

OPINION 6
 PAK IN A
 Pincer Attack

VIJAYAWADA 9
 ALIA BHAT TO RAISE
 FUNDS FOR ANIMALS VIA BAKING

SPORTS 12
 SHASTRI NAMES
 IYER FOR NO 4 SPOT

VIJAYAWADA, TUESDAY AUGUST 20, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer



DIDN'T KNOW
 I HAD TB FOR
 8 YEARS: BIG B

Page 11

www.dailypioneer.com

Mukesh Meena is Secretary to Governor

VIJAYAWADA: The State Government has transferred Mukesh Kumar Meena, Secretary to Government, Tribal Welfare Department, on Monday and posted him as Secretary to Governor. Similarly, Muddada Ravichandra, incumbent Social Welfare Department Secretary is given full additional charge of Meena's earlier post, until further orders.

R Pavan Murthy, Director (IT&C) is given full additional charge as CEO and MD of Andhra Pradesh State Fibernet Corporation Limited duly relieving N Balasubramanyam, from full additional charge duties, according to a GO issued by Principal Secretary (Political) RP Sisodia.

Exchange of fire between cops and Maoists

VIJAYAWADA: A special police team of the Visakhapatnam District and CRPF was engaged in a major exchange of fire with Maoists near Mandapalle village, a village bordering Koyyuru and GK Veedhi, in Visakhapatnam agency on Monday.

According to sources, about 15 to 20 hardcore cadre from the East Division of the Maoists, included some senior leaders such as Aruna, Chalapati, Suresh and Jagan.

The combat party comprising men from the CRPF and AP Special Police, chanced upon the Maoist and following which, there was an exchange of fire, but casualties were reported from the either sides.

The police party recovered some Maoist literature, a couple of kits bags, about 10 tiffin carriers, wire bundles and two radios

It's now Dr YSR Abhaya Hastam

VIJAYAWADA: The State Government has changed the name of Anna Abhaya Hastam scheme on Monday. In a GO issued on Monday, Principal Secretary Gopala Krishna Dwivedi stated that the new name of the scheme will be Dr YSR Abhaya Hastam.

It may be recalled that the State Government had issued orders to introduce a Co-Contributory Pension Scheme called 'Abhaya Hastam' (IKP pension and insurance scheme) covering women members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in rural and urban areas, promoted by Indira Kranthi Patham (IKP) programme.

TODAY

ALMANAC
 Month & Paksham: Shrawana & Krishna Paksha
 Panchangam
 Tithi: Panchami 05:30 am (Next Day)
 Nakshatram: Revathi 10:29 pm
 Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)
 Rahukalam: 03:27 pm - 05:01 pm
 Yamagandam: 09:11 am - 10:45 am
 Varyyam: 09:09 am - 10:55 am
 Goork: 12:19 pm - 01:53 pm
 Good Time: (to start any important work)
 Amritakalam: 07:49 pm - 09:36 pm
 Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:54 am - 12:44 pm

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER
 Forecast: Thunderstorm
 Temp: 35/26
 Humidity: 80%
 Sunrise: 05:59
 Sunset: 06:38
 Current Weather Conditions Updated August 19, 2019 5:00 PM

POLAVARAM PROJECT



Centre seeks full details

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In an interesting turn of events, the Union government has enquired the State Government about the fresh developments over the Polavaram project.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti, asked the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) to submit a comprehensive report on cancellation of the ongoing contract of Polavaram Projects work and issuance of a notification inviting fresh tenders for the project without any information to the Centre.

The Centre recently wrote a letter to the PPA stating that it was not proper for the State Government to go for reverse tendering in the case of

Polavaram Project. However, the State Government went ahead with its decision to invite fresh tenders just a day after receipt of the said letter.

The Centre is understood to have asked the newly-formed YSRCP Government in the State to furnish details of how much of work has been executed after its formation and how much of funds have been spent to clear the pending bills.

For its part, the PPA is reliably preparing to furnish full details to the Centre on the project.

Official sources say that the Centre is likely to take a decision on the issue only after the PPA submits its report to the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

A double-decker train on Vizag-Vijayawada route!

SUMIT ONKA
 ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

To ease the traffic and ensure good railway connectivity to the capital area, Indian Railways will run double-decker train equipped with modern facilities on the Vizag-Vijayawada route.

Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted that the all-new Utkrisht Double Decker Air Conditioned Yatri (UDAY) Express will provide passengers with amenities like Wi-Fi, LCD Screens & a dedicated area to enjoy meals. These trains will ply on Coimbatore-Bengaluru, Bandra-Jamnagar and Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada routes.

South Central division had allocated a slot for plying the double-decker Uday Express between Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada with nine double-decker coaches and two power cars, with a seating capacity of 120 seats per coach. Three coaches will have dining facilities with a seating capacity of 104 passengers each while five coaches will be without dining area with seating capacity of 120 passengers. The railway officials announced the timings of departure from Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada Uday Express (22701) from Visakhapatnam is 05:45 am and it will reach Vijayawada at 11:15am. On its return journey, train number 22702 will leave Vijayawada at 5:30pm and reach



The Central government allocated a double-decker AC train to cater the needs of businessmen who shuttle between Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam at 10:55 pm. However, the date when it will start is yet to be announced.

Generally the train will take five and half hours to reach from Visakhapatnam to Vijayawada and vice-versa. However, Uday Express will take five hours 25 minutes with stoppages at Duvvada, Anakapalle, Tuni, Samarlakota, Rajamahendravaram and Eluru. It will run on five days a week- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

The Waltair division chalked out plans to chug-off UDAY express on August 16 but postponed it.

Speaking to this correspon-

dent, a senior Waltair railway division official said the Central government allocated a double-decker AC train to cater the needs of businessmen who shuttle between Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam. However, lack of technical operators of LHB coaches which experience more jerks due to the CBC coupling and are not self-power generating like ICF coaches had caused problem. A separate generator car was needed for its power supply. As Indian Railways is now slowly phasing out ICF coaches and has been successful with this venture so far; all new trains introduced have LHB rakes.

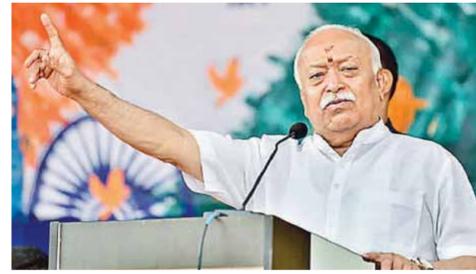
Mohan Bhagwat For Dialogue On Quota

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There should be a conversation in an atmosphere of harmony between those in favour of reservations and those against it, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Sunday, provoking criticism and allegations that he is telegraphing the ruling BJP's intent of ending quota for the poor and backward castes.

Mohan Bhagwat's words had caused a similar flap in 2015, just before the Bihar election, when he called for a review of the reservation policy. At the height of the Bihar poll campaign, the BJP was said to have suffered the brunt of its mentor's views. Months later, Bhagwat tweeted that reservation "is needed" as long as social discrimination remains in the society. In his latest comments, the RSS chief said when he raised the subject earlier, it created much noise and the whole discussion went off the rails. "Those in favour of reservation, when they

hear and consider those against reservation and when those against reservation will hear and consider those for reservation, then we can find a solution to this in one minute, without a law, without rules. Till the time that harmony is not there in all of society, no one can answer this question. We have to attempt this and the Sangh is doing so," Bhagwat said at the closing session of Gyan Utsav, an event organized by the RSS on competitive exams. Dismissing talk of the RSS influencing the government's agenda, Bhagwat also clarified that the Sangh, the BJP and the party-led government at the centre were "three separate entities" and one cannot be held responsible for the actions of the other. "Since there are Sangh workers in BJP and this government, they will listen to the RSS, but it is not mandatory for them to agree with us. They can disagree as well," he said.



Sana Satish Babu granted bail

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A court here on Monday granted bail to Hyderabad-based businessman and Kakinada native Satish Babu Sana, a close aide of controversial meat exporter Moin Akhtar Qureshi, in a money laundering case.

Granting bail, special CBI Judge Anuradha Shukla Bhardwaj directed him to furnish a personal bail bond of Rs five lakh and one surety of like amount.

"The accused is, however, directed to cooperate in investigation and be available as and when called for by the investigating agency. He shall not leave the country without the permission of the court..." the court said. Allowing bail to Sana, the court observed that Qureshi, who is the main accused in the case, is already out on bail and Sana's role in the case is no graver than him.

During the course of hearing on Saturday, lawyers KTS Tulsi and Mohit Mathur, appearing for Sana, contended that his statements cannot lead to his arrest as he was a witness and there is immunity provided to a witness that no such answers that a witness is compelled to give can subject him to be arrested.

Tulsi argued that the entire case against Sana is based on

Allowing bail to Sana, the court observed that Qureshi, who is the main accused in the case, is already out on bail and Sana's role in the case is no graver than him



his statements given in 2017 and 2019. Mathur contended that the statements that he made to authorities in 2017 were recorded under section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act of which his status as a witness was determined. He asked the authorities now say that his statements were unreliable and one year down, had "become a thorn in their skin".

Opposing the submissions, Special Public Prosecutor D.P. Singh argued: "We made him accused from a witness as the investigation reveals many

things against him... we don't want to go to a stage where he is not telling anything and still enjoying the immunity."

"This is a crucial stage amidst the investigation... we can make him an accused and granting him bail at this stage will affect the investigation," he added. Observing they have "a short window of 60 days of which 20 days have passed" and hence it was necessary till the time the charge sheet is filed, bail should not be granted, he said, adding that all others were granted bail after the charge sheet was filed.

During the investigation of the case, it came to the fore that Sana was a close aide of Qureshi, who is accused of hawala transactions through Delhi-based operators.

In October last year, on the basis of a complaint filed by Sana, a case was registered against the then CBI Director Alok Verma and Special Director Rakesh Asthana on charges of accepting a bribe from a businessman, who was related to the case.

No doctors at hospital, MLA pitches tent

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Narsipatnam MLA P Umashankar Ganesh staged a dharna at the government hospital as there were no doctors to perform surgeries on six pregnant women Monday morning.

The MLA came to know about the absence of doctors after the relatives of the pregnant women alerted him. He rushed to the hospital and made inquiries about the availability of the doctors.

Hospital Superintendent Dr K Vasantha Rao told him that the anaesthetist Dr Sudhakar left the hospital as there were no senior doctors present to perform operations. The MLA fumed and called District Collector V Vinay Chand and health officials at Amravati. They informed him that the doctors would be brought from Anakapalle NTR Hospital and the surgeries would be completed. He told them that he would wait at the hospital till the doctors arrived.

Reports said two doctors rushed to the hospital around 3.30 pm and completed the surgeries. The Collector ordered an inquiry into the incident and gave assurance to the MLA that such incidents would not be repeated.



Mopidevi Venkata Ramana Shaikh Mohammed Iqbal Challa Ramakrishna Reddy

MLC POLLS

YSRCP nominees elected unanimously

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Election Returning Officer (ERO) has announced that YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) MLC candidates - Challa Ramakrishna Reddy, Iqbal and Mopidevi Venkata Ramana - have been elected unanimously. All the three received the election certificates on Monday.

The Opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP), with just 23 members, stayed away from the contest as it stood no chance of winning at least one seat.

Arrest warrant against Paul over brother's death

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

The Mahabubnagar district court on Monday issued an arrest warrant against Prajashanthi party chief KA Paul in connection with the murder of his brother David Raj. The murder that took place in Mahabubnagar district in January 2010.

The warrant was issued against Paul, an evangelist, after he skipped attending court a few times. His younger brother David Raj had died under mysterious circumstances in 2010 after which word spread that the brothers were involved in a property dispute. Since the property matter was not settled, Paul was made accused in the case relating to David's death. His name figures at number A9 under Sections 302, 220c and 379.



Despite abolition, Devadasi system prevails in State

SHARMILA
 ■ VIJAYAWADA

If one were under the impression that the State is rid of the curse of the Devadasi system, then better bear the reality-it is alive and continues to thrive.

Going by a recent study, traces of the evil practice are still found in some pockets of the State, despite the Union and State government bringing in legislations against its continuation. According to the system being practiced since ancient times, parents marry off their daughter to a deity or temple before she attains puberty. The girl is virtually pushed into institutionalised prostitution, giving licence to priests and village heads to exploit her sexually. Taking a serious view of prevalence of this heinous system in the modern era, the



Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes Cooperative Finance Corporation Limited (APSC-CFCL) is holding a day-long State-level workshop on Tuesday to bring about an awareness over the issue.

Speaking to The Pioneer, Gandham Chandrudu, Vice-Chairman and Managing

Director of APSCCFCL held that "In the Devadasi system girls are dedicated from the most oppressed communities, mostly from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. The act of dedication is completed when young women are married off to village deities as per the local culture. The system is in preva-

lence in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana States besides Andhra Pradesh."

He said according to the practice, parents of the girl dedicate their daughter due to pressures from the dominant caste leaders and community heads. Superstitions, traditions and customs are not challenged but are used by the manipulators and exploiters.

"We are organising the seminar to bring about an awareness about the system. Around 150 people are expected to participate in the workshop. The participants include prominent Devadasi leaders and NGO representatives working against the Devadasi system. NGOs from other states have also been invited to share their experiences. Judges, legal experts, Senior officials, former

Devadasis and non-officials would address the gathering and suggest a course of action to completely put an end to the Devadasi system," he said.

According to a recent study conducted by an NGO Aashray, 81 percent of the Devadasis are dedicated to deities before they attain 10 years of age. Once dedicated, the girl is not allowed to marry and lead a household life as she is already married to God. While in some regions, the Devadasis are temple dancers, in some others they are treated as village property. The Devadasis are doomed to sexual slavery and they are not allowed to marry. Children born to them are considered illegitimate. They live in very poor conditions, working as labourers to make ends meet. Very often they end up lonely and destitute in their old age.

TS HC lifts stay on MBBS, BDS counselling

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a major relief to the state government and Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences (KNRUHS), a division of Telangana High Court on Monday dismissed the petitions filed against them that claimed they were doing injustice to students of reserved categories in counseling for MBBS and BDS courses for year 2019-20.

The division bench said the petitions are devoid of merit, and vacated the stay granted earlier on the second phase of counseling. The court also told the petitioners that it would not intervene in the ongoing admission counselling process as the

academic year of the two UG courses is scheduled to begin from September 1.

The decision of the HC has paved the way for officials of the health university to issue a fresh schedule for the second phase of counselling for medical and dental seat aspirants. The counselling was stayed following a petition by some students alleging that the lone health university of the state was acting against stipulated rules in filling up the seats. They had also alleged that seats in the reservation quota were being filled before filling up those in the open category, which amounted to injustice to students.

CAPSULE



Mega Star birthday: APTA organises blood donation camps in US

VIJAYAWADA: Members of American Progressive Telugu Association (APTA) participated in a mega blood donation camps at various places in the US on Monday to mark the birthday of megastar Chiranjeevi, according to Chiranjeevi Fans Association coordinator Vijay Repalle, who settled in America. He said that the birthday of megastar was celebrated on a grand note and fans across the globe were affectionately organising blood donation camps for the past few years. He said the camp was organised at 51 various places and more than 1000 donors participated in the camps. He further said that they could save 3,000 lives through donation of blood, he said that they would continue this social service activity in the days to come.

Kadapa to host weightlifting championship

VIJAYAWADA: Andhra Pradesh Weightlifting Association secretary Badeti Venkataramaiah on Monday said that the 6th sub-junior and junior (boys and girls) weightlifting competitions will be held at Kadapa from September 6 to 8. The events will be held at kalakshetram. He said sub-junior and junior weightlifters who had obtained federation ID cards by submitting their date of birth certificate, aadhar card, medical age verification certificate as per Sports Authority of India norms, are eligible to take part in the championships. For details contact 94401-86779.

World Photography Day celebrated at PB Siddhartha

VIJAYAWADA: P. B. Siddhartha Arts and Science College's Photography Club on Monday organised a programme to mark World Photography Day in which senior photojournalist Dandamudi Sitaram was the chief guest. Addressing the gathering he explained few techniques to the amateurs told them that photography can be taken up as a career. He said that smartphones have made the youth to show extra interest to take photos and videos. "If you learn proper techniques in photography to become a good photographer," he said. Prizes were given to winners of Photography competition. College principal Dr M Ramesh, director V Babu Rao, placement cell head K Sridhar, students faculty and others were present.

Govt failed to tackle floods: TDP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP senior leader Atchannaidu Naidu on Monday blamed Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy for his ham-handed dealing of the flood situation both in Godavari and Krishna and urged the Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan to intervene and monitor the relief works.



Speaking to media persons, he said the Jagan government wants to to embarrass TDP Chief N Chandrababu Naidu and they are not bothered about relief works. He said when the Godavari was in spate Jagan had left for Jerusalem and when Krishna was witnessing floods he had left for the United States of America on personal work.

"So far the Chief Minister has not done one review of the flood relief works. If Rayalaseema was suffering from water shortage why didn't he release water from Potireddipadu? he questioned.

TDP vice-president Gorantla Buchaiah Chowdary said the present government was pursuing sadistic politics.

He demanded proper compensation for both flood victims and farmers, who had suffered owing to floods.

TDP vice-president N Ramanaidu said the YSRC Government was too busy in the reverse tendering process for Polavram and

did not bother to speed up relief works. It is the inability of the government to save Krishna and Godavari water, which went to the sea.

He found fault with the present government for using a drone over former Chief Minister's residence thus breaching the security norms. TDP MLC Dokkamanikya Varaprasad asked the YSRC to give up the karakatta politics and take up relief measures for both farmers and flood victims on a war footing.

Gannavaram to host chess tourney

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh State under-11 Open and Girls Chess Championship will be held at Sri Mallikarjuna High School in Gannavaram from August 23 to 25.

The championship will be organised by the Krishna District Chess Association in association with Andhra Pradesh Chess Association and Sri Mallikarjuna High School, according to KDCA secretary D Srihari on Monday.

He said players should be born on or after January 1, 2008 are eligible for taking part in the tourney. He said the time control was 60 minutes, plus 30 seconds increment. He said that the official entries reach 9966495373 or srihari.kingmaker@gmail.com before 10 am on August 23. He said certificates will be distributed to the winners and accommodation will be provided only for officially selected players from districts concerned.

Jagan harming interests of upper castes: APCC

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



APCC Vice-President Tulasi Reddy

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee Vice-President Tulasi Reddy on Monday said that Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy was harming the interests of the upper castes by not implementing the 10 per cent reservations for the economically weaker sections in the government jobs.

Speaking to media persons, he said the Modi government is keen to cater to the welfare of the upper castes, made necessary amendments to the existing laws and introduced the 10 per cent reservations for EWS (for upper castes) in educational institutes and government jobs.

"The Acts had come into existence in January this year should be implemented by both the Central and State governments. "The Centre has introduced in both segments, but the YSRC government has introduced only in educational institutions".

He said it was unfortunate that Jagan was yet to consider EWS for the villages and ward

"The CM is not implementing the 10% reservations for the economically weaker sections in the govt jobs"

volunteers' posts. "AP government should also consider EWS for the Village Secretariat posts"

He said nearly 26,000 vacancies were meant for both Village/Ward volunteers and Village Secretariat posts for the weaker sections of the upper castes but so far no effort is made to issue a GO on reservations".

Reddy said communities like Brahmins, Reddys, Kamma, Kshatriyas, Balijas, Velamas, Kapus and others come under the criteria and many of them were living pathetic lives despite having educational qualifications.

He said the care Jagan

Mohan was taking towards Dalits and poor sections of the society was missing while dealing with the upper castes. "Jagan will earn the wrath of the upper castes if he ignores their genuine concerns," he warned.

Reddy said APCC was all set to celebrate the 75th birth anniversary of the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by garlanding his statue near Ramakrishna Nagar at Singhnagar on Tuesday.

He said AICC functionary Christopher Tilak will be the chief guest of the event in which several state leaders, party workers, Mahila Congress and Seva dal members will take part.

Building Workers Association seeks CBI probe into diversion of funds

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Building Workers Welfare Association president Thoram Raja on Monday urged Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan to order a CBI probe into re-direction of welfare council funds and protect the rights of the building workers.



Andhra Pradesh Building Workers Welfare Association president Thoram Raja handing over a letter to Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan in Vijayawada on Monday

In a letter to the Governor, he asked for a white paper on the balance sheet of Andhra Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Council Board funds which were close to Rs 3,000 crore.

He said like the previous TDP government, the YSRC government has renamed the Prime Minister's Jeevan Jyothi Bima Yojana scheme as 'YSR insurance' and was redirecting crores of rupees of Central government's welfare schemes.

He said the previous government, too, renamed Prime Minister's Jeevan Jyothi Bima Yojana scheme as 'Chandranna

Insurance' and diverted Rs 900 crore from board fund for publicity and other government projects.

Raja said the current government for the past 75 days has crippled the sand system thus affecting the construction activity in 13 districts.

"Millions of building workers in the State were hit by the improper handling of the sand issue. Many projects, both the government and private were halted". "For the past three months, the State government forcing many building workers to commit suicide as they are

unable to take care of their families". He said there were about 17 lakh building workers registered with the board and the got Rs 1,200 crore through the Prime Minister's Jeevan Jyothi Bima Yojana scheme introduced by the Central government.

SC Railway reschedules three trains

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

South Central Railways rescheduled three trains owing to late running of its pairing train, according to a release from SC R on Monday.

Train No. 17064 Secunderabad - Manmad Ajanta Express scheduled to depart Secunderabad at 18.10 hrs - August 19 is rescheduled to depart at 19.10 hrs on the same day due to late running of its pairing train.

Train No. 22872 Tirupati - Bhubaneswar Express scheduled to depart Tirupati at 12.15 - August 19 is rescheduled to depart at 14.00 hrs on the same day due to late running of its pairing train.

Train No. 51433 Nizamabad - Pandharpur passenger scheduled to depart Nizamabad at 13.25 hrs - August 19 is rescheduled to depart at 14.55 hrs on the same day due to late running of its pairing train.

PVP visits flood-hit areas in city

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Potluri Vara Prasad visited the submerged areas in and around Vijayawada city on Monday.

YSRCP leader PVP interacted with the families, who are still in submerged areas

He, along with other YSRCP leaders, visited Gandhi Colony, Ramalingeswara Katta, Geeta Nagar, Ranigari Thota and other places and observed the surrounding areas, which were in knee-deep floodwater. He interacted with the families, who are still in submerged areas.

The victims explained to the leader about their pathetic situation and said that if they knew about the severity of the flood situation before, they would have shifted a few important household items to safer places.

They were confident that the floodwater would not enter the colony as there was a retaining wall. However, the rainwater entered the colony

due to heavy inflow of floodwater. Houses are still in one-foot deep floodwater.

A few students in the colony told PV Prasad that their books were totally spoilt in the floodwater and the latter assured that he would help them.

Medical and health department had taken measures against spread of diseases, he said and opined that after YS Jaganmohan Reddy had become the Chief Minister, all rivers are brimming with water, which is a good sign. The government would help all flood-affected families, he assured.

Forum pulls up ICICI for denying claim to widow

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM



The Consumer Redressal Forum pulled up private banking giant ICICI Lombard Motor Insurance for denying insurance claim to a widow and directed the company to pay 1 lakh claim. The widow's husband died in a road accident. The forum has also asked the firm to pay 10,000 to the widow as compensation.

paying a premium of 1,696 on October 5, 2017. Venkata Lakshmi is the nominee of the policy.

The claimant, Senapathi Venkata Lakshmi (37), a native of M Koduru in Visakhapatnam district, told the forum that her husband Senapathi Raja Rao obtained a motor insurance policy (comprehensive) for his two-wheeler from ICICI Lombard by

On June 5, 2018, Raja Rao met with an accident while travelling on his motorcycle. He was admitted to KG Hospital in the city and died while undergoing treatment.

Following his death, Rao's wife filed a claim of 1 lakh with the firm. She claimed that as the policy was in force at the time of accident, the insurance firm was bound to settle the claim. The insurance company rejected the claim, citing that

Venkata Lakshmi did not submit the claim form with relevant documents along with her husband's valid and specified class of driving licence. It also claimed that as per policy conditions, Venkata Lakshmi was liable to inform the company with relevant documents within 30 days. Despite their pleading, she failed to submit the claim form and remained silent about the claim intimation and form.

President of the forum, CV Surya Bhaskaran and lady member K Saroja noted that Venkata Lakshmi had filed the first information report (FIR), postmortem and inquest reports for settlement of the claim.

BoB's consultation meet to ideate future strategy

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Bank of Baroda, India's second largest public sector lender, has initiated a unique consultation where all branches in Visakhapatnam Region reviewed their performances, deliberated on issues before the banking sector and ideated on future strategy.

The consultations were held over a period of two days from August 17.

The initiative was driven to seek ways and means available to increase credit to various sectors of the economy, enhance use of technology to bring about innovation and enable big data analytics and make banking citizen-centric as well as more responsive to the needs and aspirations of senior citizens, farmers,

small industrialists, entrepreneurs, youth, students and women.

Thematic papers by domain experts on various challenges facing the banking sector were discussed during the meet with a view to suggest reforms in public sector banks (PSBs).

The meet also reviewed the Bank's performance and its alignment with national priorities in the areas such as credit support for economic growth, infrastructure / industry, farm sector and blue economy, Jal Shakti, MSME sector and Mudra loans, education loans, export credit, green economy, Swachh Bharat, financial inclusion and women empowerment, direct benefit transfers, less cash / digital

economy, ease of living, alignment with local priorities and corporate social responsibility.

As a result of the initiative, a number of implementable and innovative suggestions have been arrived on how PSBs in general and our bank in particular, may improve their performance.

The consultations for generation of ideas was conducted in a bottoms-up process, which will be further discussed at the SLBC / state level and final consultations will be held at the national level, to compare both, intra and inter-bank performances, for way ahead implementation across PSBs.

The consultative process has resulted in a renewed sense of involvement and pur-

pose down to the branch level and the Bank is geared towards implementing the roadmap for the future, improve its performance and align itself to national priorities so that it may fulfil its mandate of partnering the Indian growth story.

This consultation meet was presided over by I.V.L.Sridhar, Corp GM, BCC and G.V.V.Satyanarayana, Deputy Zonal Head, Hyderabad Zone, Dy. Regional Managers of Visakhapatnam Region A.Venkata Rao and T.Seshu Kumar.

All -98- Branch Managers of Visakhapatnam Region consisting of Sriakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari Districts had participated in this meeting.

Bhakti Vedanta team visits SRKIT

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Kolkatta-based Bhakti Vedanta Institute team visited SRK Institute of Technology here on Monday.

through a powerpoint presentation.

With the present-day technology we can know about ourselves how great we are, he said and added everyone should strive for the welfare of the society.

The team led by president K Vasudeva Rao, director Varun Agarwal, Vrajapati Swamy and Vajendra Swamy participated in a programme and explained about human values and professional virtues related to science to students and faculty.

Vrajapati Swamy said human values were not meant to lead a luxury life alone but to live for people around us and for their development. "Students should respect elders, nurture helping nature and politeness".

Speaking on the occasion Vajendra Swamy explained about nature which was far superior to science and which cannot be seen

College principal Dr M Ekambaram Naidu, Dr A Padmaja, faculty and others were present.

'Instagram making more revenue than FB'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh's Director General of Police Gautham Sawang on Monday said that Instagram was earning more revenue than Facebook and the photo and video-sharing social networking service has emerged as popular among all sections of the society across the world.

his digital world, more than words, a picture is most sought after as it catches the attention immediately".

He said with the widespread social media, the significance of photographs and videos have increased thus turning democracy more vibrant.

Participating in the World Photography Day celebrations organised by Print and Electronic News Journalists Association here, he said photographs played an important role in democracy as they brought forward difference facets of the society in a pictorial format. "In democracy, media plays a proactive role. In

Transport Minister Perni Nani said for any democracy to survive, the Fourth Estate should be vibrant and photography and videography played a crucial role in the modern digital world. "News reaches in a jiffy through smartphones and social media platforms. Gone are the day when one used to wait for the newspapers to reach homes to know about news and views. The latest photos and videos are reaching

people in a fraction of the second by sharing mode in the mobiles".

He appreciated the photographers and videographers for their sincere efforts to showcase the events and news to the society in a committed manner.

Endowment Minister Velampalli Srinivas appreciated the association for organising the meeting to felicitate some senior press photographers.

Former MLC Ilapuram Venkaiah, Former Mayor Jandhyala Sankar and others were present.

Andhra Pradesh Union for Working Journalists organised a photo exhibition at Press Club in which DGP took part as a chief guest.



Director General of Police Gautam Sawang speaking at World Photography Day celebrations organised by Print and Electronic News Journalists Association in Vijayawada on Monday

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Delhi/ New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and faulty product-related damages on such advertisements.

CAPSULE

Devotees throng to witness Rathotsavam at Mantralayam

KURNOOL: Devotees in large numbers from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana besides Andhra Pradesh thronged Mantralayam in Kurnool district to witness Rathotsavam of Sri Raghavendra Swamy. Every year Aaradhanotsavam is celebrated in August and this is the 348th Aaradhanotsavam being celebrated with gaiety.

Annaram Lord to get diamond crown

RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM: Presiding deity of Annaram temple Lord Sri Veera Venkata Satyanarayana Swamy will get a diamond crown soon. Though it was a little late, commissioner of endowments department accorded permission for making of diamond crown to the Lord. According to temple executive officer MV Suresh Babu, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) will make the prestigious diamond crown at an estimated cost of Rs 4.4 crore. The TTD gave model design of the crown to the temple management on August 22, 2015.

Pseudo cop held for looting lorry drivers

TIRUPATI: Police arrested a man for fleecing drunken drivers on inter-state highway by impersonating as a police officer. Addressing the media here, Superintendent of Police Venkateswara Naik said one G Anil Kumar (48), a resident of Taraka Rama Rao Nagar in Renigunta, was demanding money from lorry drivers in the form of fines by posing himself as the police officer on the inter-state highway. He had been targeting drunken lorry drivers on the highway near Renigunta and Tirupati and imposing fines. Anil Kumar would introduce himself as a police officer and take drivers to remote places for alcohol and would loot gold, vehicles and money from them. Police registered six cases against him.

Woman kills hubby with paramour's help

CHITTOOR: In a shocking incident, a woman killed her husband with the help of her paramour in Gudipala on Sunday. According to police, Ramadas (36) of Chittapara panchayat got married to Mogilamma (30) and both were living in Dharmaraju Puram. Mogilamma developed an extra marital affair with Umapathi (26). It is learnt that Mogilamma offered Rs 4 lakhs and gold jewellery to Umapathi. On learning about it, Mogilamma's husband demanded that Umapathi return the money and gold jewellery. On Saturday night, Mogilamma planned to kill her husband and called Umapathi to her house. At midnight they both killed Ramadas by slitting his throat. Later, early in the morning, she called her neighbours and said that her husband was killed by an unknown person. The villagers then informed Gudipala police. Gudipala CI Lakshminanth Reddy and SI Shaikshah Vali reached the spot and shifted the body to the Chittoor government hospital for autopsy. The local police registered a case and took Mogilamma and Umapathi into custody.

Naidu politicising floods: YSRCP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party President N Chandrababu Naidu is playing politics over floods, alleged YSRCP MLA Jogi Ramesh while speaking to the media at the party's central office in Tadepalli on Monday.

Government officials, MLAs and ministers were directed by Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy to monitor the situation and provide immediate relief to people. However, Naidu and his associates are playing dirty politics. It is shameful on the part of the former Chief Minister to occupy an illegal house on the banks of the River Krishna and get it certified that it is a government building, said Ramesh. Referring to former minister



Government officials, MLAs and ministers were directed by Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy to monitor the situation and provide immediate relief to people, says Jogi Ramesh

The Chief Minister has learnt about the aspirations and sentiments of the people during his padayatra, recalls the YSRCP MLA

He had gone to the US on his own expense and asked NRIs to invest in AP and bring industries to the State, Ramesh reminds

Deveneni Umamaheswara Rao's statement that there is a plot to eliminate N Chandrababu Naidu, Jogi Ramesh said nobody has any intention to kill him and that the people of State had already buried him through their man-

date. He would not get even 23 seats if elections are held now. Umamaheswara Rao should refrain from making such statements, he said and added that no one would even look at Naidu's son Lokesh, who tweets on silly topics. Naidu should

teach his son basics of politics, the MLA suggested.

A new era has dawned under the leadership of Chief Minister. His government has enacted 19 laws for the uplift of various sections of people, he said and added 75 per cent of

jobs have been reserved for locals. Women would get 50 per cent reservation in nominated posts. The Chief Minister is taking Navaratnas to the doorsteps of people.

The Chief Minister has learnt about the aspirations and sentiments of the people during his padayatra. He had gone to the US on his own expense and asked NRIs to invest in AP and bring industries to the State. The Chief Minister is a gentleman, who is striving for the all-round development of the State, the MLA said.

Naidu is sending his coverts to the BJP to make his voice heard. "I warn the TDP leaders not to make nonsensical statements on floods," said Ramesh.

NCC cadets to the rescue of rural folk

PNS ■ WARANGAL

In a novel initiative, the National Cadet Corps attached to LB College in Warangal city

are helping the uneducated who are unable to write grievances, are relying on the writers working in the offices at the office complexes till date. Following this, the NCC cadets of the LB College of Warangal took up the task of writing applications for the villagers by erecting a tent on the Collectorate premises and opened a help desk. This help desk, according to NCC officials, would be a continuous process at the Collectorate of Warangal rural district and in Warangal Urban. On Monday, around 100 applications have been filed by 25 cadets of the NCC and this service has received accolades from the public.



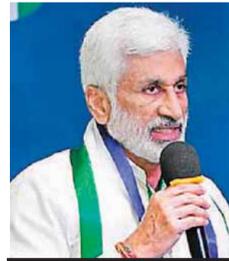
Following this, the NCC cadets of the LB College of Warangal took up the task of writing applications for the villagers by erecting a tent on the Collectorate premises and opened a help desk. This help desk, according to NCC officials, would be a continuous process at the Collectorate of Warangal rural district and in Warangal Urban. On Monday, around 100 applications have been filed by 25 cadets of the NCC and this service has received accolades from the public.

Now, Naidu will blame Krishna river for floods: Vijaysai Reddy

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Taking a dig at TDP Chief N Chandrababu Naidu, YSRCP MP Vijaysai Reddy said that the former run away to Hyderabad sensing that his house on the embankment of Krishna river would be flooded even before the gates of the Prakasam Barrage were lifted.

"Does video graphing the flooded house of the Opposition leader with a drone camera in any way amounts to a conspiracy to commit a murder? Releasing that he will be humiliated to the core, Sir (Chandrababu) had run away to Hyderabad even before gates of the Prakasam Barrage were lifted. All the expensive items in the house were shifted already. It seems now that the Krishna river will be blamed



Until recently Modi was portrayed as an enemy to the State. Now, all the TDP leaders are jumping on to the BJP bandwagon. Now, the Yellow Media is entangled in a mess. Now, they have no option, but to take the reverse gear", he said in another tweet.

national party. "Until recently Modi was portrayed as an enemy to the State. Now, all the TDP leaders are jumping on to the BJP bandwagon. Now, the Yellow Media is entangled in a mess. Now, they have no option, but to take the reverse gear", he said in another tweet.

for excessive flooding", he tweeted on his twitter handle.

Vijaysai Reddy pointed out that the Yellow Media - popularly referred to as that section of the media that always sided with the interests of TDP - began to portray BJP as a 'villain' ever since TDP snapped its ties with the

Cyber security: Telangana partners with Israeli firm

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyber security Centre of Excellence, Telangana has partnered with an Israeli organisation, Cybertech events to organise a forum for Indian and Israeli minds together to share experiences, network and enrich the conversation surrounding the most pressing issues in cyber security.

Speaking on the occasion, Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce, said, "Telangana, the youngest state in India has a thriving innovative ecosystem, which is evident in the fields of Cyber security and privacy. It is the first state in India to have its own Cyber security policy and established a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Cyber security, which is catalysing the Cyber security ecosystem, especially the start-ups and the Global Capability Centres of MNCs, who have their operations setup here. India and Israel's cyber security partnership could be a potential game changer. This meetup will be an excellent opportunity for the participants to exchange ideas and form global collaborations to foster the growth of the cyber security and privacy industry."



Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce

Telangana has a thriving innovative ecosystem, which is evident in the fields of Cyber security and privacy, says Jayesh

Dr Sriram Birudavolu, CEO, Cyber security CoE said, "Cyber security and privacy are two of the cornerstones of the industry, economy and society in an increasingly cyber-physical world. The Telangana Cyber security CoE will not only uplift the Cyber security and Privacy quotient in the ecosystem, but also help organisations exploit the burgeoning \$231 billion global market in these areas. Indo-Israel bilateral collaborations will be extremely beneficial in this regard."

Amir Rapaport, editor-in-chief and founder, Cybertech, Israel said, "it is our first Cybertech session in collaboration with Cyber security Center of Excellence in

Hyderabad: Government officials and companies from Israel and India met for an unprecedented discussion on the challenges and opportunities in cyber, as well as a unique technological display."

Speakers for this event include Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, ITE&C Department, Government of Telangana, Amir Rapaport, Editor-in-chief and Founder, Cybertech, Israel, Ravi Narayan, CEO, THub, Ariel Talibi, Managing Director, APAC & Middle East, Cobwebs Technologies, Israel, Gill Hazaz, VP Sales, EMEA & APAC, XMcyber, Israel, Ramamohan Reddy Bommireddi, CEO & MD, DigitalTrust Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

Kodela alleges threat from YSRCP leaders

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Former Assembly Speaker Kodela Sivaprasada Rao has alleged attacks on his house from rival YSRCP leaders and perceived security threat to him because of the political harassment to him and his family from the ruling party. He alleged foisting of false cases against him and his family members to settle political scores. He said that he would peacefully agitate if the police fail to provide security to him and his family members and register his protest as per the party orders.

Tension prevailed in the former speaker's residence locality, as YSRCP leaders left near the house of Kodela Siva Prasad Rao a tractor laden with cable wires. Earlier, the TDP and YSRCP rivals clashed in the town over cable TV and disconnected sizeable quantity of the wires. The YSRCP leaders left wires cut earlier along with the tractors. The police swung into action and shifted the tractor to police station.

Enhance luggage counter during Brahmotsavams: TTD

PNS ■ TIRUMALA

TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal directed the officials concerned to increase the number of luggage counters in Tirumala for the ensuing annual Brahmotsavams to avoid the woes of multitude of visiting pilgrims for the mega religious fete.

The coordination meeting was held at the conference hall of TTD Administrative Building in Tirupati on Monday. The Executive Officer reviewed various works, which are under progress. He instructed that all works for annual Brahmotsavams should be completed within the stipulated time. He said the officials should carry out regular inspections in Srivari Mettu and Alipiri footpath routes and solve the problems of walkers.

The Executive Officer also directed the officials concerned to invite artists from different States to perform in front of Vahana Sevas during annual Brahmotsavams. Already, 10 States have given their consent to take part in the festival", the Executive Officer added.



TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal addressing a meeting in Tirumala on Monday

Anil Kumar Singhal instructed that all works for annual Brahmotsavams should be completed within the stipulated time

The Executive Officer also directed the officials concerned to invite artists from different States to perform in front of Vahana Sevas during the annual Brahmotsavams

Already, 10 States have given their consent to take part in the festival, the Executive Officer added

"All the engineering works in the four mada streets should be completed, including the under drainage pipeline works in time. Similarly, all the toilets should be inspected and get repaired if any before Brahmotsavams", he maintained.

The Executive Officer also instructed the forest and gar-

den wing officials to work with coordination in enhancing greenery at Sri Padmavathi Rest House areas and near road dividers.

TTD Special Officer AV Dharma Reddy, JEO P Basant Kumar, CVSO Gopinath Jatti, CE Ramachandra Reddy and other senior officers were also present.

Left parties should unite to counter BJP: CPI

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

State General Secretary of CPI Chada Venkat Reddy on Monday exhorted the Left parties across the country to join hands to counter the BJP and TRS governments and their anti-people policies both at the Centre and the State.

Addressing media persons in Karimnagar, the CPI leader said that the two ruling parties, BJP at the Centre and TRS in Telangana, were indulging in anti-people policies.

The CPI leader said the BJP in particular was indulging in the violation of Constitution by encouraging various controversial Bills in the country. The ruling party is trying to belittle the Right to Information Act and it is trying to involve in several excesses by introducing 35 Bills in Parliament and securing 32 Bills passed with their extra powers.

The CPI leader pooh-

poohed the BJP working president, JP Nadda, on his claims that the BJP was coming to power in Telangana in future. "It is ridiculous," he commented. The CPI leader demanded that the BJP spell out what it did for Telangana and questioned why the people of Telangana should give an opportunity to BJP, which has hindered the proposal of the establishment of a steel factory in Telangana.

The CPI leader alleged that the BJP was neglecting the values of democracy and carrying out several anti-people policies in the country. Venkat Reddy questioned why the BJP was mum on the issues pertaining to the increasing expenditure in the Kaleshwaram project.

The Centre should have questioned the TRS regime for this additional expenses, he said. The CPI leader was critical about the role of BJP in the Triple Taluq issue.

Tirumala forests house rare wild guests

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

The lush green forests of Seshachala ranges, which houses the world famous Hindu shrine of Sri Venkateswara Swamy at Tirumala, is a dwelling places for hundreds of rare fauna and aves and other endangered species, which are unique to these forests alone.

The forest wing of TTD has recently procured camera traps and has placed them in the surrounding forest areas of Tirumala. This is taken up as a part of the protection of these endangered species living in Tirumala ranges.

Some of the rare, vulnerable and endangered species that were captured included, four horned antelope, which is popular in the vernacular language as 'Konda Gorre', Asian Palm Civet (Punugupilli), Indian wild dog (Adivi kukka/Race



Cameras installed to capture rare species in Seshachala ranges

EO calls for protection of these endangered species

TTD to take up awareness programme through display boards



kukka), Grey Jungle fowl (Adivi kodi), Leopard (chirutha), Mongoose (Mungisa), Mouse deer

(Mushika Jinka), Porcupine (Mulla Pandi), Sambar (Kaniti), Sloth bear (Elugubanti).

According to TTD DFO D Phani Kumar Naidu, the TTD forest was spread in about 2,700 hectares of 82,500



hectares of Seshachala forests where the TTD took up protection of wild life, along with raising plantations.

TTD has set up state-of-the-art cameras at Parvati Mandapam, Srigandha Vanam, Kumaradhara-Pasupudhara dam road, Dharmagiri, Papavinasanam and Seshachala forest borders lines. These cameras identify the animals through long dis-

tance sensors and photographed them both during the day and night.

In areas of movement of animals, the TTD will put up sign and display boards to enlighten the pilgrims on walking paths of Tirumala. TTD will also set up water tanks and other protective measures in the forest belt to support the needs of wild animals.

CAPSULE

Srisailem shrine gets new EO

VIJAYAWADA: The State government has posted KS Rama Rao, Deputy Collector as Executive Officer of Sri Bhramaramba Mallikharjuna Swamivarla Devasthanam, Srisailem, on deputation for a period of one year. In a GO issued on Monday, Special Chief Secretary Manmohan Singh stated that Rama Rao's services are placed at the disposal of Revenue (Endowments) Department, as Executive Officer, Sri Bhramaramba Mallikharjuna Swamivarla Devasthanam, Srisailem. Present Executive Officer Ramachandra Murthy has been transferred following a controversy over temple tenders allotted to non-Hindu bidders. The government also scrapped the temple tenders.

IT pension adalat on Aug 23

VISAKHAPATNAM: The Office of the Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Visakhapatnam, has announced that the Zonal Accounts Officer, Principal Chief Controller of Accounts, Central Board of Direct Taxes will conduct a Pension Adalat for the Income Tax Department Pensioners. The venue will be at Conference Hall, Aayakar Bhavan in Daba Gardens from 10.30am to 5.00pm on August 23. The pensioners of the Income Tax Department, Visakhapatnam falling within the jurisdiction of Zonal Accounts Office, Income Tax Department, Visakhapatnam, having any grievances can send their petitions to P. Mahesh Kumar, Zonal Accounts Officer before August 21. The pensioners should mention their PPO Account Number and Aadhar Number in their submission / representations along with the copies of the first page of their bank pass book containing account particulars & last two pages of it, containing latest transaction details.

Top spikers for State tourney

SRIKAKULAM: Minister for Roads and Buildings Dharmana Krishna Das reviewed arrangements made for the State-level volleyball tournament, which will be held at NTR municipal ground from August 20. After reviewing the arrangements, he said that both men and women teams from 13 districts will vie for honours. District in-charge Endowments Minister V Srinivasa will be inaugurating the tournament. Chief coordinator B Srinivasa Rao said elaborate arrangements were made in view of the fact this was the first major tournament being conducted in the district. If rain interrupts, matches will be shifted to Shantinagar indoor stadium.

Whip on pvt buses in TS

HYDERABAD: Telangana Transport Department officials have cracked the whip on buses run by private travels. In the late-night raids on Sunday, which continued till Monday morning, the officials have filed cases on 44 buses for plying without paying taxes and permissions. Officials have also seized seven buses during the flash inspections. "We have inspected private travel buses plying in Hyderabad to Bangalore, Vijayawada and Mumbai routes on Sunday late night."

Cyber conmen prey on widows, divorcees

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Of late, divorcees and widows have become soft targets of cyber criminals, who create fake profiles in matrimonial websites to con women looking for second marriage.

According to cyber crime police, widows and divorced women were most vulnerable in Andhra Pradesh. Posing as software employees with reputed companies, the fraudsters create fake profiles on matrimonial websites and dupe the women who looking for a second marriage.

A Vizag woman is the latest victim of cyber conmen. She was duped by one David Raj Kumar through an online matrimonial site. She was in search of a suitable partner through online sites from May this year. David Raju Kumar, who came across the matrimonial site, posed himself as a software employee and staying in UK and his family members



(mother and father) are staying in Delhi.

The conman sweet-talked with her and claimed that his mother was hospitalized and is not so easy to transfer money from his bank account in UK to India and he asked Amrutha to help him. The woman ended up giving Rs four lakh. Later, she approached the cybercrimes police station.

A few weeks ago, a young widow was duped to the tune of Rs 14 lakh by a person, who claimed to a software profes-

sional in USA. In another incident, a woman from Vizag who is looking for second marriage was duped by a fraudster to the tune of Rs 40 lakh.

Expressing that matrimonial frauds on the rise in Vizag, Inspector of Cyber Crime Police Station, V Gopinath said over 12 cases were reported in the past two years and in all most all the cases, the victims were either widows or divorcees, who are looking for partners, he added.

Two more ship fire victims succumb

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The death toll in the ship fire mishap off Vizag coast that occurred on August 12 touched four as two more victims sustaining over 90 percent burns passed away at a private hospital here on Monday.

The condition of three persons with over 90 per cent burn injuries was in a critical condition and undergoing treatment at Vizag-based private hospital. On the day of incident, two casualties were reported.

Fire engulfed Coastal Jaguar (SPM Support Vessel) in Bay of Bengal on Monday. The crew members who sustained major burn injuries were being treated at a private hospital. Though the hospital authorities were giving their best, the injured three persons were in still critical condition.



According to Visakhapatnam Port Trust, one person died while another person went missing. 24 crew members were rescued after the fire broke out in Coastal Jaguar, which was hired by HPCL and was carrying out operations at Single Point Mooring (SPM) belonging to HPCL where crude and oil is

handled on August 12 around 11.25am.

As part of rescue operation, the Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) had deployed its Four Crafts - Sea Lion Agile, Sea Lion Sentinel, Sardar Patel and Fire Float and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Vessel CG-81 simultaneously participated to rescue the crew in the

Coastal Jaguar. There were in all 26 personnel including the crew in the vessel at the time of the fire mishap. All the 26 members of Coastal Jaguar had to abandon their vessel and jump into the water to save themselves from fire which engulfed the vessel. Of the 26 people in the vessel, 24 persons were rescued by the VPT and ICG and two persons went missing and of which one body was found and another is yet to be traced, said officials of VPT.

Of the 24 rescued people, 15 received burn injuries and they were admitted a private hospital. Among the 15, five were discharged from the hospital. The remaining 10 injured were in ICU under treatment and out of which 3 sustained more than 90% burning and are in a critical condition.

HPCL's shows the way in promotion of green cover

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

"We all should work for protection of our environment. Let us fill the earth with green plants" was the clarion call given by Dr CV Narasimha Das, Deputy General Manager of Skill Development Institute here on Monday.

He was addressing 500 trainees gathered to prepare an additional one lakh seed balls as part of the ongoing Swachhta Fortnight at Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) that concludes on August 31.

"We have already made one lakh seed balls on Saturday and these additional ones will make it a record for throwing them on a single day into surrounding forests in the last week of August. I urge you all to encourage friends and relatives to join the campaign. This enables that the coming generations can enjoy fruits, flowers and vegetables," he said.

Senior manager J Mahesh emphasized that survival of birds and animals were essential for a smooth human life



Participants display seed balls they made for use to rescue forests from dying as part of HPCL's 'save environment' drive in Visakhapatnam on Monday

and by this type of plantation, the ecology is balanced. As it is, every second, there is loss of 1,000 tons of oxygen and the trees emit lot of oxygen, otherwise, mankind will be exposed to dangerous gases like CO2.

Palli Srinivasa Rao urged everyone to respect the right to live by every creature by partnering such tree plantation drives.

Kiran Kumar informed that

'Visakhapatnam has been converted to concrete jungle. Development of greenery will moderate the rising temperatures. Social forestry is the need of the hour', he said.

The programme is organized in coordination with JV Ratnam, founder of Green Climate organization and P Lalitha, J Rajeswari, Devi Prasad and Murali from Paryavaran Margadarsi Vaisakhi.



Launch movement against mining: VH

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress senior leader V Hanumantha Rao, who entered into Nallamala forests breaking police surveillance, has demanded the party leaders to wage movement against uranium mining in Nallamala forests. He asked the PCC Chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy to gather the people to wage movement against uranium mining. He also asked the PCC chief to convene a meeting with the senior leaders to discuss on the uranium mining issue immediately.

On Monday, Hanumantha alleged that the Congress leaders are confining to mere press meets on the developments taking place in the state. "Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao is taking Congress lightly because he knew very well that Congress leaders would confine to statements only", he lamented. He opined that being a big party, Congress has to play big brother role in the movement to be waged against uranium mining in the state.

Alleging that two Telugu states would be affected with uranium mining, VH asked his own party leaders to meet Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy in this regard. He lamented that there is no change in the lives of the Chenchus even 73 years after Independence. Targeting police, VH alleged that the police looting the people in the name of traffic challans. The police are looting the people left and right in the name of traffic challans and drunk and drive.

It may be recalled that VH entered into the Nallamala forests and visited the Amrabad where Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) successfully and spoke to the Chenchu tribe people.

FROZEN FOR ETERNITY



District Collector V Vinay Chand and GVMC Commissioner G Srijana going around photo exhibition organised by Vizag Photo Journalists Association at Visakha Museum here in Visakhapatnam on Monday. Several school children made it to the exhibition

Photo: G Tirupathi Rao

ISKCON to organise Janmashthami from Aug 23

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The local branch of International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) is organizing grand Sri Krishna Janmashthami celebrations at Alwardas Grounds, MVP Colony, from August 23 to 25.

Over one lakh devotees are expected to participate in the festival. A special mandapam will be created to perform Hari Nama Japa Yagna. Visitors will enter the mantapam with a sankalpam to chant Hare Krishna Mantra 108 times. Inside the mantapam there will be 108 tiles laid in a sequence. Devotees will be stepping on each tile to chant the mantra before they exit the mantapam.

In the previous festivities, around 20, 000 devotees chanted the mantra.

Lord Krishna in baby form

will be gently rocked on a grand cradle on this day. Devotees will participate in swinging the Lord, marking his divine appearance. Two grand abhishekams, one on August 23 morning and another on August 24 night will be performed as part of rituals during the festival.

Devotees will throng in huge numbers to watch this eye-catching abhishekam with soul stirring kirtans.

The ISKCON is also geared up for the Sri Krishna Janmashthami celebrations with colorful lights, chorus of bhajans, and melodious music at the ISKCON temple near Sagarnagar all through the three days.

There will be a host of events during the celebrations, including spiritual and cultural performances. Stalls will display and make available books, gift articles and mementoes.

BJP, TRS are 'secret allies': Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) chief and MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy accused both BJP and TRS of enacting the fake drama of political rivalry only to mislead people and damage Congress Party.

In a live interaction with Congress party workers on social media platform Facebook and tele-conference on Monday, Uttam Kumar Reddy expressed wonder over the statement of BJP national working president J P Nadda wherein the latter accused Chief Minister

K Chandrasekhar Rao of indulging in corruption.

"Congress party has been exposing the corrupt practices and mass irregularities of TRS government for the last five years. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi or his govern-



N Uttam Kumar Reddy

ment never took note of our allegations. Instead, PM Modi and many Union Ministers openly praised KCR government. Similarly, he said KCR has always behaved like a true 'Modi Bhakt' and never criticised the BJP Government," he said while asking Nadda to explain the reasons behind sudden change in BJP's policy towards TRS.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that BJP and TRS are secret

allies in Delhi, and are enacting the rivalry drama in Telangana. He challenged BJP leader Nadda to make his party's government at the Centre to order a CBI probe against KCR if BJP was serious against exposing the corruption in TRS government.

He pointed out that TRS supported the BJP government since 2014 and KCR was such a great fan of PM Modi that when the latter visited Telangana for the launch of Mission Bhagiratha, KCR delivered a speech saying he just wanted a little space in Modi's heart and nothing else. He said there were innumerable occasions when KCR supported Modi Government's decisions, although they were irrational and anti-people.

Likewise, Modi government provided the required shield to KCR facilitating him to indulge in huge corruption and irreg-

ularities. The TPCC Chief said that the Congress party has continuously exposed the irregularities and corruption by KCR regime in Mission Bhagiratha, Mission Kakatiya and other irrigation projects. Unlike BJP and TRS, he said Congress party never cheats people with double-talk and dual-standard and it still stands on its allegations.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the BJP leaders were 'daydreaming' of coming to power in Telangana after the party won four Lok Sabha seats. He said BJP would never gain strength in Telangana as Modi Govt did nothing for the State in the last five years.

He reminded that the promises made in the Telangana Act like a Railway Coach Factory in Kazipet, Steel Plant in Bayyaram and Tribal University, remained unimplemented.

Most Indians feel napping will improve work productivity

PNS ■ BANGALORE

A new survey found that most Indians felt napping at work might improve productivity, adding that a nap room could contribute towards better workflow.

For the results, Wakefit.co, an online sleep solutions start-up, conducted a nation-wide survey to emphasise the importance of sleep wellness in the workplace.

The 'Right to Work Naps' survey, conducted with over 1,500 respondents, showed that a 70 percent of people did not have a nap room at their workplaces and 86 percent of the respondents confirmed that a nap room would definitely help improve overall productivity at work.

The research revealed that 41 percent of the people surveyed suffered from irregular sleep patterns because of work-related stress and working late at night.



"Given the rising sleep-related issues in our country, we felt it was imperative for us to take action and encourage corporates and employees to rally for nap rooms at their workspaces," said Chaitanya Ramalingegowda, co-founder and Director of Wakefit.co.

The Great Indian Sleep Scorecard 2019, Wakefit's annual sleep survey, validated this, by revealing that 80 percent of people felt sleepy at

The survey also found that constant state of work anxiety hampered 31 percent people's sleep at night, while almost 20 percent respondents felt sleepy at work all the time and 51 percent were drowsy most of the time

work one to three days a week.

The research shows that one in four respondents felt commuting to work hampered their sleep patterns the most.

While coffee or tea continues to be the popular choices to ward off sleep, there seemed to be a rising awareness towards the need for an active lifestyle.

According to the survey, 33 percent of people wanted their companies to get a nap room to increase focus on work wellness

Research has found that taking a nap for 20-30 minutes increases short term alertness among people. While nutrition and exercise are popular work wellness themes around the world, nap room installation can ensure that sleep its due credit in companies' employee wellness programmes.

In light of these findings, Wakefit's 'Right to Work Naps' initiative aims to highlight the positive impact of sleep wellness in employees' health, well-being and productivity at work.

Regional parties dividing secular votes: Saleem

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC secretary Mohd Saleem has alleged that the BJP is successful in dividing secular votes and creating fear among the citizens. He said that the BJP created an artificial threat from minorities, neighbours or terrorists for political benefit. Regional parties are playing a key role in benefitting BJP by dividing the secular votes. Regional parties are dividing minority votes, dalits, SC, ST, BC and OBCs which are benefitting BJP, he alleged.

In a statement, Saleem said that the emergence of regional parties like AIMIM, TRS, YSRCP, TDP, NCP, Shiv Sena, SP, BSP, JDU, BJD, RLD, RJD, AIDMK, DMK, Lok Dal, TMC, SAD, NC, PDP and others have divided the secular votes directly or indirectly and benefited BJP. They are dividing secular votes for their own



Mohd Saleem

benefit. These parties have no role in the development of the state or nation except for their selfish goals. Elections are fought on their respective party ticket but after the election they are supporting BJP either through internal or external support, he opined.

He alleged that election is fought on the lines of region, religion and linguistic basis, there by damaging the secular

structure of the country and endangering the democracy and Constitution of India.

It is witnessed in the last five years that BJP government has done no development but divided the nation on the lines of region and religion. Recent amendments in the RTI, NIA, Triple Talaq interfering in Shariat Law, NRC, Abrogation of article 370 & 35A, have no role in the national development but to target minorities, he pointed out.

He slammed that the BJP government is working on the lines of RSS ideology, hurting minorities' religious sentiments by creating fear and insecurity among them. Gharwapsi, beef ban, mob lynching, cow vigilantes, intolerance and attack on the religious places are some of the instances which took place during the BJP regime.

SHORT READS



Elephant tramples 29-year old man

COIMBATORE: A 29-year old man was trampled to death by a wild elephant on the city outskirts early on Monday, police said. Ganeshan, a driver, was returning home in Pannimadai on the city outskirts, when the single elephant which strayed from a nearby forest area suddenly chased and attacked him. He sustained serious injuries on his head, abdomen and legs, police said. Anti-poaching watchers, who were on patrol, noticed the man lying injured and rushed him to the Government Hospital where he was declared brought dead, police said.

HC stays order to disclose info on tenure extn of LS secy general in 2011

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Monday put on hold its single judge's order directing the Lok Sabha Secretariat to disclose information on extension of tenure of secretary general of the Lower House in 2011. While staying the July 2 order, a bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar also issued notice to the RTI applicant, who had sought the information, asking him to file his response by February 3, the next date of hearing. The Lok Sabha Secretariat, represented by advocate Rajshankar Rao, has challenged the single judge's ruling that information on extension of tenure of secretary general of Lok Sabha was not exempted under the RTI Act as it was granted by the speaker of the House.

Only teachers report to schools in Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Teachers reported to work in many schools in Kashmir as restrictions were eased further on Monday but not many students were seen. Officials said the government has made necessary arrangements for opening of 190 primary schools in Srinagar city as security forces remained deployed in most of the Valley. But all private schools in the city remained shut for the 15th consecutive day as parents were apprehensive about the security situation in view of violent protests over the past two days. Only Police Public School at Bemina and a few Kendriya Vidyalayas saw a handful of students turning up. "There is so much uncertainty in the situation that sending kids to school at this stage is out of question," Farooq Ahmad Dar, a parent, said. Officials in Baramulla district said schools in five towns remained closed. In the rest of the district, schools were opened, they said. "There is no relaxation in restrictions in Pattan, Palhalan, Singhpora, Baramulla and Sopore towns. Primary schools in the rest of the district are open. We are collecting details about the number of students who have reported at their respective schools," an official said. A senior Srinagar district official said a few schools on the periphery were opened but in the old city and in civil lines areas, they remained shut due to violence over the past two days.

Nation wants closure on Netaji mystery, says Bose

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Chandra Kumar Bose, a BJP leader and one of the grand nephews of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, on Monday took exception to the PIB tweet observing August 18 as the freedom fighter's death anniversary and said the mystery surrounding his disappearance was yet to be resolved.

Any announcement regarding the death of Netaji should only be made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he asserted.

"Nation wants a closure on #NetajiMystery, particularly to stop the false theories spread by persons with vested interest. A tweet by @PIBIndia is not the right approach. Such an announcement must be officially announced by hon'blePM @narendramodi ji based on documentary evidence," he tweeted.

The BJP leader insisted that the Centre should procure files on Netaji's disappearance from Japan and conduct a DNA test of his "remains" preserved in Japan's Renkoji temple.

He also sought the Intelligence Bureau (IB) files in this connection. "Now that the #NetajiMystery issue is raging across the nation-for a proper



Chandra Kumar Bose (@Chandrabosebjp)
Nation wants a closure on #NetajiMystery, particularly to stop the false theories spread by persons with vested interest. A tweet by @PIBIndia is not the right approach. Such an announcement must be officially announced by hon'blePM @narendramodi ji based on documentary evidence

closure please get 3 files kept in Japan, conduct DNA test of remains at Renkoji & release IB files to solve the mystery," Bose posted on Twitter, tagging the PM, Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP National General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, PIB Ahmedabad among others.

The Press Information Bureau had on Sunday tweeted, "#PIB remembers the great freedom fighter Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on his death anniversary, #Netaji #subhashchandrbose."

Bose said Netaji's death isn't a trivial matter and an agency like the PIB should not be making any announcement about it. "It should be coming from the Prime Minister, not from Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh or anybody else.

"The Modi government has shown great respect to Netaji and I think if the mystery surrounding his disappearance or death has been solved, it should be announced with respect, not in the manner the PIB did. He may have or may not have died in Renkoji. We are waiting to know the truth," he said.

Several reports have claimed that Netaji had on August 18, 1945 boarded a plane from Taihoku Airport in Taiwan, which crashed leading to his death.

There is, however, no confirmation as experts have come up with different theories.

The Centre from time to time had constituted panels — Shah Nawaz Committee in 1956, the Khosla Commission in 1970, and the Mukherjee Commission in 2005 — to shed light on the circumstances leading to Netaji's death or disappearance, but none could render any answer.

On September 1, 2016, the Narendra Modi government declassified investigative reports of the Japanese government, which concluded that Bose died in a plane crash in Taiwan. Reports have also suggested that his remains are preserved at Renkoji temple in Tokyo.

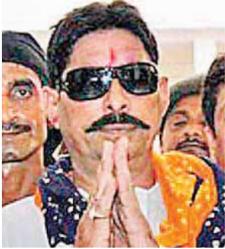
Will surrender in court in next 3-4 days: MLA Anant Singh

PNS ■ PATNA

Controversial Bihar MLA Anant Singh, evading arrest in a case under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, has said he will surrender in court in the next three-four days.

In a video message, the independent MLA from Mokama, who has several serious cases pending against him, also said he will interact with journalists on his return from hiding.

"I am not afraid of getting arrested. I have come to see my ailing friend and will surrender in the court in next three-four days." But first of all, I will go to my flat and interact with journalists," the legislator said in the video clip sent to media houses on Sunday. Singh was booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) after a police team raided his ancestral house at Ladma village in Patna district and seized an AK-47 rifle, a magazine, live cartridges and two hand grenades on Friday. Parliament had recently passed an amendment to the anti-terror law to give powers to the Centre to design



I am not afraid of getting arrested. I have come to see my ailing friend and will surrender in the court in next three-four days. " But first of all, I will go to my flat and interact with journalists
— ANANT SINGH, Controversial Bihar MLA

nate an individual as terrorist and seize his properties.

The accused legislator claimed he had sought an appointment with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar but failed. Contending that he had not visited his ancestral house in the past 14 years, Singh asked, "Why would I keep weapons like AK-47 in a house which is shared by my enemy?"

Singh has a running feud with his cousin Vivekanand Singh, a gangster. Police conducted a second raid at the 1, Mall Road, official residence of Singh in Patna on Saturday but he was not present, Superintendent of Police

Kantesh Kumar Mishra said. His accomplice Chhotan Singh was, however, apprehended from there.

A sword and a mobile phone were also seized from the legislator's official residence.

The SP said the raids were carried out in the presence of a magistrate and the caretaker, in accordance with the law. The entire exercise has been recorded on video, the officer said. Mishra also said that a separate FIR was being lodged with Sachivalaya police station in Patna against the MLA for giving shelter and protection to Chhotan Singh, an accused in a criminal case lodged with Barh police station.

Advani, Naqvi call on Jaitley

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As former finance minister Arun Jaitley continues to be on life support, politicians, including veteran BJP leader L K Advani and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, visited AIIMS here on Monday to enquire about his health.

Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and BJP national general-secretary Arun Singh also visited the hospital to know about his wellbeing.

Jaitley, 66, was rushed to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on August 9 after he complained of breathlessness and restlessness.

AIIMS has not issued any bulletin on Jaitley's health condition since August 10.

According to sources, he is on



extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) and intra-aortic balloon pump (IABP) support. A multidisciplinary team of doctors is consistently monitoring his condition.

Advani was accompanied by his daughter Pratibha Advani. Several prominent leaders, including Union min-

According to sources, he is on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) and intra-aortic balloon pump (IABP) support. A multidisciplinary team of doctors is consistently monitoring his condition

isters Rajnath Singh, Smriti Irani, Jitendra Singh, Ram Vilas Paswan, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Congress' Abhishek Singhvi and Jyotiraditya Scindia, BSP chief Mayawati and RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat have visited the hospital in the recent days to enquire about Jaitley's health and meet his family members.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan had said on Friday, "Doctors at AIIMS are

doing the best they can."

President Ram Nath Kovind, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had visited AIIMS on Friday to check on the leader's health.

In May this year, Jaitley was admitted to AIIMS for treatment. Jaitley, a lawyer by profession, had been an important part in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet in the BJP government's first term.

Rahul recalls Rajiv Gandhi's achievements in IT, telecom

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Remembering his father, former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday drew attention to his achievement in bringing an information technology and telecom revolution in the country.

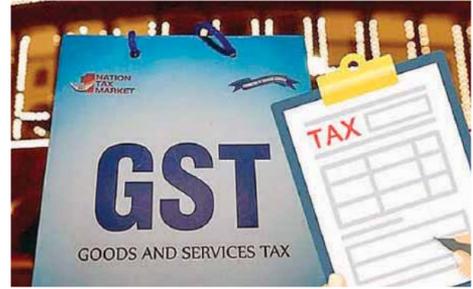
He said to celebrate his father's 75th birth anniversary, the Congress party will organise memorial events across the country.

The former prime minister's

birth anniversary falls on August 20.

"This week we will celebrate my father, Rajiv Gandhi Ji's 75th birth anniversary with memorial events across India.

"To honour him, each day this week, I will draw attention to one of his many incredible achievements. Today, the Information Technology revolution," Rahul Gandhi said on Twitter. He shared a 55-second clip highlighting the IT achievements during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure as prime minister.



Jammu traders demand extension of deadline for filing IT, GST returns

PNS ■ JAMMU

City-based traders' body Monday demanded extending the deadline for filing income tax and GST returns as internet and other communication channels are disrupted following the Centre's move to revoke provisions of Article 370.

In a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman the Chamber of Traders Federation (CTF) said its demand be considered as a special case in view of the prevailing situation in the region.

"We demand extension of dates for filing of income tax and GST returns in view of the peculiar ongoing situation in Jammu and Kashmir following abrogation of Article 370," President CTF, Neeraj Anand

told reporters here.

Anand said it is unlikely that traders would be able to file tax returns as internet and other communication channels are barred in the region.

"We at CTF firmly stand with the government and welcome all the measures that can bring lasting peace to our state that is suffering due to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism," he said.

CTF appreciates the patience of the business community which despite suffering huge losses is supportive of initiatives to permanently rid the state of violence and political uncertainty, Anand added.

"We hope that the government would provide necessary relief to augment trade once situation becomes congenial," he said.

10 killed in rain-related incidents in Uttarkashi

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The scale of devastation caused by heavy rains in Uttarkashi unfolded on Monday with the recovery of more bodies from different villages in the district, taking the total number of people killed so far to 10 while six others were missing.

Search and rescue operations, which were hampered by bad weather on Sunday, resumed on Monday amid relatively clear weather in the affected area with three helicopters including one from the IAF pressed into service to take relief material including food packets and essential medicines to people.

"Ten bodies have been recovered from rain-hit areas of the district so far while six are still missing," Disaster Management Secretary Amit Negi and IG SDRF Sanjay Gunjyal said at a joint press conference on their return from Arakot where a base camp equipped with communication facilities to monitor rescue operations has been set up.

Four bodies each were recovered from Makudi and Arakot while one each was recovered from Tikochil and



Contact has been established with people in around half a dozen affected villages while efforts are on to reach six more which are likely to have been affected by rain-related incidents like cloudbursts, landslides and inundation by swollen rivers

Sanel, Gunjyal said. However, six people are still missing from the affected villages of the district.

Contact has been established with people in around half a dozen affected villages while efforts are on to reach six more which are likely to have been affected by rain-related incidents like cloudbursts, landslides and inundation by

swollen rivers, Gunjyal said. With the improvement in weather on Monday rescue operations are going on in full swing in affected areas with state police, ITBP, PAC and SDRF personnel engaged in the exercise, he said.

The exercise was partially hit by bad weather on Sunday, Disaster Management Secretary Amit Negi said.

ISRO to inject Chandrayaan2 into lunar orbit today

PNS ■ BENGALURU

In a significant milestone for India's Moon mission, ISRO will fire Chandrayaan2's liquid engine on Tuesday to insert the spacecraft into a lunar orbit.

"It's tomorrow morning (tentatively between 8.30 am and 9.30 am). It's challenging," Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation K Sivan told PTI on Monday on the operation to put the spacecraft in an orbit around the Moon.

Following this, there will be further four orbit manoeuvres to make the spacecraft enter into its final orbit passing over the lunar poles at a distance of about 100 km from Moon's



surface, ISRO has said.

Subsequently, the Vikram lander will separate from the orbiter on September 2, according to the Bengaluru-headquartered

space agency. Two orbit manoeuvres will be performed on the lander before the initiation of powered descent to make a soft landing on the

Following this, there will be further four orbit manoeuvres to make the spacecraft enter into its final orbit passing over the lunar poles at a distance of about 100 km from Moon's surface, ISRO has said

lunar surface on September 7, ISRO said. Chandrayaan2, launched on July 22 by GSLV MkIII-M1 vehicle, had entered the Lunar Transfer Trajectory on August 14 after final orbit raising manoeuvre of the spacecraft was successfully carried out.

The health of the spacecraft is being continuously monitored

from the Mission Operations Complex (MOX) at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru with support from Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) antennas at Bialalu, near Bengaluru. All systems on board Chandrayaan2 spacecraft are performing normal, ISRO

said on August 14. According to ISRO, Chandrayaan2 — India's second lunar expedition — will shed light on a completely unexplored region of the Moon, its South Pole. "This mission will help us gain a better understanding of the origin and evolution of the Moon by conducting detailed topographical studies, comprehensive mineralogical analyses, and a host of other experiments on the lunar surface," the space agency has said. "While there, we will also explore discoveries made by Chandrayaan1, such as the presence of water molecules on the Moon and new rock types with unique chemical composition," it said.

South African woman held with heroin at Delhi airport

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A South African woman has been arrested at the Delhi airport for allegedly carrying nearly five kg of heroin worth Rs 20 crore, an official said on Monday.

She arrived at the Terminal-3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) on Saturday from South Africa via Doha by Qatar Airways flight, he said.

The woman was intercepted by the Customs officers after she had crossed the Green Channel, the official said, adding that her person-



al and baggage search resulted in the recovery of white coloured powdery substance with granules.

The powdery substance, recovered from two brown coloured packets concealed in a checked-in trolley bag, was found to be heroin weighing in total 4,900 g valued at Rs 20 crore, he said.

AIIMS needs fire lessons

Though lives were saved, poor compliance means years of precious research have been lost at the elite institution



The intensity of the massive blaze at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, and the leaping fury with which it engulfed its floors in a matter of moments can be gauged from the fact that it took nearly three dozen fire tenders over eight long hours to be doused. Had not AIIMS been a prized institution, perhaps the emergency response wouldn't have been activated with as much urgency and wilfulness but the fact remains that even the safety protocols at the most aware of places had not been reviewed in three years, the last time being in 2016. AIIMS is one of the few hospitals in the city that has an interconnecting ramp to move patients in times of disasters. Perhaps this is why lives weren't lost in the country's premier hospital but imagine this in any other government facility and the mind adds to think what could be. Thankfully, the fire was confined to the pre-clinical and teaching blocks in the country's sought after facility but it did have all the hallmarks of a major disaster. And while AIIMS authorities are particular about top-notch research, they ought to be as sharp about protecting them. For though no human life has been lost, there has been immense loss of intellectual property in the long-term. Hundreds of blood samples at the micro-biology lab, rare viruses, crucial research, scholarly papers, case updates and expensive machines have been completely gutted. Findings are the basis of any medical breakthrough and the foundation for that is gone forever. And if administrators of such an evolved centre cannot be far-sighted about basic safety compliances or build efficiencies in awareness, then there is little to be expected of others. The Delhi Fire Department has said that some of the buildings, including the one that caught fire, did not have the requisite No Objection Certificate (NOC). The NOC is mandatory in the fire safety document, which is renewed every three years and certified annually.

Intriguingly, the general apathy to hospital and patient safety persists despite repeated outbreaks of fire at medical facilities across the country claiming scores of lives. Be it the AMRI episode in Kolkata, which claimed 92 lives, the ESIC Hospital in Mumbai or the SMU Hospital in Bhubaneswar, post-mortem has revealed how they blatantly ignored warnings and safety recommendations or pushed them out of the priority list in their greed to acquire more cutting-edge competitiveness in services. Yet patient care and safety in times of earthquakes, fire or floods do not even merit an intra-institution workshop. While the Delhi Police is waiting for the forensic report to deduce what led to this catastrophe, there are too many questions that demand answers. The hospital was not only ill-prepared but failed to adhere to the guidelines on hospital safety as mandated by the National Disaster Management Authority in 2016 and the National Building Code (NBC) 2005, which made the fire safety certificate mandatory for all buildings taller than 15 m. In fact, most Government buildings as also shop owners, restaurants, hotels, and other private buildings openly flout norms. Needless to say, the situation is all the more precarious in a hospital environment, which is home to those who are incapacitated and, thus, movement becomes challenging in case of a fire or any untoward incident. Even so, where building codes like alarms, sprinkler systems, hosepipes and insulation panels among others are in place, and where the builder claims to have used materials in line with the regulations, the actuals turn out to be about fake compliance, the certificates usually got by greasing palms of local officials. In cases where NOC has been obtained, rarely are fire safety audits carried out. Most post-fire probes have revealed how encroachments and tweaks in open areas have made it really difficult for the firemen to even get into the core zone. They say no tragedy is dark enough that the gloom cannot be lifted. Two babies were born amid the raging fire. Which means going forward, beyond taking action against those responsible for the incident to ensure accountability, there needs to be a strict penal clause, including deregistration of the establishment concerned, if the prescribed safety norms are not met. Third-party audits, too, must be made mandatory to avoid conflict of interest between the municipal authorities and Government officials. Unless a system of checks and balances is put in place, we will never internalise the spirit of risk containment and expose ourselves to unimaginable dangers. And that would be foolhardy indeed.

Concussion protocols

Several sports are taking the risks of head injury seriously. It's time that such norms go to lower levels of cricket as well



The sight of Steve Smith lying low after a bouncer from English bowler Jofra Archer must have sent a chill down the spine of those not only sitting at Lord's but also millions of spectators across the world. It was heartening to see Smith get up, something his Australian companion Phillip Hughes could not when he was struck by a bouncer in a domestic Australian game five years ago. However, nowadays, the worry is not just about immediate injuries but also the long-term consequences of head injuries, particularly concussions. A concussion occurs when the brain bounces around inside the skull, leading to bruising of the brain tissue. This, as doctors and scientists discovered, particularly with players in America's National Football League (NFL), where there are regular head to head collisions, leads to a condition called Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE). CTE is dangerous as it leads to early onset of dementia and a much reduced quality of life given that brain matter decays after years of physical abuse. The NFL initially ignored the complaints that some players made but after some high-profile suicides and several studies, it quickly rectified its standards to deal with the issue. Soon after the issues with CTE were identified, several other sports — even ostensibly non-contact sports like cricket — took notice. New concussion protocols have been brought in that consider the short and long-term effects of brain injuries. A bruise on the brain takes a while to heal and the Lord's Test set an interesting new first with Marnus Labuschagne becoming the first 'Like for Like' substitution in the history of cricket. In India, cricketers legends Farokh Engineer and Nari Contractor, both Parsis, were one of the earliest to be injured. It was from here that wearing helmets during matches became a common protocol. Other sports like soccer have also brought in concussion norms that force substitutions of players who have had an incident that a doctor feels has them shaken up. These are all positive moves and must be commended. However, one must remember that facilities at the top levels of sport and those at lower levels are often dramatically different. Several of these concussion routines are poorly enforced at lower levels of sport. Sure, the top players in the top leagues and highest echelons of sport face bigger dangers in a more competitive space but that is no excuse to ignore the clear and present danger of head injuries.

Pak in a pincer attack

With the economy sinking and a failed bid at the UNSC, Islamabad is in no position to declare war or embrace peace. It will do well to focus on its internal problems



SANDHYA JAIN

A fortnight after the Modi Government defanged Article 370, scrapped its illegal appendage, Article 35A and split the northern State into the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir, Islamabad is groping for a coherent response. In May 1998, when the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee stunned the world by testing five nuclear devices (Pokhran-II) and made India a full-fledged nuclear state, Islamabad swiftly showcased its own nuclear capability. This time, most world capitals overcame their surprise and accepted the changes in Jammu & Kashmir as India's internal matter; Pakistan was supported by the colonial-minded Western media and China, which arranged "closed consultations" (unrecorded) in the UN Security Council. India's action was breathtaking in its simplicity and audacity: Operating within the Line of Control (LoC), it took long-suffering Ladakh to its bosom as a directly-administered Union Territory while Jammu & Kashmir provinces were declared a separate Union Territory with an elected legislature. The Union Home Ministry will have direct supervision of both.

Political parties and dynasties that misused Article 370 to nurture separatist sentiments in the Valley while neglecting Jammu and Ladakh regions have been downsized and separatists put on notice. A zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism was already in place. Caught between a perilous economic situation with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) breathing down its neck on one side, and its jihadi groups on the other, Islamabad is in no position to declare war or to embrace peace. Prime Minister Modi's artful jugglery has subtly avenged India's exclusion from the Afghanistan talks, making it difficult for Washington and Islamabad to put the Taliban in power in Kabul, with the acquiescence of Moscow and Beijing. This gives a breather to the Kabul regime that was also excluded from four-party negotiations. Washington is, thus, likely to remain trapped in the graveyard of empires because successive Presidents from George Bush Jr, Barack Obama and now Donald Trump would not consider gifting the impressive American arsenal to the Afghan Army, training it to use the same and making a dignified retreat. Washington is unconcerned about the fate of President Ashraf Ghani, former President Hamid Karzai, their colleagues and supporters, should Taliban return to Kabul. But for India, this is a matter of deep concern. New Delhi's checkmate has put Islamabad in a bind: It cannot clinch the Taliban deal for Washington: It cannot compensate its jihadi mercenaries with escalated action in Jammu, Kashmir or



Ladakh. Its position is unenviable: To exit a *cul-de-sac* one must go back the way one entered but this route is not open to Pakistan. In the *Mahabharata*, Abhimanyu did not know how to escape the *chakravyuh*; Imran does but it is just not possible. Scholars Asma Khalid and Mobein Jafar Mir of the think tank, Islamabad Policy Institute, blame Pakistan for failing to anticipate and challenge India's hollowing of Article 370 despite clear signals. In a report, *Abrogation of Article 370: Implications & Policy Choices for Pakistan*, they urge Islamabad to launch a diplomatic blitzkrieg against India by emphasising the "disputed status of Kashmir", highlighting India's alleged human rights excesses and the threats to regional stability. In a clear sign of Islamabad's political bankruptcy and lack of choices, Khalid and Mir urged their Government to work for convening an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the situation; in the "closed meeting", the four other permanent members said changing Jammu & Kashmir's Constitutional status is India's

internal matter. Islamabad is unlikely to accept the suggestion to move the International Court of Justice (ICJ) after its resounding defeat in the matter of consular access to Indian citizen Kulbhushan Jadhav. Khalid and Mir bemoan the loss of Jammu & Kashmir's separate Constitution, flag and autonomy in all matters barring foreign affairs, defence and communications. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), they say, always proclaimed its intentions in its election manifestoes and in 2019, reiterated its determination to annul the Kashmir-specific Articles 370 and 35A. Article 35A, introduced via Presidential order under Article 370 in 1954, empowered the State Legislature to define permanent residents and barred Indians from outside the state from permanently settling, buying land, holding local Government jobs or winning education scholarships there. It also barred female residents (and their children) from property rights in the event of marriage outside Kashmir. The spirit behind this legislation was to protect the identity and culture of Kashmiris and preserve

Kashmir's demographic character. Interestingly, the scholars allege that the BJP's agenda is to secure demographic change in the Valley through resettlement of refugees from West Pakistan, Azad Kashmir and Chhamb. It is true that the BJP has been concerned about justice for the refugees, who entered Jammu & Kashmir during Partition and after, and the Scheduled Castes invited by Sheikh Abdullah to clean the city on promise of citizenship. However, Abdullah, supported by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, later denied them State subject status and its accompanying benefits. The issue is now redundant with the extension of the Constitution of India in its entirety to the new Union Territory. Azad Kashmir is a sliver of Jammu Province, where pro-Pakistan radicals created trouble for Maharaja Hari Singh in 1946. Pakistan dubbed it as Azad Kashmir when it seized the area in 1947-48. Chhamb in Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh was an area of conflict in the 1965 and 1971 wars. Khalid and Mir charge that India will try to enhance Hindu representation in the Valley to reduce the influence of Kashmiri (read Muslim) political parties in the event of a plebiscite under UN auspices, an idea scotched by Kofi Annan in 2001. Moreover, the Security Council Resolution of 1948 is explicit that Pakistan must withdraw all military and civilian personnel from the occupied territory who were not there before August 14, 1947; India is to retain its military in Srinagar to administer the plebiscite. Hence, the Pakistani scholars' attempt to project India as an occupying power in the kingdom of Maharaja Hari Singh is a non-starter. Pakistani fears that India's action of August 5, 2019, may impact the Indus Water Treaty are premature as India can achieve much by merely utilising its legitimate share of the Indus waters. As for the occupied territories, Home Minister Amit Shah has reiterated India's claim to the undivided kingdom, including Azad Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, and Aksai Chin. Pakistan would do well to focus on its internal problems. (The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

<p>We have heard that if any ship sinks, the captain makes efforts to save it till the last breath. But the Congress' captain took the first plunge.</p> <p>BJP leader —Shivraj Singh Chauhan</p>	<p>I'm not against the people of Pakistan. I love and respect all who love me. I'm against terrorism and against the Pakistan Army.</p> <p>Actor —Adnan Sami</p>	<p>Any such statements that link the evolving situation in Kashmir to the Afghan peace efforts are reckless, unwarranted and irresponsible.</p> <p>Afghan diplomat —Roya Rahmani</p>	<p>Government's absolute silence is dangerous. People are being removed from jobs. The BJP Government is mum.</p> <p>Congress leader —Priyanka Gandhi</p>
--	---	---	--

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Girl next door

Sir — This refers to the report, "Pati, Patni aur Woh actress no more" (August 16) by TN Raghunatha. In the death of Vidya Sinha, the Hindi film world has lost a talented artiste of yesteryear. Producer-director Basu Chatterjee, who has a number of light comedies to his credit, ventured upon to portray Vidya in middle class love stories through his *Rajinigandha*, followed by *Chhoti Si Baat*. Both were big successes. However, it was difficult for her to get ranked in big budget films as her contemporaries like Rekha, Mumtaz, Zeenat Aman, Hema Malini, Shabana Azmi, Jaya Bachchan, Parveen Babi, Smita Patil, Tanuja, Sridevi and Jaya Pradha, were crowding the field. As a result, she managed to get meagre big films like *Inkar* (Vinod Khanna), *Mukti* (Shashi Kapoor), *Karn* (Rajesh Khanna), *Tumhare Liye* (Sanjeev Kumar) and *Atmaram* (Shatrughna Sinha). These circumstances compelled her to switch over to television.

Anil R Torne
Maharashtra

The Damocles sword over Kashmir

This refers to the editorial, "India wins at UNSC" (August 19). It seems Pakistan's gambit of approaching the UN Security Council (UNSC) with the Chinese fronting for it has predictably ended in a whimper. Nothing came out from the closed door meeting at the UNSC. The panel talked out the special item without any clarity emerging on the collective position of the powerful body for it to be a diplomatic or a public opinion setback for India. The speech by Syed Akbaruddin, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, broke no new ground except helping the nationalist crowd feel good. Still, 14 of the 15 members of the UN body were of the view that the changes resulting from the suspension of Article 370 were a matter internal to India and that issues arising between India and Pakistan must be resolved bilaterally. India succeeded in securing the support of Governments but this shouldn't mean it can rest on its diplomatic laurels. What is amazing is Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations, Zhang Jun, sullied his tongue with human rights. The world knows as to what is happening to the Uighur Muslims — more than a million people are

JS Acharya
Hyderabad



locked away in anonymous prisons without any rights to food, water and visits to family members and friends. It is the modern-day version of the Soviet-era *Gulag*. For better or for worse, India has chosen to walk a course where the Kashmir file will be a Damocles' sword, one that will constantly demand a price for unsheathing it.

Bal Govind
Noida

to protect it from evil forces and for that to happen, the world community must get its act together.

P Senthil
Via email

Integrate the Valley

Sir — This refers to the article, "Educational reforms must" (August 19) by CB Sharma. The actual scenario in the Valley will be visible only when restrictions are fully done with. Nevertheless, mainstreaming the youth will go a long way in restoring normalcy in the Valley. The process of counter-radicalisation and de-radicalisation must begin from schools. Nationalism and secularism should form an essential part of school syllabus and parents, too, must be counselled well about the bright future of their wards. And for that to happen, investment must start gradually. There should be job quotas so that the youth can see the positive change.

Bal Govind
Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Creating micro entrepreneurs

The direct selling industry is a major contributor to the economy. Misinterpreting legislation to harass firms amounts to killing the goose that lays the golden egg



HEM PANDE

Direct selling is the business of peer-to-peer sale, in which people earn a commission on goods sold. It is the marketing, distribution and sale of goods and services as part of a network of direct sellers, other than under a pyramid scheme. This industry, which is a major contributor to the economy, is expected to grow at a rate of nearly five per cent every year and be worth ₹15,930 crore by 2021. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, direct selling creates employment. As of now, direct selling firms employ over 50 lakh people in India, a number that is set to grow to 1.8 crore by 2025. And India needs these jobs. Facilitating job creation, inter alia, is one of the top priorities of the government.

This industry actively encourages the employment of women in large numbers and is a way to empower them by making them economically independent. Over 53 per cent of entrepreneurs engaged in direct selling in India are women. Stand Up India is a government scheme that incentivises female entrepreneurship by facilitating bank loans ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore. Direct selling is not only helping create women entrepreneurs, it's also helping the government meet yet another of its stated priorities.

All that India's direct selling industry needs is an enabling ecosystem, one that enables companies to conduct business in an atmosphere free of prejudice and fear. As things stand, there are very few regulations in place for direct selling companies in India. The Model Framework for Guidelines on Direct Selling, issued in September 2016 by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, remains the definitive document, guiding regulation of the direct selling industry.

The guidelines address every aspect of the direct selling business. They include detailed conditions for setting up and conducting a direct selling business, rules for protection of consumers, provisions for prohibition of pyramid and money circulation schemes, and for the appointment of a monitoring authority for direct sellers and direct selling companies. The guidelines are advisory in nature and though 12 states have adopted them, all states must do this and frame laws that govern direct selling in a just manner.

The guidelines clearly state that direct sellers and firms shall be guided by provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

There are law enforcement agencies that look at direct selling companies through the lens of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (PCMCS) Banning Act, 1978. This Act seeks action against any scheme that involves making easy money or getting money as the consideration for a promise to pay money based on enrolment of members to the scheme.

The Act goes on to say that no person shall promote or conduct any prize chit or money circulation scheme, or enroll members to any such scheme or participate in it or receive or remit any money in pursuance of such chit or scheme.

Classifying direct selling companies under this Act is erroneous, as they are not engaged in the business of seeking deposits from people and they do not guarantee returns. Direct selling companies provide people with the opportunity and the skill set to sell products and make a commission on sales.

The business model involves a product that needs to be sold, for any money to be made. Direct sellers have to work hard to make these sales. They have to use skill and intellect to make people buy their products, and they have to make sales continuously, in order for them to keep receiving commissions. Direct selling is by no means a deposit taking scheme and there is no guarantee whatsoever, of returns. It is, therefore, incorrect to see direct selling companies as falling under the purview of the PCMCS (Banning) Act, 1978.

There have been instances in some states where law enforcement agencies have harassed and even jailed representatives of direct selling firms by resorting to such misinterpretation. This is downright unacceptable and must stop. Misinterpreting legislation to harass direct selling companies (and their representatives) amounts to killing the goose that lays the golden egg. This industry can play a vital role in creating large scale employment opportunities to make India a nation of micro-entrepreneurs, a nation that is able to reap its demographic dividend to the full. The Model Framework for Guidelines on Direct Selling was designed because there was no law to regulate the direct selling industry, and in some states, the Act was being wrongly used to regulate direct selling. Direct selling is an industry that is growing fast with the emergence of new players and the guidelines lay a foundation for the industry to function properly. The guidelines are there to protect legitimate direct selling businesses and penalise those businesses that try to circumvent established industry norms.

(The writer is former Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, and was responsible for formulating direct selling guidelines in 2016)

TODAY IS WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY. HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE BEEN TOTALLY VIOLATED IN #KASHMIR. LET US PRAY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE IN #KASHMIR.

—WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER
MAMATA BANERJEE

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



IT SEEMS SHE (MAMATA) IS BUSY APPEASING THE MINORITY COMMUNITY. SHE HAS STARTED SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE OF PAKISTAN.

—BJP STATE GENERAL SECRETARY
SAYANTAN BASU

This isn't blending in

The decision to abrogate Article 370 was taken amid high tension, lockdown, rumour-mongering and the echo of jackboots in Jammu and Kashmir



PANKAJ SARMA



POPIMONI SHARMA

The process of abrogation of Article 370 has been as controversial as the provisions of the Article itself. In its bid to reshape the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, the Modi Government, buoyed by the massive mandate it received to return to the seat of power for a second term, scrapped the special status granted to the volatile state by the Constitution of India.

As is the case with most decisions taken in a democracy, unsavoury or otherwise, in a matter of minutes a political slugfest ensued, following the announcement. While some, mostly those occupying the Treasury benches in the House, saw it as a "glorious day" for India, others called it a "dark day" for parliamentary democracy.

Nonetheless, the decision to abrogate Article 370 was taken amidst high tension, lockdown, rumour mongering and the echo of jackboots in J&K. The Centre restricted public movement by imposing Section 144 of CrPC and several important political leaders of the state were detained and put under house arrest. The Amarnath Yatra was suspended early, tourists were asked to leave and all forms of communication channels were paralysed, isolating the state from the rest of the country, ironically, all in the name of promoting better integration.

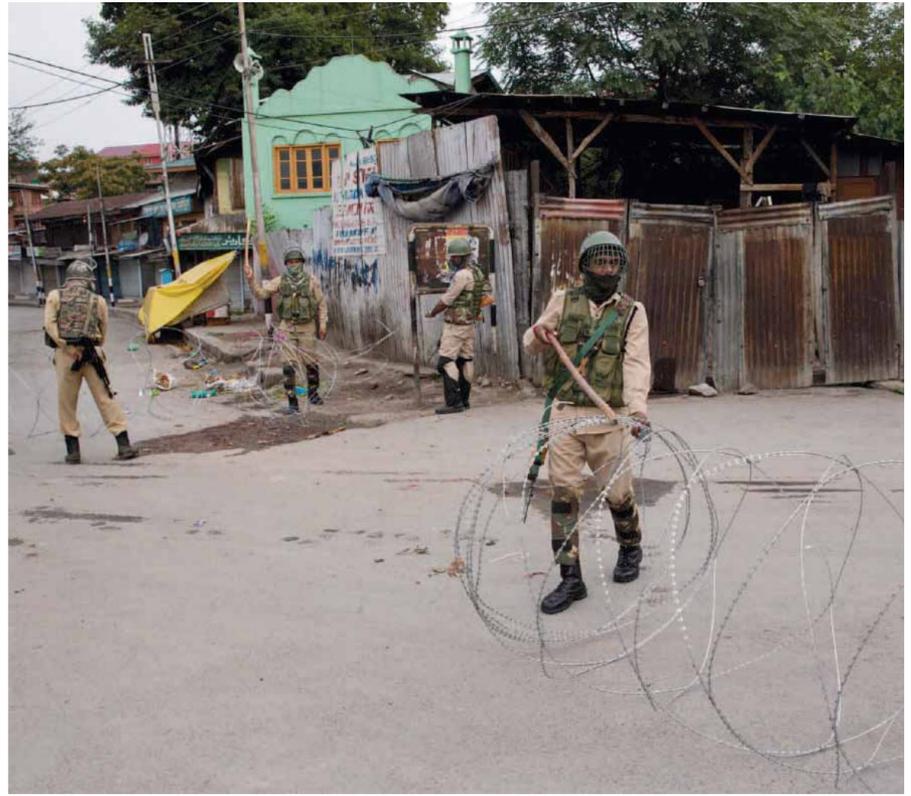
Article 370, which granted special status to J&K and Article 35A that empowered the state legislature to define the "permanent residents" of J&K and their special rights and privileges, has long been under the shadow of controversy. It has been a contested constitutional question whether the provisions of Article 370 were that of a temporary nature and was the Parliament ever empowered to abrogate it.

If we revisit history, it becomes evident from clause 7 of the Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh that the state could not be compelled to accept any future Constitution of India. Furthermore, J&K was well within its rights to draft its own constitution and to decide for itself what additional powers to extend to the Central Government. Article 370 was designed to protect these special rights agreed upon under the Instrument of Accession.

Though Article 370 of the Constitution states that the President may, by public notification, declare that this article shall cease to be operative or shall be operative only with such exceptions and modifications and from such date as he may specify, however, provision to Article 370 clearly states that recommendation of the constituent Assembly of the state referred to in clause 2 of Article 370 shall be necessary before the President issues such a notification. But, since the J&K constituent Assembly later created the State's constitution and dissolved itself without recommending the abrogation of Article 370, the Article was deemed to have become a permanent feature of the Indian Constitution.

The Supreme Court (SC) as well as High Courts of states on several occasions have specifically stated that Article 370 of the Constitution is not a temporary provision. In Kumari Vijayalakshmi Jha vs. Union of India (2017), the Delhi High Court rejected a petition claiming that Article 370 was temporary. In 2018, the SC stated that Article 370 is not a temporary pro-

LOOKING AT THE LOCKDOWN IN THE VALLEY AND THE VIRTUAL IMPRISONMENT OF ITS PEOPLE IN BLATANT DISREGARD OF THEIR RIGHTS IN THE NAME OF GREATER INTEGRATION AND THE SO-CALLED DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION, ONE IS PROMPTED TO ASK WHETHER WE HAVE PUSHED KASHMIR TO THE POINT OF NO RETURN



vision. Similarly the apex court in SBI vs. Zaffar Ullah Nehru (2016) held that J&K has a special status and that Article 370 is not temporary.

On the other hand, Article 3 of the Indian Constitution empowers the Parliament to amend the Constitution by a simple majority to change or alter the boundaries of a state but only when the Bill concerning the same is first referred to the state Assembly concerned for its opinion. But, the decision to create two new Union Territories, J&K and Ladakh, was taken by Parliament without referring the same to J&K Assembly.

As the Assembly was dissolved by an order under Article 356, there was no constitutional body to make the recommendations either under Article 370 (3) or under Article 3.

In such a context, a shortcut was found in the provision of Article 356 (1) (b) that allowed the President to declare that the powers of the state legislature shall be exercisable by or under the authority of the President while President's Rule was in operation in a state.

In the process, perhaps for the first time in the history of state reorganisation in India, a state was converted into two Union Territories, reversing the hitherto existing trend.

Needless to say that Indian federalism became the biggest casualty of our political leaders' desire to create history in one stroke. With the Valley being under lockdown and an unprecedented number of boots on the

ground to maintain peace, one is tempted to question the hurried need for abrogating Article 370 without taking the people and the political leaders of J&K into confidence. Can the Centre justify the manner in which all this was done? In law, especially in Constitutional law, procedure is as important as the outcome. It may be recalled that the 1971 election of Indira Gandhi was declared null and void by the Allahabad High Court on grounds of a procedural illegality.

More than the act itself, what is worrisome, is the manner in which it has been dealt with and the subsequent lockdown of the Valley that put curbs on the liberty of citizens of the state.

Such a sensitive matter certainly needed political maturity on the part of the powers that be, who, would have done well to focus on confidence building measure, by way of discussion with key stakeholders.

Unfortunately, neither was the spirit of a deliberative democracy respected, nor was any consensus building attempt made in the frenzied hurry to abrogate Article 370.

The whole episode, therefore, not only undermined the very spirit of democratic functioning but also demonstrated the centralising tendency compromising the framework of asymmetrical federalism that the Constitution of India envisaged.

When the democratic State starts behaving and functioning like a majoritarian and authoritarian one, not only does the constitutional promise get

shattered, the future prospects of unity and integrity look bleak.

This, therefore, should be a moment of introspection and not that of celebration. Looking at the lockdown in the Valley and the virtual imprisonment of its people in blatant disregard of their rights in the name of greater integration and the so-called development of the region, one is prompted to ask whether India has pushed Kashmir to the point of no return.

The answer is probably blowing in the wind in the bleeding Valley.

Unfortunately, we have no access to read the writing on the wall of the Valley, with the region being virtually cut off from the rest of the country and both the free movement of the fact finding teams to the state and reporting from the Valley being restricted to a great extent.

However, one can safely assume that in yet another bid to write history in one stroke, the country is going to learn the historic lesson that the project of national integration promoting greater unity and integrity calls for moving beyond the desire of over-centralisation and the idea of forced integration by focussing more on sharing of political power and simultaneously pursuing policies of greater accommodation.

(Pankaj Sarma is an Assistant Professor of political science at Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi, and Popimoni Sharma is a former Guest Lecturer of GB Law College, Guwahati)

The curious Orientalist paradox

According to the Jamaat-e-Islami chief, late Qazi Hussain Ahmad, there's nothing wrong in looking religious because the West is more appreciative of this. This was Orientalism imposing Orientalism but still looking towards the West for validation



NADEEM PARACHA

Pakistani and Indian cricket fans are some of the loudest and most colourful, especially when faced with TV cameras where they often like to scream with reckless abandon and make the most curious faces. They will tell you they are very passionate about cricket. This comes from how they proudly explain themselves as belonging to a 'very emotional nation' (*jazbaati qaum*). This is an entirely subjective claim. There is no science behind it, which proves that South Asians as a people are very emotional. Therefore, it is largely a perception. So, where did this perception originate? Most likely, in Britain which ruled India as a colony for nearly 200 years.

Take for instance the famous 1924 novel *A Passage to India*, by British author EM Forster. Dr Aziz, one of the Indian characters in it, is a Muslim and portrayed as an intelligent but emotional man. Most 19th Century British authors, such as James Mill and Charles Grant, repeatedly describe Indians as being overtly religious, irrational and emotional. The celebrated author and intellectual, the late Edward Said, would have denounced this as being stereotypes invented by Europeans to make Eastern societies seem backward.

Said was the founder of "post-colonial studies," the study of the cultural legacy of colonialism and imperialism. In 1978, he wrote the hugely influential book *Orientalism*, in which he demonstrated how Western writers have been concocting distorted views of Eastern cultures, especially ever since the 18th Century. According to Said, this 'Orientalism' was enacted as a depictive tool which was closely related to and formed by the West's imperial politics and ambitions.

Said wrote *Orientalism* when the US had already lost a devastating war in Vietnam and when Britain was facing a series of political, social and economic crises. The predicament in the West, further compounded by the 1973 Oil Crisis, generated an academic onslaught within Europe and the US that fervently attacked the modernist narratives of progress on which European imperialism and then the postcolonial dominance of the US were supposedly built. Such modernism was often critiqued in the context of how the West had distorted the image of Eastern cultures to facilitate political and economic exploitation. But, ironically, almost all of these critiques emerged in the West, even though Said was a Palestinian. However, he wrote his book while he was a professor at an American university. This idea of Orientalism generated great excitement among young 'post-modernist' academics. Nevertheless, when it did leave the confines of American and European academia and reach non-Western regions, mainly through Asian, African and Arab students

studying in American and European universities, the idea began to be rapidly adopted by certain segments, who used it to justify violent attacks on anything they deemed 'Western.'

The attacks were first intellectual and political in nature, in countries such as India, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, China, Thailand, South Korea, Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia, etc. Western civilisations were explained as being devoid of spirituality, morals, roots and values and only driven by sensual pleasures, profit and exploitation. This understanding of the West soon began to colour the rhetoric of Hindu nationalists, 'Islamists' and intransigent dictators. This is when some of the first poignant critiques of Said's Orientalism emerged. The most veracious critiques of Orientalism came from British historian Albert Hourani, British author RG Irwin, American scholar Nikki Keddie and, especially, the British-American historian Bernard Lewis. Lewis in 1993's *Islam and the West* and Irwin in *Dangerous Knowledge*, argue that Said treated the West the same way

he accused the West of treating the East.

They lamented that he saw the West as a monolith and in an entirely generalised manner, thus ignoring the different cultures and races which reside there. They also argued that Said cherry-picked his way to present his thesis, disregarding the fact that many Eastern cultures willingly adopt a variety of political, economic and social ideas introduced by the West. According to them, Said also ignored some strictly objective studies of Eastern societies by Western authors that had no 'imperial agendas.' In 2004, the philosopher Avishai Margalit and Dutch author Ian Buruma published *Occidentalism: The West in the Eyes of its Enemies*. They positioned it as an antithesis of Orientalism. They wrote that Orientalism's roots lay in the manner in which conservative and religious nationalists opposed the emergence of secularism, liberalism and capitalism during the colonial era. The Western responses were then appropriated as Orientalism by the 'progressive' intelligentsia in the

West as a retort against modernisation.

Occidentalism decries Orientalism as a myopic and reductive attack on Western modernity. Orientalism's academic glorification soon paved the way for it to be adopted by reactionary forces.

Then there is also the case of "Self-Orientalism." This, too, can be seen as a critique of Orientalism because it sees cultures that have allegedly been 'Orientalised' or imagined by the West, becoming equal participants in the process.

Tony Mitchell in the anthology *Rogue Flows* and WG Feighery in *Critical Discourse Studies* write that the most befitting way to explore Self-Orientalism is to study tourism industries in various Asian and African countries.

To attract Western tourists, these countries gladly appropriate stereotypes supposedly constructed by the West. For example, in Sri Lanka and Thailand, the image of Buddhism as perceived by the West is recreated at specific tourist spots.

In India, the region's 'legendary

exotic spirituality', revolving around gurus and pundits, has for long been moulded for a Western audience.

Self-Orientalism can also include the example of the 'passionate' way Pakistani and Indian cricket fans behave, a 'passion' constantly defined and reinforced by both South Asian and Western cricket commentators. Ultimately, Self-Orientalism actually exposes Orientalism as an idea, which eventually ends up doing what it accuses others of doing.

Take for instance a 2003 interview that former chief of Jamaat-e-Islami, the late Qazi Hussain Ahmad, gave to *Nawa-i-Waqt*. To critique Musharraf's "enlightened moderation", he said there was nothing wrong in behaving or looking religious because the West is more appreciative of this than by those behaving like Westerners.

This was Orientalism imposing Orientalism but still looking towards the West for validation. This was a Self-Orientalist idea of how the West appreciates a Muslim. The Orientalist paradox.

(Courtesy: *The Dawni*)

CAPSULE



Dr Reddy's launches Roche's Avastin biosimilar in India

NEW DELHI: Drug firm Dr Reddy's Laboratories on Monday said it has launched a biosimilar of Roche's Avastin in India indicated for the treatment of various types of cancers. The company's biosimilar, Versavo, is available in strengths of 100 mg and 400 mg single use vials, Dr Reddy's said in a statement. Commenting on the launch, Dr Reddy's India and Emerging Markets CEO M V Ramana said: "We regard the good health of our patients as our responsibility and are committed to ensure that they always have access to the medicines they need". The launch of Versavo is another step in that journey and helps in strengthening the company's oncology portfolio, he added.



India to import crude soya oil from Paraguay

NEW DELHI: India on Monday notified imports of 30,000 tonne of crude soya oil from Paraguay under a trade agreement. TRQ (tariff rate quota) for import of 30,000 tonne of crude soya oil from Paraguay under India-Mercosur trade agreement is notified," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notice. TRQ is a quota for specified volume of exports that enter India at relatively low import duty. After the quota is reached, a higher tariff applies on additional imports.



Glenmark receives nod to market combination drug

NEW DELHI: Glenmark Pharmaceuticals on Monday said it has received regulatory approval to market a combination of Remogliflozin etabonate and Metformin hydrochloride film-coated tablets in India. The drug is indicated for treatment of type-2 diabetes mellitus in adults, Glenmark said in a statement. The approved dosage strengths are 100 mg of Remogliflozin combined with either 500 mg or 1,000 mg of Metformin, it added. "The approval for Remogliflozin and Metformin combination is a testament of our commitment towards revolutionizing diabetes management in India," Glenmark Pharma President India Formulations, Middle East and Africa Sujesh Vasudevan said. This combination is indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycaemic control in type-2 diabetes mellitus patients, the statement said.

'Everything isn't doomed and gloomy about the economy'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Admitting that the economy is slowing down and faces many a challenge both from within and outside, Reserve Bank governor Shaktikanta Das Monday urged everyone to look at the opportunities ahead and stop being the proponents of gloom and doom. The statement comes amidst reports that an increasing number of corporate honchos are livid with the Narendra Modi government, especially after a slew of initiatives in the recent budget, including higher taxes on the rich and foreign

portfolio investors.

This had FPIs dumping domestic equities and debt like dung since the budget, pulling down the benchmarks by over 13 percent July 5. Continuing their selling spree that began with the budget and amidst the rising uncertainty over the FPI tax and global trade worries, foreign portfolio investors, and as per depository data, have sold equities worth Rs 10,416.25 crore between August 1 and 16 and debt worth Rs 2,096.4 crore. This also comes continuing southward movement of all

key macroeconomic data-points-be it the IIP or exports or automobile sales, which hit a 19-year low in July plunging over 31 percent and eating away over 3.5 lakh jobs. Barring inflation numbers there seems no positive news coming in from any quarters and the Reserve Bank's four successive rate cuts to the

tune of 110 bps to a nine-year low of 5.4 percent since February has not made any positive impact on the ground level. All these negative news comes on the back of a four-year GDP print in March when the economy grew at low 5.8 percent, pulling down the full year growth to a low 6.8

percent and every analyst sees the June quarter growth to print in lower than the March numbers. Addressing the national banking summit here, Das averred that "when I read newspapers or watch business channels the mood is not sufficiently positive and optimistic."

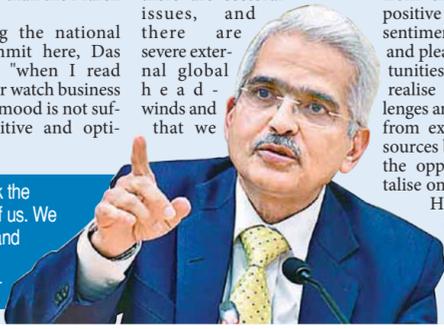
One does realise that there are challenges in the economy, there are sectoral issues, and there are severe external headwinds and that we

cannot live in isolation.

"The mood today ranges from existential angst to a positive attitude. I think the sentiment is very important; and please look at the opportunities ahead of us. We do realise that there are challenges and difficulties coming from external and domestic sources but one has to look at the opportunities and capitalise on that." He, however, was quick to add that he was not asking for anyone to maintain a Panglossian countenance.

The mood today ranges from existential angst to a positive attitude. I think the sentiment is very important; and please look at the opportunities ahead of us. We do realise that there are challenges and difficulties coming from external and domestic sources but one has to look at the opportunities and capitalise on that

— SHAKTIKANTA DAS, Reserve Bank governor



Lithuania can be strong tech partner for India: VP

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's growing market offers great opportunities to Lithuania, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said on Monday, as he sought a strong technology partnership with the country in areas like the agro-food processing sector. Naidu arrived here on Saturday on the first leg of his five-day three-nation tour that will also take him to Latvia and Estonia. This is the first ever high-level visit from India to the three Baltic countries.



The Vice-President, M Venkaiah Naidu in a meeting with the Prime Minister of Republic of Lithuania, Saulius Skvernelys, in Vilnius, Lithuania on Monday

Addressing the India-Lithuania business forum, Naidu highlighted the complementarities in the economies of the two countries. "Lithuania has been an important partner for India in Europe as both countries share the common values of democracy, freedom and rule of law," Naidu said. "Both our countries are marching together on the road to successfully creating a free, transparent and robust business environment," he said. Naidu said he was delighted to address the prestigious Business Forum aimed at furthering economic cooperation between India and Lithuania.

Lithuania has been an important partner for India in Europe as both countries share the common value of democracy, freedom and rule of law

—M VENKAIHAH NAIDU, Vice-President

"This forum is a signature of trust that Lithuania places in our business co-operation. I am happy that companies from India are participating in this forum," he said. "India's growing market offers great opportunities to Lithuanian business. India

has a rising middle class market and 60 per cent of our population comprises of skilled youth under 35 yrs of age. It is the 6th largest economy in the world, set to attain a size of USD 5 trillion by 2024-25," Naidu said. He said India has been suc-

cessfully reforming and transforming it's business environment to attract investments at a huge scale. India presents a model of successful cooperative federalism, wherein huge states are equal partners in fostering growth and development, he said. "India-Lithuania bilateral trade has huge potential for growth. We must double our efforts and explore more and more areas of cooperation and engagement between India and Lithuania," he said.

IL&FS PROBE

ED summons Joshi's son, Raj Thackeray

PTI ■ NEW DELHI / MUMBAI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned MNS party chief Raj Thackeray in connection with its money laundering probe in the IL&FS alleged payment default crisis case, officials said on Monday. It had also called Unmesh Joshi, son of former state chief minister and Shiv Sena leader Manohar Joshi, in the same case after which he deposed before the central agency in Mumbai on Monday, they said. Unmesh Joshi's statement has been recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said.



The MNS dubbed as "political vendetta" the ED move to issue notice to its chief to join investigations

Officials said the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief has been asked to appear before the investigating officer of the case on August 22 at the agency's zonal office in Mumbai. The MNS dubbed as "political vendetta" the ED move to issue the notice to its chief to join investigations. "Raj Thackeray created a sensation during the Lok Sabha poll campaign earlier this year. It had a significant impact on people and to avoid a similar challenge ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections, the ED has issued the

notice. It is a case of political vendetta," MNS spokesperson Sandeep Deshpande told reporters in Mumbai. The federal agency is probing Thackeray's involvement in the case in connection with the IL&FS group's loan equity investment of over Rs 850 crore in a company called Kohinoor CTNL. The company was promoted by Unmesh Joshi and is constructing Mumbai's Kohinoor Square towers. Thackeray and Unmesh Joshi had jointly bid for some assets after creating a consor-

tium but later the MNS supremo quit. "The Kohinoor deal is very old and Thackeray exited it long time back. I wonder why the Centre has come up with the inquiry notice so late," Deshpande said. He alleged that the ED has "become a tool to suppress our voice". "If the government takes any action with prejudice against Raj Thackeray, we will protest on streets," Deshpande said. IL&FS had invested over Rs 200 crore funds in Kohinoor CTNL and is said to have suffered a loss in the deal.

HCL Tech - Maha Airport to create 8,000 jobs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IT major HCL Technologies on Monday said it has signed a pact with Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) for expansion of its MIHAN campus in Nagpur, a move that will help create over 8,000 local jobs. As part of the MoU (memorandum of understanding), HCL will acquire 90 acres of land to add to the existing 50-acre campus in MIHAN, Nagpur, a statement said. HCL Technologies started its business operations in Nagpur in April last year and already has more than 800 employees servicing global accounts. The MIHAN centre delivers a spectrum of services including application development, product engineering, BPO, IT services management as well as the company's internal enabling functions. The campus, when fully operational, will employ over 8,000 personnel, the statement said.



The campus, when fully operational, will employ over 8,000 personnel

"Our IT sector has contributed immensely to help India make its mark on the world map...This expansion of the HCL campus in Nagpur will provide many opportunities to local talent and promote growth and development in the city," Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said. HCL Technologies has also announced the launch of Tech Bee -- a work-integrated career programme for students who have completed Class XII. After completion of the programme, the students will be employed at HCL Technologies. They will also have an option to

pursue higher education from BITS Pilani and SASTRA University, while working. The company will also conduct a recruitment drive in Nagpur on August 24-25 at its MIHAN campus. This drive will offer opportunities to engineering, non-engineering, diploma students as well as students who have completed Class XII to explore career opportunities with the company. "Our expansion in Nagpur is going to be part of HCL's strategic vision to expand and bring global opportunities to tier-II cities, beyond the large metropolises in the country,

Airtel appoints Rajesh Tapadia as CEO of data-cloud biz

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom operator Bharti Airtel on Monday said it has appointed Rajesh Tapadia as the CEO of its data centre and cloud business, Nxta Data. Before joining Nxta, Tapadia worked at Netmagic Solutions as the chief service officer and executive director on the board where he managed data centre operations across multiple cities. "The data centre and cloud segment is an important pillar in our strategy to address enterprise customers' evolving needs. I am confident that Rajesh with his stellar track record will add immense value to our plans," Bharti Airtel MD and CEO (India and South Asia) Gopal Vittal said. Tapadia has earlier worked with Trimax, Global Cloud Xchange, Genpact and Reliance Infocomm.



Iran says it has warned US against seizing oil tanker

PTI ■ TEHRAN

Tehran said on Monday that it has warned Washington against making another attempt to seize an Iranian tanker that has departed Gibraltar despite a US bid to have it detained. "Iran has given necessary warnings to American officials through its official channels...not to make such a mistake because it would have grave consequences," Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi told a news conference. Iran had been locked in a high-seas standoff with US ally Britain since Royal Marines seized the tanker off the coast of UK territory Gibraltar on July 4 on suspicion it was shipping oil to Syria in breach of EU sanctions. Two weeks later, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps impounded a British-



flagged tanker in strategic Gulf waters in what Britain called a tit-for-tat move. Speaking to reporters on Monday, the Iranian foreign ministry spokesman dismissed the notion that there was a link between the two seizures. "There is no connection whatsoever between these two vessels," said Mousavi. "There have been two or three maritime violations made by that ship," he said, referring to the British-flagged Stena Impero held off the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas.

Indian Motorcycle drives in new FTR 1200 S into India at Rs 15.99 lakh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

American niche bike maker Indian Motorcycle on Monday launched its all new model FTR 1200 S in India priced at Rs 15.99 lakh (ex-showroom). The company, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Polaris Industries, also introduced FTR 1200 S Race Replica in the country priced at Rs 17.99 lakh. Besides, the super bike maker announced a tie-up with Orix India to offer its models on lease. "We continually seek to broaden Indian Motorcycle's reach to a wider range of riders and FTR represents a significant step forward in that strategy," Polaris India MD and Country Head Pankaj Dubey told reporters here. With these two models, the company now has bikes which have the DNA of flat track racing but are designed for the street, he added. "We have tied up with Orix India, making it possible for all bike enthusiasts, who could not own an Indian bike earlier, to lease it," Dubey said. The FTR series bikes come with liquid cooled 1203 cc engine that generates peak power of 123 hp. The bike comes with various features including a 4.3-inch touchscreen with bluetooth that can be operated even with gloves on. Besides, it has three ride modes with different throttle response and traction control intervention levels.



US economists expect recession in 2020 or 2021: Survey

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A majority of economists expect a US recession in the next two years, but have pushed back the onset amid Federal Reserve actions, according to a survey released Monday. The survey came out after President Donald Trump pushed back against talk of a looming recession as a raft of US data reports last week showed a mixed picture on the economy. "I'm prepared for everything. I don't think we're having a recession. We're doing tremendously well. Our consumers are rich," Trump told reporters Sunday. "I gave a tremendous tax cut, and they're loaded up with money. They're buying. I saw the Wal-Mart numbers, they were through the roof," he said. "And most economists actu-

ally say that we're not going to have a recession. But the rest of the world is not doing well like we're doing." His chief economic advisor Larry Kudlow also downplayed talk of a recession. "I sure don't see a recession," he told NBC's Meet the Press. "Consumers are working at higher wages. They are spending at a rapid pace. They're actually saving also while they're spending... So I think actually the second half, the economy's going to be very good in 2019," he said. "We're doing pretty darn well in my judgment. Let's not be afraid of optimism." The National Association for Business Economists (NABE) found far fewer experts now think the next recession will start this year compared to a survey in February. NABE conducted its policy poll as Trump put the Fed



under constant attack, demanding more stimulus, but before the central bank cut the benchmark lending rate on July 31. However, the Fed was already sending strong signals that it intended to pull back on the rate increases made in

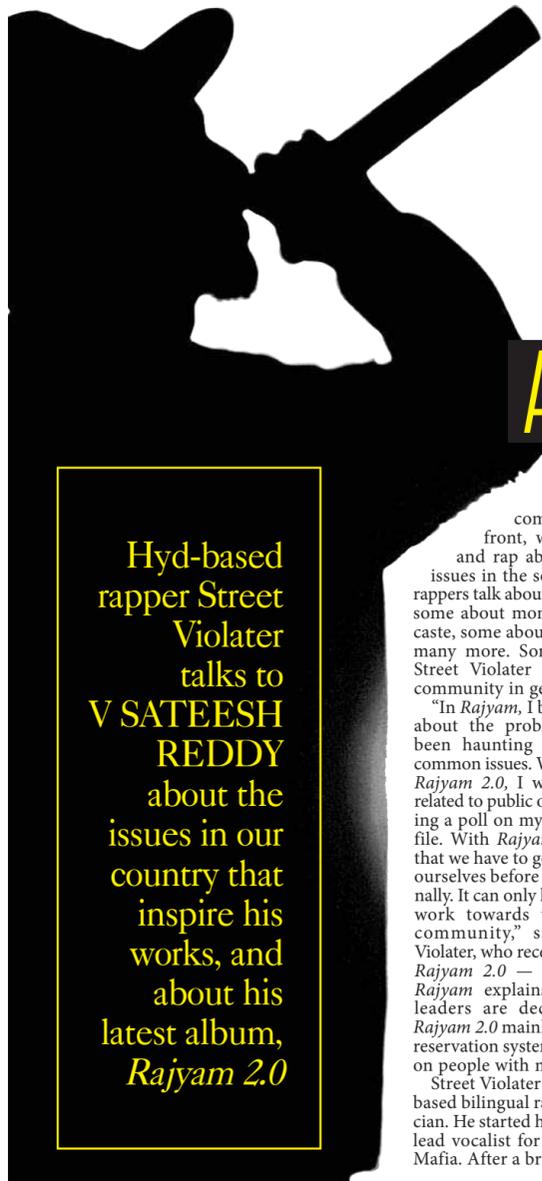
2018 due to concerns starting to dog the economic outlook, including the trade war with China. "Survey respondents indicate that the expansion will be extended by the shift in monetary policy," said NABE president Constance Hunter, who

The survey came out after President Donald Trump pushed back against talk of a looming recession as a raft of US data reports last week showed a mixed picture on the economy

is chief economist at KPMG. Only two per cent of the 226 respondents now see a recession this year, compared to 10 per cent in February's survey, NABE said. However, "the panel is split regarding whether the downturn will hit in 2020 or 2021," Hunter said in a summary of the survey, which showed 38 per cent expect a contraction of growth next year, while 34 per cent don't see it until the following year. More economists shifted their recession prediction to 2021, narrowing the gap from

the prior report, which had many more expecting the change next year. The results show 46 per cent expect at least one more rate cut this year from the Fed, while about a third see policy holding where it is now, with 2.25 per cent as the top end of the policy range. Economists are skeptical about a resolution to Trump's trade wars, although 64 per cent said a "superficial agreement is possible," NABE said. But that was before Trump announced another round of tariffs of 10 per cent on the

remaining USD 300 billion in goods not yet hit by US punitive duties. The new measures will take effect in two stages, on September 1 and December 15. As Trump continues his vocal campaign criticizing the Fed, the NABE survey found economists are concerned about the impact: 55 per cent said his remarks do not influence Fed decisions but do "compromise the public's trust in the central bank." And over a quarter of respondents said the criticism will "cause the Fed to be more dovish than otherwise, thus threatening its independence." The survey also asked about fiscal policy, and a majority of economists said Trump's tax cuts "had an overall negative impact on housing activity over the past 18 months," due to changes in deductions allowed for mortgage interest.



A RAPPER'S ANTHEM

Hyd-based rapper Street Violater talks to V SATEESH REDDY about the issues in our country that inspire his works, and about his latest album, *Rajyam 2.0*

After *Gully Boy*, rap artistes — those that have talked about the streets in their beats — have come to the forefront, where they sing and rap about the various issues in the society. Different rappers talk about different issues, some about money, some about caste, some about feminism, and many more. Some rappers like Street Violater raps about the community in general.

"In *Rajyam*, I briefly explained about the problems that have been haunting me, which are common issues. When it comes to *Rajyam 2.0*, I wrote something related to public opinion after taking a poll on my Instagram profile. With *Rajyam 2.0*, I declare that we have to get freedom from ourselves before seeking it externally. It can only happen when we work towards the betterment community," said the Street Violater, who recently released his *Rajyam 2.0 — Antham*. While *Rajyam* explains how political leaders are deceiving people, *Rajyam 2.0* mainly focuses on the reservation system and its impact on people with merits.

Street Violater is a Hyderabad-based bilingual rapper and musician. He started his musical as the lead vocalist for his band Street Mafia. After a brief duration, the

band was compelled to break apart leaving the lead singer of the band to take up the stage name Street Violater and continue his voyage as a techno DJ.

In 2012, Street started producing hip-hop music for the Hyderabadis. His first single *My Doll* gave him some traction and provided him with some exposure in the underground hip-hop community. Furthermore, he consistently penned other songs such as *My Stupid Wine* and *We Want Justice* leading him to make his mark in the hip-hop community in our country.

He shares, "To go further in the field, I went on to write songs for my community, family, and friends. I am moved by my immediate surroundings, violence and commotion in my neighbourhood, disparity of wealth in our country, poorly regulated legislation, drug abuse and other calamities that are affecting the commoners."

His first revolutionary track *Rajyam* became an anthem for the general population. In it, he speaks about the inequality of wealth in our country, the poorly regulated law enforcement that is affecting the helpless and suppressed masses of this nation and other pressing issues that are haunting the common man. His latest single *Rajyam 2.0* talks about the education system in India, corrupt politicians, farmers, and other issues that need to be addressed by everyone.

He said that he intends to

make the masses conscious about themselves and the political sphere of our country. He aims to cultivate a culture where all artists are recognised and respected irrespective of the art form they practice.

He said, "At present, I'm working on an album and I will reveal the details soon. I'm also planning to cover the pressing issues such as the education system in India



I went on to write songs for my community, family, and friends. I am moved by my immediate surroundings, violence and commotion in my neighbourhood, disparity of wealth in our country, poorly regulated legislation, drug abuse and all those affecting people

STREET VIOLATER



THE HEROES OF HUNGER

Attapur Bengali Association organised a food donation camp at The Cherish Foundation, an orphanage

Food is a human necessity, without which we cannot survive. As such, food donation is often considered a grand gesture by those who can to those who can't. There are hundreds of organisations across the country trying to help impoverished communities by providing them with food. This is a very common scene in Hyderabad as well. Recently, the Attapur Bengali Association (ABA), a non-profit group, organised a food donation camp at The Cherish Foundation in Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad.

A team of volunteers from the association were present at the orphanage to distribute food items and other

essential supplies to the foundation. This was one-of-its-kind initiative by the association to provide support and encouragement to the orphanage that is taking care of the underprivileged children.

However, a food donation isn't the only charitable activity they organise. ABA has been addressing numerous charitable causes through voluntary work and fund-raising activities. The members of ABA are committed towards the development of society and are constantly contributing to the betterment of the community.

During the visit to The Cherish Foundation, ABA volunteers spent some quality time with the children and played various indoor and outdoor games with them. They also discussed with the caretakers about the challenges that children and the orphanage is facing and assured continuous support.

Subir Roy, President of Attapur Bengali Association, said, "It was a wonderful experience to meet the children and caretakers at The Cherish Orphanage. We are delighted to contribute a small portion of the facilities at the orphanage through our involvement. The most satisfying part of the visit was spending time with the children, which the entire association

would cherish. We are a small group of active volunteers who look forward to bringing some changes to local seekers in every part of Hyderabad."

Attapur Bengali Association (ABA), established in 2017, is dedicated to promoting the cultural and social heritage of Bengal in Hyderabad by organising various cultural, social, charitable, educational, and recreational programmes throughout the year. ABA has made efforts by organising Durga Puja event along with other Bengali festivals, which were accredited by various agencies in and around Hyderabad.

Cherish Foundation is a registered charitable trust working with orphan children and running an orphanage, which is dedicated to providing a stable and loving family atmosphere to the children. Cherish Foundation aims to integrate an orphan child into mainstream society through holistic development.

ABA HAS ALSO BEEN ADDRESSING NUMEROUS CHARITABLE CAUSES THROUGH VOLUNTARY WORK AND FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES



Alia Bhatt to raise funds for animals via baking



Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt will raise funds for an animal welfare organisation through actor Arjun Kapoor's sister Anshula Kapoor's online fundraising platform, Fankind.

As part of a campaign on Fankind, a fan will get a chance to bake a cake with the star under the guidance of Indian Pastry Chef Pooja Dhingra. Fans have to donate a minimum amount of ₹300 or multiples thereof and at the end of the campaign period, one fan will be randomly selected to bake a cake with the *Uda Punjab* actress.

"The welfare of animals is a cause I truly believe in and funds raised through this unique experience will support World For All, a charitable organisation based in Mumbai that works towards creating a better and safer environment for the cats and dogs living on our streets," Alia said in a statement.

Effectively, 70 per cent of the donations will go to 'World For All', an NGO which Alia is closely associated with. This Mumbai-based animal welfare organisation has revolutionised the model of stray animal adoptions.

"As an animal lover and pet parent myself, animal welfare is a cause that is close to my heart and I am so glad that with Alia's association, Fankind is able to help spread the message about the importance of animal welfare and can raise funds for World For All," Anshula said.

— IANS

Theatre director Nadir Khan and actor Rajit Kapur say that their forthcoming venture, *A Few Good Men*, for Aadyam's fifth season, reflects upon what happens when people in authority are questioned

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

It's the same script that theatre director and actor Nadir Khan has picked up for his next theatrical direction for Aadyam's fifth season. Ask him about why he chose the very play to adapt for his next direction, he says that its lines and characters are very witty and smart," he says.

The plot is inspired by true events and is a courtroom drama which follows the trial of two US Navy

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

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



CAN YOU HANDLE THE TRUTH?

ideal ones." Whereas, Rajit's reasons for joining the cast were different. He says that Nadir is a good friend. "But it's not just because he's a friend but is also an accomplished director. I share a certain equation with him. And when you have that, there happens to be a mutual trust and understanding. So when he said that he couldn't think

of anyone else for this role, I juggled my schedules to make it happen," he tells us and laughs. The cocky, arrogant lawyer Lieutenant Kaffee accuses Colonel Jessup of ordering the killing of a US Marine at Guantanamo Bay. While talking about his character, he says, "It's definitely a challenging part for me since I have never played the role of

a military officer before. In the play, Jessup's authority is being questioned. It showcases what happens when somebody in power is being questioned. His personality is quite tough. Well, how else would you describe a guy whose life motto is, 'Walk softly and carry an armoured tank division.' Jessup isn't afraid of anything or anyone and is used to people chal-

lenging him. He shouldn't ever have to explain himself, especially to some desk jockey and he never backs down. So the way my character looked at things and made a perspective was very important and I kept that in mind." Nadir, who has also directed another courtroom drama, *12 Angry Jurors* (also for Aadyam), tells us about his fascination with court-

room dramas. "They always have in store some suspense and mystery. I feel that they are very intriguing and can hold the audience. However, *12 Angry Jurors* is very different than this one. This play is more about the code of morality rather than the lack of justice. It really questions whether one can handle the truth or not and how," says he.

This isn't Nadir's first stint with Aadyam. Apart from *12 Angry Jurors*, he has previously brought to the stage, *SingIndiaSing*, *The Hounds of Baskerville*, and *I Don't Like It*. He says, "Five years in a row with Aadyam is pressure enough. And when you're doing a text as iconic as this one, you better make sure you've got a cracking cast to match Sorkin's superb writing. Thankfully, we've managed to do that."

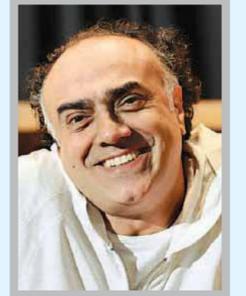
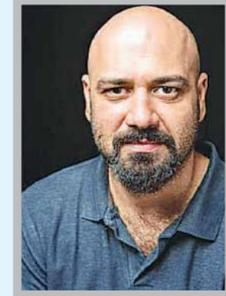
Ask Rajit about what was his research while getting into the skin of his character, he says, "I didn't have to read or watch anything to do that. Nadir had done it all for me. He was very clear about what he wants and how he wants it. I won't deny that I haven't watched the film. It was years ago when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

bring out that character in my own way. I haven't let the film affect my performance at all."

The actor believes that since it's a play, there are not much things to play around with. For instance, the location. He says, "You don't have the liberty to shoot in real locations, of course. You have to imagine certain things in a play and I think, that is the beauty of it."

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

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



Taking a higher view

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

A drone soared over a

blazing hot cornfield in northeastern Colorado on a recent morning, snapping images with an infrared camera to help researchers decide how much water they would give the crops the next day.

After a brief, snaking flight above the field, the drone landed and the researchers removed a handful of memory cards. Back at their computers, they analysed the images for signs the corn was stressed from a lack of water.

This US Department of Agriculture station outside Greeley and other sites across the Southwest are experimenting with drones, specialised cameras and other technology to squeeze the most out of every drop of water in the Colorado River — a vital but beleaguered waterway that serves an estimated 40 million people.

Remote sensors measure soil moisture and relay the readings by Wi-Fi. Cellphone apps collect data from agricultural weather stations and calculate how much water different crops are consuming. Researchers deliberately cut back on water for some crops, trying to get the best

harvest with the least amount of moisture — a practice called deficit irrigation.

In the future, tiny needles attached to plants could directly measure how much water they contain and signal irrigation systems to automatically switch on or off.

Getting more bang for the buck is a goal for scientists looking for better ways to help farmers manage the use of water. They're using sensors to help control the flow of water going to plants and to improve the quality of crop yields.

"It's like almost every month somebody's coming up with something here and there," said Don Ackley, water management supervisor for the Coachella Valley Water District in Southern California. "You almost can't keep up with it."

Researchers and farmers are running similar experiments in arid regions around the world. The need is especially pressing in seven US states that rely on the Colorado River: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

The river has plenty of water this summer after an unusually snowy winter in the mountains of the US West. But climatologists warn the river's long-term outlook is uncertain at best and dire at worst, and competition for water will only intensify as the population grows and the climate changes.

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

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

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

The Pacific Institute, an environmental group, says the river also irrigates about 700 square miles

(1,820 square kilometers) in Mexico. Agriculture uses 57 per cent to 70 per cent of the system's water in the US, researchers say. The problem facing policymakers is how to divert some of that to meet the needs of growing cities without drying up farms, ranches and the environment.

The researchers' goal is understanding crops, soil and weather so completely that farmers know exactly when and how much to irrigate.

"We call it precision agriculture, precision irrigation," said Huihui Zhang, a Department of Agriculture engineer who conducts experiments at the Greeley research farm. "Right amount at the right time at the right location."

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

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

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

"The question then becomes, what's the economic value of the lost crop versus the economic value of the saved water?" said Bart Fisher, a third-generation farmer and a member of the irrigation district board.

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

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

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

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

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

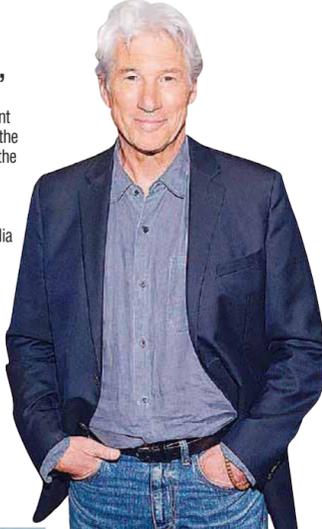
But researchers say water-saving technology could determine whether some farms can stay in business at all, especially in Arizona, which faces cuts in its portion of Colorado River water under a drought contingency plan the seven states hammered out this year.

Drone-mounted

Trend Blazers

'POPULISM IS SPREADING ACROSS'

Actor Richard Gere says the movement of populism is spreading all around the world, and he hopes to touch upon the issue with his series *MotherFatherSon*. In his first television role in the last 30 years, Gere is seen as a charismatic self-made businessman Max, who owns media outlets in London and around the world. The drama series, written by Tom Rob Smith, is a tale of a broken family with deep-rooted issues of politics, conflicts of a country on the brink of change and power. He said, "It is about a mother, a father and a son and how those relationships function. And this human story which we can all relate to is set against a much larger story about international politics and about the movement of populism which I feel is spreading across."



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



KJOS' WISHLIST FOR K2H2 REBOOT

Karan Johar has no immediate plans to work on a *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* reboot, but the filmmaker says Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt and Janhvi Kapoor are on his wishlist if he decides to bring back the love story. "Ranveer would play Rahul as he has that mad intensity as SRK. Alia as Anjali. She has the spunk and Janhvi Kapoor as Tina because she has the poise and balance of the part," said Johar, during an audience interaction at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne. Looking back at the casting process, Karan said, "I was ecstatic to meet SRK. Kajol and he had promised that they would work on my first film. It took months to cast for Rani's part after Aditya Chopra recommended her."

Actress Sobhita Dhulipala-starrer *Amoth* will premier at the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). The action thriller also stars Malayalam actor Nivin Paul. "The film is part of the special section at TIFF. When I first read the script, I was blown by it. I am glad that it is getting its due after so many years now. I am looking forward to showing this film to people at the festival, interacting with the international press and cinema aficionados." Sobhita, *Made in Heaven*-fame, said.



PRABHAS ANNA has an elephant's memory: Sujeeth

The director, speaking at the promotional event of *Saaho*, mentions that he was able to go about his job with confidence because the actor and the producers trusted him to get the work done, finds NAGARAJ GOUD

Filmmaker Sujeeth Sign, who has helmed the mega-budget action extravaganza *Saaho*, said that even before he got his first shot at feature film direction, Prabhas sent him a word for a meeting. "UV Creations got the DVD of my short films and Prabhas *anna* happened to watch them. He felt that I was good with a screenplay and wanted to meet me. I was in Sudharshan theatre (Hyderabad) with my dad watching *Mirchi* when I was asked to meet him. I couldn't believe it and didn't meet him," he said. He was speaking at a promotional event of *Saaho* in Hyderabad on Sunday evening. More than 100,000 fans of Prabhas from the two Telugu states attended the event, which was held at Ramoji Film City. Sujeeth added, "Prabhas *anna* has the memory of an elephant and his mind registers every minute detail about films. There's

a shot in the trailer where blood oozes out of his upper body as he takes a shower. I told him about it when I first narrated him the story in November 2014. Three years down the lane, when I was about to shoot it, he recalled the meeting of the said sequence, which I forgot. He is extremely passionate about cinema," the director said. He further pointed out that Prabhas had enormous confidence on him to steer the ₹350 crore action-thriller that is set to storm into theatres on August 30. "After working for a technician like SS Rajamouli, he chose one-film-old me for his next. Yet, he gave me the same importance that he gave Rajamouli *garu*. I could go about my job with the utmost confidence because of the faith he had in me. Even when others pointed out to UV Creations whether I have it in me to direct a project of this magnitude, Prabhas felt that I was talented enough to get the job done," the director noted.

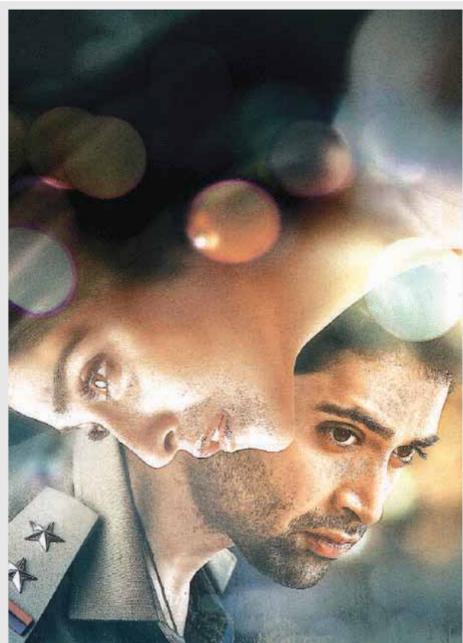
Showering high praise on the film's producers Vamsi, Pramod and Vicky, he rhapsodised, "They ensured that I focused on the film without any worries. I could see their tensed faces because of the budget, but they never brought what they were going through to me. The film wouldn't have been possible if not for them. They are the best people that I could've ever asked for."



Sujeeth handled everyone like a pro: RAJAMOULI

Filmmaker SS Rajamouli, who is a dear friend of Prabhas, said the actor is farsighted. "After I narrated the story of *Baahubali* he was immediately thinking of his next. He was sure that *Baahubali* would be a hit and felt the need to make the right move with his next. One fine day, he excitedly came to me and said, 'Darling, Sujeeth has narrated a fantastic story. What I liked about him is that he didn't opt for a big director after *Baahubali* and rather believed in the story

Sujeeth narrated," the top filmmaker said at an event of *Saaho* in Hyderabad on Sunday. On Sujeeth, Rajamouli shared, "He is a youngster and many doubted whether he can pull off a massive project like *Saaho*. However, those doubts were put to rest with the film's first look itself. The moment the film's teaser and trailer came out, everyone understood his capabilities. It's not easy to work with leading technicians and an all-India star such as Prabhas, but he handled everyone like a pro. He has done a fantastic job."



EVARU TAKES THE LEAD

While *Ranarangam* opened on a strong note, the movie still requires ₹7 crore to break even, as reviews had an effect on its footfalls in the subsequent days

Independence Day saw *Ranarangam* and *Evaru* battling it out at the box-office. While the Sharwaa-starrer gangster drama opened on a strong note grossing ₹8.1 crore on day one, not-so-promising reviews had an effect on its footfalls over the weekend, especially in 'A' centres and in the US, where it even failed to breach \$100 K. 'B' and 'C' centres helped the box-office cause of the film, though. It has minted an overall ₹9.75 crore (share) in its opening weekend and has to make another ₹7 crore to reach the breakeven stage.

weekend in the US. Meanwhile, Allu Arjun watched *Evaru* on Sunday and taking to his social media pages, raved the film as an amazing murder mystery packed with twists and turns. He extended his congratulations to the principal cast and crew of the film, which was directed by Venkat Ramji.

On the other hand, while Adivi Sesh-starrer opened strongly in 'A' centres on Thursday, positive reviews and good word of mouth helped the film pack a punch in the weekend. Almost all theatres in Hyderabad reported to full capacity. Made on a budget of ₹8 crore, it has collected ₹7 crore to date and with no major releases this weekend, it's bound to increase the tally. It has also made \$350k in its opening

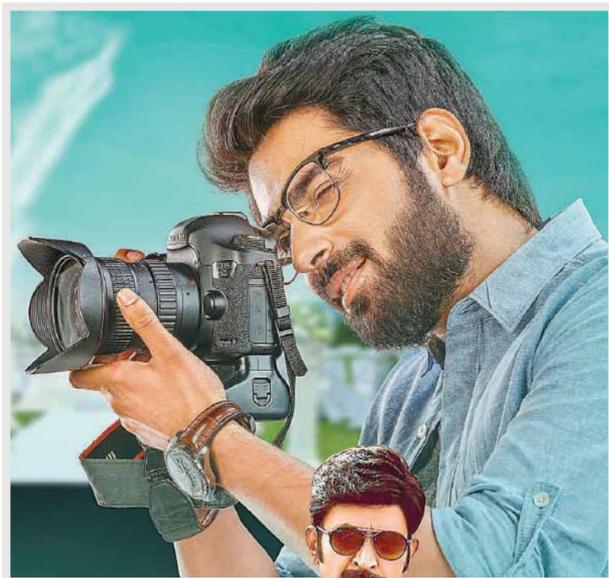


Shiva Kandukuri's first look from Choosi Choodangaane out

The actor plays a photographer in the movie, and the makers released his first look on Monday since it was World Photography Day

After announcing the title earlier this month, the makers of *Choosi Choodangaane*, featuring Shiva Kandukuri, son of producer Raj Kandukuri and '96 fame Varsha Bollamma, revealed the film's first look on Monday. In the romantic drama, Shiva will be seen as a wedding photographer who is looking for a girl who will balance his life. As Monday was World Photography Day,

the makers chose the opportune moment to reveal Shiva's look. Suresh Babu, who will distribute the film under his esteemed Suresh Productions, did the honours. Gopi Sundar is presently working on the film's music in Cochin. Raj Kandukuri is expecting the film, directed by debutante Sessa Sindhu Rao, to finish all post-production formalities by September 10. He is eyeing September 21 as the release date.



KALYANRAM'S next joins Sankranti race

Slightly delayed, the filming of Kalyanram's next *Entha Manchi Vaadavuraa* with Satish Vegesna has picked up the pace. With the first schedule wrapped up last week, the makers are gearing up for the second schedule, which will commence on August 26 and go on till September 22. Tanuku, Rajahmundry and its surrounding areas will host the schedule, which will witness a couple of action sequences and a song, besides talkie portions, being filmed. "The shoot will shift to Hyderabad in October and Chikmagalur in November," the makers said on Monday. Originally, they planned to shoot in Ooty but it seems Chikmagalur is filling it.

The makers are planning to complete the film this year-end and slot it for Sankranti, which is already occupied with films like *Sarileru Neekevuru*, *Ala Vaikunthapuramlo* and *Sreekaram*. A joint production venture between Umesh Gupta of Aditya Music and Sivalenka Prasad of Sridevi Movies, *Entha Manchi Vaadavuraa* sees the likes of VK Naresh, Suhasini Mani Ratnam, Tanikella Bharani, Pavitra Lokesh, Vennela Kishore, Praveen and Prabhas Sreenu in supporting roles, while Mehreen is the film's leading lady.



Another thriller in Rajasekhar's bank

Known for his penchant for Tamil filmmakers, Rajasekhar has zeroed in on Pradeep Krishnamoorthy, who has directed *Sathya* (the Tamil version of *Kshanam*) and Vijay Antony-starrer *Bethaludu*, for his next. A high-concept emotional thriller, the as-yet-untitled film will be produced by national award-winning producer G Dhananjayan under his Creative Entertainers and Distributors. The actor evinced his interest to headline the film after listening to the single-line story. The producer is planning to wrap up the project in a start-to-finish schedule and release it in March next year. The likes of veterans Satyaraj, Nasser and Brahmanandam have been roped in to play key roles, while Simon K King, who recently composed the music for *Killer*, has been signed on to render tunes. Rajasekhar's last film *Kalki*, an action thriller, with Prasanth Varma, failed to light up the box-office and the actor is pinning hopes on this one to get him back to winning ways.



Didn't know I had tuberculosis for 8 years: Big B

For eight years, megastar Amitabh Bachchan did not know that he was suffering from Tuberculosis and said that he does not mind calling him-

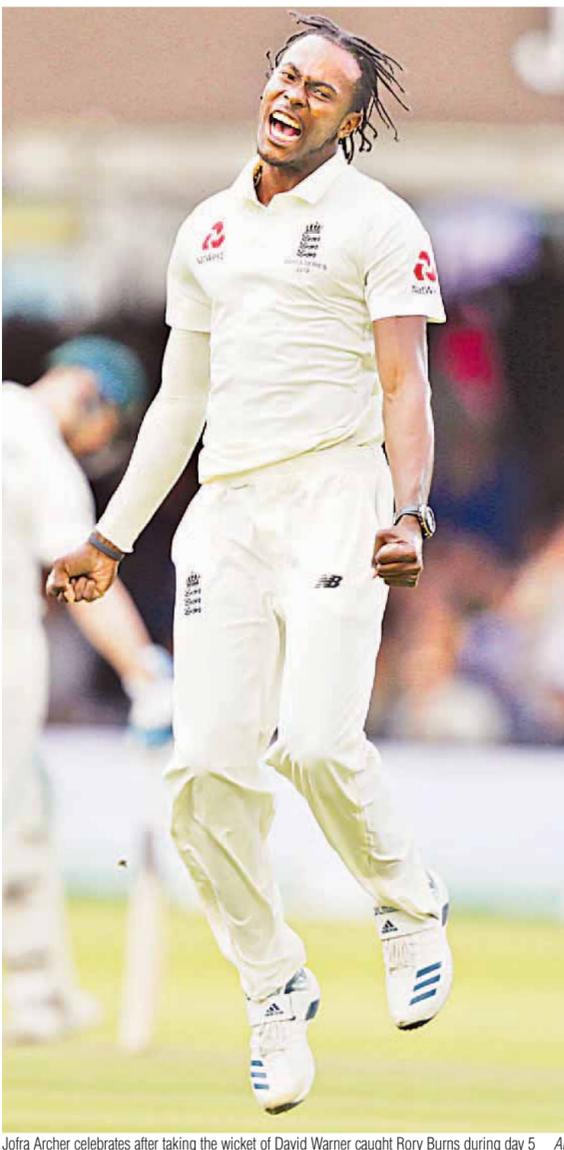
self a tuberculosis survivor. The actor was at NDTV's Swasth India launch, speaking to doctor Harsh Vardhan urging him to spread awareness about regular checkups to facilitate early diagnosis. "I keep quoting my example to try and propagate the idea of

getting yourself detected and I don't mind publicly saying that I am a Tuberculosis and Hepatitis B survivor. Bad blood infusion resulted in me losing 75 per cent of my liver. I was able to detect it after 20 years when 75 per cent of my liver was gone. I am still surviving on 25 per

cent," said Big B. The 76-year-old star, who has been associated with various health campaigns like Polio, Hepatitis B, Tuberculosis and diabetes, urged people to get tested and diagnosed. "Then there is a cure. Even with Tuberculosis, I did not know for

almost eight years that I was suffering from it. I keep saying with immodesty that if it can happen to me, then it can happen to anyone. Therefore if you are not willing to get yourself tested then you would never find out and there's never going to be a cure for it," he said.





Joe Root celebrates after taking the wicket of David Warner caught Rory Burns during day 5

Living up the hype

Root glad to see Archer 'shake up things' on Test debut

AFP ■ LONDON
England captain Joe Root said fast bowler Jofra Archer had "lived up to the hype" with a dramatic Test debut against Australia at Lord's. Archer, who replaced the injured James Anderson in team for the second Ashes Test, took five wickets in the drawn match, including 3-32 in Australia's second innings on Sunday. But Archer's display, which almost helped England achieve an unlikely and series-levelling win in a match severely affected by rain, was about much more than economical figures. The 24-year-old quick's sheer speed gave England's attack a new cutting edge. Archer hit several Australians, with a fearsome bouncer that slammed into Steve Smith's unprotected neck leading to a concussion that kept the star batsman off the field on the last day at Lord's and could rule him out of the third Test in Leeds starting on Thursday. "He's come in and he really has made a massive impact, added a different dynamic to our bowling group and has given Australia something different to think about," said Root. "It's really pleasing to see someone come in on Test debut and really shake up things and live up to the hype — even some of the hype that he put on himself. "He makes things happen when not many others in world can. Such a unique action and way of bowling, and obviously natural pace, which is always going to be in the game on any surface." Root added: "When you've got that and the skill of other guys around it, it makes for a tasty combination and I think that's one of the reasons why we always felt we were in the game. "It makes for a very interesting last three games."

England unchanged for Headingley Test

AFP ■ LONDON
England named an unchanged squad on Monday for this week's third Test against Australia at Headingley. The injured James Anderson, England's all-time leading Test wicket-taker, will continue his bid to return later in the series by playing in a county 2nd XI match starting from today. England's selectors kept faith with the XI that drew the rain-affected second Ashes Test at Lord's, with the hosts having the better of an exciting last day before Australia held out to preserve their 1-0 lead. Surrey left-arm seamer Sam Curran, who did not play at Lord's, retained his place in a 12-man squad for the third Test, which starts at England captain Joe Root's Headingley home ground on Thursday. With just a four-day turnaround between Tests in London and Leeds, major changes were always unlikely. Now England will hope that is sufficient time for World Cup-winning fast bowler Jofra Archer to recover from the 44 overs he sent down at Lord's. Anderson did not play in the second Test because of a calf injury will step his rehabilitation this week by playing for Lancashire 2nd XI against Leicestershire in a three-day friendly match in Liverpool. Anderson's fitness will be

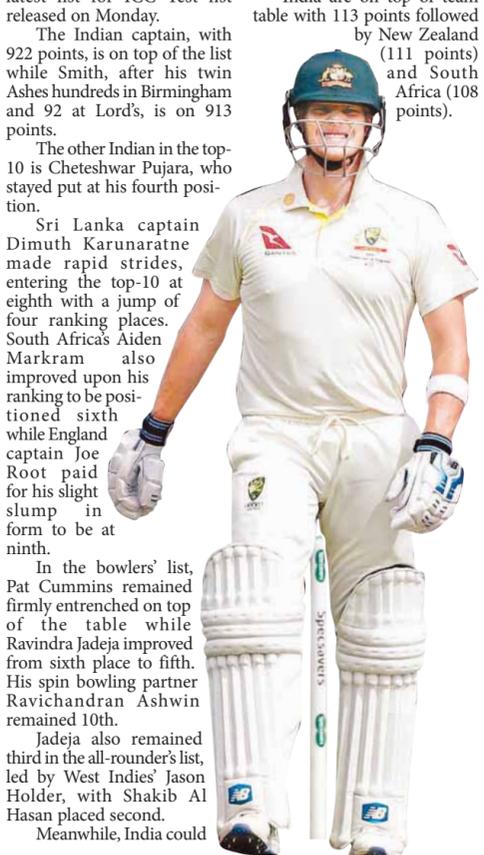


assessed continually ahead of the fourth Test at his Old Trafford home ground starting on September 4. While England's fallible top order remains a concern — opener Jason Roy has made just 40 runs in four innings this series — the selectors have resisted the temptation to bring in new faces. They were under less pressure to make changes after the uncapped duo of Dom Sibley and Zak Crawley, considered to be of the best young openers in England, were both out for low scores on Sunday. Sibley got a duck for Warwickshire against Somerset on Sunday and Kent batsman Crawley was dismissed for just five against Essex.

Smith closes gap as Kohli maintains top spot

PTI ■ DUBAI
Australian batsman Steve Smith pipped New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson to second spot with only nine points separating him and the top-ranked Virat Kohli in the latest list for ICC Test list released on Monday. The Indian captain, with 922 points, is on top of the list while Smith, after his twin Ashes hundreds in Birmingham and 92 at Lord's, is on 913 points. The other Indian in the top-10 is Cheteshwar Pujara, who stayed put at his fourth position. Sri Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne made rapid strides, entering the top-10 at eighth with a jump of four ranking places. South Africa's Aiden Markram also improved upon his ranking to be positioned sixth while England captain Joe Root paid for his slight slump in form to be at ninth. In the bowlers' list, Pat Cummins remained firmly entrenched on top of the table while Ravindra Jadeja improved from sixth place to fifth. His spin bowling partner Ravichandran Ashwin remained 10th. Jadeja also remained third in the all-rounder's list, led by West Indies' Jason Holder, with Shakib Al Hasan placed second. Meanwhile, India could

lose their pole position in the ICC Test Team rankings, as even a 1-0 defeat by the West Indies in their upcoming series will see them slip to 108 points. That margin will be enough for the West Indies to overtake Pakistan to seventh position at 88 points. India are on top of team table with 113 points followed by New Zealand (111 points) and South Africa (108 points).



Rahane gets runs ahead of first Test



PTI ■ COOLIDGE
Indian vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane got much needed runs under his belt ahead of the first Test as the visitors reached 174 for five at lunch on the final day of the three-day warm-up game against the West Indies A here on Monday. Rahane, who has not scored a hundred in more than two years, made a fighting 54 off 162 balls before a reverse sweep led to his dismissal. Rahane, who is the stand-in captain in this game, had come to open the innings after failing in the first essay. The Mumbai batsman had looked horribly out of touch during his 35 overs at the crease on day two. His 20 not out on Sunday had three boundaries but he played more than 80 dot balls, a testimony to his struggles. Rahane and Hanuma Vihari had resumed the innings at 84 for one and both batsmen managed to score half-centuries. Vihari, who was on 48 overnight, went on to make 64 off 125 balls in an innings comprising nine fours and a six with India extending their lead to 279 runs. Off-spinner Akim Frazer removed both Rahane and Vihari while Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja were the other batsmen to be dismissed. Wriddhiman Saha (6) and R Ashwin (5) were in the middle when lunch was called. On day two, Seniors most pacer Ishant Sharma bowled a fiery opening spell while left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav promised to pose stiff competition for Ravichandran Ashwin as India dominated proceedings against West

Saini stays as cover for Tests

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Impressed with his skill-set, the Indian team management has decided to keep speedster Navdeep Saini as a net bowler for the two-Test series against the West Indies, aiming to groom him for future red-ball assignments. Saini, who plays domestic cricket for Delhi, made his T20 International debut against the West Indies in Florida and won the man of the match award in his maiden appearance. He has earlier been the Indian team's net bowler and a cover for Bhuvneshwar Kumar during the ICC World Cup in England as well. "Yes, Navdeep Saini has been asked to stay back by the team management for the Test series. He will stay back primarily as a net bowler, they want to groom him for the Test format keeping an eye on the future," a senior BCCI official said on Monday. Saini, in fact, bowled six overs during the West Indies A first innings in the ongoing practice match to give relief to Ishant Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah and Umesh Yadav. Mohammed Shami and Bhuvneshwar Kumar didn't bowl in the first innings. "Saini has been a performer in red ball cricket for



the past few years. He has the pace, and ability to hit the deck, move the ball both in air and off the pitch. "If he is groomed well, it will only increase our pool of fast bowlers for the top tier cricket. That's how the team management is looking at him," the official said. It is believed that if Saini stays back, it will help bowling coach Bharath Arun to invest more time in the 26-year-old Karnal-lad, who has taken 120 wickets from 43 first-class games with three five-wicket hauls. "One can't ignore the effort that Arun has put in to make India's fast bowling unit



Pandey, Iyer to share India A captaincy

The five one day matches against South Africa A will be played at The Sports Hub in Thiruvananthapuram on August 29, 31 and Sept 2, 4 and 8

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Manish Pandey was on Monday named India A captain for the first three one-dayers against the touring South Africa A, while Shreyas Iyer will lead in the last two matches of the series beginning August 29 in Thiruvananthapuram. Rising talent Shubman Gill is there in both Pandey's and Iyer's teams and so are Vijay Shankar, Anmolpreet Singh, Ricky Bhui, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel and Nitish Rana. Ishan Kishan was picked as wicketkeeper in the team led by Pandey, while the immensely talented Sanju Samson will do duty behind the stumps under Iyer's captaincy. India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal is part of the team for the first three matches. The matches will be played at The Sports Hub in Thiruvananthapuram on August 29, 31 and September 2, 4 and 8. The All-India senior selection committee picked the teams here. **Team for first 3 one-day:** Manish Pandey (Captain), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Anmolpreet Singh, Ricky Bhui, Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Vijay Shankar, Shivam Dube, Krunal Pandya, Axar Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal, Shardul Thakur, Deepak Chahar, Khaleel Ahmed, Nitish Rana. **Team for last two one-day:** Shreyas Iyer (Captain), Shubman Gill, Prashant Chopra, Anmolpreet Singh, Ricky Bhui, Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Nitish Rana, Vijay Shankar, Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Rahul Chahar, Shardul Thakur, Tushar Deshpande, Ishan Porel.

Shastri names Iyer for No 4 spot

IANS ■ ST JOHNS
Head coach Ravi Shastri has for the time put an end to the debate over the No 4 spot in the Indian batting line-up by identifying Shreyas Iyer as the man for the job. Impressed with the pool of talented youngsters coming up the ranks in Indian cricket, Shastri — while speaking to *Times of India* — said Iyer will continue to bat at No 4 in ODIs for India. "One of the areas we concentrated on over the last two years was to blood as many youngsters as possible. Shreyas Iyer, for instance, he is going to stay at No 4," said Shastri who has been reappointed as the head coach till World 2021 T20. Iyer batted at number five during the just-concluded ODI series against the West Indies and scored 71 and 65 in the two innings he played. Wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant was India's number four but he failed to grab the opportunities and scored 20 and 0 in the two ODIs. Kohli, after the third ODI against the West Indies, said that 24-year-old Iyer has presented a strong case for himself to be a regular feature of the team in the limited-overs format. Earlier, former India skipper Sunil Gavaskar also advocated for Iyer to bat at No 4. "In my view, Rishabh Pant is much better like MS Dhoni at 5 or 6 as a finisher because that's where his natural game and natural flair will come into play," Gavaskar had said. "If it's a question of batting for 30-35 overs, then I think it should be Shreyas Iyer at No 4 and Pant at No 5," he had said.



Shreyas Iyer defends during third ODI of the three-match series against Windies

Support staff selection begins, announcement on Thursday

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Ignored for the head coach's position, Lalchand Rajput was among the aspirants appearing for interviews on Monday to pick the support staff of the Indian cricket team, joining heavyweights such as Venkatesh Prasad. The senior selection committee, led by former stumper MSK Prasad, started an extensive process to pick the support staff. The 57-year-old Rajput entering the fray means competition for the batting coach's position could only get tougher with former Test opener Vikram Rathour already emerging as a strong contender to replace incumbent Sanjay Bangar. Among the incumbents, bowling coach Bharat Arun and fielding coach R Sridhar have emerged favourites to retain their posts after head coach Ravi Shastri stressed on retaining the staff. However, Bangar still faces a tough challenge with most of the applications received for the batting coach's post. The former India all-rounder has been with the team since 2014 during which India have played 50 Tests and 119 ODIs. The process is expected to be completed only by Thursday after all the interviews for various positions including batting, bowling and fielding coach are done with. Also eyeing the batting coach's job are Pravin Amre,



Mumbai stalwart Amol Mazumdar and Saurashtra's batting bulwark Sitanshu Kotak. It was learnt that former India batsman Hrishikesh Kanitkar and ex-Delhi batsman Mithun Manas also appeared for interview before the five-member panel. One of the candidates said that giving presentation was not mandatory. For the position of bowling coach, former India pacers Venkatesh Prasad, Paras Mbabrey and Amit Bhandari appeared for the interview. As per the criteria for batting, bowling and fielding coach, the three personnel should have played at least 10 Tests or 25 ODIs and be less than 60 years of age. The process to choose the support staff will continue on Tuesday.