

OPINION 8
FOR THE SAKE
OF DEMOCRACY

HYDERABAD 11
A SCHOOL THAT PRODUCED
LEADERS IN ALL FIELDS

SPORTS 16
SINDHU BREAKS
TAI CODE

HYDERABAD, SATURDAY AUGUST 24, 2019; PAGES 16-17



the pioneer

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AAMIR KHAN'S
DAUGHTER IRA TO
MAKE HER DIREC-
TORIAL DEBUT

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9999 fetches Rs 5,50,000

HYDERABAD: The number 9999, fancied by many, was bid for a whopping Rs 5,50,000 during auction at the Road Transport Authority, Khairatabad on Friday. There are three vehicles that won bids in a special auction for fancy numbers. The amounts bid totaled Rs 18,15,000. The owner of Mercedes GLS 350D 4 MATIC Kanth Reddy now has the fancy number TS 09 FG 9999, which he bid for Rs 5,50,000. The cost of the vehicle is Rs 94,35,670. The owner of Rs 1,37,94,000 Mercedes-Benz S 350 DL, R S BROTHERS, now has number TS 09 FH 0099 that was bid for Rs 3,36,000. The third Mercedes Benz C 200 number, TS 09 FH 0005, was bid for Rs 1,10,000.

No water supply in city areas

HYDERABAD: In view of maintenance works on the Osmansagar conduit and the cleaning of Asifnagar filter beds, a shutdown is proposed for 24 hrs i.e. from 1.00 am on 26-08-2019 to 6.00 am on 27-08-2019. Hence, there will be no water supply from 1.00 am on 26-08-2019 to 06.00 am on 27-08-2019 from Osmansagar to the following areas under O&M Div No. 3, 4, 5, 6 & 18. Kakatiyanagar, Salar Jung colony, parts of Padmanabha nagar, parts of Khaderbagh, Vijayanagar Colony, Chintal basti, Humayun Nagar, Syed Nagar, A C Gurads, Khairatabad, Mallepally, Bhoiguda Kaman, Aghapura, Nampally, Devibagh, Afzal Sagar, Seetharambagh, Habeeb Nagar, SRT (part), Jawaharnagar(part), PNT Colony, Sayanna Gully, Ashoknagar Extension, Elchiguda, Jyothi Nagar, Vinayak Nagar, Maisamma Banda, MCH Quarters, Secretariat, RedHills, Hindi Nagar, Ghode ki kabar, Gunfoundry, Domalguda, Lakdikapul, Manikonda, Puppalguda, and Narsingi.

Man jailed for raping daughter

HYDERABAD: A 53-year-old man has been sentenced to five years rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs 5,000 by a local court here for sexually assaulting his daughter. Lingam Kumar, a resident of Alwal here, repeatedly sexually assaulted the girl for two years when she was just ten years, the Cyberabad Police said in a press release on Friday. In July 2014, she informed her school teacher about her condition following which the district child protection unit was alerted. The DCPU sent her to a government children home and also summoned the police. Subsequently, he was arrested and remanded in judicial custody.

Centre withdraws super-rich surcharge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Buckling under pressure from overseas investors, the government on Friday rolled back the enhanced surcharge imposed on foreign portfolio and domestic investors in Budget 2019-20 as it announced a slew of measures to boost sagging economic growth.

"In order to encourage investment in the capital market, it has been decided to withdraw the enhanced surcharge levied by Finance (No.2) Act, 2019 on long/short term capital gains arising from the transfer of equity shares/units," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told reporters here.

The move will dent government revenues by Rs 1,400 crore.

Sitharaman had in her maiden Budget hiked the surcharge on income tax paid by super-rich individuals.

The surcharge, levied on top of the applicable income tax rate, was hiked from 15 per cent to 25 per cent for those with taxable income of Rs 2-5 crore, and to 37 per cent for those earning more than Rs 5 crore. This increased the effective tax rate for these two groups by 3.12 per cent and 7 per cent to 39 per cent and

- FM proposes measures to enhance fund flows for infra, housing projects
- Angel tax provisions for start-ups removed



42.74 per cent, respectively.

Some 40 per cent of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) automatically came under the higher tax rate as they have been investing as a non-corporate entity such as trust or association of persons (AOPs), which in the Income Tax law are classified as an individual for the purpose of taxation.

"The enhanced surcharge on FPI goes, in simple words,"

Sitharaman said. "In other words, the pre-Budget position is restored."

The super-rich tax on FPIs, along with lack of measures to boost the economy in the July 5 Budget, was largely blamed for foreign investors withdrawing more than USD 3 billion from the stock markets, putting pressure on indices and the rupee.

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Assault on forest staff ends in conviction

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Kothagudem district court on Friday found the district secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) New Democracy Party, SK Umar, and 23 others guilty in the case relating to mob assault on Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF) A Narasimha Reddy and a team of forest range officers in 2015 at the Marrigudem Reserve Forest area in Bhadradi Kothagudem District.

The district court sentenced all the 24 accused persons to 1-year imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs.14,400 on each of them. Public prosecutor Phani Kumar, who argued the case resulting in conviction four years after the incident, warned that any encroachments in forests would be dealt with strictly and the offenders brought to book.

In 2015, ACF of Marrigudem Reserve Forest, who was involved in advance operations for Haritha Haram in 500 hectares of retrieved forest land, was attacked by a mob of encroachers. The group allegedly attacked the officials with sticks, stones and chilli powder, injuring 10 forest officials, including ACF Narasimha Reddy.

Budget may skip TRS' major poll promises

L VENKAT RAM REDDY ■ HYDERABAD

The TRS government, headed by Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu, is gearing up to present its first full-fledged Annual Budget for 2019-20 in September after retaining power for a second term with a landslide majority in the 2018 December Assembly elections.

However, the chances of any of TRS' major poll promises reflecting in the upcoming Budget by way of allocations or increased allocations are bleak.

The major promises that were fulfilled by TRS government include doubling of Aasara pension amount, reduction in age limit (from 65 years to 57 years) to help more people avail Aasara pension, enhancement of Rythu Bandhu amount from Rs 8000 per acre to Rs 10000 per acre per year.

It is yet to fulfill crop loan waiver scheme of Rs 1 lakh, enhancement of retirement age of government employees (from 58 years to 61 years), implementation of new Pay Revision Commission recommendations for government employees and pensioners, unemployment allowance of Rs 3,016 per month for jobless youth, financial assistance of up to Rs 6 lakh to homeless for construction houses of their



Against all the foregoing promises, the Budget to be unveiled in the Assembly in September is expected to make a mention of only the crop loan waiver scheme

own if they own plots etc.

Against all the foregoing promises, the Budget to be unveiled in the Assembly in September is expected to make a mention of only the crop loan waiver scheme. The other promises may be skipped and taken up only during Budgets for subsequent years, depending on the financial condition. The promises held over involve huge financial outgo, which the state government cannot afford in the present circumstances.

Sources in Finance Department revealed that the Budget will be more or less similar to the Vote-on-Account

sought in February 2019 with an outlay of Rs 1.82 lakh crore. An amount of Rs 6,000 crore was then allocated to crop loan waiver scheme, though not a rupee has been released so far.

As thing stand, a like amount is expected to be allocated in the Budget for crop loan waiver, though the scheme requires nearly Rs 30,000 crore, considering loan arrears of over 25 lakh farmers as the government wants to repay banks in five installments over five years.

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30% petrol bunks cheating customers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Civil Supplies Department officials crack down on errant petrol bunks

Officials of the Civil Supplies Department, Legal Metrology and petroleum companies, who jointly launched raids on petrol bunks across the state between August 1 and August 21, have issued notices to 183 of the 638 petrol bunks inspected for cheating customers. It was found that 30% of the filling stations are short-changing customers by disbursing lesser quantities than that reflected by the meter or palming off spiked petrol and diesel.

According to information from the Civil Supplies Department, 24 petrol bunks in Ranga Reddy, 20 in Karimnagar, 20 in Kamareddy, 14 in Siddipet districts got notices. There are a total 2,553 petrol bunks in Telangana. The raids are expected to continue for the next one week.

The department has been receiving complaints for quite some time about spiked petrol and diesel and under-meas-



The department has been receiving complaints for quite some time about spiked petrol and diesel and under-measurement at the outlets.

The department personnel went on inspection of the outlets, along with officials of the weights and measures department and oil companies concerned at the district level. Nearly 25 per cent of the fuel outlets operating in the State were covered during the special drive.

BS-IV vehicles to remain: FM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a big relief for those being concerned about the viability of Bharat Stage (BS) IV-compliant vehicles, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that the government wants to "dispel of all confusion." The Minister also stated that BS-IV vehicles have been a point of concern for a lot of people, including the auto companies and those who have purchased these vehicles in recent times. Adding that it continues to be so as companies even today are manufacturing these vehicles.

The Finance Minister said, "BS-IV vehicles which are purchased up to March 2020 will remain operational for their entire duration of registration."

The government had mandated that only BS-VI compliant vehicles will be allowed to sell in India from April 1, 2020, and this will be applicable across all sectors, including both passenger and commercial vehicles.

Transco CMD dares Oppn for CBI probe on power deals in TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Devulapalli Prabhakar Rao, Chairman and Managing Director of TSTRANSCO and TSGENCO, has asserted that all the power purchase agreements (PPAs) made in Telangana over the past five years have been transparent and graft-free.

On Friday, responding to media reports, the chief of electricity utilities in the state dared an inquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation or Supreme Court sitting judge on the power deals made after formation of Telangana State.

Prabhakar Rao's media conference is significant in the context of Telangana BJP chief K Laxman's allegations of "huge scam and irregularities in power deals in the state" that were highlighted by a section of the media. "The reports that appeared in media today about huge scams in power sector in Telangana are completely baseless. There has been no scope for corruption in power purchase agreements and also in initiating new power generation projects. The allegation that



Devulapalli Prabhakar Rao, Chairman and Managing Director of TS Transco, addressing media persons in Hyderabad on Friday

Telangana bought power at Rs 5.50 tariff from solar power developers, though NTPC came forward to give power at Rs 4.30 tariff is completely baseless. Never did NTPC come forward to offer power at that price. Even in case of Chhattisgarh power, the agreement was between two states and there was no scope for any corruption," Prabhakar Rao said here.

"Even the propaganda that not even one new megawatt of power was produced after formation of Telangana is not true. While Telangana had capacity of 7,778 megawatt while it was formed, the power

generation capacity has been increased to 16,203 megawatt in the next four and half years. KTPS Palwancha, Bhupalpally Power plant, Jaipur Singareni Power Plant were started after the new state came into being. To ensure that there is no scope for corruption or irregularities, new power plants contracts are being given to PSU like BHEL, instead of private companies," Prabhakar Rao said, suggesting that no favours were done to private companies. He also made light of the dues to power utilities from the state government, saying that it was a regular phenomenon.

'Crashed IAF chopper was hit by Indian missile'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Five IAF personnel were found guilty for the crash of a Mi-17 helicopter in Budgam in Jammu and Kashmir as a high-level probe concluded that the chopper went down after being hit by a surface-to-air missile on February 27, the day Indian and Pakistani air forces were engaged in a dogfight, military sources said on Friday.

A six-month-long Court of Inquiry into the incident found that the Mi-17 V-5 helicopter was hit by a ground-based missile of the Indian Air Force when the chopper was on its way back to Srinagar air base, they said.

Six IAF personnel on board and a civilian on the ground were killed in the crash.

Five IAF personnel, including the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Srinagar base, were held responsible for the crash and all of them are likely to face severe punishment, sources said.

PC gets SC protection, but no freedom

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Friday granted protection from arrest till August 26 to former Union finance minister P Chidambaram in a money laundering case lodged by ED in connection with INX media scam, for which he is already facing custodial interrogation by CBI in a related case of corruption.

The relief granted by the top court in the case of Enforcement Directorate (ED) will have little effect as Chidambaram has been remanded in CBI's custody till Monday by a trial court in the graft case.

However, the Friday order came as a setback to the ED as the apex court refused to accept its arguments opposing Chidambaram's submission that he was entitled for protection from arrest, granted by the Delhi High Court on July 25, 2018, in the money laundering case.

A bench comprising jus-

Chidambaram remains in CBI custody



ices R Banumathi and A S Bopanna said it will hear on August 26 the pleas filed by Chidambaram in which he has challenged the August 20 order of the Delhi High Court rejecting his anticipatory bail pleas in ED and CBI cases.

The bench said it would also hear a fresh plea filed by Chidambaram, challenging Thursday's order of remand passed by trial court by which he was sent to the CBI custody till August 26.

"In our view, having regard

to the fact that the petitioner was also granted interim protection on July 25 and that the co-accused were also granted bail by the High Court, the petitioner is granted interim protection, insofar as the Enforcement Directorate case is concerned...till the next date of hearing. List the matter on August 26," the bench said.

It also sought reply of ED on Chidambaram's plea by Monday itself.

As soon as the order was dictated, Solicitor General

Tushar Mehta, appearing for ED, tried to hand over some documents in sealed cover to the court saying that the bench should satisfy its conscience before passing an order granting protection from arrest to Chidambaram.

The move was objected by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Chidambaram, who said that the same thing was done by the ED before the High Court and a note was submitted after the arguments were over.

The bench refused to peruse the documents at this stage and asked Mehta to submit them on Monday, saying these are confidential and cannot be kept like this with the court.

The hearing saw several rounds of heated exchanges between Mehta and senior advocates and Chidambaram's party colleagues Kapil Sibal and A M Singhi.

Continued on Page 5

Heavy rain forecast in TS dists today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Heavy rain is likely to occur in isolated places, particularly in the districts of Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Adilabad, Nizamabad Nirmal and Jogulamba Gadwal of Telangana over the next 24 hours, officials of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) warned on Friday.

"The cyclonic circulation over West central parts of the country adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal, Odisha Coast is likely to intensify in the next 24 hours, which is expected to bring heavy rain across the State," informed IMD official.

Except for the aforementioned districts, the other parts of the state, including Hyderabad, are likely to witness light to moderate rain.

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Haj, Jerusalem ads on bus tickets, BJP hits out at Jagan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A controversy has broken out over tickets issued by the Andhra Pradesh Road Transport Corporation to travellers from Tirupati to the temple town of Tirumala. On the back of the tickets are printed government advertisements about pilgrimage to Haj and Jerusalem.

Travellers who noticed the ads on Wednesday brought it to the notice of the regional manager who said a bundle with printed material about non-Hindu pilgrimage had wrongly come to Tirupati. The transport body's executive director for operations confirmed that this has been brought to their notice and

they are probing into it. "It is an advertisement of the government issued by the minorities department," the officer said.

Andhra Pradesh endowments minister Vellampalli Srinivas has clarified that these ticket bundles were printed during the Telugu Desam rule, before elections. And the bundles were meant for Nellore and Kadapa. How they came to Tirumala-Tirupati will now be probed.

BJP leaders who have been critical of Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy claiming that he is non-Hindu and does not believe in the religion, alleged that he is pushing his agenda for minority religions.

Continued on Page 4

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Shravana & Krishna Paksha Panchangam
Tithi: Ashthami: 08:31 am
Nakshatram: Rohini 04:16 am (Next Day)
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)
Rahukalam: 09:11 am - 10:44 am
Yamagandam: 01:51 pm - 03:25 pm
Varjyam: 08:07 pm - 09:45 pm
Gulika: 06:04 am - 07:37 am
Good Time: (to start any important work)
Amritkalam: 01:00 am - 02:38 am
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:53 am - 12:43 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms
Temp: 28/23
Humidity: 84%
Sunrise: 06:00
Sunset: 06:36
Current Weather Conditions Updated August 23, 2019 5:00 PM

Fast-track Palamuru project works: KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has instructed the officials to complete Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme on a fast note like it was done for the Kaleswaram project and make arrangements for supply of water to the crop lands by next monsoon season. The Chief Minister held a review meeting on the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district projects on Friday at Pragati Bhavan.

The Chief Minister said by completing the on-going projects on a fast track, in the Palamuru district, water is being given to half of the agricultural lands in the district. For the remaining 50 per cent land, water should be given through the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme.

Like Kaleswaram project, this scheme also should be completed by working three shifts on day and night. Water should be given by next monsoon, he instructed the officials. The Chief Minister also discussed



with the officials concerned about the ongoing works being done on the Palamuru Project and the works to be completed in future.

He has instructed the officials to take up works of the reservoirs, pump houses, and canals simulta-

neously. The Chief Minister wanted the senior officials to have periodic visits on the field and expedite the works. In the meetings, Irrigation Engineer Sri Ramesh and other officials participated.

Microsoft, ISB ink pact to set up AI digital lab

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

IT giant Microsoft and Indian School of Business (ISB) have signed an MoU to set up an AI (Artificial Intelligence) Digital Lab and also offer an executive programme titled 'Leading Business Transformation in the Age of AI' at the B-School's campus. Speaking about the tie-up with ISB, Amit Maheshwari, President, Microsoft India said AI is a game-changer to drive new business models and transform today's businesses and workplaces.

"With this coming together of ISB and Microsoft, it is a unique opportunity to increase the innovation with AI in businesses. Our new partnership with ISB will empower business leaders to increase their tech intensity and do more with AI," Maheshwari said. ISB Dean Rajendra



Srivastava said the collaboration with Microsoft India will enable the institution to use AI to understand new phenomena that are relevant for business as well as policy and subsequently disseminate the knowledge to business leaders who will lead to transform their businesses through artificial intelligence to compete effectively.

The ISB expects to see about 1000 CXOs undergoing the three-day non-technical programme in the next three to four years, Anand Nanadkumar, associate dean of

the B-School said adding the programme will begin from October. The AI digital lab powered by Platifi technologies, a Microsoft partner, will provide an opportunity for ISB to enhance its research eminence through unique insights that will be derived from the research conducted by the lab which will also likely to have a significant impact on business and policy not just in India but all over the world, a joint press release said. Microsoft will support ISB with best in class infrastructure access to cloud and AI tools, it said.

Not leaving Congress: Damodara Raja Narasimha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress senior leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha has expressed anger over the rumors spread over social media that he is shifting his loyalties to BJP. He stated that some are deliberately spreading false news.

He made it clear that he is not leaving the Congress party at any cost. In a statement on Friday, he said that he is very much in Hyderabad city. "I didn't meet anybody", he said.

On Friday, news had spread in social media that Damodara Rajanarasimha is joining BJP along with his wife Padmini Reddy. It may be recalled that Padmini Reddy joined BJP before Assembly elections in the morning and left in the evening.



Centre appoints sr advocates

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Central government on Friday issued a notification appointing senior advocates A Abhishek Reddy, T Vinod Kumar and K Lakshman as judges of Telangana High Court. A collegium of the Supreme Court of India comprising of the Chief Justice of India Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Justice SA Bobde and Justice NV Ramana passed a resolution on July 25 2019 recommending the names of the three advocates for their appointment as the judges of the High Court.

Congress to up the ante against TRS

Komatireddy plans mass 'padayatra' from Nalgonda to Hyderabad on August 26

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Congress leaders are intensifying their fight against the alleged corruption in irrigation projects in the State. The Congress party has planned to take up two programmes on August 26. The TPCC chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy will visit the Pranahitha river flow at Thummidihetti along with MPs, MLAs, MLC, former Ministers and other leaders. On the other hand, on the same day, Bhongir MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy will take up 'Padayatra' from Udaya Samudram, Nalgonda to Jalasoudha, Hyderabad along with 5,000 farmers demanding the State government to complete Udaya Samudram project immediately.

In Thummidihetti programme, the Congress leaders would examine the Pranahitha river flow at Thummidihetti spot. It may be recalled that the then Congress government had taken up Pranahitha-Chevella project with Rs 38,000 crore estimated amount aiming to irrigate 16.5 lakh acre. However, the TRS government had redesigned the Pranahitha-Chevella project and changed the project construction spot



Develop Yadadri-Warangal Highway: Komatireddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress MP from Bhongir Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has submitted a memorandum to National High-Way Authority of India chairman Nagendranath at Sinha on Friday at Delhi

in regard to development of roads in the State. In his memorandum, Komatireddy urged Sinha to develop the NH-163 (Yadadri-Warangal) besides allocating funds to Alair-Jeedikal Service Road to develop it as a four-lane road.

from Thummidihetti to Kaleswaram by constructing barrage at Medigadda.

The Congress is arguing that the water would have supplied through gravity if constructed project at Thummidihetti and the project would have completed much before. The Congress was also arguing that the project would have completed as a national project without burdening the people. To examine Pranahitha river flow at Thummidihetti, the

Telangana Congress had taken up a tour programme to Thummidihetti. TPCC Chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy, MLC T Jeevan Reddy, MPs, MLAs, TPCC working presidents, former Ministers, candidates contested elections in Assembly from Karimnagar and Adilabad district will participate in the tour. The leaders will through train up to Sirpur Kagaz Nagar. There from they will go by road to reach Thummidihetti.

BJP to consolidate position in Telangana

AVINASH DEEPAK PULI ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

The Bharatiya Janata Party is keen on strengthening its base in Mahabubnagar district and opened the gates for all the parties, particularly, on the eve of the visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah

to Hyderabad on Saturday. Leaders, including DK Aruna and AP Jithender Reddy are taking every possible step to attract the cadre from the Congress and TRS in the districts like Mahabubnagar and Gadwal and they are targeting the two parties from the roots to inflict heavy

loss on those parties. In Gadwal, the Congress party, as per the version of the BJP leader DK Aruna, would be wiped out completely though certain opponents of the former Minister say that she may not influence

the cadre of the Congress subsequent to her defection to the BJP.

However, the Congress dissidents are keen on joining the BJP saying that the acquaintance with the ruling party would ultimately help

them secure the development easily. In Mahabubnagar district, former MP AP Jithender Reddy is eyeing on the TRS cadre and he has reportedly chalked out a plan of action to decimate the party roots in the pockets where his personal hold is evident.



GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA		Revenue Department		Office of the District Collector, Karimnagar		FORM-VII DECLARATION	
(See Sub-rule (1) of rule-25 and Section-19(1) of the Act-30/2013)		Proc.No.G1/1912/2018		Dated: 16-08-2019			
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector, Karimnagar that a total of (24-01) acres of land is required in Malairam village of Gannuravaram mandal of Karimnagar district for public purpose, to wit, for excavation of 3R-D8 of RMC under Mid Manair Reservoir from KM.0.000 to KM.3.420(TE) under MMR.							
Therefore, declaration is made that a piece of land measuring, more or less (24-01) acres of standard measurement under acquisition for the above Project in the village Malairam of Gannuravaram mandal of Karimnagar district, whose detailed description is as following:							
SCHEDULE							
Village : Malairam Mandal : Gannuravaram District : Karimnagar							
Sr. No.	Name(s) of Pattadar (s) with Father's/Husband's Name	Name(s) of Engoyler(s) with Father's/Husband's Name	Area under acquisition (in acres)	Classification (Dry/Wet)	Type of land (patta / Govt.)	Details of structures, trees, etc.	
1							44
2							45
3							46
4							47
5							48
6							49
7							50
8							51
9							52
10							53
11							54
12							55
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51							94
52							95
53							96
54							97
55							98
56							99
57							100

CRIME CORNER



Advocate held for cheating man of Rs 78 lakh

The CCS police of Hyderabad have arrested an advocate for cheating a job aspirant to the tune of Rs 78 lakh. According to the police, the accused, along with others, had promised the aspirant of a job in Staff Selection Commission as Asst. Executive Engineer. The accused, Tangada Venkata Siva Naga Subrahmanya Vara Prasada Rao, 45, an advocate from Moosaram Bagh of Hyderabad, along with other accomplices, had cheated the victim, Kotagiri Ramarao, to the tune of Rs 78 lakh with false promises of providing a job, the police said. Following a complaint from Ramarao, a case was booked against Prasada Rao who is a practicing advocate in the High Court of Telangana and A.P. He was arrested and produced before the court, which remanded him to judicial custody.

Man's head and torso found 30 km apart

The residents of Bolaram were in for a scare as they witnessed a severed head of a man lying in the open space on Friday morning. It was revealed that unidentified persons had murdered an auto-driver at Miyapur and left headless corpse there, and dropped his severed head at Bolaram, which is about 30 kilometers away. According to the police, the assailants in the early hours attacked and killed Praveen, 24, an auto driver at Deepthi Sri Nagar in Miyapur. They later beheaded him, and carried the severed head to leave it at Bolaram. The police recovered the torso from Miyapur area and the decapitated head from Bolaram and shifted to Gandhi Hospital for postmortem examination. The Miyapur police examined the spot with CLUES team and are investigating. The motive of the murder is yet to be known.

Cops serve notices to Raj Tarun

The Narsingi police has booked cases against Bollywood actor Raj Tarun following the road accident he was involved in and served him notices. The actor opted for a bail and was asked to appear in Rajendranagar court on Monday. Raj Tarun rammed his luxury car, bearing the number TS09EX1100 into a wall near Alkapur Township circle area. Raj Tarun has been arrested and immediately released on bail, Narsingi police said, adding that he had surrendered before the police on Thursday night. "We have served him notices under 41 CrPc and sent him back. On Friday, we arrested him and booked two cases against him under sections 279 and 336 of IPC which is for reckless driving and for damaging property. After the arrest, we recorded his statement and on bail, we released him," said the officials.

MONKEY SNEAKS INTO OMC METRO STATION

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Two days after Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao proclaimed that monkeys are returning to the forest, Osmania Medical College metro station on Friday had an unusual visitor - a monkey. While no one was harmed, the monkey was scampering in the concourse, raising safety and security concerns.

The monkey was found at around 6:30 pm on Friday at the metro station by a freelance photographer, Sanjay Borra, who shared the picture on social media. This incident comes four days after a snake was caught on Metro train at LB-Nagar. With the metro stations being open model, the apes from nearby areas are entering into the metro station. The animal activist pointed out that the monkey could have come from Koti women's college.



Soudharm Bhandari of People for animals said, "Koti women's college has a lot of monkeys around 40-60 approximately and we get complaints every week to address the issue. One of the monkeys may have wandered into the metro station and it is likely to happen again, due to the proximity to college".

Activists pointed out that the monkeys cannot be displaced from the college directly as there is a family of monkeys residing in the area. Soudharm said, "We can only catch infant or small monkeys and cannot catch big ones and displace them in forests."

While no one was harmed, the monkey was scampering in the concourse, raising safety and security concerns. The incident comes days after a snake was caught at LB Nagar

The only way to get rid of the monkeys is to stop feeding them so that they can return to the forest. As long as people are feeding them, they will not move out of the college. Meanwhile, riders suggest that Metro stations with such vulnerabilities can be equipped with mesh.

Instructions on people's grievances fall on deaf ears

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Instructions of Principal Secretary MA&UD Arvind Kumar seems to have fallen on deaf ears of GHMC officials. Several instructions given by the top official based on complaints by people to GHMC officials on a public domain like twitter remain unattended.

This went to an extent that Arvind himself gave a second reminder to the officials. Yet the officials didn't act. Be it the removal of Loo-cafe at Secretariat or cracking down on organisations collecting parking charges or clearing unauthorised constructions or protecting lakes, GHMC officials who acknowledge the orders, inadvertently fail to act.

For instance, Arvind on Monday asked Zonal Commissioner of Khairatabad to take exemplary action against Apollo Hospitals for collecting parking charges from visitors. Arvind pointed, "this is the second time, a com-



plaint is received in this particular case". Let alone exemplary, not even an action was initiated. When contacted, an official said that they couldn't visit the site the following day, due to prior commitments and action against the hospital to be taken is still awaited. Likewise, on June 20, Arvind asked officials to act on

parking fees collected at Medipatnam Rythu Bazar, but the action is still awaited. Often officers acknowledge the tweet, but fail to act on it. In March, Arvind asked GHMC Commissioner Dana Kishore to look at all outdated vehicles being used for lifting garbage. Yet many decrepit vehicles are still plying on roads. In January, Arvind instructed officials to remove a Loo Cafe set up on the footpath near the Secretariat. Even after eight months, the Loo café continues to exist, which only reflects the apathy of civic body officials. GHMC Commissioner M Danakishore on Thursday announced that a third-party inquiry will be held on the grievances resolved in the city. According to the metrics with GHMC, 80% of complaints received from the public through the MGHMC app, Twitter and e-mail are being resolved. Of these solved grievances, a third party will audit about 10%.

OU intruder case: One held

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The accomplice of the man, who sneaked into women's washroom at Osmania University hostel earlier this month was traced and nabbed by the Hyderabad police. Police said that the main accused is a habitual property offender and works with an accomplice who keeps a watch outside the premises he targets.

The accomplice was identified as S Sunny, a vegetable vendor from Kachiguda, and the prime accused as Pottela Ramesh, 25, who is reportedly absconding, said the police, adding that they have seized stolen mobile phones from their possession.

On August 15, about 3 am Ramesh, gained entry into the hut near Jamai Osmania by keeping Sunny to keep watch outside and committed theft and handed over the cell phone to him. "After committing the offence, Ramesh then entered into the Girls Engineering Hostel, through a ventilator of the bathroom

The accomplice was identified as S Sunny, a vegetable vendor. According to police, the main accused is still absconding

using an iron stool while Sunny kept watching outside. He decamped with two mobile phones from there and created tension inside the premises" said the police.

On Thursday, the East Zone Task Force team apprehended Sunny from his home and recorded a detailed confession, wherein he stated that he and Ramesh committed theft from the Girls Hostel, OU Campus and the huts near the Jamai Osmania Railway station.

"Ramesh was previously involved in house burglary cases and was detained under the PD Act from Meerpet police station of Rachakonda and Sunny was also remanded in illicit liquor cases by the Musheerabad, Sultan Bazaar and Narayanguda Police and was also detained under PD Act," the police said.

TS' 'Dial 100' initiative gets FICCI award

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has presented the Telangana State Police with a 'Special Jury Award' for the 'Dial 100' initiative in the category of Emergency Response in New Delhi on Friday.

On behalf of the Director General of Police, Telangana State, Ravi Gupta IPS, Additional Director General of Police (Technical Services) has received the award from Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (Independent Charge), PMO.

The FICCI has instituted the award for best practices in Smart Policing in India with the objective to promote initiatives taken by the police for the safety and security of Indian citizens. In this regard, M Mahendar Reddy IPS, DGP, has congratulated the officers and staff of Dial 100, technology teams, patrol cars and Blue Colts officers for delivering effective services to citizens in emergencies.

3 held for cheating bizman

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Saidabad police have arrested three persons, including the Business Development Manager at Lionsgate water bottle company, who were involved in an attention diversion case and conned a man to the tune of Rs 12 lakh. The police have recovered the entire amount within 48 hours.

The arrested were identified as Abed Mohiuddin, 35, Shaik Abdul Basith, 34, the Business Development Manager at Lionsgate water bottle company, and Sambaram Rajesh, 28, a petrol pump employee, said the police.

Mohiuddin and Basith are friends, while Rajesh was working in the petrol pump of the victim, Raj Kumar Bagadia. "Bagadia has known Mohiuddin and Basith since last few years and used to visit his petrol pump. Noticing Bagadia making money through unfair means, the trio hatched a plan to lure him and commit theft of net cash under. They shelled out a scheme and promised to arrange a particular series of banned old currency notes of the year 2002, so that he could get Rs 50,000 new currency for each note of



Commissioner of Police Anjani Kumar displaying the seized amount, in Hyderabad on Friday

that particular series of 2002 currency notes," said the police commissioner of Hyderabad, Anjani Kumar.

According to their plan, while Mohiuddin and Basith were present at Bagadia's office at Sri Santhoshi Filling station (Indian Oil) in Ranga Mahal Road of Putlibowli, Rajesh informed him about the scheme. Making him believe their scam, they made him pay Rs 12 lakh in exchange of Rs 2 crore of demonitised money.

"They asked Bagadia to arrange the amount by Sunday and the same was done accordingly. He was called to SBH colony park in Saidabad and at

about 11 am, where Mohiuddin came on a bike to inform that the house of the party who had Rs 2 crore of old currency notes is close by and he needs to see the Rs 12 lakh to him and only then the exchange can happen. Mohiuddin then left with the money and escaped, leaving the victim waiting," said the official, adding that the trio later shared the stolen amount amongst themselves.

Upon learning that he was conned, the businessman approached Saidabad police to lodge a complaint, following which cases were booked against the gang and an investigation was started.

Mahesh Babu's most tweeted hashtag on Twitter

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Tollywood actor Mahesh Babu's recent film Maharshi is among the most tweeted hashtags of 2019 on twitter. The social media platform, which introduced Hashtags about 12 years ago, unveiled top 5 hashtags that dominated conversations on the platform in the first half of the year 2019 in India. This Telugu-language action drama film #Maharshi grabbed the fourth spot. Top Hashtag Trend reflected the rise of regional entertainment on Twitter, with Tamil action drama film #Viswasam taking the top spot.

This was followed by conversations around politics and governance. Throughout the campaign period for the #LokSabhaElections2019, politicians and political parties used Twitter to communicate with Indian citizens in the country and across the world, while citizens took to the platform to address their queries directly to contesting leaders.

Shanti Nagar: The road not to be taken

MAYANK TIWARI ■ HYDERABAD

Detritus scattered all along the footpath with a gravely battered, pothole-ridden road welcomes commuters travelling on Shanti Nagar road via Employment Exchange, office Masab Tank.

"After recent rains, commuting on the road has become worse. Despite raising a complaint, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has turned a blind eye towards the issue," said a nearby resident on condition of anonymity. "This road, taken by



many RTC buses apart from regular traffic, connects interior portions of Masabtank, Vijaynagar Colony, Asif Nagar, Mallepally and Nampally," he said. Commuting on the road in front of Employment Exchange

office has become a nightmare as the GHMC failed to fill potholes that appeared during the recent rains.

Adding to the existing woes, clogged drainage seeping drain water onto the road is irking commuters in the area.

It's not just the road, the footpath along this stretch is almost covered by debris. A few residents of Vijay Nagar Colony threw the construction and demolition waste alongside the Government Industrial Training Institute next to Employment Exchange office using tippers and have left the public pathway impassable.

"The waste is seen here for an year and to be honest it is absolutely disgusting to dump your rubbish anywhere, but to do it on a pathway that is used by the public is awful," said Haneef, a resident of Shanti Nagar Colony.

4-yr-old minor raped, man held

PNS ■ MEDAK

Yet another sexual assault on a four-year-old girl has been reported from Sangareddy district. A 38-year-old man was taken into custody on the charge of sexually assaulting a 4-year-old girl at Mallepally village of Kondapur Mandal on Thursday evening. After the girl complained to her parents, they approached the Kondapur Police on Thursday night. The accused was identified as Shanthaiah alias Yohana, a neighbor of the victim's family.

Reddy said that the accused had lured the girl, who had returned from Anganwadi School at 4 pm, on the pretext of giving her some biscuits. The girl returned home complaining about the act of the accused.

The parents initially took up the issue with neighbours and the Sarpanch, who helped them to approach the Police. Following a phone call, the Kondapur Police rushed to the spot and shifted the girl to the Government Hospital Sangareddy, after primary enquiries in the village. The accused was taken into custody.

DSP of Sangareddy Sridhar

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Executive engineer, Division No. 3 of GVC-4

e-Procurement notice

Tender Notice No.1 to 05/EE/Division No 3/GVC/4/2019/20, Date: 21.08.2019.
Total works (5): SRSP Stage-1, Small Irrigation Department- to construct conduits or Off Take Points (OTs) on Kakathiya Canal from 20.932 Kilometer to 42.360 Kilometer on Distributory-83 Canal and Sub-Canals. Total estimated cost : Rs 1.81 crore. Tender document can be availed from: 26.08.2019 to 02.09.2019. Tender documents can be availed till 02.09.2019 till 3:00 PM. Last date for receiving tenders: 02.09.2019 by 5:00 PM. Tenders will be opened on 03.09.2019 at 12.00 PM. For details, contact: 'E' procurement market place www.e-procurement.gov.in from 26.08.2019.

Sd/- Executive engineer, Division No 3 of GVC-4, Pedakaluvu centre, Peddapalli district

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA, ELECTRICAL INSPECTORATE

NOTIFICATION

Guidelines to be followed while using of power supply to Ganesh Mandaps.

1. (a) Under section 54 of Electricity Act 2003, where use of Electricity at a rate of exceeding 250W at 100V and above in any street or any place in which 100 persons or more likely to be assembled, such installation shall obtain prior approvals from the concerned Deputy Electrical Inspectors Ranga Reddy, Medchal, Hyderabad and Secunderabad Sub Divisions. (b) Other than above installations supplier shall release the supply under Regulation 37(V) of Central Electricity Authority (Measures relating to safety and Electric supply) Regulations 2010, duly following the Central Electricity Authority Regulations.

11. 1. The Electrical work shall be carried out by an authorized person having supervisor/wireman permit under supervision of Licensed Electrical Contractor only 2. The maintenance of Electrical Work in mandaps shall be look after by supervisor/wireman permit holders only. 3. Adequate rating of Earth leakage circuit breaker (ELCB) shall be provided at the point of commencement of supply (Incoming cut-outs of supply). 4. The incoming service wires shall be not less than 4sq, mm and Sub-circuits wires shall be not less than 2.5sq. mm. 5. Each circuit shall not be loaded more than ten circuits and each sub-circuit shall not be loaded more than 800 watts. 6. Ensure that same size wires are used for Phase, Neutral and earth. 7. Silk wires shall not be used for lighting circuits. 8. Separate neutral and earth wire shall be provided for each circuit. 9. Earth pits shall be constructed with 25mm diameter, 3meters long G.I pipes as earth electrodes and shall be maintained as per standards and Direct contact Earth Electrodes shall be avoided by providing proper precaution measures. 10. Automatic Emergency Light (Battery operated) shall be provided in the mandaps. 11. 5kgs Carbon dioxide type Fire Extinguishers and 2No's sand buckets shall be provided. 12. All the Electrical fittings and lights shall be provided at not less than 10feet from the ground level. 13. Number of joints shall be reduced and the joints shall be properly insulated with insulation tape for all the wires. 14. Only 3pin Plugs and sockets shall be used in the installation and avoid overloading of 3pin sockets by using multi plugs. 3rd pin shall be earthed. 15. All the metal supports shall be effectively earthed. 16. Direct contact of any Electrical equipments and loose wires shall be avoided. 17. Incandescent lights (Fluorescent Lamps) should not used since they generate heat and leads to the fire accidents.

Sd/- (B. Sanyanarayana Rajoo)
Chief Electrical Inspector to Government

DIPR R.O. No. 518-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2019-20

Government of Telangana
Revenue (LA) Department
Office of the District Collector, Rajanna Sircilla
Proc.No.02/1251/2019 Dt: 23.08.2019

FORM-C
(UNDER SECTION 11 OF THE ACT WHERE EXEMPTION GIVEN U/S 10-A OF THE RFCTLARR (TELANGANA AMENDMENT) ACT, 2016 (ACT 21/2017) (SEE RULE 6/12))

NOTIFICATION

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana / Collector, Rajanna Sircilla that a total of 05.20 Acres of land is specified in the "Schedule" below situated in the limits of Narmala Village of Gamberhapet Mandal of Rajanna Sircilla District is required for public purpose, to wit for Excavation of Gravity Canal from Battala Chervu to Upper Manair Reservoir under Kaleshravam Project Package No.9.

Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in the Narmala Village of Gamberhapet Mandal of Rajanna Sircilla District land measuring, more or less 05.20 Acres of standard measurement, whose detail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition.

SCHEDULE

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Type of land (Dry/Wet, etc)	Area under acquisition (in acres)	Name of the Owner(s) with Father's / Husband's name	Details of Structures, Trees etc
1.	105	Govt land (B.S.)	1.26	S Road (U.I.10) Govt, land (1.16)	-
2.	672	Govt land (P.P)	0.31%	Govt, land (P.P) (0.31%)	-
3.	674	Patta/Dry	2.12	As per Pahanl Pilla Laxmi W/o.Swamy Ravatti Rajawva W/o.Laxman Pilla Yellaiah S/o.Mallaiah Pilla Balaiiah S/o.Pochaiiah Pilla Narsimha S/o.Mallaiah Pilla Swamy S/o.Mallaiah Pilla Balaiiah S/o.Pochaiiah As per Phodi Pilla Balaiiah S/o.Pochaiiah (0.30) Pilla Yellaiah S/o.Mallaiah (0.23) Road (0.30) Pilla Yellaiah S/o.Mallaiah (0.06%) Pilla Chinnu Narsaiiah S/o.Narsaiiah (0.29%)	-
4.	675	Govt land (K.K)	0.30%	Govt, land (K.K) (0.30 1/2)	-
Total ::			05.20		

This Notification is made under provisions of Section 11(1) of the "Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No. 02/2013) as amended by the Right to Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Rajanna Sircilla & Special Deputy Collector, L.A. Unit-VII, FFC/ MMR & Dr.B.R.Ambedkar, P.C.S.S.P., Rajanna Sircilla on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana / Collector-Sub-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize the authorized Special Deputy Collector, L.A. Unit-VII, FFC/ MMR & Dr.B.R.Ambedkar, P.C.S.S.P., Rajanna Sircilla and his staff and workmen to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified U/s 12 of the said Act.

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

Objections to the acquisition, if any, and claims from all the persons interested / affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before District Collector / Authorized Officer.

Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer & Special Deputy Collector, L.A. Unit-VII, FFC/ MMR & Dr.B.R.Ambedkar (PCSSP), Rajanna Sircilla

Sd/- Joint Collector, Rajanna Sircilla

Sd/- Dist. Collector, Rajanna Sircilla

DIPR No.684/LA/PP/2018-19

Drones to the rescue of Gurnudham Lake

GHMC commences anti-larval operations; move will help in mitigating mosquito menace

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With the season of vector-borne diseases fully enticing the city, the GHMC has commenced anti-larval operations on Gurnudham Lake in Miyapur using drones. The 20-acre lake was almost completely covered in water hyacinths and mosquito infestations. Residents raised several complaints over the inconvenience due to the mosquitoes, following which GHMC officials engaged drones for spraying bio-enzymes.



MARUT to tackle the issue of Hyacinth. The drone can effective-

ly spray the entire anti-larval enzyme in the pond in a short span of time. It is a

custom made 10 litres drone was fitted with Bio-enzymes comprising of

neem, citrodora sprays to dry and remove water hyacinths, and also Pyrethrum herbal chemical, to eradicate mosquitoes.

It may be mentioned here that, anti-larval operations with the help of drones have been done in Miyapur lake and also Musi river. "Apart from curbing the mosquito menace, the spray would also curtail the growth of Hyacinth. With manual spraying, it is almost impossible to cover the entire expanse and reach the middle of the lake," the Mayor said.

He added that drone is able to reach every part of the surface area that had to be sprayed, from the edges of the lake right to the middle.

Jagan settling scores with TDP?

MANY PEOPLE IN ANDHRA PRADESH FEEL THAT THE GOVT IS NOT FOCUSING ON PEOPLE'S CONCERNS

MOHAMMED SHAFEEQ
HYDERABAD



However, the public, especially women, are happy with the initiatives of the YSR Congress party government such as cutting down the number of illegal liquor shops in the state and hike in social security pension

With the Jaganmohan Reddy government in Andhra Pradesh set to complete three months next week, the dominant feeling among people seems that it is focusing more on settling scores with the opposition TDP, rather than addressing people's concerns. This correspondent spoke to a cross section of people who were of the opinion that while it is too early to judge the government's performance, it appears to be obsessed with targeting the Chandrababu Naidu-led Telugu Desam Party (TDP).

However, the public, especially women, are happy with the initiatives of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government such as cutting down the number of illegal liquor shops in the state and hike in social security pension, but many believe that 75 per cent reservation for locals in the industries may boomerang. Mixed reactions emerged from the people, even as uncertainty prevails over the future of the state capital Amaravati, with Ministers and YSRCP leaders speaking in different tones on whether the govern-

ment will continue with development of Amaravati or look for an alternative.

Amaravati inhabitants, especially farmers who had given their lands for the land pooling scheme for the capital and were hoping for some benefit, are disappointed with the government for bringing the work to a halt. The crash in land prices over last two-and-a-half

months has impacted the real estate sector in Amaravati and surrounding areas in Guntur.

However, only a few decisions have had direct impact on the people. Other decisions, such as review of Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), terminating one of the contracts for the Polavaram project and probe into the works awarded by the previous gov-

ernment, did not have direct impact on people. Decisions like shutting down canteens serving five-rupee meals in urban areas have affected the poor, daily wage earners and people of low income groups. The government shut down over 200 canteens started last year by TDP government, citing irregularities.

The YSRCP government has, however, clarified that it will re-open these canteens after making necessary changes in the scheme. Ban on sand mining has also hit the construction sector with shortage of sand cropping up in many areas. The new government claims that sand mining was being controlled by TDP leaders and proposes to come out with a new policy.

"Anti-Naidu sentiment among people still persist but if the new government continues to take such hasty steps, the public opinion may turn against Jagan Mohan Reddy too," said Mallu Rajesh of Visakhapatnam. Most people believe that the legislation for 75 per cent reservation for locals in industries affects investment. "If you make it mandatory for the industries then the investment will be affected. Some reservation for

locals is okay but 75 per cent is not practicable," said Rajesh, who is a small player in the construction business. "Any industry will look to recruit manpower on its own depending on the skills required, while the government's assurance that it will train locals in the skills they require may not convince them," said U.V.L.N Rao, a small businessman in Visakhapatnam. People are happy with the government decision to impose total prohibition in stages. "It is a big issue in every house. With the Naidu government allowing opening of more shops and reducing the price, liquor consumption had doubled, playing havoc with many families," said Rajesh.

Sekhar Gangadhar, a truck driver in the East Godavari district's Razole also believes that Reddy has taken pro-people decisions. He says that private schools in his area have reduced fees. This is seen as an indirect impact of many people admitting their children in government schools following the announcement of the 'Amma Vodi' scheme and the Chief Minister promising to improve the infrastructure in state-run schools.

Volkswagen case: CBI summons Botsa Satyanarayana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Special CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) Court in Nampally here issued summons on Friday to Andhra Pradesh Minister Botsa Satyanarayana in the Volkswagen scam case. The senior politician, now in YSRCP, was directed to appear before the court on September 12.

Botsa is a key witness in the sensational 2005 case that surfaced during late YS Rajasekhara Reddy's tenure as the chief minister of the Congress party government.

According to sources, a fake entity named 'Vasishtha Wahan' was floated to deliberately trick the AP State government, with help of a gang of influential persons, including then India representative of the German automobile manufacturing giant, Helmut Schuster, who were the key conspirators. They were charged with duping the Andhra Pradesh government to the tune of Rs 11.68 crore by means of a fictitious proposal purported to be that of Volkswagen's Indian manufacturing unit near Visakhapatnam.

Besides Schuster, five Indians, identified as Ashok Kumar Jain and B K



Chaturvedi, both from New Delhi, Jagadish Alaga Raja and Gayatri Chandradanam of Chennai and Joseph V George of Bengaluru were named as the accused in the CBI charge-sheet.

The scam surfaced in July 2005 and the related case was soon handed over to the CBI by the Rajasekhara Reddy government. However, the central agency registered an FIR only in 2010.

In 2005 Botsa Satyanarayana was the Industries Minister in the Rajasekhara Reddy cabinet. Senior IAS officer L V Subrahmanyam (presently Chief Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh government) was then the managing director of the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation

(APIIC), which proactively helped the state government to seal the deal with the fake firm Vasishtha Wahan. However, these two personalities were not named in the charge-sheet under the perception that the state government was a victim in the act of willful cheating.

Sources claimed that the scam was the brainchild of Schuster, who floated Vasishtha Wahan after conspiring with several people, including some AP government representatives. At the time of entering into negotiations with the state government, the fake entity had even of a New Delhi address.

The AP government subsequently entered into an agreement with the fake firm and an amount of Rs 11.68 crore was deposited into Vasishtha Wahan's bank account as APIIC's contribution towards equity for the project.

Within days of transferring the money, the state government got a wind of the scandal after the people and the firm disappeared without a trace. The deposited money was siphoned off by then. The scam, which shook government and bureaucratic circles across the country, was the first major jolt to the fledgling YSR government.

CAPSULE



HC issues summons to EOs

HYDERABAD: The Telangana High Court issued summons to the district educational officers of four districts of the state in a contempt case. The case was filed by the qualified candidates of DSC-1998 teachers' recruitment. It has also issued directions for the issuance of the notices to the DEOs for their appearance before the court. The HC later posted the case till September 5.

PIL on Aarogyasri dismissed

HYDERABAD: The Telangana High Court dismissed a PIL by terming it as infructuous. The petition was filed by one Perala Sekhar Rao, a social activist from LB Nagar urging the HC to declare the action of the state government and the Telangana Network Hospitals Association to suspend cashless Aarogyasri healthcare services as illegal unconstitutional. He also urged the HC to direct the state and the association to resume the implementation of the Aarogyasri immediately besides directing the state to strengthen government hospitals in all over the Telangana instead of providing huge budget for private hospitals of the state. A division bench of the HC comprising Chief Justice Justice RS Chauhan and Justice Shameem Akhtar told petitioner that his petition had turned out to be infructuous as the services have been resumed in the state.

Budget may skip TRS' major poll promises

Continued from Page 1

Among the major poll promises fulfilled by the TRS government are increasing Rythu Bandhu amount from Rs 8,000 per acre to Rs 10,000 per acre, doubling Aasara pension amount, and reduction in the age limit to avail Aasara pensions.

Government employees have been demanding the government to implement the promise concerning PRC and enhance retirement age from 58 years to 61 years. There are also demands from students' organisations to disburse doles to the jobs.

In February, KCR made a statement in the Assembly that his government had five years' time to fulfill its poll promises and that there was no need to

implement them in a hurry. Official sources said that KCR instructed the ministers and officials concerned not to come up with budget proposals on uncovered poll promises that require huge funds.

The state government's financial position is tight, despite increase in tax revenues, mainly because of the execution of major irrigation projects like Kaleshwaram, Palamuru-Ranga Reddy and other flagship schemes like Mission Bhagiratha, Mission Kakatiya, Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, KCR Kits, Kalyana Laxmi, Shaadi Mubarak and the like.

Pending bills pertaining to contractors and others have already touched Rs 30,000 crore. Hence, the holdover of poll promises.

Student dies of fever, unions stage dharna

PNS ■ MANCHERIAL

Another student of a Tribal Welfare Residential School died of acute fever at his residence at Karshalaghattam village in Thandur mandal on Thursday. Holding the warden of the hostel responsible for his death, students unions staged a dharna demanding justice for the parents of the student. The deceased was Pendrem Shivashankar (14), a Class IX student at Telangana State Tribal Welfare Residential

School for boys, Luxettipet. Shivashankar was down with fever three days back following which the parents took him home for treatment on Wednesday night. He died before being able to shift to another hospital, sources said. Some students unions also staged sit-in at the residence of the student. They criticised the management for neglecting the student and alleged that the negligence of the hostel warden led to the death of the student.

Adilabad gets new 'Adventure Sports Park'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Forest and Environment Minister, Allola Indra Karan Reddy on Friday inaugurated an 'Adventure Sports Park' at Haritha Vanam in Mavala grampanchayat near Adilabad town.

Haritha Vanam, which was inaugurated earlier this year, is gradually becoming the most endeavored recreational destination for residents of the district. "We want to make this space much better and to do that we have come up with this new 'Adventure Sports' concept. Many such Urban Forest Parks will have Adventure Sports across the state," said the Forest Minister.

"The area was facing threat



Minister Allola Indrakaran Reddy inaugurating the 'Adventure Sports Park' at Haritha Vanam in Mavala grampanchayat near Adilabad on Friday

of encroachment and used to be a haven for illegal activities, now the Forest Department has converted it into a park which is not only a recreational space but also it will

keep the encroachers at the bay," said Indrakaran Reddy.

Adventure games such as boating, cycling, safari, zipping and rope climbing are made available to the visitors from

Friday onwards. And also, the park is home to wild animals including leopards, spotted deer, neelgai, wild boars, over 100 species of birds. "The adventure sports park is developed in such a way that it doesn't disturb the floral and faunal habitat in the region, at the same time people can also stay close to nature," he further said.

"The rain is as it was anticipated to be, so let us plant trees at every household, institute, forests and at open plots to achieve the dream of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao, which is, to improve the canopy cover from 24 percent to 33 per cent with the help of Haritha Haram," said Forest Minister.

Haj, Jerusalem ads on bus tickets, bjp hits out at Jagan

Continued from Page 1

Controversial BJP MLA Raja Singh from Hyderabad has already put out videos raising this issue.

Earlier this week, the BJP had claimed that Mr Reddy had refused to light a lamp during an event in the US, where he is on a visit. They alleged it was because he did not respect Hindu traditions such as lighting a lamp.

Supporters of YSR Congress, the Chief Minister's party, clarified that there was no question of Jagan Reddy refusing to light a lamp as there were only electrical switches and not the traditional oil and wick lamps.

Cops intensify checks on overloaded vehicles

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

In a bid to prevent overcrowded vehicles from having a free run on roads, Mahabubnagar district police has been conducting vehicles checks extensively across the district for the past few days.

Policemen across the district swung into action following directions from district SP Rema Rajeshwari during a five-minute meeting at the District Police Office regarding the need to conduct vehicle checks on Friday morning. In one such check carried out in Koilkonda police station limits on Friday, a Bolero pick-up truck was found ferrying 56 women daily-wage labourers.

The pick-up truck, which

In one such check carried out in Koilkonda Police Station limits on Friday, a Bolero pick-up truck was found ferrying 56 women daily-wage labourers; 13 people were killed recently when an autorickshaw they were travelling was rammed by a lorry head-on in Koilkonda

was looking heavily loaded with passengers, was stopped by the Sub Inspector who asked the passengers to get down. The policemen were surprised after counting the number of passengers travelling in that vehicle who were labourers from nearby villages working in other villages.

Koilkonda police initiated action against the driver of the

Bolero truck. Rema Rajeshwari reiterated that such checks would be conducted frequently and strict action would be taken against those putting the lives of people in grave danger by overloading passenger. Thirteen women labourers were killed recently when an autorickshaw they were travelling in rammed by a lorry head-on in Koilkonda.

Palamuru project Land identified to locate displaced

PNS ■ ZADCHARLA

Udandapur villagers displaced under the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme will be located on land near Bandameedipalli village, 5 km away from Udandapur, by constructing houses and developing necessary infrastructure. The site, located on the outskirts of Kaverammepeta village has been identified. Tahsildar Srinivas Reddy performed Bhumi-puja to start leveling of 90-acre land to relocate the rehabilitation colony. The Revenue Department will identify 100 acres more for development of the village. RI Sudarshan Reddy, TRS leaders Jangaiah, Sudarsan and Pandu and others were present on the occasion.

Heavy rain forecast in TS...

Continued from Page 1

On Friday, Jaipur of Mancherla District received heavy downpour of 114.8 mm, followed by 89.3 mm at Nizamabad. Same day moderate and light spell of rain occurred across the city, heaviest of which was recorded of 25.3 mm was recorded in Balanagar, followed by 21 mm at Kukatpally, while other parts of the city received scattered rainfall below 20 mm. Although the rain was scanty, near and less than 20 mm, potholes reappeared, and water started stagnating at several points in the city, disrupting the regular pace of life because of traffic congestion at several junctions in the city.

Taking healthcare to the next level

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Anvaya is an online healthcare platform for the elderly, which provides healthcare and utility services. A Hyderabad-based Eldercare company Anvaya is initiating the healthcare digital transformation and has now expanded to cities like Bangalore and Chennai.

They also launched the mobile App, 'Anvaya Kincare', using which one can facilitate the well-being of their loved ones past their prime needs. The services encompass the whole spectrum of healthcare services along with necessities. Key services including booking doctor appointments, consultation, diagnostic services, pharmacy services, preventive health checkups, home healthcare services, assistance during surgeries, and also with daily household chores, such as plumber, carpenters, electricians to elderly.

'The global population of people aged 60 and older is expected to be more than double from 900 million in 2015 to about 2 billion in 2050'

"Supporting the elderly population with their health requirements is a delight. The global population of people aged 60 and older is expected to be more than double from 900 million in 2015 to about 2 billion in 2050. We at Anvaya are committed to understand, customise and execute health related services for the comfort and convenience of the elders in India," said Prashanth Reddy Director of Anvaya, Elderly Care Services. "By doing this we are changing the way healthcare services are delivered and accessed to the elder ones," he added.

BJP overtakes Cong in membership

K VENKATESHWARLU
HYDERABAD



Telangana Congress, which had done its intensive membership drive last year, is lagging behind the BJP in terms membership. The ruling TRS and BJP have completed their membership drives and criticizing each other on the number of membership. The BJP stood in second place with 31 lakh members after TRS, which has 60 lakh members in its kitty. The Congress had done its intensive membership drive last year and it had 19 lakh party members in the state.

The ruling party in the state, TRS and ruling party at the Centre, BJP is indulging in blame game and are conducting press conferences competitively to criticize each other on every day basis. The spar between these two parties is confusing Congress literally. The confused Congress is trying hard to criticize both TRS and BJP. However, TRS almost stopped criticizing Congress targeting fully BJP.

On the other hand, both TRS and BJP are busy with their membership drive all these days. Ruling TRS has closed its membership drive on August 22. Speaking on the day, TRS' working president KT Rama Rao stated that their total membership enrollment stood at 60 lakh, including 20 lakh active members. He criticized state BJP alleging that the TRS active members are 20 lakh and more than BJP's total membership of 12 lakh. TRS conducts its membership drive for every two years. Last time (in 2017), the TRS membership was 60 lakh. The party Chief K Chandrasekhar Rao handed over then a cheque of Rs 9,88,660,000 as insurance premium to the insurance company for the 60 lakh members of the party. This time too, the TRS party is offering insur-

The BJP is in second place with 31 lakh members after TRS, which has 60 lakh members in its kitty. Congress has 19 lakh party members in the state

ance to its members. The state Congress is not doing its membership drive this year as it did last year. The party has to wait another four years for the membership drive. As per Congress party constitution, it will conduct its membership drive for every five years though it will give membership through online on any day. This has resulted the party to lag behind the saffron party. The party official spokesperson G Niranjan said that earlier the party used to take up membership drive for every

three years but the party changed it to for every five years. "We will take up membership drive in 2023 as we already taken it up in 2018", he told to 'The Pioneer' over phone from Delhi. He said that the people have a chance to take the party membership anytime during five years. "We will take up intensive membership drive for every five years only", he said. He made it clear that it will not harm party interest any way. The gap is better for the membership, he defended.

On the other hand, the BJP leaders said that they gave 13 lakh new memberships this year. They have already 18 lakh old members. Their total membership is 31 lakh, they said. State BJP will take up membership for every three years. The BJP membership drive was closed on August 20. Interestingly, the BJP crossed the Congress, which has 19 lakh members, and has 12 lakh more members than Congress now. The total voters in the state as per Election Commission are 2,80,64,680.



Muslim woman leads by example

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

A devastating communal sentiment has swept many regions of the country in the recent past, affecting a number of lives. During these times of communal turmoil, little gestures of peace act like a soothing balm. One such gesture was made by a muslim woman, who dressed her kids as Lord Krishna and Rukmini for a fancy dress competition on the occasion of

Janmashtami. The rare gesture came to light in Kakatiya School of Jammikunta where Shaheda, a muslim woman dressed her children Mohsin and Sabena as lord Krishna and Satyabhama. Shaheda's gesture has won the accolades from many and people were overwhelmed. The parents of other students commended her for taking up a task that mirrors the oneness and religious unification.

SHORT READS



Govt's advisers have admitted economy in deep mess: Rahul

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the government's own advisers had now admitted that the country's economy was in a 'deep mess' and asked the Centre to remonetise it by putting money in the hands of 'the needy and not the greedy'. He also said the Congress had been cautioning about the state of the economy for long. "Government's own economic advisers have finally acknowledged what we cautioned for long - India's economy is in a deep mess. Now, accept our solution and remonetise the economy, by putting money back in the hands of the needy and not the greedy," Gandhi wrote on Twitter.



Helicopter makes emergency landing in Uttarkashi

DEHRADUN: A helicopter involved in relief operation in the rain-hit Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand made an emergency landing at Lagwada on Friday, officials said. However, both pilot and co-pilot of the helicopter were safe and escaped with minor injuries, Director General law and order Ashok Kumar said. The private helicopter made the landing on the banks of a river when it was on way to Chiwa to distribute relief material among affected people, Uttarkashi District Magistrate Ashish Chauhan said. The incident comes just two days after a helicopter involved in relief efforts in flood-hit Uttarkashi district crashed and erupted in flames after it got entangled in the overhead electricity wires, killing three people on board.

'PC's arrest had sobering effect on Congress'

NEW DELHI: In a dig at Congress leaders pitching for not "demonising" Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP's Amit Malviya on Friday said the arrest of the former finance minister P Chidambaram had a "sobering effect" on his party colleagues. Malviya, the IT cell head of the party, said law catching up with Chidambaram has made other Congress leaders to start "singing praises" of the prime minister. "Law catching up with Sonia Gandhi's courtier seems to have had a sobering effect on other Congress leaders, including Chidambaram's lawyer, who like a canary, are suddenly singing praises of Prime Minister Modi," he said. Senior Congress leaders, including Abhishek Singhvi, who is representing Chidambaram in court and Shashi Tharoor came out in support of their party colleague Jai Ram Ramesh who said that "demonising" the prime minister was wrong and he should be praised for the right things he do.

TRIPLE TALAQ

SC agrees to examine validity of new law; issues notice to Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Friday agreed to examine the validity of a newly enacted law which makes the practice of instant divorce through triple talaq among Muslims a punishable offence entailing imprisonment of up to three years.

A bench of justices N V Ramana and Ajay Rastogi issued notice to the Centre on a batch of petitions seeking to declare The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act 2019 as "unconstitutional" on grounds that it allegedly violates the provisions of the Constitution.

"We will examine this," the bench told senior advocate Salman Khurshid, who was appearing for one of the petitioners.

Khurshid said there were many dimensions, including making the practice a punishable offence and jail term of up to three years, which need to be examined by the top court.

He said the petitioners were concerned about making the practice of triple talaq among Muslims an offence as the apex court had already



declared it to be null and void.

"If there is no such thing as triple talaq then what are they making an offence," he told the bench and referred to a five-judge Constitution bench verdict which had declared the practice of triple talaq among Muslims as null and void.

To this the bench asked, suppose if a religious practice is declared as null and void and

it is declared as an offence like dowry and child marriage, but if it still goes on then what is the remedy.

Responding to the query, Khurshid said several aspects have to be examined and in the triple talaq matter the Constitution bench had already said the practice is void.

He said it has to be examined whether the religious practice denies the rights to the woman.

The bench, while agreeing to examine the validity of the 2019 Act, observed that petitioners have also raised the issue of punishment of up to three years and grant of bail to the husband only after the

The bench, while agreeing to examine the validity of the 2019 Act, observed that petitioners have also raised the issue of punishment of up to three years and grant of bail to the husband only after the woman is heard by the court

woman is heard by the court. A total of four petitions have been filed in apex court challenging the validity of the law.

Two Muslim organisations Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind and Samastha Kerala Jamiathul Ulema, a religious organisation of Sunni Muslim scholars and clerics in Kerala, have moved the Supreme Court this month challenging the law's validity.

Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind approached the apex court on Thursday.

President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to the Act which makes 'talaq-e-biddat' or any other similar form of talaq having the effect of instantaneous and irrevocable divorce pronounced by a Muslim husband void and illegal.

In the plea filed through

advocate Ejaz Maqbool, Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind has claimed that since the pronouncement of talaq by a Muslim husband upon his wife had already been declared "void and illegal", there was no requirement to enact the law.

"However, the impugned Act criminalises the act of pronouncement of talaq by a Muslim husband and makes it a cognizable offence, without appreciating that such pronouncement had already been declared unconstitutional and amounted to nullity in the eyes of law," the plea said.

Referring to the provision of the Act which stipulates punishment of up to three years jail along with fine, the plea said it is an "ill-conceived provision which imposes excessive and disproportionate punishment."

PC gets SC protection, but no freedom

Continued from Page 1

Mehta vehemently opposed the order granting protection from arrest to Chidambaram in the money laundering case and said that the probe agency "has collected innumerable evidence to show that the money has been transferred from one company to another shell company".

He said Chidambaram amassed 11 properties outside the country and has 17 bank accounts, not only in India but also abroad, and the money was transferred through a web of shell companies. Mehta said that lot of "hue and cry" and "political vendetta" is alleged by petitioner (Chidambaram) and his party colleagues but "I am saying with a great sense of responsibility that this is a case of money laundering of a monumental magnitude".

He said custodial interrogation of Chidambaram was needed to unravel the truth and claimed that while being Union finance minister he had asked Indrani and Peter Mukherjea to "take care of his son" when she

had met with him in 2007 regarding FIPB approval for their company INX Media.

Mehta said they need to confront Chidambaram with the evidences collected so far, including some e-mail and money transaction, as several persons who have created the shell companies have executed a will in the name of Chidambaram's granddaughter. Mehta said he has been evasive in his replies, refused to divulge anything and have not cooperated in the probe.

"Custodial interrogation of the accused is necessary to unravel the truth which cannot be done under the protective umbrella of anticipatory bail," he said and insisted that the court should go through the case diary and satisfy its conscience before granting any relief to the former minister.

At the outset, Sibal said that it is violation of his fundamental right under Article 21, that his petition challenging the high court order was not heard by the apex court on July 20 and 21 and he was arrested on the Wednesday night.

Akhilesh dissolves SP's Uttar Pradesh units

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday dissolved the party's entire Uttar Pradesh units including the state executive, and district and youth wings, sources said, as he attempts a course correction in the party after its Lok Sabha poll debacle.

The party, however, has retained state president Naresh Uttam, they said.

"Party president Akhilesh Yadav has dissolved the state executive. All district executives and the executives of youth and other wings have also been dissolved," a senior party leader told PTI requesting anonymity. "A new executive will be formed soon."

The surprise development is being seen as an effort by the SP to recover its electoral base after its poor performance in the recent Lok Sabha polls when it won just five seats -- the same as in 2014 -- despite stitching a pre-poll alliance with the BSP and the RLD.



Much to the SP's chagrin, while its tally remained stuck at five, the tie-up benefitted Mayawati's BSP, which bagged 10 seats in the state - it drew a blank in 2014 general polls.

What rubbed salt to the SP's wound was the shock defeat of Dimple Yadav, Akhilesh's wife who had entered the fray as a sitting MP. She represented the Kannauj Lok Sabha seat.

Just a day after the Lok Sabha results were declared, the party chief sacked the

panel of leaders appointed as spokespersons for TV channels.

The appointment of all party panellists was cancelled in one stroke by the party chief who also said that no TV channel should invite any of them for debate.

A party insider said Akhilesh began churning within the organisation the very day the results were out, with over a dozen Assembly by-polls not far away, and the bigger target of 2022 Assembly elections in mind.

'Hate for BJP nursed among minorities for 70 yrs'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hate for the BJP has been planted in the minds of minorities for 70 years and it cannot be wiped out in 70 days or seven years, Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said Friday, asserting that the effect of this "poison" is now receding.

Though the BJP was founded in 1980, its precursor Jan Sangh had been active since the 1950s.

Naqvi asserted that minorities are feeling "completely safe" under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership as he has not indulged in any political exploitation of minori-

ties for votes and has done development without discrimination.

In an interview to PTI, the Minority Affairs Minister said the prime minister's population control pitch cannot be looked through a religious prism and the government wanted to act on this through awareness and not by the "Emergency-style" control as done by the Congress.

"A growing economy can never ignore population explosion. Awareness is needed and society should be sensitised. Muslim community population has gone down. Those giving it communal angle have no knowledge," Naqvi said.



"There should be awareness (on population control). It should be carried out as a mission like the cleanliness drive for which no law was made," he said.

On the acquittal of all

A growing economy can never ignore population explosion.

Awareness is needed and society should be sensitised. Muslim community population has gone down. Those giving it communal angle have no knowledge

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI
Union minister

"Any crime that happens should be dealt with strongly...No crime should be looked upon from the communal angle," he said.

Asked if Prime Minister Modi's popularity among minorities has gone up after the government's triple talaq law, Naqvi said the government's move on triple talaq, Article 370, demonetisation and GST, were reform measures and not intended for popularity.

However, he said minorities have "strong trust" on Modi as they have realised that there are no riots and no atmosphere of discrimination under the his leadership.



Army personnel killed in Pak firing along LoC in J-K's Rajouri

PNS ■ JAMMU

An Army personnel was killed in Pakistani Army firing along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Friday, prompting strong retaliation from the Indian side, officials said.

The killing of Naik Rajib Thapa, 34, raised the death toll in the cross-border firing in the past week to four -- three soldiers and one civilian.

"Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation along the LoC in Nowshera sector and in the exchange of fire, Naik Thapa attained martyrdom," Defence spokesman Lt Col Devender Anand said. He said Thapa was a brave, highly motivated and sincere soldier.

"The nation will always remain indebted to him for the supreme sacrifice and devotion to duty," Lt Col Anand said.

Thapa was a resident of Mechpara village in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal. He is survived by wife Khusbu Mangar Thapa, the spokesman said.

He said the Indian Army responded strongly and effectively to the ceasefire violation by Pakistan.

Heavy damage to Pakistani Army posts and casualties to Pakistani soldiers have been inflicted in the retaliatory action, he added.

Earlier, officials said the

Officials said the soldier was manning a forward post in Kalsia village of Nowshera sector when it came under unprovoked firing from across the border in the early hours

soldier was manning a forward post in Kalsia village of Nowshera sector when it came under unprovoked firing from across the border in the early hours.

The soldier was critically injured and was immediately evacuated to a military hospital where he succumbed to injuries, they said.

Thapa's death was the fourth casualty on the Indian side in Pakistan mortar shelling and small arms firing in the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch since August 17.

While an Army jawan and a youth were killed and four soldiers injured in heavy Pakistani shelling and firing in Mendhar sector of Poonch district on August 20, another soldier was killed in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district on August 17.

Top Army commander visits forward bases

PNS ■ JAMMU

The Northern Army commander visited forward bases in Poonch and Akhnoor sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) on Friday and expressed satisfaction at the measures adopted by the forces to counter infiltration.

The visit by General Officer Commanding, Northern Command, Lt Gen Ranbir Singh comes in the wake of nearly a dozen ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the LoC in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch over the past week that left three soldiers and a civilian dead.

He was accompanied by White Knight Corps Commander Lt Gen Paramjit Singh during the visit, a defence spokesman said.

"The Army commander expressed satisfaction on measures adopted to strengthen counter-infiltration posture with increased alertness and use of high-end technology. He also appreciated the aggressive domination of LoC adopt-

He was accompanied by White Knight Corps Commander Lt Gen Paramjit Singh during the visit, a defence spokesman said

ed to give befitting response to adversary's ceasefire violations and tactical actions," the official said.

He said the commander was also briefed on 'Mission Reach Out', an initiative undertaken to bring normalcy to the region.

Lt Gen Ranbir Singh appreciated the coordination between the Army, civil administration and the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), and complemented the troops for bringing the situation in the districts of Poonch, Rajouri and Reasi back to normal.

BABRI DEMOLITION

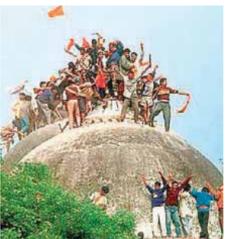
SC asks UP govt to pass orders in 2 weeks on judge's tenure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Friday asked the Uttar Pradesh government to pass orders within two weeks on extension of tenure of the special judge conducting trial in the 1992 Babri Masjid demolition case, involving BJP veterans L K Advani, M M Joshi and Uma Bharti.

A bench of justices R F Nariman and Surya Kant said a fresh letter has been written by the special judge on July 27 in which he had made five requests including providing him security.

The bench asked senior advocate Aishwarya Bhati,



appearing for the state, to consider all the five requests within two weeks time saying these requests appears to be reasonable.

The apex court had on July 19 extended the special judge's

tenure till the completion of trial and delivery of verdict in the case. However, the state government was yet to pass the order.

He was also asked by the top court to deliver the verdict within nine months.

The top court had said that the extension of tenure of the special judge, who is set to retire on September 30, will only be for the purpose of concluding the trial and delivering the verdict in the case.

During the extended tenure, he will remain under the administrative control of the Allahabad High Court, the court had said.

'Monumental money laundering by PC': Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The centre today opposed former Union Minister P Chidambaram's petition for interim protection from arrest by investigation agencies, saying that any such order by the Supreme Court would hinder the ongoing probe into a case of "monumental" money laundering involving INX Media.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was representing the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate in the top court, maintained that custodial interrogation of Mr Chidambaram was sorely needed to unravel transactions allegedly made through shell companies in the case. "I am saying with a sense of responsibility that this is a case of money laundering of a monu-



mental magnitude," he said.

The Supreme Court eventually granted interim protection from arrest to Mr Chidambaram in the case, and posted the next hearing for Monday. The Congress leader, however, will remain in CBI custody until then due to the

top court's refusal to interfere with an order delivered in this regard by a special CBI court yesterday.

"Having heard the counsels for the petitioner and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, we are of the view that the co-accused were granted bail in the ED

case. Petitioner shall not be arrested till further hearing of the case. List the petition on Monday (August 26). The respondent shall file their reply and contentions by Monday," the bench comprising Justices R Banumathi and AS Bopanna said.

Mr Chidambaram has been accused of facilitating a huge infusion of foreign funds into a television company - INX Media - in 2007 at the instance of his son Karti, who allegedly received bribes for his role. He was the Union Finance Minister at the time.

In his objection to granting Mr Chidambaram interim protection, the Solicitor General said that the Enforcement Directorate has collected innumerable pieces of evidence to prove that properties were

bought by the accused both in India and abroad. His claims led to a heated argument between the prosecution and defence counsel.

Advocates Kapil Sibal and Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who are arguing Mr Chidambaram's case in court, said they have filed a separate petition to challenge the Special Judge's order sending him to CBI custody.

Mr Chidambaram was arrested amid high drama on Wednesday, a day after the Delhi High Court refused to grant him anticipatory bail in the INX Media case. Justice Sunil Gaur called the former Union Minister the "kingpin" in the case, and said that he should not be given special treatment just because he is a parliamentarian.

India, US review strategic ties and regional situation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian and US officials carried out a comprehensive review of defence, security and key foreign policy issues under the framework of 'two-plus-two' dialogue between the two strategic partners.

In the meeting held in Monterey, California, the two sides also discussed regional developments, and agreed to pursue their quest for a free, open, inclusive and peaceful Indo-Pacific, the external affairs ministry said here.

The inter-sessional meeting mechanism was set up pursuant to the 'two-plus-two' ministerial talks last year.

Under the new framework, the US secretary of state, US defence secretary, India's external affairs minister and the defence minister held extensive deliberations September 2018 to further enhance strategic ties.

"The two sides reviewed the



The 'two-plus-two' ministerial dialogue was agreed upon between the two sides during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Washington in June 2017

progress and development of bilateral relations in cross-cutting defence, security, and foreign policy areas since the inaugural 2+2 ministerial meeting," the MEA said. It said the two sides explored

further possibilities of cooperation in these fields based on common interest.

"They also discussed regional developments, and agreed to pursue their quest for a free, open, inclusive, peaceful and

prosperous Indo-Pacific," it added.

The 'two-plus-two' ministerial dialogue was agreed upon between the two sides during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Washington in June 2017.

The second edition of the talks is scheduled to be held in Washington in the next couple of months.

The Indian delegation at the inter-sessional meeting was led jointly by Joint Secretary in MEA Gourangal Das and Joint Secretary in defence ministry V Anandharajan.

The US delegation was led by Ambassador Alice Wells, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, and Randall Schriver, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs.

India inked a key military-information sharing pact with the US last year after the 'two-plus-two' talks.



LeT 'infiltration' in TN; alert sounded in Kerala

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In view of the intelligence input that members of the Lashkar-e-Taiba had infiltrated into neighbouring Tamil Nadu, an alert has been sounded in Kerala with police officials being directed to intensify vigil and searches. State DGP Loknath Behera on Friday directed district police chiefs to keep utmost vigil across the state, an official release said.

Special vigil should be kept at bus stands, railway stations and airports and the places where people gather in huge numbers, it said.

The DGP also asked the public to inform the police if they come across any suspicious objects or circumstance, the release added.

Maya urges Centre, Delhi govt to rebuild Ravidas temple

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

BSP president Mayawati Friday appealed to the Centre and the Delhi government to find a way to reconstruct the Ravidas temple which was demolished by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on the direction of the Supreme Court recently.

Mayawati's appeal came a day after a Delhi court sent in favour of Army chief Chandrasekhar Azad and 95 others, arrested on charges of rioting and unlawful assembly following violent protest in Tughlakabad area, to 14-day judicial custody.

They were detained on Wednesday night after the protest against the demolition of a Ravidas temple.

The BSP president, who had distanced herself from the violent Dalit protest in Tughlakabad area, Friday appealed to both the Centre and the Delhi government to find a way to reconstruct the



temple and asked followers of Saint Ravidas not to take law in their hands.

"Making the demand yet again from the Central and Delhi governments to find a middle path to expedite the reconstruction of the temple with government expenditure so that proper justice can be done. It should be remembered that the BSP government in UP had done many historical works in honour of Sanit Ravidas," she tweeted.

On August 14, Mayawati had asked the two governments to find a middle path to get the temple constructed with their own resources.

SHORT READS



Rebel AAP MLA Alka Lamba marshalled out of Delhi Assembly

NEW DELHI: Rebel AAP MLA Alka Lamba was marshalled out of the Delhi Assembly on Friday by Speaker Ram Niwas Goel for "defying" his directions. On the second day of the Monsoon session, the Chandni Chowk legislator in a special mention alleged that two families recently had to purchase medicines from private shops despite the Delhi government's claim that drugs were provided free of cost at its hospitals. Lamba claimed that the matter was related to GB Pant Hospital under the Delhi government. Responding to allegations, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain told the House that he will get the charge probed. Lamba continued to raise the issue despite the Speaker asking her to sit down. When she did not relent, Goel ordered her to be marshalled out of the House.

Coast Guards of India, US take part in joint exercise

CHENNAI: Coast Guards of India and the United States took part in a joint exercise off the Chennai coast on Friday to promote coordination between the two maritime forces. Coast Guard ships and aircraft of the two countries took part in the exercise around five nautical miles off the city coast in the Bay of Bengal. From the Indian side, ICG Shaurya and ICG Abheek ships and Chetak helicopter took part in the exercise that focused on anti-piracy, search and rescue, and fire fighting operations, a Coast Guard official told PTI. The US cutter ship 'Stratton' and an aircraft associated with the vessel were part of the operation, the official added. Post the four-hour-long exercise that started at 7 am Friday, 'Stratton' made its maiden visit to India at the Chennai port.

Have full faith in Centre on steps to tackle slowdown: Kejriwal

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Friday that he has full faith on the central government that it will take concrete steps to deal with the economic slowdown. This is one situation where the country has to stand as one and repair the economy, he said. "I have full faith that in the coming times, the Centre will take concrete steps on it (economic slowdown). This is one situation where the country has to stand as one and repair the economy. Whatever steps the Centre will take to repair the economy, the Delhi government will give them full support. I am personally worried about the job losses," Kejriwal said on the sidelines of an event. "It is a matter of grave concern, especially for auto sector, textile, real estate and others where we are seeing slowdown is becoming deeper," he said.



These are the most tweeted hashtags of 2019 in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Internet celebrates the 12th birthday of the hashtag on Friday, Twitter unveiled the top hashtags that dominated conversations on the platform in the first half of 2019 in India.

With Tamil action drama film #Viswasam grabbing the top spot, the trend reflected the rise of regional entertainment on Twitter.

This was followed by conversations around politics and governance. Throughout the campaign period for the #LokSabhaElections2019, politicians and political parties used Twitter to communicate with people in the country and across the world, while citizens took to the platform to address their queries directly to contesting leaders.

As cricket fans from all over the world came to Twitter to talk about winning moments, shocking upsets, classic catches, and unique to this World Cup - the memes about the rain -- #CWC19 became the top third hashtag this year. Entertainment continued making trends, with the Indian Telugu-language action drama film #Maharshi grabbing the fourth spot.

With many users tweeting about updating their profile pictures, the fifth most commonly tweeted hashtag of the year was #NewProfilePic, Twitter said.

Abhinandan medically fit, begins flying again

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman has started flying the MiG 21 again after he was declared medically fit from injuries sustained while ejecting from the fighter jet that was hit by a Pakistani missile on February 27.

A senior IAF officer said that Abhinandan was declared fit following examination of injuries sustained during the incident in which he had landed across the Pakistani side of the border. His MiG 21 had been hit by a Pakistani missile leading to his emergency



evacuation. "The clearance was given to Abhinandan for flying again after he was declared medically fit. His fitness was certified by the Institute of Aerospace Medicine," a senior IAF officer told.

'Proud to have led India to success in maiden stint'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh is a proud man after having led India to success in his maiden stint as captain of the national team in the just-concluded Olympic Test event in Tokyo.

World no. 5 India rested some senior players and fielded a relatively young team for the Olympic Test event but still managed to lift the crown, defeating New Zealand 5-0 in the final on Wednesday.

"It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone involved in the team to showcase what they can do. With some experienced players rested for the tournament, we had a fairly younger squad, but it was a great chance



"Scoring is something that I have really worked on since the junior days. To be able to help the team in scoring some important goals at crucial junctures in a match is something that motivates me even further" — HARMANPREET SINGH, Drag-flicker

for the youngsters to do well and I am really pleased with the way everyone stepped up.

"The team performed well against teams like Japan, Malaysia and New Zealand, and it was an immensely proud moment for me to have led the Indian men's hockey team for the very first time," said the 23-

year-old Harmanpreet, who captained India in the absence of Manpreet Singh. India had a great start to the Olympic Test Event as they registered a 6-0 win against Malaysia in their opening match before losing to New Zealand 1-2 in their second match.

But the Indians came back

strongly in their last round-robin match to defeat hosts Japan 6-3 and secure a place in the final.

Harmanpreet scored two goals in the tournament and both his strikes came against New Zealand -- the first in the 1-2 loss in round-robin match, while the other was in the final.

"Scoring is something that I have really worked on since the junior days. To be able to help the team in scoring some important goals at crucial junctures in a match is something that motivates me even further," Harmanpreet said. "I have worked on my drag-flicking with the coaches, and finally it is showing on the field as well and I am really pleased, but I will continue to keep working."

People's mandate in favour of BJP and its alliance: Fadnavis

PNS ■ DHULE

People of Maharashtra are in favour of the BJP and its alliance, which will secure a big majority in the forthcoming Assembly polls, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expressed confidence here on Friday.

His remarks came amid questions being raised whether the BJP and its ally, Shiv Sena, will contest the polls together as both the parties have been staking claim for the chief minister's post.

Fadnavis, who arrived here as part of his 'Mahajanadesh Yatra', also took swipe at the NCP over its similar pre-election mass contact initiative called 'Shivswarajya Yatra', saying his outreach campaign had filled other parties with enthusiasm. "The people's mandate is strongly in favour of the BJP and our alliance in the country and in Maharashtra. And I



am sure, we will secure big majority out of it," Fadnavis said, without naming the Shiv Sena.

Fadnavis claimed that people feel the BJP-led government alone can fulfill their aspirations and therefore, his yatra has been receiving huge response. The chief minister alleged that Maharashtra lagged behind in terms of growth during the Congress-

NCP rule, but it found itself among the top three states in the country on the development index during his government. He also listed several measures the central and the state governments took for the welfare of the people.

Fadnavis, who came under attack from the NCP over his yatra in the context of the flood situation in Maharashtra, took a dig at the opposition party.

He said his campaign received a huge response from the people unlike the NCP's.

"I am happy that after we launched the yatra, several parties were filled with enthusiasm. They also started their yatra. My best wishes to them. It is the BJP which had started the tradition of yatra," he added.

Fadnavis said he covered 10 districts as part of the 'Mahajanadesh Yatra' before it was suspended in view of the flood situation in western Maharashtra earlier this month.

"I began the second phase from Dhule on August 22. We have fanned 43 Assembly segments till now, covering 1,165 km distance. "In the second phase, we will cover North Maharashtra, Marathwada and one Vidarbha district. The yatra will culminate in Solapur," he added.

Former PM Manmohan Singh takes oath as Rajya Sabha member

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former prime minister Manmohan Singh on Friday took oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha for his sixth term.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu administered the oath in his chamber to 86-year-old Singh.

Leader of the House Thawar Chand Gehlot, Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi were present during the oath-taking.

Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad, deputy leader of Congress in Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma, and Ahmed Patel were also present in the chairman's chamber.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his deputy



Sachin Pilot, besides some BJP leaders were also present.

"Administered oath to Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh as Rajya Sabha MP in my Chamber in Rajya Sabha today," Naidu later tweeted along with pictures of the oath-taking in which Singh's wife Gursharan Kaur was also seen.

Delhi HC to hear on Sep 3 plea against Faesal's detention

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court said on Friday it will hear on September 3 former IAS officer Shah Faesal's plea alleging he was illegally detained at Delhi airport on August 14 and taken back to Srinagar where he has been kept under house arrest.

A bench of Justices Manmohan and Sangita Dhingra Sehgal asked both sides to file their submissions before the next date and listed it for hearing on September 3.

The court declined to give an earlier date, saying the matter will take time and "it is not going to happen overnight."

"A week or 10 days will not matter," the bench said and also made it clear that it was not going to examine the issue of Faesal's travel to the US for his studies as it was not a prayer sought in the habeas corpus plea moved on his behalf.

The bench listed the matter on September 3 as Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta was not available during the first half of the day as he was arguing in the



The bench listed the matter on September 3 as Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta was not available during the first half of the day as he was arguing in the Supreme Court

Supreme Court. Faesal's lawyers, during the brief hearing, sought that his son and parents be allowed to meet him. The bench said that Faesal's wife, son and parents can meet him, but not all of them together. The central government said it will ensure that the family can meet Faesal.

The habeas corpus plea, moved on behalf of Faesal through a 'pariorkar' or next of friend -- Mohd Hussain Cader, said that he was on his way to Harvard University in the US for higher studies when he was illegally detained at the Delhi airport under the Public Safety Act

(PSA). A habeas corpus plea requires a person under arrest to be brought before a judge or a court. The plea alleges that the manner in which he was "whisked away" to Kashmir without even a transit remand amounts to "abduction".

The petition has contended that he was scheduled to travel to Boston, US, via Istanbul and Frankfurt when he was detained at Delhi airport. It said he was travelling to the US to complete his course in Masters in Public Administration when he was "illegally picked up" from the Indira Gandhi International Airport.

The former bureaucrat from Jammu and Kashmir had floated a political outfit -- J&K Peoples Movement party -- after resigning from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). Post the removal of special status to Jammu and Kashmir, provided under Article 370, Faesal had said "unprecedented" lockdown and its eight million population "incarcerated" like never before.

15 CBI officers to get HM's medal for excellence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fifteen officers of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have been chosen for the prestigious Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation for 2019, a CBI official said on Friday.

They are Bhartendar Sharma, DSP Bhopal; Peddiraju Bandi, DSP New Delhi; Chittaranjan Dash, DSP Kolkata; Puspaul Paul, DSP New Delhi; Alok Kumar Singh, DSP New Delhi; Gulshan Mohan Rathi, DSP New Delhi and Brajesh Kumar, DSP Bangalore, he said.

Others include Subhash Chander, Inspector Chandigarh; Ganesh Lingaiah, Inspector Mumbai; Santosh Kumar Singh, Inspector Bhopal; Manoj Kumar, Inspector New Delhi; Sanjay Solanki, Inspector Bhopal; Nilhil Kumar, Sub Inspector New Delhi; P Subrahmanyam, Inspector Bangalore and V Vivekananda Swamy, Inspector Hyderabad, the official said.

HC notice to Gupta on Arvind's plea in defamation case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday sought response of the state of National Capital Territory (NCT) and leader of opposition Vijender Gupta on Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's plea to quash summons in a defamation complaint against him by the BJP leader.

Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri issued notice to the state of NCT and Gupta seeking their stand on Kejriwal's plea by November 20, the next date of hearing. The court, however, declined to issue notice on Kejriwal's application seeking stay on summons issued to him by the lower court on July 8.

Kejriwal had challenged the July 8 summons by moving a revision plea which was dismissed by the lower court on July 26 which also he has challenged in the high court.

While issuing notice in the main petition, the high court said it prima facie appears that trial would be required to decide if the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief's re-tweet of



deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia's tweet was defamatory.

Kejriwal, represented by senior advocate Vikas Pahwa and advocate Arunadhri Iyer, has claimed that he has not named Gupta in his tweet or re-tweet. They also argued that no trial was required to determine if re-tweets would amount to defamation as then anyone and everyone who re-tweets a tweet would be roped in irrespective of their comment in the re-tweet.

Gupta, in his complaint, had accused Kejriwal and Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia of "maliciously" his image by allegedly accusing him on Twitter of being part of

an alleged "conspiracy" to kill the AAP chief.

The AAP convener, in his petition filed through Mohd Irsad, has claimed that he had neither mentioned Gupta in his tweet nor made any allegations against him.

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

Kejriwal, in his plea, has also 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.

US officials confirm Israeli strike in Iraq

Attack marks significant escalation in Israel's campaign against Iranian military entrenchment in Iraq

AP ■ JERUSALEM

US officials have confirmed that Israel was responsible for the bombing of an Iranian weapons depot in Iraq last month, an attack that would mark a significant escalation in Israel's years-long campaign against Iranian military entrenchment across the region.

The confirmation comes as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is strongly hinting that his country is behind recent airstrikes that have hit bases and munitions depot belonging to Iran-backed paramilitary forces operating in Iraq.

The mystery attacks have not been claimed by any side and have left Iraqi officials scrambling for a response, amid strong speculation that Israel may have been behind them.

Earlier this week, the deputy head of the Iraqi Shiite militias, known collectively as the Popular Mobilisation Forces, openly accused Israeli



drone attacks, but ultimately blamed Washington and threatened strong retaliation for any future attack.

Such attacks are potentially destabilizing for Iraq and its fragile Government, which has struggled to remain neutral amid growing tensions between the United States and Iran.

There have been at least three explosions at Iraqi Shiite militia bases in the past month. American officials now confirm Israel was responsible for at least one of them.

Two American officials

Netanyahu said: "We act in many arenas against a country that desires to annihilate us. Of course I gave the security forces a free hand and the instruction to do what is needed to thwart these plans of Iran."

On August 12, a massive explosion at the al-Saqr military base near Baghdad shook the capital, killing one civilian and wounding 28 others. The base housed a weapons depot for the Iraqi federal police and the PMF.

The most recent of the explosions came Tuesday night, at a munitions depot north of Baghdad.

There have been weeks of speculation in Israel that the army is attacking targets in Iraq.

In an interview with a Russian-language TV station on Thursday, Netanyahu indicated the speculation is true.

"I don't give Iran immunity anywhere," he said, accusing the Iranians of trying to establish bases "against us everywhere," including Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Iraq.

Asked whether that means Israel is operating in Iraq,

Netanyahu said: "We act in many arenas against a country that desires to annihilate us. Of course I gave the security forces a free hand and the instruction to do what is needed to thwart these plans of Iran."

Early Friday, the *New York Times*, citing Israeli and U.S. Officials, reported that Israel bombed an Iranian weapons depot in Iraq last month.

Homemade bomb kills Israeli, wounds two others in West Bank

AFP ■ JERUSALEM

A blast from a homemade bomb killed one Israeli and seriously wounded two of her family members in an attack near a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank on Friday, officials said.

Israeli security forces were deployed throughout the area of the attack near the settlement of Dolev, northwest of Ramallah, in a search for suspects.

Sri Lanka ends state of emergency

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka has ended the four-month-long state of emergency imposed in the country following the Easter Sunday attacks that claimed 258 lives.

Officials sources said a government gazette which should have been issued on Thursday to extend the state of emergency by a further month was not issued.

"The president did not issue the gazette to extend emergency," they said.

President Maithripala Sirisena has been extending the emergency through a gazette notification every month since the bombings on April 21.

Sri Lanka initially imposed the emergency on April 23 to crack down on the nine suicide bombers who attacked three churches and as many luxury hotels, killing 258 people and injuring 500 others.

The ISIS terror group claimed the attacks, but the government blamed the local Islamist extremist group

Over 1,000 people were arrested for their links to the NTJ, including five people who were extradited from Saudi Arabia

National Thawheed Jammath (NTJ) for the Ester Sunday bombings.

The state of emergency gives sweeping powers to the security forces to arrest and detain people in the aftermath of the attack.

Over 1,000 people were arrested for their links to the NTJ, including five people who were extradited from Saudi Arabia.

The tourism industry has been lobbying extensively to lift the state of emergency as it saw a surge in tourist cancellations.

The government initiated several high level probes to investigate the security lapses which led to the attacks despite prior intelligence warnings.

GLOBE TROTTER

'PAK MIN PUNCHED, PELTED WITH EGGS'
London: Pakistan railway minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad was punched and pelted with eggs during a visit to London, according to Pakistani media reports. The Minister, the chief of Pakistan's Awami Muslim League (AML), was accosted when he stepped out to smoke his cigar at a London awards ceremony earlier this week.

SUDAN FLOODS KILL 54 SINCE JULY: UN

Khartoum: Rain and flash floods have killed 54 people in Sudan since the start of July and affected nearly 200,000, the United Nations said on Friday. The worst affected area is White Nile state in the south but Khartoum and other regions have also been affected. "More than 37,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged," the UN said, quoting figures from the Government body it partners with in the crisis response.

22 MISSING AFTER INDONESIA FERRY FIRE

Jakarta: Nearly two dozen people are missing from the carcass of a ferry that went up in flames off Indonesia's Java island, a port official said on Friday. The boat was en route from Surabaya to Balikpapan on Borneo island with some 277 people aboard when it caught fire Thursday evening, according to the official.

17 DIE IN ROAD CRASH IN CENTRAL NIGERIA

Lagos: Seventeen people were killed when a passenger bus collided with an oncoming truck in central Nigeria, a road safety official said on Friday. The accident involving an 18-passenger Toyota bus and a truck transporting a container happened in Kwara state on Thursday.

Amazon wildfires 'acute emergency', belongs on G7 agenda: Germany

AFP ■ BERLIN

The fires raging in the Amazon rainforest amount to an "acute emergency" and Chancellor Angela Merkel believes it should be discussed by world leaders when they meet for this weekend's G7 summit, her spokesman said on Friday.

"The extent of the fires in the Amazon area is shocking and threatening and not only for Brazil and the other affected countries, but also for the whole world," Steffen Seibert told journalists in Berlin.

"When the G7 comes together this weekend, then the chancellor is convinced

that this acute emergency of the Amazon rainforest belongs on the agenda," added Seibert, saying that Merkel backs French President Emmanuel Macron's call on the G7 to address the issue at the summit in Biarritz.

Macron's bid at rallying world leaders on the issue had been immediately blasted by Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who accused the G7 summit host of having a "colonialist mentality".

Bolsonaro is facing growing criticism over his anti-environment rhetoric, which activists blame for emboldening loggers, miners and farmers in the Amazon.

Putin vows 'symmetric response' to US missile test

AFP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday he has ordered the military to prepare a "symmetric response" after Washington tested a formerly banned missile.

Putin said he had ordered an analysis of "the level of threat for our country created by the actions of the US and to take comprehensive measures to prepare a symmetric response".

The US Department of Defense said 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

Moscow and Washington ripped up the pact early this month after several months of accusing one another of breaching its conditions

medium-range weapons.

Moscow and Washington ripped up the pact early this month after several months of accusing one another of breaching its conditions.

Russia and China have both warned that Sunday's launch of the nuclear-capable Tomahawk cruise missile with a MK-41 launcher had heightened military tensions and risked sparking a new arms race.

China, Pak targeted on persecution of religious minorities at UNSC meet

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

China and Pakistan were targeted for their persecution of religious minorities, with western powers such as the US and UK calling out both nations at a UN Security Council meeting for the oppression faced by Christians, Ahmadis, Uighurs and other ethnic minorities.

The Arria-Formula Meeting of the Security Council on 'Advancing the Safety and Security of Persons Belonging to Religious

Minorities in Armed Conflict' was organised by Poland, the Council President for August, to mark the first International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief.

Addressing the meeting, US Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Samuel Brownback on Thursday said religious freedom is essential for achieving peace and stability within nations and among nations.

Malta to disembark 356 migrants en route to 6 EU countries

AP ■ MADRID

Malta said it will disembark 356 migrants aboard a humanitarian ship in the central Mediterranean Sea after six European countries agreed to accept all of them.

In a series of tweets Friday, Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said the migrants will be transferred from the Ocean Viking to vessels of the country's armed forces before taking them on shore.

WESTERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM TO e-AUCTION SALE PROGRAM
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Please refer to this office e-Auction Sale Notification No. S438/e-Auction 2019-20 Dt. 20/08/2019. Kindly issue corrigendum to above mentioned E-auction programme as follows:-

Depot	From Existing Depot Officer In Charge	To Depot Officer In Charge	From Existing Contact No.	To Contact No.
Vadodara	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Mahataxmi	Sr.Divl. Material Manager-Vadodara	022-2492571/09004495750	022-22641592/09724091750
Rajkot	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Dahod	Sr.Divl. Material Manager-Rajkot	02673241295/09724094550	022-22476943/09724094770
Bhavnagar	Sr.Divl. Material Manager-Rajkot	Sr.Divl. Material Manager-Bhavnagar	022-22476943/09724097750	022-22444360/09724097750

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

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EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Open Domestic Tender)
E-Tender Notice for Online Bidding only

'E-Tender with E price Bid' is invited by the General Manager (MM)/HOD, ECL. Brief detail is as under:
Tender No. & Date: ECL/Hq/Pur/O/51913042/NUT/044 Date: 19.08.2019 Name of Work: "Domestic open e-tender for procurement of Hexagonal Bright Nut M20 Long Series for use in 20mm Roof Bolt & Long Series Hexagonal Bright Nut BSW 3/4".

Note: The tendered item is reserved for procurement exclusively from Micro and Small Enterprises as per Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) Order, 2012 under MSME Act, 2006. Hence, only Micro and Small Enterprises are allowed to participate in this tender.

Document download start date: 28.08.2019 11.00 hrs IST. Document download end date: 19.09.2019 at 11.00 hrs IST. Tender Opening Date & Time: 21.09.2019 11.00 hrs IST. Estimated Tender value: Rs 1,29,84,720.00

In order to view the detail of the Notice Inviting Tender/Tender Documents, Download the same and Participate in the tender online, please visit NIC portal website <https://coalindiattenders.gov.in>

For queries if any, bidders may contact -
Mr. P.E. Arun Kumar, Chief Manager (MM), Ph-9434795194
Mr. S. Raut, Assistant Manager (MM), Ph-9434795367
General Manager (MM)/HOD

VISIT US AT www.easterncoal.nic.in

UNITED LEASING & INDUSTRIES LTD.
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CIN : L17100HR1983PLC033460, Phone:011-26258237, 26253522
email. Id: investorrelations@uliltd.com, website : uliltd.com.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to SEBI Circular SEBI/HO/MIRSD/DOS3/CIR/P/2018/139 dated 6th November 2018, the Company has received requests from the following transferee(s) to transfer the below mentioned securities held in the name(s) of the security holder(s) mentioned there against as detailed below, to his/her/their name(s). These securities were claimed to have been purchased by him / her / them and could not be transferred in his/her/their favour.

Folio No.	Name(s) of the Holder(s)/Transferor	Security Type and Face Value	Number of Securities	Distinctive Nos. From - To	Name(s) of the Transferee(s)
0014003	REETU GUPTA MAHENDRA KUMAR GUPTA	Equity 10/-	20	1596021-1596040	MANISH SHAH
0014006	CHAMANLAL PAWAR MAHENDRA KUMAR PAWAR	Equity 10/-	20	1651906-1651925	MANISH SHAH
0014004	SURBHI GUPTA MAHENDRA KUMAR GUPTA	Equity 10/-	20	2245461-2245480	MANISH SHAH

Any person who has a claim in respect of the above mentioned securities, should lodge such claim with the Company at its Registered Office within 30 days from this date along with appropriate documentary evidence thereof in support of such claim, else the Company will proceed to transfer the securities in favour of the above proposed Transferee(s), without any further intimation.

For United Leasing & Industries Ltd.
Sd/-
Chandni Anora
Company Secretary

Place: New Delhi
Date: 22/08/2019

Japan leader says S Korea ending intel deal damages trust

Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said South Korea's decision to cancel a deal to share military intelligence, mainly on North Korea, is damaging mutual trust and vowed Friday to work closely with the US for regional peace.

Abe also accused South Korea of not keeping past promises. The intelligence agreement started in 2016.

"We will continue to closely coordinate with the US to ensure regional peace and prosperity, as well as Japan's security," he said ahead of his departure for the Group of Seven summit.

South Korea announced Thursday it would terminate the intelligence deal because Tokyo's decision to downgrade South Korea's preferential trade status had caused a "grave" change in the security cooperation between the countries. AP

Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board
Office Of The Executive Engineer C-3
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
2nd Floor, Circle Office Bldg., Road No. -28, Shivaji Place, Raja Garden, New Delhi 110027.
E-Mail I.D : eec3.dusib@gmail.com
Tel. No. : +91-11-25417491

No:- WG/4840/25/EE-C-3/Acctt.Br./2019-20/D- 574 Date: 19-08-19

The Executive Engineer -C-3 (DUSIB) Govt. of N.C.T. Delhi invites on behalf of DUSIB online Percentage rate bid on two bid system for following work.

NIT No. 37 /EE C-3/DUSIB/2019-20 (PID No. 11254) Tender I.D 2019_DUSIB_178301_1, NAME OF WORK:- Built Up Facilities.SH:- ARMO and special Repair works and development works with rain water harvesting works for the community hall at L Block Mangolpuri. Estimated cost: Rs. 30,01,595/- Earnest Money (In Rs.) 60,100, Tender Cost (In Rs.) 500.00, Time allowed 60days. Date & time for down load/ upload of entire Tender document w.e.f 23.08.2019 by 17:00 to 03.09.2019 upto 15:00 Hrs. through E-Procurement System.

NIT No. 38 /EE C-3/DUSIB/2019-20 (PID No.9713) Tender I.D 2019_DUSIB_178341_1, Name of Work:- Improvement of SC/ST Basties SH:- Improvement of the lanes in Balmiki Basti at village Peeragarhi. Estimated cost: Rs. 36,10,565/- Earnest Money (In Rs.) 72,300/-, Tender Cost (In Rs.) 500.00, Time allowed 90days. Date & time for down load/ upload of entire Tender document w.e.f 23.08.2019 by 17:00 to 03.09.2019 upto 15:00 Hrs. through E-Procurement System.

NIT No. 39/EE C-3/DUSIB/2019-20 (PID No.9753) Tender I.D 2019_DUSIB_178342_1, NAME OF WORK:- Improvement of SC/ST,GOVT. OF NCT DELHI; SUB HEAD :- Construction of Community Hall Single storey (SPS) at block C-4, Sultanpuri. Estimated cost: Rs. 76,14,626/- Earnest Money (In Rs.) 1,52,500/-, Tender Cost(In Rs.) 1000.00, Time allowed 300days. Date & time for down load/ upload of entire Tender document w.e.f 23.08.2019 by 17:00 to 03.09.2019 upto 15:00 Hrs. through E- Procurement System.

SD/-
Executive Engineer C-3 (DUSIB)

WESTERN RAILWAY
BULK ADVERTISING RIGHTS AT VARIOUS STATIONS

1. Executive : Sr. DCM, e-Tender Notice No. CA11-NFROOH-NIG-BSR-VR-15 dated 19.08.2019. Work and location: Bulk advertising rights at circulating area of or at Naigaon, Vasai Road and Virar stations for display of advertisements by dismantling & replacing the existing hoarding structures with new structure or by modifying, repairing, strengthening & painting of existing structures as well as erection & display of new hoarding structures, for a period of five years. First Year Reserve Price: ₹46,31,636/-(excluding taxes etc). Approx. cost of work: ₹2,46,22,031/-(excluding taxes etc). EMD: ₹4,52,500/-.

Date & Time of closing of online submission: Upto 15.00 hrs. on 11.09.2019. Date & Time of opening of e-tender: At 15.30 hrs. on 11.09.2019.

2. Executive : Sr. DCM, e-Tender Notice No. CA11-NFROOH-BAROB-I-19-16 dated 21.08.2019. Work and location: Bulk advertising rights at Bandra ROB-North Location (Group-I) for display of advertisements by dismantling existing hoarding structures & replacing with erection of new hoarding structure of size 120' x 40' (3).e. Triple Decker facing west, for a period of five years. First Year Reserve Price: ₹8,94,18,240/-(excluding taxes etc). Approx. cost of work: ₹47,53,52,264/-(excluding taxes etc). EMD: ₹95,07,100/-.

Date & Time of closing of online submission: Upto 15.00 hrs. on 16.09.2019. Date & time of opening of e-tender: At 15.30 hrs. on 16.09.2019. Note: Please visit our website www.irapp.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details. Cost of tender and EMD shall be accepted only through online not banking or E-payment gateway. Bidder should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

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PRESS E-TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. VII, Irrigation & Flood Control Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector- 15, Rohini, Delhi invites online item rate E- tenders on behalf of the President of India from approved and eligible contractors of I&FC Deptt. The contractors who are registered with other Departments but granted provisional permission by the Chief Engineer (I&FC) are also eligible for participation of e-tendering for the following works:-

Sr. No	NIT No.	Name of Work	Head of Account	Estimate Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed
1.	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/42	Repair of Badshahi Road from Khera Kalan Industrial Plot to Play Ground at village Khera Kalan in Distt. North.	4515 Capital DVDB	23,01,682/-	46,034/-	02 Months
2.	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/43	Improvement of street and side drain of Gali No. 7 (Badd Wala Chowk) at village Samaypur in Badli A.C.	4515 Capital DVDB	19,30,964/-	38,619/-	03 Months
3.	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/44	Construction of road and side drain for approach of Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Siraspur to Main road at village Siraspur in Badli A.C.	4515 Capital DVDB	20,59,933/-	41,199/-	03 Months
4.	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/45	Strengthening of inspection road including construction of inner side wheel guard on Left Bank of Bawana Escape drain between RD 4165 M to RD 4730 M.	4711 Capital	1,10,05,407/-	2,20,108/-	12 Months

- The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case, the last date of opening of tender is extended, the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.
- Earnest money in physical form and self attested copy of Registration of enlistment & other documents (eg. ESI & EPF registration, copy of PAN card, Copy of GST documents) should be submitted in the Office of Executive Engineer, Civil Division-VII, I&FC Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110085 upto 3.00 PM on the last date of submission of technical bids for obtaining the deposition slip for uploading.
- The details of above mentioned work(s) can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
- The agencies who do not fulfill eligibility criteria/ do not submit required documents upto the stipulated time, their tenders shall be rejected summarily at technical bid stage.
- Tenders submitted through e-procurement portal shall only be considered and no manual tender shall be accepted.
- Intending tenders participating in tendering process in EE CD-VII, I&FC shall furnish ESI & EPF registration along with other required documents and the same shall be uploaded while bidding. Moreover the ESI & EPF registration documents of all contractors shall be kept on records and ESI & EPF registration documents of lowest tenderer to whom the work awarded shall form the part of the agreement.(I&FC department office order No.1417-48 dated 29.01.2016).

DIP/Shabdarth/0565/19-20 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CD-VII)

The new Dalit identity

Protests over Sant Ravidas's shrine show that SC/STs are becoming equally aggressive about identity politics



The political import of the thousands of Dalits marching in Delhi to save the shrine of their saint Ravidas is not just about claiming rights and space in a Brahminical order or the appropriation of land as evidenced by the parks of their supreme leader Mayawati. It is about equality and comparative weighing of scales, another form of minority assertion in the face of brute majoritarianism, a question mark on different approaches to the similarity of contexts, and another manifestation of identity politics.

Besides, Sant Ravidas embodies a socio-cultural idea of India that undercuts the monolithic imposition of today. Born in the 15th century in Varanasi to leather makers, he denounced the Hindu Brahminical order, challenged deity worship and worked for an egalitarian society against a Hindu Rashtra, becoming the one voice of the marginalised. And such was the power of his messages that many of his disciples even found mention in the Guru Granth Sahib of the Sikhs. None can miss the impactful swathe of this man from Varanasi, unmistakably a prime political constituency today. Nor can the appropriation of the "mandir wahin banayenge" slogan be missed as an equal claimant as the Ram temple in Ayodhya. For starters, both have historicity of belief. Lord Rama was believed to be born in Ayodhya, Guru Ravidas was believed to have visited the Chamarwala Johar in Tughlaqabad 500 years ago. Like Ayodhya, this memorial site is disputed with facts of 1950 differing from facts of 1963, the latter being accepted by the court as encroachment and, therefore, a ground for demolition. Like Ayodhya, status quo has been continuing for years with no party, and even the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), carrying out any demolition on the ground. Like Ayodhya, protesters do not want the memorial shifted as a reconciliatory move and want it on hallowed ground, asking whether Ram temple activists would agree to a commensurate shift in venue? Besides, Dalit activists argue, the construction of Tughlaqabad Ravidas temple is not on the road or creating any obstruction to the general masses. In fact, it can even be part of the Centre's forest project and, without any other pressing logic, seems just another harassment ploy by the mainstream Right. The latest demolition follows two others by the DDA, one of Buddha Vihar at Devli Hill, and the other at Bhagwan Valmiki Mandir in Seemapuri. Which is why the Tughlaqabad incident has snowballed as a politico-cultural movement, linking both Ravidas and Babasaheb Ambedkar.

The latest round of protests also reflects the growing counter-muscularity in the Dalit leadership, being led from the front by Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad. His agitationist politics is finding resonance given the waning political influence of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati, who, while arguing for the restoration of the temple, disagreed with the violence associated with it as diluting the key plank. Of course, Behenji still believes Azad to be a foisted creation of the BJP's ideological parent, the RSS, and there are still a lot of theories as to whether Guru Ravidas followers are being coopted into the Hindutva sub-culture. But considering Azad's traction among the youth across north India and a combined Dalit iconisation of all leaders, it is a constituency strong enough to negotiate with anybody, not only, as alleged by Mayawati many times, the BJP. Azad may have been deployed as a vote-cutter initially but now has a solid consolidation of Dalit youth, who are countering majoritarian celebrations by scaling up celebrations of Guru Ravidas, Valmiki, Dr Ambedkar, a signal that they do not want to be subsumed or Sankritised in their thinking. Now that the Bhim Army has started working nationwide, Dalit youth are being motivated to assert and not deny their ancestry. This is important given that the young Dalit vote could be a change-maker in the forthcoming Assembly elections. Only this week, Azad launched the Bhim Army Students Federation (BASF) and said he wanted students of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC) and religious minorities to be aware of both their rights and duties. Clearly, he is creating a new swell in the existing discourse.

Fire in the jungle

As a nation that will suffer the impact of global warming and climate change, India, too, must raise concerns



Smoke from the fires raging across the Amazon rainforest has blanketed several Brazilian cities, including Sao Paulo, in a choking haze — a sight familiar to residents of several north Indian cities. Thankfully, because Brazil is half a world away, the chances of the clouds of smoke, from what some are claiming to be the largest wildfire in recorded history, reaching Indian skies is remote. But that does not mean that India will not suffer the impact of these horrendous fires which have been allowed to continue for days, possibly due to acts of omission by the Brazilian Government, elements of whom want to open up the rainforest land to agriculture and pasture.

The Amazon Rainforest is called the "lung of the world" and while this is technically not true — biologists have learned that planktons, marine and freshwater organisms are the biggest oxygen generators — it does soak up large amounts of carbon. More importantly, it is home to the greatest diversity of plant, animal and fish life on the planet. Within those organisms might lie the cure for all sorts of diseases or amazing new materials unknown to mankind. These organisms will be wiped clean off the face of the planet without even being discovered. This should be a matter of global concern and Governments across the world should speak up about the tremendous destruction of nature. It is heartening to see that French President Emmanuel Macron has stood up and spoken about the wildfires and how they must be tackled. It would be good if Narendra Modi does the same. While political and economic decisions are the prerogative of national Governments, the state of the environment is a global issue since damage to it impacts all of mankind. At a time when Governments, from Brazil to India and the US, have all moved into a kind of hyper-nationalistic realm and bristle at any "intervention", the realisation has to come that the world must collaborate on these things — from the Amazon wildfires to the disappearing Himalayan glaciers and the tonnes of plastic in the sea — because when the cataclysm comes, it will be devastating for our species. And unless we figure out a way to reach interstellar space and propagate our species to other worlds, we run the risk of going extinct. The time for action is now because climate change is real.

For the sake of democracy

Decades after the Indian republic was founded, citizens today are worried about the increasing erosion of credibility of elected representatives who continue enjoying legislative privileges



JS RAJPUT

In a democracy, citizens enjoy the privilege of casting their vote to elect representatives. In India, we elect leaders right from the panchayat level to the Parliament. The right to vote is prized and all of us are taught about it in our schools and universities. We are also reminded about this by politicians of all hues before every election. It is also a well-established fact that the Indian voter is far more mature now and knows about the "power" of his/her vote. This was proved beyond any doubt to one and all — nationally and internationally — in 1977 when the citizens unseated Indira Gandhi from her traditional family fiefdom in Uttar Pradesh and simultaneously threw her out of power at the national level by decimating her political party. A very interesting interlude followed her defeat. People had high hopes from the next Government as it was supposed to work under the astute guidance of Jayaprakash Narayan. Those, who inherited power, could not manage the Government. They were assessed unfit by the people and Indira Gandhi was brought back to power within three years. People not only pardoned her but also taught a lesson to those who could not rise above petty personal feuds as they had not "learned to live and work together." All this, experts say, is the essence of democracy.

Democracy shines when a humble person, setting aside all his/her woes, concerns and stress of providing the next meal, enters the polling booth and puts his/her finger on the EVM button. Who can read or visualise what clouds their minds in the shape of a better tomorrow for him/her, the family and for the little world that deserves outside support on many counts. The voter is still far from the promises made in the Constitution of India. One more election opportunity and expectations soar again. The Indian voter has also witnessed how elected representatives have often let them down on several counts. Most of them vanish for five years, take more interest in their own welfare than that of the electorate, show little concern and connectivity to their electors, give no dignity to them and after five years, return with folded hands, pleading for "one more chance." But if one weighs the performance of elected representatives on Gandhian expectations, one would mostly be disappointed.

Winston Churchill never expected that India could manage its independence. He was convinced that Indians were unfit to govern themselves and, hence, the British had to stay on to look after them. It was not easy for him or those of his ilk to see beyond the cobwebs of the much-publicised altruistic perception that the British essentially travelled to India to "salvage the souls of the savages." One could claim with a sense of pride and achievement that whether Churchill liked it or not, India has established its credentials in "how to make its democracy operational in its minutest nuances." We could do it as it was not new to democratic practices of governance.

The Ganrajyas of Licchavi and Vaishali are well-known historical instances. Even at that time, education for preparing young ones



with a focus on "lot learn to live together" began in joint families that accommodated four generations under one roof. It was also a ground to teaching them to respect different viewpoints and accommodate the likes and dislikes of everyone. Respect for diversity and the realisation how essential it was, were inherent in the Indian tradition. Indian culture prepares its children for a duty-bound society that respects relationships within the family and beyond.

It will be worthwhile to remember what Churchill said: "Democracy is the worst form of Government, except for all others," which invites learned and informed deliberations even now. He viewed democratic politics not only as an "insurance" for future, against external dangers, but also against threats "scarcely less grave and much more near and constant" that threaten us all. India, like every other functional and dynamic democracy, must remain conscious of the dangers to its democracy that are emerging within the system from the very functionaries that are entrusted with the task of sustaining and strengthening democratic values.

We are all aware how traditional democratic values have confronted difficult situations in the era of globalisation and commercialisation. They stand overshadowed by emerging materialist values. On several occasions, elected representa-

tives, including those holding positions of greater political power, find it difficult to maintain the right balance between Indian perception of democratic public life and the lure of power and pelf — glamour and glitz in a globalised free-market world.

The chinks emerging in the Indian democracy are not unexpected. Mahatma Gandhi could envision in April 24, 1922, that "As we become independent, all the defects of the system of elections, injustice, the tyranny of the richer classes as also the burden of running administration, are bound to come upon us. People would begin to feel that during those days, there was more justice, better administration and peace and there was honesty to a great extent among the administrators compared to the days after Independence."

When I came across this part of Gandhian writing some four decades ago, my simplistic query to eminent Gandhian personalities was: How could Gandhiji cultivate such serious apprehensions about elections when we had no such experience in India? They were kind enough to enlighten me that Gandhiji had studied the British election system in-depth and could visualise what impact the taste of power produces on the majority of elected representatives.

Having elected 17 Parliaments and innumerable State Assemblies, district and panchayat level bodies, the Indian

voter has seen it all. They are worried and are struggling with the increasing erosion of credibility of elected representatives, who unfortunately — exceptions apart — could not live up to expectations. They have seen how representatives coming from humble backgrounds become billionaires. They know for sure that their Minister, Chief Minister or Deputy Chief Minister could spend anywhere from ₹5 crore to ₹50 crore to refurbish their official bungalows. Former Chief Ministers are given huge bungalows for life with support staff. When the High Court ruled against this practice, the Madhya Pradesh Government found a new way to bypass the court's orders. Using discretionary quota, it reallocated the same houses. Such instances could be aplenty.

The youth of today may find it difficult to believe that the members of the Constituent Assembly did not get any salary, let alone pension. They got an allowance of ₹45 per day for the days of sitting. And they were the ones who got it reduced to ₹40 per day in consideration of the tough economic condition of the country. An eminent expert on the nuances of parliamentary democracy and an internationally acknowledged scholar and author of *Our Constitution*, Subhash Kashyap brilliantly analysed the "rise" of the Indian parliamentarian at the national level in his latest outstanding

treatise, *State of the Nation: Democracy Governance and Parliament*. Members of the Constituent Assembly were mostly freedom fighters and men and women known throughout the length and breadth of the country for the sacrifices they made. They worked tirelessly to give India its Constitution. They gave themselves a sitting allowance of ₹40 per day. Contrast this with their successors. The salaries and allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, fixed a salary of ₹400 per month for an MP and a daily allowance of ₹21.

After this, there have been 29 upward revisions to the Act. There were members, whose conscience was pricked but their viewpoint was overlooked by the majority. Nanaji Deshmukh was one such exception. He raised this issue in 2004 and pointed out that "salaries and allowances of members had gone up 90 times during the first 50 years". But his words made no impact. These upward revisions invariably got a full-throated fast-track approval from the MPs. Kashyap describes the position in its totality: "At a time when the salary of a member was only ₹12,000 per month, Nanaji had estimated that the direct monthly expenditure on an MP was at least ₹3 lakh per month. Himself an MP, he knew first hand. On that basis, the present monthly cost of an MP must work out close to ₹10 or ₹15 lakh per month or more, which could be few hundred times the per capita income of an Indian."

Whenever issues related to MPs or State legislatures come up during discussions, I am invariably reminded of the Gandhian vision that defects of elections would weigh heavily on our people. The resilience of electors in democracy may have its upper limits. It is public knowledge that each candidate is supposed to submit a detailed statement of the expenditure incurred during election campaigns. They also know that it should always be within the limits prescribed by the Election Commission of India.

Every Indian voter would be willing to say "every one spends much more than what they claim to have spent", exceptions apart. Is this situation acceptable? May be, someday, some young elected representative will launch a campaign against this routine practice and be hailed as a "hero" striving to restore democratic values. This could be done by some young person, who remains honest, humble and humane as the representative of people.

(The writer is the Indian Representative on the Executive Board of UNESCO)

SOUNDBITE

Indicators suggesting economic slowdown are a cause for worry but rather than the mocking tweets wouldn't it be wiser to suggest ideas?



Shiv Sena deputy leader —Priyanka Chaturvedi

Artists are usually emotional and we tend to react immediately. I have learnt not to react soon and that it is essential to listen and understand the other side.



Actor-comedian —Kapil Sharma

India and Pakistan should resolve the Kashmir issue bilaterally and no third party should interfere or incite violence in the region.



French President —Emmanuel Macron

In our country there are four pillars — democratic institutions, election commission, media and judiciary. We are very much missing democracy.



West Bengal Chief Minister —Mamata Banerjee

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chidambaram's arrest

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Chidambaram in a spot" (August 22). Hitherto, hardened criminals were known only to play a cat-and-mouse game with the law enforcement agencies. Now, a leading politician, who not long ago was India's Home Minister, P Chidambaram, was allegedly running away from the law. But the spectacle surrounding him finally climaxed with his arrest by sleuths who hopped over his plush bungalow's walls to get to him.

Meanwhile, it is ironical that Chidambaram used to taunt the Government how the likes of Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi managed to evade the authorities and flee abroad. Now, it is the Government's turn to ask him how he could manage to send the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on a wild goose chase.

While politicians are known to have gotten away with murder given their ability to "influence" witnesses, the case against Chidambaram appears to be relatively watertight. A key accused

The rule of law must prevail

This refers to the editorial, "Chidambaram in a spot" (August 22). The sequence of events leading up to Congress leader P Chidambaram's arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and his incarceration in the investigative agency's headquarters had all the ingredients of a riveting drama. The sight of officials from the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) scaling the boundary wall to gain entry into Chidambaram's house, displaying alacrity and eagerness to please their political masters, was worthy of a movie scene.

It won't be an exaggeration to say that political vendetta is writ large on the exertions made to frame and fix Chidambaram, humiliate and hound him out of the political realm. What stands exposed is that the law does not take its own course but one that the Government of the day wishes. Fighting corruption selectively and episodically has become a weapon to pin down and 'punish' political opponents. The denial of pre-arrest bail by the Delhi High Court, diverging from the norm, and the Supreme Court's refusal to give



an urgent listing to Chidambaram's petition seeking protection from arrest have inevitably made the citizens feel that the Indian judiciary is not keen to ensure that they don't have to suffer a loss of liberty. Everyone should be entitled to the presumption of innocence until they are proven guilty.

G David Milton Maruthancode

Let the court decide

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Chidambaram in a spot" (August 22). The spectacle, where officials from the CBI and ED arrested former Finance Minister P Chidambaram from his residence, has raised serious questions about the conduct of

the investigative agencies. Officials scaled the walls of his Jorbagh residence to arrest him. In a defiant mode, Chidambaram, who is accused of money laundering and receiving kickbacks in the INX Media case, put up a strong defence of himself and his family members, saying none of them have been accused of any offence by the

probe agencies. Perhaps, it's best to leave the matter to the courts. No person, even if he/she has held or is holding a high office, is above the law. The investigative agencies as well as the courts must now follow due processes and ensure transparency in the case.

TK Nandanam Chennai

Stop interfering

Sir — It is surprising that despite India having made it amply clear that no third party intervention is needed as far as resolving the Kashmir issue is concerned, US President Donald Trump has again offered assistance. He may have the requisite skills to convert a business deal but when it comes to resolving intractable issues between sovereign countries, it's a different matter altogether. His negotiations with Kim Jong-un is an example. They have yielded no results.

Manisha Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

RSS roots for reservation

More inclusive than most, the RSS has always been supportive of reservation and there has been no incoherence in its thinking on the issue



SANJAY PASWAN

The RSS has always been supportive of reservation and there has been no incoherence in its thinking on the issue. There's always an anxious attempt by a section of the media and the intelligentsia to manipulate the outlook of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on reservation. In my long-standing association with its political wing, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), I have witnessed no incoherence in the thinking of the RSS on reservation policies. On the contrary, time and again, there have been assertions in favor of policies that give preferential treatment to marginalised sections in state-sponsored education and government jobs, among other things. In one of his Independence Day speeches from the ramparts of the Red Fort, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that the quota system is a form of historical compensation and shall continue until its purpose is served.

The RSS and its affiliated organisations have consistently worked for inclusion through representation of marginalised sections at meaningful places. Be it university policy-making or national politics, the RSS has established a semblance of social diversity at top positions through the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the BJP and a plethora of other organisations. It must be noted that both have the rare distinction of being the world's largest organisations.

While, the ABVP remains one of the oldest student-led organisations and largest in terms of membership and footprint, globally, the BJP, with more than 11 crore members that are increasing daily, will remain the world's largest political party for the foreseeable future. It is impossible to achieve this feat right from universities to the Parliament with a myopic social vision. Hence, there is a robust modus operandi at an institutional level that ensures equitable representation of diverse social groups.

Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, another affiliate organisation of the RSS has made deep inroads in tribal areas and has successfully created sustainable educational opportunities for tribal children. This is a silent revolution being heralded not in Delhi's posh Khan Market area but right from the jungles of Gumla and Simdega in Jharkhand to Malkangiri in Odisha.

There's much brouhaha over the appointment of D Raja as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI). The commentariat is determined to present this as a watershed moment in the history of Dalit representation in national politics. It might be a remarkable event in the history of the leadership of the CPI as majority of the general secretaries of the party have been Brahmins, as was rightly observed by a senior journalist Kurban Ali in an opinion piece published in the *Prabhat Khabar*.

In contrast, the late Bangaru Laxman holds the unique distinction of being the first Dalit to lead a national political party and the BJP is extremely proud of this significant fact as it took the party just 20 years to do what the so-called liberal and socially progressive CPI took more than nine decades to achieve. Much before the appointment of Meira Kumar, the late GMC Balayogi was the first Dalit to hold the esteemed Chair of the Lok Sabha Speaker in the BJP-led NDA government.

The social justice movement is at the crossroads today. The BJP is motivated by genuine impulse not illusion of inclusion that was created by the previous dispensations. It was the Narendra Modi-led Government at the Centre that gave a constitutional sanction to the National Commission for Backward Classes through the Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill. Our purpose is firm in symbiosis and not symbolism. From Stand Up India to the Mudra Yojana, there is an everlasting commitment to make Dalits, OBC's and tribal communities partners and stakeholders in India's growth story.

Reservation, envisioned as a way to uplift people on the fringes has undoubtedly served its purpose. Dalits, socially marginalised groups and tribal communities now are satisfactorily represented and empowered to voice the concerns of their community. However, a lot remains to be done. There is still a glaring lack of social diversity in the judicial process, mass-media, civil society and industry.

I speak as a Dalit rights activist that no one family should be entitled to corner the benefits of reservation and accumulate wealth and political clout. At the provincial level, there have been policy experiments of bifurcating and trifurcating marginalised sections right from Andhra Pradesh to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh recently. The fruits of reservation must reach those at the bottom of the social pyramid. Conversations on reservation have already started within the community and no action on reservation will be initiated unilaterally by the Centre without consultations with stakeholders.

(The writer is a former Central Minister, Member of Legislative Council, Bihar and Professor at Patna University.)

THE FIGHT WAS BETWEEN HIM (SIDDARAMAIAH) AND HD KUMARASWAMY. IT BECAME DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO SEE KUMARASWAMY AS THE CHIEF MINISTER.

— JD(S) SUPREMO HD DEVE GOWDA

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



MR DEVE GOWDA IS AN EXPERT IN PULLING DOWN GOVERNMENTS. HISTORY IS OPEN FOR ALL TO SEE. IT IS HIS BIRTH TRAIT.

— CONGRESS LEADER SIDDARAMAIAH

Enforced altruism

CSR is more socially relevant when it is driven by welfare motives rather than being a mandated policy commanding philanthropy



MOIN QAZI

When we flip through the world's business history, we find that all large mercantile communities were great patrons of the art of philanthropy. They regarded it a divine tradition. The world today is witnessing a growing realisation in enterprises of the importance of altruism. Hence, a great deal of money has been flowing into the social sector. Like individual citizens who have moral and social responsibilities, businesses are being perceived as corporate citizens who need to commit time, talent and resources for welfare of society as they draw their sustenance from it. This idea has now been corporatised under the appellation, Corporate Social Responsibility, better known as CSR.

A social responsibility: CSR is a concept whereby firms integrate social and environmental concerns into their business operations and is generally understood to be a tool for achieving a balance between economic, environmental and social imperatives, while addressing expectations of shareholders and stakeholders. In the global economy, stakeholders include customers, suppliers, employees, communities, and financiers — shareholders, bondholders plus banks and other sources of capital — and they are all intertwined.

CSR is a very broad concept that aims at managing a business in a way that it contributes towards sustainable development by delivering social, economic and environmental benefits to all stakeholders. It addresses issues like human rights, corporate governance, health and safety, environmental effects, working conditions and contribution to economic development. Whatever the definition is, the purpose of CSR is to drive change towards sustainability.

We are seeing the emergence of a new crop of mega donors who are upending long-established norms in philanthropy. Not only are they increasingly willing to take on hot-button social and political issues, they also have a problem-solving and impact-making mindset. CSR is now being recognised as a critical component to an organisation's values, its operating ethos, its business strategies and its purpose. Businesses are being measured on financial and social metrics.

CSR is often used interchangeably for Corporate Citizenship and is also linked to the concept of Triple Bottom Line Reporting (financial, social and environmental), which is used as a framework for measuring an organisation's performance against economic, social and environmental parameters. In essence, CSR is about building sustainable businesses, which need healthy economies, markets and communities.

Over the years there have been many voices within the business community who believe that companies must break out of conventional preoccupation with profit and do more to address the world's pressing social needs. The chorus has been joined by leaders from civil society, governments, policy think tanks and world bodies on education, health and rehabilitation. Business leadership has acknowledged the demand for enlarged corporate responsibility in ways which can reflect a profound attitudinal change individually and collectively.

It is now widely acknowledged that CSR



should be a critical component to an organisation's operating ethos, its values, and its purpose. CSR existed earlier also, however, well-meaning but inappropriate programmes were foisted on communities without any dialogue. That was replaced by the writing of blank cheques to favoured groups, often without an accompanying structure. Today, however, enlightened companies engage in extensive dialogue and planning and are forming partnerships with governments, NGOs and communities to push a wider and deeper agenda.

For a long time, the general sentiment was that for businesses, earning a profit should take precedence over ideals like acting responsibly and ethically. Even today, many companies are paying just lip service.

A legal mandate: India is the first country to mandate that firms expend at least 2 per cent of their net profits on special development projects. Its unique law, Corporate Social Responsibility Rules in the Companies Act, 2013, came into effect on April 1, 2014.

However, there is a crucial difference between the way CSR is implemented in the West and in India. A generally accepted gold standard for CSR in the Western world is that it must be closely integrated with a firm's business strategy so that the programmes create a shared value for the company's shareholders. In India, this linkage is explicitly prohibited for CSR; the focus is restricted solely to contribution towards societal welfare.

Experience the world over shows that CSR is more socially relevant when it is driven by altruistic motives rather than being a mandated policy commanding philanthropy. It is very difficult to legislate since moral obligations have to be inculcated, not legislated. Laws can set the minimum standards, but they cannot create an environment or ambience for a philanthropic mindset. This is why we see marked aberrations in the CSR agenda of most corporations. Many businesses harbour a variety of secondary aims

and often use CSR for boosting their social profile and business markets. Such lack of well-intentioned commitment has been detrimental to this noble philosophy.

Companies are trying to dress up CSR as a business discipline and expecting that every initiative deliver business results. That is asking too much of CSR and distracts from what must be its main goal: to align a company's social and environmental activities with its business purpose and values. If in doing so, CSR activities enhance reputation, mitigate risks and contribute to business results, it is acceptable. But for many CSR programmes, those outcomes are becoming a spillover, not their reason for being.

Challenges for socially responsible companies: It is true that since there are so many causes competing for attention, it may not be possible for organisations to have a universally inclusive mission. Studies suggest that charity leaders have a geographic bias with corporations homing in on projects closer to their headquarters. Consequently, more remote regions where development aid is acutely needed are being ignored. Politics can also skew priorities, with companies looking to gain political goodwill by funding government-led projects rather than initiating more socially relevant initiatives which are thirsty for funds.

Even as annual CSR expenditure is on the rise, the impact on the ground remains a matter of debate. CSR has usually been peripheral in most organisations and it is not woven into the texture of business. Further, it is not always necessarily transparent or mission-oriented. It may be used for enhancing the brand reputation or to provide a cover of moral counterbalance for brushing off a besmirched public image or for camouflaging dark acts. There is always a creative tension between social mission and business goals.

Moreover, a significant amount of any CSR expenditure comes with strings attached. There are terms that dictate exactly where and how

funds must be used. While this may be appropriate in some cases, it reflects a serious lack of trust in the non-profit entities and hinders their ability to operate effectively. When donors insist that their money should go exclusively to the people served, there is not enough money left for the non-profit entities to focus on building their own organisations. They are, therefore, unable to invest in talent, technology, systems, or reporting. Reporting requirements are often an onerous administrative burden on these small organisations which have to devote their scarce skills to educated, English-speaking personnel for writing reports for the donors rather than running the programmes.

These development agents are the right conduits for reaching the deeper backwaters which have tougher geographical terrains and are centres of social schisms and extremist ideologies. In such regions donors also need to go beyond the sacred *trimurti*—sustainability, replicability and scalability—which should be restricted to mainland organisations. Too much insistence on technicalities leaves genuine development work out of the CSR net. A worm's eye view is as critical as a bird's eye view to ensure that projects deliver visible and lasting outcomes and leave a larger and lasting imprint.

A more important aspect of CSR that needs greater attention is the need for embedding CSR values in employees. It is only when employees align their social philosophy with that of their employers that the real benefits of CSR can materialize. A sincerely and honestly practiced charity always delivers rich dividends in the long run. That is the lesson we learn from both philosophers and business leaders. It is wise to remind ourselves again of the advice of Henry Ford, "A business absolutely devoted to service will have only one worry about profits. They will be embarrassingly large."

(The writer is Member, NITI Aayog's National Committee on Financial Literacy and Inclusion for Women)

AI will transform digital marketing

As digital marketing becomes increasingly important for businesses, we need to start thinking beyond conventional techniques. With the ability to collect, analyse and learn from data, AI has the potential to transform digital strategy

potential to transform your digital strategy.

So what exactly is AI? A simplistic explanation is that AI is a branch of computer science that deals with building intelligent machines that can think and respond like a human being. The trailblazing English mathematician, Alan Turing, proposed the Turing test in 1950 to determine the intelligence of computers and identify if a computer can achieve human-level performance in cognitive tasks that are sophisticated enough to fool an interrogator.

Although no AI programme has come close to passing the undiluted Turing test, cognitive and computer scientist John McCarthy observed that Turing's philosophy of AI is unlikely to have an effect on the practice of AI research, which has grown by leaps and bounds in the last two decades.

This brings us to the question of how an enterprise can use AI to market its business. The fact remains that a fifth of all the searches done using Google are voice based. It's a big number, and digital marketers should



understand its significance and start planning their marketing strategies to optimise websites to make the most use of voice search, along with traditional text search.

Some of the ways in which digital marketing can be pumped up using AI are predicting customer behavior, using Accelerated Mobile Pages (AMPs) to reduce load time and AI chatbots to enhance user experience.

Let's look at how AI helps in predicting customer behaviour. Advancements in predictive analytics allow marketers to extract more information from data, and use it to pre-

understand better what its users are looking for, and AMP content automatically shows up in the top stories carousel. If you are a business with an AMP page, then you have better chances of showing up in the top three search results in Google.

A lot of businesses already use chatbots, making it possible for the user to interact with the bot via instant messaging.

The time is ripe for companies to start using AI-based chatbots, which are significantly better. They can retain customer data, and customers do not have to repeat themselves every time. They can handle multiple customer requests at the same time, eliminating the wait time. They can also track the purchase patterns of customers, allowing businesses to revamp their marketing strategy and boost sales.

Last, but not the least, companies need to scale up content marketing. Content marketing refers to the practice of marketing a brand or a business by sharing educational, insightful, or entertaining articles that add value to the lives of readers. Research

has shown that the strategy is more effective in attracting and retaining customers as it isn't purely promotional. The Natural Language Generation (NLG) engine, Wordsmith, was able to create more than a billion human sounding articles in 2016. Although AI is still not advanced enough to write natural sounding articles on every topic, it is still useful for data driven content such as quarterly reports, market data, and sport matches. Once the content is ready, you can scale it up with an influencer marketing platform to ensure that it reaches the target audience.

Embracing AI technologies will benefit your digital marketing strategy in many ways. AI will not replace the jobs of advertisers and marketers, but help them unleash their creative and strategic potential. Business owners need to identify the roadblocks faced by their marketing campaign or company and use insights derived from AI-based marketing to solve the issues.

(The writer is founder, CEO and search scientist at a leading AI-powered digital marketing firm)



AN ESSENTIAL ADDITION

It's true that collective action can have effects, but these are limited. A revulsion among the workers at Google has so far stopped the company from cooperating with the US immigration service. It has not stopped its YouTube algorithms from corrupting politics in Brazil. Any effective moral action must come from corporations as a whole, not just some of their workers.

(The Guardian editorial)

CAPSULE



Sensex, Nifty rebound on hopes of FPI tax rollback

MUMBAI: Market benchmark BSE Sensex rebounded from early lows to close 228 points higher on Friday on expectations of FPI tax roll back and some measures by the government to boost growth. The 30-share barometer closed higher by 228.23 pts or 0.63 per cent at 36,701.16, hours ahead of a presser by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The broader NSE Nifty rose by 88 points to 10,829.35, with 41 of its 50 constituents closing with gains. The two benchmark indices had declined up to 1 per cent in the early session due to heavy selling in banking, financials, auto and FMCG stocks. However, reports of roll back of FPI tax and announcement that the finance minister would address the media in the evening fuelled speculations that the government would announce measures to support the sagging economy.



Slowdown in auto sector temporary: KIA Motors India

NEW DELHI: Korean automobile maker KIA Motors India on Friday said the current slowdown in the industry is a temporary phase, and customer sentiments will revive again. "There is some industry slowdown. We believe that the slowdown in the automobile industry is temporary. Customer sentiments will revive again," said Yong S Kim, ED and CSO of KIA Motors India. Kim was talking to reporters here at the launch of the SUV 'Seltos', manufactured at its plant in Andhra Pradesh. He said the company entered the Indian market with an SUV, as it is the fastest growing segment in the automobile industry in the country. "For a new entrant, there is no good time. We are confident of our product...", he said.



Moody's cuts India GDP growth forecast to 6.2% for 2019

NEW DELHI: Moody's Investors Service on Friday cut India's GDP growth forecast for 2019 calendar year to 6.2 per cent from the previous estimation of 6.8 per cent. For 2020 calendar year, it reduced the estimate by a similar measure to 6.7 per cent. In a statement, it said the weaker global economy has stunted Asian exports and the uncertain operating environment has weighed on investment.

'Prepare for new challenges, protect Indian cos from abuse'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Urging the Competition Commission to prepare for dealing with new challenges, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said there is a need to protect Indian enterprises from excessive abuse in terms of competition from international players in the changed global economic order.

Sitharaman, who also holds the corporate affairs ministry portfolio, flagged the issue of competition sans frontiers and at times, its adverse impact on Indian consumers. Speaking at an event to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Competition Commission of India (CCI), she said the time has come for the regulator to suo moto examine the impact of global firms on the domestic market in terms of competition.

"You have your job with challenges all of which should guide us both in order to protect the Indian consumer... yet ensure Indian enterprises are not going to be subject to excessive abuse from companies which are existing some-



where else, which do not submit themselves to the Indian law," the minister said here. The regulator, which keeps a tab on unfair business practices, has been dealing with various cases related to digital markets. Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur said that when traditional models of business have been dislodged by the emergence of radical innovation, it has been seen that in some cases traditional players have resorted to lobbying with domestic regulators for the adoption of regulations that

can delay or block such innovations. CCI Chairman Ashok Kumar Gupta said it has been acting in a nuanced manner with regard to alleged anti-competitive activities in the digital market. According to Sitharaman, it is just not the number of suo moto cases but also the way in which the Commission has to keep itself alert to many of the developments which are happening globally. "Physical borders no longer determine competition within a country and in that way we are dealing with not fair play as it is.

The time has come for the regulator to suo moto examine the impact of global firms on the domestic market in terms of competition — NIRMALA SITHARAMAN, Finance Minister

Govt withdraws super-rich surcharge

Continued from Page 1

Sitharaman also announced exempting startups from the so-called angel tax.

"To mitigate genuine difficulties of startups and their investors, it has been decided that section 56(2)(viib) of the Income Tax Act shall not be applicable to a startup registered with DPIIT," she said.

Also, a dedicated cell will be set up under a member of CBDT for addressing the problems of startups. "A startup having any income tax issue can approach the cell for quick resolution of the same," she said.

The surcharge in the Budget was increased on all income, be it from salary, savings, interest, mutual funds, stock market or trade in futures and options (F&O) segment, long-term and short-term capital gains, or other means and was applicable to all individuals and those who chose to be countered as an individual, be it funds, AOPs or trusts.

Asked when the withdrawal of the tax will become effective, Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said the surcharge has been withdrawn for the entire fiscal year.



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Inaugurating 6th International MSME Expo & Summit 2019 in New Delhi on Friday

MSMEs must create 5 cr jobs to boost economy: Gadkari

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Friday that unemployment is a major challenge and MSMEs must create five crore jobs in five years to address the issue as India aims to become a USD 5-trillion economy.

Currently, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) contribute 29 per cent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and have created 11 crore jobs in recent years.

Stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target of India becoming a USD 5-trillion economy, the Union transport and MSME minister said MSMEs will have to raise their contribution to GDP to 50 per cent and also create five crore more jobs in the next five years to achieve this objective.

"Unemployment is the biggest challenge facing us. Eleven crore jobs have been created and you (MSMEs) have to generate 5 crore more jobs in the country in five years," he said at the 6th India International MSME Expo here.

Moreover, he said the government has taken several steps towards addressing key challenges faced by MSMEs, including in marketing of their products and ensuring timely payments to them.

Highlighting that e-commerce firm Alibaba had a major role in China's economic growth, Gadkari said the MSME ministry has signed an agreement with the Government e-Market (GeM) portal under the commerce ministry to establish India's new e-commerce marketing portal.

Moreover, he said the government has taken several steps towards addressing key challenges faced by MSMEs, including in marketing of their products and ensuring timely payments to them

The new portal may be named 'Bharat Craft', he said, adding that the online platform will be of the scale of Amazon and Alibaba.

The government, he added, has set a target for the proposed portal to achieve a turnover of at least Rs 10 lakh crore in the next two years.

To ensure timely payments to MSMEs and prevent erosion of their working capital, Gadkari said the government is "seriously exploring" if it can bring a legislation to ensure payments within 45 days of supplying a product.

The minister said he has spoken to global multilateral lending agencies like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and KfW to see if the cost of capital can be brought down for the MSME sector, one of the largest job creator in the country.

The three-day MSME expo at Pragati Maidan opened on Friday.



Steps on to develop GIFT City, says Sebi chief

PTI ■ GANDHINAGAR

Several measures are underway, including introduction of new products like dollar-rupee derivatives, to further development of 'GIFT City' in Gujarat as a major International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) on the lines of global centres like Singapore and Dubai, capital market regulator Sebi's chairman Ajay Tyagi said on Friday.

The Sebi chief also said the trading turnover of various products on exchanges operating in GIFT City is fast picking up and it would only increase going further. Addressing a seminar here on 'GIFT IFSC- Onshoring the Offshore', Tyagi said prominent IFSCs set up across the world, including London, New York, Singapore and Dubai, have contributed significantly to the GDP and created large employment opportunities in such jurisdictions.

"India also must figure on the map of the global financial centres network," he said. The government had announced plans in 2015 to set up India's first IFSC in GIFT City, after which Sebi had issued general guidelines during the same year. Specific guidelines on intermediaries, fund raising, market infrastructure institutions, funds,



The trading turnover of various products on exchanges operating in GIFT City is fast picking up and it would only increase going further — AJAY TYAGI, Sebi's chairman

etc have also been issued subsequently.

Financial sector regulators such as Sebi, RBI, IRDAI and PFRDA have also issued their respective guidelines for IFSC, an overall financial services focused centre involving multiple areas such as banking, insurance, capital markets, among others.

The central government has also announced several tax incentives for operations in GIFT IFSC, while the state government has also provided incentives including stamp duty exemption for entities having registered office in GIFT for capital market activities.

Gold rises for fourth consecutive day, touches fresh high of Rs 38,995

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing its record-setting trend for the fourth consecutive day, gold prices rose Rs 25 on Friday to reach a record high of Rs 38,995 per 10 gram in the national capital amid a weaker rupee, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Gold prices have been hitting a fresh high everyday since Tuesday.

Meanwhile, silver held steady at the previous level of Rs 45,100 per kg.

Even as the precious metal lost steam overseas, persistent buying from jewellers mainly led to the rise in gold prices, traders said.

Besides, a weaker rupee also led to the increase in price of the precious metal.

The rupee declined below the 72 mark against the US currency in the opening session on Friday. It fell by 22



In New York, spot gold was trading lower at USD 1,496.30 an ounce, while silver was almost flat at USD 17.11 an ounce

paise to trade at a nine-month low of 72.03 against the US dollar in early session.

In New York, spot gold was trading lower at USD 1,496.30 an ounce, while silver was almost flat at USD 17.11 an ounce.

"Globally, gold traded weak with international spot gold prices falling below USD 1,500 on Friday on positive US equity futures and stronger dollar index," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities)

Tapan Patel said. Traders are awaiting the key Jackson Hole meeting for cues on gold prices. Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech on Friday will be crucial for markets to get clarity over future rate cuts which may affect gold prices, Patel said.

In the national capital, gold of 99.9 per cent purity advanced Rs 25 to Rs 38,995 per 10 gram, while that of 99.5 per cent gained Rs 5 to Rs 38,825 per 10 gram.

Bosch board appoints Bernhard Straub as chairman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Auto components major Bosch on Friday said its board has appointed Bernhard Straub as Chairman with effect from August 24, 2019.

Considering the recommendations of the nomination and remuneration committee, the board has approved the appointment of Straub, currently non-executive, non-independent Director, as an additional director designated as a Chairman of the board, Bosch Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

The board, in its meeting held on Friday, has also accepted the resignation of V K Viswanathan as Chairman and Director of the company with effect from August 23, 2019, as a part of succession planning, it added.

IBC can't resolve power sector crisis, but ARCs can: Secy

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Financially crippled power companies cannot be revived or resolved under the provisions of the existing bankruptcy laws, but asset reconstruction companies can better deal with them, a senior government official said Friday.

Crucial agreements on the power purchase and fuel supply come apart if an asset goes for bankruptcy by sending it to NCLT as required under the law now, leaving only the plant and machinery

The power sector is one of the worst performing from an asset quality perspective for banks and Garg pegged the overall stressed portfolio at



Crucial agreements on the power purchase and fuel supply come apart if an asset goes for bankruptcy by sending it to NCLT as required under the law now, leaving only the plant and machinery — SC GARG, Union power secretary

around Rs 4 trillion or over 65,000 mw of generation capacity.

"Not every kind of industry or every kind of asset can be best reconstructed through the IBC," Garg told an event on ARCs organised by industry lobby ASSOCHAM.

If a power sector asset goes to NCLT, "practically nothing will survive, except the plant", he said, adding PPAs and FSAs will come off. Any new buyer will lose interest asset because of this, he said, recommending the ARC route to resolving the stress in the sector.

SBI cuts interest rates on fixed deposits up to 0.5%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's largest lender State Bank of India on Friday slashed interest rates on fixed deposits across various tenure by up to 0.5 percentage point, a move which will lower returns for savers.

In view of the falling interest rate scenario and surplus liquidity, SBI realigns its interest rate on Term Deposits with effect from August 26, 2019, SBI said in a statement.

The move to reduce interest rate on fixed deposits by the country's largest lender is expected to be followed by other lenders. The bank has slashed retail term deposit rates by 10-50 basis points across tenors as well as bulk term deposit rates by 30-70 basis points across tenors, it said.

The bank has slashed the interest rate for the fixed deposits with maturity of 7-45 days to 4.5 per cent from existing 5 per cent. The rate reduction 46-179 days, 180 days to less than one year maturities baskets is 25 basis points (0.25 percentage point) at 5.5 per cent and 6 per cent respectively while for maturity bucket of 1-2 years is only 10 basis points at 6.70 per cent.

For top maturity period of 5-10 years, the decrease is again 25 basis points at 6.25 per cent. The bank also said that it has retained interest rate on savings bank deposit at 3 per cent for customers with balances above Rs 1 lakh with a view to protecting the interest of savings bank depositors.

Customers with SB balance up to Rs 1 lakh will continue to get the rate of interest at 3.50 per cent despite cut in the repo rate by the RBI earlier this month.

As global economic picture dims, solutions seem out of reach

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

As global leaders gather on two continents to take account of a darkening economic outlook, this is the picture they face: Factories are slumping, many businesses are paralyzed, global growth is sputtering and the world's two mightiest economies are in the grip of a dangerous trade war.

Barely a year after most of the world's major countries were enjoying an unusual moment of shared prosperity, the global economy may be at risk of returning to the rut it tumbled into after the financial crisis of 2007-2009.

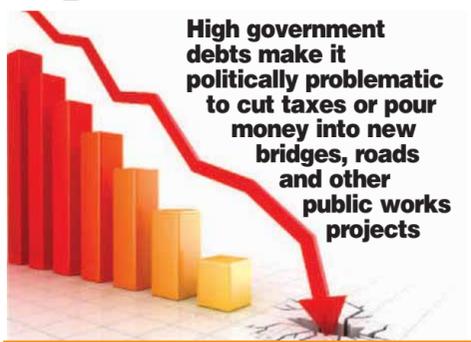
Worse, solutions seem far from obvious. Central banks can't just slash interest rates. Rates are already ultra-low. And even if they did, the central banks would risk robbing themselves of the ammunition they would need later to fight a recession.

High government debts make it politically problematic to cut taxes or pour money into new bridges, roads and other public works projects.

"Our tools for fighting recession are no doubt more limited (than) in the past," said Karen Dynan, an economist at Harvard University's Kennedy School.

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have downgraded the outlook for world growth. On Thursday, Moody's Investors Service said it expects the global economy to expand 2.7% this year and next — down from 3.2% the previous two years. And it issued a dark warning: Get used to it.

"The new normal will likely continue for the next three to four years," the credit rating agency said. Concerns are rising just as



central bankers meet in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and leaders of the Group of Seven advanced economies gather this weekend in the resort town of Biarritz in southwestern France.

A spotlight will shine, in particular, on whatever message

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell sends in a speech Friday in Jackson Hole.

The dollar global outlook partly reflects U.S. President Donald Trump's combative trade conflicts with China and other countries. A realization

has taken hold that Trump will likely keep deploying tariffs — and in some cases escalating them — to try to beat concessions out of trading partners.

"The trade uncertainty is here to stay," said Madhavi Bokil, senior credit officer at Moody's.

Squeezed by protectionism, global trade is likely to grow just 2.5% this year, its slowest pace in three years, the IMF says. Manufacturers, whose fortunes are closely tied to trade, are struggling. J.P. Morgan's global manufacturing index dropped in July for a third straight month, hitting the lowest level since 2012.

The global funk also reflects the pull of gravity: The economies of Europe and Japan, fueled by central banks' easy-money policies, overextended themselves a couple of years ago and are now returning to their more typical state:

Sluggishness.

The IMF expects China's economy, the world's second-biggest, to grow 6.2% this year — the weakest since 1990 — and just 6% next year. Trump's trade war is certainly a factor. The president has imposed tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports and is set to tax nearly \$300 billion more before year's end.

China's slowdown is also being orchestrated in part by the officials in Beijing, who are trying to contain lending to control the country's runaway debts.

And an economic chill in China sends shivers into the many countries — from copper-producing Chile to iron ore-making Australia — that feed Chinese factories with raw materials.

Then there's Europe. In the 19 countries that use the euro currency, growth slowed in

the second quarter to an anemic annual rate of 1.1%, or 0.2% from the quarter before.

The eurozone, which maintains close trade ties with the U.S. and China, has been sidestepped by the collision between Trump and President Xi Jinping. And Trump has threatened to impose significant tariffs on European auto imports.

Even more than the tariffs, uncertainty over trade disputes is chilling investment and purchasing. Despite cheap borrowing costs from central bank stimulus, investment in new plants is lagging, an ominous sign that bosses don't foresee a pickup.

In Europe's economic powerhouse, Germany, the economy shrank 0.1% in the second quarter from the quarter before. If output should fall for a second straight quarter, Germany would find itself in a recession.

UNLOCKING THE HIDDEN POWER OF CONSCIOUSNESS

The Four Sacred Secrets, authored by Preethaji and Krishnaji, will teach you how to unlock the hidden power of consciousness, shed anxiety and cultivate a life of fulfilment, wealth and happiness, writes V SATEESH REDDY

Husband and wife, Preethaji and Krishnaji has taken their mutual interest in philosophy a step forward and co-authored *The Four Sacred Secrets*. The book is about unlocking the hidden power of your consciousness, while also helping the reader to shed anxiety and cultivate a life of fulfilment, wealth and happiness; with this accessible guide outlining the four keys to personal transformation.

Preethaji and Krishnaji are renowned philosophers and transformational leaders. The book is not the first venture that they have done together, as they started the O&O Academy — a philosophy and meditation school for transforming consciousness. Preethaji offers courses in major cities around the world

that lead people to scientific and transcendental dimensions of consciousness. Her TEDx Talk, 'How to End Stress, Unhappiness and Anxiety to Live in a Beautiful State', has reached more than two million people.

Preethaji says, "Arranged into four sections, *The Four Sacred Secrets* is easy-to-follow exercises and meditations offering a neuroscience-backed method to perform at one's highest possible level. Fusing the transcendental and the scientific, the mystical and the practical, we combine spiritual practices with proven scientific approaches and include ancient fables and modern stories that will speak intimately to your heart, taking you on a life-altering adventure of self-discovery and success."

Drawing on the power of untapped consciousness to

reframe life's challenges — be it work pressure, family issues or personal relationship problems — the book's brilliant insights offer a path to reconnection and redirection of energy towards positive solutions.

Preethaji says, "This life-transforming book will guide you to consciously create wealth, heal your heart, awaken yourself to love, and help you to make peace with your true self."

The book mainly focuses on four key practices: living with a "spiritual vision; discovering one's inner truth through non-judgmental self-awareness; connecting to the universal intelligence that surrounds everyone; and dissolving inner conflict to help others."

Preethaji adds, "We have co-authored this book to share our own experience of the

power of the beautiful state as well as the experiences of our students who have transformed their lives from the inside out in every aspect, from building lasting relationships to creating satisfying and successful careers. We have deliberately changed the names, country origins, and backgrounds of these students to preserve their privacy while maintaining the authenticity of their insights and experiences of transformation. As these stories reveal, if you are curious about transforming your consciousness, you will discover a greater sense of effortlessness in living, loving, and achieving. Once you begin to hold these sacred secrets close to your heart, the universe becomes a loving friend, supporting you with magical synchronicities that power you along the way."



A SCHOOL THAT PRODUCED LEADERS IN ALL FIELDS

What is common among Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, India's permanent representative at the United Nations Syed Akbaruddin, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and well-known cricket commentator Harsha Bhogle. They are all products of Hyderabad Public School.

The premier educational institution of the city has churned out powerful corporate honchos like Mastercard President and CEO Ajay Banga, founder and CEO of Fairfax Financial Holding Prem Watsa and Adobe Systems CEO Shantanu Narayan besides Satya Nadella. With Syed Akbaruddin in news for leading India's charge on Kashmir at the United Nations, the spotlight is on the distinguished alumni of Hyderabad Public School (HPS).

"My Alma Mater-ever grateful 2 thee (sic)," the leading diplomat tweeted after HPS said it was proud to recognise man of the moment. Syed Akbaruddin, who passed out from HPS in 1976, is the 1985-batch IFS officer and handled many key diplomatic assignments including the spokesperson of the ministry of foreign affairs.

The HPS alumni rose to great heights of success and fame in different fields like business, politics, civil services, sports and films. Cobra beer founder and a member of UK Parliament Karan Billimoria, former Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Kiran Kumar Reddy, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi, former cricketer Venkatpathy Raju and Telugu actors Akkineni Nagarjuna and Rana Daggubati are among the other alumni of this 96-year-old school.

HPS managing committee member Marri Aditya Reddy said that the institution was proud of its alumni excelling in various walks of life. He was all praise for Syed Akbaruddin for the way he is defending India at the United Nations.

"Somebody who comes from Hyderabad and from simple upbringing is defending the nation. We are so proud of him. It speaks of the immense value system created at HPS over the decades," said Aditya Reddy, grandson of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Marri Channa Reddy.

With its strong eco-system, HPS helped its pupils coming from modest background to become leaders in different

fields. "This is what gives us excitement. Ordinary people were able to excel in personal and professional capacities. It was possible due to the value system created in the HPS atmosphere," said Aditya Reddy, also an alumni of HPS.

Inspired by famous Eton College of Britain, Mir Osman Ali Khan, the last Nizam of Hyderabad State founded the school in 1923. It was exclusively meant for the sons of the nobility. It was only in 1951 that the HPS opened its doors for public. Even after Independence and Hyderabad State's merger with Indian Union, the school had an elitist tag as children of only powerful politicians, wealthy businessmen, IAS and IPS officers and celebrities used to get admission.

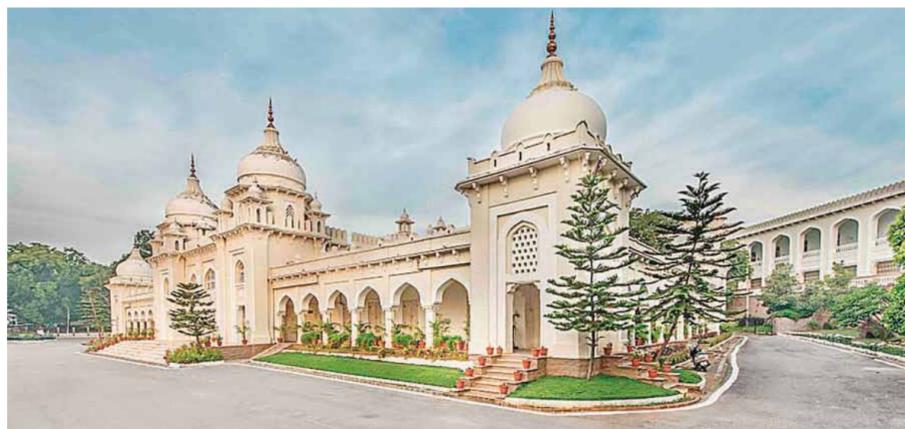
The school started admitting girls in 1984. Aditya Reddy said that when Channa Reddy was the chief minister he brought a balance in the running of the school by giving some control to the government by making principal secretary of education the chairman of HPS board of governors.

HPS, which started with six students in 1923, today has nearly 3,000 students. It is run by a society comprising of eminent people from all walks of life. Its management committee has seven members while a 35-member board looks after day to day affairs of the institution.

Spread over 130 acres in Begumpet near the old airport in the heart of the city, HPS is said to have the largest campus, even bigger than Vatican City. Its main building is a heritage structure while the campus has trekking routes, rock-formations, two cricket fields, athletic arena and several hockey, football grounds and a big library.

Aditya Reddy said that HPS shed their elitist school tag long ago and it had been giving admissions to SCs, STs, BCs and minorities as per the government policy. "We have been maintaining the social and economic balance. There is no differentiation as we also admit children from under privileged sections of the society," he said. — IANS

HPS SHED THEIR ELITIST TAG LONG AGO AND IT HAD BEEN GIVING ADMISSIONS TO SCs, STs, BCS AND MINORITIES AS PER GOVERNMENT POLICY



ADITYA REDDY



ASADUDDIN OWAISI



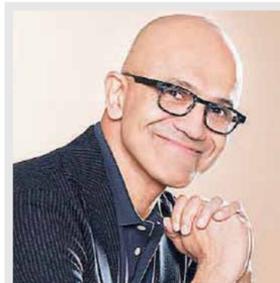
HARSHA BHOGLE



N KIRAN KUMAR REDDY



KARAN BILLIMORIA



SATYA NADELLA

Every year, HPS is producing so many celebrities in various fields. It made me believe that I too can make it big in the world. I want to be a forensic psychologist or a published author, and HPS has helped realise my path for the future. The school has always provided me with the support, inspiration and advice I need

LEKHA CLASS XII

HPS producing a number of celebrities makes me proud to say that I study in one of the most elite schools in the world. I want to be an Indian Administration Officer. Thanks to the extraordinary opportunities and exposure available here, I think I have all I need to build a secure future for myself.

PRADHYUMNA CLASS XI

The amount of exposure I got from this school is unreal. I aspire to become a travel journalist and my teachers are very supportive of my plans. They've never doubted its feasibility. Sometimes that's all a student needs: support, guidance and someone to believe in them. HPS never fails to deliver.

AHANA BASU CLASS XI



MEGASTAR TO UNVEIL SVR'S STATUE

Megastar Chiranjeevi will be unveiling a statue of legendary actor SV Ranganarao at SVR Circle, Tadeppaligudem this Sunday. The actor who celebrated his 64th birthday on Thursday will fly to Gannavaram airport on Sunday morning in a special chartered flight. He will reach the venue through road by 10.15 am and will unveil the statue amid SVR and his fans.

Chiru is a big fan of SVR and never missed an opportunity to shower his admiration on the late actor. "We can learn immensely, especially from SVR's movies. They are an encyclopaedia (for aspiring actors). I became his fan because of my dad (Venkat Rao). In 1969-71, when I was in class VII, my dad was into stage acting. He wanted to get into the cinema but didn't muster the courage to try his luck in Madras because of financial constraints. When he was with the excise department at Bapatla, one Ekambareshwara Rao produced a couple of films

Jagathkhaladi and Jagathjantrilu in partnership with K Raghava. Dad featured in both of them in small parts in both films, he was lucky enough to have shared screen space with SVR. He used to come home and talk about his experience of working with SVR. He was a fan of his and spoke about him in great delight, making me curious. Therefore, in way dad sowed the seeds of my admiration for SVR.



Since then I used to like SVR and regularly watch his films. Guess my acting aspirations too began because of him," Chiru had said earlier this June at an event in Hyderabad where a book *Mahanatudu* — a compilation of rare photographs of SVR from his most famous films — was unveiled by him.

CITY GUIDE

» **COMEDY**

MANIK'S DAY OUT

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

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.



IMPROV COMEDY

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

» **EXHIBITION**

JOURNEY OF THE CANVAS

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

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.

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.

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.

» **OTHER EVENTS**

YAY FEST

This fun-filled festive event for children features tonnes of magic tricks, bowling games, fun rides, movie screening in-store, kids are in for super-duper weekend.
August 24 and 25, 11 am to 7 pm, Funcity, Inorbit Mall, Madhapur.

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



● Naveen Medaram and Ram



● Chaitanya Kumar



● Ishpreet



● Inus



● Khayyum

PHOTOS BY SV CHARY



● Dimesh



● Nidhi Agerwal

CHOCOLATY AFFAIR

Actress Nidhi Agerwal, among others, was spotted at the launch of The Chocolate Room — a lounge and co-working cafe — in the city. People turned up in large numbers to get a glimpse of the actress, who formally inaugurated the store.



● Lavanya

HIGH-LIFE

Revellers in the city have a new spot to party with the launch of Amnesia Sky Bar in HITEC City. The launch party saw many socialites and youngsters attending the event. With drinks, food, and the mood set by the latest beats, the guests had a gala time at the party



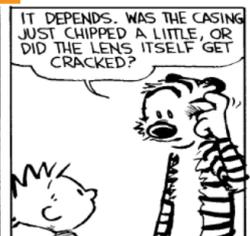
● Ram Raj, Srikar, and Kunal

FUN TIME

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



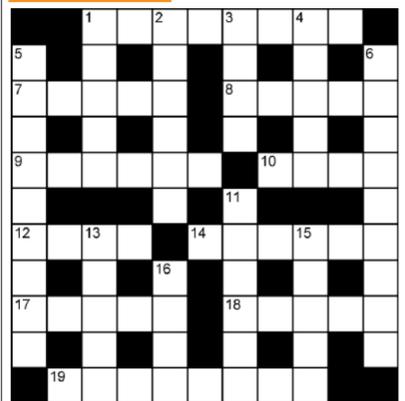
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 A water sport
- 7 After eighth
- 8 Worship
- 9 Hurt someone's feelings by being rude to them
- 10 Fewer
- 12 This metal goes rusty
- 14 A fruit
- 17 A large serving spoon
- 18 Book name
- 19 Someone in jail
- 4 Rope loop
- 5 Not able to be seen
- 6 Read this daily
- 11 Cardboard box
- 13 Command
- 15 Change
- 16 Untidy shambles

DOWN

- 1 Musical pieces for the voice
- 2 Breathe in
- 3 A ditch around a castle



SUDOKU

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

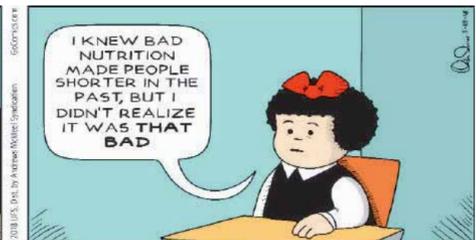
Yesterday's solution

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

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.

NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



Newbie Faria Abdullah joins Naveen, Darshi and Rahul



The team felt that the movie could use a fresh face rather than a recognisable one. The decision to replace Shalini Pandey was done with the latter's understanding, finds



The casting of Naveen Polishetty, Priyadarshi and Rahul Ramakrishna-starrer, an untitled comedy directed by Pittagoda fame Anudeep, has gone for a slight change. Instead of initial choice Shalini Pandey, the makers have signed on newbie Faria Abdullah to be the film's key female face, *The Pioneer* has exclusively learnt. "The team felt that a fresh face would give the film a more realistic appeal than going with a recognised face, which is why they've decided to replace Shalini. It was done healthily, since Shalini shares a great relationship with producer Swapna Dutt and she understood the latter's intentions," confirmed a source close to the development. The source adds that Faria is a local, having featured in some funny videos in Deccani dialect. "Director Nag Ashwin, the brother-in-law of Swapna, saw her at an audition sometime back and recommended her name to the team. He believed that she was apt to carry forward the role of a lawyer

and Anudeep echoed a similar opinion after auditioning her. She has already shot for the film for four days and the team is happy with her performance," the source notes. Meanwhile, after wrapping up the first schedule in Sangareddy and Hyderabad, the team is gearing up for a second schedule in Hyderabad on August 4. "It will be a brief outing of four days followed by a break of five days. The third schedule will run into another 10 days. The team is planning to wrap up the shoot by October," mentions the source further. In the film, leading men get involved in a serious crime, which they haven't committed. How Faria comes to their rescue and the follow-up events are narrated comically. The likes of VK Naresh, Vennela Kishore and Ajay Ghosh are playing supporting roles, while Pellichoopulu tunesmith Vivek Sagar is on board to compose music.

Director Nag Ashwin saw Faria at an audition sometime back and recommended her name to the team. He believed that she was apt to play a lawyer and Anudeep echoed a similar opinion after auditioning her. She has already shot for the film for four days and the team is happy with her performance

A SOURCE



Anand Deverakonda set for his next

The team for the movie, directed by debutant Vinod Anantoju, boasts of relatively new faces except for the two actors



After an impressive turn in *Dorasani*, actor Anand Deverakonda is set for his next. To be directed by debutant Vinod Anantoju, the film will go in front of the cameras in Hyderabad on August 26. "The first schedule will be on for a month in Hyderabad, post which the unit will be stationed at Guntur and its surrounding areas for 20 days. The idea is to complete the film by mid-November," said a well-placed source close to the unit. The film had its *muhurat* sometime back in a low-key ceremony but the source added that the makers have no intention to keep the film low-profile; it's just that the unit doesn't want to work with any weight on their shoulders. "The team is fairly new, so they want to enjoy the filmmaking process. Except for Anand and his love interest in the film Varsha Bollamma, who has recently agreed to be the film's leading face, most of the other cast members are relatively new. In fact, it will not boast off any noted supporting faces. To lend a degree of authenticity to the film, director Vinod has roped in theatre artists from Hyderabad and some interested acting aspirants from Guntur," the source informed.

The film is a romantic comedy-drama with a lot of family emotions woven into the script. "Vinod initially made it as a demo film and after it turned out to be good, he decided to make it a feature. Initially, he was looking at newcomers to spearhead it and Anand heard it during March this year. He straightaway said he'd associate with it. It centres on his role's aim in life and how his dreams are getting pulled back due to family and love," the source said and added that Sunny Kurapati, who has shot *Dorasani* and *Agent Sai Srinivasa Athreya*, will be the film's cinematographer while Sweekar Agasthi of *C / O Kancharapalem* is the music director. — NG



Vinod initially made it as a demo film and after it turned out to be good, he decided to make it a feature. Initially, he was looking at newcomers to spearhead it and Anand heard it during March this year

A SOURCE

KSHANAM DIRECTOR WRAPS UP HIS SECOND FILM



In the making for almost two years, *Kshanam* director Ravikanth Perepu's second film, *Krishna & his Leela*, featuring Sidhu of *Guntur Talkies* fame in the titular role, is through with its filming. The film, a joint production venture between Suresh Productions and Viacom18, is an urban romantic comedy. It co-stars Shraddha Srinath, Seerat Kapoor and Shalini Vadnikatti. The film was recently shot in Ladakh, which has recently been made a Union Territory. "One last shot, Promise! At 17,582 ft above sea-level, we wrap *Krishna & his Leela* in Ladakh. With all the surrounding tension around Ladakh right now, the people here were extremely friendly in helping us finish this. Every film has its journey in the making and this one is a specimen. See you at the movies. Coming soon," Perepu posted on Instagram, tagging his cast and crew members.

Kshanam technical team — cinematographer Shaneil Deo and composer Sricharan Pakala — have associated with this film as well in the same capacities. It remains to be seen when the makers will announce the release date.

THE FILM, A JOINT PRODUCTION VENTURE BETWEEN SURESH PRODUCTIONS AND VIACOM18, IS AN URBAN ROMANTIC COMEDY

Indian 2 faces another SETBACK

Actress Aishwarya Rajesh is no longer part of the project as her dates for the movie were clashing with her other commitments

Tamil-Telugu actress Aishwarya Rajesh who not long ago expressed how happy she was to have bagged Shankar's *Indian 2*, starring Kamal Haasan, is no longer part of the project. Speaking to a Tamil web portal, the actress said that since the dates of *Indian 2* clashed with that of her other commitments, she had to exit from the project. She was supposed to play a significant part along with the likes of Kajal Aggarwal, Rakul Preet Singh and Priya Bhavani Shankar.

This is the latest setback the film, whose crux is said to be based on

women empowerment — the reason behind roping in several heroines to be part of the cast — had to endure. To rewind a bit, it was delayed by nearly six months as the production house was concerned with the ballooning budget. At one point, the film was on the brink of being called off, before hectic parleys between Shankar, Kamal and Lyca Productions resurrected it.

Slated to hit screens for Sankranti, the film also features Siddharth, Vivek, Nedumudi Venu, Samuthirakani, Delhi Ganes and Vidyut Jamwal in key roles. Anirudh Ravichander is the music director.

THE MOVIE WAS PREVIOUSLY DELAYED BY NEARLY SIX MONTHS AS THE PRODUCTION HOUSE WAS CONCERNED WITH THE BALLOONING BUDGET. HECTIC PARLEYS BETWEEN SHANKAR, KAMAL AND LYCA PRODUCTIONS RESURRECTED IT



VIVEK OBEROI TO PRODUCE MOVIE ON BALAKOT AIRSTRIKES



Actor Vivek Oberoi, who last played Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a film, will now produce a movie based on the Balakot airstrikes to salute the valour of the Indian Air Force (IAF). Titled *Balakot*, the film will be based on the airstrikes as well as the capture and subsequent release of IAF Wing Commander Abhinandan and Varthaman in the aftermath of the terror attack in Kashmir's Pulwama district on February 14.

"As a proud Indian, patriot, and a member of the film fraternity, it's my duty to highlight what our Armed Forces are truly capable of. In the form of a trilingual, this film is a powerful tool to underline the achievements of brave officers like Wing Commander Abhinandan, who went behind the enemy lines and did what makes every Indian proud of them," said Vivek.

"The Balakot airstrike was one of the well-planned attacks by the IAF. I have followed everything in the news right from the attack in Pulwama to the airstrikes in Balakot. There was a lot that was speculated and spoken about back then; this film will put all of that to rest, once and for all. I thank the IAF for trusting us with this story and we hope to do justice to it," he added.

To be shot in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu, the film will feature established actors from these industries in pivotal roles, including that of Wing Commander Abhinandan, who was later awarded Vir Chakra, and Squadron Leader Minty Agarwal, who guided the IAF's interception mission launched to stop Pakistan's fighter jets. She has become the first woman to receive the Yudh Seva Medal. "I am delighted to receive the requisite permission from the IAF a day before Independence Day. Hollywood filmmakers applaud their Armed Forces, intelligence agencies, industries and leaders. Why should Indian filmmakers shy away from doing that for India? As a nation, with one of the strongest Armed Forces on the globe, we have achieved a lot, and it's time to start reiterating it to the world at large," said Vivek.

The film will go on floors this year and is expected to release in 2020. It will be shot in the backdrop of Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Agra.

AAMIR KHAN'S DAUGHTER IRA TO MAKE HER DIRECTORIAL DEBUT

Superstar Aamir Khan's daughter Ira Khan will make her directorial debut with a theatre production titled *Euripides Medea*. The play with a Greek tragedy storyline will be showcased in selected Indian cities, this year-end. Sources close to her reveal that she has already commenced work on her directorial debut and her play will premiere in December. The rehearsals for the play will be starting soon and will happen in Mumbai itself.

"There's no particular reason that I decided to start with the theatre. I love theatre, it's magical and all-consuming; in its classical form, in the world of technology, it's very real and physical. I love the suspension of disbelief that the audience allows for because then there's so much you can express," Ira said.

Unlike most star kids, she has "never considered acting". "In terms of more plays, I'd have to find a story that I want to tell. I don't have a particular genre that I like. I'm not particularly into horror but other than that I'm open to all sorts of stories," she said. This comes a day after her "Everything will be okay" post that had left her fans worried.



AYUSHMANN'S FAN IN FRENZY

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana is riding high on success of all his films. The actor who won a National Award, (Best Actor) for *Anhadhun*, was celebrating the success of the film at a party when, in a surprising event, he came across a fan who had gatecrashed the party.

The fun fact about this whole event was that, the fan was dressed in a cotton yellow saree, imitating Ayushmann from the poster of his forthcoming film *Dream Girl*, and he stormed through the venue holding his pallu, eager to meet his favourite superstar. Ayushmann, who is known to be very cordial and loving towards his fan, thanked him and took pictures with the fan.

Right after the trailer was released, it became the top trending video on YouTube and garnered over 15 million views in less than 24 hours. Audience all across the country and the world are appreciating the actor and lauding him for his unique choices and him being at the helm of changing the course of Indian cinema by putting content based films on the top.

Fans have been going berserk over the trailer so much so that they have been trying to call Pooja aka the dream girl on the number given at the end of the trailer. The poster of *Dream Girl* has the star looking quirky in a cotton saree and sitting on a rickshaw. Nushrat Bharucha is the lead actress paired alongside the actor with Vijay Raaz, Manoj Singh, Annu Kapoor and Rajesh Sharma among others in the cast. Directed by Raaj Shandilya, produced by Ekta Kapoor, Shobha Kapoor and Aashish Singh, the film is set to release on September 13.

TAYLOR SWIFT RELEASES 'LOVER' MUSIC VIDEO

Grammy winner Taylor

Swift has unveiled the music video for her latest song *Lover*. The 29-year-old singer released the romantic video, which also stars her longtime backup dancer Christian Owens, on Thursday, reports *people.com*.

"The leading man in this video is someone I have performed on stage with for years," said Swift during a YouTube Live ahead of the video's release.

"(He was the) leading man in the *King of My Heart* performance every night on the reputation tour. Every night I could see how expressive he is and just how heroic and what an amazing actor he is as well." In the music video, which Swift co-directed with Drew Kirsch, the singer and Owens feature as a couple as they swim in a fishbowl, slow dance at home and party with their friends while going through ups and downs together. At the end of the video, the lovebirds get their happily ever after as their child opens a Christmas present containing a snow globe holding their memories.



KHUSHALI KUMAR'S DEBUT FILM A 'SLICE-OF-LIFE COMEDY'

Gulshan Kumar's daughter Khushali Kumar is all set to make her Bollywood debut opposite R Madhavan in *Dahi Cheeni*. She plays a lawyer in the film and has already started doing her homework to get into the skin of the character.

"As part of my preparation, I have started interacting with renowned lawyers, to understand their work ethics and legal proceedings. I have been visiting courtrooms to see how they operate and how a lady lawyer reacts in a court. In fact, I have met some power-packed female lawyers. It was a great honour to stand with them and get clicked. I plan to spend more time across various courts to understand their mannerisms and conduct in the courtroom. I am sure it will help me prepare for my stint as a lady lawyer in *Dahi Cheeni*," said Khushali.

She describes her debut flick as "a slice-of-life comedy", adding, "The film shines light upon the problems that societies across the world face today. It is based on a true story and is so far removed from the pomp and show of Bollywood that it feels like a breath of fresh air. The film has a quirky and realistic approach."

Khushali, who dreamt of becoming an actress right from her childhood, will be making her debut alongside R Madhavan and she is feeling a bit scared already. "It's scary to stand next to Maddy but I have made up my mind and am ready to go at it full throttle." The newcomer loves to travel and her first film will take her to Bhopal, where parts of it will be shot. "I love to travel, and when a film can offer (the scope to) travel, it gives me immense joy. Since the film is set in Bhopal, I can't wait to reach the city and start shooting. The people of Bhopal are honest and clear-minded. There's so much to learn from the city and its people, which you will come across in my character." *Dahi Cheeni* is being helmed by debutant director Ashwin Neel Mani as is expected to go on floors soon.

KIM SHARES FIRST-EVER PIC WITH HER FOUR KIDS



Kim Kardashian took to Instagram to share her first-ever picture with all four of her kids in Bahamas. In the pic, Kim is on the beach with her junior quartet of North West, Saint West, Chicago West and Psalm West. The group makes for a great photo-op. "I thought taking a pic with three kids was hard but OMG this is almost impossible!" Kim captioned the snapshot. In the picture Kim's swimsuit is colour-coordinated with that of her daughters, Chicago and North. They are all turned up for beach action in silver swimsuits, while sons Psalm and Saint wore shorts.



DISNEYLAND'S AVENGERS CAMPUS TO OPEN IN 2020

The Avengers will assemble once again next year, this time not to fight supervillain Thanos but to recruit more superheroes to join them in their mission to save the world through 'Avengers Campus', a Marvel-themed park arriving at Disneyland in California and Paris.

Although Spider-Man's future in the Marvel Cinematic Universe remains in a limbo, thanks to the standoff between Disney and Sony Pictures, the iconic web-slinger will be part of the superhero land, and remain in the spotlight. A copy

of Spider-Man's suit is on display at D23 Expo, highlighting the plans surrounding a new attraction themed around the hero.

Bob Chapek, Chairman of Disney Parks, Experiences and Products Chairman, revealed the official title of the Marvel land — 'Avengers Campus'. He said that guests will be recruited to fight alongside the Avengers, and the campuses will be a place for guests to train with their heroes. Visitors will become part of an interconnected, global story spanning from California to Paris

to Hong Kong.

"We're building an immersive superhero-themed land at Disneyland California Adventure and Disneyland Paris that will enable our guests to join the Avengers to save the world," said Chapek.

"These lands are actually campuses created by Avengers to train up new heroes. When guests, or future superheroes, visit the campus, they will become a part of the interconnected global story that spans from California to Paris to Hong Kong," he said, adding that

he looks forward to the time when he can share more information about the attractions of the land "some day". The Marvel-themed area will be launching in 2020.

Inside the pavilion at D23 Expo, guests can see an in-story experience and learn why the Avengers are building these campuses. There's Spider-Man's suit, Iron Man's technology, advanced gadgets and jets to help the guests get an idea of the attraction.

Jadeja, Ishant lift India to 297



Ravindra Jadeja is greeted by Jasprit Bumrah after scoring half a century against West Indies AP

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Ravindra Jadeja and Ishant Sharma frustrated West Indies with a timely 60-run stand for the eighth wicket, helping India to 297 all out at lunch on day two of the first Test here on Friday.

Jadeja (58 off 112) and Ishant (19 off 62) were able to negotiate the threat posed by the potent pace duo of

Shannon Gabriel and Kumar Roach after losing Rishabh Pant (24) in the second over of the day.

Jadeja's innings comprised six fours and a maximum before he became the last man to be dismissed in the Indian innings, leading to lunch.

India resumed the day at 203 for six with Pant (20) and Jadeja being the overnight batsmen.



JADEJA (58 OFF 112) AND ISHANT (19 OFF 62) WERE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE THE THREAT POSED BY THE POTENT PACE DUO OF GABRIEL AND ROACH AFTER LOSING RISHABH PANT (24) IN THE SECOND OVER OF THE DAY

While Jadeja justified his inclusion in the playing XI ahead of Ravichandran Ashwin with a gritty effort, Pant could not deliver for the team.

Roach got his fourth wicket of the innings when he dismissed Pant with a beauty from around the wicket that moved away enough to get the edge of the young wicketkeeper-batsman.

Pant was guilty of playing the ball with hard hands as skipper Jason Holder took a regulation catch at sec-

ond slip, leaving India at 207 for seven. It seemed India's brittle tail will not put up much of a fight yet again, but Jadeja and Ishant batted sensibly in their 116-ball stand, defying the West Indian pacers.

While maturity was expected from Jadeja, Ishant impressed with the way he dealt with the express pace of Roach and Gabriel. He was not afraid to come on to the front foot and was equally comfortable at tackling the rising ball.

The lanky India pacer, whose highest score is 31, was finally dismissed in the 90th over, playing on to a full slower ball off Gabriel.

Mohammad Shami joined Jadeja in the middle but his stay lasted only one ball as he offered a return catch to off-spinner Roston Chase.

Running out of partners, Jadeja showed urgency to collect some vital runs and brought up his 11th half-century with a slap to cover for four. The following ball, he swept Chase for a six over deep midwicket, giving the Indian innings a welcome flourish towards the end.

Vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane had made a crucial 81 on the opening day to help India recover from a poor start.

I was thinking about team rather than hundred: Rahane

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

It's been two years since he last got a Test hundred but Ajinkya Rahane didn't want to be "selfish" thinking about his own milestone when the priority was to get his team out of the woods.

Coming in at a precarious 25 for 3 on the opening day of the first Test against West Indies, Rahane scored 81, an innings he values more than a hundred.

In fact, he knew a question would pop about missing out on a hundred, having last scored one against Sri Lanka back in 2017.

"I knew this question was coming and I was ready," he smiled when asked at the day end media conference.

"As long as I am at the crease, I am not a selfish guy. So yes, I am not too concerned about the hundred as I thought 81 on that wicket was really crucial as we are now in a decent position," said Rahane.

A century would have been nice but what mattered more was playing according to the demands of the situation.

"See, as long as I am contributing for my team is what matters. Yes, I was thinking about my hundred but the situation we are in — 25 for 3 was tricky. As I have said, I just thought if I could contribute for my team. I am not too concerned about my hundred as that will come automatically," the 31-year-old said.



Virat Kohli chats with Ravi Shastri and R. Sridhar during ICC World Cup AP/File Photo

Ganguly hopes India get past big games and win ICC trophy

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Ganguly on Friday hoped the reappointment of the familiar Ravi Shastri as head coach will help India prevail in the "big games" and break the jinx of not winning a major ICC tournament in recent years.

"Ravi has been around for a while, five years he's completed so he's got an extension for two more years. Hopefully now India can go all the way in the two upcoming tournaments that are coming up, which is the T20 World Cup and the Champions Trophy which has now become a T20 format," Ganguly said.

"So I hope they do well, they're doing well, they get to the semi-finals."

"In 2015 in Australia they struggled, in 2017 (2016) in Mumbai, West Indies got the better of them and even in this World Cup. So, hopefully, they will get to the next step and create a winning combination."

India's last ICC tournament triumph was the win in the 2013 Champions Trophy.

"Hopefully they can get past the big games and win trophies in the next two years," said the former captain who is not the best of friends with Shastri.

Ganguly urged captain Virat Kohli to continue giving the new players a longer run to prove their mettle.

"This is one area where Virat (Kohli) needs to just be a

bit more consistent — pick players and give them a bit more opportunities consistently — for them to get that confidence, rhythm.

"I have said that before. You saw how Shreyas Iyer played in that ODI series (against West Indies), you pick him and you give him the freedom to play those matches and I think that needs to happen with a lot of players and I am sure Virat will do that," added Ganguly.

Ganguly was surprised to see chinaman Kuldeep Yadav and off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin being left out of the ongoing first Test against West Indies.

"Yes, I was also surprised to see Kuldeep Yadav left out because the last Test he played against Australia, he got five wickets, if you remember in Sydney on a good flat pitch, he picked up five wickets against Australia."

"But (Ravindra) Jadeja also has been in good form, the surface on Thursday at Antigua needed three fast bowlers because we saw the seam movement the fast bowlers got and it was a question of the spin."

"Ashwin's record is phenomenal to leave him out in the West Indies, so it's a decision which Kohli has made and we will find out in next couple of days whether how far Jadeja goes on to pick wickets on this surface."

SINGLES

WAQAR APPLIES FOR BOWLING JOB

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Waqar Younis on Thursday submitted a request to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to consider his candidature for the post of the team's bowling coach. According to *Geo News*, Waqar is the most high profile applicant for the post. The PCB had announced that it is accepting applications for the coaching staff of the senior men's team after deciding against renewing the contract of incumbent staff including that of head coach Mickey Arthur and bowling coach Azhar Mahmood. The deadline to submit those applications is August 26. Waqar has previously been the team's head coach twice.

NAGAL ENTERS FINAL ROUND

NEW YORK: India's Sumit Nagal moved one step closer to his first ever Grand slam appearance with a hard fought win over Peter Polansky in the second round of the US Open qualifiers. Nagal, placed at a career-best 190, knocked out the 192nd ranked Canadian 7-5, 7-6 (0) in two hours eight minutes on Thursday night in the men's singles qualifiers. The 22-year-old from Haryana will now take on Brazil's Joao Menezes, who is ranked 210, in the final qualifying round later in the day. Last year, he had competed in the qualifiers of the Australian Open, the French Open and the Wimbledon Championships but could not register a single win.

NAIR'S 92* TAKES INDIA RED TO 163/2

BENGALURU: Out-of-favour batsman Karun Nair struck 92 not out to help India Red score 163 for 2 on the rain-curtailed opening day of the Duleep Trophy match against India Blue on Friday. Sent in to bat, India Red suffered an early jolt as Bengal opener Abhimanyu Easwaran (0) was sent packing by Rajasthan left-arm paceman Aniket Choudhary. Skipper Priyank Panchal (15) and Nair added 40 runs in a little over 15 overs, before the captain nicked one from Services medium-pacer Diwesh Gurdev Pathania to 'keeper' Snell Patel. After the fall of Panchal, the Karnataka batsman forged a 120-run partnership with Himachal left-hander Ankit Kalsi (48 not out, 171 balls, 4 x4) for the unbroken third wicket stand before rain and bad light ended play early.

INDIA BAGS BRONZE IN YOUTH C'SHIP

MADRID: Indian junior compound men's team won a Bronze while Sukhbeer Singh assured himself of a second medal in the World Archery Youth Championships here on Friday. Playing in his first international event, Sukhbeer helped India open their medal account when he teamed up with Sangampreet Singh Bisla and Tushar Phadtare to shoot a flawless final round and beat Colombia 234-231 for the Bronze. Sukhbeer also assured himself of at least a Silver when he partnered Raginee Markoo to defeat Iranian duo of Geesa Bybordy and Danial Heidarzadehdehkoridi 154-151 in the semifinal of compound junior mixed pair event. The Indian team will face Switzerland for a Gold on Saturday.

PAK TO HOST SL FOR LTD OVER SERIES

KARACHI: Pakistan will host Sri Lanka for six limited over internationals starting next month, the two cricket boards said on Friday, another step towards reviving international cricket in Pakistan after years of isolation. In a joint statement, the cricket boards said the One Day International series will begin on September 27 in Karachi where they will play the other two ODI matches on September 29 and October 2. The Sri Lankans will then move to Lahore for three T20 matches starting on October 5 and the final match will be on October 9, with the second match scheduled for October 7. This will be Sri Lanka's second tour of Pakistan since their team bus was attacked by militants during a Test match in Lahore in March 2009.

AGENCIES

AFP ■ LEEDS

Australia's Josh Hazlewood took five wickets as England collapsed to just 67 all out on the second day of the third Ashes Test at Headingley on Friday.

Australia, who will retain the Ashes with victory in this Test, then strengthened their grip by reaching tea in their second innings on 82-3 — a lead of 194.

Marnus Labuschagne, whose first-innings 74 was seven more than England managed between them, was 13 not out and Travis Head 17 not out.

England, 1-0 down in the five-Test series, had dismissed Australia for a seemingly modest 179, with fast bowler Jofra Archer taking 6-45 on Thursday.

But thanks mainly to Australia quick Hazlewood's figures of 5-30, England were bowled out inside 28 overs.

Joe Denly, with 12, was the only England batsman to reach double figures.

But whereas Labuschagne, in for concussed star batsman Steve Smith, and David Warner (61) fought hard during their first-innings partnership of 111, few England batsmen were as prepared to sell their wickets as

dearly.

Indeed, several played key roles in their own dismissals, for all that Australia bowled well.

By staging both the World

67 ALL OUT

Hazlewood takes five as England derail in 3rd Ashes Test



Josh Hazlewood celebrates with Australian teammates after taking wicket of Jonny Bairstow

ICC/Twitter

Cup and the Ashes with a short turnaround between the two showpiece events, England had denied several batsmen proper first-class preparation for the very

different demands of Test cricket. By contrast, a number of Australians had played for English county sides — Labuschagne, the only batsman to so far score

1,000 first-class runs this season was with Glamorgan — or featured on the Australia A tour of England that preceded the Ashes.

But England's batting woes

predate this season.

Friday's slump was the latest in a line of recent Test collapses that have seen England dismissed for 58 by New Zealand (Auckland 2018), 77 by the West Indies (Bridgetown 2019) and 85 by Ireland at Lord's last month.

But what made this woeful display all the more troubling was that the blue and sunny skies above Headingley on Friday ought to have made conditions for batting easier than the gloom of Thursday, when England captain Joe Root won the toss.

Opener Jason Roy took guard having made just 40 runs in four innings this series.

He fell for nine in familiar fashion when he edged a drive off a wide Hazlewood ball to Warner, holding the first of four catches at first slip.

Root walked out to applause from his Yorkshire home crowd but was out for a second ball nought — his second straight zero after a golden duck in the second innings of the drawn second Test at Lord's — when nicking a straighter Hazlewood delivery that seamed away to Warner.

Hazlewood had taken two wickets for no runs in three balls, with England 10-2.

All-rounder Ben Stokes came into this match following an unbeaten 115 in the second innings at Lord's.

But he all but gave his wick-

et away when he carved at a wide half-volley from fast bowler James Pattinson he could barely reach, with Warner holding a fast edge high above his shoulder.

Denly fought hard only for his 49-ball stay to end when caught behind following an inexplicably extravagant drive off Pattinson.

And 45-5 became 45-6 when Jonny Bairstow disappointed his home crowd by edging a good-length Hazlewood ball, with Warner holding another fine catch.

England were 54-6 at lunch and 54-7 off the very first ball afterwards when Chris Woakes was caught behind off Cummins (3-23).

Archer hooked a four off Cummins before his 'up periscope' attempt to duck a Cummins bouncer also saw him caught behind.

Hazlewood ended the innings when he clean bowled No 11 Jack Leach.

England did then reduce Australia to 36-2.

Stuart Broad had Warner lbw for nought and left-arm spinner Leach struck with his first ball of the match when a sharply turning delivery out of the rough bowled Marcus Harris.

The struggling Usman Khawaja was caught in the slips following a loose drive off Woakes but Labuschagne kept Australia in command.

Boult, Southee rattle SL

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Trent Boult and Tim Southee led New Zealand's charge against Sri Lanka on day two of the rain-hit second Test in Colombo.

The pacemen claimed two wickets each as Sri Lanka reached 144 for six at lunch when rain came down and no further play was possible.

Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne moved from his overnight 49 to score 65 and provided the only bit of resistance in the morning session, which saw 29.3 overs bowled.

Boult took two early wickets in one over after Sri Lanka resumed the day at 85 for two.

Dhanajaya de Silva on 32 and Dilruwan Perera on five were at the crease.

Southee, like Boult, also delivered a double-wicket maiden as the duo put on a superb display of seam bowling under overcast conditions.

Boult got overnight batsman Angelo Mathews caught behind for two to reach a landmark of 250 Test wickets — only the third Kiwi bowler to achieve the feat.

He trapped Kusal Perera lbw for nought after just three balls as Sri



Lanka slipped to 93-4.

Karunaratne also got a lifeline on 61 when Kane Williamson could not grab a tough chance at short midwicket off Ajaz Patel.

But the left-hander, who completed his 23rd Test fifty after resuming the day on 49, soon fell, caught behind off Southee for 65.

Southee struck again in the same over to send Niroshan Dickwella trudging back to the pavilion for nought.

Perera then played out the rest of the session with de Silva.

SA name Klusener as batting coach

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Former South Africa all-rounder Lance Klusener was on Friday appointed as the assistant batting coach of the national team for the three-match Twenty20 series against India in September.

Cricket South Africa (CSA) also announced that former pacer Vincent Barnes will serve as the assistant bowling coach. While Justin Ontong will retain his position as the assistant fielding coach in Enoch Nkwe's Proteas management.

"In terms of the new team structure the Team Director appoints his three assistant coaches who have specific skills focus in the three key disciplines of batting, bowling and fielding," CSA Acting Director, Corrie van Zyl, said in a statement.

"Former Proteas all-rounder Lance Klusener will fill the role of assistant coach (batting) for the T20



Lance Klusener in a file photo

Series only as he is currently not available for all formats."

Klusener, considered one of the best all-rounders of his generation, has collected 1906 runs and 80 wickets in Tests, as well as 3576 runs and 192 wickets in ODIs.

He took up coaching with domestic side Hollywoodbets Dolphins from 2012-2016 before being appointed as batting coach for the Zimbabwe

national team.

In July this year, he was appointed as the head coach of the Glasgow Giants for the cancelled inaugural edition of the Euro T20 Slam cricket tournament.

"His record as one of the best all-rounders in the world, particularly in white ball cricket, during his playing career speaks for itself and he also has extensive coaching experience both at franchise and international level," van Zyl said.

Barnes has a long history with the Proteas, having served as the bowling and then assistant coach from 2003 until 2011.

Ontong, who has represented the national side in all three formats, also served as South Africa's fielding coach under Ottis Gibson before the restructuring.

South Africa will travel to India for a three-match T20 series starting September 15. The two sides will then compete in a three-match Test series.



Fortune Giants edge past Patna

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gujarat Fortune Giants snapped a six-match losing streak in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 7, with a narrow 29-26 win over Patna Pirates at the Nehru indoor stadium in Chennai on Friday.

In the second match of the night, U Mumba defeated Tamil Thalaivas 29-24, ensuring that the latter finished the home leg without a win (with only a tie game to show). U Mumba jumped to fourth in the points table with the win while Thalaivas slipped to eighth.

Jaipur Pink Panthers sit on top of the table with 7 wins from nine matches for 36 points followed by Bengal Warriors and Delhi Dabang KC.

In the Fortuntians-Pirates encounter, Rohit Gulia's Super 10 turned out to be the gamechanger as Pardeep Narwal's early heroics went in vain.

SINDHU BREAKS TAI CODE

PV inches closer to elusive Gold; Praneeth breaks 36-year drought

Momota vs Sai Praneeth
Live from 1:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

PTI ■ BASEL

PV Sindhu secured her fifth World Championships medal following a stunning comeback while B Sai Praneeth became the first Indian male shuttler in 36 years to grab a podium in the prestigious event here on Friday.

On a day of double delight for India, Olympic Silver medallist Sindhu staged a come-from-behind victory over Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying, before Praneeth ended an agonising wait with a straight-game win over Indonesia's Jonatan Christie.

Sindhu, who won back-to-back Silver medals in the last two editions of the tournament to go with her two Bronze, edged past world number 2 and Asian Games Gold medallist Jonatan in a 51-minute battle, joining Prakash Padukone in the medal list at the tournament.

Padukone was the first Indian to win a men's singles World Championships medal — a Bronze — in the 1983 edition.

In the women's singles, Sindhu showed tremendous grit after being blown away in the opening game, edging past her fancied rival, who enjoys an upper hand (10-4) after 14 career meetings.

"I think in the first game, I had given a huge lead and I couldn't cover. I was prepared for her deception but my shots were going to mid court. But the second game was anybody's game and I kept fighting and won the second. The



B Sai Praneeth reacts after beating Jonatan Christie

BWF/Twitter



PV Sindhu celebrates after winning quarterfinal match against Tai Tzu Ying

BWF/Twitter

third game went same way, she was leading but I had hope. At 18-18, I had to be patient and keep the shuttle inside, there were long rallies and I am happy to win this," Sindhu said after the win.

"We keep playing each other, so we know each other's game. I needed to be positive. It was a really good match and taking out such close matches gives a big boost to the confidence and I hope I can prepare well and come back stronger tomorrow."

The 24-year-old Indian will take on the winner of the match between China's Chen Yu Fei and Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt on Saturday.

"I don't know whom I will play. Chen Yufei is doing well in recent times and Mia has beaten Saina yesterday. I will be playing them after a long time. Anything can happen, I just have to be there and focus on tomorrow's match," Sindhu said.



In the men's singles quarterfinals, Praneeth, who had won the Singapore Open in 2017 and finished runners-up at Swiss Open earlier this year, came into the tournament with a 1-2 head-to-head count against the Indonesian.

But the past record didn't matter as the Indian came out attacking to stave off a stiff challenge from Jonatan in the opening game and then blew him away in the second to find his place in history.

"It feels awesome. It feels great and I am happy to win today. I still have matches, so I have to focus on that and be fitter for tomorrow. We can talk about what medal later on," laughed Praneeth after the match.

Talking about the match, Praneeth said: "In the first game,

the rallies were going on really long and I was attacking a lot and there was a lot of pressure and it made me tired. It was crucial because if he would have won then it could have been different.

"Later Gopi sir told me not to attack and that changed the rhythm and I think those inputs helped me

a lot." Praneeth will take on World No 1 Kento Momota of Japan in the semifinals on Saturday.

"I think everybody is trying to find a way to beat him. It is not easy he being the world No 1. You have to put him under pressure, so lets see how it goes. I will give my best."

Saina Nehwal @NSaina

still can't believe 2 match points which the umpire overruled in the second game. And the umpire tells me in the mid of second game "let the line umpires do their job" and I dnt understand suddenly how the umpire overruled the match points..very sick @bwfmedia @HSBCBWF

Kashyap, Saina slam 'bad umpiring'

PTI ■ BASEL

Indian badminton ace Saina Nehwal on Friday slammed the standard of umpiring in her BWF World Championships pre-quarterfinal loss to Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt, terming it "very sick".

Her husband Parupalli Kashyap, who often sits by the courtside during her matches, also lashed out at the umpire following the narrow defeat.

"Still can't believe 2 match points which the umpire overruled in the second game. And the umpire tells me in the mid of second game 'let the line umpires do their job' and I don't understand suddenly how the umpire overruled the match points..Very sick," the London Olympic Bronze medallist tweeted.

Saina, who had won a Silver at the 2015 World

Championships and a Bronze in 2017, put up a gritty performance before losing 21-15, 25-27, 12-21 to Blichfeldt, seeded 12th, in the women's singles match that lasted an hour and 12 minutes on Thursday.

There was no video referral in place for Saina's match as it was not held in one of the two courts with live streaming facility.

"2 match-points snatched away by bad umpiring. And numerous wrong decisions," Kashyap, a 2014 Commonwealth Games champion, wrote on his Twitter handle.

"Unbelievable that there are no reviews on other courts at the WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS. When will our sport get better? SICK @bwfmedia @HSBCBWF @NSaina #feelingcheated #totalbworldchampionships2019"

Table toppers clash

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Early Premier League leaders Liverpool and Arsenal face-off, while Frank Lampard is under pressure to deliver his first win as Chelsea boss at Norwich today.

One of the only two remaining 100 percent records in the Premier League will go at Anfield where the European champions will hope to continue a fine recent record against the north Londoners.

Jürgen Klopp has never lost in seven previous Premier League meetings against Arsenal and his side have beaten the Gunners 4-0 and 5-1 at home in the past two seasons.

However, Unai Emery's outfit are hoping a busy summer in the transfer window, while Liverpool did not strengthen, will have significantly narrowed the 27-point gap between the sides last season.

Emery could hand a first start to £72 million (\$87 million) club record signing Nicolas Pepe, while on-loan Real Madrid midfielder Dani Ceballos earned rave reviews by creating both goals on his full debut against Burnley last weekend.

However, it is at the back Arsenal need a drastic improvement and there is an early opportunity for veteran centre-back David Luiz to make his mark by halting the free-scoring trio of Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah, who combined for all five Liverpool goals when the sides last met.

Arsenal have some outstanding finishers of their own. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who shared the Premier League Golden Boot with Mane and Salah last season, has scored his side's winner in the first two games of the campaign.

And on the evidence of Liverpool's first four games of the season across all competitions, a defence

Liverpool vs Arsenal
Live from 10:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1



that registered 20 Premier League clean sheets last season looks far less solid.

Alisson Becker remains sidelined with a calf injury, meaning Adrian — whose calamitous attempted clearance gifted Southampton a goal last weekend — will keep his place in goal.

Whilst Liverpool and Arsenal have taken advantage of a couple of kind fixtures to get their campaigns off to a bright start, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham all dropped points on matchday two.

The roles are reversed this weekend as United host Crystal Palace, who have yet to score this season at Old Trafford, City travel to Bournemouth and Spurs seek to dismiss Newcastle with the ease newly-promoted Norwich did last weekend.

PUKKI TO PILE PRES-SURE

Lampard was not handed an easy start to life as Chelsea boss with a trip to Old Trafford followed by Liverpool in the UEFA Super Cup and the visit of an ambitious Leicester side to Stamford Bridge last weekend.

However, Lampard, who had just one year's managerial experience at Derby prior to taking over his old club, needs a win at Norwich to ease the questioning of his tactics.

The former England international has been accused of being too gung-ho in his approach as both United and Leicester cut Chelsea open relentlessly on the counter-attack and if he cannot tailor his approach, Norwich have a striker in form ready to take advantage. Teemu Pukki has scored four times in his first two Premier League appearances, including a hat-trick against

Manchester City last weekend.

AFP ■ TURIN

Juventus begin their Serie A campaign at Parma today looking to push their record Scudetto run to nine but with a different style of football under new coach Maurizio Sarri, who will miss the opening fixtures with pneumonia.

Behind, Napoli and Inter Milan are waiting in the wings hopeful that Sarri's arrival can lead to turmoil in Turin and a changing of the guard in Italy.

Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli have not won the title since 1990 and open at Fiorentina Saturday with Antonio Conte's Inter at home to promoted Lecce on Monday.

Like Sarri, Conte last coached at Chelsea, and along with three-times Champions League winner Ancelotti, Serie A have a world class coaching setup this season.

Juventus start the season without Sarri however who will miss the Parma game and his former club Napoli in Turin on August 31 with pneumonia. The 60-year-old is still overseeing training.

Juventus are targeting a 36th

Juve begin title defence



Juventus players pose for group photo after the end of training session in Turin Juventus/Twitter

Scudetto but their main objective remains the Champions League which they have not won since 1996.

After splashing out on Cristiano Ronaldo last season Juventus have again reinforced with midfielders Aaron Ramsey and Adrien Rabiot and Dutch defender



Matthijs De Ligt.

'RAISED THE BAR'

In Milan, Conte, who led Juventus to the first three in their series of eight titles, has also been given money to spend to give Inter a first Serie A title since 2010.

Zizou challenges Bale to prove his worth

AFP ■ MADRID

Zinedine Zidane has challenged Gareth Bale to show why he is still one of the world's best players as he continues his reintegration at Real Madrid.

Bale was a surprise inclusion in the starting line-up against Celta Vigo last weekend, when Madrid opened with an impressive 3-1 win in La Liga and Bale was arguably man of the match.

Zidane said in July it would be "best for everyone" if Bale left Madrid this summer but the Welshman has been eager to stay and appears to be regaining the confidence of his coach.

"What has changed is that the player is going to stay, nothing more," Zidane said in a press conference on Friday, ahead of today's game at home to Real Valladolid.

"The important thing is the player wants to stay. It's true that a lot was said about him, by me as well, but he is going to stay.

"He is a great player, he has shown that before and he has to show it again. He has to be the player we know that he is."

Bale's start in Vigo came after Eden Hazard sustained a thigh injury in training and it remains to be seen if he can keep his place when the Belgian returns after the international break.



R Madrid vs R Valladolid live from 10:30pm IST LIVE ON FACEBOOK

Harmanpreet proud to lead India to success

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh is a proud man after having led India to success in his maiden stint as captain of the national team in the just-concluded Olympic Test event in Tokyo.

World No 5 India rested some senior players and fielded a relatively young team for the Olympic Test event but still managed to lift the crown, defeating New Zealand 5-0 in the final on Wednesday.

"It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone involved in the team to showcase what they can do. With some experienced players rested for the tournament, we had a fairly younger squad, but it was a great chance for the youngsters to do well and I am really pleased with the way everyone stepped up.

"The team performed well against teams like Japan, Malaysia and New Zealand, and it was an immensely proud moment for me to have led the Indian men's hockey team for the very first time," said the 23-year-old Harmanpreet, who captained India in the absence of Manpreet Singh.

Harmanpreet scored two goals in the tournament and both his strikes came against New Zealand — the first in the 1-2 loss in round-robin match, while the other was in the final.

"Scoring is something that I have really worked on since the junior days. To be able to help the team in scoring some important goals at crucial junctures in a match is something that motivates me even further," Harmanpreet said.



Harmanpreet Singh poses for photo during Indian team training session Harmanpreet/Twitter

"I have worked on my drag-flicking with the coaches, and finally it is showing on the field as well and I am really pleased, but I will continue to keep working."



Niko Kovac & Philippe Coutinho walk during Bayern Munich training session AP

Bayern loanees ready to shine

AFP ■ BERLIN

Schalke vs Bayern Live from 10:00pm IST STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

New loan signings Ivan Perisic and Philippe Coutinho both hope to make their Bundesliga debuts as champions Bayern Munich attempt to reboot a rocky start to the season at Schalke today.

Perisic and Coutinho, both of whom arrived in Munich on loan this month, will be in the squad for the first time as Bayern look to pick up their first win of the new season against David Wagner's Schalke.

Coutinho, 27, has been the talk of Germany since Bayern announced his arrival on a one-year loan deal from Barcelona last week.

Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic said the Brazilian would provide "a touch of the spectacular", and hopes the former Liverpool player can sprinkle some much-needed stardust on the German top-flight.

Bayern announced record engagement figures on their social media accounts following Coutinho's arrival, but fans may have to wait to see him in action.

Coach Niko Kovac confirmed on Thursday Coutinho was not yet fit enough to play the full 90 minutes, and would start on the bench against Schalke.

The Croatian coach said his compatriot Perisic had better chances of making a first start for Bayern.

Perisic, 30, joined Bayern on a one-year loan from Inter Milan earlier this month, but was forced to sit out the season opener against Hertha Berlin due to a suspension carried over from Serie A.

That game confirmed a bumpy start to the new season for Bayern, as they were held to a 2-2 draw and immediately slipped two points behind title rivals Dortmund, who had beaten them in the German Supercup two weeks previously.