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OLD IS STILL GOLD

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ENGLAND BEAT AUSTRALIA IN 3RD TEST

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDRABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol. 155 Issue 231
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

LUCKNOW, MONDAY AUGUST 26, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3



the pioneer

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DID WHAT I WANTED TO: TABU
14 VIVACITY

Jaitley consigned to flames

Cremated with full State honours with several dignitaries present



Family members, dignitaries and others attend the last rites of former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley at Nigambodh Ghat in Delhi on Sunday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley was cremated at the Nigambodh Ghat with full State honours on Sunday. A host of dignitaries, including Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Lok Sabha Speaker

Om Birla, veteran BJP leader LK Advani, party's working president JP Nadda and Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Harshvardhan, Smriti Irani and Anurag Thakur paid their last respects. Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Gujarat, Bihar and Delhi were among the dignitaries who were present when

the mortal remains of the departed leader were consigned to the flames amid chants of "Arun Jaitley amar rahen". Earlier, the top leaders from across the political spectrum and hundreds of his admirers and party workers gathered at the departed leader's residence at Kailash Colony in the morning and at

party headquarters on Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg from where his last journey began and the mortal remains were taken to the Nigambodh Ghat for cremation. A huge crowd gathered at the cremation site along the banks of the Yamuna to bid final farewell to the 66-year-old BJP stalwart who passed away

at AIIMS on Saturday after a prolonged illness.

People started chanting "Jaitley ji amar rahen" (long live Jaitley) soon after his body which was wrapped in the national flag and taken to the cremation ground in a flower-decked carriage.

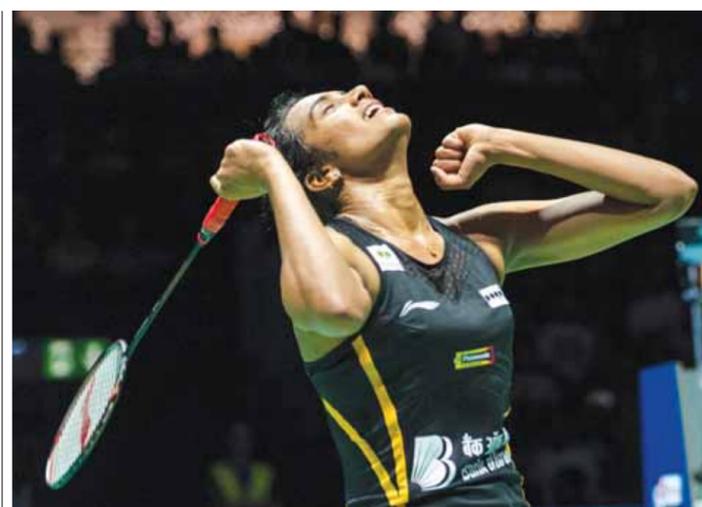
Jaitley's son Rohan performed the last rites as the skies opened up to heavy rainfall. Jaitley's body was placed on the same platform where Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, the RSS thinker and president of Bharatiya Jan Sangh, was cremated in 1968.

BJP MPs, including Vijay Goel and Vinay Sahasrabudde, Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Kapil Sibal, and NCP leader Praful Patel too were present at the cremation site.

A visibly emotional Naidu, who had worked closely with Jaitley in the BJP as BJP president and then in the Governments of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi, stood with folded hands for several minutes near the body. The V-P was seen wiping off tears with a handkerchief.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a foreign visit, had on Saturday paid an emotional tribute to Jaitley, saying he cannot imagine that he was far away from India in Bahrain while his "dear friend" and party colleague passed away in New Delhi.

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PV Sindhu cheers after winning her women's singles final match against Japan's Nozomi Okuhara at the BWF Badminton World Championships in Basel, Switzerland, on Sunday. PTI

Sindhu 1st Indian shuttler to win World Championships

Last time, I lost in the final, before that also I lost in the final, so it is a very important win for me. I won it for my country and I am very proud being an Indian — PV Sindhu, after exacting revenge from Nozomi Okuhara to whom she lost in the last Olympic final

PTI ■ BASEL (SWITZERLAND)

PV Sindhu on Sunday scripted history as she became the first Indian to win badminton World Championships gold by beating arch-rival Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in a lop-sided summit clash here.

The Olympic silver-medalist won 21-7, 21-7 in the final that lasted just 38 minutes. Two years after being robbed off the gold by Okuhara in an epic 110-minute final at Glasgow that was considered as one of the greatest battles in badminton history, Sindhu finally exorcised the ghost of that heart-wrenching loss with a completely dominating win over the same opponent.

"Last time, I lost in the final, before that also I lost in the final, so it is a very important win for me. I want to thank the crowd for supporting me. I won it for my country and I am very proud being an Indian," Sindhu said.

"A big thanks to my coach Kim and Gopi sir and my supporting staff and I dedicate this win to my mom, it's her birthday today," she added. It was third time lucky for Sindhu, who had lost to Okuhara and Carolina Marin of Spain respectively in the 2017 and 2018 finals to settle for a silver twice.

With her fifth medal of the World Championships, the 24-year-old Indian was already one of the greatest ever women's

singles players in the showpiece event's history. She had won a bronze each in the 2013 and 2014 editions.

Sindhu is now the joint highest medal winner in women's singles in the World Championships history with former Olympic champion Zhang Ning of China who has won an identical 1 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze between 2001 and 2007.

Prakash Padukone became the first Indian to win a medal in World Championships with a men's singles bronze in the 1983 edition while Saina Nehwal bagged a silver and a bronze in 2015 and 2017 respectively in women's singles. Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa also won a bronze in women's doubles in 2011 while B Sai Praneeth was the latest to join the club as he settled for a bronze in the men's singles in this edition on Saturday.

Sindhu, who has also won a silver each in the 2018 Commonwealth Games and 2018 Asian Games, was a different class on Sunday as she towered over her Japanese opponent in all departments of the game. The fifth seeded Indian, who enjoyed a 8-7 head-to-head lead over third seeded Okuhara ahead of Sunday's contest, was simply unstoppable as she dished out an attacking game right from the start to race to 8-1 lead.

Continued on Page 4
Also see Page 15

CAPSULE

TRUCK DRIVER KILLED IN STONE PELTING IN VALLEY
Srinagar: A civilian truck driver was killed during stone pelting by protesters in south Kashmir's Anantnag on Sunday.

2 DEAD IN CLASH BETWEEN COMMUNITIES IN ANAND
Anand: Two persons were killed and four others injured on Sunday in a clash between members of two communities in Gujarat's Anand district.

PAK RELEASES WATER, FEROZEPUR FLOODED
Chandigarh: A few villages in Punjab's Ferozepur are facing a flood threat after a major portion of an embankment in the catchment area of the Sutlej river was washed away following the Pakistan's release of water.

In snub to Pak, Bahrain condemns terror as foreign policy

India-Bahrain joint statement after PM-King meeting asks international community to act against terror sponsors

PTI ■ MANAMA

In a veiled attack on Pakistan, India and Bahrain on Sunday called on the international community to reject the use of terrorism against other countries as both sides agreed to further enhance cooperation in the field of security and counter-terrorism.

A joint statement, issued after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa during his two-day visit to Bahrain, said the two sides exchanged views on bilateral,

regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest during the meetings.

"Both sides called on all states to reject the use of terrorism against other countries; dismantle terrorism infrastructures where they happen to exist and to cut off any kind of support and financing to the terrorists perpetrating terrorism from all territories against other states; and bring perpetrators of acts of terrorism to justice," the statement said without naming any country.

India has been pressing Pakistan to end its state policy of backing cross-border terrorism and its support to ter-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being seen off as he prepares to depart for France to participate in the G-7 summit meetings, in Bahrain on Sunday. PTI

ror groups on its soil.

During Modi's visit to Bahrain, the first by an Indian PM, that concluded on Sunday, the two sides also discussed ways and means to further promote cooperation in cyber security, including prevention of use of cyber space for terrorism, radicalisation and for disturbing social harmony.

The leaders also noted the "need for concerted action by the international community against terrorism" and "underlined the importance of comprehensive sanctioning of terrorists and their organisations by the UN".

Continued on Page 4

Secretariat takes off J&K flag, nails tricolour to mast



The Indian national flag flies alone atop the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar as the Jammu & Kashmir flag has been removed after the abrogation of Article 370 on Sunday. PTI

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The J&K flag that fluttered atop Civil Secretariat complex alongside the national flag in Srinagar was taken off on Sunday, three weeks after the abrogation of Article 370. With this went away the last sign of Article 370 which granted special status to the State of Jammu & Kashmir. J&K Assembly Speaker Nirmal Singh was first to remove the State flag from his official vehicle on August 6. The tricolour alone will now flutter atop the Civil Secretariat complex and other Government buildings.

Before the abrogation of Article 370, the J&K State was permitted to fly its own flag along with the National flag under Article 370.

The State flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of J&K on June 7, 1952. According to highly placed official sources, the J&K flag was removed from the Civil Secretariat complex early on Sunday after necessary instructions were passed by the authorities concerned.

The decision to remove the J&K flag was delayed partially due to prevailing tension in the region.

Continued on Page 4

\$4.2m project for Bahrain Krishna temple

Modi offers prayers at Shreenathji Temple in Manama

PTI ■ MANAMA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday launched the \$4.2 million redevelopment project of the 200-year-old Lord Sri Krishna temple here and said it manifests the strong ties between India and Bahrain.

Modi, the first Indian Prime Minister to visit the key Gulf nation, offered prayers at the Shreenathji Temple in Manama, the oldest temple in the region, and also the "prasad" that he bought with the RuPay card after launching it in the UAE on Saturday.

"Spent time at Bahrain's Shreenathji Temple. This is among the oldest temples in the region and manifests the strong ties between India and Bahrain," Modi tweeted and shared some of the blessed moments from the temple in his tweet. Modi also greeted and interacted the Indian diaspora, who came to witness the event at the temple.

Prime Minister then unveiled the plaque, thus officially launching the redevelopment project of the iconic temple.

"Thank you Bahrain for the warmth and affection. PM @narendramodi concludes his historic visit with prayers at the 200 years old Shreenathji Temple in #Manama, the oldest temple in the region. The temple reflects the pluralism of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi offers prayers at Shreenathji Temple, in Manama, Bahrain on Sunday. PTI

Bahraini society," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said in a tweet. The facelift for the Shreenathji (Shree Krishna) temple in Manama will kick off later this year.

The \$4.2 million redevelopment project will be on a piece of land measuring 16,500 square feet and the new four-floor structure covering 45,000 square feet will have an over-

all height of 30 meters.

The heritage and the 200-year-old legacy of the temple will be highlighted in the redevelopment and the new iconic complex will house the sanctum sanctorum and prayer halls. There are also facilities for traditional Hindu marriage ceremonies and other rituals, promoting Bahrain as a wedding destination and boosting tourism. The temple corridors

will be adorned with paintings by various Indian and Bahraini artists and people of all faiths are welcome. Around 350,000 Indian nationals, mostly from Kerala, live in Bahrain. The Indian community comprise a third of Bahrain's total population of 1.2 million.

Modi arrived here on Saturday, the first ever by an Indian Prime Minister to Bahrain.

Election Commission announces Assembly bypolls for four seats

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

The Election Commission (EC) on Sunday announced by-elections to one assembly seat each in Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Chhattisgarh and Kerala. The bypolls for Dantewada (Chhattisgarh), Pala (Kerala), Badharghat (Tripura) and Hamirpur (Uttar Pradesh) Assembly seats will be held on September 23. The notification for the by-elections would be issued on August 28, counting will be held on September 27, the EC said.

The bypoll in Hamirpur was necessitated by the disqualification of BJP MLA Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel following his conviction in a murder case. He was awarded life imprisonment in the murder case of five persons. By-elections to 12 other Assembly seats in UP are also due as most of the sitting MLAs won the Lok Sabha elections this year. But the dates are yet to be announced by the poll panel.

The Dantewada, Pala and Badharghat bypolls were necessitated following the death of the respective sitting MLAs. The Pala seat had become vacant after the demise of Kerala Congress (M) supreme KM Mani. The



former Kerala Finance Minister, KM Mani had represented the Pala constituency since its formation in 1965 and until his death on April 9 earlier this year. According to political experts, this round of Pala bypoll may see some internal bickering that could decide the fate of the second-biggest Kerala ally of Congress - Kerala Congress (Mani) or KC(M) party. After the recent death of Mani, the party was split between Mani's son Jose K Mani and a splinter faction led by senior leader PJ Joseph. Both groups have accused each other of a hostile takeover of the party.

The Dantewada seat in Chhattisgarh fell vacant after sitting BJP MLA Bhima Mandavi was killed by alleged Naxals in April this year. The Badharghat seat in Tripura fell vacant after the death of sitting MLA Dilip Sarkar.

Sugar mills in UP still owe ₹7,364.82 cr to farmers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath may have promoted Suresh Rana to Cabinet rank and retained him as head of Cane Development department for forcing sugar mills to clear outstanding cane dues, the mills still owe ₹7,364.82 crore to farmers of the 2018-19 crushing season and there is every likelihood that they will not be able to clear the dues.

"The situation is grim. It is unlikely that the mills will be able to clear the cane dues by the time the crushing season starts by the first week of November. Cane dues amounting to ₹7,364.82 crore are yet to be cleared and 95 per cent of this amount has to be paid by private sugar mills," a senior official told this reporter recently.

Against the total cane payables of ₹33,047 crore, the sugar mills have so far paid 77 per cent or ₹25,682.87 crore to farmers thus leaving 23 per cent or ₹7,364.82 crore as arrears of the 2018-19 season. "Laxity on the part of the government to take action against the erring sugar mills is the main reason for delay in the payment. Even as the government has given several deadlines to the mills to clear the cane dues, nothing substantial has come out of these warnings," a source said.

He said the government had again given the deadline of August 31 to clear the cane dues but it was also expected to pass without any major gain.

As per an estimate, the new crushing season will start with pending cane dues of several thousand crore rupees, which is not a good sign.

"As per an estimate, even if the mills make some payments, the outstanding cane dues will not be less than ₹6,500 crore," he said.

The Central and state gov-

Sugar mills to start crushing with record opening stock

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh, the country's top sugar producer, are likely to start crushing operations from October-end.

The projections for the coming season indicate record domestic sugar opening stock of 1.45 crore tonnes metric tons. While western UP units will start operations after Diwali in the last week of October, the sugar mill in central and eastern UP have been asked to start crushing by the end of first and second weeks of November, respectively.

The Yogi Adityanath government has also announced sugarcane supply quota policy for 2019-20. The policy fixes supply quota of individual farmers, segregating them as marginal, small and regular agriculturists, on the basis of annual cane survey to ascertain the total number of cane farmers, estimated acreage and likely production.

The Sugarcane department said it had affected some



amendments for the benefit of bona fide farmers and to weed out 'sugarcane mafia' and unscrupulous complicity of government and mill officials.

"The sugarcane survey has been completed and mills are likely to start crushing after Diwali. By the middle of November, we expect all mills to begin their operations," said an official of the Sugarcane department.

Meanwhile, the private mills in UP are still burdened by high cane arrears of the 2018-19 season. Total arrears are to the tune of ₹8,000 crore, the bulk of which are due on private mills.

"The arrears are unlikely to subside anytime soon as the

defaulting mills in the state do not have financial resources to improve the outstanding position. Besides, they have not been provided with any government scheme to help them settle their payment liabilities," said an official of a private sugar mill.

He claimed that the soft loan scheme had only benefited the big groups that were already well-heeled so far their financial standing to repay farmers was concerned.

The Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has projected that the global sugar market is likely to have a deficit of 40 lakh MT, which would provide an opportunity to Indian sugar industry. The ISMA has urged the Centre to announce sugar export policy at the earliest.

Meanwhile, UP is estimated to have cane area of 23, 60 lakh hectares, 2 per cent lower than 24,10 lakh hectares in 2018-19.

However, the state is projected to record better yield per hectare due to high yielding varieties.

ernments had announced separate soft loan schemes to help private sugar mills pay cane dues to the farmers in the because of the glut of sugar in the market, export market squeeze and falling prices of sugar.

The Cane department, after holding a meeting with the representatives of private sugar mills, had issued directives for ensuring full payment of cane dues by August 31.

The sugar mills were also asked to complete their annual repair and maintenance at

the earliest so that the mills could start operations on time for the upcoming cane crushing season (October 2019-April 2020).

Last month, the government had warned the defaulting mills of filing that cases under Section 3/7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 would be registered and recovery certificates against them.

It said the district administration would seize the mill and its stock for auctioning, if the farmers' dues were not

paid on time.

In fact, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked mills to settle their outstanding dues and has cautioned them that delay in clearing cane dues would not be tolerated.

In the 2018-19 crushing season, 119 sugar mills, including 94 private, 24 cooperative and a UP State Sugar Corporation unit, had operated in Uttar Pradesh. The state sugar output stood at about 1,182.30 lakh quintal compared to over 1,205 lakh quintal in 2017-18 season.

PGV to visit Rae Bareilly tomorrow

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will pay a day-long visit to her mother and Congress president Sonia Gandhi's parliamentary constituency Rae Bareilly on August 27 where she will participate in a protest of railway employees against privatisation.

According to sources in the party, Priyanka Vadra will reach Rae Bareilly at 11 am on Tuesday from New Delhi.

At first she will go to the residence of Congress MLA Aditi Singh at Lalupur Chauhan village to express condolences on the death of Singh's father and former MLA Akhilesh Singh.

After staying there for around half an hour, Priyanka will go to Bhue Mau guest house where she will have lunch and some rest.

At 1 pm, she will leave for Lalganj Rail Coach Factory where she will join the employees in their agitation against privatisation. The Congress general secretary will stay at the Rail Coach Factory for around an hour and then leave for Lucknow at around 3 pm and take a regular flight to New Delhi around 7:15 pm.

Akhilesh criticises demolition of Ravidas temple in Delhi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has expressed shock over the demolition of Sant Ravidas temple at Delhi by the Delhi Development Authority.

He said the demolition of the temple had deeply hurt the religious sentiments of the Dalit community across the country.

"Emotion of the Dalit community is closely linked with Sant Ravidas and the temple at Delhi. The demolition of the Sant Ravidas temple has exposed the anti-sant, mahatma mindset of the Bharatiya Janata Party," the SP chief said.

He added, "We are shocked that Guru Ravidas temple in Delhi was demolished and we understand the anguish of the devotees as the Guru had himself visited and stayed there. We have great respect for Sant Ravidas. The shrine symbolises the Dalits' struggle for their rights and must be rebuilt."

Akhilesh Yadav also criticised the police action against people protesting in Delhi against the demolition of the



temple. He said all those detained in connection with the protest should be released immediately and the criminal cases registered against them must be withdrawn.

Meanwhile, Bhim Army has threatened a mass movement against the Narendra Modi government if the party's top leaders Chandrashekhar Azad and Vinay Ratan were not released immediately.

Chandrashekhar Azad and other Bhim Army leaders were arrested on August 21 in Delhi while protesting against the demolition of the Sant Ravidas temple.

It said the Bhim Army would take to the streets across western Uttar Pradesh if their

leaders were not released immediately and were denied permission to reconstruct the temple.

The Bhim Army claimed that the Narendra Modi government was shielding behind the Supreme Court order and trying to hurt the image of their gods and goddesses and the latest move of demolishing the temple showed the Centre's apathy towards the Dalit community.

The Delhi Development Authority had demolished the temple at Tughlaqabad on August 10 following a Supreme Court order.

A large group of Dalit activists then went on a rampage on August 21 and at least 80 cars were damaged during the violent protest. A few locals were also injured.

After the incident, the Delhi Police arrested more than 80 people, including Chandrashekhar Azad.

The apex court had stated that any attempt to politicise its order would be viewed as "contempt of court". However, the matter has taken a political turn with various opposition parties voicing support for the protesters.

Man beaten to death in Deoria

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 25-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by some youths who were told not to play loud music on Jannashanti in Barhaja area of Deoria on Saturday night.

The incident sparked tension in the Patel Nagar locality following which the district administration imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code which will remain in force till September 15.

Section 144 of the CrPC prohibits the assembly of more than four persons at a place.

The incident took place in Patel Nagar and the victim was identified as Sumit.

"On the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami, some youths were playing DJ in Patel Nagar of Barhaja locality on Saturday night. One Munnulal asked them to stop the DJ and this led to a brawl with 10-12 youths," Deoria district police chief Shripati Mishra said.

The Superintendent of Police said the youths first hit Munnulal with sticks and when his sons Sumit and Sachin, along with his wife Sanju Devi, rushed to save him from the attackers, they too were beaten up by the youths.

On getting information, police rushed to the spot and admitted the injured to the local health centre, where doctors referred Munnulal and Sumit to the district hospital.

Sumit (25) was pronounced dead by the doctors at the district hospital. The police said a case was registered and hunt was on to nab the assailants.

Meanwhile, a 35-year-old man allegedly committed suicide following an argument with his wife in Banda. The incident took place late Saturday night in Gayatri Nagar of the district, police said.

Shivpujan had an argument with his wife, Mamta, after which he beat up his son, Station House Officer (Kotwali) Baljeet Singh said. Shivpujan later went to his room, locked the door, and hanged himself, he added.

A case was registered and investigation is on.

BJP leaders pay tributes to Jaitley

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Senior leaders and office-bearers of Bharatiya Janata Party's Uttar Pradesh unit on Sunday paid rich tributes to former Union finance minister Arun Jaitley at the party headquarters here.

The 66-year-old BJP stalwart passed away at AIIMS in Delhi on Saturday after prolonged illness.

Mourning the passing away of Jaitley, BJP state chief Swatantra Dev Singh said, "The country has lost one of its popular leaders while the party has lost its real soldier. His death has left a void which would be difficult to fill."

Singh described the former finance minister as the "ajaatshatru (a person who has no enemy) of politics".

"During the Emergency period, Jaitley was jailed and he opposed the oppressive government tooth and nail," he recalled.

The party leaders observed a two-minute silence on the occasion.

Jaitley was cremated at



UP BJP president Swatantra Dev Singh paying tributes to former Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley at party office in Lucknow on Sunday

Nigambodh Ghat in Delhi with full state honours on Sunday afternoon, with scores of his admirers, BJP workers and top leaders from across the political spectrum paying their last

respects to him. Hundreds converged at the cremation ground along the banks of the Yamuna and bid a tearful adieu to the senior BJP leader.

Seven children drown

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Seven children drowned while bathing in ponds in Pratapgarh on Sambhal on Sunday.

According to a report, four teenagers drowned in a pond while taking a bath in Kohdara area of Pratapgarh district on Sunday morning.

"Anoop (14), Ruchi (15), Shivani (13) and Aarti (13), all of Suryagarh village, had gone to take a bath in a pond. While bathing they ventured towards the centre of the pond and were drowned," Additional Superintendent of Police Surendra Prasad said.

He said the children were fished out with the help of divers and rushed to a nearby hospital, where the doctor pronounced them dead.

In another incident reported from Sambhal, three girls drowned in a pond in Mai Hussainpur Pukhta village of the district.

According to Gunnaur Sub-Divisional Magistrate

Omveer Singh, the incident took place on Sunday afternoon, when three girls — Gyanshri (12), Kusuma (10) and Kumkum (14) — went to take a bath in a village pond.

While bathing, the girls ventured towards the deeper side of the pond and drowned.

Some children playing near the pond raised an alarm and the villagers assembled there.

The victims were taken out and rushed to a hospital where they were pronounced brought dead.

The bodies were sent for post-mortem and further investigations are underway.

BABY GIRL FOUND ABANDONED DIES

Meanwhile, a newborn girl who was found abandoned at the roadside in Muzaffarnagar on Sunday morning died at the hospital, police said.

The baby girl was found in the bushes in the Charthawal area on the Mathura village road in the district.

She was taken to a primary health centre for treatment. Police have registered a case against unidentified people in this connection.

It is suspected that the child was abandoned to avoid social embarrassment.

In Amethi, a 35-year-old man, who was arrested on the charges of theft, died under mysterious circumstances in police custody on Sunday, an official said.

Ram Avtar Pasi, 35, was arrested by a patrol team on Saturday night and he died in the custody at Inhauna outpost in the early hours of Sunday, Superintendent of Police Khyati Garg said.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Tiloi Rajkumar Singh has been asked to investigate the matter, she added.

Garg said the body was sent for post-mortem. The exact cause of Pasi's death will be ascertained once the post-mortem report is out, the district police chief added.

13 injured in clash between two groups

Lucknow (PTI): Thirteen people were injured after a clash broke out between two groups over taking water from a public hand pump in Muzaffarnagar, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place on Saturday in Sakoti village, which comes under the jurisdiction of Jhijnaja police station, said Dinesh Kumar, in-charge of Chosana police outpost.

The injured persons were rushed to a nearby hospital. Security has been tightened and extra police force deployed in the village.

MINOR ABDUCTED FROM HOME, RAPED

A minor girl was allegedly raped while she was asleep at her home in a village in Etah.

According to Circle Officer Jalesar Gurmeet Singh, the 10-year-old was sleeping with her parents and siblings when some unidentified persons entered the house at around 3 am on Saturday, took her to a nearby

forest and committed the crime.

When the family members woke up in the night, they found the girl missing and started looking for her. They ultimately found her in an unconscious state in the forest.

The family members, along with some villagers, took her to the police station and lodged a complaint.

A case was registered against unknown persons and the girl was sent to Aligarh for medical examination and treatment, Singh said.

भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनियम बोर्ड
Securities and Exchange Board of India
PUBLIC NOTICE
 Final Order under Sections 11 and 11B of the SEBI Act, 1992 was passed in respect of **Subodh Kumar Dutta** on January 19, 2018 in the matter of **Hahnemann Herbal Limited**. Copy of the order sent to the aforementioned entity remained undelivered. The said Order is available on SEBI website- www.sebi.gov.in under the heading "Orders & Rulings - Orders of Chairman/Members". Copy of the above Order can also be collected from SEBI Bhavan II having address at Plot no. C 7, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051 within 10 days of this Public Notice. **Date: 21.08.2019** **Ashutosh Arun**
Place: Mumbai **Deputy General Manager**
 davp 15204/11/0206/1920

No. Z-28016/131/2017-PMSSY-III/PMSSY-IV
 Government of India
 Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 Department of Health and Family Welfare
 Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Building, New Delhi-110001

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Sl. No.	Name of the Post (01 post for each AIIMS)	Basic Pay (as per 7th CPC)	AIIMS for which the post is to be filled up (one post for each AIIMS)
1	Deputy Director (Administration)	Level- 13 Rs 123100-215900	1. AIIMS Nagpur (Maharashtra) 2. AIIMS Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir) 3. AIIMS Kashmir (Jammu & Kashmir) 4. AIIMS Madurai (Tamil Nadu) 5. AIIMS Rajkot (Gujarat) 6. AIIMS Bibinagar (Telangana)

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (PMSSY Division) invites applications from eligible candidates for filling up the above mentioned post at AIIMS Nagpur (Maharashtra), AIIMS Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir), AIIMS Kashmir (Jammu & Kashmir), AIIMS Madurai (Tamil Nadu), AIIMS Rajkot (Gujarat) & AIIMS Bibinagar (Telangana) to be filled up on transfer on deputation basis. For further details, please visit Ministry's and Division's website at www.mohfw.nic.in and pmsyy-mohfw.nic.in. Detailed advertisement will be published in Employment News. The last date of receipt of application will be the 45th day from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment News. (Shambhu Kumar) Under Secretary to the Govt of India (PMSSY) Tel 011-23736977 davp 17101/11/0010/1920

Light to heavy rainfall in UP

Lucknow (PTI): Many parts of Uttar Pradesh received light to heavy showers on Sunday with Muzaffarnagar district recording 46.4 mm rainfall.

Lucknow witnessed partly cloudy sky, with the maximum temperature settling at 33.7 degrees Celsius.

According to the Meteorological department, rainfall was recorded in Varanasi (6.2 mm), Jhansi (1.4 mm), Meerut (5.2 mm), Ballia (5.4 mm), Hardoi (16.8 mm), Shahjahanpur (24.8 mm), Orai (39 mm), Aligarh (3.7 mm) and Muzaffarnagar (46.4 mm).

The Meteorological department said that rain and thundershowers were very likely to occur at a few places over eastern and western Uttar Pradesh on Monday.

SBSP to decide on ties with SP on Aug 27

Ballia (PTI): The Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP), a former ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party, will decide on the tie-up with the Samajwadi Party for the upcoming bypolls in the state on August 27.

SBSP national general secretary Arvind Rajbhar said here on Sunday, "On August 27, party office-bearers and workers will hold a meeting in Lucknow, in which a decision to forge ties with the SP for the upcoming bypolls in the state will be taken."

Arvind Rajbhar added that discussions were held regarding the upcoming bypolls at a recent meet-

ing between SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and SBSP president Om Prakash Rajbhar.

Om Prakash Rajbhar had met Akhilesh Yadav here on Friday. The Rajbhars account for around four per cent of the total electorate in the state. The community has a sizable strength in Azamgarh, Mau, Ghosi, Ballia, Salempur, Jaunpur, Lalganj Ghazipur and Deoria.

The Rajbhars constitute 20 per cent of the Purvanchal population and regarded as the second most politically dominant community after the Yadavs in eastern UP.

Om Prakash Rajbhar was removed from the UP Cabinet by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, a day after the Lok Sabha polls concluded, for making embarrassing statements against the BJP. During the Lok Sabha campaign, Rajbhar had said BJP members should be "thrashed" with shoes.

As his outburst against the BJP grew louder, Adityanath sacked him from his cabinet on May 20.

The then Governor Ram Naik accepted the chief minister's recommendation and relieved Om Prakash Rajbhar with immediate effect.

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Man kidnaps, rapes 6-year-old niece

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A man kidnapped his 6-year-old niece and allegedly raped her at an isolated place in Maal police station area on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday.

As per reports, father of the victim went to attend a function organised in the locality on the occasion of Janmashtami while the girl and her mother stayed back. When he returned around 2 am, he found the girl missing. He woke his wife up to ask about the girl but she had no clue. Both went out to search for her. They looked for her around a pond near their house, but in vain. They returned to the house to think about what to do next.

Around 3 am, they heard the girl cry in the back side of the house. When they reached there, the girl told them that her uncle took her there.

"As the girl had sustained



injuries, we rushed her to a hospital where the doctors examined her and suspected sexual assault," victim's mother claimed.

The news spread like wild fire and a huge number of villagers reached the scene. They got infuriated when they learnt that victim's uncle was the culprit. They, along with the victim's parents, reached the police station to lodge a complaint. The villagers got enraged

after constables present at the police station refused to accept the complaint and termed the incident as fake. They protested outside the police station. Soon, SP (Rural) and CO (Maliabad) reached the village to take first-hand information about the incident. They hauled up the local police and directed them to register a case in this connection. The girl was later shifted to KGMU Trauma Centre.

It surfaced that the accused, who is a labourer, happened to be the cousin of victim's father and is said to be close to the family. "We could never have thought that he would commit such a heinous crime," villagers said.

A police spokesman said a case of rape and illegal detention was registered against the accused and a manhunt launched against him. He was also booked under POCSO Act, the spokesman added.

Raj Bhawan adopts kids suffering from TB

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

In a humanitarian gesture, the Raj Bhawan, led by Governor Anandiben Patel, will adopt TB infected children and ensure that they get proper medicine and nutritious food so that they may lead a healthy life.

The decision was taken at a function held at Raj Bhawan here on Sunday.

Governor Anandiben Patel has adopted Mohsina (name changed) while 20 other children have been adopted by the staff of the Raj Bhawan.

It would be the responsibility of the staff concerned to ensure that these children get nutritious food, medicines and proper education, the Governor said. All the children are from an area near the Raj Bhawan and this will make their monitoring easy.

"The Governor had suggested that a beginning be made from the area near Raj Bhawan and later spread this protective ring," a senior official of Raj Bhawan told this reporter. The Governor, in her address, said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had



set a target to make India TB-free by 2025. Keeping this commitment in mind, the Raj Bhawan had taken the lead and had decided to adopt children suffering from TB. "Adopting a child is not an obligation. It is the responsibility of a person to help a

society. Those who are rich should spare some money for these people who need help. These are small steps but can help in achieving a big target," the Governor said, adding that the government could not reach every nook and corner of the state and it was the



responsibility of the common man to help the poor.

Patel said people of the deprived sections of society could not avail the benefits of government schemes because they did not know about them.

"It is our responsibility to ensure that the benefits (of

welfare schemes) reach the people who need them the most," she said. District leprosy officer Dr PK Gupta said that in Lucknow, around 14,600 TB patients had been identified and all of them would get Rs 500 as nutrition allowance.

Woman duped of ornaments by 3 youths posing as cops

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Three youth posing as policemen duped a woman of her ornaments in Vikas Nagar on Sunday morning. The incident took place close to a police outpost in the locality even as the cops were oblivious. There were reports that the commens were in police uniform, but the Vikas Nagar SHO said otherwise.

As per reports, Puhspa Chaurasiya of Jankipuram (sector C) was going to Tedhipulia vegetable market when a youth reached out to her. "The youth told me that he was a cop. Pointing towards two men standing few furlongs away, he said his boss was calling me," Pushpa said.

She said she went near the men who scolded her for wearing the ornaments at a time when robbers were on the prowl in the city. "As they talked to me sternly, I was scared. They asked me to put off the jewellery and I followed their diktat. I began to wrap the ornaments with my saree but one of the youths gave me a paper with his signature inscribed on it," she said.

She said as she was a bit puzzled over what was happening, one of them took her ornaments. "He wrapped the ornaments with the paper and returned it to me. When I reached home, I opened the satchet and found it filled with pieces of stones," she told the

police.

Vikas Nagar SHO DK Shukla said a case was registered in this connection. "The miscreants were wearing plain clothes even as they posed as policemen. It is a common trick which the commens have been using of late to dupe gullible people. We are checking CCTV footages to track down the miscreants," the SHO said, adding that they were yet to get a clue about the accused.

Sources said efforts to curb such incidents had failed. "Such incidents have been common in trans-Gomti areas. A number of such incidents have been reported in these areas over the last few months, but the police have largely been helpless," they said.

LDA V-C seeks details, status of sealed properties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) Vice-Chairman PN Singh on Sunday issued instructions to its anti-encroachment department to furnish the details and status of properties sealed in the past six months. He also directed the property department to furnish details of the real estate companies which were recently blacklisted. The real estate companies were said to be engaged in the civil work of LDA projects allegedly with the help of staffers despite being debarred.

In a meeting which was attended by secretary MP Singh and chief engineer JS Singh, the LDA V-C warned the senior officials that they would not be spared if their role was established in any wrongdoing.

The Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) had on Saturday asked the LDA Vice-Chairman about the status of sealed properties as well as private developers who were blacklisted. There were reports that the construction work was in progress in the buildings which were sealed by the LDA administration in the past six months. The buildings were sealed for violation of rules and regulations. The RERA officials came to about the illegal construction following complaints lodged by locals. Its vigilance team conducted inspections at some of the sealed buildings and found out that there was truth to the reports about unauthorised construction work there.

The LDA Vice-Chairman said stern action would be initiated against the engineers and field staffers who furnished distorted information in this regard. He said the LDA administration would make sincere efforts to check such practices. Singh said there was a group of private developers debarred from working for LDA, but was still involved in civil work at several projects.

The RERA officials were said to have detected that blacklisted developers were still engaged in construction work at the housing towers situated on Faizabad road.

English dept to organise first int'l conference on disability

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

The department of English and European Languages, Lucknow University, and Indian Disabilities Collective will be shortly be organising the first international conference on disability titled 'Deglobalising disability: Text and context'.

Head of the department Rani Unniyal, while talking to *The Pioneer*, said the conference would be held on October 21, 22 and 23. She said it was aimed at studying disability in India and how it has been dominated by policy studies.

She said the aim was to identify problems related to the disabled and to address the concerns through policy measures. Unniyal said it was a recently emerging field of academic inquiry and they would try to look into how a predominant solution framework could be evolved.

"It has become a part of the curriculum as well across the country in various subjects. We are going to look at religion, society, disability, disability and cognitive difference, disability hierarchy, political contours of disability, language



and dialect of disability where-in people use terms in derogatory manner, as in how language plays with the psyche of the disabled," she pointed out.

Unniyal said they would also be dealing with how the disabled were struggling to come up at the basic level, wherein there was lack of infrastructure facilities for them.

"We need a society which is friendly and more just towards the disabled because sometimes, these children cannot go to school as they do not

have proper facilities there," she said.

She said they were going to get experts and activists from across the world. "We are going to discuss about disability and literature. Disability is a subject and it needs to be brought into the mainstream. We are going to see how it has emerged as a literary discourse," she said.

Unniyal said it was unfortunate that there was not enough sensitisation on disability as an issue. "This should start at the very basic level. Just

as we are talking about the gender sensitisation which is the 'in thing', we should also be talking about this issue touching the very basic levels," she added.

Unniyal pointed out that they would bring to the fore how the disabled people had been talked about in literature.

"We are going to unearth the issues which have been taken in English literature from times immemorial. This has been there already but we need to explore it more. The discussions will also be on the disabled and how they have been able to make a name for themselves," she said.

Currently, there are 120 students in PG classes in the English department. Unniyal said English had always been a popular subject with students taking it up for professions like journalism, theatre etc. "People are more into communication which is the language aspect. Though there is a focus also on the language part of the subject since communication plays an important role in any subject, it cannot be denied that the soul remains literature from where come the passion and ideas," she added.

Preps for Ganesh Chaturthi in full swing as countdown begins



A pandal being set up in Lucknow for Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Preparations for Ganesh Chaturthi have begun in the city. The celebrations will commence from September 2 and conclude on September 12. Ganesh pandals and makeshift shops selling Lord Ganesha idols have started coming up across the city.

Anurag Sahu from Ganesh Prakatya Samiti said the celebrations would be organised at Jhulelal Park this year. "There will be a 15-foot idol of Lord Ganesha and the pandal will be

set up on the lines of a popular Kolkata temple. The interiors will be based on a popular temple in south India," he said.

Like last year, there will be 'bhoo visarjan' to prevent river pollution because of the immersion of idols.

"There will be a variety of cultural programmes by artists from Bengal. Invitations have been extended to the Chief Minister and Governor as well," he said. He said that they celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi on a large scale every year and several devotees vis-

ited the pandal.

Pratibha Jha from Gomti Nagar Patrakarpuram Samiti said the pandal construction work had begun. "This time, we have the theme as 'Save Trees and Plant Trees'. We will be having the projections based on the theme of banning plastic and saving environment. One day will be for Sai 'palki' while one day has been reserved for 'dandiya'," she said.

Jha pointed out that they draw a huge rush of devotees every day and their Ganesh idol would be over 13-feet tall.

Cubicles to breastfeed infants at bus stns soon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh State Roadways Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) will set up baby-feeding cubicles at all bus stations of the state in a phased manner, an official said on Sunday. The step is aimed towards making the state's bus stations "lactating mother and newborn baby friendly," the official added.

In a statement, UPSRTC managing director Raj Shekhar said: "The need and requirement was very much felt by the UPSRTC in last few years. Now looking into the importance and the requirement of this, the UPSRTC board has approved the project of setting up of Breast-Feeding Cubicles/Kiosks (Baby



Feeding Cubicles) in each bus station of UPSRTC."

Of the 242 bus stations operational in the state, 23 will get the cubicles in the first phase under the PPP (public-private

partnership) model, he said. "For the rest 219 bus stations, UPSRTC will construct the baby feeding cubicles in next 3 months on priority," he said. The UPSRTC has also allocated Rs

2.5 crore for this special project in the "honour and dignity" of all lactating mothers and newborn children who are travelling on UPSRTC buses, he said. These modern cubicles will have two baby feeding cabins and a utility cabin, he said, adding that necessary arrangements have been made for maintaining privacy and dignity of mothers. The drawing, design and specifications for the cubicles have been finalised and the regional managers will be authorised to set them up in next three months, he said. Necessary signages in Hindi and English will also be displayed at all appropriate places for public information and better utilisation of these cubicles, the statement said.

LU dept to resume excavation activities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The department of Ancient History and Archaeology, Lucknow University, is likely to resume the excavation activities soon. No such activity has taken place since 2015. Department experts believe that the area between Ghagra and Gandak rivers is a hotbed for exploration with over 1,000 sites waiting to be explored.

Head of the department SK Jaiswal said they were waiting for Prof DP Tewari, who was earlier heading the excavation activities, to hand over the charge as he had been posted in another University.

Jaiswal admitted that most of the excavation activities had taken place by the department under the expert guidance of Tewari. He said the archaeological excavations started in 1996 with small-scale exploration in the teshil of Nawabganj (Barabanki) and later with the help of the PhD students, Tewari carried out excavation activities in village-to-village explorations of Barabanki, Bahraich, Gonda, Shrawasti, Fatehpur, Sitapur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Shahjahanpur, Etawah, Auraiya, Kannauj, Hardoi and Farrukhabad.

"The results of 1300 sites of the exploration have been reported to the National Mission of Monuments and

Antiquities, ASI, New Delhi" he said.

Faculty member Sandeep Kumar Chowdhary, who has worked under Tewari, said they had also carried out excavations at Ramasrey Purwa and Kali Paschim in Lucknow.

"The excavations were carried out in the 90s and now, most parts of these excavations are covered with habitation. The excavations belonged to Gupta and early medieval period. Many artefacts have been collected from these sites," Chowdhary said, adding most of the objects they had taken out from Ramasrey Purwa.

Asked whether the preservation of the sites which were

being fast covered with habitation was necessary, he said it was. Regarding the choice of excavation site, he said they first explored and visited the site. "When we have made a choice, we take the surface of the soil and carry out an analysis. If we find any site important as per archaeology, we explore further," he added.

About the process of exploration, he said they had to first obtain a licence from the ASI for excavation activities. Talking about the hotbed of excavation between Ghagra and Gandak rivers, he pointed out that there could be over 1,000 sites of neolithic age waiting to be explored.



Children who took part in fashion show pose for a group photograph at Kala Mandap in Lucknow on Sunday

Discarded fridges to make mango orchard poultry sustainable

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Director of Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) Shailendra Rajan said that discarded fridges could make mango orchard poultry sustainable. He said the farmers who are into mango orchard poultry business can purchase these discarded fridges from scrap dealers and then use them for making the hatcheries.

"This way they don't have to make an infrastructure and they can use the fridges which are insulated. We conducted the training for these with the help of discarded refrigerators in our institute," he added.

He said that a collaborative programme between CISH and Central Avian Research Institute (CARI), Bareilly, resulted in establishing hundreds of mango orchard poultry units. "Not only in Malihabad, farmers from different parts of the state are planning to use their orchards

for this purpose. Use of non-traditional newly developed breeds by CARI like CARI-Devendra, CARI-Shyama, CARI-Asheel and Kadaknath was the key for the success. These breeds are not available in local hatcheries and supply from ICAR institutes at Bareilly was not sustainable due to longer queue due to higher demand from different parts of the country. Therefore, after certain period of time, a small community hatchery was established to cater the requirements of Malihabad farmers," he said.

He said since the farmers had no background of hatching eggs and maintaining hatchery, their performance was almost mediocre.

"After a discussion with CARI director Dr Mandal, it was decided to send a few projects to Bareilly for understanding art and science of hatching. For the farmers' hands-on training on various aspects of hatchery maintenance and chick production, a three-day programme was outlined, which is usually completed in 15 days. In addition to this, the main objective was to make farmers learn what mistakes they are committing at Malihabad," he said.

He said that they completed the training with full dedication, starting early hours in the morning till evening. Happy and confident trainees could understand what precautions are to be observed while hatching.

"How to select suitable eggs, sanitation, humidity maintenance. They were also trained for distinguishing the sex of chicken and other hatchlings. These trained people can earn extra money through this skill. With the growing demand of chicks of new breed, it is difficult to cater to their requirements with small hatcheries. Dr RB Rai, a well-known poultry expert from IVRI, suggested a workshop at CISH through

which the old unusable fridges can be converted into low-cost hatcheries," Rajan said. He said that these hatcheries would definitely increase the number of chicks produced, especially of required poultry breeds.

CISH and CARI will enter into an MoU for extending this technology to the farmers for producing breeds required for mango orchard poultry. A one-day training has been proposed in September at the institute.

The parental stocks of these breeds provided by CARI are being maintained by community farmers. This will ensure production of true to type breed maintaining their characteristics. The farmers have tried to hatch eggs produced by these parental stocks through commercial hatchery. In most of the incidence they could get only few chicks out of these valuable eggs due to several limitation.

CITYBRIEFS



DELEGATION MEETS DM

A delegation of Nawab-e-Avadh and members of Afham-e-Zama Society met District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma and handed him over a memorandum for the burial of Shahi Zarih of Hussainabad and Allied Trust on Ashura (10th day of Moharram). This Zarih and procession was started by Mohammad Ali Shah in 1839.

The delegation also requested the DM to give permission for black flags and banners with sayings of holy Imams on Azadari road, which was stopped by the administra-

tion 2-3 years ago. They requested for the safety and security of Moharram processions and also for proper supply of electricity and water besides cleanliness of roads and areas of Old City. The delegation insisted that the distribution of 'tabarruk' should be distributed in a traditional way. The delegation was led by Nawab Jafar Mir Abdullah and consisted of Nawab Masood Abdullah, Syed Ali Meesum Naqvi, Mithilesh Singh, Yusha Abid and others. They also handed him a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister.

LU REGISTRAR GIVES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEDALS

The Lucknow University registrar has written to the dean of faculties, provost, chief proctor, and chairman of Canning College for recommendations regarding the various medals. About recommendations regarding the Chancellor's medal, he the award would be given away preferably to a student getting first-class marks and in no case procuring less than 50 per cent marks in his or her entire academic record. He has written that the students must attach their entire academic records, physical fitness, games played and distinctions obtained in the general help and membership of NCC, Corps such as land army. It was also stated that participation in a collective activity representing Lucknow University would also be counted for the selection of Chancellor's gold medal. The bronze medal will be given away to the best student in the final year of Bachelors course for the year 2018-19 in each faculty — Science, Arts, Fine Arts, Law, and Commerce.

CMS STUDENT OFFERED SCHOLARSHIP



Mahendra Pratap Singh, a meritorious student of City Montessori School, Mahanagar, has been offered US \$40,000 scholarship each by two prestigious universities of USA. Florida Institute of Technology and University of Utah have offered him US \$40,000 scholarship each for pursuing higher education. The scholarship will be provided to him during the entire study period of four years. Apart from this, the University of Cincinnati and Washington State University of USA have also offered admission to him with scholarship.

Jaitley's demise huge loss to legal fraternity: Lawyers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The lawyers' fraternity remembered former Union Minister Arun Jaitley as a stalwart, helpful and a great human being whose demise was a huge loss for the profession.

The Bar Associations across the national Capital are planning to hold seminars to carry forward his legacy and to "make the younger generation learn from his life". Jaitley, 66, passed away at the AIIMS here on Saturday. He was undergoing treatment at the hospital, where he was admitted on August 9.

Delhi High Court Bar Association (DHCBA) president senior advocate Mohit Mathur, who was also from the same school where Jaitley studied, said it was a "personal loss" while remembering him as "very helpful and a stalwart".

"He was a leader of the Bar and a stalwart. He was always



CMS of BJP-ruled States and Union Ministers attend the last rites of former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley at Nigam Both Ghat in New Delhi on Sunday

Ranjani Dimri | Pioneer

helpful for lawyers and people in general. It's very recently when we approached him for a lawyers' welfare association and he helped us wholeheartedly.

"It was a personal loss for

me. He was from the same school, where I went to study later. Whenever we organised anything on behalf of the school alumni association, he used to participate and help us out very enthusiastically,"

Mathur said.

He said the Executive Committee of DHCBA will meet and decide to hold programmes in Jaitley's honour. Jaitley was 1969-batch student of St. Xavier's Sr. Sec. School.



Home Minister Amit Shah, V-P Venkaiah Naidu at Nigam Both Ghat

Ranjani Dimri | Pioneer

R K Wadhwa, Chairman of the Coordination Committee of All Bar Associations of Delhi, said that seminars will be held to highlight Jaitley's work and life

so that young lawyers can learn from him.

"He was a great lawyer. His untimely demise is very sad for the entire country, especially for the legal fraternity. He

was a wonderful lawyer, politician but above all a great human being," he said.

"We will be holding seminars highlighting his work so that young lawyers can learn

about him. The real tribute to him will be making young budding lawyers learn from his work," Wadhwa said.

New Delhi Bar Association's Secretary Nagendra Kumar said Jaitley's demise has created a "vacuum" in the legal fraternity and was a "huge loss" for the profession.

He also stressed on holding seminars to highlight his works for the younger generation "who have heard a lot about him but were not fortunate enough to see him arguing before the courts and learn".

A former office-bearer of the Delhi High Court Bar Association, senior advocate Vikas Pahwa said, "I feel pained to hear about the sad demise of Arun Jaitley. He was a magnificent person, phenomenal lawyer, an accomplished politician and a great leader, who achieved unprecedented success both in the legal and political life. He never walked alone; always with his team."

Shah to review ops against Naxals today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday will take stock of the ongoing operations against Naxals and the development initiatives being undertaken in Maoist-hit areas, officials said. Chief ministers or their representatives and top police and civil officials of 10 Naxal-violence affected states are expected to attend the meeting — a first of its kind after Shah assumed charge about three months ago.

Top officials of the paramilitary forces and home ministry will also attend the meeting. "The Home Minister will review the ongoing operations against the Naxals and the



development activities undertaken in the Naxal affected areas," a home ministry official said. The 10 Maoist-hit states are Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

According to a home ministry statistics, a total of 8,782 cases of Naxal violence were reported during 2009-13 as against 4,969 during 2014-18, a reduction of 43.4 per cent. As many as 3,326 people, including security force personnel, lost their lives in 2009-13 as

against 1,321 in 2014-18, a reduction of 60.4 per cent, the ministry said.

A total of 1,400 Naxals were killed between 2009 and 2018. As many as 310 incidents of Naxal violence were reported in the first five months this year across the country in which 88 people were killed. Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy had last month said that the steadfast government policy has resulted in consistent decline in violence and shrinkage in geographical spread of Left Wing Extremism (LWE).

As a result, LWE-related violence was reported in only 60 districts in 2018, he had said. "Of these, only 10 districts

account for two-third of LWE violence. The LWE-related incidents of violence between April 2014 and May 2019 have been 43 per cent lesser when compared with the preceding five-year period," he had said. The National Policy and Action Plan, approved in 2015 to address LWE, envisages a multi-pronged strategy involving security-related measures, development interventions, ensuring rights and entitlements of local communities.

The government is also implementing a special central assistance for most LWE-affected districts with an annual outlay of Rs 1,000 crore to fill the critical gaps in public infrastructure and services.

DRG jawan dies after encounter with Naxals in Chhattisgarh

Raipur (PTI): A District Reserve Guard (DRG) jawan, who was injured in an encounter with Naxals on Saturday in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district, has died, police said. Five Naxals were killed on Saturday in the gun-battle with the DRG in a dense forest area of the district, located about 350 km from the state capital Raipur. Two DRG jawans, identified as Raju Netam and Somaru Gota, were also injured in the encounter. "Netam received critical bullet injuries to his vital organs. He succumbed while being evacuated from the forest," Narayanpur Superintendent of Police Mohit

Garg told PTI on Sunday. Acting on a specific intelligence input about the location of a Naxal training camp near Dhurbeda village in core area of the Maoist hotbed of Abujmad, a team of DRG, comprising over 100 personnel, raided the place around 6 am on Saturday, he said. The gunfight lasted for about an hour, following which the ultras disappeared into the dense forest. During search, bodies of five ultras were recovered along with a huge cache of weapons, explosives and Maoist documents from the spot, he said. Garg said bad weather and hos-

tile terrain hampered the evacuation operation as three attempts to airlift the injured personnel from the forest failed due to continuous rainfall in the area. "The security personnel brought their injured colleagues on cots over their shoulders. They reached Orcha, where the ambulance and doctors were arranged, around 10 pm (nearly 15 hours after the encounter) on Saturday," he said. While Netam was declared brought dead, Gota was admitted to a private hospital in Raipur where his condition was reported to be out of danger, he said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SINDHU 1ST INDIAN...

The Indian targeted the deep corners and unleashed her big smashes to gather points at will. A precise net shot helped Okuhara to snap Sindhu's run of straight eight points but the Indian quickly got the control back when Okuhara went wide and then unleashed two good-looking smashes to enter the break with a massive 11-2 lead.

Okuhara tried to step up the pace but an alert Sindhu was up to the task. The Indian targeted Okuhara's forehead corner to take two more points. Sindhu used her height to produce those attacking clears which Okuhara could not negotiate. At 16-2, Sindhu committed a couple of unforced errors before again taking control of the match.

Sindhu eventually grabbed as many as 13 game points when Okuhara went long and she sealed the first game with a body blow which her rival sent out.

In the second game, Sindhu continued her rampaging form, grabbing two quick points before Okuhara earned a point with a cross

court smash. Okuhara had no answer to Sindhu's razor sharp returns. The Indian made the Japanese run to the deep corners with her acute angled returns and then swiftly followed them at the net to make life difficult for her opponent.

Okuhara seemed clueless as she ended up hitting the nets or missing the lines to allow Sindhu grab 11-4 lead at the interval.

Nothing changed after the breather as a relentless Sindhu kept her stranglehold on the Japanese, who crumbled under pressure.

At 16-4, Sindhu made a couple of rare errors when she hit long but that did not matter as she pounced on a weak return from Okuhara and sent it to the backline and then left her rival stranded with another powerful smash.

Sindhu grabbed the match point when Okuhara went long again and sealed the title when another superb return before throwing her hands in the air in celebration.

With Sindhu's gold and Praneeth's bronze in this edition, Indian shuttlers also con-

tinued the six-year streak of winning at least one medal in the prestigious event.

JAITLEY CONSIGNED...

Recalling Jaitley's association with Gujarat, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said the BJP would seek his advice on strategy whenever there was an election in the State where the party is in power for two decades.

"He has been a Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat. We have won several elections in the State by working on his strategy. We will always feel his absence," Rupani told reporters.

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Harsh Vardhan said Jaitley's death was an irreparable loss and he will always be remembered for his contribution. Party workers remembered Jaitley, saying that he has been one of the greatest leaders in contemporary India. "Jaitley ji's contribution cannot be ruled out in reforming the economic condition in the country. He introduced the GST Bill in the Lok Sabha to simplify taxes which has greatly benefited the nation," said

Raguvir Sahay, a BJP worker who visited party headquarters to pay his last respect.

Another party worker Iqbal Ahmad from Jama Masjid area said that Jaitley was a very friendly person and treated everyone with dignity. I once met him at party office and he stopped and asked my wellbeing after I greeted him. I do not think there is many like him who pays attention to even a party's grassroots workers," he said.

"I have visited his residence a number of times with senior party leaders. He was very humble and polite to all of us. He used to listen to concerns of everyone and never turned down any request for help by party workers," said Vishnu Pandit, a party worker from Malviya Nagar.

Jaitley, who as Finance Minister piloted India's biggest tax reform and flagship schemes like Jan Dhan, was the chief troubleshooter of the BJP and the Modi Government. Jaitley who completed graduation degree from Shri Ram College of Commerce and his LLB degree from the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi (DU),

started his political career as student leader with Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) in the DU campus. He was also the president of the youth wing of the BJP and the Secretary of the Delhi Unit in the year 1980.

IN SNUB TO...

They also said that regional connectivity projects should be based on international law, including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, in an apparent reference to China's push for its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

During the meetings, the two sides also noted the increasing trend of bilateral trade and existing potential for two-way investments and reaffirmed their desire to provide favourable environments for trade and investments.

The two countries agreed to focus on enhancing cooperation in energy, covering the areas of joint exploration and training of human resources.

The two leaders agreed to enhance cooperation to strengthen maritime security in the Gulf region, vital for the security and safety of sea lanes.

The two sides underlined the importance of enhancing high-level political exchanges, defence and higher education cooperation, trade and economic relations and people-to-people linkages.

The leaders also noted the increasing trend of bilateral trade and existing potential for two-way investments and reaffirmed their desire to provide favourable environments for trade and investments.

India also welcomed the interest of Bahrain to join the International Solar alliance (ISA), recognising the importance of it as international intergovernmental organisation, which has become an effective platform to facilitate the deployment of solar energy.

Both the sides also emphasised on the urgent need to pursue UN reforms, including the Security Council through an expansion of both categories of its membership, to make it more representative and effective in tackling global challenges.

The two countries also signed MoUs on cultural exchange programme, space

technology, solar energy, the statement said.

An MoU was also signed between BENEFIT, a Bahrain company handling ATM and POS transactions among others, and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for launch of RuPay card in the Gulf Kingdom, it said.

During the official meetings, the two sides also underlined their close bilateral ties, deep-rooted in shared history and cultural affinities, sustained and nourished through growing economic linkages and close people-to-people contacts.

SECRETARIAT TAKES...

Partial restoration of normalcy in the last one week motivated the officials to execute the task. During the recently concluded 73rd Independence Day celebrations, the State flag was seen fitted alongside National flag on the official vehicles of VIPs who inspected the parade after unfurling the tricolour.

Meanwhile, situation remained peaceful across the Valley on Sunday. Posting a tweet on Sunday evening,

Kashmir Zone police said, "No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere so far."

On the other hand, defending the decision to suspend network services and internet facilities since August 5, J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik on Sunday claimed the decision was taken to prevent a backlash in the region.

Referring to media reports highlighting shortage of essential commodities including medicines in Kashmir Valley, the Governor told reporters in New Delhi that there is no shortage of essential commodities. He said the lack of communication lines is a better option than loss of lives.

Referring to similar situations in the past, he said "In all the crises that happened in Kashmir in the past, at least 50 people used to die in the first week itself." So far, no deaths have been reported from the State.

"Our attitude is such that there should be no loss of human lives. If there's no telephone for 10 days, so be it. But we will roll back these measures very soon," he added.

MANN KI BAAT

Make Gandhiji's birth anniversary plastic-free: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday in his radio talk urged people to observe the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi this year as a day to make India plastic-free and exhorted municipalities, NGOs and the corporate sector to come up with ways for safe disposal of accumulated plastic waste before Diwali. The call for a mass movement came days after Modi's Independence

Day's address in which he had urged people to shun 'single-use' plastic to protect the environment.

In his monthly radio address 'Mann ki Baat', the prime minister also urged people to participate in the annual 'Swachhta Hi Seva' or 'the quest for cleanliness is service' campaign, which will begin on September 11 this year. "This year, on October 2, when we celebrate Bapu's 150th birth anniversary, we shall not only dedicate to him an India that is open defecation-free but also shall lay the foundation of a new revolution against plastic, by people themselves, throughout the country," he said.

He said people from all strata of the society should celebrate Gandhi Jayanti this year as a day to make "Mother India plastic-free".

The prime minister urged all municipalities, municipal corporations, district adminis-

trations, gram panchayats, government and non-governmental bodies to work towards ensuring adequate arrangement for collection and storage of plastic waste.

"I also appeal to the corporate sector to come out with ways and means for appropriate disposal of all accumulated plastic. It can be recycled; it can be transformed into fuel. This way we can accomplish our task of ensuring safe disposal of plastic waste before this Diwali," he said.

Diwali festival this year falls on October 27.

He said all that is required to take up the challenge is resolve and "what can be a greater inspiration than Gandhiji?"

In his Independence Day's address, Modi had urged citizens to eliminate 'single-use' plastic and suggested that shopkeepers provide eco-friendly bags to customers.

"This campaign has enthused people... Many of my merchant brothers and sisters have put up a placard at their establishments, boldly mentioning that customers ought to carry shopping bags with them. This will result in monetary savings as well as one would be able to contribute towards protection of the environment," he said.

Prime Minister also shared his experiences in the Discovery Channel's show with Bear Grylls. "Whenever I

spoke, it was instantly translated into English. Bear Grylls had a small cordless instrument in his ear. So I used to speak in Hindi and he heard it in English... The communication became very easy. This is an amazing aspect about technology," the prime minister explained. He said, with some hesitation, people do ask him as to how could Grylls understand Hindi.

"Was the episode edited later? How many times did the shooting happen for this episode and how it happened? They ask with great curiosity... There is no secret in this. Many people have this question in their minds, so I will unravel this secret. In a way it is no secret at all the reality is that technology was used extensively in my conversation with Bear Grylls," Modi said.

After the show's broadcast, a large number of people have been discussing about the Jim Corbett National Park, he said. "You must also visit sites associated with nature and wildlife and animals. As I have said before, and I emphasise, that you must visit the northeast in your lifetime," he said.

Walking through the wild and taking a ride on a cold river in a makeshift boat were some of the things that Modi put up with as he teamed up with Grylls to promote causes close to his heart -- conservation of nature and cleanliness.

RAHUL-LED OPPOSITION ATTEMPT TO VISIT KASHMIR

Leaders got taste of draconian administration: RaGa

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is furious over the way he and several other Opposition leaders were packed off from the Srinagar airport to Delhi on Saturday and denied permission to visit the valley. On Sunday, Rahul said leaders of the Opposition and the press got a taste of the "draconian administration" and "brute force" unleashed on the people of Jammu & Kashmir when they tried to visit Srinagar.

The delegation was there to take stock of the situation following massive deployment of troops in the wake of abrogation of Article 370.

The delegation included Congress's Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma and KC Venugopal, CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury, Tiruchi Siva (DMK), Sharad Yadav (LJD), Dinesh Trivedi (TMC), D Raja (CPI), Majeed Menon (NCP), Manoj Jha (RJD) and D Kupendra Reddy (JDS).

TV journalists covering the visits beamed live picture from the Srinagar airport where policemen assaulted them in an attempt to prevent them from talking to anyone.

"It's been 20 days since the people of Jammu & Kashmir had their freedom and civil liberties curtailed," Leaders of the Opposition and the Press got a taste of the draconian administration and brute force unleashed on the people of J&K when we tried to visit Srinagar yesterday," he said.

The former Congress president also posted a video of



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Ghulam Nabi Azad, left party leader D Raja and DMK MP Tiruchi Siva return from Srinagar, at IGI airport in New Delhi on Saturday. A delegation of opposition leaders who visited Srinagar to assess the situation in the Kashmir Valley were sent back from the airport by J&K authorities. PTI

Saturday's events, showing authorities reading out an order to the opposition leaders and Gandhi addressing the media.

The video showed Gandhi speaking to the media and alleging that media persons accompanying the delegation were mishandled and beaten up. He also said it is clear that things are "not normal" in Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Rahul's sister and Congress's general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday shared a video of a Kashmiri woman breaking down before Rahul Gandhi

on a flight to New Delhi. Priyanka lashed out at the Centre for the restrictions in Kashmir and accused it of being anti-national by silencing the people of the valley.

"How long is this going to continue? This is one out of millions of people who are being silenced and crushed in the name of "Nationalism". There is NOTHING more 'political' and 'anti national' than the shutting down of all democratic rights that is taking place in Kashmir. It is the duty of every one of us to raise our voices against it, we will not

stop doing so," Priyanka tweeted.

In the video, the woman is seen recounting how the lockdown in the Valley has affected the lives of those in Jammu and Kashmir. "Our children have not been able to move out of their houses. My brother is a heart patient. He could not see the doctor for 10 days. We are in trouble," she said sobbing. In the video, Rahul can be seen trying to console the woman.

The woman met Rahul Gandhi in the flight that he and other opposition leaders had

taken on their way to Delhi after the administration did not allow them to move out of the Srinagar airport.

On his return to Delhi the former Congress chief said things were not normal in Jammu and Kashmir. "We wanted to get a sense of what people are going through and help the situation if we could. But unfortunately we were not allowed to go beyond the airport. The press people with us were mishandled, beaten. It's clear that things are not normal in Jammu and Kashmir," Rahul said.

5K kids quit study for mica mining to support family: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian laws may have mandated right to education to every kid while prohibiting anyone under the age of 14 from working — and certainly not in dangerous jobs like mining. But a Government body has found that over 5,000 children in the age group of six to 14 years quit education to slog away in mica mining supplementing their family income.

According to a survey conducted by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) which came following a report by Terre Des Hommes, an international development agency working in India, revealed last year that more than 22,000 children are employed as child labourers in the mica mining areas of Jharkhand and Bihar.

Taking serious view in the matter, the child rights' body has called for making the supply chain of the mica mining and industry free of child labour.

In a report based on the survey, the NCPCR said it has observed that a section of children in the mica mining areas are deprived of opportunities and have started working as labourers to supplement their family income.

The survey was conducted



in the districts of Koderma and Giridih in Jharkhand and Nawada district in Bihar. "As per the survey, there are 4,545 children in the age group of six to 14 years in the area of Jharkhand reported as not attending school," the NCPCR said.

The survey on 'education & well-being of children in mica mining areas of Jharkhand and Bihar' found that 649 children in the same age group were reported as not attending school in Nawada district of Bihar.

The reasons for not attending school included lack of aspiration, lack of interest and

also cases of collecting mica scraps, according to the survey.

It also found that children in the age group of six to 14 years in 45 habitations of Koderma, 40 habitations of Giridih and 15 habitations of Nawada go for mica scraps collection.

Officials say selling mica scraps is the main means of livelihood for many families in these areas.

"Several families do not see the benefit of sending their children to schools and instead prefer them working in collecting and selling mica scraps," an official said.

India is one of the world's largest producers of mica, with Jharkhand and Bihar being the main mica producing states in the country. Mica is used in various sectors, including buildings and electronics, and even in cosmetics and paint production.

The objectives of the survey conducted by the NCPCR were to find out the educational status of children in the mica mining areas, number of children who are not attending school, whether children are involved in collecting mica scraps, if vocational trainings are provided to the adolescents,

and the presence of NGOs in the areas.

The NCPCR said strict action should be taken against buyers of mica scraps from children, and said a special drive to abolish child labour in the mica mining areas of Jharkhand and Bihar should be carried out by the administration.

It also recommended the implementation of PENCIL scheme. "The PENCIL scheme (Platform for Effective Enforcement of No Child Labour) may be introduced and implemented properly in the district of Koderma and Giridih to help in effective enforcement of no child labour in the areas," the NCPCR said in its report.

It said residential schools and hostel facilities should be made available in the mica mining areas to accommodate children who are not attending school.

The NCPCR also flagged the issue of malnutrition among children in these areas.

"In case of Giridih and Koderma, the undernutrition cases reported in 14 per cent and 19 per cent of the habitations and villages, respectively in the survey area. In case of Nawada, 69 per cent habitations have reported that some children are undernourished," it said.

Urban Ministry develops 1,159 parks on 4,288 acres of land under AMRUT

990 projects worth ₹812 crore are under progress: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 1,159 parks have been developed on 4,288 acres across the country under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) a flagship programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, more than 4,288 acre is being enriched as green spaces and parks under the mission, a flagship programme of the central government. "So far, a total of 1,159 parks have been developed across the country under AMRUT," the official said.

He said the components of parks developed include children friendly equipment, the divyang (disabled) friendly features, open gym, besides providing park-related softscape and hardscape elements and other horticulture works. "Development of parks and public places is one of the major thrust areas under the



mission to increase the amenity value of the cities by developing greenery," he added.

Around ₹1,768 crore was allocated for the green spaces and parks sector, and a total of 2,355 park projects costing Rs 1,522 crore was taken under the AMRUT, the HUA ministry said. In addition to the completed projects, 990 projects worth ₹812 crore are under progress, it said. The AMRUT was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2015 in 500 cities across the country, covering about 60 per cent of the total urban population.

According to officials, water scarcity will also be

addressed through this flagship programme. In the first phase, 496 ULBs have been identified in 200 districts.

In the second phase, between October 1 and November 30, the guidelines will be implemented in 260 ULBs in 55 districts. In all, according to the ministry, 255 districts (India has a total of 725 districts), 756 urban local bodies (ULBs; municipalities and corporations), and 1,597 blocks across the country face a severe water crisis and shortage of drinking water from a rapid decline in ground water levels due to indiscriminate extraction, erratic monsoons, and unauthorised development.

Pakistan releases more water, flood threat in Ferozepur villages

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

A few villages in Punjab's border district Ferozepur are facing a flood threat after a major portion of an embankment in the catchment area of the Sutlej river was washed away following the Pakistan's release of water into the Indian territory. Officials on Sunday said the Ferozepur district administration is on high alert, while precautionary deployment of the NDRF and the Army teams has been made in view of the flood threat which looms large in some villages.

"Pakistan has released water in huge quantity which caused damage to the embankment in Tendiwala village, and there is danger of floods in some villages," a spokesperson of the Punjab government said.

"Being on guard, the district administration has announced evacuation in most sensitive villages along the Sutlej river as a precautionary step besides deploying various teams of the health

department, food and civil supplies department and others," he said. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh asked the Water Resources Department to work out a joint action plan with the Army to strengthen the embankment at the village on the Indo-Pak border.

Presiding over a high-level meeting to review the flood situation in Ferozepur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala and Rupnagar districts, he directed the principal secretary Water Resources to ensure strengthening of Tendiwala embankment on war footing to avert the flooding of nearby villages, an official statement said.

The Chief Minister, it said, also directed the Ferozepur deputy commissioner to keep NDRF teams on standby to meet any exigency arising out of the floods. The spokesperson said people need not panic as the administration is geared up for the task with relief work at vulnerable points being undertaken at a fast pace.

ASI lists 10 monuments of national importance

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) has made a sort of record by declaring as many as 10 monuments of national importance in the last one year itself. These include four important temples-one each in Jammu and Kashmir and Odisha and two in Uttarakhand, taking the total tally of monuments under its protection umbrella to 3,697.

The "national importance" tag puts the sites on the world tourism map, and ensure them regular fund for conservation, preservation and maintenance by the ASI on priority basis, as per archaeological norms.

Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have the highest number of sites maintained by the country's premier conservation body; an autonomous organization under the Union Culture Ministry.

Excavated by the ASI way back in 1950s, Jagatgram village, the 2,000-year-old site in Dehradun is associated with the ancient practice of horse sacrifice or the ritual of Ashvamedha. It been now declared a monument of 'national importance'.

An official in the ASI said



the site known as Jagatgram has remains of three fire altars where the horse sacrifices were presumably conducted. The excavated remains of the three fire altars here reveal that they were built in the eagle-shaped Syena Chiti form, where the bird is depicted with its wings spread. According to experts, such altars are extremely rare.

Similarly, the 12th-century old Janardhanagudi temple in

Kerala's Wayanad has been recently given national tag. An artist's delight, the temple's huge stone pillars have nearly 300 intricate and elaborate carvings, sculpture of a fishing man, a primitive war scene featuring tuskers, a stone edict in old Kannada script, figures of Jain deities and sculptures of the 'Dashavatara'.

Yet another monument is an ancient complex housing

ruins of over 52 temples in the twin villages of Ranipur-Jharial in Odisha's Balangir district. The site has a famous shrine known as Chausathi Yogini temple showcasing 64 yoginis in various dancing poses, which is already a centrally-protected monument. Dating back to the 9th/10th century AD, pertaining to the reign of Somavanshi Keshari kings, the plethora of temples showcase

Record of Sorts in Last One Year

- ◆ HAVELI OF AGAH KHAN IN AGRA, UP
- ◆ HATHI KHANA IN AGRA IN UTTAR PRADESH
- ◆ WANLA GOMPA COMPLEX IN LEH
- ◆ JANARDHANAGUDI TEMPLE IN KERALA'S WAYANAD DISTRICT
- ◆ 52 TEMPLES IN THE TWIN VILLAGES OF RANIPUR-JHARIAL IN ODISHA'S BALANGIR DISTRICT
- ◆ TRILLOCHAN TEMPLE IN KATHUA IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR
- ◆ VEERPUR KHURD IN VEERBHADRA IN UTTARAKHAND
- ◆ VISHNU TEMPLE IN KOTALI, PITHORAGARH DISTRICT, UTTARAKHAND
- ◆ 125-YEAR-OLD OLD HIGH COURT BUILDING IN NAGPUR, MAHARASHTRA
- ◆ NEEMRANA BAORI IN RAJASTHAN'S ALWAR DISTRICT

cults such as Shaivism, Buddhism, Vaisnavism and Tantrism.

Two Mughal-era structures - Haveli of Agah Khan and Hathi Khana, both located on the eastern side of Taj Mahal have been declared as 'monuments of national importance'.

Largely in a state of dilapidation, the 11th-12th Century old Buddhist monastery Wanla Gumpa housing 16-foot-high

statue of Avalokiteshvara, the Bodhisattva (prospective or future Buddha) on lotus pedestal, in the cold deserts of Ladakh's Wanla village too have been brought under the ASI fold.

The Ministry has notified these structures as protected monuments under the Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains Act (AMASR), 1958.

Sanjay will join party on Sept 25: RSP

- RSP chief, Maha Minister Jankar makes claim at party's 16 foundation day function
- Says RSP has staked claim for 57 Assembly seats from BJP, would settle down for 14 seats
- We will give respectable number of seats to RSP, says Pankaja Munde

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Rashtriya Samaj Paksha (RSP) chief and Dairy Development Minister Mahadev Jankar on Sunday created a sensation by claiming that Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt would join his party on September 25.

Jankar made the claim at the RSP's 16th foundation day event here in the presence of Minister of Rural Development, Women and Child Welfare Pankaja Munde, after a video of the "Munnabhai MBBS" actor was played out at the event.

In the video clip, Dutt said: "I congratulate RSP National President Mahadev Jankar, my friend and my brother. If I would have been here, I would have come," said Dutt in the 17-second video.

Later, speaking at the function held at the historic Shivaji Park in north-central Mumbai, Jankar claimed: "Just now you heard the byte of big boss...big brother. Sanjay Dutt has given date of 25 September to join (RSP). He is in Dubai (today). Had he been in Mumbai, he

would have joined us."

There are not many takers to Jankar's claim that Dutt would join the RSP. An emotional person that he is, Dutt may not have even realised as that his mere greetings to Jankar would result in Jankar's claim.

It may be recalled that on May 1, 2016, the presence of Dutt — who had just then been released from Pune central prison after serving his sentence in the 1993 serial blasts case — at a BJP's Maharashtra Day function organised at Dindoshi in north Mumbai on Sunday night — had set tongues wagging in the State political circles.

Donning an orange Maharashtra 'pagdi' at the function organised by his friend and BJP leader Mohit Kamboj on the occasion of "Maharashtra day", the actor had pledged not only to do anything for his friend (Manoj) but also reportedly said that the BJP seats in the state "must increase", a statement the actor did not deny later.

Jankar's claim should be seen in the context of the fact



that he is the son of late actor-politician Sunil Dutt and a five-time Congress MP from Mumbai and late actress Nargis Dutt, who had also been a Rajya Sabha MP. His sister Priya Dutt-Roncon is the Congress' former MP. Priya had represented Congress for two terms in Lok

Sabha from November 2005 to April 2014. Dutt's have been very close to the Nehru-Gandhi family for decades now. Dutt campaigned for his sister Priya in the recent Lok Sabha polls, in which the latter suffered defeat at the hands of the BJP's Poonam Mahajan.

Jankar said the RSP's power in the State had increased considerably. "We have 98 members of zilla parishads. The RSP holds the reign of several market committees. We have asked for 57 Assembly seats in the Assembly after considering our party's increased strength," Jankar said.

An engineer, Jankar — who is born in a poor family in Mann taluka of Satara district in western Maharashtra, has for several years been championing the cause of the Dhangar community. Having started his career with then Kanshi Ramlal BSP, he became the president of Yeshwant Sena. After floating RSP in 2003, he unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha polls from Baramati in 2014. He was elected a member of Maharashtra

Legislative Council in 2015, with the support of BJP.

Later, talking to media persons, Jankar said that his party continued to remain in the BJP-led ruling alliance in the state, despite the fact that it did not get even one seat in the seat allocations for the recent Lok Sabha polls. "Since the BJP has announced reservations for the Dhangar community, we are with the principal ruling party in the state. Though we have demanded 57 seats, we expect at least 14 seats," he said.

Addressing the rally, Pankaja Munde said that from being a party that was confined to chowks had now reached Shivaji Park. "The BJP will give befitting number of seats to the RSP in the State Assembly polls. "The earlier Congress-NCP had fooled the Dhangar community. It tried to create rift among the backward communities. The Dhangar and other backward communities have seen through their game. The BJP-led ruling alliance will return to power in the state with a thumping majority," she said.

No shortage of drugs, essentials in J&K: Guv

Communication curbs saved lives: Satya Pal Malik

PTI ■ SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI

Most of the chemist shops remained open in the Kashmir Valley on Sunday as Governor Satya Pal Malik denied any shortage of medicines and essential commodities in Jammu & Kashmir, and said communication curbs helped save many lives in the State.

In a statement, the Jammu and Kashmir administration said 1,165 out of 1,666 chemist shops in Srinagar remained open on Sunday.

The Kashmir Valley has 7,630 retail chemist shops and 4,331 wholesale shops, it said, adding that around 65 per cent shops remained open there. Malik said there was no shortage of medicines and essential commodities anywhere in Jammu & Kashmir and enough stocks were available for people to buy. "In fact, we delivered meat, vegetables and eggs to people's doorsteps on Eid," he said.

Medicines worth Rs 23.81 crore have reached end user retail shops in the last 20 days. "That's slightly higher than the monthly average," the statement said. It said all 376 notified drugs are available at government shops and also private retailers. Sixty-two essential/life saving drugs were also available. "Both categories for 15-20 days stock," it added.

The average delivery time from placement of order is 14-18 hours from Jammu, as most of the distributors are from there, the statement said.

Noting that there was some shortage of baby food in the Valley for nearly two days, it said fresh stocks have been received and they are sufficient for the next three weeks.

"No cases of overpricing received in 72 test check cases," it added. Governor Malik, who was in the national capital to pay his last respects to former



Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley who died on Saturday, also said no life has been lost in Jammu & Kashmir due to any violence in the last 10 days after the abrogation of the special status given to Jammu & Kashmir and its division into two Union Territories.

"If blockade of communication helps save lives, what is the harm?" he told reporters when asked to comment on how long the restrictions will continue.

Malik said in the past, whenever there was a crisis in Kashmir, at least 50 people used to die in the first week itself. "Our attitude that there should be no loss of human life. '10 din telephone nahi honge, nahi honge, lekin hum bahut jaldi sabhi wapas kar denge. (If there is no phone connection for 10 days, so be it. But, we will restore everything soon)," he said.

Fondly remembering Jaitley, Malik said it was the departed leader who had insisted him to take up the responsibility as the Jammu & Kashmir Governor last year.

"I was advised by Arun Jaitley to take up the responsibility as Governor. He told me that it will be historic. He also told me that his in-laws are from Jammu," he said.

85 schemes with set time-frame launched in J&K

New Delhi: The Centre on Sunday launched 85 people-oriented development schemes, like PM-KISAN, P M - K I S A N - P e n s i o n , Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and Stand-Up India, in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Government aims to achieve 100 per cent coverage of these schemes, which come under 21 Ministries, within one month (by September 30).

A slew of insurance schemes, including the Atal Pension Yojana, has also been introduced in the newly carved Union Territory and the Government plans to provide electricity to all the J&K households.

The PM's special initiatives, like LPG connection to the poor household and direct benefit transfer (DBT) for LPG and kerosene, focussing to empower women especially in rural areas, have also been introduced.

IANS



Devotees load an idol of Lord Ganesha into a luggage compartment of a long distance train at Mumbai Central station on Sunday



PTI Participants during mass making of clay idols of Lord Ganesha in Bengaluru on Sunday

Muslims cremate Hindu friend in Assam village

PTI ■ RANGIA

A group of Muslim villagers in Assam's Kamrup district has performed the last rites of a Hindu man, who had stayed at a Muslim friend's residence with his family for over 25 years, officials said on Sunday.

Sixty-five-year-old Rajkumar Gaur used to stay at Sadding Hussain's residence in Rangia's Khandikar village after the death of his father rendered him homeless in the 1990s. After Rajkumar Gaur died on Saturday, Hussain and his friends pooled money to purchase the items required for a Hindu cremation and arranged a priest, said Shukur Ali, a resident of Khandikar village.

They also carried his body to the cremation ground and set fire to the funeral pyre amidst chanting of Vedic chants, Maudil Islam of the same village said. Upen Das of a neighbouring Hindu village backed this ver-

sion saying the people of Khandikar had asked him for the list of items needed for Gaur's last rites.

Official sources said the administration was not involved in the cremation but was aware of the incident. Hussain said he had given shelter to Gaur after he was forced to vacate the Railway quarters where he was living following the death of his father who had come to Assam from UP.

"I had built a dwelling for Rajkumar inside my premises so that he could live with his family," he said. Gaur remained a Hindu but used to take part in Muslim religious and social functions, another villager Majibar Rahman said. His two daughters were married to Muslims. "The gesture is in line with the traditional Shankardeb-Azan Fakir communal harmony culture of Assam," All BTAD Minority Students' Union central secretary Najrul Islam said.

Bengal BJP not in unison on inducting tainted TMC leaders

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal BJP seems to be divided on the induction of alleged "corrupt" leaders from other parties particularly the Trinamool Congress. A section of the BJP leadership has objected to the induction of leaders like Sovan Chatterjee and further talks of taking in some other MPs and MLAs who are facing charges of corruption against them.

"I have no doubt about the organisational capabilities of Sovan Chatterjee. He is a big leader in Bengal politics but it is also true that he is facing charges against his name Narada case. It will be difficult for the BJP to go to the people with a clean face and a party with a difference," a State party leader said adding he would raise the issue at the national level.

Meanwhile, in a separate development tension ran high in Kulri town near Ansol where a TMC councillor murdered late on Saturday night. The TMC has accused the BJP for the violence while the latter party has rejected their claims

Another leader from North 24 Parganas who has been instrumental in expanding the base of the party in the region said, "the party will not only face difficulty in explaining its stance but also we will face problem in carrying out our anti-corruption movement in various places."

How the BJP would carry out its anti-cut money campaign against the local TMC leadership he wondered. After vehement protest the BJP lead-

ers of Birbhum had succeeded in reversing the induction of turncoat TMC MLA Manirul Islam who is also a local strongman facing a number of charges against him.

On Chatterjee who was once blue-eyed boy of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee a leader said "what is the surety that he will not quit the BJP if situation changes tomorrow." Making massive inroads in Bengal politics the BJP won 18 out of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in the state in the last Lok Sabha polls. Since then hordes of local leaders are joining the saffron outfit.

Meanwhile, in a separate development tension ran high in Kulri town near Ansol where a TMC councillor murdered late on Saturday night. The TMC has accused the BJP for the violence while the latter party has rejected their claims.

Priyanka hits out at those accusing Opp of 'politicising' J&K

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday hit out at those accusing the Opposition of "politicising" the Jammu & Kashmir issue, saying there is nothing more "political" and "anti-national" than the alleged "shutting down" of democratic rights in Kashmir.

She also asserted that the Congress will not stop raising its voice against it.

Her remarks come a day after a delegation of opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, which wanted to visit Kashmir Valley to take stock of the situation there after the abrogation of Article 370 provisions, was not allowed to leave Srinagar airport by the state administration and had to return to the national Capital.

Minority Affairs Min team to visit Valley tomorrow to select areas for projects

New Delhi: A Minority Affairs Ministry team will visit the Kashmir Valley for two days from Tuesday to identify the areas to implement centrally-sponsored development projects after provisions of Article 370 were abrogated, Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has said.

He also asserted that those opposing the government's withdrawal of J&K's special status, acting as per their "political prejudice", will also come around to support the move after seeing its impact.

"A team of senior officials, including the Secretary, will be visiting the area (Kashmir Valley) on August 27-28. The team will explore development possibilities — where schools, colleges, skill development centres can be opened," Naqvi told PTI in an interview. The

team will look at all possibilities of social-economic development projects, he said.

The Minister also said "precautions" taken in J&K are targeted at a "handful of separatists" who can mislead the people. "It is the job of a responsible government to not allow any misinformation campaign to be run," he said.

Naqvi said the team will also visit Jammu & Ladakh at a later date. The Minority Affairs Minister ruled out reconsideration on abrogation of Article 370 provisions, saying there was no going back.

"It is (Narendra) Modi's Government. Everybody knows that in this government, decision is made after a lot of thinking, but there is no question of a rethink after a decision has been made," PTI

Sidda mocks at BSY over delay in portfolio allocation, calls him BJP's 'unwanted baby'

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Sunday took a dig at Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa over the delay in allocation of portfolios to his ministerial colleagues and said he has become unwanted baby of the BJP.

The former Chief Minister claimed BJP was facing rebellion within due to which the portfolios could not be allotted even after five days of the Cabinet expansion and the party high command had also been not giving any response to Yediyurappa.

What has happened is, Yediyurappa has become an unwanted baby for the BJP high command...On one side there are disgruntled MLAs who went there (to BJP). They are threatening them and then there are many disgruntled within BJP too. Hence portfolio allotment is not happening, Siddaramaiah told reporters here.

Yediyurappa had been going to Delhi and coming back and was not able to meet BJP president Amit Shah (to finalise the portfolio allocation), he claimed.

Attacking the BJP, Siddaramaiah alleged it never had the mandate and came to power through back-door through Operation Lotus (engineering defections) and horse trading.

Blame game over fall of Cong-JD(S) Govt continues

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The war of words between the Congress and JD(S) continued unabated with Siddaramaiah on Sunday slamming HD Kumaraswamy for treating him as an "enemy" and indicated that it led to the fall of the coalition Government headed by the latter.

His comments were in response to Kumaraswamy's recent interview to a news portal, in which he reportedly said Siddaramaiah treated JD(S) as its first enemy. However, Kumaraswamy on Sunday clarified that he had not made such remarks and his interview had been 'distorted'.

"There lies the problem. He (Kumaraswamy) started nurturing grudge against me by treating me as an enemy. Instead of foe, had he considered me as a friend, a trusted man and an ally from the coalition party, nothing would have happened," Siddaramaiah told reporters in Mysuru.

The Congress stalwart charged Kumaraswamy with "hiding" his failure by blaming others. "How can I be an enemy? Those who don't know how to rule say such things," Siddaramaiah said.

The JD(S) leader reportedly alleged Siddaramaiah was never happy with the government formation under him. Kumaraswamy in a tweet said: "Some news channels have distorted my interview to a news portal a few days ago. 'I had only said that more than BJP, Siddaramaiah had targeted our party during the elections but I never said Siddaramaiah is my first enemy. There is no need for unwanted confusion," he said.

Gujarat: 2 dead, 4 hurt in clash between two communities

PTI ■ ANAND

Two persons were killed and four others injured on Sunday in a clash between members of two communities in Gujarat's Anand district, police said.

According to police, violence broke out following an argument over money between the groups of the Patel and Moleesalam Garasiva (Muslim) communities in Undel village in Khambhat taluka in afternoon. "The clash led two dead and four injured. Sharp weapons were used in the fight," said Deputy Superintendent of Police (Khambhat) Reema Munshi.

Four to five persons from each group were involved in the violence, the officer said. "The injured have been hospitalised in Karamsad and Vadodara," said the Dy SP. No arrests have been made so far. "A police contingent has been deployed at the site to maintain law and order and for investigation," Munshi added.

Intel about intrusion of LeT men, K'taka on toes

PTI ■ MANGALURU

The Coastal Security Police in coastal Malpe in Karnataka has issued a public notice asking people to be on alert in view of intelligence reports about infiltration of six

Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorists into neighbouring Tamil Nadu, police said on Sunday.

The public notice asked the people of Malpe area in Udupi to be vigilant and inform the police if they come across any suspicious looking persons,

they said. It comes days after Tamil Nadu was put on high alert after intelligence agencies said six LeT terrorists, including a Pakistani, have sneaked into the state from Sri Lanka to carry out destructive activities.

CSP Malpe Police station inspector Pramod Kumar told PTI that based on information from the intelligence, all police stations had been put on alert. Following the intelligence input, an alert has also been sounded in Kerala, Tamil Nadu.

4 jeld with 54 kg cannabis

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

Crime Investigation Agency (CIA), Palam Vihar, of the district police arrested four persons, including two buyers for their alleged involvement in the smuggling of cannabis (ganja), a contraband drug. The accused used to smuggle the contraband from Odisha. The police have seized 54 kg of cannabis is valued at around ₹3 lakh. A truck and a bike were also recovered from their possession which was used to commit the crime.

The accused have been identified as Chagla Sahu and Ramakant Pradhan of Angul, Odisha. While the buyers have been identified as Govind of Bharatpur, Rajasthan and Sonu of Sector-46, Gurugram.

Local truck driver killed in stone pelting in Anantang

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

In a freak stone-pelting incident, protesters on Sunday evening hurled stones at a civilian truck in south Kashmir's Anantang district, killing the driver, police said.

Noor Mohammed Dar, 42, who belonged to the same Zradipora Urahnall locality, was returning home when protesters mistook his truck for a security force vehicle and hurled stones at it. The driver, who was hit on the head, was shifted to a hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead, they said.

Police said protesters have been hurling stones even at

Police said protesters have been hurling stones even at civilians and earlier this month, they injured an 11-year-old girl in eye at downtown of Srinagar

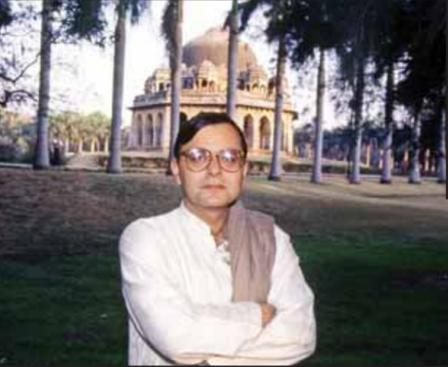
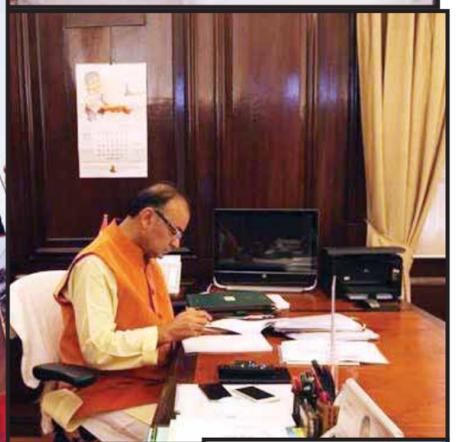
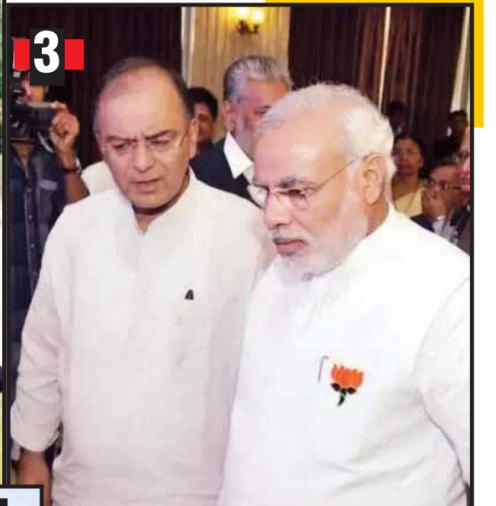
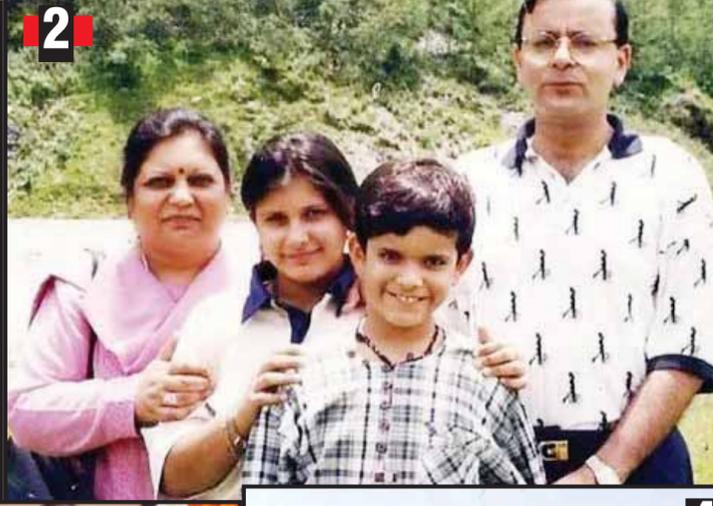
civilians and earlier this month, they injured an 11-year-old girl in the eye at downtown of Srinagar city.

Director General of Jammu & Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh has directed officials to catch the culprits and ensure that stern action is taken against them, police added.



Remembering

ARUN JAITLEY (28 DECEMBER 1952 — 24 AUGUST 2019)



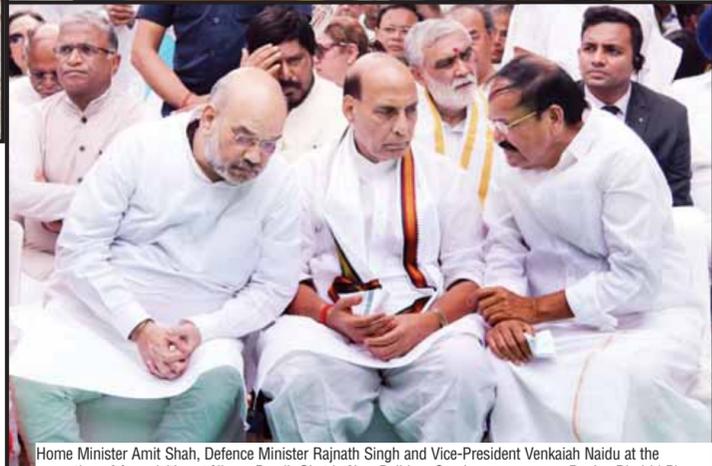
- 1) Arun Jaitley as a student leader during his Delhi University days
- 2) Arun Jaitley with his family
- 3) With Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- 4) With Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan
- 5) At an election rally with Sushma Swaraj
- 6) Arun Jaitley with his family
- 7) With LK Advani and Vijay Malhotra
- 8) Arun Jaitley during an ABVP event
- 9) Arun Jaitley's marriage
- 10) With Rajeev Shukla and cricketer Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi (second left)
- 11) While playing cricket
- 12) With Barack and Michelle Obama
- 13) With Shashi Tharoor

Photo credit: arunjaitley.com/Agencies/Social Media

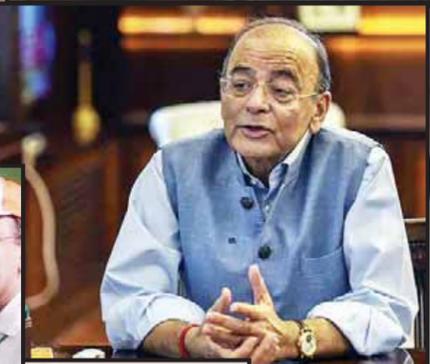
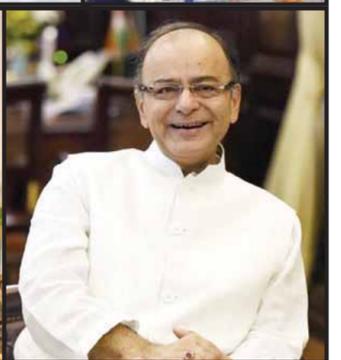


"If some students belonging to weaker section of society suffer distress, humanity says it must be addressed"
"Hate speech can't be a part of free speech"
"We as a Government are entitled to be criticised"

ARUN JAITLEY



Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu at the cremation of Arun Jaitley at Nigam Boadh Ghat in New Delhi on Sunday



PAPER WITH PASSION

Booster shot

Can Sitharaman's announcements be the energy drink that the Indian economy needs to wake up from its slumber?



The Government is right about something, the Indian economy is still growing. But the problem is nobody believes that it is doing so or that it is catching up as fast as it should and this lacklustre conviction is the Government's fault. Growth numbers have been manipulated and uncomfortable figures massaged, others have been withheld to spin a particular narrative. But not all numbers can be fudged. Declining sales and growth figures for publicly listed companies do come out as does Government data. These numbers are painting a grim picture. And while Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman may be right in arguing that India too will be impacted as the world itself is headed towards a cyclical slowdown, the fact is that the Indian economy is still largely based on domestic consumption. This makes arguments from the likes of former vice chairman of Niti Aayog, Arvind Panagariya — which essentially went (with due apologies to Marie Antoinette) "let them export" when he was talking of the troubles faced by the Indian automotive industry — belie an understanding of the situation. But at least someone in the Government, maybe even the Prime Minister, saw that private sector investment in our country was hurtling downhill. This, coupled with little or no major foreign investment, will worsen the job crisis further. India, which mind you needs to create a million jobs a month over the next decade to absorb its "demographic dividend," might actually start losing them.

At least the realisation has dawned that unless domestic consumption is enhanced, there can be no short-term growth. So the measures announced by the Finance Minister, crucially about bank recapitalisation and associated issues as well as the Government paying back its dues to ease working capital crisis alongside, are a good start. It is the cup of coffee that many people have to start their day. It is, however, not a full meal and one hopes that the Government thinks of some other radical new measures to boost the economy. While cutting tax rates is an anathema to Indian Governments — whether on the personal side or on products — it might become essential to boost spending because when people are worried about the state of the economy, they will not spend unless one actually puts money in their hands. Cheaper loans will not make an iota of difference if people do not want them. At the same time, the Government has to rein in motormouths inside the official structure, who have actively gone and harmed industries with comments that have been out of line. Many of those remarks have come from motivated individuals inside policy-making institutions and others, who hold important roles. There is no doubt that this Government, or any Indian government, will have major social sector priorities but if economic growth falters, the aim to lift hundreds of millions out of poverty will remain a pipe-dream. The situation is frankly quite critical and while one should not go as far as to say that the survival of the modern Indian nation state depends on competent handling of the situation, anyone who makes such an argument today will have the attention of many. We are hoping that this stimulus will lift sentiments and energise the equity market. Others still want the big bang reforms, not a nudge.

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Cong's inner voice

Seniors are against 'demonising' Modi or drawing comparisons but want the party to fight the government cogently on issues



It would perhaps be easy enough to conclude that some senior Congressmen leading the "stop demonising Modi" chorus have been coopted by prevalent nationalist thinking and are in a rebellious mood as the party goes adrift every day. Some would say the simmering down of the attack could perhaps be influenced by the severity of government probes against fellow Congressman P Chidambaram. But what senior leaders like Bhupinder Hooda, who has refused to critique the abrogation of Article 370, or Jai Ram Ramesh said of appreciating the governance of the Modi regime when it did right, is perhaps indicative of what could repair the Congress. If one looks back at the party's heady days of winning crucial heartland polls last December and the slide within months in the Lok Sabha polls this summer, then one could find the answers. For the Assemblies, the Congress campaign relied strongly on regional CM faces, an issue-based counter and practical alternatives to the existing governance. In contrast, the party's national election campaign played into the personality cult war that Team Modi had set up with "Modi versus Who," and the Congress atrociously relying on a catchy but self-defeating tag of "Chowkidaar Chor Hai." Given the Congress' own burden of corruption, it was no doubt easier for Modi to rightfully project himself as a vigilante of the nation's interests and turn the nomenclature on its head. Undoubtedly, the negative campaign against Modi only ended up lionising him. Many senior leaders had then murmured privately that the party was just not cut out for a presidential style contest and needed a different sales pitch. It could have countered "sabka vishwas" with its own broad-based alliance of varied interests and regional aspirations, one which it failed at. And by the time it unfurled NVAY as its vision document and policy statement, it had missed the bus. It completely misread the nationalist surge after Balakot and would now want to bury the Rafale allegations with the ghosts of history.

While the Young Turks have set their terms of engagement, refusing to criticise the Government's Kashmir policy for the sake of it and wanting to strengthen their network in States where Assembly polls are due, some saner seniors have claimed the "nationalist" tag of the INC. They are urging the leadership to develop a template on issues that have been mishandled by the Modi regime rather than just being a petulant noise-maker. Jai Ram Ramesh, although considered a close inner circle member, at least knows that true loyalty is not about acquiescence but about showing the mirror to the leadership so that it undertakes a much-needed course correction. He was pragmatic enough to admit that Modi's "economics of governance" and the Ujjwala Scheme to provide cooking gas connections to BPL households did generate a groundswell that no rhetoric could check. In fact, continued attacks would only make the Congress look like a vituperative irritant and not the serious national party it is. Besides, focussing on Modi would automatically draw attention away from the gravity of issues and the Prime Minister, too, would be happy with that. What the Congress must realise is that a responsible Opposition means that its criticism is worth respecting and paid heed to instead of becoming the subject of an internet joke fest. If such musings do inspire a change of thinking, then maybe the party will actually look towards working on issues and develop an alternate matrix of governance. The Congress supreme leader can be powerful not by entitlement any longer, certainly not by individual charisma but by drawing on organisational strength and giving hope to the rank and file. In short, giving Congressmen a workable narrative.

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Old is still gold

The Govt's decision to abruptly remove 10-year-old seed varieties from the market may do more harm than good. It must phase them out gradually and earn farmers' trust



INDRA SHEKHAR SINGH

The Government is about to make a terrible mistake with its seed policy. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has decided to withdraw certified/notified varieties of seeds that are older than 10 years from the market. The Government system, backed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), cancelled the indent of seed producers, who have requested for popular varieties between 10-15 years old.

Several small and medium seed companies across the country obtain breeder seeds from ICAR every year and take up the production of foundation seeds and certified seeds to distribute them to the farmers. Older varieties, between 10 and 15 years, are still very popular among the farmers. In fact, they demand varieties that are older than 25 years, too, because of their adaptability, resilience and high-yielding capabilities under adverse conditions. The sudden disappearance of the seeds from the market will rob the farmers of freedom, their right to choose the seeds he/she wants to grow and the market of *laissez-faire* principles. Besides, this conservative policy decision may also cause extreme chaos among the farming community, disrupt the seed economy and impact crop production negatively.

Any sound agriculturist will tell you that diversity breeds resilience, delivering both higher yields and immunity for the plants from diseases and pests. This can be achieved through breeding and introduction of newer varieties to maintain pace with natural evolution among pests and pathogens. With time, older varieties need replacement as they become vulnerable to biotic and abiotic factors. Seeds bred for disease resistance may lose those traits as pests/diseases keep evolving, depending on agro-climatic conditions, among other things. This results in decreased efficiency of the seed or requirements of more crop protection or artificial boosters to maintain sustained yields. So when it comes to science, the Government is making an objective decision, a scientific one.

But a one size fits all approach does not work in the farm sector. And why should it? The category of the Indian farmer is occupied by many — starting from the forest-dwelling Santhal farmers of Jharkhand to the progressive cereal farmers from Punjab, the Gond farmers growing corn in central India, the Assamese farmer cultivating paddy in the fields of North-East, the desert farmers of Ladakh and Thar and the coastal farmers from Kerala. The list can go on and on.

The Indian farmers are a diverse group with different qualities and limitation but have one common requirement of certified/superior seeds. While farmers in Punjab are very progressive and quick to adapt to newer schemes and seeds, the



Gond farmers of Madhya Pradesh may not even know about the many Government schemes and seeds, given they are remotely located.

It can be concluded from historical evidence based on the spread of Green Revolution in India that there are three groups — Core areas, covering Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu; periphery, covering eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala; and remote, covering North-Eastern and hilly States, Goa and Puducherry — when it comes to the spread of technological innovation in agriculture.

The time of adaptation or even a variety being accepted by one zone differs to a great degree. After the commercialisation of a variety, it may take around one to three years for it to be widely accepted by core areas such as Punjab and Haryana. For the same variety to trickle down to eastern Uttar Pradesh, it may take another three to four years and for it to reach remote areas like Jharkhand, six to eight years. By the time farmers across these zones gain confidence in the variety and raise demands, the 10-year period is already over.

Old is gold, there is no better adherent to this adage than Indian farmers. General consensus on a good seed is built on how it performed last year or when some farmers get higher yields or less disease. The approach to buying seeds is very conservative. Mostly, varieties that have proved themselves over a season or two in the region are sold. Smaller farmers do not gamble with new varieties. Medium/large farms may experiment with newer varieties but it takes two to three seasons before the intended advantage is delivered.

Farmers need to trust a variety before they adopt it. And given the climatic variations and water scarcity, it may take a longer time for the seed to perform ideally. Hence, the time of adaptation increases, depending on the area.

The harshest truth of the seed world is that its economy is based on the choices made by the farmers. The market is driven by demand and is based not only on science but farmers' intuition. They trust their logic over and above the Government/seed retailer or the labelling. To cultivate demand for a particular variety of seed, therefore, may take ten years or more. In India, the saturation point may be reached way beyond the 25-30 year period. There are many examples. PBW-343 (1996), WH-147 (1978) in wheat, Varuna (1976) for mustard, Pusa Basmati 1 (1989), Govind (1989) in paddy among others are still the farmers' favorites and they have continuously given yields and performed optimally. If suddenly they are removed from the market, with no alternative to the farmers, this may lead to discontentment among the agrarian community.

This will also encourage black marketing, hoarding of trusted varieties as the farmers will not gamble. Besides, it may give birth to a shadow seed economy. Instead of aiding the farmers, the Government may well push them to act complicitly with black marketers. The rural economy will suffer and the seed economy along with the markets will see a decline, which may translate to a decrease in crop production.

But the Government can still steer the moment towards creating a positive impact. It may begin by allowing varieties till 15 years to be produced through the ICAR system. Then, it should do a detailed study to get an estimate of market penetration of new varieties

and understand market trends to bring transformative changes. This policy needs to be reviewed on a case-to-case basis.

While less popular varieties can be phased out after 10-12 years, more popular varieties may continue up to 20-22 years. Preparing for the replacement drive of a variety of seed, the Government can use digital media to showcase efficiency, using farmer-friendly videos in regional languages and live crop demonstrations.

This campaign can be strengthened by efforts of *Krishi mitra*/village-level agriculture officers. The Government can supply new varieties to the farmers directly so that they can sow them in small patches in their region. Once the farmers see the new varieties perform better, they will develop trust for new seeds and, thus, natural demand can be created. The Government must not only make the best use of scientific principles but also keep in mind economic forces of demand as for many farmers, old seed is still gold.

(The writer is Programme Director for Policy and Outreach at the National Seed Association of India)

SOUNDBITE

Opposition parties could have visited Srinagar and told the truth to the country. It would have built confidence among people.

Rajasthan Chief Minister — Ashok Gehlot



She (Mira) is creative and has a great sense of clothes and is very good with food, too. Having said that, she is pretty comfortable in front of the camera, too.

Actor — Shahid Kapoor



For many years China (and many other countries) has been taking advantage of the US. As President, I can no longer allow this to happen.

US President — Donald Trump



In the interest of the nation, the work (Kartarpur corridor) must not move ahead. Whatever work has been done (on the project), let it stop there.

BJP MP — Subramanian Swamy



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Welfarist approach

Sir — The Bombay High Court has asked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to file a reply on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by the National Association for the Blind, seeking the Central bank's assurance that sizes of currency notes will not be changed in future as visually challenged people take time to get familiar with new-sized notes. The subject came to light after the size of ₹100 and ₹500 notes were gradually changed after demonetisation. The RBI should give an assurance that in the future, if notes are required to be changed, it will be done simultaneously for notes of all denominations. The problem also extended to coins.

Visually differently abled people face the same problem when new ₹2 coins of exactly the same size, shape and weight of the then prevailing old ₹1 coins are circulated. The RBI should also ensure that similar sized coins in different denominations are not in circulation simultaneously. We must be sensitive in policy-making.
 SC Agrawal
 Delhi

Healthy criticism is a must for democracy

At last, some Opposition parties, including Congress leaders, have come out in the open to highlight Prime Minister Narendra Modi's success in the "economics of governance." A section of the Congress' senior leadership, including Jai Ram Ramesh, Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Shashi Tharoor, has said that "demonising" the Prime Minister will not help the Opposition's cause and accepted that he "talks in a language that connects him with the people." The lingering impression among the citizens, too, is that the rabid "anti-Modi" stance adopted by the Congress led to the Modi Government's resounding victory in 2019. Demeaning and demonising the Prime Minister of a country, despite public opinion to the contrary, cannot bring laurels to the Opposition. When a leader is denounced on a consistent basis by any party, it tends to lose acceptability and trustworthiness even if the condemnation is genuine.

Though Modi 1.0 could not dissect the problems faced by the nation and find a long-lasting solution, citizens still reposed faith in it. Even the economic slowdown did not change their standing. The Congress brass must take note of Jai Ram Ramesh's remarks. Instead of



ganging up against him, it must re-evaluate its campaign strategy to emerge victorious. With Rahul Gandhi gone and Sonia Gandhi at the helm, she must enthuse the spirit of party workers, rebuild the organisation, reviving communication strategy in order to connect with the masses and sharpen the economic critique. Instead of criticising the Government for the sake of it, it must take recourse to healthy criticism.

Ganapathi Bhat
 Akola

Law is supreme

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Chidambaram in a spot" (August 22). The ugly spectacle of a former Union Home Minister going through unseemly contretemps and evasions to dodge the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) had unnecessarily riveted the nation to its television sets.

Any top politician getting arrested — be it Lalu Prasad of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in the fodder scam in 1997 or M Karunanidhi in 2001 — becomes a premise for settling political

scores. A look at all such cases, where high-profile leaders are involved, points to a similar outrage and hullabaloo surrounding their arrest, though the merits of allegations in each case may vary drastically.

So, the Congress' charade that Chidambaram is a victim of

"political vendetta" ought to be dismissed. Whether the charges levelled against him are true or not is for the judiciary to determine. Nobody is above the law. Ultimately, corruption in high places must be weeded out.

J Akshay
 Bengaluru

Custody blues

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Chidambaram in a spot" (August 22). It is indeed ironical that Congress leader P Chidambaram has had to spend time in custody of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) at the very guest house that was inaugurated by him. Whether the charges against him in the INX Media case are true are not, it cannot be denied that the *modus operandi* adopted by the CBI to arrest him was deplorable. It also defies logic as to why Chidambaram had to knock the court's door numerous times if indeed he is not guilty?

Shubham Kashyap
 Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Greenland's gamble

It makes little difference to Greenlanders whether foreign investment comes from Denmark, China or the US, so long as they have political control



GWYNNE DYER

Right from his purchase of New Jersey casinos to his proposed acquisition of Greenland, Donald Trump's real estate deals have always been plagued by bad timing. The US could probably have bought Greenland from Denmark in 1917 (when it did buy the US Virgin Islands from the Danes), but it's a century too late now. Nevertheless, the US President's latest bad idea does give us an incentive to catch up with what's been happening in Greenland and it's quite interesting. Trump may not know this, since he rarely reads intelligence reports, but in November 2017 Greenland's premier, Kim Kielsen, led a government delegation to Beijing to seek Chinese investment.

Greenland, the world's biggest island, is not yet fully independent but it is autonomous from Denmark in everything except foreign affairs and defence. Kielsen was looking mainly for Chinese investment in mining enterprises but he was also interested in attracting a Chinese bid to build three modern airports on the island, which currently depends on World War II-era airstrips.

This set off a security panic in NATO, involving implausible nightmare visions about Greenland getting so deep in debt to Chinese banks that it would end up letting China (which has comically declared itself a "near-Arctic nation") operate military aircraft from those airports. The US military, which has a large air base at Thule in northern Greenland, then took fright. Washington strongly urged the Danish government, which provides two-thirds of Greenland's budget revenue, to nip this threat in the bud. Copenhagen had previously refused to fund the new Greenland airports but late last year it suddenly came up with very low-interest loans for them. End of panic.

By then Kielsen's government in the tiny capital of Nuuk (population 17,000) had collapsed but his Siumut Party came out ahead in the election last April and he is back. And the issue of Chinese mines in Greenland is still on the table. In fact, there already is one in southern Greenland, producing uranium and rare earths for a Chinese-Australian consortium. Other projects potentially involving Chinese capital and workers are under discussion, including an open-cast iron-ore mine near Nuuk, a zinc mine in the north, and both offshore and onshore oil and gas leases.

For the 56,000 Greenlanders, 90 per cent of whom are Inuit (Eskimo), the geo-strategic implications of Chinese investment are irrelevant and they are probably right about that. What worries them, and occupies a central place in Greenlandic politics, are the cultural and social implications of foreign investment by anybody, Chinese or not.

The Greenland Inuits are one of the few indigenous societies in the world that have full or almost full control over their own destiny but the impact of the modern world on their traditional culture has been as destructive as it was for all the others: depression and other psychological illnesses, rampant alcoholism and drug use, and an epidemic of suicides. So they face a choice. Do you go on trying to preserve what is left of the old Arctic hunting and fishing culture, although it's already so damaged and discouraged that the island has the highest suicide rate on the planet? Or do you seek salvation in full modernisation through high-speed economic growth, while keeping your language and what you can of your culture?

What's remarkable about Greenlandic politics is how aware the players are of their dilemma and their options. "If you want to become rich, it comes at a price," says Aqqaluk Lyngé, one of the founders of the Inuit Ataqatigiit (Community of the People) party that ran the government until 2013. Lyngé and many others didn't want to pay that price, and under the Inuit Ataqatigiit administration, all mining was banned in Greenland. Quite apart from the environmental costs of large-scale mining operations, they believed, the many thousands of foreign workers they would bring in would have a devastating impact on the already very fragile Greenlandic culture.

The decision was made in 2013, when the Siumut Party took power. It believes that modernisation has gone too far to turn back now. Better to gamble on solving the current huge social problems by enabling everybody to live fully modern, prosperous lives. If you're no longer marginalised and poverty-stricken, you'll feel better about yourself. Let us hope so but the die is cast. Greenland will modernise, and in due course, we will find out if that helps. It makes little difference to Greenlanders whether the foreign investment comes from Denmark, China or the US, so long as they have political control — but they certainly don't want to become Americans. The "Greenland Purchase" is not going to happen. As Soren Espersen, foreign affairs spokesman of the Danish People's Party, said last week: "If (Trump) is truly contemplating this, then this is final proof that he has gone mad."

(The writer's new book is *Growing Pains, the Future of Democracy and Work*)

THE MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY THE FINANCE MINISTER WILL FACILITATE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS, IMPROVE DEMAND AND BOOST THE OVERALL ECONOMY.
 —PRIME MINISTER
 NARENDRA MODI

POINT-COUNTERPOINT



THE NATION IS REELING UNDER RECESSION. THE MODI GOVERNMENT IS ONLY DOING HALF AND INCOMPLETE ROLLBACK OF THE PROVISIONS IT IMPOSED.
 —CONGRESS CHIEF SPOKESPERSON
 RANDEEP SURJEWALA

Integration wasn't won in a day

The fight for total mainstreaming of J&K with the rest of India began with the birth of the All Jammu & Kashmir Praja Parishad in 1947



ANIL GUPTA

The political movement headed by Sheikh Abdullah, that originated in Kashmir in 1931, to some extent remained unsuccessful in gaining the support of Jammu, especially the Hindu-dominated areas. Its genesis, growth and ideological moorings made it suspect in the eyes of Dogra nationalists who viewed it as something alien and unacceptable. Pandit Prem Nath Dogra led the All Jammu and Kashmir Rajya Hindu Sabha as the main opposition party. It merged with Praja Parishad which was formed in Jammu immediately after the tribal invasion in November 1947.

The struggle for total integration of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) with India began with the birth of the All Jammu & Kashmir Praja Parishad, popularly known as Praja Parishad. It opposed Abdullah's major policy planks such as abolition of landlords, anti-Dogra drive, attempts at framing a separate constitution for J&K, a separate flag and so on.

Sheikh Abdullah became the Prime Minister of J&K in March 1948. He abhorred opposition and wanted to become de facto ruler of the state. As an advocate of a one-party State, he forced the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to introduce Article 370 in the Constitution of India to ensure Kashmiri Muslim domination. After that he began annihilation of the opposition. His cronies chanted slogans like, "ek rehnuma (mentor), Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, ek tanzeem (organisation) National Conference, ek jhanda (flag), Halwala, ek manshoor (manifesto) Naya Kashmir, which alarmed the pro-integration Dogras of Jammu. Prem Nath Dogra and his colleagues felt this was dangerous for democracy and would fulfill Abdullah's totalitarian ambitions.

Moreover, Abdullah's policies were exclusively confined to the welfare of Kashmiri Muslims and ignored the sentiments and interests of the people of Jammu and Ladakh. His animosity towards the Maharaja transformed into hatred for the Dogras of Jammu. Unfortunately, he had clout with the ruling party at the Centre which had a Kashmir-centric inclination. This was a major cause of concern for the people of Jammu. Praja Parishad was committed to full integration of J&K with the Indian union and safeguarding the legitimate democratic rights of the people of Jammu. Consequently, it became popular in Jammu, including among Muslims there. Its growing popularity irked Abdullah who resorted to suppressing its growth. Several activists, including the author's grandfather, Bishan Das Mahajan, were expelled from the state. Praja Parishad leaders were also put behind bars in February 1949 and by mid-1949, Abdullah imprisoned as many as 294 of its workers. In May 1949, the Parishad began a protest for the release of Prem Nath Dogra.

Abdullah finally yielded to the combined pressure and intervention of some nationalist leaders in Delhi and released him from jail in October 1949. However, the persecution did not end there and Abdullah's hatred for the nationalists was further aggravated by the fact that the Parishad's demand for full integration clashed directly with the National Conference (NC) demand for complete autonomy for J&K. As many as 15 youths were shot and some others injured at various places for hoisting the Tricolour. The agitators even included the demand for abolishing the permit system for entering or leaving J&K.

Many may argue about the relevance of this

MANY MAY ARGUE ABOUT THE RELEVANCE OF THIS ARTICLE UNDER THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR THE PRESENT GENERATION TO BE AWARE OF THE STRUGGLES AND SACRIFICES MADE BY THEIR PREDECESSORS WHICH ACTED AS THE ENABLER OF THE PRESENT LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENT OF ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370



article under the changed circumstances but it is imperative for the present generation to be aware of the struggles and sacrifices made by their predecessors which acted as the enabler of the present landmark achievement.

The Parishad tirelessly tried to unite the people of Jammu with a view to foil the attempts of those who either favoured autonomy or tried to separate the state from the Indian Union. It also opposed the setting up of a separate Constituent Assembly and favoured the application of the Indian Constitution.

Despite being opposed to a separate constitution for the state, a special session of the party held on May 8, 1951, decided to contest the elections to the Constituent Assembly. Because of large-scale rejection of nomination papers of its candidates and nefarious manipulation of the elections by Abdullah, the party decided to boycott the elections. In spite of its strong support base, it did not have a single member in the Constituent Assembly, which under Abdullah's leadership, framed a constitution that promoted the concept of "State within a State".

The NC and Abdullah did everything to ensure that all party members were part of the J&K Assembly. Abdullah dubbed the Parishad as communal, ignoring the fact that many Muslims were also contesting on its tickets. Slowly, the Parishad turned into a mass movement and played a key role in opposing separatist and communal politics in J&K.

Emboldened by the support he enjoyed from Nehru and after signing of the Delhi Agreement, Abdullah began hoisting the NC flag at official functions and atop government buildings. However,

in keeping with his habit of double-speak, he implemented the agreement only in part to further his agenda of autonomy. On January 15, 1952, he delivered a speech at an official function at Gandhi Memorial College, Jammu and hoisted the NC's flag alongside the Tricolour, asking the students to salute it but they objected. This infuriated Abdullah and he ensured that they were penalised.

This was followed by a 38-day hunger strike by students in 1952. On February 8, 1952, the people of Jammu came out in solidarity with them that led Abdullah to impose curfew and get PN Dogra arrested. The intense public pressure that followed this forced Delhi to act and ensure the release of Dogra and others. It soon turned into a public movement against Abdullah's despotism and his anti-national activities. The movement found support nationally in the form of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, which was formed in 1951.

Another mass movement was launched by the Parishad in November 1952 against the separatist and communal politics of Abdullah. In December 1952, Jan Sangh president Syama Prasad Mookerjee announced the launch of a nation-wide agitation for the abolition of Article 370. On May 8, 1953 he decided to enter J&K, thus violating the prevalent permit system and was arrested by Abdullah as soon as he set foot in the state. He was jailed and tortured at Srinagar, which led to his mysterious death on June 23, 1953. An estimated 10,000 activists were imprisoned in Jammu, Punjab and Delhi, including Members of Parliament, leading to an uproar in India. Blinded by his ambition, Abdullah

indulged in competitive communalism and worked towards the establishment of an independent Muslim majority-state claiming that India was not secular enough. The Parishad opposed it tooth and nail and accused Abdullah of not being Indian enough. Abdullah was finally arrested in August 1953 after he made secessionist speeches at RS Pura on April 10 and on July 13.

After this, the Praja Parishad movement largely subsided and it finally merged with the Jana Sangh in 1963. Ever since then, Jana Sangh and later its successor, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), had been struggling and agitating for ending J&K's special status, which not only promoted separatism, religious militancy but was the major cause of rampant corruption and poor development. The re-entry of Sheikh Abdullah in state politics in 1975 under an agreement with the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the subsequent Rajiv-Farooq accord and Rahul-Omar bonhomie gave a new fillip to the demand for autonomy and saw the rise of *jihad* and radical forces in Kashmir.

The historic decision of August 5, 2019 is the result of the struggle and sacrifices of three generations of Praja Parishad, Jana Sangh and BJP workers. The BJP, as a successor of the Jana Sangh, remained focused and committed to abolition of Article 370 and J&K's full integration with India. Many accused the party of using it only as an election plank to woo voters in the Hindi heartland but all of them have been proved wrong.

(The author is a Jammu based political commentator and columnist)

The great surrogacy debate

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019, which prohibits commercial surrogacy but allows it for altruistic purposes, has once again put the spotlight on reproductive autonomy, women's rights and the extent to which the State should intervene



NEHA CHAUHAN

The newly-introduced Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019, passed by the Lok Sabha, has once again stirred the big debate regarding reproductive autonomy, women's rights and the extent to which the State should intervene. The Bill prohibits commercial surrogacy but allows it for altruistic purposes. It mandates that the intending couple should have a "certificate of essentiality" and a "certificate of eligibility" that are issued upon fulfillment of certain conditions.

For instance, the couple must be Indian citizens and married for at least five years; the wife should be between 23 to 50 years of age and the husband between 26 to 55-years-old. They must not have any surviving child (biological, adopted or surrogate). However, this would not include

a child who is mentally or physically challenged or suffers from life-threatening disorder or fatal illness. This apart, the couple must also fulfill other conditions that may be specified by regulations.

The Bill was introduced to clamp down on rampant commercial surrogacy, with India fast becoming a hub. Surrogacy is a \$400 million a year business with an estimated 3,000 fertility clinics in major Indian cities, says a 2012 UN study.

Worldwide, it is estimated that around 15 per cent of reproductive-aged couples are affected by infertility. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the infertility rate in India is between 3.9 to 16.8 per cent. Infertility rates vary from State to State. While it is 3.7 per cent in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra, it's 5 per cent in Andhra Pradesh and 15 per cent in Kashmir.

Hence, there's a big population that needs help starting a family but the new law will make surrogacy inaccessible for this cohort. There are arguments for easy availability of the option for adoption in India, but in the end, the state shouldn't decide how couples expand the family.

While this Bill makes altruistic surrogacy legal in India just like South Korea,

Hong Kong and Vietnam, in most of the neighbouring countries it's either banned or there are no regulations governing it. After widespread reports of Indian women travelling to Nepal once India enforced visa restrictions for foreigners commissioning surrogacy in India in 2013, the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled against commercial surrogacy in August 2015.

To date, however, normative standards on surrogacy have been relatively limited. The UN international human rights mechanisms have not yet taken up the issue of surrogacy in a focussed or uniform way. The UN Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography has addressed the issue and highlighted the lack of regulation of commercial surrogacy. It has called upon countries to adopt legislation to protect the rights of women and children and develop and implement international standards.

Coming back to the Bill, another sticking point is that surrogacy remains only for the married heterosexual couples and completely excludes singles, live-in partners and same-sex couples.

The other problem that various sections of women groups and activists have

with this Bill is that the following aspects are missing from it and must be addressed.

First, the reason for not having a common position on surrogacy as outlined in the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2017 is not having an integrated approach towards the use of assisted reproductive technologies.

Second, as per the definition of "infertility", the Bill excludes women who conceive but are unable to carry a child through the period of the pregnancy due to miscarriage, fibroids, hypertension and diabetes. In some countries like The Netherlands, South Africa and Greece medical conditions that permit altruistic surrogacy are well-defined.

Third, the Bill includes a sub-clause for National Surrogacy Board to define "any other condition or disease" for which surrogacy may be allowed. For a robust implementation, the eligibility criteria should not be left to regulations but be part of the law.

Fourth, as part of the certificate of essentiality, the Bill outlines the following conditions, a certificate of proven infertility of one or both the partners from a District Medical Board; an order of parentage and custody of the surrogate

child passed by a magistrate's court. However, the Bill lacks any review or appeal procedure in case of rejection of the application.

Fifth, the surrogate mother is required to be a close relative of the intending couple. However, the "close relative" or the nature of this relationship is not defined. While it provides flexibility to the intending couple to broaden the choice of surrogates, it may also be subjected to perceptual scrutiny at the time of receiving the certificate of essentiality.

Sixth, the eligibility criterion that specifies that the couple should be married for at least five years stops the couple from deciding the size of their family as per their requirement. It's not clear that once infertility is established, why a couple should be made to wait for five years.

Seven, the criteria of not having "been a surrogate mother earlier" cannot be monitored until there's a centralised system to record pregnancies in the country.

Eight, the purpose of imposing a focus on "altruistic surrogacy" is an assumption that it will not be exploitative or coercive. With commercial surrogacy, there is at least an option for stringent contract and legal provisions but it will be difficult to

monitor altruistic surrogacy. There is enough evidence that families can also be exploitative towards women who may be coerced to become surrogates for close relatives. Thus, the argument that the altruistic surrogacy cannot be an exploitative arrangement does not stand.

From a surrogate mother's perspective, there are several concerns like prevention of coercion or any other form of exploitation, legal counselling for the implications of surrogacy on health and lives, informed consent, access to remuneration for surrogacy, nature of the relationship with the legal family of the child, among others.

The Bill violates the fundamental rights of surrogates and potential parents. The banning of surrogacy will make it more discreet and underground, putting a lot of these women at further risk.

Despite all the intricacies of the Bill, it leaves us with these questions — Where is the choice of surrogate women? Will banning commercial surrogacy address all these pressing issues? Why ban surrogacy and not regulate it?

(The writer is Senior Technical Advisor, Advocacy and Accountability at International Planned Parenthood Federation, South Asia)

Scheme	NAV	1Yr%	IDFC Nifty ETF	112.01	-5.13	Fund-Reg(G)	Franklin India Opportunities	66.73	-12.52	UTI LT Adv Fund-V(G)	8.31	-17.35
DSP World Gold Fund-Reg(G)	14.60	45.84	HDFC Nifty 50 ETF	1134.84	-5.23	Baroda Large Cap Fund(G)	13.54	-8.94	Fund(G)	Aditya Birla SL Dividend	145.21	-17.37
Kotak World Gold Fund(G)	10.76	43.83	Invesco India Feeder - Invesco	12.39	-5.34	Invesco India Growth Opp	32.34	-9.00	IDFC Multi Cap Fund-Reg(G)	86.07	-12.55	Yield Fund(G)
Reliance US Equity Opp	15.80	11.99	Global Equity Income Fund(G)			Fund(G)			Aditya Birla SL MNC Fund(G)	683.21	-12.60	Sundaram Emerging Small
PGIM India Global Equity Opp	19.07	11.33	ICICI Pru Growth Fund-3(DP)	9.68	-5.38	ICICI Pru LT Wealth	9.90	-9.01	Reliance Pharma Fund(G)	137.63	-12.64	Cap-Sr-IV-Reg(G)
Fund(G)			UTI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)	71.01	-5.41	Enhancement Fund(G)			Franklin India Equity Advantage	72.44	-12.67	UTI Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)
Aditya Birla SL Global Real	20.51	8.01	IDFC Nifty Fund-Reg(G)	22.48	-5.42	SBI LT Advantage	12.07	-9.03	Fund(G)			Tata India Consumer
Estate Fund(G)			ICICI Pru Value Fund-11(G)	11.54	-5.49	Fund-IV-Reg(G)			Canara Rob Infrastructure	40.46	-12.76	Fund-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru US Bluechip Equity	28.27	6.60	Kotak Equity Opp Fund(G)	112.27	-5.49	ICICI Pru LT Equity Fund	347.12	-9.13	Fund-Reg(G)			L&T Emerging Opp
Fund(G)			Axis Long Term Equity Fund(G)	43.18	-5.51	(Tax Saving)(G)			Principal Dividend Yield Fund(G)	48.33	-12.78	Fund-I-Reg(D)
Franklin India Feeder - Franklin	32.26	5.72	L&T India Large Cap	25.89	-5.51	Aditya Birla SL Frontline Equity	208.22	-9.21	Reliance Vision Fund(G)	469.22	-12.82	Sundaram Mid Cap Fund(G)
U.S. Opportunities Fund(G)			Fund-Reg(G)			Fund(G)			Reliance Banking Fund(G)	250.47	-12.84	L&T Midcap Fund-Reg(G)
Sundaram World Brand Fund-Sr	15.32	3.69	Tata Index Fund-Nifty Plan(G)	65.71	-5.57	Templeton India Equity Income	43.47	-9.27	BNP Paribas Mid Cap Fund(G)	29.26	-12.84	UTI India Consumer
II-Reg(G)			HDFC Index Fund-NIFTY	98.92	-5.59	Fund(G)			L&T Tax Advt Fund-Reg(G)	49.69	-12.93	Fund-Reg(G)
Sundaram World Brand Fund-Sr	15.50	3.64	50 Plan(G)			Edelweiss Eur Dynamic Equity	10.58	-9.29	IDFC Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)	40.70	-12.98	Sundaram LT Tax Adv
III-Reg(G)			Tata India Tax Savings	17.05	-5.62	Off-shr Fund-Reg(G)			UTI Equity Fund-Reg(G)	131.24	-13.07	Fund-Sr IV-Reg(G)
ICICI Pru Value Fund-18(G)	11.08	3.55	Fund-Reg(G)			Reliance Consumption Fund(G)	61.02	-9.32	Tata Equity P/E Fund(G)	124.93	-13.15	UTI LT Adv Fund-III(G)
SBI Technology Opp	66.27	3.45	SBI Magnum Multicap	46.24	-5.64	Canara Rob Equity Tax Saver	60.20	-9.36	UTI Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)	56.18	-13.21	IDFC Equity
Fund-Reg(G)			Fund-Reg(G)			Fund-Reg(G)			Franklin India Bluechip Fund(G)	417.88	-13.22	Opportunity-5-Reg(G)
			Franklin India Focused Equity	37.43	-5.66	HDFC Equity Opp Fund-Sr	9.54	-9.38	Sundaram TOP 100-Sr	11.63	-13.22	Aditya Birla SL Resurgent
			Fund(G)			2-1126D-May 2017(1)-Reg(G)			VI-Reg(G)			India Fund-3-Reg(G)
			Aditya Birla SL Sensex ETF	343.09	-5.76	Reliance Multi Cap Fund(G)	86.62	-9.40	IDBI Focused 30 Equity	9.11	-13.24	L&T Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)
			Kotak Standard Multicap	33.30	-5.84	DSP India T.I.G.E.R	83.01	-9.53	Fund-Reg(G)			Templeton India Value Fund(G)
			Fund(G)			Fund-Reg(G)			Principal Multi Cap Growth	128.40	-13.43	HDFC Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)
			Canara Rob Bluechip Equity	23.63	-5.86	Franklin India Taxshield(G)	522.31	-9.57	Fund(G)			IDFC Focused Equity
			Fund-Reg(G)			ICICI Pru FMCG Fund(G)	229.29	-9.70	Reliance Power & Infra Fund(G)	87.90	-13.43	Fund-Reg(G)
			ICICI Pru Nifty Index Fund(G)	104.96	-5.93	Edelweiss Large & Mid	29.13	-9.74	ICICI Pru Midcap Fund(G)	85.72	-13.43	Sundaram Emerging Small
			SBI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)	93.28	-5.96	Cap Fund-Reg(G)			L&T Emerging Opp	8.82	-13.43	Cap-Sr-III-Reg(G)
			DSP A.C.E. Fund-Sr 2-Reg(G)	9.40	-6.07	Edelweiss Long Term	43.19	-9.78	Fund-II-Reg(D)			Aditya Birla SL Infrastructure
			ICICI Pru Nifty Low Vol 30 ETF	85.88	-6.07	Equity Fund (Tax Savings)-Reg(G)			Sundaram TOP 100-Sr	11.41	-13.55	Fund(G)
			SBI LT Advantage	9.49	-6.11	Kotak Infra & Eco Reform	18.43	-9.80	VII-Reg(G)			DSP Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)
			Fund-V-Reg(G)			Fund(G)			Axis Emerging Opp	11.29	-13.62	Sundaram Value
			Aditya Birla SL Index	106.53	-6.13	ICICI Pru S&P BSE 500 ETF	141.96	-9.83	Fund-I-Reg(G)			Fund-VII-Reg(G)
			Fund-Reg(G)			Reliance Large Cap Fund(G)	31.15	-9.85	Aditya Birla SL Tax Relief '96(G)	28.22	-13.62	Aditya Birla SL Resurgent
			PGIM India Large Cap Fund(G)	160.75	-6.15	Reliance Growth Fund(G)	1020.04	-9.88	Aditya Birla SL Tax Relief '96	28.22	-13.62	India Fund-2-Reg(G)
			DSP Equity Fund-Reg(G)	37.44	-6.15	SBI Equity Opp Fund-Sr	14.99	-10.00	(ELSS U/S 80C of IT ACT)(G)			IDBI Midcap Fund(G)
			IDBI Nifty Index Fund(G)	20.03	-6.16	I-Reg(G)			Franklin India Equity Fund(G)	532.47	-13.67	Aditya Birla SL Midcap Fund(G)
			Reliance Index Fund - Nifty	18.16	-6.20	Tata Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)	50.22	-10.03	Reliance Focused Equity	41.46	-13.77	Franklin India Smaller
			Plan(G)			Mirae Asset Great Consumer	31.98	-10.05	Fund(G)			Cos Fund(G)
			Franklin India Index Fund-NSE	86.02	-6.21	Fund-Reg(G)			Sundaram Infra Advantage	28.60	-13.79	Reliance Tax Saver (ELSS)
			Nifty(G)			HDFC Growth Opp Fund-Reg(G)	103.41	-10.06	Fund(G)			Fund(G)
			ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption	9.60	-6.25	L&T Equity Fund-Reg(G)	76.49	-10.06	DSP World Energy Fund-Reg(G)	12.24	-13.79	
			Fund-1-(G)			IDFC Large Cap Fund-Reg(G)	30.32	-10.08	Reliance Capital Builder	8.99	-13.88	
			JM Tax Gain Fund(G)	16.26	-6.26	Sundaram Large and Mid	32.16	-10.09	Fund-IV-A(G)			
			ICICI Pru Value Fund-9(G)	11.47	-6.44	Cap Fund(G)			L&T India Value Fund-Reg(G)	32.46	-13.91	
			Sundaram Multi Cap Fund-Sr	9.51	-6.45	SBI LT Advantage	12.35	-10.10	Sundaram Diversified Equity(G)	91.85	-13.91	
			II-Reg(G)			Fund-I-Reg(G)			Sundaram Rural and	37.70	-13.99	
			DSP 3Y Close Ended Equity	14.17	-6.52	Sundaram Select Small Cap	13.13	-10.16	Consumption Fund(G)			
			Fund-Reg(G)			Series-IV-Reg(G)			UTI Focussed Equity	9.01	-14.01	
			SBI LT Advantage	9.79	-6.53	Tata Ethical Fund-Reg(G)	147.74	-10.17	Fund-VI(G)			
			Fund-VI-Reg(G)			Tata Value Fund-Sr-2-Reg(G)	8.94	-10.22	SBI Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)	47.68	-14.10	
			Tata Large Cap Fund(G)	207.27	-6.57	Motilal Oswal Multicap 35	24.35	-10.23	Invesco India Midcap Fund(G)	43.87	-14.17	
			DSP A.C.E. Fund-Sr 1-Reg(G)	9.43	-6.58	Fund-Reg(G)			DSP Equal Nifty 50	8.93	-14.24	
			BNP Paribas Multi Cap Fund(G)	43.96	-6.63	Sundaram Select Small Cap	13.11	-10.24	Fund-Reg(G)			
			IDFC Equity	9.42	-6.64	Series-III-Reg(G)			Invesco India Feeder - Invesco	9.82	-14.33	
			Opportunity-6-Reg(G)			Edelweiss ETF - Nifty 100	264.96	-10.40	Pan European Equity Fund-Reg(G)			
			JM Multicap Fund(G)	30.50	-6.65	Quality 30			IDFC Tax Advt(ELSS)	49.75	-14.36	
			ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption	9.66	-6.67	SBI Magnum Global	158.65	-10.42	Fund-Reg(G)			
			Fund-3-(G)			Fund-Reg(G)			Principal Tax Savings Fund	186.82	-14.37	
			HDFC Equity Fund(G)	610.09	-6.69	DSP Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	50.32	-10.46	Canara Rob Emerg Equities	84.63	-14.39	
			ICICI Pru Bluechip Fund(G)	39.71	-6.87	DSP Focus Fund-Reg(G)	21.51	-10.58	Fund-Reg(G)			
			SBI BlueChip Fund-Reg(G)	36.98	-6.89	Aditya Birla SL Equity Fund(G)	664.68	-10.59	UTI Focussed Equity Fund-V(G)	8.60	-14.39	
			Aditya Birla SL India	78.95	-6.93	Kotak India Growth	8.72	-10.70	ICICI Pru R.I.G.H.T Fund(G)	38.40	-14.48	
			GenNext Fund(G)			Fund-Sr 4(G)			Axis Emerging Opp	10.83	-14.66	
			SBI LT Advantage	12.42	-6.95	DSP Top 100 Equity	190.37	-10.72	Fund-2-Reg(G)			
			Fund-III-Reg(G)			Fund-Reg(G)			Aditya Birla SL Banking &	26.31	-14.69	
			Motilal Oswal Focused	20.75	-6.98	ICICI Pru Multicap Fund(G)	268.88	-10.75	Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)			
			25 Fund-Reg(G)			ICICI Pru Focused Equity	28.01	-10.77	L&T Large and Midcap	42.82	-14.87	
			Kotak Global Emerging	15.27	-7.04	Fund(G)			Fund-Reg(G)			
			Mkt Fund(G)			UTI LT Equity Fund (Tax	79.60	-10.85	Principal Personal Tax saver	174.71	-14.91	
			ICICI Pru Banking & Fin	59.25	-7.04	Saving)-Reg(G)			Fund			
			Serv Fund(G)			UTI Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)	48.01	-10.98	Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India	8.65	-14.95	
			ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption	9.34	-7.06	Sundaram Select Small	9.13	-11.01	Fund-5-Reg(G)			
			Fund-2-(G)			Cap Series-V-Reg(G)			HDFC Capital Builder Value	260.87	-15.06	
			Axis Capital Builder	9.71	-7.08	Kotak Emerging Equity	35.25	-11.02	Fund(G)			
			Fund-1-Reg(G)			Scheme(G)			UTI MNC Fund-Reg(G)	179.31	-15.10	
			Canara Rob Equity Diver	124.78	-7.21	Reliance Quant Fund(G)	23.67	-11.03	SBI PSU Fund-Reg(G)	9.09	-15.12	
			Fund-Reg(G)			ICICI Pru Exports & Services	53.20	-11.05	UTI Banking and Financial	87.99	-15.20	
			BNP Paribas Focused 25	9.09	-7.37	Fund(G)			Services Fund-Reg(G)			
			Equity Fund-Reg(G)			Motilal Oswal Long Term	16.08	-11.06	Baroda ELSS 96(G)	40.69	-15.44	
			Axis Midcap Fund(G)	34.67	-7.50	Equity Fund-Reg(G)			SBI Healthcare Opp	108.10	-15.52	
			IDBI India Top 100 Equity	22.86	-7.56	Baroda Multi Cap Fund(G)	91.03	-11.11	Fund-Reg(G)			
			Fund(G)			Aditya Birla SL Intl. Equity	17.20	-11.12	SBI Magnum Midcap	64.17	-15.62	
			SBI LT Advantage	12.80	-7.61	Fund-B(G)			Fund-Reg(G)			
			Fund-II-Reg(G)			Sundaram Value Fund-II-Reg(G)	14.64	-11.19	Sundaram Value	9.66	-15.79	
			UTI Mastershare-Reg(G)	115.43	-7.74	Sundaram Value Fund-III-Reg(G)	15.25	-11.23	Fund-VIII-Reg(G)			
			Kotak Bluechip Fund(G)	220.30	-7.77	SBI Equity Opp Fund-Sr	14.43	-11.28	Principal Emerging Bluechip	93.76	-15.83	
			Kotak India EQ Contra Fund(G)	49.44	-7.81	IV-Reg(G)			Fund(G)			
			Aditya Birla SL Focused	55.51	-7.84	PGIM India Diversified Equity	12.27	-11.28	ICICI Pru Dividend Yield	14.92	-15.85	
			Equity Fund(G)			Fund-Reg(G)			Equity Fund(G)			
			ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption	9.22	-7.89	UTI Focussed Equity	8.83	-11.30	Sundaram Emerging Small	8.41	-15.92	
			Fund-4-(G)			Fund-IV(G)			Cap-Sr-V-Reg(G)			
			Principal Focused Multicap	59.73	-7.91	UTI MEPUS	100.27	-11.31	Aditya Birla SL Resurgent	8.90	-15.96	
			Fund(G)			SBI Magnum TaxGain'93-Reg(G)	129.16	-11.33	India Fund-4-Reg(G)			
			Tata Mid Cap Growth Fund(G)	127.09	-7.93	IDBI Diversified Equity Fund(G)	19.33	-11.37	Sundaram Value	8.08	-16.01	
			Invesco India Largecap Fund(G)	27.03	-7.94	UTI Value Opp Fund-Reg(G)	56.31	-11.39	Fund-IX-Reg(G)			
			ICICI Pru Large & Mid Cap	298.70	-7.95	Tata Value Fund-Sr-1-Reg(G)	9.16	-11.40	Edelweiss Mid Cap	23.92	-16.02	
			Fund(G)			Sundaram LT Tax Adv	13.43	-11.50	Fund-Reg(G)			
			Mirae Asset Healthcare	9.94	-7.95	Fund-Sr II-Reg(G)			Sundaram Smart NIFTY	10.55	-16.04	
			Fund-Reg(G)			ICICI Pru Value Fund-10(G)	10.58	-11.54	100 Eq Weight Fund-Reg(G)			
			Principal Global Opportunities	28.76	-8.02	Reliance Value Fund(G)	66.83	-11.55	UTI-Nifty Next 50 ETF	259.85	-16.09	
			Fund(G									

FPIs withdraw ₹3,014 cr from capital mkts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Overseas investors have pulled out a net amount of ₹3,014 crore from the Indian capital markets this month so far, but the trend may reverse following the removal of enhanced surcharge on FPIs, experts said.

According to depositories data, foreign portfolio investors (FPI) withdrew a net amount of ₹12,105.33 crore from equities, but pumped in ₹9,090.61 crore into the debt segment during August 1-23.

This has translated into a total net outflow of ₹3,014.72 crore from the capital markets (both equity and debt).

"Out of 15 trading sessions, foreign investors were net buyers in only two sessions. The sell off in equities continued due to a mix of factors including US Fed rate cut, US-China trade war and the post Budget tax hike on high income investors," said Harsh Jain, co-founder and COO of Groww.

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

Prior to the announcement of enhanced super-rich tax in the Union Budget for 2019-20 in July, FPIs were net buyers for five consecutive months.

FPIs had infused a net ₹10,384.54 crore in June, ₹9,031.15 crore in May, ₹16,093 crore in April, ₹45,981 crore in March and ₹11,182 crore in February into the Indian capital markets.

However, the position reversed in July, when FPIs turned net sellers to the tune of ₹2,985.88 crore.

Now, with the withdrawal of the enhanced surcharge on FPIs, confidence in the market is likely to be restored, analysts said.

"One can now expect reversal of the FPI selling. The market is likely to look up from now on. However, sustained rally in the market will happen only when we have visibility on good earnings growth and reversal of the slowdown underway in the economy which requires more reforms."

"The Finance Minister has announced that she will come back with more reforms soon. So, there is hope," said V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

FPI surcharge removal, stimulus steps to boost markets: Experts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The stock markets may see a relief rally this week after the government removed enhanced surcharge on FPIs and also unveiled various measures to jumpstart growth, analysts said.

Giving in to the demands of overseas investors, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday announced rollback of enhanced surcharge on foreign portfolio investors levied in the Budget.

The Budget proposal to hike surcharge on FPIs had spooked foreign investors, who withdrew more than USD 3.4 billion (Rs 24,500 crore) from domestic equities in July and August. The massive capital outflows also put pressure on the rupee, which slumped to 72-level against the US dollar last week.

"Withdrawal of enhanced surcharge on FPI is a big positive for Indian markets as it could reverse the outflows since post Budget. It should also help INR appreciation. Overall, a good sentiment booster for the Indian economy," said Rusmik Oza, Head of Fundamental Research, Kotak Securities.

The Centre also announced a raft of measures to revive growth momentum, including exempting startups from 'angel tax', a package to address distress in the auto sector and upfront infusion of Rs 70,000 crore into public sector banks.

"Withdrawal of the surcharge on FPIs is a shot in the arm for the sagging market. One can now expect reversal of the FPI selling. The market is likely to look up from now on," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services said.



Stimulus package will boost growth and stabilise economy: CII

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Industry body CII on Sunday said the multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional policy stimulus announced last week will have significant impact, imparting stability and underpinning a new growth impetus for India.

CII said the measures announced come at a time when the world economy is buffeted by global headwinds and trade slowdown.

"Coming in the wake of several retaliatory and counter-retaliatory trade measures between the two largest global trading nations, the economic package announced by Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, on Friday imparts stability and underpins a new growth impetus for India," it added.

"It is indeed commendable that all these multi-sectoral steps were carried out without pressure on the fiscal deficit. With her six-dimensional announcement, FM has indeed hit a sixer out of the grounds," he added. The industry body said it expects that the economy will climb up in the coming months.

Trump's only regret on China is 'not raising tariffs higher'

AFP ■ BIARRITZ (FRANCE)

US President Donald Trump on Sunday rowed back from a suggestion made just hours earlier that he regrets his trade war with China, saying instead he's only sorry not to have raised tariffs even higher.

Trump's spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham told reporters at the G7 summit in the French resort of Biarritz that the president's earlier comments had been misunderstood.

"The president was asked if he had any second thought on escalating the trade war with China. His answer has been greatly misinterpreted," she said.

"President Trump responded in the affirmative — because he regrets not raising the tariffs higher."

Earlier on Sunday, Trump appeared to signal he might be considering a softening of his position in the trade war, which has seen Washington impose steep levies on all Chinese



imports — and China responding with billions of dollars of tariffs of its own.

"I have second thoughts about everything," he said.

He also said he would hold off for now on declaring a national emergency which would allow him to invoke an obscure law that he says gives him the power to order US companies out of China.

"I have the right to, if I want. I could declare a national emergency," he said.

"I have no plan right now."

Trump first brandished the possibility of the drastic measure on Friday, when he tweeted that American companies "are hereby ordered to immediately start looking for an alternative to China."

NCLT starts insolvency proceedings against Today Homes Noida

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The NCLT has initiated insolvency proceedings against NCR-based real estate firm Today Homes Noida Ltd on a petition filed by a group of homebuyers.

A two-member NCLT bench, headed by President Justice M M Kumar, has appointed an interim resolution professional (IRP) to take over the management of the company.

There are many companies in Delhi-NCR which are facing insolvency proceedings, including Jaypee Infratech, because of default to home buyers and bankers.

The tribunal rejected the submission of the real estate firm that it has got four-year extension from UP Real Estate Regulation Authority (RERA) to complete the project, saying that Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) overrides provisions under the realty law.

Today Homes Noida Ltd had contended that UP-RERA has extended its timeline till

June, 2021 to complete the Ridge Residency housing project in sector 135, Noida.

Observing that there is "overwhelming evidence to prove default" against the company, the tribunal directed the erstwhile promoters, directors and employees of Today Homes Noida to "provide every assistance and cooperation" to IRP in managing the affairs of the company.

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) also granted it protection from the lenders by prohibiting them to recover the amount for a certain period. The tribunal order came over a batch of petitions filed by home buyers of the real estate firms, who are now a financial creditor of the company following amendments in the IBC.

The petitioners had entered into home buying agreement with the firm on March 29, 2012 and had paid almost 90 per cent of their amount for flat in the Ridge Residency Housing Project, sector 135, Noida.

India urges nations to join hands to leverage its workforce

PTI ■ KAZAN (RUSSIA)

India, projected to have the largest working population between 2022 and 2034, has called upon nations to join hands with it to leverage its skilled manpower, with an estimated 10 million youths entering the workforce per annum.

India, with a strong 48-member contingent, is among the 63 countries participating in the world's biggest international vocational skill competition -- WorldSkills Kazan 2019, which is underway in the capital of Tatarstan.

"As we know, India is a young nation in an ageing world with the median age of 27.6 years as compared to median age of above 40 in large parts of developed nations. India is also projected to be the region with the largest working population from 2022 till 2034. In view of this, skilling on global standards can ensure global mobility of highly skilled Indian workforce," Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Mahendra Nath Pandey said here.

He urged nations to come forward to encash this opportunity while attending the sec-

ond edition of the Summit for Ministers, held in Kazan on the sidelines of the 45th WorldSkills Competition.

Ministers from more than 40 countries participated in the summit and deliberated on the most advanced approaches to workforce training system excellence.

Participants included Tatyana Golikova, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation; Olga Vasilyeva, Minister of Education of the Russian Federation; Jos de Goeij, Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Chair of the Strategic Development Committee at WorldSkills International; Tang Tao, Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security, People's Republic of China, amongst others.

Pandey said India's focus is on ensuring that its demographic dividend is appropriately skilled, and people are productively employed in decent work.

"For India, this demographic dividend is a limited opportunity which will peak around year 2040 wherein it is estimated that there would be 46 dependents per 54 workers," he said.

Currently, India has more

than 10 million youths entering the workforce every year, he said.

"To provide access to quality skilling opportunities within a short time frame, India has adopted an accelerated modular competency-based programme of 200 to 600 hours duration. For enhancing the employability of youths coming out of these short-term programmes, it is envisaged to further skill them under an industry-led apprenticeship program. Youths directly entering the labour market are trained on in-house bridge courses by industry," he said.

At the same time, the minister said industry interface was equally important and one of the key strategies for skilling with scale, speed and standard is the focus on industry-led apprenticeship training.

"A comprehensive set of legislative, policy and administrative reforms have been undertaken to create one of the most liberal and industry friendly interventions in apprenticeship."

"The intent behind these interventions is to reduce the burden of compliance by moving towards self-certification, provide flexibility to industry

in terms of hiring and training apprentices, creating a role for Industry Chambers to be third party aggregators and leveraging technology for process standardisation and simplification," he said.

A National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) was launched in August 2016 to extend financial benefits by the government to industries for taking up apprentices.

Targeting high population of youths migrating overseas for good opportunities, the minister said the government has taken numerous initiatives to improve opportunities for decent overseas work and enhance the skills level of emigrating workforce.

Detailing initiatives, he said these include a number of government-to-government (G2G) agreements focused on testing centres and joint skilling programmes.

"A case study in point is the Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP) of Japan...Indian workers are now going to Japan under this programme due to a G2G agreement. This has also led to setting of several Japan-India Institute of Manufacturing at various locations in India," the minister said.

CVC sets up panel to examine bank fraud above ₹50 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has constituted Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF) headed by former Vigilance Commissioner T M Bhasin to examine bank fraud over Rs 50 crore and recommend action.

The panel in its previous avatar called the Advisory Board on Bank, Commercial and Financial Frauds.

The ABBF, formed in consultation with the RBI, would function as the first level of examination of all large fraud cases before recommendations or references are made to the investigative agencies by the respective public sector banks (PSBs), CVC said in an order.

The four-member board's jurisdiction would be confined to those cases involving the level of officers of General Manager and above in the PSB in respect of an allegation of a fraud in a borrowal account, it said.

Lenders would refer all large fraud cases above Rs 50 crore to the board and on receipt of its recommendation or advice, the bank concerned would take further action in such matter, it said.

"Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) may also refer any case or matter to the board where it has any issue or difficulty or in technical mat-



ters with the PSB concerned," it said.

Other members of the panel are Madhusudan Prasad - former Urban Development Secretary, D K Pathak - former Director General of the Border Security Force and Suresh N Patel - former MD and CEO of Andhra Bank.

The tenure of the Chairman and members would be for a period of two years from August 21, 2019, the order said.

It further said the board will also periodically carry out frauds analysis in the financial system and give inputs for policy formulation related to the fraud to the RBI.

Headquartered in Delhi, the Reserve Bank of India will provide required secretarial services, logistic and analytical

Govt to soon consider proposal to relax local sourcing norms for FDI in single-brand retail

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will soon consider a proposal of relaxing rules for complying with the mandatory 30 per cent local sourcing norms by foreign single brand retailers, official sources said.

As per the proposal, single-brand retail firms would also be permitted to open online stores before setting up brick-and-mortar shops.

Currently, online sale by a single-brand retail player is allowed only after opening of physical outlet.

Relaxations are expected in a provision where foreign retail traders are presently allowed to adjust procurement of goods from India for their global operations for meeting the mandatory local sourcing requirement.

However, "incremental" sourcing of goods from India is only taken into account presently, and it will be allowed only for five years.

"Amendments and easing are also likely in this provision," the sources said.

The move comes in the backdrop of announcements



made by the Government in the Budget.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech had said that local sourcing norms will be eased for FDI in single brand retail sector.

In January 2018, the government allowed 100 per cent FDI in the sector, permitting foreign players in single-brand retail trade to set up own shops in India without government approval.

In February 2006, the government for the first time opened the sector for foreign players by allowing 51 per cent FDI.

In January 2012, the cap was raised to 100 per cent - up to 49 per cent through automatic route and beyond that with the Government approval.

During April-September 2018-19, FDI in India declined by 11 per cent to \$22.66 billion.

Toyota to keep selling diesel models in India as it expects demand to continue

New Delhi: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) is planning to continue to sell diesel models in the country even as prices of such vehicles are expected to go up significantly with the upcoming BS-VI emission norms from April 1 next year, a top company official has said.

"We still see demand for diesel variants, and will continue to manufacture them till we have the future technology setting in," TKM Vice-Chairman Shekar Viswanathan told PTI.

The company has even invested in a plant in India to make diesel engines which is capable of manufacturing diesel BS-VI engines with minimum investment, he added.

This was done keeping in mind the 'Make in India' philosophy, Viswanathan said.

TKM sells popular models such as Innova Crysta and Fortuner in the country and based on its total vehicle sales from January to July 2019, the current diesel-petrol ratio is 82:18.

However, considering only the passenger car segment, the petrol-diesel ratio is close to 50:50.

With diesel cars set to become costlier from next year with the implementation of stricter BS-VI emission norms, major automakers are contemplating about the future of such vehicles in their portfolios.

Market leader Maruti Suzuki India has already announced phasing out of diesel cars from its portfolio with effect from next year.

Similarly, Tata Motors is also contemplating phasing out small diesel cars.

The company, which is a joint venture between the Japanese auto major and Kirloskar group, said it has the technologies in place for various kind of electric vehicles (EV) which it can introduce depending upon the market requirements. PTI

BAJAJ FINSERV OFFERS PERSONAL LOAN WITH FLEXI LOAN FACILITY

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bajaj Finance Limited, a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) and a lending arm of Bajaj Finserv group offers personal loan with Flexi Loan Feature for salaried customers. Under this facility, the entire loan amount is disbursed to the customer's account and are provided with a facility of multiple part payment and withdrawals. Customers can part pay and withdraw from the loan amount as per their convenience and pay interest only on the loan amount utilized. A Flexi personal loan can be used by the customers to meet their immediate cash requirements for a variety of purposes such as taking a vacation, paying for higher education, planning a wedding, medical emergency, home renovation, and a vast array of other requirements.

US Cranberry Ice Cream Carnival held in New Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cranberries in India are quickly gaining popularity as three leading Delhi ice cream brands have updated their menu to include the superfruit. Gian's, Emoi, and Kulfiano launched a range of cranberry ice creams during the US Cranberry Ice Cream Carnival, and thanks to their popularity, have converted the most popular items to permanent menu offerings. During the Ice Cream Carnival, NCR residents enjoyed cranberry flavored desserts such as Cranberry Sorbet, Vanilla and Cranberry Snowmen, Cranberry Cheesecake, and Malai Cranberry Kulfi. The 45-day event delighted nearly 8 lakh people in and around Delhi city. Over half of the carnival participants said that they will begin to consume cranberries regularly for their great taste. PTI

HONG KONG PROTEST

Police tighten noose on protesters

Hong Kong: Hong Kong police used water cannon for the first time on Sunday, raising the stakes against protesters who have staged sometimes violent rallies that have rocked the city for the past three months.

Officers were also seen with drawn sidearms as protesters clashed with police in the district of Tsuen Wan after a rally at a nearby sports stadium.

The financial hub has been gripped by mass rallies that were initially against a proposed extradition bill to China, but have spun into a wider pro-democracy movement targeting the pro-Beijing government.

As thousands of people marched in the pouring rain to Tsuen Wan, a group of hardcore protesters erected makeshift roadblocks and dug up bricks from the pavements.

After firing tear gas in an attempt to disperse the crowds, police drove water cannon vehicles onto the streets, unfurling signs warning protesters they would deploy the jets if they did not leave.

The jets were later fired from the moving trucks towards a crowd of protesters who ran away, but a hardcore group of protesters later threw



A policeman points a weapon during a protest in Hong Kong on Sunday

AP

bricks and Molotov cocktails in violent confrontations with riot police.

There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Police had previously said the vehicles, complete with surveillance cameras and multiple spray nozzles, would only be used in the event of a "large-scale public disturbance".

Throughout the protests, Beijing has used a mix of intimidation, propaganda and

economic muscle to constrict the protests in a strategy dubbed "white terror" by the movement.

The MTR - the city's metro - is the latest Hong Kong enterprise to face public censure, after appearing to bend to Chinese state-media attacks accusing the transport system of being an "exclusive" service to ferry protesters to rallies.

On Sunday the MTR shut stations near the main demonstration area in Tsuen Wan, in

the second day of station closures in-a-row.

"However bleak our future is, we're trying to express ourselves rationally," said Peter, in his 20s, before the clashes began.

"We have faith in ourselves and we have faith in our city that some day our demands will be answered."

A second rally in the afternoon of a few hundred people - some of them family members of police - criticised the

government for leaving officers to handle the brunt of the crisis, while also calling for an independent investigation into the police handling of the protests.

"I believe within these two months, police have got enough opprobrium," said a woman who asked not to be named and said she was a police officer's wife.

The city's officers are often the focus of protesters' anger because of their perceived heavy handling of the rallies.

Ten people were left in hospital after Saturday's clashes - two in a serious condition - staff said, without detailing if they were police or protesters.

On Saturday police baton-charged protesters and fired tear gas, while demonstrators threw rocks and bottles later into the night in a working-class neighbourhood.

Protesters say Hong Kong's unique freedoms are in jeopardy as Beijing tightens its political chokehold on the semi-autonomous city.

The city had appeared to have pulled back from a sharp nosedive into violence, with the last serious confrontation taking place more

than a week ago, shortly after protests paralysed the airport.

G7 to help nations hit by Amazon fires: Macron

Biarritz: World leaders at the G7 summit have agreed to help the countries affected by the huge wildfires ravaging the Amazon rainforest as soon as possible, French President Emmanuel Macron said Sunday.

"We are all agreed on helping those countries which have been hit by the fires as fast as possible," he told journalists at the summit in the southwestern French resort of Biarritz.

Ahead of the gathering, Macron called on world leaders to hold urgent talks on the wildfires ripping through the world's largest rainforest, pledging "concrete measures" to tackle it.

The vast forest also takes in parts of eight other countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.

"This morning, Colombia called on the international community (to help), so we must help out," he said.

"Our teams are making contact with all the Amazon countries so we can finalise some very concrete commitments involving technical resources and funding."

Macron's bid to put the Amazon crisis high on the agenda at the G7 angered Brazil's far-right leader Jair Bolsonaro, who lashed out over what he sees as outside interference, denouncing the French leader's "colonialist mentality".



France's President Emmanuel Macron gestures as he speaks to the press after a plenary session at the Bellevue centre in Biarritz, southwestern France on Sunday

Pope fears for Amazon, the planet's 'vital lung'

Vatican City: Pope Francis on Sunday voiced concern for the Amazon rainforest, a "vital" lung for the planet, as the worst blazes in years have sparked a global outcry.

"We are concerned about the vast fires that have developed in the Amazon," the pope told the faithful at the Vatican.

"That forest lung is vital for our planet." He urged the world's 1.3 billion Catholics to pray for the fires to be extinguished as quickly as possible.

Official figures show

78,383 forest fires have been recorded in Brazil this year, the highest number of any year since 2013.

The Argentine pope, who will gather bishops for a conference on the Amazon in October, met Brazilian indigenous leader Raoni in 2013 when he toured Europe warning of the dangers of deforestation. The pope denounced the exploitation of the Amazon by "huge international economic interests" in a 2015 encyclical.

AFP

N Korea tests new 'super-large' multiple rocket launcher

Seoul: North Korea said on Sunday leader Kim Jong Un supervised the test-firing of a "newly developed super-large multiple rocket launcher," another demonstration of its expanding weapons arsenal apparently aimed at increasing its leverage ahead of a possible resumption of nuclear talks with the US.

The North's Korean Central News Agency said Saturday's weapons test was successful and cited Kim as saying the rocket launcher is "indeed a great weapon."

Kim underscored the need to "continue to step up the development of Korean-style strategic and tactical weapons for resolutely frustrating the ever-mounting military threats and pressure offensive of the hostile forces," according to the

KCNA.

The "hostile forces" likely referred to the United States and South Korea, whose recently ended regular military drills infuriated North Korea.

The North has called the drills an invasion rehearsal and conducted a slew of missile and rocket tests in response. Some experts said North

Korea aims to show off its weapons to try to get an upper hand ahead of a possible restart of nuclear negotiations, which remain largely stalemated since the second summit between President Donald Trump and Kim in Vietnam in February fell apart due to squabbling over US-led sanctions on North Korea.

Trump says hasn't 'discussed' joint G7 message to Iran

Biarritz (France): US President Donald Trump on Sunday denied signing off on a joint G7 message to Iran over its nuclear programme as announced by his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron.

"No I haven't discussed that," Trump told reporters on the sidelines of the G7 summit in the southwestern French resort of Biarritz.

This contradicted Macron who shortly beforehand had said the G7 countries "agreed on what to say to Iran".

Trump said: "We'll do our own outreach. But you can't stop people from talking. If they want to talk, they can talk."

A landmark 2015 nuclear deal between Western powers and Iran all but collapsed after Trump unilaterally withdrew US support last year, reimpos-

ing sanctions that have crippled Iran's economy.

Macron has been leading efforts to defuse the crisis by finding ways of resuming dialogue, meeting Iran's top diplomat Mohammad Javad Zarif for rare talks in Paris on Friday

on the eve of the summit.

He has also held telephone talks with President Hassan Rouhani on Sunday, a diplomatic source said. G7 leaders had mutually agreed to task Macron with sending a message to Iran.

Iran's Zarif lands in France's Biarritz

Tehran: Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif landed in the French seaside resort of Biarritz on Sunday for talks during a G7 summit, a spokesman for his Ministry said.

"Zarif... Has arrived in Biarritz, where the G7 is being held, to continue talks regarding the recent measures between the presidents of Iran and France," spokesman Abbas Mousavi tweeted, referring to

their efforts to salvage a nuclear deal.

"There will be no meetings or negotiations with the American delegation during this trip," he added.

French President Emmanuel Macron and his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani have held a series of phone calls in recent weeks aimed at de-escalating tensions between Tehran and Washington.

2 Israeli drones crash over Beirut, Hezbollah denies firing



Beirut: Two Israeli drones crashed in the Hezbollah stronghold in the Lebanese capital overnight, Lebanese and Hezbollah officials said on Sunday, saying the first fell on the roof of a building housing the group's media office while the second landed in a plot behind it.

The spokesman for the Iran-backed Hezbollah said the group did not fire any of the drones, which crashed amid heightened tensions between neighbouring Israel and Iran and shortly after Israeli warplanes attacked targets near the Syrian capital, Damascus.

Israeli aircraft continued to violate Lebanese airspace Sunday, flying low over Beirut hours after the drones had crashed, raising fears of a wider conflict.

Hezbollah spokesman Mohammed Afif said a small, unmanned reconnaissance drone fell on a building housing Hezbollah's media office in the Moawwad neighborhood in Dahyeh, the group's stronghold in southern Beirut.

He said a second drone, which appeared to have been sent by Israel to search for the

Trump 'not happy' with missile test

Biarritz: US President Donald Trump on Sunday said he was "not happy" about North Korea's latest missile test but played down the seriousness of the incident.

"I'm not happy about it but then again he's not in violation of the agreement," Trump told reporters on the sidelines of the

G7 summit after North Korea's Kim Jong Un supervised the test-firing of a "super-large multiple rocket launcher".

Trump has staked enormous political capital on personal diplomacy with Kim in a so-far unsuccessful effort to persuade the dictator to give up his nuclear weapons arsenal.

AFP

Iran denies its Syria positions hit by Israeli strikes

Tehran: A high-ranking Iranian official on Sunday denied Iranian positions had been hit by Israeli air strikes near the Syrian capital overnight.

"This is a lie and it is not true," Mohsen Rezaie, the secretary of the Expediency Council, told ILNA news agency in response to Israeli claims its air force struck Iranian positions in the war-torn country.

"Israel and America do not have the power to attack various centres of Iran, while the advisory centres that we have, have not been harmed," said Rezaie, a former commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards. "Actions taken jointly by Israel and America in Syria and Iraq are against international regulations and defenders of Syria and Iraq will soon respond to them."

AFP

Iran blacklists US-based think-tank, says Ministry

Tehran: Iran has blacklisted US-based think-tank the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and its chief Mark Dubowitz on accusations of being behind "economic terrorism" against the Islamic republic.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement issued late Saturday that it had "added the so-called Foundation for Defence of Democracies (FDD) and its director to the sanctions list".

"The American institution with the deceitful name" and Dubowitz were accused of being involved in "designing, imposing and intensifying the impacts of economic terrorism against Iran", it said.

The FDD and Dubowitz were blamed for "seriously and actively trying to harm the

Iranian people's security and vital interests", according to the English-language statement posted on the ministry's website.

They were accused of doing so through "fabricating and spreading lies, encouraging, providing consultations, lobbying, and launching a smear campaign" against Iran.

As a result, they would be "subject to legal consequences", it said.

The move would be "without prejudice to any further legal measures that the other administrative, judicial or security institutions and organisations may take" against them and their "collaborators and accomplices". The FDD describes itself as a Washington-based "non-partisan research institute focusing on national security and foreign policy".

GENOCIDE DAY

Thousands of Rohingya rally in B'desh camps

Kutupalong: Some 200,000 Rohingya rallied in a Bangladesh refugee camp to mark two years since they fled a violent crackdown by Myanmar forces, just days after a second failed attempt to repatriate the refugees.

Around 740,000 Rohingya from Myanmar's Rakhine state escaped in August 2017 during the brutal offensive, joining another 200,000 who fled earlier persecution in vast camps in southeast Bangladesh.

Children, hijab-wearing women, and men in long-skirt lungis shouted "God is Great, Long Live Rohingya" as they marched at the heart of the world's largest refugee camp to commemorate what they described as "Genocide Day".

Under the scorching sun,



thousands joined in a popular song with the lyrics "the world does not listen to the woes of Rohingya".

"I have come here to seek justice for the murder of my two

sons. I will continue to seek justice till my last breath," 50-year-old Tayaba Khatun said as tears rolled down her cheeks.

Myanmar had said they were conducting counter-insur-



French President Emmanuel Macron and President Donald Trump participates in a G-7 Working Session on the Global Economy, Foreign Policy, and Security Affairs at the G-7 summit in Biarritz, France on Sunday

crisis. Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah said the stateless minority wanted to return home, but only after they were granted citizenship, their security was ensured and they were allowed to settle back in their villages.

"We have asked the Burmese government for dialogue. But we haven't got any response from them yet," Ullah told the rally.

"We were beaten, killed and raped in Rakhine. But still that is our home. And we want to go back." Police officer Zakir Hassan told AFP some 200,000 Rohingya took part in the peaceful gathering.

Security has been tight across Kutupalong camp, the world's largest refugee settlement and home to more than 600,000

Rohingya. "Hundreds of police, army and border guards have been deployed to prevent any violence," local police chief Abul Monsur told AFP.

The rally came three days after the failed attempt to repatriate the refugees, which saw not a single Rohingya turn up to return across the border.

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

The Rohingya are not recognised as an official minority by the Myanmar government, which considers them Bengali interlopers despite many families having lived in the country for generations.

AP

PRESERVE THE VALUES OF KRISHNA

Green activists have demanded protection of the original Sri Krishna land with restored mangroves, water bodies and the Yamuna as described in ancient texts



Green activists of Braj Mandal have demanded protection of the original Sri Krishna land, with mangroves, water bodies and the Yamuna river restored, as described in ancient texts.

The right bhakti and tribute to Sri Krishna would be to save nature, save the environment of the area and return to pre-development days, said local green activists who are alarmed by the mad race for urbanisation.

The so-called 'development lobby' has created havoc in Braj area by disturbing the ecological balance.

"Now you see concrete structures everywhere. The holy land which was once decorated with a cluster of trees, attracting a variety of flora and fauna, is now covered by ugly looking structures and garbage heaps," said Jagan Nath Poddar, Friends of Vrindavan convener, who has been waging a relentless war against deceptive beautification projects by various government bodies.

The 84-kos, roughly 150 kilometre area around Mathura, is described as Braj Mandal, the leela bhoomi of Sri Krishna. Each year millions of devotees from all

over visit Vrindavan, Goverdhan, Barsana, Gokul and other shrines associated with the Sri Krishna-Radha lore.

On Saturday, as lakhs of devotees line up for a darshan of little Sri Krishna in the temples of Mathura and Vrindavan on his birthday, nature lovers, river activists and heritage conservationists have sounded an alarm over the frenetic pace of development that is eating up all the green spaces and gobbling up water bodies.

Braj or Sri Krishna land, is losing its pristine glory and tranquility, thanks to a spurt in construction activity and illegal sand and stone mining.

Once upon a time there used to be more than a dozen dense forests from Vrindavan to Agravan, from Kaamvan to Mahavan, Kokilavan to Kotvan. All have disappeared, only the names remain to make way for 'demonic' concrete structures in a most haphazard and out of sync with local ambience manner, say locals.

Acharya Sri Vats ji maharaj, Vrindavan's eminent spiritual leader, rued that "Sri Krishna was an environmentalist. He consumed Davanal to cool off heat,



eating mud he purified the soil and by killing the Kalia Naag, he purified the Yamuna water."

"Lord Krishna was an environmentalist. He was a protector of hills, ponds, rivers, forests and animal life. The mor pankh (peacock feather), tulsī, bansuri, love for cows, these are all manifestations of his bonding with nature. But his followers in the holy towns of Mathura, Vrindavan, Goverdhan are doing just the opposite of what Krishna symbolised," lamented a Sri Krishna bhakt Surendra Sharma, president of the Braj Mandal Heritage Conservation Society, in Agra.

Along with physical assaults, there were attempts being made

to foist a spurious culture by transforming an essentially religious centre into a tourism hub. The intellectual, musical and emotional wealth of Braj is under stress and on the verge of extinction, say activists.

Music maestro Acharya TN Jaimini said, "Haveli sangeet parampara of the Sri Krishna temples appears to be already gone, replaced by a loud filmy CD culture. The lanes of Vrindavan no longer reverberate with divine music, its all cacophony at the loudest, shops selling spurious music to lakhs of tourists."

Vrindavan and Radha Kund are now attracting hordes of foreign devotees of Sri Krishna.

Locals feel that though the Iskcon has been doing a splendid job through its various social welfare projects, the white bhakts have also brought in a lot of cultural change, not all good.

In Goverdhan, the 21 km long parikrama marg is not only heavily encroached upon but large scale construction has destroyed the original ambience and nature. Fortunately, the National Green Tribunal has now woken up to these threats and is addressing the issues promptly.

Environmentalists active in the area point out that there were more than a thousand water bodies in the Braj area, now you can count them on your finger tips. Most of them have been encroached, others heavily silted while a few others have been reduced to waste water disposal holes.

With ongoing urbanisation and the influx from outside, the sensitive ecology of the area is under threat. Effective pre-emptive steps to stall further encroachment and safeguard the natural assets are required to preserve the heritage values of Sri Krishna land, say activists.



Divine intervention

It was only at the confluence of the iron and golden ages when God intervened, did his job of transformation to start something new, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

All of us have heard the most famous verse from chapter eight of the Bhagavad Gita, where God says that he will appear on this earth during every age to protect the righteous, to annihilate the wicked and to re-establish the principles of dharma. However, the question that one might raise here is that when, in the history of this world, did the Almighty perform this task?

The words sambhavamī yuge yuge in the Gita has led most of us to believe that God's descent takes place in each of the four yugas or ages in the cycle of time. Really? Well, after some reflection, it becomes clear that this is not possible because the time cycle begins with the golden age or the satyuga, when both human souls and the elements of nature were in their purest state. Humans at that time were replete with divine virtues and free of all vices, for which they were worshipped as deities even now. They were blessed with health, wealth and happiness.

Evil did not exist in that age and hence every soul lived in a blissful state through the golden and silver ages, even though they lost some of their shine over the time. Thus, it is obvious that there was no need for God to intervene in this happy state of affairs.

As we all know, humans call out to God in times of sorrow and when things deteriorate beyond human tolerance. So, God, the redeemer, rejuvenator and remover of sorrows, comes to restore peace and happiness in this world. Practically-speaking, God's descent is meant to remove human suffering and rejuvenate the world.

In the copper age, as humans came increasingly under the influence of

vices, their pain and suffering increased and they lost the awareness that they were souls and begin to identify themselves with their bodies, which gave rise to lust, anger, greed and ego. As the copper age gave way to the iron age, this process of degradation gathers pace, which would not have happened had God come to salvage humanity at the end of the age. Finally, seeing that his beloved children are unable to get out of the grip of vices and suffering, he came to this world to remind them of their true, spiritual identity. God also reminded them about their relationship with him and how they could regain their original, pure state by re-connecting with and remembering him. By this remembrance, souls filled themselves with power and virtues, gradually overcoming the influence of vices. Those who made the effort to get cleansed in this way and attained a divine status became worthy of taking birth in the golden age that dawned after the iron age. All others were also liberated from sorrow in this process of change when the Almighty brought about the destruction of all evil and paved the way for the golden age.

So in the entire cycle of time, it was only at the end of the iron age that this massive and positive process of world transformation took place and it could only be carried out by the Supreme. During the rest of the cycle, souls underwent a process of degradation — which was quite slow in the beginning and faster as time went by. Thus, it was only at the confluence of the iron and golden ages, also called the sangam between the kaliyuga and the satyuga, when God intervened, did his job of transformation to start a new beginning.



Knowing when to snip is as vital as knowing how

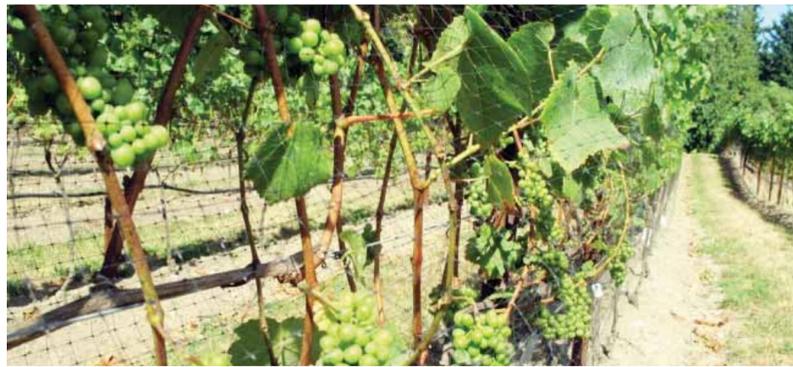
Pruning is one of the most fundamental tasks in gardening, and knowing when to trim is as essential as knowing how. Pruning woody plants at the wrong time can interrupt bloom cycles and damage stressed plants.

"It's time to prune whenever your pruners are sharp" is an old adage that applies only when removing diseased, dead or dying branches — the "three Ds" of pruning that can be done at any time.

Otherwise, certain times of the year are better for pruning than others, based on plant life cycles, said Ryan Pankau, an Extension horticulturist with the University of Illinois.

"It's pretty safe to say that most woody plants are best snipped in winter, during their dormant period," Pankau said. "At other times of the year, such as leaf out, leaf drop or during flowering, pruning can have a very negative impact on plant

The three Ds of pruning



health." Plants expend a lot of energy during those stages, and snipping can place undue stress on trees and shrubs because it causes so much of

that vital energy to be lost, he said. Spring-flowering plants often bloom on flower buds produced the previous year. Pruning before spring flowering removes many of those

buds, reducing the number of blooms that would have emerged. Pruning them shortly after they flower gives them time to regenerate.

But if your plant is already stressed and it has to be cut, it may be best to sacrifice some of the coming year's flower buds and prune during winter, since snipping during dormancy has the least impact on plant health," Pankau said.

Why prune at all? Many reasons. It eliminates the threat of property damage, controls plant growth, improves aesthetics, boosts crop yields, shapes and rejuvenates, reduces disease threats and prevents insect infestations.

Deciduous trees should be pruned in the spring, before they leaf, said Leonard Perry, Extension professor emeritus with the University of Vermont. Summer-flowering shrubs, like hydrangea, should be pruned in early spring before they bud. Fruit trees should be pruned in late winter while they're still dormant but before the buds begin to swell, Perry said.

Evergreen trees usually don't require pruning except for shaping. Pruning evergreen shrubs may be required in mid-summer to keep vigorously growing plants at the desired size, he said.

"Wait until after flowering or if the plant produces berries, after the berries fall," Perry said in a fact sheet.

Pruning is never the answer for maintaining a plant too large for its space, Pankau said.

"Consider the mature size of the plant before deciding where to plant it," he said. "By selecting the right plant for the right place in your landscaping, you can avoid a lot of maintenance issues and you will have a much healthier plant in the long run."

Disinfect pruning equipment with alcohol before using it on another tree or shrub, Perry said. "Disinfecting tools helps reduce the spread of disease," he said.

As a general rule, wound dressings or pruning paints are unnecessary, said Bob Polomski, an Extension horticulturist with Clemson University. He cited studies showing "that these topical applications impair the natural wound closing process," Polomski said. "In some cases, these paints trap moisture, which fosters fungal infections." —AP

“ However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at. —Stephen Hawking ”

USING PHONE NOT BAD FOR MENTAL HEALTH

In contrast to generally held views about the negative impact of using smartphones, researchers have found that teenagers spending time on their phones and online is not that bad for mental health.



"Contrary to the common belief that smartphones and social media are damaging adolescents' mental health, we don't see much support for the idea that time spent on phones and online is associated with increased risk for mental health problems," said Michaelene Jensen, Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina.

For the study published in the journal Clinical Psychological Science, researchers surveyed more than 2,000 teenagers (aged between 10 and 15 years). They collected reports of mental health symptoms from the adolescents three times a day and also reported on their daily technology usage each night. They said that teenagers who reported sending more text messages reported feeling better than kids who were less frequent texters.

ACUPRESSURE CAN HELP IN LOW-BACK PAIN

People with back pain, take note. Researchers have found that acupressure, a traditional Chinese medicine technique, can improve chronic pain symptoms in the lower back.

"In many cases, acupressure is advisable for minor pains in the body which includes lower back pain also as it deals with applying pressure on the body which includes massages, stretching and other techniques that results in relaxation," Sumit Bhushan Sharma, Associate Director, Department of Orthopaedics and Joint Replacement, Jaypee Hospital said.

In the study, published in the journal Pain Medicine, the research team randomly assigned 67 participants with chronic lower back pain into three groups- relaxing acupressure, stimulating acupressure or usual care.

"Acupressure is similar to acupuncture, but instead of needles, the pressure is applied with a finger, thumb or device to specific points on the body," said study lead author Susan Murphy, Associate Professor at Michigan University.



FISH OIL PILLS WON'T PROTECT YOU FROM DIABETES

If you are popping fish oil supplements to protect yourself against diabetes, you may be mistaken. According to the researchers, Omega-3 fats have little or no effect on risk of Type 2 diabetes.

Increased consumption of omega 3 fats is widely promoted because of a common belief that it will protect against, or even reverse, conditions such as diabetes.

According to the team from University of East Anglia (UEA), omega 3 supplements offer no benefit. "Our previous research has shown that long-chain omega 3 supplements, including fish oils, do not protect against conditions such as heart disease, stroke or death. This review shows that they do not prevent or treat diabetes either," said Dr Lee Hooper, from UEA's Norwich Medical School. "Omega-3 supplements should not be encouraged for diabetes prevention or treatment," he added.

The research team assessed the effects of long-chain omega-3 fats, ALA, omega-6 and polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) taken as supplementary capsules, or via naturally rich foods.



FACIAL PAIN MAY BE A SYMPTOM OF HEADACHE

Facial pain may be a symptom of headaches as researchers have found that up to 10 per cent of people with headaches also suffer from facial pain.

"Facial pain has not been well recognised as a symptom of headache and some people end up waiting a long time for a proper diagnosis and treatment," said study author Arne May from the University of Hamburg in Germany. "This study shows that facial pain is not uncommon, and for many people their pain occurs mainly in the face, not the head," May said.

Published in the journal Neurology, the study involved 2,912 people with primary headaches — headaches not due to another condition and include migraine and cluster headaches. Participants were asked to fill out questionnaires about their headaches and facial pain.



OWN A PET FOR BETTER HEART HEALTH

Pet ownership, especially that of a dog, is associated with a decreased risk of cardiovascular diseases (CVD), says a new study.

According to Hemant Madan, Director Cardiology, Narayana Superspecialty Hospital in Gurugram, it is a well-observed fact that pet owners tend to have a lower incidence of heart disease. "This is due to several reasons such as lower blood pressure, a better exercise schedule and a lower cholesterol level. Moreover, even after a cardiac event, the calming effect of a pet leads to better recovery and rehabilitation," Madan said.

"People who owned a pet were likely to report more physical activity, better diet and blood sugar at ideal levels. The greatest benefits from having a pet were for those who owned a dog," said Andrea Maugeri, Professor at the University of Catania in Italy.

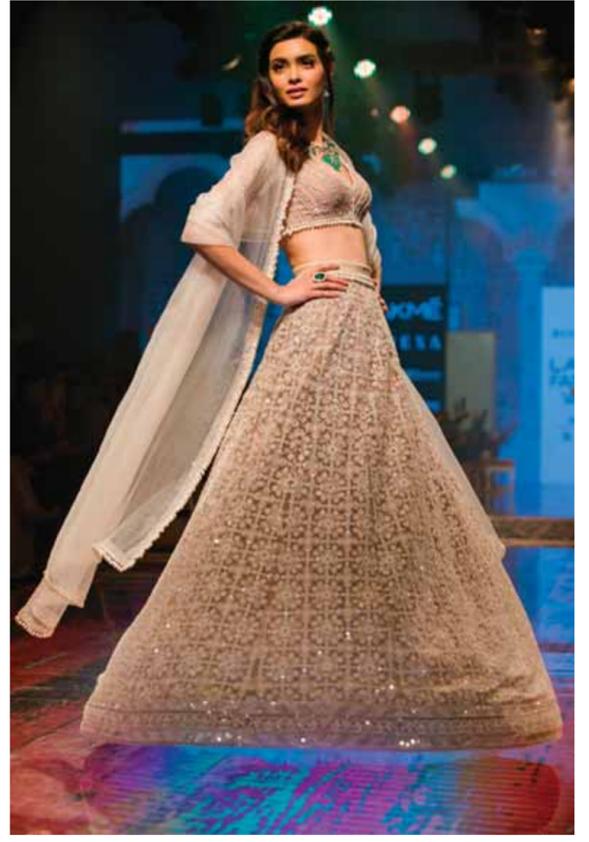


Trend Slazer

I did whatever I wanted to: Tabu

Two national awards as best actress and an experience of over three decades in Bollywood has taken **TABU** to a space where there is no room for self-doubt but the acclaimed actress reveals that even today she questions herself a lot before signing a new project.

"It's not self doubt but I try to ask myself questions before saying yes or no to a project. I want to be sure, because that is important for me. I ask myself, 'why am I doing it?' or 'why don't I want to do this thing?' When I am convinced with my answers, only then will I go ahead with it." said she.



'I am always myself. I don't pretend to be someone else or compete with anyone.'

I believe in always honing your authentic self and believing in everything that you can do or will do. I think that is my fresh factor. I am honest and I don't compete with anything or anyone. If we are honest and passionate about our beliefs and dreams, there is nothing that can be not achieved.'

—Radhika Madan

Actress **NEENA GUPTA** says that she has always got roles of strong women but she also wanted to play the damsel in distress.



"I have always received roles of strong women from the beginning. The media had built my perception of being a strong woman because of my personal life. I wanted to play the damsel in distress but I wasn't given an opportunity to explore that kind of a character," said the single mother. The actress has essayed numerous commendable performances over the years and has even won national awards.

Scarlett highest paid actress

Lucy star SCARLETT JOHANSSON has topped the Forbes list of the highest-paid actresses for the second time, beating names like Sofia Vergara, Reese Witherspoon and Nicole Kidman among others. Johansson earned top spot with an earning of \$56 million (approx ₹402.01 crore).

According to the portal, the actress, who is popular for her character Black Widow in the *Avengers* universe, raked in a lot of "Marvel money, like an eight-figure check for her forthcoming 'Black Widow' film and an impressive back-end payment of about \$35 million for the \$2.8 billion-grossing *Avengers: Endgame*.



The experience of the runway was elevated further as it was embellished with flowers and mirrors. The models sashayed down in a treasure trove of colours, ranging from ivory, ecru, champagne, sapling blue to emerald green which set the mood for Day 4 of the Lakme Fashion Week.

It saw designers blending traditional weaves with modern techniques. The show commenced with designers Abhishek Sharma, Sunaina Khara and Kshitij Jalori presenting their latest collections.

Sharma's collection reminded one of Mithila paintings and drew inspiration from the "union of male and female forms in ancient Indian philosophy". The designer tried to draw a contrast between silhouettes, colours, textures and embroidery. Fabrics like chiffon, satin, organza and handloom silks were used to create crop tops, skirts, dresses, gowns and blazers in colours, including off white, ivory, pastel shades of lavender. The use of glass pipes and cut work added surface texturing and intricate detailing to the collection.

Designer Sunaina Khara's collection, *Dear Mom*, was an ode to her mother who she says is the "strongest female figure in her life". The collection saw Sunaina incorporate all things dear to her, including motifs, colours and techniques. Channelising her emotions and life journey through her design sensibilities and aesthetics, Sunaina created an eclectic

PIECING TOGETHER HEIRLOOMS

Lakme Fashion Week saw designers fuse conventional weaves and fabrics with modern techniques

vocabulary of ensembles. The beautiful curation of feminine motifs and silhouettes allowed the designer to use emotion as her design language.

The line-up was dominated by red and green colours and included shades of pink, burgundy, beige and black, including motifs of lilies, roses and cherry blossoms. There were intricately embellished sarees worn with straight kurtas, the brand's signature *lehengas* with hand-embroidered *dupattas* and dresses made of fabrics like organza, tulle and crepes.

Jalori presented his collection which had contemporary, free-flowing silhouettes, including a breathtakingly beautiful black sequined saree paired with a

matching blouse and a plain silk *lehenga, choli* with embroidered *dupattas* in off-white and ivory colours. A crop top was paired with a pencil skirt while the skater dresses and sequined midi dresses had flower motifs, surface texturing which made the collection ideal for today's modern women who want to look for comfortable yet glamorous outfits.

Further, Designer Gaurang launched his latest collection, *Peshwai*, inspired by the grandeur of the Peshwas. The show saw a line-up of ethnic wear that comprised sarees, *lehengas, cholis, dupattas* and suits with motifs of birds, trees and flowers. For men, the collection had kur-

tas with *dhosis, churidaar, dupattas* and *sherwanis*. The collection also saw Persian designs and mosaics and ranged from shades of pink, yellow, orange, red, golden and white.

Actresses Pooja Hegde, Diana Penty and Tara Sutaria walked the ramp. Pooja turned showstopper for designer Jayanti Reddy's collection, *Benaes and Beyond*, which drew inspiration from the old cities, Kashi and Varanasi. Diana and Tara closed the shows for Riddhi Mehra and veteran Ritu Kumar.

Mohenjo Daro actress Pooja wore a purple *lehenga, choli* with intricate mint green-coloured *meenakari* detailing, and a contrasting silver *dupatta*. She completed her look with a glossy makeup and beach wavy hair. The model-turned-actress who returned to the runway said her journey from the ramp to films and to ramp again had made it a "full circle". On her look, she said, "I would definitely

choose a similar look as it gives a modern twist to the traditional outfit."

Diana wore an ivory *lehenga* that had a lot of surface texturing and pearl embellishment with a matching blouse and *dupatta* for Mehra's collection, *An Ode to Heirlooms*, that saw a mix of ikat, bohemian and Kashmiri prints with a contemporary touch. The range was inspired by

rich Kashmiri *pashmina* shawls, Basra pearls, inherited vintage jewels and hand-woven silk sarees. Diana said, "Walking for Riddhi Mehra was such a delight. Not only is she lovely, her collection was so regal and elegant, it made me feel every bit gorgeous."

Tara Sutaria, who made her Bollywood debut with Karan Johar's *Student of the Year 2*, walked the ramp donning a boho look. She wore a slip dress with white, full-sleeved blouse, layered with long tassels and knee-length black boots.

— With inputs from agencies

TECH TALK

Driving automation

Here are some of the used car features that might not need an upgrade

Automakers have introduced a flurry of new automotive safety and convenience technology features the past few years. Close-to-new vehicles with these features are now increasingly showing up on dealership lots as used vehicles. The upshot: You don't have to buy a new car to get modern convenience and safety features.

Picking a used model coming off a two- or three-year lease, in particular, is an ideal opportunity. Edmunds has identified seven desirable technology and safety features to look for. We've also provided example vehicles that have that particular feature.

ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL
Adaptive cruise control makes driving on the highway easier by automatically maintaining a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front. This feature debuted on high-end luxury cars roughly two decades ago, and it has now trickled down to less expensive vehicles. Adaptive cruise control is typically an option on slightly used cars, and you can find it on affordable vehicles such as the 2016 Honda Civic and 2016 Mazda 3.

APPLE CARPLAY AND ANDROID AUTO
Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are two systems that allow you to easily control some smartphone apps through your vehicle's infotainment display. Doing so can add functions such as navigation and streaming audio to a vehicle that might not otherwise



have them. These systems help reduce driver distraction as well. Manufacturers began offering these two systems in the 2016 model year. However, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto can be added to certain older models, including the 2014 Kia Soul and 2015 Hyundai Sonata.

AUTO-DIMMING MIRRORS
There are few things more distracting at night than a car behind you with overly bright headlights. Auto-dimming mirrors alleviate this problem by darkening the surface of the mirror to eliminate the intensity and glare of the light. This feature is standard on many lightly used luxury cars, including the Mercedes-Benz GLC SUV and Lexus IS 300 sedan. It's also widely available on high-trim versions of standard vehicles.

AUTOMATED PARKING
An automated parking system takes the stress out of parking by computer-controlling most of the process. Not all systems are created equal, however, and they don't always offer both perpendicular and parallel parking. Some automate acceleration and braking, while others keep those functions under the driver's control.

These systems are relatively new, but you can find them on slightly older luxury vehicles such as the BMW i3 or Jaguar XJ and wallet-friendly cars such as the Volkswagen Golf and Ford Escape.

BLIND-SPOT MONITOR
A blind-spot monitor (BSM) uses sensors to identify any vehicle that might be outside your peripheral vision. A light on the outside mirror or inside the car illuminates whenever a vehicle is in your blind spot. The system also sounds an alert if you activate your turn signal when a vehicle is in your blind spot. BSM debuted on luxury and expensive versions of non-luxury vehicles in the late 2000s. Starting with the 2016 model year, you'll typically find BSM available on top trim levels of non-luxury cars or as part of a safety package on luxury vehicles.

HID OR LED HEADLIGHTS
Automakers are increasingly swapping out traditional halogen headlights for high-intensity discharge (HID, or xenon) and LED headlights. These new headlights started to appear on high-end cars in the early 1990s, giving them an association with luxury that continues to this day. Besides giving

a car an upscale appearance, these headlights typically provide better road illumination. By 2016, a lot of non-luxury vehicles started to offer HID and LED lights. The 2016 Toyota Corolla and Toyota RAV4 are examples of affordable cars with standard LED lighting.

VENTILATED SEATS
Ventilated seats cool down passengers by either blowing cold air on their backsides or sucking in hot air and dispersing it elsewhere. A few years ago it was unusual to find this feature in non-luxury cars. High-trim versions of Hyundai and Kia models were the exception — a ventilated driver's seat was optional on the compact Kia Forte, for instance. Seat ventilation is now much more widely available, though this feature is typically reserved for the most expensive trim levels.

Edmunds says, "If you want most of the safety and tech features offered on a new car but also want to save some money, a lightly used vehicle might be the way to go. In particular, vehicles coming off-lease cost a fraction of new models but have many of the same features."

—AP

WEBBED



LATE NIGHT
It is a 2019 American comedy-drama film directed by Nisha Ganatra from a screenplay by Mindy Kaling. It talks about a late night talk show host who suspects that she may soon lose her long-running show. The prime original releases on Amazon on September 3.



LOCKED UP: SEASON 3
The series talks about a naive young woman who is manipulated into embezzling funds for her boyfriend and sentenced to prison. It shows how important it is to learn to survive in a harsh new world. The thriller will be releasing on Netflix on August 30.

DAVE CHAPPELLE: STICKS & STONES

Dave Chappelle takes on gun culture, the opioid crisis and the tidal wave of celebrity scandals in a defiant stand-up special filmed in Atlanta. The stand up makes it evident that the comedian is in the midst of a full-fledged comeback. The series streams on Netflix from today.



Champion for the ages

Sindhu says 'No words to express happiness, have waited Gold for so long'

PTI ■ BASEL

Two-time Silver medallist P V Sindhu was left speechless after her agonising wait for the elusive Gold finally ended with a maiden World Championship title here on Sunday.

Sindhu became the first Indian to win World Championships Gold by thrashing familiar rival Nozomi Okuhara of Japan 21-7, 21-7 in one of the most lop-sided finals ever.

Two years after being robbed of the Gold by Okuhara in an epic 110-minute final that went down as one of the greatest battles in badminton history, Sindhu finally exorcised the ghost of that heart-wrenching loss with a dominating win over the same opponent.

"I am really very happy. I have waited for this victory and finally I have become a world champion," Sindhu told reporters.

"I have no words to express, because I have been waiting for so long. Last time, it was Silver, before that it was Silver and finally I am a world champion so I am really really happy. I have been expecting this for a very long time. So I got it finally and I want to enjoy it, feel it."

It was Sindhu's fifth World Championships medal — most by a female singles player alongside former Olympic and world champion Zhang Ning of China — to go with the two successive Silvers and a couple of Bronze medals.

Sindhu has also won an Olympic Silver in 2016 Rio Games, a Silver at Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, an Asian Games Silver at Jakarta and the BWF World Tour Finals last year.

Sindhu credited her coaches for the performance and dedicated the win to her mother P Vijaya.

"A lot of credit to my coaches, Gopi Sir and Kim (Ji Hyun) and also to my parents, my support staff and sponsors who believed in me," she said.

"I dedicate this win to my mom, its her birthday today. I thought I will gift her something and finally I gift her this Gold medal. It is because of my parents that I am here today."

As the Indian national anthem reverberated across the St Jakobshalle stadium here, Sindhu stood at the podium with moist eyes.

"It was really special when the flag went up and national anthem was playing and I had goosebumps, I have no words to express because you play for your country and it is definitely a proud moment for me," she said.

The Olympic Silver medallist said



she approached the finals like any other match and it took the pressure off her as she could produce her best.

"I think I just focused on my match and didn't think it was a final. I just thought it was just another match like I played the semifinals and quarterfinals. I just went in that way and gave me 100 percent.

"Winning and losing is secondary but for me just going to the court and giving my 100 percent is very important."

Talking about the final, Sindhu said, "Usually the Japanese girls play a lot of rallies, so there were long rallies and then I was dominating all of them and from the starting I maintained the

lead and finished it off.

"I was very confident even though I was giving one or two points, then I was getting those points back and finally I did it."

Crestfallen after the devastating loss, Okuhara, the 2017 champion, said she just couldn't match up to the pace of Sindhu.

"Amazing performance! Congratulations on becoming the 1st ever to win the BWF World Championships! You have made India proud, yet again," —SACHIN TENDULKAR

"PV Sindhu creates history by becoming the first-ever Indian to claim gold in BWF World Badminton Championships! India is proud of @Pvsindhu1. My hearty congratulations! Govt will continue to provide best support & facilities to produce champions." —KIREN RIJU

"Congratulations to @Pvsindhu1 for the first ever world championships gold medal from India." —SAINA NEHWAL

"What a champion you are girl @Pvsindhu1 congratulations.. Enjoy the moment." —SANIA MIRZA

"Congratulations @Pvsindhu1 for winning the BWF World Championship. This is a proud moment for the entire country. Your magic on the court, hardwork and perseverance enthalls and inspires millions. Best wishes World Champion for all your future battles." —RAM NATH KOVIND

"Congratulations, Sindhu, on becoming the first Indian to win the gold medal at the BWF World Championships. (You) dominated right from the start and finished like a true champion." —Y S JAGAN MOHAN REDDY

"The stupendously talented @Pvsindhu1 makes India proud again! Congratulations to her for winning the Gold at the BWF World Championships. The passion and dedication with which she's pursued badminton is inspiring. PV Sindhu's success will inspire generations of players." —NARENDRA MODI

"BAI President @himantabiswa announces cash award of `20 lakh for World Champion @Pvsindhu1 and `1 lakh for @saiameeth92 for their historic performance at the #bwworldchampionship2019." —BAI

Hima Das, Jhonson not to feature in National Athletics

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Star athletes Hima Das Sand Jinson Jhonson will not be seen in action in the 59th Senior National Inter-State Athletics Championships to be held at 35th Bt PAC stadium, Lucknow from August 27. However, Sudha Singh, Dutee Chand and Mohd Anas confirmed their participation.

As per sources, Hima, who have still not qualified for the World Championship, is interested in taking part in European events. Despite of the recent glory -- seven golds -- she has not clocked the qualifying time of 51.80 in 400m.

Other stars who will be seen in action are shotputter Indrajeet Singh, Arpinder Singh (triple jump) and 110m hurdle runner Siddhant.

According to UP Athletics Association 668 athletes from 25 states and three countries -- Sri Lanka, Maldives and Iran will take part in the athletics mega event.



LOCAL EVENTS

SAHARA ESTATES RETAIN TITLE



Defending champion Sahara Estates edged past Ex-students 1-0 to retain the 2nd Major Durga Mall Memorial trophy at Chowk Stadium on Sunday. In the keenly contested match, Deepak Kumar scored the lone goal of the match in the 19th minute. Deepak was also adjudged man of the tournament while best goalkeeper trophy went to Rambo. ARTO Sanjay Tiwari and ARM Amarnath Sahay gave away the prizes.

CHESS TOURNEY

Lucknow District Chess Sports Association is organising Shivani Cup Sunday Open Prizemoney Chess Tournament at Shivani Public School on September 1. The tournament carries a prizemoney of Rs 50,000, including Rs 38,500 cash prize. Interested may contact on 9956039142.



David Silva sparkles as Aguero double fires City

AFP ■ LONDON

Sergio Aguero bagged a brace and David Silva marked his 400th appearance for Manchester City by playing a role in all three goals as the champions won 3-1 at Bournemouth on Sunday.

First half efforts from Aguero and Raheem Sterling ensured Pep Guardiola's side led at the interval despite a stunning free-kick reply from Bournemouth's Harry Wilson.

Argentina striker Aguero wrapped up City's second Premier League victory of the season with his second goal of the game after half-time.

It was Silva, though, who was the architect of the win and having already announced this will be his last season at the Etihad Stadium, this display only underlined how much he will be missed.

The Spanish midfielder remains an integral part of Guardiola's team, with his contribution to City's goals demonstrating exactly why he is so valued by his manager.

For the 15th minute opening goal, it was Silva who operated as the fulcrum towards the

start of the move with the midfielder finding Aleksandr Zinchenko on the left, allowing the left-back to drill in the low cross that eventually led to Aguero's finish.

Silva's contribution to the second was even more eye-catching, with his superbly weighted ball picking out Sterling's darting run into the box before the England attacker struck past keeper Aaron Ramsdale.

Then a positive surge into the Bournemouth area caused confusion among the home backline before Aguero pounced for the third.

Those moments helped City maintain control of a game that could easily have slipped from their grasp had Eddie Howe's side enjoyed better fortune.

Aguero's predatory finishing was the perfect tonic for City after Brazil striker Gabriel Jesus was withdrawn from the squad with a hamstring problem sustained in training.

City said Jesus will be back to full fitness after next month's international break, meaning he should miss only next weekend's clash with Brighton.

Serena-Sharapova showdown seizes spotlight

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Serena Williams faces Maria S Sharapova in a blockbuster first-round match today at the US Open, the feature showdown on the first day of the year's final Grand Slam tennis event.

Eighth-ranked Williams, who lost to Naomi Osaka in last year's US Open final and to Simona Halep in last month's Wimbledon final, is seeking her 24th career Grand Slam singles title to match Margaret Court's all-time record.

The 37-year-old American owns a 19-2 record against Russia's 87th-ranked Sharapova and has beaten her 18 consecutive times dating to 2005.

That lopsided rivalry, however, has not prevented the matchup from being the talk of the tournament since Thursday's draw announcement.

"Of course I'm going to watch it," Osaka said. "I think everyone in New York is going to watch it."

Williams owns a 3-1 record over Sharapova in Grand Slam matchups, having lost their first such meeting in 2004 at Wimbledon, but this will mark the first time they have met in a US Open.

Williams last won a Grand Slam at the 2017 Australian Open, while pregnant.

Five-time Grand Slam champion Sharapova, 32, failed a drug test at the 2016 Australian Open and served a one-year ban. The 2006 US Open winner last won a Slam at the 2014 French Open. She has reached the fourth round at the past two US Opens.

Other first-day matches in Arthur Ashe Stadium send Swiss third seed Roger Federer against India's 190th-ranked Sumit Nagal, top-seeded defending champion Novak Djokovic against Spain's 76th-ranked Roberto Carballes Baena and French Open champion Ashleigh Barty, the second seed from Australia, against 77th-ranked Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan.

Eighth-seeded Williams could



Serena vs Sharapova
Live from 4:30am IST
STAR SPORTS NETWORK

meet second-seeded French Open champion Ashleigh Barty of Australia in the quarter-finals.

Barty, Osaka, Halep and Czech third seed Karolina Pliskova, seeking her first Slam title, are among the foes trying to deny Williams yet again in a quest she insists doesn't dominate her thoughts.

She has not played since retiring from the WTA Toronto final with back spasms, handing Canada's Bianca Andreescu the title.

OSAKA 'VERY CONFIDENT'

Osaka won last year's final after Williams was given a game penalty by umpire Carlos Ramos, who US Open officials have decided will not work on any match with Serena or Venus Williams at this year's US Open.

This time, Osaka has had a better run-up to the Open despite a first-round Wimbledon crash out.

"This year I went to two quarter-finals back to back and I feel very confident about how I am right now."

While it's Osaka's first time defending a Slam, she had her first taste of defending a title this year at Indian Wells.

Meanwhile, Halep, who has crashed out of the US Open in the first round the past two years, enters with confidence after beating Williams at Wimbledon.

"It cannot be worse than the last two years, to lose in the first round," Halep said. "I'm really good. I'm feeling healthy. I'm feeling fresh."

"The pressure of doing something special, it's off. Now what comes, comes as a bonus. I'm still working. I'm still motivated to win titles. I've started to feel more and more that I'm capable to do that so my confidence is very high."

Barty says "nothing has really changed for me" since her title at Roland Garros.

"I just come here to play and do the best that I can," Barty said. "I'm focused on my first round on Monday and that's all I'm worried about for the moment."

Big 3 remain ones to beat

AFP ■ NEW YORK

While a host of young rivals hope to disrupt the dominance of the "Big Three" in men's tennis, Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer remain the US Open favorites.

The year's final Grand Slam showdown starts today on the Flushing Meadows hardcourts with top-ranked Djokovic, 20-time Grand Slam champion Federer and Spanish superstar Nadal having combined to win the past 11 Grand Slam titles.

Federer, 38, doesn't see a problem with the dominance by the sport's elder statesmen, who together own 54 of the past 65 Slam titles.

"I don't think it's a problem, per se," Federer said. "Now that Novak, Rafa and me are healthy again, Andy (Murray) also slowly coming back again, has made it much harder for young guys to come through."

"They are definitely knocking on the door big-time now. I think that's very encouraging for those who want to see somebody else win. I think also Novak's domination, Rafa's domination is also not normal for the game of tennis."

"I think there's going to be chances moving forward, but it's not surprising with the type of tennis they've been playing in recent years."

Third-seeded Federer also throws in a chance for Swiss compatriot Stan Wawrinka, who like Britain's injured Murray has won three Slam crowns during the "Big Three" reign, but figures a familiar face will be lifting the US Open trophy.

"Yeah, it seems like the same guys are the favorites again this time around," Federer said. "It will be a surprise if anybody else won."

Defending champion Djokovic, seeking a 17th career Grand Slam title, has won four of the past five Slams, denied only by Nadal's French Open win in June. The 32-year-old Serbian says he has adjusted to the extra pressure of defending over the years.

"It's a paramount challenge to defend a Grand Slam title," he said. "These are the tournaments you want to win the most. This is where you want to shine."

Nadal, 33, has made an impressive run with titles at Rome, the French Open and Montreal and a Wimbledon semi-final loss to Federer.

But the second-ranked isn't too excit-



ed over Federer and Djokovic both being in the opposite half of the draw.

Russia's Daniil Medvedev has enjoyed a stellar US Open run-up with a win at Cincinnati and runner-up efforts at Washington and Montreal.

Austrian fourth seed Dominic Thiem lost to Nadal in the Roland Garros final and will be a threat.

Germany's sixth-ranked Alexander Zverev warns not to ignore other lower seeds such as Japan's seventh-seeded Kei Nishikori, the 2014 US Open runner-up, and Greece's eighth-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas.

ANDERSON OUT

Two-time Grand Slam finalist Kevin Anderson withdrew from the tournament on Saturday due to a right knee injury.

The 33-year-old South African lost the 2017 final at Flushing Meadows to Rafael Nadal and finished runner-up to Novak Djokovic last year at Wimbledon.

Anderson's place in the draw will go to Italian lucky loser Paolo Lorenzi, the US Tennis Association announced.

World number 17 Anderson has not played since his third-round exit at Wimbledon last month. Injured ruled him out of the recent hardcourt events at Washington, Montreal and Cincinnati.

Stokes keeps Ashes alive

Ben's historic innings help hosts chase 359 with 1 wicket remaining to beat Aus in Headingley Test



AFP ■ HEADINGLEY (LEEDS)

Ben Stokes was the hero yet again as his incredible unbeaten century saw England to a thrilling one-wicket win in the third Ashes Test at Headingley on Sunday.

England — all out for a woeful 67 in their first innings — were 286-9, still needing 73 more runs to reach a victory target of 359 when bespectacled No 11 Jack Leach walked out to bat to join Stokes at the crease.

Leach, however, held firm with World Cup final winning batting star Stokes' astonishing 135 not out seeing England complete their highest successful fourth innings chase as they squared the five-match series at 1-1.

"There's nothing like being out there in the end and getting your team over the line. I didn't get nervous till we needed single figures, I didn't know what to do then," admitted Stokes.

Australia, who would have retained the Ashes had they won, missed a clear chance to run Leach out when Nathan Lyon failed to gather a throw and then paid dearly for squandering a review.

All-rounder Stokes eventually played fast bowler Pat Cummins for four to seal a famous victory arguably even more

improbable than England's celebrated 1981 Ashes Test success at Headingley when they won after following-on.

This was only the fourth time a team had made more than 300 to win in the fourth innings of a Test at Headingley.

"It was a very special feeling. Stokesy was unbelievable. It was like nothing I've ever seen before. And the crowd was insane," admitted Leach.

Australia captain Tim Paine said: "It's hard to take, losing that from that position but you tip your hat sometimes.

"Ben Stokes played an unbelievable innings and in the end he was too good for us."

As Leach looked on, all-rounder Stokes went into one-day mode by driving off-spinner Lyon for two straight sixes and then produced a stunning reverse against him that sailed high over deep point.

Stokes' extravagant scooped six off Cummins reduced the target to 40.

Despite Australia captain Tim Paine having scattered all his fielders to the boundary, Stokes pulled Josh Hazlewood for four to complete a remarkable 199 ball-century — his second in a row after his 115 not out in the drawn second Test at Lord's — featuring eight fours and five sixes.



Smith set for tour match return

AFP ■ LONDON

Steve Smith is set to make his return to action in a tour match against Derbyshire after the Australia star batted against bowlers for the first time on Sunday since being concussed.

He is expected to return to action in a three-day tour match at Derby starting Thursday with a view to being available for selection for the fourth Test at Old Trafford, Manchester, that begins on September 4.

"Steve Smith batted against bowlers for the first time today (Sunday)," said an Australia team spokesman.

"The session lasted 25 minutes. He also did some high intensity running."

The spokesman added: "He will continue to be assessed but is expected to play in the tour match at Derby."

Smith has made a spectacular return to Test cricket in what is the former Australia captain's first series since he completed a 12-month ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

He made 144 and 142 in Australia's 251-run win in the first Test at Edgbaston and 92 at Lord's, having retired hurt on 80 when struck on his unprotected neck by Archer.



drive Lyon for a six that just cleared Marnus Labuschagne at long-on and England needed two to win.

A colossal mix-up between Stokes and Leach should have seen the No 11 run out but Lyon fumbled the return.

Lyon then had an lbw appeal against Stokes turned down by umpire Joel Wilson only for replays to suggest it would have been out.

But Australia had used up all their reviews.

England still needed two to win but Leach, who made a career best 92 as nightwatchman in a recent Test win over Ireland, was on strike to Cummins.

Leach though managed a single that tied the scores as he got off the mark after 59 minutes at the crease.

And Stokes then cut Cummins for

"I have no sister but if I did I'd want her to marry Ben Stokes."
— GRAEME SWANN

"ARISE SIR BEN STOKES."
—ENGLAND'S BARMY ARMY SUPPORTERS GROUP.

"I've seen some remarkable cricket moments in my life but that is the best I've seen in over 50 years. @benstokes38 saved the Ashes and gave a magical inspirational innings. Even better than his World Cup performance."
—GEOFFREY BOYCOTT

"Hi, my name is Ben, Ben Stokes!"
— KEVIN PIETERSEN.

"That was special from Ben Stokes. Single handedly winning the test match. Great viewing."
—VIRENDER SEHWAG

"One of the best innings of test match cricket you will see, well played @benstokes38. What a game, what a test match. #ashesalivelandkicking. Both teams so close together. Go the Aussies for the next test."
—DARRLEN LEHMANN

"The greatest ever innings by an Englishman."
—ALASTAIR COOK

"You cannot do that Ben Stokes"
—NASSER HUSSAIN.

"Wow, just Wow. The Ashes is something else. England and Australia keeping test cricket alive. The rest of the world MUST come to the party now..."
—ALVIRO PETERSEN

a boundary to seal an astounding triumph.

The left-handed batsman faced 219 balls in total, with 11 fours and eight sixes in a superbly paced five-and-a-half hour innings.

It seemed England's chances had evaporated when they lost three wickets for just 16 runs after lunch to be reeling at 261-7.

SINGLES

IND BLUE CONCEDE LEAD TO INDIA RED

BENGALURU: Maharashtra batsman Ankit Bawne made an unbeaten 121 but could not prevent India Blue from conceding a 30-run lead to India Red on the third day of the Duleep Trophy match here on Sunday. After bowling out India Blue for 255 in 83.2 overs, India Red (285 in 1st innings) extended the advantage by moving to 93 for 2 at stumps, a lead of 123 runs. At stumps, Nair was batting on 43 (55 balls, 7 fours) while Kalsi was on 21 (34 balls, 3X4), looking to be a lot more positive than in his first-innings ton. India Red hit back after a wicketless first session with right-arm paceman Avesh Khan (4 for 58) and left-arm medium-pacer Jaydev Unadkat (3 for 52) and Vidarbha spinner Akshay Wakhare (3 for 32) helping the team pull things back.

WAQAR APPLIES FOR BOWLING COACH JOB

KARACHI: Former Pakistan captain Waqar Younis has applied for the bowling coach role with the national team as he is not mentally prepared to take charge as head coach for the third time. Waqar, 47, who has twice worked as head coach of the Pakistan team in 2010 and in 2014-2016, applied for the bowling coach position with the PCB's application deadline ending on Sunday. "I have applied for the position of bowling coach because I think I can contribute a lot in this area. Frankly speaking, I am not averse to being the head coach but this time, to be honest, I am not mentally prepared for it," Waqar said from Australia. "Would prefer to work in the bowling department if the board shows faith in me," he said.

HURKACZ BEAT PAIRE, WIN 1ST ATP TITLE

LOS ANGELES: Poland's Hubert Hurkacz upset top seed Benoit Paire in three sets at the Winston-Salem ATP tournament to clinch his first career title. The towering 22-year-old became the first Polish player to win a tour singles event since Wojtek Fibak lifted the WCT Chicago crown in 1982, winning 6-3, 3-6, 6-3. Hurkacz recorded five service breaks en route to victory in 2hr 9min against the 30-year-old Frenchman. Hurkacz is the 14th player to become a first-time tournament winner on the ATP Tour in 2019. Saturday's win completed an impressive week for Hurkacz, who knocked off 16th seed Feliciano Lopez, 10th seed Frances Tiafoe and second seed Denis Shapovalov en route to his maiden title.

WERNER EXTENDS LEIPZIG CONTRACT

MUNICH: Bayern Munich transfer target Timo Werner has signed a four-year contract extension at RB Leipzig, the Bundesliga club confirmed on Sunday. The announcement, which was made just before Leipzig's first home game of the season against Eintracht Frankfurt, ends speculation that Bayern would sign Werner on a free transfer in 2020. "I am happy to have extended my contract. It was a long process, but I wanted to be completely sure that I could make the next steps in my development at this club," said Werner. The 23-year-old striker had previously held firm against all new contract offers, and openly hinted at his interest in a move to Munich last season.

DABANG DELHI BEAT UP YODDHA

NEW DELHI: Naveen Kumar was once again the star for home side Dabang Delhi as they beat UP Yodhya 36-27 in a Pro Kabaddi League match here on Sunday. The 19-year-old raider picked up a Super 10 (16 points) for the seventh consecutive time this season as Dabang secured an important victory to keep their record of 100 per cent win at home intact and push them to the top of the Season 7 points table. Meraj Sheykh got a place in the starting seven for Dabang Delhi after his influential cameo in their win against Bengaluru Bulls in the previous outing while there was no Rishank Devadiga in the seven for UP Yodhya who went in with Monu Goyat as their chief raider. Elsewhere, Rohit Kumar's impressive show helped defending champions Bengaluru Bulls beat league toppers Jaipur Pink Panthers 41-30.

INDIA FINISHES WITH 12 MEDALS

BASEL: India's Pramod Bhagat made a strong comeback to defeat England's Daniel Bethell and clinch his third title in the men's singles SL3 category at the BWF Para Badminton World Championships on Sunday. It was world No 1 Bhagat's second Gold in this World Championships having won his men's doubles SL3-4 title on the penultimate day of the competitions. Interestingly in that match, he and his partner Manoj Sarkar came from a game down to defeat compatriots Nitesh Kumar and Tarun Dhillion 14-21, 21-15, 21-16 in the final. Overall, India finished with 12 medals, including three Gold. Though the total number of medals is same as in 2015 Worlds, but back then India had four Gold, making it the best ever show.

AGENCIES

Rahane, Vihari take India ahead

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

Ajinkya Rahane remained on course to score his first Test century in two years while Hanuma Vihari hit a fluent fifty as India tightened their grip over the West Indies in the series-opener, here on Sunday.

Vihari (57) and Rahane (90) raised an unbeaten 100-run partnership for the fifth wicket after India lost skipper Virat Kohli, taking India to 287 for four at lunch on the fourth day for an overall lead 362.

Rahane, who scored 81 in the first innings, has not scored a Test hundred since his 132 against Sri Lanka in August 2017.

For Vihari it's only his second Test fifty.

Resuming at 185 for three, India lost Kohli (51) when his leading edge off Roston Chase flew to John Campbell, who took the catch on second attempt.

That ended the fourth-wicket partnership between Kohli and Rahane that yielded 106 runs for India.

The other overnight batsman Rahane was joined by Vihari, who easily worked the ball around in gaps

to keep the scoreboard ticking.

Holder now made it all-spin attack by introducing John Campbell from the other end.

As soon as the new ball was available, pacers Kumar Roach and Shannon Gabriel operated in tandem but before that West Indies part-timers had bowled 41 overs in this innings alone.

While Roach and Gabriel bowled a few testing deliveries, it largely remained an untroubled stay for both Rahane and Vihari.

Opener Mayank Agarwal (16) was the first wicket to fall for India in the second innings, trapped by Chase in the 14th over although TV replays showed the ball was missing the leg stump but the batsman didn't go for review on Saturday.

After Agarwal's departure, KL Rahul (38) and Cheteshwar Pujara (25) added 43 runs for the second wicket to take India forward.

Rahul, however, gave away his wicket, bowled by Chase. He went across his stumps while going for a sweep, only to expose all the three stumps and the West Indian spinner stuck as the batsman failed to connect the ball.

An over later, Roach went through Pujara's defence to reduce India to 81 for three.

Before that, India bowled out West Indies for 222 in 74.2 overs in their first

Holder 'extremely disappointed' with Windies top-order failure

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

Not standing up to a challenge has become a "common thing" for West Indies' top-order batsmen, lamented an "extremely disappointed" captain Jason Holder.

Holder expressed his disappointment after West Indies were bowled out for 222 in reply to India's first-innings total of 297 all out in their opening World Championship Test match.

"Extremely disappointed... It has been a common thing for our batsmen now. We have not been able to step up as a top-order, the middle and lower order have done an exceptional job," Holder said.

"We are behind the eight ball because we did not bat well in the first innings," he said during a media conference at the end of third day's play.

"The boys are fighting, the effort was exceptional, we have been in the match with the bowling effort. We kept toiling away, it is not a surface on which you can bowl out a side cheaply. We hope to restrict India and then

chase down the total," he added.

Holder spoke after Virat Kohli (51) and Ajinkya Rahane (53) propelled India to a commanding position with their unbroken 104-run partnership for the fourth wicket, extending the visitors' overall lead to 260.

He lauded his pace attack, especially Kumar Roach, for his consistency.

"Bowlers are doing an exceptional job. India is scoring at two and a half runs per over, we are fighting very hard. The body language has been right up there. We got early wickets and they built a partnership in the first innings. We just need to play smart cricket in the remaining match."

"Kemar has been brilliant. We, as a fast-bowling group, have done a good job. Kumar keeps you guessing, there is never a situation in which he gets predictable. It is a plus having Kemar in this side. He makes something happen with the ball."

"Yes, Ishant got five wickets in the first innings, but in my opinion, Kemar has been the standout bowler in this match," he added.

innings in reply to 297 with Ishant Sharma returning with best figures of 5 for 43. Besides Ishant, Mohammed Shami (2/48) and left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja (2/64) scalped two wickets a piece.

Watling, CDG put Kiwis on front



AFP ■ COLOMBO

Contrasting half-centuries from BJ Watling and Colin de Grandhomme helped New Zealand lead by 138 runs in their first innings against Sri Lanka on day four of the rain-hit second Test on Sunday.

Only 48 of the scheduled 98 overs were possible as New Zealand reached 382 for five at stumps. The tourists resumed the day on 196-4. The first session was washed out by rain and a wet outfield at Colombo's P Sara Oval.

De Grandhomme scored 83 in an unbeaten 113-run stand for the sixth wicket with Watling, who finished the day on 81.

Watling also played the supporting role in an earlier

partnership of 143 with Tom Latham, who hit 154.

Off-spinner Dilruwan Perera broke the marathon stand after trapping Latham leg before on a delivery that pitched and hurried on to the batsman's pad.

Latham, who started the day on 111, registered his fifth 150-plus score in Tests. His career-best 264 not out also came against Sri Lanka in Wellington last year.

No 7 De Grandhomme attacked hitting the home bowlers around the ground, smashing five fours and five sixes.

Watling, who started the day on 25, played a patient knock during his 208-ball stay.

Sri Lanka were without captain and opening batsman

Dimuth Karunaratne, who strained a muscle of his left leg and will be unable to bat until the fall of the fifth wicket, and wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella.

Angelo Mathews is the stand-in-captain and substitute Dinesh Chandimal is keeping wicket in the absence of Dickwella, who sustained a cut on the little finger of his left-hand on day three.

The Kane Williamson-led New Zealand will be looking to bat only once and then let their pace duo of Tim Southee and Trent Boult have a crack at the Sri Lankan batsmen in a bid to square the series.

Play will get under way at 9:45 am (0415 GMT) today, the final day of the match, weather permitting.