a fine caste and regional balance,

in view of large number of aspirants, sources said.

However, with no decision yet by the Supreme Court on 17 disqualified Congress-JD(S) MLAs, whose resignation from the Assembly paved the way for the BJP to gain power, the chief minister has no immediate compulsion to accommodate them.

Amid pressure from within, opposition parties, the Congress and JD(S) too had hit out at the BJP over the delay in cabinet expansion, and had even raised questions about the government's "existence".

## MAHARASHTRA

# Deluge-hit gear up to rebuild lives

PNS ■ SANGLI

Hundreds of submerged sugarcane farms, damaged houses with only sludge inside, decomposed animal carcasses lying around with people struggling to clean their dwellings to get on with life - this is the scene in several flood-ravaged villages of Sangli and Kolhapur.

Heavy rains and floods battered several areas of western Maharashtra and Konkan region earlier this month, with Kolhapur and Sangli districts bearing the maximum brunt.

With the flood waters now receding, residents of these two districts are gradually trying to gather whatever they are left with to rebuild their lives and damaged homes.

A walk through some of these villages presents a dismal picture of devastation and havoc caused by rain fury and its far-reaching effects on locals. A poultry farm on way from Bhilawadi to Brahmanal village in Palus tehsil of Sangli was seen completely washed away in the flood waters, with only muck remaining and a decomposed animal carcass stinking nearby. The damaged vegetation and bent electric poles were an indication of the force with which flood waters must have gushed into the area, submerging everything that came its way.



**Heavy rains and floods battered several areas of western Maharashtra and Konkan region earlier this month, with Kolhapur and Sangli districts bearing the maximum brunt**

Heaps of clothes donated by people were seen lying on roadsides as many of the locals did not pick them up because they were worn out.

In Bhilawadi village, some shop owners were seen cleaning their establishments, with some local groups and NGOs lending a helping hand in disposing of garbage from the area.

Mauli Salunkhe, 52, a native of flood-hit Brahmanal village now working in a Pune-based company, dubbed it as the Krishna river's wrath, but said they were prepared to

rebuild things from scratch.

"Krishnamai (the mother river) took everything which we had in our houses, but it's ok. We will build our house again," he said.

He expressed grief over the boat capsizing incident on August 8 during a rescue operation near Brahmanal village that killed 17 people.

"I can only say she (the river) washed away our village. I feel sad that some many people died in the incident," Salunkhe said, adding he managed to shift his aged parents to Pune before the situation

worsened in the village. After the flood waters started receding, Salunkhe came back to the village with some food and clothes to help the residents, he said while cleaning his house along with other family members.

As he was speaking, a tempo carrying rice, wheat and other relief material arrived in the village, prompting Salunkhe and others to run to collect it.

Another local resident, Shital Lote, said the area witnessed flood-like situation every year during rains but they were not prepared for devastation of such a magnitude this time.

"There were hundreds of cattle in the village before the deluge. Some were later shifted to safer places and some were left to their fate," he said.



## RAVIDAS TEMPLE DEMOLITION

# SC says its orders cannot be given 'political colour'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said that its orders on the Guru Ravidas Temple in Tughlaqabad forest area here cannot be given a "political colour".

A bench comprising Justices Arun Mishra and M R Shah asked governments of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi to ensure that no law and order situation is created politically or otherwise during the protests over the demolition of the temple.

"Everything cannot be political. Our orders can't be given a political colour by anybody on earth" the bench said.

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) had demolished the temple pursuant to the orders of the apex court, which had on August 9 observed that "serious breach" had been committed by Guru Ravidas Jayanti Samaroh Samiti by not vacating the forest area as earlier ordered by the top court.

Following the demolition of the 500-year-old temple, protests have been staged at several places in Punjab and Delhi by political parties and members of the Dalit community. At the outset, Attorney General K K Venugopal, who was on

**Everything cannot be political. Our orders can't be given a political colour by anybody on earth**

— THE BENCH

August 13 asked by the top court to assist in the matter, said that demolition of the temple has been carried out by DDA in pursuance to the top court order and a total of 18 organisations are staging protests against it.

Venugopal told the bench that since a number of organisations have been agitating against the demolition it is very difficult to pinpoint a particular person behind the protests. To this, the bench said in case the matter is settled, there is no difficulty but if the issue remains the court will take up the matter for hearing.

Venugopal then told the bench that it should direct governments of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi to ensure that the law and order situation is maintained.

The bench asked governments of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi to ensure that "no law and order situation is created politically or otherwise".

## FOETAL DEATH

# 2 pvt hospital doctors guilty of negligence: UP Medical Council

PNS ■ NOIDA (UP)

Two doctors of a private hospital here have been charged with negligence that resulted in the death of a foetus in March, according to a report of the Uttar Pradesh Medical Council.

A Greater Noida-based couple, both software engineers, had approached the Sector 49 police station in March after the death of their yet-to-be-born at the Cloudnine Hospital in Sector 51.

An FIR was registered under Indian Penal Code Section 304 (causing death by negligence) and the doctors named as accused.

Ankit Garg had alleged in his complaint to police that doctors Pratibha Singhal and Ritika Dinanath had "delayed" in attending to his wife Shweta Kashyap when she was in labour and their "child died due to negligence".

The matter was taken up by the Gautam Buddh Nagar chief



medical officer and then referred to the Meerut Medical Board before it reached the UP Medical Council and an investigation was ordered in the case.

"Dr. Pratibha Singhal and Dr. Ritika Dinanath were found guilty of not fulfilling their medical responsibilities during an inquiry meeting of the UP Medical Council on July 25," the report stated.

"Hence, they are being warned to stay responsible towards their medical com-

mitments and strictly cautioned not to repeat such negligence in future," it added.

The report, however, said the on-call doctor, Dinanath, should not be blamed for the death as she was the only doctor available at the hospital at the time of the incident in March.

A copy of the medical council's order has been sent to the district magistrate, the senior superintendent of police, the doctors of the hospital and the complainant.

# J&K move correct; economy needs to be corrected: Swamy

PNS ■ PUNE

BJP lawmaker Subramanian Swamy has said the withdrawal of Jammu and Kashmir's special status was correct but the state of economy "needs to be corrected" as this issue is also important for national security and nation-building.

The Rajya Sabha MP told reporters Sunday the "wrong policies" adopted during former finance minister Arun Jaitley's tenure were responsible for the economy slowing down. He also criticised ex-Reserve Bank of India governor Raghuram Rajan for raising interest rates.

"I think the wrong policies adopted during the tenure of Arun Jaitley, which are still in force, such as levying high taxes are some of the reasons for the slowdown... Increase in interest rates by former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan was one of the reasons



(for the slowdown)," said Swamy.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event in Pune. Replying to a question on the Centre's move to scrap the provisions of Article 370, which gave special powers to Jammu and Kashmir, and the economy, Swamy said, "The economy needs to be corrected. My advice was not sought on the economic front. My advice was sought on Article 370, and it was done correctly."

# Lotus leaf-inspired device that separates oil from water

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati have developed a device that can continuously separate oil from water by strategic use of fish-scale and lotus-leaf inspired membranes.

The team developed the system of materials by combining the lotus leaf-inspired super-water repellence and fish scale-mimicked underwater super-oil repellence.

The membranes that are super-water repellent in air, and super oil-repellent in water, have been shown to separate complex mixtures of oil and water at practically relevant settings, according to the journal



ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering.

Oil-water separation is also important in environmental applications like oil spill management.

The team then developed a prototype of oil-water separation device using these membranes so that the separated oil and water were simultaneously collected in different con-

tainers. "Oil-water separation is of current relevance because many industries, such as mining, textiles, food and petrochemicals, produce massive volumes of oily wastewater, which must be treated before discharge," said Uttam Manna, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, IIT Guwahati.

The lotus leaf for example, is water repellent so that it does not get soggy in its living space, researchers said.

Fish, on the other hand, has a body surface that repels oil in order to survive in polluted waters, they said.

Scientists have studied the surface structures of lotus leaves and fish scales to understand what gives them their

superhydrophobicity (super-water repellence) and superoleophobicity (super-oil repellence), so that these structures can be replicated artificially for oil-water separation applications.

Lotus leaf-inspired superhydrophobic materials and fish scale-inspired superoleophobic materials were developed following a single and unique deposition process and tested for gravity-driven removal of oil from water.

While these bio-inspired membranes are individually used to separate oil and water in the recent past, there is accumulation of water or oil on the membrane over time, which blocks further separation.

**HONG KONG PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION**  
**'Tiananmen Square' crackdown would harm trade: Trump**

**AFP ■ WASHINGTON**

US President Donald Trump has warned China that carrying out a Tiananmen Square-style crackdown on Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters would harm trade talks between the two countries. "I think it'd be very hard to deal if they do violence, I mean, if it's another Tiananmen Square," Trump told reporters in New Jersey on Sunday. "I think it's a very hard thing to do if there's violence."

Hong Kong has been roiled by protests for more than two months and on Sunday hundreds of thousands of democracy activists had marched peacefully in the city despite rising unrest and stark warnings from Beijing.

There have been increasingly stark warnings from Beijing over the protests, and state media has run images of military personnel and armoured personnel carriers across the border in Shenzhen.

China's 1989 crackdown in Beijing's Tiananmen Square saw tanks sent in to end student-led protests, resulting in hundreds if not thousands of

deaths.

Trump's comments came as Washington and Beijing look to revive pivotal talks aimed at ending their trade war, which has roiled world markets.

**Bank of England chief pulls out of Chinese event**

**London:** Bank of England governor Mark Carney has withdrawn from a high-profile business event with China's ambassador to London, sources said Monday, as pro-democracy protests continue in Hong Kong. Carney had been due to speak at the dinner, aimed at boosting Chinese business links, which is scheduled for September 3 at the Guildhall, the administrative centre of the City of London financial district. However he will not now attend because of "diary issues", a source close to the matter told AFP.

Some local politicians are reportedly unhappy at the timing of the event, as Hong Kong police continue to clash with democracy activists. **AFP**

**Sudan's Bashir got \$90m from Saudi, investigator tells court**

**AFP ■ KHARTOUM**

Sudan's deposed military ruler Omar al-Bashir has admitted to receiving USD 90 million in cash from Saudi royals, an investigator told a Khartoum court on Monday.

Police Brigadier Ahmed Ali said at the opening of Bashir's corruption trial, which an AFP correspondent attended, that the former president told him that the latest payment was "delivered by some of Mohammed bin Salman's envoys".

Bashir, whose military Islamist regime ruled Sudan for 30 years, arrived at the Judicial and Legal Science Institute where the trial is taking place in a huge military convoy.

Inside the courtroom, he was sitting in a metal cage,

unshaven and wearing a white traditional gown.

His relatives in the courtroom chanted "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest), to which he responded with the same words.

The former strongman was forced from power on April 11 after months of protests.

A transitional constitution meant to guide Sudan towards civilian rule was officially signed on Saturday.

Bashir faces a raft of charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide from the International Criminal Court over his role in the war in Sudan's western Darfur region.

However, the jailed leader appeared in court Monday on charges of receiving and possessing foreign funds illegally.

The police investigator told

the court that nearly seven million euros (USD 7.8 million) were found at Bashir's residence, as well as smaller amounts in US dollars and Sudanese pounds.

"The accused told us that the money was part of a sum of USD 25 million sent to him by Prince Mohammed bin Salman to be used outside of the state budget," Ahmed Ali said.

The investigator said Bashir had said he also received two previous payments of USD 35 million and USD 30 million from Saudi's King Abdullah, who died in 2015.

The investigator said Bashir had said the Saudi money was exchanged and spent and that he could not remember how nor did he have documents providing further details.

**Pak Army chief Gen Bajwa gets three-year extension**

**PTI ■ ISLAMABAD**

Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa's term has been extended for another three years by Prime Minister Imran Khan in view of the "regional security environment", an official announcement said on Monday.

General Bajwa, 58, who was appointed as the Chief of Army Staff by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in November 2016, was to retire in November.

"General Qamar Javed Bajwa is appointed Chief of Army Staff for another term of three years from the date of completion of current tenure," read the brief notification issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

"The decision has been taken in view of the regional security environment," the notification said, citing the decision

made by Prime Minister Khan, apparently referring to the fresh tension in India-Pakistan relations and the ongoing Afghan peace talks between the US and the Taliban militants, facilitated by Islamabad.

Commenting on the extension given to the Army chief, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that it was essential due to the regional situation.

Having served as corps commander of Rawalpindi, Gen Bajwa has vast experience of dealing with issues related to Kashmir and the Line of Control, The Express Tribune reported.

In a country prone to frequent military coups, the army generals who, enforced many years of martial law in Pakistan since independence in 1947, have held power for nearly as long as the civilians.

**GLOBE TROTTER**

**IRAN OIL SUPERTANKER SAILS OFF GIBRALTAR**

**London:** An Iranian oil supertanker released from detention by Gibraltar last week has set sail with its crew, majority of them Indians, on board soon after the local authorities said that they were unable to seek a court order to detain the vessel on a US warrant.

**PROTESTERS TORCH PARL IN INDONESIA'S PAPUA**

**Manokwari:** Thousands of protesters in Indonesia's West Papua province set fire to a local parliament building on Monday in a violent protest against the alleged insults and arrests of Papuan students, officials said.

**EU CHIEF JUNCKER TO MISS G7 AFTER SURGERY**

**Brussels:** EU president Jean-Claude Juncker will miss next weekend's G7 summit in France as he is recovering from urgent surgery to remove his gall bladder, a spokeswoman announced on Monday. The 64-year-old former Luxembourg prime minister was forced to cut short his summer holiday to undergo surgery in his home country this weekend and doctors have advised him not to travel.

**GREEK BISHOP CONVICTED OF HATE SPEECH RESIGNS**

**Athens:** An octogenarian Greek Orthodox bishop convicted of inciting violence against gays remained defiant as he stepped down on Monday, calling his sentence a "badge of honour".

**UK to end EU free movement immediately after Brexit**

**AFP ■ LONDON**

Britain said Monday it will immediately end freedom of movement for people from the European Union after Brexit on October 31, in a policy shift under Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

"Freedom of movement as it currently stands will end on October 31 when the UK leaves the EU," a Downing Street spokeswoman said. She added the government planned "tougher criminality rules for people entering the UK" as part of the new headline stance.

"Details of other changes immediately on October 31 for a new immigration system are currently being developed," the spokeswoman said.

The change comes amid growing fears Britain is set to leave the 28-member bloc without a divorce deal in two and a half months. Around 3.6 million EU citizens already in Britain have been told to apply for "permanent settled status", under an interior ministry scheme started by Johnson's predecessor Theresa May.

**Controversial General accused of war crimes named as Sri Lanka Army chief**

**PTI ■ COLOMBO**

A controversial Sri Lankan Army general accused of grave human rights abuses during the country's 26-year brutal civil war with the LTTE was on Monday appointed the new Army Commander, evoking strong criticism from the US and the minority Tamils.

President Maithripala Sirisena's office on Monday announced that Lt Gen Shavendra Silva has been named as the new army commander.

Silva, 55, will take charge as incumbent Army chief Lt Gen Mahesh Senanayake's service was not extended.

Silva headed the Army's 58th Division in the final bat-

tle against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels in the final stages of the civil war in 2009.

His brigade was accused of attacking civilians, hospitals and stopping humanitarian supplies to trapped Tamil civilians.

Silva's name was mentioned in the resolution passed by the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in 2013, alleging rights abuses by the Sri Lankan Army. The Sri Lanka Army has denied the alleged rights abuses.

Critics say Silva's appointment as the Army chief may strain Sri Lanka's cooperation in UN Peacekeeping operations and the defence cooperation between the US and Sri Lanka.

**19 killed in Uganda fuel truck blast: Police**

**Kampala:** Nineteen people died when a fuel truck barreled into other vehicles in a busy town in western Uganda and exploded, police said Monday. The blast occurred Sunday evening in the Kyambura trading centre, a mountainous area near the Queen Elizabeth National Park.

"Ten people died instantly when the fuel truck lost control and hit three other vehicles, leading to multiple explosions that also burned 25 small shops," said regional police spokesman Martial Tumusiime. **AFP**

**US MULLS LEAVING INTELLIGENCE ASSETS IN AFGHANISTAN AFTER TROOP WITHDRAWAL**

**PTI ■ WASHINGTON**

The US is considering leaving "significant intelligence" assets behind after withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan as it does not want the war-torn country to become a "laboratory for terror", President Donald Trump has said.

Trump's comments come after he met with top national security advisers to review a US-Taliban peace plan that could end America's longest running war.

"We're talking to Afghanistan, both the government and also talking to the Taliban, having very good discussions. We'll see what happens.

**Syria forces enter key town amid fierce clashes: Monitor**

**AFP ■ BEIRUT**

Syrian regime forces entered a key northwestern town on Sunday amid intense fighting with jihadists and their rebel allies which has left dozens of combatants dead, a war monitor said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported "fierce clashes" as it said regime ground troops penetrated Khan Sheikhun in Idlib province for the first time since

they lost control of it in 2014.

The latest fighting, which broke out overnight Saturday to Sunday, has already killed at least 59 jihadists and allied rebels as well as 28 members of pro-regime forces, the Britain-based monitor said.

Pro-regime forces also called Syrian Arab Army (SAA) have been advancing over the past few days in a bid to encircle Khan Sheikhun from the north and west and to seize a key highway.

**Af vows to crush Islamic State havens after attack**

**Kabul:** Afghanistan's President is vowing to eliminate all safe havens of the hardline Wahhabi ISIS group as the country marks a subdued 100th Independence Day after a horrific Shia wedding attack claimed by the local ISIS affiliate.

President Ashraf Ghani's comments Monday come as Afghanistan mourns at least 63 people killed in the Kabul bombing.

Many outraged Afghans ask whether an approaching deal between the United States and the Taliban to end nearly 18 years of fighting will bring peace to long-suffering civilians.

A sharply worded Taliban statement questions why the US failed to identify the attackers in advance. **AP**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE**  
**Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)**  
N.I.T. No.: 04/19-20 dated 19.08.2019. (1) Name of work with its location: Proposal for establishing, operating, managing & maintaining CT/MRI centre in already built up space in Northern Railway Central Hospital (NRCH), New Delhi. (2) Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 10,00,000. (3) Earnest Money: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-ICT/51 dated 31.08.2016). Rs. 5,00,000. (4) Completion period of Work: 120 Months. (5) Cost of tender on cash/bid post: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-ICT/51 dated 31.08.2016). Rs. 29,500/-. (6) Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15:00 hrs. on 13.09.2019 Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs. On 13.09.2019. (7) Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. No.: 128-W/269/OET/19-20/NRCH/NIT 04 Dated: 19.08.2019. 2659/2019  
**Serving Customers with a Smile**

**JAMMU & KASHMIR POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer, EM&RE Div-II, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu**  
**Phone No: 0191-2458521, e-mail:eeemrd2@gmail.com**  
**e-NIT No.: 55 of 2019 Dated: 16-08-2019**

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**  
For and on behalf of the Governor, Jammu and Kashmir State, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are invited for Replacement of ACSR LT Conductor with LT AB Cables of Sizes 120/50mm, erection of New LT line, insertion/replacement of Poles on LT/HT lines & creation of Isolation Points on Feeder SN-I on turnkey basis Under Languishing projects sanctioned by JKIDFC For Industrial Complex Gangyal from Self Help Groups/ A Class Electrical Contractors of J&K having Valid Registration Certificate for the year 2019-20 and meeting eligibility criteria as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this tender document. **S.No.1. Name of work :- For Replacement of ACSR LT Conductor with LT AB Cables of Sizes 120/50mm, erection of New LT line, insertion/replacement of Poles on LT/HT lines & creation of Isolation Points on Feeder SN-I on turnkey basis Under Languishing projects sanctioned by JKIDFC For Industrial Complex Gangyal** Cost of Document (in Rs) :- 500/- Earnest Money/ Security Deposit (In Rs.) :- 88000/- Date & Time of Downloading of Bidding Documents :- 17.08.2019 from 5:00 PM Last Date of e-Bid Submission :- 03.09.2019 (upto 04:00 PM) Time & Date of Opening of tender :- 04.09.2019 at 03:30 PM 1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications. 2. The tender document is available at website <http://jkidders.gov.in> Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bids online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below: **Sd/- Executive Engineer Elect Maint & RE Division-II Gandhi Nagar, Jammu** No. DIP/J-2153-P/19 Dated: 17-08-2019

**NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Sr. DEE/EMU/GZB for and on behalf of President of India. Invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work.  
1. N.I.T.No. 232-Elect-EMU-WC-02-19-20  
2. Name of the work Provision of Guidance, Assessment & Implementation and Certification Work of Green Co Rating at EMU Car Shed, Ghaziabad  
3. Tender cost Rs. 2360.00 (online payment mode available on IREPS website)  
4. Approximate cost Rs. 530000.00  
5. Earnest Money Rs. 10600.00 (online payment mode available on IREPS website)  
6. Completion period 06 Months  
7. Validity of offer 45 days  
8. Date & Time from tender advertised on IREPS website 17.08.2019 (11:52 hrs.)  
9. Date & Time from tender submission start and end 30.08.2019 (00:00 Hrs) to 13.09.2019 (15:00 Hrs.)  
10. Tender closing Date & Time 13.09.2019 (15:00 Hrs.)  
11. Date & Time of tender Opening (immediately when tender submission ends) 13.09.2019 (15:00 Hrs.)  
Note 1: A participant Tenderer/Tenderers will submit their requisite documents along with the tender offer. "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional document shall be entertained after opening of the Technical & Commercial offer. Even suo-moto post tender letters of the tenders shall be treated as null & void".  
Note 2: Duplicate documents should not be enclosed/dup loaded.  
Tender Notice is available on website of [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) No. 232-Elect-EMU-WC-02-19-20 Date: 17.08.2019 2659/2019  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED (A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)**  
**GLOBAL E-TENDER NOTICE FOR PRE-NIT MEETING**  
Name of Area : MM Dept. ECL Hqrs. Tender No. and Date : ECL/Pur/31981043/PreNIT/043 Dated : 13.08.2019. Name of Work : Pre NIT Meeting for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station along with CAMC for 03 year after warranty period. Venue of Pre NIT Meeting : Office of GM(MM)/HOD, ECL Hq., Sanctoria - 713333. Estimated Tender Value : Rs. 47,84,250.00. Document Download Start Date : From 11.00 Hrs. IST of 20.08.2019. Uploading Suggestion online End Date : At 11.00 Hrs. IST of 10.09.2019. Suggestions Opening Date : At 11.00 Hrs. IST of 11.09.2019. Pre-NIT Meeting Date : At 11.00 Hrs. IST of 20.09.2019. Note : Details of tender can be seen in [www.easterncoal.nic.in](http://www.easterncoal.nic.in) or <http://eprocure.gov.in> or <http://coalindiateenders.nic.in> General Manager(MM)/HOD  
**VISIT US AT [www.easterncoal.nic.in](http://www.easterncoal.nic.in)**

**Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (Procurement Cell)**  
**Tel No. 022-24150628**  
**E-mail- md@vaccinehaffkine.com**  
**Acharya Donde Marg, Parel, Mumbai 400 012 (INDIA)**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Date:- 10/08/2019.  
Ref:-Tender No.RT-959/ HBPC/PC/MRI with Turn Key/2019-20.  
Managing Director, (Procurement Cell), Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., Mumbai had invited tenders in two envelope systems from eligible bidders for equipment/instruments for various Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals in Maharashtra.  

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Tender Item.	Period of sale & preparation of bid	Date for PreBid Meeting	Date of Bid Submission	Date of Bid Closing	Bid Opening
1.	RT-959	MRI Machine with Turn Key.	From 12.08.2019 10:00 am to 02.09.2019 up to 14:00 hrs.	19.08.2019 at 11 am Bidders have to submit their queries through email.	From 12.08.2019 10:00 am to 02.09.2019 up to 14:00 hrs.	02.09.2019 at 14:00 hrs.	06.09.2019 at 14:01 hrs.

  
For detailed information, the interested bidders may visit the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>  
For e-tendering help/information, please contact.  
Website:- <https://mahatenders.gov.in>  
Contact No. 1800-233-7315, 91-7878107985, +91-7878107986, +91-7878007972 and +91- 7878007973  
Email:- [eproc.support@maharashtra.gov.in](mailto:eproc.support@maharashtra.gov.in)  
**Sd/- Dr. Vijay Juvekar General Manager, Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd, (Procurement Cell, Mumbai)**  
DGIPR/2019/2020/2036

**ICICI Home Finance**  
**Registered office:** ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051  
**Corporate Office:** RPG Towers, Andheri Kurla Road, J.B. Nagar, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400059  
**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi- 110055  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.  

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property / Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	M/s Mica Industries Ltd. / Vinay Gupta / Vikas Goel / NHDEL00000738641	Flat No. 0001, (Ground Floor), Block No. 04, Harmony, Nirvana Country, Gurgaon / Aug 14, 2019	March 30, 2019 Rs. 85,95,433/-	Delhi/ Ncr
2.	Shahnawaz Nabi / Noorussaba Rahmani/ NHDEL00000737969	STR 8-402 4th Floor, Star Court Jaypee Greens Tower -T-8, Gr. Noida 201301 / Aug 14, 2019	October 03, 2017 Rs. 45,69,060/-	Delhi/ Ncr

  
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 days Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.  
**Date : 20-08-2019**  
**Place : Delhi/ NCR**  
**Sd/- (Authorized Officer) ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd.**

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**  
**ICICI Bank ICICI Bank Limited**  
**Registered Office:** ICICI Bank Limited, Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara 390007  
**Corporate Office:** ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051  
**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi-110055  
Whereas  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.  

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Rajeev Kumar /LBDEL00003000725	Apartment Number 1106, 11th Floor, Tower K, Godrej Summit, Sector 104 Gurgaon/ Aug 13, 2019	April 30, 2019 Rs. 1,06,62,364/-	Del/Ncr
2.	Roshan Kumar/ Anil Jha/ LBDEL00003112806	C1-1701, Victory Ace, Plot No. GH-02, Sector-143, Noida, District Gautam Budha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh/ Aug 13, 2019	April 30, 2019 Rs. 76,85,127/-	Del/Ncr
3.	Jai Prakash Kothari/ Sanglia Jai Prakash Kothari/ LBDEL00002899569	B-1402, VVIP Homes, Meridian Towers Block A & B, Plot No GC-03/GH-03, Sec 16C, Greater Noida West, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, 203207/ Aug 13, 2019	April 26, 2019 Rs. 17,87,794/-	Del/Ncr
4.	Amit John/ Marthia John/ LBGHZ00001108274	Flat No. G-1 MIG Flat Plot No. 756, Shalimar Garden Extn 1 Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh/ Aug 13, 2019	April 30, 2019 Rs. 6,72,869/-	Del/Ncr
5.	Rainesh Mishra/ Priyanka Pandey/ LBGUR00002884134	Flat No. 1209 A, Arc Angels, Khasra No. 322 And 324 Village, Noor Nagar, Ghaziabad/ Aug 13, 2019	March 16, 2019 Rs. 30,64,553/-	Del/Ncr
6.	Namrata Raina/ Kumar Saurabh/ LBGUR00002481136	C1-1601, Victory Ace, Plot No- GH-02, Sector- 143, Noida, / August 13, 2019	April 30, 2019 Rs. 63,65,865/-	Del/Ncr
7.	Sumit Pratap/ Shilpi Parmar/ LBDEL00002392190	Flat No. A1-2701, 28th Floor, Victory Ace, Plot No. GH- 02, Sector 143, Noida, Distt Gautam Budh Nagar, Up/ August 13, 2019	April 30, 2019 Rs. 51,58,370/-	Del/Ncr
8.	Basant Kumar Dubey/ Kalyani Dubey/ LBNO000002353221	Flat No. A1-1903, 18th Floor, Victory Ace, Plot No. GH- 02, Sector 143, Noida, Distt Gautam Budh Nagar, Up./ August 13, 2019	April 30, 2019 Rs. 46,55,761/-	Del/Ncr
9.	Azra Khan/ Abdul Raheem Khan/ LBDEL00001662734 & LBGUR00002045283	E-902, 9th Floor, Amarpati Platinum, Plot No. GH-001, Sector- 119, Noida./ August 13, 2019	April 30, 2019 Rs. 50,16,775/-	Del/Ncr
10.	Vikas Choudhary/ Geetika Choudhary/ LBDEL00002032654	Victory Ace, Flat No. C3/1102, 11th Floor, Plot No.-GH- 02, Sector-143, Noida, District Gautam Budha Nagar./ August 13, 2019	April 30, 2019 Rs. 30,69,866/-	Del/Ncr
11.	Manoj Dudeja/ Sapna Mittal/ A J M D & Co/ LBDEL00002667225	Flat No. 402, 4th Floor, Tower- E, Capital Gateway, Sector 111, Gurgaon/ August 13, 2019	March 30, 2019 Rs. 93,81,256 /-	Del/Ncr
12.	Suraj Mal / Kamla / LBDEL00001085177	Flat No. B- 93/ UG- 2, Upper Ground Floor Part Of Free Hold Property No.B-93, Part Of Khasra Bearing No. 1076/5/2360 Situated At Dilshad Extn. No.1, Now Known As Dilshad Colony Village Jhilmil Tahipur Shahdara Delhi 110095 / August 14, 2019	March 02, 2019 Rs. 2,66,624/-	Del/Ncr

  
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 days Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.  
**Date : 20-08-2019**  
**Place: Delhi/ NCR**  
**Sd/- (Authorized Officer) ICICI Bank Limited**

# AIIMS needs fire lessons

Though lives were saved, poor compliance means years of precious research have been lost at the elite institution



The intensity of the massive blaze at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, and the leaping fury with which it engulfed its floors in a matter of moments can be gauged from the fact that it took nearly three dozen fire tenders over eight long hours to be doused. Had not AIIMS been a prized institution, perhaps the emergency response wouldn't have been activated with as much urgency and wilfulness but the fact remains that even the safety protocols at the most aware of places had not been reviewed

in three years, the last time being in 2016. AIIMS is one of the few hospitals in the city that has an interconnecting ramp to move patients in times of disasters. Perhaps this is why lives weren't lost in the country's premier hospital but imagine this in any other government facility and the mind adds to think what could be. Thankfully, the fire was confined to the pre-clinical and teaching blocks in the country's sought after facility but it did have all the hallmarks of a major disaster. And while AIIMS authorities are particular about top-notch research, they ought to be as sharp about protecting them. For though no human life has been lost, there has been immense loss of intellectual property in the long-term. Hundreds of blood samples at the micro-biology lab, rare viruses, crucial research, scholarly papers, case updates and expensive machines have been completely gutted. Findings are the basis of any medical breakthrough and the foundation for that is gone forever. And if administrators of such an evolved centre cannot be far-sighted about basic safety compliances or build efficiencies in awareness, then there is little to be expected of others. The Delhi Fire Department has said that some of the buildings, including the one that caught fire, did not have the requisite No Objection Certificate (NOC). The NOC is mandatory in the fire safety document, which is renewed every three years and certified annually.

Intriguingly, the general apathy to hospital and patient safety persists despite repeated outbreaks of fire at medical facilities across the country claiming scores of lives. Be it the AMRI episode in Kolkata, which claimed 92 lives, the ESIC Hospital in Mumbai or the SMU Hospital in Bhubaneswar, post-mortem has revealed how they blatantly ignored warnings and safety recommendations or pushed them out of the priority list in their greed to acquire more cutting-edge competitiveness in services. Yet patient care and safety in times of earthquakes, fire or floods do not even merit an intra-institution workshop. While the Delhi Police is waiting for the forensic report to deduce what led to this catastrophe, there are too many questions that demand answers. The hospital was not only ill-prepared but failed to adhere to the guidelines on hospital safety as mandated by the National Disaster Management Authority in 2016 and the National Building Code (NBC) 2005, which made the fire safety certificate mandatory for all buildings taller than 15 m. In fact, most Government buildings as also shop owners, restaurants, hotels, and other private buildings openly flout norms. Needless to say, the situation is all the more precarious in a hospital environment, which is home to those who are incapacitated and, thus, movement becomes challenging in case of a fire or any untoward incident. Even so, where building codes like alarms, sprinkler systems, hosepipes and insulation panels among others are in place, and where the builder claims to have used materials in line with the regulations, the actual turn out to be about fake compliance, the certificates usually got by greasing palms of local officials. In cases where NOC has been obtained, rarely are fire safety audits carried out. Most post-fire probes have revealed how encroachments and tweaks in open areas have made it really difficult for the firemen to even get into the core zone. They say no tragedy is dark enough that the gloom cannot be lifted. Two babies were born amid the raging fire. Which means going forward, beyond taking action against those responsible for the incident to ensure accountability, there needs to be a strict penal clause, including deregistration of the establishment concerned, if the prescribed safety norms are not met. Third-party audits, too, must be made mandatory to avoid conflict of interest between the municipal authorities and Government officials. Unless a system of checks and balances is put in place, we will never internalise the spirit of risk containment and expose ourselves to unimaginable dangers. And that would be foolhardy indeed.

# Concussion protocols

Several sports are taking the risks of head injury seriously. It's time that such norms go to lower levels of cricket as well



The sight of Steve Smith lying low after a bouncer from English bowler Jofra Archer must have sent a chill down the spine of those not only sitting at Lord's but also millions of spectators across the world. It was heartening to see Smith get up, something his Australian companion Phillip Hughes could not when he was struck by a bouncer in a domestic Australian game five years ago. However, nowadays, the worry is not just about immediate injuries but also the long-term consequences of head injuries, particularly concussions.

A concussion occurs when the brain bounces around inside the skull, leading to bruising of the brain tissue. This, as doctors and scientists discovered, particularly with players in America's National Football League (NFL), where there are regular head to head collisions, leads to a condition called Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE).

CTE is dangerous as it leads to early onset of dementia and a much reduced quality of life given that brain matter decays after years of physical abuse. The NFL initially ignored the complaints that some players made but after some high-profile suicides and several studies, it quickly rectified its standards to deal with the issue. Soon after the issues with CTE were identified, several other sports — even ostensibly non-contact sports like cricket — took notice. New concussion protocols have been brought in that consider the short and long-term effects of brain injuries. A bruise on the brain takes a while to heal and the Lord's Test set an interesting new first with Marnus Labuschagne becoming the first 'Like for Like' substitution in the history of cricket. In India, cricketers legends Farokh Engineer and Nari Contractor, both Parsis, were one of the earliest to be injured. It was from here that wearing helmets during matches became a common protocol. Other sports like soccer have also brought in concussion norms that force substitutions of players who have had an incident that a doctor feels has them shaken up. These are all positive moves and must be commended. However, one must remember that facilities at the top levels of sport and those at lower levels are often dramatically different. Several of these concussion routines are poorly enforced at lower levels of sport. Sure, the top players in the top leagues and highest echelons of sport face bigger dangers in a more competitive space but that is no excuse to ignore the clear and present danger of head injuries.

# Pak in a pincer attack

With the economy sinking and a failed bid at the UNSC, Islamabad is in no position to declare war or embrace peace. It will do well to focus on its internal problems



SANDHYA JAIN

A fortnight after the Modi Government defanged Article 370, scrapped its illegal appendage, Article 35A and split the northern State into the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir, Islamabad is groping for a coherent response. In May 1998, when the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee stunned the world by testing five nuclear devices (Pokhran-II) and made India a full-fledged nuclear state, Islamabad swiftly showcased its own nuclear capability.

This time, most world capitals overcame their surprise and accepted the changes in Jammu & Kashmir as India's internal matter; Pakistan was supported by the colonial-minded Western media and China, which arranged "closed consultations" (unrecorded) in the UN Security Council. India's action was breathtaking in its simplicity and audacity: Operating within the Line of Control (LoC), it took long-suffering Ladakh to its bosom as a directly-administered Union Territory while Jammu & Kashmir provinces were declared a separate Union Territory with an elected legislature. The Union Home Ministry will have direct supervision of both.

Political parties and dynasties that misused Article 370 to nurture separatist sentiments in the Valley while neglecting Jammu and Ladakh regions have been downsized and separatists put on notice. A zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism was already in place. Caught between a perilous economic situation with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) breathing down its neck on one side, and its jihadi groups on the other, Islamabad is in no position to declare war or to embrace peace.

Prime Minister Modi's artful jugglery has subtly avenged India's exclusion from the Afghanistan talks, making it difficult for Washington and Islamabad to put the Taliban in power in Kabul, with the acquiescence of Moscow and Beijing. This gives a breather to the Kabul regime that was also excluded from four-party negotiations. Washington is, thus, likely to remain trapped in the graveyard of empires because successive Presidents from George Bush Jr, Barack Obama and now Donald Trump would not consider gifting the impressive American arsenal to the Afghan Army, training it to use the same and making a dignified retreat.

Washington is unconcerned about the fate of President Ashraf Ghani, former President Hamid Karzai, their colleagues and supporters, should Taliban return to Kabul. But for India, this is a matter of deep concern. New Delhi's checkmate has put Islamabad in a bind: It cannot clinch the Taliban deal for Washington: It cannot compensate its jihadi mercenaries with escalated action in Jammu, Kashmir or



Ladakh. Its position is unenviable: To exit a *cul-de-sac* one must go back the way one entered but this route is not open to Pakistan. In the *Mahabharata*, Abhimanyu did not know how to escape the *chakravyuh*; Imran does but it is just not possible.

Scholars Asma Khalid and Mobeen Jafar Mir of the think tank, Islamabad Policy Institute, blame Pakistan for failing to anticipate and challenge India's hollowing of Article 370 despite clear signals. In a report, *Abrogation of Article 370: Implications & Policy Choices for Pakistan*, they urge Islamabad to launch a diplomatic blitzkrieg against India by emphasising the "disputed status of Kashmir", highlighting India's alleged human rights excesses and the threats to regional stability.

In a clear sign of Islamabad's political bankruptcy and lack of choices, Khalid and Mir urged their Government to work for convening an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the situation; at the "closed meeting" the four other permanent members said changing Jammu & Kashmir's Constitutional status is India's

internal matter. Islamabad is unlikely to accept the suggestion to move the International Court of Justice (ICJ) after its resounding defeat in the matter of consular access to Indian citizen Kulbhushan Jadhav.

Khalid and Mir bemoan the loss of Jammu & Kashmir's separate Constitution, flag and autonomy in all matters barring foreign affairs, defence and communications. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), they say, always proclaimed its intentions in its election manifestoes and in 2019, reiterated its determination to annul the Kashmir-specific Articles 370 and 35A.

Article 35A, introduced via Presidential order under Article 370 in 1954, empowered the State Legislature to define permanent residents and barred Indians from outside the state from permanently settling, buying land, holding local Government jobs or winning education scholarships there. It also barred female residents (and their children) from property rights in the event of marriage outside Kashmir. The spirit behind this legislation was to protect the identity and culture of Kashmiris and preserve

Kashmir's demographic character.

Interestingly, the scholars allege that the BJP's agenda is to secure demographic change in the Valley through resettlement of refugees from West Pakistan, Azad Kashmir and Chhamb. It is true that the BJP has been concerned about justice for the refugees, who entered Jammu & Kashmir during Partition and after, and the Scheduled Castes invited by Sheikh Abdullah to clean the city on promise of citizenship. However, Abdullah, supported by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, later denied them State subject status and its accompanying benefits. The issue is now redundant with the extension of the Constitution of India in its entirety to the new Union Territory.

Azad Kashmir is a sliver of Jammu Province, where pro-Pakistan radicals created trouble for Maharaja Hari Singh in 1946. Pakistan dubbed it as Azad Kashmir when it seized the area in 1947-48. Chhamb in Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh was an area of conflict in the 1965 and 1971 wars. Khalid and Mir charge that India will try to enhance Hindu representation in the Valley to

reduce the influence of Kashmiri (read Muslim) political parties in the event of a plebiscite under UN auspices, an idea scotched by Kofi Annan in 2001.

Moreover, the Security Council Resolution of 1948 is explicit that Pakistan must withdraw all military and civilian personnel from the occupied territory who were not there before August 14, 1947; India is to retain its military in Srinagar to administer the plebiscite. Hence, the Pakistani scholars' attempt to project India as an occupying power in the kingdom of Maharaja Hari Singh is a non-starter.

Pakistan fears that India's action of August 5, 2019, may impact the Indus Water Treaty are premature as India can achieve much by merely utilising its legitimate share of the Indus waters. As for the occupied territories, Home Minister Amit Shah has reiterated India's claim to the undivided kingdom, including Azad Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, and Aksai Chin. Pakistan would do well to focus on its internal problems.

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)

## SOUNDBITE

We have heard that if any ship sinks, the captain makes efforts to save it till the last breath. But the Congress' captain took the first plunge.



BJP leader — Shivraj Singh Chauhan

I'm not against the people of Pakistan. I love and respect all who love me. I'm against terrorism and against the Pakistan Army.



Actor — Adnan Sami

Any such statements that link the evolving situation in Kashmir to the Afghan peace efforts are reckless, unwarranted and irresponsible.



Afghan diplomat — Roya Rahmani

Government's absolute silence is dangerous. People are being removed from jobs. The BJP Government is mum.



Congress leader — Priyanka Gandhi

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Girl next door

Sir — This refers to the report, "Pati, Patni aur Woh actress no more" (August 16) by TN Raghunatha. In the death of Vidya Sinha, the Hindi film world has lost a talented artist of yesteryear. Producer-director Basu Chatterjee, who has a number of light comedies to his credit, ventured upon to portray Vidya in middle class love stories through his *Rajnigandha*, followed by *Chhoti Si Baat*. Both were big successes.

However, it was difficult for her to get ranked in big budget films as her contemporaries like Rekha, Mumtaz, Zeenat Aman, Hema Malini, Shabana Azmi, Jaya Bachchan, Parveen Babi, Smita Patil, Tanuja, Sridevi and Jaya Pradha, were crowding the field. As a result, she managed to get meagre big films like *Inkar* (Vinod Khanna), *Mukti* (Shashi Kapoor), *Karm* (Rajesh Khanna), *Tumhare Liye* (Sanjeev Kumar) and *Atmaram* (Shatrughna Sinha). These circumstances compelled her to switch over to television.

Anil R Torne Maharashtra

### The Damocles sword over Kashmir

This refers to the editorial, "India wins at UNSC" (August 19). It seems Pakistan's gambit of approaching the UN Security Council (UNSC) with the Chinese fronting for it has predictably ended in a whimper. Nothing came out from the closed door meeting at the UNSC. The panel talking out the special item without any clarity emerging on the collective position of the powerful body for it to be a diplomatic or a public opinion setback for India. The speech by Syed Akbaruddin, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, broke no new ground except helping the nationalist crowd feel good.

Still, 14 of the 15 members of the UN body were of the view that the changes resulting from the suspension of Article 370 were a matter internal to India and that issues arising between India and Pakistan must be resolved bilaterally. India succeeded in securing the support of Governments but this shouldn't mean it can rest on its diplomatic laurels. What is amazing is Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations, Zhang Jun, sullied his tongue with human rights. The world knows as to what is happening to the Uighur Muslims — more than a million people are



locked away in anonymous prisons without any rights to food, water and visits to family members and friends. It is the modern-day version of the Soviet-era *Gulag*. For better or for worse, India has chosen to walk a course where the Kashmir file will be a Damocles' sword, one that will constantly demand a price for unsheathing it.

JS Acharya Hyderabad

### For the sake of peace

Sir — More than 63 people have been killed in yet another suicide bomb attack at a wedding hall in Afghanistan. Terrorism has once raised its ugly head there. Given past records and going by the worst of suffering that the civilians have suffered at the hands of

many actors, including the Taliban and the Islamic State (IS), there seems to be no end to terrorism. Against this scenario, strong political measures and well-planned strategies are required to tackle the menace.

Simultaneously, it has been reported that peace talks have been going on between the US

and the Taliban. Let such interesting developments take place. Any attempt at subverting the peace process should be stopped forthwith and nipped in the bud. America has been of great help in this direction and should be so till peace returns in Afghanistan.

A peace deal for Afghanistan must include a long-term strate-

gy to protect it from evil forces and for that to happen, the world community must get its act together.

P Senthil Via email

### Integrate the Valley

Sir — This refers to the article, "Educational reforms must" (August 19) by CB Sharma. The actual scenario in the Valley will be visible only when restrictions are fully done with. Nevertheless, mainstreaming the youth will go a long way in restoring normalcy in the Valley. The process of counter-radicalisation and de-radicalisation must begin from schools. Nationalism and secularism should form an essential part of school syllabus and parents, too, must be counselled well about the bright future of their wards. And for that to happen, investment must start gradually. There should be job quotas so that the youth can see the positive change.

Bal Govind Noida

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Creating micro entrepreneurs

The direct selling industry is a major contributor to the economy. Misinterpreting legislation to harass firms amounts to killing the goose that lays the golden egg



HEM PANDE

Direct selling is the business of peer-to-peer sale, in which people earn a commission on goods sold. It is the marketing, distribution and sale of goods and services as part of a network of direct sellers, other than under a pyramid scheme. This industry, which is a major contributor to the economy, is expected to grow at a rate of nearly five per cent every year and be worth ₹15,930 crore by 2021. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, direct selling creates employment. As of now, direct selling firms employ over 50 lakh people in India, a number that is set to grow to 1.8 crore by 2025. And India needs these jobs. Facilitating job creation, inter alia, is one of the top priorities of the government.

This industry actively encourages the employment of women in large numbers and is a way to empower them by making them economically independent. Over 53 per cent of entrepreneurs engaged in direct selling in India are women. Stand Up India is a government scheme that incentivises female entrepreneurship by facilitating bank loans ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore. Direct selling is not only helping create women entrepreneurs, it's also helping the government meet yet another of its stated priorities.

All that India's direct selling industry needs is an enabling ecosystem, one that enables companies to conduct business in an atmosphere free of prejudice and fear. As things stand, there are very few regulations in place for direct selling companies in India. The Model Framework for Guidelines on Direct Selling, issued in September 2016 by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, remains the definitive document, guiding regulation of the direct selling industry.

The guidelines address every aspect of the direct selling business. They include detailed conditions for setting up and conducting a direct selling business, rules for protection of consumers, provisions for prohibition of pyramid and money circulation schemes, and for the appointment of a monitoring authority for direct sellers and direct selling companies. The guidelines are advisory in nature and though 12 states have adopted them, all states must do this and frame laws that govern direct selling in a just manner.

The guidelines clearly state that direct sellers and firms shall be guided by provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. There are law enforcement agencies that look at direct selling companies through the lens of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (PCMCS) Banning Act, 1978. This Act seeks action against any scheme that involves making easy money or getting money as the consideration for a promise to pay money based on enrolment of members to the scheme.

The Act goes on to say that no person shall promote or conduct any prize chit or money circulation scheme, or enroll members to any such scheme or participate in it or receive or remit any money in pursuance of such chit or scheme.

Classifying direct selling companies under this Act is erroneous, as they are not engaged in the business of seeking deposits from people and they do not guarantee returns. Direct selling companies provide people with the opportunity and the skill set to sell products and make a commission on sales.

The business model involves a product that needs to be sold, for any money to be made. Direct sellers have to work hard to make these sales. They have to use skill and intellect to make people buy their products, and they have to make sales continuously, in order for them to keep receiving commissions. Direct selling is by no means a deposit taking scheme and there is no guarantee whatsoever, of returns. It is, therefore, incorrect to see direct selling companies as falling under the purview of the PCMCS (Banning) Act, 1978.

There have been instances in some states where law enforcement agencies have harassed and even jailed representatives of direct selling firms by resorting to such misinterpretation. This is downright unacceptable and must stop. Misinterpreting legislation to harass direct selling companies (and their representatives) amounts to killing the goose that lays the golden egg. This industry can play a vital role in creating large scale employment opportunities to make India a nation of micro-entrepreneurs, a nation that is able to reap its demographic dividend to the full. The Model Framework for Guidelines on Direct Selling was designed because there was no law to regulate the direct selling industry, and in some states, the Act was being wrongly used to regulate direct selling. Direct selling is an industry that is growing fast with the emergence of new players and the guidelines lay a foundation for the industry to function properly. The guidelines are there to protect legitimate direct selling businesses and penalise those businesses that try to circumvent established industry norms.

(The writer is former Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, and was responsible for formulating direct selling guidelines in 2016)

TODAY IS WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY. HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE BEEN TOTALLY VIOLATED IN #KASHMIR. LET US PRAY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE IN #KASHMIR.

—WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER  
**MAMATA BANERJEE**

**POINTCOUNTERPOINT**



IT SEEMS SHE (MAMATA) IS BUSY APPEASING THE MINORITY COMMUNITY. SHE HAS STARTED SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE OF PAKISTAN.

—BJP STATE GENERAL SECRETARY  
**SAYANTAN BASU**

# This isn't blending in

The decision to abrogate Article 370 was taken amid high tension, lockdown, rumour-mongering and the echo of jackboots in Jammu and Kashmir



PANKAJ SARMA



POPIMONI SHARMA

The process of abrogation of Article 370 has been as controversial as the provisions of the Article itself. In its bid to reshape the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, the Modi Government, buoyed by the massive mandate it received to return to the seat of power for a second term, scrapped the special status granted to the volatile state by the Constitution of India.

As is the case with most decisions taken in a democracy, unsavoury or otherwise, in a matter of minutes a political slugfest ensued, following the announcement. While some, mostly those occupying the Treasury benches in the House, saw it as a "glorious day" for India, others called it a "dark day" for parliamentary democracy.

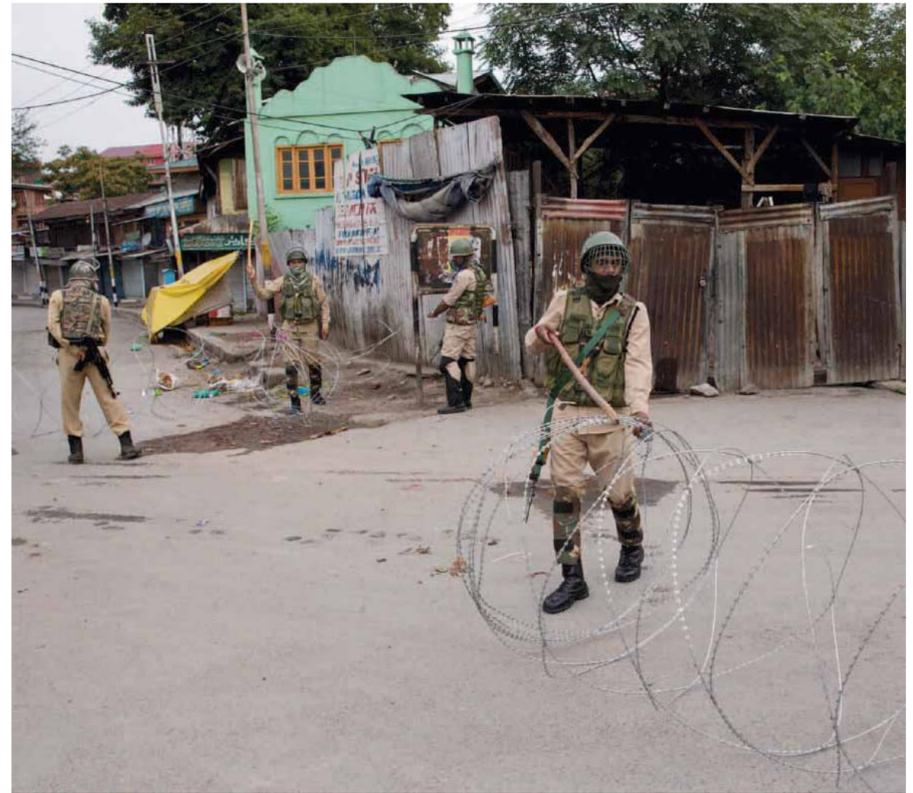
Nonetheless, the decision to abrogate Article 370 was taken amidst high tension, lockdown, rumour mongering and the echo of jackboots in J&K. The Centre restricted public movement by imposing Section 144 of CrPC and several important political leaders of the state were detained and put under house arrest. The Amarnath Yatra was suspended early, tourists were asked to leave and all forms of communication channels were paralysed, isolating the state from the rest of the country, ironically, all in the name of promoting better integration.

Article 370, which granted special status to J&K and Article 35A that empowered the state legislature to define the "permanent residents" of J&K and their special rights and privileges, has long been under the shadow of controversy. It has been a contested constitutional question whether the provisions of Article 370 were that of a temporary nature and was the Parliament ever empowered to abrogate it.

If we revisit history, it becomes evident from clause 7 of the Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh that the state could not be compelled to accept any future Constitution of India. Furthermore, J&K was well within its rights to draft its own constitution and to decide for itself what additional powers to extend to the Central Government. Article 370 was designed to protect these special rights agreed upon under the Instrument of Accession.

Though Article 370 of the Constitution states that the President may, by public notification, declare that this article shall cease to be operative or shall be operative only with such exceptions and modifications and from such date as he may specify, however, provision to Article 370 clearly states that recommendation of the constituent Assembly of the state referred to in clause 2 of Article 370 shall be necessary before the President issues such a notification. But, since the J&K constituent Assembly later created the State's constitution and dissolved itself without recommending the abrogation of Article 370, the Article was deemed to have become a permanent feature of the Indian Constitution.

The Supreme Court (SC) as well as High Courts of states on several occasions have specifically stated that Article 370 of the Constitution is not a temporary provision. In Kumari Vijayalakshmi Jha vs. Union of India (2017), the Delhi High Court rejected a petition claiming that Article 370 was temporary. In 2018, the SC stated that Article 370 is not a temporary pro-



LOOKING AT THE LOCKDOWN IN THE VALLEY AND THE VIRTUAL IMPRISONMENT OF ITS PEOPLE IN BLATANT DISREGARD OF THEIR RIGHTS IN THE NAME OF GREATER INTEGRATION AND THE SO-CALLED DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION, ONE IS PROMPTED TO ASK WHETHER WE HAVE PUSHED KASHMIR TO THE POINT OF NO RETURN

vision. Similarly the apex court in SBI vs. Zaffar Ullah Nehru (2016) held that J&K has a special status and that Article 370 is not temporary.

On the other hand, Article 3 of the Indian Constitution empowers the Parliament to amend the Constitution by a simple majority to change or alter the boundaries of a state but only when the Bill concerning the same is first referred to the state Assembly concerned for its opinion. But, the decision to create two new Union Territories, J&K and Ladakh, was taken by Parliament without referring the same to J&K Assembly.

As the Assembly was dissolved by an order under Article 356, there was no constitutional body to make the recommendations either under Article 370 (3) or under Article 3.

In such a context, a shortcut was found in the provision of Article 356 (1) (b) that allowed the President to declare that the powers of the state legislature shall be exercisable by or under the authority of the President while President's Rule was in operation in a state.

In the process, perhaps for the first time in the history of state reorganisation in India, a state was converted into two Union Territories, reversing the hitherto existing trend.

Needless to say that Indian federalism became the biggest casualty of our political leaders' desire to create history in one stroke. With the Valley being under lockdown and an unprecedented number of boots on the

ground to maintain peace, one is tempted to question the hurried need for abrogating Article 370 without taking the people and the political leaders of J&K into confidence. Can the Centre justify the manner in which all this was done? In law, especially in Constitutional law, procedure is as important as the outcome. It may be recalled that the 1971 election of Indira Gandhi was declared null and void by the Allahabad High Court on grounds of a procedural illegality.

More than the act itself, what is worrisome, is the manner in which it has been dealt with and the subsequent lockdown of the Valley that put curbs on the liberty of citizens of the state.

Such a sensitive matter certainly needed political maturity on the part of the powers that be, who, would have done well to focus on confidence building measure, by way of discussion with key stakeholders.

Unfortunately, neither was the spirit of a deliberative democracy respected, nor was any consensus building attempt made in the frenzied hurry to abrogate Article 370.

The whole episode, therefore, not only undermined the very spirit of democratic functioning but also demonstrated the centralising tendency compromising the framework of asymmetrical federalism that the Constitution of India envisaged.

When the democratic State starts behaving and functioning like a majoritarian and authoritarian one, not only does the constitutional promise get

shattered, the future prospects of unity and integrity look bleak.

This, therefore, should be a moment of introspection and not that of celebration. Looking at the lockdown in the Valley and the virtual imprisonment of its people in blatant disregard of their rights in the name of greater integration and the so-called development of the region, one is prompted to ask whether India has pushed Kashmir to the point of no return.

The answer is probably blowing in the wind in the bleeding Valley.

Unfortunately, we have no access to read the writing on the wall of the Valley, with the region being virtually cut off from the rest of the country and both the free movement of the fact finding teams to the state and reporting from the Valley being restricted to a great extent.

However, one can safely assume that in yet another bid to write history in one stroke, the country is going to learn the historic lesson that the project of national integration promoting greater unity and integrity calls for moving beyond the desire of over-centralisation and the idea of forced integration by focussing more on sharing of political power and simultaneously pursuing policies of greater accommodation.

(Pankaj Sarma is an Assistant Professor of political science at Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi, and Popimoni Sharma is a former Guest Lecturer of GB Law College, Guwahati)

# The curious Orientalist paradox

According to the Jamaat-e-Islami chief, late Qazi Hussain Ahmad, there's nothing wrong in looking religious because the West is more appreciative of this. This was Orientalism imposing Orientalism but still looking towards the West for validation



NADEEM PARACHA

Pakistani and Indian cricket fans are some of the loudest and most colourful, especially when faced with TV cameras where they often like to scream with reckless abandon and make the most curious faces. They will tell you they are very passionate about cricket. This comes from how they proudly explain themselves as belonging to a "very emotional nation" (*jazbaati qaum*). This is an entirely subjective claim. There is no science behind it, which proves that South Asians as a people are very emotional. Therefore, it is largely a perception. So, where did this perception originate? Most likely, in Britain which ruled India as a colony for nearly 200 years.

Take for instance the famous 1924 novel *A Passage to India*, by British author EM Forster. Dr Aziz, one of the Indian characters in it, is a Muslim and portrayed as an intelligent but emotional man. Most 19th Century British authors, such as James Mill and Charles Grant, repeatedly describe Indians as being overtly religious, irrational and emotional. The celebrated author and intellectual, the late Edward Said, would have denounced this as being stereotypes invented by Europeans to make Eastern societies seem backward.

Said was the founder of "post-colonial studies," the study of the cultural legacy of colonialism and imperialism. In 1978, he wrote the hugely influential book *Orientalism*, in which he demonstrated how Western writers have been concocting distorted views of Eastern cultures, especially ever since the 18th Century. According to Said, this 'Orientalism' was enacted as a depictive tool which was closely related to and formed by the West's imperial politics and ambitions.

Said wrote *Orientalism* when the US had already lost a devastating war in Vietnam and when Britain was facing a series of political, social and economic crises. The predicament in the West, further compounded by the 1973 Oil Crisis, generated an academic onslaught within Europe and the US that fervently attacked the modernist narratives of progress on which European imperialism and then the postcolonial dominance of the US were supposedly built. Such modernism was often critiqued in the context of how the West had distorted the image of Eastern cultures to facilitate political and economic exploitation. But, ironically, almost all of these critiques emerged in the West, even though Said was a Palestinian. However, he wrote his book while he was a professor at an American university. This idea of Orientalism generated great excitement among young 'post-modernist' academics. Nevertheless, when it did leave the confines of American and European academia and reach non-Western regions, mainly through Asian, African and Arab students

studying in American and European universities, the idea began to be rapidly adopted by certain segments, who used it to justify violent attacks on anything they deemed 'Western'.

The attacks were first intellectual and political in nature, in countries such as India, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, China, Thailand, South Korea, Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia, etc. Western civilisations were explained as being devoid of spirituality, morals, roots and values and only driven by sensual pleasures, profit and exploitation. This understanding of the West soon began to colour the rhetoric of Hindu nationalists, 'Islamists' and intransigent dictators. This is when some of the first poignant critiques of Said's Orientalism emerged. The most veracious critiques of Orientalism came from British historian Albert Hourani, British author RG Irwin, American scholar Nikki Keddie and, especially, the British-American historian Bernard Lewis. Lewis in 1993's *Islam and the West* and Irwin in *Dangerous Knowledge*, argue that Said treated the West the same way

he accused the West of treating the East.

They lamented that he saw the West as a monolith and in an entirely generalised manner, thus ignoring the different cultures and races which reside there. They also argued that Said cherry-picked his way to present his thesis, disregarding the fact that many Eastern cultures willingly adopt a variety of political, economic and social ideas introduced by the West. According to them, Said also ignored some strictly objective studies of Eastern societies by Western authors that had no 'imperial agendas'. In 2004, the philosopher Avishai Margalit and Dutch author Ian Buruma published *Occidentalism: The West in the Eyes of its Enemies*. They positioned it as an antithesis of Orientalism. They wrote that Orientalism's roots lay in the manner in which conservative and religious nationalists opposed the emergence of secularism, liberalism and capitalism during the colonial era. The Western responses were then appropriated as Orientalism by the 'progressive' intelligentsia in the

West as a retort against modernisation.

*Occidentalism* decries Orientalism as a myopic and reductive attack on Western modernity. Orientalism's academic glorification soon paved the way for it to be adopted by reactionary forces.

Then there is also the case of "Self-Orientalism." This, too, can be seen as a critique of Orientalism because it sees cultures that have allegedly been 'Orientalised' or imagined by the West, becoming equal participants in the process.

Tony Mitchell in the anthology *Rogue Flows* and WG Feighery in *Critical Discourse Studies* write that the most fitting way to explore Self-Orientalism is to study tourism industries in various Asian and African countries.

To attract Western tourists, these countries gladly appropriate stereotypes supposedly constructed by the West. For example, in Sri Lanka and Thailand, the image of Buddhism as perceived by the West is recreated at specific tourist spots.

exotic spirituality', revolving around gurus and pundits, has for long been moulded for a Western audience.

Self-Orientalism can also include the example of the 'passionate' way Pakistani and Indian cricket fans behave, a 'passion' constantly defined and reinforced by both South Asian and Western cricket commentators. Ultimately, Self-Orientalism actually exposes Orientalism as an idea, which eventually ends up doing what it accuses others of doing.

Take for instance a 2003 interview that former chief of Jamaat-e-Islami, the late Qazi Hussain Ahmad, gave to *Nawa-i-Waqt*. To critique Musharraf's "enlightened moderation", he said there was nothing wrong in behaving or looking religious because the West is more appreciative of this than by those behaving like Westerners.

This was Orientalism imposing Orientalism but still looking towards the West for validation. This was a Self-Orientalist idea of how the West appreciates a Muslim. The Orientalist paradox.

(Courtesy: The Dawn)

CAPSULE



**Dr Reddy's launches Roche's Avastin biosimilar in India**

**NEW DELHI:** Drug firm Dr Reddy's Laboratories on Monday said it has launched a biosimilar of Roche's Avastin in India indicated for the treatment of various types of cancers. The company's biosimilar, Versavo, is available in strengths of 100 mg and 400 mg single use vials, Dr Reddy's said in a statement. Commenting on the launch, Dr Reddy's India and Emerging Markets CEO M V Ramana said: "We regard the good health of our patients as our responsibility and are committed to ensure that they always have access to the medicines they need". The launch of Versavo is another step in that journey and helps in strengthening the company's oncology portfolio, he added.



**India to import crude soya oil from Paraguay**

**NEW DELHI:** India on Monday notified imports of 30,000 tonne of crude soya oil from Paraguay at concessional customs duty rate of 10 per cent under a trade agreement. "TRQ (tariff rate quota) quota for import of 30,000 tonne of crude soya oil from Paraguay under India-Mercosur trade agreement is notified," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notice. TRQ is a quota for specified volume of exports that enter India at relatively low import duty. After the quota is reached, a higher tariff applies on additional imports.



**Glenmark receives nod to market combination drug**

**NEW DELHI:** Glenmark Pharmaceuticals on Monday said it has received regulatory approval to market a combination of Remogliflozin etabonate and Metformin hydrochloride film-coated tablets in India. The drug is indicated for treatment of type-2 diabetes mellitus in adults, Glenmark said in a statement. The approved dosage strengths are 100 mg of Remogliflozin combined with either 500 mg or 1,000 mg of Metformin, it added. "The approval for Remogliflozin and Metformin combination is a testament of our commitment towards revolutionizing diabetes management in India," Glenmark Pharma President India Formulations, Middle East and Africa Sujesh Vasudevan said. This combination is indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycaemic control in type-2 diabetes mellitus patients, the statement said.

**'Everything isn't doomed and gloomy about the economy'**

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Admitting that the economy is slowing down and faces many a challenge both from within and outside, Reserve Bank governor Shaktikanta Das Monday urged everyone to look at the opportunities ahead and stop being the proponents of gloom and doom. The statement comes amidst reports that an increasing number of corporate honchos are livid with the Narendra Modi government, especially after a slew of initiatives in the recent budget, including higher taxes on the rich and foreign

portfolio investors.

This had FPIs dumping domestic equities and debt like dung since the budget, pulling down the benchmarks by over 13 percent July 5. Continuing their selling spree that began with the budget and amidst the rising uncertainty over the FPI tax and global trade worries, foreign portfolio investors, and as per depository data, have sold equities worth Rs 10,416.25 crore between August 1 and 16 and debt worth Rs 2,096.4 crore. This also comes continuing southward movement of all

key macroeconomic data-points-be it the IIP or exports or automobile sales, which hit a 19-year low in July plunging over 31 percent and eating away over 3.5 lakh jobs. Barring inflation numbers there seems no positive news coming in from any quarters and the Reserve Bank's four successive rate cuts to the

tune of 110 bps to a nine-year low of 5.4 percent since February has not made any positive impact on the ground level. All these negative news comes on the back of a four-year GDP print in March when the economy grew at low 5.8 percent, pulling down the full year growth to a low 6.8

percent and every analyst sees the June quarter growth to print in lower than the March numbers. Addressing the national banking summit here, Das averred that "when I read newspapers or watch business channels the mood is not sufficiently positive and optimistic.

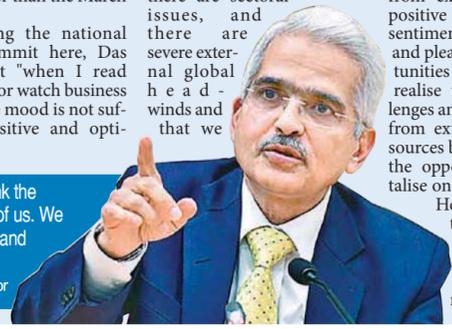
One does realise that there are challenges in the economy, there are sectoral issues, and there are severe external headwinds and that we

cannot live in isolation.

"The mood today ranges from existential angst to a positive attitude. I think the sentiment is very important; and please look at the opportunities ahead of us. We do realise that there are challenges and difficulties coming from external and domestic sources but one has to look at the opportunities and capitalise on that."

He, however, was quick to add that he was not asking for anyone to maintain a Panglossian countenance.

**“The mood today ranges from existential angst to a positive attitude. I think the sentiment is very important; and please look at the opportunities ahead of us. We do realise that there are challenges and difficulties coming from external and domestic sources but one has to look at the opportunities and capitalise on that — SHAKTIKANTA DAS, Reserve Bank governor**



**Lithuania can be strong tech partner for India: VP**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's growing market offers great opportunities to Lithuania, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said on Monday, as he sought a strong technology partnership with the country in areas like the agro-food processing sector. Naidu arrived here on Saturday on the first leg of his five-day three-nation tour that will also take him to Latvia and Estonia. This is the first ever high-level visit from India to the three Baltic countries.

Addressing the India-Lithuania business forum, Naidu highlighted the complementarities in the economies of the two countries.

"Lithuania has been an important partner for India in Europe as both countries share the common values of democracy, freedom and rule of law," Naidu said.

"Both our countries are marching together on the road to successfully creating a free, transparent and robust business environment," he said.

Naidu said he was delighted to address the prestigious Business Forum aimed at furthering economic cooperation between India and Lithuania.



The Vice-President, M Venkaiah Naidu in a meeting with the Prime Minister of Republic of Lithuania, Saulius Skvernėlis, in Vilnius, Lithuania on Monday

**“Lithuania has been an important partner for India in Europe as both countries share the common value of democracy, freedom and rule of law**

—M VENKAIAH NAIDU, Vice-President

"This forum is a signature of trust that Lithuania places in our business co-operation. I am happy that companies from India are participating in this forum," he said.

"India's growing market offers great opportunities to Lithuanian business. India

has a rising middle class market and 60 per cent of our population comprises of skilled youth under 35 yrs of age. It is the 6th largest economy in the world, set to attain a size of USD 5 trillion by 2024-25," Naidu said.

He said India has been suc-

cessfully reforming and transforming its business environment to attract investments at a huge scale. India presents a model of successful cooperative federalism, wherein huge states are equal partners in fostering growth and development, he said.

"India-Lithuania bilateral trade has huge potential for growth. We must double our efforts and explore more and more areas of cooperation and engagement between India and Lithuania," he said.

IL&FS PROBE

**ED summons Joshi's son, Raj Thackeray**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI / MUMBAI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned MNS party chief Raj Thackeray in connection with its money laundering probe in the IL&FS alleged payment default crisis case, officials said on Monday.

It had also called Unmesh Joshi, son of former state chief minister and Shiv Sena leader Manohar Joshi, in the same case after which he deposed before the central agency in Mumbai on Monday, they said.

Unmesh Joshi's statement has been recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said.

Officials said the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief has been asked to appear before the investigating officer of the case on August 22 at the agency's zonal office in Mumbai.

The MNS dubbed as "political vendetta" the ED move to issue the notice to its chief to join investigations.

"Raj Thackeray created a sensation during the Lok Sabha poll campaign earlier this year. It had a significant impact on people and to avoid a similar challenge ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections, the ED has issued the



Raj Thackeray



Unmesh Joshi

**The MNS dubbed as "political vendetta" the ED move to issue notice to its chief to join investigations**

notice. It is a case of political vendetta," MNS spokesperson Sandeep Deshpande told reporters in Mumbai.

The federal agency is probing Thackeray's involvement in the case in connection with the IL&FS group's loan equity investment of over Rs 850 crore in a company called Kohinoor CTNL.

The company was promoted by Unmesh Joshi and is constructing Mumbai's Kohinoor Square towers.

Thackeray and Unmesh Joshi had jointly bid for some assets after creating a consor-

tium but later the MNS supreme quit.

"The Kohinoor deal is very old and Thackeray exited it long time back. I wonder why the Centre has come up with the inquiry notice so late," Deshpande said. He alleged that the ED has "become a tool to suppress our voice".

"If the government takes any action with prejudice against Raj Thackeray, we will protest on streets," Deshpande said. IL&FS had invested over Rs 200 crore funds in Kohinoor CTNL and is said to have suffered a loss in the deal.

**HCL Tech - Maha Airport to create 8,000 jobs**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IT major HCL Technologies on Monday said it has signed a pact with Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) for expansion of its MIHAN campus in Nagpur, a move that will help create over 8,000 local jobs. As part of the MoU (memorandum of understanding), HCL will acquire 90 acres of land to add to the existing 50-acre campus in MIHAN, Nagpur, a statement said.

HCL Technologies started its business operations in Nagpur in April last year and already has more than 800 employees servicing global accounts.

The MIHAN centre delivers a spectrum of services including application development, product engineering, BPO, IT services management as well as the company's internal enabling functions. The campus, when fully operational, will employ over 8,000 personnel, the statement said.



**The campus, when fully operational, will employ over 8,000 personnel**

"Our IT sector has contributed immensely to help India make its mark on the world map... This expansion of the HCL campus in Nagpur will provide many opportunities to local talent and promote growth and development in the city,"

Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said. HCL Technologies has also announced the launch of Tech Bee -- a work-integrated career programme for students who have completed Class XII.

After completion of the programme, the students will be employed at HCL Technologies. They will also have an option to

pursue higher education from BITS Pilani and SASTRA University, while working.

The company will also conduct a recruitment drive in Nagpur on August 24-25 at its MIHAN campus. This drive will offer opportunities to engineering, non-engineering, diploma students as well as students who have completed Class XII to explore career opportunities with the company.

"Our expansion in Nagpur is going to be part of HCL's strategic vision to expand and bring global opportunities to tier-II cities, beyond the large metropolises in the country.

**Airtel appoints Rajesh Tapadia as CEO of data-cloud biz**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom operator Bharti Airtel on Monday said it has appointed Rajesh Tapadia as the CEO of its data centre and cloud business, Nxtra Data.

Before joining Nxtra, Tapadia worked at Netmagic Solutions as the chief service officer and executive director on the board where he managed data centre operations across multiple cities.

"The data centre and cloud segment is an important pillar in our strategy to address enterprise customers' evolving needs. I am confident that Rajesh with his stellar track record will add immense value to our plans," Bharti Airtel MD and CEO (India and South Asia) Gopal Vittal said. Tapadia has earlier worked with Trimax, Global Cloud Exchange, Genpact and Reliance Infocomm.



**Iran says it has warned US against seizing oil tanker**

PTI ■ TEHRAN

Tehran said on Monday that it has warned Washington against making another attempt to seize an Iranian tanker that has departed Gibraltar despite a US bid to have it detained.

"Iran has given necessary warnings to American officials through its official channels... not to make such a mistake because it would have grave consequences," Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi told a news conference.

Iran had been locked in a high-seas standoff with US ally Britain since Royal Marines seized the tanker off the coast of UK territory Gibraltar on July 4 on suspicion it was shipping oil to Syria in breach of EU sanctions.

Two weeks later, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps impounded a British-



flagged tanker in strategic Gulf waters in what Britain called a tit-for-tat move.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, the Iranian foreign ministry spokesman dismissed the notion that there was a link between the two seizures.

"There is no connection whatsoever between these two vessels," said Mousavi.

"There have been two or three maritime violations made by that ship," he said, referring to the British-flagged Stena Impero held off the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas.

**Indian Motorcycle drives in new FTR 1200 S into India at Rs 15.99 lakh**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

American niche bike maker Indian Motorcycle on Monday launched its all new model FTR 1200 S in India priced at Rs 15.99 lakh (ex-showroom).

The company, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Polaris Industries, also introduced FTR 1200 S Race Replica in the country priced at Rs 17.99 lakh.

Besides, the super bike maker announced a tie-up with Orix India to offer its models on lease.

"We continually seek to broaden Indian Motorcycle's reach to a wider range of riders and FTR represents a significant step forward in that strategy," Polaris India MD and Country Head Pankaj Dubey told reporters here.

With these two models, the company now has bikes which have the DNA of flat track racing but are designed for the street, he added.

"We have tied up with Orix India, making it possible for all bike enthusiasts, who could not own an Indian bike earlier, to lease it," Dubey said.

The FTR series bikes come with liquid cooled 1203 cc engine that generates peak power of 123 hp.

The bike comes with various features including a 4.3-inch touchscreen with Bluetooth that can be operated even with gloves on.

Besides, it has three ride modes with different throttle response and traction control intervention levels.



**US economists expect recession in 2020 or 2021: Survey**

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A majority of economists expect a US recession in the next two years, but have pushed back the onset amid Federal Reserve actions, according to a survey released Monday.

The survey came out after President Donald Trump pushed back against talk of a looming recession as a raft of US data reports last week showed a mixed picture on the economy.

"I'm prepared for everything. I don't think we're having a recession. We're doing tremendously well. Our consumers are rich," Trump told reporters Sunday.

"I gave a tremendous tax cut, and they're loaded up with money. They're buying. I saw the Wal-Mart numbers, they were through the roof," he said.

"And most economists actu-

ally say that we're not going to have a recession. But the rest of the world is not doing well like we're doing."

His chief economic advisor Larry Kudlow also downplayed talk of a recession.

"I sure don't see a recession," he told NBC's Meet the Press.

"Consumers are working at higher wages. They are spending at a rapid pace. They're actually saving also while they're spending... So I think actually the second half, the economy's going to be very good in 2019," he said.

"We're doing pretty darn well in my judgment. Let's not be afraid of optimism." The National Association for Business Economists (NABE) found far fewer experts now think the next recession will start this year compared to a survey in February.

NABE conducted its policy poll as Trump put the Fed



under constant attack, demanding more stimulus, but before the central bank cut the benchmark lending rate on July 31.

However, the Fed was already sending strong signals that it intended to pull back on the rate increases made in

2018 due to concerns starting to dog the economic outlook, including the trade war with China.

"Survey respondents indicate that the expansion will be extended by the shift in monetary policy," said NABE president Constance Hunter, who

**The survey came out after President Donald Trump pushed back against talk of a looming recession as a raft of US data reports last week showed a mixed picture on the economy**

is chief economist at KPMG. Only two per cent of the 226 respondents now see a recession this year, compared to 10 per cent in February's survey, NABE said.

However, "the panel is split regarding whether the downturn will hit in 2020 or 2021," Hunter said in a summary of the survey, which showed 38 per cent expect a contraction of growth next year, while 34 per cent don't see it until the following year.

More economists shifted their recession prediction to 2021, narrowing the gap from

the prior report, which had many more expecting the change next year.

The results show 46 per cent expect at least one more rate cut this year from the Fed, while about a third see policy holding where it is now, with 2.25 per cent as the top end of the policy range.

Economists are skeptical about a resolution to Trump's trade wars, although 64 per cent said a "superficial agreement is possible," NABE said.

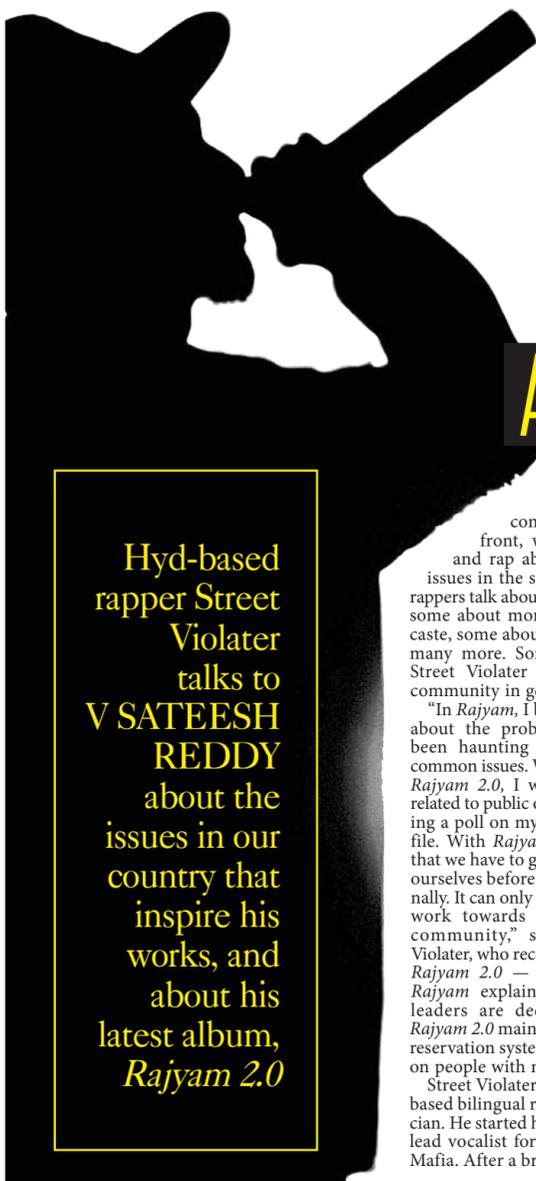
But that was before Trump announced another round of tariffs of 10 per cent on the

remaining USD 300 billion in goods not yet hit by US punitive duties. The new measures will take effect in two stages, on September 1 and December 15.

As Trump continues his vocal campaign criticizing the Fed, the NABE survey found economists are concerned about the impact: 55 per cent said his remarks do not influence Fed decisions but do "compromise the public's trust in the central bank."

And over a quarter of respondents said the criticism will "cause the Fed to be more dovish than otherwise, thus threatening its independence."

The survey also asked about fiscal policy, and a majority of economists said Trump's tax cuts "had an overall negative impact on housing activity over the past 18 months," due to changes in deductions allowed for mortgage interest.



## A RAPPER'S ANTHEM

Hyd-based rapper Street Violater talks to V SATEESH REDDY about the issues in our country that inspire his works, and about his latest album, *Rajyam 2.0*

**A**fter *Gully Boy*, rap artistes — those that have taken about the streets in their beats — have come to the forefront, where they sing and rap about the various issues in the society. Different rappers talk about different issues, some about money, some about caste, some about feminism, and many more. Some rappers like Street Violater raps about the community in general.

"In *Rajyam*, I briefly explained about the problems that have been haunting me, which are common issues. When it comes to *Rajyam 2.0*, I wrote something related to public opinion after taking a poll on my Instagram profile. With *Rajyam 2.0*, I declare that we have to get freedom from ourselves before seeking it externally. It can only happen when we work towards the betterment community," said the Street Violater, who recently released his *Rajyam 2.0 — Antham*. While *Rajyam* explains how political leaders are deceiving people, *Rajyam 2.0* mainly focuses on the reservation system and its impact on people with merits.

Street Violater is a Hyderabad-based bilingual rapper and musician. He started his musical as the lead vocalist for his band Street Mafia. After a brief duration, the

band was compelled to break apart leaving the lead singer of the band to take up the stage name Street Violater and continue his voyage as a techno DJ.

In 2012, Street started producing hip-hop music for the Hyderabadis. His first single *My Doll* gave him some traction and provided him with some exposure in the underground hip-hop community. Furthermore, he consistently penned other songs such as *My Stupid Wine* and *We Want Justice* leading him to make his mark in the hip-hop community in our country.

He shares, "To go further in the field, I went on to write songs for my community, family, and friends. I am moved by my immediate surroundings, violence and commotion in my neighbourhood, disparity of wealth in our country, poorly regulated legislation, drug abuse and other calamities that are affecting the commoners."

His first revolutionary track *Rajyam* became an anthem for the general population. In it, he speaks about the inequality of wealth in our country, the poorly regulated law enforcement that is affecting the helpless and suppressed masses of this nation and other pressing issues that are haunting the common man. His latest single *Rajyam 2.0* talks about the education system in India, corrupt politicians, farmers, and other issues that need to be addressed by everyone.

He said that he intends to

make the masses conscious about themselves and the political sphere of our country. He aims to cultivate a culture where all artists are recognised and respected irrespective of the art form they practice.

He said, "At present, I'm working on an album and I will reveal the details soon. I'm also planning to cover the pressing issues such as the education system in India



and corrupt politics." He also plans on shedding some light on the struggles he had to go through as an artist, as a citizen and as a resident in his neighbourhood. Furthermore, he aims to tackle moral concerns such as the lack of fraternity, inequality and jealousy among individuals in the world.

I went on to write songs for my community, family, and friends. I am moved by my immediate surroundings, violence and commotion in my neighbourhood, disparity of wealth in our country, poorly regulated legislation, drug abuse and all those affecting people

STREET VIOLATER



## THE HEROES OF HUNGER

Attapur Bengali Association organised a food donation camp at The Cherish Foundation, an orphanage

**F**ood is a human necessity, without which we cannot survive. As such, food donation is often considered a grand gesture by those who can to those who can't. There are hundreds of organisations across the country trying to help impoverished communities by providing them with food. This is a very common scene in Hyderabad as well. Recently, the Attapur Bengali Association (ABA), a non-profit group, organised a food donation camp at The Cherish Foundation in Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad.

A team of volunteers from the association were present at the orphanage to distribute food items and other

essential supplies to the foundation. This was one-of-its-kind initiative by the association to provide support and encouragement to the orphanage that is taking care of the underprivileged children.

However, a food donation isn't the only charitable activity they organise. ABA has been addressing numerous charitable causes through voluntary work and fund-raising activities. The members of ABA are committed towards the development of society and are constantly contributing to the betterment of the community.

During the visit to The Cherish Foundation, ABA volunteers spent some quality time with the children and played various indoor and outdoor games with them. They also discussed with the caretakers about the challenges that children and the orphanage is facing and assured continuous support.

Subir Roy, President of Attapur Bengali Association, said, "It was a wonderful experience to meet the children and caretakers at The Cherish Orphanage. We are delighted to contribute a small portion of the facilities at the orphanage through our involvement. The most satisfying part of the visit was spending time with the children, which the entire association

would cherish. We are a small group of active volunteers who look forward to bringing some changes to local seekers in every part of Hyderabad."

Attapur Bengali Association (ABA), established in 2017, is dedicated to promoting the cultural and social heritage of Bengal in Hyderabad by organising various cultural, social, charitable, educational, and recreational programmes throughout the year. ABA has made efforts by organising Durga Puja event along with other Bengali festivals, which were accredited by various agencies in and around Hyderabad.

Cherish Foundation is a registered charitable trust working with orphan children and running an orphanage, which is dedicated to providing a stable and loving family atmosphere to the children. Cherish Foundation aims to integrate an orphan child into mainstream society through holistic development.

**ABA HAS ALSO BEEN ADDRESSING NUMEROUS CHARITABLE CAUSES THROUGH VOLUNTARY WORK AND FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES**



Alia Bhatt to raise funds for animals via baking

**B**ollywood actress Alia Bhatt will raise funds for an animal welfare organisation through actor Arjun Kapoor's sister Anshula Kapoor's online fundraising platform, Fankind. As part of a campaign on Fankind, a fan will get a chance to bake a cake with the star under the guidance of Indian Pastry Chef Pooja Dhingra. Fans have to donate a minimum amount of ₹300 or multiples thereof and at the end of the campaign period, one fan will be randomly selected to bake a cake with the *Udda Punjab* actress.

"The welfare of animals is a cause I truly believe in and funds raised through this unique experience will support World For All, a charitable organisation based in Mumbai that works towards creating a better and safer environment for the cats and dogs living on our streets," Alia said in a statement. Effectively, 70 per cent of the donations will go to "World For All"; an NGO which Alia is closely associated with. This Mumbai-based animal welfare organisation has revolutionised the model of stray animal adoptions. "As an animal lover and pet parent myself, animal welfare is a cause that is close to my heart and I am so glad that with Alia's association, Fankind is able to help spread the message about the importance of animal welfare and can raise funds for World For All," Anshula said.

— IANS



# what's brewing?



Mariyam

Aarti Jain

Sowmya

Anu

Neha

Umesh

Shivathmika Rajashekar

Sapna

## FASHION EXPO

A two-day fashion and lifestyle exhibition — Sutraa — was recently organised at a star hotel in Hyderabad. The event provides shoppers an opportunity to get their hands on the various designer wears on sale in the pre-festive special edition of the exhibition. Actress Shivathmika Rajashekar graced the grand unveiling of the expo, which features around 90 designers

Photos by SV Chary

### PARTY

### CITY GUIDE

#### COMEDY

##### MANIK'S DAY OUT

Manik Manha's style of dry, almost offensive but in a funny sort of way, comedy is what he's loved for. He's ticking off the best comedy centres across the country. August 25, 7 pm, IQ Lounge Bar, Somajigudda.



##### BAS KAR BASSI

This is a show where Anubhav Singh Bassi will tell an honest story about his career choices and his lifestyle. His struggle is worth listening because nothing seems like a struggle. So come and witness a story full of fun, laughter and alcoholic moments. August 23, 8 pm, Oakwood Residence Kapil Gachibowli.



##### SAB SCAM HAI

It is a stand-up show by Gaurav Kapoor, where he talks nonsense with just one sensible joke. It's basically a one hour show with a mix of stories and observations. August 25, 7 and 9 pm, Oakwood Residence Kapil, Gachibowli.



#### FRIDAY COMEDY

The show is headlined by the hilarious Vivek Muralidharan popular for his YouTube videos. The event is hosted by Hyderabad's funniest mom Rupali Tyagi. It also features various artistes from the city. August 23, 7.45 pm, The Coffee Cup, Sainikpuri.



#### IMPROV COMEDY

While usually done in English, few city comedy artistes will perform a unique improv Telugu comedy show. August 24, 7 pm, Nritya — Forum for Performing Arts, Banjara Hills.

#### THEATRE

##### LASYA TANDAVA

Artiste Sabrina Arusam will showcase the dance forms of India through a puppet ballet at a free event being hosted by Alliance Francaise. August 21, 7 pm, Ravindra Bharathi Auditorium, Lakdikapul.



##### KABADDI: THE GAME OF PARTITION

This play is a testament to the mass that was made to participate in one of the biggest political gambles ever. What the people went through at the time is what has carried the legacy. We have all read enough about Gandhi, Nehru, Jinnah, the commission, India, and Pakistan; it is now time to relive the madness as citizens of the country once did. August 23, 8 pm, Lamakaan, Banjara Hills.



#### EXHIBITION

##### INDIAN TRAILS

A six-day exhibition by artists Sona Kapoor and Nandini R Penna encapsulates the country's glorious culture, history, exquisite monuments, and architectural marvels that have stood the test of time. August 26 to 31, Alliance Francaise, Banjara Hills.

##### LIKE THE AIR I BREATHE

Artist Bakula Nayak exhibits her paintings inspired by the beautiful epic love poem Ritusamharam and vintage ephemeras. Ongoing, until September 2, 6.30 pm, Kalakriti Art Gallery, Banjara Hills.

##### BEAUTY OF WISDOM

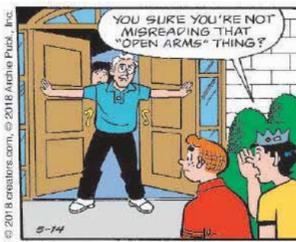
A solo exhibition by artist Harikumar that delves deep into the introspection of beauty and how the artist wants to use his paintings to let viewers take a peek into their own beauty. Ongoing, August 16 to 23, 9.30 am, Alliance Francaise, Banjara Hills.



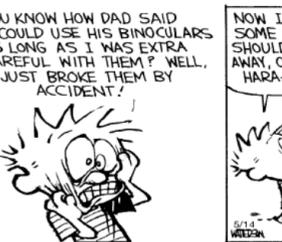
**GET YOUR EVENT LISTED:** To get your events listed, please send your details along with a poster and contact number to [pioneer.features@gmail.com](mailto:pioneer.features@gmail.com)

### FUN TIME

#### ARCHIE



#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



#### GARFIELD



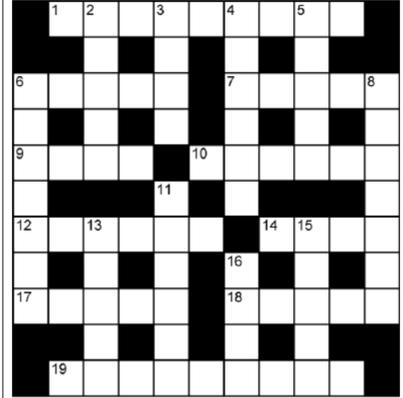
#### REALITY CHECK



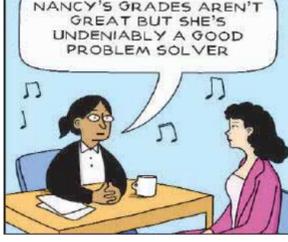
#### SPEED BUMP



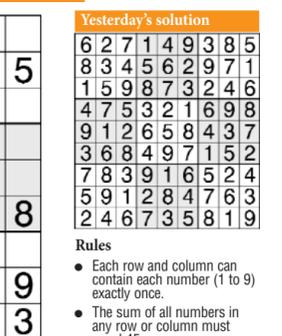
#### CROSSWORD



#### NANCY



#### SUDOKU



#### ACROSS

- 1 A person who lives next door
- 2 Speed competitions
- 3 Have a lie down
- 4 So dull it makes you feel sleepy
- 5 The opposite of aunt
- 6 Pain in your ear
- 7 Speed competitions
- 8 No sound at all
- 9 Have a lie down
- 10 Sick
- 11 The arm of a coat
- 12 A bed for a small baby
- 13 A special prize
- 14 The start of the day
- 15 A feeling of rage
- 16 A compass direction

#### DOWN

- 2 The parts along the sides of something
- 3 Obtains



#### GINGER MEGGS



# PRABHAS ANNA has an elephant's memory: Sujeeth

The director, speaking at the promotional event of *Saaho*, mentions that he was able to go about his job with confidence because the actor and the producers trusted him to get the work done, finds NAGARAJ GOUD

**F**ilmmaker Sujeeth Sign, who has helmed the mega-budget action extravaganza *Saaho*, said that even before got his first shot at feature film direction, Prabhas sent him a word for a meeting. "UV Creations got the DVD of my short films and Prabhas *anna* happened to watch them. He felt that I was good with a screenplay and wanted to meet me. I was in Sudharshan theatre (Hyderabad) with my dad watching *Mirchi* when I was asked to meet him. I couldn't believe it and didn't meet him," he said. He was speaking at a promotional event of *Saaho* in Hyderabad on Sunday evening. More than 100,000 fans of Prabhas from the two Telugu states attended the event, which was held at Ramoji Film City. Sujeeth added, "Prabhas *anna* has the memory of an elephant and his mind registers every minute detail about films. There's

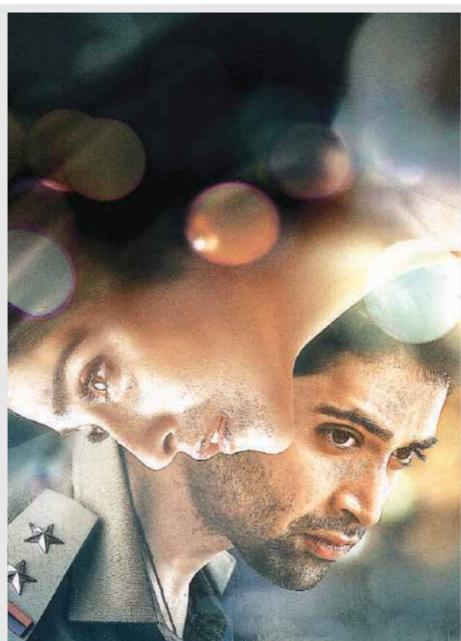
a shot in the trailer where blood oozes out of his upper body as he takes a shower. I told him about it when I first narrated him the story in November 2014. Three years down the lane, when I was about to shoot it, he recalled the meeting of the said sequence, which I forgot. He is extremely passionate about cinema," the director said. He further pointed out that Prabhas had enormous confidence on him to steer the ₹350 crore action-thriller that is set to storm into theatres on August 30. "After working for a technician like SS Rajamouli, he chose one-film-old me for his next. Yet, he gave me the same importance that he gave Rajamouli *garu*. I could go about my job with the utmost confidence because of the faith he had in me. Even when others pointed out to UV Creations whether I have it in me to direct a project of this magnitude, Prabhas felt that I was talented enough to get the job done," the director noted.

Showering high praise on the film's producers Vamsi, Pramod and Vicky, he rhapsodised, "They ensured that I focused on the film without any worries. I could see their tensed faces because of the budget, but they never brought what they were going through to me. The film wouldn't have been possible if not for them. They are the best people that I could've ever asked for."



## Sujeeth handled everyone like a pro: RAJAMOULI

**F**ilmmaker SS Rajamouli, who is a dear friend of Prabhas, said the actor is farsighted. "After I narrated the story of *Baahubali* he was immediately thinking of his next. He was sure that *Baahubali* would be a hit and felt the need to make the right move with his next. One fine day, he excitedly came to me and said, 'Darling, Sujeeth has narrated a fantastic story.' What I liked about him is that he didn't opt for a big director after *Baahubali* and rather believed in the story Sujeeth narrated," the top filmmaker said at an event of *Saaho* in Hyderabad on Sunday. On Sujeeth, Rajamouli shared, "He is a youngster and many doubted whether he can pull off a massive project like *Saaho*. However, those doubts were put to rest with the film's first look itself. The moment the film's teaser and trailer came out, everyone understood his capabilities. It's not easy to work with leading technicians and an all-India star such as Prabhas, but he handled everyone like a pro. He has done a fantastic job."

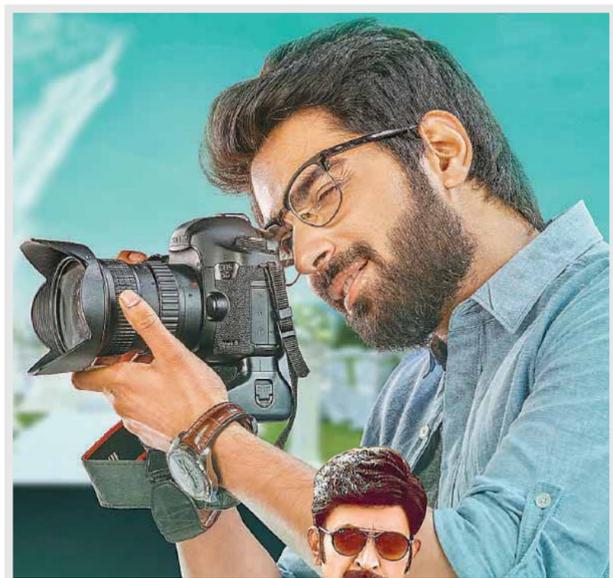


# Shiva Kandukuri's first look from Choosi Choodangaane out

The actor plays a photographer in the movie, and the makers released his first look on Monday since it was World Photography Day

**A**fter announcing the title earlier this month, the makers of *Choosi Choodangaane*, featuring Shiva Kandukuri, son of producer Raj Kandukuri and '96 fame Varsha Bollamma, revealed the film's first look on Monday. In the romantic drama, Shiva will be seen as a wedding photographer who is looking for a girl who will balance his life. As Monday was World Photography Day,

the makers chose the opportune moment to reveal Shiva's look. Suresh Babu, who will distribute the film under his esteemed Suresh Productions, did the honours. Gopi Sundar is presently working on the film's music in Cochin. Raj Kandukuri is expecting the film, directed by debutante Sessa Sindhu Rao, to finish all post-production formalities by September 10. He is eyeing September 21 as the release date.



# EVARU TAKES THE LEAD

While *Ranarangam* opened on a strong note, the movie still requires ₹7 crore to break even, as reviews had an effect on its footfalls in the subsequent days

**I**ndependence Day saw *Ranarangam* and *Evaru* battling it out at the box-office. While the Sharwaa-starrer gangster drama opened on a strong note grossing ₹8.1 crore on day one, not-so-promising reviews had an effect on its footfalls over the weekend, especially in 'A' centres and in the US, where it even failed to breach \$100 K. 'B' and 'C' centres helped the box-office cause of the film, though. It has minted an overall ₹9.75 crore (share) in its opening weekend and has to make another ₹7 crore to reach the breakeven stage.

weekend in the US. Meanwhile, Allu Arjun watched *Evaru* on Sunday and taking to his social media pages, raved the film as an amazing murder mystery packed with twists and turns. He extended his congratulations to the principal cast and crew of the film, which was directed by Venkat Ramji.

On the other hand, while Adivi Sesh-starrer opened strongly in 'A' centres on Thursday, positive reviews and good word of mouth helped the film pack a punch in the weekend. Almost all theatres in Hyderabad reported to full capacity. Made on a budget of ₹8 crore, it has collected ₹7 crore to date and with no major releases this weekend, it's bound to increase the tally. It has also made \$350k in its opening



# KALYANRAM'S next joins Sankranti race

**S**lightly delayed, the filming of Kalyanram's next *Entha Manchi Vaadavuraa* with Satish Vegesna has picked up the pace. With the first schedule wrapped up last week, the makers are gearing up for the second schedule, which will commence on August 26 and go on till September 22. Tanuku, Rajahmundry and its surrounding areas will host the schedule, which will witness a couple of action sequences and a song, besides talkie portions, being filmed. "The shoot will shift to Hyderabad in October and Chikmagalur in November," the makers said on Monday. Originally, they planned to shoot in Ooty but it seems Chikmagalur is filling it.

The makers are planning to complete the film this year-end and slot it for Sankranti, which is already occupied with films like *Sarileru Neekevaru*, *Ala Vaikunthapuramlo* and *Sreekaram*. A joint production venture between Umesh Gupta of Aditya Music and Sivalenka Prasad of Sridevi Movies, *Entha Manchi Vaadavuraa* sees the likes of VK Naresh, Suhasini Mani Ratnam, Tanikella Bharani, Pavitra Lokesh, Vennela Kishore, Praveen and Prabhas Sreenu in supporting roles, while Mehreen is the film's leading lady.



# Another thriller in Rajasekhar's bank

**K**nown for his penchant for Tamil filmmakers, Rajasekhar has zeroed in on Pradeep Krishnamoorthy, who has directed *Sathya* (the Tamil version of *Kshanam*) and Vijay Antony-starrer *Bethaludu*, for his next. A high-concept emotional thriller, the as-yet-untitled film will be produced by national award-winning producer G Dhananjayan under his Creative Entertainers and Distributors. The actor evinced his interest to headline the film after listening to the single-line story. The producer is planning to wrap up the project in a start-to-finish schedule and release it in March next year. The likes of veterans Satyaraj, Nasser and Brahmaanamandam have been roped in to play key roles, while Simon K King, who recently composed the music for *Killer*, has been signed on to render tunes. Rajasekhar's last film *Kalki*, an action thriller, with Prasanth Varma, failed to light up the box-office and the actor is pinning hopes on this one to get him back to winning ways.



# Didn't know I had tuberculosis for 8 years: Big B

**F**or eight years, mega star Amitabh Bachchan did not know that he was suffering from Tuberculosis and said that he does not mind calling himself a tuberculosis survivor. The actor was at NDTV's Swasth India launch, speaking to doctor Harsh Vardhan urging him to spread awareness about regular checkups to facilitate early diagnosis. "I keep quoting my example to try and propagate the idea of

getting yourself detected and I don't mind publicly saying that I am a Tuberculosis and Hepatitis B survivor. Bad blood infusion resulted in me losing 75 per cent of my liver. I was able to detect it after 20 years when 75 per cent of my liver was gone. I am still surviving on 25 per

cent," said Big B. The 76-year-old star, who has been associated with various health campaigns like Polio, Hepatitis B, Tuberculosis and diabetes, urged people to get tested and diagnosed. "Then there is a cure. Even with Tuberculosis, I did not know for

almost eight years that I was suffering from it. I keep saying with immodesty that if it can happen to me, then it can happen to anyone. Therefore if you are not willing to get yourself tested then you would never find out and there's never going to be a cure for it," he said.



Theatre director Nadir Khan and actor Rajit Kapur say that their forthcoming venture, *A Few Good Men*, for Aadyam's fifth season, reflects upon what happens when people in authority are questioned

In Rob Reiner's 1992 film, *A Few Good Men*, it was actor Jack Nicholson's 'You can't handle the truth' that became a sensation in the era when social media did not exist. And the drama became iconic in the history of global cinema. However, not many have known that the film was originally adapted from an eponymous Broadway play (of 1989), which was written and directed by Aaron Sorkin, who is known to have written the stage edition of *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

It's the same script that theatre director and actor Nadir Khan has picked up for his next theatrical direction for Aadyam's fifth season. Ask him about why he chose the very play to adapt for his next direction, he says that its lines and characters are very iconic and have stayed "relevant" to the times. "And it's when writer Devika Sahni came up to me with the script. I was instantly drawn to it. In a way, I didn't choose the script but it chose me. And I like scripts which have good plots and the ability to stay with a person. In fact, the dialogues in the play are very witty and smart," he says.

The plot is inspired by true events and is a courtroom drama which follows the trial of two US Navy

Mariners accused of murdering one of their own. The story highlights the inherent flaw of a system that rewards following orders 'no-questions-asked', and the potential culpability of those executing the orders. So what kind of research was involved to understand the structure or make any particular changes in the script? He explains, "First, We haven't changed it much. The same things are said in just a different way and setup. Second, Yes, some research is always involved. It was done to understand the American Military judiciary system and how it functions. I read a few things about their legal procedures in cases when an officer commits a punishable crime, to understand the process of the play. Another part of research went into understanding the kind of costumes that should be given to the characters."

The drama stars Ira Dubey as the persistent lawyer Lieutenant Commander Joanne Galloway, Rajit Kapur as Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Jessep, Neil Bhoopalam as US Military lawyer Daniel A Kaffee in the lead roles. Ask Nadir about why he chose the particular cast for the characters, he says, "The characters in the plot are very fierce and witty people. And for that, I needed a strong cast. And Ira, Neil and Rajit were actually the



## CAN YOU HANDLE THE TRUTH?

ideal ones." Whereas, Rajit's reasons for joining the cast were different. He says that Nadir is a good friend. "But it's not just because he's a friend but is also an accomplished director. I share a certain equation with him. And when you have that, there happens to be a mutual trust and understanding. So when he said that he couldn't think

of anyone else for this role, I juggled my schedules to make it happen," he tells us and laughs. The cocky, arrogant lawyer Lieutenant Kaffee accuses Colonel Jessup of ordering the killing of a US Marine at Guantanamo Bay. While talking about his character, he says, "It's definitely a challenging part for me since I have never played the role of

a military officer before. In the play, Jessup's authority is being questioned. It showcases what happens when somebody in power is being questioned. His personality is quite tough. Well, how else would you describe a guy whose life motto is, 'Walk softly and carry an armoured tank division.' Jessup isn't afraid of anything or anyone and is used to people chal-

lenging him. He shouldn't ever have to explain himself, especially to some desk jockey and he never backs down. So the way my character looked at things and made a perspective was very important and I kept that in mind." Nadir, who has also directed another courtroom drama, *12 Angry Jurors* (also for Aadyam), tells us about his fascination with court-

room dramas. "They always have in store some suspense and mystery. I feel that they are very intriguing and can hold the audience. However, *12 Angry Jurors* is very different than this one. This play is more about the code of morality rather than the lack of justice. It really questions whether one can handle the truth or not and how," says he.

This isn't Nadir's first stint with Aadyam. Apart from *12 Angry Jurors*, he has previously brought to the stage, *SingIndiaSing*, *The Hounds of Baskerville*, and *I Don't Like It*. He says, "Five years in a row with Aadyam is pressure enough. And when you're doing a text as iconic as this one, you better make sure you've got a cracking cast to match Sorkin's superb writing. Thankfully, we've managed to do that."

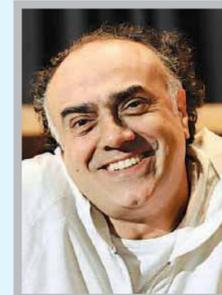
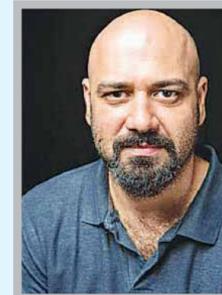
Ask Rajit about what was his research while getting into the skin of his character, he says, "I didn't have to read or watch anything to do that. Nadir had done it all for me. He was very clear about what he wants and how he wants it. I won't deny that I haven't watched the film. It was years ago when it first came out. However, I didn't want to watch it again to be influenced by it. It is important for me as an actor because it's evident that people draw comparisons. For me, the most important thing was to

bring out that character in my own way. I haven't let the film affect my performance at all."

The actor believes that since it's a play, there are not much things to play around with. For instance, the location. He says, "You don't have the liberty to shoot in real locations, of course. You have to imagine certain things in a play and I think, that is the beauty of it."

In this era of social media, does he feel that theatre is facing a pushback due to the advent of the digital platforms? He says, "Not at all. Even with online channels, more and more youngsters are getting attracted to theatre. I can recall, when we were in college, we only saw 35 plus people in the audience but that's not the case today. Of course, social media is a big thing but there is simply no comparison. It's tough but it has always been that way. When television came, everybody said live performances will not happen anymore. But they are still going on. So live performances are here to stay."

Danish Hussain, Ashwin Mushran, Tavish Bhattacharya, Junaid Khan, Sukant Goel, Kenny Desai, Siddharth Kumar, Suresh Venkat, Sahir Mehta, Zeus Paranjape and Rohit Dandwani are among the others in the cast.



## Taking a higher view

Farmers are using drones to decide how much water they should give crops the next day

A drone soared over a

blazing hot cornfield in northeastern Colorado on a recent morning, snapping images with an infrared camera to help researchers decide how much water they would give the crops the next day.

After a brief, snaking flight above the field, the drone landed and the researchers removed a handful of memory cards. Back at their computers, they analysed the images for signs the corn was stressed from a lack of water.

This US Department of Agriculture station outside Greeley and other sites across the Southwest are experimenting with drones, specialised cameras and other technology to squeeze the most out of every drop of water in the Colorado River — a vital but beleaguered waterway that serves an estimated 40 million people.

Remote sensors measure soil moisture and relay the readings by Wi-Fi. Cellphone apps collect data from agricultural weather stations and calculate how much water different crops are consuming. Researchers deliberately cut back on water for some crops, trying to get the best



harvest with the least amount of moisture — a practice called deficit irrigation.

In the future, tiny needles attached to plants could directly measure how much water they contain and signal irrigation systems to automatically switch on or off.

Getting more bang for the buck is a goal for scientists looking for better ways to help farmers manage the use of water. They're using sensors to help control the flow of water going to plants and to improve the quality of crop yields.

"It's like almost every month somebody's coming up with something here and there," said Don Ackley, water management supervisor for the Coachella Valley Water District in Southern California. "You almost can't keep up with it."

Researchers and farmers are running similar experiments in arid regions around the world. The need is especially pressing in seven US states that rely on the Colorado River: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

The river has plenty of water this summer after an unusually snowy winter in the mountains of the US West. But climatologists warn the river's long-term outlook is uncertain at best and dire at worst, and competition for water will only intensify as the population grows and the climate changes.

The World Resources Institute says the seven Colorado River states have some of the highest levels of water stress in the nation, based on the percentage of available supplies they use in a year. New Mexico was the only state in the nation under extremely high water stress.

The federal government will release a closely watched projection on whether the Colorado River system has enough water to meet all the demands of downstream states in future years.

The river supplies more than 7,000 square miles (18,000 square kilometres) of farmland and supports a \$5 billion-a-year agricultural industry, including a significant share of the nation's winter vegetables, according to the US Bureau of Reclamation, which manages most of the big dams and reservoirs in the Western states. The Pacific Institute, an environmental group, says the river also irrigates about 700 square miles

(1,820 square kilometers) in Mexico. Agriculture uses 57 per cent to 70 per cent of the system's water in the US, researchers say. The problem facing policymakers is how to divert some of that to meet the needs of growing cities without drying up farms, ranches and the environment.

The researchers' goal is understanding crops, soil and weather so completely that farmers know exactly when and how much to irrigate.

"We call it precision agriculture, precision irrigation," said Huihui Zhang, a Department of Agriculture engineer who conducts experiments at the Greeley research farm. "Right amount at the right time at the right location."

The Palo Verde Irrigation District in Southern California is trying deficit irrigation on alfalfa, the most widely grown crop in the Colorado River Basin.

Alfalfa, which is harvested as hay to feed horses and cattle, can be cut and baled several times a year in some climates. The Palo Verde district is experimenting with reduced water for the midsummer crop, which requires more irrigation but produces lower yields.

Sensors placed over the test plots indirectly measure how much water the plants are using, and the harvested crop is weighed to determine the yield.

"The question then becomes, what's the economic value of the lost crop versus the economic value of the saved water?" said Bart Fisher, a third-generation farmer and a member of the irrigation district board. Blaine Carian, who grows grapes, lemons and dates in Coachella, California, already uses deficit irrigation. He said withholding water at key times improves the flavour of his grapes by speeding up the production of sugar.

A micro-sprayer near Coachella, California, delivers water directly above the roots of a plant or fruit tree, minimising waste.

He also uses on-farm weather stations and soil moisture monitors, keeping track of the data on his cellphone. His drip and micro-spray irrigation systems deliver water directly to the base of a plant or its roots instead of saturating an entire field.

For Carian and many other farmers, the appeal of technology is as much about economics as saving water.

"The conservation's just a byproduct. We're getting better crops, and we are, in general, saving money," he said.

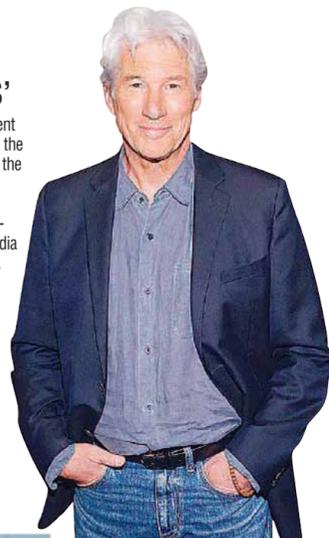
But researchers say water-saving technology could determine whether some farms can stay in business at all, especially in Arizona, which faces cuts in its portion of Colorado River water under a drought contingency plan the seven states hammered out this year.

Drone-mounted

## Trend Blazers

'POPULISM IS SPREADING ACROSS'

Actor Richard Gere says the movement of populism is spreading all around the world, and he hopes to touch upon the issue with his series *MotherFatherSon*. In his first television role in the last 30 years, Gere is seen as a charismatic self-made businessman Max, who owns media outlets in London and around the world. The drama series, written by Tom Rob Smith, is a tale of a broken family with deep-rooted issues of politics, conflicts of a country on the brink of change and power. He said, "It is about a mother, a father and a son and how those relationships function. And this human story which we can all relate to is set against a much larger story about international politics and about the movement of populism which I feel is spreading across."



"You can't stop being famous. You are a famous person even when you are at home. So you don't have to deliberately detach from that because that will always be a part of you. If you can look at it as an advantage, use it and apply it well, it is great. Becoming famous and getting fame are two different things. For me, my work has always been important rather than my popularity." — Tabu



Actress Sobhita Dhulipala-starrer *A Moothon* will premier at the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). The action thriller also stars Malayalam actor Nivin Paul. "The film is part of the special section at TIFF. When I first read the script, I was blown by it. I am glad that it is getting its due after so many years now. I am looking forward to showing this film to people at the festival, interacting with the international press and cinema aficionados." Sobhita, *Made in Heaven*-fame, said.

KJOS' WISHLIST FOR K2H2 REBOOT

Karan Johar has no immediate plans to work on a *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* reboot, but the filmmaker says Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt and Janhvi Kapoor are on his wishlist if he decides to bring back the love story. "Ranveer would play Rahul as he has had most intensity as SRK. Alia as Anjali. She has the spunk and Janhvi Kapoor as Tina because she has the poise and balance of the part," said Johar, during an audience interaction at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne. Looking back at the casting process, Karan said, "I was ecstatic to meet SRK. Kajol and he had promised that they would work on my first film. It took months to cast for Rani's part after Aditya Chopra recommended her."



# Keys locks up Cincy title

AFP ■ CINCINNATI

Madison Keys came from a break down in both sets to defeat Svetlana Kuznetsova 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) on Sunday to win the WTA Cincinnati crown.

The 2017 US Open finalist notched her fifth career title and second this season after a win in Charleston in April.

She'll return to the top 10 in the world rankings with the US Open a week away.

Kuznetsova, a two-time Grand Slam champion working her way back up the rankings after a series of injuries, was broken back in the 10th game of each set by 16th-seeded Keys — who fired 13 aces on the way to victory.

"If my team had told me a week ago that I would be here, I would have laughed in their face," admitted Keys, who had endured two opening-match defeats since a second-round exit at Wimbledon.

Keys belted a total of 43 winners with 33 unforced errors and broke Kuznetsova three times.

Kuznetsova was the fourth Grand Slam winner Keys beat during the week, a string that included Spain's Garbine Muguruza, reigning Wimbledon champion Simona Halep and Venus Williams.

"It was a tough draw from the very start," Keys said. "I definitely think I played some of my best tennis consistently this week."

I'm obviously really happy and really proud of myself," she added, while stressing she won't let the performance put more pressure on her at the US Open.



Madison Keys holds the Rookwood Cup after defeating Svetlana Kuznetsova in the women's final

"It's definitely more of a building block," she said.

Former world number two Kuznetsova, who received a wildcard into the draw, beat top seed Ashleigh Barty, world number three Ashleigh Barty and 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens on her way to

the final.

"I had a lot of matches where they could have gone either way, including this one," said Kuznetsova, who will jump from 118th to 31st in the rankings and said she had a "great week."

"I had chances but she hit

the ball well and was more aggressive. I'm happy with how I played, I'm feeling great," she said.

"It could give me more motivation in the future," Kuznetsova added. "I just want to rest and get ready for the Open."

## Prajnesh advances in Winston Salem Open

PTI ■ NORTH CAROLINA

India's top singles player Prajnesh Gunneswaran advanced to the second round of the Winston Salem Open ATP 250 tournament with a straight set win over Cedrik-Marcel Stebe here.

Prajnesh, ranked 89th in the world, beat his German rival 6-3, 6-4 in a match that lasted one hour and 13 minutes on Sunday night.

The Indian utilised two of the five breakpoints he earned while holding his serve throughout the match.

He will next face top seed Benoit Paire of France, who received a first round bye. Paire is ranked 30 in the world.

The Indian will fancy his chances in the next round as earlier this year, Prajnesh had stunned Paire at the Indian Wells ATP Masters event for one of the biggest wins of his career. In the doubles event, the Indian pair of Divij Sharan and Rohan Bopanna crashed out in the first round.

The Indian duo lost to American pair of Nicholas Monroe and Nicholas Sandgren 3-6, 3-6.

Meanwhile, wild card entrants Leander Paes and his Israeli partner Jonathan Erlich, will take on the duo of Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury in the opening round.



Daniil Medvedev, left, meets with David Goffin after winning their men's final match during the Western & Southern Open

# Medvedev in top five

AFP ■ CINCINNATI

Daniil Medvedev, coming off back-to-back ATP finals defeats, held off David Goffin 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 on Sunday to win the ATP Cincinnati Masters.

The ninth-seeded Russian finished with an ace after saving break points in the final game, lifting a first Masters 1000 trophy after settling for runner-up finishes to Nick Kyrgios in Washington and Rafael Nadal in Montreal last weekend.

"These have been the best three weeks of my life," Medvedev said. "My mentality was the best, my serve was the best, my tennis has been really consistent."

"I didn't have one bad match, I hope to continue this way for next few weeks."

After his full-on post-Wimbledon schedule, the winner admitted: "I'm so exhausted, I almost can't talk now."

Medvedev, who only recently gained the ATP Top 10, now will find himself ranked fifth as a result of his three-week run of form.

"I don't check the rankings every two minutes, but I do look after I do well at a tournament," he said. "If I had lost I'd be seventh, now I'm fifth."

Medvedev followed up his semi-final upset of defending champion Novak Djokovic as he controlled feisty Belgian Goffin to win an

ATP leading 31st hardcourt match.

He has the most match wins on any surface this year with 43.

Spanish superstar Nadal, who did not play this week — is second with 41, followed by Roger Federer on 39.

Medvedev stamped himself a contender for the US Open, the final Grand Slam of the season that starts in Flushing Meadows in a week.

Goffin was competing in his second final of 2019 after losing to Federer in Halle.

"Congratulations to your team," he told Medvedev, "Once again, an unbelievable week for you, fantastic."

"I think you are ready for New York."

## SINGLES

### HADDIN JOINS SRH AS ASST COACH

ZURICH: Indian Premier League (IPL) side Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) on Monday announced former Australian vice captain and wicketkeeper Brad Haddin as their assistant coach. The former IPL champions made the announcement via their social media handles. Haddin thus joins Trevor Bayliss in the SRH backroom staff. Bayliss was named the SRH head coach in July, replacing Tom Moody in the role. Haddin replaces Simon Helmott, who was assistant to Moody. Bayliss has previously led Kolkata Knight Riders to two IPL titles between 2012 and 2015, while Haddin was with KKR as a player in 2011. Haddin has prior coaching experience with Australia, having been appointed fielding coach of the side in 2017 after coaching Australia A that year.

### 33 PROBABLES ANNOUNCED FOR CAMP

NEW DELHI: Hockey India on Monday named the 33 core probables' list for the upcoming junior women's national coaching camp which will focus on preparing the team for a tri-nation tournament involving Australia and New Zealand to be held Down Under later this year. The probables will undergo a training and conditioning camp till September 14 under the supervision of coach Baljit Singh Saini. "We have called up all the core probables for the national camp keeping an eye on the three-nation tournament that is scheduled for the end of this year," Saini said. "We will be focused on making sure that the players keep their fitness levels high, and are in the rhythm of playing intense hockey at the highest level. We will also have the chance to identify the key areas where we need to work on, and we have enough time together to make sure that we work on those areas before the tournament in Australia later this year," he added.

### DANNI WYATT SCRIPTS WCSL HISTORY

LONDON: Danni Wyatt has scripted history as she became the first ever English player to score a ton in the Women's Cricket Super League (WCSL). Playing for Southern Vipers, Wyatt scored 110 off 60 balls. Meanwhile, her score is the second-highest of all time in the competition, after Suzie Bates' 119 in 2017. "It was a tricky wicket," Wyatt was quoted as saying after the game. "Me and Suzie [Bates] struggled a bit in the first few overs. It was one of those wickets where you have to just back yourself and slog it really. I came off the pitch thinking, 'Wow, how did I manage that?' 'Once I was in, I wasn't thinking and just wanted to hit boundaries. Anything up there and full I tried to get my hands through. I've not hit a 100 for about 15 months so it's nice to get another one!" she added.

### DANI ALVES SCORES WINNER ON DEBUT

SAO PAULO: Brazil veteran Dani Alves scored the winning goal on his debut for Sao Paulo on Sunday, weeks after signing a three-year deal with the club. Alves, 36, found the back of the net in the 40th minute to score the only goal of the game against Ceara. Alves and Spanish international Juanfran, 34, are the stars for Sao Paulo, who snapped up both players after their contracts with European clubs expired. Alves' return to Brazil after 17 years playing for top clubs in Europe has had a big impact on his home country.

### RAIN SPOILS DULEEP TROPHY OPENER

BENGALURU: Heavy overnight rain washed out the entire third day's play in the Duleep Trophy opener between India Blue and India Green here on Monday. The rain resulted in a wet outfield and the conditions didn't improve through the day, forcing the officials to call off play without a ball being bowled for the second straight day. The second day's proceedings on Sunday had been washed out due to wet ground conditions. With only 49 overs having been bowled so far and no innings completed, the match is headed for a stalemate. India Green had reduced India Blue to 112 for 6 in 49 overs on a truncated opening day on Saturday.

# Trippier, Felix star on debut

AFP ■ MADRID

Alvaro Morata headed in a sumptuous Kieran Trippier cross to ensure a new-look Atletico Madrid beat Getafe 1-0 on Sunday and made a winning start in La Liga.

Trippier looked right at home at the Wanda Metropolitano when his bending ball was nodded in by Morata before two red cards in four minutes, one for each team, made it 10 against 10 before half-time.

Getafe striker Jorge Molina and Atletico left-back Renan Lodi were the players sent off and then Morata missed a penalty, earned after a mesmeric run from Joao Felix, Atletico's 126 million euro signing from Benfica.

It was enough for Felix to depart to a standing ovation and Atletico held on, even if this was perhaps not the statement opening to the season that Diego Simeone might have hoped for.

Getafe were stubborn opponents, showing again why they fin-



Alvaro Morata celebrates with Kieran Trippier after he scoring against Getafe



ished fifth last season, only narrowly missing out on a place in the Champions League to Valencia on the final day.

Felix aside, Atletico's other debutants impressed, including Lodi, before he was sent off, and Trippier, the first Englishman to play for Atletico since the Spanish Civil War and 20th in the history of the Spanish top flight.

The former Tottenham defender's pin-point cross was the highlight of a confident performance that earned regular praise from the home fans. Getafe had struggled to find a way into the match but two red cards in four minutes threatened to shift the balance.

First, referee Cuadra Fernandez turned a yellow card into a red for Molina after consulting VAR, the striker catching Thomas Parthey late down the back of his heel. Then Lodi was handed a second yellow for planting his hand in the face of Damian Suarez.

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Star raider Vikas Kandola did the star turn as Haryana Steelers beat U Mumba 30-27 for an important win in a Pro Kabaddi League match at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium here on Monday.

The closely fought contest saw the Mumbai side match the Steelers till the very end, but Kandolas nine-point game and some uncharacteristic errors from the U Mumba defence handed Haryana victory.

Both sides went into the match with identical records (four wins and four losses in eight matches),

# Kandola shines in Steelers win

but Haryana Steelers started aggressively, with coach Rakesh Kumar recognising the lack of raiding quality in U Mumba's ranks.

The defence kept a high line, strangling U Mumba's opportunities to pick up Bonus Points, thereby forcing them to make mistakes while Vikas Kandola picked up the points with his raids in the other end.

His three-point Super Raid 12 minutes into the match set the tone



THE CLOSELY FIGHTED CONTEST SAW THE MUMBAI SIDE MATCH THE STEELERS TILL THE VERY END, BUT KANDOLA'S NINE-POINT GAME & SOME UNCHARACTERISTIC ERRORS FROM THE U MUMBA DEFENCE HANDED HARYANA VICTORY

for the Haryana side, which inflicted an All-Out on U Mumba with three minutes remaining to half time.

Steelers led 16-8 at half-time. In the second half, the introduction of raider Abhishek Singh by U Mumba brought about a change in the proceedings as his raids helped the team reduce the lead to just two points 10 minutes into the half.

However, consecutive Super

Tackles by Ravi Kumar and Chand Singh, along with a few errors in the Mumbai defence quickly widened the gap to 25-17 in favour of Haryana with seven minutes to the final whistle.

Sandeep Narwal's raid for Mumbai with six minutes left on the clock, taking out Dharmaraj Cheralathan and Chand Singh, tilted the balance of the match once again and the subsequent all-out meant the gap was reduced to one point with less than three minutes remaining. But the push came a little too late for Mumbai as they succumbed to another defeat.

# Coutinho joins Bayern on loan

AFP ■ MADRID

Barcelona's Philippe Coutinho has joined Bayern Munich on a one-year loan worth 8.5 million euros (\$9.5 million) with an option to buy, the Spanish club confirmed on Monday.

"The agreement provides for an option for Bayern to buy at a 120-million-euro fee," Barcelona said.

The 27-year-old Brazilian joined Barcelona from Liverpool in January 2018 for an initial 120 million euros in a deal that included another 40 million euros in potential add-ons.

But the midfielder's stint at Barcelona never worked out as hoped despite huge excitement

around his arrival at the Camp Nou.

Initially tried in midfield where he plays for Brazil, Coutinho was pushed into the front three by Ernesto Valverde last season but the switch never paid off.

"For me, this move means a new challenge in a new country with one of the best clubs in Europe," Coutinho said on Bayern's website.

"I'm very much looking forward to that. Like FC Bayern, I have big ambitions and I'm convinced that I can achieve them together with my new teammates."

The German club hope he will provide reinforcement in attack following the departure of veteran duo Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery at the end of last season. "With his creativity and outstanding skills, Philippe is a player who will immediately strengthen our attack," Bayern CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said.

AFP ■ PARIS

Champions Paris Saint-Germain slipped up in their second league game of the season losing 2-1 to Rennes on Sunday in a repeat of April's French Cup final with a 16-year-old playing a starring role.

Edinson Cavani scored after less than 15 minutes of play for the visitors in Brittany before Mbaye Niang and Romain del Castillo responded for the home side.

PSG were without forward Neymar for a third successive game this term.

Angolan-born 16-year-old Eduardo Camavinga starred in Rennes midfield, and proved to be key in his team's winning goal, along with experienced playmaker Clement Grenier.

Rennes boss Julien Stephan said Camavinga, the first player born since January

# PSG suffer defeat at Rennes



Benjamin Bourigeaud is chased by Kylian Mbappe during Ligue 1 match

2002 to feature in Europe's top five leagues, had continued to improve since making his first team debut in April.

"It's more than six months he's been training with the pro-

the right conditions.

"He started doing it at the end of last season and he's confirming all the talent we think he has at the start of this season," he added.

PSG skipper Thiago Silva admitted his side stepped off the gas after their good start through Cavani's effort.

"We started well but we eased off a bit, I don't know why, we lost concentration," he told Canal+.

"It wasn't the real PSG. Rennes played well, they were solid defensively, they were more careful than us," he added.

Elsewhere Saint-Etienne salvaged a late point at home against Brest with new signing Denis Bouanga's 83rd minute effort claiming a 1-1 draw and it finished goalless between Reims and Strasbourg.

professionals. He's settled in well with the squad," he told broadcaster Canal+.

"We've prepared him with the players, the staff and the whole club so he can evolve in



Joe Root celebrates after taking the wicket of David Warner caught Rory Burns during day 5 AP

# Living up the hype

Root glad to see Archer 'shake up things' on Test debut

**AFP ■ LONDON**  
England captain Joe Root said fast bowler Jofra Archer had "lived up to the hype" with a dramatic Test debut against Australia at Lord's. Archer, who replaced the injured James Anderson in team for the second Ashes Test, took five wickets in the drawn match, including 3-32 in Australia's second innings on Sunday. But Archer's display, which almost helped England achieve an unlikely and series-levelling win in a match severely affected by rain, was about much more than economical figures. The 24-year-old quick's sheer speed gave England's attack a new cutting edge. Archer hit several Australians, with a fearsome bouncer that slammed into Steve Smith's unprotected neck leading to a concussion that kept the star batsman off the field on the last day at Lord's and could rule him out of the third Test in Leeds starting on Thursday. "He's come in and he really has made a massive impact, added a different dynamic to our bowling group and has given Australia something different to think about," said Root. "It's really pleasing to see someone come in on Test debut and really shake up things and live up to the hype — even some of the hype that he put on himself. "He makes things happen when not many others in world can. Such a unique action and way of bowling, and obviously natural pace, which is always going to be in the game on any surface." Root added: "When you've got that and the skill of other guys around it, it makes for a tasty combination and I think that's one of the reasons why we always felt we were in the game. "It makes for a very interesting last three games."

# England unchanged for Headingley Test

**AFP ■ LONDON**  
England named an unchanged squad on Monday for this week's third Test against Australia at Headingley. The injured James Anderson, England's all-time leading Test wicket-taker, will continue his bid to return later in the series by playing in a county 2nd XI match starting from today. England's selectors kept faith with the XI that drew the rain-affected second Ashes Test at Lord's, with the hosts having the better of an exciting last day before Australia held out to preserve their 1-0 lead. Surrey left-arm seamer Sam Curran, who did not play at Lord's, retained his place in a 12-man squad for the third Test, which starts at England captain Joe Root's Headingley home ground on Thursday. With just a four-day turnaround between Tests in London and Leeds, major changes were always unlikely. Now England will hope that is sufficient time for World Cup-winning fast bowler Jofra Archer to recover from the 44 overs he sent down at Lord's. Anderson did not play in the second Test because of a calf injury will step his rehabilitation this week by playing for Lancashire 2nd XI against Leicestershire in a three-day friendly match in Liverpool. Anderson's fitness will be assessed continually ahead of the fourth Test at his Old Trafford home ground starting on September 4. While England's fallible top order remains a concern — opener Jason Roy has made just 40 runs in four innings this series — the selectors have resisted the temptation to bring in new faces. They were under less pressure to make changes after the uncapped duo of Dom Sibley and Zak Crawley, considered to be of the best young openers in England, were both out for low scores on Sunday. Sibley got a duck for Warwickshire against Somerset on Sunday and Kent batsman Crawley was dismissed for just five against Essex.



# Smith closes gap as Kohli maintains top spot

**PTI ■ DUBAI**  
Australian batsman Steve Smith pipped New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson to second spot with only nine points separating him and the top-ranked Virat Kohli in the latest list for ICC Test list released on Monday. The Indian captain, with 922 points, is on top of the list while Smith, after his twin Ashes hundreds in Birmingham and 92 at Lord's, is on 913 points. The other Indian in the top-10 is Cheteshwar Pujara, who stayed put at his fourth position. Sri Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne made rapid strides, entering the top-10 at eighth with a jump of four ranking places. South Africa's Aiden Markram also improved upon his ranking to be positioned sixth while England captain Joe Root paid for his slight slump in form to be at ninth. In the bowlers' list, Pat Cummins remained firmly entrenched on top of the table while Ravindra Jadeja improved from sixth place to fifth. His spin bowling partner Ravichandran Ashwin remained 10th. Jadeja also remained third in the all-rounder's list, led by West Indies' Jason Holder, with Shakib Al Hasan placed second. Meanwhile, India could lose their pole position in the ICC Test Team rankings, as even a 1-0 defeat by the West Indies in their upcoming series will see them slip to 108 points. That margin will be enough for the West Indies to overtake Pakistan to seventh position at 88 points. India are on top of team table with 113 points followed by New Zealand (111 points) and South Africa (108 points).



# Rahane gets runs ahead of first Test



**PTI ■ COOLIDGE**  
Indian vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane got much needed runs under his belt ahead of the first Test as the visitors reached 174 for five at lunch on the final day of the three-day warm-up game against the West Indies A here on Monday. Rahane, who has not scored a hundred in more than two years, made a fighting 54 off 162 balls before a reverse sweep led to his dismissal. Rahane, who is the stand-in captain in this game, had come to open the innings after failing in the first essay. The Mumbai batsman had looked horribly out of touch during his 35 overs at the crease on day two. His 20 not out on Sunday had three boundaries but he played more than 80 dot balls, a testimony to his struggles. Rahane and Hanuma Vihari had resumed the innings at 84 for one and both batsmen managed to score half-centuries. Vihari, who was on 48 overnight, went on to make 64 off 125 balls in an innings comprising nine fours and a six with India extending their lead to 279 runs. Off-spinner Akim Frazer removed both Rahane and Vihari while Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja were the other batsmen to be dismissed. Wriddhiman Saha (6) and R Ashwin (5) were in the middle when lunch was called. On day two, Senormost pacer Ishant Sharma bowled a fiery opening spell while left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav promised to pose stiff competition for Ravichandran Ashwin as India dominated proceedings against West

# Saini stays as cover for Tests

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Impressed with his skill-set, the Indian team management has decided to keep speedster Navdeep Saini as a net bowler for the two-Test series against the West Indies, aiming to groom him for future red-ball assignments. Saini, who plays domestic cricket for Delhi, made his T20 International debut against the West Indies in Florida and won the man of the match award in his maiden appearance. He has earlier been the Indian team's net bowler and a cover for Bhuvneshwar Kumar during the ICC World Cup in England as well. "Yes, Navdeep Saini has been asked to stay back by the team management for the Test series. He will stay back primarily as a net bowler, they want to groom him for the Test format keeping an eye on the future," a senior BCCI official said on Monday. Saini, in fact, bowled six overs during the West Indies A first innings in the ongoing practice match to give relief to Ishant Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah and Umesh Yadav. Mohammed Shami and Bhuvneshwar Kumar didn't bowl in the first innings. "Saini has been a performer in red ball cricket for



the past few years. He has the pace, and ability to hit the deck, move the ball both in air and off the pitch. "If he is groomed well, it will only increase our pool of fast bowlers for the top tier cricket. That's how the team management is looking at him," the official said. It is believed that if Saini stays back, it will help bowling coach Bharath Arun to invest more time in the 26-year-old Karnal-lad, who has taken 120 wickets from 43 first-class games with three five-wicket hauls. "One can't ignore the effort that Arun has put in to make India's fast bowling unit



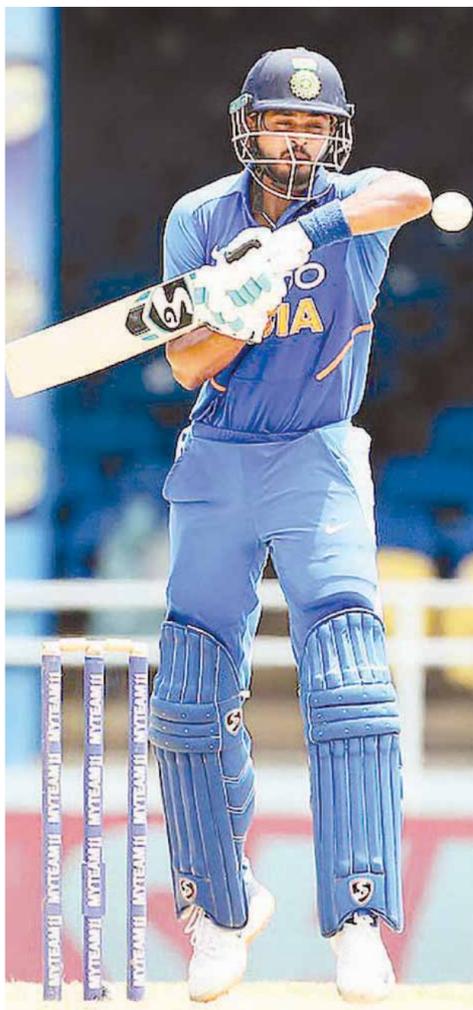
# Pandey, Iyer to share India A captaincy

**The five one day matches against South Africa A will be played at The Sports Hub in Thiruvananthapuram on August 29, 31 and Sept 2, 4 and 8**

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
Manish Pandey was on Monday named India A captain for the first three one-dayers against the touring South Africa A, while Shreyas Iyer will lead in the last two matches of the series beginning August 29 in Thiruvananthapuram. Rising talent Shubman Gill is there in both Pandey's and Iyer's teams and so are Vijay Shankar, Anmolpreet Singh, Ricky Bhui, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel and Nitish Rana. Ishan Kishan was picked as wicketkeeper in the team led by Pandey, while the immensely talented Sanju Samson will do duty behind the stumps under Iyer's captaincy. India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal is part of the team for the first three matches. The matches will be played at The Sports Hub in Thiruvananthapuram on August 29, 31 and September 2, 4 and 8. The All-India senior selection committee picked the teams here. **Team for first 3 one-day:** Manish Pandey (Captain), Rituraj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Anmolpreet Singh, Ricky Bhui, Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Vijay Shankar, Shivam Dube, Krunal Pandya, Axar Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal, Shardul Thakur, Deepak Chahar, Khaleel Ahmed, Nitish Rana. **Team for last two one-day:** Shreyas Iyer (Captain), Shubman Gill, Prashant Chopra, Anmolpreet Singh, Ricky Bhui, Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Nitish Rana, Vijay Shankar, Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Rahul Chahar, Shardul Thakur, Tushar Deshpande, Ishan Porel.

# Shastri names Iyer for No 4 spot

**IANS ■ ST JOHNS**  
Head coach Ravi Shastri has for the time put an end to the debate over the No 4 spot in the Indian batting line-up by identifying Shreyas Iyer as the man for the job. Impressed with the pool of talented youngsters coming up the ranks in Indian cricket, Shastri — while speaking to *Times of India* — said Iyer will continue to bat at No 4 in ODIs for India. "One of the areas we concentrated on over the last two years was to blood as many youngsters as possible. Shreyas Iyer, for instance, he is going to stay at No 4," said Shastri who has been reappointed as the head coach till World 2021 T20. Iyer batted at number five during the just-concluded ODI series against the West Indies and scored 71 and 65 in the two innings he played. Wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant was India's number four but he failed to grab the opportunities and scored 20 and 0 in the two ODIs. Kohli, after the third ODI against the West Indies, said that 24-year-old Iyer has presented a strong case for himself to be a regular feature of the team in the limited-overs format. Earlier, former India skipper Sunil Gavaskar also advocated for Iyer to bat at No 4. "In my view, Rishabh Pant is much better like MS Dhoni at 5 or 6 as a finisher because that's where his natural game and natural flair will come into play," Gavaskar had said. "If it's a question of batting for 30-35 overs, then I think it should be Shreyas Iyer at No 4 and Pant at No 5," he had said.



Shreyas Iyer defends during third ODI of the three-match series against Windies AP

# Support staff selection begins, announcement on Thursday

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
Ignored for the head coach's position, Lalchand Rajput was among the aspirants appearing for interviews on Monday to pick the support staff of the Indian cricket team, joining heavyweights such as Venkatesh Prasad. The senior selection committee, led by former stumper MSK Prasad, started an extensive process to pick the support staff. The 57-year-old Rajput entering the fray means competition for the batting coach's position could only get tougher with former Test opener Vikram Rathour already emerging as a strong contender to replace incumbent Sanjay Bangar. Among the incumbents, bowling coach Bharat Arun and fielding coach R Sridhar have emerged favourites to retain their posts after head coach Ravi Shastri stressed on retaining the staff. However, Bangar still faces a tough challenge with most of the applications received for the batting coach's post. The former India all-rounder has been with the team since 2014 during which India have played 50 Tests and 119 ODIs. The process is expected to be completed only by Thursday after all the interviews for various positions including batting, bowling and fielding coach are done with. Also eyeing the batting coach's job are Pravin Amre,



Mumbai stalwart Amol Mazumdar and Saurashtra's batting bulwark Sitanshu Kotak. It was learnt that former India batsman Hrishikesh Kanitkar and ex-Delhi batsman Mithun Manas also appeared for interview before the five-member panel. One of the candidates said that giving presentation was not mandatory. For the position of bowling coach, former India pacers Venkatesh Prasad, Paras Mbarey and Amit Bhandari appeared for the interview. As per the criteria for batting, bowling and fielding coach, the three personnel should have played at least 10 Tests or 25 ODIs and be less than 60 years of age. The process to choose the support staff will continue on Tuesday.