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HYDERABAD, SUNDAY AUGUST 25, 2019; PAGES 16 & 3



FROM
FARMS TO
POLITICS
A LEADER
BORN OF
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9

ARUN JAITLEY, BJP'S MAN FRIDAY, PASSES AWAY

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Arun Jaitley, who as finance minister ushered in India's biggest tax reforms and was the chief trouble-shooter of the BJP and the Modi government, died at the AIIMS here on Saturday after battling multiple health issues for the last several months. He was 66. In a brief statement, the hospital said Jaitley breathed his last at 12.07 pm. He was admitted to the hospital on August 9 following complaint of breathing difficulty. The cremation will be on Sunday afternoon at the Nigambodh Ghat.

Known as a consensus builder, Jaitley was the BJP's man for all seasons and acted as the key strategist for Narendra Modi government in its first term. He helmed the finance, defence, corporate affairs and information and broadcasting ministries. Leaders across the political spectrum paid rich tributes to Jaitley, a quintessential moderate who was never associated with the hard edges of Hindutva politics. He became a trusted friend of Narendra Modi as he smoothed the path for the Gujarat leader's rise in the BJP by helping him win key allies.

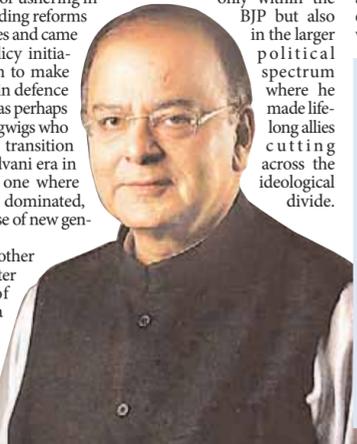
Jaitley played an instrumental role in implementation of Modi's various ambitious

Known as a consensus builder, Jaitley was the BJP's man for all seasons and acted as the key strategist for Narendra Modi government in its first term. He helmed the finance, defence, corporate affairs and information and broadcasting ministries

schemes and programmes after the BJP came to power in May 2014. His most important legacy will be rolling out of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017, the biggest tax reforms after Independence. In his two brief stints as defence minister, Jaitley cleared the path for ushering in a raft of long-pending reforms in the armed forces and came out with key policy initiatives with an aim to make India self-reliant in defence production. He was perhaps among the BJP bigwigs who made a smooth transition from the Atal-Advani era in the party to the one where Narendra Modi dominated, ushering in the rise of new generation leaders.

His death is another jolt to the BJP after the demise of Sushma Swaraj, a contemporary of Jaitley and one of its prominent faces, on August 6. Party leaders

mourned Jaitley's loss, remembering him as a dear colleague, mentor and guide and hailing his contribution to the growth of the party and the nation. Jaitley, an urbane and media-savvy leader and a legal luminary, was one of the sharpest political minds not only within the BJP but also in the larger political spectrum where he made life-long allies cutting across the ideological divide.



A gifted raconteur whose interest spanned from politics to Bollywood to sports, his informal gatherings were always a full house as journalists, friends and politicians enjoyed his wit, sarcasm - which singed his colleagues and adversaries alike - and grasp of issues that he delivered in his ever relaxed and warm demeanour. Jaitley was the

bridge that the BJP used to win over new allies, and also its warm, affable and persuasive face to bring opposition parties around on key issues. In his condolence message, L K Advani said Jaitley was known and respected for his "sharp, analytical mind and everyone in the BJP always depended on him for finding solutions to complex issues." "He was also someone who valued and nurtured his friendship with people across the political spectrum. As a person, Arunji will be remembered as a soft-spoken, erudite and warm hearted person," he said.

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Have lost a valued friend: Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday described Arun Jaitley as a "valued friend" whose insights and nuanced understanding of matters had "very few parallels" as he condoled the death of the senior BJP leader who was one of his close confidants for decades. Modi, who is in the UAE on an official tour, said the former finance minister was full of life, blessed with wit, a great sense of humour and charisma. Official sources said the prime minister spoke to the wife and son of Jaitley, who died at AIIMS on Saturday, and expressed his condolences. Both of them insisted that he does not cancel his foreign tour. In his tweets, Modi said Jaitley was admired by people across all sections of society, doing that he was multifaceted, had impeccable knowledge about India's Constitution, history, public policy, governance and administration.



A delegation of opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, addressing reporters at the Srinagar airport on Saturday

Oppn delegation sent back from Srinagar airport

● Leaders question govt's 'claim of normalcy'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A delegation of opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, which wanted to visit Kashmir Valley to take stock of the situation there after the abrogation of Article 370 provisions, was not allowed to leave Srinagar airport on Saturday by the state administration and had to return to the national capital. The development came a day after the Jammu and Kashmir government issued a statement asking political leaders not to visit the Valley as it would disturb the gradual restoration of peace and normal life. The leaders from nine political parties, who had flown to Srinagar this afternoon but returned within hours, lashed out at the government, questioning its claim of "normalcy" in the Valley.

"The government has invited me. The governor has said that I am invited. Now that I

have come, they are saying you can't come. The government is saying that everything is normal here, so if everything is normal then why are we not allowed to go in. It is surprising," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi told reporters at the Srinagar airport. He was accompanied by leaders of CPI(M), CPI, DMK, NCP, JD(S), RJD, LJD and the TMC.

"We want to go to any area which is peaceful and talk to 10-15 people. If there is Section 144, I am ready to go in individually, we don't have to go as a group," he said. The CPI(M) said that the delegation had planned to visit various parts of the state over the next few days, talking to various people and sections of the populace and shades of political opinion to ascertain the situation existing on the ground and the difficulties that they are encountering as a result of the shutdown in the Kashmir valley.

5 Maoists killed in an encounter

PV KONDAL RAO ■ KHAMMAM

In a major encounter between alleged CPI Maoist activists and security forces in Abuzmad forests of Narayanpur district in the naxalite-torn Chhattisgarh state, five CPI Maoist naxalites were killed and an unspecified number of extremists injured. Two jawans of the police battalion sustained grievous injuries in the cross-fire.

The identity of the slain naxalites, however, was not known. The police were conducting an identification parade with the help of naxalites who had surrendered in the part, sources said. A huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from the encounter spot, which is on the border of Khammam district. According to Director General of Police of Chhattisgarh state Avasthi, the encounter occurred in the dense forest terrain of Abuzmad during the early hours on Saturday. The Bastar Police conceded the encounter and said it was the second such incident since August 3.

The police, according to the DGP, went to the hilly terrain on a tip-off that naxalites were holding a meeting in Durveda forests. They conducted massive search operations in the region. While the police were conducting the searches, the Maoists resorted to firing and the ensuing encounter lasted about 90 minutes.

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UAE honours PM Modi with highest civilian award

ABU DHABI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with the 'Order of Zayed', the UAE's highest civilian award, on Saturday as a mark of appreciation for his efforts to boost bilateral ties between the two nations.

The award has earlier been bestowed on several world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Queen Elizabeth II and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"An incomparable honour reflecting our warm ties. PM @narendramodi conferred with the prestigious 'Order of Zayed' by HH Crown Prince of UAE @MohamedBinZayed, the highest civilian honor of UAE for PM's contribution in strengthening relations between India and UAE," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

Modi thanked the UAE government for the honour and dedicated the award to the skills and abilities of 1.3 billion Indians.

Abrogation of Art 370 led to full integration of J&K with India: Shah

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the abrogation of Article 370 enabled the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the Indian Union. He also said the Parliament has made Jammu and Kashmir an integral part of India by ending Article 370, under the leadership of Prime Minister and India's most popular leader, Narendra Modi.

Shah was speaking at the passing out parade of IPS probationers at Sardar Vallabhbhai

Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA) here.

"The complete merger of Jammu and Kashmir with Indian Union did not happen with the existence of Article 370," he added.

Paying glowing tributes to the country's first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, he said Hyderabad became a part of India due to the police action carried out (to unite the erstwhile Hyderabad state of Nizam) under his (Patel's) leadership.

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Union Home Minister Amit Shah handing over credentials to a probationer at the passing out parade of IPS probationers at SVPNPA on Saturday

Sonia gives nod to Left-Cong alliance in Bengal

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi has given her nod to Congress-Left Front alliance in West Bengal for the upcoming assembly by-polls in the state following the party's dismal performance in the Lok Sabha polls in the state, top party sources said on Saturday. Gandhi held a meeting with West Bengal Congress president Somen Mitra in Delhi on Friday night and discussed various organisational issues, including the upcoming assembly bypolls in the state, the sources said.

"We informed Soniji about the seat adjustment we are having with the Left Front for the upcoming by-elections in the state. She told us if the Left Front agrees then both the parties should go for an alliance in the state," Mitra said.

The seat adjustment decision was taken by the Congress state leadership when the party had no president after the resignation of Rahul Gandhi from the post. The nod was given by Sonia Gandhi, who was chosen the party's interim president earlier this month.

Portrait maker falls victim of imposter!

● City artist conned by a man claiming he made the famous portraits

NAVEEN KUMAR ■ HYDERABAD

A city-based artist, well known for making portraits of famous personalities, has been conned by a man who took his paintings on the pretext of exhibiting them at a gallery and then showcased them as his own.

The 72-year-old artist, Sayed Azmathullah, a former IBM systems engineer, started off by making digital work in the early 1970s, and later moved on to making portraits with ceramic tile and crystals of famous international personalities of the world.

Speaking to *the Pioneer*, Azmathullah said, "I was approached by Abdul Salam Al-Qadi, 45, a Hyderabadite from old city in 2017, who claimed to be an art collector from Qatar. Abdul Salam procured 11 artworks from me between October 2017 and April 2018, saying that he would showcase them at exhibitions and share the proceeds from it with me." The man paid Azmathullah for five paintings before blocking



Azmathullah has created crystal paintings of former president Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Prince Charles, KT Rama Rao, CEOs of Apple and Google, and many other famous personalities. He often gets to show them his work personally

him out. "It is not about the money, but it is wrong to claim those paintings as his own. Government officials in UK informed me that various Gulf-based media outlets were reporting that Abdul Salam was the artist of two paintings - 'The Dome of the Rock in the

Old City of Jerusalem' and another one, a portrait of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan." This is when Azmathullah realised that Abdul Salam had turned an imposter.

Continued on Page 3

Abolish income tax, hike FD interest: Swamy

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

BJP MP Subramanian Swamy batted for abolishing income tax, hiking interest rate on fixed deposits and lowering it on loans to spur economic growth.

"The main thing is that the income tax should be abolished. The rate on fixed deposits should be increased to nine per cent and the rate of interest on borrowings should be brought down to nine per cent as well. If these three steps are taken, things will improve," said Swamy.

A lot needs to be done for the economy. My book is coming out on September 5, in which I have explained what needs to be done, he added.

Swamy made the remarks when asked if the steps taken by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman would revive the growth. In a bid to boost economy on a five-year low, the Centre announced a slew of measures, including the rollback of surcharge on foreign and domestic equity investors, a promise to review the super rich tax on high net-worth individuals, exempting startups from 'angel tax' and upfront infusion of Rs 70,000 crore to public sector banks.

Millennials shy away from buying house

NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD

The housing market has become more diverse than ever before, mainly because buying home is no longer a status statement. The millennial generation, compared to their parents and grandparents, have no qualms about renting apartments. With many of the previous generations already owning homes, millennials are now the prime target clientele for those offering to sell homes. There is a big shift in the way realty space, particularly housing and office segment, is consumed because of the millennials.

It is shared economy and they are not keen on building up assets for tomorrow. Millennials shy away from the long-term financial obligations that come with buying a home. They slog it out at work; enjoy the convenience of



technology and all consumerism. It is "in-the-now" kind of thing. This lifestyle seems to have impacted the housing segment. In a recent report titled 'What Ails the Housing Market?', ANAROCK Property Consultants pointed that millennials 'no-guilt' towards renting is also one of the reasons for the current slowdown in the

housing segment of real estate, apart from unfavorable return on investment (ROI), weak consumer sentiments, low job creation. The report notes, 'the status perception of homeownership has faded - especially with on-the-move millennials who prefer to rent homes in convenient locations in whatever city they happen to be'. While this might be

● Buying home no longer a status statement, though Hyderabadis buck trend
● If the young buyer doesn't have sufficient money, their family or in-laws are lending financial support

the case in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru or other metro cities, Hyderabad reflects a contrary trend. Samson Arthur, Branch Director, Hyderabad, Knight Frank India, said, "Preferences of millennials are becoming trend for the markets. Housing-wise in Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru, it is not easy to find a home for buying or renting. You can't have it at nearest spot to your workplace or in centre of the city. So co-living and co-working are picking up. From fresher to mid-level,

Hyderabad is a place where you buy real estate it grows. It may not be best asset, however for Indian customer, for Hyderabad, there is high sentiment quotient for property purchase or holding an asset. You cannot do this in Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta - they don't offer proposition of young dynamic city which is growing and future will better. These signs are strong for Hyderabad."

However, for a youngster who has no bigger obligations like - parent, partner, children, they choose to be in a place where it's a convenient, well-equipped, and spend more time at workplace, instead of travel. Experts opine that even if rental markets continue to rise, it will create another set of buyers or investors who will buy an apartment and lease it out.

Continued on Page 3

Etela in the dock for 'leaking' CM meet outcome

● Revenue staff leaders' giveaway leaves minister red-faced

L VENKAT RAM REDDY ■ HYDERABAD

Matters discussed confidentially with Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao at Pragati Bhavan, especially on sensitive subjects, cannot be trifled with by ministers and others however juicy they may be.

Senior TRS leader and Health Minister Etela Rajender learnt this the hard way on Saturday after landing in a controversy for allegedly 'leaking' to representatives of the revenue staff the gist of the 'closed-door' meeting KCR held at Pragathi Bhavan with ministers and district collec-



tors early this week. With the revenue staff sore at what they reportedly learnt unofficially from Etela, rumours of his leaks spread like wild fire on Saturday.

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TODAY

ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Shravana & Krishna Paksha
Panchangam
Tithi : Navami: 08:10 am
Nakshatram: Mrigashirsha 03:19 am (Next Day)
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)
Rahukalam: 04:58 pm - 06:31 pm
Yamagandam: 12:18 am - 01:51 pm
Varjyam: 09:48 pm - 11:23 am
Gulika: 03:24 pm - 04:58 pm
Good Times: (to start any important work)
Amritakalam: 07:17 pm - 08:52 pm
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:53 am - 12:43 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms
Temp: 31/23
Humidity: 80%
Sunrise: 06:00
Sunset: 06:35
Current Weather Conditions
Updated August 24, 2019 5:00 PM

Tributes pour in



Amit Shah cuts short Hyd visit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Following the demise of former Union Minister Arun Jaitley at AIIMS, New Delhi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was in the city to attend the passing out parade of IPS probationers at the Sardar Vallabhai Patel National Police Academy, had cut short his visit and rushed back to New Delhi.

Earlier, addressing the IPS probationers, the Union Home Minister stated that 33,000 policemen have so far laid down their lives for the nation. Shah said the country faced several challenges to its internal security like terrorism, narcotics, cyber crime and challenges created by the neighbouring countries.

Stating that peace and security is a must to achieve Modi's vision of making India a five trillion dollar economy, he said that without internal security and law and order, peace and security was not possible. Meanwhile, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu, who was in Chennai and was to proceed from there to Nellore in Andhra Pradesh, also cut short his visit. The 103 IPS officials including 15 women officials, six Royal Bhutan police and five Nepal Police Service officials participated.

Cotton farmers to get ID cards soon

PNS ■ VIKARABAD

Agriculture and marketing Departments have been jointly working to issue identity cards to cotton farmers in the district to check irregularities in cotton transactions, keep traders and middlemen at bay and to ensure MSP to the cotton farmers.

Recently, the Centre issued orders asking the officials to issue identity cards and record the sale and purchase transactions of cotton should be carried out on the lines of the National Agriculture Marketing system of the Centre. Moreover, the officials are preparing a list with details like extent of area under cotton in the district, how many farmers raised the crop and what is the yield. They will use the com-



Recently, the Centre issued orders to the States asking officials to issue identity cards and record the sale and purchase transactions of cotton

prehensive farmer survey conducted recently to prepare the list.

The area under the crop is 1.3 lakh acres and the average yield would be at the rate of eight quintals an acre, which boils down to 10.4 lakh quintals. Besides cotton, other

major crops in the district are maize and red gram. Procurement of cotton is carried out on a large scale at the five market yards in the district. Earlier, ginning mill traders and middlemen used to exploit cotton farmers denying them the MSP. Because of lakhs of quin-

tals of cotton to be harvested in the district, to extend the MSP of Rs 5,450 a quintal to them, the authorities should know who the real cotton farmer is. There are 1.76-lakh cotton farmers in the district as per the recent comprehensive survey. Of them, 50 per cent of the

farmers raised cotton during the current kharif.

The recent survey would help the farmers get bar-coded identity cards. By feeding the card into the computers, details pop-up on the screen. If the farmer brings more cotton than his yield, the computer will not entertain the transaction.

Therefore, the farmer would be able to sell his harvested cotton. Moreover, the information can be accessed by cotton corporation of India officials and marketing officials and the sale proceedings will be deposited directly into farmer's bank account. A farmer of Dharum mandal Gouraiah said that the issue of identity cards would go a long way in checking irregularities in cotton sale transactions and check the menace due to middlemen and traders.

Leaders cutting across party lines consoled the demise of BJP stalwart and former Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. Telangana Governor ESL Narasimhan expressed shock at the demise of the former Union Minister. In a message, the Governor said that "the country has lost a towering personality who will always remain a beacon to inspire the young politicians to tread the path of value-based politics. Sri Arun Jaitley was a true statesman, a great scholar, an eminent advocate besides a hearthrob of millions of countrymen. I

am deeply saddened by the loss of such a great leader." "Extremely saddened to learn about the demise of Former Union Minister Sri @arunjaitley Ji. Condolences to his family. One of the most well informed & composed union ministers I've had the good fortune of interacting many times. Always forthright & ebullient," tweeted TRS working president KT Rama Rao. Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, BJP leader Bandaru Dattatreya and other leaders too consoled the demise of the former Union Minister.



Tribal students bust smuggling racket

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Students of three tribals hostels in the Julaiwada area of Hanamkonda town in Warangal city on Friday busted a PDS rice smuggling racket at the hostel premises. The students caught those involved in the racket red-handed and seized six bags of rice. Following the incident, the students staged a dharna in front of the Warangal urban district Collectorate and demanded the action against the culprits. The students alleged that the hostel warden ganged up with others and was transporting the PDS rice illegally to the markets.

Students from Intermediate, degree, and PG are getting the

The students alleged that the hostel warden ganged up with others and was transporting the PDS rice illegally. They staged a protest in front of the Collectorate demanding action against those involved in the incident

boarding facility in a cluster in the Julaiwada hostel for the past few years. They were provided the food and lodging facility in the hostel and about 450 odd students are in the rolls of this cluster of hostels. The students during the last two-three months felt something fishy about the PDS rice being smuggled from the hostel. Following this, the students

kept a watch on the hostel warden Radhika and her team. On Thursday, the students caught the hostel warden and others when they were illegally transporting the PDS rice meant for hostel students.

The students staged a protest in front of the Collectorate demanding action against those involved in the incident. Sources say

the accused were illegally transporting the PDS rice for three to four months. Expressing concern, District Tribal Development officer Vijayalakshmi took up the probe and assured to take action against the culprits.

The hostels in this cluster, as per the students, were allocated Rs 40 lakh towards cosmetic needs and major chunk in the allocations were reportedly diverted by the warden. The Urban District Collector of Warangal, Prashanth Jeevan Patil has taken a serious note of the entire episode and ordered a thorough probe into the irregularities. He assured the students' organisations of stringent action against the persons behind the issue.

5 Maoists killed in an encounter

Continued from Page 1

After firing from the naxalites' side stopped suddenly, the police forces continued their search in the place and found the dead bodies of five Maoists from the scene of the encounter. The police recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition from the encounter place, the DGP said. Pointing out that the encounter site was one of the strongest bastions of the extremists; the DGP said the 6,000-odd sq m area surrounding this part was covered with dense forests. The mineral resources there had remained untapped as surveys in that angle were prevented by naxalites and their offensive acts.

Palamuru project works to pick up pace



AVINASH DEEPAK PULI ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Once completed, the Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme will provide irrigation facility to erstwhile districts of Rangareddy, Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar

The works on Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme is likely to pick up pace in the next few days as the Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is laying emphasis on completion of the project on a war footing basis.

Once completed, the project will provide irrigation facility to erstwhile districts of Rangareddy, Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar. Accordingly, all the hurdles pertaining to the land acquisition and other issues were resolved amicably. In the Narsapuram reservoir area of the project, the government has acquired 2,275 acres as against the required 2,465 acres. The land acquisition process had cost the government around Rs 425 crore and the reservoir works are likely to cost around Rs 760 crore in total. In the Edula Reservoir under this scheme, around 5,011 acres was acquired as against 5,470 acres required and Rs 622 crore

were spent as against Rs 664 crore so far.

In Vattem reservoir, 4,000 acres was acquired as against 4,526 acres and Rs 1800 crore was spent. In Karivena Reservoir, an extent of 6,008 acres was acquired as against 6,676 acres. Even the channel works have been progressing at a rapid pace and the Narlapur Edula two and three package works in a stretch of 8.375 km have been progressing and

fifty per cent of these works were already accomplished as per the official information.

Similarly, the 6.4 km stretch channel works from Edula to Vattem in the sixth and seventh package are progressing and 81 per cent of the works were accomplished till date. The twelve KM stretch twelfth package works of Vattem to Karivena are completed to the tune of 72 per cent works. The project like in the case of Kaleshwaram is going to be fixed with major pumpsets and in Narlapur a total of eight 145 Megawatts pumpsets would be fixed and every day a total of 22 thousand cuses water would be pumped. These are designed by the IO engineers and these are basically known as unique. The tunnel, surge pool and channel works of Edula Reservoir are also progressing and 99 per cent of the works were accomplished. Here the administration is planning to fix up nine pumpsets of 145 HP and they are likely to provide water to 45 thousand acres extent area.

BJP leader's son goes missing in London

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

A pall of gloom descended on Kasba Bazar in the city following the news of missing of Sanne Ujwal Sriharsha, the son of the BJP district unit president Sanne Uday Pratap. Sriharsha, aged around 24, studying in London reportedly went missing. The London police have intimated the parents over phone about their son's missing. With the news spreading here, Pratap's friends and relatives arrived at his residence at Kasba Bazar offering moral support.

"He went to London in September last year to pursue MS (Artificial Intelligence) at Queen Mary University of London. We received a call from London police informing about missing complaint lodged by the University and they are searching for the student," Pratap told the press here on Saturday with his eyes full of tears.

"The police said they could find whereabouts our son only after two days and it was learnt the search would be stopped on Saturday and Sunday. I appeal London police and Indian High Commission in London to please find our son," he said grieving.

According to him, the last call made by Sriharsha was on Aug 21 morning on which he



spoke to his mother, when they called him over phone on Aug 22 there was no response from him. He had recently been to Tokyo in Japan on a project work. The London police who have registered a missing case have found a bag belonging to Sriharsha on a seashore in London.

On learning the news, the Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy called Uday Pratap over phone and consoled him. The Minister also contacted Union External Affairs officials and asked them to take necessary steps to trace out the missing youth, sources said.

Khammam MP Nama Nageswar Rao also consoled the BJP leader Pratap saying he will do his part in tracing out Sriharsha. Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) district president Dr. G Venkateswarlu and others also called on Pratap and extending him moral support.

Goats eat up saplings, farmer fined

PNS ■ CHEVELLA

A livestock farmer was fined after his goats devoured saplings planted as part of Haritha Haram in Deval Venkatapur in Ranga Reddy district. Village panchayat officials imposed a fine of Rs 500 on Baikani Mallamma.

Panchayat secretary Ranjit Kumar and sarpanch Swarupa Gunugurti also gave her a receipt of the fine amount levied.

Snake bites three of a family; one dies, two critical

PNS ■ MAHABUBABAD

In a tragic incident, three of a family suffered snake bite by deadly krait, one of the highly venomous Asian snake of cobra family, after one of them died and two have been battling for life. The incident took place at Errachekru thanda in Narsimhulupet mandal in the district on Friday night. While the head of the family, Jatothu Ravi lost his life while undergoing treatment at Mahabubabad area hospital, his wife Neela and son Charan are struggling for life at a private hospital in Khammam.

Etela in the dock for 'leaking' CM meet outcome

Continued from Page 1

Sensing trouble, the minister cancelled all his meetings and appointments scheduled for Saturday. He remained confined to his home at Shamirpet on the outskirts of the city. This fuelled speculations that Etela was deeply pained and upset at the rumours and hence had been avoided meeting anyone.

It may be recalled that KCR held a meeting with all district collectors at Pragathi Bhavan on Tuesday last to discuss, inter alia, the new Revenue Act. Ministers also attended the meeting. During the meeting, KCR reportedly made it clear that the discussions were 'confidential' and that none should 'leak' the outcome or discussion points.

The meeting attracted the attention of revenue staff, over whom the Sword of Damocles has been hanging ever since KCR hinted at scrapping the wing, abolishing VRO system, and curtailing powers of MROs on land mutations etc to check rampant corruption and as part of implementing the new Revenue Act.

So, when curious revenue staff representatives met Etela, apparently to know the outcome of the CM's meeting, what they learnt disturbed them so much that they resolved to go on strike or hold

protests across the state from the very next day of the meeting. Their contention was that KCR had proposed to scrap the Revenue Department during the collectors' conference. They also cited the information they had gathered from 'highly placed sources'.

This led to a hunt for the person who, despite KCR's advice, 'leaked' information to the revenue staff on the CM's meeting.

It was in this backdrop that rumours spread on Saturday that Etela Rajender was behind this. That sounded plausible was that soon after the CM's meeting, Etela headed to his residence in Shamirpet, where representatives of revenue staff associations had been waiting to meet him.

What could have transpired at the meeting is obvious. Yet, in view of the rumours that devastated the Minister, revenue staff associations sought to give a "clarification" on Saturday that they met Etela Rajender at his residence after the CM's meeting but it was only to give a petition seeking financial assistance for treating the ailment of the son of an MRO under Arogyasri.

This 'clarification' complicated matters as it nailed the fact that the revenue staff did meet Etela at his residence soon after the meeting with the CM.

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₹ 38,100 (10 gm)	
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SILVER	
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₹ 800	▲
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Dressed/With Skin	₹146
Without Skin	₹166
Broiler at Farm	₹101
EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	341
VIJAYAWADA	332
VISAKHAPATNAM	350
RETAIL PRICE	₹3.15

Abrogation of Art 370 led to integration of J&K with India: Shah

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While Patel united 630 princely states with the Indian Union, the last missing point was the complete merger of Jammu and Kashmir, he noted. "Everybody was feeling that something was missing," he said.

Observing that the country faced many challenges, including terrorism, narcotics, and cyber crime, he said the nation cannot become a developed one unless it was secure internally.

He stressed the need to ensure law and order and peace in the country to take it on the path of achieving the goal set by Modi of becoming a five trillion dollar economy.

Urging young IPS officers to work fearlessly in the spirit of the Constitution, Shah said, "being fearless and working under the scope of Constitution without fear, that would be the biggest quality of IPS officer."

Both elected representatives and civil servants get the opportunity to serve the Constitution and the country, but the difference was that elected representatives would have to seek a fresh mandate after five years, he noted.

The batch of 92 probationers includes 12 Lady Probationers, according to an official release. Of the 11 foreign officers in the batch, six are from Royal Bhutan Police and five from Nepal Police.

Attestation parade held at Artillery Centre

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Artillery Centre, Hyderabad on Saturday conducted Attestation Parade for recruits on their successful completion of a year-long basic and advanced military training at Artillery Centre, Golconda in Hyderabad.

The passing out parade for 304 recruits was reviewed by Major General N Srinivas Rao, General Officer Commanding, Telangana and Andhra Sub Area & Colonel Commandant, Regiment of Artillery. The parade was witnessed by the proud parents and guardians at the Centre. The Reviewing Officer appreciated the instructors and staff for achieving a very high standard of drill in the



Major General N Srinivas Rao, GOC, TASA & Colonel Commandant, Regiment of Artillery receiving salute from the recruits at the Attestation Parade held at Artillery Centre in Hyderabad on Saturday

Attestation Parade, lauded the efforts of Artillery Centre for improving the standards of training and also congratulated the parents of the young

soldiers. The Reviewing Officer then handed over the medals to the recruits for standing the best in Drill, Physical Training,

and Weapon Training. Medal for Overall Best Recruit was awarded to recruit/Gunner Sagar Kshetri. He also presented the "Gaurav Padaks" to

the parents and guardians for dedicating their wards in the service of the nation. Major General N Srinivas Rao, GOC, TASA, Brigadier RR Kumar, Commandant, Artillery Centre and senior army officers, instructors and staff interacted with parents and shared their happiness and pride. It was a grand military spectacular of budding young men marching to the tune of "Sare Jaha Se Achha" in their crisp military attire to assume their rightful place in the Gunner's fraternity. Earlier, the GOC, Major General Rao laid a wreath at the War Memorial of Artillery Centre and paid tributes to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for safe guarding the nation.

CRIME CORNER

Biker mowed down by RTC bus

A 39-year-old biker was mowed down by a speeding TSRTC bus at Mancheril on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Chandraiah, a daily labourer. Chandraiah died on the spot after suffering severe head injuries in the accident took place near Bellampalli chowrasta in Mancheril town, said sub-inspector N Maruti. He was rushed to the hospital but was declared brought dead at Mancheril district hospital. The deceased was survived by his wife and five children. The bus involved in the incident belongs to Nirmal depot. A case was registered against the driver of the bus under Section 304-A (death by negligence) of IPC and an investigation is underway.

Man given injection at clinic dies

A youth died after allegedly being administered an injection at a private clinic in SR Nagar in the city on Saturday. According to the police, deceased Sanjay Prasad (31), native of Odisha, was working as a construction labourer and lived at Vengalrao Nagar. Prasad had gone to Om Sai clinic on Wednesday after complaining of fever. Police said the doctor was not present at the clinic, and a staffer named Naveen Kumar administered him an injection. In the evening, Prasad got a swelling on his thigh and revisited the clinic, where the doctor assured him of proper treatment. The doctor gave him some medicine but the swelling only increased. On Friday, Prasad complained of uneasiness and was rushed to a hospital where doctors pronounced him dead, SR Nagar police said. A case was registered against the clinic.

2 arrested for killing man, severing head

Auto driver was killed, body decapitated by rivals

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The city police nabbed two men in connection with a gruesome murder wherein man was decapitated and his head and torso were dumped at two places three km apart in the city. Petty disputes among the men is said to be the motive of the crime.

The accused were identified as Srikanth Yadav and Srinivas Yadav, said police. The deceased, Praveen, an auto driver who lived in Ameenpur, was killed by the duo in inebriated state. The police seized the murder weapon, a knife, from the accused.

Police said another auto driver who identified himself as Rajesh approached the Miyapur police on Friday morning stating that he had spotted the headless body of his friend at Dharmapuri Kshetra. Police took Rajesh to the location, and upon search-



Deceased Praveen

The accused killed Praveen, police said, and carried away his severed head on their bike and later dumped it near IDA Bollaram

ing, found a severed head on a road near IDA Bollaram, three km away from where the torso was found, said Miyapur ACP S Ravi Kumar.

Rajesh told the police that he last saw Praveen being forcibly taken away and being assaulted by two men. He said he was present at the scene but ran away due to fear.

Police said that later a financier named Srikanth and his relative Srinivas picked an argument with Praveen and

Rajesh over an old dispute. Suspecting that Praveen was a threat to them, they hatched a plan to kill him.

On the fateful day, the two men took Praveen and Rajesh to an isolated area in Dharmapuri Kshetra. The accused killed Praveen, police said, and carried away his severed head on their bike and later dumped it near IDA Bollaram.

Srikanth was earlier involved in an attempt to murder case at Ameenpur, police said.

Bomb scare at Gachibowli

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Tension prevailed at Indira Nagar area of Gachibowli on Saturday evening after locals suspected a bomb had been abandoned in cardboard carton. The bomb squad, however, reached the scene and found broken and used bulbs inside the box. Unidentified person dumped a carton on an open plot near a tiffin centre here and ran away, said Gachibowli police inspector R Srinivas. Crowds gathered in the



vicinity. A bomb disposal team was sent to the spot on receiving information and the suspicious box was opened and checked. The found large blubs and broken fragments but nothing hazardous, police said.

OnePlus' first R&D centre in Hyd

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Premium smartphone brand OnePlus will start its first research and development facility in the country in Hyderabad on Monday.

Pete Lau, founder CEO of OnePlus, TRS president KT Rama Rao and IT Secretary Jayesh Ranjan will inaugurate the facility located in Financial District in the city.

To tackle seasonal diseases, GHMC goes to schools

SIX SPECIAL DESKS SET UP IN GANDHI HOSPITAL AND 5 IN OSMANIA TO ADDRESS INCREASED PATIENT RUSH

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With monsoon come the associated diseases. The GHMC is therefore conducting health camps and awareness campaigns. It has also carried out fogging and spraying operations in residential areas to curb the mosquito menace.

The civic body has started 'Dry Day' awareness programmes in schools. It will hold a total of 695 health camps on September 15 and also create awareness on the implementation of the 'Friday - Dry Day' concept by distributing pamphlets and door stickers.

The GHMC is scheduled to conduct 500 health camps in August of which it has held 300 so far this month. The remaining 200 health camps will be held on August 26 and 27. Commissioner Dana Kishore instructed Zonal Commissioners to ensure at least 50 health camps are conducted in their respective zones with the help of private hospitals. A review meeting on vector and water-borne diseases was held with DMHOs of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Medchal districts, the GHMC Commissioner said.

The DMHOs told the Commissioner that special desks have been set up to look after seasonal diseases and the timings of out-patient departments in government hospitals have been extended up to 4 pm. Six special desks have been set up at Gandhi Hospital and five in Osmania General

SYMPTOMS	ADVICES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever, severe headache Pain behind eyes Muscle and joint pain Nausea, vomiting, swollen glands Unusual weakness, rash Abdomen pain, cough, loose motion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediate blood test on doctor's advice Rest and drink plenty of fluids Paracetamol can be taken to reduce joint pains, fever Aspirin or ibuprofen should not be taken

Mosquito-borne disease rear ugly head

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Malaria, chikungunya and dengue, which were supposed to have almost disappeared from Hyderabad, are back with a vengeance this season.

A total of 1,512 mosquito-borne disease cases were reported between June 1 and August 23 in Hyderabad this year. More than that, over 3 lakh cases of other preventable diseases such as typhoid, diaoheria, and influenza-like illness cases were registered in the states'

government hospitals. This is besides the several hundred disease cases that go unreported while others are dealt with in private hospitals.

Patients complaining of fever, body pain, throat and lung infections caused by vector-borne diseases are lining up at Sir Ronald Ross Institute of Tropical and Communicable Diseases in Nallakunta.

Speaking about the prevalence of preventive diseases, the Directorate of Public Health and Family Welfare

said in an official circular that the situation is under control and there are sufficient drugs at public health facilities to tackle the seasonal vector-borne diseases.

The GHMC got cracking after the numerous cases were reported and opened 21 preventive disease management and control counters in the city. GHMC Commissioner M Dana Kishore said, "The counters will conduct specialist tests for patients with fever and to diagnose and initiate treatment."

Hospital (OGH), all manned by medical officers and headed by general physicians.

Officials stressed on the need to clear stagnated water at places in residential areas

and near schools, and also appealed to students to help rid homes of things which harbor mosquitoes like old vehicle tyres, old AC machines, water drums and

others. The GHMC's entomology department officials will intensify fogging and spraying operations in all localities and at nalas and water bodies.

Millennials shy away from buying house

Continued from Page 1

However, for a youngster who has no bigger obligations like - parent, partner, children, they choose to be in a place where it's a convenient, well-equipped, and spend more time at workplace, instead of travel. Experts opine that even if rental markets continue to rise, it will create another set of buyers or investors who will buy an apartment and lease it out.

C Shekar Reddy, Chairman, IGBC Hyderabad Chapter, said, "Hyderabad is not saturated yet to incline towards renting. While previous generations would have made purchases towards the end of

their employment service, the current generation is buying it early. The EMI culture and competition banking over disbursing loans has given the push for buying property. Even if the younger buyer doesn't have sufficient money, their family or in-laws are lending financial support. It is often young couples who are buying houses in Hyderabad. This culture will continue for some more years".

He added that most of the homebuyers in HI-TEC City and Western side of the city are young employees from IT& services, banking, pharma city employees. Hyderabad has a lot of immigrant s' influx and many of them are willing to

move due to the sweet role played by the culture. Housing is affordable and without a greater wealth, people can buy a land, villa, or high-rise. There are many categories for people. The highly-earning techies have lot of money to invest in the next level of asset classes.

Millennials are predominantly work-minded and not very insecure. Only if a weak sentiment prevails where jobs and income are less, people will not spend on purchase. Samson added, "Generations are being analysed now. Based on the kind of recession trends we are seeing, if there is pressure on job market, then trends will change - but it makes for rental than buying".

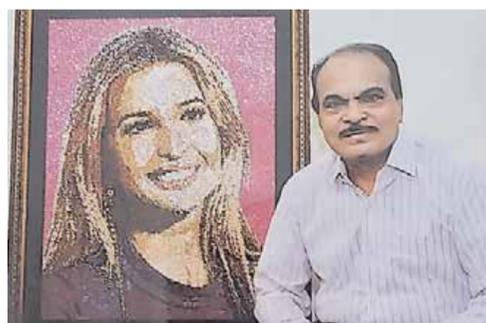
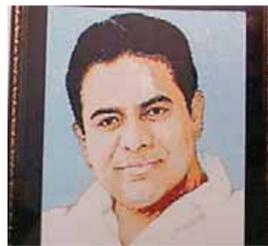
Portrait maker falls victim of im-poster!

Continued from Page 1

"I was invited to UK Parliament to showcase my work. It was there that I was told that someone else does similar artwork. That's when I got to know that Abdul Salam had passed off some of my work as his own. Even my signature was replaced with his name," said the artist who uses Swarovski crystals imported from Austria for his portraits. Some of these take over a week to make.

Abdul Salam even gifted two of Azmathullah's crystals to President Erdogan as a gift from Qatar to Turkey. After learning about the duplicity, he approached the Hyderabad police earlier this month on August 8, with a complaint against Abdul Salam.

Speaking about the issue, Hussaini Alam station inspector Ramesh Kotwal said that the alleged accused Abdul Salam is not a Qatari national but a Hyderabad local. "He is not present in the country at the moment, but we are investigating the case," inspector Kotwal said. "My work was never meant to be commercialised. I even wrote to the Turkey Consulate in Hyderabad, which alerted the Qatar embassy in Turkey of Abdul Salam's duplicity," he claims. However, there has been no response from the Embassy of Qatar. "After repeated attempts of reaching out to Abdul Salam, I warned him before approaching the police and the lawyers," said Azmathullah Sayed.



Azmathullah Sayed (above) with the many portraits he has made

International Persian summer school started

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian chapter of International Persian Summer School, conceptualised by Germany's University of Göttingen, started operations in the city on Saturday. It aims to study and decipher the largest collection of Persian manuscripts dated back to 1406 AD. An event was held at the Telangana State Archives and Research Institute in Tarnaka to launch the class.

A five-day class focusing on 'Reading and Analysing Indo-Persian Records' will provide an opportunity to 30 scholars to read and analyse archival records available at different places in Hyderabad, with participants from leading foreign universities like Harvard University, Michigan University, California University, Poland university, Tehran University and Universities of Germany, and Singapore are undertaking the class.

The class will explore millions of Persian manuscripts pertaining to Bahmani, Adil Shahi, Qutb Shahi, Mughals and Asaf Jahi dynasties.

Professor Eva Orthmann, head of department of Iranian studies at University of Göttingen, who is also coordinator and convener of the programme, said, "The Telangana State Archives has a treasure of huge records of medieval history, which is difficult to find anywhere else in the world."

Inter syllabus not relevant for non-JEE, NEET students

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Board of Intermediate exams follows syllabus framed in 2012 which is still far more advanced than NCERT's. Now seven years old, the Intermediate syllabus comes in as big help to students aspiring to clear JEE and NEET exams, but it has become a bane for students who opt for engineering or a degree course. So while students equipped with a higher level course do benefit, but that also increases its difficulty level, which many students can't cope with.

The syllabus in both MPC and Bi.PC course is more advanced than NCERT. Consider the botany syllabus, for instance, Intermediate textbooks cover the JEE syllabus entirely and has more comprehensive. Its topics include physiology, molecular biology and morphology. The zoology syllabus also consists of advanced topics like locomotion in protozoa, reproduction of protozoa, symbiosis and parasitism. "Among all Bi.PC subjects, the zoology course syllabus is really vast. Sometimes students find it intimidating and difficult to understand because it is very advanced," said class XII zoology lecturer, Prameela.

That is the case with mathematics too. The state's class X syllabus is like the one that

class XII students follow under NCERT. That means state SSC students are learning maths which of higher level than CBSE A and ICSE students'. Lecturers in state Inter colleges admit as much. Many of them noted that the review of the syllabus by experts at the time of introducing NEET and JEE clearly mentioned that the textbooks are very advanced for its level, where the syllabus of JEE and NEET is covered in the Intermediate level. This was seen as a positive, but its implications over the long term were overlooked.

Among the approximately 4.5 lakh students who enroll in the Inter course, about 1 lakh each prepare for NEET and JEE, and only 10,000 students from both Telugu states write JEE Mains. If that is the case, about 3.5 lakh students who do not sit for JEE or NEET are put under undue pressure to study this very tough syllabus. "The heavy Intermediate syllabus increases the burden on students. There is a need to solve this crucial problem. The pattern and syllabus should be changed in such a way that it benefits students preparing for JEE and NEET but does not become a burden for other students," said Government College Lecturers' Association president Madhusudan Reddy.

Smart City teeters in Karimnagar

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

The Smart City mission is beginning to teeter in Karimnagar. The central government had granted Rs 218 crore for the purpose last year, but a matching amount of grant was not released by the state government yet. Following this, the central government too did not release any funds for financial year 2019-20. The Karimnagar municipal corporation used the initial central funds to build roads costing Rs 217.70 crore in the city.

Speaking on day-one of ISACA (Hyderabad chapter) conference on Saturday, the V-C spelled out challenges relating to cyber security in areas of law enforcement, legal issues, impact on industry, regulatory requirements like GDPR, emerging technologies like block chain, IOT and cyber resilience. He said, "At JNTU colleges, it is compulsory for every student, irrespective of the stream, to do a module on cyber security. We are reviewing the module for things like how up to date it is, whether it is has latest

- Need felt to update course to tackle new challenges
- More than 24 cyber security start-ups benefitted from Telangana policy
- Telangana did not have even one incident of cyber attack

stuff in it. While all prime colleges in Hyderabad are affiliated to JNTU, we will ensure that basics of cyber security are imparted in non-JNTU colleges too." Jayesh Ranjan said the government is collaborating with University of Hyderabad, IIT and IIT in the cyber security space. About two years ago, JNTU started Security Operations Center (SOC). In last two years, despite a lot of very dangerous virus attacks like Wannacry, Telangana didn't have any one reporting any malicious impact, he said, adding, "This shows in our

SOC incident monitoring, response and evaluation is happening effectively." Preference and support is given to start-ups working on cyber security at incubators like T-Hub. At least two dozen start-ups have commercialised their products in last three-four years with the active support of the government, Jayesh Ranjan said.

Sarma GCS, president ISACA's Hyderabad chapter, spoke about cyber security challenges in areas of law enforcement; legal issues and emerging technologies like block chain etc.



Hyderabad Chapter ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019 CYBERSECURITY CHALLENGES - REDEFINING TRUST

CONDOLENCES

'Jaitley left behind indelible mark in implementing PM's vision for poor'

NEW DELHI: Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday condoled the death of former finance minister Arun Jaitley, saying he has left an indelible mark in implementing the prime minister's vision for the welfare of poor and placing India as the world's fastest economy. Jaitley, 66, died at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on Saturday after undergoing treatment at the hospital for a few weeks. In a message, Shah, who is also the BJP president, said with his unique experience and rare ability, Jaitley has served various responsibilities in the party and the government. A brilliant orator and a dedicated activist, Jaitley held important positions like the country's finance minister, defence minister and leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shah said. "Arunji has left an indelible mark as the finance minister of the country during the NDA government's 2014-19 tenure by implementing prime minister's vision for the welfare of poor on ground and placing India as the world's fastest growing economy," he said.



A big loss for the nation, BJP: Gadkari

NAGPUR: The death of former finance minister Arun Jaitley is a big loss for the nation, the government and the BJP, Union minister and former party president Nitin Gadkari said here on Saturday. Jaitley, 66, died at AIIMS in Delhi at 12.07 pm. He was on life support since the last few days. "I have seen him closely when he started as a student leader of the Vidyarthi Parishad. He was one of the top lawyers in the country who possessed natural argumentative skills," Gadkari told reporters. He said Jaitley had contributed immensely towards the expansion of the BJP. "I used to take his suggestions on various matters when I was BJP president. He was dedicated to the ideology of the party. His speeches in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will be remembered by the people. His death is a loss to the entire nation, the government and the party," he said while paying tributes to Jaitley.



'Contribution to governance profound'

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday expressed his condolence over the demise of former Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. He described Jaitley as an "erudite person". "Deeply saddened to hear about passing away of former Union Minister Arun Jaitley ji. He was a distinguished lawyer, parliamentarian and an erudite person," Patnaik said in his Twitter handle. Jaitley died on Saturday at AIIMS where he was undergoing treatment since August 9. He was 66. "His contribution to governance has been profound, heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family, friends and followers," Patnaik said. Jaitley, a lawyer by profession, had been a key member of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet in the BJP government's first term. Odisha's ruling Biju Janata Dal also condoled over the demise of Jaitley. Odisha Assembly Speaker S N Patra also expressed sadness over his death. "Deeply pained on the demise of Arun Jaitley ji. He was a good politician and also a good human being. My deepest condolence as the nation lost one of the brightest leader today," Patra said.



Shashi Tharoor condoles Jaitley's death

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Former Union minister and MP Shashi Tharoor on Saturday condoled the death of senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley. Despite political differences with Jaitley, Tharoor said they had enjoyed a healthy, mutual respect. "Deeply saddened by the tragic passing of my friend & Delhi/Union senior @arunjaitley? We first met when he was at DUSU & I was President of StStephens College/Union. Despite political differences we enjoyed a healthy mutual respect & debated his Budget often in LS. A great loss4India", the Thiruvananthapuram MP tweeted.



Mamata Banerjee expresses grief over death of Arun Jaitley

NEW DELHI: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday expressed sadness over the demise of former Union finance minister Arun Jaitley, and said he was a politician who was "appreciated across parties". Ailing for long, Jaitley died at AIIMS on Saturday. "Extremely saddened at the passing away of Arun Jaitley Ji, after a battle bravely borne. An outstanding Parliamentarian & a brilliant lawyer, appreciated across parties. His contribution to Indian polity will be remembered. My condolences to his wife, children, friends & admirers," Banerjee said in a statement.



Nitish, Giriraj condole the death of Arun Jaitley

PATNA: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday expressed profound grief over the demise of former Union minister Arun Jaitley. In his condolence message, Kumar called the departed leader a man of "amazing talents" who "held many important ministries at the Centre" besides being "an acclaimed jurist" who "discharged his numerous responsibilities with great efficiency." Jaitley died at AIIMS, New Delhi on Saturday after a prolonged illness. "He attained great heights in his political life while strictly adhering to values and ideals and was respected by people cutting across political affiliations. I had a personal friendship with Jaitley and am shocked by his death. His demise is an irreparable loss," Kumar said in a moving tribute. The state government also announced a two-day state mourning to condole the death of the former Union minister.



Jaitley's 'sound legal advice' was trusted across political divide: Solicitor General

NEW DELHI: With the passing away of Arun Jaitley, the country has lost a brilliant parliamentarian, an intelligent statesman and a legal luminary whose advice was trusted by all in public life across the political divide, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said on Saturday. Jaitley, 66, who opted out of the Modi 2.0 government over health issues, died at AIIMS here after being admitted on August 9 following complaints of breathlessness and restlessness. "It is a great loss for the nation, the Indian polity and the legal fraternity," Mehta told PTI, condoled the former Union Minister's demise. The Solicitor General said Jaitley always left a lasting imprint on anyone he came in touch with and as a senior advocate, guided his political and professional colleagues with mature legal advice and "stood by them during the most adverse circumstances." "He will be remembered as a sane voice, a dependable friend, an intelligent statesman and a legal luminary whose sound legal advice was trusted by all persons in public life across the political divide," Mehta added.



Jaitley: BJP's man for all seasons

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For the BJP, Arun Jaitley was a man for all seasons -- a strategist who crafted its rise in many states, a suave and moderate face who won the saffron party new allies and an articulate champion of its cause whose persuasive skills were a valuable asset for its leadership. For almost a decade-and-a-half, more so after the death of Pramod Mahajan in 2006, he was the last port of call for the party to help it out of any crisis.

His skills were on full display in the first Narendra Modi government when he framed its and the BJP's response to the opposition's charges of corruption, especially in Rafale deal, and crony capitalism and led the counter-assault against the Congress-led UPA with his regular social media posts during the recent general election despite.

Jaitley died at AIIMS on Saturday after battling health issues for months.

A member of the BJP core team for many years, the senior lawyer was probably the only party bigwig who not only made a smooth transition but also grew in stature as L K

Advani was eased out to make way for Modi as its prime ministerial candidate in 2013.

A keen political mind who was always observant of the shifting strands of politics, Jaitley was an early supporter of Modi within the party.

He deployed his political acumen and legal might to help Modi, the then Gujarat chief minister, and his confidant Amit Shah, now Union home minister, to come out clean from 2002 riots allegations and fake encounter charges respectively.

A quintessential moderate who was never associated with the hard edges of Hindutva politics, Jaitley became a trusted friend of Modi -- feted by the party's rank and file for his unabashed support to the hard-core saffron agenda -- as he smoothed the path for the Gujarat leader's rise in the BJP.

Unsurprisingly, when Modi led his party to its maiden majority in Lok Sabha in 2014 and he rewarded him with the coveted finance portfolio.

Jaitley himself had lost the Lok Sabha election but it had little impact on his fortunes as Modi trusted him with key ministries, from defence to information and broadcasting,

whenever the need arose.

The former Delhi University Students Union president was a rare politician who could be as much at home in a parliamentary debate, holding a full House in thrall with his exposition on issues as varied as the Rafale fighter aircraft deal row and the triple talaq bill, as in a press conference where he, unlike most politicians, relied on reason and not rhetoric to articulate his party's position.

BJP spokespersons would never miss to join his press conferences in the audience seats to learn the finer crafts of their work.

Appointed a BJP general secretary in 2002, he set out the party's positions on key issues and his success in the job ensured that he remained the go-to man for the leadership and the media alike in articulating its views on pertinent matters.

That he was probably the only leader of his calibre in the party who was as much comfortable in speaking in English as in Hindi, and could always deliver quotable quotes helped.

As general secretary of the BJP, he was pivotal to the party's rise in several states, including Bihar,

Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

Several party leaders, now in key positions, including Union ministers Nirmal Sitharaman and Dharmendra Pradhan, were helped in their rise by his stewardship.

A gifted raconteur whose interest spanned politics, filmed, foods and sports, his informal gatherings were always a full house as journalists, friends and politicians enjoyed his wit, sarcasm -- which singed his colleagues and adversaries alike -- and grasp of issues that he delivered in his ever relaxed and warm demeanour.

Jaitley was the bridge that the BJP used to win over new allies, and also its warm, affable and persuasive face to bring opposition parties around on key issues.

BJP ally like JD(U) president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was his personal friend for decades after he played a key role in ensuring that he is projected as their alliance's chief ministerial candidate.

Even when Kumar snapped ties with the BJP

in 2013, he made it a point to visit him whenever he came to the national capital. He joined hands with the saffron party again in 2017, with Jaitley playing an instrumental role.

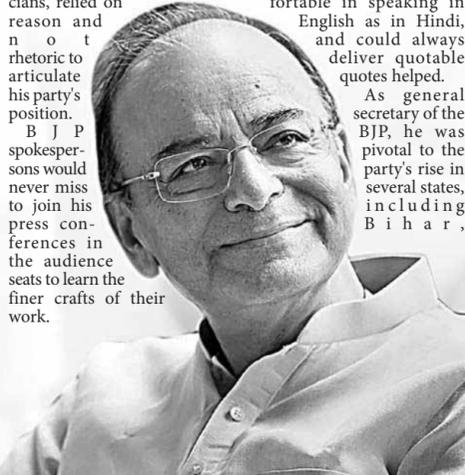
He was also a fine administrator who brought solid and steady hands at the helm.

As finance minister he was pivotal in ushering in the Goods and Services Tax, hailed by Modi as an economic unification of the country, and clearing the path for long-pending reforms in the defence sector during his short stint in the ministry.

He enjoyed such warm relations with the media that his critics at times called him the "chief of bureau" for the easy way with which he could set the political discourse with a briefing.

But those who knew Jaitley believed that he was the most sought after face of the party for journalists for the simple reason that nobody articulated its position better than him. And that he had matchless interpersonal skills only helped.

That in his long political career he kept clear of any serious personal or political controversy is a tribute to his legacy.



'An astute parliamentarian': Congress in tribute to Arun Jaitley

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Top Congress leaders on Saturday condoled the death of former finance minister Arun Jaitley, with the party saying it was deeply saddened to hear about his demise.

Jaitley, 66, who died in AIIMS at 12.07 pm was undergoing treatment at the hospital for a few weeks. He was admitted there on August 9.

"We are deeply saddened to hear the passing of Shri Arun Jaitley. Our condolences to his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them in this time of grief," the Congress said.

The party's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said, "Saddened to know about the demise of Shri Arun Jaitley. My deepest condolences to his family. An astute parliamentarian, he'll always be remembered. May his soul Rest in Peace."

Senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel said, "Extremely saddened to learn about the



Congress President Sonia Gandhi consoles family members of former finance minister and BJP leader Arun Jaitley as party leader Rahul Gandhi looks on

demise of Arun ji. In him the nation has a lost an articulate leader and an excellent human being."

Noted lawyer and former union minister Kapil Sibal said he has lost an old friend and a dear colleague in Jaitley.

"Very sorry to learn that Arun Jaitley is no more. An old friend and a dear colleague will be remembered for his seminal contributions to the polity and as FM of India. As

Leader of Opposition he was without match. He always stood steadfastly for his friends and for his party," he said.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said, "Deeply saddened to know of untimely demise of former Union minister and senior BJP leader, Sh Arun Jaitley. My heartfelt condolences to his family members. May God give them strength. May his soul rest in peace."

Top political leaders pay tributes to Jaitley

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Top political leaders paid rich tributes to former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who died on Saturday.

The senior BJP leader died at AIIMS, where he was undergoing treatment for several weeks. He was 66.

Prime minister Narendra Modi said he has lost a valued friend, whom he had known for decades.

"His insight on issues and nuanced understanding of

matters had very few parallels. He lived well, leaving us all with innumerable happy memories. We will miss him!" Modi said in a series of tweets.

He said Jaitley and the BJP had an unbreakable bond. "As a fiery student leader, he was at forefront of protecting our democracy during the Emergency. He became a much liked face of our Party, who could articulate the Party programmes and ideology to a wide spectrum of society."



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh pays his respects to former finance minister and BJP leader Arun Jaitley at Greater Kailash.

'A PART OF ME IS GONE'

Cricketers mourn Jaitley's death

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cricket administration was among the many hats Arun Jaitley wore in public life and in his death, the cricketers remembered the man who seamlessly juggled roles and stood for them in testing times.

A seasoned politician, an astute lawyer and a raconteur with innumerable friends across party lines, Jaitley passed away on Saturday after a prolonged period of illness. He was 66.

While politicians cutting across party lines were quick to mourn the death of the former union minister, the cricketers also took to twitter to express their condolences.

Former India opener and BJP member of Parliament, Gautam Gambhir, who was close to Jaitley, said a part of him was gone with his demise.

"A father teaches u to speak but a father figure teaches u to talk. A father teaches u to walk but a father figure teaches u to march on. A father gives u a name but a father figure gives u an identity. A part of me is gone with my Father Figure Shri Arun Jaitley Ji. RIP Sir,"

Former India opener and BJP member of Parliament, Gautam Gambhir, who was close to Jaitley, said a part of him was gone with his demise

Gambhir tweeted.

As he helmed the Delhi Districts and Cricket Association (DDCA), talented players from in and around the national capital emerged and flourished in the biggest stage. Virender Sehwag, Virat Kohli, Shikhar Dhawan and Ishant Sharma, besides Gambhir, are some of the names that shone in international cricket with him at the top.

He was a cricket fan first and someone that every big name in BCCI would consult before zeroing in on any policy decision with regards to Indian cricket.

Expressing their grief were Virender Sehwag and Aakash Chopra in a series of tweets.

"Pained at the passing away of Arun/Jaitley ji. Apart from having served greatly in public life, he played a huge role in many players from Delhi

getting an opportunity to represent India. There was a time when not many players from Delhi got a chance at the highest level," Sehwag said on twitter.

The big-hitting former opener was not done there.

"... But under his leadership at the DDCA, many players including me got a chance to represent India. He listened to needs of the players & was a problem solver. Personally shared a very beautiful relationship with him. My thoughts & prayers are with his family & loved ones. Om Shanti.

Chopra said, "Deeply saddened to hear that Mr. Arun Jaitley is no more. A scholar... a cricket lover. Always helpful. Would remember the names of the kids doing well at U-19 level too. World will be poorer in your absence, sir. riparunjaitley."



Arun Jaitley playing cricket

ARUN JAITLEY WITH WORLD FAMOUS PERSONALITIES



Arun Jaitley presents the 'Dadasaheb Phalke' Award to veteran Bollywood actor Shashi Kapoor in Mumbai



Britain's Defence Secretary Michael Fallon with to Arun Jaitley during his ceremonial reception in New Delhi



Arun Jaitley, Britain's PM David Cameron, and Amitabh Bachchan during the unveiling of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Parliament Square, London



Australian PM John Howard is greeted by Arun Jaitley at Indira Gandhi International airport



Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Google Inc. Sundar Pichai with India's Minister of Finance Arun Jaitley at Parliament House in New Delhi



Arun Jaitley gestures as US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew looks on before the fifth U.S.-India Economic and Financial Partnership Dialogue in New Delhi



Arun Jaitley honours Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar as Indian captain Virat Kohli looks on during 11th edition of CNN-News18 Indian of the Year Awards in New Delhi



Arun Jaitley meets Leander Paes before the draw for the Davis Cup tennis playoffs in New Delhi



On May 29 2019, in a letter to Prime Minister Modi, Arun Jaitley cited his health as a reason for not taking an active role in the formation of the new government



Arun Jaitley was born to Maharaj Kishen Jaitley and Ratan Prabha Jaitley on December 28, 1952

INITIATIVES INVOLVING JAITLEY

- Implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST); creation of the GST Council
- Introduction of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)
- Jan Dhan Yojana
- The Long Term Capital Gains Tax
- Public sector banks (PSB) recapitalisation
- Bank mergers
- Demonetisation
- Disinvestment of PSUs

JAITLEY, THE EX-FM WHO GAVE INDIA ITS BIGGEST TAX REFORM

Arun Jaitley, India's former finance minister who gave the nation its biggest tax reform, has died. He was 66.

Jaitley died at 12:07 p.m. local time on Saturday, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences said in a statement. He was admitted to the hospital on Aug. 9 and was treated by a multidisciplinary team of senior doctors, according to the statement.

Jaitley, who acted as chief troubleshooter for the Prime Minister Narendra Modi administration in its first term, opted out of the new government in May citing health reasons. He had undergone a kidney transplant in 2018 and received regular medical care since then.

Jaitley, a lawyer by training, was a senior member of the Bharatiya Janata Party and a close aide of Modi. He took office as finance minister in 2014 when India's economy was struggling, borrowing costs were rising and investors were generally disillusioned with a lack of reforms. A dip in oil prices then gave Jaitley an opportunity to contain the budget deficit and convince the then-central bank Governor Raghuram Rajan to lower lending rates.

During his term in office, he implemented a number of key reforms: replacing India's byzantine tax system with a nationwide goods and services tax, and passing an insolvency and bankruptcy code to lessen the troubles of debt-laden banks.

He presided over the most painful years of the banking industry as multi-billion dollar frauds and loan defaults involving billionaires came to the fore. He also faced flak for Modi's demonetization plan - a surprise ban on high-value currency notes in November 2016 - that disrupted business activity, caused thousands of job losses, and hurt economic growth.

He was succeeded in the role by Nirmala Sitharaman, whose respect for Jaitley was on display on her first day in office when she hesitated to take the chair that he sat in.

KEY STRATEGIST

Following the BJP's sweeping victory in the 2014 elections, Jaitley was appointed

PM Modi remembers 'fiery student leader'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said former Union Minister Arun Jaitley, who died at 66, "had an unbreakable bond" with the BJP. PM Modi in a tweet praised Mr Jaitley for his contributions to the nation right from his days as a student leader during the Emergency years of 1975-77, when the Congress's Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister.

"BJP and Arun Jaitley Ji had an unbreakable bond. As a fiery student leader, he was at forefront of protecting our democracy during the Emergency. He became a much liked face of our Party, who could articulate the Party programmes and ideology to a wide spectrum of society," tweeted PM Modi, who is in the UAE as part of a three-nation visit.

BJP and Arun Jaitley Ji had an unbreakable bond. As a fiery student leader, he was at forefront of protecting our democracy during the Emergency. He became a much liked face of our Party, who could articulate the Party



programmes and ideology to a wide spectrum of society.

- Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) August 24, 2019

PM Modi spoke with Mr Jaitley's family, who requested him not to cut short his important visit, which includes returning to France for the G7 Summit, news agency ANI reported.

After completing schooling from St Xavier's School in Delhi in 1957-69, Mr Jaitley went to Shri Ram College of Commerce in 1973 and got a law degree from the University of Delhi in 1977. He was president of the students' union of Delhi University in 1974, a year before the Emergency.



Raft of reforms as defence minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In his two brief stints as defence minister, Arun Jaitley cleared the path for ushering in a raft of long-pending reforms in the armed forces and came out with key policy initiatives to make India self-reliant in defence production.

In the first term of the Narendra Modi government, Jaitley was in-charge of defence ministry from May 26 to November 9 of 2014, before Manohar Parrikar was brought in from Goa to helm it.

Jaitley, the then finance minister, was again given charge of the defence ministry on Mar 14, 2017 after Parrikar quit the Union Cabinet to become Goa chief minister.

He was succeeded as defence minister by Nirmala Sitharaman on September 7, 2017.

The BJP stalwart died at the AIIMS on Saturday after battling multiple health issues for the last several months.

Jaitley's tenure as defence minister saw clearance of a

number of big ticket reform measures and simplification of military acquisition process.

The most important initiative by Jaitley was to make India a hub of defence manufacturing when he unveiled the long-pending strategic partnership model in May 2017.

Under the policy, select private Indian firms were allowed to rope in foreign entities to build military platforms like submarines, fighter jets, helicopters and armoured vehicles/main battle tanks in India.

The policy envisaged establishment of long-term strategic partnerships with Indian defence majors through a transparent and competitive process wherein Indian companies would tie up with foreign military firms to set up domestic manufacturing infrastructure.

The first project under the policy was finalised last year, under which the Indian Navy will procure 111 utility helicopters at a cost of over Rs 21,000 crore.

SHORT READS

BJP owes Arun Jaitley for being what it is today: Kapil Sibal

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Kapil Sibal on Saturday said Arun Jaitley was fateful to his ideology till his last breath and the BJP owes him for being what it is today. Condoling the demise of the former Finance Minister, Sibal said, "We have lost someone whom the nation needed for many years." Sibal said Jaitley was a man of exceptional qualities and abilities and was wedded to an ideology since his university days and was "fateful to that ideology till his last breath". Jaitley was a man who breathed politics, understood politics and was committed to the country, Sibal said. The senior Congress leader further said Jaitley was "an outstanding parliamentarian as leader of the opposition and none could match him". The BJP owes Jaitley for being what it is today, Sibal told PTI. Jaitley helped the leadership of the party behind closed doors because of his connections with people.

Vice Prez cancels AP visit, to rush to Delhi

CHENNAI: Vice President Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday cancelled his visit to Nellore in Andhra Pradesh and is scheduled to rush to Delhi in view of former minister Arun Jaitley's death. No sooner than Naidu boarded a chopper to go to Nellore, about 170 km from here by 12.20 pm, the message on Jaitley's death was conveyed to him and the helicopter, which was then taxiing returned to bay. The Vice President then headed to nearby Raj Bhavan and he is scheduled to take a flight to Delhi soon. Former Union Minister Arun Jaitley died at AIIMS in New Delhi on Saturday. Jaitley, 66, was undergoing treatment at the hospital for several weeks.

Country lost nationalist-progressive leader: Nath on Jaitley

BHOPAL: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Saturday condoled the death of former union finance minister and BJP stalwart Arun Jaitley, saying the country has lost a "nationalist and progressive leader". Jaitley, 66, breathed his last at 12:07 pm at the AIIMS in Delhi after battling multiple health issues for the last several months. He was on life support. "The country has lost a nationalist and progressive politician in Arun Jaitley. He was a legal luminary and a politician who used to put across his views on national issue frankly. 'I pray to God that his soul rests in peace and to give strength to his family members and citizens to cope with the loss,' Nath said in a statement.

'Mahajanadesh Yatra' to remain suspended today

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis has suspended his ongoing 'Mahajanadesh Yatra' for a day on Sunday in view of former union finance minister Arun Jaitley's death. Fadnis will meet people as per schedule on Saturday, but will not deliver speeches or accept garlands, state BJP general secretary Sujitsinh Thakur said in a statement. Jaitley, 66, breathed his last at 12:07 pm at the AIIMS in Delhi after battling multiple health issues for the last several months. He was on life support. "In view of Jaitley's death, the CM will only meet people. Various functions to welcome the chief minister will not be held...garlands will not be accepted. The yatra will be completely suspended on Sunday," Thakur said. The yatra will proceed from Pathardi in Ahmednagar as per schedule on Monday.

Personally, deeply saddened by Jaitley's demise: CJI Ranjan

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on Saturday said with the demise of Arun Jaitley, the country has lost "an eminent senior advocate" and "a tall leader". "I am personally, deeply saddened by the passing of Arun Jaitley," the CJI told PTI. Justice Gogoi said on behalf of the country's judiciary, "I express my condolences to his family and pray for the noble soul to rest in peace."

Jaitley's contributions will be remembered forever: Sonia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Top Congress leaders on Saturday condoled the demise of former finance minister Arun Jaitley, with party chief Sonia Gandhi saying his contributions to public life will be remembered forever.

Jaitley, 66, who died in AIIMS at 12:07 pm was undergoing treatment at the hospital for a few weeks. He was admitted there on August 9.

Former prime minister Manmohan Singh, in a condolence message, described him as an eminent lawyer, an excellent orator, a very good administrator and an outstanding parliamentarian.

Gandhi expressed deep pain



Arun Jaitley with Sonia Gandhi

and distress at the passing away of Jaitley.

She said Jaitley had a long innings as a public figure, parliamentarian and minister and his contributions to public life

will forever be remembered.

Former president Pranab Mukherjee said he had visited him a day back and had prayed for his speedy recovery.

"He was a leader with deep

intellect and knowledge, and a voice of reason. He will be dearly missed. My prayers with his family, friends and admirers," he said. The Congress party said, "We are deeply saddened to hear the passing of Shri Arun Jaitley. Our condolences to his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them in this time of grief."

In his condolence message to Jaitley's wife Sangeeta, former prime minister Singh said, "In his death our country has lost a great leader who always worked for the betterment of society."

The party's chief spokesperson RandeepSurjewala said, "Saddened to know about the demise of Shri Arun Jaitley. My deepest condolences to his fam-

ily. An astute parliamentarian, he'll always be remembered. May his soul Rest in Peace."

Senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel said in Jaitley the nation has a lost an articulate leader and an excellent human being.

Noted lawyer and former union minister Kapil Sibal said he has lost an old friend and a dear colleague.

"Very sorry to learn that Arun Jaitley is no more. An old friend and a dear colleague will be remembered for his seminal contributions to the polity and as FM of India. As Leader of Opposition he was without match. He always stood steadfastly for his friends and for his party," he said.

Civilian employees of ordnance factories call off their strike

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Defence production at 41 facilities across the country is likely to normalise from Monday, with the unions representing civilian employees of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) on Saturday calling off their ongoing one-month strike over the Centre's corporatisation plans.

A joint statement by the three recognised federations representing civilian employees at OFB's 41 factories said that they have taken a decision to "postpone" the ongoing strike from Monday (August 26), claiming that they have been assured by the government that no final decision has been taken to corporatise the ordnance factories.

The three recognized federations are All India Defence Employees Federation, the Indian National Defence Workers Federation and the Bharathiya Prati Raksha Mazdoor Sangh. They claimed that they decided to postpone the ongoing strike, "considering the statement made by the



They claimed that they decided to postpone the ongoing strike, "considering the statement made by the Secretary, Defence Production, that no final decision has been taken by the government to corporatise the ordnance factories and also the assurance that all the concerns expressed by the federations will be considered by a high level committee"

Secretary, Defence Production, that no final decision has been taken by the government to

corporatise the ordnance factories and also the assurance that all the concerns expressed

by the federations will be considered by a high level committee."

The joint statement said that the decision was taken following a meeting between the Secretary, Defence Production, with the federations. It said that a decision has been taken at the meeting that a high level committee will be constituted by the government to discuss the issues raised by the federations.

Defence production at the ordnance factories, which manufacture sophisticated weapons and equipments from tanks and artillery guns to specialised vehicles and ammunition, was affected with the 82,000-strong work force going on a strike from August 20 to protest the Centre's plan to corporatise the Ordnance Factory Board.

The unions claimed that the government's motive was to ultimately privatise the defence production facilities of OFB, which is under the Defence ministry, while the government asserted that it has no such plans.

BJP govt in UP with divine blessings of seers: Minister

PNS ■ MATHURA

Without the blessings of seers, the present BJP government would not have formed in Uttar Pradesh, state minister for power Srikant Sharma said on Saturday. The state power minister was speaking at a program here organised to commemorate Janmashtami celebrations. "The present BJP government would not have formed in Uttar Pradesh without the divine blessings of seers," he said.

Sharma also said the festival would not have been celebrated so magnificently this year, had the BJP not come in power.

Meanwhile, lakhs of pilgrims paid obeisance to the deity in temples where the festival was celebrated on Saturday. The city was decked with lights and artists from different states performed on the occasion.



Inter-ministerial central teams to visit 11 flood-hit states

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Inter-ministerial central teams with representatives from key ministries like home, finance, agriculture and power will be visiting 11 flood-affected states to have first hand on-the-spot assessment of damages caused and relief work carried out so far.

According to a statement by the Home Ministry, an inter-ministerial central team, led by Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs Prakash, is visiting Karnataka on Saturday to have first-hand on-the-spot assessment of damages caused

and relief work carried out by the state administration.

In pursuance of a significant decision taken by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in a meeting of the high-level committee on August 19, inter-ministerial central teams will visit Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Kerala affected by the recent floods, the statement said.

Till now, such teams used to visit the affected states only once after the receipt of memorandum from the state in the wake of any severe calamity.

SHORT READS

Chargesheet filed against 5 youths for killing friend in J-K

JAMMU: A chargesheet was filed against five youths for allegedly murdering their friend by drug overdose over some monetary issue in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior police officer said on Saturday. All the accused -- Irfan Khan, Ajaz Ahmed, Raja Arshad Mehmood, Aziz ul Rehman, all residents of Kalali village, and Rohit Sharma of Goladh, Mendhar -- have confessed to their crime and have been sent to judicial custody in district jail, Senior Superintendent of police, Rajouri, Yougal Manhas said. He said Mohammad Mukhtar of Galuthi village of Manjakote block was admitted to a local hospital on June 29 in a critical condition with initial suspicion that he has consumed something poisonous in nature. On the same day, he was referred to Government Medical College Hospital, Jammu, where he died, Manhas said. Inquest proceedings under CrPC 174 were started at Manjakote police station and post mortem of the body was conducted, the SSP said. He said a special team was constituted which conducted an in depth investigation during which it came to fore that the victim was a drug addict.

All RRTS corridors will be interoperable: NCRTC



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To ensure hassle-free commuting, the National Capital Region Transport Corporation said all three Rapid Rail Transit System (RRTS) corridors will be interoperable.

An official of the NCRTC said commuters will be able to travel from one corridor to another without changing the train.

According to the NCRTC, which is the implementing agency for the RRTS project in Delhi-NCR, three corridors of phase-1 such as Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut, Delhi-Panipat and Delhi-Gurugram-SNB (Shahjahanpur-Neemrana-Behror Urban Complex) will be converging at Sarai Kale Khan

RRTS station in Delhi.

For instance if a commuter boards an RRTS train from Rajiv Chowk station of Delhi-SNB corridor and wish to travel to Ghaziabad RRTS station of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor, he or she can directly reach Ghaziabad RRTS station without changing the train.

The NCRTC will adopt European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) Level 2 to implement interoperability in the RRTS system, the official said.

"This will be the first time in India that ERTMS level 2 signalling system will be used for a commuter train operating at a speed of 160 kmph," he said.

CBSE students to save one litre water every day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has directed schools to ensure that every student saves one litre of water every day at home and school.

To make schools and students proactively participate in the Jal Shakti Abhiyaan, the CBSE has also directed schools to mandatorily create eco clubs and also strengthen the existing ones.

"While eco clubs would continue to promote environment and climate literacy and motivate learners to become champions for environmental sustainability, the thrust of this year's co-curricular activities from primary to senior secondary will be on water conservation. For the academic year 2019-20 CBSE schools will necessarily follow an agenda," CBSE Chairperson Anita Karwal said.

"It will be ensured that every child in class 5 to 12 saves one litre of water every day at home and in school. All affiliated schools will set a target to become water efficient schools in the next three years," she added.

West Bengal govt fixes menu for mid-day meal in schools

PNS ■ KOLKATA

After the shocking incident of boiled rice and salt served to students during mid-day meal in a school in Hooghly district came to light, the West Bengal government has suspended two teachers of the institute and has also fixed a menu for the mid-day meal, an official said.

Two teachers of the Chunchura Banimandir Balika Bidyalaya have been suspended after footage of the students being served rice and salt triggered an outrage on Monday last prompting Education minister Partha Chatterjee to order a departmental probe into the incident and promise strict action.

A School Education department official said on Saturday that the two, one former teacher-in-charge and the other present teacher-in-charge were put under suspension on Tuesday, a day after the incident was reported in tv channels and BJP MP Locket Chatterjee rushed to the school demanding all those found to be involved in giving rice and salt to the children instead of the scheduled



routine menu be punished. "We will take further action on the basis of probe which is still on," the official said but didn't divulge identify of the two teachers.

In the wake of the incident, the School Education department on Thursday sent notification to all District Magistrates asking them for strictly maintaining the menu and also gave a chart which specified on which day which type of menu will be served.

A copy of the notification to the DM of East Midnapore district specified - rice, dal, potato, vegetable curry will have to be served on Monday, rice, dal, egg/fish curry will be given on

Tuesday, rice, dal, mixed vegetable will be given on Wednesday.

Rice, fish or egg curry, vegetables will be given on Thursday, rice dal, potato curry (posto) for Friday and rice dal, soyabean and potato curry for children on Saturday, it said.

All officials, in-charge of midday meals have been asked "to instruct all local level officers, education supervisors to visit cent percent schools" (all the schools) from August 24 to August 31 to monitor the mid-day meal is provided in a proper manner to the students and send compiled report everyday to the School Education department. Copies

The School Education department on Thursday sent a notification to all District Magistrates asking them to strictly maintaining the menu and also gave a chart which specified on which day what type of menu will be served

of the notifications were made available on Saturday.

The move by the department was preceded by Education minister Partha Chatterjee earlier asserting that the government will "do everything" to ensure children get the proper kind of mid-day meal and there will be "zero tolerance" to any attempt to deprive children of their prescribed midday meal menu.



"Which BJP leader has publicly advised PM to not demonise oppn?"

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Kapil Sibal attacked the BJP on Saturday, asking which of its leaders had publicly advised Narendra Modi to not demonise the opposition and its leaders. His remarks came a day after senior Congress leaders Abhishek Singhvi and Shashi Tharoor supported party leader Jairam Ramesh who said that not recognising Modi's work and "demonising" him all the time was not going to help. "Which BJP leader has stood up and publicly advised the prime minister and his party to stop demonising the opposition and its leaders," Sibal asked on Twitter. The Congress had steered clear of the controversy, saying the leaders who made the remarks should be asked about it instead. Explaining his remarks on Saturday, Tharoor said he wanted the Congress back in power and for that the party needed to win over the fair-minded voters who had supported the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.



Govt measures on economy 'partial and incomplete': Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday described the government measures to boost the economy as "partial and incomplete" and asked if there was any concrete plan to address the falling GDP and rising NPAs.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the Narendra Modi dispensation has brought the economy to this "bad shape" and cannot hide it with merely a power-point presentation.

The country is reeling under recession and the government has only done a partial and incomplete rollback of provisions it imposed in its first budget, he said.

"Finance Minister, the government through 32 slides of a power-point presentation cannot hide the bad shape of economy that the BJP has brought it to. The country is reeling under recession. The Modi government is only doing half and incomplete rollback of the provisions it imposed," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

"The GDP is falling badly, NPAs (non-performing assets) are rising rapidly day and night, but where is the concrete solution?" he asked.

FM's announcements on economy another attempt of PR: Yechury

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Describing Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcements to boost the economy as "another attempt at PR", CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Saturday said the government's fundamental policies were "flawed".

Sitharaman announced a raft of measures on Friday, including rollback of the enhanced super-rich tax on foreign and domestic equity investors, exemption of startups from "angel tax", a package to address the distress in the auto sector and upfront infusion of Rs 70,000 crore to public sector banks, in efforts to boost economic growth from a five-year low.

"Government's announcements yesterday about the economy are nothing but another attempt at PR and



Government's announcements yesterday about the economy are nothing but another attempt at PR and managing headlines

managing headlines. When fundamental policies are flawed, expertise is missing, there is no sense of direction and data constantly fudged, these cosmetic steps do not matter.

"Withdrawing surcharge on the super-rich, no concessions for farmers committing distress suicides or any plans for employment generation! What is left out from these proposals is any concern for crores of ordinary people!"

Yechury said in a tweet.

He also accused the government of discarding the Budget announcements in favour of "PR exercises".

"Do Budget announcements have any sanctity left or not? It is one of the most important functions of the Parliament, which seems to have been discarded in the favour of these PR exercises by the govt. So much for democratic accountability," he said.

Centre's steps to deal with recession not enough: Maya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

BSP president Mayawati on Saturday said the steps initiated by the Centre to deal with the threat of global recession were good but not enough.

In a tweet, Mayawati said: "Taking cognizance of the demand made by BSP on August 18 to save crores of people from severe poverty, unemployment, inflation and stress, the Centre has taken some necessary steps yesterday which is good but not enough. The Centre should not relax."

In a related tweet, she said: "For the crores of working people suffering from severe poverty, unemployment, inflation, retrenchment, tension and violence etc. there is a need to take measures to provide them prompt relief and jobs... The Centre needs to take this seriously."



Janmashtami celebrated with religious fervour in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Thousands of devotees on Saturday thronged temples in the national capital to offer prayers on the occasion of Janmashtami, the celebration of Lord Krishna's birth.

The famous Lord Krishna temples in Delhi -- Laxmi Narayan Mandir, ISKCON temple, Amar Colony, Krishna Pranami Mandir,

Hare Krishna Mandir among others -- were decked up for the festival. Delhi Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal greeted people on the occasion.

Special processions will be taken out from temples in different parts of the city.

The Delhi Traffic Police has made special arrangements to manage crowds and vehicle movement around temples and venues of Janmashtami celebrations.

5 injured in clash between two communities on Janmashtami

PNS ■ BAREILLY (UP)

As many as five people, including a woman, were injured in a clash between two rival communities during a procession being taken out on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami in Makri Mavada village here, police said on Saturday.

The 'shobha yatra' had reached its final destination in the Muslim majority village under Devraniya Police Station area here on Friday afternoon when members of one community started pelting stones at the other leading to commotion, Circle Officer Baheri, Alok Agharai said.

Both the groups brandished weapons including firearms, the CO said, adding that additional force from four police stations and PAC was rushed to the village to control the situation.

The timing of the traditional 'shobha yatra' was deferred to 3 pm in view of the Friday prayers and the incident took place when it had reached its last destination at the Holi crossing, the CO said.

The injured have been admitted to hospital, he added.

SP, Rural, Sansar Singh who visited the village said that adequate force has been deployed and strict action will be initiated against those behind attempts to vitiate the atmosphere.

Restrictions lifted in most areas of Kashmir Valley

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Restrictions were lifted in most areas of Kashmir on Saturday, a day after strict curbs on the movement of people were imposed in the valley in view of the Friday prayers and the proposed march of separatists to the local United Nations military observer group office.

Officials said people were allowed to move freely even as deployment of security forces continued on the ground.

While barricades were



While barricades were removed from most areas, concertina wire barriers continued to be in place on the roads in some areas of the city and elsewhere in the valley, they said, adding that security forces allowed the movement of people only after checking their identity cards

removed from most areas, concertina wire barriers continued to be in place on the roads in some areas of the city

and elsewhere in the valley, they said, adding that security forces allowed the movement of people only after

checking their identity cards. The officials said the situation remained peaceful on Friday and there were no reports of

any untoward incident. The restrictions were imposed on Friday in view of the congregational prayers and the separatists' call for a march to the office of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) at Sonawar.

Meanwhile, traffic movement increased on Saturday and attendance in offices also improved, the officials said.

Markets across Kashmir continued to remain shut for the 20th consecutive day as

shops and other business establishments were closed, while the public transport also was off the roads, the officials said.

However, they said, some vendors have put up stalls in Batamaloo and Lal Chowk areas of the city. The officials said mobile services and internet remained snapped since 5 August when the Centre abrogated some provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution and reorganised the state into two Union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Bolsonaro sends army to fight Amazon fires

As EU threatens trade retaliation, the far-right leader announces he has authorised troops to help contain raging fires

AP ■ PORT VELHO (BRAZIL)

Under international pressure to contain fires sweeping parts of Brazil's Amazon, President Jair Bolsonaro has authorised use of the military to battle the huge blazes while thousands took to the streets to protest his environmental policies.

Brazilian forces will deploy starting Saturday to border areas, indigenous territories and other affected regions in the Amazon to assist in putting out fires for a month, according to a presidential decree authorising use of the Army on Friday.

The military will "act strongly" to control the wildfires, Bolsonaro promised as he signed the decree.

The armed forces will collaborate with public security and environmental protection agencies, the decree says.

"The protection of the forest is our duty," the President said.

"We are aware of that and will act to combat deforestation and criminal activities that put people at risk in the Amazon. We are a Government of zero tolerance for crime, and in the environmental field it will not be different."



Neri dos Santos Silva watches an encroaching fire threat after digging trenches to keep the flames from spreading to the farm he works on, in the Nova Santa Helena municipality, in the State of Mato Grosso, Brazil on Friday

Bolsonaro has previously described rainforest protections as an obstacle to Brazil's economic development, sparing with critics who note that the Amazon produces vast amounts of oxygen and is considered crucial for efforts to contain climate change.

As the president spoke, thousands of Brazilians

demonstrated in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and the capital of Brasilia demanding the government announce concrete actions to curb the fires. People also banged pots from their homes, a traditional mode of protest in South America.

An Associated Press journalist who travelled to the Amazon region Friday saw

many already deforested areas that had been burned.

Charred trees and fallen branches were seen around Porto Velho, the capital of Rondonia State, which borders Bolivia. In some instances, the burned fields were adjacent to intact livestock ranches and other farms, suggesting the fires had been managed as

part of a land-clearing policy.

A large column of smoke billowed from one fire, and smoke rose from a couple of nearby wooded areas. Life appeared normal in Porto Velho. However, visibility from the windows of an arriving airplane was poor because of smog enveloping the region.

Small numbers of demonstrators gathered outside Brazilian diplomatic missions in Paris, London, Geneva and Bogota, Colombia, to urge Brazil to do more to fight the fires. Larger protests were held in Uruguay and Argentina. Hundreds also protested in Chile, Ecuador and Peru.

Neighbouring Bolivia and Paraguay have also struggled to contain fires that swept through woods and fields, in many cases set to clear land for farming. About 7,500 square kilometers (2,900 square miles) of land has been affected in Bolivia, Defense Minister Javier Zavaleta said.

A B747-400 SuperTanker arrived in Bolivia and began flying over devastated areas to help put out the fires and protect forests. The US-based aircraft can carry nearly 76,000 liters (20,000 gallons) of retardant, a substance used to stop fires.

Some 370 square kilometers (140 square miles) have burned in northern Paraguay, near the borders with Brazil and Bolivia, said Joaquin Roa, a Paraguayan state emergency official. He said the situation had stabilised.

Close to 20 per cent of the Amazon has already been deforested, said Thomas Lovejoy, a George Mason University environmental scientist.

"I worry that the current deforestation will push past the tipping point leading to massive loss of forest and biodiversity," Lovejoy wrote in an email to *The Associated Press*. He said Brazil is "turning its back" on past environmental achievements, including the 1992 Earth Summit, and has proposed infrastructure projects that will accelerate the challenge of climate change.

"Fires are directly burning into the Amazon rainforest and that releases the carbon stored in those trees," said Doug Morton, a NASA scientist. "The carbon then enters the atmosphere as carbon dioxide or methane, where it contributes to the greenhouse gases that are causing climate change, bringing us a warmer and a drier planet."

Morton said there is now "an uptick in the pressure against the remaining Amazon forest, to expand agriculture production in areas that are the leading edge in the deforestation frontier." Fires are common in Brazil in the annual dry season, but they are much more widespread this year. Brazilian state experts reported nearly 77,000 wildfires across the country so far this year, up 85 per cent over the same period in 2018. Just over half of those fires have occurred in the Amazon region. Brazil contains about 60 per cent of the Amazon rainforest.

US President Donald Trump said on Friday that he spoke with Bolsonaro. "Our future Trade prospects are very exciting and our relationship is strong, perhaps stronger than ever before," Trump tweeted.

"I told him if the United States can help with the Amazon Rainforest fires, we stand ready to assist!" In escalating tension over the fires, France accused Bolsonaro of having lied to French leader Emmanuel Macron and threatened to block a European Union trade deal with several South American states, including Brazil. Ireland joined in the threat.

GLOBE TROTTER

TROPICAL STORM TRAPS 18 IN TAIWAN
Taipei (Taiwan): A landslide triggered by a tropical storm stranded 18 people in Taiwan on Saturday as the storm headed for China's southeastern coast.

12 DEAD IN NIGER BOKO HARAM VILLAGE ATTACK
Niamey: A night raid blamed on Boko Haram has left a dozen villagers dead in southeastern Niger on the frontier with Nigeria, a local official said on Saturday.

UK 'DISAPPOINTED' BY N KOREA MISSILE LAUNCH
London: Britain on Saturday said it was "disappointed" after North Korea fired what appeared to be two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea after vowing to remain the biggest "threat" to the United States.

US, SE ASIA TO HOLD JOINT MARITIME DRILL
Bangkok: The US and 10 Southeast Asian States will hold their first-ever joint maritime exercises in September, aimed at preventing "wrongdoing" as Washington and Beijing jostle for influence in the region. Washington has traditionally been the dominant naval power in Southeast Asia and its re-engagement with the area comes as a deteriorating trade war with China threatens to engulf the global economy.

Macron, Trump break ice with surprise pre-G7 lunch

AFP ■ BIARRITZ (FRANCE)

French President Emmanuel Macron hosted his US counterpart Donald Trump for a previously unscheduled lunch Saturday ahead of the official opening of the G7 summit in southwest France.

The two leaders sat on a terrace at the ornate Hotel du Palais in the Atlantic resort of Biarritz, the G7 venue, just a day after Trump reiterated his threat of tariffs against French wine in retaliation for a new tax on major US tech companies.

The surprise lunch appeared to be an attempt by Macron to get the summit off on a good footing after a tense build-up in which Trump and EU leaders traded threats of trade war.

Speaking to reporters in fluent English, Macron called Trump "a very special guest". He said that they would be discussing a raft of pressing international issues, including the standoff with Iran over its alleged nuclear weapon ambitions, and stressed that "strong



US President Donald Trump sits for lunch with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Hotel du Palais in Biarritz, south-west France on Saturday

coordination" was needed.

Trump met that appeal for unity with a somewhat softer approach of his own, having left the United States on Friday with a dire warning about taxing French wines "like they've never seen before".

"We actually have a lot in common," Trump said across the table to Macron, adding that they had "been friends for a long time."

Trump said that at times they "go at each other a little bit" but had a "special relationship".

The setting for the G7 summit in the French seaside resort clearly pleased the US president.

"So far so good. The weather is perfect. Everybody's getting along. I think we will accomplish a lot this weekend," he said.

Boris, EU chief in Brexit blame game

AFP ■ BIARRITZ (FRANCE)

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Saturday that the European Union needed to drop its insistence on the so-called Irish backstop to avoid a "no deal" Brexit.

"I don't want a 'no deal' Brexit. I say to our friends in the EU, if they don't want a 'no deal' Brexit then we have got to get rid of the backstop from the treaty," Johnson told reporters on the way to the G7 summit in Biarritz, southwest France.

He also responded to EU Council President Donald Tusk, who earlier urged Johnson not to go down in history as "Mr No Deal".

"If Donald Tusk does not want to go down as Mr 'No Deal' Brexit then that point should be borne in mind too," Johnson said.

During a press conference in Biarritz, Tusk had warned: "One thing I will not cooperate on is a 'no deal', and I still hope that Prime Minister Johnson will not like to go down in history as Mr No Deal."



"We are willing to listen to ideas that are operational, realistic and acceptable to all member states, including Ireland. If and when the UK government is ready to put them on the table," he added.

At stake is the "backstop", a provision guaranteeing that border checks will not return between Ireland, an EU member, and Britain's Northern Ireland.

Johnson has called it "anti-democratic" because it would require London to keep its regulations aligned with those of the EU during a transitional period when the country is no longer a member of the bloc.

Hong Kong Police fire tear gas as protests take violent turn again

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong protesters threw bricks and gasoline bombs at police, who responded with tear gas, as chaotic scenes returned to the summer-long anti-government protests on Saturday for the first time in nearly two weeks.

Hundreds of black-clad protesters armed with bamboo poles and baseball bats fought with police officers wielding batons on a main road following a march against "smart lampposts" that was sparked by surveillance fears.

The chaotic scenes unfolded outside a police station and a nearby shopping mall as officers in riot gear faced off with protesters who set up makeshift street barricades.

The violence interrupted nearly two weeks of calm in Hong Kong, which has been gripped by a turbulent pro-democracy movement since June.

Police fired tear gas to disperse the crowd after repeated warnings "went futile," the government said in a statement.



Clouds of smoke rise from tear gas canisters as police and demonstrators clash during a protest in Hong Kong on Saturday

By early evening, most of the protesters had melted away. Earlier in the day, some protesters used an electric saw to slice through the bottom of a smart lamppost, while others pulled ropes tied around it to send it toppling and cheered as it crashed to the ground.

The protest march started peacefully as supporters took to the streets to demand the removal of the lampposts over worries that they could contain high-tech cameras and facial recognition software used for

surveillance by Chinese authorities.

They chanted slogans calling for the government to answer the movement's demands.

The protests began in June with calls to drop a now-suspended extradition Bill that would have allowed Hong Kong residents to be sent to China to stand trial, then widened to include free elections for the city's top leader and an independent inquiry into alleged police brutality.

Pak Foreign Min Qureshi dials UN chief over Kashmir

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Saturday called UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to apprise him about the "evolving and delicate situation" in Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing the media here to provide details of his conversation with Guterres, Qureshi said it was responsibility of the international community to play a role in addressing the Kashmir situation.

Tensions between India and Pakistan spiked after New Delhi abrogated provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution to withdraw Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcated the State into two Union Territories on August 5.

India has categorically told the international community that the scrapping of Article 370 to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was an internal matter and also advised Pakistan to accept the reality.

"I highlighted the delicate situation that exist at the moment in Jammu and Kashmir during my conversation," he said.

US, Taliban resume push for peace at Doha talks: US source

Doha: The US and the Taliban met in Doha on Saturday, an American source close to the negotiations said, resuming potentially decisive talks to allow Washington to draw-down militarily in Afghanistan.

"Talks resumed this afternoon," the US source said. The second day of the two sides' ninth round of dialogue had been due to begin Friday but "both sides decided to postpone it until Saturday", the Taliban's Doha spokesman Suhail Shaheen said, citing "other engagements".

"We have made progress and are now discussing the implementation mechanism

and some technical points," he told AFP on Saturday, referring to discussions that took place on Thursday.

"The agreement will be completed after we agree on these points," he said.

Any deal would be announced before the media as well as representatives from neighbouring countries and China, Russia, and the United Nations, he added. The US, which invaded Afghanistan and toppled the Taliban from power in 2001, wants to withdraw thousands of troops but only in return for the insurgent group renouncing Al-Qaeda and curbing attacks. AFP

Blast in Iraq near mosque kills three, wounds dozens

AP ■ BAGHDAD

A motorcycle rigged with explosives went off near a Shiite mosque south of the capital Baghdad, killing three people and wounding 34, Iraqi security officials said Saturday.

The officials said the blast happened the previous evening on a commercial street in the village of Mussayyib.

They spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it targeted "gatherings of Shiites" near a Shiite mosque.



Iraq declared victory against IS in late 2017, but the group continues to carry out attacks through sleeper cells, particularly in the country's north. Iraq's military announced it started a new operation early Saturday targeting IS hideouts and sleeper cells in western Anbar province.

The military said the operation aims to "search and clear" wide desert areas in the province that borders Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria.

Docking aborted for Russia's first humanoid robot in space

AFP ■ MOSCOW

An unmanned spacecraft carrying Russia's first humanoid robot to be sent into orbit failed to dock automatically at the International Space Station on Saturday, in a new setback for Moscow.

"Russian cosmonauts issued a command to abort the automated approach of an uncrewed Russian Soyuz spacecraft to the International Space Station," the US space agency NASA said in a statement.

"The craft was unable to lock onto its target at the station," and "backed a safe distance away from the orbital complex while the Russian flight controllers assess the next steps," NASA said.



Russian flight controllers had told the ISS crew it appeared the problem that prevented automated docking was in the station and not the Soyuz spacecraft, NASA added. Moscow news agencies

quoted the flight centre control as saying the Soyuz craft had to retreat to a "secure distance" from the ISS.

The docking had been scheduled for 0530 GMT but a live broadcast of the event on

the website of the Russian space agency Roscosmos was interrupted when the Soyuz approached to about 100 metres (100 yards) off the ISS.

"The Soyuz is on a safe trajectory above and behind the space station that will bring it in the vicinity of the orbital complex again in 24 hours and 48 hours," NASA said.

equipment would be replaced and another attempt at docking made between 0500 GMT and 0600 GMT on Monday.

"There is no threat to the station and its crew," a Roscosmos statement said.

Russia's space industry has suffered a series of setbacks from accidents and corruption scandals in recent years.

Last October, a Soyuz rocket carrying an American and a Russian had to make an emergency landing shortly after lift-off -- it was the first failure in the history of manned Russian flights.

The life-size robot named Fedor, short for Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research, is the first ever sent up by Russia.

B'desh Police shoot dead two Rohingyas in refugee camp

AFP ■ TEKNAF (BANGLADESH)

Bangladesh police said they had shot dead two Rohingya refugees during a gunfight in a refugee camp on Saturday after the pair were accused of killing a ruling party official.

Nearly a million Rohingya live in squalid camps in south-east Bangladesh, 740,000 of whom fled a 2017 military offensive against the Muslim minority in Myanmar.

Rights activists, who asked not to be named, said they believe the two Rohingya men were killed by police in what appeared to be a staged encounter.

The incident comes two days after a second failed attempt to repatriate the refugees, which saw not a single Rohingya turn up to return across the border to conflict-scarred Rakhine state.

"Both men died as they were rushed to a hospital," local police inspector Rasel Ahmad told AFP, adding that the incident took place in Jadimura refugee camp in Cox's Bazar district.

Ahmad said the two Rohingyas were shot and critically injured during a manhunt for suspects after a youth wing official of the ruling Awami League party was killed, allegedly by armed refugees.

Awami League official Omar Faruk was shot in the head on Thursday, at a settle-

ment near the border town of Teknaf, Ahmad said.

His murder had sparked anger among the local population, with hundreds of furious people blocking a key highway leading to the camps for hours, burning tyres and vandalising shops visited by refugees.

Ahmad said the two men killed on Saturday had been identified as key suspects in Faruk's killing and added that they had been shot while the officers were ambushed by the suspected criminals.

"It was wrong of the refugees to agitate the locals. We want justice in the quickest possible time," said Abdul Matin, a friend of the deceased politician.

Refugees said the recent bloodshed has created an atmosphere of fear in the camps, where security has been tightened.

The killings came as the Rohingyas are set to commemorate the second anniversary of their mass influx into Bangladesh from Rakhine after the brutal military campaign.

UN investigators have said the 2017 violence warrants the prosecution of top Myanmar generals for "genocide". On Thursday Bangladesh's second attempt to start repatriation of Rohingya back to Myanmar faltered after the refugees said they won't return unless their security is ensured and they were granted citizenship in their homeland.



UNENDING AGONY

The misery of rape survivors doesn't end with the crime. SHALINI SAKSENA and MUSBA HASHMI tell you that there is much more to their stories — the trauma of reporting the crime at a police station, to the agony of the two-finger test, to being shunned by society, to being shamed and stigmatised

It was a bright and sunny day. One of those usual afternoons when 14-year-old Mansi (name changed), was taking lunch for her parents, who were toiling in the field. But the day didn't turn out to be usual. Mansi was kidnapped on her way, by a perpetrator who had his eyes on her for a long time. He forcefully took her to a river bank, beat her up and raped her.

Mansi's parents were waiting for her to come for lunch unaware of what had transpired. After some time, Mansi's mother Geeta Devi saw her daughter coming towards her. It brought a smile on her face only to fall into doom.

Devi's daughter was trembling with fear. She instantly knew that the devil was back.

This was not the first time that Mansi was raped by the same man.

"It was in 2013, when a boy from the neighbourhood gatecrashed into our house at 2 am. My husband and I were away for work. My daughter was alone. It was one horrible night as he raped my daughter. My daughter was in shock and pain. She was only 10 then. The incident devastated her. We complained about the boy to his family. But, no action was taken," Devi tells you.

In 2016, history repeated itself. While Mansi on her way to school, the same boy forcefully took her to a deserted place and raped her again. A traumatised Mansi stopped going to school.

The boy belonged to a powerful family and no action was, thus, taken against him.

"It was again in 2017, that the devil raped my daughter. But I knew that I had to put an end to it. That was when we decided that complaining to the *panchayat* or the boy's family would get us nowhere. We went to the police station to lodge an FIR. We were surprised by their behaviour. We were made to wait for five hours before an FIR was finally registered. We were treated like we were the culprits," she recalls.

The police, a word that instils fear in some and is a ray of hope among others, was of no help. Instead, the officers insisted that the girl's family should make a compromise and the matter be settled amicably between the families as the boy was from the same village and of the same caste.

"When we didn't agree, everyone in the village stopped talking to us. My daughter stopped going out of the house. I felt like my world had fallen apart. The

thought of seeing my daughter in that condition where I was a mere spectator, was killing me every day. So, I gathered courage and decided to leave the village. I knew that place was not safe for my family. We shifted to Jhansi. Then we came to know about Rashtriya Garima Abhiyan. We contacted them and they are helping us. My daughter has started going to school," she tells you.

Devi has only one request to the Government — that the rape survivors should not be humiliated and justice should be delivered in time. "There are many girls who fall prey to such crimes. They are not able to speak up and their voice goes unheard. My only request to the Government is that justice should be delivered on time. No girl should ever have to beg for justice. It is their right. If this wouldn't happen, then people like Hitesh will not hesitate in committing such crimes in future too. Strict actions should be taken against such criminals and they should be put behind bars," she opines.

Geeta Devi and her daughter are not alone. Thirty five-year-old woman — Nisha (name changed) has a similar story. Nisha, a resident of a village in Ujjain, was raped by middle-aged Bhagwan Singh, Arjun Singh and Bajrang Singh, from the same family, in 2016. Nisha used to work as a domestic help. It was on one unfortunate day, when Bhagwan lured her with finding her more work at his village. He raped her there with the other two.

Nisha's miseries started when her husband refused to keep her with him. She had nowhere to go, even her parents refused to take her in.

"Those were tough times. When I reported the incident to my husband and in-laws, they said that I could no longer live with them, they refused to accept me. They beat me up. Even my parents said that *agar mar bhi jao toh bhi yahaan mat aana*. I was a mother of two. My husband kept both the children and threw me out," Nisha recounts, tears up.

Even the police didn't come to Nisha's rescue. She went to the police station for four days and only then a complaint was registered. "No one was listening to me. The policemen said I was making false claims. When I went for the medical test, the doctor conducted a two-finger test. Nothing came in the report, no injuries were shown even when there were clear marks on my body. The case came to court. The lawyers blamed me for impli-

cating the culprits. No one believed me," she tells you.

Nisha's problems were compounded when she couldn't find work. "After that, I left my village and shifted to Ujjain. But, there too I faced a lot of difficulties. No one was willing to keep me as a domestic help. I was jobless for six months. The moment I used to narrate my horror story to people, their behaviour towards me used to change. Even the men in their families would start looking at me weirdly. They would think of me *ki yeh toh aisi hi hai*. It felt like it was all my fault. But, I stood strong. I knew it was not my fault," she tells you.

Another woman who went through the same trauma is Gauri (name changed), a resident of Indore. Seven years back, she was raped by a 35-year-old man from her neighbourhood. The reason behind this heinous act — he wanted to take over their house.

MOST OF THE GIRLS FROM RAJNAK COMMUNITY END UP AS BAR DANCERS. THEY GET LURED BY THE GLAMOUR. THEY SEE OTHER GIRLS DANCING IN BARS, WEARING FANCY CLOTHES AND JEWELLERY. THEY SEE ONLY ONE SIDE OF THE COIN. THEY DON'T SEE THE DARK SIDE OF THIS BUSINESS UNTIL THEY ARE IN IT WITH NO ESCAPE ROUTE. BY THEN, IT IS TOO LATE

— VIJAY RAJ

"He had been eyeing our property for a long time. Initially, he came and threatened us that if we didn't leave our house, he would kill us. When we didn't take him seriously, he came and beat us up. Then, also we were not willing to leave our house and why would we — it was our property. That was when one night, around 3 am, he forced himself into our house, beat up my husband and raped me. Somehow I managed to free myself from him and ran to the police station.

The police made me sit there till 9 am before they finally lodged a complaint against him. The reasons they gave for not filing a report was *abhi bade sahib nahin hain, vo aayenge toh report likhenge*. At 11 am they took me for a medical test. The doctor did a two-finger test," she tells you.

The good part in this horror situation was that her husband, who works as a labourer, stood with Gauri through thick and thin, giving her the confidence to fight.

"Now, whenever I come to know that a girl is going through an ordeal or is not speaking up about rape, I go to her and explain that reporting a crime is important. If you don't, then it will only give the culprit more courage to repeat the crime. I ask them to go the police and file a complaint. People usually don't understand it at one go. It is only after insisting upon them a couple of times, when they finally go and register a complaint," she tells you.

The one thing to look out for in these stories was they all were similar — not only in terms of what happened to them but for the fact that they all survived and stood strong. They are the real fighters, who dared to raise their voice against the evil and didn't fear the culprit or his power.

Vijay Raj, Jansash Development Society, Madhya Pradesh, Devash and working in Ajmer and Jaipur, tells you that the problem lies in the fact that there are some communities who force the girls into prostitution. "These communities, for generations, have been forcing their daughters into this profession. Take the case of the Rajnak community. Most of the girls from these communities end up as bar dancers or in prostitution. The young girls get lured by the glamour. They see other girls dancing in bars, wearing fancy clothes and golden jewellery. They see only one side of the coin. They don't see the dark side of this business until they are there. By then it is too late. There is no escape then," Raj opines.

He tells you that the reason why girls from the community are in this profession because it is expected of them. "Then there is there the age old traditions that families follow," Raj tells you.

But not all is lost. Over the last five to eight years, a lot of work has been done to educate the girls by holding workshops and telling them about the pitfalls of getting into this profession. "The good is that many families have realised this and

are now open to sending their daughters to school. These girls are now studying beyond Class VIII, something that was unthinkable in 2010. The achievement is that three girls from a small village near Ajmer are in college," Raj says.

A 20-year-old from the Bachda community who has been working to improve the plight of the girls in her community agrees with Raj and tells you that the girls of her community are forced into prostitution because when the sons get married they have to give ₹10 lakh to ₹15 lakh to the girl. Obviously, the parents can't give this kind of dowry. So they force their daughters into prostitution," she tells you.

She is lucky that her father studied till Class XII and hence made sure that all his daughters studied. However, this didn't sit well with their community. "They feel that my father is going against the tradition. My father put his foot down. He told all my sisters that they should concentrate on their studies and not worry about what the people are saying. This has not been easy for us. We have been looking for an alternative for a long time. We want to leave our small in Madhya Pradesh and start over some place else. For this we need to sell our land to start afresh, but we are not getting the correct price," she says.

Ashif Shaikh, Convenor National Survivor Forum tells you that there are several challenges when it comes to dealing with rape and sexual abuse survivors. First, there are several communities in the country especially in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan where the girls are forced into prostitution because it is a tradition. "The parents force their daughters into this. We have come across many cases where young girls have been made to service up to 30 men in a day. The police look the other way because they feel that the women are being paid and hence it is consensual. The truth is that these girls have no say. These girls are forced. The money they earn goes into building a dowry that they can give to the girl their son marries. But they forget that nobody will marry their daughters. Since it is an age old tradition, they are not bothered as long as the money keeps coming in," Shaikh says.

The second challenge is that there are over 600 women who are yet to get the compensation that has been set even though their abuser has been convicted. The amount varies from ₹3 lakh to ₹7 lakh that has been set by law. "This

money goes a long way into rehabilitating these women," Shaikh says who has recently submitted a letter to the Chief Justice of India with signatures of over 1500 women and their families pulling their attention towards the plight of the rape survivors.

"We are also in the process of submitting more data that will help our case. This included data of the States where despite conviction, the survivors have not received compensation," Shaikh shares.

However, he doesn't agree that providing compensation will escalate rapes in the country. "The truth is that timely conviction will go a long way to curb crime against women. Another thing that needs to be done is that instead of supporting the perpetrator, the survivor should be supported. As of now, it is always the survivor who is shamed. In almost 90 per cent cases when a survivor goes to the police to report, she is one who is blamed. Worse, people don't believe that she is telling the truth. In such cases the perpetrator goes scot-free. This when only one or two per cent cases are reported. Almost 98 per cent still go unreported especially where minors are involved. In many cases, the survivor only comes forward after she has been raped repeatedly by the same person over a prolonged period," Shaikh says and paints a horror picture by telling you that the reason why the woman is shamed is because there are thousands of cases where it is a relative who has done the minor.

"Fathers and uncles being most common. We live in a patriarchal society. The man wants to show his domination over the weak. Women are vulnerable. Raping them and abusing them is easy. It proves that the men are in control and can get away with whatever they dish out to the woman," Shaikh explains who is now working towards gathering national data of sexual abuse in shelter homes for women and children.

"We believe that there are over a million children involved in sexual exploitation in India. However, the police and the Governments opine that they are sex workers. But we believe that they are being raped by more than 20 different men in a day. So we are initiating a national survey in such cases. These cases therefore needed to be reported under POCSO Act. Third, we are interacting with over a crore students in schools creating awareness about what constitutes sexual abuse," Shaikh says.

'It's the perpetrator who needs to be shamed and humiliated'

BHANWARI DEVI, a social activist from Rajasthan, tells SHALINI SAKSENA that there is only one way to stop rapes in the country — by providing quick justice to survivors

It has been more than 25 years, but Bhanwari Devi all of 56 today, still remembers the day like yesterday. She was gangraped by five men of the family when she tried to prevent child marriage. "I don't want to talk about that. Four of the men have died. Only one remains and struts around in my village as if nothing happened. Find me a lawyer who will take my case and fight in my behalf. It has been more than two decades, I still want justice.

I want the man to know that he can't get away with the crime," Bhanwari Devi tells you who is now a social worker from Bhatari, Rajasthan. She holds workshops where girls are educated about what is right and wrong. She also comes to the rescue of rape and sexual abuse survivors and guides them how to get justice.

"The problem is that the one crime where quick justice is needed is a crime which takes the longest to prove. And

even then, there is no guarantee that justice will be meted out. We are all aware how most times the perpetrator gets away with proving that the act was consensual. This is bad. It sends a signal to the other men that they too can get away with raping a woman." The 56-year-old tells you.

Her solution is simple even if it might be naive. "Rape survivors are looking for

immediate justice. They need to know that the perpetrator didn't get away with the act. So shame the criminal. This is easier to do in villages — parade him around the village with the shoes on his head. This way everyone will have a good look at his face. They will know that he is an offender. Women will stay clear of him. The elderly will also take note that he is an offender. If he is caught harassing a girl, he can be immediately reprimanded.

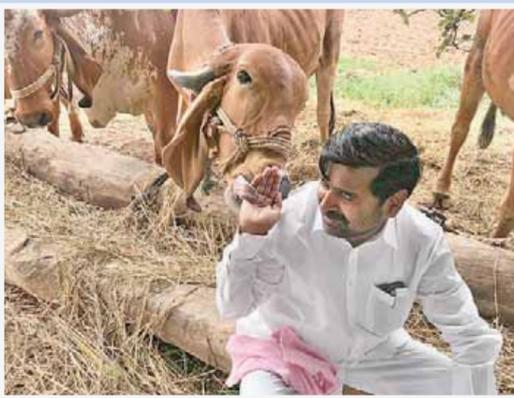
This way other men will also be wary. It can go a long way in preventing crimes against women. Also, eve trading needs to be tackled. It all started with it. Men realised that they got away with it. They got bold and their actions turned more heinous.

If the parents, the society and the police had taken timely action, we would not have so many crimes against women," Bhanwari Devi opines and tells

you that turning the police of the system is not the solution.

"We have to change. We have to educate the girls, we have to tell them that it is not correct to suffer in silence. This is what I tell the girls when I hold workshops. This is what I tell the survivor as well — she is not to be blamed. She had done nothing wrong. She needs to speak out so that other women are not made fresh targets," Bhanwari Devi says.

Education minister G Jagadish Reddy opens up in a tete a tete with Sushma Nagraju about how a brimming Nagarjunasagar Dam spurred him into politics, how he got around to marrying and the guiding light in his life, among others



FROM FARMS TO POLITICS A leader born of 'T' movement

For someone with beliefs like 'I won't learn English; I don't want to get married', becoming the education minister was not in the offing. The minister always said, "I never wanted to be a minister. I just wanted to serve people." G Jagadish Reddy felt he couldn't handle the portfolio the first time and sought a change in ministry. Now, with renewed energy, he wants to change the education system. And for someone who didn't want to get married, he has achieved a feat by solving

disputes of over 10,000 joint families in his village. He claims friendship is a priority for him and he makes it a point to meet even his Class I classmates.

Not a 9-5 job person...

After I finished my studies I did not take up a job as I felt uncomfortable to go in the morning and come in the evening. I always wanted to be around people and wanted the freedom to do anything. Even at home, our parents gave us that freedom. As my mind was occupied with the problems of people, I never thought of doing a normal job.

Staunch in belief to not learn English...

During my schools days, my headmaster always asked me to learn English and said it would help me pursue higher studies. He wanted me to become an IAS officer. But I said I will not learn English as it is something imposed upon us by the British.

I used to read a lot of Telugu books. My father loves education and always asked kids whom he met which class they were in. If he saw them working as labourers, he used to try and educate them. He always told education is wealth. I was tuned like him. So whenever I had Rs 5 to Rs 10 in my pocket, I used to buy books for my friends.

One day, my father asked if I had finished reading and I replied yes. He then said that reading is an ongoing process and never ends. Learning is not just reading textbooks. One must read whatever they find to traverse the right path. So reading became a habit and I used to visit the library every day and read about great leaders who fought for the Telangana movement.

Married only after KCR advised me to do so...

When I was fighting for the Telangana movement, I was



never at home and saw my new born daughter only a month after she was born. But I am lucky to have received tremendous support from my family.

I actually thought I wouldn't get married and had decided to dedicate myself to helping people. One day, KCR called me and said "I do not know why you were not married, but I suggest you get married as life is incomplete without marriage and kids." At that moment, I went home and asked my family to look for a girl and married Sunitha.

Encourage joint families...

I love and encourage joint families. I believe having a joint family is a strength. After my father, I respect my elder brother. Whatever decision he takes is final and there is no going back. I have conducted around 10,000 panchayatis in my village and many of them were about solving joint family issues.

Friends mean world to me...

I love spending time with friends. In fact, my friends are my world. I am still in touch with people from Class I. This came from my parents.

One day, we were worried as my mother was missing. We went around Hyderabad searching for her. We later found out that she came to know her Class VIII classmate was living in Dilshuknagar and went knocking on people's doors to find her. I am also like that and whenever I feel low, I go to them

Living a simple life is my thing...

I should fight for justice; I should work for the welfare of people. These thoughts were ingrained in me when I was growing up. I come from an agricultural family and have seen farmers struggling to feed their families during the droughts. When I went to Vijayawada to study LLB in Siddhartha Law College, I visited Nagarjunasagar Dam and was frustrated that despite having so much water, it was being stored and was not given to the people of Telangana. This is when I started protesting against water scarcity and unemployment. This then paved the way for me to meet KCR and I joined his Telangana movement. I have faced ups and downs, but have never looked back when it came to fighting for Telangana.

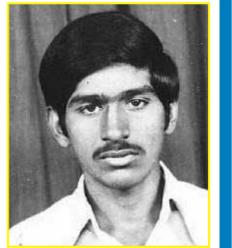
I believe in one thing - living a simple life. There was no greed to become a minister, but I will always welcome what comes in my way and be responsible. I usually don't worry about the result and always put in my best.

I'll go back to farming after I retire...

I usually don't get free time, but when I do, I love working in the farm. Agriculture itself has driven me to fight for people. After I retire from politics, I plan to go back to farming. Spending time with animals and farmers is bliss and I forget myself and the world of politics.

I WAS AN ADVENTUROUS KID...

During my childhood, my friends and I used to climb the hills near my farms. Whatever the height or terrain of the hills, we used to climb it. There were instances where my friends gave up in between, but I always climbed to the top as I was anxious to see what was on the other side.



Being first education min of TS not so easy...

I was happy to become the first education minister of separate Telangana state. It was a challenge and wasn't easy in the beginning. The previous government had made a mess of things and dealing with

universities, schools and the innumerable colleges was a challenge. I found it difficult and upon requesting K Chandrasekhar Rao, I was made the energy minister. But now, five years later, I am confident of handling the education ministry and strive hard for a change in the education system.



“When I was fighting for the Telangana movement, I was never at home and saw my new born daughter only a month after she was born. But I am lucky to have received tremendous support from my family



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

'Ties between India and UAE best ever'

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

India's relations with the UAE are "at their best ever" as bilateral ties have been elevated from a mere "buyer-seller" to that of a comprehensive strategic partnership in the last four years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said as he highlighted the excellent rapport between the leadership of the two countries.

Modi in an interview with the UAE's official news agency, WAM, said that India has found a "valuable partner" in the UAE to achieve its ambitious dream of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy.

"India has embarked on the ambitious, yet achievable, path to be a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024-25. We are targeting about USD 1.7 trillion dollar worth of investments in the coming five years. To achieve this vision, the government is working to promote inflows from domestic as well as foreign sources," Modi said, who is in the UAE on the second leg of his three-nation tour.

The Prime Minister believes that his third visit to the UAE, in the last four years, reflects the desire and will of the two countries to sustain the momentum achieved in the bilateral relationship.

"We consider the UAE as a valuable partner in realising the objective to reach USD 5 trillion economy through a mutually beneficial partnership," said Modi who started on Friday night a two-day state visit to the UAE.

He said that the UAE-India relations are "at their best ever", adding that the UAE investments in key sectors in India are growing.

"There has been an increasing interest in investments in India in sectors ranging from renewable energy, food, ports, airports, defence manufactur-



The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, meeting the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, at Abu Dhabi, in UAE on Saturday

PM Modi, Abu Dhabi crown prince discuss ways to improve India-UAE trade, cultural ties

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Abu Dhabi, Aug 24 (PTI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday discussed ways to improve trade and cultural ties between India and the UAE with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi.

Welcoming Modi, the crown prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, expressed gratitude to his "brother" for visiting "his second home".

"Further cementing a close friendship. Fruitful talks between H.H. Crown Prince @MohamedBinZayed

and PM @narendramodi in Abu Dhabi. Both leaders discussed ways to improve trade and cultural relations between India and UAE," the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) tweeted after the meeting.

The two leaders also discussed the "full spectrum of the strong India-UAE partnership", which has been "built over generations". External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said.

ing and other sectors," Modi said.

"UAE investments in (sectors such as) infrastructure and

housing are being enhanced.

"The UAE is our third largest trade partner with about USD 60 billion bilateral



India has embarked on the ambitious, yet achievable, path to be a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024-25. We are targeting about USD 1.7 trillion dollar worth of investments in the coming five years. To achieve this vision, the government is working to promote inflows from domestic as well as foreign sources

— NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

trade in 2018-19. Many of our companies are investing here in the UAE. Both countries are working closely and vigorously to implement the commitment of USD 75 billion investment by the UAE in India.

Annual bilateral trade between India and the UAE stood at about USD 60 billion. The UAE is also a key source of energy for India, being the fourth-largest exporter of crude oil for India, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement in New Delhi ahead of his visit to the kingdom.

In another interview to Khaleej Times, Modi said that "strengthening the relationship between the countries is one of the most important foreign policy priorities of my government... With unstinted commitment and cooperation from both sides, we have come a long way in the last five years."

He also said that they relations with the UAE have been elevated from a mere "buyer-seller" relationship to that of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in the last four years.

On his relations with Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Modi, said that

"the Crown Prince and I regard each other as brothers. We have developed enormous goodwill and mutual respect. I believe that the excellent rapport between the two of us is an important driving force in realising the true potential of our relationship."

The excellent cooperation received from the leadership has transformed the relationship not only in energy and people-to-people contact, but in trade, investments, defence, food, and security cooperation, he said.

"We share a common vision for our bilateral relations and I highly appreciate the initiatives of His Highness the Crown Prince for regional peace, prosperity and stability, Modi said, who will also receive the 'Order of Zayed', the highest civilian decoration conferred by the UAE government.

"I feel very honoured to receive the UAE's highest civil honour, the Order of Zayed. It is testimony to our growing partnership and is also an honour for the entire Indian nation of 1.3 billion people, Modi said.

From Abu Dhabi, Modi will visit Bahrain where he will hold talks with King Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and also witness the formal beginning of the re-development of the temple of Shreenathji -- the oldest in the Gulf region before returning to France on Sunday to attend the G7 Summit meetings.

PM Modi launches RuPay card in UAE

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched the RuPay card here, making the UAE the first country in the Middle East to launch the Indian indigenous system of electronic payment.

RuPay card scheme was launched in 2012 to fulfil the Reserve Bank of India's vision to have a domestic, open and multilateral system of payments. RuPay facilitates electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions.

India has already launched the RuPay card in Singapore and Bhutan.

"Bringing economies of India & UAE together @RuPay_ncpi card was officially launched in UAE in presence of PM @naren-

dramodi. UAE is the first country in the Gulf where Indian RuPay card has been launched. Many business groups from the UAE have pledged to accept RuPay payment," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

Earlier this week, Navdeep Singh Suri, the Indian Ambassador to the UAE, said, "The UAE is the largest and most vibrant business hub in the region. It hosts the largest Indian community, receives the largest number of Indian tourists and has the largest trade with India. By becoming the first country in the region to introduce the RuPay card, we expect that each of these elements of tourism, trade and the Indian diaspora will benefit."



The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi at the official launch of RuPay NPCI card, in UAE on Saturday

CAPSULE



FIEO sees strong flow of exports from eastern India

NEW DELHI: The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) on Saturday said it is expecting a strong flow of exports from eastern India, especially in the iron and steel sector. Gems and jewellery, iron and steel, petroleum and marine products occupied some of the top segments with regards to exports from West Bengal, said a statement from the exporters' body. "We are continuing to endeavour to seek fresh contacts with newer and upcoming markets with import demand so that it can boost export prospects of our members and others to add to the country's foreign exchange," FIEO Eastern Region Chairman Sushil Patwari said. In the Indian economy, the exports contribute substantially to the country's GDP, he said.

Naresh Goyal created tax-evading schemes to siphon off funds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday alleged Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal "structured" a number of tax evading schemes and siphoned off huge funds in foreign jurisdictions.

The federal probe agency had carried out searches on Friday at a dozen locations of Goyal, his firms and partner agencies in Mumbai and Delhi on charges of alleged contravention of the foreign exchange law.

"The search resulted in the seizure of various incriminating documents and digital evidences. Further investigation and analysis of the seized documents is going on," the agency said in a statement.

It said preliminary probe "indicates that Goyal structured various tax evading schemes involving its domestic and foreign companies, thereby siphoning off huge amount in foreign jurisdictions through dubious or fictitious transactions".

The ED said Goyal "indirectly" controls various entities abroad, some of which are in tax haven nations. "Fictitious and inflated pay-



ments appear to have been made to some of these foreign entities under various airline lease agreements, aircraft maintenance agreements, among others."

"Huge amounts appear to have been sent abroad by way of inflated commission to its own group entity in Dubai which acted as airline's exclusive overseas general sales agent (GSA)," the ED alleged.

The agency said probe indicates that Goyal is "likely to be" the beneficial owner of some bank accounts abroad having huge deposits.

"Prima facie these transactions involve various violations under the Foreign Exchange Management Act," it said.

Official sources added that the charge of undisclosed

assets held abroad could lead the agency to book Goyal under the stringent and criminal anti-money laundering law in the coming day.

A dozen premises, including Goyal's Mumbai residence, his group companies, their directors and offices of Jet Airways, were searched on Friday.

The businessman's empire, the agency said, had 19 privately-held companies, five of which were registered abroad.

A particular company under the ED scanner is the Isle of Man-based Tail Winds Corporation and it is suspected that it controlled all the activities of Jet Airways.

The company (Tail Winds) was formed by Goyal in 1992 and the agency also had searched the premises of one Hasamukh Deepchand Gardi, a partner and investor in the Isle of Man firm, the officials had said. They said Gardi, who is based in Dubai, also had a mention in the global offshore holdings list, known as the "Panama Papers", and the agency suspected that the money invested in Tail Winds was sourced through illegal means.

RBI unlocking entrepreneurial energy for growth: says Das

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

The RBI will continue to unlock entrepreneurial energies and set the country firmly on track to become USD 5 trillion economy in the next five years, Governor Shaktikanta Das said in here on Friday.

The RBI chief said the slight slowdown in the last quarter was a temporary one and the economy is likely to end the fiscal with higher growth rate of close to 7 per cent.

"The policy focus will continue to be on unlocking...entrepreneurial energies and set India firmly on the trajectory towards its aspirations of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy within the next five years," he said at a dialogue with Indian business community.

As the financial sector repairs and emerge out of the balance sheet stress, a speedy revival of demand in the economy assumes vital importance in order to reinvigorate, he told over 200 business executives from leading corporations. "Stimulating demand is cur-



The RBI chief said the slight slowdown in the last quarter was a temporary one and the economy is likely to end the fiscal with higher growth rate of close to 7 per cent

rently the overriding priority of both the Government and RBI (Reserve Bank of India).

"Some structural reforms are also required, and I am happy to note that some structural reforms are on the anvil," Das said.

He noted that with the budget for the remaining part of the fiscal announced, government spending would see a boost, which will have salutary impact on the economy.

Das was on a two-day visit to Singapore during which he

met Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat, and his counterpart Monetary Authority of Singapore Managing Director Ravi Menon. He also met top leaders of financial sector and global financial companies.

In India, the household savings are the principle livable resources in the economy, said Das, pointing out that of the total household savings of 17.2 per cent of GDP in 2017-18, only 6.6 per cent were in the form of net financial savings.

"Greater financializing of the savings can increase the pool of domestic resources and it can substantially ease financial pressure on the balance of payment of the country," he said.

The financial system, comprising institutions and markets, has a key role in bringing these resources towards the productive sector, he pointed out.

Elaborating on the RBI's 35 bps repo rate cut on August 7, he said the banks have reduced lending rates for new loans by about 29 bps as a follow up since then.

India Inc mourns Jaitley's demise, hails his reform agenda

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tributes poured in from India Inc with corporate leaders expressing profound grief at the passing away of former Finance Minister and BJP veteran Arun Jaitley here, describing him as a true reformist and a great statesman.

The former Union Minister died at AIIMS on Saturday, where he was undergoing treatment for several weeks. He was 66.

"A gifted orator, dynamic parliamentarian, champion of public policy and a man with an invaluable ability to connect with people from different sections, Mr Arun Jaitley's vision and progressive thinking has been a catalyst in shaping New India. RIP," Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani said in a tweet.

Bharti Airtel Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said

India has lost one of the finest political leaders and a legal luminary.

"He had a very personal touch in his dealings, something that attracted people even from the other side of the political spectrum to seek his counsel in resolving complex matters. His legal acumen was highly acclaimed but his sound advice went far beyond and he was sought even for family matters, personal

advice and crisis management of all sorts," he added.

Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra also tweeted his condolences, saying "I salute, and pray for the soul of a man who lived by his convictions and committed his life to his country..."

HDFC Ltd Chairman Deepak Parekh said the nation has lost one of its tallest leaders. The country will always be beholden to him for leading one of India's most significant reforms of recent times, which was the introduction of GST.

"He was appreciated for listening to the views of industry and then putting forth practical and implementable solutions. As legal and intellectual stalwart, he stood out for his ability to multitask by simultaneous-

ly holding charge of key ministries. Deep condolences to his family. India Inc. must honour his legacy," Parekh said.

Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal said it is an irreparable loss, not only to the party but entire nation.

"With his in-depth experience in politics, law, finance, and global scenario, I always found him to be a visionary, patient listener, extremely knowledgeable and someone who could visualise and analyse long term implications of any decision. The nation will sorely miss his guidance," Agarwal added.

Gautam Adani (@gautam_adani)
A gifted orator, dynamic parliamentarian, champion of public policy and a man with an invaluable ability to connect with people from different sections, Mr Arun Jaitley's vision and progressive thinking has been a catalyst in shaping New India. RIP

CII President Vikram Kirloskar described Jaitley as a "true reformer and keen advocate for economic liberalisation".

"...he leaves behind an impressive policy imprint that will continue to bring notable gains to the Indian economy for all times to come," he added.

Biocon Chairperson and Managing Director Kiran Mazumdar Shaw tweeted that she was "so very sad to see such a young and dynamic political leader's life being cut short - he had so much more to contribute to our nation's development. RIP".

"Deeply saddened by demise of Shri #ArunJaitley Ji. He was a national leader who commanded immense respect among all sections of society. Shri #Jaitley left an imprint as a pragmatic and progressive leader. Reformist to the core, he was a great friend of #ASSOCHAM, Prez: @BKGoenka," the chamber tweeted.

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Rajeev Talwar termed Jaitley as the best Finance Minister who gave the country fiscal prudence and financial consolidation par excellence and made India one of the fastest growing economies in the world, and is credited for historic reforms such as Goods and Services Tax, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, among others.

No enhanced surcharge on FPIs for capital gains in equities, derivatives: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Saturday clarified that enhanced surcharge has been withdrawn for foreign portfolio investors on capital gains in both the equity and derivatives segments.

The Centre on Friday had announced a slew of measures to boost the economy, including rollback of enhanced super-rich tax on foreign and domestic equity investors imposed in the Budget.

The derivatives (futures and options) are not treated as capital asset and the income arising from the transfer of the derivatives is treated as business income and liable for normal rate of tax for domestic investors, an official state-

ment said on Saturday, clarifying the stand of tax authorities on gains made from derivatives trading.

However, in the case of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), derivatives are treated as capital assets and the gains arising from the transfer of the same is treated as capital gains and subjected to a special rate of tax as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act.



the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

Between fact and fiction
Lt Col K Gopinathan (Retd)'s new book is a satire on the current state of affairs in the country

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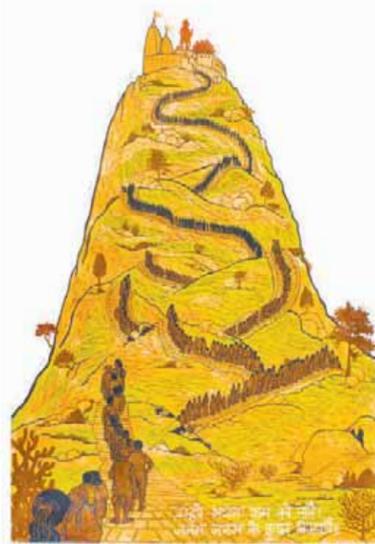
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Be practical to succeed
Instead of trying to find out the reasons underlying your ordeal, better work upon your fault lines

I always try to do my best to inspire people to be good and do the right thing, but I just can't live my life always trying to be a good role model
— Kylie Jenner



Suman Chandra; Art Alive Gallery



Champa Mohan; Blueprint12; DCAW



Ayesha Singh; Shrine Empire

WHAT IS CONTEMPORARY?

As the new season of art opens in Delhi with shows highlighting works by contemporary artists, NAVNEET MENDIRATTA looks at the new narratives and prominent trends emerging in the current scenario

The contemporary voices in the Indian art scene are emerging stronger and clearer with more galleries backing up younger artists. As the new season of art opens in Delhi, it is interesting to see new names emerge with a diverse body of work and compelling narrative to their credit.

THE NARRATIVE

"The current generation of artists is responding to ecological developments and the shift can be seen worldwide. Even internationally, the focus is on the ecology around them. That is what makes their art relevant to the times," opens Sunaina Anand of Art Alive Gallery. The gallery recently opened the season with 'What is Contemporary...', their first show in Contemporary Idioms series.

"Our focus was to look at the art institutions that the younger artists are coming from. The idea was to pick talent from diverse institutes across the country," she elaborates on the new series. Interestingly, all three artists currently showing at the gallery are in their 20s, come from different institutes and yet reflect a distinct synergy.

Agrees Debasish Mukherjee, whose solo exhibition, 'River Song' opened at Aakar Prakar Gallery recently: "Contemporary artists are a part of the same society after all. It's just the language which is different here. The current generation is certainly more open to experiments with their medium or the language."

Since 2016, Mukherjee has been working on a body of work, which explores the 'concept' of home, spaces or place of origin through sensorial and emotional memory. This includes a series of mix media works, which are more like textile sculptures and installations. "I have often wondered, what makes us yearn for an era lost? What triggers memories, and how we comprehend moments as we had experienced them, even though we no longer exist in that place or time. Is it possible to manifest the architecture of our memories into fabric, texture and impressions within the format of an exhibition? I have tried mapping all of these in to my current body of work," he shares of his current exhibition.

MAPPING THE MARKET

Even though the artists tend to voice the concerns of their times. The question is whether the market is ready to put their money on the shift?

"The contemporary market is slowly and steadily growing in India. Experimental art forms with strong concepts are definitely finding greater demand. Now there is more focus on South Asian artists," says Mandira Lamba of Blueprint12.

Blueprint 12 has collaborated with Vadehra Art Gallery to open a solo show with Youdhisthir Maharjan and Kingsley Gunatillake last Thursday. The gallery is also a part of a larger collective, titled Delhi Contemporary Art Week (DCAW) featuring seven galleries, the other six being Gallery Espace, Exhibit 320, Latitude 28, Nature Morte, Shrine Empire and Vadehra Art Gallery, that starts at India Habitat Centre from August 1.

"The current scenario is particularly interesting for the direction that the younger artists are taking in the country. Increasingly, they have been invested in sustained research, conceptual and material concerns that develop from one body of work to another, while until recently artists have been more willing to change conversations from one body of work to another," adds Shefali Somani of Shrine Empire. Shrine too opened with a solo exhibition by Ayesha Singh, titled, 'It was never concrete' on August 22.

"Like artists of every age, the concepts that today's generation of contemporary artists is engaging with have to do with realities — political, social, and so on — of our times. They are also exploring their own expressions and practices. However, there is no one trend that is more popular than the others," shares Renu Modi of Gallery Espace. Also a part of DCAW, the gallery is additionally showing works of five contemporary artists in an upcoming show at its gallery space, titled, 'Rooted' starting Monday.

PROMISING YOUNG TALENT

"The young artists have been borrowing elements from the world they live in and are commenting on the changing social, environmental and cultural perceptions. For instance, Ketaki Sarpotdar, a young printmaker from Baroda, anthropomorphises animals in her work to comment on the human nature and human society. Similarly, Yogesh Ramkrishna and Subrat Kumar Behera take inspiration from mythology to create works that gauge sociopolitical realities. Artist such as Anupama Alias through the use of anatomy creates works that revolve around the theme of woman-



CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS ARE A PART OF THE SAME SOCIETY AFTER ALL. IT'S JUST THE LANGUAGE, WHICH IS DIFFERENT HERE. THE CURRENT GENERATION IS CERTAINLY MORE OPEN TO EXPERIMENTS WITH THEIR MEDIUM OR THE LANGUAGE

— Debasish Mukherjee, artist

Debasish Mukherjee; Aakar Prakar



hood. Apart from these, works by Sanket Viramgami, Rushabh Vishwakarma also looks promising," says Bhavna Kakar of Latitude 28. Kakar is one of the three art promoters who thought up the idea of DCAW as a common platform to promote young artists. For the upcoming show, the gallery is promoting artists such as Sudipta Das, Niyeti Chadha Kannal, Radhika Agarwala, Prajjwal Choudhury, Yogesh Ramkrishna, Ketaki Sarpotdar, Sanket Viramgami, Waswo X Waswo. "What interests me about these artists the most is that though the practice is varied, the artists continue to experiment with concept or material and develop their

practice further," she says.

"As a gallery, we are deeply interested in Sangita Maity's practice. She has been researching intensively on aspects of labour and tradition in the iron ore mining community in Orissa. The materiality of her serigraphs and canvases have been influenced by her original subject," says Somani. Maity's serigraphs are usually on iron sheets, and her canvases often use the soil from the mining areas as a medium.

"Ayesha is another interesting upcoming artist. Though a sculptor by training, she has been really pushing the boundaries of various media, from drawing — which she does in space with her sculptural works also — and

video as well as kinetic forms and performative gestures. Then she is able to tie together the possibilities of all these media to articulate her consistent preoccupation with architecture and how it defines identity," she adds.

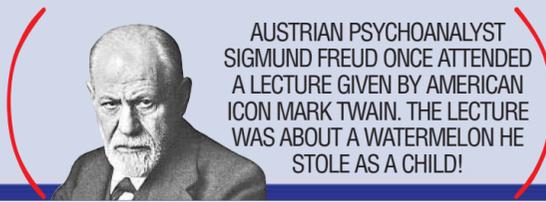
Anand is particularly impressed with the works coming from Suman Chandra. "What I really like about Suman's work is that he is not bound by media. He is as comfortable with canvas as he is with carving out a stone sculpture. Also the kind of research he has put in is impressive. In the last four years, Suman has spent a lot of time with the miners of Jharkhand. He has observed the shifts and changes that have taken place in the area. His art is about the lives affected. It's a deep study of people and the environment," she shares.

FUTURE IS BRIGHT

"If we were to compare the last five years, the future is only getting better!" says Lamba. "With India Art fair focusing on a special platform for South Asian Artists, Kochi Muziris Biennale getting international acclaim, Delhi Contemporary Art Week continuing into a 3rd edition, many more international residencies and show invitations for South Asian Artists, it's towards a rise," she says with great optimism. While most other art promoters agree that things are looking up, a slow economy notwithstanding, there are a few other factors that must be addressed.

"The biggest challenge that art faces in India is limited philanthropy," says Somani. "To push artists to make cutting edge work, it is important to invest in residencies, support production costs, and facilitate discourse around the arts. I feel that galleries become relevant to artists once they have already developed their own voice. Shrine Empire supports Prameya Art Foundation, our non-profit that tries to fill this lacunae through art education programs, by supporting residencies etc. But we need more institutions filling this role if we want India to be at the forefront of contemporary art globally," she points out.

While on the subject Lamba also calls for easier policies that would allow art exchanges between India and its neighbours. "While private initiatives are taking place in terms of contemporary museums, we definitely need government support for the same to push contemporary art to the next big level," she says.



A FINE BALANCE BETWEEN FACT AND FICTION

Lt Col (Retd) K Gopinathan's book is a satire on the state of affairs in the country today and presents the readers with an alternative India that is at once mesmerising yet unfamiliar, writes COL AJAY RAINA (SENA MEDAL)

In this political satire, the author, a veteran army colonel, discusses the country's myriad problems such as fall of ethics in public life, repugnant caste politics, communal machinations, all pervasive corruption, socioeconomic inequity and terrorism. The topic is universal in nature and touches the everyday-life of the people. It has the latent depth and an immediacy to draw all genders, age groups, and every category of readers.

The book can be divided into two parts — One: The political coup, which discusses the power of democracy to throw out the undesirables and install well-meaning and dedicated political workers in seats of power. And two: Building a prosperous and powerful India through wise use of statecraft.

Baba, a teacher by profession, social worker by choice and politician by circumstances is a saintly person, who understands the underlying psychodynamics of the people and relates effortlessly with them. His anticorruption agitations give a new meaning and direction to the Indian political system. The people take up the challenge thrown at Baba by mainstream political parties to enter the parliament to enact the anti-corruption legislation. They elect his newly formed political outfit, the Rashtriya Punarudhaan Sangh (RPS), to power.

Choice of Prof Krishna Moorthy, an intellectual and ruthless hard task master, as the Prime Minister shows that Baba means business. Lok pal is enacted, and the jails start filling up with convicted politicians, businessmen, bureaucrats and others. Tough decisions to tide over the sinking economy ruffle many in trade and industry. The evil nexus of deposed politicians, threatened bureaucrats and murky businessmen, whose heads are on the chopping block for corruption, nepotism and subversion of law, reacts. Trade unions call for nationwide strikes and traders shut shops; expecting to force Murthy to resign or put pressure on Baba to change him. Neither happen.

People suffer in the no-holds-barred political slugfest between adamant Murthy and his incorrigible adversaries. They react through the Bihar assembly



elections where RPS tastes its first electoral shock. Murthy decides to get back into the game. In a clandestine operation, four undertrial youths belonging to powerful Gurgaon families, accused of rape and murder, are kidnapped and castrated. This maverick act appeases the large discerning women voters in Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala and Puducherry, and RPS wins these assembly elections comfortably. The party is back into the hearts and minds of the people.

Gurgaon castrations and state assembly elections result take the wind out of the agitators' sails. Murthy decides to go after his opponents, but an unexpected bolt from the blue stalls him. The long-

awaited verdict on 2G telecom scam explodes on the political firmament. Those who played ducks and drakes with the exchequer escape the clutches of the law. The ever-active media swings into action and questions the government's inability to convict the high-profile culprits. The almost dead political agitations enliven and tear through the country's tranquillity. People become despondent; the country is back to square.

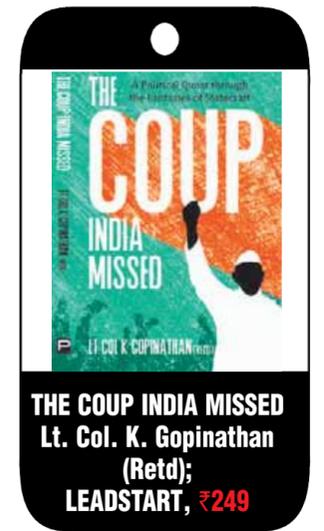
Unrelenting, Murthy looks out for a subterfuge to permanently silence his opponents so that he can concentrate on development of the country. His opportunity comes through a massive bomb blast in a shopping mall at Vijayawada

in which hundreds die and another few hundreds are seriously injured. Bhai, an Indian traitor holed up in Karachi, carried out terrorist activities in his motherland at the bidding of the ISI. Bhai is very much pained and upset; he demands action. The daring kidnap of Bhai from Karachi by RAW and MARCOS is one of the best narrations in the book and thrills every reader. RPS's popularity soars.

Exploiting the kidnap euphoria for electoral gains borders political adventurism. With two-third majority in the new parliament, RPS embarks on the 'Executive President' form of government, an idea ardently discussed in many

public forums, the book further argues its necessity. Further dividing the states for administrative convenience is a Pandora's box, and is best left unopen. Electoral reforms to ensure the country suffered election fever only once in five years is worthy of wider political debate.

Emboldened by the massive mandate in the general elections held under the new Constitution, RPS embarks on its flagship project: education reforms, a point extensively discussed at many places in the book. Political parties have always fumbled to effectively get hold of this essential tool for socioeconomic development of the country. The idea to nationalise the entire school edu-



THE COUP INDIA MISSED
Lt. Col. K. Gopinathan
(Retd);
LEADSTART, ₹249

cation is fraught with fissiparous tendencies and very strong political will and leadership is demanded. Free and compulsory education from 1st to 12th standard is part of the present government's National Education Policy on the anvil. The veteran author's suggestion of two years compulsory military service after school is not pragmatic, it drowns in the sea of sheer numbers. Having said so, the idea fits well into the storyline.

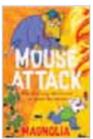
Exploiting the Baloch, Muhajir, and Pashtun unrest to create refugee crises and attract international attention is a reinvent of the Bangladesh saga. The military operations have been lucidly described. Keeping the United States, Russia and China in good humour, merges well with the plot.

The last chapter, Sannyasa, is a befitting epilogue to the story of the great Indian dream. In a country where political parties are considered family assets and genealogically passed on, the smooth transfer of power in RPS is enticing and refreshing.

The views expressed are the reviewer's own

NEW ARRIVALS

MOUSE ATTACK: THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF ARVEE THE MOUSE
Magnolia
Hachette, ₹227



Arvee, a clever and scholarly mouse, is horrified to find that he must leave his laboratory to live as a house pet. His new home, Paradise Villa, is charming and comfortable but boring. And lonely. That changes when Arvee meets bright, feisty Ellie and her family of house mice. They tell him about Pasha, a fearsome rat who, along with his thugs, has taken over Paradise Villa, harassing and enslaving the mice. A small, brave band of rebels is ready to fight back. But how? Arvee brings his thinking skills to the struggle, pulling in the help of other house creatures. But Pasha has very different plans for him. Will Arvee succeed in helping Ellie and the other mice?

THE ADVENTURES OF SHRILOK HOMELESS
Pika Nani
Penguin, ₹150

No case is bizarre enough for detective Shrilok, a *chaiwala* with a penchant for deduction, disguises and drama, and his partner in crime, Rohan Doctor. Be it a hand turning up in a steel lunchbox, a stolen rose diamond reappearing in a *vada pav*, a selfie-scandal in Bollywood, the Red Signal League of blind beggars or the dogs of Bhaskarville disappearing into the fog, the duo is sure to nab the suspects. They crack ten thrilling cases, no problem, but will Shrilok be a match for his nemesis, Masterji, in his ultimate encounter?

FLYAWAY BOY
Jane De Souza
Penguin, ₹250



Kabir doesn't fit in. Not in the wintry hill town he lives in, and not in his school, where the lines are always straight. Backed into a corner with no way out, Kabir vanishes. With every adult's nightmare now coming true, finding this flyaway boy will mean understanding who he really is. Or is it too late? Spirited and powerfully imaginative, Flyaway Boy is a story about embracing everything that makes you uniquely you.

A LETTER FROM HOME

SANTANU DAS' *India, Empire and First World War Culture: Writings, Images, and Songs* examines the experiences of people from undivided India — both soldiers and civilians, men and women, sepoys, labourers, lascars, orderlies, doctors, politicians and intellectuals — in the First World War and the way such experiences were represented. An edited excerpt:



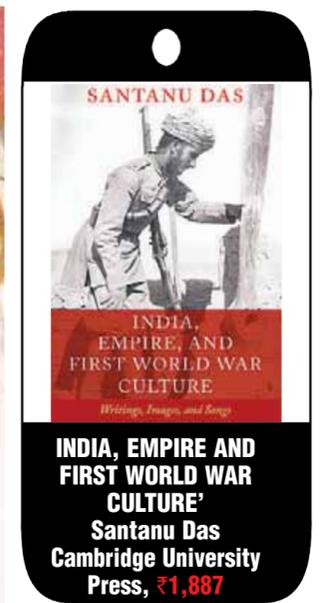
Artifacts of Private Jogen Sen, Duplex House and Museum, Personal Photograph

It was on a chance visit one winter afternoon in 2005 to the quaint Duplex House and Museum in Chandernagore — a former French colony by the Hoogly river and 33 kilometers from Kolkata — that I first saw the pair of glasses. They lay in a cabinet ringed with dust in a musty room. At the same time as noticing the glasses, my eyes fell on the label 'blood-stained' next to them, though all I could detect was a smudge on the right lens. Delicate, fragile yet seemingly intact they lay, with their arms gently curving around the photograph of their master wearing them, as if still trying to protect him from the violence. Above the glasses was another label: 'Broken and bloodstained glasses belonging to J. Sen, Private, West Yorkshire Regiment...' he was the first Bengalee, a citizen of Chandernagore, to be killed in 1914-1918 War. Jogen Sen was the only non-white member of the West Yorkshire regiment; he was gunned down on the night of 22 May, 1916.

It was two years later, in 2007, in a tiny room crammed with cabinets in the Humboldt Sound Archive in Berlin that I felt the same shiver down my spine as in Chandernagore. I was listening to a tremulous yet incantatory voice speaking largely in Punjabi:
*There was a man who would have better back in India
He would also have two sers of milk.
He served for the British.
That man joined the European War.
That man was captured by the Germans.
He wants to go back to India.
If he goes back to India then he will get that same food.
That man has spent three years already.*
This is the story of Mall Singh, an Indian prisoner of war in the 'Halfmoon Camp' at Wunsdorf outside Berlin. The recording was made on 11 December 1916. He was made to stand in front of a phonograph machine held before him by

his German captors and instructed to speak. Mall Singh's was among the 2677 audio recordings made by the Royal Prussian Phonographic Commission between 29 December 1915 and 19 December 1918, using the First World War Prisoners of War held in Germany. Desolate, homesick and hungry, he distills all the pain and longing into the images of *makhan* (butter) and the two *sers* [a form of measurement] of milk: home is remembered as taste.
Mall Singh served on the Western Front. However, for me, his story resonates not with the homesick letters of his sepoy-brothers but with a letter written in Gurmukhi by a young girl called Kishan Devi from Punjab to her father Havildar Sewa Singh, of the 23rd Sikh Pioneers, serving in Egypt:
Dear Father, best wishes to you. Here all is well. With god's grace, your letter has arrived. We came to know about your situation. With the sight of your letter, I felt

at peace. Mother says that you can write your inner thoughts to us. Father, all your letters will be read by me... I am like a living dead without you... Dear father please take leave and come to meet us. Please do come. We repeat again and again.
A daughter's heart-breaking appeal, like the desolate voice of Mall Singh, 'repeats again and again' in the chamber of First World War memories, seeking to find an answer.
These moments have stayed with me and have shaped the book. Why do they matter so much? Jogen Sen's glasses, Mall Singh's voice and Kishan Devi's letter are not just tantalising sources but open up new ways of 'reading' — and writing — life in times of war; they force us to the weave together a narrative of fugitive fragments, the flotsam, jetsam and lagan of life wrecked by war. In a context where most of the colonial soldiers were non-literate, it is necessary, I argue, to go beyond only the textual to these material, visual and oral



INDIA, EMPIRE AND FIRST WORLD WAR CULTURE'
Santanu Das
Cambridge University Press, ₹1,887

sources to recreate the texture of the past. *India, Empire and First World War Culture: Writings, Images, and Songs* examines the experiences of people from undivided India - both soldiers and civilians, men and women, sepoys, labourers, lascars, orderlies, doctors, politicians and intellectuals - in the First World War and the way such experiences were represented. Between August 1914 and December 1919, India recruited one and half million men, including both combatants and non-combatants; of them, over a million served overseas, in places as diverse as Mesopotamia, France and Belgium, East Africa, Gallipoli, Egypt and Sinai, Salonika, Aden, East and West Persia, Tsingtao and Trans-Caspia. 'The state of things is indescribable. There is conflagration all around, and you must imagine it to be like a dry forest in a high wind in the hot weather, with abundance of dry grass and straw. No one can extinguish it but God himself - man can do nothing. What more can I write?' observed Sohan Singh, a sowar in the 9th Hodson's Horse, on 10 July 1915, as he lay convalescing at the Kitchener Indian Hospital at Brighton.
Excerpted with permission from *India, Empire, and First World War Culture: Writings, Images, and Songs*, by Santanu Das, published by Cambridge University Press, ₹1,887

HEALTH

SWEATSENSOR

Scientists have developed a kind of wearable skin sensors that can detect what's in wearers' sweat that may provide real-time updates on their health problems like dehydration or fatigue. The sensor design can monitor sweat rate, electrolytes and metabolites in sweat



K RAMYA SREE
HYDERABAD

We all love our skin as much as we love the monsoons. But stuck in this unfortunate love triangle is the largest organ of the body, our skin. Its main function is to protect us from infections.

But with the monsoon at the fag end of its cycle and the onset of winter, skin infections are on the rise. Though everyone loves the monsoon, not everyone is immune. As they say, for all positives, there are negatives. Similarly, this season also showers upon us many infections.

Skin infections can be mainly categorised into two types - mild and serious. While mild infections can be treated with over-the-counter medication, serious infections need medical attention.

TREATING SKIN INFECTIONS IN MONSOON



DR NAMRATA DAMERA,
MD DVL, APOLLO CLINIC, MANIKONDA, HYDERABAD



TYPES OF SKIN INFECTIONS PREVALENT IN MONSOON?

Skin infections can further be classified into four, based on the season.

Eczema
Atopic dermatitis (eczema) is a condition that makes your skin red and itchy. It's most common in children, but can occur at any age. Atopic dermatitis is long lasting and tends to flare periodically. It may be accompanied by asthma or hay fever. Eczema generally appears

in the lower thighs and back and are very itchy. This is more prevalent among the elderly. Applying moisturiser can help relieve itchy, red skin.

Facial Folliculitis
Folliculitis is a common skin condition wherein hair follicles get inflamed. It is usually a bacterial or fungal infection. Initially it looks like small red bumps or white-headed pimples around hair follicles - the tiny pockets from which hair grows. Generally people ignore this assuming it is acne. But it is

very important for people with this infection to see a doctor.

Fungal skin infections
These infections are caused by fungus and are most likely to develop in damp, covered areas of the body, such as feet or armpit. Most fungal infections aren't contagious and are mostly not life threatening.

TYPES OF FUNGAL INFECTIONS:

- Athletes foot
- Yeast infection
- Ringworm
- Nail fungus

Oral thrush
Diaper rash
These infections are generally caused due to humidity during the monsoons and winter as people tend to sweat more. These infections are very irritating in nature.

Getting proper treatment is very important and this infection is mostly prevalent among people who work outdoors. Fungal resistance has become a major concern these days. People don't complete the course of medication given by doc-

tors leading to the fungus becoming resistant to that drug.

The treatment for Ringworm has also become a major cause of concern as the previous medication no longer works and doctors are forced to give higher doses.

Facial pigmentation
Facial pigmentation is caused due to over exposure to UV rays. People don't realise they are getting over exposed as the clouds do not block the UV rays. This leads to the skin becoming patchy.

People with minimal pigmentation can cure the infection by applying sunscreen whereas those having hyper pigmentation need to use Vitamin-C creams.

Treatment:
Treatment generally depends on the cause and severity of the infection. Some viral skin infections get cured on their own within days or weeks. Bacterial infections are often treated with topical antibiotics applied directly to the skin, or with oral antibiotics. If the

strain of bacteria is resistant to treatment, intravenous antibiotics might have to be administered in the hospital.

You can use over-the-counter antifungal sprays and creams to treat a fungal skin infection. If your condition doesn't improve, ask your doctor a prescription for oral or topical creams. In addition, one can also apply medicated creams to treat parasitic skin infections. Your doctor may also recommend medications to reduce discomfort like anti-inflammatory drugs.

Precautions:
Hygiene is very important. Keep yourself well hydrated and shower often.

While food is not directly related to infections, eating fruits can help one stay hydrated. Wash yourself everytime you use the washroom and change sanitary pads and tampons frequently. Hairfall is very common this season. But if it is accompanied by an itchy scalp, a visit to the doctor is in the offing. Home remedies are not the way to treat skin in this season.

ILL! GET CURED WITHOUT A PILL

With zero side effects, natural ingredients, and much faster and effective treatment, home remedies are a great way to deal with flu, cold, and cough

Monsoons are the season to eat hot pakoras, but, all the oily food takes a toll on our health. Since time immemorial, Indians have been using natural, home-made remedies to treat various illnesses and infections. With zero side-effects, natural ingredients and faster and effective treatment, home remedies are a great way to deal with flu, common cold, and cough.

— K RAMYA SREE



Here are a few home remedies not many know about which help in keeping your health in shape

MAKE YOUR OWN SYRUP: Another tried and tested remedy for dealing with cold and cough is a home-made concoction of cinnamon, honey, and lemon. This syrup works wonders because of the healing properties of the three ingredients. Mixing half a teaspoon of honey, a pinch of cinnamon and a couple of drops of lemon juice is all that is needed. The syrup should be taken twice a day when one has a cold.



GINGER TOFFEE: Ginger contains Gingerol, a substance with powerful medicinal properties. It can treat many forms of nausea, especially morning sickness.



PINEAPPLE: You don't usually think of pineapple as a cough remedy, but that's probably because you've never heard of bromelain. There's evidence to suggest that bromelain - an enzyme found only in the stem and fruit of pineapples - can help suppress cough as well as loosen the mucus in your throat. To enjoy the most benefits of pineapple and bromelain, eat a slice of pineapple or drink 3.5 ounces of fresh pineapple juice three times a day.



GARLIC: Garlic is packed with many antibacterial properties. The warm nature of garlic can also lower high fever by promoting sweating. Crush 1 garlic clove and add it to 1 cup of hot water. Let it rest for 10 minutes, and then strain. Drink this twice a day for best results.

THYME: Thyme is used by some for respiratory illnesses. A study by NCBI suggests that the essence extracted from thyme leaves mixed with ivy can help relieve coughing as well as short-term bronchitis. The leaves contain compounds called flavonoids that relax the throat muscles involved in coughing and lessen inflammation. You can make thyme tea at home using 2 teaspoons of crushed thyme leaves and 1 cup of boiling water. Cover the cup, steep for 10 minutes, and strain.



BASIL: Basil is an effective herb for bringing down fever. This herb is just as effective as many types of antibiotics in the market. Its healing properties will help reduce fever very quickly. Take about 20 basil leaves and boil them, add 1 teaspoon of crushed ginger in the strained tulsi water and boil until the solution gets reduced to half. Add a little honey and drink this tea two or three times a day for three days to get relief.



APPLE CIDER VINEGAR: Apple cider vinegar is another simple home remedy for a fever. The acid present in it helps draw heat out of the skin. It is also rich in minerals and helps replenish minerals that get eliminated from the body due to fever. Soak a washcloth in a mixture of one part apple cider vinegar and two parts cool water. Wring out the excess solution and place it on your forehead and tummy. You can even wrap one around the soles of your feet. Once the washcloth becomes warm, change it with a new one soaked in the cool mixture. Repeat as often as required until the fever has reduced. Mix two teaspoons of apple cider vinegar and one tablespoon of honey in a glass of water. Drink it two or three times a day.

Apart from the above remedies, drinking warm water, vapor rubs, gargling with salt water, warm water baths also helps reduce flu.





JANE SEYMOUR PLAYS TAROT READER, SOLITAIRE, IN JAMES BOND'S *LIVE AND LET DIE*. THE CARDS USED IN THE FILM WERE DESIGNED BY FERGUS HALL



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week you will be overburdened with work. Share your responsibilities with others to release the burden. A spiritual influence is needed to attain a balance in your life. Your casual attitude towards health may lead to seasonal infections. Be cautious of cold, cough, constipation, and gastric problems. Career-wise, you have been working hard but results are still awaited. You find it difficult to earn appreciation for a job well done because of rivalry and competition. This is the time for perseverance and patience. Recommendation of a senior will come your way. Relations will get back on track and you will feel much better. A news of pregnancy in the family, or child birth will please you. Affairs of the heart will find a new dimension.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Pastel Blue
Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you will feel elevated both physically and mentally. Your body, mind and soul are in perfect harmony. You will be able to strike a balance between your professional and personal commitments and this would reflect in your work and attitude. Take out time for entertainment to bust stress. Those who have started a new business or joined a job recently, may face some tension. You may look for strategies to make your venture a success. Maintain a healthy communication and ask questions to make sure that you and your co-workers understand each other well. Patience is called for. On the love front, a new relationship is on the cards. This is a positive period for your love life. Pleasure trip to overseas and spending good time together is likely.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You need to give a serious thought to your health. You may not be in the best of health this week. Be grateful for what you have. Pushing yourself when you are too tired can cause illness or injury. Slow down and take it easy. Take rest and spend some time alone. Meditation and yoga will work wonders for you. On the career front, your hard work and knowledge will be acknowledged by your seniors. A property or financial dispute may come to an end this week. Good news from overseas is expected. Sincere team work will bring good results. Unfinished projects are likely to get completed this week. Something may be troubling you with regard to your relationship. If you feel that something in your relationship is unhealthy, you are most likely to be proven correct.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Camel Brown
Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

You will be full of energy this week. Overall health remains good. You will have the determination to move forward. Do not force things as it will affect your health. Some of the actions are in our own hands, so give your best and see where it lands. On the career front, you should invest your time in analysing and implementing some tough decisions. Avoid arguments, otherwise you might develop enmity at work place. You are ready to take on any challenge. Creativity will be in abundance. A travel is indicated which will act as a stress buster for you. Relationship-wise, don't play miser in expressing your feelings to someone you love. You need to balance your work with relationship. Married couples should also express their feelings.

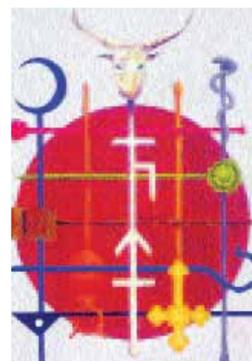
Lucky number 1
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you need to bring balance in life. Your spiritual powers will prove to be a great booster. Take time out for your health. Take your diet, exercise, and relaxation time seriously. It is recommended that you take small breaks amidst busy schedules. This would increase your efficiency and get much better results. On the career front, a good news is on its way. Those in export-import business will soon strike a big deal. Networking with the people abroad and new association formed in this period will prove fruitful for you. In terms of love, you are ready to start something new, and if you're currently in a committed relationship, you will enjoy a strong bonding this week. Avoid being emotional about things you cannot change.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Neglecting your health at this point is not advisable. You have to give up all the bad habits and be alert both physically and mentally. Nurture your body, care for it and feed it with healthy food. Avoid junk and oily diet. Such food may cause acidity and inflammation in the body. On the career front, stay focused. Your mind and thoughts should be in harmony. Don't apply too much logic. Be careful of your enemies, rivals, and don't disclose your working plans. Those in teaching, counselling and arts fields need to be a little alert this week. Affairs of the heart are much favoured so no need to go into a shell. There is someone in your life you need to pay attention to. Healthy and happy relations are on the cards.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Your determination to stay fit and a balanced approach to life will make you an extraordinary person. You are likely to get rid of negativity inside you, making you more comfortable and confident. Your presence of mind and wisdom is incomparable. You will feel the physical and mental strength. On the career front, do not challenge your seniors as it will backfire on you. Focus on building a good team. Those in media, finance, and mind work will do better this week. Don't delve on past mistakes, be proactive to get the desired results instead. On the relationship front, you are not getting the positive response from your partner. You may lose your cool at some point. For some of you, beginning of a new relationship is indicated.

Lucky number 16
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Health-wise this week is not a good time for you. You need to take some time off and look after you, both mentally and physically. If you evaluate your attitude in past few days, you will feel the negativity. Be careful while using electrical gadgets, driving or climbing stairs as you are prone to some painful injuries this week. Your career is moving in the right direction, so don't quit your job. If you spot money making opportunity this week, grab it. Your goodwill and reputation will pay you rich dividends. Financial hurdles will get clear soon and you may pursue and execute your projects. It looks like this is an excellent time for affairs of heart. If there is someone you have been admiring from afar, now is the time to confront them. Socialising may activate you and rejuvenate your relations.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Focus on your health this week. Make sure to eat healthy and look for ways to improve your wellbeing. Invest your time in exercise and pay attention to nutritional facts to attain good health. Revitalise yourself by taking a break from your hectic schedule. Professionally, this week will bring you good news. Money given might be paid back to you. No matter who you are, you have professional options. Life may change, and sometimes those changes are positive. If you're unhappy in your current work, know that you hold the key to changing it. This is a highly emotional time for those in love or a relationship. Things can quickly become heated and uncomfortable. Pick your battles and be sure to treat your lover like a friend.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Saturday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You will walk the path to good health. Your concern for well-being is paying you rich dividends. This week you will feel very vibrant, energetic and full of life. Your positive mind set will add charm to your personality. On the career front, be cautious in your verbal communication. Avoid being too direct with people, lest you might offend them. You will face all challenges with cool mind. Your logical and reasoning powers will give full benefits this week. Increase in salary, promotion or financial gains in business are on the cards. Investments made this week will pay rich dividends in future. In relationship, warmth, care and concern for each other is likely. This is the time to take your relationship to the next level.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Off-white
Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

A good message related to your health is indicated. Those awaiting test results may relax. You need a small course of medication to recover. Increase the intake of liquids, juices and fibrous food in your diet. On the career front, you will witness high creativity and positivity. You must not impose restrictions on yourself. You have to be careful in your communication. There are chances of getting into arguments and conflicts. Those in travel and tourism will do well. There is good news for those who aspiring for promotion/transfer. On the personal front, there is a need to liberate the mind and reconnect with the heart. For a peaceful mind, you need to start trusting and find a way of freeing yourself from suspicion, mistrust and jealousy.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Those awaiting test results will have a reason to celebrate. Consider spirituality as stress buster and a way to lead a healthy life. If there is something that has been bothering you in terms of health and you are unable to find a solution, go for yoga and meditation. You will see your negativity turn into positive vibes. Career-wise, you may be moving to a new position or a new set of responsibilities. Promotion, hike in salary or profit is on the cards. Your ability to accomplish work with ease will be admired. This is the time to finish pending work. In your love life, mild conflicts are indicated. Allow your partner to have his or her space and clear doubts by having healthy discussions. Singles, go out and mingle. Generation gap should be sorted with friendly talks.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Rose Gold
Lucky day Tuesday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



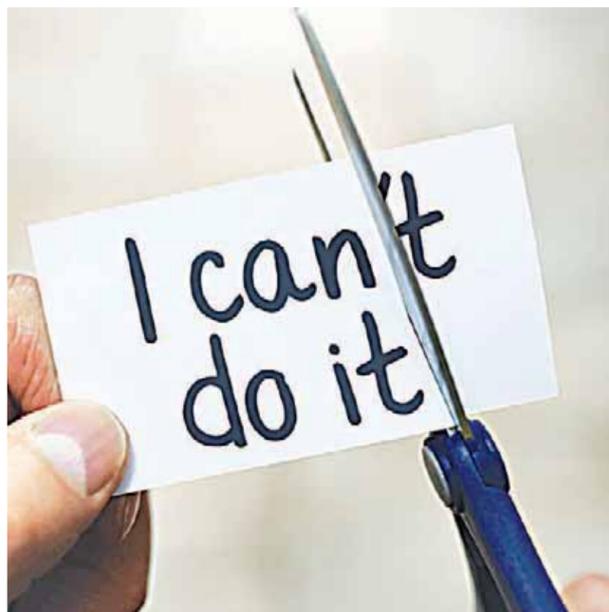
Success calls for addressing fault lines

Someone in late fifties going through a very difficult phase in life came with a host of questions: "Sir, I am a highly religious person and dedicate at least two hours every day in service of God. I follow a value system and have not intentionally hurt anybody in so far as I can remember. Yet, I have been put through unforeseen problems of such a dimension that it difficult to bear with. What bad Karma have I done to go through such an ordeal? How is it that my prayers have gone unheard? By what time shall I get relieved?"

At the outset, be assured that your situation may begin to ease out after August and start gaining grounds from November. Thereafter, you are expected to register sustained growth. Now, coming to your question, if you think that there is a God sitting in the heaven who would be selectively listening and responding to your prayers, you are simply mistaken. A divine *shakti* (power) does, however, keep playing within that keeps you alive, which when unavailable, you become a dead matter. But then, any *shakti* is a double-edged weapon, which you could use either ways — positively or negatively. How

intelligently you use that *shakti*, is your call, and which is guided by your individualistic mind traits. Please bear in mind; *puja* may help you in inculcating a value system and becoming a good human being. At the end of the day, however, you are to engage with a living world comprising of an assortment of good and bad people, each born unique, all carrying varied interests. In such a weird world, which remains the natural breeding ground for conflict of interest, it is just not enough to be a good Samaritan. You rather need to smartly conduct yourself without compromising with honesty of purpose.

Coming back to your Karma, you may be by and large aware of how you conducted during this life. But what about the implications of Karmic imprints carried over from the past life, which you are not aware of? If you have been beneficiary of good karma, you can't be spared of the vagaries of bad karma either. They play out concurrently. And the Karma cycle works almost in a self-automated mode, with no scope for any interference from any extra-terrestrial forces that can be appealed to one's asking. Also remember, Karma has



wide connotations. It is not just limited to your intent. It also includes how alert you have been against impending challenges posed by competing and contrarian forces, and how intelligently you attend to them.

You say that you have done no wrong in this life, but that is based on your self-defined standards, which may or may not be true to the callings of ground realities. Now, to figure out how good you have been so far in the game of life, calls for a look within. That may offer you an insight into your fault lines, which, in turn, may help you realise how realistic or delusional has been your approach to life. Perhaps astrological pointers to the basic fabric of your mind's making may help you in this respect.

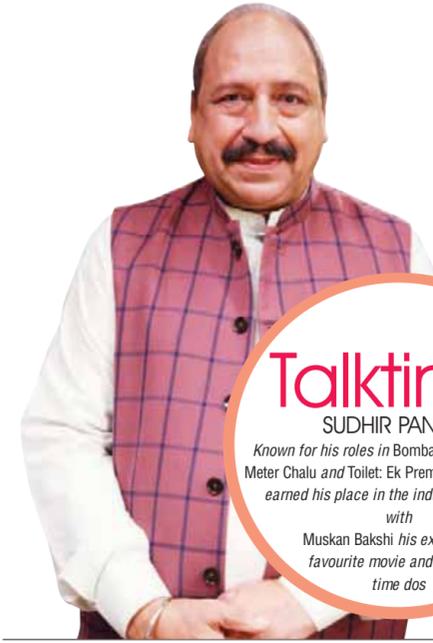
You are born in Pisces *lagna* having exalted Venus there itself. The *lagna* lord Jupiter, well-fortified in its own sign over the head is full of promises. It also makes you a well-meaning person. The two put together, implies that you are a highly ambitious person expected to do well in life. That, however, will come about if the negative implications of planetary alignments in your chart get addressed. Jupiter ill-disposed off to Mercury, which is conjunct headless

Ketu, accounts for your vacillatory tendencies, insensible reasoning and judgment. Mercury again, placed adverse to Saturn speaks of a fixated one-track mind. If that would not be enough, the Sun locks horns with mischievous Neptune, Moon, and Uranus. That makes you a self-willed person, who, defying conventional wisdom would be tempted to go about with one's own delusional perceptions, often distanced from ground realities. You may not acknowledge truth at its first appearance. Instead, guided by the belief that when God is there with you, he will eventually lead you to success, you continue pursuing your line of thinking till pushed to the wall. And the result is there to see.

So, instead of trying to find out the reasons underlying your ordeal, better work upon your fault lines, develop practical sense, and be geared up to smartly take on the callings of life.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110 025
Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273
Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com
Website: www.bharatastro.com

'There's no livelihood in theatre'



Talktime
SUDHIR PANDEY
 Known for his roles in Bombay Talkies, Batti Gul Meter Chalu and Toilet: Ek Prem Katha, Pandey has earned his place in the industry. He shares with Muskan Bakshi his experience, favourite movie and his free-time dos

How did acting happen to you?

It all started with radio. I was born in Delhi. At that time there was only radio and cinema for entertainment. My father used to work as a host for All India Radio. I grew up in an environment where radio was a must. So, that got me interested. With radio, I did theatre also. After completing my studies, I decided to take up acting as a profession. There were no shortcuts. I knew nothing about how the industry worked neither did I have any Godfather in Mumbai. I decided to pursue graduation from a film institute. I got a chance to do a TV play for Doordarshan. That was the beginning of my career. I started getting more roles and entered into mainstream cinema.

Which movie came close to you?

Toilet: Ek Prem Katha. The film has a special meaning. Sanitation is a big problem in our society. This movie throws light on this issue. I like the kind of movies which are made for a social cause. The movie is an inspiration for all those people who are against making toilets in their houses.

How do you think we can overcome these challenges in real life?

Cinema is playing its part by making movies such as *Toilet...*, but the responsibility lies with the society. It's our duty to spread awareness. It is the key to stopping beliefs that building a toilet at home is wrong. Making such films will help overcome various malaises in the country.

You did TV, theatre and films. Which one do you prefer the most?

I am still doing theatre. It is close to my heart. It is something I don't want to leave. But, there is no livelihood in it that is why I am not able to make it my priority. As an actor, my priority lies in

THE ONE THING THAT I LIKE ABOUT TODAY'S CINEMA IS THAT THE FOCUS HAS SHIFTED TO MAKING CONTENT DRIVEN FILMS THAT ARE REAL AND TALK ABOUT SOCIAL ISSUES

films. Because it has a wide reach and if we perform good then our performance has archive value. Nowadays, people want to see old movies. They are stored for the long run. But, in TV once the show is finished people forget your character. That way, I prefer cinema.

When you are not shooting, what keeps you busy?

I like to travel in my free time. I love cooking and experimenting with new recipes. I like to read poetries and *shayaris* too.

What is your take on kind of films being made today?

There are two types of films being made. One is for purely commercial purpose that revolves around singing, dancing, romance, fight and action. Second is content-oriented films. The movies that have a social value like *Toilet Ek Prem Katha* and *Article 15* to name a few. The one thing that I like about today's cinema is that the focus has shifted to making content-driven

films that are real and talk about the social issues.

What is your character in Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein, the TV show?

I play Raam Lal Srivastav *aka* Dadaji, Yogi's grandfather. Dadaji is very emotional. He always engages in small fights with his wife which shows how much he love her. He is caring and believes in keeping the family together.

What made you say yes?

First, the story. Second, the channel on which it is aired — SET. Third, this type of story is never been told on TV before.

Any plans to step into the digital space?

I will be definitely interested in doing web series if a story on a good subject comes up. Digital space is booming. If I am offered a good dramatic character then I will not turn it down. I will grab the opportunity with both hands.



IT'S PAWSTASTIC

Dressing up your furry companion has become a new trend. With a wide range of designs to choose from, there is something in place for everyone. MUSBA HASHMI tells you more

From pet friendly cafes to spas to day cares and to hotels, the industry is gradually turning pet-friendly, realising the importance of a furry friend in life. Now, it's time for pet clothing. Yes, you read that right. Your furry friend can too flaunt a funky T-shirt just like you do — without compromising on their comfort.

The apparel brand — Ruse, is offering T-shirts, jackets and coats for your pets. Founded by a 31-year-old Delhi-based man — Vikram Dhir, who is an animal lover himself, the brand promises to provide full comfort to the animals.

Dhir's experience of working in the apparel industry and coming from an apparel business background helped him coming up with Ruse.

"I have always been an animal lover and I am fortunate enough to grow up in a home that welcomed dogs. My family business is manufacturing and exporting high-fashion apparel. It gained me a sound knowledge of the garment industry and how it works. Initially, I started Ruse as an apparel brand in June, 2017 that specialised in T-shirts for humans. But, I always wanted to do something unconventional and wanted to find an interesting way to combine my passion for business

with my love for animals. Soon after I got involved in the family business I was united with Elvis — a 6-year-old golden retriever, who inspired me to take the brand a notch higher and diversify into the pet space. Slowly we pivoted into a brand not just for humans, but also for their furry companions. I have been always conscious of the fact that most people are just as passionate about their pets as I am. Taking inspiration from Elvis, Ruse evolved into a full-fledged pet brand in December, 2017. And that's how we managed to create a unique product line that fused my love and passion for both animals and apparel," he says.

Though some vets say that apparel's are not meant for animals, Dhir has different take on that.

"Being a dog owner and lover, I'm very particular about the research we put into the products we're making. It depends entirely on the breed of the dog, the weather conditions and the quality

THE PRODUCTS ARE DESIGNED TO BE EXTREMELY EASY TO PUT ON PETS, REDUCING PET PARENTS' INCONVENIENCE. ALL PATTERNS ARE TRIED, TESTED AND PERFECTED ON PETS IN VARIOUS SIZES BEFORE BEING PUT INTO PRODUCTION. THIS HELPS IN ELIMINATING DISCOMFORT OR IRRITATION



of the products in question. We have consciously created separate collections for summer and winter and our products have been designed and constructed keeping in mind that dogs normally have a higher body temperature. All our pet products are made from organic cotton, structured and stitched to make sure they're anti-chafing. We've created seven size patterns with adjustable utility velcro strips around the tummy area so as to fit all dog breeds comfortably, without causing them any annoyance and irritation. Also, the bottom and top lengths have been thoughtfully designed to ensure that the clothes don't get dirty while the dogs are attending to nature's calls — which is a big problem that Elvis too faced with all the existing products. And all our printing is done with DuPont Pigment inks that are water based. So, it's very safe and easy to use," he tells you.

The USP of Ruse's pet wear collection is what that sets it apart from all the other brands in the market.

"For starters, we enabled the pet owners to get custom printed apparel for their pets and themselves, which we feel, in this day and age of DIY everything, is much needed. Our products are designed to be extremely easy to put on the pets,

reducing the pet parent's inconvenience. All our fit patterns are tried, tested and perfected on pets in various sizes before being put into production. Quality checked at five stages, our product fits are consciously designed to avoid any kind of annoyance, displeasure or irritation to the animals and to provide maximum utility and mobility for the pet," he explains and adds that the brand have a "customer first" attitude. They offer a hassle free 15-day exchange/return policy which allows the customers to return the product in case of any discomfort.

Dhir says that there are many reasons why one can opt for clothing for their pets. First, these products serve multiple purposes like providing a stress free solution to the hair-shedding problem by trapping the hair from furry breeds inside the clothes. Second, they help in protecting the animals from ticks and fleas. Third, it also help cover wounds, prohibiting your pets from constantly licking or biting the same. Fourth, the winter collection helps protect the pets from extremely cold conditions.

Ruse not only offers collection for dogs but for cats too. The price varies from ₹500 to ₹2000 depending upon the design and size.

Though, the brand has established itself and is receiving a lot of positive response from the customers, it's not the end for Dhir's aspirations.

"We have a lot of interesting ideas in the pipeline ranging from bespoke pet wear to customised accessories. For most pet owners, their pets are like their babies, so we want to evolve into a product line, which enables every pet owner to let their pets have a wardrobe of their own," he tells you.

'Language is no barrier to music'



Kashmiri folk singer AABHA HANJURA speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about her band Sufistication and the reason why she is experimenting with classical folk and contemporary sounds

What is your latest track about?

Actually, I have released two singles, one in Hindi and one in Kashmiri — *Chalo Chinaro Ke Gharon* and *Dilbaro Yuier Valo*. They are part of my first album — *Sound of Kashmiri*. The song begins with Kashmiri and ends in Hindi. We have also done a music video series for the two parts. The song is about hope and love. The first part celebrates the beauty of the land and the Hindi version is about my desire to go back to Kashmir.

How did your musical journey begin?

I always wanted to be a singer. My mother discovered my voice and taught me music at home. Then, I started learning Hindustani classical music for sometime. It is very important to have a good teacher when you are young. Unfortunately, my *guruji* died.

With him, my learning ended. I landed a reality show — *Indian Idol*, and was a finalist. But I was always meant to be an indie artist. I contemplated getting back to music and was searching for something. A visit back home was an emotional one. I felt that singing in my language would help me pay homage to my land and this gave me purpose and I started my band *sufistication*.

Why Sufistication?

It is not about single music. It is essentially about a thought. I have always been influenced by *sufi* thoughts from different parts of the world. Kashmir, too has a lot of *sufiana*, though people don't recognise it. The first song that I ever composed was by a *sufi* saint — *Lal Ded from the Valley*. A lot of Punjabi artists have also kept the *sufi* music alive. I wanted to bring in a blend of modern sounds with what is earthy. I sing in Hindi, Kashmiri, Urdu and Punjabi. It is an eclectic concept. The sound of our band can't be put in a box. Hence, the name.

You won an award. What was it about?

I have won a bunch of them. There is one that I won for *Hukus Bukus* (2017) — The Hungama Best Folk Artist Award. I won the Times Our Woman award for Excellence in Music, a couple of months back.

What are the challenges that artists face in the Valley?

I did have an *'aha'* moment when I had gone back and embarked on my journey. Subsequently, I went back to look for the sound and met many folk artists and collaborated with them for my album. These artists play different folk instruments. The challenge is that there is nothing besides Bollywood music in the country right now. There is a Bollywood club over us. This is an overall phenomenon. With respect to Kashmir, our music is very intrinsic to us. Unfortunately, the situation has tense for a long time and music has lost itself. It has to come from the Valley. Artists there don't get to play music as much. Music can't grow if played for a select few.

Do you think that language is hampering the music from the Valley to spread?

Personally, language is never a barrier when it comes to music. My song has had three million views. So that is not an issue. The good is that a lot more songs are becoming popular. Recently, my song got picked up for a film. But we can't wait for the industry to come and save us. Every artist has to do his bit. However, it can't be denied that a Kashmiri song in a film will make the music popular faster.

Whipping up sweet delights

SHALINI SAKSENA
 ■ NEW DELHI

Think of desserts and one thinks of cakes, pies, pudding and sweets. What makes us reach us out to certain kind of pastries and sweets? Is it because they are visually appealing, or because we know that they are sweet or because it is a dessert that one has not tried?

Chef Arvind Prasad, co-founder and executive of Whitecaps International School of Pastry Arts, Bengaluru, who has been in the industry for 21 years tells you that today, we look for art in everything. "We look how we can be part of art — be it a wall or food. Food is passion and a trending fashion. We want to experience it in all its forms including the luxury aspect of it. This means that

pastry and desserts are looked at differently. While the dish remains the same what has changed is the presentation due to technology and experimentation," Arvind says who recently mentored a person for a competition — The Pastry Queen — an international competition that was recently held.

He tells you that the students who come to learn at the school are enamoured visually. "Eye impression is important but there is need to ensure that the ingredients that are used in a pastry are able to retain their taste. I want to keep the taste as natural as possible. When we think of pastry, people think of *maida* and sugar. But a good dessert can be just a fruit that can be given a twist with a herb and spices. For me a dessert need not just be a sweet. The



Chef Arvind Prasad

experimentation too with the desserts stems from the need of the people to try something that is exotic. Therefore, ice cream with goat cheese and ice

cream with Parmesan and bacon ice cream has many takers," Arvind explains.

He tells you that the reason why pastries are expensive is

that because man of the ingredient used are imported. "Many chefs try to work with indigenous ingredients to bring down the cost. I love to experiment with berries but some Indian berries are expensive as well since they are restricted to certain areas like the berry from Ladakh — sea buckthorn — a sour berry," he says and opines that the word pastry is not well-defined in India.

Most Indians, when they visualise a dessert, they see a cake. But this is not true. Anything that is a pastry is a dessert. "For example, cake is for celebration that can make a great dessert. When I eat a *samosa*, it is a savoury pastry. When I eat *dhokla*, it is a savoury pastry. A pineapple pastry is a pastry, a croissant is a pastry. A dessert includes everything — pastries, sweets

and even pudding," Arvind shares who won the best chocolate showpiece in the Indian Chocolate Masters 2014.

The advantage of a competition, he says, is that you put your best foot forward. "You pick up new techniques like dessert snacking.

When you think of snacks, you reach out for popcorn or chips. But have you heard of chocolate snacking? This gives you ideas to push yourself. The latest trend taking the world by storm are eggless desserts. Even French pastry chefs are making eggless desserts. Pastry chefs are not mere chefs, we have to be good artists, good cooks, food scientists and even good managers," Arvind says who is now busy creating a team for a competition in Singapore and then in France.

Third-time lucky?

Sindhu to face Okuhara in repeat of 2017 final, Praneeth settles for Bronze

PTI ■ BASEL

PV Sindhu stood one win away from an elusive World Championships Gold after entering a third successive final but B Sai Praneeth settled for Bronze following his defeat to Kento Momota here on Saturday.

Sindhu, who had claimed successive Silver in the last two editions of the prestigious tournament beside two Bronze, was a picture of perfection as she outclassed World No 3 and All England Champion Chen Yu Fei of China 21-7, 21-14 in a 40-minute semifinal.

The 24-year-old Olympic Silver medalist will take on Japan's World No 4 Nozomi Okuhara in the summit showdown today. Two years ago, Okuhara had robbed off the Indian the title after an epic battle that went down as one of the greatest contests in badminton history.

The third seeded Okuhara outlasted former world champion Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon, seeded 7th, 17-21, 21-18, 21-15 in the other semifinal.

Overall, Sindhu enjoys a slender 8-7 advantage against Okuhara in 15 career meetings. The Indian will fancy her chances of a win, having beaten the Japanese on her way to the Indonesia Open final last month.

"I was well prepared and from the start I was in the lead and then finished it off," Sindhu said.

"In the second game, I made some unforced errors and then I was leading again and it gave me my confidence. Overall, the game went well and I hope it goes well tomorrow (on Sunday)."

However, Praneeth's impressive run ended after his attacking game couldn't dent the



PV Sindhu attempts to return a shot against Chen Yu Fei during BWF World Championships semifinal match

N Okuhara vs PV Sindhu
Live from 3:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

defence of in-form defending champion Momota, going down to the Japanese World No 1 13-21, 8-21 in 41 minutes.

On Friday though, Praneeth achieved a rare distinction of becoming the first Indian male shuttler in 36 years to win a medal in the tournament.

Prakash Padukone was the first to win a men's singles World Championships medal — a Bronze — in the 1983 edition.

After his dream run ending with Bronze, Praneeth described the feat as one of the best of his international career.

The 27-year-old from Hyderabad, who was conferred with the Arjuna Award this year said, "This was one of my best tournaments that I ever had in my career. There are lots of learning and positives to take. I think the recent performances have been good," Praneeth told reporters.

Praneeth, who had finished runners-up at Swiss Open early this year, admitted he just couldn't find the wherewithal to put pressure on Momota during the semi-

final contest. "Momota was varying the strokes. I was pushing the pace but I wasn't getting the result. I was getting tired. I didn't know what to do. I was blank. I was attacking but a few strokes went out," he said.

"I couldn't think anything except hitting the strokes and he was taking all the shots and I was hitting the net too often."

“It is important to keep yourself focused. It is not over yet for me. Yeah, I am happy but not satisfied yet. There is one more match to go and I would want to get the Gold. It is not going to be easy. I have to be focused, patient and give my best in the final”

The world No 19 Indian lavished praise on the world No 1 Japanese, terming him a "complete player".

"He has got an all-round game and he can vary his game according to the opponent and that is a big plus point," said Praneeth, the 2017 Singapore Open champion.

"If you see, Momota is a completely different player. You can't go blindly and play him. You have to be fit and keep him in play and change the strategy all the time. The main thing is you have to be mentally fit."

"He has a lot of patience and variation. He can read his opponent. He has something different from others which is making everything tough to beat him. But we will figure it out and yeah, someday I will definitely beat him."

SINGLES

MALINGA TO LEAD IN NZ T20S

COLOMBO: Veteran fast bowler Lasith Malinga, who recently retired from ODI cricket, will lead Sri Lanka in the three-match T20 series against New Zealand, beginning September 1 in Pallekele. Sri Lanka dropped former captain Angelo Mathews and all-rounder Thisara Perera from the team's squad. Niroshan Dickwella, the left-handed wicket-keeper batsman, has been named as Malinga's deputy in the 15-member squad for the home series. All-rounders Angelo Perera, Dhananjaya de Silva and Priyamal Perera, wicket-keeper batsman Sadeera Samarawickrama and bowlers Suranga Lakmal, Jefferey Vandersay, Asitha Fernando and Kamindu Mendis, all of whom had toured South Africa, have been sidelined.

NAIR MISSES TON BY RUN

BENGALURU: Out-of-favour India batsman Karun Nair missed out on a century by one run but Himachal Pradesh's Ankit Kalsi made 106 before India Red were all out for 285 in their Duleep Trophy match against India Blue here on Saturday. India Red fought back to reduce their opponents to 74 for 3 in 24 overs at stumps, getting the key wickets of the highly-rated Shubman Gill (9) and in-form Ruturaj Gaikwad (37). Earlier, Nair's hopes of scoring a hundred were dashed when he was stumped by Snell Patel off left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar. Pathania was the best bowler for Blue with a haul of 4 for 55 from 32 overs, while Saxena took 3 for 57 and Aniket Chaudhary captured two wickets.

LILLE CONFIRM SANCHES TRANSFER

MUNICH: Bayern Munich's unsettled Portuguese midfielder Renato Sanches has signed a four-year contract with Ligue 1 side Lille, both clubs confirmed on Friday. The 22-year-old arrived in northern France on Friday to undergo a medical before closing the deal with a club who will compete in the Champions League group stage after finishing second in Ligue 1 last season. "We are very happy to have completed the signing of Renato Sanches, who is an exceptional player. He has an interesting profile which suits our project," said Lille director general Marc Ingla in a statement on the club website. According to a source close to the club, Lille will pay in the region of 20 million euros (\$22.1 million) to sign the former Benfica player.

GOKULAM KERALA LIFT DURAND CUP

KOLKATA: Trinidadian forward Marcus Joseph led by example with a brace to inspire Gokulam Kerala FC to Durand Cup title in their debut campaign with a 2-1 win over 16-time champions Mohun Bagan at the Salt Lake Stadium on Saturday. Joseph converted a penalty in the 45+1st minute and doubled the lead with his menacing left-footer in the 51st minute. Terribly let down by their defence especially in the first-half, the Mariners stepped up the attack after the changeover and pulled one back through Salva Chamorro header from a Joseba Beitia free-kick in the 64th minute. AGENCIES



Tom Latham, left, celebrates after scoring 100

Latham ton drives NZ reply

AFP ■ COLOMBO

A sparkling century by Tom Latham powered New Zealand's first innings reply after Sri Lanka posted 244 on day three of the rain-hit second Test in Colombo on Saturday.

Latham, on 111, put together an unbeaten 70-run stand with BJ Watling, on 25, to thwart the Sri Lankan bowling attack that had made early inroads into the Kiwi batting.

The tourists were 196 for four at stumps, still trailing Sri Lanka by 48 runs.

Earlier Dhananjaya de Silva made 109 to lift Sri Lanka after they resumed the day on 144 for six following their decision to bat first.

But Latham made the day his own as he registered his 10th Test hundred — fourth against Sri Lanka — to hold the New Zealand innings after they lost key wickets including skipper Kane Williamson for 20.

Latham combined the right dose of caution and aggression as he hit 10 boundaries in his 184-ball stay at the wicket so far.

"Tom is getting better and better every season. He had a great summer back home," New Zealand paceman Tim Southee, who claimed four wickets in the Sri Lankan innings, told reporters.

"Great to see him kick on and continue that form overseas especially to come here and play the way he has played on conditions that are tough."

In the morning session, De Silva moved from his overnight 32 to complete his fifth Test century.

Southee returned figures of 4-63 while pace partner Trent Boult got three wickets.

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

India maintain their stranglehold over the West Indies with a healthy 75-run first innings lead, which swelled to 89 by lunch time on the third day of the opening cricket Test here on Saturday.

India bowled out West Indies for 222 in 74.2 overs in their first innings in reply to 297 with Ishant Sharma returning with best figures of 5 for 43.

Besides Ishant, Mohammed Shami (2/48) and left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja (2/64) scalped two wickets a piece.

For West Indies, Roston Chase top-scored with 48, while skipper Jason Holder played a fighting 39-run knock as the hosts failed to build up partnerships.

At the opening break of the third day, India were 14 for no loss in their second innings with Mayank Agarwal batting on 8 and K L Rahul on 6.

Earlier, resuming at the overnight score of 189 for eight, Holder and Miguel Cummins stuck together for 103 balls, forging a crucial 41-run partnership for the ninth wicket to take West Indies close to the Indian total.

Holder kept a calm head and guided his younger partner Cummins brilliantly to get as close as possible to the Indian total.

While Holder made 39 off 65 balls with the help of five boundaries, Cummins gave his skipper the right support from the other end by just staying at the crease although he couldn't open his account.

Cummins' determination to stay at the crease and give his skipper

India fold WI for 222



Ishant Sharma celebrates with Virat Kohli after the dismissal of Kemar Roach

FASTEST INDIAN TO 50 TEST WICKETS

Bowler	Tests	Inn	Time
R Ashwin	9	16	1 year & 10 days
Anil Kumble	10	20	2 years & 220 days
Narendra Hirwani	11	19	2 years & 200 days
Harbhajan Singh	11	21	2 years & 361 days
Jasprit Bumrah	11	21	1 year & 230 days

FAISEL FEATURES

company can be gauged from the fact that he played 45 balls for no runs.

The Indian bowlers found it difficult to break the stubborn partnership between Holder and Cummins as they needed 85 balls in the opening session of the third day to dislodge the stand.

The partnership was finally broken when Holder edged a Mohammed Shami delivery to wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant behind the stumps in the 74th over.

Left-arm spinner Jadeja finally drew curtains on West Indies innings when he cleaned up Cummins an over later.

TRY CROSS-SEAM

Ishant Sharma's late burst broke the back of West Indies batting and the senior India pacer attributed the good show to pace bowling partner Jasprit Bumrah's advice of trying cross-seam stuff.

Ishant took three wickets from

his final three overs to complete his ninth five-wicket haul in Tests on Friday.

"There was rain and after that the ball became wet and there was nothing happening (with the ball). So, we thought we can bowl with a cross seam. There was bounce. Actually Bumrah told me that we can try cross seam since there is nothing happening," Ishant, who returned with figures of 5/42, said.

"The attempt was, if you bowl out the opposition as soon as possible, it is good for your team. We tried that we were able to do that," he told fielding coach R Sridhar who interviewed him for bcci.Tv.

It was a special day for the lanky Ishant, who struck 19 runs and shared a crucial 60 runs with Ravindra Jadeja (58) for the eighth wicket stand during India's innings earlier in the day.

"To be honest, when I was out during our innings, I was not feeling good at all. The more I scored

Black armband in Jaitley's memory

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

The Indian cricket team wore black armbands as a mark of respect for former union minister and veteran cricket administrator Arun Jaitley, who passed away on Saturday after prolonged illness.

Jaitley was one of the towering figures in Indian cricket administration.

A former president of Delhi & Districts Cricket Association, Jaitley was one of the most influential figures in the Indian Cricket Board, whose advice was sought for any decision on policy matters.

It was during his time as the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) president that the state team saw the emergence of stalwarts like Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir and in later years Ishant Sharma, Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan.

runs with Jaddu (Jadeja), the better it would be for the team. From 25 for 3, the kind of comeback we had, I wanted to have a long partnership with Jadeja," said the 30-year-old pacer who is playing in his 91st Test.

His five victims included two brilliant caught and bowled efforts, including the fourth scalp of Shimron Hetmyer in the penultimate over of the day.

Root, Denly come to Eng rescue

AFP ■ LEEDS

England captain Joe Root and Joe Denly were fighting hard to prevent a three-day defeat in the third Test after Australia threatened another Ashes rout at Headingley on Saturday.

When Australia took two wickets for no runs in four balls to leave England 15-2, it looked like another dramatic collapse was on the cards following the hosts' woeful 67 — their lowest Ashes total since 1948 — in the first innings.

But at tea on the third day, England had recovered to 90-2.

Root, in on a pair, was 41 not out

and Denly 30 not out with their third-wicket stand so far worth 75 runs.

England still needed a further 269 runs to reach an unlikely target of 359 and with 39 overs left in the day there was time for them to be bowled out before stumps.

But they were at least making Australia work for a win that would see them retain the Ashes at 2-0 up with two to play in a five-match series.

Surrey openers Rory Burns and Jason Roy both fell cheaply shortly after lunch.

Left-hander Burns (seven) edged a lifting Pat Cummins delivery to David Warner at first slip before Roy, yet to convince as a Test match opener, played down the wrong line to Josh

Hazlewood, who took 5-30 in the first innings, and was bowled.

Root, in on a pair, got off the mark with a three off fast bowler Hazlewood to the delight of his home Yorkshire fans in a capacity, sun-drenched crowd.

Denly, the only England batsman to reach double figures in the first innings with 12, repeatedly played and missed either side of being hit on the head by a Cummins bouncer.

But both he and Root applied themselves on an increasingly slow pitch that was making life tough for Australia's pace attack.

And there was a huge cheer from the crowd when Root's controlled hook off Hazlewood raised a fifty part-

nership with Denly.

The odds were still hugely in Australia's favour, given only three sides have made more than 300 to win in the fourth innings of a Test at Headingley — Australia (404-3 in 1948), England (315-4 against Australia, 2001) and the West Indies with 322-5 two years ago.

Earlier, Marnus Labuschagne missed out on a maiden Test hundred as he top-scored with 80 in Australia's second-innings 246.

Labuschagne was 74 not out when Cummins's dismissal left Australia 226-8.

But rather than being denied a century in his seventh Test by a lack of partners, the South Africa-born batsman ran himself out.

Labuschagne joins elite club

AFP ■ LEEDS

Australia's Marnus Labuschagne joined an exclusive club while making 80 against England in the second innings of the third Ashes Test on Saturday.

In the process, Labuschagne became just the fifth batsman and fourth Australian — a list that includes head coach Justin Langer — in Test history to make two scores in a match higher than a total posted by

an opposing team in one innings.

Labuschagne made 74 in the first innings. England were dismissed for just 67, their lowest Ashes total in 71 years.

The only batsman from outside Australia to achieve the feat is outstanding West Indies opener Gordon Greenidge, who hit two hundreds in a 1976 Test at Old Trafford, Manchester, where England collapsed to 71 all out in their first innings.

Labuschagne ignored the old rule of 'never run on a misfield' when Denly fumbled at third man and then failed

to beat a throw to Bairstow as his valuable 187-ball innings featuring eight fours came to an end.