

**CITY 3**  
JAGAN SETTLING SCORES WITH TDP?

**MONEY 6**  
'TIES BETWEEN INDIA AND UAE BEST EVER'

**SPORT 12**  
THIRD-TIME LUCKY?



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VIJAYAWADA, SUNDAY AUGUST 25, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3



## ARUN JAITLEY, BJP'S MAN FRIDAY, PASSES AWAY

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Leaders across the political spectrum paid rich tributes to Jaitley, a quintessential moderate who was never associated with the hard edges of Hindutva politics.

He became a trusted friend of Narendra Modi as he smoothed the path for the Gujarat leader's rise in the BJP by helping him win key allies. Jaitley played an instru-

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

mental role in implementation of Modi's various ambitious schemes and programmes after the BJP came to power in May 2014. His most important legacy will be rolling out of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017, the biggest tax reforms after Independence. In his two brief stints as defence minister, Jaitley cleared the path for ushering in a raft of long-pending reforms in the armed forces and came out with key policy initiatives with an aim to make India self-reliant in defence production.

He was perhaps among the BJP bigwigs who made a smooth transition from

the Atal-Advani era in the party to the one where Narendra Modi dominated, ushering in the rise of new generation leaders. His death is another jolt to the BJP after the demise of Sushma Swaraj, a contemporary of Jaitley and one of its prominent faces, on August 6.

Party leaders mourned Jaitley's loss, remembering him as a dear colleague, mentor and guide and hailing his contribution to the growth of the party and the nation.

Jaitley, an urbane and media-savvy leader and a legal luminary, was one of the sharpest political minds not only within the BJP but also in the larger political spectrum where he made lifelong allies cutting

across the ideological divide. A gifted raconteur whose interest spanned from politics to Bollywood to sports, his informal gatherings were always a full house as journalists, friends and politicians enjoyed his wit, sarcasm which singed his colleagues and adversaries alike and grasp of issues that he delivered in his ever relaxed and warm demeanour. Jaitley was the bridge that the BJP used to win over new allies, and also its warm, affable and persuasive face to bring opposition parties around on key issues.

More stories in Page 4 & 5

### Have lost a valued friend: Modi

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



### Oppn delegation sent back from Srinagar airport

● Leaders question govt's 'claim of normalcy'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

have come, they are saying you can't come. The government is saying that everything is normal here, so if everything is normal then why are we not allowed to go in. It is surprising," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi told reporters at the Srinagar airport. He was accompanied by leaders of CPI(M), CPI, DMK, NCP, JD(S), RJD, LJD and the TMC. "We want to go to any area which is peaceful and talk to 10-15 people. If there is Section 144, I am ready to go in individually, we don't have to go as a group," he said. The CPI(M) said that the delegation had planned to visit various parts of the state over the next few days, talking to various people and sections of the populace and shades of political opinion to ascertain the situation existing on the ground and the difficulties that they are encountering as a result of the shutdown in the Kashmir valley.

### 5 Maoists killed in an encounter

PV KONDAL RAO ■ KHAMMAM

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

The identity of the slain naxalites, however, was not known. The police were conducting an identification parade with the help of naxalites who had surrendered in the past, sources said. A huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from the encounter spot, which is on the border of Khammam district.

According to Director General of Police of Chhattisgarh state Avasthi, the encounter occurred in the dense forest terrain of Abuzmad during the early hours on Saturday. The Bastar Police conceded the encounter and said it was the second such incident since August 3.

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

### UAE honours PM Modi with highest civilian award

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the abrogation of Article 370 enabled the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the Indian Union.

He also said the Parliament has made Jammu and Kashmir an integral part of India by ending Article 370, under the leadership of Prime Minister and India's most popular leader, Narendra Modi.

Shah was speaking at the passing out parade of IPS pro-

bationers at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA) here.

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

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



### Sonia gives nod to Left-Cong alliance in Bengal

PNS ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

### CM may stick to decision on Polavaram reverse tendering

G RAVI KIRAN ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy may stick to his decision on reverse tendering for the Polavaram project and hydel power project works despite the High Court order, according to reliable sources. He reviewed the status with Minister for Water Resources Anil Kumar Yadav, Principal Secretary of Water Resources Department Adityanath Das and other officials concerned on Saturday.

The Chief Minister instructed officials to work out the strategy to overcome the legal obstacles to go for reverse tendering. He also enquired about the Polavaram Project Authority's report, which was submitted to the Union government.

Officials briefed him on the arguments made in the High Court on behalf of the State government and those by the advocate of Navayuga Engineering Company. Post the High Court's order, the statements of TDP and BJP leaders also came in for

### Minister Anil rubbishes Chandrababu's claims

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Rubbishing TDP claims that the floods were man-made and were aimed at inundating Chandrababu Naidu's residence in Undavalli, the State Government has said that water was released as per the set norms. Speaking to media here on Saturday, Minister for Water Resources Anil Kumar Yadav said, Chandrababu's claim that the floods were man-made and were aimed at inundating his river front house in which he is residing is baseless argument. If we are to believe what he has said and the quantum of water we have released, Pulichintala water levels as of now would have been far less than what they actually are. The water was



released as per the set procedures only after the reservoirs were full and the crest gates were opened as per the standard operating procedure.

Brushing aside the criticism that CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has been in the US while there were floods in the State, he said that review was done from time to time and all necessary action was taken. The concerned Collectors were constantly monitoring the flood situation.

discussion. After a detailed discussion, Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy may con-

tinue with the reverse tendering process and after clearing legal obstacles.

### Abolish income tax, hike FD interest: Swamy

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

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

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

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

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

## Millennials shy away from buying house

NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD

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

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



of technology and all consumerism. It is "in-the-now" kind of thing. This lifestyle seems to have impacted the housing segment. In a recent report titled "What Ails the Housing Market?", ANAROCK Property Consultants pointed that millennials' 'no-guilt' towards renting is also one of the reasons for the current slowdown in the housing segment of real estate, apart from unfavorable return on investment (ROI), weak consumer sentiments, low job creation. The report notes, "the status perception of homeownership has faded - especially with on-the-move millennials who prefer to rent homes in convenient locations in whatever city

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

working are picking up. From fresher to mid-level, Hyderabad is a place where you buy real estate it grows. It may not be best asset, however for Indian customer, for Hyderabad, there is high sentiment quotient for property purchase or holding an asset. You cannot do this in Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta - they don't offer proposition of young dynamic city which is growing and future will be better. These signs are strong for Hyderabad." However, for a youngster who has no bigger obligations like parent, partner, children, they chose to be in a place where it's a convenient, well-equipped, and spend more time at workplace, instead of travel. Experts opine that even if rental markets continue to rise, it will create another set of buyers or investors who will buy an apartment and lease it out.

### Etela in the dock for 'leaking' CM meet outcome

● Revenue staff leaders' giveaway leaves minister red-faced

L VENKAT RAM REDDY ■ HYDERABAD

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

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



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

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

**VIJAYAWADA WEATHER**  
Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms  
Temp: 32/26  
Humidity: 80%  
Sunrise: 06:00  
Sunset: 06:35  
Current Weather Conditions  
Updated August 24, 2019 5:00 PM

CAPSULE

**FILL RAYALASEEMA PONDS WITH FLOODWATER: CPI**

**VIJAYAWADA:** CPI State Secretary K Ramakrishna on Saturday asked Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy to fill the ponds in Kurnool, Anantapur and Chittoor districts by diverting the floodwaters through Handrineeva project. He said the four districts of Rayalaseema was suffering from scanty rainfall and crops cultivated by farmers with the borrowed money have dried up causing huge losses to them. He said the State received flood waters owing to heavy rains in the upper riparian States and asked it to use the water prudently by supplying it to the drought-hit districts of Rayalaseema. He also asked the government to address the drinking water scarcity in Rayalaseema districts. "Because of the drought situation, many are migrating to nearby cities for work".

**SCR TAKES UP SPECIAL DRIVE AGAINST TOUTS**

**VIJAYAWADA:** The South Central Railway has intensified special drive against toutts and unauthorised agents at all reservation offices and travel agencies in major stations in order to curtail the toutting activities. Accordingly, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) conducted special raids on August 22 and 23. The raids were conducted at 49 locations all over the zone. In this operation, 281 live tickets and 772 used tickets total worth of Rs. 8,83,915 booked by the toutts on a commission basis were seized and 49 toutts were apprehended. The drive was intended to save passengers from black marketing of tickets and also arresting the loss of revenue to the Indian Railways as the toutts were carrying business without licence from the railways. "RPF is committed to taking stringent action against toutting activities. Passengers are also requested to purchase tickets from reservation counters and authorised travel agents only. If any person notices the selling of tickets by unauthorised persons, it may be reported to railway authorities", the release added.

**NEW TRAIN SERVICE CANCELLED**

**VIJAYAWADA:** The introduction of new train service - Train No. 12743/12744 Gudur - Vijayawada - Gudur Intercity Superfast Express from August 25 as announced earlier, has been postponed on account of technical reasons until further advice. Consequently, the inaugural special Train No. 02743/02744 Gudur - Vijayawada Intercity Superfast Express on August 25 and the regular services of Train No. 12743/12744 Gudur - Vijayawada Intercity Superfast Express from August 26 stand cancelled. "Passengers are requested to make a note of the same and in case any advance reservations, may cancel the tickets to claim a full refund," a release said.

**VIJAYAWADA BULLION RATES**

<b>GOLD</b>	₹ 38,100 (10 gm)
	₹ 280
<b>SILVER</b>	₹ 44,500 (1kg)
	₹ 800

**CHICKEN RATES**

Dressed/With Skin	₹133
Without Skin	₹152
Broiler at Farm	₹92

**EGG RATES**

HYDERABAD	315
VIJAYAWADA	330
VISAKHAPATNAM	361
<b>RETAIL PRICE</b>	₹3.30

# Health Min urged to come with policy for palliative care a la TS

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas was urged to formulate palliative care policy for more inclusive and easy accessible to people in Andhra Pradesh on the lines of Kerala and Telengana.

During a courtesy meet with Deputy Chief Minister at the government circuit house here on Saturday, G Sambasiva Rao, Chairman, Sneha Sandhya Age Care Foundation, along with Dr S Raju, Managing Trustee and Medical Director explained in details of the palliative care. Though the Indian Medical Council has incorporated palliative care curriculum this year in medical syllabi and nursing education in order to train the doctors and nurses in the palliative care, there was need of more efforts to be taken through awareness of the palliative care and charting out a policy on palliative care by the State government.

Apprising about Sneha Sandhya Age Care Foundation's noble initiatives to the Dy CM, G Sambasiva Rao, said: "It is the only organisation providing comprehensive palliative care services to



Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas receiving a bouquet on his arrival in Visakhapatnam on Saturday

people with life threatening or debilitating illness from diagnosis till death in the State and the goal is to improve the quality of life of both patients and families by responding to pain and other distressing physical symptoms, as well as to provide nursing care and psycho-social and spiritual support. Rao further stated that the foundation played a pivotal role in this area by having interdisciplinary, multi-dimensional team, comprising doctors, nurs-

es, counsellors, social workers, and volunteers. "We also provide home based palliative care services with care being taken to the doorsteps of patients. The aim of home-based care is ultimately to promote, restore, and maintain a person's maximum level of comfort, function and health, including care towards a dignified death", he mentioned.

Dy Chief Minister Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas assured that he would look into the matter for for-

**"Though the Indian Medical Council has incorporated palliative care curriculum this year in medical syllabi in order for train the doctors and nurses in the palliative care, there is a need to charting out a policy on palliative care by the government" G Sambasiva Rao, says Chairman, Sneha Sandhya Age Care Foundation**

mulation of state policy on Palliative care and lauded the initiatives of the foundation.

## Jaitley's service to cricket was immense: ACA

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Cricket Association on Saturday condoled the demise of Arun Jaitley, former union minister and former President of Delhi and District Cricket Association, an affiliated unit of Board of Control for Cricket in India.

"In his passing away, the cricket circles in the country has lost a guiding force, who used

to come to the rescue of members of BCCI in crisis and allowed the game to go on and on," said GVK Ranga Raju, President, Andhra Cricket Association.

"Today is a black day in Indian cricket and for the cricket-loving public as the passing away of Arun leaves a vacuum among administrators, players and the sports loving citizens. The amount of effort he has put

in Delhi Association as well as in BCCI has brought global recognition and his services as Union Minister and in cricket as an astute administrator can never be forgotten" Ch. Arun Kumar, Secretary, The Andhra Cricket Association.

The members of the ACA joined their President and Secretary in conveying their heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

## Konetiraya Pavitrotsavams from Sept 9

**Tirupati:** The annual three-day Pavitrotsavams in Sri Konetiraya Swamy temple at Kosuviripalli will be observed from September 9 to 11 with Ankuraparnam on September 8. This annual fete is usually performed to waive off the sins committed, either knowingly or unknowingly, by the religious or non-religious staffs and pilgrims during annual Brahmotsavams.

## Spl officer reviews arrangements for Brahmotsavams



Special Officer AV Dharma Reddy, along with Chief Vigilance and Security Officer of TTD Gopinath Jatti and Tirupati Urban SP Anburajan, reviewing the security arrangements for the ensuing Brahmotsavams in Tirumala on Saturday

PNS ■ TIRUMALA

As the annual Brahmotsavams in Tirumala are fast approaching, Special Officer AV Dharma Reddy, along with Chief Vigilance and Security Officer of TTD Gopinath Jatti and Tirupati Urban SP Anburajan, reviewed the security arrangements.

The high-level review meeting took place at Annamaiah Bhavan in Tirumala on Saturday. Speaking to the media after the review meeting, the Special Officer said every minute details were studied keeping in view the past experiences, on how to provide the security to a multitude of visiting pilgrims during the annual religious festival.

The SO also said providing hassle-free darshan and Vahana Seva is the ultimate

goal and our vigilance in coordination with the police will come out with a concrete plan on the security settings for the ensuing Brahmotsavams, he added.

Later, CVSO said parking, traffic, necessary signage boards and ghat road restrictions, which will be made for the upcoming annual Brahmotsavams, have been discussed with the Tirupati urban police wing. "In view of Garuda Varadhi works in Tirupati, we also discussed on traffic restrictions in the temple city. Like every year, this year also the movement of two-wheelers will be banned from midnight of October 3 till the morning of October 5 in view of Garuda Seva on October 4?, he added.

Tirupati SP told the media that a preliminary meeting was held on Brahmotsavam security.

## Early-stage entrepreneurs should not commit mistakes: Expert

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Charan Lakkaraju, Founder of Stumagz, a student discovery programme, interacted with students, start-ups and local businessmen at The Cultural Centre of Vijayawada & Amaravati as part of monthly edition of the Sedibus speaker series, said Deepa Balasubramanian, CEO, The Sedibus, Start-up Ecosystem of the Malaxmi Group, here on Saturday.

He explained how early-stage entrepreneurs should not commit mistakes and gave valuable insights and presented a good number of case studies on success and failure stories of start-ups. He suggested that early entrepreneur should spend his time figuring out, who would buy his product, should prepare a team to raise funds, should learn to do everything without depending on team members, shall have an obsession over the product and lastly build a proper advisory team. He also distinguished between the early entrepreneur and businessmen citing many examples.

The session was filled with Charan's insight and his own growth as an entrepreneur and



Charan Lakkaraju, Founder of Stumagz, interacting with students in Vijayawada on Saturday

**"Early entrepreneur should spend his time figuring out, who would buy his product, should prepare a team to raise funds", Founder of Stumagz**

concluded with some meaningful interactions, questions and answers.

Satya Srinivas, programme manager, the Sedibus, said that students from Andhra Loyola College, Gates Business School, V.R. Siddhartha Engineering College, Potti Srinamulu Engineering College and local start-up owners took part in the meeting.

## 'Students should be innovative, humble'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Former Income Tax Commissioner K Ajay Kumar on Saturday asked students to be innovative and acquire skills to meet the demands of the job market.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the Freshers' Day celebrations of the Sarada Educational Institutions at A-Plus Convention Hall. He said students should think creatively and focus on issues which can help them prosper in their chosen careers. "Be a good human being and help others. Along with success, you should not forget your parents, teachers and homeland", he emphasised.

Boomeberg Tube Chief Operating Officer K Sudhakar Sai from USA, asked the students to inculcate the habit of questioning, which will help



Students performing during the Freshers' Day of Sarada Educational Institutions in Vijayawada on Saturday

them acquire proper knowledge. "Each student is bestowed with good qualities. The need of the hour is nurturing them".

Pop and playback singer Smitha highlighted the art of goal setting and hard work. "If

you show commitment and concentration you can reach the goals. Whatever field you choose to try to reach the top with determination".

Sarada Educational Institutions chairman Y

As many as 2,400 students took part in the cultural programmes conducted on the occasion

Ramesh Babu said that Sarada College was the biggest day-scholar college in the city and believed in bringing several eminent persons to interact with students.

Students rendered both Hindi and Telugu film songs and also walked the ramp much to the delight of the audience.

Sarada Educational Institutions Managing Director Y Sarada Devi, College advisor ESRK Prasad and General Manager G V Rao were present.

## Emphatic win for Central Zone

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Central Zone defeated South Zone by eight wickets in the ACA u-16 Inter-Zonal 40 overs match on Saturday at ACA Women's Academy at JKC College campus (Guntur).

South made 131 for nine in 40 overs and in reply Central reached the target losing two wickets.

The scores: South Zone 131 for nine in 40 overs (G. Naga Lakshmi 39, M. Hasini three for 23) lost to Central Zone 135 for two in 35.1 overs (Mayassar Anjum 37, K Sai Poojitha 25).

Andhra Cricket Association secretary Ch. Arun Kumar announced ACA Senior Women One Day team and senior women T-20 team to participate in BCCI conducted tournaments for the season 2019-20

The teams: ACA Senior Women One Day team: N. Anusha (Capt.), K Jyothi (Vice Capt.), Ch Jhansi Lakshmi, V

Andhra Cricket Association secretary Ch Arun Kumar announced ACA Senior Women One Day team and senior women T-20 team for BCCI tournaments

Pushpalatha, E. Padmaja, G. Chandra Lekha, P.V. Sudha Rani, S. Hima Bindu, M. Durga, G. Sneha, K. Anjali Sarvani, K. Dhathri, S. Divya, N. Roja and A. Sri Lakshmi.

ACA Senior Women T-20 team: N. Anusha (Capt.), K. Anjali Sarvani (Vice Capt.), K. Jyothi, Ch. Jhansi Lakshmi, V. Pushpalatha, E. Padmaja, G. Chandra Lekha, P.V. Sudha Rani, S. Hima Bindu, P. Sri Lakshmi, M. Harika Yadav, G. Saranya, S. Divya, K. Hepsibha and A. Sri Lakshmi.

## Uday Double Decker train inaugural cancelled

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The inaugural programme of the Uday Double Decker train, scheduled for August 26 was cancelled in view of the former union minister Arun Jaitley's demise on Saturday. Minister of State of Railways Suresh Angadi Channabasappa was supposed to inaugurate the train service. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has also cancelled his programmes in Andhra Pradesh.

The Ministry of Railways decided to introduce the train No. 22701/ 22702 Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Double Decker UDAY express for 5 days a week with effect from August 26. On the day of inauguration, the train would have run as special express train with train No. 02701 Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada with open timings. The regular service would have commenced from August 27 as per the railway schedule.

## DO NOT REMOVE US, MEE SEVA EMPLOYEES ASK GOVERNMENT

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Members of Amaravati Mee Seva Association on Saturday urged the State government to utilise their services in the proposed Village Secretariats.

Speaking to media persons, association honourable president Manikonda Siva Chaitanya requested the government to fill the vacant posts with Mee Seva employees and conduct exams to the remaining. "There are 9,000 employees working at various centres on a self-employment basis offering 400 government services to people".

He said for many years the employees were taking welfare schemes of the State government to people and with little investment they were taking care of their families with the commission earned.

He said the thousands of families will be left in the lurch if the jobs were not given jobs in the Village Secretariats. "We are working since 2004 in Rajiv



Amaravati Mee Seva Association honourable president Manikonda Siva Chaitanya addressing the media in Vijayawada on Saturday

Internet Village centres and later in 2011, the name was changed as Mee Seva under the late YS Rajasekhara Reddy regime. We are serving as a bridge between the government and the people".

He urged the State government to take steps to continue their services in affiliated units of the Village Secretariats. "First, we started collecting only electricity bills, but from 2011 all the

Mee Seva Association honourable president Manikonda Siva Chaitanya urged the government to fill the vacant posts in Village Secretariats with Mee Seva employees and conduct exams to fill the remaining

departments were attached to us. He said all the centres were functioning sincerely from 8 am to 10 pm offering services of more than 40 departments. Association President P. Satya, vice-presidents V Vanshikrishna, secretary V Surendranath, treasurer B Vani Mahesh, Praveen and Vinay were present.

CAPSULE

**MAINTAIN HYGIENE IN TOWNS : PERNI**

**VIJAYAWADA:** Transport Minister Perni Venkataramaiah on Saturday made a surprise visit to various places in Machilipatnam town and inspected the cleanliness and hygiene there. He visited Englishpalem and enquired with the residents about the work of the sanitation department workers, the number of workers on rolls and the workers present on Saturday. He directed municipal officials to maintain hygiene in the town and see through that side canals are cleaned on a daily basis and that mosquito prevention measures are carried out. He also directed officials to visit all wards and enquire about maintenance. The Minister stated that Village Secretariats posts would be filled based solely on merit. He assured that by Ugadi, village volunteers would conduct door-to-door surveys and identify the eligible houses for registering house sites in their names.

**FORTNIGHT EYE DONATION AWARENESS CAMP FROM TODAY**

**Vijayawada:** Consumer Forum president R Madhava Rao on Saturday launched the fortnight eye donation awareness camp organised by Karuna Eye Bank. The awareness camp will begin on Sunday and conclude on September 8. Speaking on the occasion, Madhava Rao said that there was a need for eye donation, which one should do without discrimination of caste, creed, religion, customs and traditions. Karuna Eye Bank founder Chairman Dara Karunasree said that 13 lakh people in the country are suffering from blindness due to shortage of corneas. She said that the camp was organised to make people understand the importance of eye donation and clear myths surrounding it. She further stated that they have collected around 2,331 corneas. G Kishore, K Kanakarao, Raj Kumar, D Hanumantha Rao, Ganesh and others were present.

**A CALL FOR ECO-FRIENDLY GANESH IDOLS**

**Visakhapatnam:** To do away with idols made with plaster of Paris (PoP), an awareness campaign urging people to opt for eco-friendly Ganesh idols made with clay has been started. Paryavaran Margadarsi Vaisakhi is conducting the awareness campaign in the city with the Green Climate team. "We conducted workshops on making clay ganesh idols in KDPM High School here. It is time for us to think about our role in environment protection by taking small steps. Many people worship idols these days and the idols are made of harmful and synthetic colours that are harmful as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) guidelines," said JV Ratnam of Green Climate. "The CPCB had proposed ways to combat the situations long back in 2010. They suggested that the usage of PoP idols should be stopped immediately and that the idols should be made of biodegradable materials," said Ratnam.

**LAC Chairman for TTD Delhi temple quits**

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**  
Resident Commissioner of AP Bhavan, Praveen Prakash, resigned to the post of Local Advisory Committee Chairman for TTD temple in Delhi protesting against the government's decision to continue the vigilance inquiry despite his objections. He sent his resignation letter to Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal on Saturday mentioning serious grievance remarks over the inquiry ordered by the government on the alleged irregularities at the temple in Delhi. A petition was filed on July 22 demanding an inquiry on the alleged financial irregularities at the TTD temple works in New Delhi. Prakash had also ordered an inquiry on August 14 after consulting with the EO. Meanwhile, the

**Youth take to crime for easy money in city**

**G RAVI KIRAN ■ VIJAYAWADA**

With the city throwing up no employment opportunities despite being part of the capital region, educated youngsters are being drawn towards deviant means for earning money. Surprisingly, they are not doing this to meet their day-to-day expenses, but to lead a lavish lifestyle.

In a disturbing trend, more and more youths are taking to serious crimes like ganja peddling, cricket betting and even road robberies brandishing weapons. A few youngsters were involved in every possible crime, which fetches them easy money. Surprisingly, they are not doing it to pay their fees or routine expenses, but only to have a luxury life they are indulging in these crimes.

A few days ago in Guntur, four youngsters were arrested by the police while trying to rob a person, who was travelling in a car. They stopped the car on the road at gun-point and relieved its inmates of smart phones, jewellery and cash. But, with the sudden entry of a traffic police patrol vehicle, they took to their heels. The victim has complained against them to the



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■ A few youngsters were involved in every possible crime, which fetches them easy money. Surprisingly, they are not doing it to pay their fees or routine expenses, but only to have a luxury life they are indulging in these crimes

■ DCP Harshavardhan Raju said, "Our education system has become commercialised and there is no scope for teaching values and ethics to students. Monitoring by parents is very important in weaning their wards away from vices"

police. The police traced them with the help of CCTV footage and their two-wheeler numbers. They were shocked when they came to know educational qualifications of the accused.

While one youth has obtained a VISA to fly to USA, the other three are B Tech graduates, two of them doing jobs. What's the need for money for them? The answer that came from them to this

question is: "We do not have enough money for our expenses as we are used to have parties everyday and touring different places in nice cars".

Earlier, the Vijayawada Task Force police had arrested ganja peddlers. Later, it turned out that they are all B Tech students of various colleges. Even cricket betting has bitten the younger generation hard. It has become commonplace for many B Tech students to be

associated with cricket betting networks.

Both the police and parents were shocked to know the trend. P Prasad Rao, a parent of a student accused in a ganja peddling case, said, "We were shocked to know the news from the police. We never expected our son to be involved in such crimes. We are sending him enough money."

The police say that the students are being exposed to new cultures which are sucking them into dangerous ways of living. DCP Harshavardhan Raju said, "Our education system has become commercialised and there is no scope for teaching values and ethics to students. Monitoring by parents is very important in weaning their wards away from vices."

DGP Gautam Sawang at an earlier meeting opined that "Parental control is very important in preventing crimes by youngsters. Monitoring their children's activity and their expenditure, they can guess if anything is wrong. The police will register cases and investigate, but about the student's future later? That is the responsibility of parents and the managements of educational institutions."

**Pawan allays farmers' fears on shifting of capital**

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

Farmers from Amaravati met Jana Sena Chief Pawan Kalyan and BJP MP Sujana Chowdhary on Saturday where the leaders assured them that their demands would be met and supported them in their fight against the shifting of the capital city.

Pawan interacted with farmers and shared his opinions. He stated that he would tour the capital area and inspect the stalled works on August 30 and 31, and added that if any lapses were found, they should be corrected, but not by shifting the Capital from Amaravati.

He said, "I assumed that 4,000 acres were enough for a capital. A farmer knows only agriculture without green fields, he cannot do anything. Though many gave their lands willingly for the development of the capital, a few gave only by pressure. However, these farmers have sacrificed their lands for the capital, so there should be a capital in Amaravati".

BJP MP Sujana Chowdhary ruled out allegations of having land in Amaravati. He stated that the BJP would take care of



■ Jana Sena Chief to tour Amaravati on August 30

■ BJP MP Sujana Chowdhary ruled out allegations of having land in Amaravati. He stated that the BJP would take care of farmers and that they need not worry

■ He also assured the farmers that they need not worry about the statements of YSRCP leaders and opined they cannot shift the capital as they like

farmers and that they need not worry. He also assured the farmers that they need not worry about the statements of YSRCP leaders and opined they cannot shift the capital as they like.

**Deadline for e-KYC registration for ration card holders extended**

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

The civil supplies department has extended the deadline for registering e-KYC for ration cardholders from August 20 to September 5 and for children below 15 years up to September 15.

In many areas across the State thumbnails have not tallied with Aadhar records and people were instructed to get fresh registration to tally with ration card thumbnails. Many dealers were unable to complete this process because of server problems.

Though officials announced earlier that one could not apply for ration without the e-KYC registration, Srikanth Reddy, Chief Whip, on Saturday assured the people that they need not worry that their ration supply would be stopped without e-KYC.

He stated that ration would be supplied to all irrespective of e-KYC. In many areas, long queues were observed for the e-KYC registration and as family members, including children, had to be there for the process, crowd management did not succeed as planned.

**Capsized boat struck in Prakasam Barrage gate**

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

An iron boat that capsized and was washed away with floodwater to Prakasam Barrage has proved troublesome to the irrigation department and the district administration. Of the two boats that capsized were swept away from Pavitra Sangamam on August 14, one went through the open gate of the barrage, but the other one struck between the barrage top and Gate No. 68.

The NDRF and SDRF have been trying to remove the boat and technicians were also called to cut the boat with welding machines, but in vain. After floodwater levels came down all gates were closed, but as the boat was blocking the entrance, Gate 68 could not be closed due to



which water has been going outside the barrage.

On Saturday, Minister for Water Resources Anil Kumar Yadav, District Collector Md Imtiaz and other officials visited the gate and monitored the works going on to remove the boat. Experts from Vizag, Kakinada and other places had come to Vijayawada oversee extraction works.

As per officials' estimation, the boat would be removed and the gate would be closed by Sunday.

**Vehicle lifters gang busted**

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

Police arrested five members of a gang for lifting cars and two-wheelers in the city and recovered Rs 19.20 lakh worth vehicles from their possession.

Tata Prasad (35) alias Mamillapalli Sasidhar of Ghantasala in Krishna district, Namala Nagaraju (27) of Bhavanipuram, Vijayawada, Banavat Suresh (28) of Gouravaram, Jaggaiahpetta, Doddaka Govardhan (25) of Hanuman Junction and Periya Swamy (38) of Dindigul, Tamil Nadu were arrested by the police. Producing them before the media on Saturday, the police stated that Tata Prasad, Namala Nagaraju and Periya Swamy were habitual offenders and with the help of Banavat Suresh and Doddaka Govardhan, they stole three Taveras, one Alto and three two-wheelers.

DCP Vijaya Rao stated that the accused had not stopped



DCP Vijaya Rao producing the members of vehicle lifters gang in Vijayawada on Saturday

After a thorough inquiry, it was revealed that the gang members were involved in the theft of vehicles

their thefts even after being released from the prison. He informed that the five had tried to run the stolen vehicles in Chennai as travels vehicles. Patrol police questioned them while they were suspiciously

roaming at Bhavanipuram and were later shifted to the police station. After a thorough inquiry, it was revealed that they were regularly involved in the theft of vehicles. During the inquiry, the accused confessed that they used to observe vehicles that were parked at the same spot for a long time and then break-in during the night by smashing the front door glass.

Commissioner Ch Dwaraka Tirumala Rao and DCP Vijaya Rao appreciated Bhavanipuram Inspector Mohan Reddy and Sub-Inspector Krishna Babu for cracking the case.

**YSRCP failed to serve flood-hit people: Naidu**

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

TDP Chief N Chandrababu Naidu stated that their government had served people better at the time of natural calamities where as the YS Jaganmohan Reddy's government had utterly failed. He tweeted on the issue on Saturday where he mentioned that they had restored infra facilities within hours after the Hudhud and Titli cyclones hit north Coastal Andhra.

"We took care of every citizen from the cyclone affected areas by providing rehabilitation, food and other things. We removed fallen trees, restored electric poles, listed out victims' names and prepared the list of compensation to be paid within days. What

happened to that spirit during the Godavari and Krishna river floods under YSRCP's rule?" he stated.

He added that the Godavari river had flooded and thousands of crores of property loss happened in four districts, all within three months of YSRCP rule. Naidu alleged that it was all due to the mismanagement of the present government. "That is the difference between the TDP and YSRCP rule," he mentioned.

He stated that his government had combated Titli and Hudhud cyclones by alerting people early. "If they are not able to manage a natural calamity, then what's the use of this government?" he said.

**Two illegal gutkha units sealed in Vizag**

**PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM**

Two illegal gutkha (banned tobacco products) manufacturing and packing units, and two godowns where the ganja and tobacco products was stored, were unearthed by Vizag police in Rushikonda area on Saturday.

The police seized over 80 kg of dry ganja and banned tobacco products worth over Rs 40 lakh, and nabbed 10 workers as well as their machinery. Sampath Kumar from Srikakulam and Pedababu from Odisha, who have been running the illegal units from two houses at Rushikonda, are still at large.



R P Meena Vizag Commissioner of Police exposing fake Gutkha making units at Rushikonda in Visakhapatnam on Saturday.

Commissioner of Police RK Meena said that Sampath and Pedababu have been procuring

ganja and other raw material from parts of tribal pockets and also from neighbouring Odisha

for manufacturing the gutkha and khaini. They employed over 10 persons and hired two houses for the illegal business. Acting on a tip-off, PM Palem and City Task Force police carried out surprise raids at the units on Friday and seized the illegal substances. "The units produced the gutkha under different brands and supplied them to various persons at high prices," Meena said.

"We have launched a manhunt for the prime accused in the case and are also chalking out plans to register cases against the owners of the houses for giving rent for the illegal activities," the police added.



Traffic awareness being created among girls in Guntur on Saturday

**Honda launches road safety awareness drive for students**

**PNS ■ GUNTUR**

Firmly believing that spreading road safety awareness today will make a safer India tomorrow, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India Pvt Ltd's (HMSI) brought its road safety awareness initiative to Guntur for the first time.

Honda's unique National Road Safety Awareness programme aims at educating the youth on the serious issue of road safety in a fun way. In Guntur, Honda sensitised over 2,000 college students of Chalapathi Institute of Technology in three days.

In just seven months since its inception, the social responsibility movement by Honda 2 Wheelers India has educated more than one lakh students in 60 cities on road safety. Speaking on Honda's commitment towards sensitising people on road safety, Prabhu Nagaraj, Vice-President - Brand & Communication, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India Pvt. Ltd, said, "As a responsible corporate, Honda 2 Wheelers India is actively edu-

ating society on road safety since 2001. We are the youngest democracy of the world. Youth drive India's future. Honda believes that the youth are not only road users today, but also future riders. By imparting 'right knowledge at right age', Honda is creating a road safety mindset in children from a young age and building a safer India on roads tomorrow. The response of students of Guntur has been very positive as they have embraced road safety as a way of life."

The programme comprised a scientifically devised learning module, interactive virtual learning to increase students' risk prediction ability, honing existing driver's skills with slow riding activities and riding on narrow planks, women empowerment through Dream Riding Programme where safety instructors empowered female students to independently ride a two-wheeler in just 4 hours, and ensured that the students learnt more about road safety through fun educational activities like road safety games and quizzes.

**130 SRM students donate blood**

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

In all, 130 students of SRM University in Amaravati donated blood at a blood donation camp organised to mark the Founder's Day on the college campus on Saturday.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof D Narayana Rao shared the vision of Founder and Chancellor and MP Dr TR Paarivendhar, and his generous contribution to society through various social service activities. He said that 21 educational institutions were established by the SRM Management under the leadership of Dr Paarivendhar, and till date around 1.10 lakh students passed out from different streams.

He said that the founder's vision was to provide education to all and therefore provided scholarships to the tune of Rs 35 crore every year to the under privileged sections of society. The SRM institutions have around 10,000 employees and 70,000 students currently. The university's NSS division organised the blood donation camp together with the International Red Cross Society. Twenty NSS students received certificates for their contributions to the society. Registrar D Gunasekaran, university medical officer Dr Lakshmi Rajyam and Red Cross Guntur district in-charge Narasimha Rao, as well as faculty and students were present.

**CEAT unveils second Truck Service Hub in Kadapa**

**PNS ■ KADAPA**

CEAT extends services of Truck Service Hub (TSH) to Yerraguntla in Kadapa. CEAT Limited, a leading Indian tyre manufacturer, has launched its second Truck Service Hub (TSH) in the State. The TSH in Sri Sai Ram Enterprises in Yerraguntla will serve as a one-stop destination for all truck owners to provide exclusive services related to wheel alignment, balancing and tyre health inspection, along with the sale of CEAT truck and bus tyres.

The new TSH is a state-of-the-art facility, which has a tyre display area interspersed with customer seating areas and a huge space for multiple trucks to be serviced simultaneously. The Hub enables regular tyre check-up, which is of paramount importance as irregular wheel alignment or balancing could lead to an uneven tyre wear and also diminishes the



life of the tyre. With the services provided at the Truck Service Hub (TSH), CEAT aims at ensuring the safety of the truck owners on lengthy and tiresome highway journeys.

Speaking at the inaugural event, Amit Tolani, Vice-President, Marketing, CEAT Limited, said, "With this initiative, we are committed to providing the best service to customers, along with the sale of tyres, all under one roof. After

receiving a good response from the Truck Service Hub in Nellore, we are now expanding our network in Andhra Pradesh. We currently have Truck Service Hubs in West Bengal, Punjab, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu and aim to expand our network to various other regions in the country in the near future, thereby enhancing the service experience to various truck owners across the country."

CONDOLENCES

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

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



A big loss for the nation, BJP: Gadkari

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



'Contribution to governance profound'

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



Shashi Tharoor condoles Jaitley's death

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



Mamata Banerjee expresses grief over death of Arun Jaitley

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



Nitish, Giriraj condole the death of Arun Jaitley

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



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

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



Jaitley: BJP's man for all seasons

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

whenever the need arose.

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

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

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

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

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

Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

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

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

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

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

Even when Kumar snapped ties with the BJP

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

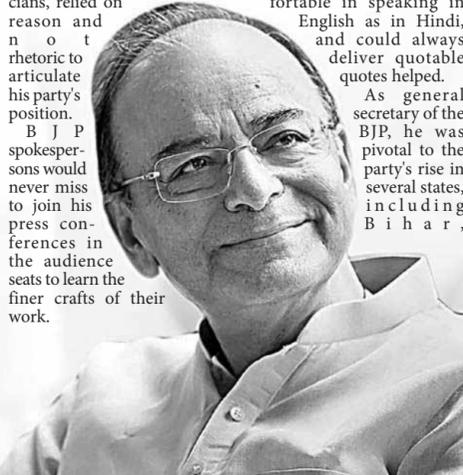
He was also a fine administrator who brought solid and steady hands at the helm.

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

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

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

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



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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Top political leaders pay tributes to Jaitley

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

"His insight on issues and nuanced understanding of

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

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



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

'A PART OF ME IS GONE'

Cricketers mourn Jaitley's death

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gambhir tweeted.

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

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

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

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

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

The big-hitting former opener was not done there.

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

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



Arun Jaitley playing cricket

ARUN JAITLEY WITH WORLD FAMOUS PERSONALITIES



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

INITIATIVES INVOLVING JAITLEY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KEY STRATEGIST

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

PM Modi remembers 'fiery student leader'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



programmes and ideology to a wide spectrum of society.

- Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) August 24, 2019

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

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



Raft of reforms as defence minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Jaitley's tenure as defence minister saw clearance of a

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

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

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

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

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

SHORT READS

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

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

Vice Prez cancels AP visit, to rush to Delhi

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

Country lost nationalist-progressive leader: Nath on Jaitley

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

'Mahajanadesh Yatra' to remain suspended today

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

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

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

Jaitley's contributions will be remembered forever: Sonia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Gandhi expressed deep pain



Arun Jaitley with Sonia Gandhi

and distress at the passing away of Jaitley.

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

will forever be remembered.

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

"He was a leader with deep

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

# 'Ties between India and UAE best ever'

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

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

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

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

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

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

ing and other sectors," Modi said.

"UAE investments in (sectors such as) infrastructure and

housing are being enhanced.

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



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

— NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## PM Modi launches RuPay card in UAE

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

CAPSULE



### FIEO sees strong flow of exports from eastern India

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

## Naresh Goyal created tax-evading schemes to siphon off funds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

"The search resulted in the seizure of various incriminating documents and digital evidences. Further investigation and analysis of the seized documents is going on," the agency said in a statement. It said preliminary probe "indicates that Goyal structured various tax evading schemes involving its domestic and foreign companies, thereby siphoning off huge amount in foreign jurisdictions through dubious or fictitious transactions".

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



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

"Huge amounts appear to have been sent abroad by way of inflated commission to its own group entity in Dubai which acted as airline's exclusive overseas general sales agent (GSA)," the ED alleged. The agency said probe indicates that Goyal is "likely to be" the beneficial owner of some bank accounts abroad having huge deposits.

"Prima facie these transactions involve various violations under the Foreign Exchange Management Act," it said. Official sources added that the charge of undisclosed

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

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

The businessman's empire, the agency said, had 19 privately-held companies, five of which were registered abroad. A particular company under the ED scanner is the Isle of Man-based Tail Winds Corporation and it is suspected that it controlled all the activities of Jet Airways.

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

## RBI unlocking entrepreneurial energy for growth: says Das

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

In India, the household savings are the principle livable resources in the economy, said Das, pointing out that of the total household savings of 17.2 per cent of GDP in 2017-18, only 6.6 per cent were in the form of net financial savings. "Greater financializing of the savings can increase the pool of domestic resources and it can substantially ease financial pressure on the balance of payment of the country," he said.

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

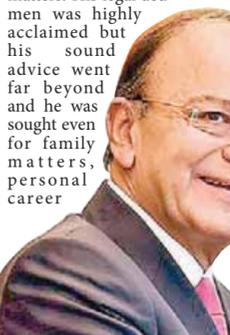
Tributes poured in from India Inc with corporate leaders expressing profound grief at the passing away of former Finance Minister and BJP veteran Arun Jaitley here, describing him as a true reformist and a great statesman.

The former Union Minister died at AIIMS on Saturday, where he was undergoing treatment for several weeks. He was 66. "A gifted orator, dynamic parliamentarian, champion of public policy and a man with an invaluable ability to connect with people from different sections, Mr Arun Jaitley's vision and progressive thinking has been a catalyst in shaping New India. RIP," Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani said in a tweet.

Bharti Airtel Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said

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

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



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

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

HDFC Ltd Chairman Deepak Parekh said the nation has lost one of its tallest leaders. The country will always be beholden to him for leading one of India's most significant reforms of recent times, which was the introduction of GST. "He was appreciated for listening to the views of industry and then putting forth practical and implementable solutions. As legal and intellectual stalwart, he stood out for his ability to multitask by simultaneous-

ly holding charge of key ministries. Deep condolences to his family. India Inc. must honour his legacy," Parekh said. Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal said it is an irreparable loss, not only to the party but entire nation. "With his in-depth experience in politics, law, finance, and global scenario, I always found him to be a visionary, patient listener, extremely knowledgeable and someone who could visualise and analyse long term implications of any decision. The nation will sorely miss his guidance," Agarwal added.



Gautam Adani (@gautam\_adani)

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

tribute to our nation's development. RIP".

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

### Not a 9-5 job person...

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

### Staunch in belief to not learn English...

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

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

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

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

When I was fighting for the Telangana movement, I was



### Living a simple life is my thing...

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

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

### Encourage joint families...

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

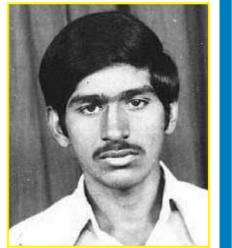
### Friends mean world to me...

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

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

### I WAS AN ADVENTUROUS KID...

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



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

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

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



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



# the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

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

09



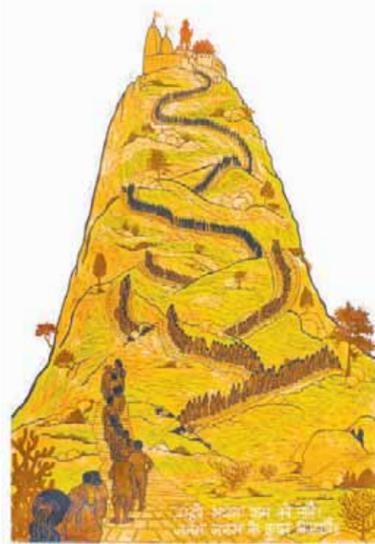
11

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

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



Suman Chandra; Art Alive Gallery



Champa Mohan; Blueprint12; DCAW



Ayesha Singh; Shrine Empire

# WHAT IS CONTEMPORARY?

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

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

**THE NARRATIVE**

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

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

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

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

**MAPPING THE MARKET**

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

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

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

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

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

**PROMISING YOUNG TALENT**

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



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

— Debasish Mukherjee, artist



Debasish Mukherjee; Aakar Prakar



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

practice further," she says.

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

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

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

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

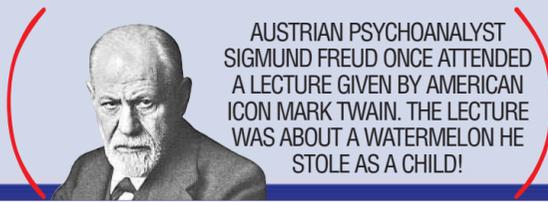
**FUTURE IS BRIGHT**

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

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

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





# A FINE BALANCE BETWEEN FACT AND FICTION

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

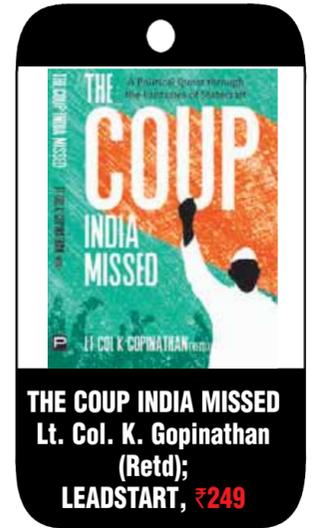
Unrelenting, Murthy looks out for a subterfuge to permanently silence his opponents so that he can concentrate on development of the country. His opportunity comes through a massive bomb blast in a shopping mall at Vijayawada

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

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

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

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



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

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

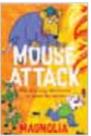
Exploiting the Baloch, Muhajir, and Pashtun unrest to create refugee crises and attract international attention is a reinvent of the Bangladesh saga. The military operations have been lucidly described. Keeping the United States, Russia and China in good humour, merges well with the plot.

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

The views expressed are the reviewer's own

## NEW ARRIVALS

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



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

**THE ADVENTURES OF SHRILOK HOMELESS**  
Pika Nani  
Penguin, ₹150



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

**FLYAWAY BOY**  
Jane De Souza  
Penguin, ₹250



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

# A LETTER FROM HOME

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



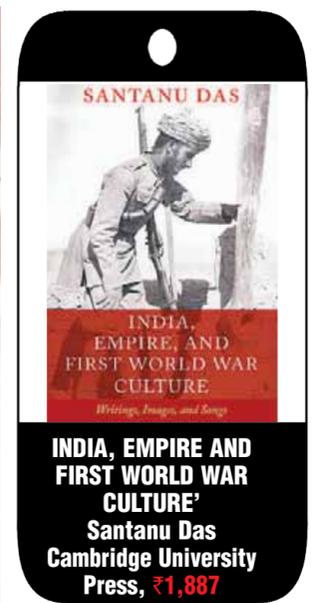
Artifacts of Private Jogen Sen, Duplex House and Museum, Personal Photograph

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

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

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

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



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

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

## SWEATSENSOR

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



K RAMYA SREE  
HYDERABAD

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

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

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

# TREATING SKIN INFECTIONS IN MONSOON



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



### TYPES OF SKIN INFECTIONS PREVALENT IN MONSOON?

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

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

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

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

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

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

### TYPES OF FUNGAL INFECTIONS:

- Athletes foot
- Yeast infection
- Ringworm
- Nail fungus

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

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

tors leading to the fungus becoming resistant to that drug.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# ILL! GET CURED WITHOUT A PILL

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

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

— K RAMYA SREE



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

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



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



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



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

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



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



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

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





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



**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**

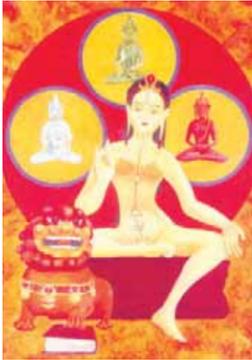
MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

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

**Lucky number** 11  
**Lucky colour** Pastel Blue  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

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

**Lucky number** 20  
**Lucky colour** Golden  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

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

**Lucky number** 8  
**Lucky colour** Camel Brown  
**Lucky day** Friday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

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

**Lucky number** 1  
**Lucky colour** Indigo  
**Lucky day** Friday



**VRIGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

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

**Lucky number** 12  
**Lucky colour** Yellow  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

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

**Lucky number** 9  
**Lucky colour** Red  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

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

**Lucky number** 16  
**Lucky colour** White  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

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

**Lucky number** 7  
**Lucky colour** Brown  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

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

**Lucky number** 17  
**Lucky colour** Silver  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

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

**Lucky number** 10  
**Lucky colour** Off-white  
**Lucky day** Monday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

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

**Lucky number** 3  
**Lucky colour** Peach  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

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

**Lucky number** 13  
**Lucky colour** Rose Gold  
**Lucky day** Tuesday

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**ASTROTURF**  
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

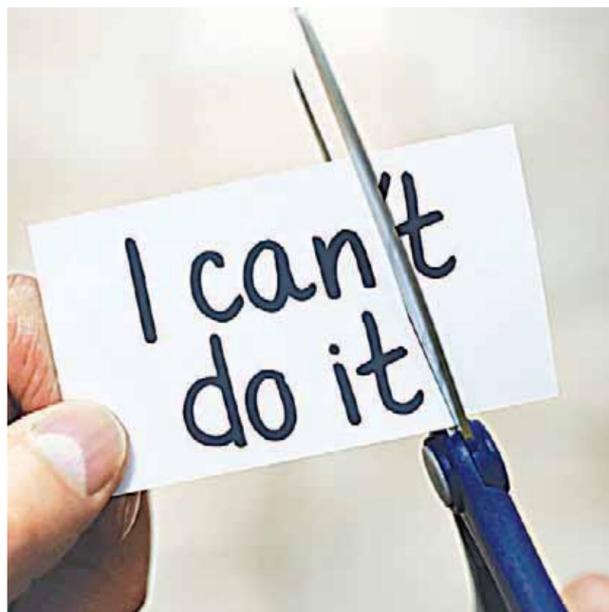
# Success calls for addressing fault lines

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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# Third-time lucky?

Sindhu to face Okuhara in repeat of 2017 final, Praneeth settles for Bronze

PTI ■ BASEL

PV Sindhu stood one win away from an elusive World Championships Gold after entering a third successive final but B Sai Praneeth settled for Bronze following his defeat to Kento Momota here on Saturday.

Sindhu, who had claimed successive Silver in the last two editions of the prestigious tournament beside two Bronze, was a picture of perfection as she outclassed World No 3 and All England Champion Chen Yu Fei of China 21-7, 21-14 in a 40-minute semifinal.

The 24-year-old Olympic Silver medalist will take on Japan's World No 4 Nozomi Okuhara in the summit showdown today. Two years ago, Okuhara had robbed off the Indian the title after an epic battle that went down as one of the greatest contests in badminton history.

The third seeded Okuhara outlasted former world champion Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon, seeded 7th, 17-21, 21-18, 21-15 in the other semifinal.

Overall, Sindhu enjoys a slender 8-7 advantage against Okuhara in 15 career meetings. The Indian will fancy her chances of a win, having beaten the Japanese on her way to the Indonesia Open final last month.

"I was well prepared and from the start I was in the lead and then finished it off," Sindhu said.

"In the second game, I made some unforced errors and then I was leading again and it gave me my confidence. Overall, the game went well and I hope it goes well tomorrow (on Sunday)."

However, Praneeth's impressive run ended after his attacking game couldn't dent the



PV Sindhu attempts to return a shot against Chen Yu Fei during BWF World Championships semifinal match

N Okuhara vs PV Sindhu  
Live from 3:30pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

defence of in-form defending champion Momota, going down to the Japanese World No 1 13-21, 8-21 in 41 minutes.

On Friday though, Praneeth achieved a rare distinction of becoming the first Indian male shuttler in 36 years to win a medal in the tournament.

Prakash Padukone was the first to win a men's singles World Championships medal — a Bronze — in the 1983 edition.

After his dream run ending with Bronze, Praneeth described the feat as one of the best of his international career.

The 27-year-old from Hyderabad, who was conferred with the Arjuna Award this year said, "This was one of my best tournaments that I ever had in my career. There are lots of learning and positives to take. I think the recent performances have been good," Praneeth told reporters.

Praneeth, who had finished runners-up at Swiss Open early this year, admitted he just couldn't find the wherewithal to put pressure on Momota during the semi-

final contest. "Momota was varying the strokes. I was pushing the pace but I wasn't getting the result. I was getting tired. I didn't know what to do. I was blank. I was attacking but a few strokes went out," he said.

"I couldn't think anything except hitting the strokes and he was taking all the shots and I was hitting the net too often."

“It is important to keep yourself focused. It is not over yet for me. Yeah, I am happy but not satisfied yet. There is one more match to go and I would want to get the Gold. It is not going to be easy. I have to be focused, patient and give my best in the final”

The world No 19 Indian lavished praise on the world No 1 Japanese, terming him a "complete player".

"He has got an all-round game and he can vary his game according to the opponent and that is a big plus point," said Praneeth, the 2017 Singapore Open champion.

"If you see, Momota is a completely different player. You can't go blindly and play him. You have to be fit and keep him in play and change the strategy all the time. The main thing is you have to be mentally fit."

"He has a lot of patience and variation. He can read his opponent. He has something different from others which is making everything tough to beat him. But we will figure it out and yeah, someday I will definitely beat him."



BWF/Twitter



Tom Latham, left, celebrates after scoring 100

## Latham ton drives NZ reply

AFP ■ COLOMBO

A sparkling century by Tom Latham powered New Zealand's first innings reply after Sri Lanka posted 244 on day three of the rain-hit second Test in Colombo on Saturday.

Latham, on 111, put together an unbeaten 70-run stand with BJ Watling, on 25, to thwart the Sri Lankan bowling attack that had made early inroads into the Kiwi batting.

The tourists were 196 for four at stumps, still trailing Sri Lanka by 48 runs.

Earlier Dhananjaya de Silva made 109 to lift Sri Lanka after they resumed the day on 144 for six following their decision to bat first.

But Latham made the day his own as he registered his 10th Test hundred — fourth against Sri Lanka — to hold the New Zealand innings after they lost key wickets including skipper Kane Williamson for 20.

Latham combined the right dose of caution and aggression as he hit 10 boundaries in his 184-ball stay at the wicket so far.

"Tom is getting better and better every season. He had a great summer back home," New Zealand paceman Tim Southee, who claimed four wickets in the Sri Lankan innings, told reporters.

"Great to see him kick on and continue that form overseas especially to come here and play the way he has played on conditions that are tough."

In the morning session, De Silva moved from his overnight 32 to complete his fifth Test century.

Southee returned figures of 4-63 while pace partner Trent Boult got three wickets.

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

India maintain their stranglehold over the West Indies with a healthy 75-run first innings lead, which swelled to 89 by lunch time on the third day of the opening cricket Test here on Saturday.

India bowled out West Indies for 222 in 74.2 overs in their first innings in reply to 297 with Ishant Sharma returning with best figures of 5 for 43.

Besides Ishant, Mohammed Shami (2/48) and left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja (2/64) scalped two wickets a piece.

For West Indies, Roston Chase top-scored with 48, while skipper Jason Holder played a fighting 39-run knock as the hosts failed to build up partnerships.

At the opening break of the third day, India were 14 for no loss in their second innings with Mayank Agarwal batting on 8 and K L Rahul on 6.

Earlier, resuming at the overnight score of 189 for eight, Holder and Miguel Cummins stuck together for 103 balls, forging a crucial 41-run partnership for the ninth wicket to take West Indies close to the Indian total.

Holder kept a calm head and guided his younger partner Cummins brilliantly to get as close as possible to the Indian total.

While Holder made 39 off 65 balls with the help of five boundaries, Cummins gave his skipper the right support from the other end by just staying at the crease although he couldn't open his account.

Cummins' determination to stay at the crease and give his skipper

# India fold WI for 222



Ishant Sharma celebrates with Virat Kohli after the dismissal of Kemar Roach

FASTEST INDIAN TO 50 TEST WICKETS			
Bowler	Tests	Inn	Time
R Ashwin	9	16	1 year & 10 days
Anil Kumble	10	20	2 years & 220 days
Narendra Hirwani	11	19	2 years & 200 days
Harbhajan Singh	11	21	2 years & 361 days
Jasprit Bumrah	11	21	1 year & 230 days

FAISEL FEATURES

company can be gauged from the fact that he played 45 balls for no runs.

The Indian bowlers found it difficult to break the stubborn partnership between Holder and Cummins as they needed 85 balls in the opening session of the third day to dislodge the stand.

The partnership was finally broken when Holder edged a Mohammed Shami delivery to wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant behind the stumps in the 74th over.

Left-arm spinner Jadeja finally drew curtains on West Indies innings when he cleaned up Cummins an over later.

TRY CROSS-SEAM

Ishant Sharma's late burst broke the back of West Indies batting and the senior India pacer attributed the good show to pace bowling partner Jasprit Bumrah's advice of trying cross-seam stuff.

Ishant took three wickets from

his final three overs to complete his ninth five-wicket haul in Tests on Friday.

"There was rain and after that the ball became wet and there was nothing happening (with the ball). So, we thought we can bowl with a cross seam. There was bounce. Actually Bumrah told me that we can try cross seam since there is nothing happening," Ishant, who returned with figures of 5/42, said.

"The attempt was, if you bowl out the opposition as soon as possible, it is good for your team. We tried that we were able to do that," he told fielding coach R Sridhar who interviewed him for bcci.Tv.

It was a special day for the lanky Ishant, who struck 19 runs and shared a crucial 60 runs with Ravindra Jadeja (58) for the eighth wicket stand during India's innings earlier in the day.

"To be honest, when I was out during our innings, I was not feeling good at all. The more I scored

## Black armband in Jaitley's memory

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

The Indian cricket team wore black armbands as a mark of respect for former union minister and veteran cricket administrator Arun Jaitley, who passed away on Saturday after prolonged illness.

Jaitley was one of the towering figures in Indian cricket administration.

A former president of Delhi & Districts Cricket Association, Jaitley was one of the most influential figures in the Indian Cricket Board, whose advice was sought for any decision on policy matters.

It was during his time as the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) president that the state team saw the emergence of stalwarts like Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir and in later years Ishant Sharma, Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan.

runs with Jaddu (Jadeja), the better it would be for the team. From 25 for 3, the kind of comeback we had, I wanted to have a long partnership with Jadeja," said the 30-year-old pacer who is playing in his 91st Test.

His five victims included two brilliant caught and bowled efforts, including the fourth scalp of Shimron Hetmyer in the penultimate over of the day.

# Root, Denly come to Eng rescue



AFP ■ LEEDS

England captain Joe Root and Joe Denly were fighting hard to prevent a three-day defeat in the third Test after Australia threatened another Ashes rout at Headingley on Saturday.

When Australia took two wickets for no runs in four balls to leave England 15-2, it looked like another dramatic collapse was on the cards following the hosts' woeful 67 — their lowest Ashes total since 1948 — in the first innings.

But at tea on the third day, England had recovered to 90-2.

Root, in on a pair, was 41 not out

and Denly 30 not out with their third-wicket stand so far worth 75 runs.

England still needed a further 269 runs to reach an unlikely target of 359 and with 39 overs left in the day there was time for them to be bowled out before stumps.

But they were at least making Australia work for a win that would see them retain the Ashes at 2-0 up with two to play in a five-match series.

Surrey openers Rory Burns and Jason Roy both fell cheaply shortly after lunch.

Left-hander Burns (seven) edged a lifting Pat Cummins delivery to David Warner at first slip before Roy, yet to convince as a Test match opener, played down the wrong line to Josh

Hazlewood, who took 5-30 in the first innings, and was bowled.

Root, in on a pair, got off the mark with a three off fast bowler Hazlewood to the delight of his home Yorkshire fans in a capacity, sun-drenched crowd.

Denly, the only England batsman to reach double figures in the first innings with 12, repeatedly played and missed either side of being hit on the head by a Cummins bouncer.

But both he and Root applied themselves on an increasingly slow pitch that was making life tough for Australia's pace attack.

And there was a huge cheer from the crowd when Root's controlled hook off Hazlewood raised a fifty part-

nership with Denly.

The odds were still hugely in Australia's favour, given only three sides have made more than 300 to win in the fourth innings of a Test at Headingley — Australia (404-3 in 1948), England (315-4 against Australia, 2001) and the West Indies with 322-5 two years ago.

Earlier, Marnus Labuschagne missed out on a maiden Test hundred as he top-scored with 80 in Australia's second-innings 246.

Labuschagne was 74 not out when Cummins's dismissal left Australia 226-8.

But rather than being denied a century in his seventh Test by a lack of partners, the South Africa-born batsman ran himself out.

## Labuschagne joins elite club

AFP ■ LEEDS

Australia's Marnus Labuschagne joined an exclusive club while making 80 against England in the second innings of the third Ashes Test on Saturday.

In the process, Labuschagne became just the fifth batsman and fourth Australian — a list that includes head coach Justin Langer — in Test history to make two scores in a match higher than a total posted by

an opposing team in one innings.

Labuschagne made 74 in the first innings. England were dismissed for just 67, their lowest Ashes total in 71 years.

The only batsman from outside Australia to achieve the feat is outstanding West Indies opener Gordon Greenidge, who hit two hundreds in a 1976 Test at Old Trafford, Manchester, where England collapsed to 71 all out in their first innings.

to beat a throw to Bairstow as his valuable 187-ball innings featuring eight fours came to an end.