

SPECIAL 8 WISHING FOR THE MOON

MONEY 10 GOVT ANNOUNCES REVISED PRIORITY SECTOR LENDING

SPORT 16 INDIA EYE PERFECT START

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A TOUGH COP WITH A TENDER HEART

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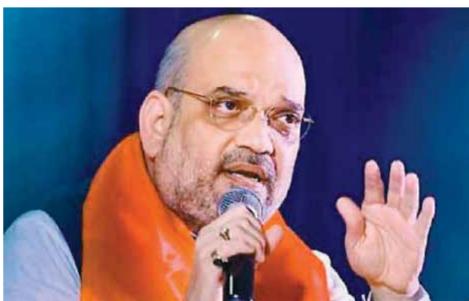
Shah for a common language, says Hindi can unite country

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday pitched for a common language for the country and said it is Hindi which is spoken the most and can unite the whole country. The home minister also said efforts will be made to expand Hindi to different parts of the country and asked everyone to use their native languages as much as possible. "India has many languages and every language has its importance. But it is absolutely necessary that the entire country should have one language that becomes India's identity globally," he said in a series of tweets in Hindi.

Shah said that today, if any language which can unite the country, it is Hindi that is spoken the most. "I want to appeal to people to promote their native languages but also use Hindi to make the dream of Babu (Mahatma Gandhi) and Sardar (Vallabhbhai) Patel of one language come true," he tweeted. Later, speaking at a 'Hindi Divas' function, Shah said Hindi should reach every individual and every home in the country. "Next year we will hold the Hindi Divas functions in different parts of the country. I appeal to every parents to speak to their children in their own language and also with the co-workers," he said.

He said when the country will face the next general election in 2024, Hindi would have achieved a monumental status.



MK Stalin, Asaduddin Owaisi fume at Home Minister's remarks

DMK chief MK Stalin on Saturday raised his protest against "imposition of Hindi". Referring to a remark by Union Home Minister Amit Shah wherein he advocated Hindi as India's national language, Stalin said that the statement would affect the unity of the country. However, West Bengal Chief Mamata Banerjee, who is a staunch opponent of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA government, tweeted in support of Hindi Divas, saying that while one might learn several languages, one should never forget their mother tongue. The DMK chief demanded that Amit Shah must take his statement back, adding that the Tamil Nadu party would discuss the issue at its executive party meeting. "We have been continuously waging protest against imposition of Hindi. Today's remarks made by Amit Shah give us a jolt, it will affect the unity of the country. We demand that he takes his statement back," said Stalin. All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi questioned the significance of Hindi Divas saying it "isn't every Indian's mother tongue". "Hindi isn't every Indian's 'mother tongue'. Could you try appreciating the diversity & beauty of the many mother tongues that dot this land? Article 29 gives every Indian the right to a distinct language, script & culture," wrote Owaisi on Twitter, adding, "India's much bigger than Hindi, Hindu, Hindutva."

The home minister said the language of the government should be a language which people can understand.

"When I first took charge of the Home Ministry, in the first 10 days, not a single file has come to me with Hindi noting. Now, 60 per cent files which come to me have Hindi notings," he said. Shah said a language can survive only if the new generation feels proud in speaking in the language. "It is our strength that we have many languages and dialects. We have to see that a foreign language does not overtake a native language," he said.

The home minister also said during the freedom struggle, the Congress conventions used to take place in different parts of the country and such initiatives empowered Hindi in those areas. Shah said if a Hindi-medium student is asked to speak for 40 minutes in Hindi, he won't be able to do so. "There is so much influence of English on us that we cannot talk in Hindi without its help," he said. Shah said Hindi should be taken in areas like law, science and technology. He said the Centre will teach children in northeast states to read and write Hindi. "I was in Guwahati last week. I am told that many people are hiring private tutors to teach Hindi to their children. We have decided that we will teach them Hindi, he said.

The home minister also referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and late External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj who delivered their speeches in UN General Assembly in Hindi.

FM announces Rs 70K cr package to boost growth

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday announced an over Rs 70,000 crore package for the exports and real estate sectors, including setting up of a stressed asset fund, as the government continued with firefighting measures to pull the economy out of a six-year low growth rate. A Rs 20,000 crore fund, with government putting in half of the amount, will be set up to provide last-mile funding for housing projects that are not in bankruptcy court or already tagged as bad debt, she said at a press conference here to announce the third set of measures to address stress in specific sectors and boost the economy.

Also, housing finance companies have been allowed to borrow funds abroad at relaxed rates while interest rate on housing building advance has



been lowered, benefiting government servants who make up for a major component of demand for houses.

The stressed asset fund will benefit around 3.5 lakh homebuyers, Sitharaman said, adding that buyers stuck in bankruptcy-bound projects will get relief through the NCLT.

For exporters, a new scheme for reimbursement of taxes paid

on exports, called the Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP), will come into effect from January 2020 to replace existing dispensations.

The new RoDTEP 'will more than adequately incentivise exporters than existing schemes put together,' she said, adding the revenue government will forego on the scheme is projected at Rs 50,000 crore.



Kapil Dev is Chancellor of Haryana Sports University

CHANDIGARH: Cricket legend Kapil Dev will be the first Chancellor of the Haryana Sports University at Rai in Sonapat district.

"Kapil Dev will be the first Chancellor of Haryana Sports University at Rai, Sonapat," Haryana Sports Minister Anil Vij said in a tweet on Saturday. The Sports University of Haryana will be the third sports university established by a state government in the country after Swarnim Gujarat Sports University (Gandhinagar) and Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University (Chennai).

Five of a family killed in car crash

AMARAVATI: Five members of a family were killed and another injured as a car in which they were travelling caught fire after it overturned in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district on Saturday, police said.

The victims comprised three children and two women. The ghastly tragedy occurred near Mamudugu village when the family was on its way from Tirupati to Bengaluru. The driver, Vishnu, apparently lost control of the car, which overturned and fell off the road. Under the impact of the crash, the vehicle caught fire, trapping the occupants.

RSS plans first outreach to foreign press

NEW DELHI: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat will interact with members of foreign press later this month, in first such outreach by the Sangh "to clear misconceptions" about the outfit and its ideology, sources said here. A Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) functionary, who is coordinating the meeting, said invitation is being extended to 70 foreign media organisations from various countries barring Pakistan.

Sangh's functionaries said the aim of the 'briefing' was to discuss the RSS' views on various topics, as well as to address some "wrong narratives" about the organisation that have developed over the years.

No more waiting for ITIR, TS govt going ahead in IT : KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

IT Minister K T Rama Rao on Saturday asserted that, irrespective of the Centre's stance on the proposed Information Technology and Investment Region (ITIR), Telangana is set to grow its investments in the IT sector. As part of ITIR, TS had proposed IT clusters.

"Neither UPA nor NDA (govt) gave even Rs 1 for ITIR project. As for the new NDA government, we asked 10 times — by meeting personally, writing letters, and providing information. They clearly said that they had given up ITIR. They said: "Our policy is not ITIR and it is not part of NDA."

KTR pointed out that despite repeated requests during meetings with then IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and though several letters were sent by the State, the Centre did not provide any funds.

Prasad went to the extent of saying that the government had shelved ITIRs. KTR then observed: "Even if they didn't give anything, nothing stopped. Because of ecosystem-centric policies of the Telangana government, IT growth is 17 per cent, unlike national average of 8-9 per cent."



Even if they didn't give anything, nothing stopped. Because of ecosystem-centric policies of the Telangana government, IT growth is 17 per cent, unlike national average of 8-9 per cent

— KTR, IT Minister

Dismissing claims of the Congress over not doing enough to get ITIR grounded, KTR said: "Bengaluru and Hyderabad never got Rs 1 for ITIR. Did Congress govt even put one brick for ITIR in

Bengaluru?" The Government is taking steps to encourage the establishment of IT companies in the eastern and southern regions of the city, KTR said. Addressing concerns raised by some members that the IT industry was currently concentrated in just the western part of the city, putting increasing pressure on infrastructure in the area, the Minister said the Government had already approved Maheshwaram and Raviryal areas for development of electronic industry clusters.

Continued on Page 4



Trump confirms death of Laden's son

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Saturday confirmed that Hamza bin Laden, the son and designated heir of Al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden, was killed in a counter-terrorism operation along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

US media reported in late July and early August, citing intelligence officials, that the younger Bin Laden had been killed sometime in the last two years in an operation that involved the United States.

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper confirmed the death last month, saying it was "his understanding" that Bin Laden was dead, but Trump and other senior officials had not publicly confirmed the news.

Governor's praise of Ayushman Bharat leaves Etela red-faced

MAYANK TIWARI ■ HYDERABAD

Although Telangana State has chosen not to implement the Union government's Ayushman Bharat because of the wider reach and efficacy of its own Aaroyasri scheme, Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan on Saturday deeply embarrassed State Health Minister Etela Rajender at an international conference by highlighting the Centre's health scheme as "the world's largest government-funded

healthcare scheme... growing from success to success in fulfillment of the Government's commitment to make healthcare accessible to all the Indian citizens."

Around 20 states have implemented Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), intended to provide health insurance to 10.74 crore households in the country. Telangana is among the half a dozen States that have not signed on the dotted line.

Continued on Page 4

Vet booked for death of pet dog at KCR's house

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad police have booked a veterinary doctor for negligence that led to the death of a pet dog belonging to Pragati Bhavan, the official residence of Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao.

A case under section 429 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 11 (4) of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act was booked

against Doctor Ranjit and the in-charge of a private veterinary clinic at Banjara Hills Police Station, police said on Saturday. The 11-month-old dog, named 'Haski', died allegedly after the veterinarian administered an injection on September 11.

On a complaint by Asif Ali Khan, the handler of pet dogs at Pragati Bhavan, the police registered a case and took up investigations. The complainant

alleged that the dog died due to negligence by the doctor and the in-charge of the clinic.

'Haski', one of the nine pet dogs at the chief minister's residence, suddenly took ill on September 10. It was not eating anything. The next day, a veterinarian examined the pet, which was running high temperature. The same day it was taken to a private clinic where it died. The complaint was lodged the next day.

Hyd to take Mumbai route for relocating polluting units

NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD

In order to move existing polluting industries to locations beyond the Outer Ring Road (ORR), the Telangana government is looking at replicating the strategy that was adopted for relocating Mumbai's textile mills.

In growing cities, change in land use and developments around industrial units take place automatically. Officials said that the Telangana government would offer incentives for relocating industries along the lines of what Mumbai had offered to its textile mills.

An official said, "Even in Mumbai, earlier there were a lot of textile mills on the outskirts. The city grew so much that the textile mills became heart of Mumbai. The government gave incentives to convert this land into residential-cum-

non-polluting industries. Even the Telangana government wants to offer similar incentives to units in Uppal, Nacharam, Jeedimetla and other industrial areas which have now become a part of the city". The plan is to remove these polluting units and



slowly convert these areas into residential-cum non-polluting industrial areas. Officials said that the government is mulling to give some concessions in construction for the industries to be moved out and allow them to switch to non-polluting businesses like IT, and eventually a part of it could be converted into residential areas as well.

In Nacharam, already Rahejas have set up residential kind of unit. This strategy will be adopted for relocating all the major polluting units of industrial corridors within the city. About 500 polluting units were identified to be shifted to 14 locations outside ORR; yet, not a single one has moved so far. This initiative was started in 2013. Still, not much progress has been made till date. Officials said that there

would be resistance as these industries were operating on thin margins and moving them beyond ORR would require fresh capital infusion. In order to create a win-win situation, the government would be offering incentives to these units to move out.

Concentration of industries inside ORR had begun to show negative effects like pollution and congestion; so, there was demand for moving the polluting units to outer areas.

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A delegation of BJP leaders, led by party's state unit chief K Laxman, met the Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan at Raj Bhavan and submitted a memorandum to her on Saturday

BJP steps up heat on 'TS Liberation Day'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders in Telangana on Saturday called on Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and demanded that the state government officially celebrate

Telangana liberation day on September 17.

A delegation of party leaders led by BJP's state unit chief K Laxman met the governor at Raj Bhavan and submitted her a memorandum.

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TODAY ALMANAC Month & Paksham: Bhadrpadam & Shukla Paksha Panchangam Tithi: Pratipada : 12:23 pm Nakshatram: Uttara Bhadrpadam: 01:45 am (Next Day) Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work) Rahukalam: 04:44 pm - 06:15 pm Yamagandam: 12:11 pm - 01:42 pm Varjyam: 09:39 am - 11:27 am Gulika: 03:13 pm - 04:44 pm Good Time: (to start any important work) Anvitakalam: 08:23 pm - 10:10 pm Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:47 am - 12:35 pm HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms Temp: 32/23 Humidity: 86% Sunrise: 06:04 Sunset: 06:18 Current Weather Conditions Updated September 14, 2019 5:00 PM

ASSEMBLY BUDGET SESSION

KCR, Bhatti face-off over 'debt'

■ CM has put state in debt trap, says Congress; KCR challenges Oppn to prove claims

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has challenged the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka saying that the latter has to prove his allegations that the state had Rs 3 lakh crore debts.

"The opposition can criticise the government if it wants, but it is spreading false news. It is true that the government reduced the Budget, but at the same time we explained as to why we reduced the Budget. It is not correct on the part of Bhatti to speak in a manner that we reduced the Budget even after having money. It is not correct to say that not a single project is visible. Mission Bhagiratha is not a project," he slammed Congress.

On Saturday, a heated argument took place between Chief Minister and CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka during discussion on Budget. While speaking on Budget, Bhatti said that there is no comparison between the reality and the statements of state government on Budget. He ridiculed the state government alleging that the government got a credit of introducing vote-on-account budget for six months and so that the full-fledged Budget experienced cutting.

He alleged that the TRS government is throwing the state into debt trap. It already brought Rs 3 lakh crore debts.

The TRS government still borrowing loans even in this budget, he said. Interfering Bhatti, KCR said that the TRS government opposed the Polavaram project, which will submerge Telangana and it is records.

The Chief Minister slammed Bhatti saying that the Congress did injustice while proposing Polavaram in the name of



'No rumblings in TRS'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav has made it clear that he will not speak with scribes as the situation is not good outside. During a chitchat with the journalists in Assembly lobbies on Saturday, Talasani said that there are more chances that the GHMC elections will be held as per schedule. He exuded confidence that the TRS will win two more seats additionally than previous GHMC elections. The TRS will show its 'hawa' even in Cantonment

elections. He said that there is no discussion and idea on division of GHMC. He made it clear that the BJP has no strength at ground level as was shown in the media. He said that there is no dissent in the TRS party and dismissed the rumours about the issue. He asked the scribes to question the leaders, who are unhappy with the party leadership, directly. When asked as to why he

discussed with the Malkajgiri M L A Mynampally Hanmantha Rao for two to three hours, Talasani said that he spoke to Mynampally casually. "I had that freedom as a Minister in TDP. I have same freedom even in TRS", he said. There is nothing to speak on AP politics. They are doing their works, he said.

'HEATED ARGUMENTS'

"Can you prove that Telangana has Rs 3 lakh crore in debts. If you can't, take back your words," Chandrashekar Rao demanded Vikramarka during the discussion on Budget in the State Assembly. The discussion on the Budget got off on a stormy note with the Congress leaders picking up arguments with TRS MLAs over the Budget

Indira Sagar project. KCR said that the credit of allocating 100 TMCs of water to Khammam district goes to TRS while constructing Seetharama project. At one point of time, Chief Minister seriously countered Bhatti saying "We will not keep quiet if opposition speaks as it wished. Are they not in a position to see Kaleswaram and Bhaktharamadas projects?

We filled 27,000 tanks with the Mission Kakatiya scheme. The Congress leaders are not in a position to learnt lesson even they defeated in elections". Continuing his speech, Bhatti said that they have no enmity against government to speak like that. "We are speaking on the priorities of the state", he said. Bhatti said that already 35 lakh acres of land is

being irrigated if the state would have moved with perfect plan in regard to irrigation projects. He said that already previous governments spent some amounts on Pranahitha, Devadula and Dummugudem projects. He said that the government spent nearly one Rs 50,000 crore on Kaleswaram project but not yet released single drop of water to fields.

'Focus on Eng medium in govt schools'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With an increasing number of parents preferring to admit their children in English medium schools, the State government had initiated measures to focus on English medium education in its government schools across the State. At present, English is the medium of instruction in about 8,000 government schools in the State.

Replying to a question raised in the State Legislative Council on Saturday, Education Minister P Sabitha Indra Reddy said the State government will roll out new initiatives over next a couple of years to retain students in government schools. "In association with Child Welfare department, we have attached 11,000 Anganwadi centres to about 11,000 primary schools in the State," she said.

'MIM is TRS' friendly party not Oppn'

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

For the first time in the Assembly history, the AIMIM has initiated debate on the Budget on Saturday as it has got opposition party status with seven MLAs in its kitty. The AIMIM Legislature Party leader Akbaruddin Owaisi has initiated the debate on Budget for the year 2019-20.

On the other hand, the Congress Legislature Party (CLP), which lost main opposition party status in Assembly as its 12 MLAs have merged with ruling TRS, met the Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy at latter's Chamber and submitted a memorandum. In the memorandum, the CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has mentioned that the august House is not giving its due position to the voice of dissent by changing seats of CLP leader and its members and allotting the same to AIMIM.

Bhatti mentioned in his letter that "on many occasions both AIMIM Chief Asaduddin Owaisi and TRS Chief K Chandrashekar Rao have



declared that they are friendly parties. How a friendly party is treated as an opposition party? I feel personally that allotting Opposition Block where Congress party members were sitting, to a friendly party MIM is nothing but suppressing opposition party in the House. Congress is the only opposition party which is having more number of legislators among opposition parties in this House. i.e. Second Telangana Legislative

Assembly'. Reacting on the memorandum, the Speaker said that both Bhatti and D Sridhar Babu knows the proceedings of the House very well as they worked as Deputy Speaker and Legislative Affairs Minister respectively, it is learnt. Bhatti requested Speaker in his letter to re-allot the Opposition Block to the Congress party members, at once in the best interest if the Democracy and Parliamentary

The CLP had lost main opposition party status as its 12 MLAs have merged with the ruling TRS

practices. It may be recalled that the Speaker allotted main opposition seats to AIMIM and shifted the Congress MLAs to AIMIM seats, which are next to main opposition seats, in the Legislative Assembly.

In the House on Saturday, Bhatti also commented several times during his speech on budget that AIMIM is ruling party's friendly party and allot more time to them to speak on the budget when the Speaker asked Bhatti to conclude his speech as he has given much time.

However, Bhatti continued his speech almost one and half hour saying time and again that "we are from opposition party and we have the responsibility to speak on public issues in the House".



Cong to govt: Declare health emergency in TS

PNS ■ WARANGAL

All-India Congress Committee (AICC) spokesperson Dr Dasoju Sravan has demanded the state government to declare health emergency in Telangana to check spread of viral diseases.

Addressing the Congress indefinite strike camp at MGM Hospital here on Saturday, he charged the Government with failing to respond promptly to prevent spread of dengue, malaria and other viral fevers in spite of deaths reported due to them across the State.

Alleging complete neglect of health sector by the government, he said the outlay for health sector in the Rs 1.82-lakh crore Vote-on-Account budget for 2019-20 was only Rs 5,536 crore, which corresponds to only 3 per cent of funds. Whereas other states, on an average, have been spending 4.8 per cent of the budgeted funds under the head of public health, he compared.

On the other hand, allocations to Kaleswaram and other irrigation projects were astronomical since the Chief Minister, with an eye on receiving kickbacks, he alleged. Lives of people in the new state remained unaltered, whereas benefits of statehood to Telangana are being enjoyed only by KCR and his family, he

AICC spokesperson Dasoju Sravan charged the TS government with failing to respond promptly to prevent spread of dengue, malaria and other viral fevers

lamented.

A criminal case was lodged with Banjara Hills police against a veterinary doctor since the dog of Pragati Bhavan, CM's official residence, he was treating died, he said quoting a news report.

Surprisingly, no action was taken against authorities when six children died of dengue in Gandhi Hospital on a single day, he said. Whether or not criminal cases for negligence should be booked against CM KCR and Health Minister Eteela Rajender, he questioned.

KCR was keen on building Secretariat and Assembly buildings, but not keen on improving facilities in government hospitals, he said pointing out the plight of tribal and Agency areas where medical facilities are still a far cry. What happened to the CM's promise to provide air ambulance by deploying helicopters in tribal areas, he questioned. Even after five-and-half years, the promise to build a 1000-bed hospital in district headquarters and a 100-bed hospital in man-

dal headquarters, made by TRS in its 2014 election manifesto, still remained unfulfilled, he pointed out.

He was quick to point out that it was the previous Dr YSR regime that upgraded the MGM Hospital in Warangal to a 1,000-bed facility. He charged the TRS Government with completely neglecting the hospital development and depriving funds to it.

Also, Osmania General Hospital, Gandhi Hospital and Niloufer Hospital in Hyderabad lacked in proper facilities and infrastructure. He reminded how 21 patients died on a single day in Gandhi Hospital when ventilators went off because of power cut as there was no back-up facility. The previous Congress regime had planned to execute Pranahitha-Chevella LI Scheme to irrigate 16 lakh acres at a cost of Rs. 35,000 crore, while the KCR escalated the cost of the scheme to Rs 80,000 on the pretext of project's re-design to cultivate only 18-lakh acres, he compared.

Ideas of start-ups to improve AB-PMJAY

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A Grand Challenge, an initiative of inviting start-ups and other companies to provide ideas on expanding coverage and improving the Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is to be launched on October 10.

Announcing this on Saturday, chief executive officer (CEO) of A B - P M J A Y and National Health Authority, Indu Bhushan told reporters here that the "Grand Challenge is, we are inviting the start-ups and companies which have innovations to support us and provide ideas in terms of how we can expand our coverage, how can (we) improve quality (under Ayushman Bharat), reduce costs, and we will select

top seven innovations. We will reward them, and also use their innovations and ideas in our scheme, he told reporters here. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was expected to launch the initiative in Delhi.

Indu Bhushan was speaking on the sidelines of 8th International Patient Safety Conference 2019' organised by Apollo Hospitals here. He said 18,000 hospitals have been empanelled so far and the effort was to get 25,000 on board. Right now, we want to stabilise the scheme and ensure that more hospitals come onboard.

At present, we have 18,000. We want to bring it to 25,000. We also want to ensure the quality of services. What I mentioned about standard treatment protocols, and ensuring that we can enforce them.



What's wrong in meeting Arvind?: Shakil

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS MLA from Bodhan Shakil Aamir Mohammed has said that he will announce openly if he wanted to shift his loyalties to other party. Reacting on the rumours that he is going to join the BJP on September 17, Shakil said "I am not afraid of anyone. I worked as a BJP Nizamabad district president earlier. MP Arvind's residence is next to my house. What is wrong in meeting Arvind. His father, D Srinivas used to come to my residence. Some TRS leaders would have felt happy if I changed party".

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES

GOLD	
₹ 37,880 (10 gm)	
₹ 5	↓
SILVER	
₹ 45,800 (1kg)	
₹ 1400	↓

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG

Dressed/With Skin	₹146
Without Skin	₹167
Broiler at Farm	₹101

EGG RATES ₹/100

HYDERABAD	332
VIJAYAWADA	359
VISAKHAPATNAM	370
RETAIL PRICE (IN HYDERABAD)	₹3.40

Venkaiah Naidu bats for changes in governance

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Urging sweeping changes in the manner in which India governs itself, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said the state, the legislature, the executive and the judiciary should work together and inspire synergy to ensure all-round development of the nation.

He laid special emphasis on expanding the Supreme Court and the establishment of more benches in different parts of the country, as recommended by a parliamentary committee, to end the inconvenience caused to litigants who travel long distances and spend a huge amount of money and energy to access justice.

Election petitions and criminal cases against political leaders must be decided quickly by special benches of higher



courts in a time-bound manner of six months to a year, he said after launching the book "Rethinking Good Governance" by former CAG Vinod Rai. "Through his astute commentary presented in the book, Shri Rai has focused on institutions such as the

Parliament, the Supreme Court, Election Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General, Central Vigilance Commission and the Central Information Commission, among others. "Leveraging his long and distinguished innings in public life, he has done a

commendable job of proposing a reform agenda, suggesting how the credibility of these institutions, once eroded, can be restored," Naidu maintained.

Opining that the welfare of the common man must be the enduring theme of our vision for transforming India, he said that it was the pious responsibility of all to ensure that the fruits of democratic good governance reaches everyone, especially the ones who were at

the farthest end of the development spectrum.

"Today, India is surging forward, fuelled by its vibrant economy, supported by its scientific and technological progress, aided and abetted by the energy of its burgeoning youth population and helmed by a stable and progressive government."

"The Prime Minister's zeal for reforms, reflected in his mantra of Reform, Perform and Transform, has given a new impetus to the transformational development of our country. "Today we dream of being a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25. "Reaching this lucrative goal would call for nothing short of the combined and united efforts of the government, the public institutions and the civil society," Naidu contended.

State creates history in importing urea

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Agriculture Ministry has announced in a statement that the Telangana government has created history by importing 12,000 tonnes of urea per day since September 1 to till date. It further announced that the government received 1,28,277 tonnes of urea till date from September 1 onwards.

The state received 6,000 tonnes of urea from Kribhco Hazira plant, Gujarat within 36 hours as it usually takes three days times. The state received 5,700 tonnes of urea through road, it said.

In a statement, the Agriculture Ministry stated that 18,200 metric tonnes of urea is getting ready for loading in various ports.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
O/o Panchayat Raj Department
SHORT TENDER NOTICE
Short Tender Notice No. HD/Tender/04/2019-20. Dt:13-09-2019. No of Works (11) Name of Work : C/O Add. Class Rooms, compounds, and other Civil works in under signed. ECV: 79.2 Lakhs. Last Date fixed for Submission of Application: 24-09-2019. Issue of Tender Schedules: 26-09-2019. Date of Receipt of Tenders: 27-09-2019 up to 3.00pm. Date of opening tenders: 27-09-2019 upto 3.30pm. 1% EMD at the time of Application. Period of Completion : 1st Call 6 Months, 2nd Call 9 Months, Nature of Contract: L.S Sd/- Executive Engineer, PR Division, Miryalguda. DIPR No.: 620-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2019-20. Date: 14-09-2019

CRIME CORNER

50-year-old killed in road mishap

HYDERABAD: A 50-year-old man was killed in a road accident when a lorry ramed his moped on the outskirts of Nemmani of Narketpally mandal in Nalgonda district on Saturday. According to the police, the victim was identified as K Narsimha Chari, a resident of Bajakunta village in the district. "He succumbed to his injuries on the spot when the lorry coming from the opposite direction collided head-on with his moped. Chari was heading towards Narketpally from Bajakunta when the accident occurred," the police said. On getting information, Narketpally police rushed to the spot and shifted the body to Government hospital in Nalgonda for postmortem. The police have filed a case and took up investigation.

Saidabad murder: Woman's body decomposed

HYDERABAD: The dead body of the woman found on Friday has been 70 per cent decomposed with maggots nesting in, making it hard to confirm the rape angle, said the Saidabad police, adding that they are checking the CC cameras in the vicinity for further evidences about the murderer. According to police, the deceased was identified as Anjamma, aged about 45, wife of Chandraiah, a resident of Champapet. The woman was allegedly raped and brutally murdered at the Vinay Nagar colony in Saidabad on Friday. Her body was inspected by the clues team and sent it to Osmania Hospital morgue for an autopsy. "The body was found around 11 am in a secluded place. She had injuries on her head, mouth, left ear and also near the private parts," said the ACP of Malakpet, M Sudarshan. Speaking about the findings in the PME report, the Police Inspector of Saidabad, KVL Narasimha Rao said that multiple stab and cut injuries were found on her body and it has been decomposing since 48 hours. "The body was 70 per cent decomposed and made it hard for us to ascertain the rape angle. However, we are probing the case by booking cases under section 376 and 302," he said.

Instead of challans, TS cops give helmets and documents

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

At a time when imposition of heavy fines for violation of traffic rules is evoking public anger in parts of the country, Rachakonda police commissionerate in Greater Hyderabad is trying an innovative method to make the motorists follow the rules.

Instead of imposing fines for violations, the traffic police is facilitating the violators to buy the helmet or obtain necessary documents so that the next time, they don't repeat the violations.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (traffic) Divya Charan Rao launched the innovative drive on Saturday.

Those found without helmet were helped to buy the same on the spot while those not hav-



Police officials giving a helmet to a motorist in Hyderabad on Saturday

ing documents like pollution checked or insurance were assisted to get the same from authorities concerned on the spot.

For the violators found driving without license, the traffic police got the slots booked

online with the Road Transport Authority (RTA) to obtain the license.

The initiative by Rachakonda police won appreciation from people. Netizens hailed the move, saying imposing penalties is not the only

Instead of imposing fines for violations, the traffic police is facilitating the violators to buy the helmet or obtain documents

solution to deal with violations.

Telangana's minister for urban development and municipal administration K. T. Rama Rao also patted the police for the innovative move. Rachakonda is one of the three police commissionerates in Greater Hyderabad and covers the suburbs.

Hyderabad and Cyberabad are the two other police commissionerates in the city.

Four held with 22 kg ganja at MGBS bus stand

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The east zone team of the Hyderabad Commissioner's task force along with the Afzalgunj Police have arrested four persons from MGBS bus stand at Afzalgunj and seized 22 kg of marijuana from their possession here on Saturday.

The arrested were identified as Indresh Singh (25), Alwala Manohar Singh (26), Karri Satti Babu (27) and Vangali Nagaraju (27). While Indresh and Manohar are residents of Mangalhat in Hyderabad, Satti Babu and Nagaraju are from Visakhapatnam.

According to the Police, Indresh Singh confessed to selling marijuana in small quantity to earn quick money apart from the income he gets as a kite seller. "He procures marijuana from agency area and sells it to customers in Hyderabad. His friend, Alwala Manohar Singh, decided to be a part of his business for a percentage of the income," said S Chaitanya Kumar, Addl. DCP,



The accused with the seized ganja on Saturday

Commissioner's Task Force, Hyderabad City.

"Indresh Singh contacted Karri Satti Babu and Vangali Nagaraju of Visakhapatnam and requested them to transport 22 kg of ganja from agency area to Hyderabad. According to their agreement, Sattibabu and Nagaraju boarded a private bus at Visakhapatnam and

came to Hyderabad to deliver the ganja" said the official.

The duo then got down at MGBS bus stand in Afzalgunj and were waiting for Indresh to come and collect it. Indresh arrived at the bus stand along with Manohar on the latter's two wheeler, when officials arrested them based on a tip-off.

Two cell phone thieves arrested

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Bowenpally Police arrested three persons, including a minor, and recovered 50 stolen cell phones and 5 tolas of gold from their possession on Friday. The accused were identified as M Vishal, Md. Nushrath Pasha and a 16-year-old boy.

According to the police, Vishal, Pasha and the minor, close friends, used to steal cell phones from the pockets of passengers in RTC buses. They sold these phones at Hong Kong Bazar in Secunderabad and Subhash Nagar. They have so far sold 49 phones this way.

Habitual offenders, they were also involved in theft of gold ornaments. They used to break open the locks of houses when the occupants were away. They committed two house burglaries under the Alwal Police Station limits and Bowenpally area and sold the stolen property in a gold shop.

KTR: Hyd outdoing Delhi, Mumbai in sewage treatment

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao said that by 2021, additional 700 MLD sewage water would be treated apart from the existing 735MLD. Responding to question in Assembly on Saturday he said, "Government is conscious, the Sewage Master plan by Shah Consultants will come in December 2019.

With 735 MLD capacity STPs, we are catering to only 40.8 per cent of city's needs. By 2021, we would like to enhance this through a PPP mode. Lot of private sector players are coming forward to setup sewerage treatment plants. We want to enhance this by another 700MLD. By 2036, we want to ensure the city is covered including the natural growth, which is projected to be 3000 MLD".

He said that Hyderabad is doing better at sewage treatment compared to Delhi and Mumbai. All the STPs in the city are functional. Instead of giving it annual renewal, the

Says by 2021, additional 700 MLD sewage water would be treated



KT Rama Rao

government decided to award the work for 5 year to reduce the lifecycle cost and will help the government and the city.

He said, "Hyderabad is one of those rare cities where 100 per cent solid waste is treated. We treat 5500MT of solid waste unlike any city in India. With respect to liquid waste management - When we look at Delhi Mumbai. Delhi's waste water treatment is only 30

With 735 MLD capacity STPs, we are catering to only 40.8 per cent of city's needs, says IT Minister

percent. Mumbai's treatment is 26 per cent but they have marine outflow. Hyderabad has 40.3 per cent unlike any other city in India"

He said that new layouts and apartment complexes have been mandated to have STP. Unfortunately, the maintenance is on society which is lacking. Existing sewer network in city is old and the sewer needs to be re-modeled and upgraded. Core city sewage system is divided into 6 zones aka zoneland 2 in South of Musi and Zone3 to 6 is north of Musi.

RTC-linked trade unions threaten strike

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Trade unions TMU along with TSRTC trade union NMU served strike notice on the transport corporation to push for its many demands. The RTC employees' union, TJMU, had served its own notice some time ago.

The TMU leaders Aswathama Reddy, Thomas Reddy and others handed over the notice letter to in-charge MD Sunil Sarma at Bus Bhavan. The NMU leaders also served the notice on the in-charge MD in the presence of newly-appointed transport minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar.

Soon thereafter, the Minister called an emergency meeting at Bus Bhavan. RTC officials, however, called it a routine meeting of interaction between the newly appointed minister and officials of the public transport undertaking.

The meeting is said to have discussed the financial position of RTC, its total borrowings, debt servicing, wage bill arrears etc. The officials brought to the notice of the minister that the strike would cause severe problems to the



The trade unions served the strike notice on the transport corporation to push for its many demands

people. The minister is said to have assured the officials that he would take up the issues with Chief Minister, and assured them of recovering the dues from the GHMC.

Prior to the meeting, NMU leader Nageswara Rao staged a dharna in front of Bus Bhavan. He called the Rs 550-crore allocation for RTC as meager, and demanded the management to clear dues up to Rs 800 crore and increase allocations to Rs 3,000 crore.

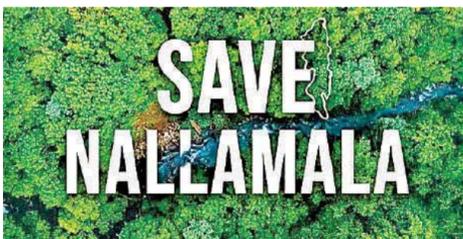
CBI issues notices to MBS Jewelers MD

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reportedly issued a notice to MBS jewelers Managing Director Suresh Gupta for allegedly failing to appear before officials in the MMTC fraud case. According to the officials, the case was related to Rs 194 crore losses caused to the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) through alleged fraudulent transactions and deceitful conduct.

Earlier in 2013, the City-based MBS Jewellers' promoter Suresh Gupta and a senior official of MMTC, K Ravi Prasad were arrested for alleged irregularities in gold imports and default of payment, worth over Rs 200 crore, the senior CBI official said. However, Gupta was reportedly not appearing before the investigating officers citing that he was attending meetings in Dubai.

They were arrested after irregularities in gold imports during 2010-11 were detected, besides an alleged payment default by Suresh Gupta to the state-owned MMTC.



#SAVENALLAMALLA

More celebrities join bandwagon

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The campaign to save Nallamalla forests gained further momentum with leading celebrities joining the chorus against the proposed uranium exploration and mining. #SaveNallamalla was trending on the social media with actors, sportspersons, NGOs, environmentalists and concerned citizens throwing their weight behind the online campaign. Popular actress Samantha Akkineni signed online petition addressed to the President urging him to intervene to save the forests spread over Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

As the voice grew louder, Telangana's Minister KT Rama Rao assured that he will personally discuss the matter with Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao. "I hear all of your concern on the issue of uranium mining in Nallamalla forest. Assure you all that I shall personally discuss the matter with Hon'ble CM KCR Garu," tweeted Rama Rao, who is also Working President of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and son of the Chief Minister.

The online petition, also signed by actress Anasuya Bharadwaj, voiced concern over the impact the uranium exploration will have on the forests, part of which falls in Amrabad Tiger Reserve and Nagarjuna Sagar Tiger Reserve.

As the voice grew louder, Minister KT Rama Rao assured that he will personally discuss the matter with Chief Minister

Yes!! But at what cost? Uranium mining will not only destroy the forest, it will contaminate the soil, flora and fauna. the waste will seep into the rivers and spread for miles & affect thousands of Indians," tweeted actor Randeep Hooda.

Well-known Indian doubles badminton player Jwala Gutta, well-known director Shekhar Kammula and actor Tanikella Bharni have already declared their support to the campaign to save Nallamalla. The Centre in May this year granted in-principle clearance for uranium exploration in Nallamalla. Popular actor and Jana Sena Party (JSP) leader Pawan Kalyan has also already announced his support against uranium exploration and mining. He backed the campaign launched by Congress party and said politicians should decide whether they want to leave a 'Bangaru' (golden) Telangana or uranium-polluted Telangana for future generations.

Young actor Vijay Devarakonda of 'Arjun Reddy' fame on Thursday came out in support of Save Nallamalla campaign.

Man held for harassing woman

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The officials of the Cyber Crime Police Station, Rachakonda have arrested a man for harassing a married woman, stalking her and blackmailing her for sexual favours.

The arrested was identified as Balne Nagaraju (26), a private employee staying at Peerzadiguda in Uppal. According to the police, Nagaraju and the woman met in 2015. "Nagaraju confessed that he used to follow her while she went to her college and they both became friends. He then took photos with the woman on his mobile. Nagaraju then told the woman that he wanted to marry her, as he loved her. But she refused his proposal and stopped talking to him. When the woman's parents learnt of this matter, they got her married to someone else," said D Ashish Reddy, Inspector of Police, Cyber Crime, Rachakonda.

Based on a complaint from the woman, the police registered a case under sections 354 D and 419 of the IPC and 66 C, 67, 67 A of the IT act and based on the investigation, arrested Nagaraju.

SCR told to increase train services

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy urged South Central Railway (SCR) officials to introduce more train services during Dasara and Diwali season to cater to the huge demand.

With already all seats in the train services for the upcoming festival season being booked, passengers who are applying for reservations are being put in waiting list. To ensure that passengers are saved from further inconvenience during festival season, Kishan Reddy has written a letter to SCR General Manager.

"I have written to SCR GM to add additional bogies to existing train services and introduce more train services during Dasara and Diwali festival season, as there is huge demand from passengers. I got to know that already passengers are given tickets in the waiting list, as there are no seats available. Therefore there is an urgent need to increase more train services. I have also spoken to SCR GM on the issue. He responded positively and said that he would take steps to avoid inconvenience



Kishan Reddy

I have written to SCR GM to add additional bogies to existing train services and introduce more train services, said Kishan Reddy

to rail passengers during festival season, which is very important for not just Telugu people in both states both all South Indians," said Kishan.

While Dasara falls on 8 October, Diwali will be celebrated on 27 October. SCR officials are expecting huge passenger rush all through the October month and in the first week of November.

Export demand hits onion supplies in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With the ease of curbs on onion exports, huge quantities of the spice is being exported overseas jacking up its prices to Rs 3,700 a quintal in the wholesale market here on Saturday. The vegetable was traded between Rs 2,500- Rs 3,000 a quintal week ago.

Not only from the Telugu states, but also from neighbouring Maharashtra the onions are being exported overseas, according to traders pushing up onion prices in all markets. Currently, onions are sold at Rs 40-50 a kg,



Hyderabad receives onion by way of exports from Maharashtra, rest of Telangana

and Andhra Pradesh and gets dispatched to the states back. In fact, 60-70 per cent of the

The exports of the commodity led to reduced supply to local markets leading to retailers hiking the prices of onions

onion demands are met from exports from Maharashtra. With the ease of curbs on onion exports, several traders are keen to export the commodity in large quantities. The Maharashtra onion enjoys huge



According to GHMC, the move is part of the arrangements being made to re-declare Hyd as ODF ++

In this backdrop, Officials have been directed to ensure that all the public toilets in the city are clean and the roads, streets, markets, bazaars and colonies are fully cleaned. GHMC will ensure maintenance of all public and com-

munity toilets in Greater Hyderabad with 28 defined standards.

As per the circular, officials have to identify at least two slums in each circle and carry out a complete sanitation programme. Officials have to take up sanitation activities in at least two commercial areas in each zone, such as markets, bazaars, mundi, and two residential areas, and extensive sanitation facilities at railway stations and bus stands. All STPs in the city should be functional. The ponds in the city will be kept clean and larvae should be treated.

Sign boards will be setup in the surrounding areas to inform the presence of toilet. Every toilet should have a complaints book. Complaints on handling of toilets should be resolved within 24 hours.

Teak logs worth Rs 50,000 seized

PNS ■ ADILABAD

Forest Department sleuths raided houses and seized teak logs stored illegally on their premises at Sirikonda mandal centre. The value of the timber was assessed to be Rs 50,000.

Utnoor FDO Vijay Kumar said that the sleuths carried out raids on four houses and recovered the logs found to have been secretly stored, following a tip off. He added a case was booked against the offenders and investigations were taken up. He warned that stern action would be taken against those who fell trees and transport the timber.

Sirikonda Deputy Forest Range Officer Prem Singh, Ahmed, Sirikonda Kawal Tiger Reserve and other staffers took part in the operation.

Applications for driving licence increase twofold

PNS ■ MIRYALAGUDA

The number of those who seek driving licences has doubled to 200 per day during the past one month because of the Center's new MV Act which came into force in many states, from September 1.

Though the Act is not yet implemented in the state, fines imposed by Police Department on some vehicle riders in Miryalaguda and Nalgonda towns, the people are approaching the authorities to make their documents up-to-date so as not to invite the wrath of the police.

They have been approaching the RTA office to acquire learning licence, driving



Miryalaguda and Nalgonda witnesses nearly 200 applications per day for licences, thanks to the new MV Act

licence and insurance cover for their vehicles from insurance providers. Hitherto,

some of the vehicle owners did not care to acquire licence though they have been dri-

ving vehicle all these days. Because of the new MV Act, they have been applying for learners' licences.

The Motor Vehicles' Inspector offices at Nalgonda and Miryalaguda issued 2,645 driving licences in July and it issued licences to 2,507 in August. In September, over 1,418 applied for licences in the first one week. The applicants have to wait for at least one week to book a slot in view of unprecedented rush.

Motor Vehicles Inspector at Miryalaguda Srinivas Reddy said that the number of applicants for driving licence almost doubled compared to earlier. He asked the people also to get their vehicle registered and insured too.

Are people's lives inferior to that of CM's pet dog?: Vijayashanti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC campaign committee chairperson Vijayashanti has expressed her dismay at the filing of a case against a veterinary doctor, holding him responsible for the death of a pet dog in Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's camp office, at a time when the State health authorities are not paying attention to the deaths of several people due to viral fevers.

In a statement here on Saturday, she said that the value of people's lives in the State was



inferior to that of a pet dog in the CM's camp office. She pointed out that there was no action against officials of the

Health Department for failing to take precautionary measures and against Globarena Technologies, whose irregularities in valuation of Intermediate Public Exam answer scripts led to scores of students committing suicide.

However, the death of a pet dog of the Chief Minister, called 'Husky' due to fever, invited the wrath of the rulers that resulted in filing of cases against Dr Ranjit, who treated the dog, under Section 429 (sub-section 11(4)) of the IPC and under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

30-day plan will lead to overall growth: Minister

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Development of villages was key for the development of towns, Transport Minister P Ajay Kumar said. He said the 30-day action plan introduced by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao would lead to overall growth of the State. The Chief Minister aimed to shape all the villages in Telangana as model ones, he added. Ajay Kumar along with MP Nama Nageswar Rao, MLC B Lakshmi Narayana, MLA Ramulu Naik, District Collector RV Karnan and others took part in a padayatra at Rebbavaram village of Wyra mandal in the district on Friday and joined villagers in 'saramanam'.



quito repellent properties instead of using chemical to end menace of the mosquitoes. Health and sanitation should be given priority, he pointed out.

MP Nageswar Rao asserted that under the leadership of Chief Minister

Chandrashekar Rao Telangana has been at top place in the country. The 30-day Action Plan would further helps to maintain state's standing in the country, he said. Ajay Kumar inaugurated District Panchayat Resource Center Building at NSP area, launched Rotavirus

vaccination at Mother and Child Care Centre of District Hospital, participated in 'Plastic-free Khammam campaign' at Bhaktha Ramadasu Kalakshetram, besides taking part in many other programmes.

The Minister distributed notebooks and pens to students at Zilla Parishad High School located at Rotary Nagar and which was adopted by him sometime back. Speaking on the occasion he informed that he had appealed to the leaders and his friends to bring notebooks, pens and other material useful to students instead of shawls and flower bouquets while visiting him to extend wishes.

"I am very happy to distribute the notebooks and pens thus collected to the students here. This tradition would be continued in the future so that it could inspire others. It would help the students to get the stationery" he said. DEO P Madanmohan and others were present at the programme.



Chandrababu vows to rebuild TDP in TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former AP CM N Chandrababu Naidu has expressed his readiness to rebuild the TDP in Telangana.

Addressing important party functionaries and LS constituency in-charges at NTR Trust Bhavan here on Saturday, he said that the TDP requires new leadership in Telangana and suggested rectification of leadership deficiency.

He vowed to strengthen the party in all 119 constituencies. He reminded the party functionaries that the very birth place of TDP was Hyderabad.

Leaders come and go, but the mainstay of the party is its cadres.

The party activists and sympathizers, who extended a grand welcome to him, showered their leaders with petals as he arrived at the party headquarters after a gap of nine months.

Governor's praise of Ayushman Bharat leaves...

Continued from Page 1

In Telangana, the health authorities vouch for Aarogyasri universal health insurance scheme that covers about 80 lakh families in the State.

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has gone on record that the state government is not interested in wasting public money on programmes such as the Centre's Ayushman Bharat "which are not beneficial to the people".

Echoing the Chief Minister's statement, Health Minister Etela Rajender, in his speech at the International Patient Safety Conference and Transforming Healthcare with Information Technology (IT), said: "Always, the unplanned expenditure is the healthcare expenditure in the state."

Etela, while appreciating

KCR has gone on record that the govt is not interested in wasting public money on as Ayushman Bharat

Aarogyasri scheme, said, "Our Government has allocated huge funds for the infrastructure, drawing patients to state-run health institutions."

Countering this, Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan said with a chuckle, while looking at Rajender: "As a medical doctor, I have been aware of the need of patients in India and I can say even the healthcare expenditure can be planned by health insurance schemes such as Ayushman Bharat."

No more waiting for ITIR, TS govt going ahead in IT: KTR

Continued from Page 1

He said, "Owaisi asked for start-up programme. In the Old City also we will try to get startup program, if we get any interest and land in the area with help".

Responding to the issue of IT development in two-tier towns raised by KP Vivekanand of the TRS and D Sridhar Babu of Congress, KT Rama Rao said: "IT Tower in Karimangar town is getting ready for inauguration next month. And the one in Khammam will be ready by November or December. The Government also identified 50 acres for a similar project in Mahabubnagar. Because of the rural technology policy, BPOs are operating in Jangaon, Huzurabad, Kamareddy, Jachherla," the IT Minister said.

BJP steps up heat to celebrate...

Continued from Page 1

This was the first meeting by state BJP leaders to submit a memorandum since Soundararajan assumed office as the governor on Sept 8.

Later, Laxman told reporters that the party will intensify the movement to bring pressure on the state government to officially celebrate the day. He alleged that TRS government under pressure from its ally AIMIM was not organizing the official celebrations. Recalling that BJP for the last 20 years had been fighting over the issue, Laxman alleged that successive governments of Congress,

TDP and TRS followed vote-bank politics by not officially celebrating Liberation Day.

It was on this day in 1948 that erstwhile Hyderabad State merged with the Indian union following "police action", as the Indian military operation against Nizam's army is popularly called. Laxman announced that BJP will organise hoisting of national flag and also hold 'Tiranga Yatra' across the state to mark the day. The party will organise a public meeting at Patancheru. However, Union Home Minister and BJP president Amit Shah will not be attending the event as was earlier announced by the party leaders.

NEW ROLE



Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao congratulates TRS MP Dr K Keshava Rao after the Centre appointed the latter as Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Industries, on Saturday

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Former Minister and BJP leader DK Aruna said the Bharatiya Janata party is emerging as the sole alternative in the state of Telangana. Addressing the active cadre meeting of the party in Kuthbullapur, the BJP leader said the people are recognising the BJP as the only alternative political force and it is emerging in this line in all the regions.

The BJP leader alleged that the TRS has failed utterly in focusing its attention on the popular issues confronted by the people of urban parts and even the party has failed to fulfill the assurances it has given during the Greater Hyderabad municipal elections.

The BJP leader called upon the cadre to prove their mettle in the greater Hyderabad elections in the coming months. She exhorted the active members of the BJP to remain alert and agile to face



Former Minister and BJP leader DK Aruna at a meeting in Mahabubnagar

any challenge whatsoever to stand in the elections. She emphasised the need to publicise the programmes and schemes of the Central government to the public.

Speaking on the September 17 liberation day celebrations, the BJP leader said the TRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao has changed his voice all of a sudden in order to lure the AIMIM. Prior to the formation of the state, he demanded the government to declare

the September 17 as the liberation day, but subsequently he changed his voice after joining hands with AIMIM, Aruna alleged.

She was critical about the deification of KCR in the temple pillars. The BJP leader called upon the cadre to ensure the rejection of Congress and TRS in Coming days and asserted that BJP would emerge the winner of 2023 assembly polls in Telangana.

Hyd to take Mumbai route for relocating polluting units

Continued from Page 1

Last year attempts were made by the government to relocate 'Red' and 'Orange' industries and some of them were served notices, but they sought some time.

An official said, "The companies asked for some time as moving a company involves lot of investment. These companies operate on very thin margins. Many companies feel that it is an additional burden and they have asked for additional time."

Even on Friday Minister K T Rama Rao mentioned that he wants to ensure that all hazardous chemical units are moved out of ORR.

It may be mentioned here that when Mumbai mills were relocated, the release of textile mills' land had created a positive environment for development and reduced uncertainty in property markets, both of which led to improved performance of local markets.

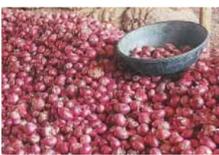
Supply onion seeds on subsidy, demand ryots

PNS ■ NARAYANKHED

Farmers cultivating onions have to purchase seeds from Pandaripur and Solapur at Rs 1,250-1,500 a kg with the Horticultural Department officials not supplying onion seeds on subsidy for the second year in a row. Farmers from Narayanakhed, Andole, Zaheerabad, Sangareddy, Regode, Raikod, Koheer and Nyalakal mainly cultivate onions.

At least two kg of seeds are needed to raise the crop in an acre. Earlier, the Horticulture Department used to supply the seeds at Rs 250-350 a kg. Failure to supply seeds on subsidy is putting financial burden on the farmers, who have to go to Maharashtra to buy the seeds.

The area under the crop in the district is put at 3,000 acres. In spite of the seeds problem, the farmers in the district are making preparations to raise the crop in rabi this year. At some places,



preparation of land is being made, yet other places the seedlings are raised in beds.

Sivajirao Patil of Raikod said that he had to go to Pandharpur in Maharashtra to buy a kg of seeds at Rs 1,500 as a kg of seeds in Telangana costs Rs 2,000. Exhorting the officials and political leaders to come to rescue of farmers, he said that if seeds are made available at Rs 500 a kg, they can save at least Rs 2,000 which is handy in getting de-weeding operations done. District Horticulture Officer Sunita said that till two years ago, seeds were supplied to farmers on subsidy. Currently, the government is not supplying seeds on subsidy.

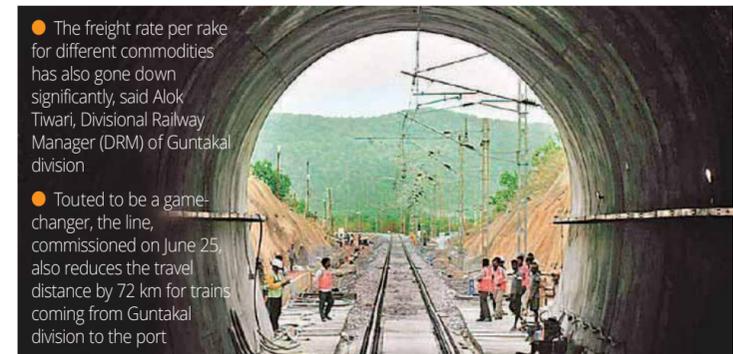
New line in Andhra a boon for India Inc

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

By cutting down travel time between Krishnapatnam port and the hinterland by five hours, the 112-km Obulavaripalli-Venkata chalam-Krishnapatnam port line has come as a boon for India Inc, which is now saving up to Rs 7 lakh per rake towards freight transport.

Touted to be a game-changer, the line, commissioned on June 25, also reduces the travel distance by 72 km for trains coming from Guntakal division to the port. The freight rate per rake for different commodities has also gone down significantly, said Alok Tiwari, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Guntakal division. "For coal, it varies from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 7.5 lakh; for fertilizers, it is between Rs 1.5 lakh and Rs 2.5 lakh; for iron ore, it is about Rs 6 lakh and for limestone too, it is Rs 5.25 lakh," he said.

The newly-built single line, which features country's longest electrified tunnel of 6.6 km from Cherlupalli and Rapuru railway stations, was constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 1,993 crore in a



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Touted to be a game-changer, the line, commissioned on June 25, also reduces the travel distance by 72 km for trains coming from Guntakal division to the port

The South Central Railway is hopeful that with the reduction in travel distance and time, there will be more freight trains moving through the line, translating into increase in the revenue for the railways

recording time of 43 months. The ambitious tunnel, built at a cost of Rs 437 crore, also has 44 trolley refuges and 14 cross-passages in a horseshoe shape.

According to Tiwari, the South Central Railway (SCR) is

hopeful that with the reduction in travel distance and time, there will be more freight trains moving through the line, translating into increase of the revenue for the railways. Presently, after the commis-

sioning of the new line, which is only for freight movement, 12 goods trains - six from each side - are taking the line daily.

A significant part of the SCR's freight loading is generated from Krishnapatnam port in Nellore district.

Besides facilitating the operation of freight trains on the Obulavaripalli-Venkata chalam-Krishnapatnam port route, the new line would also provide the shortest path for the Chennai-Howrah and Chennai-Mumbai railway routes.

It will also ease congestion of both passenger trains and freight trains in the Vijayawada-Gudur-Renigunta-Guntakal section. The new route, along with the recent concessions allowed by the railways for freight movement, has come at a time when the country is facing economic slowdown. Recently, the railways deferred the levy of busy season charge, waiver of supplementary charges on mini and two point rakes, discount on movement of empty containers and empty flat wagons and round-trip charging on container traffic among others. "A number of concrete measures have been taken to give concessions to freight customers and attract long term customers. For the last couple of months, the flood-like situation in southern states has affected us. Cement loading is completely down, and iron ore, which used to be imported, is no more imported as there is a ban on it," said Gajanan Malley, General Manager, South Central Railway. He also added that coal was almost entirely produced in the country and that there was hardly any import of it at present.

SHORT READS

MP blames undefined LAC for frequent border row with China

LEH: New Delhi and Beijing need to sit down and properly define the Line of Actual Control (LAC) to avoid border skirmishes, Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal has said. Describing the tension reported earlier this week along the border as "nothing serious", the BJP MP from the just-carved out Union Territory said, "we should not worry too much about such developments". The LAC has often witnessed skirmishes between troops of the two Asian giants on differing claims over the territory. "The actual problem on our border is that the border is not defined properly because of which China feels one thing and we feel another. The actual line of control is not fixed and demarcated properly, because of which such troubles keep recurring," Namgyal told reporters last evening.

Cong rejects Sunil Jakhar's resignation

CHANDIGARH: The Congress on Saturday rejected the resignation of Sunil Jakhar, who had resigned as Punjab chief after losing to BJP's Sunny Deol on Gurdaspur Lok Sabha seat. "You have submitted your resignation as President, Punjab PCC. Congress party does not accept your resignation and you are expected to carry on the good work as usual," a letter issued by Congress in-charge of Punjab affairs Asha Kumari said. When contacted, Kumari said Jakhar has been asked to continue as Punjab Congress chief. Jakhar had sent his resignation to then party president Rahul Gandhi, a day after 2019 Lok Sabha election results were declared on May 23. Jakhar lost the Gurdaspur seat to actor-politician Deol by a margin of 82,459 votes.

Woman shot while trying to stop husband-wife fight

NEW DELHI: A 21-year-old woman was shot when she tried to stop a fight between a husband and his wife in outer Delhi's Narela area, police said on Saturday. They said Rachna was shot around 10 pm on Friday when she intervened to stop the quarrel between Javed and his wife in Narela's Sector B2. On Thursday, Javed left his wife at her parent's home but returned to take her back forcibly. His wife refused, leading to a quarrel between them, said Gaurav Sharma, deputy commissioner of police (Outer North Delhi). Rachna, a neighbour, intervened to stop the fight but Javed shot her and ran away, Sharma said. She is recuperating at a hospital.

HC asks Centre exact number of vacancies for visually impaired

NEW DELHI: What is the exact number of vacancies for visually impaired persons in civil services exams since 1996, the Delhi High Court has sought to know from the Centre. A bench of justices S Muralidhar and Talwant Singh has directed the central government to give details regarding the backlog vacancies for persons with disabilities, particularly visually impaired, from 1996 onwards. The bench passed the order on a batch of petitions, while examining the alleged discrepancies in the vacancies for visually challenged persons in civil services exams, conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

MP Sanjay made BJP chief in Bihar, MLA Satish in Raj

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday made its Lok Sabha member Sanjay Jaiswal as party's Bihar unit's president, while appointing Satish Poonia, its MLA from Amber assembly segment in Jaipur district as the party's Rajasthan unit president, a party statement said.

Jaiswal, who has been winning from Paschim Champaran constituency on the trot since 2009, is seen as an ideological moderate who enjoys a non-controversial image. A vocal section of the state BJP has often targeted its ally and Bihar Chief Minister

Day curfew lifted in Kishtwar, hunt on for suspected terrorists

PNS ■ JAMMU

Day curfew was lifted in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district even as a massive search operation for suspected terrorists, who snatched the service rifle from a personal security officer of a PDP leader, continued for the second day on Saturday, officials said.

The day curfew, which was imposed in the town following the weapon snatching incident on Friday, was lifted but all educational institutions remained closed as a precautionary measure, the officials said.

A group of terrorists struck

the house of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Kishtwar district president Sheikh Nasir Hussain at Gourian village in the town and escaped with the service rifle of his Personal Security Officer (PSO) early Friday.

"The curfew, which was imposed following the incident, was lifted this (Saturday) morning. However, all educational institutions in the town have been closed as a precautionary measure," District Development Commissioner Angrez Singh Rana told PTI.

He said the night curfew, however, will remain in force till further orders.

A massive search operation



to track down the terrorists was going on, Rana said, adding the police is working on various leads and the culprits will be

brought to book soon. Officials said additional police and paramilitary forces have been deployed at entry

The curfew, which was imposed following the incident, was lifted this (Saturday) morning. However, all educational institutions in the town have been closed as a precautionary measure

ANGREZ SINGH RANA
District Development Commissioner



and exit points in the town, where all incoming and outgoing vehicles are subjected to thorough checking.

They said the private car of the PDP leader's brother in which the suspects fled was found abandoned in Dool village, about nine km from the town.

The hilly district, which was declared terrorism-free over a decade ago, has witnessed a number of terror strikes and weapon snatching incidents over the past 10 months.

Terrorists snatched the service rifle of the deputy commissioner's PSO Daleep Kumar on March 8. They struck again

at district hospital on April 9, killing RSS functionary Chanderkant Sharma and his PSO before fleeing the scene with the service rifle of the slain cop. On November 1 last year, terrorists shot dead BJP leader Anil Parihar and his brother Ajit Parihar in Kishtwar town.

3 Though major breakthrough eluded the security forces in the investigation of the terror cases in the town, a Lashker-e-Toiba (LeT) local terrorist Jamal-ud-din Gujjar alias "Abu Bakar", who was active in Kishtwar for one year and was carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh, was arrested from adjoining Doda district on July 24.

Auction of 2,700 items gifted to PM from Oct 3

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel on Saturday inaugurated an exhibition-cum-e-auction of gifts received by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last one year to raise funds for the Centre's Namami Gange Project.

More than 2,700 mementos, including shawls, pagris and jackets, at the National Gallery of Modern Art here will be auctioned on www.pmmementos.gov.in from Saturday till October 3.

Patel said around 500 mementos are presently on display entitled "Smriti Chinh" for the people at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) from 11 am till 8 pm.

"The displayed mementos will be changed every week. The gift items including paintings, memento, sculptures, shawls, pagri, jackets and traditional musical instruments etc are displayed artistically in the administrative wing of the NGMA," he said.

The lowest base price of the mementos is Rs 200 and the highest is Rs 2.5 lakh, Patel said



Modi himself lauded the effort and urged people to participate.

"Continuing a practice I have always believed in! All those gifts and mementos I have received in the last one year will be getting auctioned starting today till 3rd October. These mementoes will be on display at the NGMA near India Gate in Delhi," the prime minister tweeted tagging the link to the e-auction website.

The union minister said that a letter will be sent from the Government of India to top 20 highest bidders com-

plimenting them for their contribution towards the Namami Gange Project.

Patel said Modi is the first ever prime minister of India "who has decided to auction all the gifts he receives for a noble cause of conserving the lifeline of the country".

The proceeds from the auction will be used towards the conservation and preservation of the Ganga under the Namami Gange project.

Mementos include 576 shawls, 964 angavastram, 88 pagris and various jackets portraying the diversified and colourful culture of the country.

Focus on tackling malnutrition among urban poor, migrants: Centre to States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked states to focus on tackling malnutrition among slum-dwellers and migrant population in urban areas during a month-long campaign under the government's flagship nutrition scheme Poshan Abhiyaan.

The government said malnutrition in urban areas is mainly caused by increasing population of the poor, food safety risks and unhealthy food environment, and asked the states to expand the outreach of health and nutrition services among slum-dwellers and migrant population.

In a note to state and district authorities, the Women and Child Development Ministry said that "activities under Poshan Abhiyaan should be promoted in urban areas with an effort to expand the outreach of health and nutrition services among slum-dwellers and migrant population."

It has also set the responsibilities of the state, district and



block level officials which include special focus on migrant population and people living in slum areas.

It further said asked the states to take steps like strengthening convergence between departments, developing urban health mission and spreading the message Swachh Bharat Mission among others.

"Reach out to labour-centric industries or private employers to establish contact with migrant populace and sensitise

them on Poshan Abhiyaan. Identify urban unserved/uncovered pockets and reach out to these pockets with nutrition services via special drives," the ministry told the states.

It has also asked states and districts to promote urban primary health centres and organising anaemia camps in urban areas and slums.

"Organise door-to-door awareness drives on Poshan Abhiyaan in urban slums," the ministry said.

It further said asked the states to take steps like strengthening convergence between departments, developing urban health mission and spreading the message Swachh Bharat Mission among others

The states and districts have been asked to organise all these initiatives during the 'Poshan Maah' or nutrition month which is celebrated every September under the Poshan Abhiyaan. Poshan Abhiyan was launched by the Centre in 2018 to reduce low-birth weight, stunting and undernutrition, and anaemia among children, and anaemia girls and women.

Mamata Banerjee for farmers' welfare, promoting industry

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Celebrating the third anniversary of distribution of parghas (documents) to farmers of Singur, whose land was forcibly acquired by the Left Front government for Tata's Nano factory, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday expressed commitment to the welfare of peasants and also to promote industry in the state.

The Trinamool Congress supremo, on this day in 2016, had handed over land parghas to 9,117 farmers and cheques to 806 people of Singur and had described the occasion as a "historic day".

"Today marks the third anniversary of the historic day when our Govt of #Bangla handed over to farmers the parghas of land forcibly acquired in Singur," Banerjee wrote on her Twitter handle.

"We reiterate our commitment to the welfare of farmers, alongside promoting industry. My humble pronam to Maa, Mati, Manush," she added.

"Ma, Mati, Manush" (mother, motherland and people)



Mamata Banerjee

"We reiterate our commitment to the welfare of farmers, alongside promoting industry. My humble pronam to Maa, Mati, Manush," she added

state secretariat demanding employment for the youth of the state.

The activists had taken out a rally on Thursday from Singur, the venue of the abandoned Tata small car plant, demanding jobs for the youth of the state.

Singur had become the hotbed of West Bengal politics in 2008 after the Trinamool Congress of Mamata Banerjee led an agitation against the erstwhile Left Front government over acquisition of farm land for the car factory.

The TMC agitation eventually led to the exit of the proposed small car factory and catapulted Banerjee to power in 2011.

Respect all languages but not at cost of mother tongue

PNS ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said people should respect all languages and cultures equally but not at the cost of their mother tongues. Her statement came after Union Home minister Amit Shah pitched for a common language for the country and said it is Hindi which is spoken the most and can unite the whole country. Greeting people on the occasion of Hindi Divas, Banerjee tweeted, "My best wishes to all on #HindiDivas. We should respect all languages and cultures equally. We may learn many languages but we should never forget our mother-language." She also posted the greetings in another tweet in Hindi.

In a series of tweets in Hindi, Home Minister Shah said, "India has many languages and every language has its importance. But it is absolutely necessary that the entire country should have one language that becomes India's identity internationally."

Anna Medals for 130 in TN

PNS ■ CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Saturday announced Anna Medals to 130 personnel from the uniformed services and others. The Anna medals, named after late Chief Minister CN Annadurai, a Dravidian stalwart, are given to those including from the police, fire and forensic departments in recognition of their "outstanding devotion to duty," an official release said. The medals are awarded on the occasion of Annadurai's birth anniversary on September 15.

Further, a constable who was killed by sand mafia in Tirunelveli district will be posthumously awarded the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Police Medal for Gallantry, it said. "S Jegadish Durai, police constable, has been awarded the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Police Medal for Gallantry (Posthumously) for his gallant act in preventing sand smuggling by sacrificing his life," it said.

MP DROWNING Minister seeks action against senior officials

PNS ■ BHOPAL

A day after eleven people drowned after two boats carrying them capsized in a lake in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh Legal Affairs Minister PC Sharma has demanded a high-level inquiry as well as action against senior officials of police and district administration.

The incident occurred in Khatlapura on the banks of the Lower Lake during Ganesh idol immersion in the wee hours on Friday. In a letter addressed to the commissioner of Bhopal division, Sharma alleged carelessness and demanded suspension of the senior officials who were not present at the spot.

"The tragedy could have been averted had officials of district administration and police besides divers been present at the site of the immersion," he stated.

"Those officers (of deputy collector and tehsildar level) who were assigned the duty at the immersion site should be suspended and a high-level inquiry conducted," he demanded. Hours after the incident, district collector suspended four officials for alleged



PC Sharma

dereliction of duty. Revenue Inspector Anil Gawhane, who was on duty at the Upper Lake, also faced the similar action.

Assistant Police Sub-Inspector Shivvachan Yadav, who was posted at the site but was found absent, was also suspended. The Bhopal Municipal Corporation has suspended fire officer Sajid Khan and deputy city engineer R K Saxena, who were on duty at the immersion site, said a civic official. The municipal corporation had announced relief of Rs 2 lakh each to the kin of the deceased, while an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh, including an immediate relief of Rs 50,000, was declared by the collector

Tiwari writes to Kejriwal opposing odd-even rule

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari on Saturday wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal urging him to reconsider the move to implement the odd-even scheme again as it would cause problems to the people.

"This is merely a 'gimmick' to divert the attention" of Delhiites from core issues as the AAP government has "substantially failed" to deliver and wants to use taxpayers' money on advertisements for its own publicity, Tiwari alleged in the letter to the Delhi Chief Minister.

"I am writing to you, with great anguish over your government's decision to introduce odd-even policy in Delhi once again in the month of November. The decision has been taken without a proper thought. This had created so many problems for Delhiites the last time it was done," he said.

Kejriwal on Friday announced implementation of

Tiwari alleged the move was an "insult" to the law abiding citizens who get their vehicles regularly checked for pollution as they will face problems in commuting and dropping their children to schools



Manoj Tiwari



Arvind Kejriwal

the odd-even scheme in Delhi from November 4 to 15, saying it will be one of the seven measures against high level of pollution in the city due to crop stubble burning in

Haryana and Punjab during the period. Tiwari said the AAP government's decision to stick to the odd-even scheme speaks volumes of its "inability" to

come up with any scientific and reasonable measure to fight air pollution.

"In the interest of the people of Delhi, I urge you to rethink over this decision of implementing odd-even scheme and kindly spare Delhiites unnecessary hassles they would be subjected to with this move," Tiwari said in his letter.

Tiwari alleged the move was an "insult" to the law abiding citizens who get their vehicles regularly checked for pollution as they will face problems in commuting and dropping their children to schools.

The AAP government has targeted private vehicles although there is no scientific study to support that they are the biggest source of air pollution in Delhi, he said.

As a matter of fact, the air pollution in Delhi has reduced by 25 per cent with the opening of the Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways in Delhi, thanks to Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Tiwari said

"The two expressways keep out nearly 60,000 heavy commercial vehicles from Delhi roads, considerably reducing traffic congestion as well as pollution level," he said.

Under the scheme vehicles ply on odd and even dates as per their registration numbers. The scheme was previously introduced in Delhi by the AAP government in January and April 2016.

The opinion of experts as well as the people is divided over the efficacy of odd-even formula in combating air pollution.

Announcing its implementation, Kejriwal had said studies showed odd-even scheme reduced air pollution level by 10-13 per cent. Critics of the move point to lack of adequate number of public transport buses in the city, and role of dust in bringing down air quality.

Normal life hit in Kashmir Valley

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Normal life remained affected across Kashmir Valley for the 41st consecutive day on Saturday as the stalemate following the nullification of Article 370 continued with most shops and schools remaining shut and public transport off the roads, officials said.

Restrictions, which were imposed in the Hazratbal area of the city on Friday, were lifted, the officials said, adding most areas of the valley were restrictions-free.

They, however, said security forces continued to remain deployed at sensitive places across the valley to maintain law and order.

Restrictions were first imposed across Kashmir on August 5 when the Centre announced its decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution and split the state into two Union territories. The restrictions were lifted in phases from many parts of the valley as the situation improved with the passage of time.

The authorities have been



The authorities have been imposing restrictions in vulnerable areas of the Valley every Friday, apprehending that vested interests might exploit the large gatherings at big mosques and shrines to fuel protests.

imposing restrictions in vulnerable areas of the valley every Friday, apprehending that vested interests might exploit the large gatherings at big mosques and shrines to fuel

protests. Friday prayers have not been allowed at any of the major mosques or shrines, including Jamia Masjid in Nowhatta and Dargah Sharif in Hazratbal, for

over a month now. Meanwhile, normal life remained severely affected across the valley due to shutdown which entered its 41st day on Saturday, the officials

said. Most of the shops and other business establishments remained closed, while public transport was off the roads across the valley, they added.

A few vendors set up stalls on the TRC Chowk-Lal Chowk-Batamalo axis, they said.

Internet services remained suspended across all platforms, the officials said.

While landline phones across the valley were functional, voice calls on mobile devices were working only in Kupwara and Handwara police districts of north Kashmir.

The efforts of the state government to reopen schools have not borne any fruit as parents continued to keep the kids at home due to apprehensions about their safety.

Most of the top-level and second rung separatist leaders have been taken into custody, while mainstream leaders, including former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, have been either detained or placed under house arrest.



UAD thanks Modi govt for removing 312 Sikh names from blacklist

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The United Akali Dal (UAD) on Saturday thanked the Modi government for removing from a blacklist names of 312 Sikh foreign nationals allegedly involved in anti-India activities. United Akali Dal (UAD) General Secretary Bhai Satnam Singh Manawa also appealed to the Centre to release Sikh prisoners who were involved in such acts and have completed their sentences.

Expressing gratitude to the central government, Manawa said the removal of names from the government blacklist will enable them to pay obeisance at

Sri Harmindar Sahib in Amritsar. The government on Friday removed 312 Sikh foreign nationals from its blacklist of 314 people, who were involved in anti-India activities, Home Ministry officials had said.

The decision was taken after a review carried out by different security agencies on the Adverse List or blacklist. The UAD leader also urged Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to not levy USD 20 on each pilgrim visiting Sri Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in his country, saying such a move will restrict religious rights of Sikhs who wanted to visit one of the holiest places of the faith.

SHORT READS



Two of family killed as house collapses due to heavy rain

AMETHI (UP): Two members of a family were killed as their house collapsed due to heavy rainfall in Musafirkhana tehsil here, officials said on Saturday. Laxman Kori (55) and his granddaughter Santosha (13), residents of Thakur Pindara village, were buried under the debris of their house that collapsed on Friday night, SDM Mahatma Singh said. Both were rushed to the Community Health Centre in Musafirkhana where they were declared dead, the SDM added.

School teacher accused of misbehaving with 2 girl students

ERODE (TN): A teacher has been arrested for allegedly misbehaving with two girl students, police said on Saturday. Sakthivel (44) teaching botany in a government girls higher secondary school, Bhavani, has been accused of sexually misbehaving with the plus-one students sometime back. Following this, the victims narrated the incident to their parents, who in turn lodged a police complaint. Meanwhile, the teacher absconded and was arrested later under the POCSSO Act.

Man shot dead in Ludhiana shopping mall

LUDHIANA: A 42-year-old man was shot dead when an unidentified person opened fire at him following an altercation in a shopping mall here, police said on Saturday. Daljit Singh succumbed to his injuries in a hospital, they said. The incident took place at a restaurant in the mall on Friday night when an argument broke out between Singh and the accused over some issue, the police said. They said the matter is being probed.

Man held for raping girl in UP's Muzaffarnagar

MUZAFFARNAGAR (UP): A man has been arrested in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district for allegedly raping a 15-year-old girl, police said on Saturday. The incident occurred in Muranpur on Friday, they said. The 20-year-old accused entered the girl's house when she was alone and allegedly raped her, the police said. They said when the man was leaving the girl's house, a few villagers caught him and beat him up before handing him over to the police. In another incident on Friday, in the neighbouring Shamli district, a 9-year-old boy, who was playing outside his house in Babri area, was allegedly sodomised by a 16-year-old, the police said. A case has been registered against the accused boy on the basis of a complaint lodged by the victim's father and an investigation is on, they said.

Naxal killed in Bijapur encounter

RAIPUR: A naxal was killed on Saturday in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said. The incident occurred around 8:30 am in a forest near Punnur village, around six kms from Awapalli police station, when a team of District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on a counter-insurgency operation, Deputy Inspector General (anti-naxal operations) Sundarraj P told PTI. The operation was launched from Awapalli, around 450 kms from Raipur, on a specific input about the movement of wanted Maoists divisional commander Nagesh, he said. "After a brief exchange, ultras escaped from the spot. During a search, the body of a male naxal was found. A .315 bore rifle was recovered from the spot," the DIG said, adding that the identity of the deceased is not established yet. Reinforcement has been rushed to the spot, he said, adding that further details are awaited. On late Friday night, two naxals were killed down in an encounter in Gundul area of neighbouring Dantewada district.

Ex-BJP MLA Ghodmare joins NCP

PNS ■ MUMBAI

At a time when leaders of the NCP and Congress are making a beeline to enter the ruling camp ahead of the Maharashtra assembly polls, former BJP MLA Vijay Ghodmare on Saturday chose to join the Sharad Pawar-led party.

Ghodmare, who had represented Hingana constituency in Nagpur district, made the formal crossover at the residence of Pawar in Mumbai, a party statement said.

Ghodmare said he was ready to work in whatever capacity the party chief wanted him to.

The NCP, once a ruling party in Maharashtra in alliance with the Congress, is now grappling with a crisis due to desertions by a number of leaders on the eve of elections. Senior leaders like Udaynaraje Bhosale, who quit as an MP from Satara, former state minister Ganesh Naik, Sachin Ahir and Jaydutt Kshirasagar, MLAs Shivendrasinh Bhosale, Sandip Naik and Vaibhav Pichad among others have jumped the ship to join either the BJP or Shiv Sena.

Amid desertions, Pawar embarks on Maha tour next week

PNS ■ MUMBAI

At a time the NCP is plunged into a crisis due to a string of desertions ahead of the high-stake Maharashtra Assembly polls, party patriarch Sharad Pawar is setting out on a statewide tour beginning September 17 to reach out to the party's rank and file.

The veteran politician, 79, will visit ten districts of Solapur, Osmanabad, Beed, Latur, Hingoli, Parbhani, Jalna, Aurangabad, Ahmednagar and Satara in the first phase of the tour, the NCP said on Twitter.

The announcement came against the backdrop of exodus of key leaders of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to the ruling BJP and Shiv Sena. Senior party leader Udaynaraje Bhosale, a descendant of warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, on Saturday became the latest entrant to the BJP camp. The Satara MP has quit his Lok Sabha membership to join the



BJP. On Friday, former Maharashtra unit NCP president Bhaskar Jadhav joined the Shiv Sena.

"Pawar's tour will be crucial in view of the existing circumstances. His interaction with the grassroot workers, who have remained loyal to the party even as some leaders have deserted it, will boost their morale," said the leader.

Pawar had fanned parts of his home state during the April-May Lok Sabha elections and addressed around 80 public rallies. The NCP had managed to retain its 2014 tally of four LS seats in Maharashtra.

Centre urged to help bring bodies of four Sikhs from Italy

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Saturday urged the Union External Affairs Ministry to provide help in bringing back the mortal remains of four Sikh men drowned in a sewage tank in Italy.

The incident happened on Thursday at a cattle farm in northern Italy due to the carbon dioxide fumes coming out from the cow manure, according to media reports.

Of the four, two were brothers - Prem, 48, and Tarsem Singh, 45 - who were running the farm.

The other two were workers, identified as Armindar Singh, 29, and Manjinder Singh, 28. "Saddened to hear about the death of 4 Punjabi men drown in a farm manure tank near Pavia, Italy. Request @DrSjaishankar to instruct the Indian Mission in Italy to help get the mortal remains back to India," Amarinder Singh tweeted.

SBI wants to be lead-bank for Ladakh; opens 14th branch

PNS ■ DISKIT (LADAKH)

The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has expressed desire to be become the lead-bank for the newly carved-out Union Territory of Ladakh.

SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar Saturday inaugurated a new branch in this remote town of Diskit in the Nubra Valley, making it the 14th facility of the bank in the Ladakh region and 22,024th branch for the bank.

Every state or region has a lead-bank, which takes the mantle of ensuring adequate banking services as the convener of the state-level banking committee.

At present, J&K Bank is the lead-bank for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

On August 5, the government had announced that the entire region will cease to be a single state but would become two Union territories of J&K and Ladakh, wherein J&K will have a state Assembly under lieutenant governor, while Ladakh will have no legislature.



The announcement was part of the government decision to abrogate Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution which gave special status to J&K.

Speaking to reporters here Saturday, the chairman said if other banks have a problem to be the SLBC convener, SBI is willing to take up that mantle.

He said the branch in Diskit was planned over three months ago, much before the Centre decided to bifurcate the state into two UTs.

Kumar also affirmed SBIs commitment to help the people of both the UTs with cred-

it comes once the demand needs. The bank has 185 branches in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, and personal lending segment is the most active, he said.

There is also traction on the small business front, but lending to agriculture and industry is limited in J&K, he admitted, adding that the average loan in this area is also small, at up to Rs 5 lakh.

"Through such initiatives, we want the people of the region to know how deep do we take our banking services into the remotest parts of the country," Kumar said.

Chinmayanand case: Student gives pen drive with videos to SIT

PNS ■ SHAHJAHANPUR (UP)

The postgraduate student who has accused BJP leader Chinmayanand of rape on Saturday gave a pen drive containing 43 videos to the SIT to support her allegations.

The woman was asked by the SIT to submit whatever evidence she had against the former Union minister. The special investigation team questioned the student on Friday and collected evidence from Chinmayanand's bedroom here, sources said on Saturday.

The SIT, formed on the orders of the Supreme Court, had brought the woman to Chinmayanand's home on Friday morning where they



The SIT, formed on the orders of the Supreme Court, had brought the woman to Chinmayanand's home on Friday morning where they continued the probe for around five hours

continued the probe for around five hours, the sources said.

The special team has called the student's mother for questioning on Saturday, they said.

Chinmayanand, whose organisation runs several colleges, was questioned for about seven hours at the police lines

here on Thursday night and his bedroom at Divya Dham residence was sealed, they said.

A team of forensic experts was also present at the residence. The woman alleged that important evidence has been removed from Chinmayanand's bedroom and it now wears a

new look. "The paint and other things have been changed and it now has a new look. Important evidence has been removed from there but two oil bowls, used during massage, were found by the SIT," she said, adding that a towel, toothpaste and soap used by the BJP leader was sealed and taken away by the forensic team.

The woman said she told the

probe team about a young BALLB student who was also being tortured and had confided in her about her harassment.

The postgraduate student said she has also given her statement about the FIR lodged in New Delhi on September 5.

Recounting her ordeal, she said that after she took admission in LLM, Chinmayanand's

men called her to his home and left her in a room on the upper floor where the former minister showed her a video of her having a bath, after which her physical exploitation began.

The woman, however, said that this video was not found by the probe agency in the bedroom and claimed that it could have been kept in Chinmayanand's Haridwar ashram. Chinmayanand's Counsel Om Singh refuted arguing that giving massage was not a crime and people go to spa for it.

"Besides, the video does not show anything being done under pressure," Singh.

Sources said the BJP leader has been asked by the SIT not to leave Shahjahanpur till the

completion of the probe and policemen in large numbers have been deployed in and around his residence.

The college where the woman studied was closed since Friday and will now open on Monday, the sources said.

The woman has alleged that she was raped and "physically exploited" for a year by the BJP leader. Chinmayanand's lawyer has, however, alleged an extortion attempt. The woman first levelled harassment charges against the BJP leader in a video clip uploaded on social media. She was then missing for several days before an Uttar Pradesh police team traced her in Rajasthan and produced her before the Supreme Court.

HC seeks Chhattisgarh government's stand

PLEA AGAINST HIKE IN QUOTA LIMIT

PNS ■ BILASPUR

The Chhattisgarh High Court has sought the state government's stand on two petitions challenging the Constitutional validity of an ordinance, hiking the reservation limit in state jobs to 82 per cent breaching the 50 per cent cap.

Admitting the two pleas, filed separately by Vedprakash Singh Thakur and Aditya Tiwari, a bench of Chief Justice P R Ramachandra Menon and Justice P P Sahu on Friday issued notice to the government and slated the matter for hearing after ten days.

The petitions challenge the government's September 4 notification titled "Chhattisgarh Lok Seva (Anusuchit Jatiyon, Anusuchit Jan Jatiyon aur Anya Pichhade

Vargon ke liye arakshan) (Sanshodhan) Ordinance, 2019 related to amendments in quota limits for the government jobs.

Thakur's counsel Anish Tiwari said the ordinance seeks to raise the quota for Scheduled Castes from 12 per cent to 13 per cent and 14 per cent to 27 per cent for Other Backward Classes.

No change has been made in the quota for Scheduled Tribes quota, which remains 32 per cent, he added. The ordinance also seeks to offer 10 per cent reservation to the economically weaker sec-

tions, taking the total percentage of reservation to 82 per cent in the state, he said.

"Under the new ordinance, the reservation is touching 82 per cent when it should not exceed more than 50 per cent as per a Supreme Court's order," said Anish Tiwari, recalling the law laid down by the apex court in the 1993 Indira Sawhney case.

Advocate General Satish Chandra Verma, who appeared in the case, said the high court did not give any relief to petitioners and gave time to the government to file its reply.

Names of all NRC applicants published online

PNS ■ GUWAHATI

The names of all NRC applicants have been published online on Saturday, the office of the NRC State Coordinator said here. The names of all the 3.30 crore applicants as per draft NRC and supplementary list of inclusions and exclusions (final NRC) have been published, an official said.

The final National Register of Citizens (NRC), which was published on August 31, consisted only of supplementary lists. "Names of all the members of a family irrespective of their involvement in the claims and objections process have been published on Saturday," the official said.

The NRC State Coordinator's office had earlier announced that the details for a complete family would be available only online.

MP CM performs ground-breaking for Indore Metro Rail

PNS ■ INDORE

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Saturday laid the foundation stone for Rs 7500.80-crore metro rail project in the state's commercial capital. Amid chanting of mantras, Nath performed the 'Bhumipujan' (ground-breaking) ceremony for the project on MR-10 Road here. State Urban Development Minister Jaiwardhan Singh and other ministers were present on the occasion.

Under the project, a 31.55-km-long corridor is proposed to be built in the city. While most of the metro section will be elevated, a portion will run underground, officials said, adding that the metro rail corridor will pass through Nainod, Bhanwarsala intersection,



Radisson intersection and Bengali Chauraha. A total of 29 stations would be built on this route. The project, conceived during the tenure of erstwhile BJP government in the state and approved by the Centre in October last year, is expected to be completed by August 2023.

'Cannot harm greatness of Gandhi, Ambedkar by attacking statues'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday hit out at those responsible for desecrating statues of Mahatma Gandhi and B R Ambedkar in Uttar Pradesh, asserting that the greatness of these men cannot be harmed by such attacks.

A statue of the Mahatma was desecrated by unidentified people at a college in Uttar Jalaun district on Friday. "A few days ago, Babasaheb Ambedkar's statue was desecrated by anti-social elements in Uttar Pradesh. Now in Jalaun, Mahatma Gandhi's statue has been desecrated," Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi. "The cowards who desecrate statues, your only achievement in life is that you try to dishonour the country's great men in the darkness of the night," the Congress general secretary said.

'I felt like an actor after doing LSD'

■ From *Jai Santoshi Maa* to *Dream Girl*, how has your journey been?

It has been a long one. Honestly, when I got *Jai Santoshi Maa* (2009), I didn't want to be an actor. I went for the auditions just to see how would it turn out for me and fortunately I got selected. The real journey started with *Love, Sex Aur Dhoka* (LSD), that was the first time when I felt like an actor. The film made me realise the importance of being a performer and what a good film is. Then, I decided that this is the field I want to be in. No matter what I am doing and where will I end up, I just wanted to continue doing good work and feel happy about it.

■ Were there more highs or more lows?

I have seen both highs and lows. *LSD* was a success but I didn't have work for a few months after it. I kept thinking that the film did well so I should be getting more work. But, I didn't get

any. Then I got casted for *Pyaar Ka PUNCHNAMA* and I entered the commercial cinema. Now it's been years since I haven't done a film like *LSD*. I didn't know where life took me, I just went with the flow.

■ Do you have any regrets?

Yes, I have had made some bad choices as well. But, the moment I started shooting for those films, I knew I wasn't happy. But, it was difficult to walk away from a project after making a commitment. Now, I have realised that if you are not enjoying your work, just don't do it. There was a time, when just one day before the shoot I pulled out of the project. Though I received a lot of criticism from the team and they called me names, but in my head I was clear that what is the point of doing something half-heartedly. Because they will not get the best of your performance, you'll not feel good about it and ultimately the end product will never be good.

■ Did your family support your decision of being an actor?

My family is neither regressive nor completely modernised. They are somewhere in between. When I told them that I wanted to be an actor, they themselves were in a conflict of whether to let me follow my dreams or tell me that this will not work out. But everybody else in my

I DON'T DIVIDE FILMS INTO GENRES. I BELIEVE GENRES ARE DECIDED AND DIVIDED BY PEOPLE WHO ARE MAKING FILMS AND THEY WANT TO GET THE CERTIFICATION DONE. FOR ME, ROMANCE AND COMEDY ARE ALL EMOTIONS

family was like that you cannot be an actor. It took them a while to accept my decision. They asked me questions of whether I will be working throughout my work career and I didn't have answers. But they turned out to be very supportive and they digested the fact that I don't have any answers. They knew I was being realistic and I will not live in the bubble that 'oh I am an actor now'.

■ Who is your inspiration?

For me, inspiration comes from normal people. My driver inspires me. He lives in Nala Sopara and it takes him two hours to reach my house. I have to attend late night shoots, screenings and film parties and he stays there with me. Sometimes he even misses the last train to his place. And then again, he returns to work at 8 am. I ask him to sleep in my building but he refuses because he wants to spend time at his home even if it's for just three hours. I suggested him to leave my job and work somewhere else. But he wants to put in this hard work for his family. Not even once has he come late. All these stories continue to inspire me.

■ Any genres that you would like to experiment with?

I don't divide films into genres. I believe genres are decided and divid-

ed by the people who are making the films and they want to get the certification done. For me, romance, comedy are all emotions and not genres. For me a story is a story, I decide my projects on the basis of my intuitions. I am a performer so I have to perform regardless of the genre.

■ Upcoming projects?

Dream Girl has just been released. It was a film that I heard the narration for an hour and then within 15 minutes I said yes to it. I am an instinctive person, if I like a project I immediately take it up if not then I probably say that give me sometime to think about it. And then I will say no to it. (laughs)

Then there is *Turram Khan* opposite Rajkumar Rao. I always wanted to be in a Hansal Mehta film. When I got the film, I was like 'yes I am doing an Hansal Mehta film'. Then, I am also doing *Hurdang*.

■ Any anecdotes that you would like to share?

I remember on the first day of shoot for *Turram Khan* I was not able to do my lines right. I was very scared because there were so many great actors and all of them were staring at me. And I honestly told it to them that 'I am sorry guys, I am intimidated by all of you staring at me and to stand in front of such great actors, I feel like a fool.' (laughs)

Talktime
NUSHRAT BHARUCHA
Having witnessed both highs and lows in her career, Bharucha believes in staying grounded. She thinks of herself as a performer and not an actor. She tells Musba Hashmi some of her bad choices, inspiration and upcoming projects

PICKLE ME PINK

SHALINI SAKSENA tells you why eating pickles, which have been around for over 4,000 years, is such an integral part of Indian cuisine

Pickle or *achaar* is a part of an everyday meal for Indians world over. The sweet, spicy and sour *achaars* have been around for thousands of years. Most of the pickle recipes are handed down generations. Each community has a different recipe — a twist here and twist there — makes all the difference from a mango pickle that one will get to eat at a home in North as opposed to what one will find in South.

Did you know that pickles have around for a long time when it comes to world cuisine? The technique is said to have begun from India and that cucumbers were the first to be pickled and eaten at the Tigris valley. It all began with putting cucumbers in brine — water and salt — to preserve them. Even today, salt is a staple ingredient to preserve pickles. *Lingupurna*, a Kannada work that dates back to 1594 describes about 50 different types of pickles. History also has it that Cleopatra loved them as did Napoleon Bonaparte.

Hence, it is not surprising that Indians love their pickles and that news players want to enter this segment. Karan Shah, director, Society Tea, tells you that Spice Secrets marks their entry into a new category. "We believe in bringing back the art of *chutneys* and pickles to every household; recipes our grandmothers used and passed on to our mothers over years. Indian consumers relish a daily dose of these flavours as it takes them down the memory lane right to that grandma's kitchen," Shah says.

He tells you that the word *pickel* has originated from the Dutch word *pekel* that was used to refer to a solution of brine that was spiced for preserving and flavouring food.

"Pickle is often associated with processed fruits and vegetables in salt and spice mixture that have an extended shelf life, often with restored or enhanced beneficial properties of the entities involved. Therefore, they are an integral part of how people



define their food culture, and each region is intensely passionate about their pickles," Shah explains.

The same, one is told holds true for *chutneys*. It is also something that everyone relates to. It can be made to suit any taste profile. A versatile condiment, the *chutney* which means something that can be licked, is by definition an appetizer.

"Ayurveda suggests that *chutneys* can offer a balance in the diet as well as act as a suitable camouflage for ingredients that are otherwise not enjoyable. Ever since times infinite, these house recipes have been passed down generations and that's why they still retain a unique taste for each household. Traditionally, it's almost always passed down from mother to

AYURVEDA SUGGESTS THAT CHUTNEYS CAN OFFER A BALANCE IN DIET AS WELL AS ACT AS A SUITABLE CAMOUFLAGE FOR INGREDIENTS THAT ARE OTHERWISE NOT ENJOYABLE

daughter or from the grandmother because of which, the making of these special pickles and *chutneys* are secrets held within the families, like a family heirloom," Shah says.

Chutneys and pickles have always been an age-old accompaniment in the Indian cuisines agnostic of which part of the country you go to or the language you speak.

It's difficult to trace the exact origins of Indian pickle, but the tradition of pickle making goes back thousands of years. Pickling was commonly used for preserving food by curing it with salt or sugar; before refrigeration and canning made it possible. Ancient civilisations had discovered that to increase the longevity of perishable foods was to dry them in the sun and



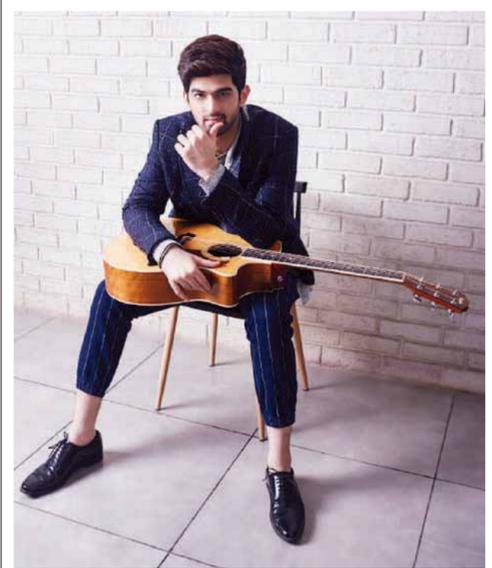
cure them with salt or immerse them in brine.

"In ancient and medieval times, every homemaker used to have a veritable treasure trove of recipes handed down to her from her ancestors. This was the way in which she used to preserve fruits and vegetables by making pickles and *chutneys*," Shah tells you.

For Indians, nothing comes close to say home as simply as pickle. *Chutneys* and pickles in different forms and tastes are prevalent in every corner of our country and are likely to have been a part of your food memories.

"No Indian meal is complete without a smidgen of pickle or *chutney*. This is because pickles are an integral part of Indian culture. *Chutneys* and pickles key role in your meal is to add flavour and make them more appetizing. It is the plainest of food that gives scope for the use of pickles. Hence, they are usually savored as an accompanying condiment — as a spread, sauce and or even a topping. In our cuisine — *chutneys* vary, many being thin enough in consistency to be used as dipping sauces. Other varieties of *chutney* are like chunky well-flavored relish; those are generally used as meal accompaniments or sandwich spreads, and are the popular version found globally," Shah says and adds that our *chutneys* and pickles are of regional flavours representing different communities and heritage.

'Just playback is not enough'



HRIDAY GATTANI, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about his latest song for Gurinder Chadha's film

■ How did music happen?

I grew up watching a lot of concerts because of my father. He has produced and directed concerts with some of the best musical artists in the country like *Lataji*, *Ashaji*, *Daler Mehndi*, *Hariharan* and *AR Rahman* sir to name a few. That stemmed the whole inspiration of wanting to be on stage and performing like one of them. But I decided pretty late that I wanted to be a musician and learnt guitar and piano by myself.

■ How was the experience of being mentored by AR Rahman?

In 2012, I did my first cover on YouTube with a brilliant singer, *Suchismita Das*. We happened to send the link to *Rahman sir* and he replied: 'You have a great voice, should study and learn music further'. I packed my bag and came to *KM Music Conservatory*, *Rahman sir's* music school in Chennai. Every step of the way he has been helpful. I send all my original songs to him before releasing them to get a feedback from him.

■ How did this mentoring change your music?

A lot has changed — just the outlook towards music being pure and speaking about one's personality. Like every musician, I too have been influenced by his music and have always tried to adopt his structuring of songs. I have been blessed to work closely with him and see his entire process from start to finish, which is mind-boggling because apart from the melodic brilliance with him there are no boundaries to music and there's certainly no holding back when it comes to trying new things.

■ What is your latest release about?

The song, *For You My Love*, is a fusion in English and Punjabi that brings both the worlds together even in the story of the film. *Sir* wanted a light-hearted soulful song which would connect both worlds. I got the opportunity to sing the English part of the song and as luck may have it because of *Rahman sir's* generosity got to be a part of the video. The song is a part of *Gurinder Chaddha's* film *Blinded By The Light*.

■ How is it different to work with other music directors?

Music is a universal language. Its beauty lies in variety and what I enjoy is bringing in my honesty and creativity to any song I sing. I've had the opportunity to sing for *Vishal-Shekhar sir* for *Udanchoo* from *Banjo*. The experience was amazing becomes easy to work with them.

■ Is it tough to survive in the industry?

It is extremely difficult to survive in the industry as just a playback. Therefore, I focus on my independent music and production for other artists as well. Today, you have to be self-sufficient and be a wholesome artist; one who writes, composes, sings and maybe plays an instrument too.

■ Do you have a mission as far as music is concerned?

My mission is to make music from my personal experiences, to help people overcome what I have tried to overcome and also bring joy to my listeners.

■ What next?

For me my focus for the next few months is my independent music, an announcement is due soon as there is going to be loads of content that I have worked on for over a year that will surface and start releasing.

Try out this Aussie fare, mate

AUSTRALIAN SPRING FESTIVAL
PICKWICK'S, THE CLARIDGES
From September 12 to September 28

Australia is delightfully mixed up in its cuisine, thanks to a blend of many cultures and people who have settled down there along with their spices flavours and meats. A slice of that wholesome platter is now being showcased at the *Pickwick's* at *The Claridges* with a lot of elan and hard work that has gone into bringing this side of Australia to the table.

The effort hasn't gone waste. It is the good old pumpkin soup that leads you out of repitiation about English blandness that assails the cuisine otherwise. Smooth as butter, flavourful and totally Aussie in aroma, the dish fuels your appetite and cajoles your taste

buds with a subtlety that makes it quite a cornerstone for relishing things to follow. Chef *Vivek Rana* who loves to go into the history of any of the foods he attempts to regale his guests with, tells you that Australia is all about fusion cuisine, meat grills and desserts that will send you into the guilt zone even if you don't have a sweet tooth.

The fact that there is some Indian cuisine spread graciously with an Australian makeover makes you favourable to experimentation. But the Australian Lamb Pie keeps you totally engaged with its melt in the mouth crust and the softest of lamb mince one had had in a long while.



Crusted Herb Chicken; (right) Black Ant Lamington

This one is a must-try. The slides keep coming from the live counters and there is nothing that you would want to miss, be it the mini vegetarian burgers or the cottage cheese wrap.

But wait there is a whole lot

of mains, like *Grilled Barramundi* and the largely unforgettable whole lamb leg slow-cooked in spices and juices that come to the table with their own brand of uniqueness.

If you are at *Pickwick* with



friends do not miss out on this delicacy put together with tender loving care.

But if you are not having that, the crusted herb chicken is the dish for you, and not just because is it presented so alluringly.

Flavours match the delectable taste and you are forced to close your calorie eye to the cheese spread over it.

Served with spaghetti on the side rippling with herbs and chilli flakes, this one is the dish to go for.

The menu is quite inviting and varied with classics like wild mushroom rissoles and mixed vegetable and garbanzo stew, but save your tummy space for the absolutely out of the world *Black Ant Lamington*, the signature Aussie sweet that fortunately has nothing to do with those in edible hard-working population of the animal kingdom. Much like a twisted sponge cake, with a taste that defies anything cakey, *Mr Lamington* call for a requiem.

Don't hesitate. Don't think calories. Just repeat the order with a cup of coffee, please!

NAMBI NARAYANAN speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA what the Chandrayaan-2 mission means for the nation's space programme and that the next step should be formation of an Asian space agency with India at the helm

WISHING FOR THE MOON



WHY SOUTH POLE?

Had India succeeded in its mission for a soft land on the South Pole of the Moon, it would have created history — no other country in the world has ever landed on this side of the Earth's satellite. There are a few reasons why we chose South Pole:



- This part of the Moon has remained untouched by sunlight for billions of years. Its craters have been untouched by sunlight for billions of years offering an undisturbed record of the solar system's origins
- It is speculated that this side may hold million tons of water
- Lunar South Pole's regolith has traces of hydrogen, ammonia, methane, sodium, mercury, and silver, making it an untapped source of essential resources.

THE ORBITER

At the time of launch, the Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter was capable of communicating with Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) at Byalalu as well as the Vikram Lander. The mission life of the Orbiter is seven years and it will be placed in a 100 x 100 km lunar polar orbit.

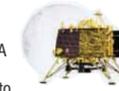


The Orbiter camera is the highest resolution camera (0.3m) in any lunar mission so far and shall provide high resolution images which will be immensely useful to the global scientific community.

The Orbiter that weighs 2,379 kg will revolve around the Moon and provide information about its evolution, topography, mineralogy, elemental abundance, lunar exosphere and signatures of hydroxyl and water-ice.

VIKRAM—LANDER

The Lander of Chandrayaan 2 is named Vikram after Dr Vikram A Sarabhai, the Father of the Indian Space Programme. It is designed to function for one lunar day, which is equivalent to about 14 Earth days. The Vikram has the capability to communicate with IDSN at Byalalu near Bengaluru, as well as with the Orbiter and Rover. The Lander, which weighs 1,471 kg, was designed to execute a soft landing on the lunar surface. It had landed on September 6, 2019. Even though it has been spotted by the Orbiter, there has been no communication with it for the last eight days.



PRAGYAN—ROVER LOADED

Chandrayaan 2's Rover is a six-wheeled robotic vehicle named Pragyan, which translates to wisdom in Sanskrit. It can travel up to 500 metres and leverages solar energy for its functioning. It can only communicate with the Lander. It weighs 27 kg. Its mission was to send back the measurements of moonquakes. It would also send more information about the history of the ancient rocks present on the Moon's surface.



Courtesy: Indian Space Research Organisation

In spite of the opinions of certain narrow-minded people, who would shut up the human race upon this globe, as within some magic circle it must never outstep, we shall one day travel to the moon, the planets, and the stars, with the same facility, rapidity, and certainty as we now make the voyage from Liverpool to New York!

— Jules Verne

The ₹978-crore Chandrayaan-2 mission, India's first attempt to land on the Moon's South Pole on September 6, 2019 accomplished 90-95 per cent of the mission objectives even though Vikram did a hard landing and is yet to establish contact with base station despite being spotted by the Orbiter.

In a statement, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said: "The success criteria was defined for each and every phase of the mission, and till date, 90 to 95 per cent of the objectives have been accomplished and will continue to contribute to lunar science, notwithstanding the loss of communication with the Lander."

The Chandrayaan-2 mission was highly complex, which represented a significant technological leap compared to its previous missions. The mission brought together an Orbiter, Lander and Rover to explore the unexplored South Pole of the Moon. Since the launch of Chandrayaan-2 on July 22, 2019, not only India but the whole world watched its progress from one phase to the next with great expectations.

India embarked on an inter-planetary mission in 2008 with its first Moon operation Chandrayaan-1. The ₹386-crore mission laid the foundation for India's Mars Orbiter Mission in terms of technologies as well as the infrastructure for future deep space missions. The Chandrayaan-1 conclusively discovered traces of water on the Moon. It also discovered water ice in the North Polar region of the Moon. It also detected magnesium, aluminium and silicon on the lunar surface.

India's second Moon mission made it the fourth nation, after the US, Russia and China, to have achieved this feat. While India is the only nation to come closest to a successful landing on the South Pole of the Moon, probes to the satellite have had a lot of precedence. The US has touched the other side of the Moon 28 times, Russia 21 times, China six and Japan and Europe one each. Israel's only attempt has been a failure.

Interestingly, the partial failure of Chandrayaan-2 and the Mars missions doesn't have an immediate impact on the current satellite programmes of ISRO. Chandrayaan-1's mission was to only establish the technology to reach the lunar orbit. The Mars Mission was a little more

complex — it was to establish if that route could be used to reach the planet.

"On the way to Mars or any other planet, there are several hazards like gravitational pull, radiation and situations. Then there are meeting points of two planets which make it easy to transfer from one orbit to another. For Mars mission, calculations had to be made much in advance when to leave the Earth to meet that meeting point which is once a year. These are experiments which we are doing to establish technology and route. Chandrayaan-1 was with PSLV rocket. Chandrayaan-2 was with GSLV-III. Chandrayaan went with PSLV because the cryogenic programme was pushed back by 10-12 years. That mission could not carry lander, orbiter or rover. We just dropped a payload — a suggestion that came from former Late President APJ Kalam," Nambi Narayanan, an Indian scientist and aerospace engineer and Padma Bhushan award winner, says.

With this backdrop, India has over the years achieved many things, many that were outlined by Prof Dhawan back in the late 70s, like a four ton satellite, we want to do remote sensing, telecommunication and oceanography.

"We were very clear with what we wanted with satellites. This has been achieved over a period of 30 years. With respect to deep space operations, we have not defined the goal well. If we had asked what after Chandrayaan, nobody would have said Chandrayaan-2. Today, if you ask what next, somebody may suggest Chandrayaan-3.

"But there is no need for this. What would be the goal of Chandrayaan-3? At best, to rectify the problem of 2. If rectified, so what? No one has the answer to this. Now, Gaganyaan has been announced — to sent an astronaut into space for three-four days but not to a planet. This is expected to take in 2022. An astronaut to land on Earth doesn't need a soft landing, he can parachute. This means we don't need to perfect soft landing for the next three-four years," Narayanan tells you.

The prudent question to ask is whether India is going to have deep space programme beyond Gaganyaan. Narayanan says that the answer should be 'yes'.

What we should do is to land on the Moon, then Mars and so forth. This will put us at par with the US and China, countries that are making an attempt to go to the Moon and beyond. "Of course, India may not want to do these things. Many countries like France and Italy are not interested. If this is the stand why Gaganyaan? There is no need for it. We have yet to define our goals with respect to space. With the way things are going, we are going to go for soft landing to the Mars and the Moon. In this case, we need

to perfect soft landing skills in a phased manner. This will require a bigger booster on the lines of China and the US, like the Chang 4-5 or the 180 or the Falcon, respectively. This can be done in the next three years," Narayanan shares and explains the difference between soft landing and crash landing by giving an example.

Let's take landing done an aircraft. When it lands smoothly, like it normally does, it is called soft landing. However, when the aircraft develops a problem and can't land the way it should, it is called crash landing. The same holds true Lander Vikram. The advantage of soft landing is that the instruments are intact. In a hard landing, the instruments may get damaged inside, even if one the outside it may look intact.

Narayanan tells you that this talk of India begin the fourth country to go to the Moon, needs to stop. "We are not only at par with the US and China but can be equal or even better than them. The only question is whether we are willing to bear

be a roadblock.

"China has now gone to a part of the Moon that has not been sunlit for billions of years; this is the dark side of the Moon. They reported that they saw a jelly like substance. What that means, only time and future missions to that area will reveal. Take the US who have had 50 per cent success as has Russia. This is not a good number. Israelis failed in their lone mission. India was successful in its Mars Mission in its first attempt. China failed in its first attempt. Therefore, a failure is not a justification to say that it should not and couldn't happen. Obviously, some mistake has been made during landing," Narayanan says.

Where should India go from here? What should be the next step? Is it going to be Chandrayaan 3? According to Narayanan, there is no need for it.

"We have established how to go to the Moon. While we may have not been successful in the soft landing part, there is nothing to worry about. We can rectify it with the next mission.

"From here on, we should form an Asian space agency (ASA) in line with the European Space Agency (ESA). If you look at the Asian countries, there is Indonesia, Thailand, Middle-East and even China and Japan. There are around 23 countries that come together to form a consortium and make a contributory fund. Here, India should take the lead. The second is that the space requirement of the other countries can be met and one can generate business.

"Third, it will help place the satellites in strategic positions. For example, if we need an air station, say over Dubai, then there won't be a problem if Dubai is a part of the consortium. Also, there is news that US President Donald Trump is talking about how the route to the Moon should be regulated. It is not clear what that will entail.

"The ASA will help bring the countries together which can ease border problems as well. This should finally lead to bringing together of the ASA, ESA and NASA to tackle space issues. India can't do it alone. For that matter, nor can the US," Narayanan stresses.

He tells you there is need to define long-term goals for the country's space programme and have a vision for the future.

"I had posed a similar question to Prof UR Rao and Prof Satish Dhawan, (former ISRO chairmen). They had a wait and watch policy. 'We will look at it once we reach that stage,' they had told me. What they referring to were funding constraints. They knew they couldn't have asked for more funds. Back then, nobody would have cared even if we had long-term goals for the outer space programmes. Today, we are somebody," Narayanan opines.

CHANDRAYAAN 2'S CAMPUS CONNECT

MUSBA HASHMI touches base with college which supplied parts for Vikram

Although Prime Minister Narendra Modi and all of India hailed the Chandrayaan-2 mission as successful, for professors and doctoral students from Sona College of Technology, Salem, Tamil Nadu, Vikram's hard landing was a deeply disappointing moment.

They had a crucial role to play in Chandrayaan-2's attempt to land on the Moon as the college's Special Electrical and Electronics Drives Division (SPEED) had supplied three products for the mission. These were, the fuel mixer motors that mix liquid oxygen with fuel, the doppler mechanism for Vikram module to guide the laser to ensure smooth landing on the moon and the robotic arm to enable the Vikram to collect sand and rock samples from the Moon.

This is not the first time that the college has supplied the components to the ISRO.

They have been working with it for seven years. The R&D efforts of the SPEED division have led to the institute supplying ISRO with special purpose BLDC (Brushless DC) motors for satellites and rockets as well as lunar robots for many earlier missions.

"It was a momentous day for India as ISRO's scientists got us so near the Moon through Chandrayaan-2. Our researchers, professors and doctoral students should not be disappointed. The Moon landing would have been the icing on the cake, but the Orbiter is working fine with eight payloads and we do have the cake. These efforts will go a long way in India's quest to unravel what is on the Moon," says Chocko Valliappa, VC, Sona College of Technology.

He adds that the parts were imported earlier, but SPEED supplied them at a much lower price as compared to the cost of imported components. This is not all. The college will continue to design and develop parts like stepper motors and gyroscopes for ISRO.

"We are also supplying radiation patches to protect the satellites by coating them with Quantum well-based photo detector epitaxial structure for ISRO," he tells you.

TIMELINE

- Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh approved the Chandrayaan-2, lunar mission: September 18, 2008. Planning of the mission in process
- Chandrayaan-2 launch: July 22, 2019 —
- Moon landing: September 7, 2019
- Orbital experiment which will be operational for seven years

the cost," he says.

Does this mean that science is only about experimentation and not result? "Science is about experimentation and result. This result may not necessarily be successful. For example, we want to conduct an experiment on whether a particular thing exists. If we find it does, we can say that the experiment is successful. Take Chandrayaan-2 experiment to soft land. This experiment would have only come in use after seven-10 years. Now, we first need to complete Gaganyaan. Only then we should attempt soft landing on the Moon. Not that the time frame is a cause of worry and hurry for Chandrayaan-3," Narayanan explains and tells you that the number of failures or successes should not

MASTERMINDS BEHIND LUNAR PROBE

From a farmer's son to now Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman, the 62-year-old scientist, Kailasavadivoo Sivan, is an inspiration for many. It took the launch of Chandrayaan-2 for Sivan's story to fly high.

Born in Mela Sarakkalvilai, near Nagercoil in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu, Sivan graduated from Madras Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1980. He then pursued aerospace engineering from Indian Institute of

Science, Bengaluru, in 1982 and joined ISRO soon after. He used to work on the design and development of launch vehicles.

Sivan is the first person to have graduated in his family. Having born to a poor farmer, Sivan had to go through a lot of financial crunch. He didn't even have money to buy sandals and pants till he went to college.

According to reports his father had to sell about a quarter of an acre



K Sivan, Chairman, ISRO

of land to send Sivan to MIT.

He is a perfectionist who expects his team members to give their 100 per cent. He believes in leading a humble life and prefers to wear simple clothes, white being his favourite colour.

His work is well-recognised and he has several accolades to his name: Shri Hari Om Ashram Prerit Vikram Sarabhai Research Award (1999) and ISRO Merit Award (2007), to name a few.

There is an adage: Behind every successful man there is a woman. This holds true when it comes to the success of Chandrayaan-2, but with a slight modification in the saying: Behind every successful mission there is a woman. Hard to believe? May be not after if one has seen the movie *Mission Mangal*.

Meet, Lucknow-based Ritu Karidhal Srivastava, the mission director of Chandrayaan-2. The house in Rajajipuram, where Srivastava lived, is suddenly the

centre of attraction and has acquired celebrity status almost overnight.

The phone line is continuously engaged and after considerable effort, Ritu's sister Varsha agreed to speak.

"We are so proud of our sister. After our parents' demise, she is the eldest in the family and has been a mother figure to me and my brother Rohit," she said.

Varsha recalls that Ritu was always fond of the stars. "My mother would stay awake all night with *dididi* (Ritu) when she studied. *Didi* was always fond of stars and

would lie awake staring at the sky. Didi was curious to know what lay beyond the sky.

We belong to a middle class family but Didi always yearned to go beyond the limits," she recalled.

In 1997, Ritu received a letter inviting her to join the ISRO office in Bengaluru. The decision was tough but her parents allowed her to go and pursue her dreams.

Ritu's husband, Avinash, and her two children Aditya and Anisha, are her biggest supporters in her starry mission.

—IANS

A TOUGH COP WITH A TENDER HEART

Born on January 28, 1966, Kumar did his schooling from St Xavier's in Patna. It has produced around 50 top grade civil servants. He then completed his degree in History at the University of Delhi, where during his Masters he appeared for Civils in 1990 and cracked the challenging Indian Police Service (IPS) exam in the first attempt.

In a career spanning 29 years, Kumar has served in crucial positions, ranging from being deputed by the Government of India while working in the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and being integral to the International police task force in war-ravaged Bosnia to finally coming to Telangana (erstwhile Andhra Pradesh). He has learnt Telugu over the years and is fluent in the language now.

Taking-off from Jangaon...

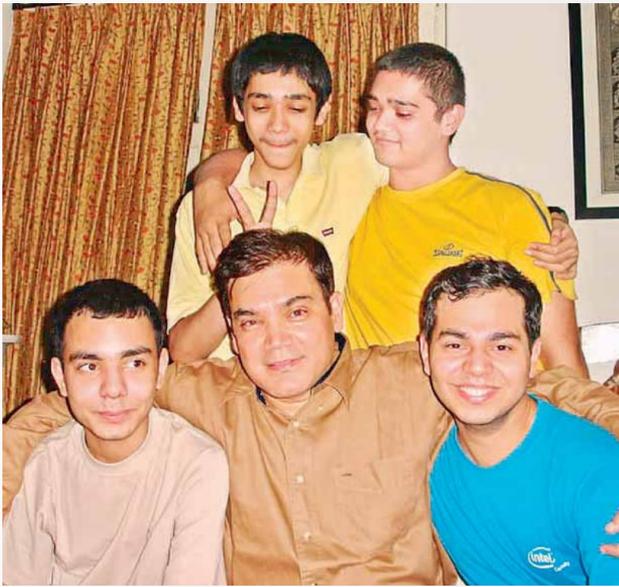
I started my career in the State as an Assistant Superintendent of Police in Jangaon in 1991-92. It was a critical time, particularly on the law and order front as the State was in the grip of Naxalism. However, a well-coordinated effort from all agencies led to its gradual decline. I was later promoted as chief of Counter-Intelligence cell before being made the chief of Greyhounds and Deputy IGP for Nizamabad. Later, I was elevated to IGP in Warangal followed by additional Director General of Police (Law and Order), Telangana before I finally assumed the mantle of Police Commissioner of Hyderabad in March.

An outdoorsy kid...

I played basketball at the national level during my schooling and was a member of cricket and football teams. I won a gold medal in an inter-college quiz competition in New Delhi. Post my selection as an IPS officer in 1990, I went to Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie for a foundation course, where I won a gold medal in shooting. Subsequently, I joined Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel NPA (National Police Academy) in Hyderabad, where I won the Maharaja of Tonk Cup for 'Best Horse Rider' of the batch and the RD Singh Cup for being the best swimmer.

A book lover and writer

Apart from a passion for writing, I like to spend my free time reading. I have co-authored and coordinated production of



Anjani Kumar (centre) along with his two sons — Ayushman and Arish — (beside the officer) and nephews

the well received coffee table book 'Journey of Hyderabad City Police', which was released by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao. Apart from that, I have also written many articles for several police journals and magazines. In fact, I have a 350-page draft of a book detailing my experiences on the job. I am eager to publish it. It will make for an interesting read as it is laced with several on-the-job anecdotes and true stories about what happens inside the police department. My own gut feeling is that it will be a good foundation for movie scripts that revolve around police officials.

Love Challenges

An innate urge to brave challenges is what inspired me to join the police force at a relatively young age. Most of my hobbies featured outdoor activities. Alas, since becoming a Police Commissioner, and with my penchant to put in 16-17 hours of each day for work, I hardly get time to even meet my family. Earlier, I active-

and Arish, who are pursuing engineering, during festivals. My wife has been very supportive as my biggest source of encouragement.

The shortest boy in class...

I was the shortest in my class during the first standard. An interesting incident happened when our school invited Sir Edmund Percival Hillary as a chief guest for a programme. I was selected to garland him on stage and the affable mountaineer, who was all of six feet and six inches, bent down gracefully so that I could garland him. Later, when I was in Class VII, I received a handwritten letter from former Prime Minister Morarji Desai for one of my writings. It remains a cherished personal possession.

I also had a conversation with the then President of the United States, George Bush, during my service in the US and spoke to him about work and life.

Sports inspired me a lot...

Several people have inspired me at various stages of my life. In school days, I was in awe of incredible sportspersons while during my college years, it was extraordinary personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Subhas Chandra Bose and Swami Vivekananda. I loved reading their works and contributions to the country, which inspired me to join the police force and serve the nation.

Missing kids' birthdays...

My present role is such that I invariably have lunch and even dinner in office. My sons, being born in a family of government officers, are aware that their parents would sometimes not be available for birthdays and family gatherings. I have missed several birthday celebrations of my children. I would love to publish my book and let the world know about the other side of a police officer's life.

The very mention of Anjani Kumar could possibly conjure images of a tough, no-nonsense cop, whose handling of crime and civic issues, especially in Hyderabad's Old City, has been marveled at. Yet, behind this façade, lies a tender heart that beats for animals and sports. In a freewheeling conversation with **NAVEEN KUMAR**, the Police Commissioner of Hyderabad opens up about his childhood, his love for sports, getting little time for family and to sustain his passion for literature



Anjani Kumar with wife Vasundhara and their two pet dogs — Gabbar and Samba



The official speaking to cricketers MS Dhoni and Suresh Raina

Love for dogs and horses...

I have always loved dogs and horses. So far, we have had eight dogs as pets in our family. At present, I have two, a Newfoundland and Great Dane, named Gabbar and Samba. Horse riding is nearly a stress-buster. I used to ride at least twice a week before my current posting. This has been a hobby ever since my days in the Academy.

Rapid fire:

- **MOST PROUD OF** - My country; I am proud to be an Indian
- **BEST ADVICE TO GIVE** - There is no shortcut to hard work
- **BIGGEST STRENGTH** - Belief in oneself
- **WEAPON OF CHOICE** - Glock
- **HOBBIES** - Swimming and horse riding
- **FAVOURITE COLOUR** - Khaki
- **WHAT SCARES ME MOST** - I do not fear anything
- **THREE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE ME** - Straightforward, hardworking, loyal
- **THE NUMBER OF COUNTIES TRAVELLED SO FAR** - Not many...
- **FAVOURITE SUPERHERO** - Muhammad Ali
- **ADMIRE THE MOST** - Lord Krishna
- **THE LAST MOVIE WATCHED** - Baahubali, on Television
- **BIGGEST ADDICTION** - My work
- **FAVOURITE INDIAN PRESIDENTS** - APJ Abdul Kalam, Rajendra Prasad, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
- **ADVICE TO POLICE ASPIRANTS AND SUBORDINATES** - Be sincere and diligent
- **FAVOURITE DISH(ES)** - Hyderabadi biryani and dosa
- **WORKOUT PREFERENCE** - Swimming, as it is an overall workout for the body
- **WHAT MATTERS THE MOST, EXPERIENCE OR CERTIFICATE** - Experience
- **WHAT MAKES YOU LAUGH ALOUD** - Charlie Chaplin movies
- **A BIG FAN OF** - Muhammad Ali, Sunil Gavaskar and Vivian Richards
- **MOST CHERISHED YEARS** - Apart from my professional life, I enjoyed my days in University in Delhi
- **FAVOURITE ANIMALS** - Horses and dogs
- **FAVOURITE AUTHORS/BOOKS** - William Shakespeare and Ramcharitmanas by (Goswami) Tulsidas



I have co-authored and supervised the production of the coffee table book called Journey of Hyderabad city police, which was released by honourable chief minister KCR. Apart from that, I have also written many articles published in various police journals and magazines



When Anjani Kumar met Ivanka Trump

Yemeni rebel drones spark fires at two Saudi Aramco oil facilities

PNS ■ RIYADH

Drone attacks sparked fires at two Saudi Aramco oil facilities on Saturday, the interior ministry said, the latest such assault claimed by Yemeni rebels as the energy giant prepares for a much-anticipated stock listing.

Huge palls of smoke rose into the sky after the pre-dawn attacks on Abqaiq and Khurais, two major Aramco facilities in eastern Saudi Arabia, which follow a spike in regional tensions with Iran.

The attacks highlight how the increasingly advanced weaponry of the Iran-linked

Huthi rebels -- from ballistic missiles to unmanned drones -- poses a serious threat to oil installations in Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude exporter.

"At 4:00 am (0100 GMT) the industrial security teams of Aramco started dealing with fires at two of its facilities in Abqaiq and Khurais as a result of... drones," the interior ministry said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

"The two fires have been controlled."

The statement added that an investigation had been launched after the attack in the kingdom's Eastern Province,



but did not specify the source of the drones.

It also did not say if there

were any casualties or whether operations at the two facilities had been affected.

The full extent of the damage was not immediately clear as reporters were not allowed near the plants where Saudi authorities appeared to have beefed up security

The full extent of the damage was not immediately clear as reporters were not allowed near the plants where Saudi authorities appeared to have beefed up security.

In recent months, the Huthi rebels have carried out a spate of cross-border missile and drone attacks targeting Saudi air bases and other facilities in what they say is retaliation for

a long-running Saudi-led bombing campaign on rebel-held areas in Yemen.

The rebels launched "a large-scale operation involving 10 drones that targeted refineries in Abqaiq and Khurais in eastern Saudi Arabia", the group's Al-Masirah television reported.

Last month, an attack claimed by Yemen's Huthi rebels sparked a fire at

Aramco's Shaybah natural gas liquefaction facility -- close to the Emirati border -- but no casualties were reported by the company.

Rebel drones also targeted two oil pumping stations on Saudi Arabia's key east-west pipeline in May, shutting it down for several days.

The growing attacks underscore how Saudi infrastructure, including oil installations, are increasingly vulnerable to rebel attacks four years after a Saudi-led coalition launched a military intervention in Yemen.

The Abqaiq facility, 60 kilometres (37 miles) southwest of Aramco's Dhahran headquar-

ters, is home to the company's largest oil processing plant. It has been targeted by militants in the past.

In an attack claimed by Al-Qaeda in February 2006, suicide bombers with explosive-laden vehicles attempted to penetrate the processing plant, killing two security guards.

The two bombers also died in the attack, which failed to breach the compound, authorities reported at the time.

In 2014, a Saudi court sentenced a man to death for links to the 2006 attack. Two other Saudis were jailed for 33 and 27 years respectively, state media reported.

CAPSULE



ED raids income tax officer, books him for money

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate said on Saturday that it has raided multiple locations linked to IRS officer Neeraj Singh, a commissioner in the income tax department, in connection with a money laundering case associated to an alleged disproportionate assets case. Singh was last posted in Chennai and has earlier worked in the investigation wing of the I-T department in Kolkata. The federal probe agency said it raided six locations, two each in Kolkata, Mumbai and Patna, after it booked Singh under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The ED filed its criminal case against the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer based on a Kolkata Police FIR "for accumulation of huge wealth in the name of his associates by giving undue favours by misusing his official position".



Vistara to start daily flight on Delhi-Indore route

NEW DELHI: Vistara airline on Saturday announced it will start a daily flight on Delhi-Indore route from October 26. With this, Indore becomes 30th destination on its network. According to Vistara, the flight will depart from Delhi airport at 6:55 am daily and arrive at Indore airport at 8:20 am. The return flight will leave Indore at 8:55 am and arrive at Delhi airport at 10:25 am daily. Vinod Kannan, the chief strategy officer, Vistara, said, "A key manufacturing centre that's now also emerging as a major SME hub, Indore has seen a significant spike in demand for greater air connectivity to the rest of the country." The airline connects 30 destinations, including three international, and operates over 1,200 flights per week using 32 aircraft in its fleet.



GST: Aadhaar verification to be mandatory

BENGALURU: In order to check malpractices in GST, the GST Network on Saturday decided to make Aadhaar authentication or physical verification mandatory for new dealers from January 2020. "Aadhaar authentication of new dealers will be mandatory. Earlier it was optional. But we have noticed in two years that there's good number of fly-by-night operators. They make fake invoices," Bihar deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi, who heads the group of ministers of GST Network told reporters after a meeting here. Those who don't want Aadhaar authentication, physical verification will be carried out, which will be completed in three days, he added. As refunding is a big issue, the GSTN decided on complete online refunding from September 24 this year from a single source, either by the Central GST or State GST, Modi said.

Finance Minister sees clear signs of revival



The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman addressing a press conference, in New Delhi on Saturday. The Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Anurag Singh Thakur is also seen

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said there are clear signs of revival of industrial production and fixed investment after economic growth plunged to a six-year low.

At a press conference called to announce the third part of the stimulus package for the economy, she said measures are being taken to improve credit outflow from banks.

Also, transmission of interest rate cuts is being effected by banks, she said, adding she will meet heads of public sector lenders on September 19 to review the transmission.

The Reserve Bank of India

Also, transmission of interest rate cuts is being effected by banks, she said, adding she will meet heads of public sector lenders on September 19 to review the transmission

has since February cut the benchmark interest rate by 110 basis points but banks have lagged in transmitting the lower rates to borrowers.

The government has been pressing banks to link borrowing rates to an external benchmark to speed up the transmission of rate cuts.

India's GDP growth decreased for the fifth consecutive quarter in April-June 2019

to 5 per cent, the lowest in six years. This was on the back of faltering domestic demand, with both private consumption and investment proving lackluster.

The government's previous policy measures to stimulate the economy included support for the automobile sector, a reduction in capital gains tax, and additional liquidity support for shadow banks.

'Inflation under control'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said inflation is under control and there is a clear sign of revival of industrial production. The minister said inflation has been kept "very much" below 4 per cent.

The government has mandated the Reserve Bank of India to keep the retail inflation in the band of 2-6 per cent. The latest inflation print based on Consumer Price Index was 3.21 per cent in August.

Sitharaman further said that despite of all worries on industrial production front in the fourth quarter of 2018-19, "we see clear signs" of improvement up to July 2019.

The minister further said the steps announced to increase credit flow to NBFCs, including the partial credit guarantee scheme, has started showing results.

"Several NBFCs have benefited," the minister said.

Sitharaman also informed that she will be meeting heads of public sector banks on September 19, a day before the GST Council meeting in Goa, to access the credit flow scenario to the economy.

'Obtain CMs' views before changing Finance panel's ToR'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said the government should have taken chief ministers' views before changing the terms of reference of the 15th Finance Commission, adding that unilateralism is not good for federal policy and cooperative federalism.

Earlier in July, the Centre changed the terms of reference of the 15th Finance Commission and mandated the panel to suggest ways for allocation of non-lapsable funds for defence and internal security.

Speaking at an event here, Singh said any change in the panel's terms of reference at the fag-end of its term should have been done in consultation with the states.

"The best course would have been for the Central government that if it wants to tailor the terms of reference, it should be backed by Chief Ministers' Conference, which is now under the auspices of NITI Aayog, otherwise there would be strong feeling that the (Central) government is trying to rob the states of due



I respectfully request to the authorities to still take this view that they will go by the advice of the Chief Ministers if there is new controversy with regard to additional terms of reference of the commission

—MANMOHAN SINGH
Former Prime Minister

resource allotment.

"I think that it is not good for the federal polity of our country and cooperative federalism we all swear by these days," Singh said while addressing the 'National Seminar on Additional Terms of Reference of the 15th Finance Commission: Implication for the States'.

The commission's report goes to the finance ministry and then it goes to the Cabinet and therefore government of the day can take a view that whatever the mandate of the Parliament, the government would abide by that rather than imposing its view unilaterally on the reluctant state commissions," he added.

The government on November 27, 2017 notified

the 15th Finance Commission, headed by N K Singh, to suggest the formula for devolution of funds to states by the Centre for five years commencing April 1, 2020, among other issues.

The commission, which has been mandated to use 2011 census data rather than the one of 1971 for resource allocation, was to submit its report by October 30, 2019. The deadline was later extended till November 30, 2019.

"I respectfully request to the authorities to still take this view that they will go by the advice of the Chief Ministers if there is new controversy with regard to additional terms of reference of the commission," the senior Congress leader said.

Rinfra pledges 1.5 cr more shares

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Infrastructure on Friday pledged 1.5 crore additional shares in Reliance Power. According to a regulatory filing by the company, the reason for encumbrance was "invocation of pledge against non-convertible debentures (NCDs) issued by Reliance Infrastructure Ltd". The filing showed that the fresh pledge was done on September 9 in favour of IDBI Trusteeship Services Limited Lender/Debenture holder Deutsche Bank.

Former PM Cameron 'sorry' for Brexit

PNS ■ LONDON

The British prime minister who called the Brexit referendum and then saw the public vote to leave the European Union says he is sorry for the divisions it has caused.

David Cameron said in an interview published Saturday that he thinks about the consequences of the Brexit referendum "every single day" and worries "desperately" about what will happen next.

"I deeply regret the outcome and accept that my approach failed," he said. "The decisions I took contributed to that failure. I failed." He admitted that many people blame him for the Brexit divisions that have deepened since the referendum and will never forgive him, but he defended his decision to call the vote.

He spoke to The Times newspaper to promote his soon-to-be-published memoir. Cameron, who had supported remaining in the EU, resigned the morning after the 2016 referendum. He has stayed out of electoral politics since then and largely kept out of the public eye.

His two successors — first Theresa May and now Prime Minister Boris Johnson — have wrestled with the Brexit issue and have thus far been



He spoke to The Times newspaper to promote his soon-to-be-published memoir. Cameron, who had supported remaining in the EU, resigned the morning after the 2016 referendum

unable to win parliamentary backing for an exit plan agreed with EU leaders.

Johnson faces an Oct. 31 deadline for leaving the EU and has been instructed by Parliament to seek an extension, which he says he will not do despite concerns that leaving without a deal would cause severe economic problems and possible food and medicine shortages.

Govt announces Rs 50,000 cr export incentive

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday announced a new scheme -- Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP) -- to incentivise exporters at an estimated

cost of Rs 50,000 crore to the exchequer.

The announcement comes in the backdrop of India's merchandise exports declining by 6.05 per cent to USD 26.13 billion in August compared to the year-ago month.

The minister also said

there will be a fully automated electronic refund route for input tax credits (ITC) in GST. This will be implemented by the month-end.

The move, she added, is aimed at quick and automated refunds of ITC.

She said RoDTEP will

replace the existing incentive schemes and "will more than adequately incentivise exporters than the existing schemes put together".

The minister said the revenue foregone towards the scheme is projected at Rs 50,000 crore.

China to lift punitive tariffs on US

PNS ■ BEIJING

China will lift punitive tariffs imposed on US soybeans and pork in a trade war with Washington, a state news agency said Friday, adding to conciliatory gestures by the two sides ahead of negotiations.

China will suspend tariff hikes on soybeans, pork and some other farm goods, the Xinhua News Agency said, citing the Cabinet planning agency and the Commerce Ministry.

Beijing "supports domestic companies in purchasing a certain amount of US farm produce," it said, but it gave no details.

The move follows President Donald Trump's decision Wednesday to postpone a planned Oct. 1 tariff hike on Chinese imports to October 15.

Hopes are growing that the two sides might defuse the prolonged dispute that is threatening global economic growth.

But there has been no sign of progress on the main issues in their sprawling conflict over trade and technology.

Beijing's decision to restore access to low-cost US soybeans also would help Chinese pig



Donald Trump

Hopes are growing that the two sides might defuse the prolonged dispute that is threatening global economic growth

farmers who use soy as animal feed.

They are reeling from an epidemic of African swine fever that has caused pork prices to soar.

Phone calls to the commerce and finance ministries weren't answered on Friday, a national holiday in China.

"China has a huge market, and the prospects for importing high-quality U.S. farm produce are broad," Xinhua said.

Sacklers accused of moving fortune to Swiss banks

PNS ■ NEW YORK

Investigators have found at least one billion dollars in wire transfers between the wealthy Sackler family, accused of fuelling the United States' opioid crisis, and financial institutions including Swiss bank accounts, officials said Friday.

New York State Attorney General Letitia James, who is investigating the Sacklers and



their company Purdue Pharma, last month asked some 30 financial institutions that had worked with the family to hand over documents

about their assets.

While she has not received all the information requested, James said in a statement: "Records from one financial institution alone have shown approximately USD 1 billion in wire transfers between the Sacklers, entities they control and different financial institutions, including those that have funneled funds into Swiss bank accounts."

Singapore's Marina Bay Sands' to add 4th tower

PNS ■ SINGAPORE

Singapore's iconic tourism destination Marina Bay Sands' will add a new 'fourth tower', adjacent to the existing three towers, at an approximate USD 3.3 billion investment, in its bid to attract more international visitors.

"We are currently planning an all-suite hotel which will offer the highest level of amenities, features and service standards. It will target the high-value international visitors," said George Tanasijevich, President and Chief Executive Officer, Marina Bay Sands.

He said the expansion project is going to give great opportunity to make Marina



Bay Sands and Singapore a better tourism destination.

Located adjacent to the existing Marina Bay Sands Integrated Resort, the key elements of the development will

Located adjacent to the existing Marina Bay Sands Integrated Resort, the key elements of the development will be a state-of-the-art 15,000-seat arena and additional MICE (Meeting, Incentive, Convention, and Exhibition) space besides a luxury hotel tower

Concert ticket prices in Singapore are among the highest in the world and as a result, the pool of potential customers is suppressed, Tanasijevich said.

"An arena with 15,000 seats will result in ticket prices being in line with industry norms, and make the events more accessible to a larger number of

people. This, in turn, will lead to an increase in the number of music events in Singapore," he told PTI.

The new arena is also suitable for MICE groups to host big plenary sessions and large conference groups who need to sit up to 15,000 persons in one session, the CEO said, explaining the project.

the pioneer agenda



I don't know whether it's audiences or filmmakers who want characters to be likable today, but I don't think actors are afraid of their characters being unlikable
— Dakota Fanning



FROM THE INSIDE

12 Heal self for a better world
The best way to inspire change in others is by changing ourselves. Meditate to relieve stress and heal

14 Watch over your karma
The driving spirit of the laws of karma is to put you through lessons of life as would help you evolve



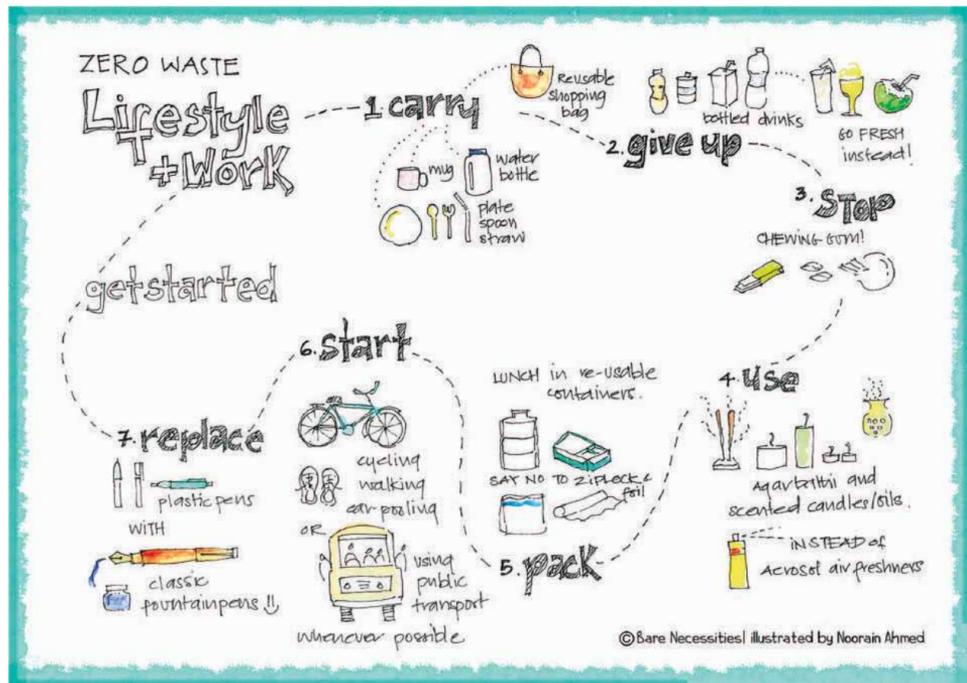
THE BARE NECESSITIES

SIMPLE IDEAS THAT MATTER

Using a circular economy methodology, which promotes the use of products that do not end up in landfill and can be reused in a variety of ways without harming the environment, is the only sustainable option. Small changes in your daily life is all it would take to bring about that big change

What is waste? It is a poignant question that is often answered the same way in waste education workshops conducted by the Bangalore-based social business, Bare Necessities (that promotes adoption of zero waste practices, circular economy methodology and sustainability to consumers and businesses throughout India and further abroad through designing zero waste products, running educational workshops and providing sustainability consulting) as 'waste is plastic', 'chip packets', 'chocolate wrappers', 'food scraps', 'drink bottles', 'juice boxes'...

TIM DE RIDDER



These are all correct answers and there are many more of those fantastic responses that are received from school children as young as five or six years to well educated adults with tertiary degrees and many other people between. The feedback is exceptionally specific, which has its benefits, yet, for our discussion here, let's look at it on a broader note — Waste, as we would all agree, is humanity's excess.

Humanity is overproducing and over consuming (or not consuming at all if we take a look at landfills), research shows that the "average person buys 60% more items of clothing than they did 15 years ago", and, "an estimated one-third of all food produced — equivalent to 1.3 billion tonnes worth around \$1 trillion — ends up rotting in the bins of consumers and retailers, or spoiling due to poor transportation and harvesting practices". These are two of several examples that could be used to illustrate this point. However, instead of finding more cases, let's think about why these situations occur? It has been noted that within the textile industry, within India, the one major reason why there is so much waste is because of a lack of awareness and education about how fashion can fit within a circular economy. Textile industry is the third largest producer of waste in most Indian states behind plastic and paper.

Notably too, research has shown that the current food system "exerts a considerable impact on the environment. It drives deforestation and biodiversity loss, contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and accounts for 70% of water withdrawals". This is a problem that affects every individual on the planet no matter where one is standing, but has the potential to disproportionately affect locations with larger societal inequalities — "almost 2 billion people go hungry or

TIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE LIFE

FOR YOUR CLOSET: Pick ethical and slow fashion (Khadi, natural fibre, support local businesses); Support 'hand me downs'/swap clothes; Donate unworn clothes; Mending is loving your clothes even more; Leave the shoe box at the store; Carry a reusable bag for shopping; Avoid compulsive buying

HOME CARE: Dry clothes on a line, instead of a hanger; But detergent in bulk; Plan laundry days to save energy; Bring in houseplants to clean air; Use alternative house cleaning tools such as, wooden brush for light scrubbing, metal scour for stains, compostable brush for hard to reach places, reusable cloth wipes for mopping and cleaning, coconut husk for dishes; Use natural cleaning alternatives such as: coconut soap for floor and sink, baking

soda for scrubbing jobs, vinegar for mildew and laundry rinsing agent

GIFTING: Donate money to your friend's favourite charity; Opt for potted plants and homemade treats in a jar for party giveaways; Buy local gifts that support local businesses; Give seeds or flower bouquets with no plastic attached; Get crafty, make handmade gifts; Wrap without plastic tape. Use newspaper, paper or cloth bag as alternative packaging; Gift an experience: go hiking, scuba diving, kayaking with friends and family

KITCHEN: Use a water-filter; Say no to plastic bottles; Steel/Copper vessels instead of non-stick; Use pressure cooker to half cooking time; Buy package free food from farmer's market; Use steel boxes for storage; Buy local bread; Make compost out of kitchen waste

undernourished" across the globe. Thus, part of the reason why this is occurring is because of a lack of awareness. But, that is only a part of the problem.

For, if we were to look at similar types of excess in other areas of life, such as energy use (large cars, technologies such as smartphones) or in the areas of lifestyle and personal care products, we are forced to rethink if it is only about awareness. At an individual level, the focus should be to divert waste from landfill by using innovative design that fits within a circular economy.

A growing number of Sustainability businesses, such as Bare Necessities, aim to raise the level of awareness about the amount of excess that humanity is producing through their talks and workshops while providing alternatives and brainstorming ideas with consumers in order to assess whether there is a need for a product and then designing it for a market that desires innovation that reduces excess. These businesses target a

specific and growing market of conscious consumers.

Within the Indian market, the growth in conscious consumers has been led by leaders both individually and in business. Sharing of facts and figures is one important way to raise awareness. For instance, not many are aware that there is "estimated as many as 8.3 billion plastic straws (that pollute the world's beaches". Or, that for dental care items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes, "the package is not noticed during purchase, transport, and use of the product. In fact, it is not noticed until the minute the product is consumed and the package has fulfilled its function and turns into waste". Similarly for soap, "though one wrapper of soap or one bottle of shampoo might not seem to matter, it can definitely make a difference when multiplied by over a billion people, who live in India and who comprise one-seventh of the world's population".

Individuals, businesses and groups, by

becoming more aware and implementing action plans (through design, reduction in use of products and other areas) are steadily able to do more to limit waste and humanity's excess.

This brings us to our next question — why is it such a struggle to change? There are a growing amount of facts about these areas of excess that illustrate the detrimental effects of a linear life cycle — the take, make, dispose system that sees many of our products resources being extracted from a limited resource (the planet) before being used and then disposed back into the environment.

Research demonstrates that using a circular economy methodology, which promotes the use of products that do not end up in landfill — instead the products can be reused in a variety of ways without harming the environment — is the only sustainable option. The circular economy is hugely beneficial in ensuring that humanity no longer produces and consumes products with a take-make-dispose methodology, and thereby helps to sustain both us and the environment we live in.

When you think about it on a day to day basis, there are numerous systems around you that call for your attention — where you buy your food is one example and how often you wear your clothes is another. All systems have set processes that are, more or less, controlled by majority stakeholders, who have the greatest say of how a system functions, in terms of production and consumption. This is not, however, doom and gloom, the thing to remember with systems is that until there is enough consumer demand, change often will not occur. Currently, slowly but surely, large companies are becoming aware of the growing consumer demand.

There is a growing focus on designing new solutions that must be valued by

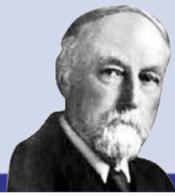
CONSUMER DEMAND, AND A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY AS AN INDIVIDUAL, IS AT THE HEART OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION. FORTUNATELY THERE IS A GROWING NUMBER OF CONSUMERS, ESPECIALLY IN THE LARGER URBAN CENTRES OF INDIA, WHO ARE CURRENTLY WANTING CHANGE AND ALREADY TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

all for long term reduction in the contamination of water, land and air — our environment. Examples of this can be seen as far afield as Mexico where a company is transforming avocado pits into disposable bioplastic straws and cutlery, and in Indonesia where the root vegetable cassava is used to create biodegradable bags. By designing new products, along with minimising single use items, correctly disposing of used products in correct categories and limiting the amount of non-organic material, cleaning agents for example, used on a day to day basis, creating a zero waste environment for our all important planet can be achieved.

Consumer demand, and a willingness to accept responsibility as an individual, is at the heart of production and consumption. Fortunately there is a growing number of consumers, especially in the larger urban centres of India, who are currently wanting change and already taking responsibility. Businesses too are making their stand, for instance, Bare Necessities provides sustainable options to toothbrushes, cosmetics, detergents, soap, and even the humble tote bag among other products. These are all simple ideas that matter.

What, then, is waste? The answers heard at the beginning of a talk or workshop are largely those pointing to excess, yet, if we were to look at it in a different light, perhaps it is simply that it is a resource that we have yet to use, because everything matters when taking positive steps toward sustainability on a planet with finite resources. Therefore, we must endeavour to value every item, whether that is a piece of fruit, an item of clothing or any of the specific answers to the waste question touched on at the outset, we need to take the responsibility right down to the most bare necessities.

The writer is a Sustainability Consultant and Education Officer



KEEP YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND, BUT LET YOUR HEART SOAR AS HIGH AS IT WILL. REFUSE TO BE AVERAGE OR TO SURRENDER TO THE CHILL OF YOUR SPIRITUAL ENVIRONMENT — ARTHUR HELPS

HEAL SELF FOR A BETTER WORLD

If we wish to heal our planet, we must begin by healing ourselves. The best way to inspire change in others is by changing ourselves, writes SANT RAJINDER SINGH



Our world is in need of healing, and there are many who have dedicated their lives to this cause. There is a way for each of us to contribute to a better future, and it all begins in silence.

If we wish to heal our planet, we must begin by healing ourselves. We may not be able to change another person over the course of weeks, years, or even a lifetime, but we can change ourselves immediately. If each person worked on healing themselves, the effect would be monumental. If each person healed themselves, the benefits they experience may inspire others to do the same. Like a wave, the effect would spread, bathing the whole world in healing waters. So let us begin with looking at ways in which we can heal ourselves.

HEALING OURSELVES

When we speak about healing ourselves, we are not talking medically. The word "healing" involves making us whole in all aspects of our life. We are referring to healing our body, mind, and soul. Healing involves eliminating disease. What is disease but "dis-ease," not being at ease. We may find that we are not at ease physically because of different medical conditions. We may find that we are not at ease mentally due to problems we face at our job, in our homes, in our community, or at the

emotional and psychological level. We may find that we are not at ease spiritually because there are questions relating to our soul and the Creator, and our purpose in life, that we have not yet found answers to that cause restlessness in our soul. Thus, to heal ourselves, we need to employ techniques to remove the "dis-ease," and put us at ease at every level.

HEALING OUR BODY

Advances in science and medicine have taught us a great deal about how to keep our bodies healthy and to ensure optimum performance of the body that we have been given. We know or have access to information about nutrition and personal health and hygiene. We know what precautions to take to prevent certain diseases. If we are to heal our body, we should lead healthy lifestyles: keep physically fit, strike a healthy balance between work, rest, and exercise, eat foods that are nutritionally good for us, eliminate habits and substances that are harmful to us, such as smoking, drinking and taking drugs, and safeguard against conditions that spread disease. The key is to observe these laws of nature so that we do not inadvertently and carelessly injure our body.

STRESS AND DISEASE

Doctors and medical researchers have discovered that stress has a role

IF EACH PERSON WORKED ON HEALING THEMSELVES, THE EFFECT WOULD BE MONUMENTAL. IF EACH PERSON HEALED THEMSELVES, THE BENEFITS THEY EXPERIENCE MAY INSPIRE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME. LIKE A WAVE, THE EFFECT WOULD SPREAD

to play in our health. They have learned that stress can cause a breakdown of our immune system and be a cause of ailments. Stress interferes with the healthy functioning of some of our bodily systems required to resist disease. It activates the "fight or flight" response causing certain biochemical reactions in our body. When we are in a state of stress, our heart beats faster. Certain hormones are released to get us ready to protect ourselves. Once released, they cannot be recalled.

A ready-alert system that was originally intended to help us escape physical harm becomes activated even in the presence of day-to-day situations that do not pose any threat to our life. Thus, we carry within us a state of stress, or a state in which our body is responding to fear and threat even in situations that are only problems for our mind. Because we are not fighting or fleeing, our body has no way to dissipate the bottled up stress and we carry it around with us throughout the day. Ultimately, it begins to cause problems for us internally, and different organs begin reacting to that stress. Thus, stress that is unchecked and not dissipated can affect our heart, our lungs, our circulatory system, our digestive system, our skin, and our nervous system. We may suffer from stress-related headaches, stomachaches, breathing problems, and nervousness.

CHECK STRESS TO HEAL THE BODY

We may not be able to control the contraction of certain diseases which are genetic or which spread through the air, but we can control over our personal stress. There are ways to reduce and even eliminate stress in our lives. When we talk of eliminating stress, we do not mean eliminating problems. Problems will always be there. But we can eliminate our unhealthy physical response to the problems.

By learning the art of meditation, we will have a defense system against stress. The key is to have another kind of response to problems that will not stimulate these physical reactions in the body. If we can learn to meditate, then we can confront problems in a way that does not upset our physiological systems. Meditation provides a way for us to learn to control our reactions.

HEALING THE MIND

When we talk about healing our mind, we are referring to its reaction to problems we face that affect our thinking and our emotions. Each day we are bombarded by sensory stimuli from all directions. Each message coming in through our five senses is conveyed to the brain. Some messages require a physical response, but many of them require intellectual or mental responses. We have to think through problems, make decisions, plan, analyse, synthesise, create, and then communicate our thoughts to others.

Oftentimes, the mental stimuli can bring about reactions of fear, anxiety, tension, confusion, indecision, and a host of emotional responses. Mental tension and emotional pain take their toll on our body and physical health. It also affects our ability to be productive and effective in the world.

MEDITATION FOR A HEALTHY MIND

We can avoid much of the stress, anxiety, and tension by meditation. Meditation is a way to relieve stress at the mental level and help us to have a healthy mind. A healthy mind means that we can deal with the challenges of life in a calm, composed way without it causing us to feel upset, depressed, anxious, fearful, or threatened.

A healthy mind means we deal with life's problems without it affecting our emotional make-up. We take things as they come, deal with them effectively, try to find the best solution, and move on. We do not need to be overwhelmed, overpowered, and upset over the daily situations we face. By sitting in meditation, we develop the calmness to approach problems and situations. The more we sit in meditation, the more we are able to return to that state of peace and harmony at any time during the day.

The writer is a spiritual leader



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

Market needs stimulation



Democracies thrive on economy and economy thrives on confidence of the people in the system. India has for long carried forward the legacy of the Raj when the purpose of the then government was exploitation of the colony and filling the coffers of the British Government at the cost of India. The *babudom* that continued to hold the reins of governance after independence could not shake off its imperialist mind set and India went on to remain a country of subjects rather than citizens. But there are limitations to the rule by magistracy and collectorate and the signs are gradually showing. It is for this reason that in our TDS (Trust Deficient Society) driven economy business cycles hover between frequent troughs and occasional peaks. In the process, the confidence of the market continues to remain shaky as a result of societal paranoia. To cope with the situation the interventionist stimulations are tried time and again to boost the economy. The tricky part is that it works for short durations and goes back to the original bearish stance sooner than later. What is to be understood is that internal stimulation is required to keep the system ticking and kicking on its own. The only way this can be done is by boosting the confidence of the market which comprises not only the investors but also the consumers. In fact, it is the consumers that stimulate both the market and the investors. More so in a market economy which draws sustenance from a myriad of factors. It is against this backdrop that the recent opinion of the Chief Economic Advisor has to be viewed. In order to rejuvenate the markets stimulus packages are announced to bail out certain industries. But such steps are against the spirit of the market economy. Indian experience with the market economy is around three decades old, time enough to realise that market economy is governed by market forces. Naturally, there are sectors that reach the decline phase. How far can state sponsored stimulation help. Slowdowns are market phenomena that depend significantly on consumer sentiments, rather than only investor perception. Using tax payers' money to intervene every time there are slowdowns in certain sectors is fraught with moral hazards. If some sectors are assumed too big to fail then ensuring that they don't fail through interventions from the state tantamount to creating a situation where profits are private and losses are of the society. Systemic incentives are better options than fiscal stimuli. System needs to be strengthened rather than some sections. The measures announced recently by the government may seem to be prudent. But there is need to examine whether the slowdown bogey is a careful design by some smart operators rather than purely market driven. Markets depend more on psychological rather than economic factors. In order to keep an economy ticking the morale of the industry must be boosted. But government must not only appear to be industry friendly but also prove consumer friendly. Policy consistency is what gives stability to the economy. Knee jerk responses do not go far enough. It is pertinent therefore to give that confidence to the investors, consumers and financial institutions that things will not be allowed to drift.

Pathak is a professor of management, writer, and an acclaimed public speaker. He can be reached at ppathak.ism@gmail.com

Positivity reigns supreme

Positive affirmation is the key to success. Hard work and positive visualisation leads to positive behaviour and weeds out negativity, says SARITA MATHUR



Being in the present moment is the gift of the moment. Only when you live in the present time awareness do you enjoy the moment. There is no guilt or regret from the past. There is no fear of the unknown either. Imagine, when heart-based awareness rules, anger and resentment are no longer a part of your life. Just a peaceful state of acceptance and embracing of the present moment. A sense of adventure and positivity reigns supreme.

Being who you are and speaking up for yourself is a sure shot way of enjoying your life. Often, we do not say what we mean. Consequently, we keep thinking about it — about what we should have said, or not. We are plagued by negativity. By constantly pleasing other people, we put ourselves last. This does not lead to happiness. It actually makes us resentful and unhappy.

By being people pleasers, we do not make anyone happy. People do not realise that we are not doing what we want to. They take us for granted. We earn respect only when we are true to ourselves. We must

speak up when someone is rude to us or says something that we do not agree with.

Otherwise, it is too late. The moment is lost and then regret creeps in. By being true to ourselves and honest with our feelings, we feel powerful. Other people's opinion should not make us feel small. They are speaking their own truth. We can accept it if we want to, but not feel bad when they voice it.

The importance of visualisation cannot be overestimated. When we are young, it is called day dreaming. "Do not day dream!" we are often told. However, we can day dream ourselves into a glorious future. If we want a four-bedroom house and keep visualising ourselves living in one, chances are that our dream will come true. The Universe answers our prayers. Positive affirmation is the key to success. Hard work and positive visualisation at all times leads to positive behaviour and weeds out negativity. When we dream big and work towards it, our dream is achieved. Positive and constant affirmation are the key to success.

Breathing techniques are important.

Focusing on the breath is what people do to control negative thoughts. Breathe in and out slowly while counting each breath. This technique helps the mind to focus on one thing at a time. Most people cannot even count up to ten without thoughts crowding their mind. However, with practice it becomes easier. Each thought is received with detachment. The focus is on breathing. Once should not get attached to one's thoughts. Let the thoughts come and go and focus on the breath. Thought protection or mantras is sound healing. Keep chanting positive thoughts (a word or a sentence) and the vibration will flow through your mind and body. More importantly, there will be space for no other thought. When there is no space for negativity, positivity reigns supreme. The sound of a bell chiming (church or temple bell) sends sound vibrations through the metaphysical centre of the body creating peace and wellness. This is energy vibration. These rituals are profound in nature. They have deep meaning and natural healing.

Additionally, when you believe in a higher energy, and focus on it, peace comes to you. Your world may be out of control, but your faith in that higher energy will be there to help and guide you. God will give you whatever you desire, keep you safe and ensure you remain healthy. That, for most people helps them leave negativity and move towards positive thought.

Hands on and distant healing techniques help the mind calm down and the body to heal. These energy techniques are considered alternative, but more people are following and practicing them. Reiki, Chi Gung and Tai Chi are a few healing modalities. They bring the body and mind into balance and all negative thoughts get dissipated. As I like to say: life is full of joy. Visualise it, believe in it and work towards it.

Mathur is the author of *Once Again Love: Reconnecting with the Heart*

Correct your self-image

Appearance of self has a large bearing on how we perceive ourselves. To be happy, we must have this image right, says AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Before I get into this important aspect of our lives, let us be clear about what self-image is all about. Defined as the opinion or idea that you have of yourself, especially of your appearance or abilities, self-image is very different from self-respect, which is the feeling of pride in yourself in terms of what you do, or say, being correct and good. Ego, which is defined as your sense of your own value and importance, is a lot closer to one's self-image.

Image is the impression that a person gives to the public. These are of two types — naturally occurring (the result of many years) and contrived. The latter generally has a sinister motive. Those in the business of cheating the public contrive to give a false impression of self. Fake *babas* come to the mind in this connection. Then, there are people who run ponzi schemes.

Self-image begins to form from childhood itself. This process goes on throughout one's life. One tries to enhance it rather than correct it. There are many factors, which go into image making and its evolution. Humans have been blessed with intelligence. Mature intelligence or wisdom comes after a very long time, sometimes many lives. Still, this fact does not prevent people from pretending to be highly intelligent. That explains why we make so many mistakes. A human is not above erring, but a false assessment of self-intelligence makes it worse.

Appearance of self has also a large bearing on how we perceive ourselves. Good looking people feel more confident about themselves because the appearance is the first thing one notices in a person. However, this factor is not absolute. Other factors like abilities have a large bearing on how we assess our personalities overall. Personal values,



sanskars and morals, are also very important. They emit a feeling of superiority like no other. Our ambitions also decide how we assess ourselves. Persons with high ambitions think highly of themselves and try to project selves in a positive way. They are more focused than an average person. In short, how we desire our future to be is very important in this connection.

Personal nature also determines the image one will have of oneself. And our nature is the sum total of our habits. For example, continued success in life gives the image of being a go-getter. Our past has a lot of bearing on how we will perceive ourselves or others will. After all, we are not a sum total of what we have been, the acts we have done earlier.

The society we live in also influences how we assess ourselves, or like to be. We wish to be one of it and somewhat better. Health also plays a part. Healthy people are more likely to exude confidence. Circumstances and age force changes. In older age, one accepts that one is not so physically capable.

This fact brings out the necessity of correcting the self-image; we cannot be attached to any one version of it. Generally, the self-image is always superior to what we actually are. This puts a lot of pressure on one to rise to that standard. Some will say that it is a motivating factor for self-improvement. Yes, it is true as long as the gap is manageable, otherwise it results in stressful existence. It is very important that we have the right image of ourselves.

Trying to stick to some image is not wise, because the self-image must be attuned to the present realities, otherwise pressure builds up. Most of us are unable to fight it and suffer. This becomes a bondage, which is quite harmful. Ideally, we should focus on doing our duties and the image takes care of itself. And the gap between the reality and what we project ourselves to be should always be manageable; only then, our lives will be better.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com



SWEET& SOUR

Researchers have found that the scent of a lemon could help people feel better about their body image and that people feel thinner and lighter when they experience it. The study presented at the 17th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction also revealed people contrastingly felt thicker and heavier when they smelt vanilla



TREATMENT FOR VARICOSE VEINS SIMPLIFIED

K RAMYA SREE
■ HYDERABAD

Ever felt a stinging pain in your calf muscles or feet? And veins looking as purple as Thanos? It is not a superpower. It might be varicose veins. Statistics indicate that varicose veins affect 15 to 20 per cent of the people in the world and about 5 per cent of Indians. Adults with varicose veins may be at an increased risk of suffering from blood clot that leads to vascular diseases. There is a need to raise awareness about this issue, as it can affect those who sit or stand for too long due to the increased pressure in the veins. Radio frequency ablation and medical adhesive therapies are emerging as a preferred mode of treating varicose veins.

Varicose veins are enlarged, swollen and twisted veins that often appear blue or dark purple. Healthy veins carry blood to the heart through valves. To return blood to the heart, the veins in the legs have to work against gravity. If these valves get weak or damaged, blood flows backwards and pools in the vein, causing them to stretch, twist or become enlarged. People with this condition are twice as likely to develop a blood clot in one of the arteries that go from the heart to the lungs.

Dr Narendranadh Meda, vascular surgeon, KIMS Hospital Hyderabad said, "Any vein can become varicose. However, the veins

most commonly affected are in your legs and feet. This is because standing and walking upright increases the pressure on veins. Varicose veins may also signal a higher risk of other circulatory problems. Presence of varicose veins can also cause edema due to the increase in pressure in the blood vessels. It is therefore important to take precautions includ-

ing avoiding sitting or standing for too long," Adding further, Dr Meda said, "Apart from dark purple/blue and bulging veins, other symptoms include an achy or heavy feeling in the legs, burning, throbbing, muscle cramping, swelling, worsening of pain after sitting or standing for a long time; itching around the veins; and skin discol-

oration around a varicose vein. The condition is diagnosed through a physical examination or an ultrasound to check for blood clots. There is a need to raise awareness on timely treatment and the availability of minimally invasive procedures such as radiofrequency ablation therapy to treat varicose veins.

Generally treatment options include endovenous laser therapy (ELVT) and radiofrequency ablation therapy (RFA). Ablation uses heat to damage the tissue, which then causes scars. In the RFA technique, radiofrequency energy

SIMPLIFIED

is used to heat up and damage the wall inside a vein. This causes it to shrink and collapse. The procedure is painless and enables quicker recovery. Other options include venous ligation and stripping, and phlebectomy.

Treating varicose veins using medical adhesive is the latest advancement. It is a minimally invasive procedure in which a catheter is guided through a small access site in the leg and into the diseased area. Once this is done, the medical adhesive is administered at various points in a segmental fashion, and the vein is closed with manual compression. The process requires less time and helps in faster recovery.

“The condition is diagnosed through a physical examination or an ultrasound to check for blood clots. There is a need to raise awareness on timely treatment and the availability of minimally invasive procedures such as radiofrequency ablation therapy to treat varicose veins

DR NARENDRANADH MEDA
VASCULAR SURGEON,
KIMS HOSPITAL

Tips to prevent varicose veins



- Stimulate blood circulation in your legs by taking regular walks.
- It is important to lose that excess weight to avoid pressure on the legs. Follow a low-salt diet to prevent swelling caused from water retention.
- Low-heeled footwear helps exercise the calf muscles more and are hence, better for the veins.
- Avoid wearing clothes that are tight around the waist, legs, or groin.
- Take short breaks between work to elevate your legs above the level of your heart. You can lie down with your legs resting on three or four pillows.
- Avoid sitting or standing for long. Change your position frequently to encourage blood flow.



The Aedes mosquito that is known to cause Dengue is becoming increasingly prevalent in Telangana during the monsoons. Because of filthy water getting stagnated in many parts of the city. With fresh cases being reported every day from different parts of Telangana state, it is high time people start taking extra measures to ensure they remain unharmed. Reports suggest that Dengue deaths in the state have crossed 50 in this season alone. Doctor KK Agarwal from the Heart Care Foundation talks about how the disease spreads, its prevention and measures to get healthy again

FORMULA OF 20 CRUCIAL FOR DENGUE TREATMENT

Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne infection that causes severe flu-like symptoms and can be fatal. More dengue-positive cases are being reported every day from various parts of the state with the deaths crossing 50. The need of the hour, therefore, is to raise awareness on the condition, its treatment and how to prevent the condition.

Padma Shri Awardee, Dr KK Aggarwal, President, Heart Care Foundation of India (HCFI), said, "Dengue is one of the fastest growing mosquito-borne infections in the world and those infected have either mild symptoms or none at all. The mosquito Aedes Aegypti has ample breeding sites in India as the country is a dengue-endemic country. One of the foremost methods to contain the number of dengue cases is prevention. It is important to discard old things where water gets collected as it may become a potential breeding ground. The statement that Aedes is a day-biter and only breeds in indoor freshwater is not true. This mosquito can breed and bite in the evening or night as well. Precautions need to be taken round-the-clock as the mosquito only recognises light, not day or night. As per recent studies Doxycycline, a drug which has proven efficacy in vector-borne diseases like malaria and leptospirosis, is found to be effective in dengue too."

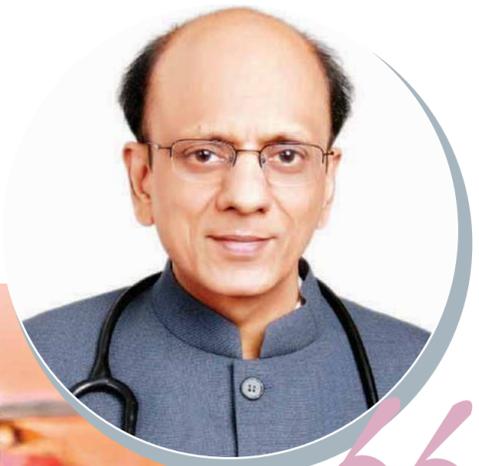
He further said, "A mosquito's breeding cycle takes 7 to 12 days to complete and therefore, proper cleaning of the house and surroundings once a week is recommended. It is customary in our country to clean our houses during the festival season and dispose of or give away all unwanted items. A similar Diwali-like cleaning ritual should be adopted before the monsoon to eliminate possible breeding grounds for mosquitoes."

Physicians must remember the formula of 20 while diagnosing and differentiating between simple and severe dengue cases. If a patient's pulse rises by more than 20; there is fall in upper BP by more than 20; difference between lower and upper BP is less than 20, rapid fall of platelets to less than 20,000 along with rapid rise in haematocrit by more than 20 per cent and presence of over 20 hemorrhagic spots on the arm

after a tourniquet test, then the patient is considered a high-risk category and needs 20ml of fluid per kg body weight immediately along with proper medical attention.

Dengue is preventable and manageable. There is a risk of complication in only a meagre 1 per cent of the cases and if the public knows the warning signs, all Dengue deaths can be avoided.

— K Ramya Sree



TIPS TO PREVENT DENGUE

- Do not let water stagnate in and around your house as mosquitoes can lay eggs in money plant pots or in open water tanks.
- Wear full sleeves clothing.
- Mosquito nets/repellents should be used both during the day and night.



“Precautions need to be taken round-the-clock as the mosquito only recognises light, not day or night. As per recent studies Doxycycline, a drug which has proven efficacy in vector-borne diseases like malaria and leptospirosis, is found to be effective in dengue too

DR KK AGARWAL
RESIDENT, HEART CARE
FOUNDATION OF INDIA



THE TRUE TAROT IS SYMBOLISM; IT SPEAKS NO OTHER LANGUAGE AND OFFERS NO OTHER SIGNS — A E WAITE



YOUR WEEK AHEAD



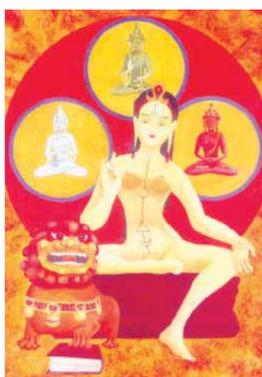
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

You are very worried about the future. This will cause you tension and give you sleepless nights. Health issues like headache, insomnia, or BP may trouble you. You should not allow negative emotions like fear, frustration and uncertainty to immobilise you. Focus on your present. On the career front, stay away from flatterers as you may be deceived by inaccurate information. You may face frequent mood swings and insecurity. Hidden forces at play may unravel your success. The best part is that you are positive, know how to control the situation and come out as a winner. In your love life, you will feel strong and established. You are balanced and caring towards your partner. Love relations may turn into a marriage.

Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

You need to find a positive environment where you can relax. You are likely to encounter a mental conflict and nervousness may cause the blood pressure to fluctuate. Focus on balancing your untamed energy. A disciplined lifestyle, balanced diet, regular medical checkup and exercise are unavoidable. Stay away from arguments and aggression. In your career, you will prove yourself trustworthy. It is likely to have genuine affection for someone in the work area. Those who have their own business will enjoy financial gains. Those in the job, the favour of a senior will boost your confidence. Your amicable behaviour and communication will work in your favour. In the matters of love, you will feel blessed. People will like you for your affectionate and romantic nature.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

For good health, you need to derive positive energy from the five elements: earth, water, air, fire and the sky. You need to adopt a balanced approach to life. Any irregularity in diet and lifestyle will have a bad impact on your health. Control your cravings and keep your anger in check. At work, you are meticulous and hard-working. You are willing to learn new skills. Your dedication and focus will work in your favour. Financially, there is a need to bring change in your lifestyle to increase overall gratification. The best part is that you are committed to getting those changes done. This week you will be lucky in love matters and have a high level of emotional contentment. You will see perfection all around you. Joy and happiness are within your reach.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you will enjoy good health, good vigour and good stamina. You will not only be able to care for yourself but for your family as well. You will take a rock-solid resolution for a healthy family, and will leave no stone unturned to achieve your goal. On your career front, you may need to take some important decisions with regard to your career/business. Maintain a practical approach. There are chances of you being emotionally blackmailed. A female counterpart may play a significant role in enhancing your career. You will witness a one-sided love, therefore, you need to have lots of patience and strength. Those in a committed relationship may have to stay apart on account of responsibilities. Married couples will have a mutual understanding.

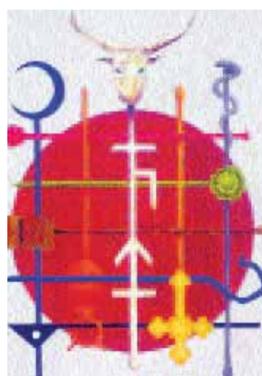
Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Navy Blue
Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Health-wise, this week is good. You will feel abundant energy and creativity. A female influence, either your mother or spouse, will help you meet your health needs and be a motivating factor to maintain a balance between physical and mental levels. You may slow down on your career front because you are under the constant scrutiny of competitors and rivals. You will feel restricted in life. Your addiction like alcohol, overspending or unhealthy relationship may become a hurdle in the path of success. Shield yourself from all these negativities. In the area of love, you need to accept and surrender to your present circumstances. It is advisable to leave instant temptation of gratification for the higher cause. Singles need to wait for some more time before committing to a relationship.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You will do anything to achieve good health. You should decide whether you want to follow your mind or your heart. The first approach would be to scrutinise your innermost needs and expectations. Your career may be at a standstill and you will feel stagnated. You need to make cordial relations with your senior authorities. Your positive outlook towards life will keep you motivated and open doors for new opportunities. In terms of wealth, the result will be discouraging. Hard earned money will be spent on expenses and you will be left with no money in hand. Relationship wise, you are trustworthy and reliable. Singles will get the good message of love. Romance with your desired partner is on the card. Your commitment and loyalty will strengthen your relationship.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

In the matters of health, the change is for good. Positive outlook will bring improvement. The mental tension and fatigue due to the fast moving life will go away. Physical exercise and being with nature will work best for you. In your career, you are likely to find new job opportunities with better prospects. Those who have appeared for competitive exams, success is assured. You are likely to be called for an interview. Expect a good news in terms of promotion or salary hike. Your hard working and goal oriented attitude will pay you well. Friendship with juniors will bring you benefits. In your love life, your orthodox nature will lead to separation and leave you disheartened. You need to adopt a modern outlook towards your partner.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Friday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

It is important that you look after your health this week. Though you have been avoiding it, a visit to a doctor is a must. Be open and discuss all matters because appropriate medical advice and treatment is the need of the hour. Your spiritualism and faith in God is good and will help you to have a peaceful personality. You have good news waiting on your career front. This can either be a promotion or a salary hike. Due to a sudden change, you may get transferred to the desired place. Your perseverance and hard work will pay you well. In love, you may be deceived or feel disheartened. You are forced to sacrifice or surrender to be with your partner. This is not the right time to start a relationship or have high expectations from an existing relationship.

Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Saturday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you are full of creativity and positive energy. You need to utilise this energy in constructive pursuits. Make sure you maintain balance within yourself. On the career front, you will prove to be a genuine leader and people will listen to you. You will emerge as an efficient participant in meetings, collaborations and contacts. Support from opposite sex will help you achieve desired success. Those appearing for an interview or competitive exams, success is assured. In matters of love, you have to be a little careful. You should respect and understand the feelings of your partner. You can achieve success in a relationship by showing generosity. Presenting a gift, to your partner may create the magic and strengthen your love.

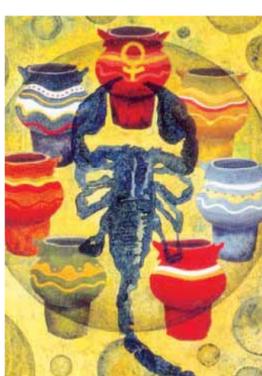
Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You will enjoy good health, vigour and vitality. Yoga, exercise, and nutritious diet will be very important for you. You are capable of regularising your routine, discipline your senses. Your career card holds good fortune this week and you will experience a sudden financial gain. The change is positive, the business will grow and those with jobs can expect promotions, increment or the desired transfer. Some of you may travel abroad for project work. Relationship wise, some of you may receive a message of love or a marriage proposal. Singles, chances of finding someone special is indicated. Married couples may go on a pleasure trip and their bonding will become stronger.

Lucky number 39
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week you will be moody and irritable. This may cause concern for your physical health. You might face health issues like headache, nausea and BP etc. You need to control your wild imagination and trust your instincts. Walk the path of enlightenment and stay focused. In career, you need to take action towards your greater good. You will be able to confront any unfinished business in your life, clear up any misunderstanding. Extra hard work is needed for good results. You may face a lots of challenges at work. Give your best, the rewards are assured. In relationship, abundance of happiness is in store, you will find balance and stability in love. Unmarried may get marriage proposals. You will leave no stone unturned to make your partner happy.

Lucky number 29
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you are filled with positive energy. Recovery from illness is indicated. An emotional issue concerning the care or treatment of someone close will be discussed. Follow a healthy routine like physical exercise and a balanced diet to stay fit and healthy. Career-wise, this is the best week. You will get an opportunity to change your destiny. You need to be positive and spontaneous. You will win the trust of your senior authorities and may be featured at the top in your Boss' list. Promotion is likely. A new beginning such as a new job, or a new residence, is indicated. In love life, a manifestation of desire, good fortune, and contentment are on the cards. Some of you might plan for a date or a romantic trip. Married couples may have a mutual understanding.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Pastel Green
Lucky day Friday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Watch over your karma

Having followed last two issues of this column, another regular reader came up with an interesting question: "Sir, you have beautifully explained how our karma sets the term for what we become due for — reward or punishment. But in our life, we do both good and bad karma. Would not the credits earned for all the good done, balance out our bad karma and relieve us from its future implications? You have also suggested that the choice option enjoins upon us with the capacity to filter off the undesirable. To what extent can we modify negative implications of our karmic accruals and what are the remedial measures necessary?"

In divine scheme of things, there is no provision of reward or punishment. Your good karma lets you realise your indwelling potential. That keeps you motivated to for well-intended karma. Your bad karma, in the first place, may stand in way or your potential blooming out in full. Also, it lets you go through similar experiences as would have been met out to others. Purposely so as to put you through such lessons as would make you realise your wrong doings and evolve. It doesn't work like business eco-

nomics where profit balances out the loss. The driving spirit of the laws of karma is to put you through lessons of life as would help you evolve. So, both good and bad karma find reflection simultaneously.

In so far as remedial measure is concerned, self-help offers the best answer. Bear in mind; only such process would work as could get into the inner realms of mind for necessary corrections from the root level. *Pundits* performing belief driven transactional *pujas* can't reach out your mind frame to nullify your habit tendencies. Had it been so, no resourceful person would ever suffer in life.

It is pertinent to note here that thought seeds pertaining to the karmic carry over from the past are imprinted in the mind. They find reflection in your thought process. When you self-reflect, you may figure out different patterns in the thought process playing within mind. That may help you identify and acknowledge the fault lines, and then address them. Often, your ego may not let you dispassionately acknowledge indwelling infirmities. Here, astrology may serve as an effective diagnostic tool, which, through a look at the energy-map of heaven at the time of one's birth, reflects



upon your karmic accrual with a fair amount of precision, as energy knows no bias. The redressal process is not that easy either, as habits die hard. Better seek the guidance of a realised Guru, who is adept in overcoming the limitations of mind and psyche. The extent to which one could modify the implications of karmic carryover from the past depends on your will and resolve to change yourself through sustained efforts.

Here is the case of a person who had been doing extremely well in so far as his business was concerned. But at the same time, he and his family members were faced with a criminal case of serious dimension. Look at his astrological pointers. Towards the potential side, Jupiter, the lord of *Kendra* house occupying its own house, aspects Venus the lord of trine house, which occupies the 10th house identified with career prospects. The 10th lord Mercury occupying the 11th house identified with fulfillment of desires, is posited in the *nakshatra* owned by Venus. Association of *Kendra* and Trine houses speaks loud of his promising career. Further to that, mind signifying Moon, beautifully aligned with Mercury makes him an intelligent person armed with good communicative skill, vital to success in life.

Towards the negative, the Sun is locked in adverse formation with mischievous Neptune, which binds him to his fanciful dream perceptions, not realising that it could put him through difficult situations. Added to that is Venus, ill-disposed off to Neptune. That makes him susceptible to get into unconventional partnership, not acceptable by societal norms, thus putting his morality in question. If all that would not be enough, the Sun is in opposition to its planet of nemesis Saturn. That makes him vulnerable to come under the scanner of law enforcement agencies. As he entered his 38th year, the progressed *lagna* closed up Neptune, which was already placed adverse to Venus. Progressed Sun formed unholy alliance with natal Venus. Progressed Venus as well as Moon, locked horns with Neptune. All these negative indicators simultaneously coming into play, his extra marital relationship created a situation that put him through a very difficult situation.

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SHOW TIME

It's laugh-riot all through



DREAM GIRL
*ing: Ayushmann Khurrana, Nushrat Bharucha, Annu Kapoor, Manjot Singh, Vijay Raaz
Rated: 6/10

It is very rare for Bollywood to make a rom-com and ensure that it is able to hold its worth in gold till the very end. Not delivering a good comedy is not due to lack of talent or good writers. So when one comes across a film that manages to make the audience laugh till the very end, then the person who has written the dialogues needs to be given a pat on the back. In this case it goes to Raaj Shaandilyaa who is the director of *Dream Girl*.

We all know that a movie that portrays middle class resonate with the masses since they manage to find a connect. That is a major contributor why such a movie finds many takers. Then there's the fact that people love to laugh. A rom-com that has the right ingredients works wonders. Add to that the lead character who works with a call centre... *main Pooja bol raheen hoon, mujhse dosti karogey* — it will have the audience in splits from the word go.

We all love to laugh and if we can do that for 132 minutes, it is *paisa wasool* when one goes to see *Dream Girl*. However, one needs to keep all sensibilities at home. Also if you are the kind of person who wants to only watch meaningful cinema, this film is not for you.

But one may want to see this one for Khurrana who has given a great performance. His reactions to men wanting to marry him, of people who touch his feet because he plays Sita are brilliant to say the least. One will also get a kick out of why and how he always ends playing Sita, Draupadi and even Radha.

Then there is some great performance from Annu Kapoor who plays Khurana's father in this one. The two share a fabulous chemistry. Vijay Raaz as a cop, a *shayar* with a cantankerous wife at home, wins your heart. Manjot Singh as Khurana's friend is just as good. A special mention for the 90-something *dadi* (Neela Mulherkar) who downs whiskey like a pro.

Overall *Dream Girl* makes for a laugh-riot all through.

— Shalini Sakseena

An engaging courtroom drama

SECTION 375
*ing: Akshaye Khanna, Richa Chadda, Rahul Bhat, Meera Chopra
Rated: 6/10

Section 375 of IPC defines rape as a criminal offence and states that a man is said to commit rape when he has sexual intercourse with a woman against her or without her consent or if she is a minor — under any of the following situations: Against her will; Without her consent. Just penetration is sufficient to constitute the sexual intercourse necessary to the offence of rape. This sets as the backdrop for Ajay Bahl's *Section 375: Marzi Ya Zabardasti*. The opening stand that Akshaye Khanna, who plays a hot-shot defence lawyer Tarun Saluja, takes — Law is about facts, Justice is abstract — gives you a fair warning what is to unfold.

The courtroom drama is taut and Bahl ensures that his character keep pace with how things progress in the 123 minute drama that will keep you engaged till the very end. In most of the films, the end is rather predictable. But *Section 375...* throws a curve ball. The dialogue at the end sums it beautifully when Khanna says: We are not in the business of justice; we are in the business of law.

While the performances are good, the kind here are the brilliant one-liners and the smoothness with which the two lawyers — defence and prosecutrix — argue on behalf of their clients makes this movie a must watch even if the end leaves one with a slightly bad taste in the mouth especially if you are a woman.

— Shalini Sakseena



'Acting makes me feel alive'

PEARL V PURI, who is now seen in Colors' *Bepanah Pyaarr*, tells MUSBA HASHMI that it is the most challenging project and that he will be releasing his compositions soon

■ What is your role?

I play Raghbir, a dark and intense character. He has lost someone whom he loved very much. He is traumatised, is grieving and in deep sorrow. He lives in a different world of his own and can't accept things easily. He is living in a confused state of mind wherein there's no truth or no lies for him. The story of *Bepanah Pyaarr* is very different with a different perspective.

■ What made you say yes?

The thing which attracted me towards this show is that it is a male-oriented show. The script is fresh. Also being a part of such shows comes with great responsibility and I hope I will be able to do justice to my character. A lot of money and effort has gone into this show. I believe the audience will like it.

■ What do you like and dislike about your character?

There is nothing that I dislike about my role. The reason being it is a challenging role and I love challenges. While you are playing such intense character, you have to bring in that reality and

emotion in it so that the audience can feel what you are going through. I have to be expressive.

■ From Dil Ki Nazar Se Khoobsurat to Bepanah Pyaarr, how have things changed?

It's been six long years. I have had good and some bad times. But, everything was rightly placed by God. Things worked well for me. I just believe in being a good human being. I always try to make myself better every day. That's where my focus lies.

I am a public figure; I want people to learn good things from me. Being an actor, people keep an eye on everything that we do and we have to respect that. We have to set a good example for the society because many people follow us. I am trying to be the best version of myself.

■ What was the most challenging project?

The one that I am part of at present — *Bepanah Pyaarr*. And not only for me but for the whole team, I believe. I also had to shed some weight for the role. It is a sad character so I have to bring in that dullness in my personality. I cannot look happy.

I try to play Raghbir even when I am not shooting to make my character look as real life as possible in reel. Otherwise it will become difficult for me to switch on and off from this rather intense character. As actors, we have to live with our characters so that we can bring out their essence on-screen.

■ What does acting mean to you?

Acting is something which makes me feel alive. My approach towards acting is to keep it as real as it can be. To imitate someone is not acting; to be real and to feel the characters you are playing is acting for me. Acting is no rocket science. You just have to get the feelings right and portray your characters in good faith and you are good to go.

■ You were top ranked in Times Most Desirable Men's list. How did it feel?

I didn't know that I have been ranked No 1 in the list. I got to know it from somebody and then I read the story. It was a great moment because a lot of people want to see their names in the list and fortunately I topped it. Wherever I am today is because of my family and fans who continue to shower their love on me and extend their support.

I feel blessed to have been working in this industry and getting so much appreciation for my work.

■ You also released your album Peerh Meri. How did the transition from an actor to a singer happen?

I am into music since I was in Class VIII. I used to write songs and till date I have written and composed more than 100 songs.

I'll release them too when the right time comes. Just like I felt that the time was right to release my first song and I did it.

KBC gets its 9th crorepati

KBC 11 has finally found its first crorepati. MUSBA HASHMI speaks with SANOJ RAJ, a 25-year-old Civil Services aspirant from Bihar, about what it took to reach the hot seat

Sitting on the hot seat with Big B right in front is every Indian's dream. While it come true for some, others merely enjoy Big-B's aura on their TV screens. *Kaun Banega Crorepati* has turned eleven and after almost one month into the new season, the show has finally found its first crorepati. Yes, you read that right. A 25-year-old boy from Bihar's Jehanabad district, Sanoj Raj, has become the first contestant to have won ₹1 crore. He went on attempting the *koti ki choti prashna* — ₹7 crore question, but decided to quit the game.

Raj, an engineer by profession, who lives in a joint family, is preparing for the Civil Services. It took Raj, hours of studying and months of preparations to crack the KBC code.

"I worked as an engineer for two-and-a-half years. I was paid well. But, I decided to give up on my job and concentrate on my Civil Services preparations. I used to study for hours and gather as much information as possible. I used to read a lot of books as well," he says.

The adage, life is not a bed of roses, holds true to Raj, who was trying to enter the show for the last eight years, but failed.

"Not even for once did I think that I should quit. I knew I have to be on the hot seat, no matter how long it will take. I was confident that I will make it there one day. And that time came on Friday," he says and tells you that it doesn't took him any extra preparations for the show but what he studied for the Civil Services.

It was nothing short of a festivity in Raj's family when they got to know about his selection. "My uncle got a call from the team that I was selected in *KBC*. He then went on to tell the news to my family and friends. I was out for some work then and I got to know about it from my friends. I was on cloud nine," he says.

Meeting Amitabh Bachchan and sharing the stage with him gave Raj goosebumps.

"The moment I stepped on to the stage my heartbeat increased. I was nervous. It was a dream come true moment for me. Once you are on the hot seat, in the centrestage with so many people around it sent shivers down the spine. But, once Big B starts talking he makes sure that the other person gets comfortable," he tells you.

Raj was confident that he will win ₹50 lakh but winning as much as ₹1 crore came as a surprise.

With the winning amount, Raj want to complete his Civil Services preparations, open a nursery for his father in his village and travel all through the Indian sub-continent.

"We are already exploiting our environment a lot. By opening up the nursery I want to contribute my bit towards Nature. I know it will not solve all the problems but it will definitely help fighting some. I love travelling and exploring places — North-east being my favourite. I will first travel to Meghalaya



Sanoj Raj with Amitabh Bachchan after winning ₹1 crore on KBC 11

and then explore the other places with the remaining amount," he says.

He recalls that when he won ₹1 crore he was about to burst into tears.

"It was a moment of extreme joy. I felt like all my hard work had paid off. It was hard to believe that in just an hour I have turned into a millionaire. My success

mantra is to have patience and take one step at a time. Leaps and bounds would take you nowhere. Not only destiny but my family played their part too. They supported me through thick and thin. They had faith in all my decisions, they knew I will make it big some day. And I am proud to have proved them right," he tells you.

TELLYTALE

SALMAN TURNS CHEF



Bigg Boss, a show that increases the appetite for gossip and makes dinner table conversations even spicier, is set to return. To heighten the excitement, the unprecedented host of the show, Salman Khan shot a promo, that will build a lot of anticipation and tickle your entertainment taste buds.

Serving a platter of surprises, excitement, and drama, the upcoming season of *Bigg Boss* will be packed with elements of spice and unpredictability. Dressed in a chef's jacket in the promo, Salman was seen cooking *khichdi* and *raita* showcasing how the new season will leave the contestants baffled with its unending twists. With the anticipation of a major twist approaching, the inmates will have to up their game from the word go.

With drama being whipped up at every step of the season, the viewers can look forward to a lot of fun and excitement.

MANIESH IS BACK WITH MORE FUN

So, you call yourself a movie buff? Know every last detail about even their least popular films? Well, it's about time you celebrate your passion for movies and have a lil masti while you're at it! Zee TV is all set to introduce its latest offering — a first-of-its-kind light-hearted, comical Bollywood game show *Movie Masti with Maniesh Paul*.

Hosted by the inimitable Maniesh Paul and a crazy, quirky, odd-ball Bollywood-obsessed family inspired by every Hindi movie stereotype, the show will unravel the unseen and unscripted side of Bollywood celebrities by subjecting them to tricky tasks, fun games and rapid-fire quizzes, all about movies!



Movie Masti with Maniesh Paul will see four hot Bollywood celebrities coming in each week to participate in the game show with the common man (or woman) as their partner in proving that their filmy quotient is the highest. Together, their love and passion for movies will be put to test and interrupting them every step of the way will be this mischievous, Bollywood-crazy family of roasters and pranksters and at the helm of this quirky comical brigade is host Maniesh Paul.

This family will feature a motley of filmy characters ranging from a melodramatic *maa* — a mother like no other who embodies every mother stereotype ever, a father who is a self-proclaimed villain — one who looks old but feels rather young. Adding to this interesting mix is the duo of a talented but wheeler-dealer of a manager and a naughty, seductive padosi Bhabhi.

SEEMA TURNS VO ARTIST

Seema Mishra who hails from Mumbai and has been working in the television industry for quite some has been roped in to lend her voice for the *sutradhaar* of the show, Shehnaï in & TV's upcoming show *Naye Shaadi Ke Siyape*. Being a television artist, she was always keen on exploring different roles and with *Naye Shaadi Ke Siyape*, she will be debuting as a voice over artist. While she has been offered several voicing projects in the past, this particular offer really excited her.

Shehnaï a talking van is the wagon in which Mubarak, Babil, and Bunty travel for weddings across the city. Set to give a third-person perspective, the talking van is a never-seen-before concept on television where viewers will see the van narrate the situations that take place at all the weddings organised by the wedding planners. In the show, the Shehnaï will be seen as Mubarak's only companion who has been with him through thick and thin. So much that Mubarak goes back to the Shehnaï for every good or bad situation that occurs in his life hence setting the premise that he shared a very close bond with the van.

WILL BAALVEER FIND HIS SUCCESSOR?

The legend of Baaalveer is back! One of the most loved superheroes on Indian television will invite the fans to the mystical worlds of *veer Lok* and *kaal Lok*. The show is set to revolutionise the way people watch fantasy dramas on TV. The new cast will be supported by characters brought to life by cutting edge VFX. All this comes together on a brand new, state of art sets where the magic unfolds to provide a thrilling, edge-of-the-seat, visual treat to the viewers. Watch this highly anticipated return of superhero with *Baalveer Returns* every Monday to Friday at 8 pm on Sony SAB.

During an intense battle with a giant Bhoochal from *kaal Lok*, Baaalveer is hit by the most lethal weapon, *kaal shastra*, where Baaalveer takes his last breath. Shaurya, the guiding white lion, with his immense powers resurrects Baaalveer while informing him that his glorious powers are draining due to the effect of *kaal shastra* and it is time to look for the chosen one, the worthy successor of Baaalveer. All the magnificent fairies and Baaalveer embark on their journey to Earth on a quest to find the chosen one.



In the other world, *kaal Lok* is restless with Baaalveer's revival and Timnasa in order to fulfil her mission to destroy Baaalveer, dedicates her deadliest beast, Bhoochal, to follow Baaalveer on Earth and create the ultimate destruction to draw him out.

Will Timnasa get hold of Baaalveer again? Will Baaalveer be able to find his successor?

RAMBO: LAST BLOOD TO HIT SCREENS

The highly awaited movie from the hit franchise Rambo is all set to hit the Indian screens this September. *Rambo: Last Blood* supposedly the last movie of the franchise will be releasing on the September 20, 2019 by PVR Pictures and MVP Entertainment. The film stars Sylvester Stallone in his iconic role as John Rambo along with Adriana Barraza, Oscar Jaenada, Paz Vega, Joaquin Cosío and many others in significant characters. The film is directed by Adrian Grunberg.

The trailer of the film is already grabbing many eyeballs as the last time we saw Sylvester in Rambo's character was back in 2008. Now 11 years later we see this veteran war actor reprising his gritty role as John Rambo in a power-packed action thriller. In the film John Rambo teams up with a reporter to save a kidnapped girl from a vicious drug cartel in Mexico. The film surely promises a lot of high scale action packed scenes and will be surely a visual treat to all the Rambo fans in India.

DHARMENDRA GOT EMOTIONAL

The upcoming episode of Colors' *Dance Deewane* will witness the three generations of the Deol family grace the stage. While the audience and the contestants were thrilled and happy about seeing the legend walk the stage, there was also a moment where the emotional side of the He-Man was revealed.

The contestants of the show paid a grand tribute to the actor, who we have all grown up watching and admiring. They performed a musical depicting Dharmendra's journey, his struggles and achievements which got him emotional. While the nostalgia kicked in, it also got the legend Dharmendra emotional and he broke down in tears of joy. Unable to contain himself, he thanked Colors and *Dance Deewane*, with a for creating this magical moment that took him down the memory lane.

India eye perfect start

Men In Blue ready to take on Quinton de Kock-led Proteas in first T20

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

Virat Kohli will be venturing into the unknown with a clean slate, where a few seasoned hands will be backing a group of immensely talented youngsters, in his quest for World T20 title which begins with a three-match bilateral series against South Africa here on Sunday.

The 3-0 series win against the West Indies could be called a pre-cursor as it was just after enduring a disappointing end to their ODI World Cup campaign.

The real battle begins now with this series against Quinton de Kocks and Kagiso Rabada's who are also in the midst of a tough transition phase.

A good spell from Rabada or a cameo from David Miller could pose challenge for the Indians, while some of the others like Test specialist Temba Bavuma or Anrich Nortje will like to prove their credentials in absence of Faf du Plessis or Hashim Amla.

There will be around 20 odd matches for captain Kohli and head coach Ravi Shastri to build a near perfect combination going into the World T20 in Australia in October next year.

There are many questions that the team management will have to answer in the next 13 months during which IPL will also be held.

Save Kohli, his deputy Rohit Sharma, all-rounder Hardik Pandya and premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah (rested for this series), at least seven slots in playing XI and four more in the 15-member squad are up for grabs, with some bold steps on cards.

Retirement is Mahendra Singh Dhoni's individual call but does the team manage-



Rishabh Pant bats during a practice session before the 1st T20 against South Africa



Junior Dala, left, and Tabraiz Shamsi chat as they leave the ground

ment intend to look ahead like the selection committee does?

It is yet to be known and Rishabh Pant's indiscretions doesn't make it easier for Kohli and Shastri.

Manish Pandey has been in and around for years now and despite the kind of quality he possesses, the Karnataka batsman has not inspired high-confidence in the chances he got.

So will it be Pandey at No 4 or Delhi Capitals captain Shreyas Iyer, who was in fine form during the Windies one dayers?

The other fascinating aspect will be the future of spin twins Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav, at least in the shortest version.

Rajasthan leg-spinner Rahul Chahar is a young talent and is being billed as one for the future.

And with all-rounder Krunal Pandya also shaping up well and Ravindra Jadeja's experience set to come in handy, where does it leave the

much in demand wrist spin duo, who had replaced Ravichandran Ashwin and Jadeja (for the better part) post 2017 Champions Trophy.

Not to forget, India have a back up finger spinner in young Washington Sundar, who in his U-19 days was a hard-hitting top-order batsman. So next question is where does it leave Kuldeep and Chahal in T20 scheme of things?

Last but not the least is the pace department where Bumrah is the only certainty.

Deepak Chahar, who many in Indian cricket term as 'Poor Man's Praveen Kumar' for the movement he generates during first spell, is an inspired investment for shortest version.

And then there is Navdeep Saini with raw pace and Khaleel Ahmed bringing in the left-arm variety but known to leak runs. Will they be persisted with in the long run?

In next 13 months, Kohli will seek all the answers.



Joe Denly plays a shot during the fifth match at Oval

ICC/Twitter

Aussies hopes fade as Eng dominate

AFP ■ LONDON

Ben Stokes and Joe Denly battled England into a potentially match-winning position in the fifth and final Ashes Test at the Oval on Saturday as Australia's hopes of a series win faded.

At tea the home side — desperate to finish their World Cup-winning season on a high by levelling the series at 2-2—were 193-2, leading by 262 runs.

England captain Joe Root will be wary of declaring too soon though as India last year made 345 batting fourth at the Oval chasing 464.

Denly was unbeaten on a Test-best score of 82 while Stokes, playing as a specialist batsman, was 57 not out after passing 400 runs for the series.

England enjoyed two slices of good fortune on a pitch offering little in the way of help for the bowlers as the September sun beat down from a clear London sky.

Stokes started his innings slowly but accelerated, reaching his fifty off 89 balls with a huge six off leg-spinner Marcus Labuschagne over wide long-on.

The left-handed batsman is second only to Smith in the combined run-scoring charts over the series, albeit more than 300 runs adrift of the Australian's total of 751.

Off-spinner Nathan Lyon struck twice in the morning session, removing Rory Burns and Root but Australia failed to make a much-needed breakthrough after lunch.

Burns and Denly put on 54 for the first wicket — the highest opening stand of the series for either side — after surviving a torrid four over on Friday evening during which they scratched nine without loss and had Denly dropped by Marcus Harris.

The Australian opener split the webbing in his left hand in the drop and did not take the field on Saturday. He required stitches but is expected to bat.

Off-spinner Lyon struck in his third over when Burns bottom-edged a short ball outside off-stump, with wicketkeeper Tim Paine taking the catch.

Root also fell in tame fashion, edging Lyon to Smith at slip for 21 to leave England 87-2 in the 28th over.

Jofra Archer put England in pole position on Friday, taking six wickets to bowl Australia out for 225, giving the home side a useful first-innings lead of 69.

Rohit can help India chase down targets: Bangar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rohit Sharma needs to "maintain his individuality" as a Test opener and his success in the longest format can help India successfully chase down big targets, said former assistant coach Sanjay Bangar.

A revered opening batsman in limited over cricket, Rohit was included in the 15-member squad for the three-Test series against South Africa at home beginning on October 2.

"If he succeeds, his style of play will be extremely helpful to the team. It might result in being able to successfully chase down targets that we haven't achieved in the past, like in Cape Town and Edgbaston," Bangar told ESPNcricinfo in an interview.

The 32-year-old was seen as a middle-



order batsman in Tests but with Hanuma Vihari sealing the number 6 spot with some superlative performance in the Caribbean, doors have opened up for Rohit to seal the opening slot in Test.

Bangar said: "The key to his success will be if he maintains his individual style of play. He has to maintain his individuality."

"At the moment, there is no place in the settled middle order in the Test team. Opening will be a new challenge for him, since he has rarely done it in the longer formats."

"But the advantage is that he will get to bat against a hard ball with plenty of gaps in the field. He will also not have to wait for his turn to bat, which will save his mental energy."

Smith unfazed by burden of Australia run-scoring



Steve Smith raises his bat after scoring a half century during 5th test

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

Mahendra Singh Dhoni has always put the interest of Indian cricket in mind and is "on same page" with the team management as far as his international future is concerned, skipper Virat Kohli said on Saturday.

On the eve of the T20 International series against South Africa, Kohli maintained that the 38-year-old Dhoni will "remain valuable" as long as he continues playing the game even as team management grooms youngsters like Rishabh Pant.

"One great thing about him (Dhoni) is that, he thinks for Indian cricket. And whatever we (team management) think, he is on the same page. The alignment is there. The kind of mindset he has had about grooming youngsters and giving them opportunities, and he is still the same person," Kohli



Indian Skipper Virat Kohli speaks during a press conference

AP

replied when asked if the legend is in his scheme of things for next year's World T20 in Australia.

While Kohli reminded the scribes about Dhoni's ability to prove his detractors wrong, his answer on his impending international future was a bit open-ended.

"Look, experience is always

going to matter whether you like it or not. I mean there are a numerous number of times people have given up on sportsmen and they have proved people wrong and he (Dhoni) has done that many times in his career as well. As long as he is available and continues to play, he is going to be very valuable," Kohli said.

'We need to take advantage of India's inexperienced pace attack'

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

South Africa will like to put pressure on India's inexperienced pace trio of Navdeep Saini, Khaleel Ahmed and Deepak Chahar during the three-match T20 International series, visiting side's assistant batting coach Lance Klusener said here on Saturday.

Former South African all-rounder sensed it as an opportunity for the Proteas as their new look team tries to settle into a groove.

"Looking at the Indian team, that (inexperienced bowling attack) is an area we are going to take advantage of just like I suppose, you look at opposing teams and at areas, which you can take advantage of," Klusener said during a media interaction on the eve of the first T20 International.

However he made it clear that by no means he underestimates the Indian attack. "They are great cricketers and we are not taking anything away from that and our focus will be on ourselves and little



Navdeep Saini bowls during net session

BCCI/Twitter

ful all-round cricketer. Yes he needs to learn a couple of all-round options and that's really about it," Klusener defended the pint-sized batsman's selection.

However, he agreed that Bavuma's game will be more about rotating the strike and give opportunities to big hitters like David Miller, Dwayne Pretorius or Andile Phehlukwayo.

"He is not the biggest guy, who can muscle the ball over the fence, but there are different ways of doing it. I am uncomfortable saying he is a red-ball cricketer. He has played two ODIs with a hundred and a fifty, so he is a good cricketer," the 48-year-old said.

"He will certainly get his opportunity on this tour and I think he is ready to make transition into being somebody in that engine room, who can be good at rotating strike and have good plans so that other hitters like David, Dwayne and Andile, some of the biggest hitters on the planet, can bat around him," he further added.

LONDON ■ (AFP)

Steve Smith refused to blame his inconsistent teammates for their batting failures during the Ashes after he again shouldered the run-scoring burden for Australia.

The former skipper scored 80 at the Oval — his lowest total of a sensational series — as the tourists were bowled out for 225, 69 runs short of England's first-innings total of 294 on the second day of the fifth and final Test.

When he was asked for reasons for Australia's batting failures he said conditions had not been kind throughout the series but that players would learn from performing in unfamiliar conditions.

"We haven't seen any huge totals really throughout the whole series so it's not been easy," he said.

"There's always been something there, I felt. If you bowl in good areas for long enough then I think we've seen you'll get rewards."

"Playing in England is completely different from playing back home and you've got to find ways to play away from home," he added.

"Sometimes you need to change certain little things that can help you play in certain conditions and adapt accordingly but I think it will

be a good learning curve for all of our batters."

PRESSURES

Smith said he was able to shut out pressures and focus on the job in hand despite the weight of expectation on his shoulders.

"I just sort of do my thing and what people say it doesn't really bother me, it's just each time I go out to the middle I love batting and I just want to bat and score runs and help out the team," he said.

"People can say whatever they like, nice things, bad things, whatever. It really doesn't bother me."

"Who knows? When's the next Ashes series? I don't even know," he said. "Will I still be playing? I'm not sure. Who knows the answer to that? We'll see."

"He's a quality performer. He's got two five-fors in four Test matches (Archer has twice taken six wickets in an innings) and you don't get guys bowling 90 miles an hour growing on trees and with the skillset he's got."

"He's a terrific bowler and there's no doubt that he'll gain a lot of confidence from his first Test series." Australia, 2-1 up, have already retained the Ashes urn but are aiming to win their first Test series in England since 2001.

Miller in support of De Kock's captaincy

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

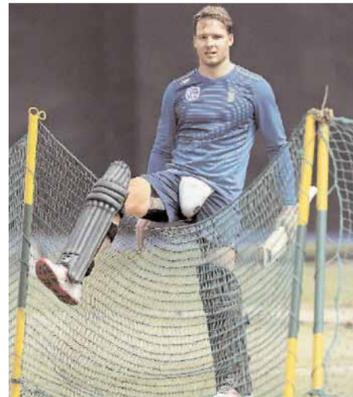
Quinton de Kock possesses an "incredible cricket brain", feels senior batsman David Miller, who is ready to perform "any role" that the new South African white-ball skipper wants him to. Left-handed Miller along with De Kock and Kagiso Rabada form the core of a new-look South African limited overs set-up which is going through a transition phase with first stop being tour of India.

"He's (Quinton) been around for many years, and he's got an incredible cricket brain. Like I said, it's exciting times — new skipper, new players and a lot of young, fresh faces," said Miller.

Miller is happy with the way De Kock is progressing as a leader and wants to lend all the support that he needs at the start of his new journey. "It's been really good so far and we'll see as it progresses how we go along. It's really nice to be alongside him and supporting him in whatever role he wants me to do. Yeah, it's been great so far and hopefully it continues." Miller told reporters on the eve of the first T20 international, here on Sunday. It's a new-look side and Miller knows he will have to take the responsibility of guiding the younger crop of players.

"I feel playing while for the country there is always responsibility, regardless whether you are less experienced or more experienced. I mean I have been playing for many years now and that responsibility has been with me for a couple of years now, and it's really exciting," Miller said.

"Like you said, it's a young side and we've got a lot of energy amongst the squad. There are actu-



David Miller steps over a boundary net

AP

ally a lot of guys who have played a lot of cricket, in the A side and domestically. So, all of us are really, really experienced in each department and it's just a great stepping stone."

The Proteas had a forgettable World Cup and Miller wants to look ahead.

"Yeah, I think what happened at the World Cup is something to learn from. We did a few things wrong and it (results) never came out the way we wanted. So we are lucky that it's a new phase in South African cricket at the moment," said Miller.