

**ANALYSIS 7**  
FOCUS ON  
MAKING HISTORY**MONEY 8**  
NIRAV MODI REMANDED  
TILL OCTOBER 17**SPORTS 12**  
KAMAL-SATHIYAN  
STORM INTO QUARTERS

VIJAYAWADA, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3

VIJAYAWADA DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL  
RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI DEHRADUN HYDERABAD\* Late City Vol. 1 Issue 325  
\* Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

**Quality PDS  
rice from  
April: Jagan****VIJAYAWADA:** Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy directed officials to take steps for distribution of quality rice in all the districts from April 1.

He held a review meeting on the performance of the Civil Supplies department at his camp office in Tadepalli on Thursday and enquired about the implementation of distribution of quality rice in Srikakulam district.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to collect the required quantity of quality rice to be distributed from April 1 across the State. He asked the officials to create awareness among people to return the rice bags for recycling.

He also urged officials to make arrangements for issue of ration cards in December.

**Lakshmisha  
to probe  
Godavari boat  
tragedy****AMARAVATI:** The State Government has appointed East Godavari Joint Collector Dr G Lakshmisha as enquiry officer to probe the boat mishap, in which 34 lost their lives. According to East Godavari SP, Adanan Naseem Asmi, none of the 13 missing was traced on Thursday.

Earlier, the police on Thursday arrested the boat owner K Vankata Ramana who was absconding all these days.

**Oil crisis to  
have impact on  
inflation, fiscal  
Numvers: Das****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. Drones 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. Addressing the Bloomberg India economic summit here this evening, Das said he expects the Saudi crisis to have only limited impact on inflation and the fiscal numbers given the lower subsidy outgo.

**TODAY****ALMANAC**

Month &amp; Paksham:

Bhradrapada &amp; 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

Varijam: 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

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:14

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms

Temp: 32/25

Humidity: 85%

Sunrise

## Navy exercise enters sea phase

PNS ■ VIJAKHAPATNAM

Sea Phase of maiden SITMEX-19 (Singapore India Thailand Maritime Exercise), between Indian Navy, Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) commenced in the Andaman Sea from Wednesday.

Indian Naval ships Ranvir, a Guided Missile Destroyer, Kora, a Missile Corvette, Sumedha, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, along with Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft P8I are jointly exercising with RSS Tenacious, a formidable-class Guided Missile Stealth Frigate and HTMS Kraburi, a Guided Missile Frigate, engaged in various Gunnery, Force Protection Measures, Air Defence and Communication Exercises to enhance maritime interoperability between the participating navies.

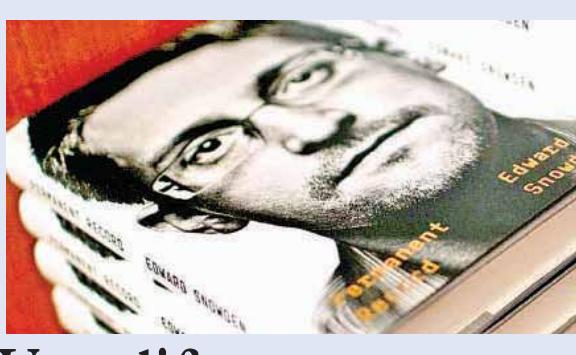
Sea Riders have also been exchanged between participating ships to provide experience sharing of best practices.



Singapore naval personnel display their delicacies at Port Blair during the naval exercise in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

**Sea Riders have also been exchanged between participating ships to provide experience sharing of best practices**

experience sharing of best practices.



## Your life now an open book, Snowden says in memoir

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Close to two decades since the 9/11 attacks, the surveillance system built by the US spy agencies has become so sophisticated that they can access every single detail about you, irrespective of your location, whistleblower Edward Snowden says in his much-awaited memoir 'Permanent Record' released this week.

Snowden, who served as an officer of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and worked as a contractor for the National Security Agency (NSA), rocked the world in 2013 after he revealed that the US was secretly building a way to collect the data of every person in the world, including phone calls, text messages and email.

"No matter the place, no matter the time, and no matter what you do, your life has now become an open book," Snowden wrote in his memoir published by Macmillan.

The 339-page book details how the change in the American espionage system - from targeted surveillance of individuals to mass surveillance - took effect. The title of the book refers to the system of storing data permanently and the dangers associated with it.

The intelligence community in the US sought to take advantage of the fact that about 20 years ago hardly

**The book is as much about the unethical practices of spy agencies, as it is about Snowden's meteoric rise within the CIA and NSA**

any online communications were encrypted. And what prompted them to exploit this vulnerability was the 9/11 attacks.

The book is as much about the unethical practices of spy agencies, as it is about Snowden's meteoric rise within the CIA and NSA, and the struggles with his conscience. It is also about his greatest regrets and the final triumphs.

"September 12 (the day after the September 11 attack of 2001) was the first day of a new era, which America faced with a unified resolve, strengthened by a revived sense of patriotism and the goodwill and sympathy of the world."

"In retrospect, my country could have done so much with this opportunity... Instead, it went to war."

"The greatest regret of my life is my reflexive, unquestioning support for that decision," Snowden, who got his first top secret clearance from the NSA when he was just a 22-year-old, said.

## Srinivasa Kalyanam at Kolar tomorrow

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As a part of its objective to spread the glory of Lord Venkateswara and fulfil the ambition of devotees to witness the grand wedding ceremony, sitting in their home turf, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has been organising Srinivasa Kalyanam since many years.

The Srinivasa Kalyanam Project of TTD will organise the celestial event at the Government Junior College grounds in Kolar town of Karnataka on September 21. Special Officer of the project Prabhakar Rao is supervising the arrangements.

Chairman and Managing Director of RINL PK Rath released Vizag Quest, a house annual technical journal of RINL fraternity, in UKKunagaram on Thursday.

The journal being run by an editorial team consisting of senior officers of all technical departments to showcase the knowledge and experiences, latest know-how and innovations in iron and steel industry.

Rath congratulated the editorial team and advised them to bring out the future issues of Vizag Quest theme based, highlighting the latest trends, technology and industrial issues connected with the iron and steel industry in a simplest terminology for easy understanding of readers.

VV Venugopal Rao, Director (Finance), DK Mohanty, Director (Commercial), KV Vidyasagar, ED (Works) I/c, NK Nayak, ED (Services) and I/c Maintenance, V Ramamurthy, ED (Energy and Utilities), were present on the occasion. Members of the editorial board of the journal were also present.

## People gear up for Dandiya

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The city is set to be soaked in the glitz and glamour of Dandiya this year. With every passing year, the celebrations have become brighter and more extravagant. From the youth to the middle-aged, people in the city are enthusiastically coming forward to participate in the events.

As the dance form has been receiving a good response from the city, many have been holding training sessions for the people. The SS Convention Centre at Labbipet will start its training on September 28 and passes will be given at Jyothi Convention Centre near Benz Circle up to September 26.

Dandiya is the most popular dance of Gujarat. It is usually performed in a group by both men and women. The special feature of the Dandiya dance is the colourful attire worn by the dancers and the colourful sticks carried by them. The wooden sticks used as prop are beautifully decorated.

Performers hold bamboo sticks, attractively painted in different colours, in their hands and strike them together to the beats of musical instruments. Dandiya involves a large number of people at a time forming circles in clockwise and anti-clockwise directions.

The Dandiya dance originated as devotional Garba dance, which was performed in Goddess Durga's honour. This dance form is actually the staging of a mock-fight between Goddess Durga and Mahishasura, the mighty demon king. This dance is also nicknamed 'The Sword Dance'. The sticks represent the sword of Goddess Durga. The main identifiable feature of Dandiya is its dress code. The dress codes for women and men are different. For women, it is a three-piece ghagra, cholis, and odhni. Men in Dandiya dress



A dance training session underway ahead of Navaratri festivities in Vijayawada

■ Performers hold bamboo sticks, attractively painted in different colours, in their hands and strike them together to the beats of musical instruments. Dandiya involves a large number of people at a time forming circles in clockwise and anti-clockwise directions

■ As the dance form has been receiving a good response from the city, many have been holding training sessions for the people

■ The SS Convention Centre at Labbipet will start its training on September 28 and passes will be given at Jyothi Convention Centre near Benz Circle up to September 26

■ Dandiya is the most popular dance of Gujarat. It is usually performed in a group by both men and women. The special feature of the Dandiya dance is the colourful attire worn by the dancers and the colourful sticks carried by them. The wooden sticks used as prop are beautifully decorated

**Dandiya dance originated as devotional Garba dance, which was performed in Goddess Durga's honour. This dance form is actually the staging of a mock-fight between Goddess Durga and Mahishasura, the mighty demon king. This dance is also nicknamed 'The Sword Dance'**

up in matching colourful traditional dhotis and kurta with lots of mirrors on the dress," said co-founder of Creative Soul, Neha Jain.

"With its quick movements, thus dance can be considered of martial arts variety. Later, it would be accompanied by a percussion instrument

'meddles' drummer, who stands at the centre of the circle and leads the dance with rhythmic beats. We at Creative Soul are happy to organise this dance in the city and we have worked hard to make this event successful and we have provided hours of uninterrupted training to enthusiastic artists. We are trying to explore these types of interesting programmes and introducing them to the city," said co-founder Suman Meena.

According to Meena, the Dandiya training programme will be held for 21 days for youth in Vijayawada.

IIT-Madras hosts Space Technology Cells meet

IANS ■ CHENNAI

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) on Thursday said it had hosted the first meeting of Space Technology Cells (STCs) established by ISRO and the Department of Space in these premier institutions.

In a statement issued here, IIT-M said the ISRO - IIT Madras Space Technology Cell Confluence 2019, the first meeting of all the Space Technology Cells, was held at IIT-M on September 16-17.

The objective was to share information about the research underway in various institutions, the salient findings, and to understand the utilisation of output by ISRO.

The ISRO and the Central government's Department of Space have established and operated the Space Technology Cells for over three decades in IIT-M, IIT Bombay, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Guwahati, IIT Roorkee, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, to carry out focused research in space-related technologies. According to the statement, IIT-M Director Bhaskar Ramamurthy highlighted the importance of collaborative research and suggested mechanisms for the faculty to spend three to four weeks in ISRO centres to interact with the scientists and understand ways to make joint proposals.



## RINL technical journal released

PNS ■ VIJAKHAPATNAM



PK Rath, CMD, RINL-VSP, releasing the journal in the presence of RINL Directors and others in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

■ PK Rath congratulated the editorial team and advised them to bring out the future issues of Vizag Quest theme based, highlighting the latest trends, technology and industrial issues connected with the iron and steel industry in a simplest terminology for easy understanding of readers

A lot of changes have come up in the areas of iron and steel

sector and they would be highlighted in the journal.

The current issue of Vizag Quest in 2019 was started with 18 papers in diverse areas starting from Coke Ovens to Rolling Mills and consisting of papers connected with process, product and environmental improvements encountered in Vizag Steel.

It is also aimed at not only share this knowledge internally, but also with fellow steel industry mates and educational institutions in the country.

## APOSAN pump brings normalcy in Parkinson's disease patient's life

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Sixty-nine-year-old Dr Vendanapu Venkateswarlu, a resident of Vijayawada, doctor by profession, who was suffering from Parkinson's disease, a central nervous system disorder that adversely affected his movements, is now back to his normal routine after doctors made use of the APOSAN pump to tackle the disease.

"As Parkinson's disease progresses, the Dopamine storage in the brain becomes increasingly compromised, narrowing the window for therapy and leading to motor fluctuations. The APOSAN pump is a continuous, subcutaneous infusion of Apomorphine that bypasses the dysfunctional Gastrointestinal (GI) tract to distribute a continuous and accurate concentration of Dopamine receptor stimula-

tion," said Dr Naveen Thota, MD (General Medicine), DM, Neurology, Consultant Neurologist, ANU Institute of Neuro and Cardiac Sciences.

Dr Venkateswarlu was suffering from advanced-stage Parkinson's where treatment becomes a big challenge. We are happy to note that APOSAN worked really well on him and has tremendously improved his quality of life," he added.

The APOSAN pump is an infusion pump specially designed for continuous subcutaneous infusion of Apomorphine in managing the symptoms of Parkinson's disease. The pump delivers medication throughout the day to treat motor fluctuations in patients with Parkinson's disease, which are not sufficiently controlled by oral anti-Parkinson medication.

## AG & SG Siddhartha bags men, women cross country titles

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



Krishna University Vice-Chancellor Sundara Krishna and world-renowned athlete Manikanda Raj giving away shields to the KRUIC cross country race champions AG and SG Siddhartha College of Vuyyuru at Nunna near Vijayawada on Thursday

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor Sundara Krishna said that the university

is granting 5% to 10% extra marks to those who participate in South Zone and All India Inter-University championships and bag medals.

Krishna University Selection

Krishna University Vice-Chancellor Sundara Krishna said that the university is granting five per cent to ten per cent extra marks to those who participate in South Zone and All India Inter-University championships and bag medals

Committee Board secretary Dr N Srinivas informed that the South Zone Inter-University meet for men will be held at Mangalore University from October 5 while the women's championship will be held at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, from October 10.

Vikas Educational

Institutions Chairman N Narasimha Reddy, B.Ped College Principal Dr S Raju, Sports Board members R Raghu, D Balakrishna, tournament Organising Secretary Ratnababu as well as Physical Directors Udaykumar and Raghu participated.

### VIJAYAWADA BULLION RATES

GOLD	₹ 37,960 (10 gm)
SILVER	₹ 157
₹ 46,200 (1kg)	
₹ 521	

### CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG

Dressed/With Skin	₹146
Without Skin	₹167
Broiler at Farm	₹99

### EGG RATES ₹/100

HYDERABAD	368
VIJAYAWADA	393
VIJAYAWADA	408

RETAIL PRICE ₹3.93  
(IN VIJAYAWADA)

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

Printed and Published by B Krishna Prasad on Behalf of CMYK Printech Limited. Printed at Jagati Publications Limited, Sakshi Press, Door No. 5-625, Vadlamudi Road, Atmakur Village, Mangalagiri Mandal, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh. Published at Door No. 40-4-11, Flat No.501, Sujatha Citadel, Jasti Venkataratnam Street, Behind DV Manor Hotel, Vijayawada, Krishna District, AP. Resident Editor B Krishna Prasad RNI title Code no. APENG03628. Phone No. 0866-2479001.



## 20 stray dogs killed in Ramavarappadu

**Vijayawada:** Residents of Sai Model Village Colony at Ramavarappadu on the outskirts of the city on Thursday lodged a complaint against the Panchayat Office staff, stating that they had killed 20 dogs in the areas by administering poisonous injections at the behest of the Panchayat Executive Officer.

A resident of the colony - Nagamani - said she had seen an auto rickshaw with the 'Swachh Bharat' poster and many carcasses of dogs in it. She also said two persons working in the Ramavarappadu Panchayat Office were also inside the vehicle. She claimed that when she questioned them they had told her that the Panchayat EO had ordered them to kill the dogs. The residents demanded action against the Panchayat Office staff under Sections 428 and 429 of the Prevention of Cruelty towards Animals Act-1960.

# Contractors reluctant to take up VMC works

G RAVI KIRAN  
VIJAYAWADA

Generally, contractors will be always in the race to grab the contracts, but of late, the former are reluctant to take up works of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC), as the civic body, which has been facing financial crunch, is not in a position to clear the bills in time.

New contractors, who do not have any clout, are not showing interest in the works. Taking advantage of the situation, regular contractors are accepting the works and trying to get the bills cleared using political influence.

"VMC works? No chance. I would rather go for private civil works. Accepting works in VMC and making rounds to the office seeking clearance of bills is something I don't want to do," said Madhav, a contractor.

But the question arises as to how some contractors are able to manage things. The answer lies in that fact that they are the ones, who have considerable political influence. Normally, they have the support of MLAs or MPs and manage to influence them in getting their bills passed in parts from different accounts, including late payment surcharge.

Under such a situation, no new contractor dares enter the VMC portals.

M Shyam Sundar, a contractor, said "In VMC, until now, there is no proper planning for the works and tenders. They will invite tenders, but the budget for the works will be only on paper. Sometimes, the proposals change



**A corporator said, "Nobody is coming forward to take up the works of VMC. If the work is taken up under General Funds, the payment cannot be expected within a year. The contractors are showing interest only in the works sanctioned under various schemes of Central and State governments"**

and the budget may be cancelled on account of this. Then, the contractor will be in trouble as he has to wait for years to get the bill passed."

When Swachh Survekshan was implemented, VMC authorities had ordered the Engineering Department to clear huge mounds of garbage accumulated over a period of time at the vehicle depot. Accordingly, engineering department officials arranged a contractor, who had the garbage cleared immediately.

ly. An employee of the vehicle depot said, "We had informed a contractor, who agreed to take up the work and immediately arranged for disposal of garbage with tippers. But, to get that bill released, he had to wait for two years. When there is work, the officials give orders just like that, but later when it comes to clearing the bills, they cite many procedural excuses."

A former corporator in the city once exposed a similar incident. In his division, many roads

were damaged and were lying in the same condition for years. He said, "Nobody is coming forward to take up the work. If the work is taken up under General Funds, the payment cannot be expected within a year. The contractors are showing interest only in the works sanctioned under various schemes of the Central and State governments.

All contractors, who have political clout, will take up these works and others have to be content with ones awarded under General Funds. I tried for road works under MPLAD Funds, but it was not to be."

were damaged and were lying in the same condition for years. He said, "Nobody is coming forward to take up the work. If the work is taken up under General Funds, the payment cannot be expected within a year. The contractors are showing interest only in the works sanctioned under various schemes of the Central and State governments. All contractors, who have political clout, will take up these works and others have to be content with ones awarded under General Funds. I tried for road works under MPLAD Funds, but it was not to be."

Posters depicting the 50th year of formation of CPI Maoist party appeared in the forest villages of Mulugu which prompted the police to set their forces on high alert. The posters purportedly issued by the Telangana state committee of CPI Maoists exhorted the people of the forest villages to celebrate the 50th year of formation of the naxalite wing and they were accompanied by pamphlets highlighting the importance and existence of the Maoist activity in the state of Telangana.

The party pamphlet called upon the people to observe a week of formation from 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.

Ramulu also alleged that the

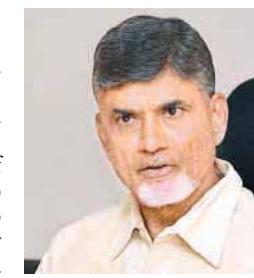
Sharing details of his meeting with the Governor, Naidu stated that the Governor has assured him of all possible help in the case

"YSRCP government is acting in a vindictive manner against opposition parties. Kodela was harassed with false cases under serious charges, which caused him mental agony," Naidu said

"Petty cases were filed against him under Sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC), which are non-bailable and moreover, false allegations were levelled against him by persons of no integrity," Naidu added

Kodela was harassed with false cases under serious charges, which caused him mental agony," Naidu said

"In these four months of rule, YSRCP has totally caught hold of the police department. Cases without any substance are being filed on our leaders, but no action is being taken on the high-handedness of YSRCP leaders. I appeal to the police personnel not to surrender to the ruling party and act according to the law," Naidu said.



## Naidu meets Guv, seeks probe into govt's role in Kodela's suicide

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Former Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) President N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the circumstances leading to the alleged suicide of former Speaker Kodela Sivaprasada Rao.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday after meeting Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandran, Naidu said, "We demand CBI inquiry on circumstances that compelled Kodela to commit suicide. We will go to any extent for justice and are ready to file even private cases."

Accusing the Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy led government of vindictive politics, Naidu alleged that Kodela had been harassed by the government with false cases.

"YSRCP government is acting in a vindictive manner against opposition parties. Naidu stated that the Governor

## Conditions pathetic at SW hostels: NCSC

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Member of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), K Ramulu, has expressed dissatisfaction over the maintenance of Social Welfare hostels in the State. He visited a hostel at Kasturbaipeta in Vijayawada on Thursday.

AP government was diluting cases booked under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. He recalled an incident where two students were murdered at Alampuram.

Referring to alleged ill-treatment meted out to Tadikonda MLA Undavalli Sridevi by TDP leaders, he commented, "If there is no protection to an MLA, how can we expect the same for others?"

Elaborating on the issue, he stated that though Rs 2.5 lakh was being spent on every hostel per month, even the kitchen was not being maintained properly. The situation was so pathetic that 30 to 40 students were sleeping in a single room and do not even have a place to play, he said, adding that all the 86 SW hostels were in the same condition.

Ramulu also alleged that the

party pamphlet called upon the people to observe a week of formation from 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.

Ramulu also alleged that the

## 'GST defaulters go scot-free'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

While it has become a routine affair for some traders to evade GST, officials have also been looking the other way regarding the issue. Many defaulters are going scot-free in the absence of any earnest efforts to collect tax.

Last week, granite traders were learnt to have duped the government by floating shell companies and defaulting on tax to the tune of Rs 85 crore in Prakasam district. In Anantapur district as well, a company is said to have evaded tax of Rs 13 crore. Worse, the tax officials have not taken action against it.

The Prakasam police busted the network, which is creating trade licences and duplicate waybills for granite. If anybody gets a trade licence, he will have time to file GST returns up to one month. Taking shelter under this rule, traders keep creating new trade licences with fake Aadhaar details and duplicate waybills. They have transported material worth crores of rupees from the district. As many as 278 licences were created and a business of Rs 290.5 crore was done. They escaped from paying Rs 85 crore to the State Tax Department.

In Anantapur, a few firms have received notices for not paying GST, but there is no further action from the State Tax Department. The traders, who are used to evading tax, are in trouble now due to the GST regulations.

K Prasad, Assistant Commissioner, State Tax Department, said, "The traders

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions

are looking for ways to avoid tax. We are on a hunt for such traders. However, the evaded tax amount will be exposed within a year as the defaulters cannot manage both GST and income tax returns. They cannot hide the transactions</p



**Two held with 414 kgs of cannabis**

**Visakhapatnam:** Excise Department sleuths arrested two persons and seized 414 kgs of cannabis from their car in Paderu village in Visakhapatnam district. The accused who were arrested on Wednesday, were, on Thursday, identified as Mani Raj and Vimal Raju.

Acting on specific information, they caught the vehicle with a registration number of Tamil Nadu. During investigation, police learnt that the two were smuggling cannabis to Tamil Nadu from Visakhapatnam rural area. Further investigation is underway.

## 14 held for gambling

**Visakhapatnam:** City Task Force personnel raided two places and arrested 14 persons on charges of playing cards for money, here on Thursday.

On information, the personnel raided room No-201, Sri Sai Ganesh Hotel AK Grand Guest House, PM Palem and apprehended 10 persons, including the organizer of Common Gaming House Ch Kishore Kumar (44) while they were playing cards. They seized an amount of Rs 1,04,340 from their possession and handed them over to Station House Officer of PM Palem Police Station along with seized property.

In another incident, the CTF personnel raided a terrace door number 39-19-17/1, Ramalayam Street, Madhavadarha under Airport Police Station limits and apprehended six persons and seized cash of Rs 4,675 from their possession.

# New panel formed for issuing licenses to boats: Minister

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Minister for Tourism M Srinivasa Rao has asked officials to ensure that safety standards are maintained in all boat trips.

Addressing a meeting at Collectorate here on Thursday, the Minister said that the responsibility of safe rides lay not only with the government but also the people.

The tragedy at Godavari river should never be repeated, he said and announced that a committee would be appointed soon for issuing license to all kinds of boats and life guards for travelling in sea, river and lakes.

Officers drawn from Indian Navy, revenue, fisheries, irrigation, tourism and GVMC will be in the committee that will be headed by the Commissioner of GVMC.

The members should take the onus of creating awareness among tourists on the impending dangers of rivers and sea and there should be weather alert at regular inter-



vals. He suggested installation of CCTVs at all tourist spots and asked officials to see that only licensed boats were allowed to sail. The committee should also ensure fitness of the vessels and check for technical snags before they set sail.

The minister discussed with the collectors of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and

Visakhapatnam about the existing rules and whether they were being complied with. He also sought information on the places which were under the department of tourism and the number of boats being used, and their safety standards.

Visakhapatnam Collector V Vinay Chand said the Godavari incident occurred

because of lack of coordination among various agencies. He said a plan must be chalked out to prevent such tragedies.

Naval officer Pankaj Roy explained the kind of training given to the naval personnel on sailing in sea and rivers.

Senior civil servants from the three districts were present in the meeting.

# TEXTILE SECRETARY LAUDS BRANDIX CITY

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Textiles Secretary Ravi Kapoor visited Brandix India Apparel City (BIAC) along with Joint Secretary Jogirajan Panigrahi went through the facilities in the park and also three factories making knitted fabric and garments.

Kapoor was glad to note that the project has been implemented successfully and achieved its objective of creating a competitive ecosystem for apparel manufacturing and creating jobs.

As of today, more than 21,000 people are employed in BIAC, of which more than 18,000 are women.

Kapoor was appreciative of the working environment which was very conducive for women.



Textile Secretary Ravi Kapoor at Brandix Apparel India City in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

**Kapoor was appreciative of the working environment which was very conducive for women**

ated in the Park  
Kapoor took note of the various policy and external infrastructure issues that need to be addressed to enable BIAC to attract further investments from abroad. He assured BIAC management that he would take up these issues at appropriate levels in the government.

The delegation was accompanied by Neil Rosario, Country Head, Brandix India and Doraiswamy, partner, BIAC.

grated value chain has been created and infrastructure of high standards, like common effluent treatment plant and water treatment plant is cre-

# 93 were on board the ill-fated boat: Ex-MP

PNS ■ RAJAHMUNDRI



Former MP from Amalapuram GV Harsh Kumar disputed the number of tourists, who were aboard the ill-fated boat last Sunday. Speaking to media persons here on Thursday, he alleged that the number of occupants in the boat was 93 and not 73. He said he got this figure through reliable sources, who had taken a head count.

He also blamed AP Tourism minister Muttinti Srinivasa Rao who pressurized both East Godavari collector and SP to clear permission for the boat ride though Devipatnam Police SI HAD refused permission.

Harish Kumar blamed the

Tourism Minister for the incident in which 34 lost their lives and 13 are still missing even on

the fifth day on Thursday.

According to East Godavari SP, Adanan Nayem Asmi, none of the 13 missing was traced on Thursday.

## CLEANLINESS PLEDGE



Rinkesh Roy, Chairman Port administering the Swatch Bharat pledge at Port School in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

# Massive blast in Vizianagaram, three hurt

*Continued from Page 1*

The investigation had revealed that Srinivas had been in the business of selling crackers and gelatine sticks illegally for past few month and was planning to sell the crackers for Diwali festival. He was to sell gelatine sticks to the owners of stone crushing units in Bobbili region.

Vizianagaram Police Superintendent B Raja Kumari visited the spot and asked her team to carry out surprise raids in all parts of the district to seize illegal firecracker units. A case has been registered against Srinivas who was taken into custody, she added.

# On a mission to spread climate change awareness

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM



As part of the Global Climate Change Awareness Week, the local chapter of Extinction Rebellion - XR Vizag will conduct various awareness sessions in schools, colleges, communities, corporates, public and RWAs on 'Climate Change'.

The sessions will make people aware of the various problems popping up due to climate change at various levels - Local, National and International. XR Vizag aims at impressing the urgency of the climate crisis through various means so that the citizens will understand the gravity of the climate crisis we have at hand and participate actively in adapting to and mitigating climate change at various levels in our community.

One of the key motives of XR

Vizag aims at impressing the urgency of the climate crisis through various means so that the citizens will understand the gravity of the climate crisis

countries are declaring climate emergencies; Act Now - instead of waiting to take action, we need to take action right now to prevent any future calamities and 3. Listen to People - especially the marginalized communities who get affected by climate change.

Environmentalist Sohan Hatanagadi urged the people of Vizag to enthusiastically join the awareness programme in order to make themselves aware of how severe the situation is and how

severe the situation is and how

# PM urged to look into Removal of AMTZ MD

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Sharma founded AMTZ from "concept to completion and progress", and was earlier the Health Advisor to the Chief Minister

The Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AIMED) has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan to look into the sudden removal of Jitender Sharma from the post of Managing Director at Andhra Pradesh Med Tech Zone (AMTZ).

Rajiv Nath, Forum Coordinator of AIMED, urged the government to make use of the services of the "very talented" Dr Sharma, who is also called the "Med Tech Man of India", a release said.

According to Nath, Sharma has played a key role in putting

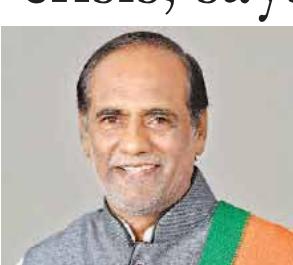
"Dr Sharma had been instrumental in establishing AMTZ and Kalam Institute of Healthcare Technology, which today has made the whole world look upon Andhra Pradesh as an investment destination for the manufacture of medical devices," the release said.

Asserting that Make in Andhra, and Make in India of medical devices were at stake without Sharma, the release said: "His team has accomplished the impossible jaw dropping feat of creating a Med Tech Park on a barren land in less than a year."

"So much so that even the Global Medical Community along with WHO congregated to Vizag to join forces with Dr. Sharma and his team," it said.

# Govt's mismanagement pushed SCCL into crisis, says Laxman

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



BJP president K Laxman fired on Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar 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.

"Singareni Collieries has always been a profitable company. But due to the mismanagement of Telangana government, Singareni Collieries is in a severe financial crisis now. Government has collected about Rs 13,105 crore from Singareni Collieries over the past five years but has not paid back. While Singareni Collieries turnover is about Rs 27,000 crore, the state government is due 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," he said.

"TSGenco is due Rs 8000 crore to Singareni Collieries but

the government is not 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 heavily on CM saying the latter has

## Bathukamma sarees distribution from Sept 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 Sirsila.

"Bathukamma sarees are not uniforms. So, this year, the sarees are made in 100 varieties and 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 Chairman and local corporations. All over the state, women over the age of 18 and white ration card-holders 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 thousands of families have been directly benefited by Bathukamma sarees.

# AU wants visa permission assurance before foreign partnership pacts

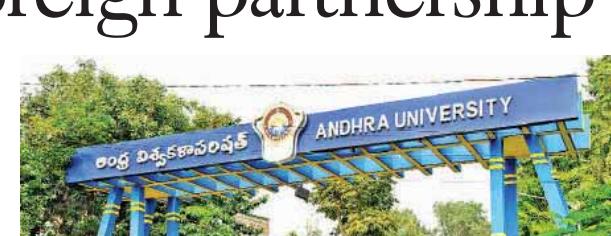
SUMIT ONKA  
■ VISAKHAPATNAM

As some US institutions have evinced interest in partnering with Andhra University for dual degree or collaborative twinning programme, the varsity authorities, before going ahead with the proposals, are first trying to ensure that the students would not face any US visa clearance issues while pursuing the course.

The dual degree or twinning degree courses are the emerging concepts wherein the students get to study in two varsities; it could be half of the course in India and other half abroad. One of the top agendas of the Union HRD ministry remains to be exploring joint-degree mechanism with foreign varsities to improve the quality of education bringing in reformations.

Speaking to The Pioneer on the sidelines of a US Visa seminar, Andhra University Vice-chancellor, Prof PVGD Prasad Reddy, said, "I have been receiving interests from foreign universities, including the United States.

However, our concern is about Visa permit. What if the students don't get Visa permit to study with our partnered institution in the US after spending their due time with AU? We are answerable to parents and students. So, it is better to have some sort of assurance from the country or



The dual degree or twinning degree courses are the emerging concepts wherein the students get to study in two varsities; it could be half of the course in India and other half abroad. One of the top agendas of the Union HRD ministry remains to be exploring joint-degree mechanism with foreign varsities to improve the quality of education bringing in reformations.

However, our concern is about Visa permit. What if the students don't get Visa permit to study with our partnered institution in the US after spending their due time with AU? We are answerable to parents and students. So, it is better to have some sort of assurance from the country or

## 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 Kuhar 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 Mohammadan 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 we 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 Mohammadan 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 Mohammadan Law.

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

accordance with the Mohammadan 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

Meanwhile, local NGO Sanskriti Bachao March 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 PTI.

However, state Congress media coordinator Narendra Singh 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.

## GST COUNCIL MEET

### Mining dependents call off proposed protest

PNS ■ PANAJI



Nirmala Sitharaman

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 (GMPF) 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

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.

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

remained unaffected.

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

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

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

PNS ■ BHOPAL



Digvijaya Singh

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 Char Imli area, by an unidentified right wing body.

However, they were removed 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 mandiron 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

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 law student in Uttar Pradesh.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Congress leader, who had kicked up controversies in the past too,

## 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 multi-national 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 applecart 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 to such 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 Yuvraja of J&K to convene 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 a 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 Pakistani-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 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-run 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 democratic 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 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)

## SOUND BITE

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

Sir — Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath deserves commendation for doing away with the four-decadold illogical practice of paying income tax of Ministers from the public exchequer. One wonders why and how the anti-public policy was adopted and why it is still prevalent in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. These States must also abolish the practice.

At the very least, the Prime Minister can advise the BJP-ruled States to do so and hope that the remaining would follow out of a sense of shame. Salaries, perks, privileges and post-retirement benefits, including pension to all those in the legislature, should be taken up by the Centre, rather than leaving them at the discretion of State Governments.

SC Agrawal  
Delhi

### Progressive step

Sir — India has done well to ban the sale of electronic cigarettes.

### Do what's right for the Valley

T his 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-

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

### Creating unrest

Sir — 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

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

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

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 production 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)

## SECOND COLUMN

### 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 personality 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-allotment 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

# analysis

07

## 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 chunky 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 definitely 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 personality 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-allotment 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 2018.

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



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

Whatever the shortcomings we have in this sector as far as mining coal is concerned that (commercial mining) will be a boost to address it. 100 per cent commercial mining is approved

— PRALHAD JOSHI , Union Minister

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 kgcoe/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.



## 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 Maserq 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 percent 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.

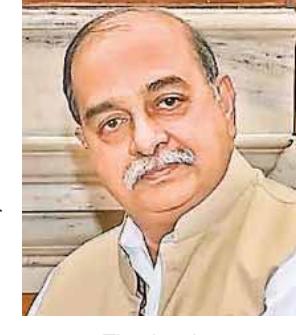
Among the banks Moody's rates, Yes Bank and IndusInd Bank have the largest direct exposure to the commercial real estate and will be susceptible to asset quality difficulties if the sector continues to slow, the agency said, adding ICICI Bank and Axis Bank are also significantly exposed to the sector, 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



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.

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

## 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.

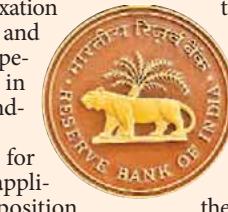
The Financial Sector Regulatory Appointments Search Committee (FSRASC), headed by the cabinet secre-

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.

**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.

## 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 in May next year.

The 48-year-old appeared via video-link 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 [bail] amount," the judge noted. "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 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 'tokenised 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.

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 franchises 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-

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.



## 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 Indians, the

winner of four editions,</p



## 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

**H**indi 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 distinctively 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.

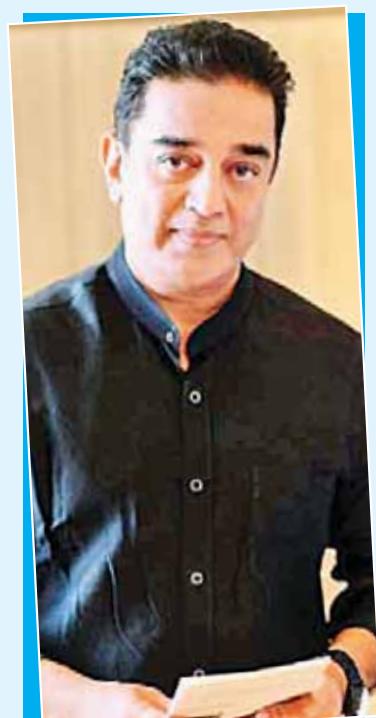
As a solution to this predicament, he said, "What I believe can solve the problem is that if choosing a common official language is a must then it better be a language that is on the brink of extinction. They shall be reviving a language through its roots and every state will have to make equal effort 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-

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,  
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

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.

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.

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

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



**A**uthor 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 a similar problem in 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

**T**he 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

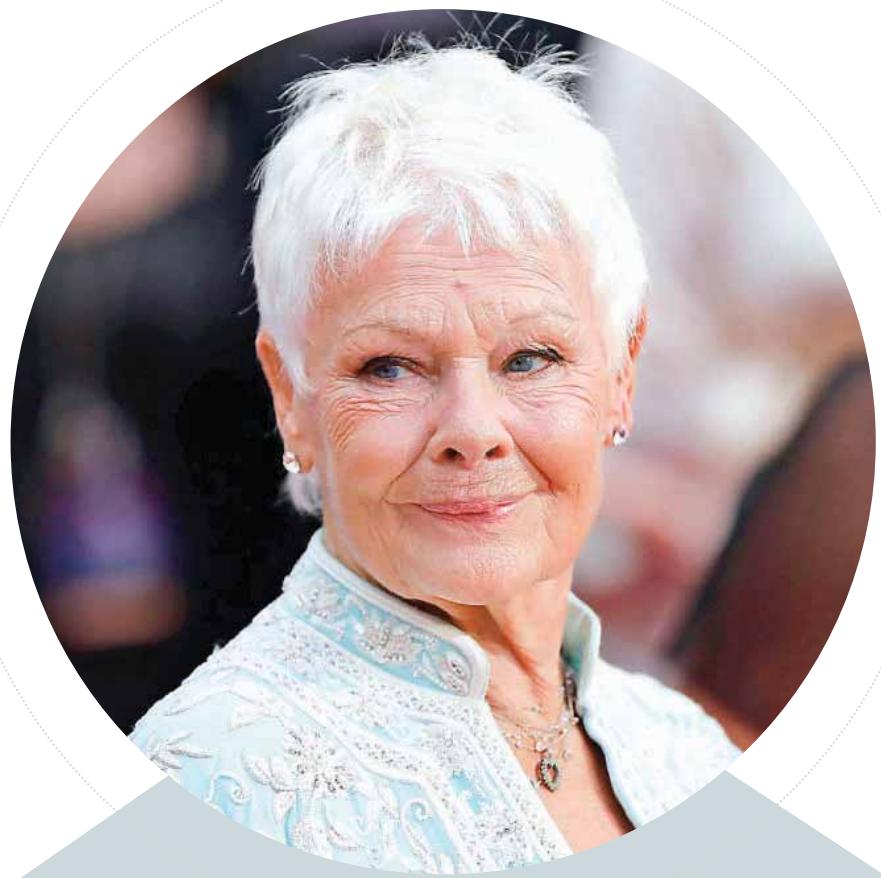
Systems, Electronic Arts, Novartis, Purple Talk, Synchrony Financials and Dark Horse Digital Solutions went head to head against each other in best of three matches of two doubles and one singles.

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.





## DAME JUDI DENCH DOES NOT WANT TO RETIRE



**V**eteran 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 Bond 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?"



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

**S**inger 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 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

**A**ctress Jennifer Aniston was forced to drop 30 pounds (14kg) in order to land her career launching role on

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.



## celeb talks

### RAJKUMMAR RAO LOOKS FORWARD TO START SHOOTING WITH PRIYANKA CHOPRA

**A**ctor 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

**A**ctor 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.



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

**A**ctress-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, Vishnuvardhan, Mohanlal, Rajinikanth, Mammootty 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 and 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

**LAKSHMI MANCHU'S  
HOUSE AT FILM  
NAGAR, HYDERABAD  
WILL HOST THE  
SHOW. SHE HOPES  
THIS WILL MAKE HER  
GUESTS FEEL  
COMFORTABLE**

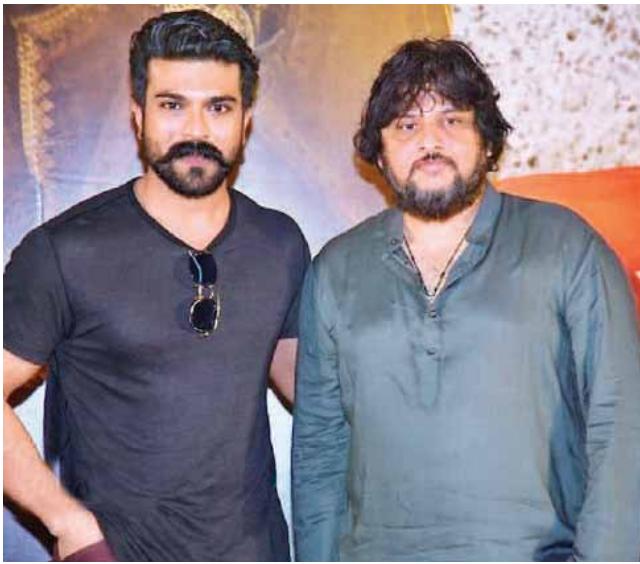


## CHARAN wanted SYE RAA... to be his dad's best film till date: SURENDER REDDY

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

**F**ilmmaker 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 Pocha 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 Koilkunta 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.

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."

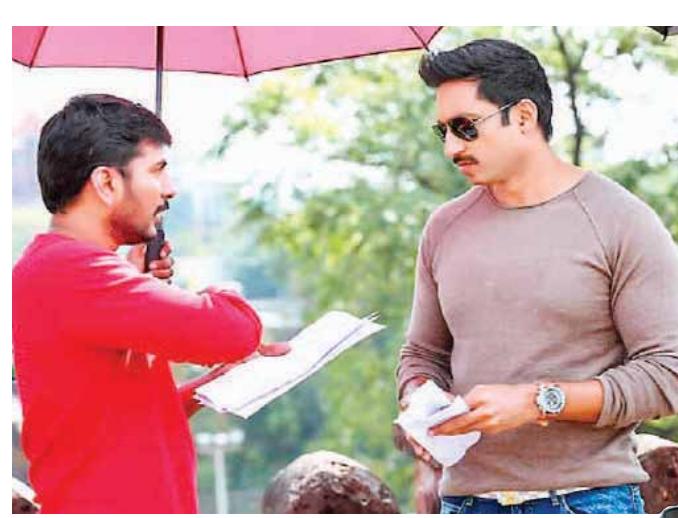
A couple of months ago, the descendants of Narasimha Reddy have staged a protest at Charan's office in Hyderabad, demanding they be paid the amount for the story and as well as for the compensation of crops that were damaged by the unit members of the movie during the film's shoot at their village. Reacting 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.

Gopichand is awaiting the release of his next film, *Chanakya*

## U-Turn producer for GOPI-SAMPATH

**A**fter 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. Srinivasa Chitturi who produced Samantha-starred *U-Turn* last year will be shepherding the project under his Srinivasa Silver Screen banner. Except for indicating that it will 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.

## tollywood

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

**T**he Pioneer was to 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, Krish and 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**



Naga Shaurya

# 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 Mário 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 in its 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).

"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  
(Atlético 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)

Hoechedes.

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 smacked 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.



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 Atletico's rousing comeback after second-half goals from Juan Cuadrado and Blaise Matuidi put Juve in control.

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

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

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.

With Neymar suspended and Kylian Mbappé and Edinson Cavani sidelined by injury, Angel Di María 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.

With Neymar suspended and Kylian Mbappé and Edinson Cavani sidelined by injury, Angel Di María 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.

With Neymar suspended and Kylian Mbappé and Edinson Cavani sidelined by injury, Angel Di María 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.

With Neymar suspended and Kylian Mbappé and Edinson Cavani sidelined by injury, Angel Di María 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.

With Neymar suspended and Kylian Mbappé and Edinson Cavani sidelined by injury, Angel Di María 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.

With Neymar suspended and Kylian Mbappé and Edinson Cavani sidelined by injury, Angel Di María 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.

With Neymar suspended and Kylian Mbappé and Edinson Cavani sidelined by injury, Angel Di María 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.

With Neymar suspended and Kylian Mbappé and Edinson Cavani sidelined by injury, Angel Di María 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.

With Neymar suspended and Kylian Mbappé and Edinson Cavani sidelined by injury, Angel Di María 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.

With Neymar suspended and Kylian Mbappé and Edinson Cavani sidelined by injury, Angel Di María 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