

ANALYSIS 9
 FOCUS ON
 MAKING HISTORY

HYDERABAD 11
 WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO
 BRING CANCER AWARENESS: ARJUN

SPORTS 16
 KAMAL-SATHIYAN
 STORM INTO QUARTERS

HYDERABAD, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3



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SHAURYA'S FILM
 TO BE SHOT
 ACROSS MULTIPLE
 LOCATIONS

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Six friends jointly win Rs 12 cr lottery

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Dame luck smiled on six friends working at a jewellery outlet in Kollam district on Thursday as they hit the jackpot, jointly winning the first prize of Rs 12 crore in the Onam bumper lottery.

The winners had pooled in to purchase two tickets of Rs 300 each from a lottery vendor in front of their shop, of which one turned out to be the winning ticket. This is the highest prize money offered by the state lotteries department. As the results were announced on Thursday, the six — Ronni, Vivek, Rajiv, Subin Thomas, Rimjin and Rathesh could not believe that they had won the first prize.

'Oil crisis to have impact on inflation'

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank governor Shaktikanta Das Thursday expressed the hope that the ongoing crisis in Saudi Arabia that has spiked crude prices to multi-year highs will have limited impact on inflation and fiscal numbers. Drone attacks on the world's largest oil refinery in Saudi Arabia, alleged to have been carried out by Iran over the past weekend, has led to a massive 20 percent surge in crude prices. The crisis has spooked domestic markets and roiled the rupee leading to fears that a prolonged supply disruption will create problems for the domestic economy as around 80 percent of oil demand is met through imports.

Controversial Sekhar Reddy special invitee on TTD Board

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on Thursday accommodated former member of the TTD governing board Sekhar Reddy as its special invitee. Post demonetisation of high-value currency, Sekhar was caught possessing wads of new notes totaling several hundreds of crores of rupees. Cases filed against Sekhar created a sensation across the country. Jagan and several others had then slammed TDP Chief Chandrababu, his son Lokesh on issues connected with Sekhar.

Others appointed as special invitees on the TTD Board are: Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, Rakesh Sinha, Kupender Reddy, Govinda Hari, Dushmant Kumar and Amol Kale (Mumbai).

Modi targets 'loudmouths' on Ram temple; jibe may hurt Sena

PNS ■ NASHIK

In a jibe without naming all Shiv Sena, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the Supreme Court is hearing the Ram Mandir case and asked "some loudmouths" to refrain from making statements on the issue.

"I am amazed at the 'bayan bahadurs and badbole' (loudmouths) on the Ram Mandir issue. Every one in the country respects the Supreme Court. The apex court is hearing the case. I want to tell these people with folded hands to have faith in the judicial system," Modi said at a rally here. Shiv Sena has been demanding construction of the Ram temple and asking the Modi government to take steps in that direction like it did on Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Monday demanded that the Centre take



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a "courageous decision" to bring in a law to build a Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

"It has been our demand from last year that a special law must be brought in and Ram Mandir should be built... The issue has been going on since 1992. How many years should we wait? We are hearing that the issue is in the final stages in the court. We appeal to the courts to give it decision on the issue.

"However, beyond that we expect that Centre should not wait for court order and use its powers. The Centre took a courageous step in abrogating Article 370. It is our request that the Centre would do the same for Ram Mandir issue," the Sena chief had told reporters here.

Modi said the first 100-day tenure in his second innings as the PM focussed on promise,

performance and delivery. "There is a push for development, a message of India's global power, welfare of people and efforts for employment opportunities," he said.

"Rs 20,000 crore were put in farmers' accounts so far out of which Rs 1500 crore was in accounts of farmers in Maharashtra," he said. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis thanked Modi for the trust reposed in him in 2014 when he was made the CM.

KCR, Jagan to meet on Sept 24 on bifurcation-issues

L VENKAT RAM REDDY
 ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Reddy and his Andhra Pradesh counterpart YS Jaganmohan Reddy will meet again on September 24 to thrash out pending bifurcation-related issues. The meeting will be held at Pragathi Bhavan here. It will be the ninth meeting between the two Chief Ministers, after YSRC swept the AP Assembly polls in May this year and Jagan took over as Chief Minister.

It would be Jagan's fourth visit to Pragathi Bhavan — the official residence of KCR. Official sources said the proposal to link Godavari and Krishna rivers tops the items on the agenda before the Chief Ministers. Besides, the CMs will discuss the sharing of assets and liabilities of the common institutions listed



● Krishna-Godavari linkage on top of the agenda
 ● 9th meeting within four months

under Schedule IX and X of the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, most of which are located in Hyderabad. KCR is expected to take up the issue of AP government releasing a

GO 'unilaterally' last month taking over all the assets of the AP Heavy Machinery and Engineering Ltd (APHMEL) located near Vijayawada, the subsidiary of Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL), in which Telangana government has majority stake. APHMEL has a huge land bank of 200 acres near Vijayawada, estimated to be worth nearly Rs 600 crore.

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Supriyo 'heckled' at Jadavpur University

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Union minister Babul Supriyo was on Thursday shown black flags and allegedly heckled by a section of students at Jadavpur University, where he had gone to address a seminar organised by the ABVP. Supriyo was initially stopped from entering the campus for around one-and-a-half hours from 2.30 pm by members of Left-leaning organisations -- AFSU and SFI -- who raised the slogan 'Babul Supriyo Go Back', varsity sources said.

The BJP leader is currently being held up on the campus, with the students blocking his way out. "I did not come here to do politics. But I am saddened by the behaviour of some of the students of the university, the way they have heckled me... They pulled me by my hair and also pushed me," Supriyo, who attended the seminar amid heavy security, told reporters.

KCR announces Rs 1 lakh bonus for Singareni workers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government on Thursday announced a 28 per cent share in the profit of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) to its employees for 2018-19. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao announced in the state legislative Assembly that each employee will get a bonus of Rs 1,00,899, which is Rs 40,530 more than the last year's bonus.

He said that this is Telangana government's Dussehra festival gift for the employees of SCCL. The company, owned by the Telangana government and the Centre on a 51:49 equity basis, earned record net profit of Rs 1,765 crore during 2018-19. In 2017-18, each worker was paid Rs 60,369 as part of the 27 per cent profits shared with the workers. The company, which has a workforce of over 56,000, had clocked a net profit of Rs 1,212 crore in 2017-18.

He pointed out that the company, which had produced 50.47 million tonnes of coal in 2013-14, had been increasing



Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao announced in the state legislative Assembly that each employee will get a bonus of Rs 1,00,899, which is Rs 40,530 more than the last year's bonus

production every year. In 2018-19, the coal production went up to a record level of 64.41 million tonnes. The net profit grew from Rs 418 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 1,765 crore in 2018-19. KCR, as Rao is popularly known, said the public sector undertaking is playing

a key role in the development of Telangana.

"Progress in coal production, transport, sales, profits, increase in turnover, all stand as a symbol of the Telangana government's effective and good governance.

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Onion prices hit new high

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Due to reduced sourcing of onions from other states attributed to the economic slowdown, hoarding by some traders, and diversion by others; the prices of onions continue to rise in the city, with current rates hovering around Rs 4,500 a quintal.

A quintal of onions was traded between Rs 3,200 and Rs 3,600 just four days ago. However, the arrivals from other states to the city are down to just 30-40 truckloads a day, as against the normal 75-150 truckloads a day.

Traders in the city attribute the shortfall to the damage caused to onion crop due to recent heavy rains and floods

in Maharashtra. The rains have affected onion crops in Telangana too. The city sources a substantial portion of its requirement of onions from Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Even in the main wholesale markets at Malakpet, Monda Market (Secunderabad), Osman Gunj, Siddiamber Bazar and Bowenpally, the wholesale prices of onions are prohibitive.

According to one view, even the available stocks of onions are being diverted to Kolkata, from where the commodity is finding its way to Bangladesh.

On Thursday, onion was traded at between Rs 50-60 a kg in the retail market, almost six times the rate just a month ago — Rs 10 a kg.

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Youth thrashed and burnt by villagers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a shocking incident, a man who was allegedly accused of sorcery was beaten to death and his body was set ablaze on a pyre at Adraspalli village in Shamirpet on late Wednesday night. The deceased was identified as B Anjaneyulu, 24, an auto driver by profession. According to sources, the family members of K Lakshmi, a woman who died on Tuesday due to ill health, suspected that Anjaneyulu, could have performed black magic on her leading to her death.

Continued on Page 2

Metro cheaper than RTC AC buses: KTR

● By December 66 km length of Metro will be operational

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Reflecting the lasting rewards of efficiently-run organizations, Minister for Municipal Administration K T Rama Rao pointed out on Thursday that Hyderabad Metro's fares were cheaper than those of TSRTC AC buses.

He was responding to a question raised by Congress MLA Batti Vikramarka in the Assembly.

KTR said, "The Metro fares are minimum Rs 10 and maximum Rs 60 in Hyderabad. In Chennai, the minimum and maximum rates are Rs 10 and



Rs 70; in Lucknow Rs 10 and Rs 60; in Bengaluru Rs 10 and Rs 60; and in Delhi Rs 10 and Rs 60 respectively. Our competition is directly with other public transport. In the case of RTC AC buses operated in the

city, the minimum is Rs 15 and the maximum is Rs 80. Metro ride is cheaper than travelling in AC bus of RTC".

KTR said that in fact the Central Metro Act had adopted 'TS' provision whereby the concessionaire is allowed to fix initial fares. By October, the Raidurgam station will be completed and by December 10 km length from JBS to MGBS will also be completed. With 3 lakh footfalls every day commuters had embraced Metro.

KTR said, "Governor, Chief Minister and I travelled in the Metro. Opposition leaders

should travel in Metro to know how it is working. People like it, that's why 3 lakh people are travelling".

"By December, total 66 km length of Metro will be operational in the city. We have completed 66 km Metro in just six years, while all other cities took 7-9 years. We resolved 360 court cases in the 2 years after TRS came to power. We cannot compare Hyderabad Metro with other Metros as ours is world's largest DBFOT (Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Transfer) Metro," he remarked.

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Jagga's meeting with Harish creates sensation in Assembly corridors

K VENKATESHWARLU
 ■ HYDERABAD

Upholding once again the truth in the maxim attributed to former Missouri Congressman William Clay "(In politics), there are no permanent enemies, and no permanent friends, only permanent interests", Congress MLA from Sangareddy T Jagga Reddy on Thursday met his bete noire for 14 years Finance Minister T Harish Rao, creating flutter in political circles.

Jagga Reddy's meeting with Harish Rao, at the Assembly's inner lobbies, lasted half an



hour. It created sensation in the Assembly corridors, with almost every leader discussing the possible agenda of their meeting. What beats everyone



is that the two leaders had used the harshest language against each other during their political encounters.

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Hopes to get back Vikram fading away

● Panel to analyse cause of communication loss with lander

PNS ■ BENGALURU

A national-level committee comprising academics and ISRO experts are analysing the cause of communication loss with Chandrayaan-2 lander ahead of its planned soft landing on the lunar surface, the space agency said on Thursday.

The Indian Space Research Organisation also said the orbiter of the India's second lunar mission continued to perform scheduled science experiments to "complete satisfaction" and performance of all



its payloads were "satisfactory". "All Payloads of orbiter are powered. Initial trials for orbiter payloads are completed successfully. Performance of

all orbiter Payloads is satisfactory. Orbiter continues to perform scheduled science experiments to complete satisfaction," the city-headquartered

ISRO said in an update on its website.

"National-level committee consisting of academicians and ISRO experts are analysing the cause of communication loss with lander," it added.

Lander Vikram, with rover Pragyan housed inside it, lost communication with ground station on September 7 during its final descent, just 2.1 kms above the lunar surface, minutes before the planned touchdown on the Moon.

Efforts to reestablish the link were on since then, but hopes of a positive result

appear to be fading away.

The lander, designed to execute a soft-landing on the lunar surface, and rover, have a mission life of one Lunar day, which is equivalent to 14 earth days.

On September 8, ISRO said the lander was spotted on the lunar surface by camera on-board of the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter.

Vikram had a hard-landing. However, ISRO from the day of losing contact with the lander had been upbeat about the performance of the orbiter.

Court closes cheating case against ex-SC employee

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has closed a cheating and criminal intimidation case against a Supreme Court's former woman employee who had levelled allegations of sexual misconduct against Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.

The apex court's three-member In-House Inquiry Committee, headed by Justice S A Bobde, had in May this year given a clean chit to the CJI as it "found no substance" in the allegations levelled against him by the woman.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Manish Khurana accepted the closure report filed by Delhi Police after the complainant in the case, Naveen Kumar, a resident of Jhajjar in Haryana, said he had no objection to the plea and that he did not want to pursue the case.

"Complainant stated that he is satisfied with the investigation conducted by the police in this case. He also stated that he does not want to file any protest petition and therefore, the closure report may be accepted as he does not want to pursue the present case.

TODAY
ALMANAC
 Month & Paksham:
 Bhadrapada & Krishna Paksha
 Panchangam
 Tithi : Shashthi : 08:11 pm
 Nakshatram: Kritika: 10:20 am
 Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)
 Rahukalam: 10:39 am - 12:09 pm
 Yamagandam: 03:10 pm - 04:40 pm
 Varjyam: 03:01 am - 04:42 am
 Gulika: 07:38 am - 09:08 am
 Good Time: (to start any important work)
 Amritakalam: 07:47 am - 09:29 am
 Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:45 am - 12:33 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER
 Forecast: Thunderstorms
 Temp: 29/23
 Humidity: 98%
 Sunrise: 06:04
 Sunset: 06:14
 Current Weather Conditions
 Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

'Move to give weekly-offs to police failed'

Govt to evolve a new system to give cops break: CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao said that the state government's attempt to extend weekly-offs to police in Telangana had failed due to various reasons and the government is now working on evolving a new system that will ensure police personnel get breaks from work periodically. However, the CM did not disclose the reasons which failed the weekly-off system for police.

The TRS government soon after coming to power in 2014 had taken a policy decision to extend weekly-offs to police personnel in state for the first time. However, it could not be implemented during the past five years.

Intervening during the Question Hour and answering a supplementary question in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, the Chief Minister admitted that the government examined a proposal for instituting weekly offs for the police department but that was found to be unworkable.

The CM stated that the Director General of Police (DGP) was examining the best possible way to provide breaks



The TRS government soon after coming to power in 2014 had taken a policy decision to extend weekly-offs to police personnel in state for the first time. However, it could not be implemented in the last five years

that can ensure some relief from the highly stressful work that police personnel perform. "This is a justifiable question. It is only in namesake that their duties are meant for eight hours at a time. They are on duty every day and night. Anyone who works under such stress levels cannot work effectively for long. Society should not condone such high levels of stress at work," the Chief Minister said.

He also said that the Telangana government was the only one in the country that pays home guards Rs 20,000 a month, the highest in India.

KCR complimented the police for the peaceful Ganesh Nimmajjanam procession ear-

lier this month and said it was not an easy achievement to do so year after year. Hyderabad, he said, has a great future. "It is an affectionate society and welcoming."

On the under construction police command control centre in the city, he said the facility represents a fusion of technologies. "Though it is called the police command control centre, it is much more than that. Every government department will have space in it. It should be ready by this December or January next," he said, adding that officials at the centre will be able to monitor happenings live, take steps for immediate intervention in times of natural disasters or for providing relief efforts.

Supply water to villages in Nizamabad: KCR

CM asks officials to prepare plan and supply water for drinking and irrigation purposes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao has instructed the officials concerned to prepare a comprehensive plan to supply water for irrigation and drinking purposes in all the villages in Legislative Assembly segments under the combined Nizamabad district.

Since there is less availability of water in Nizamsagar and Singur projects this year, villages under the jurisdiction of these projects should be supplied water through alternative methods and the officers should prepare alternative/temporary plans.

The Chief Minister said in order to solve the issues pertaining to irrigation water, drinking water and Podu Bhoomulu (lands under shifting cultivation) he would visit the combined Nizamabad district for two days in the coming month and discuss the matter with people. The Chief Minister had a meeting with the Legislators from the combined Nizamabad district and Speaker P Srinivas Reddy in the Assembly premises here on Thursday.

Ministers Vemula Prashanth Reddy, Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Government Whip Gampa Govardhan, MLAs Bajireddy Govardhan, A Jeevan Reddy, Hanumanth Shinde, Biyyala



Ganesh Gupta, Surender, MLC Subhash Reddy, Chief Secretary SK Joshi, CM Principal Secretary S Narsing Rao, Secretary Smita Sabharwal, OSD Priyanka Varghese, Irrigation E-in-C Muralidhar Rao, SEs Shankar, Sudhakar Reddy, RWS E-in-C Sri Krupakar and others participated.

The CM said since SRSP is linked to the Kaleswaram Project, there would not be any problem to its ayucut (lands irrigated under the project) in future. The Chief

Since SRSP is linked to the Kaleswaram Project, there would not be any problem to its ayucut (lands irrigated under the project) in future.

—K CHANDRASHEKHAR RAO, Chief Minister

Minister said irrigation water should be supplied to Armour, Balkonda and Banswada Assembly segments through the Lifts as is done at Gutpa and Ali Sagar. The CM instructed the officials from the Irrigation department to get the survey done and prepare estimates, find out where to put

the Lifts and to what extent of land water can be supplied in the villages. Since the government has decided to fill the SRSP with not less than 90 TMC of water, the CM said water should be supplied to the maximum extent from the SRSP to the Ayucut.

The Chief Minister said

though tanks and reservoirs in the state are brimming with water, but for Singur and Nizam Sagar adequate water did not reach them. Hence, alternative and temporary plans should be made for the supply of water to the villages under these two projects. The CM wanted water should be drawn from various sources, from HMWS, from Pargi, Komati Banda, SRSP and any other source and supply to the villages. In other places, water should be supplied through tankers and from the borewells.

He said this problem would be there only for this year and by the next year; water will be supplied from the Mallanna Sagar to these two projects. Preparations should begin now so that people will not suffer during the coming summer season. The CM also said that in the combined Nizamabad district, farmers doing shifting cultivation are facing problems and there are disputes between the Forest and Revenue departments. The CM assured that he would visit the combined Nizamabad district for two days next month, would discuss with the locals and solve the issues pertaining to the forest department. During the visit, the CM said programmes for the permanent supply of irrigation and drinking water would also be launched.

Fancy vehicle number fetches Rs 5.10 lakh

PNS ■ BHONGIR

A bore well trader, Ramchandra Reddy, won the fancy number TS 30D 9999 in the online bids placed for his new BMW car. He placed bid for Rs 5.10 lakh to own the number, a record of sorts in the district so far. Had there been no competition to get the number, the fancy number could have been easily taken for Rs 50,000.

Kanukula Venkat Reddy of Bommalaramam competed with the bore well trader from Puligilla of Valigonda mandal to grab the number. Venkat Reddy quoted Rs 3.58 lakh to have the number on his Innova car.

KCR, Jagan to meet on Sept ...

Continued from Page 1

The Chief Ministers are also expected to take forward their plan to divert Godavari water to Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar in the Krishna basin to help meet the irrigation and drinking water needs of the Rayalaseema region in AP as well as Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda, Ranga Reddy districts in Telangana. The river linkage proposal was mooted by the CMs during their meeting at Pragathi Bhavan in May.

Thereafter, irrigation officials from both the states held a series of meetings to discuss the locations from where Godavari water could be diverted and the expenditure involved in the entire project.

BJP inciting hatred to create base in TS: Maoists

PNS ■ CHERLA

Posters and pamphlets by Maoists appeared in many agency villages in Kothagudem and neighbouring districts on Thursday, accusing the BJP of instigating communal hatred in Telangana to spread its base in the State.

The Maoist party said the BJP and the Narendra Modi government are Hindu fascists and are resorting to atrocities against dalits, Adivasis, women and minorities. The posters appeared in the name of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) Party Telangana State Committee.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, claiming to create a modern India by 2023, was spreading dubious patriotism, fascism and promoting corporate forces with a long-range strategy, the pamphlets said, adding that to suppress Maoists, 'Operation Samadhan' has been launched.

Stating that inflation in the country has been making the lives of common people miserable, the pamphlet said the faulty policies of the State and Central governments were being opposed by students, women, workers, dalits and Adivasis and their agitations are taking the shape of militant fights.

The Maoists appealed to the people to organise celebrations from September 21 to November 8 marking the 15th

Police on high alert

PNS ■ WARANGAL

September 21 to October 8. Meanwhile, the police put the previous naxalite bastions in north Telangana under surveillance on the eve of formation week fete of the naxalites. The police forces operating especially in the forest terrain have been put on their heels and extensive patrolling was initiated in the wake of the call of the naxalites.

The law enforcers suspect that the naxalites may take up their formation week fete in the forest terrain connecting, Khammam-Karimnagar-Adilabad and Warangal and alerted inter-state border police forces to take up combing operation.



foundation day of the Maoist Party. The posters and pamphlets have appeared at Cherla in Kothagudem district, at

Metlagudem and Gunnaram villages of Wazedu mandal in Mulug district, Narsingpeta of Chintoor mandal of East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh. The event holds great significance as it also marks the 50th foundation day of CPI (ML) and MCCI. Grand celebrations have been conducted at all villages along with meetings and seminars against Hindu fascism," the posters read.

Metro cheaper than RTC AC ...

Continued from Page 1

Clearing the air over cloudy land acquisition process in the Old City, KTR said, "Government is committed to Metro in Old City. In Sultan Bazar, based on traders' request, the right of way has been reduced to 65 meters from 100 meters. Likewise, in Badichowdi, it was reduced to 80 meters.

"There are no changes being made in existing alignment," he observed, while dismissing claims of alignment changes and need for additional land acquisition.

KTR said, "No deviations are made from the concession agreement done in 2010 under the Congress regime. The right of way is provided by the State government with 66 stations and 3 depots on 269 acres of land."

Mallanasagar to be a tourist spot

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Mallanasagar reservoir, part of the mega Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, will be developed as a tourism destination, Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao has said. The under construction reservoir in Siddipet district can store 50 TMCft of water and is one of the largest artificial water bodies to be constructed under the Kaleshwaram project.

The Chief Minister, who agreed to a proposal to develop Mallanasagar as a tourist destination, asked Tourism Minister V Srinivas Goud to look into the issue and make appropriate plans. Replying to a question in the Assembly on



SRSP revitalization, the Chief Minister said the governments of the past had ignored SRSP. But with water from Kaleshwaram project reaching SRSP and the brilliant idea by the late irrigation expert Vidyasagar Rao to use the SRSP flood flow canal also as a reservoir means not only assured irrigation to the seven lakh acres of SRSP ayacut but also to additional ayacut when other components of the Kaleshwaram project are ready, he said.

SRSP water being polluted?

PNS ■ BALKONDA

Water in the Sriramsagar project is changing colour following heavy inflows into the project 20 days ago because of heavy rains in the upper catchment areas. But, the farmers attribute it to the local factories releasing toxic wastes into the project and worried about the prospects of the crop if their lands are to be irrigated with the project water.

Drinking water is being supplied through Mission Bhagiradha and through lift-irrigation schemes through the project, they said exhorting officials to focus on the issue.

They wanted the officials to conduct a probe into the water pollution and save crops in the ayacut lands. However, project deputy EE Jagadish said that it was due to release of waste into river Godavari in the upper reaches of the project. The water colour is change is an annual feature, he added.



Youth thrashed and burnt...

Continued from Page 1

According to locals, Anjaneyulu and his father were known to allegedly practise witchcraft, and Lakshmi's family members always suspected the duo for Lakshmi's poor health.

"Anjaneyulu and Lakshmi were neighbours, and for the past five years Lakshmi was suffering ill health and availing treatment at OGH. However, she died on Tuesday, following which her

funeral was conducted on Wednesday," police said.

On Wednesday, Anjaneyulu reportedly came to attend Lakshmi's funeral. Furious over his presence, Lakshmi's brother-in-law Balram and other family members allegedly attacked Anjaneyulu with axes and sickles, and further threw him into Lakshmi's funeral pyre. Police learnt about the incident around 9 pm the same day. Subsequently they began their investigation

and cordoned off the crime scene. Soon, Anjaneyulu's brother also approached the Shamirpet police station claiming that his brother was missing. On Thursday morning, dog squad, CLUES team and a police team led by DCP Padmaja Reddy visited the graveyard. A bloodstained spot in the graveyard and recovered a handkerchief from the scene by the police. They also collected bones from the pyre and sent them for forensic analysis.

Target set for releasing fishlings

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister Talasai Srinivasa Yadav on Thursday said that the government targeted to release 80.57 crore fishlings into 21,756 water bodies and asked the fisheries department officials to achieve the target by September 30.

Addressing officials through video conference, the Minister said that release of fishlings commenced on September 16 by releasing them into Kaleshwaram waters. So far, 19.38 crore fishlings were released into 5,958 water bodies.

He asked the officials to not to compromise on quality and size of the fishlings and involve elected people's representatives and fishermen in releasing the fishlings.



Collectors go the extra mile in acting out their plan

PNS ■ KHAMMAM / KOTHAGUDEM

The District Collectors in erstwhile Khammam have been making exceptional efforts for the success of 30-day Action Plan, proposed by the Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao for development of the villages. The Collectors have been extensively touring remote villages, educating the villagers on the importance of the Action Plan in the overall wellbeing of the villages and its residents.

Khammam Collector RV Karnan has toured several villages in Tirumalayapalem mandal. He interacted with the local officials and residents. He explained the residents about the objectives of the 30-day Action Plan. Cleanliness at individual level leads to cleanliness at village level, he told the villagers in an interaction with them at Tirumalayapalem, Pindiprolu and Mohammadapuram villages. Curiously, Karnan has



inspected the residences checking for abandoned water pots, tires, containers, water drums, even the status of sanitation around the toilets. At a house he picked up an utensil in which mosquitoes were breeding, showed it to the residents of the household. At another place when he found an abandoned tire containing water

and mosquito larvae in it he himself emptied the water in it as the officials and villagers stood amazed of his action. He advised the residents not to allow anything that helps mosquitoes to breed at their houses. Karnan felt that there has been active participation of elected representatives and officials at field level for the

success of the 30-day Action Plan. Collective efforts were needed for chalking out plans and their execution as part of year and five year plans.

"The State would release funds based on population ratio. Works identified during padayatras have to be executed on war-footing basis involving residents. The villages in Khammam should become model ones in the State" the Collector noted. On the other hand, Kothagudem Collector Rajat Kumar Saini toured Maoist affected agency villages Kudunur, R Kothagudem, Bodanelli, Kurnavalli and others in Cherla mandal. He inspected the works being executed as part of the Action Plan. "The 30-day Action Plan aims at creating healthy and prospering villages. Priority has to be given to sanitation, Haritha Haram and drinking water works" Saini advised the officials adding that the Action Plan paves the way for development of the rural areas.

3 suspended, 8 served notices for dereliction of duty

PNS ■ KORUTLA

Jagityal District Collector Sarat during the past 10 days placed a panchayat secretary and two field assistants under suspension, served show-cause notices on eight government personnel and transferred a tahsildar for showing dereliction to duty in the implementation of 30-day action plan.

Daily, he makes a surprise visit to one village or the other to study the implementation of the plan. He also enquires from villagers on the involvement of the villagers and officials in the action plan implementation.

Four days ago, the Collector placed Vellulla panchayat secretary in Metpalli mandal. On Tuesday last, he

placed two field assistants under suspension and served a show-cause notice on a panchayat secretary. He transferred tahsildar. This explains how serious the district Collector is in implementing the 30-day action plan. The suspension of three personnel in 10 days sent shivers down the spine of officials who are taking extra precautions in implementing the action plan.

The Collector inspecting the progress in all mandals to ensure there are no lacunae in implementing the action plan. As a result, the works are going on at a brisk pace in 380 villages of 18 mandals. In 379 villages, 380 standing committees have been appointed and 1,137 co-opted members have been deployed.

CRIME CORNER

3 die in Jangaon road mishap

HYDERABAD: Three people died when their car hit a van near Devarupula police station in Jangaon on Thursday morning. The deceased were identified as Penugonda Ganesh, 60, Penugonda Sukanya, 38, and driver MD Nazeer, all residents of Mahabubabad town. Two others sustained injuries in the mishap. The DCM van driver was driving in a rash manner which may have caused the collision, said police. The van driver is on the run. A case was booked under section 304-A (death by negligence) of the IPC and the bodies were shifted for postmortem examination.

Car turns turtle as driver takes selfie

WARANGAL: In his obsession for selfies, a young man driving a car caused a major accident in Eturnagaram on Thursday evening. Police said, Sanjeev from Hyderabad, was returning home with four friends after a visit to the Bogatha waterfalls. He tried to take a selfie at a blind curve and lost control of the car which careened and turned turtle. Five persons, including Sanjeev, Saichand, Sreekanth, Tejaswini and Anupama were injured in the accident. The condition of Anupama and Tejaswini is reported to be critical. All were admitted in Eturnagaram area hospital.

Class II student mowed down by car

HYDERABAD: A class II student was mowed down by a speeding car at Kukatapally on Thursday. Police said seven-year-old girl, P Rishitha, was returning home from school when she met with the accident. The mishap occurred at AVB Puram area in Kukatapally police station limits. The deceased, who studied in St Rita High School, P Rishitha was the daughter of Srinivasa Rao, 35, a mason. Her elder sister, Jhanvi, studies in class III. Rishitha and Jhanvi were returning home from school on Thursday evening. While Rishitha was crossing the road, she slipped and fell down. A Bolero car, bearing the number TS 08 UD 8718, registered on the name of one Neeladri Temburu, ran over the girl, who was still on the ground. She received serious head injuries. Police said the girl succumbed while being shifted to a hospital. A case was booked against the driver Hemachalam under section 304-A (death by negligence) of the IPC and a probe was launched.



100 big businesses eyeing stake in Pharma City

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

About 100 large business houses and 200 MSME's have submitted expression of interest to TSIC for establishing units in the Pharma City to come up at Mucherla in Ranga Reddy district. Minister of Industries KT Rama Rao said this in the Assembly on Thursday.

He said these companies are interested in establishing units across the value chain of pharmaceuticals including R&D, APIs, formulations, biological manufacturing etc, which will boost job creation. Responding to a question in Assembly, he said, "Hyderabad Pharma City is proposed to be built on 19,333 acres in Yacharam, Kandukur and Kadthal mandals of Ranga Reddy district. After the project implementation is completed, it is expected to generate investments of Rs 64,000 crore and employ 56,000 people directly and indirectly."

The infrastructure facilities at the project will be developed at an estimated cost of Rs 16,784 crore. Facilities that will form the technical infrastructure include Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP), sewerage treatment plant (STP), district heating and cooling systems (DCS and DHS), integrated solid waste management, waste to energy plant, command centre for ICT-IOT based monitoring and environmental monitoring. The government proposes to build physical infrastructure like approach roads, internal roads with storm water drains, power supply, water supply, street lighting and warehousing. This apart, social infrastructure including schools, universities, hospitals and other services are also envisaged in the Pharma City project.

Mega industrial park spread over 19,333 acres coming up at Mucherla in RR, KTR tells Assembly

Hyd to boost healthcare, life sciences sectors: Etela
Health Minister tells entrepreneurs to use TS i-Pass, get permit for industries in 15 days

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad is the largest manufacturer of drugs in India, and Telangana government will provide have 24x7 power supply, clean water supply and boost the confidence of investors in pharma, health care and life sciences R&D sector, state Health Minister Etela Rajender said on Thursday. He was speaking at trade show 'Analytica Anacon India and India Lab Expo' organised in Hyderabad.



Etela Rajender speaks at trade show 'Analytica Anacon India and India Lab Expo'

Over the years, Hyderabad has emerged as the pharmaceutical hub of the country and has come to be known as the 'Genome Valley of India'

Minister Etela told the investors and businesses that "Hyderabad is the safest place in India" and they must see the opportunity to invest here. "Use TS i-Pass and get a permit for your industries within 15 days," he said.

The state government will give you subsidy in electricity and tax rebate. We also have 24x7 clean water and electricity supply as well," added the health minister. The Telangana government plans to set up a Pharma City at Sultanpur, on the lines of HiTec-City for IT, to facilitate expansion of existing pharmaceutical and bulk drug manufacturing companies. "We have allotted 400 acres

and has come to be known as the 'Genome Valley of India'. There are about 800 pharma, biotech, and med-tech companies in Hyderabad, making it one of the largest life sciences hub in Asia. It also account for 35-40 percent of the national pharma production, the minister said. Analytica Anacon India and India Lab Expo is a befitting stage for the largest pharma market in the country, said Bhupinder Singh, CEO of Messe Muenchen India. The three-day conference will cover latest developments in life sciences and pharma research aimed at encouraging pharmaceutical research in Hyderabad.

HMDA to develop 16 urban lung spaces

HYDERABAD: The HMDA is developing forest blocks at 16 locations in its jurisdiction as 'urban lung spaces'. These are expected to be completed by March 2020.

Responding to question in Assembly, MA&UD minister KTR said the major work involves construction of protection walls, which is in progress. The project will cost of Rs 96.64 crore.

Man held for cheating doctor of Rs 1.40 crore

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 57-year-old man was arrested by the White Collar Offences team of Hyderabad police for cheating a doctor to the tune of Rs 1.40 crore on the pretext of securing orders for supply of the agricultural farm inputs under PMKVY scheme.

The arrested accused was identified as Chamarthy Pattabhiraman alias Guru Pattabhi Raman Chamarthy, a former employee of TATA Fertilisers and resident of from Delhi. He was apprehended and produced in a city court following a man-hunt in Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad.

The accused, along with other accomplices, cheated Dr G Nagasaina Rao, 60, a cardio-vascular-thoracic surgeon, in 2017 with false promise of securing orders for supply of the farm inputs under PMKVY to the West Bengal government, police said.

Accused Chamarthy bought the material from a private firm in Mumbai and created two fictitious orders in the names senior West Bengal government officials of Dr Paritosh Bhattacharyya and Pijush Kanti Pramanick by forging their signatures. He gave copies of the letters to Nagasaina Rao and obtained orders for the supply of goods. Chamarthy collected Rs 1.40 crore from Nagasaina Rao and absconded, police said.

Basing on a complaint from Dr Nagasaina Rao, a case was registered for cheating and forgery. Investigations by CCS inspector K Manoj Kumar revealed that Chamarthy had cheated several people in the past whom police are trying to identify and locate.



Accused Chamarthy Pattabhiraman

RURAL CIRCLES ENTHRAL



Participants gather with their notes at the rural development event inaugurated by Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan at National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (NIRDPR) in the city on Thursday

TRAFFIC RULES VIOLATION IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2019 IN FIGURES

RACHAKONDA	CYBERABAD
Total cases 7,67,699	Total cases 11,97,435
Helmet defaults 5,76,130	Helmet defaults 6,91,007

A majority of the cases pertain to the helmet rule. But Rachakonda police's modus operandi can truly help reduce traffic violations and thereby penalties paid by offenders.

Heavy fines avoided, but no let-up in police vigil

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Vehicle riders in the city heaved a sigh of relief after the Telangana government decided not to implement the harsh new motor vehicles Act which prescribed back-breaking fines on traffic rule violators. The government opted against implementing the Act on the grounds of lack of feasibility. The big penalties, however, would have meant windfall for the police department, with estimates saying revenue could have jumped from the current collection of Rs 170 crore annually to Rs 500 crore. But that was not to be. The government was not inclined to implement the new rules taking into consideration the ground realities.

The police, on their part, plan to remain on even higher alert so as not to let anybody violate rules at will in

the absence of harsh penalties and get away scot-free.

Many locals are of the view that the traffic police would have gotten so busy hauling up violators and collecting fines, it wouldn't have found time to regulate traffic.

With regard to enforcing traffic rules, police in the Rachakonda commissionerate recently set an example for the other two -- Hyderabad and Cyberabad commissionerates -- to follow. The Rachakonda police went about enforcing rules with ingenuity; it made the violators on two-wheelers purchase helmets and offered assistance in acquiring other vehicle-related documents, instead of imposing fines on them. This saved the violators from paying fines and helped them get the necessary papers and get rule violation-proof from then on.

Who can check vehicles, constable or officer?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A debate is raging over who should inspect vehicles - a constable or a police officer - in social media.

Who is authorised to inspect the vehicles? Two videos of vehicle riders objecting to a constable checking vehicles have gone viral on the Internet.

In one of the videos, vehicle riders are seen arguing with constables for inspecting their vehicles saying he is not authorised to do so. At the same time, a case is filed against a man for preventing a police constable from discharging his duty.

The rules say that an officer of the rank of SI or above has the right to inspect vehicles. Moreover, the vehicles documents should be inspected only in the presence of officers. Neither police constables nor home guards have the right to directly inspect vehicles.

People can complain to police higher-ups if the rules are violated. If videographic evidence is produced, punishment can also be awarded to erring policemen.

In Telangana, there is a cashless system of collecting

Debate rages on SM; rules say only officers can

traffic fines. No police officer can collect money on the pretext of inspecting vehicles. If an officer demands cash, the same can be reported in a complaint. Action can be taken against an officer found guilty.

Under Section 41 of CrPC, persons moving under suspicious circumstances and their vehicles and equipment can be checked by a police officer without permission from anyone. In such situations, even police constables can check people and their vehicles.

Police officials say that while constables can't check vehicles on their own in normal circumstances, the members of public can't misbehave with them in any manner either. On the other hand, if a police personnel behaves rudely with anyone affecting their rights, a complaint can be lodged against such acts.

Petrol, diesel prices rise

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Petrol price increased in Hyderabad by 27 paise and diesel by 24 paise on Wednesday, in wake of the surge in crude prices after last week's drone attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities.

The latest increase is the biggest single-day hike since the July 5 Budget presented in Parliament that raised rates by almost Rs 2.50 a litre due to an

increase in excise duty on fuel. The current price of petrol in Hyderabad is Rs 76.99 at Indian Oil petrol bunks and Rs 77.00 at Bharat Petroleum bunks, while diesel prices were at Rs 71.75. "We hope that the government reduces excise duty," said Sushel, general manager of Bharat Petrol bunk in Khairatabad.

Body found on Nagarjuna's property

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A highly decomposed body was found on the premises of Tollywood actor Akkineni Nagarjuna's farmhouse in Papi Reddy Guda in Rangareddy district on Wednesday night. Police recovered the body and started an investigation.

The deceased was identified as 32-year-old C Pandu, with the help of an ID card and an Aadhaar card found beside the body, Shamshad DCP Prakash Reddy said, adding that he died by consuming poison around October 2015. The place the body was found was a piece of agri-



Man had poisoned himself four years ago, say police

The deceased was identified as 32-year-old C Pandu, with the help of an ID card and an Aadhaar card found beside the body

cultural land spread over 40 acres that the actor had bought. It had remained unused for several years. Nagarjuna had sent some

farm workers there to ready the land for organic farming. The workers who reached the place noticed foul smell emanating from

an abandoned building. When they entered the building, they noticed the skeletal remains of a body, which was completely decomposed. They informed the Village Revenue Officer who alerted the Keshampet police of Cyberabad. Police reached the spot with a dog squad and CLUES team and collected forensic evidence.

According to case details, Pandu's family owned a land next to the one belonging to the actor. He was close to one of his three brothers, Kumar, who died

of a kidney ailment in 2015. Soon after his brother's death, Pandu slipped into depression and would tell his friends and family that he wanted to kill himself. In October 2015, he went missing after writing a letter saying that the property in his name should go to his mother Jangamma. No missing person's case was lodged by the family, sources said. Pandu reportedly consumed poison and killed himself. The police have filed a case of suspicious death on Thursday and shifted the body for postmortem.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Revenue (LA) Department
Office of the Collector, Nirmal
FORM - C
NOTIFICATION
(Under Section 11 of the Act where 10 A Exemption is given)
(See rule 6/12)
Gazette No. 05/2019 Dated: 30.08.2019
Nirmal, Collector's file No. G1/1009/2019 Dated: 30.08.2019
Nirmal, Spl. Dy. Collector's file No. C/19/2019 Dated: 09.08.2019

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Dist collector, Nirmal that a total of Ac.29.03 gts. Lands are required in the Boregas Village of Thanur Mandal, Nirmal District for public purpose namely Right Main Canal from K.M 2.525 to 4.192 under kaleswaram project (Package-28). Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in Boregas Village of Thanur Mandal, Nirmal District land measuring Ac.29.03 gts. / Hectares of standard measurement, whose detail description is as following is proposed for Acquisition.

S.No	Syl.No.	Type of Land	Area proposed Under Acquisition in ac.	Name of patta/owner/Enjoyners & persons interested & father name	Boundaries			
					NORTH	SOUTH	EAST	WEST
1	29/e	Patta	0-33	P Maruthi S/o Pothanna	Higgeili Village Boundary	Ummi Village Boundary		32
2	31/e/1	Patta	0-32	Lasmanna S/o Mallanna	Higgeili Village Boundary	Ummi Village Boundary		39/1
3	31/e/2	Patta	0-32	Renukabal W/o Rajanna	Higgeili Village Boundary	Ummi Village Boundary		39/1
4	31/e/3	Patta	0-32	Savithribal W/o Narayan	Higgeili Village Boundary	Ummi Village Boundary		39/1
5	31/e/4	Patta	0-31	Sudharshan S/o Aashanna	Higgeili Village Boundary	Ummi Village Boundary		39/1
6	32/1	Patta	1-02	Balajee S/o Naganna	Higgeili Village Boundary	Ummi Village Boundary		39/1
7	35/e/3/2	Patta	0-29	Prathap S/o Gangadhar	Higgeili Village Boundary	Ummi Village Boundary		39/2
8	35/e/3/1	Patta	0-29	Sanjeev S/o Gangadhar	Higgeili Village Boundary	Ummi Village Boundary		39/1
9	35/e/4	Patta	0-29	Sudharshi S/o Maruthi	Higgeili Village Boundary	Ummi Village Boundary		39/1
10	36/e/1	Patta	0-01	Gangadhar S/o Bhumannna	Higgeili Village Boundary	Ummi Village Boundary		39/1
11	38/1	Patta	2-00	Keshav S/o Kadenna	Higgeili Village Boundary	Ummi Village Boundary		39/1
12	38/3	Patta	0-23	Govt. Road	Higgeili Village Boundary	Ummi Village Boundary		39/1
13	39/e/39/e/39	Patta	0-14 0-20 0-20	Lasmanna S/o Mallanna	Higgeili Village Boundary	Ummi Village Boundary		39/1
14	39/e/1	Patta	1-13	K. Balajee S/o Vital	Evi Village Boundary	Bember Village Boundary		49/1
15	51/2	Patta	1-06	Ashok S/o Viswanath	Evi Village Boundary	Bember Village Boundary		49/1
16	52/e/2	Patta	1-02	Anushabai W/o Denidas	Evi Village Boundary	Bember Village Boundary		56/1
17	52/e/1	Patta	1-02	Gangabai W/o Ganesh	Evi Village Boundary	Bember Village Boundary		56/1
18	52/e/3	Patta	1-02	Laksmibai W/o Gangadhar	Evi Village Boundary	Bember Village Boundary		56/1
19	52/e/3	Patta	1-01	S. Chinna Bai S/o Gangadhar	Evi Village Boundary	Bember Village Boundary		56/1
20	53/1/e/1	Patta	0-39	Bojabai W/o Gaddanna	Evi Village Boundary	Bember Village Boundary		56/1
21	53/1/e/2	Patta	0-38	Errabai W/o Gaddanna	Evi Village Boundary	Bember Village Boundary		56/1
22	54/e	Patta	2-01	Madari S/o Pothanna	Evi Village Boundary	Bember Village Boundary		56/1
23	54/e/2	Patta	2-00	Laksman S/o Naganna	Evi Village Boundary	Bember Village Boundary		56/1
24	57	Patta	0-37	Bhojanna S/o Pothanna	Evi Village Boundary	Bember Village Boundary		68/2
25	58/e	Patta	1-22	Madhav S/o Jalya	Evi Village Boundary	Bember Village Boundary		68/2
26	68/e	Patta	0-31	Shevatha Bai W/o Laksman	Evi Village Boundary	Bember Village Boundary		64/1
27	59	Patta	2-02	Ammi Bai W/o Babu Rao	Evi Village Boundary	Bember Village Boundary		63/1
Total					29.03			

This notification is made under the provisions of section -11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 (Central Act No.30/2013) as amended by the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment Act 2016) (Act 21/2017) to whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Nirmal on any working day during the office hours. The Government of Telangana/Collector cum Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize officer Spl. Dy. Collector, Nirmal and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil and do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provide and specified.

Under section 11 (4) of the Act, No person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e sale/purchase etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval (from Collector).

Objections to the Acquisition if any, and claims from all the persons affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the Land within 60 (Sixty Days) Days from the Date of publication of this Notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before District Collector/Authorized Officer.

Sd/- Sd/- Sd/-
Spl. Dy. Collector, Nirmal Joint Collector, Nirmal Collector, Nirmal
DIPR No.: 816/LA/PP/2019-20

Dengue patients throng TS hospitals

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hospitals across Telangana continue to be overcrowded with patients, including those with symptoms of dengue, even as the state government remained in a denial mode and has even gagged the private hospitals from giving out the numbers of dengue patients on the pretext of avoiding a health scare.

Hundreds of people suffering from viral fever, malaria and seasonal diseases and also showing dengue symptoms are undergoing treatment at major government-run hospitals and private healthcare facilities in Hyderabad and other parts of the state.

Hyderabad's Fever Hospital, popularly known as Sir Ronald Ross Institute of Tropical and Communicable Diseases, is teeming with patients including many with suspected dengue symptoms.

A similar situation is seen in Osmania Hospital, Gandhi Hospital, Niloufer Hospital for children and Maternity Hospital Petlaburj -- all the major government-run hospitals in Hyderabad which get patients from across the state. The infrastructure and medical staff are proving inadequate to deal with the huge number of patients. In some hospitals, two patients are being accommodated on one bed. Some patients are also being treated on the floor.

As many as 3,000 cases of dengue were reported in the state during the current month. This has taken the total number of cases reported since January to 4,500. While unofficially 56 dengue deaths have

Over 3,000 cases of dengue reported across state in Sept so far



been reported across the state, the government claims that only one person died of dengue.

It was only two days ago that the health department confirmed the first death due to dengue. A 35-year-old man from Medchal district on the outskirts of Hyderabad died at a private hospital.

Officials said a committee was going through the records to check whether 20 other suspected deaths were due to dengue.

The spurt in dengue cases has sent panic and triggered demands from the opposition for declaring medical emergency.

However, the health authorities have put gag orders on the private hospitals, blaming them

for creating a scare by declaring dengue deaths.

A committee comprising senior health department officials were set up to look into the suspected dengue death cases. They are verifying the confirmatory tests done by the hospitals.

The panel was constituted for death audit after allegations that instead of confirming dengue on the basis of MAC-ELISA tests, many hospitals and labs are doing rapid diagnostic tests and giving false positive cases.

Officials made it clear that if a dengue patient suffered from any co-morbid condition such as hypertension, or if MAC-ELISA test is not done, such a case will not be declared as dengue death.

"Of the seasonal fever, 99 per cent cases are of the viral fever and less than one per cent cases of fever reported were diagnosed as dengue and other such fevers," Health Minister Etela Rajender told the state Legislative Assembly early this week.

He rejected the demand of the opposition parties to declare medical emergency in the state. He slammed them for creating an unnecessary alarm on the issue. "The opposition must stop creating unnecessary fear among the people," he said.

He urged the opposition to cooperate with the government in checking the spread of the seasonal diseases by sensitising people about the causes of viral fevers and measures to prevent them.

The Health Minister said the government had taken several measures to tackle the current situation. He said the leaves of the doctors have been cancelled.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has taken up measures to control the mosquito menace. As poor sanitation in homes is identified as the main reason for breeding of dengue causing mosquitoes, the authorities are running a public awareness campaign.

The opposition parties, however, have targeted the government for what they call hiding the facts and misleading people. They alleged that there is a shortage of medicine, lack of diagnostic facilities and beds in government hospitals.

"The situation is bad. The government has failed to tackle the situation. There are no proper facilities in government hospitals, while private hospitals are fleecing the poor patients," said Congress party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka.



ON THE RISE

- Hundreds of people suffering from viral fevers are undergoing treatment at major government-run hospitals and private healthcare facilities
- Hyd's Fever Hospital is teeming with patients including many with suspected dengue symptoms
- As many as 3,000 cases of dengue were reported in the state during Sept
- This has taken the total number of cases reported since January to 4,500
- Officials said a committee was going through the records to check whether 20 other suspected deaths were due to dengue



Bathukamma sarees distribution from Sep 23

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for IT and Industries KT Rama Rao on Thursday has announced that the distribution of Bathukamma Sarees would begin from September 23 across the state. He said that the Telangana government has spent Rs 715 crore for Bathukamma sarees in three years in Sircilla.

"Bathukamma sarees are not uniforms. So, this year, the sarees are made in 100 varieties in 10 different designs and in 10 different colors," the Minister said. He said the distribution of sarees in each constituency center would be opened by MLAs, MLCs, MPs, Judge Chairmen and local corporations. All over the state, women over the age of 18 and white ration cardholders are being given 1.02 crore sarees.

"The state government is spending Rs 313 crore for this initiative this year. With Bathukamma sarees, government is empowering Power Loom Workers and thou-

sands of families have been directly benefited by Bathukamma sarees. Using 26,000 power looms employing 16,000 workers, the weavers have generated income of Rs 16,000 to Rs 20,000 per month". Around 10 lakh sarees with 9 yards had been made while remaining 92 lakh sarees with 6 yards. Total 102 lakh sarees account to 670 lakh meters of cloth. On an average, 8 lakh meters were produced per day. By Wednesday, 75 lakh sarees have been sent to the districts. Cost of each saree comes down to Rs 280 and additional GST. This year, the sarees are ready to be distributed in all 100 varieties in 10 different designs and 10 different colors.

Sailaja Ramayyar, Director, Handloom and Textile Department, said, "We have been distributing saris for the last three years and are making saris every year to improve the design and quality. Along with the saree, the blouse will also be provided".

Practice yoga, Gov asks people

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Governor Dr Tamilsai Sundararajan on Thursday called upon the people to practice Yoga that will help not only tone the body but also helps infuse positive energy.

Inaugurating the yoga classes on Thursday morning at the Samskruthi Bhavan on the Raj Bhavan premises for the staff and their family members, the Governor felt that of late, with the technology developing fast, people began neglecting the physical exercises, particularly yoga and even morning

walk. Physical fitness should be the style of living of everyone, the Governor said adding that practising regular yoga is the only way to keep oneself fit. "Let us all respond to the 'Fit India' call given by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi," she said adding that yoga has become her regular practice.

The Advisor to the Governor, APVN Sarma, the Secretary to the Governor, Surendra Mohan, other officials of the Raj Bhavan, staff members and the members of their families attended the yoga classes.



Azharuddin contests for HCA president post

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former India cricket team captain Mohammad Azharuddin on Thursday filed nomination papers for the Hyderabad Cricket Association presidential elections to be held on September 27.

Two years ago, he also filed the nomination papers but were rejected as the HCA found them to be not in order. As he could not give satisfactory answer on lifting of ban imposed on him because of the match-fixing controversy.

Speaking after filing the papers, he said his objective is to take the game of cricket forward. He wants to keep the Hyderabad Cricket above all with the help of advice from everyone. He also stressed on grooming the district-level cricket even further.

HUZURNAGAR BY-ELECTION

Revanth's comments unite Nalgonda Cong leaders

UTTAM'S SPOUSE PADMAVATHI RIGHT CANDIDATE FOR HUZURNAGAR SEAT, SAYS KOMATIREDDY

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

Though the Election Commission is yet to announce the by-election to the Huzurnagar Assembly constituency, the issue is already creating disparities among the Telangana Congress leaders. However, Revanth Reddy's statement, proposing Chamala Kiran Reddy's name as the candidate for the Huzurnagar seat is uniting the Nalgonda district Congress leaders.

On the other hand, Sangareddy MLA T Jagga Reddy said that internal rumblings are very common in Congress party. However, the ruling TRS is cashing in on the opportunity. The TRS alleged that the Congress party raised curtains to the drama in the name of 'candidate' for Huzurnagar by-election. Power Minister G Jagdish Reddy said that Padmavathi will certainly lose election if TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy fields his wife.

On Thursday, Bhongir MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy,

while having chitchat with scribes, has condemned the statement of Malkajgiri MP A Revanth Reddy. He made it clear that Uttam Padmavathi Reddy is only suitable candidate for Huzurnagar seat. "I don't know the name suggested by Revanth Reddy for Huzurnagar by-election. Not only me, but also senior leader K Jana Reddy doesn't know the name suggested by Revanth Reddy. We are in politics for the last 30 years. Will the party field a new candidate by objecting? We don't advise of the leaders, who joined party recently. We don't want other district leaders to interfere in our district politics. What is the need for TPCC working president to interfere in Nalgonda politics? Congress will register victory in Huzurnagar. The senior leaders are wishing me to become the PCC Chief. We will work for the sake of party even if I don't get PCC chief position. Jana Reddy, Uttam and me got united. We joined hands though we have differences all these days. We are seniors and we will discuss the



issue. We will strive for the victory of Padmavathi. The constituency people too are wishing Padmavathi to contest the by-elections."

On asked whether Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy will stay in the Congress, Venakat Reddy asked the scribes to pose the question to the former in this regard. "Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's brother's daughter Regulapati Ramyarao is in BJP though KCR is in TRS, similarl is the case with my brother", he said.

Rumblings common in Congress, says Jagga

Responding to the Huzurnagar by-election issue, Sangareddy MLA Jagga Reddy said that internal rumblings are very common in the Congress. "The reason for rumblings is differences of opinions. It is very common in all political parties. In general, these sorts of differences will not be visible in regional parties and comes out only in national parties. The senior leaders have to maintain restraint regarding issues like Huzurnagar by-election," he said.

"There is no single hero in Congress but Rahul Gandhi is our leader. At constituency level, the local leaders are heroes", he opined. He said that senior leaders Jana Reddy, Uttam and Komatireddy brothers are dictating Congress in erstwhile Nalgonda district. Huzurnagar constituency is Uttam's own constituency. Uttam has freedom in selecting the candidate for by-election. However, party high command will finalise the party candidate's name.

Uttam's wife will face defeat: Jagadish

In contrast to Congress leaders, ruling party TRS leaders alleged that Uttam Kumar Reddy started drama afraid of their defeat in Huzurnagar by-election.

During an interaction with the scribe at his chambers in Assembly lobbies, Power Minister G Jagdish Reddy said that it looks Uttam made Revanth to speak like that as it is certain that Padmavathi will lose elections if he fields her. "Uttam's mental condition is not good and hence he is speaking like. Uttam is stating that the police are filing cases against Congress leaders in Huzurnagar though there are no cases against them", he said. Jagdish further said that one village, which is 100% Congress village, in Huzurnagar became 100% TRS. With this effect, Uttam has lost his mental condition.

Govt's mismanagement pushed SCCL into crisis, says Laxman

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP president K Laxman fired on Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao saying the latter has been cheating Singareni employees by telling lies in Assembly. Laxman alleged, for the first time in the history of Singareni Collieries, the mining PSU is facing a financial crisis, due to the mismanagement of TRS government.



taking any action. The state government is due Rs 1200 crore to Singareni Thermal Power Station at Jaipur. Government is also looting Singareni by buying power from Jaipur power plant at a much lesser cost of Rs 3.42 per unit, while the same government is paying more than Rs 7 to private power plants. Even after buying power at cheaper price, the government is not paying dues. While the state government is pushing Singareni Collieries into a severe financial crisis on one side, KCR has been cheating Singareni workers by saying that government will give 28 percent bonus. KCR should increase the bonus to 30 percent as 49 percent of the bonus will be paid by Centre alone," further said K Laxman. Laxman came down heavi-

While Singareni Collieries turnover is about Rs 27,000 crore, the state government is due to more than Rs 10,000 crore. Due to the mismanagement of state government, Singareni which is a profitable company has got into a position, where it is unable to pay even salaries and bonuses to workers
— K LAXMAN, TS BJP president

ly on CM saying the latter has betrayed Singareni workers on giving jobs to dependents and even diverted Rs 16000 Crore in the name of 'district mineral funds' from Singareni Collieries to state government. Laxman stressed that even to pay the bonus, company has to go for fresh loans, due to the irresponsible management by state government.

"As KCR's daughter Kavitha headed Telangana Boggu Ghani Karmika Sangham, CM KCR gave several promises to Singareni workers during trade union elections. But has failed to implement them," he further said.

Jagga's meeting with Harish creates sensation

Continued from Page 1

After the meeting, Jagga told scribes that it was in connection with the development of his constituency. "I met Harish Rao after 14 years. I spoke to Harish Rao for the sake of my constituency people. Harish Rao responded positively," Jagga observed.

However, hawks say there is more to it than meets the eye in the crucial meeting. Doubts are serious among those sections that believe that it was Harish Rao who had obstructed Jagga Reddy from joining the TRS after the Assembly elections. For a while, Jagga Reddy was praising Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and his son IT Minister KT Ramarao, while spitting fire at Harish Rao.

Jagga's long-standing grouse has been that Harish Rao did 'injustice' to the people of Sangareddy by diverting Singur waters when the latter worked as Irrigation Minister. Jagga called it 'water theft' without the knowledge of the Chief Minister. He has slammed Harish Rao several times, accusing the latter of resorting to "blackmail" politics. Jagga alleged that Harish had tried to join Congress with the help of Congress leader DR KVP Ramachandra Rao in 2008.

'State realty sector marching ahead'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India (CREDAI) Telangana announced its new office bearers for the period 2019 to 2021, who will be responsible for spearheading and strengthening the Credai initiatives in Telangana and support the development of the sector in the region.

The team will be led by G Ram Reddy, Ch Ramchandra Reddy, President & D Murali Krishna Reddy, president-elect, E Premsagar Reddy as Secretary, K Indrasena Reddy, G Ajay Kumar, C Jagan Mohan , V Madhusudhan Reddy as vice presidents, and Gopal Pancharia, Pallerla Raju, Y Saideswar Rao, as joint secretaries and B Panduranga Reddy as treasurer.

The new team set the agenda by announcing an increased focus on builders unity to promote the activities in the chapters of CREDAI Telangana



along with the focus on consumer satisfaction and adherence to ethical standards of operations in real estate industry as the key objectives for this year.

The real estate sector in Telangana has witnessed remarkable progress since the formation of the state. The contribution of CREDAI Telangana has always been immense with their key focus on consumer satisfaction and importance on adherence to ethical building standards, initiatives for skill development for the construction workers, water conservation and Haritha Haram and the adoption of Green Building

Concept in the projects by members.

Speaking on the occasion G Ram Reddy, Chairman of CREDAI Telangana said, "We had an interesting real estate journey in the state since its formation in 2014. The real estate sector was lagging behind the rest of the country; however, due to proactive policies and initiatives by the state government, the real estate sector in Hyderabad & rest of the state is showing positive growth and leading the country both in terms of absorption of office spaces and sales of the properties. We hope the same to continue."

KCR announces Rs 1L bonus...

Continued from Page 1

It is a proud moment for all of us, when the SCCL fared better than the Coal India in almost all parameters related to the coal management in the country," the Chief Minister said.

"Our government feels that the sweat that each and every SCCL worker shed in creating the national wealth, often coming out of jaws of death, is no way inferior to the sacrifices of our own army personnel fighting at the borders," he added.

He recalled that in the united Andhra Pradesh, Singareni workers were getting meagre bonus. The bonus was only Rs 13,540 in 2013-14.

Onion prices hit new high

Continued from Page 1

Some unscrupulous traders have hoarded onions in large quantities, sensing market trends. There are many special godowns to store onions for days on end. However, when the supplies to the main market dwindle, traders bid their time to bring stocks from the godowns to the market at the opportune moment and sell it at a higher place, making a killing. The common people, who feel the pinch as prices of onions go through the roof, are hoping that officials would conduct raids and help stabilize prices.

SHORT READS



Will create new paradise in Kashmir: Modi

NASHIK: Blaming the Congress for the plight of Kashmiris for decades, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called for making efforts to create a 'new paradise' in the valley. Launching the BJP's poll campaign for the next month's Maharashtra Assembly elections, Modi also said that a lot of efforts are being made from across the border to foment violence in Jammu and Kashmir. "We have to create a new paradise (in Kashmir)... hug each Kashmiri," he said. "Cattle don't vote," Modi said on criticism that his government's programme to vaccinate 50 crore livestock is a political move. The national animal disease control programme is aimed at eradicating foot and mouth disease and brucellosis in livestock and vaccinating over 50 crore livestock, including cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs against foot and mouth disease.

INX Media: Court extends custody of Chidambaram till Oct 3

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court Thursday extended till October 3 the judicial custody of former finance minister P Chidambaram in connection with the INX Media corruption case. Special judge Ajay Kumar Kumar also allowed medical examination of Chidambaram. The court extended the judicial custody of Chidambaram after the CBI sought extension of the veteran Congress leader's judicial remand. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for CBI, sought extension of the judicial custody and said there has been no change of circumstance from the day he was first sent to jail. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Chidambaram, opposed the investigative agency's plea to extend his judicial custody. Sibal moved an application on behalf of Chidambaram seeking regular medical checkup and adequate supplementary diet during judicial custody in Tihar Jail.

Chinmayanand case: Priyanka slams BJP, cops for 'negligence'

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra slammed the BJP government and the police in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday over the Chinmayanand case, saying they were repeating the "negligence" shown and "protection" given to the accused in the Unnao rape case. Her allegations came a day after the student, who has levelled rape charges against former Union minister Swami Chinmayanand, threatened to set herself on fire if the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader was not arrested immediately. The student also asked if the government was waiting for her to die even after her statement was recorded before a magistrate.

SC summons UP Home Secy over minor 'married' girl's plea

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court summoned the Home Secretary of Uttar Pradesh on Thursday, taking a serious view of the state government's failure to respond to a plea by a "minor" Muslim girl, who has challenged the Allahabad High Court order by which her marriage was found to be void.

The 16-year-old girl has challenged the high court order, saying that as per the Mohammedan Law, once a female attains the age of puberty, that is 15 years, she is independent to take decisions for her life and is competent to marry any one of her own choice.

When the matter came up for hearing before a bench of Justices N V Ramana and Ajay Rastogi, the counsel appearing for the state, sought time to file a response on the petition.

"Let the Chief Secretary appear (in court). Then he will understand the seriousness of the matter," the bench said in an oral observation.



Later, the bench summoned the Home Secretary of the state and directed him to personally appear before it on September 23.

The top court noted in its order that despite granting time to the state's counsel for filing reply on the plea, the lawyer has not received proper instruction from the department concerned.

"We are forced to compel the appearance of Secretary Home (of Uttar Pradesh) to appear personally before us on

Monday (September 23)," the bench said.

The top court had earlier agreed to examine the plea of the girl who has been ordered to stay in a shelter home for women in Uttar Pradesh after her marriage was found to be void by the high court.

The girl, who is 16-years-old as per a medical report, has challenged the high court's July order which dismissed her petition against a trial court directive sending her to a shelter home at Ayodhya.

The top court noted in its order that despite granting time to the state's counsel for filing reply on the plea, the lawyer has not received proper instruction from the department concerned

The high court had dismissed her plea against the trial court's order observing that since she was a "minor" her case would be dealt with in accordance with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015 and as she did not want to join her parents, the order sending her to the shelter home was correct.

The girl, through her lawyer Dushyant Parashar, has told the apex court that the high court failed to appreciate the fact that her 'nikah' is in accordance with the Mohammedan Law.

The plea, which said that her right to life and liberty may be protected, contended that she was in love with a man and they performed 'Nikah' in

accordance with the Mohammedan Law in June this year.

Her father had lodged a police complaint alleging that his daughter has been kidnapped by the man and his associates. Thereafter, the girl recorded her statement before a magistrate in which she said that she had married the man out of her free will and wanted to stay with him. The trial court had directed that she be sent to the child welfare committee for safe custody and protection until she attains the age of 18.

Referring to an earlier apex court judgement, the plea has said that the girl may be permitted to lead conjugal life with her husband.

GST COUNCIL MEET

Mining dependents call off proposed protest

PNS ■ PANAJI

People dependent on the mining industry in Goa have called off their protest proposed for Friday outside the venue of the GST Council meet, which will be chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, following an assurance from Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

Earlier, the mining dependents were planning to walk to the GST Council meet venue on Friday to put forth their grievances before the Union minister.

However, after Sawant assured them that he would fix a meeting of their representatives with Sitharaman, the proposed protest was called off. Goa Mining People's Front (GMPPF) president Puti Gaonkar said on Thursday.

Gaonkar said they would submit a memorandum to Sitharaman, who is part of the Group of Ministers (GoM) formed to look into the mining crisis in the coastal state.

Earlier, the police said elaborate security arrangements



Nirmala Sitharaman

were made for the GST Council meet in Goa and that the mining dependents will be stopped if they try to protest outside the venue.

The mining operations, a key source of revenue to the government, came to a standstill in March 2018 following a Supreme Court order which quashed 88 mining leases. The BJP-led state government earlier requested the Centre to amend the existing mining laws so that the leases get extended. A GoM under the leadership of Union Home minister Amit Shah has been trying to work out a solution to revive the mining industry in Goa.

Posters come up in MP against Digvijaya, dub him 'anti-Hindu'

PNS ■ BHOPAL

Days after senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh claimed that people donning "saffron robes" were committing rapes, some anonymous posters came up in the city, demanding a ban on his entry to Hindu religious places.

The posters, according to some people who saw them, were apparently put up around midnight outside various temples in the city, including the Parshuram temple in Charlmli area, by an unidentified right wing body.

However, they were removed them in the morning by unidentified persons.

The posters, carrying pictures of the Congress veteran, read: "Hindu samaj ki yahi pukar, Hindu virodhi Digvijaya Singh ke liye mandir ke darwaze band hon, band hon Hindu Samaj (this is an appeal of Hindu society that doors of temples should be closed for anti-Hindu Digvijaya Singh)."

Singh kicked up a row on Tuesday by saying that people donning "saffron robes" are committing rapes which are taking place in "temples", and



Digvijaya Singh

The Congress leader, who had kicked up controversies in the past too, also said the Sanatan dharma (ancient religion) is being defamed by such acts

thus defaming the Sanatan Dharma (ancient religion).

He also said that such acts are "unforgivable".

Though Singh did not take names, his comments come close on the heels of a Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) prob-

ing allegations of rape levelled against BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand by a law student in Uttar Pradesh.

The Congress leader, who had kicked up controversies in the past as well with his statements, also said the Sanatan dharma (ancient religion) is being defamed by such acts.

Meanwhile, local NGO Sanskriti Bachao Manch chief Chandrashekhar Tiwari dubbed the poster protest against Singh as a "natural reaction" by the Hindu community.

"I got to know about such posters against Singh. This is a natural reaction, given his repeated anti-Hindu barbs. This anger also resulted in his defeat during recent Lok Sabha elections from Bhopal seat," he told PTL.

However, state Congress media coordinator Narendra Saluja dubbed Digvijaya Singh a "staunch Hindu", and alleged that the BJP "distorted" his comments for political gains.

"There is no bigger follower of the Sanatan Dharma, or the Hindu Dharma, than Digvijayaji in the state. The BJP distorted his statement for political benefits," he said.

Commuters stranded as pvt buses, cabs go off road over MV Act

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Commuters faced difficulties in reaching their destinations on Thursday as several private buses, taxis and autorickshaws remained off the roads due to a strike called by the UFTA against the amended Motor Vehicle Act provisions.

Many schools in the national capital remained closed due to the strike while some asked parents to make their own arrangements to pick up and drop their wards.

The services of Delhi Metro, Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and cluster buses



remained unaffected.

United Front of Transport Associations (UFTA) general secretary Shyamal Gola said over 50 transport associations

and unions in Delhi-NCR were taking part in the strike.

The UFTA is demanding withdrawal of the steep hike in road traffic penalties and

United Front of Transport Associations general secretary said over 50 transport unions in Delhi-NCR were taking part in the strike

certain other provisions of the new MV Act.

Rajender Soni, general secretary Delhi-auto Rickshaw

Union said the national capital has over 50 small and big auto unions and majority of them took part in the strike. Delhi has over 90,000 autos.

There were reports of attacks on some auto drivers who did not participate in the strike. However, Soni refuted the claims and said the strike was peaceful and a large number of auto drivers were willingly participating in it.

Light Motor Vehicle Association including various last mile connecting vehicles associations of Grameen Sewa, e-rickshaws said they did not participate in the strike.



Valley: Normalcy elusive traders 'threatened'

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Incidents of miscreants threatening shopkeepers and vandalising private vehicles have been reported from many places in Kashmir Valley where normal life remained disrupted for the 46th day on Thursday following abrogation of Article 370, officials said.

They said private cars have come under stone-pelting at many places as the miscreants want to enforce shutdown.

Authorities have taken note of these incidents and follow up action has been taken, the officials added.

Markets remained closed in the Valley and public transport off the roads, they said.

They said some of the shops open for few hours early in the morning and late in the evening, but remain shut during the day.

Public transport was off the roads, but private cars were plying in many areas of the city and elsewhere in the valley, they said.

Few auto-rickshaws and inter-district cabs were also seen plying in some areas in civil lines of the city, they added.

The officials said Internet services remained suspended across all platforms.

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

Markets remained closed and public transport off the roads. Some shops opened for few hours early in the morning and late in the evening, but remain shut during the day

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

Most areas of the valley were restrictions-free, but the deployment of security forces continued on the ground to maintain law and order, the officials said.

Restrictions were first imposed across Kashmir on August 5 when the Centre announced its decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcate 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.

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.

Javadekar says Kejriwal backs slogan-shouters in JNU

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting out at Arvind Kejriwal for not giving sanction to prosecute former JNU Students' Union president Kanhaiya Kumar in a sedition case, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on Thursday accused the Delhi Chief Minister of supporting those who allegedly raised "anti-national" slogans in the university in 2016.

Coming down heavily on Kejriwal and his government for not giving sanction to prosecute Kumar and others facing sedition charges, Javadekar said that despite repeatedly being asked by the court about the permission, the chief minister was not granting it. "Court is repeatedly asking the Delhi CM that when will you give permission to prosecute those who raised anti-national slogans. But we can say that the CM is supporting those people who raised the slogans," he said.

Javadekar, who is the minister for information and broadcasting and environment and climate change, said, "It is clear from Arvind Kejriwal's



Prakash Javadekar

attitude that he supports such statements otherwise he would have granted the sanction."

The Delhi Police had on Wednesday informed a city court that the request for sanction to prosecute Kumar and others was pending before the Home Department of the Delhi government. The police had informed that it had done its part and was now awaiting the decision. On January 14, the police had filed a charge sheet in the court against Kumar and others, including former JNU students Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya, saying they were leading a procession and supported seditious slogans raised in the JNU campus during an event on February 9, 2016.

IIT-Kgp researchers generate electricity from wet clothes

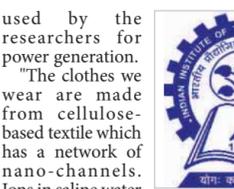
PNS ■ KOLKATA

As part of an initiative to generate clean and sustainable power, researchers at IIT Kharagpur have developed a new technology to source electricity from clothes drying in open space, a statement here said on Thursday.

The technology was recently tested at a remote village, where around 50 wet cloth items were put up for drying by washermen across a surface area of 3000 sq. metre.

The clothes, when connected to a commercial supercapacitor, discharged electricity of around 10 Volt in almost 24 hours - enough to glow a white LED for over an hour. According to the statement, traditionally woven cellulose-based fabric contains a tiny channel network, which was

The clothes, when connected to a commercial supercapacitor, discharged electricity of around 10 Volt in almost 24 hours-enough to glow a white LED for over an hour



used by the researchers for power generation. "The clothes we wear are made from cellulose-based textile which has a network of nano-channels. Ions in saline water can move through this by capillary action inducing an electric potential in the process," explained lead researcher Suman Chakraborty. Capillary action is defined as the movement of

water within the spaces of a porous material. "Until now, it was beyond imagination that a wet cloth being dried in a natural atmosphere could be capable of generating clean energy. This new technology would be extremely beneficial in addressing the essential power requirements in remote villages," Chakraborty added.

Protests outside Bachchan's house over Metro tweet

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Activists opposing the proposed felling of over 2,600 trees in Aarey Colony staged a silent protest outside Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan's bungalow here against his tweet supporting the Mumbai Metro project.

Several activists, who are against the felling of trees in the leafy colony to make way for a Metro car shed, on Wednesday staged their protest outside Bachchan's residence in Juhu, holding banners and placards carrying messages: 'Save Aarey' and 'Gardens do not make forests'.

Earlier on Tuesday, Bachchan in a tweet said, "Friend of mine had a medical emergency, decided to take METRO instead of his car...came back very impressed...said was faster, convenient and most efficient..Solution for Pollution..Grow more trees..I did in my garden.. have you."



Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited's Managing Director Ashwini Bhide even hailed Bachchan's praise for the Metro project. "Thank u @SrBachchan ji fr depicting d importance of #Metro so succinctly. Thank you for ur support. We'r committed 2 commission entire #MumbaiMetro network incl-

ng @MumbaiMetro3 @d earliest r provide faster, safer, convenient, #PollutionFree commute 2 #Mumbaikars #AareyAikaNa, Bhide tweeted. However, environmental activist Zoru Bhatena, who has filed a petition in the Bombay High Court against the civic body's approval given for felling of the trees, asked the

Activists, who are against felling of trees in the leafy colony to make way for a Metro shed, staged their protest outside Bachchan's residence in Juhu

megastar to visit Aarey to understand the ground reality and also hit out at the Metro project authorities.

"Dear MMRDA Official, I hear you are looking for plots for constructing casting yards for your various METRO projects. Would SrBachchan's garden suffice? I think you'll find the area suitable for your needs...and I am sure he would happily oblige too."

"Dear @SrBachchan. Would request you to leave theprotection of your Garden & join our

friends waiting for u outside. Sir, let us take you for a visit to Aarey It will change your perception Sir. When will you join us Sir. Aarey is waiting? #SaveAareyForest #SaveAareySaveMumbai," he said in another tweet.

The Aarey Colony, adjoining the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, is known as a major green lung of the metropolis. Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray has been quite vocal against the proposed felling of trees in the area.

Environmentalists and activists are also opposing the Metro car shed project and have been demanding its relocation. Several Bollywood personalities and politicians have also extended their support to these activists.

Commenting on the Aarey issue, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on Sunday said it is the government's land which does not fall under a forest area.

Rajnath first Defence Minister to fly in Tejas fighter aircraft

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday flew in the Tejas fighter aircraft from the HAL airport in Bengaluru, becoming the first defence minister to fly in the indigenously-built light combat aircraft (LCA).

After the sortie which lasted for around 30 minutes, the defence minister said he chose the aircraft because it was built indigenously and described the flying experience as thrilling.

"Flight very smooth, comfortable, I was thrilled. It was one of the most memorable events of my life," said the 68-year-old Singh after alighting from the aircraft.

"This is an indigenous plane. So, it came naturally to me to fly in Tejas and experience the flying. It was also to check under what conditions do our fighter pilots fly these aircraft. This is why I flew in this aircraft," the minister said.

Wearing a G suit, holding his helmet under his arms and sporting aviator glasses, Singh looked every inch a fighter pilot. "I want to congratulate HAL,



DRDO and several agencies concerned. We have reached a level where we can export fighter planes across the world... Countries in South East Asia have shown interest in purchasing Tejas aircraft," he said.

An official said the minister also "controlled" and flew the aircraft for around two minutes.

However, the minister said he was following orders. "But those two minutes were memorable," he said.

The minister was accompanied by Air Vice Marshal N Tiwari, who is also the Project Director, National Flight Test Centre, ADA (Aeronautical Development Agency) in Bengaluru.

Talking about his experience of flying with the Defence Minister, Tiwari said, "Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister) was flying the aircraft in the air (for 2 minutes), and he liked it. We went all the way up to 2 to 2.5g. But I was showing him more avionics and sophisticated systems that we have on board like laser designation pod, using

"I want to congratulate HAL, DRDO and several agencies concerned. We have reached a level where we can export fighter planes across the world... Countries in South East Asia have shown interest in purchasing Tejas aircraft"

which you can pick up targets even from 20-25 km away."

When a person is standing still on earth, the amount of force exerted by earth's gravitational field is "one g". Fighter pilots have to bear higher number of g's as they fly at high speed and altitude.

Tiwari said the minister was very happy with the flying quality. "The smoothness, the controls, and the way the aircraft was flying". "We went close to Mach 1, the speed of sound, but he couldn't make it out. I had to tell him that this is the speed now," Tiwari added.

Officials said the basic flying in the Indian Air Force currently starts by 20.5 years and a pilot is generally ready to fly fighter jets in IAF at around 22 years of age.

He also said that there is no upper age limit for flying fighter jets. "Till the time a pilot is medically fit - up to the standards set by the IAF - he or she can fly the fighter jet, the official said. The Air Chief is 62-years-old.

Singh also attended an exhibition of products of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Bengaluru.

aircraft," the official had said.

The IAF has already inducted a batch of Tejas aircraft. The naval version of the LCA is in development stage.

Last Friday in Goa, Tejas had successfully carried out an "arrested landing", a key performance, demonstrating its ability to land on board an aircraft carrier, making it a major milestone in development of the naval variant of the fighter jet.

Initially, the IAF had placed an order with the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for 40 Tejas aircraft. Last year, the IAF issued the request for proposal (RFP) to HAL for the procurement of another batch of 83 Tejas at a cost of over Rs 50,000 crore. The Tejas is an indigenous light weight, multi role supersonic aircraft developed in both fighter and trainer versions.

Advanced materials like composites are used in the manufacture of the Tejas to reduce weight and increase the component life. The Tejas is designed to carry a veritable plethora of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision guided and standoff weaponry.

SHORT READS



At meeting with Shah, Mamata raises Assam NRC issue

NEW DELHI: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee met Union Home Minister Amit Shah here on Thursday and raised the issue of the NRC in Assam. After meeting Shah at his North Block office, the Trinamool Congress chief said many genuine Indians were excluded from the NRC in Assam and she requested the home minister to examine their cases as many of those excluded are Bengali-speaking people, Hindi-speaking Gorkhas and even Assamese people. "I have not come to discuss about the NRC in West Bengal, I have come to discuss about the NRC in Assam," Banerjee said after the meeting. She met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday and raised the issue of renaming the state. Banerjee also invited the prime minister to inaugurate a coal block in the state.

Pulled out UP from identity crisis: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

COMPLETES 30 MONTHS IN OFFICE



Marking the completion of 30 months in office, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday released a booklet on the achievements of his government and asserted that the perception of the state has changed considerably during this period.

Addressing a press conference at his residence here, the chief minister said the state has created a record in implementation of various central schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Saubhagya Yojana, Kisan insurance, construction of toilets and provision of health insurance.

"On March 19, 2017, the BJP government was formed in

the state after a 14-year-exile. In the past two-and-half years UP was pulled out from a state of identity crisis as we converted challenges to opportunities," Adityanath said.

He said earlier the condition of farmers in the state was very bad and they were forced to commit suicide. "We gave a

number of schemes to the farmers. Crop loans up to Rs 1 lakh given to 86 lakh farmers in the state were waived off and record purchase of crops was done."

Adityanath also highlighted the success of Kumbh Mela in Allahabad, Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas in Varanasi and "improvement" in law and order situation in the state.

"There has not been a single incident of riot in the state in the past two-and-half years. The dreaded criminals have either fled from the state or are in jail. There has been a sharp decline in dacoity, rape, extortion, loot and riot cases. As many as 41 new police stations have been

opened in the state," he said.

Besides, the state has witnessed huge investments in industrial sector and creation of job opportunities for the youths, according to the booklet titled 'Vikas Evam Sushashan Ke 30 Mah' (30 months of good governance and development).

A film titled 'UP Ke Karmayogi' was also played on the occasion. "Sanyasi ke karmayoga se damak raha UP ka bhaal (Because of the work of a saint, UP is shining)," the video said, claiming that 2.5 years of the Yogi government are better than the past 65 years.

Adityanath said in the past two-and-half years 50 lakh children have been enrolled in government primary schools.

Indigenous tech use in armed forces to be 75% by '29-30: Rajnath Singh

PNS ■ BENGALURU

After flying indigenously-built light combat aircraft Tejas, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said at an event here on Thursday that the use of indigenous technology in armed forces would be around 75 per cent by 2029-30. On Thursday morning, Singh flew in the Tejas fighter aircraft from the HAL airport in Bengaluru, becoming the first defence minister to fly in the indigenously-built light combat aircraft (LCA).

"The use of indigenous technology (in armed forces) will be around 75 per cent by the time we reach 2029-30. No one had thought that we will be using indigenous technology this way,

Singh said after attending an exhibition of products of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) here.

"That day is not far when we can create 100 per cent of items in our country itself," he added.

At DRDO exhibition, the minister said, "Whatever I have seen today, and whatever I have heard, on that basis, I would like to say, the whole country is proud of you all." He added that the DRDO is not just a credible organisation of India but it is also getting the international recognition now which is source of immense happiness.

"Indigenous arms, ammunition and weapons are being developed in India... We are devel-

oping such a capacity gradually," he said. Our export capability is being built up too, Singh said.

"Recently developed ASAT (anti-satellite) missile, the use of Netra in Balakot air strike, and the recent successful testing of air-to-air missile Astra - these incidents have solidified the nation's trust in DRDO," said the minister. Netra is an airborne early warning and control (AEWC) aircraft and it played a prominent role in the air strikes conducted by Indian Air Force at Balakot (Pakistan) in February.

Singh said, "This exhibition shows the participation of private industries too. We cannot ignore the contribution of big industrialists. They have a big contribution."

Tent in forest area causes panic

NAXAL PRESENCE RULED OUT

PNS ■ MANGALURU

An abandoned tent found in a forest area near a village in Kollur, Udupi district, created a scare among the local people who suspected naxalite presence and inspected forest officials, police said.

Police personnel, who were alerted by the forest officials, visited the area on Wednesday and examined the tent. They could only find vessels for cooking, boxes of vermilion and ash, a dhoti and a kurta and later clarified that it might have been used by spiritualists who come there for meditation. Locals noticed the tent on Monday in the reserve forest region of Dali

Madibare, the police said.

On getting information, Deputy Superintendent of Police Ganesh M Hegde from the anti-naxal force (ANF) camp reached the spot and police and forest officials combed the area. Police later made it clear that the tarpaulin tent has no links with the naxals. The place is close to the local residential area, where there is always movement of people to collect firewood and grass, they said. The spot is also on the way to Arasinagundi Falls frequented by tourists, they said. It is quite improbable that naxalites would have erected the tent as no naxal activity has been reported in Kollur since 2008, the police said.

Mom seeks euthanasia, son writes book to give new lease of life

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In 2017, when 88-year-old Susie Kennaway asked her son Guy to help her die, little did he know that the book which he decided to write instead would become a manual dealing with the implications of euthanasia.

With an older and infirm husband, Susie wanted to avoid sliding into infantilised catatonia. In Guy's words, she is a "very powerful woman who takes her own path in life and woe betide anyone who gets in her way".

Though Guy decided to take notes immediately after her mother's demand, he never felt that "any of what I write or say or do has much effect on her".

"But when she discovered that I was writing this book I am pleased to say that after her



initial fury, she wanted to contribute to the project and I think the whole thing gave her a new lease of life. Well, she's not dead yet! By a long chalk," Guy told PTI.

Though many elderly people, like Susie, express their wish to die in a manner and time of their choosing, the church, the law, the medical

profession and the pharmaceutical industry have been opposing this.

During their conversations about when and how to make Susie's final exit, some of the difficulties of their fractious relationship mellowed and some even melted, as the reality of what they were planning brought Guy and his mother

together.

Guy says he had to write "Time to Go". It was a "passion project, which I hope makes people laugh a lot and changes the world a little".

It deals with the practical, moral and emotional implications of euthanasia, and describes the ups and downs of a mother-son relationship near the end, he says.

When he started writing the book, published by Bloomsbury, Guy never thought about euthanasia or assisted dying.

"I thought it was an activity for cranks, but as I listened to my mother, and looked into the horrors of late geriatric medicine, and learnt how humans are kept alive particularly in Europe long past the point at which they have stopped enjoying living, I saw that assisted dying is an issue

we need to face and to discuss and start coming up with some good solutions to," he says.

When Susie came to know about the book, she was not happy the way her son described her.

"I had been merrily writing about her and my life with her, assuming she would be dead and buried before the book appeared. But she changed the schedule and is very much alive and very much on the war path," he says.

Asked if the book changed his mother's views on assisted dying, Guy says, "I think she is a pretty strong advocate for the right to die as we choose. She believes as I do that our bodies belong to us, and not the state. We should determine what happens at the end of our lives, not politicians, preachers or doctors."

Uddhav, Fadnavis firm on alliance, talks in progress: Sanjay Raut

PNS ■ MUMBAI



Senior BJP leader and state water resources minister Girish Mahajan also said that the alliance talks will pick up after Fadnavis' 'Mahajanadesh Yatra' concludes, and it will be 'finalised in two to three days'

yatra and will be finalised in two to three days. Both the parties are positive about the alliance and it will happen," Mahajan said.

Speaking to reporters, Raut downplayed Diwakar Raote's remarks that the alliance looks unlikely if the Sena does not get 144 seats out of the total 288 in the state.

"Raote did not speak his mind. This is the stand of the

alliance. He just spoke about the 50:50 formula which was finalised in presence of BJP chief Amit Shah," the Rajya Sabha member said.

Asked about the chief minister's remarks wherein he hinted at revival of the Nanar refinery project, which the Sena has been opposing, Raut said Fadnavis did not make any comments against the Thackeray-led party.

"Fadnavis's yatra was not for the Nanar refinery project. I don't think Nanar or Aarey will cause problems in finalising the alliance," he said.

On the Sena's opposition to the proposed felling of over 2,600 trees in Aarey Colony here to make way for a Metro car shed, he said, "Aarey issue is important for Mumbai's interest." The refinery project at Nanar in Ratnagiri was aborted earlier this year at Sena's insistence as a pre-condition for an alliance with the BJP for the Lok Sabha polls.

The project, however, returned to limelight ahead of the Assembly polls, due next month, when Thackeray recently said the proposed Metro car shed in Aarey Colony will go the Nanar way.

On speculations that former state chief minister Narayan Rane may join the BJP and senior NCP leader Chhagan Bhubhal might return to the Sena, Raut said, "We don't know. The BJP is a separate party. They are free to induct whom they want."

Meanwhile, Mahajan said some more inductions were likely into the BJP on Friday.

K'taka woman given triple talaq from Dubai over Whatsapp

PNS ■ BENGALURU

A Muslim woman in the district headquarters town of Shivamogga in Karnataka has approached police accusing her husband of giving her "triple talaq" from Dubai over WhatsApp. The couple had been married for about 20 years, and the woman's husband had left for Sharjah-Dubai in January but did not come back, police said quoting the woman's complaint.

On some issues the man is said to have repeatedly picked up quarrel with her during their conversations, and finally gave her talaq (divorce) in August, stating he "doesn't want" her, they said. "He had initially sent her talaq message over WhatsApp, and then called her to utter the same," police said.

The couple, in their 40s, did not have any children and had adopted a girl child.

The woman has not "accepted" the talaq and sought justice by lodging a complaint. "I don't have any financial support and have a daughter to take care of," she has said.

Schools and colleges closed, but rain forecast turns a damp squib

PNS ■ MUMBAI

With the weather department issuing a 'red alert' for rain in Mumbai, the Maharashtra government declared a holiday for schools and colleges in the city on Thursday.

However, as people geared up to tackle the situation, the high rainfall warning turned out to be a damp squib as the city hardly received any showers till Thursday afternoon. While the city received some showers late Wednesday night, it remained almost dry on Thursday.

The school education minister Ashish Shelar's order for closure of schools and colleges issued late Wednesday night also remained ineffective, as several educational institutions in the city and suburbs remained open.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday issued a red rain alert, indicating "extremely heavy rainfall", for Mumbai and Raigad districts. The irregular heating and cooling of the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal pushed cloud precipi-



high, with the city recording its wettest monsoon season this year since 1954.

When contacted, an IMD official said, "This year there has been continuous depression over Madhya Pradesh at regular intervals, which increased the overall rainfall in Mumbai and neighbouring districts."

"The state capital has received total 3,467 mm rain from June 1 till September 17, surpassing the 3,451 mm downpour recorded in 1954. With 11 days more to go this month, the city will get a record rainfall figure by then," he said.

15 policemen flunk dope test in Punjab's Amritsar

AMRITSAR: In an embarrassment for the Punjab Police, 15 policemen here failed the dope test while one constable was caught replacing his urine sample. Police on Thursday said an annual medical examination of 25 policemen was conducted recently. Fifteen of the them were told to undergo a dope test and they were tested positive. All 15 policemen had been sent to the Swami Vivekananda de-addiction centre at the Government Medical College in Amritsar for treatment, they said.

The cyclonic circulation and related low-pressure over south Madhya Pradesh has been driving the humid westerly winds from the Arabian sea.

As the circulation gradually moves westward in next few days, the coastal areas of the state, including Mumbai, are likely to witness very heavy rains, the official said.

According to a weather expert, the country is going through a strong 'Indian Ocean Dipole' (an irregular oscillation of sea-surface temperatures) and it is driving the intensity of showers across various places, including Mumbai.

Gantz for PM post in Israel's unity Govt

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

Benjamin Netanyahu's main challenger Benny Gantz on Thursday presented himself as the next prime minister, hours after the embattled Israeli premier urged the Blue and White leader to join him in forming a unity government to avoid a third election.

With nearly 97 per cent of the votes counted on Thursday, Gantz's Blue and White party won 33 seats while Netanyahu's Likud secured 31 seats in Israel's 120-member Parliament.

Gantz, 60, said he intends to form and lead a "broad, liberal, unity government."

"After an election that was forced on Israel, (people) voted and made a clear choice. The people voted for unity and Kahol Lavan won the election. It's the biggest party," he added.

He said the Israeli people wanted a unity government after the last election too and vowed to form a "broad, liberal unity government."

"In order to form a unity government, one can't come with political blocs and spins," Gantz said, referring to the right-wing religious bloc's move to recommend Netanyahu as the next prime minister after no clear winner emerged in the unprecedented repeat polls.

"You come with responsibility and seriousness. I attend to act accordingly," Gantz was quoted as saying by the Haaretz. Gantz said he will not accept any dictates. "There will be no shortcuts."

His comments came after 69-year-old Netanyahu said he wanted to form a right-wing government, but the results showed it was not possible. He called on Gantz to meet him "at any hour today" in order to hold discussions for a unity government.

"Benny, it's on us to establish a wide unity government today. The nation expects us, the both of us, to work together. Let's meet today."

Iran diplomat warns of 'all-out war' if hit for Saudi attack

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran's foreign minister warned Thursday that any attack on his country over a drone-and-missile strike on Saudi Arabia's oil industry will result in "all-out war," further pushing up tensions across the Persian Gulf.

The comments by Mohammad Javad Zarif represented the starkest warning offered yet by Iran in a long summer of mysterious attacks and incidents following the collapse of Iran's nuclear deal with world powers, over a year after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord.

Zarif's comments also appeared to be in response to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who a day earlier while travelling to Saudi Arabia referred to the attack as an "act

of war." Asked by CNN what would be the consequence of a US or Saudi strike, Zarif said: "All-out war."

"We won't blink to defend our territory," he said.

Pompeo wrote a tweet early Thursday after his meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah over Saturday's drone and cruise missile attack on a crucial oil processing facility and oil field.

Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels have claimed the attack, but the US alleges Iran carried out the assault.

Pompeo called the attacks "unprecedented."

"The US stands with #SaudiArabia and supports its right to defend itself," Pompeo said.

"The Iranian regime's threatening behaviour will not

be tolerated." Pompeo did not elaborate. President Donald Trump has been noncommittal on whether he would order US military

retaliation. He separately said Wednesday he is moving to increase financial sanctions on Tehran over the attack, without

elaborating. Iran already is subject to a crushing American sanctions program targeting its crucial oil industry.

Pompeo favours 'peaceful resolution'

AFP ■ ABU DHABI

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday said he preferred a "peaceful resolution" to a crisis sparked by attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure, as Iran warned against "all-out war".

Pompeo has blamed Iran for the weekend assault on two facilities which wiped out half of Saudi oil production, dismissing its denials and condemning the "act of war".

The rhetoric has raised the risk of an unpredictable escalation in the tinderbox region where Saudi Arabia and Iran are locked in a decades-old struggle for dominance.

Visiting the United Arab Emirates, Pompeo however said his country would prefer a "peaceful" solution to the crisis.

"We'd like a peaceful resolution," he said.

"I hope the Islamic Republic of Iran sees it the

same way," he told reporters after talks with the leaders of the United Arab Emirates.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif earlier warned any US or Saudi military strike on Iran could cause "all-out war".

"We don't want war, we don't want to engage in a military confrontation," he told CNN in an interview aired Thursday. "But we won't blink to defend our territory."

Ex-PM Cameron says asked Queen's help in Scottish vote

AFP ■ LONDON

Former British Prime Minister David Cameron revealed Thursday that he asked Queen Elizabeth II to intervene in the Scottish independence referendum, risking the irritation of the nominally neutral head of state.

Cameron, who led the successful campaign for Scotland to stay in the United Kingdom in the 2014 referendum, said he asked if she could offer even a "raising of the eyebrow" to indicate her opposition to independence.

He told the BBC he spoke with the queen's private secretary that would be in any way improper or unconstitutional, but just a raising of the eyebrow, even, you know, a quarter of an inch — we thought

would make a difference."

A few days before the vote, the queen told a member of the public in Scotland that she hoped "people would think very carefully about the future" — comments that made headlines. Scotland voted by 55 per cent to stay in the UK.

In a BBC documentary to mark the publication of his memoirs, Cameron said that "although the words were very limited, I think it helped to put a slightly different perception on things".

Buckingham Palace told AFP it would not comment on his remarks, but a royal source told the BBC they had caused some displeasure.

"It serves no one's interests" for conversations between the monarch and her prime ministers to be made public, the source was quoted as saying.

Johnson faces Brexit flak from EU lawmakers, top UK court

AP ■ STRASBOURG (FRANCE)

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been accused by European Union officials of failing to negotiate seriously and branded the "father of lies" by a lawyer in the UK Supreme Court, as his plan to leave the EU in just over six weeks faced hurdles on both sides of the Channel.

In Strasbourg, France, the European Parliament said on Wednesday it would be the fault of Britain, not the bloc, if the UK crashed out of the EU without a divorce deal on the scheduled October 31 departure day.

In London, Johnson's government battled to convince the UK's top court that the prime minister's decision to suspend Parliament for five weeks with Brexit looming was neither illegal nor improper. The government's opponents claim Johnson illegally shut down the legislature to prevent lawmakers from scrutinising his Brexit plans.

Government lawyer James Eadie told 11 Supreme Court justices that the decision to send lawmakers home until October 14 was "inherently and fundamentally political in nature," and not a matter for the judiciary. He said that if the court intervened it would violate the "fundamental constitutional principle" of the separation of powers.

But a lawyer for lawmakers challenging the shutdown accused the government of being "unworthy of our trust." "We've got here the mother of parliaments being shut down by the father of lies," said attorney Aidan O'Neill.

He urged the judges to "stand up for truth, stand up for reason, stand up for diversity, stand up for Parliament, stand up for democracy." The judges, for their part, wondered why Johnson had refused to provide a sworn statement to the court about his reasons for the suspension.

"Isn't it odd that nobody has signed a witness statement to say: 'This is true. These are the true reasons for what was done?'" said one of the judges, Nicholas Wilson.

China rebukes Washington after HK activists make Congress plea

AFP ■ BEIJING

Beijing on Thursday accused Washington of "adding fuel to the fire" of Hong Kong unrest after leaders of the city's pro-democracy movement appealed directly to US lawmakers to exert pressure on China.

Activists from the semi-autonomous city testified before a congressional commission in support of US legislation aimed at defending civil rights in Hong Kong, which has been convulsed by weeks of huge, sometimes violent rallies.

Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a press briefing Thursday that the US should "stop supporting violent radical forces and Hong Kong independence separatists, and stop adding fuel to the fire to the words and deeds that damage the prosperity and stability of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region."

Taliban car bomb flattens hospital as Afghan violence surges ahead of vote

AFP ■ KABUL

War-weary Afghanistan was hit with its third straight day of bloody carnage Thursday, as a Taliban car bomb flattened a hospital and killed 20 people in the south, while nine others died in a drone strike in the east.

The surge in violence, with civilians paying the heaviest price, has come after US President Donald Trump called off talks with the Taliban that could have seen Washington begin withdrawing troops, and as the country gears up for a presidential election.

The insurgents responded to Trump's declaration that the talks were "dead" earlier this month by promising to continue fighting, and have vowed to target the September 28 polls, Afghanistan's fourth presidential election since the headline Islamist group was ousted from power in 2001.

Thursday's bloodshed began near dawn, when the Taliban killed at least 20 people and wounded 90 after a car

bomb destroyed a hospital in the southern Afghan city of Qalat.

Hours later, reports emerged of an overnight drone strike in eastern Nangarhar province said to have killed at least nine civilians who had been camping in the mountainous region as they collected pine nuts.

The US is the only member of the international coalition in Afghanistan that provides air support in the conflict, but there was no immediate statement from its forces in Afghanistan, the United Nations or NATO.

The strike came just hours after four people were killed on Wednesday when unknown gunmen and a suicide bomber stormed a government building in nearby Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province. On Tuesday, the Taliban killed nearly 50 people in two separate attacks — one on a campaign rally for President Ashraf Ghani in the central province of Parwan, and the other in Kabul.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found near Mayapuri Theka in Unconcois Condition and admitted in DDU Hospital Harinagar, Delhi. During Treatment He Died on 14.09.2019. In this regard a DD No. 13-A Dated 14.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Maya Puri, Delhi. Dead Body had been preserved in DDU Hospital Mortuary. The description of the dead body is given as under:

Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 45-50 years, Height: 5'8" Feet, Face: Long, Built: Thin Complexion: Brownish Black, Wearing: White Pajama.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

S.H.O
P.S. Maya Puri, Delhi.
DP/8424WD/19 Ph. No. 011-28117644, 28116097, 875087121



APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Namely : Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 47 years approx, Height: 5' 7", Wearing: Pink colour T-shirt, who was found at Haiderpur Water Treatment Plant, Sec. 13, Rohini, Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 25-A, dated 20.08.2019 has been registered at P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO
P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi
DP/3281/RD/19 Tel. No. 011-27571162



Banning e-cigarettes 'historic' move, says US-based advocacy group

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India has become a leader in the global fight against a youth e-cigarette epidemic by taking a "historic" decision to ban such nicotine and tobacco products, a US-based top advocacy group has said.

The Government on Wednesday banned production, import and sale of e-cigarettes and similar products, citing health risk to people, especially youth. An ordinance will be brought in to make it an offence, entailing jail term of up to three years as well as fine.

The decision was taken by the Union cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

President of Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids Matthew L Myers said India's decision to ban the sale, manufacture, import and advertising of e-cigarettes nationwide was a "bold effort" to protect youth from the risk of nicotine addiction.

He praised the Government for taking such decisive action to prevent a youth e-cigarette epidemic in India.

Pak police detain two classmates in Hindu dental student's mysterious death

PTI ■ KARACHI

Two classmates of a Hindu dental student have been detained by the police in Pakistan's Sindh province after she was found dead in her hostel room, a media report said on Thursday.

Nimrita Chandni, a final-year student of Bibi Asifa

Dental College in Larkana district and a social activist, was found lying on a cot by her friends on Monday with a rope tied to her neck.

The two suspects, both classmates of Chandni, were taken into the custody by the police after tracing the call data from the deceased's cell phone, Geo News reported.

Her room was locked from inside. Police have not yet ascertained whether she committed suicide or was murdered.

The girl hailed from Ghotki district, which recently witnessed riots after a school principal from the minority Hindu community was booked on charges of alleged blasphemy.

Philippines declares new polio outbreak after 19 years

AP ■ MANILA

Philippine health officials declared a polio outbreak in the country on Thursday, nearly two decades after the World Health Organisation declared it to be free of the highly contagious and potentially deadly disease.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said at a news conference that authorities have confirmed at least one case of polio in a 3-year-old girl in southern Lanao del Sur province and detected the polio virus in sewage in Manila and in waterways in the southern Davao region.

Those findings are enough to declare an outbreak of the crippling disease in a previously polio-free country like the Philippines, he said.

The World Health Organisation and the United Nations Children's Fund expressed deep concern over polio's reemergence in the country and said they would support the government in immunizing children, who are the most susceptible, and strengthening surveillance.

"As long as one single child remains infected, children across the country and even beyond are at risk of contracting polio," UNICEF Philippines representative Oyuun Dendevnorov said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems) N.I.T. No.: 07/19-20/dated 18.09.2019 Name of work with its location: Proposal for establishing operating, managing & maintaining C/TMRI centre in already built up space in Northern Railway Central Hospital (NRCH), New Delhi. Approx. Cost of work: Rs.10,000 Earnest Money: Rs.6,50,000 (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter No 2015/CE-4/CT/651 dated 31.08.2016) Completion period of Work : 120 Months. Cost of tender on cash by post : Rs. 29,500 (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter No 2015/CE-4/CT/651 dated 31.08.2016) Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: upto 15:00 hrs on 11.10.2019 Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs On 11.10.2019 Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen : Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in 128-W/269/OET/19-20/NRCH/NIT 08 Dated : 18.09.2019 30/15/19

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ABBREVIATED OF e-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from the Manufacturers/ Duly Authorized Dealers, Government undertakings for supply of the Plant Protection Chemicals required for fixing the Rate Contract for the year 2019-20 as per specification laid down in the Tender form.

S.No.1, Particulars :- Supply of Plant Protection Chemicals.

Earnest Money :- a)Rs. 20,000/-, b) For SSI units Rs.5000/- as per Government Policy.

Cost of Tender document :- a) General Rs. 500/-, b) For SSI Units as per Government Policy.

Date of Publishing of Tender Notice :- 18/09/2019 at 1:00 PM

Period of downloading of documents :- From 18/09/2019 to 28/09/2019 up to 12:30 PM

Date of submission of online documents:- From 19/09/2019 to 30/09/2019 up to 12:30 PM

Date of submission of Hard Copy :- From 19/09/2019 to 30/09/2019 up to 12:30 PM

Date of Opening Technical bid :- 03/10/2019 at 01.00 P.M or subsequent convenient date

The tender documents along with Terms and Conditions of the NIT and relevant documents can be downloaded from the State e-Procurement portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The tender shall be uploaded in the electronic format on the State e-Procurement portal www.jktenders.gov.in.

Sd/- Accounts Officer, Member Secretary, SLPC Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu.

No. DII/PJ-6436/18 Dated :- 19-09-2019

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007. Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051 Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videcon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi- 110055

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice(Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Abha Jain/ Raj Kumar Jain/ Aditya Jain LBDEL0002080406	Unit No. DPT 340, Parking No. 2254 In DLF Prime Towers, Okhla, New Delhi And/ Or Flat No-DPT 340, 3rd Floor, Prime Tower, Plot No-79 And 80, Block-F, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-1, Delhi/ 16. Sep.2019	September 29, 2018 RS. 61,90,412/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 days Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date :- 20-09-2019 Place: Delhi/ NCR Sd/- Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that M/S S.A. Proppon Private Limited "owner" in collaboration with Signature Infrabuild Private Limited "Developer" had obtained a license bearing No. 73 of 2019 Dated 04/07/2019 from the Director Town & Country Planning, Haryana (DTCP) to develop an affordable group housing colony on the land admeasuring 40 kanal 18 marla (5.1125 acres) situated in the revenue estate of village Dhorka, Sector-95, District Gurugram.

We now propose to transfer the license in favour of Signature Infrabuild Private Limited having its registered office at 1310, 13th floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001 and have obtained permission from Director Town & Country Planning, Haryana Vide Memo No. LC-3714-Asstt.(AK)-2019/23116 Dated 16.09.2019.

Any entity/person including any Government Authority, Bank or Financial Institution having or claiming any right, title, claim, benefit, demand or interest with respect to the license or has any objection to the intended above referred matter, such person/entity may inform in writing to o/o STP Gurugram within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Total land admeasuring 40 Kanal and 18 Marla or 5.1125 Acres comprised in rect. No-3, Killa No-18/2(2-0), 19/2(2-0), 20/1(2-1-18), 21/2(7-12), 22(9-0), 23(8-0), Rect. No-11, Killa No-3(8-0), 8 Min(3-8), Situated in the revenue Estate of Village Dhorka, Sector 95, Gurugram.

SD/- Authorised Signatory Signature Infrabuild Pvt. Ltd U70100DL2013PTC247676 & 1310 at 13th floor Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan 28, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi - 110001. SD/- Authorised Signatory S.A. Proppon Private Limited U70109HR2006PTC064522 Plot No 144, Sector-44, Gurugram - 122002

Place: Gurugram Dated: 18.09.2019

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI

4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001. OA No. 1351/18 Date: 16.09.2019

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK VERSUS APPLICANT

MUKESH GOSWAMI & ORS. RESPONDENT

To, Defendant

1. Mukesh Goswami S/o Kamal Kishore Giri, C-157/3, C-Block West Karawal Nagar, Delhi-84

2. Narendra Pal S/o Ramvir Singh Pal, R-12/56, Sect-9, Rajnagar, Ghaziabad-201002

3. Manoj Kumar S/o Suresh Chand, F-112, Udai Nagar, Mukund Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 1,02,18,535/- (Rupees One Crore Two Lakh Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty Five Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 20.11.2019 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

By order of the Tribunal Section Officer, DRT-II, Delhi

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E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ONLINE BIDDING

Name of Area: MATERIALS MANAGEMENT Dep't/ECL Hqrs. Tender No. & Date: ECL/Hq/Pur/O/51913052/Rubber belting/055 Date: 13.09.2019.

Name of Work: Domestic open e-tender for procurement of Rubber Conveyor Belting. Estimated Tender Value: ₹ 63,23,856.00. Document Download Start Date: 25.09.2019 from 11.00 hrs IST. Document Download End Date: 23.10.2019 11.00 hrs IST. Tender Opening Date & Time: 25.10.2019 11.00 hrs IST. Name of Area: MATERIALS MANAGEMENT Dep't/ECL Hqrs. Tender No. & Date: ECL/Hq/Pur/O/51983053-RC/DRILL ROD/056 Date: 13.09.2019. Name of Work: Domestic open e-tender for conclusion of Rate Contract for supply of Underground Drill Rod (6 feet long) for 3 years. Estimated Tender Value: ₹ 64,28,253.00. Document Download Start Date: 25.09.2019 from 11.00 hrs IST. Document Download End Date: 23.10.2019 11.00 hrs IST. Tender Opening Date & Time: 25.10.2019 11.00 hrs IST.

For Further details & Submission of Tender Please visit the website https://coalindiatenders.gov.in

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Missing woods for trees

Banning electronic cigarettes might send a message but will only drive usage underground



Decades of action by advocacy groups and the anti-tobacco lobby had finally made smoking uncool, to a degree at least, among younger people. This was a big change considering smoking was, for almost a century, one of the ultimate hallmarks of confidence for teenagers and a sign of having arrived. Films, brands and advertisements had reinforced that image till the time research didn't link life-threatening diseases to a costly indulgence. Sustained campaigning might not have got many smokers to kick the butt but they looked for alternatives. And then vaping came along as an option. Born through the burgeoning marijuana industry in the US, it involves taking a liquid concentrate and "vapourising" it by heating it to extreme temperatures thanks to an electric arc. It is a cleaner way of inhaling active ingredients and the US tobacco industry, wary of losing customers to the burgeoning competition, quickly adopted vaping or electronic cigarettes as a method of consumption. But much like hookahs in India, where "flavoured" mixes made the habit popular among a younger audience, flavoured vapes became a hot-seller. For kids, smoking bubblegum flavoured e-cigarette concentrates and exchanging their capsules became the "new cool." But then many experts claimed that vaping innocuous flavoured mixes could be a gateway to ultimate nicotine addiction. Vaping was also claimed to tax our lungs in much the same way. So banning e-cigarettes was, some argued, the need of the hour. Of course, nobody is considering that the stricture could also push more smokers to conventional tobacco. Besides, is the Government being truly altruistic, considering that it appears to be playing into the hands of the tobacco lobby? Banning e-cigarettes definitely makes it look more interested in protecting cigarette companies and raises questions if there is a vested interest involved. The ghoulish advisories in multiplexes and on cigarette packets look hypocritical too.

As for the target audience, the ban will have little impact. Rebellious teenagers will continue to smoke e-cigarettes. Going by past experiences, banning substances has no impact on usage. Psychotropic drugs are a strict no-no but go to any party with college students and you will find a plethora of substances, including LSD, being bandied about. The fact is that the Government has succumbed to the tobacco lobby again, which was fearful of losing its high-end customers who bought expensive cigarettes. After all, vaping is not something for those with limited purchasing power; only the rich can afford it. These are not the individuals who will be hurt by this ban which, therefore, will end up being pointless. Instead, the curbs will drive the market for concentrates and e-cigarettes underground, which will be dangerous. Therefore, regulation and taxation are the need of the hour. Most citizens are actually not interested in breaking the law and would have been happy to pay the taxes and smoke lower concentrations of nicotine in their liquids. This is also another example of India becoming a "nanny state" and "maximum Government, minimum governance." Trotting out the Finance Minister to announce the ban when the economy is in the doldrums is just another sign that the Government is not taking up real matters seriously. Ingenuous Indians will find a way to work around it and others will make a living breaking it, much like the joke that prohibition was in Gujarat until it was relaxed.

Howdy NRIs

UN report lists Indian diaspora to be the largest at 17.5 million, a number we should harvest as a strategic asset



There's no doubt that Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) have been assets to host countries. But now they can be the nation's valued spokespersons, lobbyists and ambassadors and project our face to the world as the UN's International Migrant Stock report has declared the Indian diaspora to be the biggest with a total strength of 17.5 million. Though we have been topping the diaspora chart in recent times, what is commendable is that we have been able to maintain our spot despite stringent visa norms by some nations.

This pool represents a little over six per cent of the total global migrant population. The latest report comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Howdy" event in Houston where he is expected to address a 50,000-strong congregation of NRIs, a constituency that even US President Donald Trump cannot ignore as he hopes to cultivate numbers for his re-election campaign. With the US imposing strict migration norms, the number of Indians migrating to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) outnumbered those of the US, clearly pointing out that you cannot put down an enterprising Indian. This despite a 21 per cent decline in the number of emigration clearances to the UAE.

For some time now, Asian nations have sought to tap into their diaspora to present their case to the Western majors, convince them of their growth potential, procure funding and improve technical knowhow. It is the intense engagement with the diaspora that has helped us score many points in both international and soft diplomacy, strengthened our brand and reshaped perceptions. India is among the largest remittance-receiving countries in the world with NRIs ploughing back \$80 billion back home. These have had a multiplier effect on our economy, particularly in the social sectors that encompass a slew of educational and healthcare projects. They have also been instrumental in bringing back international domain expertise, the reason why Bengaluru, Gurugram and Hyderabad have today become technological hubs with the existence of multinational companies like Google, Amazon, IKEA and Facebook among others. The Government could immediately formalise a rotation exchange programme at all levels for top NRI scientists, engineers, doctors, managers and professionals to serve in their home country for a brief period. The Indian diaspora consists of some accomplished individuals, who have made the country proud. Many of them are visible in electoral politics and even hold key positions within administrations in other nations. With their increasing prominence, the Government, too, has been reaching out to them to keep them invested in the cause of furthering India's interests. Besides, with countries like Canada and Australia relaxing rules for work permits based on competence and even Germany encouraging flow of skilled workers and service professionals, there's an exodus of middle classes. We need to keep them connected. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas has emerged as a solid cross-flow platform while the Government has been walking the extra mile to rescue Indians from crisis situations, be it in Iraq, Syria or Libya. Yet much more needs to be done to ensure big-ticket investments and NRI inclusion in the domestic discourse. The Government needs to work on a policy outreach consistently as NRIs clearly are our "strategic asset."

Pakistan's hypocrisy

Our neighbour can keep raging over the revocation of Article 370 but J&K will undergo a massive transformation if even half of what has been promised is implemented



DEEPAK SINHA

It's almost been two months since Prime Minister Narendra Modi upset the Pakistani apocryph by amending Article 370 of the Constitution and dividing the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) into two Union Territories. To suggest that the Pakistani leadership has gone ballistic, as it finds itself scrambling to come up with a coherent policy to counter Modi's initiative, would be an understatement. Of course, within the Valley, stringent security measures that have been in place since August 5, have not just prevented any display of collective anger but have also made it extremely difficult to assess how the average Kashmiri will respond once restrictions are lifted.

There is little doubt that the biggest impediment to the integration of the State into the Indian Union has been Article 370, which came into effect on January 26, 1950, when the Constituent Assembly approved and promulgated the Constitution. In effect, the Article kept the question of J&K joining the Union of India ambivalent. This despite the fact that the Maharaja of J&K had signed the Document of Accession unconditionally and had willingly accepted the State's integration into the Indian Union, as was his right to do. This ambivalence, along with the manner in which the Central and State Governments have acted over the years, has confused and strained the loyalties of Kashmiris towards the country.

The irony is that while Pakistan is now objecting to the abrogation of Article 370 and calling it illegal, its position on this issue was diametrically opposite in 1951. This can be inferred from the Pakistan Government's letters No S/2119 and S/2145, addressed to the president of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which though not available in the public domain, implies just that. The statement of the then UNSC President to the Security Council made at that time read: "Members of the Security Council, at its 548th meeting held on May 29, 1951, have heard with satisfaction the assurances of the representative of India that any Constituent Assembly that may be established in Srinagar is not intended to prejudice the issues before the Security Council or come in its way. On the other hand, the two communications to me, as President of the Council, from the representatives of Pakistan, set forth in documents S/2119 and S/2145, contain reports which, if they are correct, indicate that steps are being taken by the Yuvaraja of J&K to convoke a Constituent Assembly, one function of which, according to Sheikh Abdullah, would be a decision on the further shape and affiliation of Kashmir. It is the sense of the Security Council that these reports, if correct, would involve procedures which are in conflict with the commitments of the parties to determine the future accession of the State by a fair and impartial plebiscite conducted under United Nations auspices."

If the contents of the letters do confirm what is suggested, then Pakistan must certainly be asked to justify the change in its stance.



What this will prove is that Pakistan's actions are lacking in consistency and are hypocritical, to say the least. Not that the issue of hypocrisy is in doubt given its blatant disregard for UN resolutions. One may recall that both India and Pakistan had accepted the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) No 80 of March 14, 1950, that called for plebiscite. This was conditional as the first step in that process was the withdrawal of Pakistani forces within five months. That Pakistan refused to withdraw from the territories it had illegally occupied and continues to subjugate till date is not disputed.

Moreover, it went further in this regard by taking unilateral steps to cede territories to China, separated Gilgit and Baltistan administratively from Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and carried out extensive and widespread demographic changes in this region, thus reducing the Kashmiri population to a minority. In these circumstances, the validity of the resolution is in question.

Not surprisingly, Pakistan is not the only one left tongue-tied and confused by recent events. Opposition parties back home, both at the national and State level, such as the Congress and its allies along with the Left, the National Conference, and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), too, found themselves in a similar predicament. Of course, one can sympathise with the

confusion within the Kashmiri parties given the fact that their first-rung leadership remains in detention or "protective custody", whichever way one may like to term it. Yet, their confusion appears to have been born out of a sense of apathy, tunnel vision and a refusal to undertake any change in status quo, despite being fully aware that substantive political steps needed to be taken if the cycle of violence was to be broken and insurgency stamped out. Their inaction clearly showed that not only did they accrue benefits from the "business of insurgency" but were also apathetic to the consequences of their actions on the local population, the Army, the CRPF and local police, who continued to pay in blood.

The parties also ignored the fact that the BJP had included the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A in its election manifesto and that these issues were finding increasing prominence in the public discourse. Given the Prime Minister's track record in such matters during his first tenure, they cannot be fully blamed for being lulled into a sense of complacency. Opposition parties have subsequently also had to deal with the overwhelming support this action received within the country, leaving aside some elements in the Kashmir Valley, who in any case will never be pleased with whatever the Central Government does.

"Mainlanders", as Indians from outside the Valley are

referred to by the locals, are mostly at a loss to understand the angst of the average Kashmiri. The air of entitlement and superiority that pervades the Valley is utterly incomprehensible, given the fact that it is the taxpayers' money that has been utilised over the decades to feed their egos and lifestyles.

Facts will speak for themselves: With just one per cent of India's population, the State received 10 per cent of all Central grants between 2000 and 2016. In comparison, Uttar Pradesh, that accommodates 13 per cent of the population, received just 8.5 per cent of these grants within the same period. Not that this infusion of funds has done anything for the average Kashmiri, especially when one sees that the net per capita State GDP increased from approximately ₹40,000 to only around ₹60,000 during 2012-17.

In comparison, in a hill State of similar size, Himachal Pradesh, the per capita net GDP grew from ₹80,000 to ₹1,20,000 within the same period. Therefore, the average taxpayer is certainly entitled to ask where has all the money gone? Who is to be held accountable and why wasn't this step taken three decades ago, if not earlier? Many have expressed doubts that the abrogation of Article 370 has played into the hands of the separatists. By destroying the credibility of the leadership of the mainline political parties within the State, it will be the militants who will fill the

vacuum left behind. That support would be contingent on the belief that the Central Government will usher in demographic changes that will impinge on their culture, language and the way of life.

This need not be so if the region is given a special status under Article 471, as has been done for other States like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and some in the North-East. However, what is undeniable is that every Kashmiri, whether he/she admits it or not, is fully cognisant that status quo over these past decades has only held them hostage to unending violence and a scramble to eke out a living. They also know that over the years, the only ones to have benefited were the politicians, the separatists and those running the administration as they were all complicit in ensuring that required checks and balances could be avoided.

Well, if Prime Minister Modi can implement even half of what he has promised, there is little doubt that J&K will undergo a massive transformation for the better. Therefore, the choice before the people is crystal clear. The only thing one can no longer do is to sit astride both boats and blame the consequences on circumstance or fate.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a consultant with the Observer Research Foundation and a Senior Visiting Fellow with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai)

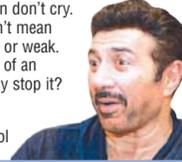
SOUNDBITE

If anyone from Pakistan goes to India to fight jihad...he will be the first to do injustice to Kashmiris, he will be the enemy of Kashmiris.



Pakistan Prime Minister —Imran Khan

They say men don't cry. Crying doesn't mean being strong or weak. It's a release of an emotion. Why stop it?



Actor —Sunny Deol

Human rights must be fully respected in the territory and dialogue between India and Pakistan is an essential element for a solution to the problem.



UN chief —Antonio Guterres

Earlier the slogan was Kashmir Humara Hai (Kashmir is ours). Now we must work towards a new one, Naya Kashmir banana hai (We must make a new Kashmir).



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Discriminatory provision

This refers to the editorial, "Farooq, now a threat" (September 18). The turn of events in Jammu & Kashmir has been disconcerting. Former Chief Minister and National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah did not deserve to be booked under the Public Safety Act and arrested and jailed in his own house. Like many of his compatriots, he has only exercised his right to an opinion. Booking a leader, who has served as a "bridge" between the Valley and mainland India for several decades, is a clear indication of the trust deficit between those in power in New Delhi and the Kashmiri leaders.

The treatment now being meted out to the three-time Chief Minister is blatant ingratitude because he has openly advocated the Valley's continued existence as an integral part of India. The worst part is that the country's top court has not come to his rescue and objected to his detention in lieu of his Constitutionally guaranteed rights. Moves like the detention of leaders like Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti do not help dispel the concerns about attitude regard-

Do what's right for the Valley

With 106 million adult smokers, the country ranks second only to China in the world, making it a lucrative market for companies making vaping products such as US-based Juul and Philip Morris, who manufacture the heat-not-burn tobacco device.

Essentially, the ban can cut off a huge future market from e-cigarette makers at a time when the



ing the Valley's integration with the rest of India. The world's largest democracy that it is, India must ease restrictions, allow freedom and dissent and enable the people to breathe easy.

G David Milton Maruthancode

number of people smoking worldwide is seeing a decline. As expected, the Association of Vapers India, which represents e-cigarette users, attacked the Government's decision, saying it would deprive millions of smokers of a safer solution to cut back on smoking. They say vaping is far less harmful than smoking tobacco. But many tobacco-control

activists are of the view that the usage of such devices could lead to nicotine addiction and push the people towards the consumption of tobacco. With this ban, much more holistic work is needed to bring down the overall tobacco use in India. Clearly much more needs to be done for a smoke-free nation.

J Akshay Bengaluru

Creating unrest

This refers to the editorial, "Farooq, now a threat" (September 18). It is unfortunate that former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah was arrested and his home turned into jail under the draconian Public Safety Act, which entails detention of up to two years for "posing a threat to State security and territorial integrity." His arrest speaks more about the Government than about a man who, until now, was the face of the moderate Kashmiri.

He and his son, Omar Abdullah, may have much answering to do about their record of governance in Jammu & Kashmir but none can question their fealty to the Constitution. It is known that this 82-year-old man is no threat to Indian territorial integrity or State security. It is astonishing that the court has accepted it without even questioning the Centre for using a draconian Act against a key political leader.

JS Acharya Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The Modi-Trump bromance show

India and the US will have to draw a roadmap of engagements and discussions to serve as each other's natural strategic allies



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Leaders of two of the world's oldest and largest democracies will jointly face one of the biggest national minority influencer/voter groups in Houston, in what could be one of the "greatest shows around the globe" highlighting close cultural and economic ties between India and the US. The venue for this show has been carefully chosen, with attention to detail, beginning with the theme "Howdy Modi," a play on the popular Texan greeting. The state of Texas, also referred to as the "Lone Star", to signify its former status as an independent republic post its freedom struggle against Mexico and subsequent accession to the US, has been carefully chosen at an opportune time when Pakistan-led forces are trying to draw international attention to Kashmir. Widely used images of the Wild West, a fearless, trigger happy cowboy, riding a horse and ready to protect his cattle, fit in well with the "tough men" image of both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump.

But there is more. With the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) slightly short of the \$2-trillion mark, Texas is America's second-largest economy. In fact, if it were still a sovereign state it would have been the world's tenth-largest economy. Houston, the largest metropolis in Texas, is India's fourth-largest trading partner with bilateral trade in excess of \$7 billion in 2018. This state is high on energy with crude oil productions and oil refineries fuelling many economies around the globe. Clearly India, with a \$2.7 trillion economy racing towards the \$5 trillion mark, needs vast energy sources to arrive early!

Those heady numbers apart, the foundation of a long-term relationship lies in creating long-term "optical frameworks" for a strategically chosen target audience. Texas is home to nearly 2.5 lakh Indian-Americans, historically conservative in their political beliefs and wealthier than other such national groups. This fits in well with both the Modi and Trump brand of politics, given their emphasis on projecting "strong men" images, saviours of culture and the clarion call to make the homeland "Great Again," in front of a large audience.

Statistically, this would be the largest Indian diaspora (50,000-strong) both Modi and Trump will be facing in the US for the first time. This would be Trump's brush with Indian-style election campaigning, with song, dance and promises. Promises to be made and kept, to put India-US bilateral trade talks back on the track. The world's largest democracies hit a rough patch in the last one year with trade and tariff restrictions souring traditional relationships more than impacting the actual trade. India and the US will be eager to announce trade deals, keeping in mind domestic constituencies. The event will also see participation from American leadership cutting across party lines. Apart from Republican and Democratic Congressmen and Senators, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, the second-ranking member of the Democratic leadership, is also going to address the 'Howdy Modi' event. This reflects the strong bipartisan support for India-US relations.

Not surprisingly, US and Indian trade ministers have been busy in preparatory talks in the run-up to the show, with as many as ten phone calls between them. India is saddled with a not-so-official slowing economy and Trump needs a big trade victory ahead of 2020. The restrictions on benefits under generalised trade preferences may be first on the agenda from the Indian perspective, while higher tariffs on high-end medical devices and tech products will be the go-to agenda from the US side. There may be a softening of stance by either economies and a turn of phrase or a change in verbiage may ease "ready to roll" big ticket investment and partnership announcements.

On the platter also would be the great divide between India and US on definition and movement of data across boundaries. India is in the middle of framing rules and guidelines around personal and non-personal data usage, storage, monetisation and accessibility. The US and many "countries of origin of big data-using companies" are watching this space with keenness as any restrictions imposed here may lead to huge consequences for the future of investment flows. Even though data may not feature prominently in Indo-US trade talks on September 22, somewhere, the two sides ought to make it a bilateral dialogue as it will be beneficial for both countries in the long run. For now, besides a compelling three-hour broadcast on Sunday, keenly watched by many across the globe, with many more searches being generated for Houston on Google, India and the US will have to draw a roadmap of engagements and discussions to arrive at a balance for constituencies and economy on bilateral trade issues as well as serve as each other's natural strategic allies.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

IT IS A MISPLACED FACT THAT PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN ARE UNHAPPY. THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SPREADING LIES FOR POLITICAL BENEFITS.
 —NCP LEADER SHARAD PAWAR



I FEEL BAD WHEN A LEADER LIKE PAWAR MAKES WRONG STATEMENTS FOR VOTES. EVERYONE KNOWS WHERE THE TERROR FACTORY IS.
 — PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

Focus on making history

There is a lesson to be learnt from the coverage of the Chandrayaan-2 mission and that is there is a difference between witnessing an epic feat unfold and achieving it



VV SUNDAR

There is a performance zone in which we all thrive. When handling critical projects, teams not only require resources but also need to work in an environment free from distractions and disturbances so that they can achieve their objectives. It is always the last lap, "minutes of terror" rather, that defines the difference between success and failure.

A calm, sedate environment and resolute attention to micro-details are not only required but also expected. After investing so much effort in planning, if things go wrong, the team has to take all the negative consequences in their stride. Particularly when it is something as critical as a space mission that is on the global radar, apart from being a matter of immense national pride.

Something similar happened recently with the Chandrayaan-2 mission at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), an institution the country takes immense pride in. After the space agency lost communication with the Vikram lander ahead of the touchdown, the visuals on television sets were of bewildered and disappointed faces in the mission control room, which was crowded with clunky cameras and peering eyes.

A frustrated look here, a distracted countenance there, the devastation and tension was palpable and writ large on the faces of the staff, desperately trying to make contact with the Vikram during the final act. In their hearts, they were probably also praying to be left alone to do their jobs since a complication had arisen. It was not as if they didn't know failures, the success of their launches has come through them. And perhaps, they are best equipped to handle their lows but not at the expense of being panned by the world.

The price of encroaching upon mental and physical spaces — no matter how slightly or reverently — comes at the cost of the team's optimal functioning. It can handicap its focus on the crucial work at hand.

The sanctity of the operation control room cannot be violated. No external gadgetry or personnel should ever make way into the sanctum sanctorum. What if a short circuit happened due to faulty equipment brought in? There's always the possibility of a camera battery catching fire or some such mishap. Where would that lead us? It was surprising to see such a risky act playing out freely in front of our eyes in the mission control room itself. The operation control centre is kept out of bounds to non-essential staff, personnel and gadgets. In the entire scheme of things, mission control rooms occupy a highly sanitised, secure, safe and secluded space, be it airports, ports or railway networks. And here we are talking about a space mission! Second, the world can wait. There is a difference between witnessing history and history being "made." The witnessing part can wait. Let's first focus on making the history. Let's get the job done first. Successful execution should be the only priority, as compared to the rituals of receiving visitors and posing for the cameras.

There should be a provision for deferred live broadcast of such major events once the mission has been accomplished. It is not a soccer match for the public to enjoy; it is a highly

“LET US HOPE RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS DO NOT FALL PREY TO OR ARE SMITTEN BY MEDIA COVERAGE, BUT ARE ONLY CONCERNED WITH DELIVERING FEATS THAT OPEN UP THE NEXT FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE WHICH CHANDRAYAAN-2 WAS DESTINED TO DO. LET US LEAVE THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY ALONE. THEY KNOW THEIR JOB AND THEY CAN DELIVER WITHOUT FALLING INTO THE TRAP OF MAKING EVERYTHING INTO A TELEVISED SPECTACLE”



nerve-racking scientific operation being played out at the far end of the galaxy. What is the point of adding to the pressure in an already highly-charged environment while our scientists are still remotely choreographing and delicately manoeuvring a space mission in the vast expanses of outer space? The media circus surrounding the coverage of the event was as usual clichéd. But what came as a new low was some media personnel haranguing the scientists to bring none other than the ISRO chief to face their queries during a press conference. That was when the mission was still under way and operational issues were still being sorted! It also clearly shows how the space organisation has been left wanting in handling their communications protocols.

Barring a few exceptions, science journalism died long ago in the country. No wonder television channels thought it fit to send "political reporters" in droves to cover this specific event. The media's wall-to-wall coverage was as usual clichéd. The core competencies of our television anchors to take on character-acting and dramatisation with ease comes quite naturally to them, just like a fish takes to the water.

It would have saved the day if the media and invitees were only allowed after the operations were definitively complete and a recorded minute-by-minute account was relayed to them, sans nail biting suspense, which only

a handful of staff should be privileged to access and witness first, in a studied controlled environment setting. It would also have saved the technicians and scientists a lot of unwanted attention and pressure.

Also, in the light of the partial failure of the mission and the subsequent emotional breakdown of the chief, it would have saved ISRO a lot of embarrassment and heartbreak too.

The presence of top bosses, be it political or executive, might lift up the team's spirit but it can also add undue pressure and divert attention and time. When there is a delicate and expensive mission waiting to be executed, a few milliseconds are all that it takes to make a difference between success and failure. Had India successfully landed the craft, it would have been the fourth nation in the world to land a vessel on the Moon's surface, and only the third to operate a robotic rover there. The Chandrayaan-2 mission, which cost roughly \$140 million, was intended to study the permanently shadowed moon craters, thought to contain water deposits, confirmed by the Chandrayaan-1 mission 11 years ago. However, that was not to be.

Whatever the loss, national pride or monetary, let us not patronise scientists by thumping their backs or wiping their tears. They need none of that. Perhaps none other than the scientific community knows it better and is accustomed to accepting failures with grace and humility before they hit

upon success. That this is so was very evident from the encouraging and gracious responses of space scientists from countries, who have been part of failures and successes of missions like this. It is part and parcel of their daily routine and high stakes space missions. We just need to maintain a measured, respectful and dispassionate distance from those who are executing their work. It is their sole and primary responsibility to the nation to perform and maintain the integrity of the process without fixating on results. Nothing should come in their way. We should leave them to their devices and let their work speak eloquently.

Lastly, with such high stakes, it is also unseemly to see a lack of well-trained professional communication apparatus to handle such events. ISRO could have handled the media in a more nuanced manner. It is time that communications become a key component for the organisation in all its future endeavours.

Let us hope research organisations do not fall prey to or are smitten by media coverage but are only concerned with delivering feats that open up the next frontiers of science which Chandrayaan-2 was destined to do. Let us leave the scientific community alone; they know their job and they can deliver without falling into the trap of making everything into a televised spectacle.

(The writer is a seasoned communications professional and management consultant based in New Delhi)

A time of reckoning for babus at last

To change the growing perception that there is a lack of accountability regarding performance and misdeeds of civil servants, the Modi Government has brought in reforms that are expected to foster professionalism and competence, says **Devesh Chaturvedi**

The civil services have contributed immensely to nation-building since India's Independence, yet they are criticised for resisting changes, stifling innovation and being oblivious to external realities. There is also a growing perception that there's a lack of performance accountability and that misdeeds of civil servants often go unpunished. To address these challenges, the Government, in the last five years, has initiated a series of reforms that have impacted almost all sections of the bureaucracy.

Keeping the sanctity of the recruitment process in the civil services is a must to ensure that freshers do not develop a cynical attitude. The Government realised that personal tests or interviews did not add any value to the recruitment process at the lower levels of bureaucracy. Instead, they only created a subjectivity which often led to corruption and nepotism. Hence, it decided to discontinue with the interviews in the recruit-

ments for Group C and Group B non-gazetted posts. Many State Governments also followed suit. The results have been quite encouraging as the candidates have been pleasantly surprised for having been selected on merit without resorting to payment of bribes or using undue influence.

The Fundamental Rule 56-J and All-India Death-Cum-Retirement Benefit rules provide that the Government can prematurely retire any civil servant after giving three months' notice. However, for years, these provisions for screening of deadwood were not being implemented. These rules are now being implemented and a thorough screening of service records of officials by a committee is helping identify non-performers. This exercise has sent a message that there is a premium attached to both performance and probity.

It was also noticed that the cadre-allocation policies were weakening the all-India character of the services and were detrimental to the

spirit of cooperative federalism. The officers were being allotted cadres based on choice. This resulted in officers landing either in their home or adjoining cadre, thus fostering inertia and a hesitation to serve on central deputation in the Government. In fact, the services were slowly being converted into glorified State services.

The Government brought a reformed cadre allotment policy in 2017, based on a roster for five regions in which all the cadres were clubbed, thus ensuring that the all-India character of the services was restored. It also encouraged officers who have served in cadres other than their domicile, to opt for central deputation.

It was also noticed that freshly-recruited IAS officers got important field-level posts like that of District Magistrate, Chief Executive Officer of Zila Parishads and Municipal Corporations for the first 10 to 12 years of their service. However, they often lacked the national perspective while serving

at the grassroots and this hampered their effectiveness. To address this issue, since 2015, freshly-recruited IAS officers are being deputed as Assistant Secretaries in the Government of India for three months immediately after their academy training and just before they go back to their respective State cadres for field postings. Experience has shown that this innovation helped young officers imbibe a national perspective that helped them address local issues holistically and with confidence.

Further, the performance of civil servants was measured primarily through the elaborate system of Performance Appraisal Reports (PARs). It was realised that due to the complete disclosure of PARs to the officers assessed, there was widespread grade inflation. Officers were being over-assessed and rated outstanding, notwithstanding their performance. PAR had become a public relations exercise with supervisory officers reluctant to give lower rating for fear of strained rela-

tions at the workplace. This had an adverse impact on the empanelment of officers at the Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary and Secretary or equivalent levels. It became difficult to distinguish high performers from others. The Government, therefore, implemented the process of Multi Source Feedback (MSF) or 360 degree appraisal, which is used along with the PARs to assess the suitability of officers for higher positions in the Government. This was also recommended by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission, as well as the Surendranath Committee on Performance Appraisal Reforms.

This intervention created ripples in bureaucratic circles as the feedback about officers was obtained from peers, subordinates and seniors on various personality attributes. The success of this intervention will, however, be judged by the resulting inclusion of errors in the reformed empanelment process, since the exclusion errors can be corrected by subsequent reviews.

There was also a demand for lateral infusion of talent from outside to enrich Government policy processes. The high echelons of policy-making are primarily manned by officers from three sources. The Indian Administrative Services (IAS), other participating All India and Central services and the Central Secretariat Services (CSS). The Government decided to bring in talent from outside through lateral recruitment at the Joint Secretary Level. Ten such positions were thrown open and recruitment were done through the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). It will be interesting to watch their contributions and amalgamation in the working of the Government. This reform is likely to generate a healthy competition among peers, fostering professionalism, efficiency and competencies in the policy-making process.

While these reforms were aimed at bringing in accountability in performance and conduct, the Government also addressed rising

concerns related to the policy paralysis resulting from risk averseness among the civil services. Significantly, the risk awareness was brought on by multiple investigations by anti-corruption agencies in various cases. The amendments in the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 passed in 2018 has provisions that are aimed at protecting honest and well-meaning civil servants. The provision of prior approval for initiating any investigation and deletion of Section 13 (1) d(iii) of the Act were a result of the Government's resolve to send a message that bonafide commercial decision will be defended and civil servants may go ahead with bold decision making in public interest. These reforms are expected to bring in the desired accountability, professionalism and competencies in the civil services to meet modern day challenges.

(The writer is Principal Secretary, Medical, Health & Family Welfare Department, in Uttar Pradesh Govt.)

CAPSULE



Maruti crosses 10-lakh exports milestone from Mundra Port

NEW DELHI: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Thursday said it has crossed 10 lakh exports mark from Mundra port in Gujarat after commencing international dispatches a decade ago. With shipments to more than 125 countries, the company's cumulative exports have already crossed 18 lakh units mark. MSI exports models from the Mundra port to various geographies like Latin America and Europe. "Within a decade of commencement of exports from Mundra, we achieved the significant milestone of shipping the one millionth car," MSI Managing Director and CEO Kenichi Ayukawa said in a statement. The company has always aligned its exports strategy to keep pace with the changing market scenario, he added.



OYO expands to over 100 hotels in more than 21 states in US

NEW DELHI: Hospitality firm OYO on Thursday said it has expanded its presence to over 100 hotels in more than 21 states in the United States. The company has committed USD 300 million as an initial investment in the US to fuel rapid growth across the country, OYO said in a statement. "We are excited with our rapid growth and early success in the US, our newest home market," OYO founder and Chief Executive Officer Ritesh Agarwal said. The US is a key home market for the company given its huge potential, he added. The company had recently partnered with hospitality investment and management company Highgate to open its first key flagship property OYO Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas in the US.



NY Fed to pump \$75 bn more into money markets on Thursday

NEW DELHI: For a third straight day, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on Thursday will inject billions into US money markets to preserve the Federal Reserve's control over short-term interest rates. In a statement late Wednesday, the New York Fed said it will again conduct a repurchase agreement operation of up to USD 75 billion to offer more liquidity to the system. It offered the same amount in repo operations Tuesday and Wednesday. Banks have struggled in recent days to find the cash needed to meet reserve requirements which has pushed up short-term borrowing rates.

Govt to invite global players for rollout of coal mining auction

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to liberalise the coal sector, the government is planning to invite global players for the roll out of auction plan for commercial mining by December this year, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Thursday.

The maiden move aimed at cutting coal exports is set to end the monopoly of domestic giant Coal India that accounts for over 80 per cent of the India's dry-fuel output.

"Hundred per cent commercial mining is approved. By December or so we are planning to roll it out," Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Joshi told reporters on the sidelines of the National Geoscience Award 2019.

He said that the government will invite global players for this, as 100 per cent FDI in coal will lead to more investors in coal mining operations with better technology.

"We are inviting global players. There is already 100 per cent FDI. More investors will come... We are hoping to get better technology. Whatever the shortcomings we have in this sector as far as mining coal is concerned that (commercial mining) will be a boost to



Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines, Pralhad Joshi presenting the National Geoscience Awards at a function in New Delhi on Thursday.

address it. 100 per cent commercial mining is approved," Joshi said.

Coal is the most important and abundant fossil fuel in India. It accounts for 55 per cent of the country's energy needs and the government is trying to curb imports.

The country's coal imports increased by 28.7 per cent to

24.14 million tonnes in June as against 18.75 million tonnes in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal.

Total imports of thermal coal rose to 56.23 million tonnes during the quarter as compared with the year-ago period.

The country's coal imports swelled by about 13 per cent to 235.2 MT during the year-ended March 31, 2019.

Coal India along with the PSU Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) are the only companies that till now were allowed to mine and sell coal.

Coal India is the single largest coal producer in the world, operating through 82 mining areas with seven wholly owned coal producing subsidiaries and a mine planning and consultancy company, it accounts for about 600 million tonnes (MT) annual production.

As per the Coal Ministry, commercial primary energy consumption in India has grown by about 700 per cent in the last four decades but the current per capita commercial primary energy consumption in India is about 350 kg/year which is well below that of developed countries.

On issues pertaining to iron ore mining, the Mines Minister Joshi said that the government is working on it and will see to it that there are no shortages of the mineral.

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Realtors' cash-crunch risk for banks: Report

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Default by real estate-focused non-banking financier Altico Capital indicates the rising cash crunch with the developers, which is credit negative for banks given their exposure to the realty sector, warns a report.

Poor liquidity had last week forced Altico Capital to default on an under-Rs 20-crore scheduled interest payment on an ECB loan from Mashreq Bank of the UAE.

Banks' exposure to Altico, which owes over Rs 4,500 crore to the credit market, is fairly modest and accounts for less than 0.1 percent of total banking system loans.

Altico's default comes after Dewan Housing Finance, with significant exposure to real estate developers, defaulted on its loan obligations from June because of insufficient liquidity, raising questions about its solvency.

"Altico default signals increasingly tight liquidity among property developers, which is credit negative for banks given their significant exposure to the real estate sector," global rating agency Moody's said in a report Thursday.

Banks also have indirect exposure to the real estate sector through their lending to NBFCs and HFCs, which also lend to developers.

According to the Reserve Bank data, the overall exposure of NBFCs and HFCs to the real estate sector was only about 6 per cent of their total assets as of March 2019. However, some NBFCs and HFCs are more exposed than others, mak-

Banks' exposure to Altico, which owes over Rs 4,500 crore to the credit market, is fairly modest and accounts for less than 0.1 percent of total banking system loans

ing them vulnerable to a slowdown in the sector, it said.

Among the banks Moody's rates, Yes Bank and Indusind Bank have the largest direct exposure to the commercial real estate and will be susceptible to asset quality difficulties if the sector continues to slow, the agency said, adding ICICI Bank and Axis Bank are also significantly exposed to the sector, with commercial real estate loans making up over 5 percent of their overall loans.

In response to the tightening liquidity in the realty sector, the government on September 13 announced creation of an investment fund to provide soft loans to residential real estate developers unable to access new funding to complete their partially-constructed affordable housing projects.

Under the plan, the government will contribute Rs 10,000 crore to the fund and expects a similar amount from entities, including the LIC, banks and other development institutions.

'Govt reworking its strategy to enhance direct tax mop-up'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government is reworking its strategy to boost revenue collection from direct taxes which has been lagging behind so far, a senior CBDT official said on Thursday.

The government has set a direct tax collection target of Rs 13.35 lakh crore for the current fiscal, which includes Rs 7.66 lakh crore from corporate tax and Rs 5.69 lakh crore as income tax.

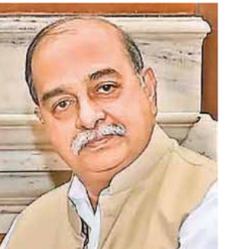
"Growth in direct tax collection has been less than expected. The Central Board of Direct Taxes will look into this and rework its strategy," Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Member Akhilesh Ranjan said on the sidelines of an ASSOCHAM event.

Ranjan, who is also the convenor of the task force on Direct Tax Code, said taxpayers in the country should not see paying income tax as a burden.

Asked about lowering corporate tax, he said the government is seized of the matter and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has also reiterated recently that there is some need for corporate tax reduction.

"That has been reiterated by the finance minister recently also that we are moving towards lower rate and I am sure that will happen sooner or later. Government has already said that there is some need for some corporate tax rate reduction," Ranjan said.

Talking about tax compliance, he said government is trying to further simplify



That has been reiterated by the finance minister recently also that we are moving towards lower rate and I am sure that will happen sooner or later

—AKHILESH RANJAN, CBDT Member

the taxation system as it will lead to better revenue realisation.

On the Direct Tax Code (DTC) report, which has been submitted to the government, Ranjan said, "The report has not been (made) public, so I won't be able to give any details on that. But the broad trends are that we have obviously focussed on compliance."

Compliance is the cornerstone of any tax policy and it has different aspects. It is not just about tax rates but also about ease of filing, about modernising tax system, improving litigation system management as well as things like making tax law more comprehensible and organised, he added.

Finmin gets nearly 100 applications for post of RBI deputy governor

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 100 candidates have applied for the post of deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - a position that fell vacant after Viral Acharya resigned six months before the scheduled end of his term.

The finance ministry has received about 100 applications for the post, which have been sent to the high-level panel that will select a suitable candidate for the post, sources said.

The Financial Sector Regulatory Appointments Search Committee (FSRASC), headed by the cabinet secre-

tary, is free to identify and recommend any other person too, who has not applied for the post, based on merit.

The committee can also recommend relaxation in the eligibility and qualifications/experience criteria, in respect of outstanding candidates.

The last date for submission of application for the position was August 30.

Acharya was looking after RBI's monetary policy department, including its forecasting and modelling unit.

He ended his stint as the deputy governor earlier in July. As per the public notice, the appointment will be for a period of three years and the person will be eligible for re-appointment.

The applicant should not be more than 60 years of age as on July 24, 2019, it said, adding that the applicant should have at least 25 years of work experience in public administration, including at the level of secretary or equivalent in the central government.

Nirav remanded till Oct 17, trial in May 2020

PTI ■ LONDON

Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi, wanted in India in connection with the nearly USD 2 billion PNB fraud and money laundering case, was on Thursday further remanded to judicial custody until October 17 by a UK court which said it was working towards his extradition trial hearing in May next year.

The 48-year-old appeared via videolink before Westminster Magistrates' Court in London from his prison for a routine "call-over" hearing.

Judge David Robinson told Modi, who is fighting extradition to India, that there was nothing "substantial" to deal with and that the court was working towards a five-day extradition trial hearing for May 11-15, 2020.

A team of officials from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) were present in court for the brief hearing, required under UK law every 28 days pending an extradition trial. There is also likely to be a case management hearing in the case ahead of the trial in February next year.

Modi has been lodged at Wandsworth prison in south-west London, one of England's most overcrowded jails, since his arrest in March on an extradition warrant executed by Scotland Yard on charges brought by the Indian government, being represented by the UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in court.

Since his arrest, his legal team, led by solicitor Anand Doobay and barrister Clare Montgomery, have made four bail applications, which have been rejected each time due to Modi being deemed a flight risk.

The 48-year-old appeared via video-link before Westminster Magistrates' Court in London from his prison for a routine "call-over" hearing

In her judgment handed down at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on his last bail appeal in June, Justice Ingrid Simler had concluded there were "substantial grounds" to believe that Modi would fail

to surrender as he does possess the means to "abscond".

Reiterating similar concerns as those previously raised by Westminster Magistrates' Court during earlier bail attempts, Judge Simler ruled that after considering all the material "carefully", she had found strong evidence to suggest there had been interference with witnesses and destruction of evidence in the case and concluded it can still occur.

"The applicant has access to considerable financial resources, supported by an increased [b a i l

bond security] offer of GBP 2 million," the judge noted.

The High Court judge stressed that while it was not for her to take a "definitive view" on the evidence, she had proceeded on the basis that the government of India has acted in good faith in what is "undoubtedly" a serious case and a "sophisticated international conspiracy" to defraud, together with money laundering.

Modi was arrested by uniformed Scotland Yard officers on an extradition warrant on March 19 and has been in prison since. During subsequent hearings, Westminster Magistrates' Court was told that Modi was the "principal beneficiary" of the fraudulent issuance of letters of undertaking (LoUs) as part of a conspiracy to defraud Punjab National Bank and then laundering the proceeds of crime.

Google sets up AI research lab in Bengaluru

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Google on Thursday said it is setting up an artificial intelligence research unit at Bengaluru as the tech giant looks to continue developing products for India and taking them to global markets.

Google Research India, the artificial intelligence (AI) lab, will focus on advancing fundamental computer science and AI research.

Apart from the Google team led by AI scientist Manish Gupta, the company will also partner with the research community across the country to focus on tackling challenges in fields like healthcare, agriculture, and education.

"We are incredibly inspired by India. With a world-class engineering talent, strong computer science programs and entrepreneurial drive, India has the potential to contribute to advancements in AI and its application to tackle big challenges," Google Vice President



IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad Addressing the 'Google for India' event in New Delhi on Thursday

Google Research India, the artificial intelligence (AI) lab, will focus on advancing fundamental computer science and AI research

their products are safe and secure for users.

"They must safeguard the privacy rights of individuals. Also, you must take extra efforts to ensure that people don't abuse the system," he added.

Sengupta said under its Internet Saathi programme with Tata Trusts, about 80,000 'Saathis' have been trained, who in turn have trained 30 million women.

Sengupta said in the last 12

months, Google Pay has grown more than three times to 67 million monthly active users, driving transactions worth over USD 110 billion on an annualised basis across offline and online merchants.

About two-thirds of the transactions are coming from tier-II and -III cities and towns.

Google Pay, which competes with players like Paytm and PhonePe, is introducing the 'Spot' platform that will enable merchants to create branded commercial experiences and reach new customers.

Google has already onboarded merchants like UrbanClap, Goibibo, MakeMyTrip, RedBus, Eat.Fit and Oven Story through its early access programme.

Besides, Google Pay is rolling out 'tokenized cards' in the next few weeks to offer a secure way of paying for things using a digital token on the phone rather than the actual card number.

IPL brand value rises 7% to \$6.8 b in 2019: Report

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The brand value of Indian Premier League (IPL) has jumped 7 percent to USD 6.8 billion in 2019, with the value of the Mumbai and Chennai franchisees rising the fastest, says a report.

However, the Shahrukh Khan-co-owned Kolkata franchise, along with embattled Vijay Mallya's Bengaluru franchise saw an 8 percent decline in their valuations, Duff & Phelps, a consultancy, said in the report Thursday.

The Board of Cricket Control in India launched the premier T20 cricketing league in 2008 with eight teams owned by corporates. Following its success, two more teams were created later but the number is down to eight again.

The Mukesh Ambani-



owned Mumbai Indians, the winner of four editions, saw an 8.5 percent increase in valuation to Rs 809 crore-making it the most valued team, while the India Cements-owned Chennai Super Kings' value shot up 13.1 percent to Rs 732 crore.

The Jindals-co-owned Delhi Capitals saw its value increased 8.9 percent to Rs 374 crore in the reporting year.

Apart from the Bengaluru

and Kolkata franchisees, the Rajasthan Royals, co-owned by the media mogul Murdoch family, also saw a decline in valuation, to Rs 271 crore from Rs 284 crore a year ago.

"Our assessment of the brand value of the various franchises also takes into consideration the effectiveness and transparency of their management teams," the report said, adding controversies had impacted the brand earlier.

The report said it is imperative for the teams to engage fans more actively off the field to increase their valuation just like the football clubs in Europe.

"We have seen that IPL has still not been able to capitalise on the merchandising market, which is a major source of revenue for sporting brands across the world," the report said.

TO SPEAK OR NOT TO SPEAK?

What if the rule of one language is imposed upon the country tomorrow? Will it really help unite the country or build tension and conflicts, asks ANUSHKA PRADEEP

Hindi has been around the country for several centuries but same is the case of several other languages which have their own rightful place in the country. India, a diaspora of several cultures and languages, takes pride in its diversity. Hindi is one of the 22 scheduled languages of the Republic of India. But contrary to popular belief, Hindi is not the national language of India. As per Article 343 of the Constitution of India, the standard Hindi written in the Devanagiri script and English are the official languages of the Union for carrying out the daily official work. However, every state in the country, as of yet according to the Constitution, is allowed to have its own scheduled language based on its linguistic preferences. Hence, at present we have a total of 22 official languages in India.

But what is the opinion of the citizens of the nation about the assumption that the imposition of a common official language across the country would help promote and encourage unity among people.

"For a person like me who comes from a different state and works in several other parts of the country and interacts with colleagues who belong to different languages, states and communities, the idea of Hindi as the common official language actually seems pretty enticing to be honest. Because in mixed company people find it comfortable to shift to their native language while talking to people from their own state which eventually leads to people like me being excluded from the conversation. I really think bringing about a common language might actually help people bond better," says Tilottama, a native of Odisha whose work requires her to travel to various cities.

"But at the same time I don't mean to say that Hindi is the only language that can be made into the official language. It could be any language as long as the people find a common ground to communicate," concludes Tilottama who is also a member of the Mobbera foundation, a

pro-LGBT community based in the city. When asked about the feasibility of a common language in India, Prof. K.S. Chalam, a well-known Political Economist, Educationist and a Scholar in Dravidian Studies says, "In countries with a small population such as Denmark such measures may make sense but in a country as populated and diverse as ours trying to establish a single official language across the nation might only aggravate issues related to communal disharmony. Accepting the diversity is crucial to help solve the issue of communal discord and not by draping a single language over distinctly diverse communities and expecting people to pretend to be united."

"If it's a matter of majority, then why not consider Telugu as the common official language? Because if we choose Hindi we also have to consider its various dialects such as Maithili, Punjabi, Haryanvi etc into what is being called Hindi, which in truth are very different languages of their own. Whereas Telugu is spoken by most people across the country and not just in the Dravidian states and the Central and Eastern parts of the country," he continued.

As a solution to this predicament, he said, "What I believe can solve the problem is that if choosing a common official language is a must then it better be a language that is on the brink of extinction. They shall be reviving a language through its roots and every state will have to make equal effort to learn the language and there shall be no qualms about marginalisation of other well spoken and currently official languages."

Among several other prominent positions he had chaired Prof. Chalam was the Vice-Chancellor of the Dravidian University, Kuppam (Andhra Pradesh) in 2005 and was a member of the Planning Board, government of MP between 2002-04.

Even celebrities-turned-politicians such as Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan have been vocal about the issue. "A com-



A common language not just for India but any country is good for its unity and progress. Unfortunately, (one cannot) bring a common language in our country. So you cannot impose any language

RAJINIKANTH, ACTOR, POLITICIAN



Do not make an inclusive India, an exclusive one. No Shah, Sultan or Samrat should renege on the promise of unity in diversity of India

KAMAL HAASAN, ACTOR, CHIEF OF MAKKAL NEEDHI MAIAM



mon language not just for India but any country is good for its unity and progress. Unfortunately, (one cannot) bring a common language in our country. So you cannot impose any language," Rajinikanth said.

This comment follows a day after Kamal Haasan, in a video message, warned against making "inclusive India exclusive." "We respect all languages but our mother tongue will always be Tamil," he had said.

Through all these contrasting opinions there is a common thread.

Language is not the problem here. Language is not a factor that directly affects the unity in the country. The bigger problem to be addressed here is the need for acceptance of the diversity in the nation be it religion, culture, language, caste or gender and every other aspect rather than imposing a single way of life upon everyone.



In countries with a small population like Denmark such measures may make sense but in a country as populated and diverse as ours trying to establish a single official language across nation might only aggravate issues related to communal disharmony

PROF. K.S. CHALAM, POLITICAL ECONOMIST, EDUCATIONIST AND A SCHOLAR IN DRAVIDIAN STUDIES



For a person like me who comes from a different state and works in several other parts of the country and interacts with colleagues who belong to different languages, states and communities, the idea of Hindi as the common official language actually seems pretty enticing to be honest

TILOTTAMA, MEMBER OF THE MOBBERA FOUNDATION



Author and lawyer Gautam Bhatia was in the city for a Manthan talk about his latest book, *The*

Transformative Constitution. Gautam has been practising law for four years in New Delhi and was part of the legal teams involved in the Right to Privacy judgement, the Constitutional challenge to the Aadhaar, the challenge to Section 377 of the IPC and the bail application for members of the Kabir Kala Manch, among others.

Speaking about the latest developments in Jammu and Kashmir, Gautam says, "In most of the countries, before making amendments to any law, the governments takes suggestions and complaints from people and makes changes accordingly. In India though, the law would be amended first before taking in people's opinion. The goal of integrating Kashmir in India is important but it is also important the method they use to do so. Shutting down all the communications of a state and passing a law without consulting its citizens is not good for democracy."

Gautam added, "We think of the Constitution as a founding document, embodying a moment of profound transformation from being ruled to becoming a nation of free and equal citizenship. Yet the working of the Constitution over the last seven decades has often failed to fulfill that transformative promise. Not only have successive

Author and lawyer Gautam Bhatia shares his views about the Constitution in light of latest developments in Jammu and Kashmir, reports V SATEESH REDDY

A NOVEL VISION

of the Constitution

Parliaments failed to repeal colonial-era laws that are inconsistent with the principles of the Constitution, but constitutional challenges to these laws have also failed before the courts. Indeed, in numerous cases, the Supreme Court has used colonial-era laws to cut down or weaken the fundamental rights."

During his talk explaining how court judgements dealing with similar cases changed over time, Gautam mentioned the judgement given in the Restitution of Conjugal Rights case by Bhikaji in 1884 which was changed while dealing with the actress Sareetha vs Venkata Subbiah case in 1983.

The Transformative Constitution draws on pre-Independence legal and political history to argue that the Constitution was intended to transform not merely the political status of Indians from subjects to citizens, but also the social relationships on which legal and political structures rested.

The lawyer advances his novel vision of the Constitution of India and of constitutional interpretation which is faithful to its text, structure and history and above all to its overarching commitment to political and social transformation.



We think of the Constitution as a founding document, embodying a moment of profound transformation from being ruled to becoming a nation of free and equal citizenship. Yet the working of the Constitution over the last decades has failed to fulfill that transformative promise

GAUTAM BHATIA, AUTHOR

Corporates battle it out for shuttle glory

The Netplay Corporate Badminton Championship 2019 powered by Li-Ning was held at the multi sports centre at Madhapur. This third edition of the tournament that featured both team and individual events.

"More than 290 players from 92 corporates participated in nine individual

events conducted over two days. For the first time in Hyderabad for a corporate tournament, all the matches were streamed live on the Internet," said Siddharth Reddy, Director of Netplay Sports.

Many leading corporates such as Deloitte, JP Morgan, Google, Indigo, Optum, Qualcomm, TCS, Accenture, Scitech Patent Art, ZF India, Pega

Systems, Electronic Arts, Novartis, Purple Talk, Synchrony Financials and Dark Horse Digital Solutions went head to head against each other in best of three matches of two doubles and one singles.

Among the big winners, Optum beat Deloitte in the team finals to win the championship cup. The challengers cup was won by Accenture who

defeated Pega Systems in the finals.

With city shuttlers PV Sindhu, Saina, Srikanth and Sai Praneeth getting recognition worldwide for their talent and sportsmanship, badminton frenzy among the corporates is seeing a rise. The winners of the various events received trophies, medals, Gamepoint vouchers and goodies from Li-Ning.



PARTY



Anjali Shah



Arthi Shah



Kavita Reddy



Mansi



Meena Goradia



Tushar Gandhi



Zeny



Usha

Photos by SV Chary

REVIVING TRADITION

On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the 'Sanskriti' Committee organised a talk by Tushar Gandhi, Grandson of M.K. Gandhi. The committee showcased various Khadi outfits in different fashion and styles for its members.

CITY GUIDE

» **COMEDY**
FUNNY BUZZNESS

● Funny Buzzness is a well known comedy gig series by Buzz Kya Entertainment and has been instrumental in bringing up artists like — Amit Tandon, Sorabh Pant, Sumukhi Suresh and Naveen Richards. October 20 at 6 pm HICC.



INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL

● The fifth edition of the Indian Photography Festival will be held from September 19 to October 20 at various locations in Hyderabad. IPF is an international photography festival which showcases various events, including talks, discussions and more.



» **ART AND CULTURE**

VENTRILOQUISM

● Ventriloquism is an art of voice manipulation through a puppet or doll. Sathosh is an international Ventriloquism artiste, with more than 20 years experience in performing Ventriloquism shows. He is the only ventriloquist who has been attending international Ventriloquism convention at USA since 2012. He regularly works with schoolchildren and teachers helping them to improve their skills. September 21, 11 am at Lamakaan



» **EXHIBITION**

EMERGING PALETTES

● A group art exhibition, a platform for emerging artists to display their work. This is the 11th edition of the exhibition organised in collaboration with Goethe-Zentrum. Till October 6 at Shrishti Art Gallery, Jubilee Hills.



» **THEATRE**

GOOD ANSWER BY MARK

● Good Answer depicts one very unpleasant morning in the life of Michael Kaminski, a mathematics professor at a small Iowa college who is currently serving as its acting president. He would like to get the word 'Acting' removed from his job title. September 21 at 7.30 pm at Phoenix Arena



EK DURACHARI RAJA

● All of us believe that our present may be bad but our future will be good. The Hindi play Ek Durachari Raja (the story of a despot) adapted from Albert Camus' Caligula remains universally relevant. It represents the face of despotism, not only in terms of the whimsical madness and defecation of rulers but also in terms of how people react to such rule with glimmer of hope for the future. September 22, 7.30 pm, Lamakaan



BAAGH

● Baagh, a play written by Badal Sircar and directed by Malayban Lahiri has friendship and relationships at its core. The play revolves around repressed pain, relationships, and structures that we adhere to. October 2 at 8 pm, Phoenix Arena



MAHABHARATA - THE EPIC TALE

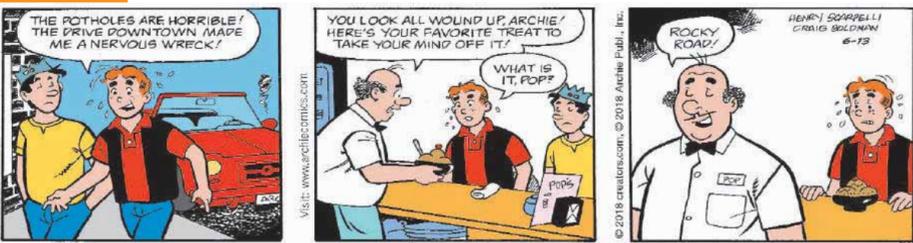
● All history and mythology is based on cause and effect. Mahabharata - The Epic Tale... in-depth deals with the primary emotional and psychological causes that were the genesis of this destructive war. The planet has witnessed destruction based on the whims of a few people. Till October 6, multiple venues



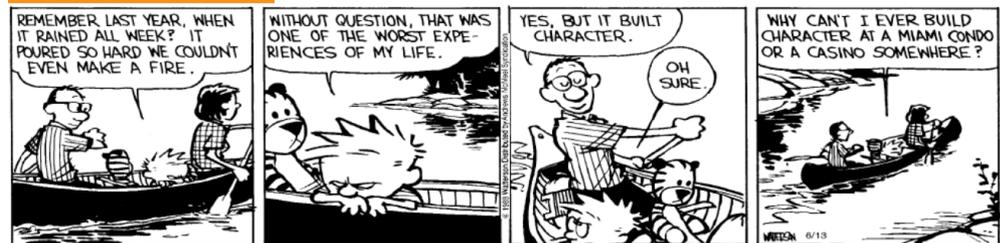
GET YOUR EVENT LISTED: To get your events listed, please send your details along with a poster and contact number to features.pioneer@gmail.com

FUN TIME

ARCHIE



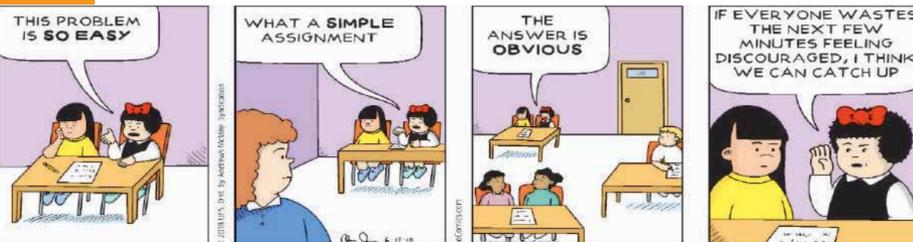
CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



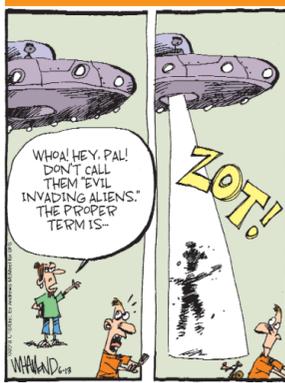
NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



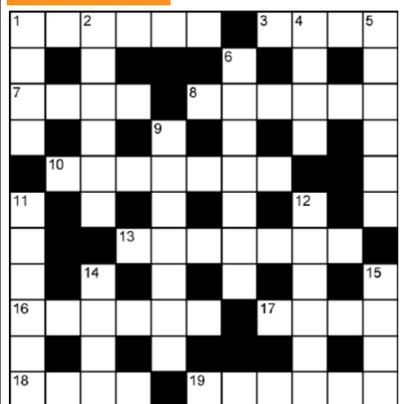
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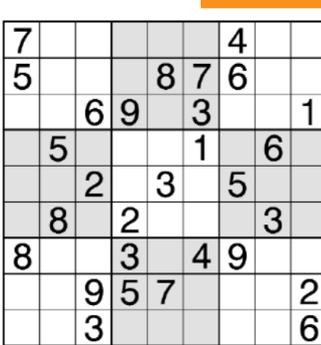
SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution
 7 9 1 4 2 6 8 3 5
 8 2 4 5 3 7 9 6 1
 3 5 6 9 1 8 4 2 7
 5 7 8 3 4 9 2 1 6
 1 6 2 8 7 5 3 4 9
 9 4 3 1 6 2 5 7 8
 6 8 7 2 9 3 1 5 4
 4 3 5 7 8 1 6 9 2
 2 1 9 6 5 4 7 8 3

Rules
 ● Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
 ● The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

ACROSS

- 1 Thief
- 3 Tidy your hair with this
- 7 Young woman
- 8 A dairy product
- 10 To turn round and round
- 13 Gleam
- 16 Truthful
- 17 Bitter-tasting
- 18 Thick cord
- 19 Defeated

DOWN

- 5 A light wind
- 6 Trembles with cold
- 9 Find north with this
- 11 Book writer
- 12 Nearly
- 14 Cut something with scissors
- 15 This metal goes rusty

SOLUTION



LAKSHMI: WE NEED SHOWS LIKE FRIENDS, SEX AND THE CITY

Actress-producer Lakshmi Manchu, who has been signed up by Voot, India's second largest advertising video on demand platform to host *Feet Up with the Stars* in Telugu, says the show will help her to be completely who she is. "When Voot approached me to host the show, I wasn't sure whether I can do it because in Mumbai, celebs are willing to do talk shows and they are more open. That culture hasn't caught up with our celebs yet. Our celebs have changed slightly and I take a big credit for it. My earlier shows helped that shift on celebs to be able to see who they really are," she says, hoping viewers will get closer to their favourite celebs with the show. "It's a simple heartwarming lifestyle show."

Lakshmi's house at Film Nagar, Hyderabad will host the show. "This house was visited by Sivaji Ganesan, Rajkumar, Vishnu Vardhan, Mohanlal, Rajinikanth, Mammooty and even YSR. This is more than a house to me; it's a temple. Instead of doing it in a studio set-up, I felt it was best to bring celebs home because it will help them feel close more comfortable. Samantha who recently participated in the show told me, "Your job is easier as you have to walk down from first floor to ground floor to do the show whereas as I have to check where my location is first thing in the morning," she says jokingly. Lakshmi who has dabbled in TV feels that content on the small screen is very conservative. "The day saah-bahu serials end, our culture will get better. I don't allow my mother to watch Telugu and Hindi soap operas in my home. As if we don't have problems in life, some serials compound to depression. We need shows like *Friends* and *Sex and the City*," she points out, adding that in the past eight months, she has undertaken a lot of trips.

Prod her if she isn't bored of doing talk shows with celebs alone and she had this to say: "Voot should answer that question. They gave the list of celebs they need and I'm following it. If I have a choice, I would've invited sports stars and politicians."
— NG



CHARAN wanted SYE RAA... to be his dad's best film till date: SURENDER REDDY

Charan said his dad gave consent to the story a decade ago but they had to wait for the right time to take it floors, the filmmaker said while speaking at the trailer launch event, reports NAGARAJ GOUD

Filmmaker Surender Reddy, who helmed the magnum opus *Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy*, starring Megastar Chiranjeevi, said, he never expected the film to come his way.

"After I was approached, I asked 15 days time to make up my mind. I didn't know about the life story of Uyyalawada and the project was set on a massive scale. I wasn't sure whether I can pull it off. But I saw Chiranjeevi garu as an inspiration and with Charan behind the production, I said yes," Reddy said. He was speaking at the film's trailer launch in Hyderabad on Wednesday evening. He was accompanied by Ram Charan to the event.

He said part of his research for the film — in which Chiranjeevi plays the titular role, a Rayalaseema freedom fighter, who fought against the British, much before the first war of Independence, in 1857 — included reading all the books available on



Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy. "Nandyala MP Pochu Brahmananda Reddy who comes from Uyyalawada heads the trust Renati Suryachandru. I helped me with a lot of information. I also procured gazettes from Chennai with the help of a friend. From my readings and interactions with people who knew about Uyyalawada, I could weave a story," he recalled. Reddy is not bothered about the film ending on a sad note. Uyyalawada was executed in Koilkuntla in front of a silent crowd of over 2,000 people after he led a rebellion against the British East India Company (EIC) in Kurnool district in 1847.

The British kept his head on the fort wall in public view until 1877. "His death triggered a war for independence.

I don't believe it's a sad ending," he exulted. "His story had all the elements for a commercial film. Imagine the fear he instilled in the British. Otherwise he wouldn't have kept his head on the wall for 30 years."

Charan said his dad gave his consent to the story a decade back itself but they had to wait for the right time to take it floors. "I was never bothered about records. For me the challenge was to present what all Chiranjeevi garu and Suri garu wanted on sets. We spent without worrying whether we will get returns," Charan noted. Reddy chimed in, "If the film was made a decade ago it would've easily cost Rs 500 crore. Also, the quality wouldn't have been the same what it is right now."

He added, "Before starting the project, Charan told me that he wanted to present a big gift to his

dad and that is this film. Charan also wanted it to be the best among his dad's 150 films."

Talking about how he pulled off casting coup of sorts by roping in South heavyweights like Kichcha Sudeepa, Vijay Sethupathi and Nayantara for the film, Charan added, "While one reason was that they all wanted to share screen space with Chiranjeevi garu, the other reason, I believe, is that it was the wish of Uyyalawada that an ensemble be a part of his film."

A couple of months ago, the descendants of Narasimha Reddy have staged a protest at Charan's office in Hyderabad, demanding they be paid the amount for the story and as well as for the compensation of crops that were damaged by the unit members of the movie during the film's shoot at their village. Reacting to it, Charan said a film can be made on a historic personality 100 years after his death without the filmmakers giving anything in return to the family members of the said personality.

"I don't want to belittle Uyyalawada's reputation by doing something to his descendants. If I want to do anything, I would rather do it for his village," he concluded.

SHAURYA's film with debutant Sowjanya to be shot across multiple locations

The Pioneer was first to inform you that Naga Shaurya has evinced his interest to spearhead debutante Lakshmi Sowjanya's film (on August 29). The project was made official by the production house Sithara Entertainments, the sister concern of Haarika & Hassine Creations, on Thursday. It will roll out in the last week of October for a release in next May.

Speaking to this newspaper exclusively, Sowjanya who had gained experience in filmmaking by assisting the likes of Krishna Vamsi, Teja, Sekhar Kammula and Krish over a period of time said the as-yet-untitled film is a genuine love story.

"It's the journey of a guy and girl, both of who are honest and live by principles. We are looking at places like Darjeeling, Meghalaya, Dehradun to commence filming.

The idea is to zero in on a picturesque location. The story will also be shot in places like Visakhapatnam, Kerala and Paris," she told this correspondent.

A fan of filmmakers like Yash Chopra, Balu Mahendra and Mani Ratnam, Sowjanya added that she has been travelling with the story for the past couple of years. "Chinababu (aka Radha Krishna, chief of Haarika & Hassine Creations) loved my story. He took it personally to ensure that it goes to floors," she said. "I haven't come across a person like him in the industry. He is filled with warmth and is a man of principles. I'm a fan of him and I consider myself lucky to be debuting in his production team."

He is extremely passionate about cinema," she added.

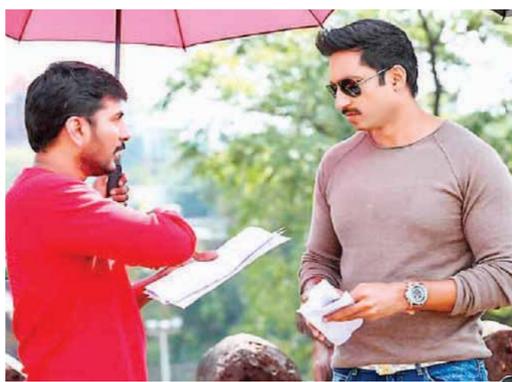


SOWJANYA, WHO HAD GAINED EXPERIENCE IN FILMMAKING BY ASSISTING THE LIKES OF KRISHNA VAMSI, KRISH AND SEKHAR KAMMULA, SAID THE FILM IS A GENUINE LOVE STORY



Gopichand is awaiting the release of his next film, Chanakya U-Turn producer for GOPI-SAMPATH

After a steady stream of rumours and bite-sized developments, it has been finally confirmed on Thursday that Gopichand and Sampath Nandi will be coming together for a film. Their earlier collaboration, *Gautam Nanda*, might not have hit the bull's eye at the box office a couple of years ago, but the duo forged a formidable bond on sets, which transitioned into this new film. Srinivasaa Chitturi who produced Samantha-starrer *U-Turn* last year will be shepherding the project under his Srinivasaa Silver Screen banner. Except for indicating that it will be a large scale project with high-technical values, the makers haven't disclosed anything about the film's



genre, although a little birdie tells us that it will be typical Gopi action flick but with more realism.

The macho actor is right now awaiting the release of *Chanakya*, a spy thriller, with Tamil director

Thiru. He has recently commenced the filming of debutant Binu Subramanyam's adventure thriller to be shot across exotic locales of Thailand, Nepal and Cambodia and India.



DAME JUDI DENCH DOES NOT WANT TO RETIRE

Veteran actress Dame Judi Dench, 84, does not want to retire because there is nothing else she would rather be doing. Dench, who has featured in more than 100 films, including seven Bonds movies, shared that the word retirement does not exist in her dictionary, according to a report in *mirror.co.uk*.
"I am so bored of the question. You retire in order to walk, paint or travel. All those things. Well, I get to do that. I am doing the job that I would retire to do," she said.
Dench also recalled how she approached by a James Bond fan while in the depths of the Borneo rainforest earlier this year.
She added, "I was in Borneo in March and people only seem to know about James Bond. I had photographs taken with people who owned crocodiles - because of Bond. Nothing else, but Bond. It is kind of worldwide isn't it?"



RAJKUMMAR RAO LOOKS FORWARD TO START SHOOTING WITH PRIYANKA CHOPRA

Actor Rajkummar Rao, who will be soon collaborating with Priyanka Chopra for the Netflix film *The White Tiger*, has said that he is looking forward to working with her. He also hoped that they will have good time while shooting for the film.
Rajkummar was interacting with the media at the trailer launch of *Made In China* along with his co-actor Mouni Roy, film's director Mikhil Musale and producer Dinesh Vijan in Mumbai.
The White Tiger is an adaptation of Aravind Adiga's *Man Booker* Prize-winning novel of the same name.

WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO BRING CANCER AWARENESS: ARJUN

Actor Arjun Kapoor will be lighting up the Bandra-Worli Sea Link in red as a gesture to show his support to cancer patients. He says he will do whatever it takes to bring awareness about the deadly disease.
On World Rose Day on September 22, observed worldwide to bring happiness in the lives of cancer patients, Arjun will light up the famous Bandra-Worli Sea Link in red as a special gesture for cancer patients.
The cause matters deeply to Arjun as he has been through a deep personal loss due to this illness.
"It is a cause that is extremely close to me for very personal reasons. I will do whatever it takes to bring awareness on cancer, support as many who are affected by it and try and tell as many that only our spirit can make us fight this disease."
"I'm looking forward to meeting these little brave-hearts who are battling cancer with a smile. Their courage is inspiring and heart-breaking," Arjun, who lost his mother Mona Shourie to cancer, said.
He has collaborated with the Cancer Patients Aid Association for the event where he will distribute roses and gifts to the kids who will join him on the occasion.
World Rose Day is observed every year in the memory of 12-year-old Melinda Rose from Canada who was diagnosed with Askin's Tumour, a rare form of blood cancer.



ARIANA GRANDE'S DOGS FLY TO GLASGOW ON PRIVATE JET TO BE WITH HER

Singer Ariana Grande is said to have jetted her pet dogs Myron and Toulouse to a Glasgow hotel on a private plane, so they can be with her during her European tour.
"She jetted the dogs out from Birmingham and they got there three hours before she arrived. Ariana wanted to make sure she felt right at home and after she cancelled a number of meet-and-greets due to anxiety, they help her with that. They help to calm her nerves," a source told *sun.co.uk*.
Ariana's pet pooches also received Tartan collars to make the statement that they are holidaying in Scotland, and were looked after by a minder until Grande turned up. The source added, "The dogs, who have been assigned their own room at the two-bedroom apartment, were well looked after by a minder during their stay. As well as being offered personalised bone shaped dog biscuits and furry bedding they even got given tartan dog collars."
The *No tears left to cry* hitmaker recently said her anxiety and depression have been "at an all time high lately", leading her to cancel her meet and greet before her show in Antwerp, Belgium.

ANISTON WAS TOLD TO LOSE 30 POUNDS FOR ROLE IN FRIENDS

Actress Jennifer Aniston was forced to drop 30 pounds (14kg) in order to land her career launching role on *Friends*.
In a new book released as part of the 25th anniversary of the iconic series, *Friends*, an inside look at the show that defined a television era, author Saul Austerlitz said Aniston was asked to slim down significantly in order to portray Rachel Green, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.
"She had to lose thirty pounds if she wanted to stay in Hollywood," Austerlitz says in his book. "Los Angeles was a tough place to be an actress — it was a tough place to be a woman — and Jennifer Aniston's agent was reluctantly leveling with her."
He added, "Aniston was hardly fat — everyone could see she was beautiful — but at the show she would one day become indelibly associated with, later made a point of noting, the camera added ten pounds."
Aniston had previously talked about the pressure she faced to be skinny in a 1996 cover story for *Rolling Stone*.
The *We're the Millers* star, now 50, appeared on the hit from 1994 until 2004.



Evening in Paris

Angel's brace helps PSG thrash Real 3-0; Herrera snatches late point against Juve



Angel Di Maria celebrates after scoring PSG's opening goal against Real Madrid AP

FIGURATIVELY

- 1 Paris-Real Madrid is the first game in the history of the UCL where both teams have more players of the nationality of the opposing team than of their own in their starting 11 (3 in Real, 1 in Paris — 2 in Paris, 1 in Real).
- 0 Real Madrid failed to have a single shot on target against PSG tonight, the first time they have failed to do so in the UCL since 2003-04 (in 167 games).
- 3 Angel Di Maria is only the 3rd player to score at least 2 goals in a match against Real Madrid and Barcelona in the history of the CL after Mario Jardel and Andriy Shevchenko.
- 4 Angel Di Maria has been involved in 4 of Paris' last 6 goals in the CL (1 goal, 3 assists).
- 7 Kieran Trippier created seven chances for Atlético Madrid against Juventus, the most by any player on MD1 of this season's tournament.
- 2 Atlético de Madrid has conceded two or more goals in three straight matches in all competitions for the second time in the Simeone era, the first was in February 2014.
- 4 Juan Cuadrado has scored each of his four CL goals in away games.
- 1 The 2019-20 CL season is the first campaign to see two different players score a hat-trick on their debut (Mislav Orsic and Erling Haaland).
- 16 The Bayern Munich wins for the 16th time in a row his opening match in the CL and thus expands the record in this competition.
- 2011 It's the first time since Barca and Man Utd in 2011 when both CL winners and runners up did not win their first game in the following season.
- 82 Rodrigo completed all 82 passes that he attempted in Manchester City's win against Shakhtar; the most passes with a 100% success rate in USL since Oct 2017 (Barzagli for Juventus v Sporting CP — 96/96).



AFP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain launched their latest quest for Champions League success with a statement win over Real Madrid on Wednesday, while a late Atletico Madrid comeback foiled Juventus as Manchester City eased to victory in Ukraine.

French giants PSG have failed to make their mark in Europe, crashing out of the Champions League in the last 16 each of the past three years despite the huge sums of money spent by their Qatari owners.

With Neymar suspended and Kylian Mbappe and Edinson Cavani sidelined by injury, Angel Di Maria stepped up in their absence by grabbing two first-half goals in a 3-0 triumph at the Parc des Princes.

Thomas Meunier added the third late on as Madrid, who beat PSG on the way to lifting the trophy in 2016

and 2018, were soundly beaten in their Group A opener with Eden Hazard kept quiet on his full debut. "There's no message sent, but we dominated this game very well," PSG captain Thiago Silva told RMC Sport.

"We have to play like this all the time, in the league as well, with character and hunger."

Real, the 13-time European champions, are still favourites to advance from a section that includes Club Brugge and Galatasaray, who drew 0-0 in Belgium, but the nature of the loss underscored the work that lies ahead for coach Zinedine Zidane.

Diego Simeone's Atletico clawed their way back from two goals down in the final 20 minutes to rescue a 2-2 draw at home to Juventus in Group D.

The anticipated clash between Cristiano Ronaldo and Joao Felix, the teenager



Atletico Madrid's Hector Herrera scores his side's second goal during Group D match against Juventus AP

touted as the heir to Ronaldo's throne, took a backseat to a Atletico rousing comeback after second-half goals from Juan Cuadrado and Blaise Matuidi put Juve in control.

Stefan Savic nodded home from point-blank range to give Atletico hope

and substitute Hector Herrera headed in a corner in the final minute to snatch a point.

"I think we played well but we have a bitter taste in our mouth now because we felt we had the game in our hands," said Juventus boss Maurizio Sarri.

STRONG RESPONSE

Both sides trail Lokomotiv Moscow following the Russians' 2-1 win at Bayer Leverkusen. Grzegorz Krychowiak and Dmitri Barinov scored for Lokomotiv either side of an own goal by former Germany defender Benedikt

"We can't be too surprised because he (Di Maria) has been showing for more than a year now that he is capable of performances like that. He was exceptional tonight. He is always dangerous."

—THOMAS TUCHEL (PSG coach)

"PSG are a good team and created lots of chances but what worries me is that my team played without any intensity. We didn't really ever get going. We usually create lots of chances and today, well we scored two goals but both were disallowed. Apart from that there was nothing."

—ZINEDINE ZIDANE (Real Madrid coach)

"I'm happy to have made my first appearance and to have helped the team. This side is known for how it always fights to the end. A draw against a team like Juventus isn't bad at all. We wanted to win the match but a draw is a good result given the quality of the opposition."

—HECTOR HERRERA (Atletico de Madrid midfielder)

"I think we played well but we have a bitter taste in our mouth now because we felt we had the game in our hands. We need more attention and focus on set-pieces. We will work on that."

—MAURIZIO SARRI (Juventus manager)

"We put ourselves in a great position. But conceding a goal before half-time changed the momentum."

—HARRY KANE (Tottenham Hotspur striker)

"I believe we can be very satisfied, the team concentrated very hard on the job at hand. We scored three goals, that's standard for us."

—NIKO KOVAC (Bayern Munich manager)

"Three points away are so important. Now it's in our hands. If we can close the games at home then we will be in the last 16."

—PEP GUARDIOLA (Manchester City boss)

Hoewedes.

Premier League champions City bounced back from defeat by Norwich at the weekend with a comfortable 3-0 victory against Shakhtar Donetsk in Kharkiv.

Riyad Mahrez slammed home a rebound after Ilkay Gundogan hit the post, and the German international snacked in a second before Gabriel Jesus sealed the points on 76 minutes.

"When you win the manager makes the right decisions, when you lose the wrong decisions. We lost one game in eight months and we will not doubt who these players are. It is a joy to be their manager," coach Pep Guardiola told BT Sport.

City are second to Dinamo Zagreb in Group C after the Croatian champions made it a night to forget for competition debutants Atalanta with a 4-0 rout.

Dinamo failed to score a single goal as they lost all six matches on their last group stage appearance in 2016-17.

However, Marin Leovac gave them a 10th-minute lead and Mislav Orsic bagged a hat-trick as Dinamo got off to a dream start ahead of a trip to City on October 2.

Bayern Munich needed late goals from Robert Lewandowski and Thomas Mueller to make sure of victory against Red Star Belgrade in Group D.

Kingsley Coman's bullet header gave Bayern a first-half lead but the German champions were forced to wait until the 80th minute before Lewandowski ended Red Star's threat.

Substitute Mueller volleyed in a third in stoppage time.

Last year's finalists Tottenham blew a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 at Olympiakos.

Harry Kane's penalty and a fine Lucas Moura strike put Spurs 2-0 up after 30 minutes in Greece, but Daniel Podence cut the deficit shortly before the break and Mathieu Valbuena levelled from the spot in the second half.

SINGLES

DANANJAYA BANNED FOR ILLEGAL ACTION

DUBAI: Sri Lanka off-spinner Akila Dananjaya was on Thursday handed a 12 month ban by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for illegal bowling action. The decision was taken after an independent assessment of his action. The 25-year-old was assessed after the legality of his bowling action came under question during the first Test against New Zealand in Galle on August 14th to 18th. He subsequently underwent the independent assessment in Chennai on August 29, which revealed that he employed an illegal bowling action.

INDIA SLIPS IN FIFA RANKING

ZURICH: The Indian football team on Thursday slipped a place to 104th position in the latest FIFA rankings. The Indian team, coached by Igor Stimac, have been regularly playing since the 2019 Intercontinental Cup in July. Earlier this month, India had held Asian champions Qatar to a goalless draw in Doha to gain their first point in the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers. Qatar held on to their ranking of 62nd position, despite not being able to beat India. Oman, however, gained three places to 84th spot, following their 2-1 win over India. Belgium managed to hold on to the top position, while France have surpassed Brazil to reach the second spot.

MARKRAM, MULDER LED FIGHTBACK

MYSRUR: Skipper Aiden Markram and allrounder Wiaan Mulder hit superb hundreds as South Africa 'A' fought their way to 400 all out against India 'A' on day three of the second unofficial Test on Thursday. Markram geared up for the three-Test series against India with a superb 161, while Mulder produced an unbeaten 131 — as the visitors came within 17 runs of India's first innings of 417. The duo added 155 runs for the sixth wicket stand to resurrect the South Africa A's innings after they were struggling at 142 for 5 at one stage. The home team were 14 for no loss in six overs before bad light resulted in play being called off with over 25 overs still to be bowled.

DIBABA OUT OF WORLDS WITH INJURY

PARIS: Genzebe Dibaba, the 2015 champion and world record holder in the women's 1,500 metres, will miss the World Championships due to a foot injury, the Ethiopian said on Instagram. Dibaba, 28, who won the world title in Beijing in 2015 and set the global best of 3min 50:07sec over the distance the same year, is suffering from a partial rupture to a ligament in her right heel which she suffered during the Zurich Diamond League meeting last month. "Unfortunately I am not able to be in Doha World Championship. I am already working to come back stronger!" she posted alongside a photo.

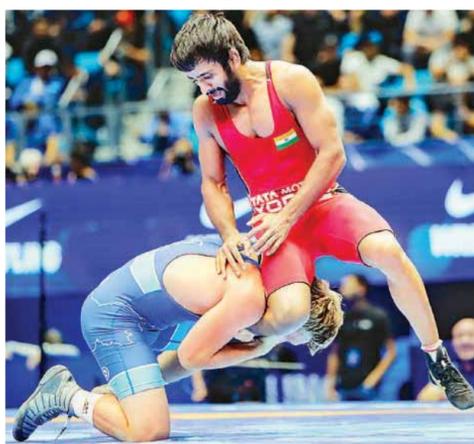
TEAM ANNOUNCED FOR ASIAN SHOOTING

NEW DELHI: A 41-member strong Indian shooting squad will look to secure the maximum possible Olympic quotas in the 14th Asian Championship, which begins in Doha on November 3. Thirty-eight Olympic quota places will be up for grabs in the continental tournament in the Qatari capital. The selection committee of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), announced the team consisting of shooters across the 15 Olympic events, including six entries only for the non-competition Minimum Qualification Score (MQS) section. A notable selection was the fielding of seasoned rifle shooter Sanjeev Rajput in the MQS section of the men's 10m Air Rifle event. There are also some new faces who will be seen for the first time in senior India colours in the Olympic events.

BENGAL BEAT HARYANA STEELERS IN PKL

PUNE: Maninder Singh was the star for Bengal Warriors as they beat Haryana Steelers 48-36 in their Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) match here on Thursday. The victory helped Bengal Warriors consolidate their stay in the second place of the points table. Bengal Warriors dominated the first half of the match with their raiding trio of Maninder Singh, K Prapanjan and Mohammad Nabibaksh picking points with ease against a Haryana defence that evidently lacked leadership. Bengal's dominance was limited to their raids though as their aggressive approach in defence paid rich dividends. AGENCIES

Bajrang loses in semis after qualifying for 2020 Olympics



Bajrang Punia in action against David Habat during the pre-quarter round PTI

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN

Bajrang Punia lost his semi-final bout against home wrestler Daulet Niyazbekov under controversial circumstances after sealing his Tokyo Olympics quota along with Ravi Dahiya, who made his presence felt in a star-studded field at the World Wrestling Championships, here on Thursday.

Bajrang's frustrated coach Shako Benitidis kicked the coach's block in anger after the 65kg bout ended 9-9 following a nerve-wracking six minutes. Since Niyazbekov was given a bigger throw of four points in the bout, he was

declared the winner.

In the fiercely-fought bout, the referee gave ample time to tiring Niyazbekov to catch his breath and he was not given caution at least thrice.

Instead Niyazbekov was awarded four points when it was Bajrang who effected a throw at the edge of the circle.

"I challenged it and they should have given at least two points to Bajrang for that hold," said coach Benitidis.

Several times, Bajrang raised his hands in frustration but to no avail.

The last edition Silver medalist Indian will now fight for the Bronze today.

"It was clear that the mat chairman favoured the home

wrestler," said a coach who did not wish to be named.

Ravi, who felled a few stars on his way to the 57kg semi-finals, lost 4-6 to reigning world champion Zaur Uguev of Russia and will also fight for the Bronze.

Ravi also made it to the Tokyo Olympics in the 57kg after stunning Arsen Harutunyan, the 61kg European champion from Armenia and 2017 world champion and world number three Yuki Takahashi of Japan.

Meanwhile, India's campaign in the women's competition folded following Pooja Dhand's defeat in the Bronze medal bout and first round exits of Sakshi Malik and Divya Kakran.

Pooja could not match his last year's Bronze winning performance as she lost the 59kg Bronze medal play-off 3-5 to 2018 Asian champion Xingru Pei.

There was no end to the woes of Rio Olympic Bronze medalist Sakshi Malik, who lost her opening round 7-10 to Nigeria's Aminat Adeniyi. She was knocked out of the tournament after the Nigerian lost her quarterfinal bout.

Sakshi waited too long to attack while her powerful opponent moved quickly.

In the 68kg, Divya Kakran could not do much against reigning Olympic champion Sara Dosho from Japan, losing the bout 0-2.

Dosho later lost her quarterfinal bout, closing repechage doors on Divya.

Kamal-Sathiyan storm into quarters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian men's doubles pair of G Sathiyan and Achanta Sharath Kamal sailed into the quarterfinals of the 24th ITTF Asian Table Tennis Championships with easy win over Mahfoodh Sayed Murtadha and Rashed Rashed of Bahrain at Yogyakarta, Indonesia on Thursday.

The Indian duo beat Murtadha and Rashed 11-8, 11-6, 11-3 in a lop-sided affair.

In the quarterfinals, Sathiyan and Sharath Kamal will be up against Chinese pair of Liang Jingkun and Lin Gaoyuan.

Earlier in the day after receiving first-round bye, the Indians got the better of Jordan's Abo Yaman Zaid and Aldmaizy Zeyad 11-4, 11-7, 11-7 in the round of 32.

But the other Indian pair of Harmeet Desai and Anthony Amalraj, after enjoying a bye in the round of 64, lost to Chinese Taipei's Liu Hsing-Yin and Peng Wang Wei.

Harmeet and Amalraj fought hard before losing 11-5, 7-11, 11-3, 8-11, 6-11 against their accomplished Chinese rivals.

It was curtains for India in the women's doubles as the pair of Manika Batra and Archana Kamath and Madhurika Patkar and Sutirtha Mukherjee bowed out the tournament.

The pair of Manika and Archana had an easy round of 64 outing, beating the Kazak duo of Lavnova Anastasiya and Khuseinova Gulchekhra 3-0 but lost in the next round to Korean combination of Yang Haeun and

In the quarters, Sathiyan & Sharath Kamal will be up against Chinese pair of Liang Jingkun & Lin Gaoyuan

Jeon Jhee 6-11, 9-11, 7-11.

Madhurika and Sutirtha followed suit as they lost to Doo Hoi Kem and Lee Ho Ching of Hong Kong 9-11, 5-11, 11-13 after clearing the round of 64 hurdle against Macau's Tao Chong and Lei Wai Mei 3-0.

In the mixed event, the pairs of Sharath Kamal-Manika and Sathiyan-Archana lost in the round of 32.

While Korean pair of Lee Sangsu and Jeo Jhee accounted for Sharath and Manika 11-9, 11-8, 11-7, China's Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha beat Sathiyan and Archana 11-7, 11-9, 13-11.

In men singles, Sharath Kamal, Sathiyan, Amalraj, Harmeet and Manav Thakkar had all received first-round byes and registered 3-0 wins over their respective rivals in the round of 128.

Only Harmeet dropped a game against Panagitgun Yanapang of Thailand before overcoming his rival 11-9, 6-11, 11-5, 11-5.

All the Indian men's singles paddlers will play their round of 64 matches later in the day.

In women singles, Archana enjoyed the random bye in the round of 128 while others had to play their first round matches to enter the round of 64.

Panghal, Manish aim for history

PTI ■ EKATERINBURG

India would be aiming to better their best ever show when Amit Panghal (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) step inside the ring against tough opponents in pursuit of summit berths in the World Men's Boxing Championship here today.

India have never had two semifinalists at the marquee event for amateur boxers and in that respect, the two Haryana boxers have already scripted history.

But if both or either of them manages to make the finals, it would be a gigantic step forward for the sport in the country.

The task, however, is easier said than done.

Panghal has in his way Kazakhstan's Saken Bibossinov, who stunned Armenia's European Gold-medallist and sixth seed Artur Hovhannissyan in the quarterfinals.

Kaushik, on the other hand, faces the most accomplished boxer in his weight category — Cuban top seed Andy Gomez Cruz, who out-punched Russia's eighth-seeded Ilia Popov in the last-eight stage.

"Now begins the tough job. We have already delivered on bettering the medal count and now we aim to better their colour," Indian Boxing's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva said.

"I am happy but I won't be completely happy till the time both of them reach the finals and they surely can, both of them," added the country's chief coach C A Kuttappa.

They are up against tough challengers but that in no way



makes them automatic underdogs.

Panghal, the pint-sized dynamo from Rohtak, is the reigning Asian Games and Championships Gold-medallist and has back-to-back gold medals at one of Europe's oldest tournament — the Strandja Memorial.

Kaushik, the shy man hailing from the cradle of Indian boxing Bhiwani, is a Commonwealth Games Gold-medallist and is a two-time national medal winner.

Both are employed with the Indian Army and both have shown a soldier's grit in some draining bouts so far.

QUALIFIERS SEALED
Amit Panghal (52kg) and

Manish Kaushik (63kg) have also made the Indian boxing squad for next year's Olympic Qualifiers owing to their medal-winning show.

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) had made it clear that boxers who win medals at the world championships will be automatic picks for the Olympic qualifiers scheduled in February in China.

"Yes, Amit and Manish will be going to the qualifiers. There will not be any trials in their weight categories now," Indian Boxing's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva said.

The rest of the squad will be picked on the basis of camp performance, points accumulated at international events and in some cases, trials.

FROM START TO STOP

Deepak fond of bowling at death despite success in the starting overs

PTI ■ MOHALI

Most bowlers find it tough to contain batsmen in death overs but young India pacer Deepak Chahar relishes the challenge in the Twenty20 format.

With India giving youngsters opportunities ahead of the T20 World Cup next year, 27-year-old Chahar has impressed in the three games he has got since making his debut in July last year, taking six wickets at 11.50.

Used to opening the bowling for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, Chahar has shown he can be equally effective in the death overs.

"I don't know how I developed it (bowling at the top) but you have to do it when you are playing for India. It is challenging with only two fielders outside the circle. But I have started thinking sub-consciously that I will need to bowl three overs with two fielders outside the circle," said Chahar, who was India's standout bowler in their seven-wicket win over South Africa on Wednesday.

In his opening spell of three overs, Chahar swung the ball and picked up the wicket of Reeza Hendricks before returning in the 18th over to remove a set Temba Bavuma with a well-disguised slower ball.

"Earlier I used to bowl more in the death overs and find it easier because in Powerplay you have only two fielders outside the circle and after that you have the protection of five fielders. You can use variation also in death overs," he said.

Chahar said he focuses on out-guessing the batsman.

"How I bowl depends on the batsmen. In the death overs, the batsman is expecting yorkers or a slower ball but if you can also bowl a bouncer or knuckle ball, it can surprise him. You to have to keep guessing the batsman,"



Deepak Chahar, left, looks on as Quinton de Kock completes a run during the second T20 match in Mohali on Wednesday

Earlier I used to bowl more in the death overs and find it easier because in Powerplay you have only two fielders outside the circle and after that you have the protection of five fielders
— Deepak Chahar

said the Rajasthan pacer.

He feels bowling on flat wickets in Chennai during the IPL has made him a better bowler.

"There is no off the wicket help when you are playing in Chennai. But when we were playing in Pune last to last year, there was help both off the wicket and in the air. But in Chennai, the swing is there for maximum one over as there is no grass. So, I got confidence that if I could do well there, I could do well elsewhere too," he said.

Chahar has grabbed his chances so far but knows he is far from cementing his place in the side ahead of the T20 World Cup in Australia.

"There is one whole year left for that. I play each match as if it is my last for India. At this time Indian cricket is at the top. If you want to play you have to do well in almost every game. There is a lot of competition and may be that is why Indian cricket is at the top."

"There is no guarantee that you will get your place back even if you are returning from an injury."

Talking about Virat Kohli's match-winning knock of 72 not out, Chahar was all praise.

"He is just next level and all class," he said.



Tamba Bavuma plays a shot during the second T20 international match

We were not outplayed by beatable India: Bavuma

PTI ■ MOHALI

Test specialist Temba Bavuma, who had a decent outing in his debut in the shortest format.

South Africa looked set for 180 when skipper Quinton de Kock (52) and Bavuma (49) were in the middle before the southpaw's dismissal put the brakes on the scoring rate, limiting the total to 149 for five.

"The first 10-12 overs we played really well. I think we could not really get going after a good start and lost the game between 12th to the 15th over," Bavuma, who has played 36 Tests, said after the seven-wicket loss to India.

"When David came in the 13th over, we were in a strong position, 180 seemed very much gettable at the halfway stage. I was not really able to get that momentum and others as well. I don't think we were completely outplayed," said Bavuma who missed out on a well-deserved fifty by one run in his attempt to accelerate.

The 29-year-old from Cape Town said India are formidable

but not unbeatable as the Proteas aim to level the series in Bengaluru on Sunday.

"They are formidable but not unbeatable. It was just one phase with the bat where we let ourselves down and a quality side like India made us pay."

"There will always be moments in the game which we can win and it is about being aware of those moments and making sure we are in the right mental space to win those moments," said Bavuma.

Playing his first limited-overs game for South Africa in almost two years, Bavuma made it count.

"It was good to be out there. Facing the white ball again. It has been a while. It was a pleasing effort but did not do much to the result of the game. Last (domestic) season was a big season for me in white ball cricket. There were not many Tests and that allowed me to play white ball cricket."

"I got the opportunity to come back to the national fold. It helped me understand what my gameplan is in white ball cricket," he explained.

SL to go ahead with Pak tour despite terror fears

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's cricket board on Thursday said it will go ahead with its tour of Pakistan despite fears that players could be the targets of terror attacks during the six-match visit.

Sri Lanka Cricket secretary Mohan de Silva said they received the all-clear from the defence ministry to leave for Pakistan on Tuesday after establishing that there was no threat to the national team.

Sri Lanka Cricket added in a statement that the governing body was assured the Pakistan army would coordinate security set at a level usually reserved for a head of state.

"Sri Lanka Cricket wishes to announce that the forthcoming tour of Pakistan will go ahead as planned, following assurances given by the government of Pakistan that it will provide maximum security," the statement said.

De Silva added that he and "our office bearers will also be accompanying the team".

Reports last week of a possible terror attack were referred to the defence ministry for investigation.

The six-match tour, due to start on September 27, was put on hold last week after the Sri Lanka prime minister's office warned the board it had unspecified information about a possible attack against its players.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said it was not aware of any information relating to the safety of the Sri Lankan team, but reiterated its commitment to providing security.

Paine sees 'very exciting era' for Aus

AFP ■ SYDNEY

Captain Tim Paine has predicted a "very exciting era" for Australian cricket after the team retained the Ashes against England, while revealing he broke his thumb in the final Test.

The series was drawn 2-2, with Australia keeping the urn as the Ashes holders despite losing the last Test at the Oval by 135 runs.

"I'm looking forward to Australia seeing how far we've come this summer," Paine said in a column for The Australian newspaper, referring to upcoming home Tests against Pakistan and New Zealand.

"Last year we were a bit lost and were finding our way," he added after the side struggled in the wake of the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

"I know we have found it now and I am confident this group is the beginning of a very exciting era in Australian cricket. We've got the best bowling attack in the world and the basis for a great batting line-up."

Australia retaining the Ashes was built on the back of an



Australia's Steve Smith, second left, celebrates catching England's Chris Woakes during the third day of the fifth Ashes

incredible series by former skipper Steve Smith, who scored 774 runs in just seven innings, and an impressive bowling attack led by Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood.

Paine called Smith "a freak" while also praising Marnus Labuschagne as having "a huge future" after he too enjoyed a stellar tour with the bat. But he revealed the last Test was a struggle for himself and fast bowler Peter Siddle.

"My thumb was broken towards the end of that Test but it is not displaced, so I should be right to get back into training early," said Paine, while praising workhorse Siddle who was battling a hip injury.

"He has copped a bit of criticism for not bowling as well as... We know he can, but the team knows just how heroic he was."

"A lot of other people wouldn't have bowled again in the match, but he pushed on

because he didn't want to leave Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins to do extra work." Coming off a long overseas tour and with five home Tests starting from November 21, Paine said he needs to rest and will not play the domestic Big Bash League Twenty20 competition this season.

"Being captain is draining and I think I should take every chance to recharge my batteries," he said.

No question of replacing Virat as captain: Hesson

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Virat Kohli's record as the Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper might have been below-par but the team's newly-appointed Director of Cricket Mike Hesson ruled out any change in leadership for the under-performing franchise in the next IPL edition.

Despite stars like Kohli, AB de Villiers and Chris Gayle (for better part), RCB has not won the IPL since the event's inception. Kohli has led the team in seven of those seasons. Hesson nipped questions on Kohli controlling the team and change in captaincy in the bud.

"We don't have that perception that Virat controls things. But maybe he has had his learnings from the past (mistakes) while moving forward," Hesson said on Thursday.

Hesson said Kohli has been on the same page as him and chief coach Simon Katich. "There has been no question mark over Virat's captaincy during last couple of weeks (of dis-



Virat Kohli in a file picture

completed, the work starts then, not a week before the tournament starts. We would have clarity in roles that players need to perform," he said.

On recruitment of domestic players, Hesson said there are specific players they would be looking at and not just statistical highlights during the Mushtaq Ali or Vijay Hazare Trophy.

"During Vijay Hazare and Mushtaq Ali Trophy, we would like to see players we want to fit in. It's more about finding out how players build context around performance, conditions and pressure situations," he said.

Hesson also agreed that the team needs to consider consistent performances and not one odd innings before selecting players.

"Form is a factor but we need to be more holistic in terms of how we talent scout. We look at four-year period as then they are ready to deliver when put under the pump. It doesn't happen after one good season," he said.

PTI ■ SURAT

Eves take on SA

Rookie teenager Shafali Verma, who has been picked in India's T20 squad, would be the cynosure of all eyes when the Board President's XI takes on the South Africa women in a warm-up match here today.

The 15-year-old Shafali was named in the Indian women's team for the T20 series against South Africa following her good performance in the

Women's T20 challenge earlier and at the age-group level this year.

The diminutive Haryana-girl would like to make optimum use of the warm-up game and get runs under her belt if she is given an opportunity in the playing XI.

The first warm-up game will be held on Friday at the Lalbhai Contractor stadium here

followed by the second match on Sunday.

Apart from Shafali, pacers Mansi Joshi and Pooja Vastrakar have also been named in the T20 squad and a good outing on Friday would also boost their morale before the main tournament begins here on Tuesday.

On the other hand, the South Africa women will also be aiming to start

their Indian tour on a winning note. They would be keen to use these games to assess the conditions and get acclimatised to the hot and humid weather. All the T20s will be played in Surat while the ODIs will be played in Vadodara.

BPXI: Sushma Verma (captain & wicket-keeper), Devika Vaidya (vice-captain), Vanitha VR, Shafali Verma, Priya Punia, Jasia Aktar, MD Thirushkani, Madhuri

Mehta, Tarannum Pathan, Sushree Dibyardarshini, Tanuja Kanwar, Bharti Fulmali, Mansi Joshi, Renuka Singh, Pooja Vastrakar.

SA women: Sune Luus (Captain), Anneke Bosch, Tasmin Brits, Nadine de Klerk, Shabnim Ismail, Sinalo Jafta, Ayabonga Khaka, Lara Goodall, Lizelle Lee, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Tumi Sekhukhune, Nondumiso Shangase, Mignon du Preez and Lara Wolvaardt.

Smith has complicated technique but organised mindset: Tendulkar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian icon Sachin Tendulkar lauded Steve Smith for his exemplary batting, saying the former Australia skipper's "organised mindset" and "complicated technique" set him apart among his contemporaries.

Tendulkar praised Smith, the numero uno batsman in Tests right now, for his fantastic comeback in red-ball cricket in the just-concluded Ashes series.

"COMPLICATED TECHNIQUE but an ORGANIZED MINDSET is what sets @stevsmith49 apart. Incredible comeback!#ENGvsAUS," Tendulkar posted on his Twitter handle.

Smith has a unique batting style, which is both unorthodox as well as genius and Tendulkar tried to explain the Australian's game in his social media post.

"In the first Test, the English bowlers tried to get him caught behind the wickets with slips and gully in place," Tendulkar explained.

"And Smith just shuffled across and exposed his leg stumps to cover the line, and was selective and smart in his approach."

"At Lord's, they had leg-slip for him on occasions and a few short-pitched deliveries against Jofra Archer got him in trouble as he tried to cover the line with the weight on his back-foot."

Smith was hit by a vicious Jofra Archer bouncer in the first innings of the second Ashes Test at Lord's. The blow was so severe that he didn't come out to bat in the second innings and also missed the next Test at Headingley. Tendulkar went on to explain what Smith did wrong when he was hit by the bouncer.

"The most important thing for any bats-



Steve Smith in action during Ashes

man is to keep the head position forward and wait leaning forward or marginally in-line," said Tendulkar, the only player to feature in 200 Tests.

"Smith got into bad positions and that's how he probably got hit."

"In the final two Tests, he was leaving the ball while leaning forward, and looked in better positions. He worked on his technique very smartly. That is why I say, complicated technique, but extremely organised mindset."

Praneeth keeps hope alive

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU (CHINA)

Reigning world champion PV Sindhu made an early exit from the China Open but B Sai Praneeth kept the Indian flag fluttering with a hard-fought straight-game win to reach the men's singles quarterfinals here on Thursday.

Sindhu, an Olympic Silver medalist, squandered a first-game advantage to go down 12-21, 21-13, 21-19 to Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong in a women's singles pre-quarterfinals that lasted 58 minutes here.

Praneeth, who had claimed a Bronze medal at Basel, edged out China's Lu Guang Zu 21-19, 21-19 to set up a meeting against Indonesian seventh seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting.

Ginting beat India's Parupalli Kashyap 23-21, 15-21, 21-12 in a thrilling contest. Doubles specialist Satwiksairaj



B Sai Praneeth in action during World Championship

Rankireddy also had a dismal day as he suffered twin defeats, losing both the men's doubles and mixed doubles pre-quarterfinals.

In men's doubles, Satwik and Chirag Shetty, ranked 15th in the world, ran out of steam after a decent start against fourth-seeded Japanese pair of Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda and went down 19-21, 8-21 in the second-round match that lasted 33 minutes.

This is the second time Satwik and Chirag have lost to the combination of Kamura and Sonoda this year. They had lost to the World No 4 pair at the Japan Open in July.

Satwik then paired up with his mixed doubles partner Ashwini Ponanappa but the duo couldn't get past Yuki Kaneko and Misaki Matsutomo, losing 11-21, 21-16,

12-21 to the Japanese pair.

Ashwini also tasted defeat in women's doubles after she and her partner N Sikki Reddy lost 12-21, 17-21 to second seeded Japanese pair of Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi.

Sindhu, who came into the match with a 3-0 head-to-head lead against Pornpawee, dominated the first game as she lead 7-1 early on but the Thai shuttler reduced the deficit to 10-11 at the break.

However, Sindhu reeled off eight straight points after the interval to jump to 19-10 and eventually sealed the first game comfortably.

The decider started on an even note as both the shuttlers fought hard, moving together till 6-6 when Sindhu surged ahead to enjoy a 11-7 cushion at the break.

However, Pornpawee kept breathing down Sindhu's neck and slowly moved to 15-19. From there, the Thai shuttler blasted six straight points to leave the Indian shocked.