

**ANALYSIS 9**  
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 FIX

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 WITH KHAYYAM,  
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HYDERABAD, WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21, 2019; PAGES 16-18



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BIG B IS THE  
 ONE AND ONLY  
 MEGASTAR: CHIRU

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## HC issues notices to Google on porn websites

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Tuesday issued notices to Google India Pvt Ltd to respond to a petition filed by a woman complaining that the company did not take any action on her representation to remove her name and surname from some of the porn websites that can be accessed through its search engine.

The hearing of the case was later adjourned to Aug 30, 2019. The petition was filed by a 38-year-old woman, who is a native of Indranagar in Ramanthapur of Uppal mandal under the newly formed Medchal Malkajgiri district.

Continued on Page 3

## Aarogyasri services restored

HYDERABAD: Following a meeting with Health Minister Etela Rajender on Tuesday, the network of hospitals under Aarogyasri scheme has announced the decision to restore the services that were suspended on August 15th over non-payment of bills. Addressing media persons after the meeting, Network hospitals association president Rakesh Reddy said, "Following Minister Etela's assurance, we have decided to restore the services. Over 3 crore people are benefiting because of Aarogyasri."

## HC reserves judgment on Navayuga plea

VIJAYAWADA: Andhra Pradesh High Court has reserved its judgment on a petition filed by Navayuga Company seeking cancellation of a fresh tender notification issued by the State government for hydel project construction in Polavaram project. All the arguments were presented by the counsel of Navayuga Company on Tuesday. Navayuga Company was the earlier contractor of the Polavaram Project including and hydel project. On August 14, the government issued an order cancelling its earlier order stating that the work was not done in-time and issued a fresh notification on August 17.

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# Is AP govt contemplating an alternative to 'Amaravati'?

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Municipal Administration Botsa Satyanarayana's observations on Amaravati have raised many an eyebrow as he has stated that construction cost of the capital city is too high and internal discussions are going on in the government over the capital. "Flyovers and huge structures have to be built in Amaravati, while the construction cost in other areas of the State is low", Satyanarayana said.

It may be noted that the budget allocation for the Capital City of Amaravati is just Rs 500 crore. Stating that Amaravati is a flood-prone area, the minister said the State government would assess the damage caused by floods and decide on the extent of compensation. He hit out at the 'yellow' media for putting out distorted news and pointing fingers at the YSRCP government's prompt steps, which minimised the damage to property and prevented human loss. Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy had constantly enquired about the flood situation in the State from the US and issued appropriate directions.

Exactly a year ago, the then Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had directed the CRDA officials to expedite capital construction to win the confidence of the people.



## INTENT IS CLEAR WITH Rs 500-cr ALLOCATION

With an allocation of Rs 500 crore for Amaravati construction in the State Budget, the YSRCP government had dropped enough hints on its priorities. With this, the government has reiterated its stand on the 'reverse tendering', which is to be taken up in a phased manner in all capital works. It may be recalled that Capital Amaravati was the top priority during the TDP government's regime. Former Professor of Economics Dr LSN Prasad said he was amazed at a single line mention of the allocation of funds for construction of Capital City Amaravati. "The allocation to social welfare and education was more than expected," he said and added that allotting only Rs 500 crore for the capital construction was something that needs to be discussed at length. Allocation of Rs 92,050 crore for development activities was laudable, he said and added that making budgetary allocation towards financial aid for barbers, tailors and auto drivers is a new concept. Prasad further stated that the revenue deficit is only Rs 1,700 crore and the total deficit is Rs 32,500 crore.

Naidu had suggested to CRDA officials to elicit the opinion of the common man apart from global experts to seek

suggestions for making Amaravati the happiest place. However, Satyanarayana's comments contradict the for-

mer CM's observations by saying that Amaravati construction would be a costly affair.

It may be recalled that former bureaucrat EAS Sarma had said one year ago "The State budget figures show that as a result of the diversion of revenue for non-productive purposes and shrinkage in the space for capital investments, the State is unable to devote enough resources for lifeline sectors such as agriculture and crucial sectors like social welfare. While the State's finances are deteriorating, there seems to be no conscious effort on the part of the government to observe economy and austerity. Meetings are held not in modest state guest houses, but in five star hotels. Special aircraft are routinely used for travel, unmindful of the fact that even the US ministers are reluctant to charter special aircraft, fearing public uproar."

## 6 HCU students detained for bid to screen documentary

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Tension prevailed on the University of Hyderabad campus on Tuesday, after six students were detained for screening a documentary titled "In the name of Ram ke naam" at the lecture hall of the Sociology wing.

Earlier, when representatives of the All India Students Association (AISA) expressed their desire to screen the documentary at the new seminar hall in the Social Science block, the dean had denied permission stating that the hall would not be allowed to be used by any student organization or affiliated student wings for unstated reasons.

However, subsequently permission was given beforehand on paper by Prof. Tirunnavakkurusu under seal of the HOD of the Sociology Department allowing them to screen the same at the first year Sociology lecture hall.

Later, in no time policemen came in and confiscated the laptop of a student. When the students protested, around six of them were detained by the police. The detained students were Bavajaan, Sonal, Nikhil, Vikas Raj, Vikas Kumar and Arif. The students were released later. Upon their release, the students demanded that democracy should be restored on the campus.



# Gambling clubs across border luring people from TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With the police dealing firmly with gamblers, the latter have chosen to practice their trade in clubs based in the neighbouring Maharashtra and Karnataka states. The latter in fact has become the hot destination for gamblers.

The police are of late getting tough with gamblers, registering at least 10-20 cases daily in Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Adilabad districts. They are arresting gamblers and seizing lakhs of rupees used as stake money. The police have also detected the dens of gamblers amid mango gardens and in some of the forest areas near villages.

So, alert gamblers are wary of indulging in the vice on Telangana soil. The addicts among them prefer to go to

clubs across the border, especially those in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Some of these clubs have appointed commission agents in Telangana to conduct gamblers to their dens, offering attractive sums. The clubs offer them anywhere between Rs 1,000 and Rs 2,500 per person to bring them to the clubs.

Even cars have been hired to transport gamblers bound for Bengaluru to the airport in Hyderabad free of cost. The commission agents even book air tickets free of cost to send gamblers to Bengaluru. The agents have been promising everything free for them and are advising the gamblers to bring only Rs 25,000-50,000 along with them.

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## Submit proofs to Centre, Vijayashanthi asks Nadda

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Campaign Committee chairperson Vijayashanthi has urged BJP national working president JP Nadda to submit to the Centre evidences relating to graft alleged under the K Chandrashekhara Rao government. She was responding to TRS working president KT Rama Rao's poser to Nadda asking him to show evidence if any regarding allegations of corruption against the TRS government. On Monday, Nadda alleged at a public meeting in the Exhibition Grounds that the KCR government had looted thousands of crores of rupees in the name of irrigation projects, particularly Kaleshwaram.

In a statement on Tuesday, Vijayashanthi pointed out that KTR had thrown a similar challenge at her and other opposition leaders when they alleged that Globberena Company was to blame for the suicides of Intermediate students in the state and that KTR had links with the firm. She said that President Ram Nath Kovind had responded to the suicides of Intermediate students after BJP leaders lodged a complaint in this regard with



proofs. On a reference from the President, the Ministry of Home Affairs had directed Telangana State Chief Secretary SK Joshi to submit a comprehensive report.

Shocked at the President's intervention, KCR alleged that opposition parties were trying to blame the TRS government by hatching a conspiracy, she said. Vijayashanthi suggested that KCR should KTR as to why he threw challenge at Nadda, instead of criticizing opposition parties saying that they were hatching a conspiracy against his government.

Vijayashanthi wanted Nadda to submit evidences against the TRS government's corruption to the Centre to prove his credibility in the face of KTR's challenge.

## DRI seizes foreign currency from 2 flyers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad zonal unit of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) arrested two persons in possession of foreign currency worth Rs 1.48 crore at city airport RGIA on Tuesday. They were planning to smuggle foreign currency to Dubai in two separate flights.

The two flyers were nabbed based on specific intelligence inputs, DRI said. They were bound for Dubai in an Indigo flight, scheduled to depart at 2.50 pm, when sleuths intercepted them. An examination of their checked-in baggage revealed foreign currency concealed in false bottoms created in biscuit boxes along with other items, officials said.

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## Check your beer before drinking

● Adulteration of liquor rampant on city outskirts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The seal of the bottle may be intact, but the content may not be the intended brand of beer or other liquor, but spurious liquor adulterated with harmful ingredients. The whole thing is packaged so well that detection is next to impossible.

Due to administrative negligence, 'spurious liquor business' is thriving like anything. Things have come to such a pass that when liquor shops receive their stocks from depots, unscrupulous elements manage to supply spurious liquor using the same vehicle. Adulteration is



rampant on the outskirts of the city. The product targeted most for adulteration is beer. The nefarious practice was previously limited to bars, but now it is spreading among wine shops, more so if they have 'permit' rooms.

The counterfeit liquor that excise officials seized on Monday at Abdullah Nagar is just the tip of the iceberg and reflective of the pernicious practice. Hazardous chemicals are sometimes used to adulterate liquor.

Often water mixed with sugar, chemicals, soap nut juice and shampoo (which give it a frothy look when shaken) is palmed off as beer. Upon mixing the ingredients, the bottle is sealed after being filled with soda and gas. No wonder, when the bottle is opened the effervescence would make it look like nothing but beer.

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## Actor Raj Tharun crashes car at Narsingi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An up-and-coming actor of Tollywood, Raj Tharun, was involved in a road mishap when his car careened and crashing into a divider near the Outer Ring Road at Alkapur in Narsingi in the wee hours of Tuesday.

According to sources, another person was travelling in the car, along with

the 27-year-old actor. They were returning to Hyderabad when the incident occurred.

"The place where the mishap occurred is an accident prone zone. Many serious accidents have taken place at that area as there is a sharp u-turn with no proper lights," said an official.

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## CBI team at Chidambaram's doorstep

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after the Delhi High Court refused to grant any protection from arrest to former Union finance minister P Chidambaram, a team of CBI officers landed at his posh for Bagh residence to locate him, officials said. The CBI team left the premises after confirming that Chidambaram was not present at the address, they said.

The team, which had some SP-rank officials, did not make it clear if they had gone to his residence to arrest him for alleged irregularities in foreign investment clearance to INX media during his tenure as finance minister. The officials returned to the CBI headquarters where they got into a huddle with senior officers of the agency to decide the future course of action, officials said.

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday refused to grant any protection to Chidambaram from arrest by the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate. He failed to get an audience from Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi on Tuesday for urgent hearing of his appeal in the Supreme Court against the Delhi High Court order dismissing his anticipatory bail plea.

# Where has all the money gone?

L VENKAT RAM REDDY  
 ■ HYDERABAD

A severe 'cash crunch' is being felt across all sectors in the country. Even state governments in the Telugu States are feeling the squeeze, with pending bills of Telangana state government touching Rs 30,000 crore while that of Andhra Pradesh are pegged at Rs 22,000 crore.

Both the state governments have stopped all payments, except salaries/pensions for their staff. The tight financial condition has raised a troubling question: "Where has all the money gone?"

Private hospitals in Telangana have stopped Aarogyasri services after the government failed to clear arrears amounting to over Rs



1,000 crore. The government could not solve the problem even four days after the hospitals stopped services, due to paucity of funds.

The private sector is also feeling the pinch of 'cash

crunch'. Private companies are defaulting on payments, citing 'no cash'. The real estate sector is reeling under cash crunch with poor sales of apartments/independent houses as unsold units have touched a

high of nearly 8 lakh units by June-end in nine major cities in the country, including Hyderabad.

The state governments are blaming the Centre for the cash-scarcity situation, while

- Severe 'cash crunch' felt in all sectors
- TS govt's pending bills touch Rs 30,000 crore, AP's at Rs 22,000 crore
- States blames FRBM Act for cash crunch
- Centre blames RBI's high reserves of Rs 9.60 lakh crore lying idle
- Demand for restoring power of Centre to print money at will floated to resolve cash crunch

the Centre is pointing fingers at the Reserve Bank of India for maintaining high levels of cash reserves with it which is lying idle, contending that no country in the world maintains such large reserves.

As per official estimates, the RBI currently has Rs 9.60 lakh crore of reserves with it, lying idle. The Centre argues that if RBI releases a certain portion of the reserves, it can ease the cash crunch situation in the country.

The state governments on the other hand are blaming the Centre's FRBM Act of 2003 for the cash crunch, arguing that they could not mobilise funds despite having repayment capacity due to stringent norms prescribed under the Act.

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## Metro trains to run at 3minute frequency

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a huge relief to commuters travelling from Ameerpet towards HI-TEC City, HMRL has increased the speed of the trains to 4minutes during peak hours, starting Tuesday. The increased frequency is due to

the commissioning of the 'reversal' facility beyond theHITEC City metro station, near Trident Hotel. With this increased frequency, HMRL will be running about 60 additional train trips. Presently about 270 trips are being made daily.

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**TODAY**  
**ALMANAC**  
 Month & Paksham: Shrivana & Krishna Paksha  
 Tithi: Shashthi: Full Night  
 Nakshatram: Ashwini: 12:48 am (Next Day)  
**Time to Avoid:** (Bad time to start any important work)  
**Rahukalam:** 12:19 pm - 01:53 pm  
**Yamagandam:** 07:37 am - 09:11 am  
**Variyam:** 08:25 pm - 10:10 pm  
**Gulika:** 10:45 am - 12:19 pm  
**Good Time:** (to start any important work)  
**Amritakalam:** 04:54 pm - 06:39 pm  
**Abhijit Muhurtham:** Nil  
**HYDERABAD WEATHER**  
 Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms  
 Temp: 29/23  
 Humidity: 82%  
 Sunrise: 04:54  
 Sunset: 06:39  
 Current Weather Conditions  
 Updated August 20, 2019 5:00 PM

**PIN POINT** "Nothing is undeserved for making poetry"... is the famous poetic expression of great Telugu writer of 20th Century Srirangam Srinivasa Rao, popularly known as Sri Sri. Principal political players of Andhra Pradesh appeared to have imbibed the essence of such poetic saying and unleashed a veiled attack on their political rivals, even over flood havoc that disturbed the lives of lakhs of people in the state. Ruling YSR Congress and principal Opposition party Telugudesaam are fully engaged in verbal duel, particularly when the devastating flood in river Krishna which occurred after release of lakhs of cusecs of water from projects upstream. Darts flew from both sides following the

# AP govt has got its water priorities woefully wrong

flood, particularly in the absence of Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy who is on a visit to US. The two political rivals, YSRC and TDP, severely criticized each other over flood and water 'management'. The alleged operation of drone cameras over the residence of N Chandrababu Naidu on the pretext of surveying the flood situation sparked severe criticism. A private person operating the drone without permission over the residence of Naidu who enjoys NSG protection is the main cause of uproar from Opposition. The government has evaded a direct reply to this aspect and defended it as being a part of flood survey. Actually, YSRC has been concentrating on the

**Optimal use of high water levels during floods can hardly be made if the rulers don't grab the opportunity and have a lethargic attitude in getting things done in a timely manner. The two political rivals severely criticized each other over flood and water management**

issue of a private bungalow that was taken by Chandrababu for residential purpose during his tenure as CM, and lives there even now as Leader of Opposition in AP Assembly. But YSR Congress has been persistently stating that it's an illegal building that came up near the flood bank, which attracts the provisions of River Conservation Act.

Apart from that building, the government has also issued notices to the other 22 structures constructed alongside the river bund/flood bank. Since those buildings might happen to obstruct the river flow and cause severe damage during floods, the government is of the firm opinion that such buildings, including Chandrababu's house, must go.



**M D RATNA KUMAR**  
Senior Journalist

3 tmc. In such a situation, the 'target' may get inundated, maybe to the liking of his opponents who are out to prove that the building is an illegal construction built on river flood bank. What needs to be done is releasing all water in excess of the barrage capacity and initiate relief operations. All this brings to mind the devastating floods in Krishna river in 2009. The grim situation was effectively tackled by then CM K Rosaiah by early release of water from the two major projects of Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailem even before flood waters reached their reservoirs. The current government's priorities appear to be different from its predecessors'.

Even former CM Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy handled the flood situation during his tenure very deftly in the face of severe criticism from his own party quarters. He stood up for the interests of his own region -- by effectively using flood waters without breaching the reservoir capacity limits -- and got due recognition in the end. Whatever be the current AP government's objectives, it still couldn't get the water needed to meet the requirements of Rayalaseema through Pothireddipadu (PRP) head regulator in the upstream of Srisailem project which is designed specially to cater to the needs of parched lands of the region. The optimal use of high water levels during floods

can hardly be done if the rulers don't grab the opportunity and have a lethargic attitude in getting things done in a timely manner. A staggering 200 tmc of surplus water -- enough to meet the water requirement of 13 lakh of acres of land in the Krishna delta -- got drained into the sea in floods this time. Large amounts of surplus water could have been saved by diverting it into several medium and minor projects in the state. In other words, government didn't act responsibly and instead chose to prioritise targeting its political rival, when it could have used flood waters sensibly for the benefit of people and collect valuable brownie points in the process.



## TRS ignoring Prez's orders, says BJP

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
The TRS government ignored the President of India's orders on Intermediate students' suicides, alleged Krishnasagar Rao, the official spokesman of the BJP. Addressing media at the BJP office here on Tuesday, he accused the TRS government of not conducting a probe into the circumstances that led to the students' suicides. He went one-step ahead and found fault with the Dr SK Joshi, the Chief Secretary. "If the government fails to send the report on suicides to President Ram Nath Kovind, the BJP would take appropriate action, but did not specify what it is going to do. KTR has become TRS party's Rahul Gandhi, he said adding that KTR feels elated when audience put their hands together unable to understand his speech," he said. He took pity on KTR for trying to fill his speech with rhyming words. BJP state unit secretary S Kumar called the Congress as an irresponsible party.

# BJP dares KTR for debate on graft

Ramchander Rao demands judicial inquiry into State's irrigation projects

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
BJP senior leader and party's leader in Legislative Council N Ramchander Rao challenged TRS working president KT Rama Rao for an open debate on corruption in TRS rule and demanded a judicial inquiry on the irrigation projects being taken up by the government, including Kaleshwaram project. Firing on KTR for latter's comments on JP Nadda, Ramchander Rao stressed that all the issues raised by BJP national working president are true and therefore TRS leaders are becoming insecure and intolerant. "KTR said he does not know JP Nadda. People are laughing over his comments and he is getting trolled on social media. JP Nadda has not read a written copy given by Telangana BJP. He has spoken the truth. All the issues raised by Nadda are true and BJP is ready for an open debate. Does KTR have guts to debate? We demand TRS government to order for a judicial inquiry on the schemes being implemented by them, including Kaleshwaram Project. TRS government is involved in unbridled corruption in all schemes. If KCR does not go for an inquiry, then BJP will act on corruption," said Ramchander Rao countering



BJP leader in Legislative Council N Ramchander Rao addresses media on Tuesday

KTR's comments on JP Nadda. Ramchander Rao further said that JP Nadda's tour has pushed TRS into extreme fear. "With just one visit of JP Nadda, the whole of TRS party is getting ruffled. Right from KTR to Ministers and MLAs, everyone is spewing venom at BJP. Inefficient, incompetent and insecure TRS has become intolerant of BJP. This is just the beginning. BJP will expose TRS's misdeeds at every possible instance and enlighten people about KCR's misrule," stressed Ramchander Rao. Ramchander Rao also demanded the Telangana government to implement Ayushman Bharat scheme immediately in Telangana as Arogyasri scheme has become defunct and people across the

state are facing severe hardships. "Arogyasri has become completely defunct as Rs 1,500 crore bills are pending to the hospitals. Due to government's neglect, several private hospitals are on the verge of closure. Government hospitals are facing heavy rush of patients while there are no facilities. But KTR is saying that Ayushman Bharat being implemented by Centre is useless. KTR should know that already 80 lakh people have been benefited through Ayushman Bharat. As TRS government has miserably failed in implementing Arogyasri and strengthening health facilities in government hospitals, it should immediately implement Ayushman Bharat scheme in Telangana," demanded Ramchander Rao.

## Aruna slams KTR

Says the TRS working president is playing foul game

**PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR**  
Former Minister and BJP leader D K Aruna launched a scathing attack on TRS working president KT Rama Rao for his derogatory remarks on the BJP leader JP Nadda. Speaking to media persons, the BJP leader said the 'Kalvakuntla family' has made the state of Telangana a centre of lies. She said the TRS working president bowed before the BJP leader Nadda for funds earlier and now are trying to deviate from that by playing a foul game. The BJP leader said the poll promises in the Amangal Municipal Corporation were not fulfilled and the revelations of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, about Rs 25 crore worth works implementation was not materialised. The BJP leader said her party would take up a massive

struggle to focus on the fulfillment of issues and a public meeting would be organised highlighting the issues. Meanwhile, another BJP leader and former MP G Vivek on Tuesday exhorted the party cadre to strengthen the party in Mahabubnagar district from the roots in villages. Speaking to media persons, the newly joined BJP leader demanded a CBI probe in the construction of irrigation projects in the State. He alleged that the Chief Minister has pushed the state into debt and has become a contractor-friendly. The Kaleshwaram redesigning process and the construction of Assembly and Secretariat buildings were contemplated to help the contractor sections, he alleged. The BJP leader demanded a white paper on the state economy and financial status in the wake of these developments.



TJS chief Prof M Kodandaram submits a representation to DGP M Mahender Reddy in Hyderabad on Tuesday

## TJS seeks permission to enter Nallamala forests

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) urged the Director General of Police (DGP) M Mahender Reddy to grant permission to visit Nallamala area and allow its leaders to talk to the people in Amrabad and Padara Mandals, where the government proposes to mine Uranium, and the activists of movement against Uranium mining. TJS also asked the DGP to issue guidelines for the use of Section 151 CrPC to prevent undue interference in the democratic activity permitted by the Constitution. The TJS also asked the DGP to prepare the guidelines in consultation with political parties and civil society groups and they should be adequately publicized. On Tuesday, TJS Chief Prof M Kodandaram, official spokesperson Venkat Reddy and others submitted a memorandum to DGP in this regard. Kodandaram mentioned in the letter that the police arrested TJS leaders under Section 151 CrPC twice during the last one month when they tried to meet the Chenchus in Nallamala forests. He said that the reasons offered for their arrest were frivolous to say the least. On August 3, the police arrested TJS leaders at Hazipur stating that "Maoists Martyrs Week is going on". Once again, on August 14, the police arrested TJS leaders stating that "it is difficult to provide security to both wild life as well as people visiting the restricted areas in Nallamala reserve forest". He said that the similar restrictions were not imposed on any other organization. Individuals as well as organizations visited the area without any difficulty; he said lamenting that at least some people are able to move freely. "What bothers us is the discriminatory attitude towards TJS, which is against the law, the Constitution and the democratic norms", he pointed out.

**Villagers resent uranium mining**  
**NALGONDA:** Tribals on Tuesday discussed the consequences of the proposed uranium expropriation project in Nallamala forest area at Peddattu village and resisted the UCIL representatives when they visited the village to collect water samples. They raised slogans against uranium mining and did not pay attention when the UCIL representatives tried to convince the villagers. They warned the UCIL against visiting their village again.

## RDO, MRO get jail for contempt of court

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
The Telangana High Court, taking a serious view of the willful disobedience of an earlier order of the court, on Tuesday sentenced the Gajwel RDO and Thogutta MRO to 2 months' imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 2,000 each in a contempt case seeking action against them for violation of the court order not to disposes the petitioners from the subject lands acquired under the Mallanna Sagar reservoir until payment of compensation.

The orders were passed by a single-judge bench, headed by Justice MS Ramachander Rao of the High Court. The RDO Of Siddipeta, D. Vijender Reddy and Toggutta Tehsildar Prabhu, were sentenced by the HC for committing contempt of court. The court had asked the officials concerned to pay compensation to the land owners of the Komraveli Mallanna Sagar project. However, the officials ignored the order prompting the petitioners to file contempt petition.

## 'New Revenue Act to check corruption'

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao held a nine-hour marathon meeting with collectors of 33 districts to seek their opinion and suggestions on the proposed new Revenue Act. The meeting which started at 11.45 am at Pragathi Bhavan concluded at 8.45 pm. The meeting will be continued and concluded on Wednesday. K Chandrashekar Rao had announced to introduce new Revenue Act in the upcoming budget session of Legislative Assembly in September. The new Act is aimed to check corruption, laxity in delivery of services to people etc. The CM is considering a proposal to scrap village revenue officer system and even change the nomenclature of collectors. Minister and senior officials of all various departments were invited for the meeting. The CM sought opinions and suggestions from collectors on the norms that should be included in the new Revenue Act.



## DRI seizes foreign...

**Continued from Page 1**  
Each of them was attempting to smuggle 3.5 lakh Saudi Riyals, equivalent to Rs 74,37,500. On grilling, the two confessed that the currency was obtained from unauthorised dealers and they were well aware of the fact that it was illegal to smuggle foreign currency out of the country. The currency was obtained in violation of FEMA and attempted to be exported in contravention of the Customs Act, officials said. Further investigation was on in the case.

## Respond to Bhagwat's comments: Cong to BJP

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
Telangana Congress on Tuesday condemned RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat's comments on reservations. The party demanded the Telangana BJP leaders to respond on the comments of Mohan Bhagwat immediately. TPCC leaders Ponnamp Prabhakar, Bakka Juddon, Bellayya Naik, Addanki Dayakar, Prof Kathi Venkata Swamy, Jaganalal Naik and Indira Shobhan have addressed a letter to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this regard on Tuesday. Ponnamp said that the reservation issue is not today's one.

# Congress' future in Telangana at crossroads

**K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD**  
Telangana Congress, which became dull after the back-to-back defeats recently is struggling to face the criticism from the BJP in the state. The Congress leaders, who in general used to level their allegations against TRS only, are now forced to target BJP, which is criticizing Congress left and right on everyday basis. In the beginning, the state Congress used to defend itself saying that Congress is the only alternative party to the ruling TRS. As time passes by, the Congress is failing in its efforts in facing the BJP than TRS as BJP is becoming stronger day by day. The BJP is becoming morally strong in criticizing not only Congress but also TRS.



**After elections, the TRS succeeded in attracting 12 Cong MLAs and other leaders into its fold**

After the elections, the TRS succeeded in attracting 12 Congress MLAs and other senior leaders and made them to join the TRS. The Congress faced TRS's 'Operation Akarash' after the Assembly elections. However, the TRS stopped its 'Operation Akarash' and concentrated on other things after Lok Sabha elections. But now, the Congress is facing 'Operation Akarash' threat from the BJP since before Lok Sabha elections to till now. The BJP is busy with its 'Operation Akarash' in the

state. The Telangana Congress leaders, who tried with TRS's Operation Akarash activities, were criticizing the BJP but taking it lightly in stopping their leaders from joining BJP. Though the leaders like Bhongir MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy are alleging that BJP is a tail party of the TRS, the BJP is continuing its efforts in attracting leaders from Congress. He further said

that BJP has no matter though it is doing 'bahana' in the state. He exuded confidence that the Congress will win the next elections in the state. Former MLA SA Sampath Kumar questioned BJP to tell as to why it was mum on TRS government's corruption all these years. Sampath demanded the BJP-led Union government to conduct an inquiry into the TRS government's corrupt practices. The Congress criticism against BJP looks like a criticism of TRS against BJP. Some Congress leaders are stating that the Congress criticism against BJP is too late as BJP is becoming strong in the state day by day. Leaders from TDP and Congress are joining BJP one after the other. Some Congress leaders also admitted that the BJP is

becoming strong in the state like many small tributaries leading to a big river with the joining of leaders from all most all political parties in the state and most of them are from Congress. Though the Congress leaders are satisfying with the statements like 'only Congress scrap is joining BJP', many are not thinking about the demoralization of Congress cadre with the desertions of the party leaders. But the Congress is not seriously trying to stop the desertions of their leaders to BJP, which is growing in the state speedily. The Congress, which failed to face TRS till recent elections, now has to face two parties-TRS as well as BJP in the state in ensuing elections. One has to wait and see as to how far Congress will succeed in its efforts in the state.

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES	
<b>GOLD</b>	
₹ 37,970 (10 gm)	₹ 30
<b>SILVER</b>	
₹ 43,823 (1kg)	₹ 323
CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹146
Without Skin	₹166
Broiler at Farm	₹101
EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	341
VISAYAWADA	348
VISAKHAPATNAM	361
<b>RETAIL PRICE</b>	<b>₹3.41</b>

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**  
**'B' PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
Name of the work: Siddipet Municipality - Restoration & Comprehensive Development of Komati Cheruvu in Siddipet Town Under TUFIDC Loan Assistance. Tender ID No. NIT No. & Date: Tender ID: 139743 NIT No. 277TUFIDC / Unit - II / Siddipet / Development of Komati Cheruvu / 2019-20. Dt. 19.08.2019. Estimated Contract Value: Rs. 4,89,49,307.00. Bid Submission Closing date: Dt. 05.09.2019  
Further details can be seen at 'b' procurement market place @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in. Contact person: Sri. M. Devanand, ME (PH), Cell No. 9849905730. Sd/- Superintending Engineer (PH), TUFIDC, UNIT-II (FAC)  
DIPR R.O. No. 489-DPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/12019-20

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**CRIME CORNER**

**Thieves flee with Rs 50,000 cash from car**

**HYDERABAD:** Unidentified miscreants stole Rs 50,000 cash from a car by breaking the vehicle's windows at Tandur in Vikarabad on Tuesday. According to the police, the driver of the car Narsimulu had kept the money in it and gone to a bank with his mother when the thieves stole the money. Narsimulu had withdrawn the money from his mother's pension account, inspector Ravi Kumar said. The car was parked in a corner out of CCTV camera coverage. Police registered a case and are investigating the incident.

**Mission Bhagiratha employees in ACB net**

**HYDERABAD:** The employees of Mission Bhagiratha in Tandur area of Vikarabad were arrested by the officials of Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday for demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs 30,000. According to the officials, Mission Bhagiratha Division Engineer K. Srinivas and Work Inspector Mahender had demanded the said amount from one Gurusaiiah, who did the pipeline filling work. They demanded the amount as a favour to clear the pending bills of Mission Bhagiratha. Following a tip off from Gurusaiiah, we laid a trap and nabbed the two men. They were caught red-handed while accepting the amount and their hands were verified via testing water solution" said the officials. Cases were booked against them and further investigations are on.

**Man held for murdering second wife**

**HYDERABAD:** A 42-year-old man was arrested by Golconda police on Tuesday for murdering his second wife at their residence. The deceased was identified as Sameera Begum who worked as a house maid. She was married to Mohammed Basheer Ahmed, 45, who works as a cab driver. The couple had four kids. According to the police, Sameera was Basheer's second wife. His first wife was Sameera's elder sister, with whom he had six kids. He kept both wives and their children in separate houses, police said. Basheer suspected Sameera's fidelity and the couple fought frequently over this. Sameera's body was found with injuries. Police suspect that Basheer used a sharp edged object to murder her. Golconda police has registered a case under Section 302 (murder) of IPC and started investigating the incident. Basheer was sent in judicial remand.

**GHMC raises Rs 100cr from civic bonds for 3rd time**

Issue lapped up on BSE; funds to be used for civic projects

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

GHMC has raised Rs 100 crore by selling municipal bonds on Bombay Stock Exchange, seeking to use the proceeds on developing roads through the Strategic Road Development Project (SRDP). The third tranche of GHMC Municipal Bonds opened for bidding on Tuesday and received an overwhelming response from capital market investors. The bonds were issued at a coupon rate of 10.23% -- the net interest after incentive from the Centre of Rs13 crore will therefore be about 9%.

The GHMC needed Rs 300 crore, but it decided to bid for just Rs 100 crore keeping in mind the slump in stock market. A month hence, it will bid municipal bonds worth another Rs 200 crore, based on market condition.

The GHMC is the only corporation to hit the capital markets for third time, becoming the largest Municipal Bond Route Utiliser in the country. The bidding for GHMC bonds opened at 11.30 am and received bidding for Rs 100 crore well before 12.30 pm. The bonds are rated AA by Care and India Ratings. The grade is one notch lower than the top grade.

The civic body had previ-



GHMC officials monitor the bond sale on BSE on TV

**The GHMC needed Rs 300 crore, but it decided to bid for just Rs 100 crore keeping in mind the slump in stock market. A month hence, it will bid bonds worth another Rs 200 crore**

ously raised Rs 395 crore in two tranches of Rs 200 crore and Rs 195 crore through issuance of municipal bonds in February and August 2018. Municipal and other urban local bodies (ULBs) in the country have raised about Rs 3,600 crore in the last 60 years. GHMC now accounts for almost 20% market share of municipal bonds. It will

also become the largest recipient of incentive or grant from Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs of a total of Rs 52 crore, including for the current issue. This will substantially lower its borrowing cost, reflecting the financial prudence of the Hyderabad civic body. Mayor Dr Bonthu Rammohan said, "The secured

Rs 100 crore will be spent on projects taken up under SRDP. GHMC bonds were received well despite the stock market slowdown. Interest for the funds collected would be paid out once every six months and the capital will be paid over a period of 10 years. With these funds, works like flyovers, underpasses and bridges will be taken up."

The bidding process was conducted under the supervision of Additional Commissioners Sikta Patnaik, D Jayaraj Kennedy, BSE officials, advisor to the municipal department Ms Jayasree, among others.

**GHMC evicts 1,000-odd encroachers in Kharitabad**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

GHMC officials of Khairatabad zone said that they removed about 1,000 footpath encroachments in a month. On Tuesday, about 50 encroachments were removed at NBT Nagar in Banjara Hills.

Zonal Commissioner Musharaff Ali Faruqi said, "This is part of the ongoing drive to address the issue of encroachments. Over the past one month, we removed more than 1,000 encroachments, including evacuating street vendors."

While GHMC initiated a similar drive last year, most of the evicted vendors have returned. Musharaff said that not all vendors have come back, and officials are ensuring that the activity is kept under check. He said, "We are doing multiple iterations of checking



A footpath being cleared of encroachments in Khairatabad on Tuesday

encroachments but are not going harsh on vendors as we do not want to disturb their livelihood. We are giving them an opportunity to find alternatives and inform and counsel them that this cannot con-

tinue for long time." Meanwhile, officials are identifying vending zones for hawkers and vendors. Three prominent busy markets in Khairatabad zone have been identified for the purpose.

**Toddler crushed to death under tempo**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A three-year-old girl was mowed down by tempo, which further rammed a bike parked on the road near Amma Garden in Mailardevpally on Tuesday morning. The deceased infant was identified as Esthi Rani, daughter of Balgudem Veeranna, 35.

Police said the accident, reported at 11 am, occurred when Rani's mother and aunt took her to a shop on scooter. The vehicle, bearing the number AP 25 X 6906 registered on Sayeed Bin Mubarak's name, was being driven in reverse direction in a negligent manner. The toddler got crushed to death, said police. A case was booked against the driver under Section 304-A (death by negligence) of IPC and the body was shifted for post-mortem.

**Father-son duo arrested for Rs 5,000-crore MLM fraud**

Scheme made 'members' in Hyderabad, B'lore, Chennai Delhi, Mumbai, Lucknow etc

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyberabad police arrested the father-son duo who was behind the fraudulent multi-level marketing (MLM) company that cheated people to the tune of Rs 5,000 crore all over the country.

Pawan Malhan, MD of "eBiz" MLM company and his son Hitikh Malhan were arrested on Tuesday. Officials were able to freeze Rs 389 crore in bank accounts of eBiz.Com Pvt. Ltd company, its directors and accused persons.

The Malhans were running the MLM company since 2001 from Noida in UP. "The company head office is located at Sector 63 of Noida in Uttar Pradesh, which was sealed by the police now and an amount of Rs 389 crore is frozen in the company's bank account. It was registered with ROC in New Delhi with Pawan being the MD, his wife Anitha a director and his son Hitik looking after day-to-day affairs. Earlier, there were two cases registered against this company at Warangal and Adilabad which are under investiga-



Accused duo, Pawan and Hitikh Malhan

tion," said VC Sajjanar, Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad. Cases against the company have also been registered all over the country.

Specifically targeting the students and unemployed youth, eBiz.com promoters gave them motivational lectures stating that there is a business opportunity which

will yield them huge profits. Once customers joined by paying a DD to the company, a username and password would be generated.

Talking about their 'business model', Commissioner Sajjanar said the promoters told students that they would be a part of a large 'eBiz Kingdom' where they could build their own future. They claimed that students could claim a refund of their money within a month if the business didn't work. However, the promoters would then drag matters by holding motivational classes, training sessions and providing business school books and even holiday package at times.

The eBiz business model is a simple pyramid scheme in which the early entrants earn money and as the number of representatives increases, finding more representatives (new-comers) to join becomes difficult or impossible.

Police said the company's head office at Noida has been sealed and other accused in the fraud are yet to be arrested. A detailed investigation is being done in the fraud case.

**Top cop warns WhatsApp admins over fake news**

Videos of violence in other countries being circulated in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad city Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar warned admins of WhatsApp groups of strict action if any members were found circulating fake news or rumours.

The warning was issued after the police came across a few old videos of incidents in other countries being circulated as local incidents on WhatsApp and Facebook and other social media platforms. "We warn admins of WhatsApp groups. If they are found circulating videos containing violence then they will be booked. And the admins will be held responsible if any communal tensions break out due to such videos," he said.

Kumar said that Hyderabad is a hub for international companies and that has been made possible by enforcing law and order strictly. "But a few miscreants are trying to circulate



Anjani Kumar

violent videos from other countries in our city," he added.

The police commissioner said that the city is nowhere related to those videos and it is an attempt of miscreants to disturb peace in the state's capital. He also asked the public not to believe in rumours and immediately inform the police if they came across any attempt to trigger trouble.

**Three held with 78 kg of marijuana**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The State Task Force of Prohibition and Excise officials arrested three men who were in possession of 78 kilos of dry marijuana on Tuesday evening. According to the officials, the accused were identified as Manoj Tharate, Ashok Tharate and Raju Chandrabose. On Tuesday evening about 3:45 pm, the trio were caught during the routine watch conducted by the Excise Team at Kohler cross roads in Zaheerabad area of Sangareddy.

"We have seized 78 kilos of dry ganja from them which was being transported from Visakha Agency area to Maharashtra in Honda city car bearing number MH 12 DS 9007. They were natives of Maharashtra" said officials.

**HC reserves judgment...**

Continued from Page 1

The counsel of Navayuga argued that there was no delay in work from the contractor's side.

APGencom, which has signed the agreement with Navayuga for construction of Hydrel project, had failed to identify the place for construction of the power project. He further argued that APGencom is the appropriate authority to take a decision on cancellation of work order and not the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

The cancelled order issued by the government is not valid, he said.

**Plaint against NTV scribe over FB post**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The president of Hindu Sanghatan filed a complaint with the Saidabad Police on Tuesday against a journalist alleging her post on a social media platform was 'anti-national'.

In a statement to the police, Karunsagar Kashimshetty, the president of the Hindu organisation had claimed that the journalist's post on Facebook was fake news and was done

with an intention to cause a rift citizens and the Indian government.

The now deleted FB post of NTV journalist Rehana Begum showed the journalist along a fence in Kashmir with the caption saying that she feels sorry for the people of Kashmir.

Karunsagar claimed that "The post of Rehana Begum is giving colour that she is put to great pain seeing the Kashmir put under arrest with cuffs,

feelings and deflection voices of Kashmir's are throttled by the barbed fences, prohibitory orders of the Army and security agencies, which is contrary to the situation prevailing in the Kashmir valley, and further the post is promoting enmity against Government of India by describing that the state has throttled the voices of Kashmiri's by deploying armed forces in Kashmir (sic)."

The police registered a case and are investigating.

**HC issues notices to Google on porn sites**

Continued from Page 1

In her petition, she urged the HC to declare the action of Union and State government in not taking action against Google India Private Limited for not removing her name from the porn website as illegal, arbitrary and in violation of the principles of natural justice.

A single judge bench, headed by Justice A. Rajasekher

Reddy, heard the case and passed the orders.

The woman complained that some persons morphed her pictures accessed from her Facebook account and later posted them on porn websites. She brought to the notice of the court that though she had lodged a complaint with the Cybercrime police and approached Google, no action was initiated against the culprits. Neither were her photos

removed by Google from the porn websites.

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She brought to the notice of the court that though she lodged a complaint with cyber-crime police and also Google, no action was initiated against the culprits or her photos were removed by Google from the porn websites.

The counsel of Navayuga argued that there was no delay in work from the contractor's side.

APGencom, which has signed the agreement with Navayuga for construction of Hydrel project, had failed to identify the place for construction of the power project. He further argued that APGencom is the appropriate authority to take a decision on cancellation of work order and not the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

The cancelled order issued by the government is not valid, he said.

**Unit making illicit liquor raided, material seized**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Officials of the district Prohibition and Excise Department busted a gang involved in manufacturing of illicit liquor using fake labels and seals, with the arrest of five members, on Monday. About 35 litres of spurious liquor, 20 litres of rectified spirit, 22,650 liquor bottle caps, 1,486 fake holographic labels and 5,000 empty bottles were seized in the raid. The value of seized material was said to be Rs 25 lakh.

The arrested were identified as Maddi Sunil Reddy, Maddi Narendar Reddy, Maddi Vikram Reddy, Maddi Narendar alias Lattu and Bandari Narendar Reddy. Three other persons -- Meer Ali, a resident of Chaderghat in Hyderabad, Mogulappa Mudhiraj, native of Zaheerabad



and Sunil, native of Aurangabad - are absconding.

Excise superintendent S Krishna Priya said they conducted a raid on a house at Abdulla Nagar village of Bhoodan Pochampally mandal after receiving credible information. Special teams have been formed to arrest the absconders, he added. Bhongir Excise inspector Nagi Reddy, Task Force inspector D Srinivas Reddy and Enforcement inspectors Bharath Bushan, Nagarajuna Reddy and Raghavana took part in the raid.

**CCMB study throws up new riddle about 'Skeleton Lake'**

MAYANK TIWARI ■ HYDERABAD

A study conducted by Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad, uncovered that two genetically distinct groups died in at least two episodes separated by a 1,000 years at Roopkund Lake aka Skeleton Lake located at the bottom of a small valley in the Himalayas in Chamoli district in Uttarakhand whose enduring mystery of over 500 unidentified human skeletal remains unsolved.

The mystery first emerged during the early 20th Century when an English man discovered Roopkund Lake full of skeletons. "The identity of these skeletons has long been a subject of speculation. In the meantime, many unscientific hypotheses were presented which had led to the formulation of theories," said Dr Thangaraj, CCMB scientist



Mystery about skeletons found in Roopkund Lake endures

whose decade-long genetic research on the skeletal remains found near Roopkund Lake was published in 'International Journal Nature Communications Journal' on Tuesday.

The terrain is hardly accessible and the lake is frozen for

11 months in a year, but melting ice revealed even more skeletal remains. Local folklore describes a pilgrimage to the nearby shrine of the mountain goddess, Nanda Devi. It has also been suggested that these are the remains of an army or group of merchants who were

**Genetic analysis of skeletal remains found in Himalayan lake 'Roopkund' suggest that Greeks, other Europeans were among hundreds of people who died there**

caught in a storm. Another view is that they were the victims of an epidemic.

"Our genomic study conducted on 72 bone samples of more than 500 skeletal remains at Roopkund Lake says something otherwise -- the prevalence of two clusters, which we classified chronologically," said Dr Thangaraj.

The study unfolds another

riddle which is to be resolved by anthropologists and historians as the site contains genetically highly distinct groups.

First, during the 7th Century CE, individuals with Indian-related ancestry died at Roopkund Lake. "The radio carbon dating of the skeletal was conducted in a German lab," said CCMB director Rakesh Mishra.

"The second incident of mass death is mysterious in itself. The other two groups, likely composed of travellers from the eastern Mediterranean and Southeast Asia arrived at Roopkund Lake during 17-20th centuries," said Mishra. "The reason of their death or their purpose of arrival is a mystery to be solved by historians and anthropologists."

"We discovered that the history of Roopkund Lake is more complex than we anticipated, and raises the striking question of how migrants from the east-

ern Mediterranean died in this place a few hundred years ago," said author and professor, David Reich, of Harvard Medical School, US.

After sequencing the mitochondrial DNA of 72 skeletons "we concluded that they belong to 23 males and 15 females, all adults." Interestingly, Dr Thangaraj added, "Sample study proves that less than 50 percent, 23 of the individuals possessed genetic information typical of present-day Indian populations, and the majority of individuals shows genetic makeup that would be more typical of populations from West Eurasia, Medetarian (Crete and Cyprus) and even far eastern parts of Asia."

"This study, which was undertaken for a cost of Rs 1 crore, highlights the power of genomics study, coupled with other biomolecular tools, in understanding our past," said Rakesh Mishra.

CAPSULE

Faculty beaten up for misbehaving with student

**KARIMNAGAR:** A lab faculty member working with a private engineering college in Karimnagar town was beaten up black and blue for misbehaving with an engineering student during the examination. According to the police, the faculty, Venkatesh was on duty as an invigilator in the supplementary examination and a girl student from the neighbouring college was taking the test in the college where Venkatesh works. The student alleged that Venkatesh, in the name of frisking, inappropriately touched the girl. The student informed the same to her college principal and on knowing this, the students caught hold of the faculty and beat him black and blue. As he tried to escape from the scene, the students chased him and handed over the accused to the police. Karimnagar town police registered a case and took the faculty into custody.



Master plan in place to develop Bhadrachalam: MP

**BHADRACHALAM:** Lok Sabha Member Nama Nageswara Rao performed special puja at Sri Ramachandraswamy temple here on Tuesday. Later talking to the media, he said Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao paid special attention to develop Bhadrachalam Temple on the lines of Yadadri temple. A master plan has been prepared to develop the temple with Rs 100 crore, he said.

Tollywood actor Raj Tharun crashes car...

*Continued from Page 1*  
Police reached the spot after some local people informed them of the crash. They identified the car as registered in the name of a Pradeep from Lead India Private Limited Company. After the mishap, the actor left the scene in another car. CCTV footage obtained showed the actor walking away from the crash site. Due to similarity of the surnames, veteran Tollywood actor Tarun Kumar started getting calls, with people seeking to enquire about his 'condition'. The actor later clarified that he was safe in his house, much less involved in any accident. However, the Narsingi Inspector of Police, G V Ramana Goud, denied that any such incident had occurred. "No such thing has happened. There was no crash. No Tollywood actor was involved in anything," said the official when contacted.

# Nizamabad should be renamed 'Indur': MP Arvind

Claims people of constituency wanted the name to be changed as it was 'inauspicious'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Claiming that the name Nizamabad was 'inauspicious', BJP MP D Arvind on Tuesday said the Telangana city, represented by him in the Lok Sabha, should be renamed "Indur", as it was known earlier.

Arvind, who defeated ruling TRS nominee and chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter K Kavitha in the April Lok Sabha polls in Nizamabad, also said people of the constituency wanted the name change.

It was needed as both the city and the district named after erstwhile ruler "Nizam" of Hyderabad has 'failed' to fare well in all aspects, the MP told PTI, a day after raising the demand at an event in Nizamabad.

This name (Nizamabad) has become very inauspicious and people's sentiment is what I expressed. Indur has name of Hindustan and it starts with 'Ind' like in India. It is auspicious and also nationalistic

Indur has the name Hindustan in it, and starts with 'Ind' like India. That makes the name auspicious and also nationalistic, BJP MP says



name," he said. According to the official website of the district, Nizamabad, about 175 kms from here, derived its name as Nizamabad (Nizam-a-abadi) from the Nizam of Hyderabad Asaf Jahi, VI, who had ruled Deccan during the 18th Century A.D.

Originally the district was called INDUR, known to have originated in the name of king Indradatta who had ruled this region during 5th Century A.D.

Arvind said: "People are demanding that it should be renamed as Indur now. I told the people we will try to change. Of course I am for it and I am for the change of name, he added.

He is the second BJP leader in the state to advocate name change of cities.

Earlier, Goshamahal MLA Raja Singh has demanded that Hyderabad's name be changed to Bhagyanagar. During the campaigning for

assembly elections in December last year, Singh, the lone BJP member to have emerged victorious in the hustings, had said if his party was voted to power, it would rename Hyderabad as Bhagyanagar.

Citing some instances in support of the claim that name Nizamabad was inauspicious, Arvind said Nizam Sugars did not do well and it never had sufficient water.

This is the feeling among the people that even in the infamously sector is also not doing well (due to the name). We normally change names when we feel it is not auspicious. Some have to respect people's sentiment, he argued.

When contacted, senior Congress leader Madhu Goud Yashki, a two-time MP from Nizamabad, said Arvind should focus on fulfilling poll promises rather taking up name changes.

"He (Arvind) should first get Turmeric Board to Nizamabad as promised to the farmers during his poll campaign rather than looking to change name (of Nizamabad)," Yashki said.

# Rajiv Gandhi's vision put India on growth path: Maha ex-CM



TPCC chief Uttam Kumar Reddy, VH Hanumantha Rao and others at a photo exhibition. (Right) Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chauhan addresses party workers at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Tuesday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chauhan has called upon the Congress workers to take the sacrifices of former Prime Ministers late Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi to the people. He stated that Rajiv Gandhi had brought anti-defection law to control 'Ayarams and Gayarams' in political parties but the trend is going on still.

Recalling the services of Rajiv Gandhi, Chouhan said that Rajiv Gandhi, who lost her mother in the attack of her own security guards, strived hard to see that such situation not arise to anybody. The conditions were serious when Rajiv became the Prime Minister of the nation, but he worked hard to protect law and order and for peaceful country, Pridviraj said.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion of 75th birth anniversary celebrations of late Rajiv Gandhi here on Tuesday at Gandhi Bhavan, Pridviraj said that Rajiv became Prime Minister of the nation by winning more than 400 MP seats. He identified the necessity of computers for transparent governance. He worked for peace in Punjab, Assam and Mizoram. He was also ready for discussions with Srilanka Tamils and sent peace Army to Lanka. But LTTE killed Rajiv by not digesting the peace discussions with Srilanka Tamils, Pridviraj said.

Rajiv Gandhi introduced Navodaya schools, Operation Black Board schemes as part of Rural Education Policy. Rajiv also introduced Telecom, Water, Education Technology Mission for the growth of nation, he recalled. Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister K Rosaiah, TPCC Chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy, MLC T Jeevan Reddy, former MLC Prof K Nageshwar, senior journalist Dr K Ramachandramurthy, AICC secretaries Saleem Ahmed,

Rajiv Gandhi had introduced Navodaya schools, 'Operation Black Board' schemes as part of rural education policy. He also introduced Technology Mission for the growth of nation, said Prithviraj Chauhan

Bose Raj, Srinivas Krishnan, former Minister Sailajanath, AICC in-charge RC Kuntia, former MP V Hanumantha Rao, MLAs Bhatti Vikramarka, D Sridhar Babu, T Jagga Reddy, Ponnala Laxmaiah, and others also participated.

In the morning, VH and former Minister Shabbir Ali welcomed Rajiv Sadbhavan rallies reached to the statue of Rajiv Gandhi located at Punjagutta.

Later, the leaders paid floral tributes to Rajiv Gandhi statue. After that, the leaders also paid floral tributes to the portrait of Rajiv Gandhi at Gandhi Bhavan. Later, Uttam launched Youth Congress' blood donation camp at Gandhi Bhavan. Hundreds of Youth Congress activists donated their blood on the occasion. The Youth Congress was also organized a photo exhibition on Rajiv Gandhi.

# Irregularities to the fore in Endowments Department

One can easily become a gazetted officer without qualification

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Do you have no SSC qualification, never mind! Still, you can easily become a gazetted officer in Endowments Department of the Government of Telangana. Thanks to the utter disorder in the department. All you have to do is to bring a fake certificate along with you. You can gradually become a gazetted officer, which is unlikely in other government departments.

Of late, the department has become home for such irregularities. First get a foothold in the department, then irrespective of qualifications you can become a gazetted officer. Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao wants to change the age-old and outdated systems in the department, but the irregularity still clung on to the department.

According to one of the rules, temple trust board members with the blessings of some officials in government departments can become junior assistants. Afterwards, he can be promoted to the rank of temple executive officer. In fact, 40 per cent of Grade-3 EO posts and 20 per cent of the posts under Grade-1 and 2 will be reserved for such junior assistants for the purpose of promotion depending on their seniority. If the age permits, one can also become deputy commissioner. There are many who went on to



When a person joins the Endowments Department with the blessings of officials, the TSPSC rules do not apply

become the Deputy Commissioners.

Executive officers of temples and assistant commissioners can be recruited directly through the Telangana State Public Service Commission. However, these positions can also be filled through promotion channel. When a person joins the Endowments Department with the blessings of officials, the TSPSC rules do not apply. Irrespective of educational qualifications, some trust board members manage to become junior assistants. Later, they are being promoted to gazetted ranks by awarding series of promotions. The suggestion to appoint all posts over and above the rank of executive officer through the TSPSC is kept pending since long.

Some of the top officials of the Endowments Department are allegedly collecting 'mamools' for awarding promotions and

appointments. The employees allege that recently each post in the department was sold for Rs 3 lakh. The amount was collected apparently stating that their superiors' hands need to be greased. Those who are accustomed to earning money dishonestly are coming in the way of appointing staff through the TSPSC.

The whole incident came to light when the SSC marks memo of a controversial officer of the rank of assistant commissioner was sought. He is accused of submitting a fake marks memo. In fact, he is said to have studied up to only Class VI.

Currently, the case is under inquiry. He went on to become a gazetted officer with Class VI qualification. Those who promoted to assistant commissioner from assistant post number around 60 in the department. Out of them, five or six of them went on to become deputy commissioners.



# Overcrowded buses a common sight in Jagtial

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Overloaded buses continue to ply in Jagtial district as the RTC fails to cater to the needs of rural commuters in this part. The region, which has witnessed the worst-ever accidents of the decade, including the Kondagattu last year, is continuing to witness overloaded buses. The scenes of overcrowded buses, students hanging on to the doors, people sitting on the top are a regular affair in Medipally Mandal of the district. Last year, the TSRTC bus carrying 100 passengers fell off Kondagattu Ghat Road while returning from Anjaneya Swamy temple atop Kondagattu Hills, about 190 km from Hyderabad. Around 60 people, including 30 women and 4 children, were killed in the incident.

# Where has all the money gone?

Continued from Page 1

Even the Centre has to adhere to FRBM Act, forcing it to not raise funds above the prescribed limit.

The severe cash crunch is fuelling calls for scrapping the FRBM Act or easing borrowing norms under the Act.

India adopted the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act in 2003 that capped borrowings by the Centre and states by linking it to tough fiscal deficit criteria. Some economists have argued that FRBM Act has robbed the government of the right to print money at will, unlike before 2003. They point out that the Bank of Japan has

been printing \$70 billion of cash every month.

"The government gave up that power to print money under the FRBM Act. There is a severe liquidity problem now and these are issues which need to be discussed. But some of our economic theoreticians oppose blindly the printing of money to overcome cash crunch," one economist said.

The current total capital of RBI is about Rs 10.53 lakh crore. Of this, the revaluation reserves on account of foreign exchange and bullion the RBI holds amount to Rs 7 lakh crore.

The economists' fraternity too is divided on how to resolve the situation. While

some economists say the current liquidity crisis could have been handled better if the government had the power to print currency at will, some others argue that an unfettered right to print money will trigger an inflationary spiral, rekindling memories of the 1960s and 1970s when the RBI was printing money to finance the government's huge budget deficit.

"Indiscriminate printing of money is inflationary and will hurt the poor the most. Inflation will make life tougher, the poor poorer, and the rich richer. The political fallout of such a policy is usually negative," they opine.

# Outsourcing agencies dupe youths

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Outsourcing agencies that supply work force to the recently started government medical college here have started collecting lakhs of rupees from prospective candidates promising them jobs in the college.

According to sources, they have fixed rates in lakhs for each post and started accepting applications from them. In fact, four work force supply agencies have been vying with each other to recruit staff. Pending appointing them as work force supply agency, they have been conducting their business rather illegally and playing with lives of the unemployed by collecting lakhs of rupees.

A GO was issued on June 12 last year advising the medical college to fill 237 posts through outsourcing. Since the college building was not yet ready then, the officials suspended staff recruitment. Now the building is ready and MBBS first year admission counseling was over.

Officials have been speeding up with the process of handing over the district headquarters government hospital to the



According to sources, the agencies have fixed rates in lakhs for each post in govt medical college and started accepting applications from unemployed youths

medical college. According to officials, the classes are likely to begin next month.

First year, at least 80 posts will be filled. The officials have already started the process to appoint an outsourcing agency for Suryapet Medical College. Applications from prospective candidates are also being received. But, the process is yet to begin in respect of Nalgonda medical college.

The posts of attendants in dissection hall, sweepers, lab attendants, office subordinates, van drivers, record assistants, dark room assistants, blood bank technician, store keepers, assistant librarians, book-keeper, computer operator, attenders, ward boys, head dhoobi, packers, carpenters, black smith, barber, tailor, electrician foreman, electrician, plumber, AC mechanic, gardner, modi-

fied supervisor, telephone operator, gas operators, receptionist-cum-clerk, male nursing orderlies and so on.

The outsourcing agencies have been leaving no stone unturned to get the appointment order as the outsourcing agency to fill jobs by mounting pressure on district officials and lobbying with ministers. But, no agency has been given an order.

Meanwhile, the outsourcing agencies have started collecting anywhere between Rs 2 lakh and Rs 7 lakh for each post promising them jobs once they are appointed as HR agency to recruit staff in the medical college. The agencies have been targeting rural youth and using the services of middlemen to catch fish.

While medical college authorities support some agencies, ruling party leaders have been supporting some other agencies. Meanwhile, the unemployed have been expressing their anguish over collecting bribes in lakhs of rupees in spite of their suitability to the jobs. When the reporter tried to contact the college authorities, they are not available for clarification.

# Metro trains to run at 3-minute frequency

Continued from Page 1

Since March, the operations have been taking place in twin single line system between HI-TEC City and the Jubilee Hills check-post stations so that trains could be run at a frequency of 7-15 minutes. The 'reversal facility' at Trident Hotel will facilitate trains arriving on platform number one to reverse after reaching the HI-TEC City station and then enter platform number two.

HMRL MD N V S Reddy said, "The trains will run with frequency of 4 minutes for about 2 or 3 weeks. This

# Gambling clubs across border luring people from TS

Continued from Page 1

Sometimes, the commission agents accompany the gamblers and guide them to the clubs and provide accommodation to them in high-class lodges, offering food free of cost. Everything, except gambling, comes free for them. At least 10-12 tables are laid out in the central hall of the gambling den and the club organisers charge Rs 5,000 per table for each game.

The card games of rummy and three-cards are played there. For each game, each gambler has to shell down anything between Rs 3000-5000. Some of the gamblers have been burning a hole in their pockets by indulging in gambling for about three days. On the whole, the gamblers' addiction is bringing rich dividends to clubs across the border.

# Check your beer before drinking

Continued from Page 1

As per new rules, if the sales exceed the fixed quota, wine shops are required to pay additional licence fee. But some of the wine shop owners, instead of paying the fee to government, are selling spurious liquor.

Spurious liquor is also made by boiling water mixed with sugar, cleaning liquids, nail polish remover, creams used to rub cars to give the desired kick to tipplers. Even branded liquor is being adulterated with water or cheap variants of liquor since the bottles are made of plastic and not glass. Sometimes mineral water is being used to adulterate liquor. There are expert technicians who can open the bottle's cap without damaging the seal. One fourth of the liquor is removed from them and the bottles are then filled with cheap liquor and water. Later, the seal is carefully replaced without giving rise to any doubts. The technicians visit the wine shops now and then. They charge the wine shops depending on the number of bottles tampered with. Tipplers, when they are sober, do realize their mistake as well as intake and make feeble appeals to the excise officials to check the sale of spurious liquor. The problem is: who cares for the words of a drunkard? How about others? They perhaps have no locus standi!

SHORT READS



Four TN fishermen held for fishing off Neduntheevu

**RAMESWARAM(TN):** Four Tamil Nadu fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy on Tuesday for allegedly fishing off Neduntheevu, a fisheries department official said. The fishermen from Kottapattinam in Pudukkottai district had ventured into the sea on Monday and were fishing near Neduntheevu when the Sri Lankan naval personnel reached the spot and arrested them, Assistant Director of Fisheries, Pudukkottai, Kumaresan said. The fishermen were taken to Kangesanthurai port in the island nation along with their boat, he said. On August 13, seven fishermen from here were arrested by the Lankan Navy for allegedly fishing off Neduntheevu.



Gangster Chhota Rajan convicted in attempt-to-murder case

**MUMBAI:** A special court here convicted gangster Chhota Rajan and five others on Tuesday in a 2012 attempt-to-murder and extortion case lodged against them by a Mumbai hotelier. Arguments on the quantum of punishment will be held later in the day. Special court judge A T Wankhede convicted the six under various sections of the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) in the case of hotelier B R Shetty, who was shot at in suburban Andheri when he was going to meet his friend. Rajan is currently lodged in Tihar jail in Delhi after his deportation to India following his arrest in Indonesia in October 2015.

Another elephant attack claims life of hospital employee

**COIMBATORE:** A private hospital employee was killed by a wild elephant at Thoppampatti, near here, and this is the second such incident reported in two days. Two men, both aged 27, were sitting and talking near Ganapathi Garden late Monday night when the elephant came down from a hill near the CRPF camp, police said Tuesday. Seeing the elephant, the men took to their heels, but the elephant took Prem Karthik with its trunk, hurled him down and trampled him to death, they said. His friend Vignesh managed to escape and informed the villagers about the incident. They, in turn, alerted the police and the forest department personnel. The personnel recovered the Prem's body and sent it for a postmortem at the government hospital. On early Monday, an elephant attack occurred just three km away from Pannimadai, where a driver was trampled to death, leading to panic among the people of the vicinity.

ALLAYS FEARS ON NRC

GOVT SAYS NON-INCLUSION DOES NOT MAKE ONE FOREIGNER

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to allay fears, the Union Home Ministry on Tuesday said non-inclusion of a person's name in the final list of NRC does not by itself amount to him or her being declared a foreigner and assured that adequate arrangements have been made for appeal against it.

The ministry also said it will amend the rules to increase the time limit of filing of appeals in foreigners tribunals (FTs) from 60 to 120 days for those who would be excluded from the final National Register of Citizens, a list of Assam's residents to be published on August 31.

The decisions were taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and attended by Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and others here on Monday.



In a statement, the ministry said under the provisions of Foreigners Act 1946 and Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964, only foreigners tribunals are empowered to declare a person foreigner.

"Thus, non-inclusion of a person's name in NRC does not by itself amount to him/her being declared as a foreigner," it said.

In order to facilitate the

persons excluded from NRC, adequate number of such tribunals is being established at convenient locations.

"It has been decided that state government would also make arrangements to provide legal aid to the needy people amongst those excluded from NRC. As it may not be possible for all those excluded from final NRC to file the appeal within the prescribed

**"Thus, non-inclusion of a person's name in NRC does not by itself amount to him/her being declared as a foreigner," it said**

time, the MHA will amend the rules to increase the present time limit of filing of appeals in FTs from 60 days to 120 days regarding exclusion from final NRC," the statement said.

At the meeting, it was also decided that adequate arrangements will be made by the state government to provide full opportunity to people excluded from the NRC list to appeal.

"Every individual, whose name does not figure in the

final NRC, can represent his/her case in front of the appellate authority i.e. foreigner tribunals," it said.

The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003 are also being amended accordingly.

To maintain law and order, the ministry said, central security forces are being provided to the state.

The Union Home Ministry and the Assam government have held extensive deliberations in recent weeks, the statement said.

When the draft NRC was published on July 30, 2018, there was a huge controversy over the exclusion of 40.7 lakh people from it. The draft NRC included the names of 2.9 crore people out of the total 3.29 crore applications.

In the list published in June 2019, over a lakh more people were excluded.

'Centre trying to strangulate elected govt in Pondy'

PNS ■ PUDUCHERRY

Senior Congress leader Mukul Wansik Tuesday charged the NDA government at the Centre with trying to "strangulate" the democratically elected government in Puducherry.

Addressing a meeting to celebrate the 75th birth anniversary of late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Tuesday here, Wansik said the Centre was "creating problems" for the territorial government.

"But, Chief Minister V Narayanasamy and his cabinet colleagues would fight out the challenge posed by the Centre and they would all be successful in their efforts to protect democracy."

The All India Congress Committee General Secretary recalled that late leader Rajiv Gandhi had launched several missions to promote technology, literacy, empowerment of women and also country's economic growth.

Hitting out at the central government for withdrawing the special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir, wansik said "Jammu and Kashmir had a state government. But now it had been reduced to a



Mukul Wansik

status of a Union Territory and two Union Territories have been carved out of Jammu and Kashmir."

"This is for the first time a state had been reduced to a Union Territory. This is the style of functioning of the central government," he said.

The Congress leader called upon the party cadre to take a pledge on the occasion to ensure that the mission of Rajiv Gandhi to make India a strong democratic country was achieved.

"We will not compromise whenever democracy is attacked.

It is our bold and clear determination," he added.

'Unpleasant trends of intolerance, polarisation can damage our polity'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former prime minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday said "unpleasant trends" of growing intolerance, communal polarisation, and incidents of violent crimes propelled by hatred of certain groups will damage our polity.

Remembering former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 75th birth anniversary, he said these trends are repugnant to promotion of peace, national integration and communal harmony, which are cherished objectives enshrined in our Constitution.

"All of us need to reflect on how we can contribute to arresting these trends," he said.

Recalling Rajiv Gandhi's words, Singh said, "Nothing is more important than the unity and integrity of our nation. India is indivisible. Secularism is the bedrock of our nationhood. It implies more than tolerance. It involves an active effort for harmony."

"No religion preaches hatred and intolerance. Vested inter-



Manmohan Singh

ests, both external and internal, are inciting and exploiting communal passions and violence to divide India," he said.

Singh also noted that major strides in communication and information technology, in strengthening democracy at the grass roots level, in education, in ending the decade-old insurgency movement in Mizoram, in opening a fresh dialogue with China, in launching technology missions, have been the direct results of his vision and efforts.

"These unpleasant trends of growing intolerance, communal polarisation, growing incidents of violent crimes propelled by hatred of certain groups and of mobs taking the law in their own hands can only damage our polity," the former prime minister said.

He said Gandhi's birth

**"No religion preaches hatred and intolerance. Vested interests, both external and internal, are inciting and exploiting communal passions and violence to divide India," he said**

anniversary is an occasion to remember values of broad secular outlook, spirit of tolerance, commitment to communal harmony and empathy to others, which define our nationhood.

"Our homage to Rajiv ji should not only be a remembrance of his extraordinary personality and contribution to nation building - it should also be marked by a reaffirmation of our commitment to abide by

these very values," he said.

Describing Gandhi as an "illustrious" and a young former prime minister who was a true visionary, Singh said he truly set the direction for equipping our nation for entering the new millennium with a progressive, modern and scientific outlook.

Singh also noted that major strides in communication and information technology, in strengthening democracy at the grass roots level, in education, in ending the decade-old insurgency movement in Mizoram, in opening a fresh dialogue with China, in launching technology missions, have been the direct results of his vision and efforts.

They have given us today a firm platform to launch further initiatives for growth and development, he said.

He also said homage to Rajiv Gandhi should not only be a remembrance of his extraordinary personality and contribution to nation building, but also be marked by a reaffirmation of our commitment to abide by these values.

SARADHA SCAM HC extends protection to Kumar

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday extended the protection from arrest to West Bengal CID Additional Director General Rajeev Kumar in connection with the Saradha chit-fund scam.

Justice Madhumati Mitra extended Kumar's interim protection till August 28 after a CBI counsel submitted before her that his senior was out of town in connection with another case. The junior counsel for the CBI prayed for an adjournment of hearing of Kumar's petition seeking quashing of a notice served on him by the agency to appear for questioning in connection with the Rs 2,500-crore scam. The court said the matter would be heard again on August 27. Kumar, a former commissioner of Kolkata Police and Bidhannagar Police, was appointed ADG, CID, by the Mamata Banerjee-led government before the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

Actor Manju, crew stuck due to HP floods

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Malayalam superstar Manju Warrior and her film crew were among those stranded in Himachal Pradesh as flash floods and landslides blocked roads in many parts of the state. Three days of heavy rain led to snapping of several key road links. They have been rescued and are being moved to safety, the Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister said.

Around 30 to 40 people, including Manu Warrior, filmmaker Sanal Kumar Sasidharan and the crew of a film they were shooting for were stuck in the hill state's Chattru. Around 200 people were stuck in the flood-affected area.

"They were taken out of the area a short while ago and sent



Manju Warrior

in vehicles safely," Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur told reporters.

The actress managed to call her brother on Monday night at around 9 pm through a satellite phone as telephone lines were not working.

She said they were running out of food and other essentials which were likely to last just another day, according to the brother Madhu Warrior.

Dabholkar's kin seek arrest of 'real killers'

PNS ■ PUNE

On the occasion of the sixth death anniversary of Narendra Dabholkar on Tuesday, his family members and activists demanded arrest of "real perpetrators" responsible for killing the rationalist.

Members of Dabholkar-founded Andhashradha Nirmulan Samiti (ANS) and his family members organised a protest march at the Omkareshwar bridge where Dabholkar, 68, was shot dead by motorcycle-borne assailants during a morning walk on this day in 2013.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is cur-

rently probing the case.

As per the chargesheet filed by the CBI in June, 2016, Hindu Janajagruti Samiti member Virendra Tawde was the alleged mastermind behind Dabholkar's killing.

"It has been six years now since my father was killed but the probe has stopped at one point. Before his death anniversary in 2018, the suspected shooters were arrested and it was expected that real perpetrators would be exposed, but in reality nothing happened," said Hameed Dabholkar. He said the case has progressed only because it has been monitored by the high court.

Govt okays Rs 4,432 cr aid to Odisha, K'taka

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has approved release of over Rs 4,432 crore to Odisha, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh for the damage caused by natural calamities in these states during the last financial year.

In a statement, the home ministry said a high-level committee, headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has approved additional central assistance of Rs 3338.22 crore to Odisha for the damage caused by the cyclone Fani, Rs 1029.39 crore to Karnataka for drought and Rs 64.49 crore to Himachal Pradesh for avalanches and hailstorm during 2018-19.

The funds will be disbursed from the National Disaster



Response Fund (NDRF).

This additional assistance is over and above the funds released by Centre in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) already placed at the disposal of states.

During 2018-19, the central government had released Rs 9,658 crore to all states and during 2019-20, till date, it has released Rs 6,104 crore to 24

states from the SDRF, the statement said.

In view of cyclone Fani, Rs 340.87 crore was released to Odisha in advance on April 29 from the SDRF. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the state on May 6, and as announced by him, an immediate assistance of Rs 1,000 crore was released in advance. Additionally, an ex gratia of

**This additional assistance is over and above the funds released by Centre in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) already placed at the disposal of states**

Rs 2 was provided to next of the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to those seriously injured in the cyclone from PM's Relief Fund.

During cyclone 'Fani', the centre had deployed 71 teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), 19 columns of Army, nine Engineering Task Force (ETF), 27 aircraft/helicopters and 16 ships of Armed Forces for relief and rescue operations, the statement said.

It said that more than 15.5 lakhs people were taken to safety and the centre had provided all necessary assistance in restoration of power supply and communication in affected districts, including that of providing necessary stores, generator sets, steel poles and skilled manpower. As other states were also likely to be affected, an amount of Rs 688 crore was released in advance from SDRF to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Didi Ke Bolo: Testing time for TMC leaders

PNS ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's 'Didi Ke Bolo' (Tell Didi) campaign is helping the TMC reach out to people in distress, but at the same time forcing party leaders to handle uncomfortable questions about cut money, arrogance of local leaders and syndicates.

As advised by poll strategist Prashant Kishor and his organisation, appointed by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) after its poor performance in the Lok Sabha polls, Banerjee on July 29 had launched a dedicated helpline number and a website as part of 'Didi Ke Bolo', to enable people to have a direct interface with party functionaries.

As part of the programme, over 1,000 party leaders are visiting 10,000 villages to redress the grievances of people.



Mamata Banerjee

Senior TMC leaders cited examples of Rima Datta of North 24 Parganas district, Samar Mandal of South 24 Parganas district, Ebadur Rahman of Hooghly district, Jagannath Chakraborty of Howrah district and Md Firoz of Jalpaiguri district who had received assistance for medical emergency or getting admission to colleges.

"After getting calls from people in distress, we contacted local TMC leaders and departments concerned, who

**As part of the programme, over 1,000 party leaders are visiting 10,000 villages to redress the grievances of people**

were asked to resolve the issues. All the complaints were addressed within 24 hours," a senior TMC leader told PTI.

Even people from West Bengal who were stuck in floods in Karnataka and Kerala were rescued after their location and coordinates were passed on to the disaster management department, the TMC leader said. However, the initiative has also raised some allegations against a section of party leaders.

"People have called up the helpline number and complained about extortion, cut money and syndicates. As soon as we received such calls, we

looked into their grievances.

"Some callers have complained against certain leaders, especially those who have joined the TMC from other parties after we came to power in 2011," another TMC leader said on condition of anonymity.

During the mass outreach programme too, the party leaders are being forced to bite the tongue while answering queries on cut money and alleged arrogance of local TMC leaders, a party functionary said.

"We are facing a tough time answering these questions. But we can assure the people that steps will be taken to address

these issues," a TMC leader, who faced such uncomfortable questions, told PTI.

Among those participating in the outreach programme are senior party leaders and ministers Rabindranath Ghosh, Jyotipriyo Mullick, Arup Roy, Firhad Hakim, Partha Chatterjee, Sashi Panja, Sadhan Pande, Tapan Dasgupta, Nirmal Ghosh and Abdur Rezzak Mollah.

"In some of the areas that we have visited, people are questioning us why we are hesitating to throw out corrupt and arrogant leaders from the party. We will submit our observations to the leadership," said another TMC leader.

Reacting to the development, state BJP president Dip Ghosh said people of West Bengal are "fed up" with the misrule of the state government and "cut money business" of the TMC.

Puri's arrest: Nath dubs it action with 'malicious intention'

PNS ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Tuesday dubbed the arrest of his nephew Ratul Puri in a money laundering case as "action with malicious intention," even as the BJP said the Enforcement Directorate's move was based on its investigation.

Accusing the Union government of using the central agencies to target leaders like former finance minister P Chidambaram and others, Nath expressed hope that the court will take a right decision in the case.

Puri, a businessman, was arrested late Monday night by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under provisions of the



Karnal Nath

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after he appeared before the central probe agency in New Delhi.

He was arrested by the ED in a fresh case of money laundering linked to an alleged Rs 354 crore bank loan fraud case.

Reacting to it, Nath said, "I have no connection with their (Puri's) business. But, I think

the arrest appears to be an action take with malicious intention."

"It is sad that all the agencies are being misused for political purpose," he told reporters on the sidelines of a programme organised here to mark former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary.

Nath was asked a question about Puri's arrest. Accusing the Centre of using its agencies to target leaders like Chidambaram, others and industrialists, the chief minister said, "I don't bother about anything."

The ED has summoned Chidambaram in connection with its money laundering probe into alleged aviation related financial irregularities during the UPA dispensation.

LINKING OF USER PROFILE WITH AADHAAR

# SC issues notice to Centre, others on FBs plea

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear a plea of Facebook Inc for transfer of cases related to demands for linking of social media profiles of users with Aadhaar number, pending before the high courts of Madras, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh to the apex court.

The top court issued notice to the Centre, Google, Twitter, YouTube and others and sought their response by September 13.

A bench of justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose said the notices to unserved parties should be sent through e-mail.

The bench said the hearing in cases related to linkage of social media user profiles with 12-digit Aadhaar number, the Biometric Unique Identity, pending before the Madras High Court will continue but no final order will be passed.

Attorney General K K Venugopal, appearing for the Tamil Nadu government told the bench that the Madras High Court has conducted 18 hearings so far and it should be allowed to conclude the argument and deliver the verdict in the cases.

Senior advocates Mukul Mohatgi and Kapil Sibal, appearing for Facebook and instant messaging app WhatsApp, respectively, said



**The bench said the hearing in cases related to linkage of social media user profiles with 12-digit Aadhaar number, the Biometric Unique Identity, pending before the Madras High Court will continue but no final order will be passed**

whether service providers can be asked to share data with probe agencies to help them in criminal investigation needs to be decided by the apex court as it will have a global effect.

They said that both Facebook and WhatsApp are international companies having their operation in over 150 countries and any findings by

the Madras High Court would have a bearing on their global operations.

Venugopal referred to the Blue Whale game and said several young lives were lost due to directions given by the curator.

He said governments did not get any clue about the curator in the Blue Whale game and therefore it is necessary to

find out who is the originator of such messages on social media which are defamatory, terror-oriented or fake news.

Both Facebook and WhatsApp told the bench that Blue Whale game has nothing to do with their platforms and if data is shared with third parties, it will be a breach of privacy.

To this, the bench said it seems to be a conflict between right to privacy and right to govern the country and the court has to maintain a balance between the two.

The apex court on Monday was told by the Tamil Nadu government that social media profiles of users need to be linked with Aadhaar numbers to check circulation of fake, defamatory and pornographic content as also anti-national and terror material.

Facebook Inc is resisting the state's suggestion on grounds that sharing of Aadhaar would violate privacy policy of users. Facebook Inc had said that it cannot share Aadhaar number with a third party as the content on its instant messaging WhatsApp was end-to-end encrypted and even they do not have access to it.

It had contended that there are four petitions including -- two in Madras High Court, one in Bombay and one in Madhya Pradesh High Courts -- and they contained almost similar prayers.



**'Modi govt throttling pro-people laws'**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's remarks on reservation, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday alleged that the Modi government was throttling pro-people laws and the "real target" of the RSS-BJP was social justice. "The confidence of the RSS is high and intentions are dangerous. At a time when the BJP government is throttling pro-people laws, the RSS has also raised the issue of debate on reservation," she said in a tweet in Hindi. "Debate is just an excuse, the real target of the RSS-BJP is social justice," she said.

"Will you allow this to happen," the Congress general secretary asked the people of the country. On Sunday, Bhagwat had said there should be a conversation in a harmonious atmosphere between those in favour of reservation and those against it. A day later, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) dismissed the row over its chief's remarks on quota as "unnecessary" and asserted that Bhagwat had merely highlighted the importance of resolving all issues in the society through a cordial dialogue while asking everyone to exchange views on a sensitive issue like reservation.

# Nun accuses priest of 'humiliating' her



**The nun was expelled by the Aluva-base Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC) early this month for her lifestyle 'in violation' of the proper law of the FCC**

PNS ■ KOCHI

A Kerala nun, who supported a protest against a Bishop accused of rape, Tuesday accused a Catholic priest of Mananthavady diocese of using social media platform to "humiliate" her.

Sister Lucy Kalappura alleged that the priest, who is part of PRO team of the Mananthavady diocese of the Catholic Church, posted the CCTV visual of media persons visiting her in the convent in the social media platforms to "humiliate" her.

The nun was expelled by the Aluva-base Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC) early this month for her lifestyle 'in violation' of the proper law of the FCC.

Following her expulsion, the congregation had asked the nun to leave the nunnery.

The nun had on Tuesday alleged that the priest collected

the CCTV visuals of media persons visiting her at the convent and made a video aiming to humiliate her in public. She alleged the CCTV visuals were collected with the help of her fellow nuns in the FCC convent at Karackamala in Wayanad. "In the video, he (the priest) used vulgar language to humiliate me. He did so to disgrace me, to humiliate me," Sister Kalappura told reporters outside her convent.

The nun said she would lodge a police complaint against the priest. The Mananthavady diocese disowned the views expressed by the priest in the video, saying it was his personal views.

"Whatever the priest said in the video are his personal views. We were not consulted before posting such a video in the social media," PRO of the Diocese, Fr Jose Kocharakal.

SHORT READS



**Raj Thackeray to appear before ED; MNS withdraws Thane bandh**

MUMBAI: MNS chief Raj Thackeray will appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a money laundering probe and has appealed to the party workers not to protest over the issue, a party spokesperson said on Tuesday. The MNS has also withdrawn its proposed bandh in the neighbouring Thane district on Thursday, he said. The ED has summoned Thackeray to appear before it on Thursday in connection with its probe into the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) scam. The agency is probing alleged irregularities relating to loans and equity investment worth over Rs 450 crore by IL&FS in Koinoor CTNL Infrastructure Company, which is developing Koinoor Square tower in Mumbai's Dadar area.

**Pak Army opens fire at forward posts, villages in Poonch**

JAMMU: The Pakistan Army on Tuesday targeted forward posts and villages along the LoC in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir with mortars and firing from small arms, a defence spokesman said. The firing from across the border in Krishna Ghati sector started around 1100 hours, drawing response from the Indian Army, the spokesman said. He said the cross-border firing between the two sides was going on when last reports came in. However, there was no immediate report of any casualty in the Pakistani firing. Last week, the Pakistan Army had opened fire in Nowshera sector of nearby Rajouri district leaving an Indian soldier dead. Pakistan also suffered a number of casualties in the retaliatory action, the spokesman said.

**India's e-tourist visa fee based on tourist footfalls**

NEW DELHI: India will introduce a flexible e-tourist visa regime based on tourist footfall, with higher fee for July to March peak season and a considerably lower fee during April to June lean period, Tourism minister Prahlad Patel said on Tuesday. Speaking at the inauguration of a meeting with state government representatives on tourism, Patel said the move was to encourage tourists to visit India. "India to offer 30-day e-tourist visa with USD 10 fee during lean period April to June and USD 25 fee during peak tourism period from July to March," he said. While the Home Ministry has approved the new visa regime, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is soon expected to give its approval on the fee aspect, officials said. A new five-year e-tourist visa will be introduced with USD 80 fee and a one year e-tourist visa with USD 40 fee, Patel said. "For Japan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, lean period visa fees is USD 10 and for e-visa of 30 days, 1 year and 5 years is USD 25," he said.

**No need for any debate on reservation: Paswan**

NEW DELHI: Asserting that there is no need for any "debate" on the issue of reservation, BJP ally and Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan said on Tuesday it is a constitutional right of the weaker sections of society. The Lok Janshakti Party president's comments come days after RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's remarks that there should be conversation in harmonious atmosphere between those in favour of reservation and those against it. Paswan said reservation is a constitutional right and added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reiterated it many times that it can not be tampered with. "There is no need for any debate on reservation. This is now available even to the upper castes poor so it is impossible that it will be ended," he told reporters.



# Water level in Yamuna rises further

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The River Yamuna in the city continued to swell on Tuesday and was flowing above the danger level, an official said.

The river was flowing at 206.08 metres at 1 PM.

Delhi Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot inspected the relief camps set up by Delhi Government at Haathi Ghat and Kanchan Colony.

"Inspected Relief Camps at Haathi Ghat and Kanchan Colony set up by Delhi Govt. Interacted with people who have been evacuated and now staying in relief camps. Have directed area DMs to ensure availability of all the relief materials," Gahlot tweeted.

On Monday, the river breached the danger mark of 205.33 metres, the official said.

More than 10,000 people

living in low-lying areas along the Yamuna in the city were evacuated by the government agencies as the river after the river breached the danger mark.

In 1978, the water in the river had risen to its highest-ever level of 207.49 metres, causing a devastating flood in the national capital.

In view of the rising level of water, authorities in Delhi have shut the Old Iron Yamuna Bridge for vehicular and rail traffic.

On Monday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the water level in the river is likely to rise further with more discharge from the Hathnikund barrage by neighbouring Haryana.

People living in the floodplain of the river have been moved to over 22,000 tents set up at safe places by various Delhi government agencies.

OMBUDSMAN'S ORDER

# Sreesanth's ban to be seven years, ends in August 2020

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tainted Indian pacer S Sreesanth's ban for alleged spot-fixing will end next August, BCCI Ombudsman D K Jain has ordered, observing that the cricketer is well past his prime having already served six years.

The BCCI banned Sreesanth, who is now 36, for life in August 2013 along with his Rajasthan Royals teammates Ajit Chandila and Anket Chavan for indulging in alleged spot-fixing in the IPL of that year.

But on March 15 this year, the Supreme Court set aside the BCCI disciplinary committee's order.

Now, in an order passed on August 7, Jain said "ends of jus-



stice" would be met by making it a seven-year suspension and letting him play next year.

"...for Mr Sreesanth, who is now in his late thirties, his prime years as a Cricketer, particularly as a fast bowler may already be over," Jain reasoned in his order.

"... I am of the view that banning Mr. Sreesanth from participating in any kind of com-

mercial Cricket or from associating with any activities of the BCCI or its affiliates, for a period of seven years with effect from 13.09.2013, i.e. the date from which, the period of ban imposed by the Disciplinary Committee had commenced, will meet the ends of justice," Jain said in the order.

In April this year, a bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan and K M Joseph said that Jain would reconsider within three months, the quantum of punishment for Sreesanth for his involvement in the spot-fixing episode.

The BCCI, on February 28, told the apex court that the life ban imposed on Sreesanth was "fully sustainable in law" as he had "tried to influence" a match.

# Arvind moves HC to quash defamation suit by Gupta

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has moved the Delhi High Court for quashing of the defamation complaint against him by BJP leader Vijender Gupta and summons issued to him in the matter.

When the matter came up for hearing before Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri on Tuesday, the judge observed that there was a high court ruling which said whether retweets would constitute an

offence of defamation under the Indian Penal Code has to be determined during trial.

The court asked Kejriwal's lawyers to go through the judgement to ascertain whether it would be applicable in the instant case and listed it for hearing on August 23.

Gupta, in his complaint, had accused Kejriwal and Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia of "maligning" his image by allegedly accusing him on 'Twitter of being part of an alleged "conspiracy" to kill the



AAP chief. The AAP convenor, represented by senior advocate Vikas Pahwa and advocate R Arunadhri Iyer, has claimed that he had neither mentioned Gupta in his tweet nor made any allegations against him.

His lawyers, however, admitted that the AAP chief had retweeted Sisodia's tweet but with his own comment in which also Gupta was not mentioned by name.

Kejriwal, in his plea filed through advocate Mohd Irsad, has contended that he has neither made any defamatory comment against Gupta nor mentioned his name and therefore, the offence was not made out against him.

After Kejriwal was slapped in May this year during the

general election campaign, he had alleged on Twitter that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wanted to get him killed by his own personal security officer (PSO) in the manner in which Indira Gandhi had been assassinated. In response to his comments, Gupta had said that Kejriwal was slapped because he had relaxed his security cordon.

To this, Sisodia had tweeted that there was a conspiracy to kill Kejriwal and that Gupta was allegedly part of it.

# ISRO explains why countries are racing to moon's south pole

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chandrayaan 2, India's second lunar exploration mission, successfully manoeuvred into lunar orbit today, after 28 days of space travel. The lift-off of Chandrayaan 2 on July 22 was successful in its second attempt, a week after it was aborted just under an hour from its launch due to a technical glitch. Prior to this, the Indian Space Research Organisation launched Chandrayaan-1, India's first Indian lunar probe in October 2008, and operated until August 2009. The world over, countries, companies and even individuals

are turning to the Moon - vying each other to fly their flags on lunar South Pole.

Indian Space Research Organisation explains why nations are investing resources to reach Moon's South Pole:

Moon's craters have been untouched by sunlight for billions of years - offering an undisturbed record of the solar system's origins.

Its permanently shadowed craters are estimated to hold nearly 100 million tons of water.

Its regolith has traces of hydrogen, ammonia, methane, sodium, mercury and silver - making it an untapped source of

essential resources. Its elemental and positional advantages make it a suitable pit stop for future space exploration.

According to ISRO, Chandrayaan 2's lander will separate from the orbiter and enter into a 100 km x 30 km orbit around the moon. Then, it will perform a series of complex braking manoeuvres to soft land in the south polar region of the moon on 1:40 am on September 7, 2019. This is India's most ambitious space mission to date and Chandrayaan 2 mission stands out because of its low cost, with just about Rs. 1,000 crore spent.



# Treat all citizens with dignity: Bombay HC

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The State must treat all citizens, whether rich or poor, with dignity, the Bombay High Court said on Tuesday while pulling up the Maharashtra government for forcing nearly 15,000 families to stay in the chemical pollution-affected Mahul area of Mumbai.

A bench of Chief Justice Pradeep Nandrajog and Justice Bharati Dangre also referred to the Biblical story of Noah and his ark, saying, "When the floods came, Noah didn't leave even a single animal behind, but took them all on his boat." "Similarly, you must take care of the interest of all your citizens, whether poor or rich," it said.

The bench was hearing an application filed by some res-



idents affected by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)'s demolition drive. The litigants said the civic body was refusing to compensate them towards rent for an alternative place of residence.

Around 15,000 families, or 60,000 people, were affected when the BMC demolished all encroachments and illegal constructions along the Tansa water pipeline in the city last year. It decided to shift them to alternative accommodations in Mahul near suburban Chembur.

# ITBP 'pension adalat' in Chandigarh on August 23

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Border guarding force ITBP is holding an all-India special 'pension adalat' or pension grievance redressal camp for its retired personnel on August 23 in Chandigarh, an official said on Tuesday.

He said this is the third such camp being held and all kinds of pensionary disputes will be resolved with the help of various operational wings of the force. The retired personnel are requested to bring their pension documents, a copy of Aadhaar card, bank passbook and other vital papers, so that the issues can be resolved on the spot during the day-long camp, an ITBP spokesperson said.

# US tests cruise missile after INF treaty exit

AFF ■ WASHINGTON

The US Defence Department announced on Monday the test of a medium-range ground-launched cruise missile, just weeks after tearing up the Cold War-era pact with Russia that eliminated such nuclear-capable weapons.

The missile was launched on Sunday from the US Navy-controlled San Nicolas Island off the coast of Los Angeles, California.

"The test missile exited its ground mobile launcher and accurately impacted its target after more than 500 kilometers of flight," the Pentagon said in a statement.

"Data collected and lessons learned from this test will inform the Department of Defense's development of future intermediate-range capabilities."

While the missile was described as "conventionally configured," meaning not nuclear-equipped, the launch was a sign of Washington beefing up its nuclear war-fighting



capabilities in the wake of the collapse of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty on August 2.

The INF had banned all land-based missiles, conventional and nuclear, that could travel between 500 and 5,500 kilometers (310 and 3,400 miles), in an effort to abolish a class of nuclear arms deployed across Europe by the United States and the then-Soviet Union.

Many fear the end of the INF, which Washington accused Moscow of having

violated in recent years, will lead to a new and dangerous nuclear arms race.

On August 2, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper said the US, no longer bound by the INF, had already begun work to develop "mobile, conventional, ground-launched cruise and ballistic missile systems."

"Now that we have withdrawn, the Department of Defense will fully pursue the development of these ground-launched conventional missiles as a prudent response to Russia's actions," Esper said.

# Cameroon anglophone separatist leader gets life sentence

AFF ■ YAOUNDE

A military court in Cameroon on Tuesday handed a life sentence to the head of the country's anglophone separatist movement, Julius Sisiyu Ayuk Tabe, in a move that analysts said could inflame the 22-month-old revolt.

Ayuk Tabe, a charismatic leader widely deemed as a moderate in the separatist movement, was convicted with nine others of charges including "terrorism and secession", the state's lawyer, Martin Luther Achet, told AFP.

They were given life terms. The sentences were confirmed by a lawyer for the separatists, Joseph Fru, who added the 10 had also been fined 250 billion CFA francs (USD 422 million, 381 million euros).

Fru condemned what he called a "parody of justice" and said the defendants refused to recognise the right of the military tribunal in Yaounde to try them. Their lawyers have yet to say whether they will file an appeal.

# Johnson issues backstop Brexit ultimatum, EU rebuffs

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has issued an ultimatum to the European Union (EU) over what he has branded an "anti-democratic" Irish border backstop, which must be scrapped to negotiate a new deal before the October 31 Brexit deadline.

But the ultimatum was rejected by the EU as it restated its stand on the backstop being non-negotiable.

In a letter to European Council President Donald Tusk on Monday night, Johnson reiterated his "highest priority" was to achieve an agreement to avert a chaotic no-deal exit from the 28-nation economic bloc, but not with any kind of

backstop - designed to avert a post-Brexit hard border between EU member-country Ireland and British region Northern Ireland.

"The changes we seek relate primarily to the backstop. The problems with the backstop run much deeper than the simple political reality that it has three times been rejected by the House of Commons," writes the prime minister in his letter.

"The truth is that it is simply unviable... it is anti-democratic and inconsistent with the sovereignty of the UK as a state," he notes.

Tusk took to Twitter on Tuesday to rebuff the claims, accusing the British prime min-

ister of not proposing realistic alternatives to the backstop. He said: "The backstop is an insurance to avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland unless and until an alternative is found."

"Those against the backstop and not proposing realistic alternatives in fact support reestablishing a border. Even if they do not admit it."

Johnson, who has been a vehement critic of the clause in the withdrawal agreement negotiated by his predecessor Theresa May, told Tusk that it locks the UK, potentially indefinitely, into an international treaty which will bind Britain into a customs union. **PTI**

# Gunman in Brazil holds 16 bus passengers hostage

Rio de Janeiro: A gunman is holding at least 16 bus passengers hostage in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday, officials said, as police negotiate with the hijacker to try to end the standoff.

At least six people -- four women and two men -- have been freed so far from the vehicle that is stopped on heavily transited bridge connecting Rio with neighboring city Niteroi.

Heavily armed police including military and snipers have surrounded the bus as they negotiate with the gunman, who G1 news reported is

armed with a gun, a tazer and gasoline.

A live broadcast of the scene shows five ambulances parked near the bus, receiving hostages as they are released.

A series of gunshots have been heard, Globo TV reported. The gunman reportedly boarded the Rio-bound bus at 5:30 am (0830 GMT) and began threatening passengers.

Several lanes of traffic on the busy Rio-Niteroi bridge spanning Guanabara Bay have been paralysed during the ongoing hostage situation. **AFP**

# Russia, China blast US missile test

Moscow: Russia and China warned Tuesday that a new US missile test had heightened military tensions and risked sparking an arms race, weeks after Washington ripped up a Cold War-era weapons pact with Moscow.

The US and Russia ditched the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty this month after accusing each other of vio-

lating the accord.

Washington said the agreement also tied its hands in dealing with other powers such as China. The US Department of Defense announced on Monday it had tested a type of ground-launched missile that was banned under the 1987 INF agreement, which limited the use of nuclear and conventional medium-range weapons. **AFP**

# Trump seeks to sue Google for 'manipulating votes' in 2016 polls

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Monday sought to sue multinational technology company Google for allegedly manipulating up to "16 million votes" in favour of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in the 2016 elections.

The election results had surprised many as Clinton was tipped to win by the media and pollsters.

"Wow, Report Just Out! Google manipulated from 2.6 million to 16 million votes for Hillary Clinton in 2016 Election! This was put out by a Clinton supporter, not a

Trump Supporter! Google should be sued," Trump tweeted.

"My victory was even bigger than thought!" he said.

Trump was apparently referring to the work of Robert Epstein, a researcher with the California-based American Institute for Behavioral Research and Technology.

Epstein had testified in a Senate hearing in June that his research shows Google's search results pushed at least 2.6 million people to vote for Clinton in 2016.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai was asked about Epstein's work

# Seoul to fine Volkswagen over 'illicit' emissions devices

Seoul: South Korea said Tuesday it would issue fines and file criminal complaints against Volkswagen and its luxury arm, Porsche, for installing "illicit devices" that helped multiple diesel vehicles cheat pollution standards.

The environment ministry said over 10,000 vehicles sold in South Korea by Volkswagen and Porsche from May 2015 to January 2018 were fitted with the devices, resulting in 10 times

more nitrogen oxide emissions than standard levels.

The certifications for eight models -- including Audi A6, Volkswagen Touareg and Porsche Cayenne -- will be revoked and the carmakers will face an estimated fine of 11.5 billion won (US\$9.5 million), the ministry said.

"We plan to continue responding firmly to manipulation of gas emissions in future," a ministry official said. **AFP**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of work	Replacement of damaged steel channel sleepers on Bridge no. 27 DUK UP & DN, Bridge no. 4 DKZ-SSB UP Line with steel channels sleepers in the section of SSE/P-Way/DLI under ADEN/DLI.
Approximate cost of work	Rs. 58,86,586.12 (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Six & Twelve Paise only)
Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 1,17,700/- (Rupees One Lakh Seventeen Thousand Seven Hundred Only)
Cost of tender document	Rs. 5900/-
Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	13.09.2019 @ 15:00 Hrs.
Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

\* The tenderer's must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. \* For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. \* No manual offers are acceptable. \* Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. 128-W/280/e-Tender Notice/NIT/22/2019-20/W-3 Dated: 19.08.2019 2666/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

# UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General public is hereby informed that one male person was found dead in the Jurisdiction of P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi on Dated 07.08.2019 Time 09:35 A.M In this regard a **DD No. 09-A Dated 07.08.2019** has been lodged at **P.S. Mukherjee Ngar, Delhi**. The description of the dead body is given as under **Name: Guru Raj Singh, S/O: Uttam Singh, R/O : Shop No. 12/13, GTB Nagar Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi, Age : 25 years, Face: Long, Height : 5'6", Complexion: Sallow, Built : Thin, Wearing : Check Shirt and Lower.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead person please inform the undersigned.



SHO  
P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-27654675  
8750870234

DP/9296/NW/19

# Toll from attack on Burkina military base rises to 24

AFF ■ OUAGADOUGOU

The death toll from an attack Monday on a military base in northern Burkina Faso rose to 24, the military said, in an unprecedented blow to the army in its campaign against jihadist insurgents.

Seven people were wounded and five others missing, armed forces headquarters said in a statement Tuesday.

The previous toll from the attack, at Koutougou in Soum province near the border with Mali, had been given late Monday as "more than a dozen".

An "extraordinary meeting of the defence council" was underway at the presidential palace in the capital Ouagadougou, a security source told AFP.

The country's main opposition party, the Union for Progress and Change (UPC), said the government appointed by President Roch Marc Christian Kabore had "completely failed".

It called for a "new team, whose prime task will be to defend territorial integrity and protect the public."

Monday's attack came four days after suspected jihadists raided a village in the restive north, killing 15 people, plundering and burning shops. A former French colony that ranks among one of the poorest countries in the world, Burkina Faso has been struggling with an Islamist revolt since 2015, which began in the north but has since spread to the east, near the border with Togo and Benin.

# Epstein signed will 2 days before jailhouse suicide

AP ■ NEW YORK

Jeffrey Epstein signed a will just two days before he killed himself in jail, new court records show, opening a new legal front in what could be a long battle over the financier's fortune.

Court papers filed last week in the US Virgin Islands list no details of beneficiaries but valued the estate at more than \$577 million, including more than \$56 million in cash.

The existence of the will, first reported by the New York Post, raised new questions about Epstein's final days inside the Metropolitan Correctional Center, where he was awaiting trial on federal sex trafficking and conspiracy charges.

Epstein signed the document Aug. 8. Less than 48 hours later, he was found dead in his cell, prompting an investigation that has cast a harsh light on staffing shortages at the Manhattan detention center.

**Bihar Swasthya Suraksha Samiti (BSSS) CORRIGENDUM - 1**  
(Advertisement No. - BSSS\_PMJAY-04/2019)

In connection with the above Advertisement No. (PR.No. 06416(Ni Ni) 2019-20) regarding notification of vacancies issued by Bihar Swasthya Suraksha Samiti and with reference to "Category wise Vacancy Details" of the said advertisement, due to a clerical error, the number of vacancies under UR (Un-Reserved) and ST (Schedule Tribe) categories were wrongly published. The category wise vacancy details should be read as follows:

**Category wise Vacancy Details**

Sl. No.	Position Name	No. of Post	Category wise Vacancy Details												
			UR	UR (W)	EWS	EWS (W)	EBC	EBC (W)	BC	BC (W)	SC	SC (W)	ST	ST (W)	WBC
1	District Programme Coordinator	38	9	5	3	1	5	2	3	2	4	2	1	0	1
2	District Manager - IT	38	9	5	3	1	5	2	3	2	4	2	1	0	1
3	Executive Assistant (District)	38	9	5	3	1	5	2	3	2	4	2	1	0	1
4	Executive Assistant (State)	12	3	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0

(UR - Un Reserved, EBC - Extremely Backward Class, EWS - Economically Weaker Section, BC - Backward Class, SC - Scheduled Caste, ST - Scheduled Tribe, W - Women)

For detailed information about the vacancies candidates are advised to visit <http://statehealthsocietybihar.org> or <http://health.bih.nic.in>.

**Administrative Officer**

PR. No. 06558 (Ni.Ni) 2019-20  
अविद्य शराव एवं मादक द्रव्य के सम्बन्ध में शिकायत टॉल फ्री नं. 18003456268 या 15545 पर करें।

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused, **Deepak S/o Rakesh, R/O A-265, Mangolpuri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 1095/14 u/s 392/34 IPC, P.S. K.N.K Marg, Delhi**, and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person **Deepak**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Deepak**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Deepak**, Under the **FIR No. 1095/14 u/s 392/34 IPC, P.S. K.N.K Marg, Delhi**, is required to appear before the court on or before **04.10.2019**.

By order  
**Ms. Richa Sharma,**  
MM (08), Room No.-306,  
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/3169/RD/19

**UJVN Limited**  
H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharanji Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Tele/Fax: 0135-2733508, 2733908 & Fax-0135-2733507  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 | www.uttarakhandjvnyut.com

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

For and on behalf of UJVN Ltd., Executive Engineer (Civil), Pashulok Barrage Rishikesh, invites sealed & separate tender from interested contractors for following work:

- Tender Notice Reference:** NIT No.-10/2019-20/EE(C)/P.B.: Annual Sweeping and Cleaning Works of Maneri Bhal-II Colony, Rishikesh.
- Estimated Value of Tender:** Rs. 6,77,039.34
- Tender Cost:** Rs. 590.00 (Including GST).
- Earnest Money:** Rs. 17,000.00
- Period of Completion:** 12 Months.
- Last Date of Downloading of Tender:** 09.09.2019 upto 17:00 hrs. (IST)
- Last Date of Submission of Tender:** 11.09.2019 upto 14:00 hrs. (IST)
- Date of Opening Tender:** 12.09.2019 at 11:00 hrs. (IST)

For eligibility criteria and full and further details kindly visit our web site. The tenders can be downloaded from our web site i.e. [www.uttarakhandjvnyut.com](http://www.uttarakhandjvnyut.com) and tender cost shall be paid at the time of submission of the tender. **Letter No. 452 Dated 20.08.2019**

"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

**ICICI Bank**  
ICICI Bank Limited

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodra 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.	Manoj Kumar/ Pratibha Pradyumna/ LBNOD00002079647/ LBNOD00002182365	Ajnara Le Garden, Q-1101, Tower Q, Plot No. GH-02, Sector-16, Greater Noida/ August 14, 2019	April 30, 2019 Rs. 23,82,798/-	Del/Ncr
2.	Chand Sharma/ Davinder Kaur Sharma/ LBDEL00001493262	Flat No. 480, Pocket GH-02, Sector 28, Rohini, Delhi/ August 14, 2019	March 16, 2019 Rs. 5,50,882/-	Del/Ncr
3.	Jaya Garg/ Harish Garg/ LBDEL00002033664	Flat No. H 102, 1st Floor, Avj Heights, Plot No. GH-12/2, Sector Zeta 1, Greater Noida, Up./ August 14, 2019	August 10, 2018 Rs. 24,50,524/-	Del/Ncr
4.	Manul Agarwal/ Samta Gupta/ LBDEL00002391703	Flat No. T1/304, 3rd Floor, Tower-1, Sunworld Arista, GH-1C, Sec-168, Noida Expressway, Noida/ August 14, 2019	April 30, 2019 Rs. 1,09,14,079/-	Del/Ncr

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(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 : 21-08-2019  
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Sd/-  
Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

**Appeal For Identification**

General public is hereby informed that this person **Name : Unknown S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : 45 Years, Sex : Male, Height : 5 Ft. 7 Inch, Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Round, Built : Normal, Wearing : White Vest and Blue Colour Underwear**, has been found on 13.08.2019 in injured condition at Lok Nayak Jai Parkash Hospital, Delhi and during treatment Dr. declared him dead and dead body preserved in LNJP Hospital's Mortuary House for 72 hours. In this regard a **DD No. 04-A Dated 13.08.2019** has been lodged at P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO  
PS. I.P. Estate, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-23370928, 23370999

DP/6515/CD/19.

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**  
(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Sher Singh S/o Prem Singh R/o C-Block, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 373/18 u/s 379/411 IPC, PS K.N.K. Marg, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sher Singh** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sher Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person **Sher Singh** of **FIR No. 373/18 u/s 379/411 IPC, PS K.N.K. Marg, Delhi** is required to appear in the court to answer the said complaint on or before **03.10.2019**.

By order  
**Ms. Richa Sharma**  
Metropolitan Magistrate (08),  
Room No. 306, Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/3170/RD/19

## French eye

India to launch 8-10 satellites with France as part of a 'constellation' for maritime surveillance



Whatever be the domestic apprehensions about the many controversial moves of Modi 2.0, particularly over the revocation of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir, diplomatically it has managed to keep the opinion of the big power players on its side. Considering 14 of the 15 members at the UN Security Council were largely dismissive of Kashmir as a matter to be settled bilaterally and with China having no *locus standi* in the matter as it has been reorganising its own territories and legitimising PoK, India is moving to now matters maritime. And in a direct challenge to China's "string of pearls" approach in the Indian Ocean Rim (IOR), one that has its military and commercial facilities dotting our littoral states, from the Chinese mainland to the Horn of Africa, India is looking to France to narrow down its hawk's eyes. India's new space endeavour with France, where the two countries will launch 8-10 satellites as part of a "constellation" for maritime surveillance, will help safeguard strategic interests at sea. This new venture, to be finalised during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Paris, will provide an inside-out information about developments over, on and under the sea surface and coastal areas. This has become almost a necessity considering China is known to have built artificial islands over the last decade or so. Besides, its interest in the Scarborough Shoal near the Philippines and its military fortification of islands in the South China Sea have complicated the security environment. Considering that France has been supportive of India's position and has even spearheaded resolutions to protect it from Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in the UN, there could be no better ally in this project of a larger national security.

The Chinese belligerence on our waters is worrisome simply because sea lines run through several major maritime choke points such as the Strait of Mandeb, the Strait of Malacca, the Strait of Hormuz and the Lombok Strait as well as other strategic maritime centres in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, the Maldives and Somalia. Right now, China has effectively encircled India and reinforced its superiority by setting up outposts and ports in countries which are beholden to it courtesy the economic projects under the Belt and Road Initiative. Apart from military muscularity, such control also bodes ill for the ease of trade in these waters. India itself conducts nearly 40 per cent of its trade with littoral nations along IOR and has been consistently working with some of them to preserve the integrity, inviolability and freedom of oceanic channels. While we have been conducting joint naval exercises, fact is our Navy is not as cutting edge as China's, hence the need for pre-emptive surveillance. The new age of conflicts means that we are as prone to the dangers of maritime terrorism, smuggling, transnational crime, drug trafficking, illegal immigration besides climate change issues. This satellite cluster will, therefore, monitor sea traffic management. While the IOR is of concern to India, France, too, has its territories spread across the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and is seeking cooperation on its vigil campaign. India was a natural choice as a partner because France has had space cooperation with us for about six decades and is now involved even in ISRO's human mission programme, Gaganyaan. This alliance is expected to continue in our future inter-planetary endeavours. Of late, India has found a strategic and technological sounding board in France as its relations with others have their own set boxes — Russia remains our oldest defence partner and despite leaning towards China for practical reasons, still honours the legacy of a shared past. China, despite everything that is disputed, remains our key trading partner and the US is a new-found ally. Over the decades, India and France have emerged as true democratic partners, who honour the spirit of international law, and have been developing cooperation in counter-terrorism, intelligence-sharing and cooperation on investigations and judicial processes. Despite global outcry over the nuclear tests in 1998, France was the first to resume nuclear talks with India and among the first to push nuclear trade in later years. One area that remains unexplored is that of bilateral trade between the two. On the basis of this trust, India may even become a middle power with its own bargaining chips.

## Squatters have no rights

The poor often get unfairly tarnished for squatting on public property whereas the worst culprits are entitled politicians



At the memorial of the late great Sushma Swaraj, many mourners noted how the former Foreign Minister had vacated her official accommodation soon after leaving the Government. Her actions are in direct contrast to the shameful and thuggish behaviour of Jat leader Ajit Singh, who tried to hold on to his official quarters even after being trashed at the hustings. He further tried to hire goons to threaten the Government back in 2014. Thankfully, Singh realised that he could not muster any public sympathy for his squatting, which he tried to rationalise calling it a "matter of Jat pride" and left his house in a huff. But others like Adhir Ranjan Choudhury of the Congress, who refused to give up his ministerial quarters after his party's defeat in 2014, had to be physically evicted. Now in 2019, the Modi Government is taking it upon itself to ensure that Members of Parliament (MPs) do not overstay their welcome in Government housing. It has given errant MPs and former Ministers, several of them members of the BJP, a week to vacate their houses.

Frankly, this move was long overdue and there should be no quarter given. Several MPs have used all sorts of excuses to overstay their welcome. Some have moved the courts to get stay orders but after the Supreme Court ordered a cleanup in 2013, that avenue was closed. However, some high-security individuals, who are in the 'Z+' security category, such as LK Advani and Priyanka Gandhi, might be allowed to remain in exclusive housing because they are easier to protect. Government housing is a privilege that parliamentarians enjoy only for their term and this rule has to be enforced. If previous occupants do not leave, how will new MPs and Ministers function? Just because a person wants to retain a fancy New Delhi address, he/she should pay the same market rentals in private colonies that ordinary citizens do. Nobody should have an extremely inflated sense of self like Ajit Singh, a man now reduced to being a political nobody, ignored by the community for whom he said he wanted to keep his house. At the same time, the shortage of housing in central Delhi is also evidence of the need to build new and better housing facilities for Government servants, defence personnel and parliamentarians in the centre of the city. Several older Government colonies and many bungalows built in 'Lutyens Delhi' are showing signs of age. They are in desperate need of repair if not outright reconstruction. Old rules do not apply to housing anymore and old structures must be removed.

# Remove the chill

The time has come to provide new orientation to India-China relations. The two nations must come together and work towards the establishment of global peace and security



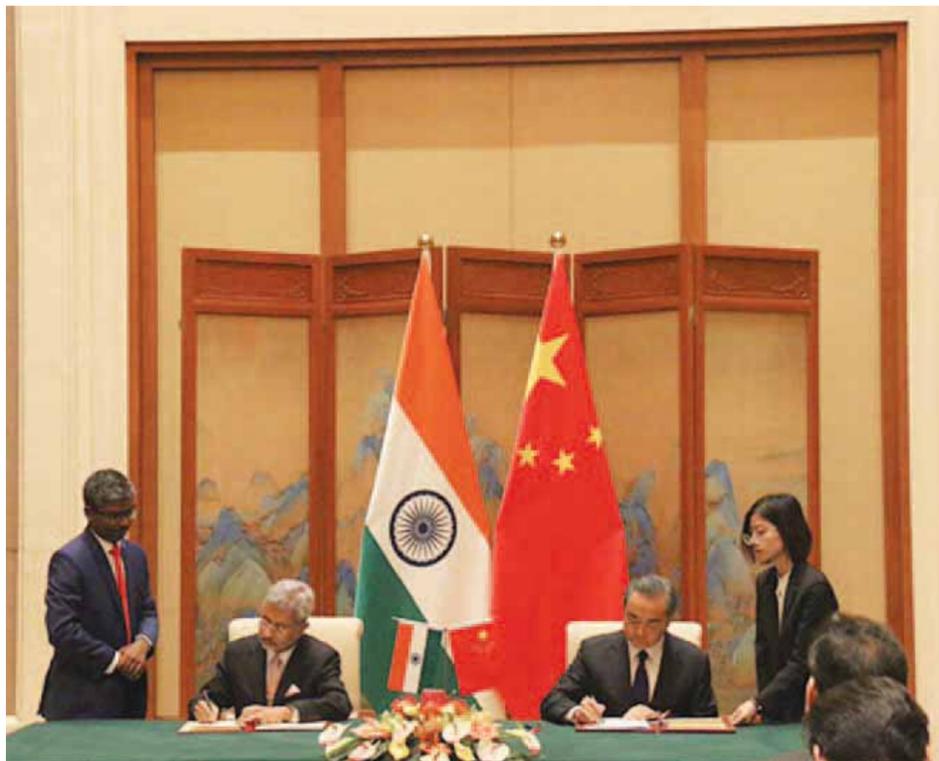
RK PACHAURI

The outcome of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to China has been positive, not only in terms of India explaining its stand but also clearing the air for future exchanges. The External Affairs Minister is not only a distinguished diplomat but having been India's Ambassador to China, he knows the system and personalities whom he has to deal with. One major point made by him to China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi was to emphasise that the future of the India-China relationship will depend on "mutual sensitivity" to each other's "core concerns." In return, Minister Wang Yi emphasised "the five principles of peaceful co-existence", which have "fundamental interest and long-term interest of our two peoples and also contribute to world peace and human progress." As an immediate measure, India and China signed four agreements covering cultural exchanges, healthcare, sports and cooperation in museum management. In particular, both Jaishankar and Yi emphasised the importance of cooperation in the field of traditional medicine, wherein both China and India, the two most ancient civilisations in the modern world, have cumulative knowledge.

The time has come now to provide a new orientation in China-India relations. In the economic field, bilateral trade between the two countries touched almost \$90 billion in 2017-18 but trade deficit increased to \$62.9 billion in China's favour. China must follow Lao Tzu: "If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading." It clearly has interests which are long term, given its ancient history and traditions and it is unlikely that it would think in terms of mere short-term benefits that could lead to friction and disputes. Our External Affairs Minister clearly mentioned that any bilateral differences should not become disputes.

China has major ambitions to emerge as the largest and most influential global power in the world. Its growth rate has been phenomenal and poverty, which was widely prevalent, has more or less been completely eliminated. This writer first visited China in 1981 and today, the country represents progress which most other nations have achieved in almost a century. Yet, China cannot ignore the fact that it shares a large border with India and the latter is a rising power in a complex world. There is every need for the two nations to come together and work towards the establishment of global peace and security.

One major area where the two countries must cooperate is in respect of promoting a pattern of sustainable development which deviates substantially from the Western model. Unfortunately, both nations have been following this model. China in particular has adopted it much too rapidly with major economic success but with some adverse consequences both at the global and national levels. Gandhiji was not in any way exaggerat-



ing when he predicted that for the civilised West "a time is coming when those who are in the mad rush today of multiplying their wants, will retrace their steps and say; what have we done.... Modern civilisation is such that one has only to be patient and it will be self-destroyed." What we find across the entire world, which is mindlessly aping the Western model, is human-induced climate change resulting from the burning of fossil fuels, a loss of biodiversity and destruction of the earth's ecosystems.

China and India are large countries, which are also suffering from the consequences of these disastrous trends. As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has projected and as is becoming increasingly evident today, the frequency and intensity of extreme events is rapidly on the increase. These take place in the form of heat waves, extreme precipitation events and several sea level related disasters. There are areas which are suffering from prolonged drought, which at the same time, witness floods during certain seasons.

China already has a major problem of water scarcity, particularly in its western region. India, too, is suffering from the consequences of global climate change,

“ TOGETHER, CHINA AND INDIA ARE CLOSE TO THREE BILLION PEOPLE IN A WORLD WHICH TODAY HOLDS AN ESTIMATED 7.7 BILLION. CLEARLY, THEREFORE, WHATEVER PATH IS SET BY THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL HAVE A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON THE WORLD AS A WHOLE ”

which clearly makes this a "core concern" for both societies. It is also important for the population of China and India to set a new path of development which is relevant not only for the two countries but also for the rest of the world. Together, China and India are close to three billion people in a world which holds today an estimated 7.7 billion. Clearly, therefore, whatever path is set by the two countries will have a major influence on the world as a whole.

An area in which cooperation is needed would be to develop and use renewable sources of energy. The IPCC has clearly assessed the reasons for the world to keep within the 1.5°C limit by the end of the century. It has also defined the implications of land use, including massive consumption of meat, which is totally unsustainable. Today, China has increased its consumption of all forms of meat to a huge level. However, fortunately, it is one of the leaders in the use of renewable energy where in both countries would derive mutual benefits from working together.

In Prime Minister Modi's Independence Day speech, he emphasised the need for water conservation, including precision agriculture, rainwater harvesting

and waste water treatment. He also highlighted the indiscriminate use of plastic. Additionally, he addressed the need for cutting down on the use of chemical fertilisers in agriculture by up to 25 per cent. He stated: "This would be a great service to the nation. This would be a great step in saving our Mother Earth."

China and India can work towards the use of bio-fertilisers, which would enable us to do away with chemical fertilisers. "Saving our Mother Earth" is clearly a core concern for both societies. This writer has interacted with those responsible for conceptualising a facility called "Science City", which is to be established outside Beijing over an area of 100 square kilometres.

The ambition behind this initiative is to see that China addresses global problems of a long-term nature. Perhaps India could also join hands with China, with delineation of principles governing intellectual property and clear areas of common endeavour to cooperate in "Science City" so that we work towards developing global solutions for a sustainable future.

(The writer is former Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2002-15)

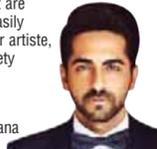
## SOUNDBITE

The tension and anxiety kept on building as the clock ticked. It was a great relief and joy when the Chandrayaan-2 was put into the lunar orbit successfully.



ISRO Chairman —K Sivan

Choosing scripts that are radical and are not easily acceptable by another artiste, I think that is my safety bracket, my zone.



Actor —Ayushmann Khurrana

I cut back \$1.3 billion a year to Pakistan. When I cut it back, I have a better relationship with — as you know, we have a great relationship.



US President —Donald Trump

At a time when the BJP Government is throttling pro-people laws, the RSS has raised the issue of debate on reservation.



Congress leader —Priyanka Gandhi

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Strengthen data law

Sir — Agro-chemical products take a long time to grow. In addition, new molecules at present take about six to seven years to be registered. The bureaucratic process delays the delivery of the products to farmers, leaving them with no option but to buy cheaper, low-quality products. It is recommended that the Government look into this issue at the earliest.

Also, while Indian formulations are mostly generic products as research and development (R&D) is expensive, overseas companies frequently spread their assortment and are eager to invest in India on product R&D and marketing. Data selectiveness in the agrochemicals sector will not only delay the entry of generics by creating an additional period of legal monopoly but will also make agrochemicals or pesticides unaffordable to Indian farmers. Data protection or selectiveness will obstruct growth of indigenous manufacturers and will work against the Government's vision of "Make in India."

Vijaykumar HK Raichur

### Schools cannot foster divisiveness

It was a crying shame that in some schools in Tamil Nadu, students were made to wear colour-coded wrist bands as "caste markers" as distinct from religious threads. The wrist bands — which came in hues of red, yellow, green and saffron — were giveaways of the wearers' caste identity. How students were looked at and treated (with respect or contempt) depended on the wrist bands they wore. To be branded like this is the ultimate humiliation. There can be nothing more dehumanising and degrading than designating pupils as lower castes and higher castes. The practice underlines that there is no hope of escape from caste even for school kids. It widens the rifts between castes. It is a stain on the so-called proud culture of Tamil Nadu.

We are at loss to understand how it became possible for the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), a party with roots in the Dravidian movement, to validate the naked display of caste discrimination. The humiliation of lower caste people is accepted as a social



and cultural norm. Caste is premised on the notions of purity and pollution and superiority and inferiority. It negates the noble idea of equality contained in a Tamil verse *Pirappu okkum ella uyirkum* — all lives are equal in birth. The emergence of a new India is not possible without breaking the hideous chains of caste.

G David Milton Maruthancode

### Nurture ties with Bhutan

Sir — In the backdrop of China's propensity to open diplomatic ties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's second visit to Bhutan not only weighed heavily on the bilateral front but was also an opportunity to woo the youth over there. The Prime Minister's grand welcome on the streets from

Paro to Thimpu spoke volumes about his popularity among the Bhutanese people.

India's long-term commitment to foster economic and cultural ties with Bhutan has been vital in developing a strong bond with the neighbouring country. This visit marked a new chapter in relations between the two countries. A total of 10 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were

signed and the Prime Minister did not miss the opportunity to narrate the Indian story to the youth over there. However, it is also a fact that with the world growing, and more strategic powers courting Bhutan, much remains to be done to retain ties. Both India and Bhutan must address each other's concerns.

Janga Bahadur Sunuwar Bagrakote

### Challenging times

Sir — Internet services have again been suspended in the Jammu and Kashmir region. Post the abrogation of Article 370, the Government was bound to face challenges in restoring normalcy in the Valley. We will also need to continue engaging with the world community over current and past issues over Jammu & Kashmir with alacrity and less reservation. This, too, will be a challenge. So, the need for the Government is to remain transparent across the aisle. More so when this historical step is bound to entail far-reaching socio-political connotations.

The Government must also realise that a strong Opposition is needed to sustain our democratic ethos. And, hence, it needs to be nurtured. Tide and times will constantly impact and test our mettle — the J&K issue is but one of them. The strife to add incremental value and strength to our polity will never cease.

R Narayanan Navi Mumbai

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

**FIRST COLUMN**

# Reunification of India a necessity

The idea of Indian reunification is one whose time has come though there's no doubt that it will take a long time to achieve. However, it must be under a strong, liberal leadership



MARKANDEY KATJU

For a long time, I have been propagating the idea that India, Pakistan and Bangladesh should reunite under a secular government for their mutual good (see the Mission Statement and articles on indianreunificationassociation.co.in). I have long said that India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are really one country, with a common culture, and were one for centuries.

Many people have criticised this idea, more so in light of the recent developments in the subcontinent. Many Pakistanis, including Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, say that recent developments in the region prove that the founder of Pakistan, MA Jinnah, was right in insisting that Muslims get their own homeland otherwise atrocities (e.g. lynching, attacks and incarceration of Muslims for long periods on trumped-up charges) would be committed on them in a united India. So these developments prove that Partition was good for Muslims, and the idea of Indian reunification is only a pipe dream, they point out.

My reply is as follows: Our aim must be to create a highly industrialised country, because only then can we generate the wealth needed for the welfare of our people and give them decent lives. Only a high level of industrialisation can create millions of jobs to wipe out unemployment.

The Partition of India in 1947, and creation of an Islamic state, which was a historical British swindle on the basis of the bogus two-nation theory, was aimed at preventing this growth. If India emerges as another China, then, with its cheap labour, our industries will undercut their rivals from developed countries. Who will buy their costly goods then and won't their industries shut down? One China has become a headache for the West. Will they permit another?

So the secret understanding among developed countries is that India must not be allowed to emerge as a modern industrial giant like China. To prevent that, Indians must remain divided on the basis of religion, caste, region etc.

All this talk of improving relations between India and Pakistan (such as that touted by the campaign *Aman ki Asha*) is unrealistic and nonsense. The very purpose of creating Pakistan as an Islamic state was that there shouldn't be peace but hostility between the two neighbors and Hindus and Muslims. If there are good relations then the very purpose of creating Pakistan will be defeated.

Our common enemy is massive poverty, record unemployment, appalling child malnourishment, farmers in distress, spiralling prices, ignorance, lack of healthcare, unabated corruption, atrocities on minorities, etc. We waste our scant and precious resources fighting each other instead of joining hands and fighting against these problems that are our real enemies.

To say that Partition was necessary to safeguard Muslims is puerile. First, there are as many Muslims in India as in Pakistan (about 200 million in each). Second, Muslims in Pakistan may be safe from Hindu bigots, but are they safe from Muslim bigots? Are Ahmadis, Shias safe? Are Bareilwis safe from Deobandis? They often bomb mosques, *dargahs*, etc. And are the Muslims there free from the evils of unemployment, price rise, malnourishment, ignorance, lack of healthcare, corruption, etc? It was a stupid idea that creation of Pakistan will keep Muslims safe. In fact Partition has increased the problems of Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Christians there.

So, unless we reunite, we will keep wasting our scant resources fighting each other, and will never become a highly industrialised country, and thus remain poor with many social evils. As mentioned earlier, we are really one nation with a common culture, and were befooled by the British into thinking we are each other's enemies. But how are we to reunite?

This can only be done peacefully and voluntarily, and will take a long time, maybe 10-20 years. The communal venom which was injected into our body politic by vested interests for over a century, will take a long time to be expelled. During this period, we must patiently explain to the masses the truth that we are really one nation, were one for centuries, and spread the idea of Indian reunification among them.

As Victor Hugo said, "There is one thing more powerful than all the armies in the world, and that is an idea whose time has come." The idea of Indian reunification is one whose time has come though it will no doubt take a long time to achieve.

We will be called daydreamers by many. But when Giuseppe Mazzini spoke of Italian unification, he too was called a daydreamer, though the dream became a reality thanks to the efforts of Count Cavour and Giuseppe Garibaldi. West and East Germany reunited in 1990 after partition in 1945. North and South Vietnam reunited in 1975 after a partition of over 21 years.

At present, all that needs to be done is to spread the idea of reunification, as is being done by the Indian Reunification Association. Later, when the idea has gripped the imagination and minds of the masses, then people will use their creativity and find ways to make a peaceful reunification a reality.

However, it's vital that such a reunification is under a liberal leadership, which while ensuring religious freedom does not tolerate religious bigotry from any quarter and crushes it with an iron hand. Such progressive leaders will rapidly ensure industrialization of the nation, provide for the welfare of the people and catapult India into the front ranks of the world community. How and when such a historic transformation will take place, who these leaders would be, is impossible to predict. But it is a necessity.  
*(The writer is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India)*



**POINT COUNTERPOINT**

I HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH THEIR (PURI'S) BUSINESS. BUT, I THINK THE ARREST APPEARS TO BE AN ACTION TAKEN WITH MALICIOUS INTENTION.  
 —MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

KAMAL NATH



ED TOOK ACTION ON BASIS OF ITS PROBE. PEOPLE INVOLVED IN PLUNDERING COUNTRY'S MONEY WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO GO SCOT-FREE.  
 —MADHYA PRADESH BJP SPOKESMAN

RAJNEESH AGRAWAL

# The overleverage fix

More research must be done as to why firms become hooked to high debt. As they say about addiction, admitting you have a problem is the first step towards solving it



HIMA BINDU KOTA

The recent suicide by Café Coffee Day owner jolted every coffee lover in the country and brought to the fore the grim reality that high debt can be dangerous for a company. A business is said to be overleveraged when it carries too much debt and is unable to make interest payments on loans and meet other expenses.

Overleveraged companies are often unable to pay operating expenses because of the burden brought on by debt in the form of interest payments and principal repayments. Overleveraging can sometimes lead to a downward financial spiral where the company cannot generate enough revenue to make the debt payments and pay its usual operating expenses. This leads to the company having to borrow more to stay in operation, and the problem gets worse. This spiral usually ends when the company closes its doors or files for bankruptcy protection.

A less leveraged company can be better positioned to sustain drops in revenue because they do not have the same expensive debt-related burden on their cash flow. Businesses that borrow money to add to a product line, expand internationally, or upgrade their facilities are often better able to offset the risk they take on when borrowing.

Leverage can be measured by financial leverage ratios, sometimes called equity or debt ratios, which measure the value of equity in a company by analyzing its overall debt picture. These ratios either compare debt or equity to assets as well as shares outstanding to measure the true value of the equity in a business.

This shows how much of the company assets belong to the shareholders rather than creditors. When shareholders own a majority of the assets, the company is said to be less leveraged. When creditors own a majority of the assets, the company is considered highly leveraged. All of these measurements are important for investors to understand how risky the capital structure of a company is and if it is worth investing in.

The most common financial leverage ratios are debt ratios, debt-equity ratios and equity ratios. Debt ratio is a solvency ratio that measures a firm's total liabilities as a percentage of its total assets. In a sense, the debt ratio shows a company's ability to pay off its liabilities with its assets. In other words, this shows how many assets the company must sell in order to pay off all its liabilities.

The debt to equity ratio is a financial, liquidity ratio that compares a company's total debt to total equity. The debt to equity ratio shows the percentage of company financing that comes from creditors and investors. A higher debt to equity ratio indicates that more creditor financing, i.e., bank loans, is being used than investor financing, i.e., shareholders.

The equity ratio is an investment leverage or solvency ratio that measures the amount of assets that are financed by the owner's investments by comparing the total equity in the company to the total assets.

In fact, some years ago, a team of financial scholars at Stanford Graduate School of Business and at Germany's Max Planck Institute studied banks and found that they have become "addict-



ed" to increasing their debt levels steadily. According to them, "leverage begets leverage". However, it was further analysed that other corporations have become addicted to debt, even when it reduces the total value of the enterprise. Once a company begins to take on debt, they say, the leverage becomes almost "irreversible". Shareholders will generally oppose measures that reduce debt and support moves to increase it whenever the opportunity arises.

According to Paul Pfleiderer, a professor of finance at Stanford, taking leverage is like eating potato chips. One cannot stick to the commitment of eating just a few chips. So, if one cannot stop after eating just one chip, one might be better off not eating them at all.

The authors argue that since reducing debt entails a transfer of risk - and wealth - from shareholders to creditors, there is a clear disincentive for shareholders to cut back on borrowing. If a company buys back its bonds, for example, bondholders will demand a premium above the current market price for those bonds. That's because bondholders will insist that the buyback price reflect the fact that the remaining debt will be at less risk of default.

In other words, bondholders get all the benefits of debt reduction and shareholders have to foot the cost upfront. Government tax policy makes companies even more biased toward higher debt, because it allows companies to deduct interest payments from their taxable income.

In theory, creditors can protect themselves by insisting on contracts or "covenants" that restrict a company's ability to increase its leverage in the future. Among other things, covenants can restrict a company from selling additional bonds or making big payouts to shareholders, which reduce the company's equity.

In practice, the authors argue, covenants are difficult to enforce. Most covenants give companies at least some discretion to take on more debt,

because companies need flexibility in dealing with new opportunities and problems. On top of that, the creditors are often dispersed and unable to take a unified position.

The most obvious risk of high debt is the increased danger of falling into financial distress or even bankruptcy. But on the other hand, rising leverage can also make companies reluctant to invest in promising new projects.

That's because part of the increase in value generated by an investment would flow not to the shareholders but to the creditors, because their bonds and loans would become more secure. Corporate boards take a hard new look at how much they compensate management through stock options and other grants of equity in the company. The more money managers earn from grants of stock and options, rather than from their salaries, the more they will align their self-interest with shareholders rather than creditors.

As bad as it may seem, at some point, almost all businesses must take out loans. Debt financing can be attractive to business owners because banks won't dictate how they should spend the money and they don't have to split up company ownership. Highly leveraged companies are very sensitive to economic declines and at higher risk for bankruptcy.

There are several problems of a highly leveraged company. First, the lenders require borrowers to pay back their loan in a timely manner. This becomes a problem for fledgling companies that borrow money for projects with long-term returns. If payments come due before the company starts seeing returns, loan repayments can be a crippling expense.

Paying back the loan on a regular basis means less money to finance operations and invest in growth opportunities.

Second, substantial loan payments can easily cripple a highly leveraged company. A company doesn't have an obligation to repay capi-

tal from equity sources.

However, banks and lenders have top seniority when it comes to repayment in the event of a bankruptcy. This means that lenders will get paid out before anyone else, including the company owner. If the company has a secured loan, the bank can repossess company assets. Depending on the business structure and the terms of the loan, the owner of the company may also be personally liable for the loan repayment.

Third, just like with individual lending, banks scrutinize corporate credit reports before doling out more loans. Banks are unlikely to provide further funding to highly leveraged organizations. Not only are these companies at high risk for bankruptcy, the new lender might not get paid back if the company goes under.

Older loans typically carry higher seniority compared to newer loans, so lenders are hesitant to put themselves at the bottom of the list for recouping their investment. In the event a bank does issue a loan, the interest rate will be high enough to account for that increased risk.

Fourth, one of the options a company has to reduce its financial leverage is to increase the amount of equity capital.

However, investors rarely give money to highly leveraged businesses. Investors avoid highly leveraged companies for all the same reasons lenders do, plus they're the last in line to get repaid.

If an investor is willing to invest in a highly leveraged company they'll expect to receive an especially large percentage of ownership in exchange for their money.

It's important that further research should be done to shed light on why companies can become hooked to high debt. As they say about other forms of addiction, admitting you have a problem is the first step towards solving it.

*(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)*

# Time to defuse population bomb

While Modi talked about India's demographic dividend in his first term, in his second term he has realised that though a large population may not be a bad thing, it has to contribute to the country's growth



KALYANI SHANKAR

Eyebrows were raised when Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed concern about the population explosion in the country in his recent Independence Day speech. There was a feeling of surprise that the Prime Minister chose to bring up an issue that has been a 'No-No' for many politicians from the days of Emergency when the Indira Gandhi government used coercive population control measures. Her Family Planning programme received widespread condemnation and effectively never realized its purpose. Later the ministry's name was changed to Family Welfare.

India's population is 1.34 billion, which is nearly a four-fold increase since Independence. Modi has reasons for concern as according to the World Population Prospects 2019 of the United Nations, India is expected to add

nearly 273 million people between 2019 and 2050. Inevitably, with these figures, "India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country around 2027", the report said. The biggest challenge for India is its unpreparedness to accommodate such a huge population. Looking at these figures, "The time has now come that we should take such challenges ahead," Modi said.

Interestingly, while Modi talked about India's demographic dividend in his first term, in his second term he has realised that though a large population by itself may not be a bad thing, it has to contribute to the growth of the country. This needs to be supported by capital, technology and infrastructure, as well as skills. That is why the Prime Minister is now talking of education as a means of both moderating the rising population and making it productive.

The country is already facing an acute drinking water crisis, garbage disposal and sewage treatment problems, inadequate rainfall, climate change, increased levels of pollution, high infant and child mortality rate and poor standard of living in the economically weaker sections.

The Prime Minister's speech was

mainly targeted towards these poorer sections of society and his appeal to them for keeping the family small was aimed at improving their standard of living.

He is aware that the poor are missing out on opportunities to climb up the economic and social ladder because they have too many mouths to feed. Making it a nationalistic issue, he said, "Those who follow the policy of a small family also contribute to the development of the nation; it is also a form of patriotism."

Why did Modi talk of population explosion now? It obviously stems from the fact that his hands are strengthened after the massive mandate he received in the 2019 polls.

Politically, Modi is much stronger today, while the Opposition is weak like never before. Add to that the Prime Minister's recent success in Parliament in getting controversial Bills like Triple Talaq and abrogation of Article 370 pertaining to the special status of Jammu and Kashmir passed, despite being in a minority in the Rajya Sabha.

Second, the Indian Right-wing, including the BJP, has always expressed concerns about the increasing minority population. They feel that the Muslims are trying to overtake Hindus in the country by multiplying fast. The

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat, during his annual Dussehra address some time ago, noted, "We need to rise above vote bank politics to formulate a holistic approach, equally applicable to all citizens, towards the population policy."

In Parliament too, BJP members have raised this issue. Recently Rakesh Sinha, a BJP Member of Parliament, introduced a Private Member's Bill to regulate population. Earlier, another BJP member Sanjeev Balyan, who is now a minister, had also introduced another Bill with the backing of 124 members.

The late BJP stalwart Atal Bihari Vajpayee too had made such an attempt in 2000 by bringing a forward-looking National Population Policy. However, it made the two-child norm a voluntary commitment for individuals. The Modi Government has also followed the same approach that the family planning programme in India is target-free and voluntary in nature.

Modi's speech has triggered speculation that a mild interventionist population policy is not far off. It is a very sensitive issue both at the state level as well as the religious level.

The North-South divide and the Hindu-Muslim divide are the two

issues that raise their heads whenever the spotlight is on population control. While the southern states feel that their great success in bringing down the population is costing them in terms of resources devolved from the Centre, the Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has claimed this week that it is a social reform.

The Prime Minister is not one to waste words and he has used the Independence Day speech to prepare the country for population regulation, going forward. There is an urgent need to aggressively push concepts like the two-child policy, child spacing, increased use of contraceptives and voluntary sterilisation. The two-child norm should be made a uniform criterion for government jobs, getting aid and subsidies and other benefits. Perhaps incentives and disincentives might work better in containing the size of the family. The health ministry is already implementing many of these schemes, but much more will be needed to create awareness and to make an impact in the long run.

As India aspires to become a major economic power, it's time to define whether a growing population is an opportunity or a danger.  
*(The writer is a senior journalist)*

CAPSULE



Artimas Fashions ties up with Virat Kohli brand

**KOLKATA:** Artimas Fashions, a subsidiary of listed hosiery firm Lux Industries, has entered into a tie-up to manufacture and market a male innerwear brand, promoted by Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli. Initially, the 'one8' brand would be available on e-commerce platforms, after which retail-channel sales would follow. Nischal Puri, the MD of city-based Artimas Fashions, said, "The size of mid-to-premier innerwear market in India is Rs 5,400 crore and growing at 11.5 per cent per annum," Puri said. He said that 'one8' products would address the preferences of the present-day youth of the country who are living in 'an era of self-indulgence'. Puri said that the company would be knitting its own fabric at its own factory in West Bengal while premium cotton would be imported, adding that the manufacturing and marketing rights of the Virat Kohli-brand in the country had been licensed to Artimas Fashions.



Sterling and Wilson Solar shares tumble over 10% on debut

**NEW DELHI:** Shares of Sterling and Wilson Solar made a disappointing debut on the bourses on Tuesday, falling more than 10 per cent over its issue price of Rs 780. The scrip opened the day at Rs 700, with a discount of 10.25 per cent over its issue price on the BSE. At the NSE, shares got listed at Rs 706, down 9.48 per cent from the issue price. The Rs 3,125 crore initial public offer of Shapoorji Pallonji group firm Sterling and Wilson Solar Ltd was subscribed 92 per cent. The price range for the offer was fixed at Rs 775-780 per share. The firm had said that the portion of the net proceeds would be utilised towards funding full repayment of loans.



Non-life insurers register 23% rise

**NEW DELHI:** Non-life insurance companies earned a premium income of Rs 14,378.45 crore in July this year, up nearly 23 per cent from a year ago, data from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) showed. The 34 non-life insurance firms had collected a premium income of Rs 11,715.05 crore in the corresponding month a year ago. Of these, 25 general insurers recorded a rise of 14 per cent in their collective premium in July at Rs 12,275.93 crore as against Rs 10,782.34 crore in the same month of 2018, as per Irdai data. The seven standalone private sector health insurers witnessed a 44 per cent jump at Rs 1,116.85 crore from Rs 777.01 crore premium collected a year before.

# Resolve stressed assets on time: RBI to bankers

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank deputy governor NS Vishwanathan Tuesday exhorted bankers to ensure timely resolution of stressed assets under the new framework to extract the best value and underlined the need for dealing only in "genuine" cases.

The central bank will be coming out with the final guidelines for private and foreign bankers' compensation soon, he said, speaking at the annual industry event Fibac.

Vishwanathan said the RBI's revised framework on resolution of stressed assets introduced on June 7 is "less intrusive" as it gives banks the leeway to draft their own resolution plans for a particular case.

"Timely resolution is very important. I'd request you to ensure that the resolutions are done in time, not just for the regulatory requirement but also because it will result in better valuation going forward," he said. "We've given a lot of freedom to banks to determine various contours. We are making less intrusive regulations and



NS Vishwanathan

hope that banks will use this to deal with genuine stress in their balance sheets to address the problem," he added.

The RBI issued the new NPA recognition and resolution guidelines on June 7 after the Supreme Court had in April declared the earlier one issued on February 12, 2018 as ultra vires. The new framework lays focus on better coordination between banks while dealing with a stressed assets by mandating them to sign inter-creditor agreements and decide on a resolution strategy in 30 days, which will have to be

**The RBI issued the new NPA recognition and resolution guidelines on June 7 after the Supreme Court had in April declared the earlier one issued on February 12, 2018 as ultra vires**

implemented in 180 days. Meanwhile, Vishwanathan also said the RBI will soon be coming up with the final guidelines for top management compensation.

"Last year we had issued draft guidelines on revised compensation policy, aligning it with global guidelines. We have got excellent comments from the market, bankers and HR practitioners and we will soon come out with final guidelines on the revised compensation policy," he said.

It can be noted that in the draft guidelines, the RBI had proposed measures including making 50 percent of the compensation of senior officials of private and foreign banks 'should be variable'. According to media reports, the central bank is also planning a "claw-

back" clause, such that a key official has to pay past bonuses and incomes if she has been found to have erred in any aspect.

Vishwanathan reiterated that the country has adopted a flexible approach when it comes to adopting the post global financial crisis regulations formed at the global level, which includes being conservative on a few things and consciously deviating in others.

The strategy is to "calibrate" the regulations in sync with the local requirements, he said, listing out the deviations which have been opted for.

The deviations include net stable funding ratio which has been deferred to April 2020, adopting group exposures framework in April 2020 even after adopting the large exposure framework in April 2019.

# Samsung eyes 65% mkt share of India's premium smartphone

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tech giant Samsung on Tuesday said it is confident of cornering 65 per cent market share in the premium smartphone segment (Rs 30,000 and above) with the launch of its flagship Galaxy Note 10 and 10+ in India.

The company, which competes with the likes of OnePlus and Apple, in this segment, said in the first half of 2019 (January-June), its market share was at 63 per cent in value terms in the premium category (as per GfK data). "We had 52 per cent value market share in the premium segment in 2018. This rose to 63 per cent in H1 2019," Samsung India Senior Vice President and Head of Marketing, Mobile Business Ranjivjit Singh told PTI.

He added that by the year-end, the company is confident of expanding this share further to 65 per cent and above.

"The premium category, estimated to be about Rs 15,000-20,000 crore, is growing at about 9-10 per cent. We are growing at strong double digits and expect to grow at over 20 per cent," he said.



Apart from the Note series, the company's lineup in the premium category includes Samsung Galaxy S series and A80. He said the Note 10 series has powerful flagship devices that will take the productivity and creativity of millennial users to the next level. "For the first time ever, Galaxy Note10 comes in two sizes, so consumers can find the Note that's best for them. It has an enhanced S Pen that converts handwriting to digital text, and enhanced Samsung DeX for PC and link to Windows for all meeting productivity needs of the consumers," Singh added.

Engineers at Samsung R&D Institute in Bengaluru have worked on several of the innovative features of the

Galaxy Note10. From August 23, Galaxy Note10+ will be available for Rs 79,999 onwards, while Galaxy Note10 is priced at Rs 69,999. Galaxy Note10+ will be available in two variants - 12GB RAM and 256GB memory, and 12GB RAM with 512GB memory. The Note 10 has 8GB RAM with 256GB internal storage.

The Note 10 features 6.3-inch display, triple camera setup (16MP+12MP+12MP) and 3500 mAh battery.

The Note 10+ has 6.8-inch display, quad camera setup (16MP+12MP+12MP and VGA) and 4,300 mAh battery. Both devices have 10MP front camera. The S Pen has been equipped with gesture control.

# Hyundai drives in Grand i10 Nios at Rs 4.99L

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

South Korean auto major Hyundai on Tuesday expanded its compact segment portfolio in India with the launch of Grand i10 Nios hatchback, priced between Rs 4.99 lakh and Rs 7.99 lakh (ex-showroom). The company, which is present in the country through a wholly-owned subsidiary, has introduced the model with both petrol and diesel powertrains. The petrol variants, with manual and automated manual transmission (AMT), are priced between Rs 4.99 lakh and Rs 7.14 lakh.

Diesel trims, including manual and automatic variants are tagged between Rs 6.7 lakh and Rs 7.99 lakh.

The company claimed fuel efficiency of 20.7 km/litre for the 1.2 litre petrol manual variants and 20.5 km/litre for the AMT versions.



# Mahindra inks JV deal to acquire over 58% in Sri Lanka firm

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services (Mahindra Finance) on Tuesday said it has entered into a joint venture deal with Sri Lanka's Ideal Finance to acquire up to 58.2 per cent stake in the company for LKR 2 billion (nearly Rs 80 crore).

Mahindra Finance will invest LKR 2 billion until March 2021 for up to 58.2 per cent stake in Ideal Finance, it said in a release.

The rural and semi-urban focussed non-banking financial company (NBFC) said the joint venture (JV) will capitalise on Mahindra Finance's 25-year expertise in the financial services domain and Ideal Finance's domestic market knowledge to build a market leading financial services business in Sri Lanka.

"The strategic investment in Ideal Finance is a significant step in Mahindra Finance's global expansion strategy. The company has been looking at expanding its market overseas as part of its global growth strate-



**With this JV, Mahindra Finance aims to replicate its business model in Sri Lanka, it said, adding that the company has fuelled the entrepreneurial aspirations of over 6.2 million customers in over 3,70,000 villages in India**

gy. Sri Lanka, with its cultural and geographical similarity to India and its vibrant financial services market, emerged as the first choice," it said.

With this JV, Mahindra Finance aims to replicate its business model in Sri Lanka, it said, adding that the company has fuelled the entrepreneurial aspirations of over 6.2 million customers in over 3,70,000 villages in India. It manages assets under management (AUM) of over USD 10 billion.

Ideal Finance Ltd (IFL) focusses on rural and semi-urban sector, caters to com-

mercial trucks, motor cars, three-wheelers, two-wheelers, gold loans and personal loans.

IFL, which started operations in 2012, has an asset base of LKR 4.4 billion and an equity base of LKR 1.1 billion and as many as 10 branches.

"We believe that the Sri Lankan market holds great potential for growth. We see a strong, long-term growth opportunity in this market and are committed to bringing in the required capital and expertise to fuel this growth," said Ramesh Iyer.



# SBI festival home, auto loans cheaper rates

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, on Tuesday announced a number of offers including cheaper rates for home and auto loan borrowers, to cash in on festival fervour. Customers can avail the cheaper loans with added benefits such as waiver in processing fees, pre-approved digital loans and loans with no escalation in interest rates spread across various categories, SBI said in a statement.

The bank has not specified the time period for which this festival offer would be valid. However, the move would be followed by the other lenders as well. "SBI has waived processing fees on car loans during festival season. The bank is offering lowest interest rate starting from 8.70 per cent to customers opting for car loan, with no escalation in interest," it said. No escalation will ensure that the customer will not have to face fluctuation in the interest rate.

For customers applying for a car loan online through the bank's digital platform like YONO or website, a 25-basis point concession on interest rate can be availed, it said. The salaried customers can also avail the loan up to 90 per cent of the car's on-road price, it said. Recently, SBI reduced marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) by 15 bps due to which overall home loan interest rate is now reduced by 35 bps since April 2019. Currently, the bank offers cheapest home loan with an interest rate of 8.05 per cent as repo rate-linked home loan and this rate will be applicable to all existing and new loan from September 1, it said. With regard to personal loan, it claimed Rs 20 lakh will be available at the lowest interest rate starting from 10.75 per cent with the longest repayment tenure of 6 years, reducing equated-monthly instalment (EMI) burden on the customers. Additionally, salary account customers can avail pre-approved digital loans up to Rs 5 lakh through YONO.

# Wipro inks pact with IISc for research in robotics, 5G

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Wipro Limited on Tuesday announced a strategic partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to conduct advanced applied research in autonomous systems, robotics and 5G space.

The two organisations have jointly set up the Wipro IISc Research and Innovation Network (WIRIN), an industry academia collaboration unit. A group of senior professors and research staff from IISc and engineers, developers, architects and researchers from the autonomous systems, robotics and 5G domains at Wipro would constitute the team at WIRIN, Wipro said in a press release. They would focus on the research and development of cutting-edge technologies in artificial intelligence, machine learning, visual computing, human computer interaction (HCI) and vehicle-to-everything communication (V2X), it said.



# Shell exits city gas business in India

## ● Sells Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MGL) stake in open market

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shell India, the local arm of the Netherlands-based Royal Dutch Shell Plc, on Tuesday exited the city gas business in the country after it sold its 10 per cent stake in Mahanagar Gas Ltd for Rs 770 crore.

According to stock exchange data, BG Asia Pacific Holdings (BGAPH), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Shell, sold 9.98 million shares in the company through block deals at Rs 780 apiece.

Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MGL), where the majority stake is owned by state-owned GAIL India Ltd, sells compressed natural gas (CNG) to automobiles and piped-cooking gas to house-



holds in and around Mumbai.

When MGL was listed in July 2016, Shell and GAIL held 32.5 per cent stake each in the company. Last year, Shell sold 24 per cent of its shareholding in two tranches - 8.5 per cent in April and 14 per cent in August -- in

the open market through bulk deals. The government of Maharashtra has 10 per cent shareholding in MGL, while the remaining is with the public. Shell sold its stake in the open market after GAIL waived off its first right of refusal. According

to the shareholding agreement, partners had the first right to buy in case either one of them wanted to exit.

"We already have a controlling stake. What purpose would it have served to buy the additional stake at market price," a senior GAIL official said. He said the sale price was "too high."

"It doesn't make any sense for us to buy the stake at the market price," he added.

When Shell first started diluting its stake in MGL in April last year, the company had stated that this was "part of Shell's ongoing portfolio optimisation to transform Shell into a simpler company, delivering stronger returns".

# TikTok safe user campaign launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

TikTok on Tuesday said it will launch an awareness campaign to sensitise Indian netizens about safe and responsible use of user-generated content platforms as the Chinese company looks to curb incidents of people risking their lives to shoot videos. The firm, which has drawn flak from the Indian government and courts on alleged misuse of its platform, said it has partnered with the Digital Empowerment

Foundation (DEF) to execute a digital literacy programme in the country. "As internet penetration grows at a rapid pace across India, the need to drive awareness around safe user behaviour is felt like never before. We believe that #WaitASecToReflect will encourage all digital citizens to use the internet and online platforms in a more responsible, respectful and constructive manner," TikTok Director of Public Policy (India) Nitin Saluja said in a statement.



# Sebi mulls slew of reforms tighter check on rating

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to further safeguard investors' interests and to take defaulters to task, capital market regulator Sebi is planning to unveil a slew of reforms, including for greater checks on credit rating agencies and for rewarding informants in insider trading cases with up to Rs 1 crore reward.

The regulator is also planning to ease its norms for 'Muni Bonds' to allow smart cities and other entities undertaking tasks similar to municipalities to raise funds through this route and get their securities listed on the stock exchanges.

Officials said that Sebi's board,



at a meeting scheduled on Wednesday in Mumbai, is also likely to take up issues relating to mutual funds, startup listing platform and buybacks, among other agenda items.

Amid concerns over banks citing 'client confidentiality' to resist sharing of information on delayed loan repayments and possible defaults by their borrowers, Sebi is planning to tight-

**Officials said that Sebi's board, at a meeting scheduled on Wednesday in Mumbai, is also likely to take up issues relating to mutual funds, startup listing platform and buybacks, among other agenda items**

en its norms to make it mandatory for companies to provide these details to credit rating agencies.

Amid numerous cases of huge loan defaults, including in cases like IL&FS, rating agencies have also come under the scanner for failing to flag potential credit risks of the securities and entities rated by them.

However, rating agencies have

often sought to shift the blame to companies and lenders by claiming that they do not get information about delay in meeting bank obligations and payment failures, which are considered early indicators of a default. Sebi is now proposing to amend its regulations for rating agencies to ensure that any listed or unlisted entity, before getting rated, gives an explicit

consent to obtain from their lenders and other entities full details about their existing and future borrowings as also their repayment and delay or default of any nature and provide the same to the rating agencies.

The move is aimed at helping rating agencies get timely information about the rated entity's financial strength and incorporate it in their ratings.

In another major proposal, Sebi plans to propose that an informant will get up to Rs 1 crore reward, a hotline for sharing details confidentially, and a possible amnesty or settlement for minor wrongdoings in return for cooperation in the probe.



## PRESERVING THE ICONIC TALES

Film Preservation and Restoration Workshop India 2019, which aims to preserve and restore the glory of Indian cinema by teaching film enthusiasts on its techniques, will begin in Hyderabad on December 8, reports V SATEESH REDDY

Old movies are like textbooks for youngsters who want to learn filmmaking. In this digital era, while we upgrade our techniques to the latest technology, we are also forgetting to restore and preserve the movies we made on celluloid," said actor Nagarjuna, who launched the poster of the 5th edition of Film Preservation and Restoration Workshop India 2019 at Annapurna Studios on Tuesday. The event was also attended by actress-activist Amala Akkineni, and Principal Secretary of IT, Government of Telangana, Jayesh Ranjan.

The one-week long workshop would be organised by Film Heritage Foundation in association with Viacom 18, and International Federation of Film Archives from December 8 to 15 at Annapurna Studios. The workshop helps enthusiasts to learn about various topics like film preservation, restoration, paper and photograph conservation, digital preservation and restoration, archive strategy, film repair, film scanning, colour correction and more.

The actor further says, "I saved my iconic movies such as *Annamayya* in a hard disk, but the files got corrupted years later. I'm ashamed of myself for not having pre-

served or restored a single movie of mine to date. I have done more than 90 films and I'm not sure how many of those I have to save due to their present situation."

Film experts from all over the world guide participants on techniques to save celluloid cinema and on how to deal with issues relating to digital cinema. Nagarjuna adds, "My father used to tell me about films from the Silent Era. Now, none of those films has been saved. Hard disks can become unreliable any time and so, we need to find a solution to preserve and restore our classics. These workshops started four years ago in India and saved more than 300 films. I hope it will inspire film enthusiasts to join in this workshop and to save the cinema."

Amala mentions that they have arranged 20 classrooms for this workshop. "We are very happy to help make this a big event. It is our duty, as film personalities, to show our youngsters the greatness of classic movies and help them learn how to save those films. I'm requesting the entire Telugu film fraternity to come forward and join this workshop."

Jayesh Ranjan says, "I'm also running a film club — Moving Images — and we screen old classics for cine-

ma lovers. The club started three months ago and has a great response from the audience. More than 300 people attends our screening. It is always important to know the iconic movies of our past. We are ready to screen the movies restored through this workshop."

Sudhanshu Vats, Viacom18 CEO and MD, says, "Cinema is an integral part of our country's cultural DNA and we owe it to our future generations to pass it on. This is the reason why we have collaborated with this workshop. To take it further, we are also conducting a round table conference with the Telugu film fraternity to discuss the workshop."

Shivendra Singh, the founder of Film Heritage Foundation, says that film is an art form and reflects the times we live in. "To save Indian cinema, we started conducting workshops since 2015 and have been training individuals on restoring old cinema. More than 200 film enthusiasts will participate in the workshop. People from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Afghanistan are participating in it as well."

The applications for the workshop will be open from August 25 to October 20. One can apply at [www.filmheritagefoundation.co.in](http://www.filmheritagefoundation.co.in)



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NAGARJUNA AKKINENI

AMALA AKKINENI

With the kind of films that unspool every week, one can conclude that there is a dearth of not only ideas but also direction! Varied kinds of films are being made, as each filmmaker is trying to come out with something different. This includes all — big as well as medium-range producers. The idea seems to be taking a shot in the dark. It is all about taking chances.

Some producers are falling back on period costume dramas, which work out very costly and are not every director's cup of tea. This genre was avoided for a long time mainly because of these two reasons: capability and cost. Yet, we have had period films like *Bajirao Mastani* and *Padmaavat*, *Manikarnika* and *Kesari*. There have been a few flops in this genre like *Mohenjo Daro*, *Rangoon* and *Thugs Of Hindostan*. The backers of such films would do it only based on saleable stars, coupled with a capable director. Still, it often proves risky.

Each week, a new kind of film is dropped in the market. For instance, last week we had *Khandaani Shafakhana*, a film discussing sexual problems for those who can make sense of the title! For one, sex and problems related to it are not generally discussed in India. Delhi and surrounding areas do have such clinics but that does not make the subject acceptable all over. One may have thought if *Vicky Donor* could work, why not take it a step further? Odd subjects like *Vicky Donor* or *Piku*, very personal to people, do work. However, they need to be woven into a plausible story and dealt with a fair amount of humour. Recent such films are *Piku*, *Padman*, and *Toilet: Ek Prem Katha*. This is called reaching out to personal matters of people. Humour is a must since it delivers the message without making the proceedings seem mundane.

It seems filmmaking is all about inspirational and awareness films. A small film about a person few had heard about, *Paan Singh Tomar*, followed by *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*, opened up a new genre — the biopic. *Neerja*, *MS Dhoni: The Untold Story* and *Dangal* followed in quick succession. The film industry calls this a "daur" (trend). It does not last long, though.

Most writers who script stories like *Piku* or *Vicky Donor*, or directors who make films like *Dangal*, *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag* and *Neerja*, have always had this problem, regarding what next. They usually have nothing that matches the earlier success. No maker seemed to have a worthy successor. Therefore, they go back to the usual claptrap and come a cropper.

There were also some biopics like *Manjhi: The Mountain Man* or *Sachin: A Billion Dreams*, where the makers just chose to go with the trend but turned the

film into a documentary. A film like *Sachin: A Billion Dreams* costs crores as royalty to the character on whose life it is based, as well as to acquire real-life footage. The film on Sachin was a victim of failing to dramatise. The idea is to pick a life story and add a fair amount of fiction along with the music as was done with the *Dhoni* film.

Akshay Kumar has become a torchbearer of the films that convert real-life stories into reel life sagas. He has been greatly successful in his endeavours. His image of being a thoroughbred nationalist probably adds to the acceptability of his films. His instincts and beliefs seem to be paying up so far. Then, there is John Abraham. He loves to play the incredible hulk tackling major cases like the Rajiv Gandhi assassination or Pokhran nuclear tests. He has been partly successful.

It is believed that there are only seven basic storylines in this world. Films were made accordingly. There was a time when some makers stuck to making religion-based or mythological films while a few others only made horror movies. The mainstay for most makers, however, was romance and family socials. Action movies were not in vogue in the mainstream cinema till mid-1970 and

action, in a measured amount, was a part of regular movies. Action movies as such were rated B Grade, released only at designated cinema halls, and it was left to actors like Kamran Khan and Sheikh Mukhtar. Dara Singh later introduced action movies where wrestling was the theme.

There were a few costume dramas and comedies. While most producers stuck to their formula of catering to the family audience, some even stuck to certain alphabets to name their films with. Producer J Om Prakash (who passed away last week) named all his films starting with alphabet A, as did producer Mohan Kumar. Another filmmaker, Arjun Hingorani, preferred alphabet K to name his films. Filmmakers, like many others, are quite superstitious and this trend of faith in a certain alphabet still prevails in filmmakers like Rakesh Roshan, whose films have titles beginning with K.

Now, the genres of family socials, horror and mythology have been taken away by television serials. Action films are accepted only coming from a couple of stars. There is little

choice left for filmmakers.

The limited choice is between romance, action and comedy, with few writers and makers to justify the latter. While ideas are borrowed from foreign films (which includes this year's National Award winner, *Andhadhun*), and films from South languages are being sought once again for remakes by a few.

So, after each successful film, the question arises — what next? From the records, the makers of *Piku*, *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*, *Dhoni: The Untold Story*, *Dangal*, *Neerja* and many such films have either delivered flops or are at a loss for an idea for their next! — IANS

# WHAT NEXT? FILMMAKER'S DILEMMA

With each year, filmmakers are facing a dearth of content as well as direction, with new genres and ideas that are proving to be risky devoid as they are of right stars and directors



### THE BOX OFFICE

Last week has seen two major films release with *Batla House* and *Mission Mangal*, both on Thursday, August 15, to cash in on the national holiday. Both have reaped the benefit with good collection figures for the opening day. While *Mission Mangal* has managed a hefty ₹29 crore on the opening day, *Batla House* has collected about ₹14.75 crore. *Jabariya Jodi* remains poor. The film collects about ₹16.5 crore for its first week. *Judgemental Hai Kya* fails to deliver.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN SOME MAKERS STUCK TO MAKING PATRIOTIC OR MYTHOLOGICAL FILMS, WHILE THE MAINSTAY FOR MOST MAKERS WAS, HOWEVER, ROMANCE AND FAMILY SOCIALS

**PARTY**

**FUN-FILLED EVENING**

Members of Sanskriti Ladies Organisation had a gala evening at a star hotel in Hyderabad, with the participants taking part in various games and other activities. The winners of these games were suitably rewarded.



Photos by SV Chary

**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, Somajiguda.



**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, Nriya — Forum for Performing Arts, Banjara Hills.

**ART**

**JOURNEY OF THE CANVAS**

A unique art residency programme will be organised featuring four exceptional artists — Syeda Ali, Manoj Das, Steven Gandhi, and Kotegeedde Ravi — along with a live art exhibition. August 24, 6.30 pm, Mix, Westin,HITEC City.

**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**



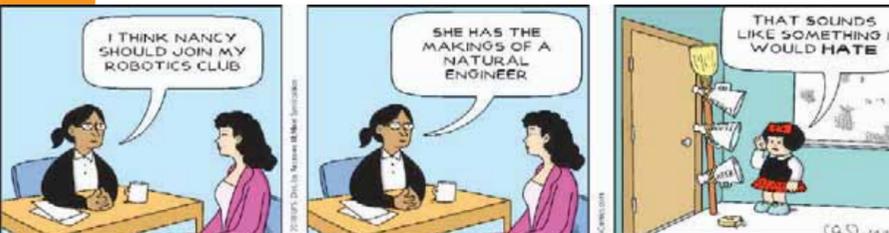
**CALVIN AND HOBBS**



**GARFIELD**



**NANCY**



**GINGER MEGGS**



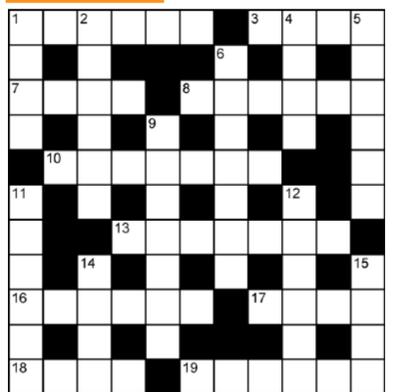
**REALITY CHECK**



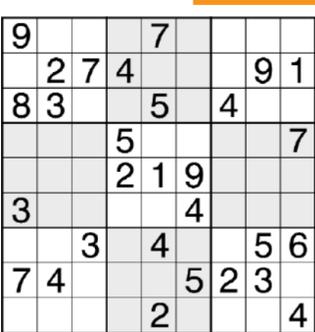
**SPEED BUMP**



**CROSSWORD**



**SUDOKU**



**Yesterday's solution**  
 7 4 8 3 5 1 2 9 6  
 2 1 9 6 4 7 8 3 5  
 3 6 5 8 9 2 7 4 1  
 6 9 1 7 8 4 3 5 2  
 5 8 2 1 6 3 9 7 4  
 4 3 7 5 2 9 6 1 8  
 8 2 4 9 3 5 1 6 7  
 1 5 3 2 7 6 4 8 9  
 9 7 6 4 1 8 5 2 3

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

**ACROSS**

- 1 A clasp on a belt
- 3 Hint
- 7 A foot covering
- 8 Small glass ball
- 10 Very angry
- 13 Borrow books here
- 16 A large shed for an aeroplane
- 17 Leg joint
- 18 Decays
- 19 Dislike very strongly
- 6 A month
- 9 Alike
- 11 A writer of books
- 12 Medal for third place
- 14 Rope tangle
- 15 Departed

**DOWN**

- 1 Finest
- 2 A prickly plant
- 4 Part of the ear
- 5 Cricket team number

**SOLUTION**



**T**he teaser of Megastar Chiranjeevi-starrer *Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy* was unveiled at a grand event in Mumbai on Tuesday.

Speaking at the event, which was attended by the principal cast and crew comprising Kichcha Sudeep, Vijay Sethupathi, Ravi Kishan, Tamannaah and Ram Charan along with Hindi presents Farhan Akhtar, Ritesh Sidhwani and Anil Thadani, Chiru dubbed Amitabh Bachchan as his real-life mentor. The iconic Bollywood figure is playing the Telugu star's guru Gosai Venkanna in the costume drama. "He is my mentor. I feel there is only one megastar and that is he. I'm indebted to him for having accepted to be part of my film," Chiru said.

Recalling Big B's participation, he added, "Film's director Surrender Reddy said if Amitabh ji plays my guru, then there would be nothing like it. I said I would try. I rang him and asked him if he can be a part of the film. I told him, 'It is produced by Ram Charan and has an amazing story'. To which, he said, 'You've never asked me anything until now and since you are asking, I'm saying ok. He asked me to send my team later to Mumbai, which I did. I extend my heartfelt thanks to him."

He further said that he shot for the action sequences on his own. "During the narration, I felt Surrender Reddy and Charan will use a body double for the action given the technology at disposal. However, they wanted me to per-

# BIG B is the one and only megastar: CHIRU

The actor, speaking at *Sye Raa* teaser release event in Mumbai, said that he is indebted to the Bollywood actor for being a part of the movie

form stunts on my own. I was just recuperating from a shoulder surgery but they were unyielding. It was not fair (smiles) but I was happy. I always cherished doing hard work," he noted and quipped that because of his punctuality, his wife Surekha felt that Charan would get a bad name. "I used to report to sets 7 am every day while the current lot, including Charan, is known to go to sets a little late."

He further said the Tamil version of the film would have Kamal Haasan's voice-over. While the Telugu version had the voice-over of his brother Pawan Kalyan, the Malayalam version had Mohanlal's. "I requested Kamal to lend his voice for the film and he said he is willing to do it. He couldn't give the voice-over for the teaser, as he is not feeling well. But for the film, he will be," Chiru suggested.

## SYE RAA TEASER TOUTS THE FIRST REBEL INDIA FORGOT

The teaser of *Sye Raa* is a visual treat for the fans, as it promises a riveting drama. It had a glimpse of breathtaking action sequences, production design befitting a bygone era and above all, a thundering Chiranjeevi as freedom fighter Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy. For legions of Telugu film buffs, the icing on the cake is the voiceover by Pawan Kalyan, Chiranjeevi's brother or Power Star as he is referred to by his fans. The teaser opens with the narrator saying how we can never forget heroic freedom fighters, and soon, we are introduced to Chiranjeevi as Narasimha. He has been touted as the first rebel that India has forgotten. The teaser also gave glimpses of other actors such as Amitabh Bachchan, Tamannaah, and Sudeep. It doesn't just focus on war scenes and valour but goes beyond that, leaving a lasting impression. The multi-starrer, produced by Ram Charan and helmed by Surrender Reddy, will hit silver screens on October 2. The shooting had kicked started in 2017, and it was recently wrapped up. The makers shot a vital war sequence, reportedly spending a whopping ₹45 crore for it. International stunt choreographers such as Greg Powell, Lee Whittaker and Ram-Laxman were roped in for the action scenes. The movie will clash with Hrithik Roshan and Tiger Shroff's *War* and Sidharth Malhotra and Tara Sutaria's *Marjaavaan*.



## VISHNU INDURI AND SONY JOIN HANDS

They will produce films of south Indian directors who recently won the best director awards at the recent SIIMA

Presently associated with the biopic of former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu J Jayalalithaa and 1983 World Cup triumph, producer and entrepreneur Vishnu Induri will be joining hands with Sony Pictures Entertainment to produce films of South directors who recently won the best director awards at SIIMA award at Doha, Qatar.



In Telugu, Vishnu, who has produced the two-part biopic of NTR earlier this year, and Sony Pictures, which will mark their debut with Adivi Sesh-starrer *Major*, will bankroll RX100 director Ajay Bhupathi's third film. In Tamil, they will pool in resources for Nelson's next. They will also produce ventures of Mahesh Kumar and Zakariya Mohammed from Kannada and Malayalam industries respectively.

Coming to Telugu, Bhupathi is attached to make *Mahasamudram*, starring Ravi Teja, Siddharth and Aditi Rao Hydari, with Gemini Kiran. A crime drama set in Visakhapatnam, it will move to floors in October.

## Edaina Jaragocchu story gave me goose bumps: Bobby Simha

The actor mentioned that K Ramakanth's writing and the way he etched the characters sealed the deal for him

National award-winning actor Bobby Simha, who will be seen as the prime antagonist in *Edaina Jaragocchu*, featuring Sivaji Raja's son, Vijay Raja, says the film has been a two-year-long journey for him. "When the makers first approached me for the film two years ago with a brief line, I kind of liked it but I was looking for more. In the third meet, the story gave me goosebumps. The director's writing and the way he etched characters sealed the deal for me. Irrespective of it being a small film I said I'd do it," the actor said. He was speaking at a promotional event of the film in Hyderabad recently.

In the crime horror thriller, Vijay will be seen as a guy who is into multiple part-time jobs. One of his avatars — that of a bank recovery agent — makes him fall in love with a girl (Pooja Solanki) and the follow-up events are narrated comically with a twist. A joint venture between Wet Brain Entertainment and Sudharm Productions, the film marks the directorial debut of K Ramakanth, who earlier worked as an assistant director to Chandrasekhar Yeleti.

Speaking about Vijay, Bobby added, "I never felt that he was a newcomer. He was not camera shy or was afraid of it. He slipped into the character with relative ease. I found a younger brother in him."



## ARJUN-CARTHYK TO DIRECT A SATIRICAL COMEDY

Producer MLV Satyanarayana has given his nod for their writer-director duo's second venture, as he was impressed with the way they went about making *Rajdooth*

After making their directorial debut with *Rajdooth* last month, writer-director duo Arjun-Carthyk is set for their next. *The Pioneer* has understood that they got the nod of their first producer MLV Satyanarayana aka Satti Babu for their second effort as well. "Satti Babu was impressed with the way the duo went about making *Rajdooth*. They promised him that they will finish the project under ₹2.50 crore but they wrapped it up under ₹1.50 crore. Also, he was impressed with the pace at which the duo shot the film," said a source.

The new project will be a satirical comedy and will feature three young and happening comedians, while an experienced comedian will be the leading face. Sudarshan has already been zeroed in as one of the three young comedians, while the duo is on the hunt for other actors. "The film will have satires on government and on the current state of media where a small issue is blown out of proportion, albeit in a lighter tone. Without taking sides, it will also take a dig at Andhra-Telangana bifurcation in a funny way. It will have the flavour of the iconic Hollywood comedy *Hangover*, but story-wise, it's a completely original screenplay," added the source.



## DAPPER BALAYYA

With his Tony Stark-ish goatee look getting trolled heavily — after a picture, of him with a fan, made the rounds on Monday evening — the makers of Nandamuri Balakrishna's next with KS Ravikumar have quickly gone into damage control mode and released his first look from the film on Tuesday.

Appearing to have gone for a complete makeover from head to toe, the actor, sporting a van dyke beard, looked dapper in a suit. The film's shooting is presently going on in

Thailand and on Tuesday, the director started filming an action sequence under the supervision of a local stunt choreographer. After the completion of the action sequences, some key portions will be shot there. Later, the setting will shift to Hyderabad.

The action-drama sees Sonal Chauhan and Vedika as Balayya's romantic interests, while the likes of Jayasudha, Prakash Raj, Bhumika Chawla, Sayaji Shinde, Nagineedu, Saptagiri and Srinivas Reddy round off the supporting cast. C Kalyan is producing the film under Happy Movies.



## NANI IN HANU'S PERIOD PIECE

The actor will be seen as soldier in an Army backdrop from the '80s for the action period drama, finds NAGARAJ GOUD

After wrapping up Vikram Kumar's *Gang Leader*, Nani dived headlong into the sets of Indraganti Mohana Krishna's *V* earlier this month. The *Sammohanam* filmmaker's murder mystery requires Nani's dates till November, after which, we've learnt, the actor will be joining forces with his *Krishnagadi Veeraprema Gaadha* filmmaker Hanu Raghavapudi for a new feature.

A highly placed source close to the development confirms to *The Pioneer*, "The film, a gritty action period drama, will be set in an army backdrop of the '80s and will see Nani as a soldier. Hanu has been researching the story for the past six months, travelling across the country for the material. One of

the most promising filmmakers around, he understands that he disappointed the audience with his last *Padi Padi Leche Manasu*, which is why he has gone back to the drawing board and is investing heavily on the writing front to come up with a watertight script. He got Nani's consent long back. The actor rates the director very high."

The source adds, "The film will move to floors in April or May next year in Ladakh with a 40-day schedule before it moves to other parts of the country. Nani has to significantly prep for his part. It remains to be seen whether he will start another project before joining Hanu's sets or will allot time for prep. Mythri Movie Makers are tipped to produce the film."



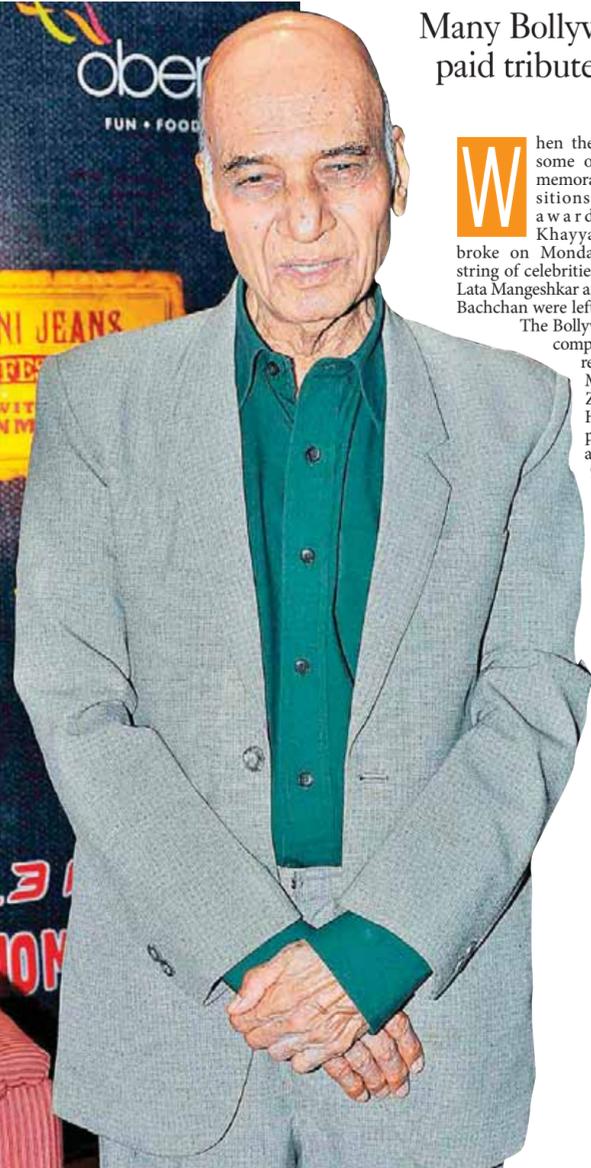
# WITH KHAYYAM, MUSIC LOST A NOTE

Many Bollywood celebrities and eminent personalities paid tribute to the legendary musician, whose funeral will be held with full state honours

**W**hen the creator of some of the most memorable compositions, National award-winner Khayyam's death broke on Monday night, a string of celebrities, including Lata Mangeshkar and Amitabh Bachchan were left shocked. The Bollywood music composer whose real name was Mohammed Zahir Hashmi passed away at the age of 92, late on Monday at a private hospital here following a

brief illness, an aide said. The Padma Bhushan awardee was admitted to Sujay Hospital in suburban Juhu a few days ago owing to breathing issues and other age-related illnesses. "He died at Sujay Hospital at around 9.30 pm," a family friend said. According to the composer's spokesperson, Khayyam's mortal remains will be kept at his residential complex from 10 am onwards for people to pay their last

respect. Thereafter, his funeral will take place with full state honours, the spokesperson said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday expressed sorrow at the demise of acclaimed music director Khayyam, saying he will be remembered for his efforts to support upcoming artists. "India will remain grateful to Khayyam Sahab for giving us some of the most memorable compositions, which will be remembered forever," he tweeted. Modi said Khayyam will also be remembered for his humanitarian gestures to support upcoming artists. "His demise is extremely saddening," he said.



Several B-town celebrities took to social media to pay tribute to the composer.



**Anil Kapoor:** A humble man, a great composer and a true artist. Khayyam Saab was and will remain an inspiration. He will truly be missed.



**Vishal Daddani:** Feels like music lost a note today. Khayyam Saab, thank you for your music and your kindness each time we met. Wish it could have been more often, but I'm glad I was able to thank you in person for the...



**Lata Mangeshkar** tweeted in Hindi:

Legendary musician and a beautiful soul, Khayyam Saab is no more. I can't express in words how sad I am. An era of music ended with his demise. I pay my tribute to him.



**Hansal Mehta:** An entire era was blessed with music from Madan Mohan, SD Burman, Naushad, Khayyam, RD Burman and Kalyanji Anandji aided by singers at their peak and some great poetry. What we have is mostly mediocrity and noise with only a few exceptions. Sound rules over melody and poetry.



**Kailash Kher:** Fondly known as Khayyam Saab composer of *Kabhi Kabhi Mere Dil Mein*, *In Ankho Ki Masti Ke*, *Dikhai Diye Yun* and many more epic songs. Thank you for leaving treasures of music behind. RIP.



**Amitabh Bachchan:** A legend in music. A soft-spoken amiable soul. One that contributed to several films and some of the more important ones of mine pass away. Khayyam sahib for all the memorable music he conducted and produced. Prayers condolences.



**Madhur Bhandarkar:** Khayyam sir, your immense contribution to the world of music will be always remembered.



**Shekhar Suman:** RIP Khayyam Sahab. The world will miss your melodious music. You were a maestro and a gentleman. The music of *Umrao Jaan*. Stays as one of the best forever. Alvida!



**AR Rahman:** A True Patriot and a Master Songwriter... Mohammed Zahur Khayyam.



**Adnan Sami:** I'm extremely saddened to learn of the demise of our Legendary Music Composer Khayyam Sahib. He is credited with some of the most iconic film soundtracks. *Umrao Jaan*, *Kabhi Kabhi*, *Razia Sultana* to name a few. God bless his soul.

## REMEMBERING THE MAESTRO'S TIMELESS COMPOSITIONS

### AAKHRI KHAT...

*Aakhri Khat* was Rajesh Khanna's debut film and on the other hand, Khayyam's last Hindi film before his eight-year sabbatical. The lyrics of the songs were penned by Kaifi Azmi and the soundtrack includes the famous song *Baharon Mera Jeevan Bhi Sanwara*, sung by Lata Mangeshkar. Bhupinder Singh marked his debut as a playback singer with this film album.

### KABHIE KABHIE...

Khayyam composed the music of megastar Amitabh Bachchan's film

*Kabhie Kabhie*. The film received three Filmfare Awards for Best Lyrics, Best Music and Best Male Playback Singer. Reportedly, Yash Chopra asked Khayyam to pray for the film's success. And *Kabhie Kabhie* broke all the records at the box office!

### UMRAO JAAN...

The music of Rekha's *Umrao Jaan* was composed by Khayyam, however, he was not the first choice of the director of the film. Reportedly, Khayyam was brought on board after the original music composer of the film and the director had some irreconcilable differences. He won

both the Filmfare Award and the National Film Award for Best Music Director.

### PHIR SUBHA HOG...

For *Phir Subha Hogi*, Sahir Ludhianvi recommended Khayyam. The composer also had to pass Raj Kapoor's test of tuning a Tanpura to get the film. Songs like *Cheen O Arab Hamara* and the duet version of *Woh Subah Kabhi To Aayegi* became popular among the audience.

### BAZAAR

*Bazaar* had many great songs. But the best pick will always be *Karoge yaad to*

*har baat*, brilliantly sung by the gifted Bhupinder Singh. Beautifully picturised on Naseeruddin Shah and Smita Patil who are considered as the two of Hindi cinema's most talented actors.

### RAZIA SULTAN...

Khayyam was nominated in Filmfare Awards in the category of Best Music Director for the music of this film. The lyrics were penned by Jan Nisar Akhtar and Nida Fazli. However, music director duo Laxmikant-Pyarelal was the first choice of the director of the film. He asked them to rework on a particular song. When he went to meet them, he was

asked to wait as the duo was in a meeting. Feeling insulted, the director replaced them with Khayyam.

### NOORIE...

The music of the film played a major role in making Manmohan Krishna's only film as director. The film was a huge hit at the box office and the seventh highest-grossing film in 1979. The film starred Farooq Shaikh, Poonam Dhillon, Madan Puri and Iftekhar in lead roles.

### AHISTA AHISTA...

1981 was a great year of Khayyam as

three of the four albums released in the year were hits. The songs *Kabhi Kisi Ko Muqammal Jahan Nahin Milta*, *Mana teri nazar mein*, *Bin bulaye hum chale aaye* and *Nazar se phool chunati hai nazar* from the film had the music lovers raving it.

### THODISI BEWAFAI...

This is the only film in which Khayyam worked with Gulzar. And their work together was welcomed by everyone. Songs *Hazar Raahen Mud Ke Dekhin* and *Aaj Bichhde Hain*, which were the sad songs of separation, made a place in everyone's heart.

## SALMAN MAY FACE BAN IF HE WORKS WITH MIKA

**S**inger Mika Singh, who was banned by the Federation of Western India Cine Employees association (FWICE) after he performed at a wedding in Karachi, awaits the final verdict which will be out after he meets the members of the film body.

According to a report published in *Mid Day*, the federation has said that, any artist working with Mika till the verdict arrives may face ban. He was reportedly speaking with reference to an upcoming six-city gig in the US where Salman Khan

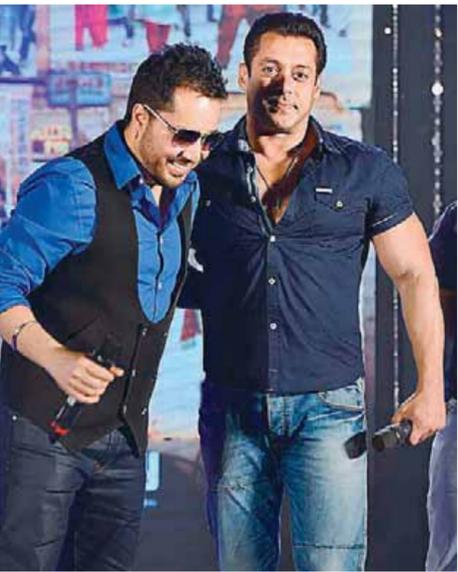
and Mika will be performing.

Titled *Up, Close and Personal With Salman Khan*, the show has been scheduled for next week. Mika is expected to join them in the Houston leg of the programme on August 28. Ashok Dubey, general secretary, FWICE, explained the technicalities of the ban. He told *Mid Day*, "If we impose a ban, it means all our technicians — including actors, directors and even spot boys — will not work with Mika. If someone works with Mika during this ban, say Salman or anyone else, then he too will be banned."

Commenting on whether the ban applies to gigs held outside the country, Dubey said, "Whether it's an organiser from the US or any other country, we cannot stop anybody from conducting an event. Our policy is simple, we will not work with the person who has been banned."

The show has been put together by Sohail Khan's event management company in coordination with one Jordy Patel's company called JA Events in India and Bhavesh Patel in the US. The report quotes Jordy as saying, "We are only dealing with Bhavesh Patel as our contract is with him. Some local promoter in the US must have signed on Mika and added him to the line-up. Salman will have nothing to do with Mika at the event. They will not even interact on stage."

Mika had on Sunday put out a video on Twitter, where federation member BN Tiwari mentioned that Mika has expressed a desire to apologise to the nation.



## RADHIKA NOT AN AWARD CRAZY PERSON

**A**ctress Radhika Apte was a part of two films — *Andhadhun* and *Padman* — that bagged National Film Awards this year. She is grateful, but says she isn't crazy about awards.

"I am glad that both the films won National Film Awards. I am happy and grateful for the awards, but I don't look at films like 'this should win a National award'. I just think people should watch the film and hope they like it. I am not an award-crazy person," Radhika told IANS.

While *Padman* was declared Best Film on Social Issues, Ayushmann Khurrana and Vicky Kaushal jointly received the Best Actor Award for their performances in *Andhadhun* and *Uri: The Surgical Strike*. Apart from the Best Actor Award, *Andhadhun* also won Best Hindi Film award and an honour for its screenplay writer (adapted).

Radhika feels Sriram

Raghavan's *Andhadhun* is a well-scripted and shot effort. "The performances were good. It was extremely thrilling. Every few minutes, you would find yourself in a different turn or twist in the script. It kept you hooked throughout the plot. The story was very interesting," said Radhika.

She feels that over the years, National Film Awards have been recognising Hindi movies for their potential, so she doesn't think suddenly they are looking at Hindi cinema in a different way. She agrees content of Hindi cinema has changed and at some level, "it has improved".

"What's happening today is that people want to watch different cinema and more content, so it is a good time if a film like *Andhadhun* can fit into both the brackets of critically-acclaimed cinema and commercial success," she said.



# India's selection dilemma

## Team management to decide between Rahane and Rohit or a fifth bowler for 1st Test



Ravindra Jadeja and Rohit Sharma rest during India's practice session in Antigua ahead of 1st Test

PTI ■ ANTIGUA

The Indian team management will be fretting on possible team combinations for the first Test against the West Indies with a difficult choice between senior pro Rohit Sharma and Ajinkya Rahane if it opts for a fifth specialist bowler.

Unless India go with a safety-first four bowler strategy which allows both Test and ODI vice-captain to figure in the scheme of things, one among the two would be cooling heels and it could be Rahane going by his wretched form in red-ball cricket.

India will be returning to the longest format after a good seven and

**INDIA WILL BE RETURNING TO THE LONGEST FORMAT AFTER A GOOD SEVEN AND HALF MONTHS AND THE MOOT POINT OF THE PLAYING XI WILL BE WHETHER TEAM GOES FOR AN ADDITIONAL SIXTH BATSMAN OR AN EXTRA BOWLER FOR THE FIRST TEST STARTING ON THURSDAY**

half months and the moot point of the playing XI will be whether Kohli-Ravi Shastri duo goes for an additional sixth batsman or an extra bowler for the first Test starting on Thursday. If the Indian team's think tank employs conservative strategy, KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal should be opening the innings but Rahul it may be recalled was dropped for the last two Test matches in Australia with Hanuma Vihari opening the innings.

While Vihari didn't score too many runs, he blunted the new ball attack which helped Agarwal and Cheteshwar Pujara to consolidate without much trouble.

If one looks at the pattern of play-

ing XI selections, Vihari, who batted No 3 and scored a fifty in the warm-up game against West Indies A, could once again open in the first Test if Rahul's poor Test record during past one year is taken into account.

Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli are the two pillars at No 3 and 4 respectively but the problem starts after that.

With Rishabh Pant expected to come in at No 6 and Ravindra Jadeja with his all-round skills bringing in the necessary balance at No 7 in the absence of an injured Hardik Pandya, Kohli may be left with an unenviable task of putting either Rahane or Rohit on the chopping block.

Rohit's last Test knock was an unbeaten half-century and he also scored a first-innings half-ton in the practice game.

While Rahane got a few runs in the second innings, his form has been on the downhill and even a county stint with Hampshire has not done anything to bolster his confidence.

The only option to include both is to go for a four-bowler strategy with three pacers in Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma along with Ravichandran Ashwin or Kuldeep Yadav as the lone spinner.

The extra batsman then will take Jadeja out of equation but there will always be a chance of fatigue in sultry conditions and the case of maintaining proper over-rates with three out and fast bowlers in operation.

Skipper Kohli has always been a big advocate of playing five bowlers as the key to winning Test matches is 20 wickets.

If the track is lively, Kohli perhaps wouldn't even mind playing a fourth pacer in Umesh Yadav (along with lone spinner), who had a good game against the Windies A.

However a lot will depend on the kind of track that the local curators provide at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium here.

There is a perception that this Indian team can take 20 wickets with four bowlers but will Kohli take that risk in their World Test Championship opener?



Jason Holder receives Windies Test Player of the Year award

## Holder, Hope bags top WI honours

IAN'S ■ ST JOHNS

Jason Holder, West Indies skipper in Test and ODIs, has bagged the West Indies Test Player of the Year award at the seventh CWI/WIPA Awards 2019.

Under Holder's captaincy in 2018, West Indies drew the three-match home Test series against Sri Lanka 1-1 and later defeated Bangladesh in the two-match Test series 2-0. During the said period, the star all-rounder also scored 405 runs and picked up 21 wickets in ODIs. He will now be leading the side in the two-match Test series against India beginning on Thursday.

At the annual CWI Award ceremony which took place on Monday, Shai Hope was named West Indies' ODI Player of the Year. The right-handed batsman scored 875 runs at 67.30 in 2018, including three centuries and three half-centuries.

Keemo Paul won West Indies' T20I Player of the Year award. Paul, who made his debut last year, picked up 17 wickets and scored 124 runs in 13 matches for the West Indies.

Oshane Thomas was named as the West Indies Emerging Player of the Year while Rahkeem Cornwall, who is in line to make his Test debut against India this week, was adjudged West Indies Championship Player of the Year. Andre Russell bagged the Caribbean T20 player award.

In women's cricket, big-hitting all-rounder Deandra Dottin swept the top three awards — West Indies Women Player of the Year, West Indies Women's ODI Player of the Year and the T20 Player of the Year.

## SINGLES

**DULEEP TROPHY OPENER ENDS IN DRAW**  
BENGALURU: The rain-marred Duleep Trophy opener here between India Blue and India Green ended in a draw on Tuesday after three days were washed out. The match ended without even the first innings being completed, and both teams got a point each. After the opening day's proceedings started late on Saturday owing to overnight rain and saw 49 overs being bowled, play on the other days were called off without a ball being bowled. Only 49 overs were bowled in the entire match. On a truncated opening day, India Green had reduced India Blue to 112 for six. India Red play India Blue in the next match beginning on August 23 at Alur.

## PRIYAM NAMED INDIA U-23 CAPTAIN

**NEW DELHI:** Priyam Garg will captain the India U-23 team in the home series beginning against Bangladesh U-23 beginning September 19 in Raipur. All the five games of the series will be played in Raipur. Garg had captained the India U-19 squad in the recently held youth ODI series in the UK. Yashasvi Jaiswal too was part of the U-19 squad. The squad also includes Arshdeep Singh and Harpreet Brar who were part of the Kings XI Punjab squad in IPL 2019. Bengal's U-23 captain Ritwik Roy Choudhary, considered a handy all-rounder, has also been included for leading the team to National U-23 final. The selectors picked the squad after considering the performances of the U-19 series in the UK and CK Nayudu Trophy.

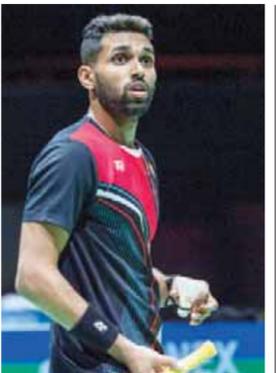
## DEMBELE ADDS TO BARCA'S WOES

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona forward Ousmane Dembele will miss five weeks after suffering a hamstring injury, the club said. The club said in a statement that tests showed a "fibrillary lesion in the left thigh femoral biceps." If Dembele is out for that long, he could miss five matches in La Liga as well as France's Euro 2020 qualifiers against Albania on September 7 and Andorra on September 20. He suffered a similar problem in May at the end of an injury-ravaged first season in Barcelona. He is the latest casualty in a depleted Barcelona strike force. Lionel Messi missed the Liga opener with a calf problem. Luis Suarez limped off after 37 minutes in Bilbao, also with a calf problem, and is expected to be absent for a month.

## KANE, AKILA REPORTED FOR ACTION

**DUBAI:** New Zealand captain Kane Williamson and Sri Lanka's Akila Dananjaya have been reported for suspect bowling action after the first Test between the two sides in Galle, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Tuesday. Both the players are right-arm off-break spinners and their bowling actions came under scrutiny during the opening Test which ended on Sunday. Williamson and Dananjaya will now undergo testing within 14 days from the reporting date (August 18), and, during this period both will be permitted to continue bowling in international cricket until the results of the testing are known. Williamson bowled just three overs during the second innings of the game while Dananjaya claimed six scalps in the Galle, including a five-wicket haul in the first innings.

AGENCIES



HS Prannoy looks on during his match

## Prannoy stuns Lin Dan

PTI ■ BASEL

Indian shuttler HS Prannoy stunned multiple-time Olympic and world champion Lin Dan in a hard-fought match while Sai Praneeth outplayed Lee Dong Keun to enter the pre-quarter-finals of the World Championships here on Tuesday.

Prannoy, unseeded in the tournament, beat the highly-decorated Chinese 21-11, 13-21, 21-7 in a second round match that lasted one hour and two minutes.

In the pre-quarter-finals, Prannoy faces an uphill task against top seed Kento Momota of Japan, who downed Luis Enrique Penalver of Spain 21-10, 21-7.

In five meetings between the two, Prannoy has emerged victorious thrice. The Chinese won in the last meeting, at the Australian Open in June.

"I started and ended well but the strategy in the second game went completely opposite for me. Thanks to coaches I could make a few changes in crucial moments. I am happy I was patient and was ready for a long match. Shuttlers were not very fast but I am happy with my game," Prannoy said.

Later on Tuesday, 16th seed Sai Praneeth completed a comprehensive 21-16, 21-15 win over Dong Keun of South Korea in the second round.

In the women's doubles, the Indian pair of Ashwini Ponappa N Sikki Reddy got a walkover from Chinese Taipei's Chang Ching Hui and Yang Ching Tun in their opening match. They will face seventh seeded Chinese pair of Du Yue and Li Yin Hui in the second round.

The men's doubles pairing of Manu Attri and Sumeeth Reddy beat the French duo of Thom Gicquel and Ronan Labar 21-13, 21-13 in a first round match.

## Pogba fails in Wolves draw

AFP ■ WOLVERHAMPTON

Manchester United were forced to settle for a 1-1 draw against Wolves after Paul Pogba's penalty was saved by Rui Patrício at Molineux on Monday.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side took the lead through Anthony Martial's second Premier League goal of the season in the first half.

Ruben Neves hit a brilliant equaliser for Wolves after the interval before France star Pogba was denied by Patrício.

It was a curious decision for Pogba to take the spot-kick as Marcus Rashford had scored a penalty in last weekend's 4-0 victory over Chelsea and also memorably netted the Champions League last-16 winner from the spot against Paris Saint Germain last term.

Pogba has now missed four Premier League penalties since the start of last season.

United would have gone top of the table with a win, but instead they were left to reflect on an inconsistent performance that



Manchester United's Paul Pogba, front, fails to score penalty shot against Wolves

underlined why Solskjaer still has a lot of work to do to turn his team into title contenders.

While there were moments of promise in attack and defence, United didn't take their chances and crumbled too easily when they came under pressure in their second game of the season.

At an average of 24 years and

173 days, Solskjaer had picked United's youngest Premier League starting line-up since the final day of the 2016-17 campaign.

Daniel James made his maiden start for United after the close-season signing from Swansea.

There was no place in the matchday squad for Chile forward Alexis Sanchez, who has been linked with Inter Milan.

## Smith out of Headingley Test

AFP ■ LEEDS

Australia's star batsman Steve Smith has been ruled out of the third Ashes Test beginning on Thursday after suffering concussion, Cricket Australia announced on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old — who has scored two centuries and 92 in his three innings in the first two Tests — was felled by a Jofra Archer bouncer on Saturday in the first innings of the second Test at Lord's.

Smith's absence will be a huge blow to Australia who hold a 1-0 lead in the five Test series and victory at Headingley would ensure they retained the Ashes.

Their other batsmen have not looked convincing — experienced opener David Warner has totalled just 18 in his four innings — with Smith being the lynch-pin. "Steve Smith has been ruled out of the third Ashes Test at Headingley, with coach Justin Langer confirming the news after the batsman sat out Australia's training session on Tuesday," Cricket Australia announced on their website.

The team doctor Richard Saw had the final say on whether Smith played or not and he was seen speaking with him during team training on Tuesday.

According to the website vice-captain Pat Cummins patted Smith on the shoulder and coach Justin Langer wrapped his arm round the former captain as the rest of the squad trained without him.

Smith — who has risen to number two in the world batting rankings — was pictured with his head in his hands and Langer looking glumly at the ground.



Australia coach Justin Langer, right, and Steve Smith during a nets session at Headingley in Leeds ahead of third Ashes Test

Smith now has two weeks to be ready for the fourth Test in Manchester, which starts on September 4, with a three-day tour match in Derby from August 29-31.

## Sushil earns world c'ship ticket

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Struggling star Sushil Kumar sealed a berth in India's squad for the World Championship, pipping a spirited Jitender Kumar 4-2 in a bitterly-fought 74kg final of the selection trials here on Tuesday.

Consistent attacks from both the wrestlers in the fast-paced final bout had the fans on the edge of their seats. Close to 1500 gathered at the IGI stadium to watch their favourite star in action.

Sushil opened up a 4-0 lead in the first period and ended up inflicting an eye injury on Jitender early in the second period.

Sushil, whose return to the mat after a year at an event in Belarus met with a disappointing end, apologised immediately.

Later, another attacking move from Sushil had Jitender wincing in pain as he suffered an elbow injury. Nevertheless, Jitender did not give up and thrice he had got hold of Sushil's right leg but lack of proper grip meant he could not convert them into points.

The two-time Olympic medalist was feeling the heat and to the dis-



Sushil Kumar is declared winner after a bout during the wrestling trials in the 74kg for the World Championships at IGI stadium

cerning, it seemed the two medical breaks he took was a ploy to catch some breath.

With two push-out points, Jitender reduced the margin of defeat.

It still is not over for Jitender as the federation has given him the option to book a World Championship berth in 79kg by challenging Tuesday's winner Virdev Gula.

## Mandeep's hat-trick take India to final

PTI ■ TOKYO

Striker Mandeep Singh struck a fine hat-trick to help the Indian men's hockey team beat hosts Japan 6-3 and book a summit clash berth in the Olympic Test Event here on Tuesday.

The Indian team bounced back from their 1-2 loss against New Zealand with an impressive display in their third match at the Oi Hockey Stadium here. India again face New Zealand in the summit clash today.

Mandeep found the target in the 9th, 29th and 30th minutes while Nilakanta Sharma (3rd), Nilam Sanjeev Xess (7th) and Gurjant Singh (41st) were the other scorers for India.

Kentaro Fukuda (25th), Kenta Tanaka (36th) and Kazuma Murata (52nd) scored the goals for Japan.

Nilakanta gave India an excellent start through a field goal in the third minute. Buoyed by the early lead, the Indian team put tremendous pressure on the Japan defence as Gurjant Singh took a shot on goal, but saw his effort going wide of the post.

However, a penalty corner



Indian players return to dugout after beating Japan 6-3 in the final league game

was awarded to India in the seventh minute which was converted brilliantly by Nilam Sanjeev to help the team take a 2-0 lead.

India continued to take the aggressive approach and Mandeep found the back of the net with an excellent field goal in the ninth minute.

Japan managed to open their account through a field goal through Kentaro Fukuda in the 25th minute, but Mandeep scored

two field goals in quick succession to help India take a big 5-1 lead. The Indian vice-captain scored just before the half-time whistle in the 29th and 30th minutes.

Japan started the third quarter on an aggressive note and kept putting pressure on the Indian defence and found a field goal through Kenta Tanaka in the 36th minute.

India did not let the momentum shift towards the Japanese

side as forward Gurjant found the back of the net in the 41st minute to make it 6-2 which put the world number 5 side in a dominant position at the end of the third quarter.

Japan attacked the Indian defence in the fourth quarter and scored their third goal through Kazuma Murata in the 52nd minute.

The win put India in the second spot in the points table and they face toppers New Zealand in the summit clash.

## EVES TO P THE TABLE

Following an impressive performance against Australia, the Indian women's hockey team also secured its place in the final by playing out a 0-0 draw against China.

China needed the victory to make sure that they progress to the final but India's defence was up to the task, and seemed determined to consolidate their position at the top of the points table.

With a tally of five points from their three matches, India topped the points table, and will now face hosts and World No 14 Japan in the final today.

# 'Frightening' Archer won't let up: Stokes



Jofra Archer walks back to his mark before bowling to Usman Khawaja AP

AFP ■ LEEDS

England's Ben Stokes has told Australia to expect more bouncers from Jofra Archer in the remainder of the Ashes.

"It's part of the game and a big part of Jofra's game, being aggressive, not letting batsmen settle," said Stokes.

Archer produced a hostile and compelling display on debut as the rain-affected second Test ended in a draw at Lord's on Sunday.

Not only did he take five wickets, he repeatedly unsettled Australia with a short-pitched balls. The 92mph bouncer that hit Steve Smith on the neck forced the star batsman to miss the last day with concussion.

"When someone takes a nasty blow no bowler is going to say 'I'm not going to bowl that again because I don't want to hit them again,'" Stokes, a lively seam bowler, added.

"The concern is always there when someone takes it, but next ball, when you get back to the mark, it's 'I'm going to keep doing it.'" Smith, who could be ruled out of the third Test at Headingley starting on Thursday as well, had earlier been hit a painful blow by Archer on his left forearm.

Marnus Labuschagne, Smith's replacement at Lord's as cricket's first concussion substitute, was then hit flush on the grille of his helmet second ball by another Archer thunderbolt.

All the deliveries are considered a legitimate part of a fast bowler's armoury and Stokes said Archer had no reason to change his approach in Leeds.

Stokes believes Archer's extra pace can help England overturn a 1-0 deficit in the five-match Ashes series following their 251-run loss in the first Test at Edgbaston.

"Everything is so rhythmical with Jofra it is tough to see when that bouncer is coming," said Stokes.

"There's no 'tell'. He bowled a lot of them, but they don't seem to pick it up.

"He gives another dimension to our bowling attack. The first innings he bowled 29 overs but his last spell of eight was one of the best out-and-out fast bowling spells I have seen since I started playing," he added.

"We've seen (Australia's) Mitchell Johnson do it to us,

especially in 2013, but Jofra just makes it look so easy. I'd rather have him on my team than have to face him. He's a frightening talent.

"The sky is the limit for him and he's a great addition to our Test team."

England's top order remains a concern but after all-rounder Stokes's elevation to number five in the second innings at Lord's, he scored an impressive 115 not out.

"It just depends on what happens in the game," he said.

"I went to six because my bowling workloads have gone up in the last few years. I'm sure it will change.

"We're a very versatile batting line-up, some days it might be Jonny Bairstow at five, some days Jos Buttler, some days me. We're all capable, it just depends on workloads."

## Eng need to preserve Archer: Akhtar

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Pakistan speedster Shoaib Akhtar believes England have got a great weapon in Jofra Archer but they need to preserve him and manage his workload in a way that the 24-year-old doesn't get injured very often.

"Archer is an exciting talent. He is strong but I believe he is the perfect candidate for being injury prone. With his action and speed, I believe he can have back injuries, so he needs to be preserved," Akhtar said in a

video posted on his Youtube channel.

"My suggestion will be to play him in fewer matches, he should not bowl 27 overs in an innings. What he cannot do in 14 overs, he won't be able to do it 27 overs," he further said.

Akhtar also feels that Ashes, which is currently 1-0 in favour of Australia, would now take a turn with Archer's inclusion into the England lineup.

"I think Ashes will now take a turn. I believe fast bowlers should bowl with more intensity now.

Healthy rivalry augurs well for team's pace attack, says Umesh



Umesh Yadav bowls during India's nets session PTI/File Picture

PTI ■ COOLIDGE

Pacer Umesh Yadav says he has regained confidence after working on his erratic line and length in the time away from the Indian team and is confident of making the playing eleven in the Test series against the West Indies starting on Thursday.

Umesh, who took three wickets for 19 runs in the West Indies A first innings in the warm-up game which concluded on Monday here, said he worked on getting his rhythm back at the Vidarbha Cricket Academy with coach Subroto Banerjee in the last few months.

"As a fast bowler you have to practice and you need to set your rhythm, to know at what line and length you have to bowl. I have also tried the same, to get my rhythm right. I was preparing myself to do what I will be doing in a match situation," Umesh said after the drawn warm-up game.

"I went to Vidarbha Cricket Academy and worked with coach Subroto Banerjee there and asked him for his opinion. There were these issues of length of deliveries. It happens to a lot of fast bowlers, when you are playing a lot continuously, you're unable to settle into a specific line and length. I worked on that," he added.

He said he was able to bowl into the right areas during the warm-up game against the West Indies A team.

"I am playing a practice match after a long time. I had earlier come here to play for India A and I played one game. The wicket is not too different and it has swung.

"(In the warm-up game) I was focussing on the areas I have to put the ball. My mindset was to put the balls in those areas and bowl dot balls. I was being able to do that," he added.

The 31-year-old played his last Test in Australia in December 2018. He then played for Vidarbha in the domestic competitions and followed it up with a stint with Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL.

"After the Australia tour, I played in Ranji trophy and we (Vidarbha) won and then IPL came. In the two and half months after that, I gave myself some time to work on my errors and get my rhythm back. Accordingly, I prepared my mindset.

"I worked on bowling drills and trained a lot on whatever bowling problems which I thought I had. You need off-time because it is only during your off-time that you can re-shape your mindset on what needs to be done," he added, when asked about the drills at the Vidarbha academy.

Asked about the competition in the current Indian team in the fast-bowling department, he said, "When you know you're going to play back-to-back Test matches, you need that kind of bench-strength.

"All the fast bowlers know there is a good competition and that everyone is going to get an opportunity. Whoever does well, will get to play more. If we think in that manner, it's good for us because we will try to improve ourselves.

"It is a healthy competition and it is good for the team. It makes us more exciting and challenging and will improve our performance."

## McGrath loves what he sees in Jofra

FIANS ■ LONDON

The legendary Glenn McGrath is a big supporter of Jofra Archer and feels the England pace sensation is going to play Test cricket for a long time.

"I've been a big supporter of Archer for a long time and I love what I see there," McGrath was quoted as saying by BBC where he will be part of the Test Match Special commentary team and contribute a regular column to the BBC Sport website.

"It's quite rare to be able to bowl with pace and accuracy for such a long time. To have pace is so unique and with Archer, it is all natural. His action doesn't look too stressful, he has a nice, smooth run-up and goes through the crease really well.

It's a fairly stress-free action and he's young and fit. He keeps it simple: "He just comes in, bowls good areas and with good pace."

Archer took the cricketing fraternity by storm on his Test debut, bowling hostile spells which put even the likes of Steve Smith in all sorts of discomfort during the course of the game, reminding fans of the famous bodyline series.

"At Lord's he bowled some quite lengthy spells, but he main-



Jofra Archer bowls as he takes part in a training session at Lord's AP/File Picture

tained his pace throughout his overs. That is a brilliant sign that he can bowl long spells at top pace then come back and bowl second and third spells no problem at all," McGrath pointed out.

"With a guy with his action and technique, I don't see any reason why he can't play plenty of Tests. It's just experience that he needs and he will be fine," said the former Australian fast bowler regarded as one of the finest the game has produced.

## Murray falls in first hurdle

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

Andy Murray on Monday fell in the first round of the ATP Winston-Salem Open, where the three-time Grand Slam champion was giving his surgically repaired hip just its second test in singles.

Britain's Murray, who feared in January that his hip trouble would end his career, accepted a wild card into this week's tournament in North Carolina after falling in his singles comeback in Cincinnati last week.

He again showed glimpses of his once-dominant self, but was inconsistent in a 7-6 (10-8), 7-5 loss to 73rd-ranked American Tennys Sandgren in a match lasting 2 hours and 10 minutes.

"Some things were a bit better today I think," Murray said. "I was hitting the ball a bit cleaner than I did maybe in Cincinnati... I feel like I moved fairly well to some drop shots, which maybe last week I wasn't running to.

"So there's some good things in there but also some stuff I would like to do better."

LANDMARK FOR LEE

Having said in Cincinnati he would discontinue doubles to focus on returning to peak singles form, Murray said he might consider playing an ATP Challenger Tour event before heading to Asia, where he is entered in September's Zhuhai Championships and the China Open.

"Maybe I need to play

a level down to get some matches and build my game up a little bit before I start playing on the tour again," he said.

In other action on a day when rain wreaked havoc on the schedule, South Korean Lee Duck-hee became the first deaf player to win an ATP Tour match, beating Switzerland's Henri Laaksonen 7-6 (7/4), 6-1.

"My message for people who are hearing impaired is to not be discouraged.

If you try hard, you can do anything," said Lee, who will next face third-seeded Hubert Hurkacz of Poland.

Lee was two points from victory when thunderstorms swept through.

When he and Laaksonen returned some five hours later, Lee quickly polished off a win he admitted he hadn't been expecting.

"I thought that I was just going to do my best and try to stay focused," Lee said. "But I came out a winner."



## Rashid to captain Afghans in B'desh

PTI ■ KABUL

Off-spinner Rashid Khan will lead Afghanistan in their one-off Test against Bangladesh and the triangular series featuring Zimbabwe. The Test will begin on September 5 while the tri-series will kick-off from September 13.

Alongwith Mohammad Shahzad, who is serving a suspension, middle-order batsman Nasir Jamal, left-arm spinner Sharafuddin Ashraf, paceman Wafadar Momand, and left-arm wristspinner Waqar Salamkheil have not been included in the squad.

On the other hand, experienced left-arm paceman Shapoor Zadran, who is yet to feature in the longest format of the game, and Afsar Zazai, the wicketkeeper-batsman who played Afghanistan's maiden Test — against India in June 2018 have been included in the side.

Announcing the squad, chief selector Andy Moles said: "We have selected a 17-member squad for the T20I matches as per the advice of the captain as we have two important tournaments — T20I Asia Cup and ICC T20 World Cup 2020 — ahead of us. We will seek to prepare good sides for these tournaments and those players who perform well, will be considered for selection.

"We will also consider the performance of players in the upcoming Shpageeza Cricket League and Afghanistan Premier League T20 for future selection."

Squad for Test against Bangladesh: Rashid Khan (C),



Rashid Khan celebrates after taking wicket AP/File Picture

Ihsanullah Janat, Javid Ahmadi, Ibrahim Zadran, Rahmat Shah, Hashmatullah Shahidi, Asghar Afghan, Ikram Alikhil, Mohammad Nabi, Qais Ahmad, Sayed Ahmad Shirzad, Yamin Ahmadzai, Zahir Khan Pakteen, Afsar Zazai and Shapoor Zadran.

Squad for T20 Triangular Series: Rashid Khan (C), Asghar Afghan, Mohammad Nabi, Hazratullah Zazai, Najeeb Tarakai, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Mujeeb ur Rahman, Shafiqullah Shafiq, Najib Zadran, Shahidullah Kamal, Karim Janat, Gulbadin Naib, Fareed Ahmad Malik, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Fazal Niazi, Dawlat Zadran and Naveen ul Haq.

## Serena to play in Auckland

AFP ■ WELLINGTON

Serena Williams announced on Tuesday she will warm-up for January's Australian Open at the Auckland Classic, a tournament that has mixed memories for the American superstar.

Williams slumped to a shock second-round loss in her only previous appearance in New Zealand in 2017, lashing out at windy conditions she described as some of the "least favourite" she had ever experienced.

But she went on to win the Australian Open later that month, claiming the most recent of her 23 majors to pass Steffi Graf's Open-era benchmark of 22. She also announced her engagement to Alexis Ohanian while in New Zealand and it later emerged she was pregnant with her first child while competing at the tournament. Currently ranked eighth in the world, the 37-year-old said she wanted to show New Zealanders what she could do on the court.

"Oh man, I want to win that title so bad," she said in a statement.



Serena Williams AP/File Picture



Ankita Raina prepares to return a shot Ankita/Twitter

## Ankita progresses to 2nd round

PTI ■ NEW YORK

India's Ankita Raina knocked out ninth seed Belgian Ysaline Bonaventure to progress to the second round of the US Open Qualifiers but Ramkumar Ramanathan bit the dust in the men's singles here.

The 194th ranked Ankita was up against a higher-ranked player but prevailed 6-1, 1-6, 6-2 for her second win against the Belgian on the Pro Tour.

She had beaten the 111th ranked Bonaventure in her own country in 2014 on clay.

Ankita has not gone beyond the second round at the Grand Slam qualifiers and she has a good chance to better that stat as she is up against Czech Republic's Denia Allertova, who is placed 85 places below her at 279.

In the men's singles, Ramkumar Ramanathan bowed out with a 5-7, 6-7(9) defeat against Italy's Filippo Baldi.

## Southee to lead NZ in SL T20s

FIANS ■ WELLINGTON

Right-arm pacer Tim Southee will captain New Zealand in a three-match T20I series against Sri Lanka starting September 1 in Kandy.

Regular skipper Kane Williamson and paceman Trent Boult will be returning home for a pre-planned rest following the current Test series, which Sri Lanka are currently leading 1-0.

The 14-man squad features three specialist spinners in Ish Sodhi, Mitchell Santner and Todd Astle.

"Kane and Trent played an enormous role in our recent World Cup campaign and with a big summer ahead, we see it as a good opportunity to give them a rest," said selector Gavin Larsen.

"The series in Sri Lanka will be a challenging one against a team who are tough to beat in their own conditions."

He also said the series represented the start of a new T20 cycle, with nine T20Is series scheduled for the side ahead of next October's World T20 in Australia.

"Following that amazing ride in the ODI World Cup, it's exciting to



Tim Southee bowls during practice match AP

begin setting our sights on another world event," Larsen said.

"Our T20 team has been pretty consistent over the past couple of years and we're really happy with the power and versatility we have in this squad." Squad: Tim Southee (c), Todd Astle, Tom Bruce, Colin de Grandhomme, Lockie Ferguson, Martin Guppitt, Scott Kugelejin, Daryl Mitchell, Colin Munro, Seth Rance, Mitchell Santner, Tim Seifert (wk), Ish Sodhi, Ross Taylor.