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YOU CAN'T STOP BEING FAMOUS: TABU 14 VIVACITY

Hooda backs Modi on Art 370

Criticises Cong J&K stand, speculation rife that ex-CM may quit party

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH Amid growing speculation about him quitting the Congress and floating a new political outfit, Haryana former Chief Minister and senior party leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Sunday supported the Narendra Modi Government for scrapping Article 370 and lashed out at his own party over its stand on the issue. "When the Government does something right I support them. Many of my colleagues had opposed the decision... My party has lost its way. It is not the same Congress it was in the past. When it comes to issues of patriotism and self-respect, I will never compromise," Hooda said at a political rally in his hometown Rohtak. "I was born in a patriotic family, those who oppose (abrogation of Article 370), I want to tell them usulan par



jahan aanch aaye, vahan takrana zaruri hai, jo zinda hai to zinda dikhana zaruri hai (It is necessary to clash when it comes to principles, whoever is alive must show it), the two-time former Chief Minister said. Assembly elections are to be held in Haryana in October. The veteran Congress leader

operating on their own, hospital sources said. The AIIMS administration has not released a single medical bulletin regarding his health condition since August 10. "Visited Sh Arun Jaitley ji. I pray to God for his good health and fast recovery," Kejrwal tweeted.

ership to hand over the party's reins in the State to Hooda or he would go his own way ahead of the Assembly polls. For the last four years, the Hooda camp has been pressuring the party high command to replace Haryana Congress chief Ashok Tanwar with Bhupinder Hooda as party president. Speculation is rife that Hooda and his son Deepender Singh Hooda, former MP, might quit the Congress after they said they were sidelined by the party high command. In view of Vidhan Sabha polls, Hooda also announced various steps, including 75 per cent reservation in jobs, for the people of Haryana. "If we form the Government, we will bring a law like Andhra Pradesh, so that 75 per cent of jobs in the State are reserved for the people of Haryana," he said. Continued on Page 4

Talks with Pak only on POK, says Rajnath

Asks Pak to stop aiding terrorists

PNS ■ KALKA (HARYANA)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday thwarted any possibility of an early resumption of dialogue with Pakistan asserting that future talks with the neighbour would be focussed only on Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK). Addressing a public rally in Kalka ahead of the flagging off of the BJP's Jan Ashirwad Yatra for the October Assembly polls in Haryana, Rajnath said, "If talks take place with Pakistan, it will be on POK and not on any other issue." Virtually ruling out resumption of talks with Pakistan, Singh said, "About what should we talk? What's the issue on which there should



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flags off the Jan Ashirwad Rally from Kalka Assembly Constituency in Kalka on Sunday. PTI

above all and they were committed to this and it was not any election stunt. On the scrapping of the provision granting a special status to Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, Rajnath said the decision had sent jitters to Pakistan and it became a cause of concern for them. "Now it (Pakistan) is knocking every door and approaching various countries for help. Have we committed any crime? And they are trying to threaten us. However, America, perceived to be the most powerful country in the world by people, has snubbed Pakistan, telling them to initiate a dialogue with India," he said. He also accused Pakistan of wanting to destabilise and weaken India through terrorism. "At times, Pakistan wants to break our country by using terrorism. But our Prime Minister has shown that he has a 56-inch chest. He took a decision to give a befitting reply after the Pulwama terror attack as our Air Force carried out the Balakot strike," he said. The Defence Minister also highlighted the development works undertaken by the Government during its second term. Continued on Page 4

Leaders throng AIIMS to enquire about Jaitley's health

Former Minister remains critical

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Smriti Irani and Ram Vilas Paswan visited All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on Sunday to enquire about the health condition of former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley who was admitted there on August 9 after he complained of uneasiness and weakness. Jaitley has been put on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), which is used for patients whose lungs and heart are incapable of



operating on their own, hospital sources said. The AIIMS administration has not released a single medical bulletin regarding his health condition since August 10. "Visited Sh Arun Jaitley ji. I pray to God for his good health and fast recovery," Kejrwal tweeted.

Other leaders, including Himachal Pradesh Governor Mohit Mishra, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) joint general secretary Dr Krishna Gopal and former Samajwadi Party leader Amar Singh, also visited the hospital on Sunday. Continued on Page 4

Schools, Govt offices to reopen today in Valley

Schools in old city of Srinagar to remain close due to security restrictions

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After remaining closed for two weeks since August 5, a large number of schools and State Government offices are all set to reopen across different parts of Kashmir Valley amid tight security arrangements on Monday. The State Government spokesperson and Principal Secretary, Planning & Development, Rohit Kansal, on Sunday said, "Over 190 primary schools will re-open in Srinagar on Monday." He said, "We are also restoring full functionality of Government offices across Kashmir Valley to restore normalcy." However, ground reports suggested, in the wake of prevailing security restrictions and absence of mobile



A Kashmiri woman walks past a soldier who prepares to block a road with barbed wires during security lockdown in Srinagar. AP

communication facilities not many parents would be willing to drop their children to schools. Schools falling under old city area of Srinagar are not scheduled to reopen following security restrictions in place.

In Jammu, the mobile internet services, which were restored across five districts of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Reasi and Udhampur, were disconnected early on Sunday morning as a precautionary measure

India, Bhutan are natural partners: Modi

PTI ■ THIMPU

Two countries in the world understand each other so well or share so much as India and Bhutan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday as he emphasised that New Delhi and Thimphu are such "natural partners" in bringing prosperity to their peoples. Addressing the students of the prestigious Royal University of Bhutan here, Modi said it is natural that the people of Bhutan and India experience great attachment to each other. After all, they are close not just due to their geography. Their history, culture and spiritual traditions have created unique and deep bonds between our peoples and nations, he said. "India is fortunate to be the land where Prince Siddhartha became Gautam Buddha. And from where the light of his spiritual message, the light of Buddhism, spread all over the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses at the Royal University of Bhutan, in Thimphu on Sunday. PTI

world. Generations of monks, spiritual leaders, scholars and seekers have burnt that flame bright in Bhutan. They have also nurtured the special bond between India and Bhutan," the prime minister said in the majority Buddhist country. "As a result, our shared values have shaped a common world-view," Modi said in the presence of Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering.

"And as people, we are fortunate to be the living vehicle of this great legacy. I have had the opportunity to interact closely with the present leadership of Bhutan. I once again received their guidance for the India-Bhutan relationship, which has always benefitted from their close and personal attention," said Modi, who is here on his second visit to Bhutan and the first since his re-election in

May this year. "Now, today, I am here, with the future of Bhutan. I can see the dynamism, and feel the energy. I am confident that these will shape the future of this great nation and its citizens. Whether I look at Bhutan's past, present or future, the common and constant threads are - deep spirituality, and youthful vigour. These are also the strengths of our bilateral relationship," he said. "Today, I stand here among the best and brightest youth of Bhutan. His Majesty (Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck) told me yesterday that he interacts with you regularly and had addressed the last convocation. It is from you all that Bhutan's future leaders, innovators, business persons, sports persons, artists and scientists will emerge," Modi said. "India-Bhutan cooperation in hydro-power and energy is exemplary. But the real source of power and energy of this relationship are our people," he said.

Journalist, brother shot dead in Saharanpur

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two brothers, one of them a journalist with a prominent Hindi daily, were shot dead in Saharanpur on Sunday morning following a heated argument over disposal of cow dung. The incident was reported from Madhav Nagar locality under Kotwali police station of Saharanpur. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the killing of the journalist and his brother and directed the district police to arrest the assailants at the earliest. He also announced ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh each for the kin to both the deceased. As per reports, journalist Ashish (23) and his younger brother were shot dead by

their neighbour Mahipal Saini and his son who ran a dairy. "Both the families often fought over disposal of cow dung that dairy owner Mahipal Saini and his son Gaurav used to dump in the locality. Ashish opposed this and on a number of occasions he had also complained to the district administration about it. This had annoyed Mahipal and Gaurav and they picked up a fight with Ashish on Sunday morning. Later, both barged into the house of the journalist and opened fire on him. To save Ashish, his brother came forward and he also was shot at from close range. Both the assailants then fled the scene," the police said. The family members of the victims and their neigh-

hours rushed both to hospital where both were pronounced brought dead. "The bullets had pierced their hearts leading to profuse bleeding," the police said, adding that the victims also had fire-arm injuries on their limbs. "The autopsy will reveal the number of wounds both the victims suffered," the police said. Senior Superintendent of Police in Saharanpur Dinesh Kumar P said the police had detained two women members of the assailant's family. "Both these women are named in the murder case which took place around 9:30 am on Sunday. Six persons have been named but the prime accused are yet to be arrested. The assailants opened 4-5 rounds of fire," he said. Continued on Page 4

CAPSULE

YAMUNA MAY CROSS DANGER MARK TODAY New Delhi: The Delhi Government on Sunday sounded a flood alert for the city and asked people living in low-lying areas to move to safer places as the water level in the Yamuna river is expected to cross the danger mark, officials said. 22 DIE IN RAIN-RELATED INCIDENTS IN HIMACHAL SHIMLA: At least 22 people were killed and 12 others injured in rain-related incidents in Himachal Pradesh on Sunday, officials said. 63 KILLED IN KABUL WEDDING BLAST Kabul: At least 63 people were killed and scores wounded in an explosion targeting a wedding in the Afghan capital, authorities said on Sunday.

Now, eye in sky to curb e-way rash driving, accidents

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Drones may soon be deployed to keep an eye on the menace of rash driving, lane change, over speeding and other traffic violations, particularly on the expressways, to minimise accidents. The auto-pilot drones loaded with a geographic positioning system (GPS) and a powerful camera can provide real-time pictures for better surveillance. The Road Transport Ministry may use this technology first on Delhi-Meerut Expressway and Delhi-Vadodra Expressway on a prototype basis. If the experiment is successful, drones will be deployed for direct supervision on other important national highways to

enforce road discipline. A senior road transport official said while the use of CCTVs has somewhat controlled rash driving and helped in identification of offenders, haphazard lane changing, especially by heavy vehicles and high speed cars and motorbikes, has emerged a major menace on expressways or new NHs. As per an internal study of the Road Transport Ministry, it has been found that people who obey lane driving end up becoming a victim when others speeding vehicles change lane swiftly. Drones will keep a watch on them and pass on the message to the nearest control office which in turn will be referred to the enforcement unit for necessary action, said



a Ministry official. The official said currently Hyderabad is using drones to manage the traffic and they have been programmed to spot accident sites besides traffic congestions. Drones are also being used by various departments, including The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Railways to monitor the progress of projects including the Bullet Train Project. The official explained that this low flying object will be able to take images and videos of drivers violating road discipline which includes seat belts, use of mobile phones etc. As compared with manpower police patrols, drones can cover larger sections in less time and provide real-time feedback

more quickly," said the official. "Drones have been widely used for traffic surveillance and crime investigation by police departments of various states in India. Besides, it can also be very effective in the post-incident analysis," said a law and order expert. The Police believe that drones could play a major role in monitoring traffic movements, accident-prone areas and major traffic junctions. In an effort to enforce road and traffic discipline across the country to curb accidents, Nitin Gadkari-led Road Transport Ministry last month made changes in the Motor Vehicle Act and Parliament approved it. Following which road offenders now face heavy penalties and even jail term.



# Couple, daughter injured as fire breaks out in e-rickshaw godown

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A couple and their daughter suffered burns after a fire broke out on the first floor of a three-storey house-cum-commercial complex in Vikas Nagar on Sunday morning.

Javed, his wife Nasreen and their daughter Samira were admitted to Civil Hospital.

As per reports, complex owner Sharif, along with his brothers Javed & Shakir and their respective families, live on the first and second floors of the house. They have a e-rickshaw battery charging and repair workshop (godown) in the basement of the house at Khuram Nagar crossing in the locality.

Around 6.30 am, a fire broke out in the basement probably due to a short-circuit, and the flames soon engulfed the workshop. Resins, used in making e-rickshaw seat covers, stoked the fire. The room in which Javed, Nasreen and Samira were resting was filled up with smoke, making them feel breathless. Javed's brothers and some neighbours called the police and a team of cops, along with fire officials, reached the scene. It was difficult for the firefighters to gain access into the room in which the couple



The couple who suffered severe burns were admitted to Civil Hospital on Sunday

and their daughter were trapped. They managed to douse the fire after hectic efforts. "Five fire tenders were pressed into service. We rushed the victims to Civil Hospital in a police jeep. The firemen used

a hydraulic ladder to reach the house to rescue the victims trapped inside," Vikas Nagar SHO Dheeraj Shukla said. He said Javed's two other children were safe as they were sleeping in another room.



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Police spokesman SB Shukla said eight e-rickshaws stored in the basement were damaged in the fire. "Samira suffered minor injuries and no casualty was reported in the incident," he said.

"The fire flames engulfed entire building and the occupants on first and second floors were trapped. The fire broke out probably due to a short-circuit and further investigations are underway," he said.

# Traffic dept seeks help of traders to get rid of snarls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

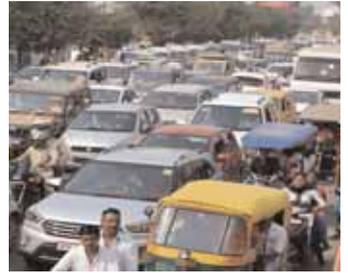
The Traffic department, along with city traders, have taken up an exercise to get rid of snarls at market places. SP Traffic, Purnendra Singh told *The Pioneer* that they had identified 20 places in the city, including Aminabad, Chowk, Patrakarpuram, Telibagh, Mahanagar and Pandipur among other areas, to hold discussions with local traders.

On Monday, the Traffic department will take up Telibagh area. The exercise is being carried out under the traders' initiative. "Hamara Lucknow, Hamari Zimmedari!" The SP (Traffic) said that a traders' organisation had approached them and a long discussion was held on how to solve the problem of frequent jams in market areas.

"The traders identified at least 35 points in the city where traffic jams take place. It was decided that the meetings will be held at 20 more business points and traders will bring their representatives," he said.

He added that the junctions which were taken up had no proper parking due to which people would park their vehicles in an unorganised manner, leading to bottlenecks and traffic snarls.

"This happens even after we issue challans or tow their



cars. The traders have requested the Traffic department to reduce the number of challans and towing of vehicles as they themselves would help in its management. They said they would hire guards to keep the vehicles in order and if a person is not ready to listen, the Traffic department can take action," said Singh.

The SP (Traffic) said the traders had also suggested that there should be multi-storey parkings constructed in areas having vegetable or meat markets. He said the traders had suggested that the multi-storey buildings should have mandis on the top floors and parking spaces on the ground floor and

first floor. "This idea is being given shape at Patrakarpuram where a land has been allotted to Vyapar Mandal by Lucknow Development Authority and a multi-storey building is being constructed with the help of private partners participation. Investment will be done by the traders' organisation," the SP (Traffic) pointed out.

He said the first meeting was held at Badshahnagar recently to get rid of traffic snarls. "By holding meetings at several points, we will be able to spread awareness, identify lands which can be taken up for construction of parking spaces and meet local traders," he added.

# 23-yr-old girl found hanging

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A 23-year-old girl ended her life at her house in Janakipuram on Sunday night. There were reports that the girl, identified as Kritika Mishra, took the extreme step after she was scolded by her parents and brother. However, police denied the reports.

"Kritika was found hanging from the ceiling with a dupatta tied around her neck. We were informed about the incident by her family. She was declared brought dead by doctors who examined her at a hospital. It is not clear as to why she committed suicide," Janakipuram SHO Ashraf said.

However, locals said the girl was scolded by her parents and her brother over some issue on Sunday night.

Meanwhile, a vendor was found hanging in a room at his

house on Sunday morning. Police said he committed suicide. However, no suicide note was recovered from the house. Reports said after Kamru Rawat (45) of Old Begumbheda locality in Naka did not wake up on Sunday morning, his sister Amita reached his room to give him a call. As the door was bolted from inside, she peeped inside through a window slit and found him hanging with a bedsheet tied around his neck.

Police sent the body for autopsy. They said it was not clear as to why Kamru ended his life. Besides, a food delivery boy was killed in a road mishap in Chinhat on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Vrindavan Yadav (20) of Doria. Reports said Vrindavan was coming to Lucknow when he was hit by a speeding bus on Lucknow-Faizabad road.

He remained unattended for hours. Later, he was rushed to Ram Manohar Lohiya Hospital where he was declared brought dead. A case has been registered and the police are making efforts to track down the errant driver," police spokesman said.

Meanwhile, Rajendra Singh of Kalyanpur in Gudamba alleged that bike-borne persons thrashed him when he had gone to purchase medicines from a shop in the locality on Saturday night.

"They attacked me without any provocation and sped off," he told the police. A team raided a house after the police traced the accused on the basis of their bike's registration number. "The person present in the house was not identified by the complainant. Further investigations into the case are on," police spokesman said.

# New techniques to keep zoo inmates engaged

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow zoo has been using several new techniques to effectively manage the inmates. According to zoo director RK Singh, they are working to create activity areas for the animals. "In the serpentarium, we have created small ponds where the reptiles can sit. In the bird section too, we are installing swings to keep the birds busy. Besides, we will also be doing something to keep the chimpanzees busy. Similar work needs to be done in the bear enclosure," he said.

The zoo director said they had also roped in a biologist to carry out the enrichment activities in the enclosures. "In the serpentarium, we have placed pieces of earthen pots and wooden sticks because the rep-

tiles like to slither into these places," he pointed out.

On whether any research was being carried out on any of the inmates, the zoo director said they did not allow any research because students could not be allowed inside the enclosures. "Research can always be done on animals in the wild. However, a research was carried out for a period of three months by a student on how to enrich the cages," he said. He pointed out that the number of zoo visitors had increased. "Last year, the footfall increased by 2.25 lakh. In 2017-18, it was 13 lakh and in 2018-19, it has been nearly 15 lakh. The increase has been largely due to new animals, Butterfly Park and Nature Interpretation Centre," he added.



A participant performing at a singing competition organised by Lyrics Academy of Music at Kaisarbagh Kala Mandali in Lucknow on Sunday

Pioneer



Samajwadi Party president and former Chief Minister of UP Akhlesh Yadav at a photo exhibition organised at Lalit Kala Akademi in Aliganj on Sunday

Pioneer

# Experts to brainstorm on banana wilt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) will be organising a brainstorming session on banana wilt at Central Institute of Subtropical Horticulture on August 20. Banana fusarium wilt disease has created a devastating scenario in the banana industry of UP and Bihar and thus, NAAS is organising a meet on Strategies for the management of banana fusarium wilt in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in collaboration with CISH. It will be attended by leading scientists on agriculture sciences, farmers, nurserymen and state department officials.

CISH director Shalendra Rajan said sub-tropical banana production had been witnessing a tremendous growth UP and Bihar. "At present, it occupies nearly 67,400 hectares area across the state which has grown tenfold during the last ten years. Severe outbreaks of banana fusarium wilt were reported from Sohawal block of Uttar Pradesh and later banana



suckers caused huge loss in seven districts of Uttar Pradesh," he said.

He pointed out that the disease caused huge loss ranging from 30-50 per cent across the

CISH have developed a technology using consortia of antagonistic fungi and growth promoting bacteria. The product was successfully validated in the hotspot regions of Ayodhya in UP and Katthar in Bihar on over 75 and 60 acres of land covering banana, respectively, where the disease incidence was in the range of 40-60%. Nevertheless, there is a need to discuss precautions and adoption of ICAR-developed technology among the stakeholders and to sensitise state official departments for the control of the disease in the region," he added.

Rajan said that in this context, the current programme was formulated under the aegis of NAAS (Lucknow chapter).

"Fusarium wilt is considered to be one of the most dreadful diseases across the world and has been causing humongous losses. Due to the complex nature of the disease, scientists across the globe are struggling to formulate control strategies," the CISH director said.

# CME: Role of radiotherapy technologists discussed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow (PNS): The department of Radiotherapy at SGPGI conducted a day-long continued medical education (CME) programme describing the role of radiotherapy technologists in quality assured radio technology. Speaking on the occasion, Prof Maria Das (Medical Physics) said radiotherapy was delivered in the form of rays produced from linear accelerator. "These rays are directed on tumor so that tumour cells are killed and because these rays also hit the adjacent normal cells, they have the potential to harm them as well, and that man-

ifests in the form of long-term sequel which impacts the patient's long-term quality of life after he or she is cured of cancer," he said. "On one hand, it is important that the tumour receives high doses of radiation and on the other, it is equally important that normal structures in the vicinity are spared as far as possible. Precision radiotherapy that has undergone quality checks is clearly the order of the day," he added. The CME was attended by radiation oncologists, medical physicists, radiotherapy technology and medical technology students from all over the coun-

try. Around 150 delegates and guest faculties deliberated throughout on the various aspects of quality assured radio technology. The doctors said variant impediments in the path of optimal radiotherapy delivery were also touched upon. "There is excessive patient load for instance, there are around 2.5 lakh cancer patients in UP who need treatment or are being treated. There are limited and old machines and they cater to 20.6 crore population of the state. The patients have to wait for a long time for their turn to get treated," he added.

# FSDA bid to check consumption of used cooking oil

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA), under the Central government's directives, will be connecting the major oil companies with branded hotels in a bid to help them acquire used cooking oil. Chief food safety officer Suresh Mishra said they would hold a meeting of Hotels and Restaurants' Association with three major oil companies on Monday.

"The Central government is working on the project of making biofuel out of the used cooking oil. This will not only help the oil companies procure used oil from hotels but will

also help stop the flow of used cooking oil to smaller vendors," he said. He pointed out that usually, bigger hotels filtered used oil and then sold them to smaller vendors.

"Bigger brands of hotels sell their used cooking oil to smaller vendors at the rate of Rs 25 per litre but with the new directives of the Central government, this oil can be sold to major oil companies at the rate of Rs 50 per litre. With this margin of profit, the hotels will be able to sell used cooking oil to oil companies. Earlier, even the cosmetic companies would take this oil for using it in soaps, but now they use fresh oil. Our major concern right



now is that this used cooking oil should not reach the small street vendors because it is extremely harmful for the consumers. We will motivate the bigger hotels to sell the used cooking oil to companies," he

stated. He stressed that their main focus was that the flow of oil should not reach the common vendors. "They will have no other alternative but to purchase fresh oil. This may lead to increase in the produc-

tion cost but our concern is to divert the used oil to make bio-fuel," he added. On hazards of used cooking oil, he said they had some measuring points to find out whether the oil was fit for consumption. He said it was estimated through the total polar count measured for these oils and if it was above 25, it cannot be used for cooking. "This count increases only when the oil is brought at a higher temperature at a longer time period. Therefore, in commercial areas where the oil is cooking at higher temperatures, this value goes up more quickly as compared to homes," he added.

# LDA to remove garbage from colonies transferred to LMC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) has decided to take up the task of effective garbage removal from 16 residential colonies which were transferred to Nagar Nigam. The decision was taken in a meeting held at the office of the Divisional Commissioner on Saturday.

However, Nagar Nigam refused to take up the work stating that the civic authorities were over-burdened with work and lacked manpower. All the sectors of Jankipuram Extension and two each at Transport Nagar, Mansarovar housing scheme and Jankipuram were transferred to the civic authorities. Chief of property department RK Shukla said the situation was getting worse as there was no regular removal of garbage. Local contractors

are said to be engaged in carrying doing the job on a temporary basis under the supervision of LDA officials. Now, the LDA administration has decided to devise a plan which will be enforced by next month with the help of private partners after it was confirmed that civic authorities would not be involved. The garbage removal work will be done by private partners under the supervision of LDA officials, but the garbage and other waste will

be transported to the dumping ground by civic authorities as the LDA administration lacks transport network. The LDA administration has identified two dumping grounds — one in Gomti Nagar Extension and another on Hardoi Road. The facility of door-to-door garbage collection will also be introduced by next month. There will be no charges for the first six months. Thereafter, private partners will take some amount from house owners.

# Elderly woman hacked to death

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

An elderly woman aged around 60 years was killed by some unidentified assailants in Barha village in the neighbouring Pratargrah district on Sunday. The locals spotted her body on Sunday morning and informed the police about it. Her body bore multiple marks of injury which were inflicted with some sharp-edged weapon. The woman's husband was a gardener in the army and had died earlier. The couple was issueless. It was anticipated that the woman was murdered over some issue of money. On being informed of the police reached the spot, took the body of the victim into their custody and sent it to the mortuary for the post-mortem examination.



When they went closer they identified the body as that of Shanti Devi, a resident of the same village. As the news spread like wildfire within a short while a huge crowd assembled there and informed the police about it. Primary investigation revealed that there was around

₹30 lakh in woman's account which she had got after selling a plot of land. And it was speculated that she was murdered in connection with the money. Meanwhile a constable Shivkumar Mishra (50) resident of Harsipur village of Chilha police station of Mirzapur police station died all of a sudden after condition deteriorated. Shivkumar was a driver of Circle Officer (CO) Kunda. His family reside in the Telarganj area of Prayagraj. Late on Saturday around 11 pm his condition deteriorated and he was immediately taken to the community health centre (CHC) in Kunda where the doctors on duty declared him brought dead. According to doctors Shivkumar died due to heart failure. The police later sent the body to the mortuary for the post-mortem examination.

Meanwhile, the Jhusi police on Saturday took the transit remand of an STF constable Abhishek Singh alias Buntly posted in Bihar for his alleged involvement in helping a gangster Santosh Yadav in carrying out murders besides an attack on a trader in Jhusi area some weeks ago. SHO of Jhusi police station Dharmendra Singh Yadav said investigations by the STF revealed that Abhishek Singh had helped Santosh. A resident of Siwan in Bihar, Abhishek, was a student in Prayagraj where he met Santosh in his college. On the instructions of Santosh, Abhishek arranged the shooters and firearms for carrying out murders in Prayagraj. Meanwhile, the Colonel Jagjit police lodged an FIR against a woman doctor and some nurses for allegedly changing the child after a woman's delivery at a hospital on August 4. It is alleged that after the birth of male twins the nurses later handed over a dead female newborn to the family and told them that she died soon after the birth. The body of the newborn will now be exhumed and a DNA test would be carried out, police said.

# Commission agent duped of ₹1.96L by cyber thugs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Cyber thugs siphoned off ₹1.96 lakh from the bank account of a commission agent in Madhya Pradesh. The victim got to know after he got a call from bank manager. Reports said the victim, identified as Rajeshwar Narayan Singh of Itanuja, has a bank account in a Madhya Pradesh branch. On Saturday he got a call from the bank manager who informed him about the transfer of cash on August 15 and 16. "I am acquainted with the bank manager and he called me to inform me about the transaction when he checked my details on request," he said.

# Administration on high alert in Allahabad

... as Ganga, Yamuna rise at alarming rate

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

With release of water from upstream dams and barrages Ganga is rising with a speed of six centimetres per hour and Yamuna at seven cm per hour. As the Ganga and Yamuna are rising at an alarming speed the flood water is expected to enter the Bade Hanuman Temple during the late evening hours on Sunday.



Vendors shifting their goods following an increase in the levels of Ganga and Yamuna in Allahabad on Sunday

in Allahabad because the flood water has marooned a good number of areas situated on their banks and is out to spoil the paddy crop. Residents living in the low-lying areas of the city developed in the river bed have been asked to vacate the locality and take shelter either in the houses of their relatives and friends or the camps being developed by the administration in schools and colleges. Reports said that for the past two days the twin rivers are rising non-stop and if the present trend continued by Tuesday or Wednesday they will cross the danger mark of 84.734 metres. Though the plains of Uttar Pradesh are still waiting for

heavy showers, the Ganga and the Yamuna are flooded after water was released from different dams and barrages of Uttar Pradesh and more water was expected to be released which will arrive here by Tuesday or Wednesday. On Sunday evening the level of the Ganga was recorded at 81.350 metres at Phaphama while at Ghhatnaag (Sangam down stream) it was 80.680 metres. The Yamuna recorded 81.330 metres at Naini. The downstream districts of Varanasi, Ghazipur and Ballia are still accommodating the flood water otherwise the rising trend would have been higher.

# 22 killed in rain-related incidents in Himachal Pradesh

PTI ■ SHIMLA

At least 22 people were killed and 12 others injured in rain-related incidents in Himachal Pradesh on Sunday, officials said. An official said the total loss to the state property amounted to 490 crore. Officials said teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been called in Kangra's Nurpur and Solan's Nalagarh subdivisions to meet any eventuality. Nine people died in Shimla, five in Solan, two each in Kullu, Sirmour and Chamba and one each in Bilaspur and Lahaul-Spiti districts, they added. Four persons are missing in Kumarsain in Shimla district and around a hundred people are stranded in parts of the hill-state as various roads have

been damaged, officials said. Landslides hit a spot near the RTO office here, leaving three persons dead. One person sustained injuries in the incident, police said. In Narkand area of Shimla district, two Nepalese died and three were injured after a tree fell on their house. In another incident, a labourer was killed and six injured as the wall of a house collapsed in the Lower Cemetery area following heavy rainfall early Sunday, police said. The deceased has been identified as Shah Alam, who hailed from Bihar's Kishanganj district. In another incident, a man was killed after a landslide hit his truck on the national highway near Hatkoti Kenchi in Shimla's Rohru subdivision. In Chamba district, two persons were killed in a house

collapse. The incident took place at Lona in Mehla subdivision at 3.30 am, killing a 70-year-old man and a 7-year-old child, Chamba SP Monica Bhutunguru said. In Kullu, a man was washed away in Sujwad Nallah when locals were trying to rescue him. The deceased has been identified as Chooni Lal. Besides, a tourist died due to a landslide in Balagra between Manikaran and Barsheni, Kullu. Deputy Commissioner Richa Verma said, five persons of Solan district, five persons were killed and three injured in four rain-related incidents. Meanwhile, all educational institutions in Himachal Pradesh's Shimla and Kullu districts will remain closed on Monday as heavy to extremely heavy rains continue to lash the state, district officials said. Shimla and Chamba district magistrates on Sunday issued orders to all schools, colleges, universities, ITIs, polytechnics and anganwadi centres to remain shut for the safety of students. In view of heavy rains, blockages and damage caused to roads, it has become necessary to order closure of all the educational institutions in Shimla district on August 19 for the safety of students," Shimla Deputy Commissioner cum District Magistrate Amit Kashyap said.

# CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**HOODA BACKS...** Speaking on the occasion, Haryana's Deputy Minister MLA Karan Dalal, Haryana's Minister Bhuwalka, Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee's former president Phool Chand Mullana, Vidhan Sabha's former speaker Raghubir Singh Kadian among others openly challenged the party high command from the stage to either declare Hooda as party president in Haryana or face consequences. Notably, the Congress has been out of power in Haryana for five years, having lost to the BJP in October 2014 assembly polls amid factionalism and accusations of corruption against the government led by former Chief Minister Hooda. While the assembly polls are just two months away, the Congress is yet to kick off its election campaign in the state.

**TALKS WITH PAK...** "We have carried out a number of development works, but we have not left issues which concern nation's pride. Whatever we had said in our election manifesto, we are committed to fulfil that, be that the revocation of Article 370," Rajnath said. The Union Minister further stressed that the Opposition used to say if anybody touched Article 370, the country would be divided and the BJP would be able to come to power. "I want to say clearly that the BJP does not do politics for forming Government. We do politics

of nation building. Under no circumstances, we will allow the prestige of our country be tarnished," he added. On the promises made in their election manifesto, Rajnath said, "Our Prime Minister keeps telling us to remain committed to the promises made in the manifesto. 'Pran jay par vachan na jaye'. We do not go back on what we have promised. We scrapped provisions of Article 370 and 35-A for J&K's interests, keeping in view the future of its youth..." he said. Singh appealed to the people of Haryana to bring back the Manohar Lal Khattar-led Government by helping the BJP release its target of winning 75 seats in the 90-member State Assembly. Besides Khattar, Union Ministers Narendra Singh Tomar, Krishan Pal Gurjar, Rattan Lal Kataria, a number of MLAs from the State were also present in the rally.

**LEADERS THROG...** Many prominent leaders have been visiting the hospital in recent days to know about his wellbeing. Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and BSP president and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, BJP's Satish Upadhyay, Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik, Congress' Abhishek Singhvi and Jyotiraditya Scindia and Air Force chief Air Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa visited

the hospital on Saturday. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan had said on Friday, "Doctors at AIIMS are doing the best they can." President Ram Nath Kovind, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had visited AIIMS on Friday to check on the leader's health. In May this year, Jaitley was admitted to AIIMS for treatment. Jaitley, a lawyer by profession, had been an important part in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet in the BJP Government's first term. He held the finance and defence portfolios, and often acted as the chief troubleshooter of the Government. Jaitley did not contest the 2019 Lok Sabha elections presumably because of his poor health. He had undergone a renal transplant on May 14 last year at AIIMS with Railways Minister Piyush Goyal filling in for him in the Finance Ministry at that time. Jaitley, who had stopped attending office since early April last year, was back in the Finance Ministry on August 23, 2018. In September 2014, he underwent a bariatric surgery to correct the weight he had gained because of a long-standing diabetic condition.

**SCHOOLS GOVT...** Meanwhile, the first batch of 304 Hajj pilgrims arrived in two flights at Srinagar International Airport after completing their pilgrimage



As per the instructions issued by department of Financial Services, GOI, the first stage of the bottom-up consultative process, designed to generate ideas and review performance of the branches and their alignment with the national priorities, was conducted at the regional level on August 17 and 18 by (clockwise from top) State Bank of India, Union Bank, Indian Bank, United Bank of India, and Indian Overseas Bank involving all the branches within the region's jurisdiction

**NOK RALLY** In commemoration of the 'Year of NOK', a Next of Kin (NOK) rally was organised by Regiment under the aegis of White Tiger Division recently at Banda. The rally stood testimony to the huge comeback from five tishels of Banda — Naraini, Palaini, Alatra, Baberu and Banda — with as many as 380 people to include brave NOKs, Veer Naris, Veer Matas and venerable veterans, who reaffirmed their pledge and association with the profession of olive greens. The focal point of the event was to bolster the organisation's conscious endeavour and steadfast commitment in resolution of pension anomalies and grievances of the brave and the bereaved families. Apart from completion of the trails and on the spot registration of NOKs on DVA Portal, a medical camp was organised, suitably staffed with expert doctors and nursing assistants to mitigate medical issues. A CSD counter, stocked with choicest goods to handle this huge clientele was established to serve as one

shop stop for household groceries. Regiment had swung into action four months back, carving out a detailed roadmap for this event which included block-level interactions with civil administration, liaison with ZSB, Banda and gram panchayats, extensive outreach programme at Tindwari and Banda in May and June for positive identification of NOKs and ex-servicemen.

**BIOHE 2019** Director of Amity Institute of Pharmacy and deputy dean of research Suneela Dhaneshwar will address the third World Congress on Biotechnology and Healthcare (BIOHE 2019) on the theme 'Recent biotechnological approaches to enhance the current healthcare systems' at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. BIOHE 2019 is to amalgamate innovative academics and industrial experts in the field of biotechnology and healthcare to a common forum. This conference is to promote research and developmental activities in biotechnology and

healthcare and to encourage scientific information interchange between researchers, developers, students, and practitioners working around the world. This will also provide an opportunity to share knowledge and channels for extending business between industry and academia.

# SCHOOLSCAN



Three meritorious students of City Montessori School (RDSO campus) — Vaishnavi Chauhan, Anand Sharma and Shristi Sinha — have been awarded Rs 12 lakh scholarship by the Government of India. Each one of them will be getting Rs 4 lakh as scholarship. Chief PRO of CMS Hari Om Sharma

said the Union Ministry of Science and Technology would be giving the scholarship to these three students to pursue higher studies in science. Each student will be getting Rs 80,000 per year for five years. Thus, all the three students will get Rs 12 lakh scholarship. These students performed excellently in the ISC (Class XII) Board examination 2019 and secured a place among the 'Top 1' merit list which gave them an opportunity to achieve get this scholarship. These students attributed their achievement to their parents and teachers besides the peaceful atmosphere of CMS.

**THREE CMS STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP** Three meritorious students of City Montessori School (RDSO campus) — Vaishnavi Chauhan, Anand Sharma and Shristi Sinha — have been awarded Rs 12 lakh scholarship by the Government of India. Each one of them will be getting Rs 4 lakh as scholarship. Chief PRO of CMS Hari Om Sharma

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# Amit Shah defends law criminalising triple talaq

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday the politics of appeasement, which led to the Partition, was the reason for the continuance of the "evil practice" of triple talaq for so long.

Speaking at an event here, Shah defended the law criminalising triple talaq, asserting that it establishes gender equality.

"Some people level allegations against BJP Government that such action is anti-Muslim. I want to make it clear that this is only and only to benefit Muslims, not the Hindus, Jains or Christians," he said.

It was a "nightmare" for crores of Muslim women who were denied of their rights, he said. He said 92.1 per cent of Muslim women supported criminalisation of triple talaq.

Coming down heavily on the Congress, Shah, who is also BJP president, said the party has "no shame" and continues to oppose the law on triple talaq.

The Home Minister said it took several decades to end this evil practice because of the Congress, which always resorted to the politics of appeasement.

Referring to the then Rajiv Gandhi Government's decision to bring a law to overturn the Supreme Court judgement in the Shah Bano case, he said it would be considered a "black day" in the history of Parliament.

There is no doubt in the minds of those favouring triple talaq and those opposing it that it was an "evil practice". People should welcome moves for eradication of any evil practice, but there is Opposition in case of triple talaq. "The politics of appeasement is responsible for it," he said.

Some parties are in the habit of coming to power on



Home Minister Amit Shah delivers a special address on 'Abolition of Triple Talaq: Correcting a Historical Wrong' at Constitution Club in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

the basis of vote-bank politics, that's why such evil practices continued, he said. The politics of appeasement has been a hurdle in the path to achieve development and social cohesion in the country.

"When some people are hungry for power, they resort to the politics of appeasement. They are not concerned about Muslim women but concerned only about vote-bank," he said. "But, when your intention is social uplift, you have to work hard for it, you have to plan it," he said.

"The election of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister in 2014 was the beginning of the end of politics of appeasement and the 2019 mandate is to end it forever," said Shah.

The Home Minister said had the practice of triple talaq not been ended, it would have ended triple talaq between 1922 and 1963.

"This evil practice of triple talaq was going on for long and

the Modi Government has abolished it forever and given the Muslim women the right to live in dignity and equality," he said.

Shah said many people said it was a civil matter, so why did you criminalise it.

"When 'Sati pratha' (self immolation by Hindu widows) was abolished, no one opposed it. When child marriage was ended, no one opposed it. In case of child marriage, there is a provision for two years jail. Similarly, dowry is a civil matter. In dowry case, if just the demand is made, there is a provision for two years imprisonment," he said.

The triple talaq has been criminalised to educate people, to create fear among some people that "if you do this, you will be punished". Earlier, triple talaq had no provision for maintenance for women. Now, we have made provision for maintenance," he said.

The Home Minister said he wanted forgiveness from Muslim women as they had to suffer for long because of this evil practice.

# Cong expresses concern over eco 'slowdown'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday expressed concern over what it called the "slowdown" of economy and said the country is facing a situation like that of a "financial emergency". Expressing concern over the economic slowdown, the grand old party stated the situation is like that of a "financial emergency".

Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi accused the BJP of diverting the people's attention from its failures. He raised the issue of slowdown in automobile sector.

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The trend of the slowdown in the automobile industry did not come all of a sudden. The 31 per cent fall in sales is also the ninth straight drop in monthly passenger vehicle sales, Singhvi said.

He also raised the issues of crashing stock exchange and rising fiscal deficit.

He also raised the issues of crashing stock exchange and rising fiscal deficit. The other issues he raised are falling GDP figures, shrinking labour force, recession in real estate sector, continuous weakening of rupee, and falling foreign direct investment and foreign portfolio investment.

Criticising the Narendra Modi Government, he said, "Ironically, if one looks at

between Modi 1 (Government) beginning and Modi 2, he or she shall figure that has been a regression in progress."

Singhvi also accused the NDA government of being unable to come up with a "sound" monetary policy. "It has to consider about the trade-off between unemployment and inflation," Singhvi said.

He also asked "why the rate cuts have been announced by

the RBI even after so many days? Only one-third of the rate cuts have been implemented by the banks, the substantial chunk has not reached the recipients of credit".

"Why there is so much noise about selling public sectors but absolutely no progress on the ground," he asked. Singhvi added when Prime Minister Modi assumed office, the rupee was at 58.7 against the US dollar.

"However, now rupee has further devalued. One USD has reached Rs 71 and is anticipated to cross Rs 72 limit in the coming weeks," he said.

# CBI books Nath's kin Puris for fraud

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Sunday conducted searches at six places including the office of Moser Baer India Ltd at Okhla Industrial Area in the national Capital and at residential premises of present and former Directors of the company.

The CBI has registered a case against Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath's brother-in-law Deepak Puri, his wife Nita and son Ratul and their firm Moser Baer in a case of cheating, forgery, criminal conspiracy and under provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act for cheating Central Bank of India to the tune of Rs 354 crore till November 29, 2014.

Besides Moser Baer MD Deepak Puri, whole time director Nita, then executive director Ratul, the CBI has also named directors of the accused firm Sanjay Jain and Vineet Sharma besides unknown public servants and private persons as accused in the case.

The CBI registered the case on Saturday, a day after it received a complaint from Central Bank's Corporate

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The CBI registered the case on Saturday, a day after it received a complaint from Central Bank's Corporate



Portrait of a man, likely related to the CBI case.

Finance Branch here on Friday.

Case was registered on 17.08.19 against the company, present and former officials of the said company; unknown public servants and unknown private persons on the allegations of cheating and defrauding banks, a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

In his complaint to the CBI, the Deputy GM of the Central Bank Murali Chittirri alleged that "MBIL has caused unlawful loss to our bank to the tune of Rs 354.51 crore as on 29.11.2014 and interest thereon by getting unlawful gains."

As per RBI guidelines to ensure there is no leakage of revenue, the accused firm and their officials allegedly maintained accounts with a large number of banks outside the consortium. "The sales proceeds generated from the business working capital funds lent were not deposited with the complainant bank/consortium banks and were routed through other banks, thereby indicating fraudulent intentions for siphoning off the monies, the Central Bank alleged in its complaint which now part of the FIR. MBIL made substantial

# MoS Sanjay Dhotre leaves for 5-day visit to Baltic countries

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Minister of State (MoS) for HRD, Communications, and Electronics Information Technology Sanjay Dhotre has left for a five-day long visit to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, Latvia, as a part of a high-level delegation accompanying Vice-President M Venkiah Naidu visiting these Baltic countries.

After taking charge of the three Ministries, this will be Dhotre's first formal visit to any foreign nations. India and Baltic countries have historical connect and common linguistic roots.

The cutting-edge technology and innovation ecosystem of the Baltic countries complement India's huge market and appetite for these technologies. This visit led by the Naidu will be the first ever high-level visit to the three Baltic nations.

# 10 States yet to implement Mental Health Act

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More than two years after the enactment of the Mental Health Act, 2017, around 10 States are yet to set up authorities for the proper implementation of the rules under the new legislation. Ten per cent of India's population suffers from mental illnesses, and 90 per cent of them remain untreated.

"Only 19 States have implemented the Mental Healthcare Act so far," said Sanjeeva Kumar, Special Secretary Health Ministry.

He said 10.6 per cent adult population in the country suffers from mental health issues. This is a huge number requiring holistic concept of safety nets, legal frameworks and medical care facilities.

The State authorities are supposed to register and regulate all mental healthcare facilities and publish their details online. They are also required to register all clinical psychol-

- Only 19 States have implemented the Mental Healthcare Act so far, said Sanjeeva Kumar, Special Secretary Health Ministry
- He said 10.6 per cent adult population in the country suffers from mental health issues. This is a huge number requiring holistic concept of safety nets, legal frameworks and medical care facilities
- The State authorities are supposed to register and regulate all mental healthcare facilities and publish their details online

- The Act mandates the States to have a functional authority within nine months of the law coming into force, but most of the States have missed the deadline. The States are also yet to draft the rules of the Act
- Justice HJ. Dattu said there are 13,500 psychiatrists but only 3,827 are available. Against the requirement of 20,250 clinical psychologists only 898 are available. Similarly, there is an acute shortage of paramedical staff also

ogists, mental health nurses and psychiatric social workers. The Act mandates the States to have a functional authority within nine months of the law coming into force, but most of the States have missed the deadline. The States are also yet to draft the rules of the Act.

"There is a lack of understanding among States about how to make rules. They need a bit of legal guidance and handholding," Preeti Sudan, Health Secretary said. She said with the lack of new rules, the rules of the old Mental Health Act (1987) are still being followed.

Earlier, inaugurating the meeting, NHRD Chairperson, Justice HJ. Dattu said that the efforts to improve the mental health care in the country has been made but a huge gap still remains between the requirements and availability of facilities in the sector.

Flagging it as a matter of serious concern for the Commission, he said that con-

sistent with its policy to monitor the mental health sector, it felt necessary to evaluate the ground realities post implementation of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017.

Justice Dattu said there is a requirement of 13,500 psychiatrists but only 3,827 are available. Against the requirement of 20,250 clinical psychologists only 898 are available. Similarly, there is an acute shortage of paramedical staff also.

According to a study conducted by the National Institute

of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in 2016, around 12 States the prevalence of depression for both current and lifetime is 2.7 per cent and 5.2 per cent, respectively. Approximately 1 in 40 and 1 in 20 people are suffering from past and current episodes of depression all over the country. This survey has shown that the lifetime prevalence of mental disorder is 13.7 per cent as a whole, which would mean at least 150 million Indians are in need of urgent intervention.

However, there is a long way to go to meet the needs. The Health Ministry official highlighted that the States are not using funds dispersed for the implementation of the Act, which has forced the Health Ministry to switch up systems for the transfer of the remaining grants. The States have now decided to reimburse the States instead of paying instalments.

"Despite the system of money dispersal having changed, no States have applied for reimbursements," said Sanjeeva Kumar, Union Health Secretary. He added if the Centre releases money and the States don't utilise it, then the manpower cannot be increased.

# RSS chief pitches for conversation on reservation in harmonious atmosphere

New Delhi: There should be conversation in harmonious atmosphere between those in favour of reservation and those against it, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Sunday.

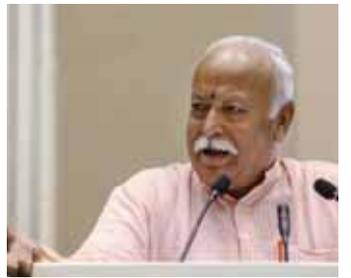
Bhagwat said he had spoken on reservation earlier as well, but it created a lot of noise and the whole discussion diverted from the actual issue.

Those who favour reservation should speak keeping in mind the interests of those who are against it, and similarly those who oppose it should do the vice-versa, he said.

He said discussion on reservation results in sharp actions and reactions every time whereas there is a need for harmony in the different sections of the society on this approach.

Bhagwat was speaking in the concluding session of Gyan Utsav which was on the competitive exams.

Earlier, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief had advocated for review of the reservation policy, drawing sharp reactions from many parties and caste groups.



Mohan Bhagwat speaking at an event.

"They can disagree as well"

Since the BJP is in Government, it has to look at the bigger picture and can disagree with the RSS point of view, he said, adding once a party comes to power, for it the Government and national interest become priority.

Gyan Utsav was organised by the RSS-affiliated Shiksha Sanskriti Uthyan Nhas at the Indira Gandhi National Open University here. PTI

# Money spent on tiger reserves' management brings indirect benefits

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Every rupee spent on the Srisaialam dam in Andhra Pradesh's Nagarjunasagar Srisaialam tiger reserve and about 1.2 million gallons of purified water is coming into force, day to nearby Srisaialam town.

It was noted that the 10 tiger reserves Anamalai (Tamil Nadu), Bandipur (Karnataka), Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh), Melghat (Maharashtra), Nagarjunasagar-Srisaialam (Andhra Pradesh), Pakke (Arunachal Pradesh), Palamu (Jharkhand), Panna (Madhya Pradesh), Simlipal (Odisha), and Valmiki (Bihar) whose economic valuation was carried out are an avoided cost in the range of Rs 7.7 crore to Rs 24.15 crore.

For instance, noted the report "Economic valuation of tiger reserves in India: A value approach," a series of reservoirs and weirs have been constructed in and around Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR), which is blessed with 15 rivers and 64 streams and has various rivers and tributaries, under the multipurpose Parimbukulam ATR, Amaravathi and Kadampara projects. These reservoirs supply water to residents of Coimbatore and Tirupur districts of Tamil Nadu and parts of Kerala and generate approximately 588 MW of electricity annually.



Tiger in a forest.

used for medicinal purposes, refill groundwater aquifers, slow and filter stormwater runoff, reduce floods and maintain watershed stability and resilience besides natural healing for mental peace.



Tiger in a forest.

The report which was released recently by Prime Minister Narendra Modi estimated that together these 10 tiger reserves surveyed provide annual tangible and intangible benefits worth Rs 5,96,502.14 crore while the monetary value from these surveyed protected habitats ranged from Rs 5,094.91 crore to Rs 16,202.11



Tiger in a forest.

crore annually. Jointly published by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the Indian Institute of Forest Management, (IIFM) Bhopal, the study analysed that monetary benefits of Rs 846.7 were realised from and within Maharashtra's Melghat tiger reserve per year, while for the Nagarjunasagar Srisaialam tiger reserve every rupee spent on management costs brought benefits of Rs 7,488.60.

- It was noted that the 10 tiger reserves Anamalai (Tamil Nadu), Bandipur (Karnataka), Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh), Melghat (Maharashtra), Nagarjunasagar-Srisaialam (Andhra Pradesh), Pakke (Arunachal Pradesh), Palamu (Jharkhand), Panna (Madhya Pradesh), Simlipal (Odisha), and Valmiki (Bihar) whose economic valuation was carried out offer protection from disease, predators and parasites, which is an avoided cost in the range of Rs 7.7 crore to Rs 24.15 crore
- These are just a few benefits among several that the tiger reserves are providing to the community
- The report which was released recently by Prime Minister Narendra Modi estimated that together these 10 tiger reserves surveyed provide annual tangible and intangible benefits worth Rs 5,96,502.14 crore while the monetary value from these surveyed protected habitats ranged from Rs 5,094.91 crore to Rs 16,202.11 crore annually

continued and enhanced investment in these reserves. Nayak added the monetary benefits obviously are neither direct nor in physical terms. The findings of the study are significant amidst frequent debates on development vs environment, more so after Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari recently said in Parliament "a poor country" must decide how far it can go in spending public money to protect environment and balance out development needs. He was replying to a question from Congress MP K Suresh

who asked if the Minister would consider building underpasses on the National Highway between Mysuru and Wayanad to protect tigers in the Bandipur wildlife sanctuary on the lines of the Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

Among the 10 reserves, MP's Panna tiger reserve provided tangible and intangible benefits of Rs 67.14 crore and Rs 20,632.95 crore respectively, the lowest of economic benefits from all ten reserves studied. The highest tangible and intangible benefits worth Rs 34.33 crore and Rs 1,09,664.82 crore respective-

ly were from Jharkhand's Palamu tiger reserve. Needless to say, the report demonstrates that enhanced investment in these tiger reserves is economically rational. Tigers being apex predators, their presence in an ecosystem indicates towards a well-functioning and balanced food chain. As tigers require a large area of contiguous forest cover for home and a good prey base for survival, by protecting them we can also ensure the protection of other species.

That is why they are also called as "umbrella" species, said Madhu Verma from IIFM. The report asserts that tiger reserves, which Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar termed as "green islands" provide a host of ecosystem services which are of significant value in a time when countries are investing heavily in climate change adaptation and mitigation. It looked at tangible and intangible flow benefits that result from investment in these habitats, including employment generation, fishing, fod-

der, fuelwood, carbon sequestration, water provisioning, water purification, sediment retention/silt conservation. The other areas that were analysed were nutrient retention, biological control, pollution, gas regulation, climate regulation, gene pool protection, moderation of extreme events, cultural heritage, recreation, spiritual tourism, and much more.



Tiger in a forest.

# CBI to probe phone tapping charges: BSV

## Ready for any probe, says Kumaraswamy

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

While former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy, who headed the coalition Government said he was ready for a probe by even an "international agency", his alliance partner the Congress, however, seemed to be a divided house. "On the telephone tapping issue, several leaders, including Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah, have said it should be probed and truth should come out, so I have decided to order a CBI probe. Tomorrow itself I will order the probe," Yediyurappa told reporters here.

He also said it was the expectation of the people of the state that a detailed inquiry should be made and the culprits punished. Yediyurappa's announcement comes amid signs that the scandal was gain-

ing political steam ever since disqualified JD(S) MLA AH Vishwanath, who served as JD(S) State president and turned rebel later, last week dropped the political bomb, accusing the HD Kumaraswamy Government of tapping phones and spying on more than 300 people, including him. Congress leaders, including Siddaramaiah, M Mallikarjuna Murthy and home minister M B Patil, had sought a probe while another key party leader and former minister D K Shivakumar has rejected the snooping charges and appeared to side with Kumaraswamy.

According to reports, phones of those close to Siddaramaiah, who was the then coalition coordination committee chief, too had come under the watch.

Several BJP leaders, including former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, have directly accused Kumaraswamy of being behind the episode to save his government which was then rocked by disidence within.

The coalition government ultimately collapsed last month



With Kumaraswamy losing the trust vote in the assembly.

Reacting to the Chief Minister announcing a CBI probe, Kumaraswamy, who has already denied the charges, said "Let them do any inquiry, whether it is a CBI inquiry or any other agency of international standard, or let them talk to Trump (US President Donald Trump) and get it inquired through some one from his side." He also hit out at the electronic media for its coverage on the issue, saying no one can do anything to him and alleged that their intention and attempts were to keep him away from people of the state.

Stating that he was not aware as to why his name was linked to the phone tapping case, he stressed, "If I was involved I would have panicked, I'm open.... There is not even an iota... To point fingers at me."

The JD(S) leader also asked Yediyurappa to bring BJP's previous tenure in the government and also that of Siddaramaiah under the ambit of the CBI probe. While Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah has welcomed the CBI probe, hoping that the BJP does not use the central investigating agency for "political vendetta," Congress on its official Twitter handle has said that telephone tapping "was a bundle of lies" and a conspiracy for hate politics.

Hope @BJP4Karnataka I'm open.... There is not even an iota... To point fingers at me." Siddaramaiah tweeted on

Sunday following announcement of probe by the chief minister. Allegations of 'Operation Kamala' being done in Karnataka are as serious as charges of phone tapping, he said in another tweet "I urge @BSYBJP to order CBI investigation into alleged Operation Kamala also."

I heard they acted on my advice in phone tapping case & I hope they act on this issue as well! However, the state Congress in a tweet termed phone tapping as "lies" and a conspiracy for hate politics.

Alleging that Yediyurappa was behaving like an "underground criminal" after becoming the chief minister in an "immoral" way by "Operation Kamala" through the backdoor, the party in a tweet said, "In Modi administration CBI was working as a front unit of the BJP. Phone tapping was a bundle of lies and a conspiracy for hate politics."

Hitting out at the Congress, senior BJP leader R Ashoka expressed surprise over differences of opinion on the phone tapping probe within the grand old party. Pointing out that several Congress leaders, including Siddaramaiah, had demanded a probe, he said, "Before handing over the probe they demanded an inquiry... Now they are blaming the Chief Minister, it is not right." PTI

# Haryana's most wanted criminal held in UAE

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The Haryana police on Saturday claimed that State's most wanted criminal Kaushal has been arrested in Abu Dhabi of United Arab Emirates (UAE) by the local authorities on the request of the Indian Government. Haryana Police had approached the Union Home Ministry after which details were sent to the UAE via Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and a lookout notice was issued by the Interpol. Kaushal wanted in over 100 criminals cases carried a reward of Five lakh and is likely to be deported in two weeks, sources said.

Sources in the State police said an operation to arrest Kaushal had started in January 2019. A police team of Haryana Police had got in touch with Interpol in Dubai to collect more information about the dangerous criminal. The investigation team had kept a close watch on his movements and all his gang members operating from different parts of the state. However, Gurugram police officials were tight-lipped over the issuer and refused to comment. Gurugram Commissioner of Police Mohammad Akil didn't respond to phone calls. Kaushal had jumped parole



After coming out of Bhandisi jail in December 2016 and had been absconding since then. The gangster was wanted in more than 200 alleged cases of extortion, murder, attempt to murder and kidnapping. In Gurugram, Faridabad, Rewari, Jhajjar, Palwal and Rajasthan, Gurugram Police has initiated an operation against Kaushal and his gang and managed to arrest over 20 people including his girlfriend and wife who were also involved in criminal activities. It has around 250 members who were mostly engaged in extortion.

Kaushal is a notorious gangster of Gurugram involved in over 100 criminal cases including murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping, extortion and running betting rackets in Gurugram. A native of Nuh village, Rupa village in Gurugram, Kaushal was also involved in the murders of bookie Vijay Batra alias Tantrik, property dealer

Jaydeep alias JD who was a former gangster, and Haryana Congress spokesperson Vikas Chaudhary in Faridabad. Kaushal's wife Roshni was arrested by Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by SP Brijnari on June 29 in connection with the murder of Vikas Chaudhary. With her, the SIT also arrested the gangster's close aide Nareesh alias Chand, Kaushal's girlfriend Manisha was arrested from a house in Burari on June 4. Her arrest was possible after Gurugram Crime Branch managed to nab Rahul Dagar, Kaushal's cousin. A GI airport on June 3. He had arrived from Dubai after meeting Kaushal. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Haryana Police headed by Special Officer Brijnari, Sanjay Singh, DCF crime branch, Faridabad, Narender Chauhan, crime branch inspector and Anand Yadav played a crucial role in tracing Kaushal's location in Abu Dhabi from where he was arrested by the local police with the help of Interpol. Sources in the state police said they are waiting for a written confirmation from their counterparts in Dubai and the extradition could take about two weeks after all legal formalities are completed to bring the criminal back to the country.

# Pawar calls leaders who quit NCP as 'crows'

**Mumbai:** Terming as "crows" the leaders who left the NCP and joined others, party chief Sharad Pawar on Sunday said fielding fresh faces in the upcoming polls was being considered by the party.

The Opposition parties in Maharashtra, particularly the NCP, witnessed its MLAs and key leaders joining the BJP and Shiv Sena last month.

"We don't need to worry about crows (kavale) any longer, instead focus on party workers (mavale) ahead of the assembly elections," Pawar said here.

Three NCP legislators-Shivendrasinh Bhosale, Sandeep Naik and Vaibhav Pichad- had joined the BJP along with the party's state women wing president Chitra Wagh last month.

Besides, NCP's Mumbai unit president Sachin Ahir and Shahapur MLA Pandurang

Barora had also joined the Shiv Sena last month.

"The party will consider fielding fresh faces in the upcoming polls, I would insist on giving chance to youth and women in the coming elections," Pawar added.

The former Union minister said Nagpur has become a major hub of crime and criminal activities.

"Maharashtra chief minister also hails from the same place. We should raise our voice over the issue," he added. PTI

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

or Shiv Sena.

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

BJP taking away leaders groomed by us: Maha NCP chief Jayant



Devotees carry Ganesha idol to be installed at a pandal ahead of Ganapati festival in Mumbai on Sunday. PTI

# AIIMS fully functional, patients return to wards

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A day after a massive fire broke out on its premises, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences was fully functional on Sunday and all patients, who were shifted out as a precautionary measure, were taken back to their respective wards, hospital authorities said. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan reviewed the situation at the premier health facility on Sunday morning, according to a statement issued by the hospital.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia took stock of the situation in the affected part of the hospital and also enquired about the health of former Union finance minister Arun Jaitley, who is admitted in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the cardio-neuro centre that is housed in a different building of the AIIMS complex. Jaitley, who was admitted on August 9, has been on life support system. Several prominent leaders have been visiting the hospital for the past few days to check on his health.

The fire started around 5 pm on Saturday from the Microbiology department and thick plumes of smoke billowed from the building, triggering panic and affecting the emergency services. According to officials, 32 patients were evacuated as a precautionary measure. The AIIMS administration has initiated an internal inquiry to look into the cause of the fire and further strengthen preventive measure, the statement added. "The hospital area has not been affected by the fire and there has been no casualty. As a precautionary measure, the



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia during their visit to AIIMS, in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

AIIMS administration had shifted patients from AB wing of the hospital to other areas of the hospital. These patients have been shifted back to their respective wards in the AB wing," the statement said. The hospital, including the emergency department and emergency laboratories, is fully functional, it added. According to Delhi Fire Service

officials, the building was constructed before 1983 when construction norms came into force. They said the building had fire fighting measures in place. Meanwhile, the open round of counselling for admission to AIIMS MBBS-2019 has been rescheduled from August 20 and 21 to August 26 and 27, the hospital authorities said.

"Considering the large number of candidates and guardians participating in the open round of counselling for MBBS, 2019 under the prevailing circumstances, it has been decided by the competent authority that for adequate arrangement and ensuring safety, it has been rescheduled from August 20 and August 21 to August 26 and 27," a notice issued by the AIIMS read. The AIIMS director is holding a meeting with all heads of the departments and administrative staff to assess the situation for full restoration of laboratory services as soon as possible so that patient care does not suffer, the statement said. AIIMS has a regular fire prevention system in place. Fire personnel deployed round-the-clock with fire fighting safety systems being regularly tested including clearance of fire exits and corridors. Awareness of fire fighting systems among staff is conducted regularly," the statement added.

# Wait now on for BJP central leadership to clear list of BSY Cabinet

**Bengaluru:** With the much awaited expansion of Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa's Cabinet in Karnataka to take place on August 20, the wait is now on for the BJP's central leadership to clear the list of 13-14 probables as Ministers in the first phase, top party leaders said here on Sunday.

Yediyurappa and the State leadership are expected to get clear instructions from the high command about those to be inducted into the Ministry on Monday.

Having run the Government with a one-man Cabinet for 22 days, Yediyurappa on Saturday finally managed to get the nod from BJP national president Amit Shah to undertake the exercise on August 20.

Yediyurappa, who took oath as Chief Minister on July 26 and proved his

Government's majority on the floor of the Assembly on July 29, is yet to induct any Minister into his Cabinet.

Meanwhile, the BJP legislature party meeting scheduled for Tuesday morning ahead of the cabinet expansion has been postponed. "On Tuesday, looking at a good time, cabinet expansion will be held in the afternoon. There will be no legislature party meeting that day. We will do it after four days."

All our MLAs, MLCS, MPs, all our leaders and central Ministers have been requested to attend the swearing-in ceremony," Yediyurappa told reporters on Sunday.

Senior party functionaries said though many names were doing the rounds in the media, a clear picture would emerge once the list submitted by the state leadership to the high

command is cleared by Amit Shah, expected on Monday afternoon.

Yediyurappa too had said after his return here from Delhi late on Saturday that he was expecting clear instructions on Monday from those who are to be inducted into the Ministry.

"By Monday afternoon we will get a clear instruction on who all to be inducted. I have held discussions with Amit Shah and other leaders," he had said. Asked about the number of Ministers likely to be inducted on Tuesday, he said "13 to 14 people are likely to be inducted into the cabinet in the first phase. There may be plus or minus one or two. We have now recommended 13 to 14 of them."

Yediyurappa has had a

tightrope to walk during the cabinet expansion as he has to craft a fine caste and regional balance in view of the large number of aspirants, sources said.

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

The then speaker Ramesh Kumar had disqualified 17 Congress-JD(S) rebels under the anti-defection law till the end of the assembly term, which they have challenged in the Supreme Court.

Only if they get any relief from the Apex Court, can these disqualified MLA contest the bypolls. Sources said that if they

get re-elected, BJP planned to make them Ministers as promised and hence Yediyurappa would not be filling all 34 ministerial positions in one go.

They also said that one interesting aspect was that BJP MLAs have not openly expressed their ministerial aspirations in fresh instances lobbying like in the past, as they fear it may go against them.

However, expressing confidence that he would be made a Minister, considering his seniority, eight-time MLA Umesh Katti Sunday said even if it did not materialise, he would "happily" work as a legislator for the people of his constituency that was affected by floods, while hoping for a larger representation for Belagavi district in the Cabinet. PTI

# Absence of legal awareness root cause of rights' deprivation: CJJ

**Nagpur:** Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on Sunday said the absence of legal awareness was the "root cause" of "deception, exploitation and deprivation" of the rights and benefits of the masses.

He also observed that "awareness about ones' rights and the means of securing them are the "powerful instruments" to bring social and economic progress.

Addressing the valedictory function of the 17th All India Meet of State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) in Nagpur, the CJJ said legal services must be constituted to "achieve distributed justice, effective implementation of welfare benefits and elimination of social and structural

discrimination against the poor".

In his speech, he also underlined the importance of "legal literacy," technology and access" and the "impact and accountability" for delivering the quality legal services.

Justice Gogoi also said the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and State Legal Services Authorities are the "crucial vehicles" for discharging the Constitutional mandate of justice to all on the basis of equal opportunities.

"These bodies have to ensure through their methods that justice reaches the remotest corners of the country and the last person," said the CJJ.

Emphasising the need for "legal literacy," Justice Gogoi said, "awareness of ones' rights and means of securing those rights are powerful instruments for bringing about social and economic progress. Absence of legal awareness is a root cause of deception, exploitation and deprivation of rights and benefits of the masses. Legal literacy and legal awareness go hand in hand."

Justice Gogoi said the "legal aid movement" cannot achieve its goal until people are aware about their legal rights so as their basic rights.

He said "greater awareness" translates into better and broader access. The CJJ observed that contemporary legal education is

limited to universities training future lawyers and that it should go beyond awareness.

"Though education on legal topics is in school and college curriculum, it should go beyond awareness. What is instead required is movement from near awareness to engagement," the CJJ said.

Justice Gogoi further underlined the need to implement legal knowledge for the benefit of the overall good. "Efforts must be made to secure concerted engagement of young minds in understanding and utilising that knowledge for the benefit of the society. Not only law colleges but the students of schools and colleges must be included in the outreach pro-

gramme. Students and young persons have the potential to become the ambassadors of justice," said Justice Gogoi.

He also emphasised the need to focus on "Technology and Access" and the need for customised legal services as per the needs of the people. "Technology and innovation should be embraced in all aspects of functions on the process followed for the selection of legal services at all the levels. It should ensure (delivery of) timely and effective legal services to the needy" said the CJJ.

Let us use technology to provide greater information about legal aid through mobile apps, provide vital information to those seeking legal aid about

status of their cases and applications," he said.

The CJJ also underlined the importance of "impact and accountability," saying in fact there is no better "mirage" than statistics.

"Right to legal aid means the right to quality legal aid. Commitment to quality must be there in the whole organisation," he said.

Let us use technology to provide greater information about legal aid through mobile apps, provide vital information to those seeking legal aid about

# 10-yr-old girl injured in ceasefire violation by Pak Army along LoC

**PNS ■ JAMMU**

A 10-year-old girl, resident of Mankote area in Mendhar tehsil of Poonch, early Sunday suffered injuries in fresh incident of ceasefire violation along the Line of Control. Pakistan Army late Sunday evening also targeted several forward posts in Nowshera sector of Rajouri. In response, the Indian Army gave them a befitting reply using similar calibre of weapons.

According to official sources, 10-year-old girl, identified as Sadiya, daughter of

Mohd Azrat of Dabdag village of Mankote, received splinter injuries during heavy shelling in the area. Local villagers in the area claimed, for last two days Pakistan army is targeting civilian areas in the region. "We are worried as heavy exchange of shelling took place late Saturday night," a senior citizen told local reporters in Poonch when they visited the area on Sunday.

The shelling situation remained tense in Nowshera sector where Indian army reportedly destroyed Pakistan Army post on Saturday.

# Rajasthan rain: 49 killed since June 15



PTI ■ JAIPUR

Forty-nine people have died in rain-related incidents in Rajasthan since June 15, an official said on Sunday.

Brijendra Singh, OSD, Department of Disaster Management, Relief and Civil Defence told PTI that there was no flood-like situation anywhere in the State.

In Kota and Baran, the Army was alerted as a precautionary measure, he said.

away by water," Singh said.

He said 500 people were evacuated to safer places with the help of Army, SDRF, NDRF and local administration from several places inundated due to heavy rainfall in the state.

According to the MCT department, 12 cm rainfall was recorded in Degana of Nagaur, 11 cm in Makrana, 10 cm in Nawa and 10 cm in Buhana of Jhunjhunu during the last 24 hours.

From Sunday morning to evening, 10 mm of rainfall was recorded in Kota and 2 mm in Churu.

The department has forecast light to moderate rain with thundershower at some places in the eastern parts of the State and one or two places in the western parts in the next 24 hours.

# NRC authority mulls action against official for irregularities in checking docs: Sources

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The NRC authority is considering recommending strong action against a senior Assam Government official for alleged irregularities in checking documents of people from Chamaria and some nearby areas in Kamrup district after which re-verification had to be done, sources close to the development said.

Kamrup Deputy Commissioner Kamal Kumar Baisya has sent a report to the NRC State Coordinator Prateek Hajela about two months back over the alleged irregularities by a former Circle Officer of Chamaria under his district which came to light in 2018.

The report noted how the then Circle Officer allegedly made all the affected people Original Inhabitants (OI) only to reduce his workload, the sources claimed.

He had allegedly ticked the OI column for all the people, including Hindus and Muslims, in the verification list, which lessened his burden for cross-checking the documents as well as the tedious process of finding out the family tree of the applicants, they said.

"It is not a corruption-related case. The DC's enquiry has found out that the official's quality of verification was very poor and he was not sincere about his duties," a source said.

The sources told PTI that the irregularities were initially detected around September 2018, after which the Kamrup district administration swung into action and found that it was affecting the entire Chamaria revenue circle.

The NRC (National Register of Citizens) authority was then informed about the development and after much deliberations, it was decided to hold re-verification in these areas.

"It was a good pro-active decision by the NRC authority to hold the re-verification process. This shows that they are serious about bringing out an error-free NRC within the deadline," a source close to the development said.

The NRC authority has taken the report very seriously and is likely to recommend strong action against the erring bureaucrat, who is an Assam Civil Services official, the sources confirmed.

No official comment could be obtained from the NRC Office as the Supreme Court had barred them from talking to the media. The deadline to publish the final NRC is August 31.

The errant official was transferred from Chamaria early last year. A new Circle Officer was appointed in Chamaria, but he left the place within months seeking a voluntary transfer.

In the second half of 2018, the current Circle Officer was appointed. She along with the deputy commissioner informed

the NRC authority about the irregularities and started the process of re-verification.

Called to meet the Kamrup Deputy Commissioner remained unanswerable.

From August 3 afternoon, notices for re-verification were served across the south of Kamrup district to about 33,000 people, asking them to appear within 48 hours in NRC Seva Kendras (NSKs), almost 400-500 km away from their place of residence, in several upper Assam districts.

The sources said that as NRC process is time-bound and the final document has to be prepared by August 31, all the re-verification work has to be completed as soon as possible.

"The NSKs in entire lower Assam were already loaded with their scheduled re-verification process. As there were fewer claims and objections in upper Assam, so the NSKs there were relatively less occupied.

"That is why the authorities decided to hold the re-verification of these unscheduled cases in upper Assam districts.

"The only thing is that the notices should have been served to the people by giving them some more time," they added.

Many poor people in the south of Kamrup area, with no money to fund their travel at such a short notice, had to pledge their valuables, including gold, cattle or sell away their harvested crops at throw-away price.

# Now, pray for integration of POK with India: Singh

Jammu: Union Minister Jitendra Singh here on Sunday said after the revocation of the special status of Jammu & Kashmir, people should now pray for the integration of the Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (POK) with India in their lifetime.

He also downplayed the arrest of mainstream political leaders and the communication blockade in the Valley following the scrapping of the special status and bifurcation of the state in union territories.

"We are lucky that it (revoking of the special status) happened in our lifetime. It is because of the sacrifices of our three generations," Singh said addressing a meet on the current socio-political milieu in Jammu & Kashmir, organised by the state BJP at party headquarters here.

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

"Let us pray that we see the integration of POK with the country and people freely visit Muzaffarabad (capital of POK)," he added.

Without naming the Congress for the criticism on the arrest of former Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba

Mufti, the Union Minister said it was "unnecessarily being made a big issue". "Under some compulsion or reason, the Government has taken some steps to maintain peace. You (Congress) had arrested National Conference founder Sheikh Abdullah. Such a thing had not happened in Kashmir," he said, adding that the leaders were not being kept in solitary confinement.

"They are doing their work-out at the gym, reading books and even ordering and watching Hollywood movies," he said.

Defending the move with regard to Article 370, he said some people were frustrated because they had created a narrative in the country that no power could abolish the special status being enjoyed by Jammu & Kashmir. "We did it... Article 370 was a miscarriage of history and perhaps the gravest blunder in post-independence India," he said, adding that it led to the lack of development and discrimination within regions but also a "psychological barrier that created mental barriers."

"Former Prime Minister A B Vajpayee talked about inhumanity (humanity), jammuhariyat (democracy), kashmiriyat to restore peace in Jammu & Kashmir. By this move, we have restored jammuhariyat (democracy) and have done the necessary course correction to pave a way for inhumanity and kashmiriyat," Singh asserted. PTI

# 3 illegal B'deshi immigrants held while crossing over to India



PTI ■ MALDA

Three illegal Bangladeshi immigrants were arrested in early hours of Sunday near the Indo-Bangla border in West Bengal's Malda district, while trying to cross over to India, officials said.

Bangladeshi nationals entered the country for seeking jobs here, they said.

The infiltrators are residents of Rajshahi and Chapai Nawabganj districts of the neighbouring country, an official said.

"Three Bangladeshi nationals were apprehended at Kaliachak area by Border Security Force personnel," the official said.

They have been handed over to Balishnagar police station for further legal action, officials sources said.

In a separate operation by a team of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), West Bengal, two drug peddlers were arrested from Kaliachak area and one kg of brown sugar was seized from their possession, police said. The value of the contraband is estimated to be around 15 lakh.

# Ground Penetrating Radars being used to locate bodies; toll now 121

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



Ground Penetrating Radars were put into use on Sunday to locate bodies at Kavalappara in Malappuram and Puthumala in Wayanad, where massive landslides had wiped out two villages, even as the toll in rain battered Kerala climbed to 121 with the retrieval of more bodies.

A team of experts from Hyderabad started the search operations at the two villages with GPR, which will help detect bodies buried under mounds of earth.

A state wide calamity report issued by the government tonight said 121 people have lost their lives in Kerala in the second spell of the South West monsoon rains since August 8

and that 47,622 people are still in 296 relief camps.

As per the update, 58 people have so far lost their lives in Malappuram, 12 in Wayanad and 17 in Kozhikode, the three northern districts, where 21 people are still missing.

The report also said that 1,789 houses were fully damaged in the monsoon.

Meanwhile, over one lakh volunteers have enrolled for cleaning work in flood-hit villages in the northern districts. Kerala's all-women self-help group Kudumbashree has engaged over 50,000 members for the purpose.

"Volunteers from various organisations have identified over 15,000 spots in Wayanad. They are moving in batches and have started the cleaning mission. They will remove the mud and slush from the houses, clean wells and the locality," an official told PTI.

The volunteers will clean the wells using 'super chlorination' method and the state Suchitwa Mission has arranged material and equipment for the purposes, the official said.

State Ministers Kadannappalli Ramachandran and TP Ramakrishnan are coordinating the cleaning mission. Thousands of students, from the Students' Federation of India (SFI), National Cadets Corps (NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS) have joined the cleaning initiative.

# Mamata responsible for BJP's growth in Bengal: Adhir Chowdhury

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The "policies and politics" of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her party, the TMC, has helped the BJP gain ground in the state, leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, has said.

He also said that due to the weakening of opposition parties like the Congress and the Left, the people of the state, "who are opposed" to the Trinamool Congress (TMC), had en masse voted in favour of the BJP.

"It is due to the policies and politics of Mamata Banerjee and her party that the BJP has gained ground in Bengal.

Banerjee and the TMC deliberately weakened the Opposition parties to create space for the safe zone." Chowdhury told PTI. His comments come in the backdrop of the BJP making significant inroads in the state by winning 18 out of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in the general election. The TMC's tally came down to 22 seats from 34 in 2014.

The Congress won two seats, whereas the Left failed to open its account.

Chowdhury, a five-time MP from Beharampore seat in Murshidabad district, is known to be a staunch critic of Banerjee, and has always opposed any sort of alliance with the party.



Residents waded through a waterlogged road following heavy rain in Kolkata on Sunday

PTI

# Prez inaugurates bunker museum at Maha Raj Bhavan

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The sea-facing Raj Bhavan on Sunday became the first such Governor's residence in the country that houses a unique museum — a thematic underground bunker museum which has virtual reality booths that transports visitors in time to the 19th century when the bunker was constructed to fire cannons at approaching enemy ships.

Spread over an area of 15,000 sq.ft, the first-of-its-kind museum will be thrown open for the general public through prior online booking later during the year.

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the underground Bunker Museum at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai on Sunday.

Accompanied by Governor CH. Vidyasagar Rao, the President was shown around the exhibition and given an audio visual experience of the



history of Raj Bhavan at a Virtual Reality booth in the museum.

Dioramas of cannons and soldiers, optical illusions of a bunker of infinite length and cannons have also been created inside the museum.

It may be recalled that in the second week of August 2016, the state PWD officials discovered a 150-meter underground British era

Bunker inside Raj Bhavan. Having remained closed for nearly six decades, the bunker had suffered extensive wear and tear due to seepage from the overhead lawn.

As the bunker is part of the history and heritage of Raj Bhavan and also because a part of it lies below 'Jal Bhushan' the office and residence of Governor, a structural audit of the bunker was carried out and the structure was strengthened.

The bunker has 13 rooms of different sizes. It opens with a 20-ft tall majestic gate. Towards the entrance, the structure resembles a fort.

When opened, the bunker had rooms bearing names such as Shell Store, Gun Shelf, Cartridge Store, Shell Lift, Pump, Central Artillery Store, Workshop, etc. The entire underground bunker was found to have a proper drainage system and inlets for fresh air and light.

While carrying out the Conservation works, the authorities have restored the original features of the bunker and it has been readied as a museum by incorporating virtual reality on the themes of Cannon-firing experience, history of Raj Bhavan and a glimpse of the forts of Maharashtra.

Earlier, the President unveiled the foundation stone

for the proposed reconstruction of the Governor's Office — Residence building 'Jal Bhushan'.

Mrs Savita Kovind, wife of the President Governor, CH Vidyasagar Rao, his wife CH Vinodha, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, Minister for Revenue and Public Works Chandrakant Patil and Minister for Higher and Technical Education Vinod Tawde were prominent among those present on the occasion.

Jal Bhushan, the office and residence of the Governor of Maharashtra, has a history of nearly 200 years. The House has undergone several modifications and renovations. Jal Bhushan has been the official residence of the British Governors since 1885 and Indian Governors after Independence. It has evolved around the original 'Pretty Cottage' built by Governor Mountstuart Elphinstone around 1820.

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal politicians, including Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Forward Bloc general secretary Debarata Biswas and Chandra Bose the grand nephew of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, on Sunday demanded an "impartial, thorough and comprehensive inquiry" to ascertain the mystery behind the great leader's disappearance on August 18, 1945.

"Netaji went on a flight from Taihoku Airport in Taiwan on this day in 1945 'only to disappear forever'," the Chief Minister tweeted adding "the people have a right to know about the great son of the soil."

Banerjee's tweet came against the backdrop of assertions appearing in the Gujarat BJP's official website which referred to Netaji's death on August 18 in a plane crash.

Giving his reactions Chandra Bose, who is a BJP leader too, demanded a "comprehensive inquiry" into the disappearance mystery of one of the greatest sons of India. He said, about writing a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking a thorough inquiry to unravel the mystery one and for all. Similarly former MP and general secretary of Forward Bloc, a party that Bose had launched demanded an "impartial inquiry" into his so-called disappearance. "Three commissions — Shah Nawaz Committee, Khosla Commission and Mukherjee Commission — were instituted first in 1956, then in 1970 and yet again in 2005 but none of them could throw substantial light on the issue," he said adding his party would "never accept any story of Netaji's death until that is proved with evidence."

# Veterinarian helping flood-hit in Sangli dies of heart attack

PTI ■ MUMBAI

A veterinary doctor from Latur in Maharashtra, who had been providing help to the flood-affected farmers in Sangli, died of a heart attack on Sunday, an official said.

Narayan Kharolkar, 51, was sleeping in his room in Sangli city when he suffered the heart attack, his post-mortem report said. "Some blockages were found in his heart. However, he had never suffered an attack in the past. It had been helping the flood-hit farmers in Sangli since August 15, district animal husbandry officer, Dr Kiran Parag, said.

Kharolkar is survived by his wife and two sons. He had visited Sangli during the 2005 floods as well to provide help to the affected farmers, Dr Parag said.

# President Kovind meets Lata Mangeshkar in Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a rare honour bestowed on India's renowned singer, President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday called on Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar at her residence in south Mumbai and wished her good health.

Sharing a photograph of his meeting with Lata Mangeshkar, an elated President Kovind shared a picture on his Twitter handle and described the singer as "the pride of India" who has "sweetened our lives with her soulful melody."

"Delighted to meet Mangeshkar Lata ji at her residence in Mumbai. Conveyed my best wishes for her good health. Lata ji, the pride of India, has sweetened our lives

with her soulful melody. She continues to inspire us with her simplicity and grace #PresidentKovind," the President tweeted.

An equally thrilled singer shared more photographs of her meeting with the President and wrote on her twitter handle: "Namaskar. Was deeply honoured and humbled, when The President of our country, Shri Ram Nath Kovind ji, so graciously came and met me at my residence. I stand in gratitude. Sir, you make us proud! @rashtrapatibhvn"

President Kovind was accompanied by his wife and daughter. Governor of Maharashtra and his wife Vinoda Rao along with Education Minister Vinod Tawde also visited Lata

Mangeshkar's residence.

A living legend, Lata Mangeshkar is one of the best-known and most respected playback singers in the country. She has recorded songs in over a thousand Hindi films and has sung songs in over thirty-six regional Indian languages and foreign languages.

The Dadasaheb Phalke Award was bestowed on her in 1989 by the Government of India. In 2001, in recognition of her contributions to the nation, she was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour and is only the second vocalist, after M S Subbalakshmi to receive this honour. France conferred on her its highest civilian award (Officer of the Legion of Honour) in 2007.



# Five new fish species discovered in Arunachal

RIT ■ ITANAGAR

Researchers of the Rajiv Gandhi University here have recently discovered five new fish species in various districts of the State.

The scientific names of the newly-discovered fish species are Mystus prabini, found in Sinkiin and Dibang rivers in Lower Dibang Valley district and Exostoma kottelati, found in Ranga river in Lower Subansiri district, a release by the university said.

Other discovered species are Creteuchloglanis tawanensis, found in the Tawangchu river in Tawang district, Garra rangangensis, found in Ranga

river and Phycoschistura harkishorei, found in Dibang and Lohit rivers in Lower Dibang Valley district, it said.

The team was led by Prof DN Das of the fisheries and aquatic ecology research wing of the Zoology department of the university.

"Majority of the water bodies in remote areas of the state are still not easily accessible to the researchers due to a difficult terrain that includes rain forests, steep hills besides communication problems," Das said. He, however, said his research team is optimistic that meticulous exploration may result in more discoveries of new fish species from the state in the future.

# India wins at UNSC

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



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

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

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

## Plastic problem

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



**W**hen we first synthesised plastic polymers from crude oil residues, mankind hardly knew how dominant a part they would become of modern life. Like it or not, we cannot imagine modern life without plastics. Think of it this way — it is cheaper today for us to manufacture plastic cutlery than hand out wooden spoons. From the cars we drive and the planes we fly, to almost every product that every single human being comes in contact with, there is a bit of plastic somewhere. And this is a result of not just the fact that it is cheap but also extremely durable, immune to most types of corrosion and weather. Ergo, it has become the material of choice in several applications. Most beverages, for example, are not sold in glass bottles but in breakage-free plastic containers.

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

# Any passenger comforts?

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



KUSHAN MITRA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is Managing Editor, The Pioneer)

### SOUNDBITE

Amid concerns of widespread unemployment, poverty, inflation, health, stress and violence, there is now a danger of economic slowdown.	If I have to be a good feminist, I would want to contribute to the society in such a way that all get an equal opportunity to show their talent.	The vitality of US-India ties is critical to keep a check on China's actions to rewrite Indo-Pacific for its own interests.	The revival of the Congress largely depends on the weakening of regional parties which lack ideology. So, the future of the Congress is bright.
<b>BSP chief</b> —Mayawati	<b>Actor</b> —Taapsee Pannu	<b>US Deputy Secretary of State</b> —John Sullivan	<b>Congress leader</b> —Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Stop interference

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

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

Sravana Ramachandran  
Chennai

### Capable coach

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

### The hidden cost of smartphone addiction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Varun Dambal  
Bengaluru

### Failing humanity

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

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

Anooj Hosmath  
Mysuru

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

## FIRST COLUMN

## An opportunity to reinvent

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

VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is a well-known management consultant)

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

MALEEHA LODHI

## POINT COUNTERPOINT



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

SYED AKBARUDDIN

## Educational reforms must

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



CB SHARMA

Academics are lost for words on how to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the historic decision to abrogate Article 370, as, out of all things that have been thrown out of gear in Jammu and Kashmir, education has been the worst hit because of it. Now, academicians hope to witness a swift and drastic change in the levels of education in the coming months and academic years. Successive governments in J&K, no matter what their political doctrine, have deliberately kept participation in and quality of education low so that common people of the state do not understand the injustice being done to them by their political masters. If this grim scenario has to change quickly and have a long lasting effect on the minds and the psyche of the people of J&K, then quality education will have a major role to play as a catalyst of change. The Modi Government, and all future state governments that actually want real integration of J&K with the rest of the country, will be required to address this very urgent need of the students on a war footing. This push for quality education will no doubt find resonance with most families of the State as each invariably has a few learners.

There are over 10,000 schools in the State, yet the dropout rate is high in J&K and it's not a secret that it is this early age group which is most vulnerable to provocations and radicalisation. Also, the subversive and anti-national forces would force students, both boys and girls, to participate in stone-pelting fairs which they would be subjected to coercion and public humiliation, especially girls. Apart from middle and high school education, the government will do well to give a fillip to pre-school and childcare facilities that are pathetic at this juncture. It will not be a difficult task to bring visible change in education and childcare facilities as the government can expect wholehearted support of families for the sake of the future of their wards.

It's not a secret that Article 370 always remained a barrier in the implementation of measures taken by the Centre and statutory bodies to provide quality education in the State. Students from J&K were denied the crucial Right to Education (RTE) which all children of the country are entitled to. RTE not only makes it mandatory for the Government to ensure education for all children of school-going age, but also provide quality education. It's not a secret that curriculum is the most important component of education. What we teach today decides the future of the nation a few years later. India has witnessed how TB Macaulay's 'Minute on Education' written in 1835 for Lord William Bentinck, the governor general of British India, changed the future of India. India has not been able to reverse the effects of Macaulay's policies even after over 70 years of Independence.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Reforms, equity in central staffing scheme needed

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In fact, promotions for CSS men virtually stop at the level of Director, which is allocated to all officers of Group A services upon completion of 13 years of service. In some cases, candidates were allocated Group B services since they did not give the complete service preference in spite of having higher merit than several Group A officers.

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

(GC) and there was a difference of 4 per cent in the score.

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

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

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

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

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

Though selected in 1998, Group B services officials are still working as Deputy Secretary posts in the Government of India under the central staffing scheme," explained the official.

Several 1998 batch Group A

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

Fortunately, the Modi Government, during the last few years has made attempts to rationalise the central staffing postings by giving opportunities to other cadres like, Indian Telecom Services (ITS), Indian Trade Services (ITS) Railway Services, Indian Forest Services and likewise, instead of just the elite IAS officers. For better governance at the Centre and State, there should be adequate exchange of CSS officers with IAS/IPS officers on deputation in State administration so that there is a two-way exchange of experience and knowledge that would be beneficial to all.

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



DEEPAK JHA

Even after 72 years of independence, the country has failed to bring the much-needed administrative reforms in civil services and link promotions to acquired knowledge and performance. In fact, favouritism and preferential treatment to some services is the norm rather than an exception, say senior officers. This is ironic, given the fact that in the historic judgment given by the Supreme Court (SC) in 1991 in the Mohan Kumar Singhania vs Union of India case by a three judge Bench, it was recorded that "there is no denying the fact that the civil services being the top most service

Scheme	NAV	1Yr*	Fund(G)	Mkt Fund(G)	Edelweiss Tax Advantage Fund-Reg(G)	Baroda Mid-cap Fund(G)
DSP World Gold Fund-Reg(G)	14.61	45.63	Tata India Tax Savings Fund-Reg(G)	17.38	-2.17	Kotak Small Cap Fund(G)
Kotak US Equity Fund(G)	10.46	40.41	L&T India Large Cap Fund-Reg(G)	26.35	-2.18	SBI Consumption Opp Fund-Reg(G)
Reliance US Equity Opp Fund(G)	15.98	10.80	Canara Rob Bluechip Equity Fund-Reg(G)	24.07	-2.23	Motilal Oswal Midcap 30 Fund-Reg(G)
PGIM India Global Equity Opp Fund(G)	18.55	9.96	Aditya Birla SL Global Emerging Opp Fund(G)	12.75	-2.43	HDFC Infrastructure Fund(G)
Franklin India Feeder - Franklin U.S. Opportunities Fund(G)	32.39	6.69	SBI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)	95.11	-2.45	Aditya Birla SL Mfg. Equity Fund-Reg(G)
Aditya Birla SL Global Real Estate Fund(G)	20.01	6.33	Tata Large Cap Fund(G)	212.48	-2.47	ICICI Pru Dividend Yield Equity Fund-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru Value Fund-18(G)	11.22	5.95	ICICI Pru Nifty Index Fund(G)	107.00	-2.48	UTI Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)
Sundaram World Brand Fund-Sr II-Reg(G)	15.50	5.16	Aditya Birla SL Sensex ETF Fund-Reg(G)	349.01	-2.62	DSP Natural Res & New Energy Fund-Reg(G)
Sundaram World Brand Fund-Sr III-Reg(G)	15.68	5.11	SBI Magnum Multicap Fund-Reg(G)	47.24	-2.66	Invesco India Feeder - Invesco Pan European Equity Fund-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru US Bluechip Equity Fund(G)	27.82	4.98	IDBI Nifty Index Fund(G)	20.42	-2.68	UTI LT Adv Fund-III(G)
ICICI Pru Growth Fund-1(DP)	10.85	4.83	PGIM India Large Cap Fund(G)	163.90	-2.70	IDFC Equity Fund-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru Growth Fund-2(DP)	11.78	3.61	Aditya Birla SL Index Fund-Reg(G)	108.57	-2.71	ICICI Pru Value Fund-9(G)
<b>Import of MARBLE</b> ROCKS/SLABS, POLISHED (in ₹ crore) 						
SBI Tax Advantage Fund-III-Reg(G)	24.06	3.13	Reliance Index Fund - Nifty Plan(G)	18.52	-2.72	Sundaram Emerging Small Cap-Sr IV-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru Value Fund-16(G)	10.67	3.09	Kotak Equity Opp Fund(G)	114.21	-2.78	Tata India Consumer Fund-Reg(G)
Sundaram Fin Serv Opp Fund(G)	41.53	2.87	Franklin India Index Fund-NSE Nifty(G)	87.67	-2.78	Sundaram Mid Cap Fund(G)
SBI Technology Opp Fund-Reg(G)	65.50	2.86	ICICI Pru Nifty Low Vol 30 ETF	86.85	-2.90	Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India Fund-3-Reg(G)
Tata Large & Mid Cap Fund(G)	200.33	2.65	BNP Paribas Multi Cap Fund(G)	45.22	-2.97	ICICI Pru Value Fund-11(G)
Aditya Birla SL Intl. Equity Fund-A(G)	21.21	2.51	DSP Equity Fund-Reg(G)	38.11	-3.03	SBI Bluechip Fund-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru Value Fund-17(G)	10.23	2.40	Tata Digital India Fund-Reg(G)	14.74	-3.10	ICICI Pru Value Fund-9(G)
ICICI Pru Value Fund-14(G)	10.24	2.20	ICICI Pru Value Fund-11(G)	11.65	-3.24	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Axis Bluechip Fund(G)	29.03	2.07	ICICI Pru Value Fund-11(G)	37.72	-3.27	JM Tax Gain Fund(G)
DSP World Mining Fund-Reg(G)	7.98	1.94	SBI Pru Value Fund-9(G)	11.74	-3.29	ICICI Pru Growth Fund-3(DP)
Edelweiss ETF - Nifty Bank	2874.85	1.91	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	10.04	-3.40	ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption Fund-1(G)
ICICI Pru Value Fund-15(G)	10.18	1.90	JM Tax Gain Fund(G)	16.50	-3.46	ICICI Pru Bluechip Fund(G)
BNP Paribas Large Cap Fund(G)	88.53	1.85	ICICI Pru Growth Fund-3(DP)	9.61	-3.54	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Edelweiss Emerging Markets Opp Eq. Offshore Fund-Reg(G)	12.15	1.80	ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption Fund-1(G)	9.75	-3.56	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Baroda Banking & Fin Serv Fund(G)	22.75	1.61	ICICI Pru Bluechip Fund(G)	40.39	-3.60	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Tata Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	18.71	1.45	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	12.78	-3.63	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
DSP Global Allocation Fund-Reg(G)	12.48	1.42	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Axis Multicap Fund-Reg(G)	11.55	1.23	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru Global Stable Equity Fund(G)	15.34	0.92	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
SBI Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	17.49	0.88	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
HDFC Sensex ETF	3926.93	0.47	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
IDFC Sensex ETF	385.51	0.46	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Mirae Asset Emerging Bluechip-Reg(G)	51.39	0.42	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Tata Index Fund-Sensex Plan(G)	92.35	0.18	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
IDBI Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	10.07	0.10	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
HDFC Top 100 Fund(G)	468.33	0.06	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
BNP Paribas Long Term Equity Fund(G)	37.46	0.01	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
HDFC Index Fund-Sensex(G)	332.29	-0.02	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
SBI Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)	14.66	-0.07	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Invesco India Financial Services Fund(G)	55.01	-0.07	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
SBI Magnum Equity ESG Fund-Reg(G)	102.29	-0.10	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
DSP World Agriculture Fund-Reg(G)	16.17	-0.19	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Aditya Birla SL CEF-Global Agri-Reg(G)	23.20	-0.35	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru Sensex Index Fund(G)	11.62	-0.38	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Kotak US Equity Fund(G)	16.59	-0.64	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Reliance Japan Equity Fund(G)	12.57	-0.69	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Mirae Asset Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)	17.05	-0.71	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru Technology Fund(G)	58.37	-0.71	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Reliance Index Fund - Sensex Plan(G)	18.41	-0.81	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Mirae Asset Large Cap Fund-Reg(G)	49.03	-0.88	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Kotak Tax Saver Scheme(G)	42.42	-0.90	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Sundaram Select Focus(G)	176.58	-0.95	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
JM Large Cap Fund(G)	65.39	-1.15	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru Banking & Fin Serv Fund(G)	61.99	-1.20	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
HDFC Equity Fund(G)	631.10	-1.29	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
SBI Tax advantage Fund-II(G)	35.10	-1.37	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
DSP Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)	46.68	-1.47	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru NV20 ETF	54.05	-1.48	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru Value Fund-13(D)	10.00	-1.48	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
SBI Focused Equity Fund-Reg(G)	135.55	-1.56	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Axis Nifty ETF	1136.22	-1.57	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Axis Long Term Equity Fund(G)	44.46	-1.61	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Franklin India Focused Equity Fund(G)	38.66	-1.61	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
IDFC Nifty ETF	114.15	-1.64	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
HDFC Nifty 50 ETF	1156.95	-1.70	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
UTI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)	72.39	-1.89	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
IDFC Nifty Fund-Reg(G)	22.92	-1.95	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
HDFC Index Fund-NIFTY 50 Plan(G)	100.85	-2.07	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Kotak Standard Multicap Fund(G)	34.00	-2.08	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Tata Index Fund-Nifty Plan(G)	66.96	-2.10	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Franklin India Technology	156.00	-2.14	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Kotak Infra & Eco Reform Fund(G)	18.92	-5.85	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
UTI Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)	57.52	-9.32	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
SBI Magnum Global Fund-Reg(G)	158.93	-9.33	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Motilal Oswal Long Term Equity Fund-Reg(G)	16.37	-9.40	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Franklin India Equity Advantage Fund(G)	73.87	-9.42	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Tata Equity P/E Fund(G)	127.71	-9.43	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
UTI Focused Equity Fund-IV(G)	8.98	-9.44	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Principal Personal Tax saver Fund	180.23	-9.61	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Principal Dividend Yield Fund(G)	49.07	-9.66	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
SBI Equity Opp Fund-Sr IV-Reg(G)	14.70	-9.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
IDFC Multi Cap Fund-Reg(G)	87.65	-9.70	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru Midcap Fund(G)	88.10	-9.71	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Franklin India Equity Fund(G)	543.86	-9.71	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
SBI PSU Fund-Reg(G)	9.49	-9.72	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Sundaram LT Tax Adv Fund-Sr I-Reg(G)	12.56	-9.74	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
UTI Banking and Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	92.44	-9.83	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
UTI Equity Fund-Reg(G)	133.48	-9.83	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru Value Discovery Fund(G)	134.95	-9.87	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
IDFC Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)	41.47	-10.02	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
UTI Focused Equity Fund-II(G)	12.44	-10.03	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Reliance Capital Builder Fund-IV-A(G)	9.19	-10.15	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Aditya Birla SL MNC Fund(G)	699.35	-10.15	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
IDFC Tax Adv(ELSS)	51.18	-10.30	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru LT Wealth Enhancement Fund(G)	10.06	-10.31	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
IDBI Focused 30 Equity Fund-Reg(G)	4.28	-10.38	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Sundaram Diversified Equity(G)	93.82	-10.38	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
L&T India Value Fund-Reg(G)	33.25	-10.39	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
DSP Equal Nifty 50 Fund-Reg(G)	9.16	-10.52	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Aditya Birla SL Tax Relief '96(ELSS U/S 80C of IT ACT)(G)	28.96	-10.53	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Aditya Birla SL Tax Relief '96(G)	28.96	-10.53	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
L&T Tax Adv Fund-Reg(G)	50.84	-10.56	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
UTI-Nifty Next 50 ETF	266.24	-10.83	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Canara Rob Emerg Equities Fund-Reg(G)	86.11	-10.84	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Axis Emerging Opp Fund-I-Reg(G)	11.45	-10.89	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru Value Fund-8(D)	9.71	-10.92	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Sundaram TOP 100-Sr VI-Reg(G)	11.71	-10.97	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Sundaram Rural and Consumption Fund(G)	38.28	-10.99	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
SBI Healthcare Opp Fund-Reg(G)	107.94	-11.17	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Sundaram TOP 100-Sr VII-Reg(G)	11.49	-11.28	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
L&T Emerging Opp Fund-II-Reg(D)	8.95	-11.29	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India Fund-5-Reg(G)	8.88	-11.38	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru R.I.G.H.T Fund(G)	39.14	-11.39	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
HDFC Capital Builder Value Fund(G)	267.84	-11.40	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Sundaram Smart NIFTY 100 Eq Weight Fund-Reg(G)	10.85	-11.45	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
IDBI Nifty Junior Index Fund(G)	19.64	-11.54	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
L&T Large and Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	43.75	-11.61	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Sundaram Value Fund-Reg(G)	9.87	-11.64	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Sundaram Value Fund-III-Reg(G)	23.04	-11.71	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru Nifty Next 50 Index Fund(G)	9.25	-11.77	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
UTI Nifty Next 50 Index Fund-Reg(G)	10.98	-11.81	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Axis Emerging Opp Fund-2-Reg(G)	44.76	-11.87	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Invesco India Midcap Fund(G)	44.76	-11.87	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
SBI Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)	48.35	-11.95	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Sundaram Value Fund-IX-Reg(G)	8.29	-12.00	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
UTI Focused Equity Fund-VI(G)	9.14	-12.30	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	13.21	-3.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)
Principal Nifty 100						

# Govt plans debt waiver for small borrowers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government plans to give debt waiver for "small distressed borrowers" under the insolvency law framework, according to a senior official. The proposed waiver would be offered as part of "Fresh Start" provisions under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Corporate Affairs Secretary Jitendra Prasad said discussions have been held with the micro-finance industry regarding criteria for the proposed waiver for small distressed borrowers from the economically weaker section (EWS).

He emphasised that the waiver — as part of individual insolvency — would be for the most distressed within the EWS.

"If you have once availed

the fresh start, then you cannot avail it again for five years. We have worked out all safeguards to the satisfaction of the micro-finance industry.

"It will like taking haircuts. At a national level, over a three to four years period, it will be not more than ₹10,000 crore," Prasad told PTI in an interview.

As per the IBC, there are various thresholds for "Fresh Start", including that the gross annual income of the debtor does not exceed ₹60,000.

The aggregate value of the debtor's assets should not be more than ₹20,000 and that the aggregate value of the qualifying debts does not exceed ₹35,000. Among others, such a person should not be having an own dwelling unit, irrespective of whether it is encumbered or not, according to the IBC.

"We had discussions with

microfinance industry and their concerns are being duly factored in. The idea is not to destroy the microfinance industry.

"The idea is to give waiver for small distressed borrowers from debt obligations based on a criteria. The criteria has been discussed at length with the microfinance industry," the secretary said.

Further, he said that the IBC provisions pertaining to personal guarantor to corporate debtor would be coming into effect immediately, followed by those related to partnership and proprietorship.

"Then we will look to bring fresh start provision," he added.

The IBC provides the framework to deal with distressed assets through a market-driven and time-bound process.

# PSU banks complete first round of ideation exercise

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State Bank of India and other public sector lenders on Sunday completed the first round of bottom-up ideation exercise for further streamlining the banking sector to help the nation become a USD 5-trillion economy in five years.

The exercise was part of a month-long campaign beginning Saturday on the direction of Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, with the aim to generate suggestions and ideas from the branch level for preparing a road map for the future growth of the banking sector.

The idea is to give waiver for small distressed borrowers from debt obligations based on a criteria. The criteria has been discussed at length with the microfinance industry," the secretary said.

Further, he said that the IBC provisions pertaining to personal guarantor to corporate debtor would be coming into effect immediately, followed by those related to partnership and proprietorship.

"Then we will look to bring fresh start provision," he added.

The IBC provides the framework to deal with distressed assets through a market-driven and time-bound process.

# India's holding of US Govt securities jumps to \$162.7 bn

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India's exposure to the US government securities rose by nearly \$6 billion to \$162.7 billion at the end of June, the highest level in at least two years.

Latest data from the US Treasury Department showed that Japan was the largest holder, with holdings of American government securities worth \$1.122 trillion, followed by Mainland China whose exposure stood at \$1.112 trillion.

Among the major foreign holders of the Treasury securities, India was at the 13th position with holding to the tune of \$162.7 billion. The exposure stood at \$156.9 billion in May and \$155.3 billion in April, according to the data.

India's holding in June was also the highest in at least one year, as per an analysis of the data from June 2018 when it stood at \$147.3 billion.

The substantial rise in exposure also comes at a time when the global economy is grappling with multiple headwinds, including trade war and prospects of slowdown in some emerging markets.

The data showed that the UK was at the third position with holding worth \$341.1 billion, followed by Brazil (\$317.7 billion), Ireland (\$262.1 billion), Switzerland (\$232.9 billion), Luxembourg (\$231 billion), Cayman Islands (\$226.6 billion), Hong Kong (\$215.6 billion), Belgium (\$205.6 billion), Saudi Arabia (\$179.6 billion) and Taiwan (\$175.1 billion).

"Foreign residents increased their holdings of long term US securities in June, net purchases were \$63.8 billion. Net purchases by private foreign investors were \$63.2 billion, while net purchases by foreign official institutions were \$0.5 billion.

So far in August, FPIs have been net sellers for nine out of 10 trading sessions, indicating "extreme negative sentiment", Himanshu Srivastava, senior analyst manager research at Morningstar said.

In July, FPIs had withdrawn a net sum of ₹2,985.88 crore from the Indian capital markets (both equity and debt).

"Prevailing uncertainty over the higher tax on FPIs has negatively impacted foreign investors. They have been exiting Indian equities ever since the higher surcharge, or 'super rich', tax was introduced in the budget announced on July 5th," Srivastava added.

# Business Corner



Punjab National Bank organised its All India Sports and Cultural Event 2019-20 from August 16 to August 18 at the Thyagaraj Stadium, New Delhi. The event was attended by MD and CEO Punjab National Bank Sumit Mehta who also declared the sports and cultural meet 2019-20 Open and Close.



BK Sokhey who was Executive Director (Finance) with NBCC, a Navarna CPSE, has been appointed as Director (Finance) of the Company by the Government of India. An order to this effect has been issued by the Company's Administrative Ministry, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, vide its letter no. O-17034/01/2018-P.S.dtd. the 16/08/2019.



Northern Railway Women's Welfare Association a philanthropic organisation has always been known for the serve it renders towards the Railwaymen and their families. Celebrating the Independence Day in their characteristic way Harinder Kaur, President NRWWO visited the Northern Railway Central Hospital.



The first stage of the bottom-up consultative process designed to generate ideas and review performance of branches and their alignment with national priorities, was conducted at the Circle Office, Delhi-North & West of Oriental Bank of Commerce on 17th and 18th of August, 2019, which was guided by Mukesh Jain-Chairman & Managing Director of the Bank.



Minister of Skill Development Mahendra Nath Pandey presenting certificates to tyre fitters skilled under Saamrath project of Rubber Skill Development Council (RSDC) at Trade Facilitation Center, Varanasi while flagging off mobile skill vans. Seen with him are Anil Rajbhar, Minister Uttar Pradesh Govt and RSDC Chairman, Vinod Simon.

# Expedite claim settlements in flood affected areas, FinMin asks insurers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has asked insurance companies to expedite the claim settlement process for policyholders affected by floods in different states, including Karnataka, Maharashtra and Kerala, sources said.

The ministry has asked the insurers to clear claims under various policies including Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana quickly, they added.

Widespread damage to life and property has been reported from different parts of the country as monsoon rains played havoc in several states.

Regulator Irdai in a communication to life insurers said that as a result of the heavy rains and floods, there are reports of loss of human lives and loss of belongings in many



states such as Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat.

"Initiate immediate action to ensure that all reported claims are registered and eligible claims are settled expeditiously," said the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai).

With regard to claims involving loss of life, where difficulty is experienced in obtaining a death certificate due to non-recovery of body, Irdai asked the insurers to follow the process adopted during the 2015 Chennai floods.

They have also been asked to update Irdai about state-wise

progress report on the claims settled on a weekly basis.

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana claims data need to be submitted separately while including the same in total claims, it added.

The Irdai has also asked general insurance companies and standalone health insurers to expedite claim settlements.

The insurers have been told to ensure that all claims are surveyed immediately and claim payments are disbursed at the earliest. They have also been asked to engage adequate number of surveyors in the affected areas.

# Govt to clarify on applicability of FDI policy on digital media: Sources

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

On in the proposal, Deloitte Partner Jehil Thakkar said that this is a great move by the government as it would help media companies to raise additional capital for their digital media segment.

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

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

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

FDI in India dipped 1 per cent to \$44.36 billion in 2018-19. Last year, the government had relaxed FDI rules for several sectors, including single-brand retail, non-banking financial companies and construction. Foreign investments are considered crucial for India, which needs billions of dollars for overhauling its infrastructure sector such as ports, airports and highways to boost growth.

# FPIs pull out ₹8,319 cr in Aug amid persisting negative sentiment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign investors pulled out ₹8,319 crore on a net basis from capital markets in the first half of August, continuing their selling spree in the Indian market amid uncertainty over FPI tax and global trade worries.

According to the depository data, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) sold equities worth ₹10,416.25 crore on a net basis during August 1-16 period. FPIs, however, invested a net ₹2,096.38 crore in the debt securities during the period.

So far in August, FPIs have been net sellers for nine out of 10 trading sessions, indicating "extreme negative sentiment", Himanshu Srivastava, senior analyst manager research at Morningstar said.

In July, FPIs had withdrawn a net sum of ₹2,985.88 crore from the Indian capital markets (both equity and debt).

"Prevailing uncertainty over the higher tax on FPIs has negatively impacted foreign investors. They have been exiting Indian equities ever since the higher surcharge, or 'super rich', tax was introduced in the budget announced on July 5th," Srivastava added.

# Ordnance Factories' representatives meet Gol officials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Representatives of the three recognised defence federations met with officials of the Govt. of India, in meetings chaired by the Additional Secretary (DP) on the 14th and 16th of August regarding the one-month strike call to oppose the proposed corporatisation of the Ordnance Factories. During the meeting it was explained that corporatisation would give the organisation greater autonomy in decision making; increased flexibility in day to day operations which would in turn lead to improved efficiencies and productivity.

The federations, however, were not satisfied with the views expressed and remained firm on their proposal to proceed on a one-month long strike commencing from the 20th of August.

The Director General Ordnance Factories and Chairman Ordnance Factory Board, Saurabh Kumar, IOPB reiterated that there was no plan on the part of the Govt. to privatise the Ordnance Factories.

# Hyundai announces 'No Production Days' to suit market conditions

PTI ■ CHENNAI

A Hyundai Motor India spokesperson told PTI, the domestic auto industry was going through "unprecedented times of fluctuating market demands".

"Specific segments are indeed performing really well — the long waiting period for the newly-launched (Hyundai Venue and (electric vehicle) Kona and the successful pre-bookings figures of similar models in other brands is testament to this," a statement from the spokesperson said.

The company said it has been working on multiple strategies like "tweaking production cycles, initiating new internal projects in this scenario."

"Our flexible manufacturing process is completely aligned to the market pull and is capable of seamlessly handling the varying market requirements. The specific variances of market have been incorporated in the company's business and operational plan, streamlining production schedules accordingly. Both the company's plants were operating smoothly as per the plans," the statement said.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Kolkata on 16 August 2019.

The MoU was signed by Umesh Singh, Deputy Director General of OFB and Dr Harish Hirani, Director of the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur under CSIR.

This MoU is an umbrella arrangement under which individual factories under OFB can collaborate with specific CSIR laboratories for taking up of new R & D projects. The MoU will facilitate collaboration and exchange of information between OFB and CSIR on a wide range of technologies.

The MoU has been signed as part of the ongoing efforts to boost the in-house research and development (R & D) capability of the OFB so as to give a boost to the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government of India.

# OFB signs MoU with CSIR for development of new products

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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# ONGC adopts new 'Energy Strategy 2040', targets doubling of oil, gas production

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

The 'Energy Strategy 2040' entails ONGC achieving "three times revenue distributed across exploration, production, refining, marketing and other businesses; four times current profit-after-tax (PAT), with 10 per cent contribution from non-oil and gas business; and 5-6 times current market capitalisation," he said.

"The strategic roadmap envisions a future-ready organization whose growth is predicated on a few important planks: consolidation of our core upstream business (domestic and international); expansion into value-adding activities in the oil and gas value chain (downstream and petrochemicals) and diversification into renewables (offshore wind) and select new frontier plays through dedicated venture fund," it said.

The document targets

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

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

Besides, ONGC plans to make investments in renewables energy sources with a target to create 5-10 gigawatts portfolio with a focus on offshore wind power. ONGC has been under pressure to reverse the falling output from its aging fields, where natural decline has set in. It is investing heavily to arrest the domestic fall while at the same time aggressively look for assets overseas.

"The strategic roadmap also looks to create long term optionality through investor play (venture fund corpus of about \$1 billion) in select frontier themes such as clean energy, artificial intelligence (AI) or reservoir/field services technology," it said.

# Lonza India announces plan to double its turnover by 2024

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lonza India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Switzerland-based integrated solutions provider for pharma and consumer healthcare, announced its India plan. India being a strategic market for the company, Lonza India with turnover for around 100 million CHF (Swiss Franc) has set the target of doubling its turnover by 2024 with an estimated growth of 15+ per cent.

Lonza India, which offers product portfolio in India and covers an entire life sciences industry has taken up an aggressive expansion plan by announcing corporate offices across the country in the current financial year. The company aims to facilitate bilateral businesses and scientific partnerships with Switzerland, has built a wide network of representations across India.

Lonza started its operations in India in 1997 as a liaison office. The office was involved mainly in sourcing advanced intermediates from India. Lonza came in as a full-fledged sales and commercial organization with the acquisition of Cambrex Bio Products in 2007.

# 100,000 hit streets as protests continue to roil HK

IAN S ■ HONG KONG

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

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

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

Though the authorities didn't grant permission to



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

"I was a fighter, said, "We have been protesting for more than two months, but there has been no government response. We could just come out again and again."

Activists and the police have clashed over the past 10 weeks with the security forces frequently firing tear gas and rubber bullets, but this weekend's rallies have been peaceful.

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

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

Last weekend, activists occupied the airport, leading to cancellation of hundreds of flights.

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

Mass protests erupted in June over the Hong Kong Government's now-shelved extradition bill, the South China Morning Post reported.

The administration dropped the draft legislation on June 15 and city leader Carrie Lam later declared it dead.

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

## GLOBE TROTTER

**PAK WON'T RESUME SAMJHUTA, THAR TRAINS**  
**Islamabad:** Pakistan's Ministry of Railways has rejected a request by an Indian counterpart to restore operations of the Samjhauta and the Thar Express trains, which were suspended last week in the wake of New Delhi's move to revoke Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, a media report said on Sunday.

**6 INJURED, 13 HELD IN US PROTESTS**  
**Washington:** At least six people were injured and 13 others arrested during far-right and counter-protests in the US city of Portland, police said.

**FB CONTRACTOR FORCED THERAPISTS TO LEAK INFO**  
**San Francisco:** Facebook is facing flak from moderators who have alleged that a contractor from a social networking giant pressured counsellors to break agreements by leaking discussions with employees.

**FOOTBALL RIOT LEAVES 3 DEAD IN HONDURAS**  
**New York:** At least three people were killed and 10 injured in a clash between fans of rival football clubs in Honduras, reports said on Sunday. The violence in Tegucigalpa, the capital of the Central American country, broke out on Saturday evening ahead of a game between Motagua and Olimpia after stones were thrown on the Motagua team bus, injuring three players, the BBC reported.

**I WILL RUN GOV FOR FULL TERM: NEPAL PM**  
**Kathmandu:** Nepal Prime Minister P Sharan Oli on Sunday said he will continue for full five-year term and warned his detractors not to "day dream about toppling" his government. His statement came days before the completion of his two-and-a-half-year term at the office.

**PAK 5 KILLED IN REMOTE-CONTROLLED BLAST**  
**Peshawar:** Five persons were killed and six others were injured in a remote-controlled blast in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Sunday, police said. Unidentified miscreants targeted the double-decker vehicle of a local police commander head in the mountainous Upper Dir district, police said. While five persons died, the six injured were shifted to a district headquarter hospital.

## 63 killed in Kabul blast, ISIS owns responsibility

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

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

Earlier, the Taliban, in a statement, rejected any involvement in the Saturday night attack, saying that they condemned incidents which target women and children.

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

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

Sources and witnesses said

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

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

## Pak approaches FB, Twitter over suspension of accounts on Kashmir

IAN S ■ ISLAMABAD

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

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

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

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

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

## UK PM to tell EU leaders to renegotiate Brexit deal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- \* Fresh food becoming less available and prices rising.
- \* A hard Irish border after plans to avoid checks fail, sparking protests.
- \* Fuel becoming less available and 2,000 jobs being lost if the government sets petrol import tariffs to 0 per cent, potentially causing two oil refineries to close.
- \* UK patients having to wait longer for medicines, including insulin and flu vaccines.
- \* A rise in public disorder and community tensions resulting from a shortage of food and drugs.
- \* Passengers being delayed at EU airports, Eurotunnel and Dover.
- \* Freight disruption of ports lasting up to three months, caused by customs checks, before traffic flow improves to 50-70 per cent of the current rate.
- \* The Downing Street source told the BBC the leaked document "is from when ministers were blocking what needed to be done to get ready to leave and the funds were not available."
- \* Michael Gove, who is responsible for overseeing the Brexit, said in a tweet that Operation Yellowhammer was "a worst case scenario".
- \* "V significant steps have been taken in the last 3 weeks to accelerate Brexit planning," he added.
- \* Energy Minister Kwasi

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## Iceland commemorates 1st glacier lost to climate change

AFP ■ REYKJAVIK

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

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

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

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

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

## 3 Palestinians killed by Israeli troops at Gaza border

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

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

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

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

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The army said two of the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Sunday Times pub-

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

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

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

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

At least 250 firefighters,



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

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

The island suffered another ravaging fire last week.

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

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

## French waiter shot dead over 'slow service'

AFP ■ DHAKA

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 50,000 people homeless after fire razes Bangladesh slum

**AFP ■ DHAKA**

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

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

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

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

Many residents -- largely low-income garment factory workers -- were not in the slum as they had left their homes to celebrate the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday with their families.

Otherwise, the damage would have been bigger, local police chief Golam Rabhani said.

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

## Lankan presidential hopeful claims threat to his life: Report

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

Gotabaya, 70, the brother of former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, complained to Sri Lankan intelligence officials that his intelligence officers have informed him that there is an attempt to use a sniper rifle and a special type of gun imported from Malaysia for this attack.

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

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

**PTI ■ KATHMANDU**

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

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

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

The accused have been identified as Sabita Devi, Poshila Danuwar, Indra Devi Sujan Danuwar, Sukeshwori Devi and Rajeshree Anuwar, Superintendent of Police Shyam Krishna Adhikari said.

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

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

## Libyan navy says 335 migrants rescued

AFP ■ TRIPOLI

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

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

spokesman General Ayoub Kacem told AFP.

He said they were from Ethiopia and Egypt.

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

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

Sabratna, located 70 kilometres west of the capital.

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

One body was also recovered to the coastguard, Libya, which has been wracked by chaos since the 2011 uprising that killed dictator Moamer Kadafi, has long been a major transit route for migrants, especially from sub-Saharan Africa.

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

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

On August 9, the Libyan

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

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

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# IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE

Anganwadis focus on hygiene to tackle some of the diseases that were rampant among the tribals of Amravati. By SATISH DESHPANDE

Melghat is a green heaven in eastern Maharashtra. It has been declared a tiger reserve in Amravati district and its general landscape showcases hills and ravines dotted with jagged cliffs and steep climbs. Blessed with abundant flora and fauna, it feels heavenly to live here. And yet, the reality is far from idyllic.

Although its natives live close to nature, the rural residents of Melghat's Chikhaldara block are familiar with diseases like dysentery, anaemia and malnutrition. Generations of Korku women — nearly 80 per cent of the inhabitants belong to the Korku tribe — have been caught in the vicious cycle of child marriage, early pregnancy and caring for malnourished children. Fortunately, the APJ Abdul Kalam Amrut Yojna, initiated in December 2015, took a step towards breaking this cycle of distress and inter-generational malnutrition.

At Jaitadehi village, anganwadi worker (AWW) Sunita Meshram has spent the last couple of years meticulously executing the Amrut Yojana scheme among the Korku women who fall under the aegis of her anganwadi. Under this scheme, every tribal woman in her third trimester of pregnancy is entitled to a free and nutritious meal every day, which continues for three months after delivery so that the newborn is healthy. The menu consists of *bhakra/roti*, rice, pulses, green vegetables, jaggery, groundnut laddoos, boiled eggs/*banana/nachi halwa* and soy milk.

Initially, Meshram used to prepare the protein-rich meal and asked pregnant women and lactating mothers in the village to come to the anganwadi to have the meal. "But soon I realised neither did they understand why I wanted



them to visit the aganwadi to eat the nutritious food but often times, they were simply unable to come to us," she says. So she changed her approach. Not only did she explain to them the nutritional value of the meal she had made for them in their own dialect, she also decided to go into their homes and ensured that they had the food.

"If it is difficult for them to visit the anganwadi, we take the meal to their house and I make sure that they eat it in my presence. The meal includes *sabi-roti*, *dal-chawal*, groundnut laddoo, cucumber, lemon and an egg. Nowadays,

"WE HAVE CREATED A SIMPLE DEVICE TO AID IN HAND-WASHING. A TIN WITH APPROXIMATELY FIVE-LITRE CAPACITY, WHICH IS FASTENED WITH A ROPE, IS FIXED AT A HEIGHT OF AROUND FOUR FEET. THE OTHER END OF THE ROPE IS HUNG LOOSE. THE TIN IS FILLED WITH WATER. WHEN THE LOOSE END OF THE ROPE IS PULLED, THE TIN TILTS AND THE WATER POURS OUT. WHEN THE ROPE IS RELEASED, THE TIN STRAIGHTENS"



we typically have around 12 to 20 women visiting the anganwadi for this meal. Our constant engagement, particularly the home visits, is fetching us great results," she adds.

Sanjay Durve, Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Chikhaldara block, says, "Our quantitative data reveals that the percentage of low birth weight has come down from 29-32 per cent to 12-15 per cent. This is a great achievement and the best part is that it has improved the quality of life of tribal mothers. Apart from making the meals under the scheme, AWWs like Meshram are also keeping a record of the weight and immunisation schedule of the infants."

What do the tribal women in Jaitadehi think about Meshram's work? They would break into a smile. Once shy and quiet, they reveal that they have been able to come out of their shell, thanks to the inclusive approach of the AWWs. Pooja Korku, 20, a new mother Rita Korku, soon to be mother, 19, visit the anganwadi daily to have their specially prepared meal. They say, "She speaks to us in our language which makes it easier to comprehend everything. We appreciate her effort. Tai has explained that the meal provides the mother and the child with balanced nutrition. The laddoo and egg gives us adequate protein and energy."

Clearly, communicating with them in their own language puts them at ease and has made the otherwise conservative tribals more receptive to Meshram's involvement. This approach is being used to drive home the message of hygiene and hand-washing among children in the area as well.

In Chikhaldara block's Jamli village, a partnership between the local anganwadi and health sub-centre has yielded a remarkable

innovation that is changing the way children wash their hands. Not used to washing up after their daily ablutions or even before having meals, they commonly suffered from gastro-intestinal ailments. Repeated bouts of dysentery resulted in severe weight loss and anaemia. The government health workers put their minds together and developed the tin hand-wash fountain. "We have created a simple device to aid in hand-washing. A tin with approximately five-litre capacity, which is fastened with a rope, is fixed at a height of around four feet on a tree or to a pole. The other end of the rope is hung loose. The tin is filled with water. When the loose end of the rope is pulled, the tin tilts and the water pours out. When the rope is released, the tin straightens," explains Kirit Khanna, anganwadi supervisor, Jamli and Dr Ankush Mankar, medical officer, Jamli health sub-centre.

CDPO Durve says, "We speak to the community in their Korku dialect telling them about the need for hand-washing. We have been conducting hand-washing demos in villages and this strategy has helped in publicising the concept. In the anganwadis, the children make it a point to wash their hands before having their meal."

During the Poshan Pakhwada held earlier in the year by health workers, interactive sessions about hand-washing were conducted. These demonstrations received a positive response from tribals; the households have already installed the tin hand-wash fountain. "Anganwadi workers have been visiting homes talking to people about the device. They are asking mothers to attend the sessions at anganwadis. I'm glad that the villagers have participated wholeheartedly in this development," Durve says.

—Charitra Features

Parenting is an art that involves many aspects with which parents can help the kids learn, grow and evolve as a better individual. According to experts, an important part of this process involves nurturing the kids with proper concentration power. It not only makes them sharp but also develops a disciplined lifestyle that is inevitable. Here are some tips that are effective in improving concentration power in kids.

## The game of focussing

PANKAJ KUMAR SINGH suggests ways in which parents can help increase concentration power in kids



**Understand the child's need**  
Every child is different and his/her grasping power is unique. It's the duty of parents to understand the needs and process accordingly. Some children process information easily when they see it, some are good at hearing and understanding, and some need practical knowledge of the subject. It is important to understand which category your child falls under, mostly because this will help them understand information better and the learning will be more long term than short term.

**Healthy and green food**  
Eating healthy food has a direct link to how well a child concentrates and there are different foods that help increase a child's concentration. Eating junk food or food rich in sugar makes a child sluggish while food rich in proteins such as almonds, eggs and lean meat has the ability to raise awareness and increase concentration levels! An interesting study at the University of Ulster, UK shows that eating toast and baked beans for breakfast increases cognition. Experts say that eating greens and fruits inject the body with antioxidants which in turn boost your brain power.

**Offer a distraction-free environment**  
It is important to have a study room in the house or a corner, where a child can sit in peace and concentrate while studying. While some children require soothing and calming environment, others thrive in an environment that has a lot of hustle and bustle. Understanding what kind of environment your child prefers to study is the first

step to increase the concentration level in him/her.

**Play focus game**  
Parents should make it a habit of playing with kids every evening and involve some sort of focus games that will improve attention and concentration power. Also, studies have shown that gadgets actually reduce attention span and memory power of children, so they should be used sparingly or not at all.

**Discipline and routine in life**  
Maintaining a disciplined life is difficult but not impossible. Developing this skill at an

early age in kids help them build concentration power and lead a healthy lifestyle. This also helps with time management program the child's brain to know when he has to study and play.

**Proper breaks and sleep**  
It is important to understand that the body needs rest to be active again. It has been proven that most children are able to concentrate best after a good rest. A power nap for twenty minutes after school or in the afternoon should also do the trick to increase concentration.

(The author is the managing director of Cambridge Montessori Pre-School.)

## The antagonistic human mind

Faults in our morality and actions lead to suffering and natural calamities. And it's time that we realise this direct connection between catastrophes and human psyche, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

There are a few common things between the incessant rainfall in Mumbai and a potential war between the US and Iran after its drone was shot down by the Iranian forces. While the former was a result of the 'fury' of the nature and was caused by some geological faults, whereas the latter was the 'fury' of antagonistic human minds, which was caused by the faults in the human psyche and character. In Mumbai, the movement of clouds led to heavy showers, which, in turn, led to destruction and devastation of property and habitats. In the latter case, the rough and rugged motives, deep in the minds of men, led to clashes. And in both the cases, the forces — geological and psychological or political — became active due to certain gaps. In the first example, the outbursts were in a flood-prone area and in the latter, in the anger and hatred-prone human minds.



natural catastrophes are more devastating than the man-made ones. History is evidence that man-made calamities could lead to death and destruction on a gigantic scale. World War II is one of the major examples, which was caused mainly by the faults in the personality of a dictator and his coterie, which was enough to illustrate what a massive destruction the eruption of volcanoes in human minds can lead to. But one might wonder



as to whether there is any link between the human mind and natural calamities? Can the faults in the characters of humans lead to a catastrophe?

If we seek answer to the first question on the basis of the philosophy of karma, the answer would be positive because as per the philosophy, there shouldn't be any sufferings without faults in our moral structure. The anger and actions of the rich and the powerful may destroy the habitats of those in the remote areas. World has seen many such examples of devastation as a consequence of intense enmity and hatred between two different nations.

Furthermore, the two events might be connected. Faults in human minds and actions could lead to a natural calamity too as it's after all, man-made industrialisation that has led to a destruction and an upheaval in the natural ecosystem. Also, those who are not affected by these tremors may also be partly instrumental as, for example, people of a superpower nation are instrumental indirectly for the immense suffering inflicted on a developing nation. But even if many people find it hard to believe that there are such connections, there should be no hurdle in believing that 'faults' and fissures in human morality do lead to sufferings.

Don't be pushed around by the fears in your mind. Be led by the dreams in your heart.

—Roy T Bennett

### SLEEP APNEA IN WOMEN UPS RISK OF CANCER

Women with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) appear to be at an elevated risk of getting cancer than men with the condition, warn researchers.

The study, published in the European Respiratory Journal, is based on analyses of registry data, collected in the European database EISA, on a total of some 20,000 adult patients with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). About two per cent of them also had a cancer diagnosis. According to the researchers, advanced age was associated with elevated cancer risk but adjusting the data for age, gender, body mass index (BMI), smoking and alcohol consumption nevertheless showed a possible link between intermittent hypoxia at night and higher cancer prevalence.

The connection appeared mainly to women and was weaker in men. "Our results indicate a cancer risk that is elevated two- to three-fold among women with pronounced sleep apnea," said Ludger Grote, Professor at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden.

### KIDS WITH MILD ASTHMA CAN USE INHALERS

Researchers have found that children with mild asthma can effectively manage the condition by using their two inhalers — one a steroid and the other a bronchodilator — when symptoms occur.

The steroid inhaler lowers inflammation and the bronchodilator, also known as a rescue inhaler, relaxes the airway during an asthma attack to quickly make breathing easier, according to the study published in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. In Practice.

"Patients in the group that used both inhalers as needed used about one-fourth the steroid dose of the group that inhaled a prescribed daily amount. We also were pleased to see that the patients and families felt that they had more ownership over their asthma management when practicing as-needed treatment," said study first author Kaharu Sumino, Associate Professor at the Washington University. The researchers found that this approach reduced the amount of steroid medication the children took monthly by almost 75 per cent.

### NEW CANCER DRUG SHOWS PROMISE IN TRIAL

Researchers have found a new drug for treating pancreatic cancer which showed promising initial results during clinical trial testing.

The trial looked at AZD1775, an inhibitor designed to block an enzyme called Wee1, which plays a role in DNA damage repair. The trial builds on almost 20 years of research focussed on improving the treatment of pancreatic cancer that is too advanced for surgery.

"If we can disable the DNA damage response in pancreatic cancer cells, it might eliminate treatment resistance and sensitize the cancer to the effects of both radiation and chemotherapy," said study lead author Kyle Cuneo, associate professor at the University of Michigan.

Radiation and the chemotherapy drug gemcitabine, which are standard treatment for pancreatic cancer, both work by causing damage to DNA. But pancreatic cancer has a way of repairing that damage, which limits how effective these therapies can be. The researchers found AZD1775 prevents pancreatic cancer from protecting itself against the effects of radiation and gemcitabine, while leaving normal cells relatively unaffected.

### DOCTORS CAN HELP PARENTS TALK ABOUT SEX

Parents and teenagers often find it difficult to talk about sex and alcohol, but a new study suggests that doctors can help.

The randomised clinical study from the University of Pennsylvania in the US evaluated whether interventions targeted at parents in primary care pediatric settings might improve communications between parents and their teenagers about sexual health and alcohol use.

According to the researchers, the study included 118 parents-adolescent pairs, with 38 pairs in a sexual health intervention, 40 pairs in an alcohol prevention intervention, and 40 pairs in a control group for comparison who received usual care. The interventions were selected because in the previous research, they have been shown to encourage teens to wait until they are older to have sex, use protection if they do have sex and reduce alcohol use.

### PEOPLE WITH HIV AT HIGH RISK OF COPD

People living with HIV have a significantly elevated risk of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), coughs, heart disease, pregnancy mortality and sepsis, anaemia and bone fractures, according to a study.

For the study, published in the journal Clinical Infectious Diseases, researchers combined data from 20 separate observational studies and examined 55 different illnesses. They found that people living with HIV are at an increased risk of contracting specific diseases and illnesses, some of which are more commonly associated with ageing.

"By pooling data from different studies, we have been able to show for the first time that even with the rise in life expectancy amongst people living with HIV, this population now seems to be disproportionately affected by chronic illnesses often attributable to lifestyle issues such as smoking, drug and alcohol use," said study researcher Lee Smith from Anglia Ruskin University in the UK.

**Trend**  
*Slazer*

**KJos' wishlist for K2H2 reboot**

**KARAN JOHAR** has no immediate plans to work on a *Kuch Kuch Hot Hai* reboot, but the filmmaker says **Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt and Janhvi Kapoor** are on his wishlist if he decides to bring back the love story.

"Ranveer would play Rahul as he has that mad intensity as SRK. Alia as Anjali. She has the spunk and Janhvi Kapoor as Tina because she has the poise and balance of the part," said Johar, during an audience interaction at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne.

Looking back at the casting process, Karan said, "I was ecstatic to meet SRK. Kajol and he had promised that they would work my first film. It took months to cast for Rani's part after Aditya Chopra recommended her."



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



—Tabu

**Actress SOBHITA DHULIPALA** starrer *Moonth* will be premiered at the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). The action thriller also stars Malayalam actor Nivin Paul.



"The film is part of the special section at TIFF. When I first read the script, I was blown by it. I am glad that it is getting its due after so many years now. I am looking forward to showing this film to people at the festival, interacting with the international press and cinema aficionados." Sobhita, *Made in Heaven*-fame, said.

**'Populism is spreading across'**

Actor **RICHARD GERE** says the movement of populism is spreading all around the world, and he hopes to touch upon the issue with his series *MotherFatherSon*.

In his first television role in the last 30 years, Gere is seen as a charismatic self-made businessman Max, who owns media outlets in London and around the world. The drama series, written by Tom Rob Smith, is a tale of a broken family with deep-rooted issues of politics, conflicts of a country on the brink of change and power.

He said, "It is about a mother, a father and a son and how those relationships function. And this human story which we can all relate to is set against a much larger story about international politics and about the movement of populism which I feel is spreading across."



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

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

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

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

Whereas, Rajit's reasons for joining the cast were different. He says that Nadir is a good friend. "But not just because he's a friend but is also an accomplished

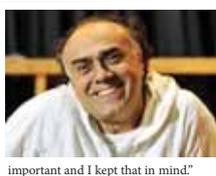
# CAN YOU HANDLE THE TRUTH?

Theatre director **NADIR KHAN** and actor **RAJIT KAPUR** say that their forthcoming venture, *A Few Good Men*, for Aadyam's fifth season, reflects upon what happens when the people in authority are questioned. By **TEAM VIVA**



director. I share a certain equation with him. And when you have that, there happens to be a mutual trust and understanding. So when he said that he couldn't think of anyone else for this role, I juggled my schedules to make it happen," he tells us and laughs.

The cocky, arrogant lawyer Lieutenant Kaffee accuses Colonel Jessup of ordering the killing of a US Marine at Guantanamo Bay. While talking about his character, he says, "It's definitely a challenging part for me since I have never played the role of a military officer before. In the play, Jessup's authority is being questioned. It showcases what happens when somebody in power is being questioned. His personality is quite tough. Well, how else would you describe a guy whose life motto is, 'Walk softly and carry an armoured tank division'. Jessup isn't afraid of anything or anyone and is used to people challenging him. He shouldn't ever have to explain himself, especially to some desk jockey and he never backs down. So the way my character looked at things and made a perspective was very



important and I kept that in mind." Nadir, who has also directed another courtroom drama, *12 Angry Jurors* (also for Aadyam), tells us about his fascination with courtroom dramas. "They always have in store some suspense and mystery. I feel that they are very intriguing and can hold the audience. However, *12 Angry Jurors* is very different than this one. This play is more about the code of morality rather than the lack of justice. It really questions whether one can handle the truth or not and how," says he.

has previously brought to the stage, *\*SinghlaSingh: The Hounds of Barkerville, I Don't Like It*. He says, "Five years in a row with Aadyam is pressure enough. And when you're doing a text as iconic as this one, you better make sure you've got a cracking cast to match Sorkin's superb writing. Thankfully, we've managed to do that."

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

The actor believes that since it's a play, there are not much things to play around with. For instance, the location, He says,

"You don't have the liberty to shoot in real locations, of course. You have to imagine certain things in a play and I think, that is the beauty of it."

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

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

**TECH TALK**

## Take a higher view

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



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

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

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

The Pacific Institute, an environmental group, says the river also irrigates about 700 square miles (1,820 square kilometers) in Mexico. Agriculture uses 57 per cent to 70 per cent of the system's water in the US, researchers say. The problem facing policymakers is how to divert some of that to meet the needs of

growing cities without drying up farms, ranches and the environment.

The researchers' goal is understanding crops, soil and weather so completely that farmers know exactly when and how much to irrigate. "We call it precision agriculture, precision irrigation," said Huihui Zhang, a Department of Agriculture engineer who conducts experiments at the Greeley research farm. "Right amount at the right time at the right location."

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

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

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

"The question then becomes, what's the economic value of the lost

crop versus the economic value of the saved water?" said Bart Fisher, a third-generation farmer and a member of the irrigation district board.

Blaire Carian, who grows grapes, lemons and dates in Coachella, California, already uses deficit irrigation. He said withholding water at key times improves the flavour of his grapes by speeding up the production of sugar.

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

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

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

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

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

Drone-mounted cameras and yield monitors — which measure the density of crops like corn and wheat as they pass through harvesting equipment — can show a farmer which land is productive and which is not, said Ed Martin, a professor and extension specialist at the University of Arizona.

"If we're going to take stuff out of production because we don't have enough water, I think these technologies could help identify which ones you should be taking out," Martin said.

Each technology has benefits and limits, said Kendall DeJonge, another Agriculture Department engineer who does research at the Greeley farm.

Soil moisture monitors measure a single point, but a farm has a range of conditions and soil types. Infrared images can spot thirsty crops, but only after they need water. Agricultural weather stations provide a wealth of data on the recent past, but they can't predict the future.

"All of these things are tools in the toolbox," DeJonge said. "None of them are a silver bullet." —AP

**WEBBED**



**AMERICAN FACTORY**

In this documentary, hopes soar when a Chinese company reopens a shuttered factory in Ohio. But a culture clash threatens to shatter an American dream. The film release on Netflix on August 21.



**13 COMMANDMENTS**

In Belgium, a tough detective teams up with a damaged elite cop to hunt a 10 commandments-inspired vigilante with a penchant for theatrical torture. Starring Dirk Van Dijk, Marie Vinck, Karlijn Sileghem, the thriller will be released on Netflix on August 30.

**THE A LIST**

Romance, rivalry and radical mystery collide as a group of teens attend a remote island seepaway camp in this suspenseful and supernatural drama. Starring Lisa Ambalavanar, Ellie Duckles, Savannah Baker, the series releases on Netflix on August 30.



# Chase for Gold

Sindhu, Saina chase elusive yellow metal at Basel World Championships

PTI ■ BASEL

India's double Silver medalist P V Sindhu will look to produce another masterclass when she resumes her quest for an elusive Gold at the BWF World Championships beginning here from today.

Sindhu has been the most consistent performer in the World Championships in the last few years with two back-to-back Silver and as many Bronze medals but a Gold medal has so far eluded her.

The 24-year-old Indian ace has always managed to find her best form in the World Championships, producing stellar performances but she missed the trick in the summit clash twice. While she lost to Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in an epic battle, lasting 110 minutes in the 2017 edition, Olympic champion Carolina Marin of Spain stopped her in the summit clash in 2018.

Sindhu, who is seeded fifth, is coming into the prestigious event with a runner-up finish at the Indonesia Open last month and has been working on her fitness and defence in her pursuit to outlast her opponents.

She received a bye in the first round and will open her campaign against either Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po or Bulgaria's Linda Zetchiri.

"I've been working on my defence, physical fitness and also on-court skills. I have trained hard and I hope I can do well. I have to perform well but there is no pressure," Sindhu said.

If she wins her first match, Sindhu is likely to meet Beichen Zhang of USA



Saina Nadal prepares to return a shot during her match

BWF/File Picture



Pusarla Venkata Sindhu falls on the court in attempt to make no look return

BWF/File Picture

**SINDHU HAS BEEN THE MOST CONSISTENT PERFORMER IN THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THE LAST FEW YEARS WITH TWO BACK-TO-BACK SILVER AND AS MANY BRONZE MEDALS BUT A GOLD MEDAL HAS SO FAR ELUDED HER**

in the third round and is expected to face Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying in the quarterfinals.

If everything falls into place, then Sindhu may collide with compatriot Saina Nehwal in the semifinals, provided the former world number 1 too crosses the initial rounds.

Eighth-seeded Saina, who boasts of a Silver and Bronze medal in the World Championships, will take on the winner of the match between Switzerland's Sabrina Jaquet and Netherlands's Soraya De Vries Eijbergen in the second round after getting a bye. She is likely to face Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark next

Saina's likely opponents in the quarterfinals will be China's Chen Yu Fei, who had clinched the All England Championship earlier in the year.

In the men's singles, former world number 1 Kidambi Srikanth, who had reached the India Open finals in March, will look to put up a good show after recovering from a knee problem which he suffered ahead of the Sudirman Cup.

The seventh seeded Indian, who has gone without a title in the BWF World Tour for the last 22 months, will open against Nhat Nguyen of Ireland in a repeat of the opening clash of the 2018 edition.

Sameer Verma, who also was both by a shoulder issue, is in the same half as Srikanth and will open against Loh Kean Yew of Singapore.

The 10th seeded shuttler will face a tough challenge against second seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei in the prequarterfinals if he clears the earlier rounds.

Swiss Open finalist B Sai Praneth will face Canada's Jason Anthony Ho-Shue in the opening round, while H S Prannoy's first-round opponent will be Finland's Eetu Heino.

In the doubles, Indian pairs of Manu Attri and B Sumesh Reddy, MR Arjun and Ramchandran Shlok and Arun George and Anand Shukla will also be in the fray.

In the women's doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy, Jakkampudi Meghana and Poorvisha S Ram and Pooja Dandu and Sanjana Santosh will also look for a good outing.

The mixed doubles pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Sikki too will look to go deep in the tournament when they begin against the English pair of Ben Lane and Jessica Pugh.

# Djoker dumped in Cincy semis

AFP ■ CINCINNATI

World number one Novak Djokovic wilted under pressure from Daniil Medvedev, falling 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to the ninth-seeded Russian in the Cincinnati Masters semifinals.

Medvedev's upset win on Saturday sent him into a title showdown with another unexpected finalist, 16th-seeded Belgian David Goffin, who defeated France's Richard Gasquet 6-3, 6-4 to reach his first ATP Masters 1000 final.

"I don't know how I turned it around, I was so tired after the first set and I thought I might not be able to keep up the intensity," said Medvedev, who has competed in 15 hardcourt matches since July 30.

"But I had a momentum change in the second set and the crowd gave me energy," added the Russian, who will be playing his second Masters series final in eight days, after falling to Rafael Nadal in Montreal last Sunday.

"It's a great feeling to win and beat the number one. That shows I deserve to be in this final."

"I played an unbelievable match, I'm very happy," Medvedev also beat Djokovic in their last meeting, on clay at Monte Carlo in April.

He's 1-1 against Goffin, with both of their matches played this season at the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

Kuznetsov, a two-time Grand Slam champion who sent Barty packing, will be in search of her 19th WTA title — when she takes on Madison Keys in the final.

Keys, the 2017 US Open runner-up, defeated compatriot Sofia Kenin 7-5, 6-4.

"I'm super-happy to be in my first final here. I love getting into matches under my belt before a Grand Slam."



US OPEN



India, Aussie player battle for ball possession HI/Twitter

# India, Australia play 2-2 draw

PTI ■ TOKYO

The Indian women's hockey team came back twice from a goal deficit to hold world number 2 side Australia 2-2 in a hard-fought round-robin league match of the Olympic Test Event here on Sunday.

Vandana Kataria (36th) and Gurjit Kaur (59th) scored for India to cancel out strikes from Kaitlin Nobbs (14th) and Grace Stewart (43rd) in their second match of the tournament. India had beaten hosts Japan 2-1 in their first match on Saturday.

World number 10 India began the match aggressively, matching Australia's attacking hockey with their own brand.

And in the 14th minute, Nobbs made no mistake in converting from the spot to give Australia a 1-0 advantage.

India struck on the break as Vandana Kataria finished off a superb move to equalise in the 36th minute. But the lead did not last long as Australia started to look for their second goal.

It was in the 43rd minute that Australia found their second goal through some exquisite team work, which saw Grace Stewart also registering her name on the score-sheet to give Australia a 2-1 lead.

With moves breaking down, and chances going waste, it looked like Australia would hold onto their 2-1 lead, but with just a couple of minutes remaining on the clock, India won a crucial penalty corner in the 59th minute.

And, prolific drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur stepped up and struck a sweet blow into the back of the net to earn India a well-deserved draw.

The Indian women's team will face China on Tuesday in their third and last round-robin match of the tournament.

Meanwhile in the men's game, India squandered an early lead to go down fighting 1-2 to New Zealand in their second match.

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh put India ahead in the second minute by converting a Penalty Corner, but New Zealand struck back in the last quarter through two well-crafted field goals — Jacob Smith (47') and Sam Lane (60') to have the last laugh.

India had made an impressive start to the tournament, thrashing Malaysia 6-0 in their opening match but the second-match defeat means they are currently sitting at the second spot in the points table with one match to go.

India will face hosts Japan on Tuesday.

# HIMA WINS GOLD IN CZECH

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Top Indian sprinters Hima Das and Mohammad Anas won a Gold each in women's and men's 300m races respectively at the Athletický Mitink Reiter event in Czech Republic on Saturday.

This was Hima's sixth Gold in European races since July 2 though the field in most of them has been mediocre. Her last win was on July 20 when she clinched a Gold in her 400m event at Nové Mesto in Czech Republic.

"Finished on the top in 300 m in the Athletický Mitink Reiter 2019 today in Czech Republic," Hima tweeted after winning the race.

Anas, on the other hand, won the men's 300m race in 32.41 seconds.

"Glad to have won the Gold in men's 300m at the Athletický Mitink Reiter 2019 in Czech Republic in a timing of 32.41 secs," he tweeted.

National record holder Mohammad Anas has already qualified for 400m event for the World Championships to be held in Doha in September-October while Hima is yet to achieve make it to the Qatar.



Hima Das, center poses for photo after win Hima/Twitter

# VAR comes again to rescue Spurs

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

"I am in love with VAR," joked Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino after his side escaped with a 2-2 draw at Manchester City thanks to Gabriel Jesus's late winner for the Premier League champions being ruled out on review.

Yet, the scoreline masked the fact that Spurs, despite reaching the Champions League final last season and breaking the club's transfer record for French midfielder Tanguy Ndombé, still look well off potential challengers to City's throne as champions.

Mauricio Pochettino's men finished 27 points behind City last season, on Saturday 27 was the difference in the shot count as Tottenham mustered three to the hosts' 30.

City will bemoan their luck and lacklustre defending that allowed Erik Lamela and Lucas Moura to cancel out goals from Raheem Sterling and Sergio Agüero with Spurs' only two efforts on target.

"However, there was no evidence in the performance of slipping standards after winning the first domestic treble of trophies English football had ever seen last season."



Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino chats with Pep Guardiola after PL match AP

"When the people say 'you can do better, better than this time together, it was so good. We don't know if it is possible' said played good, but we could not a proud City manager Pep Guardiola.

"We played incredible. The way we won't have regrets and that

is the most important thing." City were pushed all the way last season by a Liverpool side who recorded the third highest points tally in English football history with 97 and yet still could not topple Guardiola's men for the title.

The European champions have started the Premier League season with two wins to take an early two-point lead over the champions and are clearly the most likely challengers to prevent City a hat-trick of titles.

However, if anything Guardiola's men look stronger last season with Kevin de Bruyne restored to full fitness, while Spanish international Rodri was slotted seamlessly into midfield.

"We have to be proud because to play at this level against a team like Tottenham is really good for the rest of the season," said De Bruyne, who set up both City goals.

"It's always more difficult in a big game but we almost totally dominated them."

VAR may have ridden to Spurs' rescue for now, but on his evidence they face a long season ahead if they are to keep up with the relentless pace set by City and Liverpool.

# LOCAL EVENTS

**RAVI EMERGES CHAMPION**

Ravi Shankar remained undefeated to win the Knight Eleven Chess Tournament at Shivani Public School on Sunday. In the last round, Ravi beat Kapil Khare while KK Kesarwani defeated Ranjan Bhattacharya to claim the second spot. Meanwhile, fourth seed Medhanish Saxena upset top seed Mayank Pandey but had to settle for fourth position as KK Khare took the third spot on better tie-break. Chairperson Shivani group Satyabhama Dubey gave away the prizes.

**RESULTS: (Open)** 1-Ravi Shankar, 2-KK Kesarwani, 3-KK Khare, 4-Medhanish Saxena, 5-Deep Singh; (U-10) 1-Kartikya Mishra, 2-Ujjawal Raj, 3-Akshat Abhinav; (U-14) 1-Akshat Bhatnagar, 2-Arnab Tiwari, 3-Mritunjay Pathak; (U-16) 1-Swetam Awasthi, 2-Aditya Singh, 3-Jarjiti Tiwari.

**AMC LIFT TRPHY**

AMC blanked 1/11 GR 3-0 to lift the Lucknow Football League trophy at La Martiniere College ground on Sunday. Sanchman Rai, Kuoshal Singh and Mani Rajan scored for AMC in the 45th, 55th and 63rd minute respectively. Anshuman of AMC was adjudged best player of the tournament while Sikandar and Yunus bagged the best midfielder and best defender trophy. Most disciplined team award went to Excellia Sports Academy.

**FOOTBALL TOURNEY**

Yuva Gorkha Samaj is organising the 2nd Major Durga Mall Memorial Football Tournament at Chowk Stadium from August



20. Organising secretary Balram Singh Thapa said that 11 teams, including last edition's winner Sahara FC would be seen in action.

**TEAMS:** Army Boys, Sports College, Ex Students, RA Boys, Police New FC, Imran FC, LUJ, New Boys, Milani FC, Chowk Sporting, Sahara FC.

**SUDHIR ELECTED**

Sudhir Shankar Halwasia was elected as the president of UP Judo Association in an Annual General Meeting at PAC Offices

**MESS ON SUNDAY:** Aesha Munawar and Anup Gurnamee were elected as general secretary and treasurer respectively.

**LEKHA XI BEAT PLAZA XI**

Lekha XI beat Plaza XI by five wickets in an aleague match of the 1st Monsoon Trophy at DAV ground on Sunday. **BRIEF SCORES:** P XI: 84 (Pintu 23, Dugesh 20, Pranjal 16/3, Sumit 12/2) L XI: 85 (Sumit 26, Kunal 15, Piyush 12; Aniket 0/1).

# Desai stars in Titans win

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Siddharth Desai starred in Telugu Titans' 40-29 win over Haryana Steelers in a Pro Kabaddi League match at the Nehru indoor stadium here on Sunday.

Desai with 18 points, including a 'Super 10' (a Super 10 is achieved when a raider scores 10 or more raid points in a single game), played a key role and helped Titans' snap the Steelers' three-match winning run.

Siddharth, who scored his second Super 10 of the season, took the fight to the opponent, along with his brother Suraj.

Titans went into the match with just one win in eight matches, but the lack of confidence was certainly not evident from the outset as the Desai brothers of Siddharth and Suraj showed their class.

In-form Vikash Kandola, on the back of a hat-trick of Super 10s, was in no mood to let the Titans run away with the match though as he kept pace with the South Indian team.

The most crucial point of the first half came with eight minutes remaining when Siddharth Desai combined well with his team to tackle Kandola.

Vishal Bhardwaj, playing his 50th match in the PKL, brought



Siddharth Desai celebrates after win PKL/Twitter

after the first all-out in the match, assisting Abozar Mighani to tackle Naveen with four minutes remaining to half time.

The first half ended 21-13 in favour of the Titans.

In the second half too, the Titans' defence kept Kandola at bay and they inflicted a second all-out remaining when Siddharth Desai remaining till the end with Siddharth Desai at the forefront.

It was Titans' second win of the season.

# Archer double rattles Aus early

English pacer's early strike put hosts in command after Stokes' unbeaten 115 help Poms to set 267 run target  
Smith out with concussion

AFP ■ LONDON

Jofra Archer took two wickets and struck Test cricket's first concussion substitute, Marnus Labuschagne on the grille of his helmet as England pushed for an unlikely series-leveling victory in the second Ashes clash at Lord's on Sunday.

Australia were 46-2 in their second innings at tea on the final day of the second Test.

That left them needing 221 more runs in a minimum of 35 overs to reach an unlikely victory target of 267.

Test debutant Archer also struck Steve Smith on the neck with a rapid bouncer during the star batsman's 92 on Saturday.

Smith was passed fit to resume his innings on Saturday but further tests on Sunday sidelined him with concussion.

Now there are doubts over Smith's availability for the third Test at Headingley starting Thursday, with an Australia spokesman saying the "short turnaround is not in his favour".

Australia, bidding for their first Ashes campaign triumph on English soil in 18 years, lead the five-match series 1-0 after a 251-run win at Edgbaston last week.

In that match, former captain Smith marked his first Test since completing a 12-month ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa with superb innings of 144 and 142.

Under new protocols introduced for the inaugural World Test Championship, Australia could replace Smith with a full, batting substitute in Labuschagne.

World Cup-winning fast bowler Archer also took an impressive 2-59 in 29 overs on Saturday and the 24-year-old Sussex quick was in the wickets again on Sunday with two for two in seven balls.

David Warner's miserable series continued when the left-hander fell for five — his fourth single-figure in as many innings — when he edged



Ben Stokes celebrates after scoring 100 runs not out during play on day five of the 2nd Ashes Test against Australia at Lord's

Archer to Rory Burns in the slips. And Australia were 19-2 when Usman Khawaja was caught behind off a fine ball just outside off stump for two.

Archer's first ball to Labuschagne, a bouncer that sailed over the batsman's head, was called wide.

His second, timed at 91.6 mph, was much straighter and Labuschagne could not get out of the way.

The batsman required several minutes of on-field attention before

resuming his innings and later bravely drove Archer down the ground for a well-struck four.

Earlier, Ben Stokes, missed twice on Saturday and the beneficiary of an Australia decision not to review a rejected lbw appeal, scored 115 not out before captain Joe Root declared England's second innings on 258-5.

The left-handed batsman slog-swept off-spinner Nathan Lyon for two sixes in as many deliveries on the way to a 160-ball century, his seventh in Tests and second against Australia.

Stokes also hoisted paceman Peter Siddell for a six into the Grandstand before Root eventually called a halt. His innings included 10 fours.

Jos Buttler (31) gave Stokes good support in a fifth-wicket stand of 90 before hooking Pat Cummins to long leg.

Although the sun was shining by the tea interval, rain — which had already washed out five sessions in this match, delayed the start of Sunday's play by over an hour and so made a draw more likely.



'No intention to hurt'

AFP ■ LONDON

England fast bowler Jofra Archer insisted he had no intention to hit Australia's Steve Smith during the second Ashes Test, saying "everyone's heart skipped a beat" after he felled the star batsman with a fearsome bouncer at Lord's.

In an interview with BBC Radio before Sunday's final day, he insisted: "That is never the plan (to hit a batsman)."

"You are trying to get a wicket first. To see him go down, everyone stopped and everyone's heart skipped a beat," he added.

"After he got up he was moving around and you breathe a sigh of relief. No-one wants to see anyone getting carried off on a stretcher. It was a good challenge, a really good spell."

"For me, I wouldn't like to see it end like that."

Archer insisted he was just trying to force Smith out of his comfort zone.

"I've never seen Smith get out of his own accord until yesterday, so I was just trying to rattle him," he told Sky Sports.

"I was trying to get him out. You don't ever want to see anyone carried off on a stretcher, or you don't want to see them missing a day, or a game, especially with what happened a few years ago as well," said Archer.

"It's never a nice sight."



Steve Smith receives treatment as lies on the ground after being hit on the head

AFP ■ LONDON

Australia's Steve Smith has been ruled out of the last day of the second Ashes Test with concussion against England at Lord's, saying he felt "groggy" on Sunday morning.

"I started to feel a little bit of a headache coming on last night as the adrenaline got out of my system but I was able to get a good night's sleep in, but I woke up feeling a bit groggy and with a headache again," Smith said.

"I had some tests done and deemed to be a mild concussion, so I've been ruled out of this Test match unfortunately."

The series is the first being played under the International Cricket Council's new concussion substitute regulations, part of the inaugural World Test Championship.

These allow players who have suffered head or neck injuries to be

replaced fully by a substitute, who was previously restricted to fielding alone.

Marnus Labuschagne, on the field as 12th man when play resumed on Sunday, became the first concussion substitute in Test history after Australia's request was approved by match referee Ranjan Madugalle.

There are doubts whether star batsman Smith will feature in the third Test at Headingley starting on Thursday, with an Australia team and spokesman saying "the short turnaround is not in his favour".

As for his prospects of playing in the third Test, Smith said: "Obviously, there's a quick turnaround between Tests."

"I'm going to be assessed each day, hopefully I will be available, but it's certainly up to the medical staff."

"It's certainly an area of concern, concussion, and I want to be 100 per cent fit. There's obviously a few tests I have to tick off and time will tell."

## Captain fantastic

Karunaratne's ton leads Sri Lanka to historic win in Galle Test



Dimuth Karunaratne, right, celebrates after scoring a century against New Zealand

AFP ■ GALLE

Captain Dimuth Karunaratne scored 122 as Sri Lanka chased down 268 for the loss of four wickets to win the first Test against New Zealand at Galle on Sunday and take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

Karunaratne posted his ninth Test hundred along with enjoying a record-equalling opening partnership of 161 with Lahiru Thirimanne, who made 64, as Sri Lanka collected their first points of the World Test Championship.

Former captain Angelo Mathews chipped in with an unbeaten 28 as Sri Lanka finished off the game before lunch after the morning session was extended because only 22 runs were needed at the scheduled time for the interval.

Karunaratne enjoyed some luck on the way to his century, dropped on 58 at forward short leg by Tom Latham while wicketkeeper BJ Watling missed a stumping chance on the same score. He batted for over five hours, facing 245 deliveries, and hit six fours and a six.

Karunaratne and Thirimanne's stand equalled the record for the highest opening partnership in Tests between the two countries. In 1991, John Wright and Trevor Franklin had also put on 161 for the first wicket in Hamilton.

The opening stand was pivotal in Sri Lanka achieving the highest successful run chase in Galle, easily surpassing the pre-

Score	Overs	Team	Opponent	Season
268-4	86.1	Sri Lanka	New Zealand	2019
99-3	16.2	Sri Lanka	Pakistan	2014
96-0	14.1	Sri Lanka	India	2010
93-0	18.3	Sri Lanka	New Zealand	2012-13
92-0	11.2	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	2015

vious best of 99. Resuming play on 133 for no loss, Sri Lanka required 135 from the remaining three sessions.

New Zealand finally got their breakthrough when Thirimanne was trapped leg before by William Somerville. Given not out by umpire Richard Illingworth, New Zealand overturned the decision on review.

Kusal Mendis soon fell after taking on Somerville, hitting him for a four and a six from the second and fourth balls he faced. Angelo Mathews joined Karunaratne and the pair put on 44 runs for the third wicket to steady the ship.

Sri Lanka lost Kusal Perera after Karunaratne's dismissal but Dhananjaya de Silva (14) joined Mathews and helped Sri Lanka knock off the remaining runs with two sessions to spare.

Mathews brought up the winning runs with a single to fine leg off Boult. The second and final Test begins in Colombo on Thursday.

## Pujara scores 100 in warm-up game

PTI ■ COOLIDGE

Ishant Sharma grabbed two early wickets as India produced a disciplined bowling effort to reduce West Indies A to 79 for four at lunch on the second day of the three-day warm-up game here on Sunday. Ishant was the peak of the bowlers as he claimed the wickets of opener Jeremy Solozano (9) and first-down Brandon King (4) in his first spell of five overs, while Umesh Yadav too found his rhythm early, dismissing Darren Bravo during his five overs giving away just seven runs.

Opener Kavem Hodge (45), who was dropped at slips in the third over, held on to one end but regular loss of wickets at the other end affected the hosts' innings. Hodge was five runs short of a half-century at the break and giving him company was Jonathan Carter (2).

West Indies A still trail India 218 runs with six wickets in hand. Earlier after a delayed start due to rain, India declared their first innings at the overnight score of 297 for five.

In reply, opener Solozano was the first to leave after his flat-footed drive found



an edge and landed in the safe hands of KL Rahul as West Indies slipped to 16 for one in 4.2 overs.

King (4) was then dismissed in the ninth over when he played a loose drive only to be caught behind by Rishabh Pant as West Indies slipped to 30 for 2.

Bravo (11) then tried to stitch a part-

nership with Hodge but after adding 21 runs he edged an Umesh Yadav delivery to second slip with Rahul completing the formality.

In the 27th over, a direct throw from mid-on by Ravindra Jadeja ended the brief stint of Jason Mohammed (6) as West Indies A were reduced to 77 for four in 26.1 overs.

On the opening day, Cheteshwar Pujara struck form with a fine century while Rohit Sharma hit 68 as India shrugged off initial wobble to score 297 for 5.

Pujara and Rohit stitched 132 runs together for the fourth wicket to take India to a strong position after being reduced to 89 for 3 at lunch on Saturday.

Test specialist Pujara got going in his first competitive match of the West Indies tour as he retired after making 100 off 187 balls during which he struck eight fours and one six.

Rohit fell after making 68 off 115 balls. He hit eight fours and one six. After Pujara retired in the final session, Pant and Hanuma Vihari pushed the Indian total further to reach near the 300-run mark.

## Kotla to have Virat Kohli stand

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In recognition of Virat Kohli's phenomenal success in international cricket, the DCA has decided to name one stand at Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium after the India captain.

Bishan Singh Bedi and Mohinder Amarnath are the two other Delhi players who have stands after their names but the honour came their way after their retirements.

Kohli will be the youngest active cricketer to be bestowed with the honour of a stand being named after him.

"Virat Kohli's outstanding contribution to world cricket has done DCCA proud. We are happy to honour him for achieving certain milestones and unbeatable captaincy record," DCCA President Rajat Sharma said in a statement.

Virender Sehwag and Anjum Chopra are the other Delhi players who have gates named after them while the Hall of Fame has been named after former India captain MAKA Pataudi.

The state cricket body will also felicitate the members of Indian team at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on September 12.

The DCCA function will document Kohli's exceptional talent and success ever since he took over charge in all formats of the game and the state body cannot think of a better tribute than this.

To cherish these memories, DCCA wanted to dedicate a stand in his name. I am sure the "Virat Kohli Stand" will be a source of inspiration for Delhi's young cricketers. We are also delighted that Team India is not only led by a Delhi player but it also has an opening batsman (Shikhar Dhawan), a wicket keeper (Rishabh Pant) and a lead bowler (Ishant Sharma)."

## Klaasen replaces Second for Tests

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Wicketkeeper Rudi Seuch has been ruled out of South Africa's Test tour of India in October due to an injury and Heinrich Klaasen will take his place in the squad, Cricket South Africa said.

The CSA said Second, one of the new caps in the Proteas squad announced on August 13 to play three Tests in India in October, has suffered an injury while practising with the South Africa A side. He will require immediate surgery and he has consequently been ruled out of the touring party.

Second's place will be taken by wicketkeeper/batsman Heinrich



South African batsman Heinrich Klaasen

Klaasen. Klaasen is part of the one-day squad for the South Africa A tour and he will now be added to the squad in Second's place for the four-day series that will assist his preparation for the Proteas Test series," said CSA Acting Director of Cricket Corrie van Zyl.

The Test series begins on October 2 in Visakhapatnam. CSA also confirmed that the second Test will now be played in one October 10-14 while the final Test will be held in Ranchi (October 19-23).

Klaasen is yet to make his Test debut and has featured in 14 ODIs and nine T20is for South Africa.

## Test format suits Cornwall's game

PTI ■ ANTIGUA

Big-bodied spin bowling all-rounder Rakheem Cornwall believes he is well-suited to the longest format and credited his consistent performance in first-class cricket to his maiden call up to the West Indies squad for the Test series against India.

Cornwall first played first-class cricket in 2014 and has 260 wickets from 55 first-class matches along with 2224 runs. He recently scored two half-centuries in two unofficial Tests against India.

"I believe the Test format suits my game because of the consistency a player needs over a long period of time to be successful, and I've enjoyed that challenge so far in my career playing first-class cricket," Cornwall told the Cricket West Indies website.

There is a possibility that Cornwall might make his Test debut during the opening Test which starts on August 22 as part of the World Test Championship.

"The feeling (on getting called up) is great — it's something I've been pushing to achieve for a long time," said the 26-year-old, who is 6'6" tall and weighs around 140 kilograms and couldn't make it to the squad earlier due to fitness issues.

"The feeling would be great if I was picked in the first Test. I just would want to go out and perform and don't disappoint my friends and family."

In 2018-19, Cornwall claimed 54 wickets in nine matches at an average of 17.68 to emerge as the leading wicket-taker. In international A-team cricket, most notably in the 2018, he clinched 19 wickets at an average of 18.42 during their 3-0 home series win versus England Lions.

In the recent series against the touring India A, Cornwall took nine wickets in six matches.

"The A-team preparation has been very good," he said.

England Lions and India A were two quality opposition teams featuring guys that played Test cricket. Overall it has been very challenging and it was a good place to test skills that I've been trying to perfect every year in our domestic competition.