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HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW

*LATE CITY VOL. 1 ISSUE 307 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RNI No. TELENG/2018/76469

Established 1864

Published From

WON'T APOLOGISE FOR HONESTY: TAAPSEE

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Sudha Rani Relangi is **CBI's new** director (pros)

NEW DELHI: Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice Sudha Rani Relangi has been appointed as new director of prosecution in the CBI, an official order said on Friday.

The post of the prosecution director in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was lying vacant since December 24, 2018.

Relangi is currently serving as joint secretary and legislative counsel, Legislative Department in the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Arun Jaitley admitted in AIIMS

NEW DELHI: Former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley was admitted to Delhi's AIIMS this morning after he complained of breathing problems. He is under observation in the Cardio-Neuro ward of the hospital. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan is on his way to visit him at the hospital.

"Ĥe is under observation. A team of doctors including endocrinologists, cardiologists and nephrologists is monitoring his condition," a source told news agency PTI.

Jaitley, 66, had stepped down as Finance Minister over health troubles earliei this year. He had also declined to join the government after the BIP won the Lok Sabha elections.

2 NRIs donate **Rs.14 crore to Lord Balaji**

TIRUPATI: Two US-based NRI entrepreneurs have made a princely donation of Rs. 14 crores to the famous hill shrine of Lord Venkateswara at nearby Tirumala today, a temple official said.

The devotees, who are friends and wished to remain anonymous, made the offering on the auspicious day of Goddess Sri Varalakshmi Vratham festival, the official told news agency PTI.

Month & Paksham

Shravana & Shukla Paksha Panchangam

Tithi: Navami 10:00 am **Nakshatram:** Anuradha 09:59 pm

Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start

any important work)

Rahukalam: 10:46 am – 12:21 pm

Yamagandam: 03:31 pm - 05:06 pm **Varjyam:** 03:50 am - 05:31 am Gulika: 07:36 am - 09:11 am

Good Time: (to start any important work) **Amritakalam:** 11:21 am - 12:59 pm

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:56 am - 12:46 pm HYDERABAD

Forecast: Thunderstorm Temp: 28/24 Humidity: 87% **Sunrise:** 05 57 Sunset: 06.45 Current Weather Conditions Updated August 8, 2019 5:00 PM A NON-GANDHI WILL BE PARTY PRESIDENT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO DECADES

Decision on Cong chief today, **Mukul Wasnik frontrunner**

A new Congress president will be chosen when the party's top decision-making body meets tomorrow, sources said on Friday after a meeting at Sonia Gandhi's home. Mukul Wasnik has emerged as the front runner for the post left vacant after Rahul Gandhi quit in May, owning responsibility for the party's nation-

al election debacle.

A non-Gandhi may be party president for the first time in two decades as the Congress Working Committee meets tomorrow. 59-year-old Mukul Wasnik, a former minister with much administrative experience, is expected to take charge at least till the organizational elections.

In its 134-year history, India's oldest political party has mostly had a member of the Nehru-Gandhi family in charge. But at a time all three Gandhis are in politics, Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have refused to be a part of the

The Congress Working Committee will formally thank Rahul Gandhi for his role as president, the sources



said, indicating that the party had officially given up attempts to persuade the 49year-old to withdraw his res-

Top leaders including AK Antony, Ahmed Patel and KV Venugopal were at the meeting at Sonia Gandhi's house. Sources say the leaders decided that there would be no more delay on picking the next Congress president.

For over two months, the Congress has been in a period of stasis. As its leaders tried and failed to change Rahul Gandhi's mind, the party could not agree on a replace-

The extent of its organizational mess was apparent when the Congress fumbled through its objections to the government's move to end special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and split it into two union territories.

While leaders like Ghulam Nabi Azad and Kapil Sibal tore into the government's decisions in parliament, outside, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Milind Deora, Jaiveer Shergill, Karan Singh and Janardhan Dwivedi

charge. But now all three Gandhis in politics—Rahul Gandhi, Sonia and Priyanka have refused to be a part of the selection process

In its 134-year history,

India's oldest political

party has mostly had a

member of the Nehru-

Gandhi family in

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came out in its support. Sonia Gandhi was also visibly embarrassed when in the Lok Sabha, the Congress's leader of the house Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, flubbed on Índia's Kashmir policy.

Mukul Wasnik, say sources, is seen as a strong choice to repair the Congress's organizational weaknesses with his long administrative record.

Mr Wasnik has worked in the Congress governments of PV Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh. He has also worked as general secretary for Sonia Gandhi.

66[™] NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

Keerthy Suresh wins Best Actress award for 'Mahanati'

while Ram Charan starrer

Rangasthalam has received

"Mahanati" sweeps three awards Tollywood bags seven awards

PNS HYDERABAD

Keerthy Suresh bagged the Best Actress award at the 66th National Film Awards for her terrific performance in the Telugu film *Mahanati*. The film, based on the life of actress Savitri, garnered much appreciation and love for Keerthy Suresh, who

brought alive the iconic star with grace and exuberance.

In all, *Mahanati* bagged three awards in categories of Best Actress, Best Telugu Film and Best Costume Designing.
The film also starred

Mollywood star Dulquer Salmaan, who essayed the role of late actor Gemini Ganesan. *Mahanati* follows Savitri's life from the 1940s to 1980s. Apart from Suresh and Salmaan, Mahanati starred Samantha Akkineni, Vijay Deverakonda, Naga Chaitanya, Shalini Pandey, Malavika Nair, Prakash Raj, Rajendra Prasad and Mohan Babu in key roles.

The Nag Ashwin directorial received critical acclaim around the world, winning trophies across different

categories.
The other award win-

ners from Tollywood include recordist of the Final Mixed Rahul Ravindran who won the award for Best Original Meanwhile, Prashanth Screenplay for Chia La Sow

Varma's directorial venture Awe, produced by actor Nani and starring Kajal Aggarwal, Nithya Menon, Regina Cassandra, Eesha



TS, AP spar over Krishna water in

The meeting of the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) here on Friday result ed in some sparring between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, notwithstanding the bonhomie between the Chief Ministers of the two Telugu

The meeting was held at Jala Soudha here, with senior officials of the Irrigation Department from both states attending it. KRMB chairman RK Gupta presided over the meeting. During the meeting, the AP officials demanded KRMB chairman to bring all projects on river Krishna under the control of KRMB.

However, their Telangana counterparts strongly objected to the suggestion, arguing that unless the allocation of Telangana State's share out of 811 TMC Krishna river water is decided, the jurisdiction of KRMB should not be extended to all projects on river Krishna.

TS officials insisted that a decision on bringing all projects on river Krishna under KRBM should be taken only after the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal comes out with its orders allocating respective AP demands KRMB jurisdiction over all Krishna

TS wants KWDT to first determine water allocations

TS opposes shifting of KRMB office to Amaravati

share of water to States in the Krishna basin.

At the meeting, TS Special Chief Secretary (Irrigation) Somesh Kumar put forth strong arguments before KRMB against any proposal to bring all projects on river Krishna under KRMB at the present juncture.

TS officials also opposed the shifting of KRMB office from Hyderabad to Amaravati.

However, KRMB chairman RK Gupta later said that the talks were held "in a cordial atmosphere" with both the states presenting their arguments. KRBM would soon distribute Krishna water in the ratio of 66:34 between AP and TS, based on the inflows received into the projects on river Krishna. Telangana had sought 103 TMC, while AP sought 38 TMC, he said.

'À three-member committee of KRMB will soon meet and decide the quantum of allocations for AP and TS," he said.



AP Irrigation Minister Anil Kumar Yadav, TS Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy, TS Excise & Prohibition Minister Srinivas Goud and MP Ramulu during the release of water from Srisailam project at Edamagattu on Friday

Water released from Srisailam

AVINASH DEEPAK PULI ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Telangana Ministers S. Niranjan Reddy and Srinivas Goud and MP Ramulu on Friday evening formally released water from the Srisailam project by lifting four of the spillway gates at Edamagattu area.

The government took the decision considering the heavy discharges maintained by upstream projects on the Krishna River.

The Telangana state-level committee on Integrated Water

Management gave the nod for finalizing the irrigation schedule for the Nagarjuna sagar project, after which the spillway gates were lifted.

The discharges from the Alamatti project and the Narayanpur dam in Karnataka are in the range of 3.55 lakh and 4.15 lakh cusecs respectively. The Jurala project in Mahabubnagar district is maintaining an outflow of 3.74 lakh cusecs.

The Srisailam project, with gross storage of 172 TMC as on Friday evening against its gross storage capacity of 215 TMC,

received good inflows during the day. It was maintaining a discharge of over 70 thousand cusecs for power generation, while 25 thousand cusecs were discharged for meeting irrigation needs.

While releasing the water, the Agriculture Minister said that the state had received good rains this year and the agriculture sector would succeed in increasing productivity. MLAs Guvvala Balaraju, Ala Venkateshwar Reddy Marri Janardhan Reddy and Jalipal Yadav were also present on the occasion.

Vivek joins BJP to fight against TRS I have joined BJP

PNS HYDERABAD

Disgruntled former leader of TRS G Vivek, perceived to have been working against the pink party of late, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party on

Vivek joined the saffron party in the presence of BJP national president and Union Home Minister Amit Shah and party working president JP Nadda in New Delhi. BJP national general secre-

tary Ram Madhav, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy, Telangana BJP president K Laxman and Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind accompanied Vivek on the occasion.

"I have joined BJP, impressed by PM Narendra Modi's governance. Only BJP can put an end to TRS's autocratic and undemocratic rule

impressed by PM Narendra Modi's governance. Only BJP can put an end to TRS's autocratic and undemocratic rule in Telangana

in Telangana. I will strive for the strengthening of BJP in Telangana and bring down KCR. We will teach a lesson to KCR, who is betraying and humiliating those who fought for Telangana," (sic) said Vivek, after joining BJP.

Vivek had quit TRS, following denial of the Pedappalli Lok Sabha seat to him in the recent General Election. Since then he has working against the ruling party.



G Vivek, who joined the Bharatiya Janata Party on Friday, seen with party working president JP Nadda, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddv and Telangana BJP president K Laxman in New Delhi.

Telugu immigrants in Gulf nations struggle with language barrier

Lack of Telugu-speaking employees at embassies in the Gulf nations has irked immigrants from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, especially those facing harassment by employers or other problems.

Most of the immigrants from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are working as cleaning staff and maids. They barely speak English or Hindi and are often fluent only in Telugu.

With communication becoming a major barrier, most of the immigrants, including those troubled by employers, are unable to seek assistance



from embassies.

As per recent data tabled in parliament, three persons from Andhra Pradesh die in Gulf

countries every two days due to alleged suicides, illness or road accidents. Timely and proper intervention could have saved

As per recent data tabled in parliament, three persons from AP die in Gulf countries every two days due to alleged suicides, illness or road accidents.

many lives and rescued many of these folks. Furthermore, there are 4,650 Telugu-speaking folks in jails of Gulf countries, with some of them involved (or, framed) in long- pending cases.

'Cricketers should undergo dope test' PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian cricketers will now be tested by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) after the Sports Ministry told the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCC) that "you have no option" other than to abide by the code. The Indian cricket board thereafter agreed to come under the ambit of NADA, ending years of defiance. Historically, the BCCI has vehemently opposed coming under NADA and always maintained that anti-doping agency had no jurisdiction to conduct dopes tests on Indian

Earlier, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) had clearly told cricket's world governing body, the International Cricket Council (ICC), that BCCI has to come under NADA's ambit so that the ICC remains compliant

and the matter was intimated

to BCCI during the board

meeting in Dubai. Sports

Secretary Radheshyam

Jhulaniya, who met BCCI

CEO Rahul Johri in New

Delhi on Friday, said the board

has given in writing that it

would adhere to the anti-dop-

ing policy of NADA. "All

cricketers will now be tested by

NADA," Jhulaniya said.

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana state junior doctors on Friday withdrew their protest against National Medical Council (NMC) Bill. The decision was made after a meeting with Health Minister Etala Rajender at the Secretariat.

Junior doctors

call off

strike

Speaking to the media after deliberations with the junior doctors, Etala Rajender said he spoke to Union Health Minister Harshavardhan on Thursday who assured him that the Bill will not harm the interests of doctors.

Continued on Page 2



Will hold municipal polls at earliest: TS tells HC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has told the High Court that it was firm on conducting elections to the municipalities at the earliest. It urged the court to allow it to complete the election process as per the direction process as per tile directions given by a single judge of the High Court on the entire pre-poll process. The government has made

this submission through its counter affidavit filed before the HC. It filed the affidavit in the PIL filed by Advocate Anju Kumar Reddy alleging irregularities in the pre-election process. The matter will come up for hearing on August 13.

Sudha Rani Relangi is CBI's new director

Continued from page 1

"Approval of Competent Authority is hereby conveyed for the appointment of Sudha Rani Relangi, Joint Secretary and Legislative Counsel, Legislative Department to the post of Director of Prosecution in CBI from the panel recommended by Central Vigilance Commission... for a period of two years," the official order said.

Junior doctors call off strike

Continued from page 1

"We told the junior doctors of the summary of the talks with the Union Health Minister," Etala said. The state government will convey the opinion of the striking doctors to the Centre when it prepares the rules and regulations, he said.

We will take up issues which are against the interests of the doctors with the Centre", the state minister told the doctors.

The junior doctors subsequently decided to resume duty on Saturday. They said that outpatient (OPD) services will remain open on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

TRS MP flays BJP over Kaleshwaram project

TRS leader and former MP Boinapalli Vinod Kumar on Friday warned the BJP to face the wrath of the Telangana public if it fails to give national project status for the Kaleshwaram Lift irrigation scheme. He said the Central Government could have taken a decision in this regard had it been sincere towards the interests of Telangana. "The BJP succeeded in revoking the Article 370 without any hassle. If it had shown some interest, it could amend the Telangana Bill and offer national project status to Kaleshwaram," he said. The TRS leader was also critical towards the Congress leadership and came down heavily on them for misguiding the people of Telangana on the projects and its progress. He rubbished the claims of

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad,

A joint Research of Indian

Institute of Technology

University, and Fisheries and

Oceans Canada, a Canadian

Government Agency, has been

researching how climate

change impacts mercury accu-

mulation in fish. This seminal

work has been published in the

August 2019 issue of the pres-

tigious international peer-

Modelling studies by the

international team of scientists

found that although there has

been a decrease in levels of

mercury pollution due to var-

ious environmental regula-

tions, the amounts of mercury

found in fish have been dif-

ferent in different species -

some types of fish have less

mercury than before, and

some, alarmingly more. These

variations have been a result of

changes in sea temperature in

recent years and the changes in

dietary pattern due to over-

The Research was led from

Professor, of Civil

India by Asif Qureshi,

Engineering, IIT Hyderabad,

and co-authored by Amina

Schartup, Colin Thackray,

Clifton Dassuncao, Kyle

Gillespie, Alex Hanke and Elsie

global efforts to reduce the

fishing.

Associate

Department

review journal Nature.

Harvard



Central government will face the wrath of Telangana people if it fails to accord national project status to the Kaleshwaram project

Party leader B Vinod Kumar warns

the Kaleshwaram project and questioned if they were sincere

Over-fishing increases mercury levels in fish

There have been

global efforts to

mercury entering

amount of toxic

fish and other

material found in

marine mammals

amount of mercury entering

the ocean to reduce the amount

of mercury found in fish and

other marine animals. The

Sunderland. There have been mercury mines, phase-out of mercury found in sea water as

Minamata Convention of in fish-overfishing, variations in

Mercury that was enforced in the temperature of the sea water,

2017 includes a ban on new and changes in the amounts of

existing ones and strict control a result of pollution.'

reduce the

amount of

the ocean to

reduce the

Congress party on redesigning why they failed to construct a project at Thummidihatti. The

measures on emissions to air.

whether have these and other

environmental measures allevi-

ated or overall exacerbated the

problem of elevated mercury

levels in fish. This is the question

that the consortium of interna-

tional scientists, which includ-

ed the IIT Hyderabad researcher,

hoped to answer. They chose

the Gulf of Maine, a well stud-

ied but also exploited, margin-

al sea in the Atlantic Ocean, to

study the trends in mercury

accumulation in fish. Explaining

the complexity of the problem,

Asif Qureshi, who wrote the first

versions of the model code said,

"There are three factors that

affect mercury accumulation

The researchers focused on

about the demand of National project status of Kaleshwaram and blamed the BJP Minister Nithin Gadkari for not supporting the demand of TRS MPs in the Parliament.

The former MP said the Kaleshwaram project would be fixed with mega pump sets of Baahubali, and the waters would reach from Ellampalli to Midmanair soon. Meanwhile, the senior TRS leader took the print and electronic media personnel of Karimnagar district to the Kaleshwaram Lift irrigation project on Friday. The academic-cum-practical trip to the project site was participated by about one hundred-odd journalists representing various media organisations. The former MP and his team members guided the journalist to all the pump houses and barrages.

offenders:

PNS HYDERABAD

TPCC Disciplinary Action Committee chairman M Kodanda Reddy has alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party is using the Central Bureau of Investigation against those parties and leaders that are

and Garikapati Rammohan Rao had joined BJP, he claimed. These leaders 'white-collar' offenders had become good



BJP protecting white-collared **Congress**

not in favor of BJP.

Afraid of such CBI raids, TDP Rajya Sabha members CM Ramesh, Sujana Chowdhary, TG Venkatesh upon joining BJP, he mocked. The BJP was protecting white-collar offenders, he said.

There was rampant misuse of power after Narendra Modi became Prime Minister. The poor and unemployed youth had failed to get any benefit from the Union Budget, he pointed out.



Media denied entry into BRKR Bhavan

PNS HYDERABAD

The State government is not allowing journalists inside the BRKR Bhavan as it is not happy with the media reports regarding Secretariat shifting. The police personnel obstructed the media from entering into temporary new Secretariat building at BRKR Bhavan on Friday.

media persons The expressed their unhappiness over not allowing the media inside the BRKR Bhavan. Vexed with the police personnel behaviour, the media persons met the Chief Secretary, SK Joshi and held discussions in this regard. SK Joshi, who was not interested in meeting the media persons, said that they would review their issue on Tuesday (August 13). He assured that the government would allocate a place for the media at BRKR Bhavan or Adarsh Nagar MLA Quarters. The media persons asked CS to allocate a place to the media to cover press meets of Ministers and other developments.

During discussions, Joshi said that the media persons are being allowed inside the Secretariat only in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. "No other State allows media inside the Secretariat", he claimed. Joshi said that it was not proper to publish the news on lack of facilities in BRKR Bhavan. The facilities will not be created immediately. "Just we started shifting process. How



During discussions, SK Joshi said that media persons are being allowed inside Secretariat only in Andhra **Pradesh and Telangana. "No other** state allows media inside the Secretariat," he claimed

time? It takes at least 15 days",

Earlier in the morning, the electronic media tried to take visuals by entering into the BRKR Bhavan but the security personnel at BRKR Bhavan didn't allow the media. The security personnel stopped the media at main gate itself. On the other hand, the Chief Secretary entered into his chamber in BRKR Bhavan on Friday coinciding with auspicious day of 'Varalakhsmi Vratam'.

can we create all facilities at a The shifting of files and goods is intensified on Friday. Aggrawal Packers and Movers Company is shifting the files and goods of the Chief Secretary office.

However, the activities in the existing Secretariat held as usual though the State government stated that the activities will be held from BRKR Bhavan from Friday onwards. The visitors came as usual to the Secretariat. Health Minister Etela Rajender held deliberations with Junior Doctors at his existing Secretariat chamber.

Vivek joins BJP to fight against TRS

Continued from page 1

He has been raising voice against Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao at every possible occasion. He has even held round-table conferences against the proposed demolition of Assembly and Secretariat by bringing leaders from all political parties, civil society groups and activists on one platform.

As BJP is believed to be emerging as the main opposition party and challenger to ruling TRS in Telangana, Vivek chose BJP to join forces against KCR. "Joining of a powerful leader like G

Vivek will further boost BJP's prospects in Telangana. While TRS is looting Telangana, Congress is getting extinct. Only BJP is emerging as a strong contender to TRS," said Laxman. Kishan Reddy pointed out that G Vivek hailed from a powerful political family and his joining was not just a boost to BJP but also a big blow to TRS.

Although Telangana Congress leaders had made efforts to woo Vivek, who is also financially strong, the Dalit leader, with strong interests in business, preferred BJP to safeguard his political and financial interests.

TRS troubling Adivasis, says **Congress**

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Congress on Friday has alleged that the TRS government led by Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao is troubling Adivasis by evicting them from the forests. The party alleged that it was harming the interests of Adivasis rights by taking away their lands. The party stated that there is no need to do anything to the Adivasis from the government side but to show mercy towards them. God has to save Adivasis in the State, the Congress stated. "Adivasis lead their entire

life in forests. During Congress rule, the government had given freedom to them to stay and use the forest lands. But now, the TRS government led by Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao is snatching away their rights by evicting them from the forests," alleged AICC member Surya Naik and Sangareddy MLA T Jagga Reddy. They said that the former

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi showed eternal love towards Adivasis. The present governments should not spoil the livelihood of the Adivasis. Congress treated Adivasis as its children. Adivasis will not live while leaving forests. The TRS government has to think in a humanitarian angle towards Adivasis, they further

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Telugu immigrants in Gulf nations...

Continued from page 1

Nangi Devender Reddy, TPCC Official Spokesperson and NRI Cell president, said, "Most of the Telugu people hail from East and West Godavari districts. During Open Houses conducted by various Telugu associations once a fortnight, many immigrants come to us and share their problems. These problems include employer harassment, sexual

advances, lack of wages, among

"People are fluent in Telugu when talking about sensitive issues. We understand their problem and help them accordingly. The embassy staff or officials are always Malyalam- or Hindi-speaking folks. There is really need to have Telugu- speaking staff."

Devender Reddy gave a representation in this regard to Vice President Venkaiah Naidu

on Friday, seeking the Union government's intervention to protect Gulf-based NRIs.

In the representation, it was pointed out that Telugu-speaking officers and staffers or expatriate workers from Telugu states have been are facing a lot of difficulties. The authorities concerned have been urged to recruit Telugu-speaking personnel for staffing in Malaysia, Dubai, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi, Oman, Iran and Iraq.

As of December 2018, Rs 5,600-crore remittances were made by the Diaspora in the Gulf. There is need to invest back some portion of that money to help the Diaspora, instead of letting them slog in jails.Intervention not only at embassy but also at the immigration counters would prevent Indians from languishing in Gulf jails. He said, "There are several loopholes in our sys-

2 NRIs donate Rs 14 crore to Lord Balaji

Continued from page 1

After offering prayers with their family members at the cash-rich hill shrine, they handed over a demand draft for Rs. 14 crore to AV Dharma Reddy, the Special Officer of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), that governs the over 2,000 year old temple, the temple official said.

The devotees requested the temple officials to use the funds for different TTD-run public welfare trusts. This is the second straight year the two have made a similar offer-

ing.
In July last year, they had



shrine with a request to use it

donated Rs. 13.5 crore to the for different TTD trusts, the

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg),

O & M Circle-III, Goshamahal, Hyderabad-012

HYDERABAD **BULLION RATES** ₹ 37,270 (10 gm) ₹ 620 🛖 ₹ 43, 600 (1kg) ₹ 700



EGG RATES ₹/100 **HYDERABAD** VIJAYAWADA 332 VISAKHAPATNAM 350 **RETAIL PRICE** ₹3.15 Humbling, gratifying: National film award winners

PNS HYDERABAD

It was a moment of celebration for the National Film Award winners like Ayushmman Khurrana, Vicky Kaushal, Aditya Dhar and Sanjay Leela Bhansali, who called the recognition a "pat on the back" and a validation of their work.

Popular Bollywood films including "Uri: The Surgical "Andhadhun", Strike", "Badhaai Ho" and rising stars Kaushal and Ayushmann Khurrana took home the top trophies at the 66th National Film Awards.

Ho" "Badhaai and "Andhadhun", both starring Ayushmann, won two and three awards respectively. "Badhaai Ho" got best pop-

ular film providing whole-

some entertainment and vet-

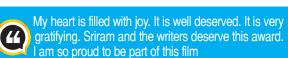
bagged the best supporting actress. Sriram Raghavan's acclaimed "Andhadhun"

eran actor Surekha Sikri

bagged best Hindi film, best adapted screenplay and best actor for its lead Ayushmann, who played a blind musician in the "It's truly humbling and

hugely gratifying to win the coveted National Awards. As an artist, I have always tried to back disruptive content that stands out for its quality content. Today's honour is a validation of my hard work, my belief system, my journey in movies and my reason to be an actor in the first

place," Ayushamann said in a statement. Raghavan told



"in the middle of a Melbourne" when he got the news.

"It just feels great and I can only say thank you. I'm happy. Tabu is also here and she called me and said We got it'. I'm just chuffed right now.

Tabu, who feain tured "Andhadhun", called the win a "huge honour". M y

— TABU, Actresses PTI that he was heart is filled with joy. It is well deserved. It is very gratifying.

Sriram and the writers deserve

this award. I am so proud to be

part of this film," she said. "Uri- The Surgical Strike' took home three more awardsbest director for Aditya Dhar, best background music for Shashwat Sachdev and best sound design for Bishwadeep Chatterjee.

Kaushal said he was at a loss of words to describe his happiness.

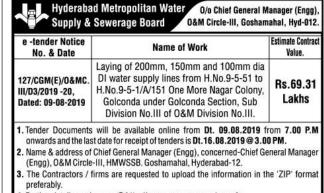
"I wish to dedicate this Award to my parents, to every member of Team URI, to our

nation and to our armed forces who put their lives on the line each day, come rain or storm," he said. Kaushal said it was special to share the award with Khurrana, "whom I admire, both as a person and as an actor".

Dhar, nodding to the popular 'how's the josh' phrase from his film, said the josh is "very very high."

"Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm. 15 years of failures, rejections and hard work has lead to this moment and it just can't get better than this." The debutante director dedicated the award to "each and every brave soldier of our country and their families."

Bhansali bagged the best music composer award for his work in "Padmaavat".



GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA O/o the Dist. Panchayat Raj Engineer, Jagtia 3rd Call Tender Notice No. DB4/3/2019-20, Dt.03.08.2019

Name of the Work: C/o of Grama Mahila Ikya colony building, C/o community halls etc. works(13) in Jagtial District. Total ECV: Rs.94.52 Lakhs. Last Date for receipt c application: 20.08.2019 upto 5pm. Date for Supply of tender Schedules: 21.08.201! upto 5pm. Date for receipt of tenders: 22.08.2019 upto 3pm. Date for receipt of tenders: 22.08.2019 upto 3pm. Date for make the decision of the decision of

Sd/- Dist. Panchayat Raj Engineer, District Jagtia

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DIPR R.O. No.: 434-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2019-20 Date: 09-08-2019

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Woman found dead, in-laws arrested

Anewly-wed woman died Aunder suspicious circumstances on Thursday evening near RL Nagar in Keesara. The deceased was identified as Sravani, 20. According to sources, her parents Narsimha and Anjamma hailed from Ongole and were living in Kapra. Sravani got married to Ramanjaneyulu, a resident of RL Nagar, five months ago. Police said Ramanjaneyulu and his family members began harassing her for money despite taking gold jewellery worth Rs 5 lakh as dowry. Sravani informed her parents about the harassment by her in-laws. Later, her parents offered to give another Rs 5 lakh to Ramanjaneyulu. On Thursday morning, an altercation broke out between the two. Severely upset by this, she hanged herself in the bathroom. Her in-laws immediately shifted her to a private hospital in Nagaram, where the doctors declared her brought dead. Sravani's parents and relatives expressed suspicion over the death and informed the Keesara police. Her dead body was shifted to Gandhi Hospital for postmortem. The cops took Ramanjanevulu and his parents into custody.

Cyber frauds cheat city man, held in Bangalore

wo cyber frauds were arrested by Cyber Crime sleuths of Rachakonda from Bangalore for cheating a Hyderabad resident of Rs 1.81 lakh on the pretext of investing in stocks. The accused were identified as Rahul Kumar, 27, a native of Patna, and BandlapallyAnantha Surya Chaitanya, 26, of Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh. The arrest was done following a complaint from Sravan Chittireddy, in which he stated that he received phone calls and emails in July from people in Bangalore who claimed to be employees of 'National Stock Research' company. Police said the accused claimed that their company had stock trading analysis team and had contacts with National Stock Exchange (NSE). They promised good returns in 28 trading days. Sravan gave them Rs 1,81,116 through Paytm and cash-free links to bank accounts of their company. He ended up being cheated by the accused. The gang used to collect details of Dviat account noiders from a third party and lure customers with false offers and promises.

TS to set up furniture park near Hyderabad

The Telangana government said on Friday that it plans to set up a Furniture Park exclusively for furniture making and related industries in about 100 acres on the outskirts of the city.

Speaking at the first anniversary of Ikea stores here, Jayesh Ranjan, principal secretary, Industries and IT, said the government has sought the Swedish furniture makers participation in the proposed

Telangana government is setting up a dedicated industrial estate for furniture manufacturing, called Furniture Park, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, spread over 100

Ranjan said the govern-ment can allot space in the Furniture Park and special enclave in the park to Ikea suppliers if they could bring in their suppliers in Europe or

PNS HYDERABAD

ServiceNow on Friday

announced the opening of its

new India Development

Centre in Hyderabad. It will be

the company's largest research

and development centre in

Asia and the second-largest

India Development Centre

will house ServiceNow teams

for various functions like including product engineer-

ing, application development,

product operations and man-

agement, service engineering

and customer support. The new facility is designed to

bring ServiceNow's culture of belonging by providing a modern and collaborative workplace. It is home to high-

end furnishings, purpose-built catering and well-being facil-

The centre was inaugurated

&Commerce and and IT

Principal Secretary Jayesh

Ranjan, ServiceNow chief

product officer CJ Desai and

Rao Surapaneni.

state Industries

Speaking at the event, ter in the future.

ities more than 200,719 sft.

ServiceNow opens

second-largest

centre in Hyd



Proposed industrial estate will be spread over 100 acres on the city outskirts, says Industries principal secy

anywhere else and explain to them about the incentives and support offered by the Telangana government.

Ranjan said that four to five manufacturers have already evinced interest in setting up

service not

Surapaneni said, "India's

mobile-first tech economy

rivals the world's fastest grow-

ing technology hubs and is the

right place for ServiceNow's

continued investment to sup-

port the company's growth.

Our talented and rapidly

expanding teams in Hyderabad and across India

are supporting global growth

by leveraging AI technolo-

gies and building mobile expe-

riences for customers to

unlock productivity of their

employees and deliver great

will focus on making advance-

ments in Artificial Intelligence

ences to help people work bet-

ServiceNow's employees

consumer experiences".

their units in the park. He also requested Ikea India Chief Executive Officer Peter Betzel to help promote products such as world renowned Nirmal paintings from Telangana in the global market.

Ion Exchange opens new **Patancheru**

PNS HYDERABAD

Ion Exchange (India) Limited

With an investment of around Rs 30 crore, the centre will develop new resins, membranes, polymers and specialty chemical technologies related to water, waste water treatment, process separation and purification, specialty process application and catalysis. It will also provide technical and scientific support to the company's existing technology and engineering segments for designing new processes and products.

emphasis on enzyme research and application specifically for the textile and food & beverage industry. Many of these products will be import company's exports.

R&D centre in

on Friday announced the launch of its new Research & Development Centre at Patancheru in Telangana. This state-of-the-art R&D centre is spread over 24,000 sq ft and certified by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR).

The microbiology lab within the centre will lay substitutes with very large potential for enhancing the

GHMC plans **30** daycare centers for senior citizens

PNS HYDERABAD

The GHMC will set up daycare centers for senior citizens.

Commissioner Dana Kishore said on Tuesday that daycare centers are much needed for all senior citizens in the city. Participating in a meeting with Aasara committee and senior citizens, Kishore said that GHMC plans to provide 30 daycare centers, which will provide facilities like yoga, physio-therapy, palliative services to senior citizens. Dana Kishore said, "The GHMC provides facilities to citizens of all segments and hence the need was felt to provide daycare centers for senior citizens. Making them fit will enable them to take care of themselves, give them confidence, respect and better health".

Meanwhile, sports competitions will be conducted for senior citizens on August 14 at Victory play ground and Sachivalaya Nagar.

Man arrested for drugging, robbing victims of valuables

Accused offered victims chocolate laced with drug

PNS HYDERABAD

The Abids Road police arrested a man on Friday who used drug his victims and flee with their valuables. Police seized three chocolates mixed with tablets of prescription drug, Lorazepam-1mg, from his possession.

Police said accused Mohammed Akram, 47, a native of Maharashtra, used to approach people seeking a medical test certificate before going to Gulf. He would accost them at medical shops and sweet talk them into consuming chocolate laced with Lorazepam, and them decamp with their valuables. The arrest was done follow-

ing a complaint from his latest victim, Ulvaji Suresh, 25, from whom Akram robbed Rs 15,000 cash, a Smartphone, gold chain and original passport on July 26.

Suresh said Akram



approached him and he offered to buy him coconut water near a Metro station. "He then slipped in a drug-laced chocolate piece in the glass, and fled with cash, mobile, gold chain and an original passport,"

Investigations revealed that Akram was involved in three similar cases in Narayanaguda, Saifabad and Mirchowk police stations. He was booked under relevant Sections and sent in

Abids Road police inspector K **Science course** counselling to

PNS HYDERABAD

start on 16 Aug

vacant seats for BTech in Agricultural Engineering and Food Technology courses.

Bizman cheats Taj Banjara of Rs 12 lakh in unpaid bill

Stays in hotel room for 102 days, racks up Rs 26L bill

Hyderabad on business pur-

PNS HYDERABAD

A Visakhapatnam-based businessman who under-stayed at Taj Banjara on Banjara Hills area fled from the place without paying room rent bills amounting to Rs 12 lakh. Realising the con, the hotel's GM Hithendra Sarma filed a complaint at the Banjara Hills police station.

According to the police, the businessman, Akkimsetti Sankar Narayan, had come to inspector N Kalinga Rao said.

poses last year. For the 102 days of his stay, the bill totaled Rs 25,96,693, out of which he made a part payment of Rs 13, 62,149.

"On April 4, Akkimsetti requested the hotel for a single room on a long-term basis as he was on business trip in the city. He was allotted a room for which he paid part amount of Rs 13.62 lakh. Thereafter, he kept delaying the rest of the payment," Banjara Hills police

informing the hotel staff. He remained untraceable, which led the hotel management to suspect that he had absconded, police said. His phone also remained switched off. The hotel management then filed a criminal complaint. The police registered a case under Section 406 (criminal breach of trust) and 427 of the IPC and have started a search for the

Akkimsetti locked the room

on April 15 and left without

The PJTSAU varsity will conduct the second counseling for BSc community science course on 16 August. The number of vacant seats along with merit list of students will be mentioned on website. "Students who were allotted seats should pay the fee as soon as possible, or else the seat will be cancelled," said PJTSAU registrar S Sudheer Kumar. The MCC stream farmer's quota counseling will begin on the same day for

Modi rule is like British Raj: TPCC

PNS HYDERABAD

TPCC secretary Mohd Saleem on Friday tore into the BJP over the scrapping of Article 370 in J&K and alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rule at the Centre was identical to the British Raj of Saleem called upon

anniversary of 'Quit India Movement'. He alleged that scrapping of Article 370 undemocratically, weakening RTI and Interfering in Sharia with the triple talaq law were evidence that the Modi gov-ernment was behaving like British, he slammed. In a statement, Saleem

Congress party workers to alleged that during BJP gov- secured and feared. spread RSS and Sangh ideolstart a movement against 'hate ernment people are feeling in Minorities, Dalits, Women ogy all over India.



and Children are sacred. Quit India Movement was started to raise the voice for the Freedom against British rule. During BJP rule, people of India are experiencing similar conditions in the country as in British rule. British wanted to spread English language and their culture all over the world, Modi wants to

No clues yet in minor's rape-murder

Father a suspect; police await DNA, forensics reports

PNS HYDERABAD

Investigations into the murder and alleged rape of a minor girl reported last month have not made any progress with the Cyberabad police still awaiting forensic reports and DNA analysis to identify definite angles.

The disfigured dead body of 16-year-old Jyothi, who was earlier allegedly raped and murdered by her own father, was found on July 20. The face of the girl was completely stripped to the bone, making it difficult to identify the body. Police had suspected that it was done so to derail the investigation. The girl's throat was slit and her eyes were also gouged Subramanyam, was initially

out to avoid identification. According to Petbasheerbad, ACP,

Narasimha Rao, the girl's body was found by locals on an open plot in the colony. "We have deployed Clues Team and a dog squad and conducted a preliminary inquiry, following which it was revealed that the girl's name was Jyothi, a government school student, and that she was murdered by someone who slit her throat. She bled to death," ACP Rao said. Police are awaiting the DNA analysis and other forensic report to make proceed further in the investigation.

Police sources from Medchal said the girl's father,

considered a suspect. "Jyothi was his first wife's daughter. After her mother's death, Subramanyam married another woman and settled in Alwal along with two children from the second wife, aged 5 and 9 years. We interrogated him as he is our prime suspect, but are waiting for PME (postmortem examination) reports to ascertain the rape," a source said, adding that signs of an sexual assault could be noticed on the

The case, which was altered to murder (302 of IPC) from suspicious death (174 CrPC), will further sections added and other relevant sections of PoCSO Act once PME reports

Officer takes up 'Swachhata' drive in free time

NAVEEN KUMAR HYDERABAD

All residents want Hyderabad to be even cleaner but not everybody gets up and tries to make a tangible difference. Senior IPS officer VK Singh is one of those who make the effort. He has gathered volunteers from the city to carry out campaigns to convince people to stop waiting for change to happen and instead start fixing issues themselves. The volunteers will start fieldwork on August 11, said Singh, sounding very optimistic about the task.

It is a godsend opportunity that I have a little less work in my new role as Commissioner of Printing and Stationery department, which allows me to spend time for causes which



I hold dear, he said. "I want said the officer. people of Hyderabad to realise that they must not always wait for authorities to come over and do the work. They have to take the initiative for their own benefit. Our people must make sure that issues like diseases, dengue for example, are dealt with at an early stage. The responsibility should be taken up by locals and only then we will have a large-scale change,"

People of **Hyderabad must** not always wait for authorities to come over and do the work'

Thousands of civilians across the city have volunteered to help in spreading the 'swachh' awareness by taking up a door-to-door campaign. 'It is almost impossible to turn the printing and stationery department around because it has few resources. Unless the government decides to revive nothing can be done. However, I would really like to improve the quality of life of poor factory workers. I have decided to go to different areas in Hyderabad every week and work for 'Swachhata Abhiyan' - because there is hardly any work in my current charge, and I cannot sit idle.

The officer has done his bit for the city on earlier occasions too. "After some hard work in the past, I was able to make Hyderabad beggar-free to an extent. Now I want to make it garbage-free. After Hyderabad, will go to other parts of Telangana, from mandal to mandal, village to village and meet people and spread social awareness. I also want to take to teaching some needy students or join some college on honorary basis to help out such students," said the officer.

Man arrested for killing paramour

PNS HYDERABAD

A 36-year-old man was arrested on Thursday following a post-mortem report confirming that a woman who body was found under suspicious circumstances was strangled to death.

The arrested person has been identified as R Ramana Rao, a lorry driver by profession and a resident of Papireddy colony in Serilingampally.

Ramana Rao murdered his cousin, 42-year-old Swetha laxmi, by strangling her with a saree fearing that she might make public their affair.

Heritage precincts get Metro's step-motherly treatment

PNS HYDERABAD

Is the HMRL extending preferential treatment by developing certain select areas in the city? The effort it put in to develop the 5-km high street at Jubilee Hills check post to Cybertowers was very commendable. But the HMRL has been tardy in its efforts of developing the 5-km Heritage Precinct from Assembly to MGBS.

In July 2018, HMRL announced it would develop the Heritage Precinct covering five Metro stations - Assembly station, Nampally station, Gandhi Bhavan, OMC and MGBS as part of Corridor-I.

However, the ground situation portrays a poor picture. a decent foot path nor a good road. The road near MGBS

Since the inaugural of Ameerpet to LB Nagar corridor in September 2018, let alone Heritage Precinct standards, the HMRL has not been able to build even the bare minimum footpaths as part of ground works at several places. Heaps of clay and tiles lie idle at various stations, almost one full year after the service became operational.

The level of the street has not been made pedestrianfriendly. Initially, officials cited dearth of funds, elections and several other reasons for the quality of street level works executed. At Metro stations of Assembly, Osmania Hospital and Nampally, there is neither

station is ramshackle. The ground level works, which were supposed to facilitate seamless pedestrian movement, are in fact putting pedestrians at risk. At the Assembly Metro station, instead of a footpath there is damp mud over which pedestrians are forced to walk to exit the premises. At Nampally station, the multi-level parking for which the foundation stone was laid in September 2018,

not an inch has progressed.

The HMRL had initially proposed that the Heritage Precinct's theme would entail using wrought iron/MS railing to give it a heritage look, have classic patterns of tiles and stone flooring, restoration of heritage structures and buildWith shoddy work, HMRL has hardly kept its word on developing the precinct with a vintage look

ings, liberal usage of cobble stones, period-look street furniture and vintage looking electrical fittings interspersed with sculptures, art work, classical signage etc. But black railings, for wrought iron look, can be found only at Gandhi Bhavan.

Officials were unavailable for comment on the issue.



Start-up launches device to help stroke victims

PNS HYDERABAD

Indian Institute Technology-Hyderabad's Centre for Healthcare Entrepreneurship (CfHE)-Incubated startup 'BeAble Health' has launched 'Arm Able,' an interactive arm training rehabilitative device offering a solution for arm rehabilitation.

The product is aimed at helping neuro-rehabilitation of stroke victims and motor rehabilitation of victims with upper limb motor impairment caused by conditions such as cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, traumatic brain injury, fracture and frozen

shoulder. BeABle was founded by CfHE Fellow, Habib Ali, a biomedical engineer and roboticist. The Startup launched the product during the graduation of third batch of Fellows on Thursday. Fellows enrolled in the program undergo a thorough exposure to clinical environment to identify unmet needs. This is followed by training in needs analysis, solutions and business plan development.

Highlight some of the aspects of 'Arm Able,' Habib Ali said, "We believe there is no such thing as a 'disabled' person, there are only bad designs and disabled tech-

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HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | AUGUST 10, 2019

AIIMS Bibinagar to start from August 27

The first academic session of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bibinagar, is all set to start from August 27. According to sources, the crucial aspect of recruiting teaching staff for the prestigious institution was completed and the civil works related to the fine-tuning of infrastructure was nearing

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhopal is mentoring this institute till date. Only a one-year contract was offered to the teaching staff for recruiting in AIIMS, Bibinagar. Despite that, the response from teaching staff from across India was huge. Earlier, the authorities decided to start AIIMS,



Bibinagar, by the first week of August, but due to delays in completing infrastructure works, the inaugural was delayed to the end of the

month. Construction of Anatomy, Biochemistry, Physiology and other departwere complete. ments Authorities said the construc-

Institute of **Medical Sciences** (AIIMS) Bhopal is mentoring this institute till date. Only a one-year contract was offered to the teaching staff for recruiting in AIIMS, Bibinagar

The All India

tion of hostels and dining hall for boys and girls was nearing completion.



AP govt appoints Chief Digital Director PNS HYDERABAD

Devender Reddy Gurrampati has been appointed as Chief Digital Director in I&PR department of Andhra Pradesh. In this regard, T-Vijay Kumar Reddy Ex-officio special secretary issued orders on Friday. Devender played a crucial role in the YSRCP social media wing prior to the elections. He headed the YSRCP social media wing which was the brain behind the 'Ravali Jagan Kavali Jagan' campaign.

Minister Etela Rajender interacts with officials after inaugurating a new state-ofthe-art premises of the Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Society at Shivrampally.

"If the government uses public places like bus stops, metro and railway stations, cinema halls, colleges, hospitals etc and institutions of mass gathering to spread awareness about this deadly disease, particularly about the HbA2 screening test, it could significantly help in countering the disease," he added.

TS will be Thalassemia

free soon, says Etela

PNS HYDERABAD

Health Minister Etela Raiender on Friday inaugurated the new state-of-the-art premises of

the Thalassemia and Sickle

Cell Society at Shivrampally in

the presence of Member of

Parliament from Chevella Dr

Gaddam Ranjit Reddy, T Prakash Goud MLA from

Rajendranagar and VV

Additional Director General of

Addressing the Thalassemia children and their parents on

this occasion, Health Minister

Etela Rajender congratulated

the society. The Minister said

that the TRS government was

committed to make Telangana

a Thalassemia free state and

announced to extend com-

plete support for patients affected by Thalassemia including uninterrupted funds for their treatment. The Health

Department is incurring an

annual expenditure of Rs 7,500

crore, he said. He stressed on

promotive, preventive and

A scheme for the pension to

these patients will also be con-templated, he said and added

that the government is always

meant for poor, not (just) for

rich. Speaking on this occasion, President of the society

Chandrakant Agarwal said,

Thalassemia patients for over

2 decades and nearly 40 stu-

dents are given free blood

transfusion every day. There

are 4.9 million people who are

Thalassemia minor in India. In

Telangana, every year, nearly

30,000 children are born with

Thalassemia minor and near-

ly 700 with Thalassemia major.

The numbers are rising due to

He said that society aims to

Meanwhile, the

help Telangana State become

India's first Thalassemia free-

President of the society urged

the Health Minister to "make

HbA2 test mandatory in all

hospitals of the State for all the

expecting mothers.

State.

lack of awareness," he said.

"the society has been treating

curative activities.

Laxminarayan,

Police, Maharashtra.

Retd.

Thalassemia is a genetically inherited blood disorder and at present, no concrete cure is available for the disease. Every two to three weeks, their blood has to be transfused with new blood and costly medication is required. As a result, the families of these patients are utterly devastated. HbA2' is a simple inexpensive test that can be taken before marriage or after pregnancy. The test is used to diagnose these patients and therefore prevents the birth of a Thalassemic child and it is the only way to prevent it.

Thalassemia & Sickle Cell Society has been fighting this morbid malady since last two decades and serving the Thalassemic children by providing free blood transfusion, medication and counselling facilities. The Society also manages Kamala Hospital & Research Centre, Vuppala Venkaiah Memorial Blood Bank, Vuppala Krishna Rao & Chandrakala Diagnostic Services.

The new premises of the

boast advanced in-house medical equipment including blood transfusion and sampling devices, imported centrifuges, modern laboratories, everything required for treating Thalassemia patients. The society started with the treatment of 20 children when it was founded in 1998 and now treats nearly 2,640 Thalassemia children every year. CEO of society Dr Suman Jain said "Thalassemia can be prevented and its numbers can be brought down just like HIV has been addressed. She said Cyprus made the HbA2 test mandatory and was able to control Thalassemia in 1984. In India, Telangana can be

Thalassemia and Sickle Society

Member of Parliament Ranjit Reddy said "it is disappointing that the number of patients is Health Minister to increase the amount sanctioned under Aarogyashree for Thalassemia treatment, and HbA2 test is made mandatory for pregnant women and at regular periodic intervals for other women. VV Laxminarayan, Retd. Additional Director General of Police, Maharashtra said: "this day in history the Quit India movement was started and this day today we must pledge to start the Quit Thalassemia movement." MLA T Prakash

the first state to initiate this countermeasure." Speaking on the occasion going up. He requested the

Goud and others also spoke.

Health varsity violated quota rules: Krishnaiah

National BC welfare association president R Krishnaiah has written a letter to the Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao on the alleged irregularities in implementation of reservation in medical counseling. In the letter, Krishnaiah said that the Supreme Court had set aside the orders of the High Court on the online procedure adopted by the Kaloji Health University in medical counsel-

ing.
"Despite Supreme Court giving orders in this regard, the Health University has conducted second phase counseling in sheer violation of orders, depriving the rights of SC/ST/BC and Minority students for the academic year 2019-20. The university has not implemented the reservation in true spirits," he said in a letter to the Chief Minister.

"In the second phase counseling of medical admissions the university displayed the



seat matrix in the university website. The seat matrix shows the implementation of G.O Rt.No.550. But in practice after filling the vacancies in second phase we found that the meritorious reserved candidates were shown in reserved categories and also found whatever this seat displayed in seat matrix for reserved categories were not filled by the respective reserved category students," he further said in the letter. He urged the Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao to look into this regard and take nec-

Specialised BC schools to come in handy

PNS MEDAK

The Specialised BC school concept envisaged by the government of Telangana is likely to help the students from the BC community as the new concept will help them excel in education. The State government has already sanctioned 119 new Mahatma Jyothibha Phule Backward Telangana Classes Welfare Residential schools.

The Telangana Social Residential Educational Institutions Society has already established cricket academy and social welfare school for fine arts which tasted success.

The coaching pattern introduced in these institutions would certainly help the students to excel in competitive exams and the Education Department officials in the Medak, Siddipet and Sangareddy districts feel that the new process of BC Gurukul pattern would provide the BC communities to attain all-round growth in the education sector.

BJP defaming Nehru, says T Cong Loyalists Forum

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Congress Loyalists Forum (TCLF) alleged that the BJP has attempted to portray as if there were differences between former Prime Minister late Jawaharlal Nehru and the Home Minister late Sardar Patel during the discussion in the parliament on Abrogation of Article 370 and Kashmir Re-organization Bills. The BJP also attempted to blame Pandit Nehru for the inclusion of Article 370, TCLF alleged. TCLF said that it is seriously condemning this attempt by BJP. Those questioning Article 370 and who is responsible for it should first brush up their knowledge of history and not make statements to distort it, TCLF advised on Thursday in a statement. At the time of Independence, the integration of over 500 princely states into India was a big challenge, which was handled very deftly by Sardar Patel. Coming to the issue of Kashmir's accession to India, it became imperative to assure the people of J&K that steps would be taken to protect their culture, their rights and aspirations and Article 370 was the



Suggests the Nehru's critics to learn history first

way out. Had it not been for this, Kashmir becoming an integral part of India would have been a big question mark as Pakistan was hoping to make Kashmir their territory, it opined.

"We can create confidence in the minds of the Kashmiri people and hence Article 370 was the only way out. It was a very considered decision by the Indian government of when Sardar Patel was the Home Minister. Blaming Jawaharlal Nehru is a part of BJP's strategy to defame a leader, who is held in high esteem not only in India but the world over, to mislead people of the country", it

of two Telugu States now can

where in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. With the

support, NIC details of the

beneficiaries are linked to

EPoS, now Andhra people

can avail ration without again

linking of biometric or IRIS.

As per the National Food Security Act (NFSA), every

beneficiary will get 5Kg rice at Rs. 3 per kg and wheat at Rs.

2 per kg. In Telangana, around

2.82 crore beneficiaries are

benefitted with Ration

Anywhere (Portability) as

they can get their ration from

take their ration from any-

Tourism Minister V Srinivas Goud unveils a brochure on a special package tour

Govt announces tour package to Kaleshwaram

PNS HYDERABAD

Tourism Minister V Srinivas Goud unveiled a brochure on a special package tour to Kaleshwaram Project at Secretariat here on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao took the project on priority and completed it within record three years. "Many people are showing interest to visit the project site. Considering this, the Tourism Department, with Chief Minister's nod, has decided to operate tourist buses to the project site from Hyderabad," the Minister said.

As part of the package, the tourists can visit Kaleshwaram Temple, Medigadda Barrage, Kannepalli Pump House, Annaram Barrage, 1,000 Pillar Temple and Bhadrakali Temple. According to the department officials, the tariff for adults is Rs 1,800 and children is Rs 1,440. It includes transportation and stay at Haritha Hotel at Kaleshwaram. The buses will depart from Basheerbagh at 9 PM every Saturday and will arrive in Hyderabad on Sunday

rally from Oct 7 PNS HYDERABAD The Indian Army is all set to conduct recruitment rally

recruitment

Army

under Army Recruitment Office, Secunderabad next month from October 7 to 17 at Dr BR Ambedkar Stadium, Karimnagar to enroll candidates into the Army from 33 districts across Telangana.

The categories include Soldier Technical, Soldier Technical (Aviation/Ammunition Examiner), Soldier Nursing Assistant/Nursing Assistant Veterinary, Soldier Clerk & Store Keeper Technical, Soldier General Duty, Soldier Pharma and Soldier Tradesman. Candidates will have to apply online only on www.joinindianarmy.nic.in from August 23 Aug to 22 Sep 2019. Admit card will be issued online after September 23. Date of reporting at rally site will be intimated on admit card and the applicant can take print out of admit card after 23 Sep.

Candidates can clarify all their recruitment related queries from Secunderabad

Paswan sets ball rolling for 'One Nation, One Ration'

After pilot run, Union Minister launches project in four states, including Telangana and Andhra Pradesh

PNS HYDERABAD

From now on, the poor can avail ration from anywhere in the country. Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & PDS, Ram Vilas Paswan on Friday launched the 'One Nation One Ration card' scheme in two cluster States of Telangana-Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra-Gujarat on a pilot project basis. The Union Minister launched the project in Hyderabad through online from New Delhi.

One beneficiary, Eashwar Rao from East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh, who is working as a security guard in an apartment in Punjagutta, Hyderabad has availed the PDS rice through National Portability in the presence of Commissioner for Civil Supplies Akun Sabarwal. "I am working as a security guard in Hyderabad for over 15 years. Every two or



Minister enquired about the PDS in the State. Responding to it, the Civil Supplies Commissioner said that the Portability is being implemented in the State from April 2018 and so far, in 14 months, over 2 crore beneficiaries have taken ration using here in Hyderabad and can portability.

Telangana State has suffi-On the occasion, the Union cient supply of rice for Public

COmmissioner Akun Sabarwal Distribution System, it is sup-

plying boiled rice to Kerala and Tamil Nadu through FCI. Telangana Civil Supplies Department is not compromising on the quality of rice for PDS and established special quality control wing, he explained. Speaking on the implementation of 'One Nation One Ration Card', the Commissioner said, people

Vijaya Dairy

any ration shop, which was introduced by the Civil Supplies Department on April 1st, 2018. Ration from Anywhere (Portability) gained huge success as the number of beneficiaries using this facility is growing constantly. So far, more than 2.10 crore Portability transactions were recorded.

TASA joins relief ops in Karnataka

via e-vehicles

The vehicles are ecofriendly and the government got them specially designed, he revealed. These vehicles should be charged 6-8 hours and it travels a distance of 90 km for a single charge. The Government will buy 100 these vehicles for use in GHMC limits and an equal number in the erstwhile 10 districts of Telangana, he

Telangana and Andhra Sub Area (TASA), Secunderabad has sent 3 columns of Army personnel to neighbouring Karnataka for carrying out relief and rescue operations. Around 250 Army personnel were deployed in Raichur, Yadgir and Gulbarga districts along with the required machinery and medical teams.

been rescued and were pro-vided medical aid and food packets. Despite inclement weather and continuous rain in the region, all efforts are being made to evacuate the villagers along with NDRF and civil administration. Two columns at 1EME Centre, Secunderabad are on standby for Srikakulam



inclement weather and continuous rain in the region, all efforts are being made to evacuate the villagers along with NDRF and civil administration

Despite

Over 40 have been killed in Kerala and Karnataka as rains pound southern states. Given the present situation, Karnataka to Kerala routes via

Mysore and Kodagu have been blocked. Meanwhile, the Pinarayi Vijayan government has declared a holiday for schools across the state as the and Kasargode.

red alert was issued for Ernakulam, Idukki, Trissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur

black day on August 15 PNS KHAMMAM The Telangana State committee of outlawed CPI Maoists on

Maoists give call for

Friday called the people of the State to observe August 15 as black day protesting the Central Government's decision to scrap special status to Jammu and Kashmir and dividing it into two Union Territories. The official representative of the CPI Maoist Telangana State committee has released a statement to the media organisations in this

In the statement released on Friday, CPI Maoist Telangana State committee secretary Jagan came down heavily on the BJP and TRS and their



three months, I used to go to

my native place to get my

ration for which I used to shell

out nearly Rs 2,000 to Rs

3,000 for travelling. With the

implementation of the

National Portability, now I can

get my ration commodities

save travelling expenses," he

MLAs and MPs for celebrating the revoking of the Article 370 and 35 A of the Jammu and Kashmir. The statement exhorted the people of the State to oppose the leaders of these two parties over their festive moods and called upon the people, democratic forces, Minorities, Dalits, left forces, and all others working against BJP to join hands with each

other against the Centre's decision. A two-page communiqué sent to the media discussed in length about the chronology of events that took place before the implementation of the central government's decision on the Kashmir issue.

"The BJP government planned meticulously to impose restrictions on the Kashmir people for the past few months and it has tightened the law and order situation over the past few days. The government deployed a heavy contingent of forces in by conducting the review meetings of higher officials along with the Home Minister Amit Shah, National advisor

products to be distributed

PNS HYDERABAD

To take Vijaya Dairy products even closer to customers, the government is procuring electric vehicles, said Minister for Animal Husbandry Talasani Srinivas Yadav.

> Huge numbers of locals have (AP) if assistance required.

SHORT READS



No question of going back to ballot papers: **CEC Sunil Arora**

KOLKATA: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora on Friday dismissed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's demand to bring back ballot papers in place of electronic voting machines, saying there is no question of going back to the old system. Arora said that the Supreme Court has repeatedly given verdicts against the return of ballot papers. "We are not going back to the era of ballot papers. The Supreme Court has more than once said that ballot papers are our past," Arora told reporters after arriving at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International airport here. Talking on the possibilities of holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Arora said that a formal communication was awaited from the Ministries of Home and Law. "We are waiting for the formal communication from the Home and Law ministries," he said.

Governors of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura meet HM **Amit Shah**

NEW DELHI: Governors of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura Friday met Home Minister Amit Shah and discussed with him various issues concerning their respective states, officials said Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan and Tripura Governor Ramesh Bais called on the home minister separately. A home ministry official described the meetings as 'courtesy' calls. The governors discussed with the home minister issues concerning their respective states, the official added.

Individuals can now be declared as terrorists

NEW DELHI: President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to a legislation under which individuals can be declared as terrorists and their properties seized, officials said on Friday, The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019 also provides for putting travel ban on such individuals once they are declared as terrorists. The President gave his assent to the legislation late on Thursday night, a home ministry official said. The Lok Sabha had passed the amendment Bill on July 24 and the Rajya Sabha on August 2. India's most wanted, Lashkare-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed and Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar, are likely to be the first two individuals to be designated as terrorists under the legislation, the officials said. The amendments give powers to the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to attach properties acquired from proceeds of terrorism. Earlier, the law required that the NIA take prior permission from the respective state police chief to attach the proceeds of terrorism. This delays the process as often such properties are in different states, another official said. Earlier, officers in the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police and above were empowered to investigate cases under the UAPA as per

Many J&K residents, say Kashmiris should have been consulted

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday defended his government's decision to revoke provisions of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, a section of residents alleged the way it was done was "extremely undemocratic". Some even claimed the Centre only wanted to "win lands and not hearts of Kashmiris".

From students to professionals, belonging to both Jammu and Kashmir regions, many were apprehensive that taking away the special status will render the "ecologically sensitive" province "vulnerable" to exploitation due to infrastructure-related activities.

"With revoking of the Article, floodgates will be opened for the corporate sector to invest in big projects like hotels, flyovers and other big buildings. It will harm our pristine environment, which had so far been left largely unharmed due to the restrictions that come under the Article," said a Kashmiri journalist, who did not wish to be identified.

He cited the example of Uttarakhand to support his claim, saying the country saw "If they wanted to win our access to an ambulance

how houses and hotels built close to rivers damaged the environment in the state.

"We do not want that to happen in our homeland," he said. Ajaz Ahmed, a Delhi-based physiotherapist who is in his 30s, alleged, "They (the government) only want the land of Kashmir, they do not want to win the hearts of Kashmiris".

"If they wanted to win our trust, they should have taken us into confidence, discussed about the pros and cons of the exercise and made us feel secure. Our families are living under siege there. If an emergency arises, our families won't even have access to an ambulance," he said.

Reaching out to Kashmiris with messages of hope and optimism, Prime Minister Modi on Thursday assured them of all-round development, early and transparent elections and end to terrorism. He defended his government's move scrapping the provisions of Article 370 and asserted they only gave separatism, corruption, family rule and were used by Pakistan as a tool to spread terror in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a nearly 40-minute televised address to the nation, three days after the far-reach-

trust, they should have taken us into confidence, discussed about the pros and cons of the exercise and made us feel secure. Our families are living under siege there. If an emergency arises, our families won't even have

ing decision, Modi also sought to assuage concerns of the people after his government split the state into Union Territories, saying Jammu and Kashmir will not remain a UT

for long. With the Kashmir Valley reeling under security clampdown, Modi promised the government is making all sincere efforts to ensure that the people in the region have no difficulties in celebrating Eid which is on Monday.

But not many residents of the Jammu or Kashmir region were impressed with the prime minister's speech.

"I think his speech was redundant, verbose and lacking substance, and linking scrapping of Article 370 with development of the state, was mis-placed," the Delhi-based Kashmiri journalist alleged.

"Whatever the prime minister suggested to bring development, selling Kashmiri shawls and apples and herbs around the world, is anything stopping that? Why link the growth to the revoking if Article 370. Besides, our state is better than other sates in many indices, be it literacy rate or health indicators, plus people are well-off, very few people live off the streets," he said.

Aejaz Ahmad Rather, Jawaharlal Nehru Students' Union general secretary said, "They are saying that it has been done with an agenda to bring development. But according to figures, Gujarat is lacking in development as opposed to Jammu and Kashmir in many indices".

"What the government has done is a grave mistake, and they will regret it later. They have taken away our identity. he alleged. He alleged the situation in Kashmir was "worst form of Emergency" and the move is a "travesty of justice".

Guv asks officials to reach out to people in Kashmir



PNS JAMMU

Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik has directed Deputy Commissioners in the Kashmir Valley to reach out to the people to take stock of their requirements relating to ration, medicines and other daily needs and address them swiftly, officials said Friday.

Malik, who is taking daily updates from his administration about the prevailing scenario in Jammu and Kashmir after the Centre revoked the state's special status and divided it into two union territories, reviewed the security situation Thursday night, officials said.

He directed Deputy Commissioners of districts in the Valley to depute staff to visiting different localities to take

stock of people's requirements relating to ration, medicines and other daily needs and address them swiftly, a Raj Bhawan spokesman said.

They have been asked to visit at least 20 families daily and solve their issues, he said. Special vans have been pressed into service for selling essential commodities to people and officers have been asked to keep check on profiteering and other unethical practices by the traders, the spokesperson said.

The governor has directed the district administration to reach out to people and enquire about any patients who is in need of urgent medical care.

The governor has asked them to make available ambulances to patients who need to be taken to Hospitals.

Pak must be "thanked" for downgrading ties with India: Sena

The Shiv Sena on Friday said Kashmir was now a closed chapter for Pakistan and asserted that Islamabad

downgrading diplomatic ties with India post removal of special status for the border state will hurt it more than New Delhi.

Early this week, the Centre revoked special status to Jammu and Kashmir accorded under Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcated the state into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Pakistan on Wednesday expelled Indian High

Foreign agency to

trace arms used in

Dabholkar case: CBI

The Central Bureau of

Investigation, which is probing

the killing of rationalist

Narendra Dabholkar, told the

Bombay High Court on Friday

that it has roped in a foreign

agency to help find the

weapons used in the case. CBI counsel and Additional

Solicitor General Anil Singh

told a bench of justices S C

Dharmadhikari and G S Patel

that experts from the agency

will reach India on Sunday. The

entire task will take 30 days, he

said. Singh told the high court

that it is suspected that the

weapons were dumped by the

accused in the Thane creek

after the incident. The bench

was hearing petitions filed by

the kin of Dabholkar and late

leftist leader Govind Pansare,

seeking that the court monitors

the probe into both the cases.

The Special Investigation Team

(SIT) of the Maharashtra gov-

ernment, which is probing the

Pansare case, told the high

court that its officers could not

reach the court due to heavy

rains and flooding in Kolhapur.

PNS MUMBAI

Commissioner Ajay Bisaria as part of its decision to downgrade the diplomatic ties with Índia over what it called New Delhi's "unilateral and illegal" move on J&K. What more can

Pakistan do?" asked the editorial in the Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana', seeking highlight insignificance of Islamabad's reaction.

"Thanking" Pakistan for downgrading the diplomatic ties with India, the Sena said Islamabad should now accept the Kashmir issue was a closed chapter for them and the only thing left with them is POK which will also be settled soon. Referring to the pro-India

PNS NEW DELHI

remain normal. However till

August 8, rainfall is 5 per cent

and there was some concern. By

Gods grace, the rainfall has improved now and the deficit has

narrowed," Tomar told reporters. He also said, "we expect the

overall rainfall will recover

and the deficit in sowing area

under the Kharif crops will be

covered. The sowing operation is progressing well." On flood

situation in some states like

Maharasthra and Karnataka,

the minister said the central

government is closely moni-

Sowing of Kharif crops like

paddy and pulses begin with

toring the situation.

"Monsoon was delayed a bit

below the normal level.

banners, including a quote of Sena leader Sanjay Raut, that have appeared in parts of Islamabad, the editorial said the saffron outfit had entered the Pakistan territory and the Indian Army will follow suit.

One of the banners carried

a quote of Raut: "Aaj Jammu -

Kashmir liya hai, kal Balochistan, PoK lenge. Mujhe vishwas hai desh ke PM Akhand Hindustan ka sapna poora karenge [Today, we took Jammu and Kashmir, tomorrow we will take Balochistan Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. I am sure Prime Minister Modi will make the dream of undivided India come true]." The Marathi daily said downgrading ties will hurt Pakistan more than India.

Monsoon deficit narrows; kharif

sowing progressing well: Agri Min

Driver runs 'cloth bank' for shut tea garden workers

PNS JALPAIGURI/ ALIPURDUAR (WB)

A 48-year-old taxi driver, who had to drop out of school due to financial inability to buy a uniform, collects discarded clothes and distributes them among dwellers of shut tea gardens in north Bengal's Dooars region. Saju Talukdar

Alipurduar district's Birpara started the charity by forming a 'cloth bank' in 2017, naming it after legendary tribal leader Birsa Munda. "While driving between Siliguri and different parts of north Bengal, I used to often come across scantily-clothed people begging on the streets and scanning through garbage for

Inter-state portability of ration card begins in 4 states: Paswan

PNS NEW DELHI

In a bid to implement 'One Nation, One Ration Card' across the country by June 1, 2020, the Centre on Friday kick-started inter-state portability of ration card between Telangana-Andhra Pradesh as well as Maharashtra-Gujarat. This means beneficiaries living in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh can buy their quota of ration from the Public Distribution System (PDS), also called ration shops, in either of the state. Similar would be the case in Maharasthra and Gujarat.

Launching the inter-state portability, Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said, "today is a historic day. We have started off inter-state portability of ration card pairing two states each." In these four states, both intra-state and inter-state portability of ration card is being implemented successfully, he said. Meanwhile, seven states --

Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tripura -- at present are testing intra-portability of ration card, which means beneficiaries can lift their quota of ration from any PDS located within a state.

Telangana and AP can buy their quota of ration from the **Public Distribution**

Elaborating, Food Secretary Ravi Kant said gradually, the inter-state portability of ration card will be implemented in the above mentioned states by January 2020.

System, also called

ration shops

"By January 2020, these 11 states will be formed as one grid where ration card will be made portable. It means beneficiaries

can buy ration from any one of these 11 states," Kant explained. The Minister said that the government is targeting to roll out 'One Nation, One Ration Card' across the country by June 1,

Asked how the stock will be managed, Paswan said,"there won't be any problem because the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns have enough capacity and have been asked to stock three months of ration in advance." The FCI godowns have been made online and the states have been directed to make their depots online at the earliest to track the movement of foodgrains.

Yechury, Raju not allowed to enter **Kashmir: CPI(M)** sources

PNS NEW DELHI

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yecury and CPI chief D Raja were not allowed to enter Jammu and Kashmir on Friday and were sent back from Srinagar airport after a brief detention, party sources said. The Left leaders had gone to Srinagar to meet CPI(M) leader Md Tarigami and other party colleagues. "They showed us a legal order which did not allow any entry into Srinagar. It stated that even escorted movement int the city was not permitted due to security reasons. We are still trying to negotiate with them," Yechury said.

80,000 more flood-hit people evacuated in Karnataka

PNS BENGALURU

Authorities have evacuated 80,000 more people from flood-hit and rain-affected areas in Karnataka, where the rain fury in the last few days has left nine people dead.

Joint rescue teams comprising personnel from Fire and Emergency Department, State Disaster Response Force, National Disaster Response Force and Army have evacuated 1,24,291 people so far, an official statement said Friday.

The cumulative figure for yesterday was 43,858. Nine additional NDRF teams have been airlifted for rescue operations including five to

We are leaving

disappointed... We

had planned a trek

in the mountains

materialise as the

but it could not

forces have

blocked

Belagavi and two to Kodagu, the statement said. Two Indian Air Force choppers have been deployed for rescue operations. "One more chopper will be deployed in Raichur", it said. In Belagavi district, the worst-hit by the floods, six

while 1,410 kms of road and 4,019 government buildings have been damaged. 'As on 8 am today (Friday),

people have lost their lives,

3.91 lakh cusecs (of water) is reaching Belagavi border from Maharashtra," the statement said. The floods and rains have left a trail of destruction in vast areas of north, coastal and Malnad districts of the State.

Land becoming unproductive due to human actions: Javadekar

PNS NEW DELHI

With the world population rising, more cultivable land area is required, but human actions have rendered many land parts unproductive, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said on Friday.

Speaking after launching a website dedicated to the upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP-14) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to be held here in September, Javadekar said India will be a good host.



"From September 2-14, 2019, India is hosting COP 14 under UNCCD to combat desertification of land. More than 150 countries will par-

"World population is increasing. So we need more land under cultivation but because of human actions, many land parts have become unproductive. We have to make it productive. Leaders from several countries will participate over this issue," the minister told the reporters

"We have started a website on COP 14. It will be a significant step and India's Prime Minister will also be a part of the programme. India will not fall short in being a host," he



"We expect the overall rainfall will recover and the deficit in sowing area under the Kharif crops will be covered. The sowing operation is progressing well"

the onset of monsoon from June and harvesting starts from October onwards. As per the latest sowing data maintained by the Union Agriculture Ministry, total acreage sown to all Kharif crops so far has remained lower at 869.55 lakh hectare as against 918.70 lakh hectare in the year-ago.

Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agrawal said, "the deficit in overall sowing area has improved compared to the last week. Now, the gap has come down." The rice acreage is still lagging and it will be recovered in the coming weeks as sowing widow is there till September first week, he said.

Rice acreage was down at 265.20 lakh hectare so far in the Kharif season of the 2019-20 crop year (July-June) when compared with 304.18 lakh hectare in the year-ago, as per the min-

South African tourist couple leave Kashmir disappointed

TARIQ SOFI ■ SRINAGAR

A South African couple's plan to celebrate their 38th marriage anniversary in Kashmir ended in disappointment due to the security clampdown but they are hopeful of returning to the Valley when the situation improves. Neil Storm and his wife Merrill had arrived in the Valley on August 2, a day after visiting Taj Mahal, to observe the special day of their life and had chalked out a plan to celebrate the rest of the week in Kashmir.

PTI minutes before leaving "We are leaving disappointfor Delhi. However, he said they will ed...We had planned a trek in the mountains but it could not return to the valley once the sit-



materialise as the forces have "We will like to come back blocked everything," Storm, a retired Army personnel, told

any other time because our hosts were so beautiful and nice. We liked this place and it is time to keep in touch with our hosts to know the exact siteverything uation so that we can plan our trip accordingly without any disturbance or wasting so

much money," he said. He said though he has a sixmonth Indian visa, establishing contact with the Kashmiri host

because of snapping of communication lines at the moment. "We will be happy if we return to the Valley...sooner the

to get an advice is not possible

best," he said. Curfew-like restrictions are

in force in most parts of Kashmir Valley with mobile, landline and Internet services snapped to scuttle any protest over scrapping of provisions of Article 370 and bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories by the government earlier this week.

The restrictions under prohibitory orders were eased in some parts of Civil Lines area and Dal Lake on Thursday.

SHORT READS

NSA Doval

tours sensitive

downtown Srinagar **SRINAGAR:** National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, who

has been camping here since

Tuesday, talked to locals and

downtown area here on Friday,

accompanied by his aides and

the Eidgah locality and stopped

senior police officers, visited

at various places to interact

with locals. He later talked to police and Central Reserve

Police Force (CRPF) personnel

wonderful work in maintaining

law and order. The NSA has

instructed the security forces

harassed in any manner during

the tight restrictions imposed in

the wake of abrogation of the

constitutional provisions that

accorded special status to the

state, the officials said.

deployed in Jammu and

common people are not

Kashmir to ensure that the

and thanked them for their

security personnel during a

quick tour of the sensitive

officials said. The NSA,

BSY: Centre will extend all assistance to Karnataka

The Central government has assured of extending all assistance to Karnataka to deal with the situation arising out of severe floods and incessant rains in parts of the State, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said on Friday.
"I am in constant touch with

the Central government", Yeddyurappa told reporters at Mudhol in Bagalkot district, where he interacted with the flood-affected people and later undertook an aerial survey.

He said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh have been briefed on the rescue and relief efforts in Karnataka.

"The Centre will extend all assistance... from financial point of view... they have also assured of help in other means," the Chief Minister

As per the last count, near- Force and Army.



B S Yediyurappa

ly 44,000 people have been evacuated from flood-hit and rain-affected areas of Karnataka, where the rain fury has left nine people dead in the past few days.

The worst-hit was Belagavi district, where six people have lost their lives while 40,180 people have been evacuated by rescue teams comprising Fire and Emergency department, State Disaster Response Force, National Disaster Response

He said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and **Defence Minister** Rajnath Singh have been briefed on the

rescue and relief

efforts in Karnataka

The floods and rains have left a trail of destruction in vast areas of north, coastal and Malnad districts of the state.

Besides Belagavi, other affected districts include Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Raichur, Yadgiri, Úttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Shivamogga, Kodagu and Chikkamagalur.

not", 'Definitely Yediyurappa responded when asked if he "felt lonely" in dealing with the flood and rain

situation as he is running a one-man Ministry.

Yediyurappa, who was sworn in as Chief Minister on July 26 but is yet to expand his Cabinet, said legislators and MPs are supporting him and giving him strength, adding, they were working hard in relief efforts.

Meanwhile, former Chief Minister and JDS leader H D Kumaraswamy announced that all legislators of his party would donate one month's salary for relief works in north Karnataka, reeling under the

Kumaraswamy said he was not able to visit floot-hit areas as he was down with fever, adding, he would tour the region in a day or two.

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President Dinesh Gundu Rao has requested the Prime Minister to declare the flood situation in Karnataka as a national calamity and release Rs 5,000 crore special grant

11 sanctuaries okayed for TN, 1 each in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra

The Ministry of Environment on Friday approved 13 wildlife sanctuaries, including one tiger reserve in Chhattisgarh, as eco-sensitive zones (ESZ) for scientific conservation of the

Making the announcement on social media, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said, "To help scientific conservation of ecosystems and at the same time give relief to the people in the area, have approved final Eco Sensitive Zone notifications of 11 sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu and one in Chhattisgarh."

In a series of tweets, he named all the sanctuaries brought under the notification.

"I have also approved final Eco-Sensitive Zone notification in respect of Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Maharashtra," the minister

The 11 sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu are Vaduvoor Bird Sanctuary, Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary, Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel sanctuary, Megamalai Wildlife sanctuary,

'Bharat Ratna



Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Vettangudi Birds sanctuary, Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuary, Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary, Vallanadu Blackbuck Sanctuary, Oussudu Lake Bird Sanctuary and Point Calemere Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Achanakmar Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh and Tungareshwar Wildlife Tungareshwar Sanctuary in Maharashtra have also been approved as ESZ, Javadekar said.

This scientific demarcation of final Eco-Sensitive Zones and 10 km from the Protected Areas will help farmers, artisans, rural people, small businesses as

The Achanakmar Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh and Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Maharashtra have also been approved as ESZ, Javadekar said. - PRAKASH JAVADEKAR,

the uncertainty has now gone,' he tweeted.

Minister Prakash

The ministry had earlier said that till June 25, over 30 per cent of India's protected area (PA) has been covered under the final ecologically sensitive zone notification.

According to the ministry, out of the 651 protected areas in India, 316 ĥave been covered under the final ESZ notification which provides for prohibition of mining, stone quarrying and crushing units located within one km of such protected areas.

The ESZ notifications are issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Environment (Protection)

Five of family get life term for murder in **UP's Muzaffarnagar** MUZAFFARNAGAR: A local

court here on Friday awarded life sentence to five members of a family in a nearly five-yearold murder case. Additional District Sessions Judge Vir Nayak Singh also slapped a fine of Rs 55,000 on each of the accused, holding them guilty under section 302 of the IPC. The judge also directed that a sum of Rs 3 lakh be paid to the family of deceased Intaab Ali from the amount of the fines collected from accused Nawab Gulab, Shabbir (brothers), Amjad, son of Gulab, and Naeem, son of Nawab. According to government lawyer Jitender Tyagi, Intaab Ali was shot dead near Sadpur village in the district on August

21, 2014 over some old enmity SP workers protest against BJP

govt's 'failure'

LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party workers are holding protests across Uttar Pradesh on 'Krant Diwas' over the BJP government's alleged failure in maintaining law and order in the present situation in the state, SP Chowdhury said on Friday. "The mark its protest against failure of SP workers are killed, humiliated and atrocities are committed on them. The government has failed past about two and a half years, Chowdhury claimed. "The BJP government is anti-people and the SP will continue to protest against its policies on issues related to farmers, youth and women and its communal politics," he alleged. 'Kranti Diwas' is observed annually on August 9 to remember the

Man held after police encounter

PNS LUCKNOW

One person was arrested on Friday after a police encounter for allegedly killing an elderly woman and her daughterin-law in Firozabad, police sources said here. Dileep alias Dipa was shot in the leg during the gunfight in Firozabad in which a police constable was also injured, they said. The double murder case has been worked out. The looted jewellery has been recovered. Detailed interrogation is on to elicit more information from him," IG, Agra Range, A Satish Ganesh said. At around 11 am on Thursday, some persons entered the house of Firozabad's renowned doctor L K Gupta in Naya Rasulpur locality and killed his mother Shivdevi (75) and sister-in-law Rani Devi (25).

27 Akola labourers stranded in flooded area, rescued

Twenty seven labourers stranded due to flooding caused by sudden rise in the water level of Chandrika river in Akola district of Maharashtra following heavy rains, were rescued, an official said on Friday. The labourers, roped in by

the forest department, had gone to plant saplings near Deori village on Thursday morningwhen they got stuck there due to flooding. All of them were moved to safety by late evening, the official said.

"The forest department has roped in the labourers, all from Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh, to carry out the task of planting saplings on its vacant plots. When they began the plantation work on Thursday morning, there were no signs of flooding," forest



department official A N Bawne

"However, due to heavy rains, the water level of the Chandrika river, which flows on the one side of the plot, and Karkam nullah on the other side, suddenly rose, which created flooding in the area. Due to this, the labourers were marooned," he added.

They raised an alarm, after which the local villagers alert-

The high court granted

them bail after Special Public

ed the forest department officials and the district authorities. "Personnel of the Sant

Gadge Baba Emergency Squad, a voluntary group involved in disaster management, arrived at the spot. Assisted by the villagers and the forest department, the squad rescued the labourers in an operation that lasted for around two hours," the official said, adding that it got over by 7.30 pm.

Bombay HC grants bail to three women doctors in Tadvi suicide case

The Bombay High Court on Friday granted bail to three women doctors who were arrested for allegedly abetting the suicide of their junior colleague Payal Tadvi.

Justice Sadhana Jadhav granted bail to Hema Ahuja, Bhakti Meher and Ankita Khandelwal, who are in jail since May 29, on a cash surety of Rs 2 lakh each.

Justice Jadhav also imposed several other stringent conditions on their bail.

The three doctors were



booked by the Mumbai Crime Branch for allegedly abetting Tadvi's suicide by passing

As per the high court order, the accused doctors can not

leave the city without seeking the trial court's permission.

Prosecutor Raja Thakre told it

that he had no objection to

relief since the charge sheet in

the case had already been filed.

It also prohibited them from entering the premises of the civic-run B Y L Nair Hospital, where they and Tadvi worked. They have also been restrained from entering any area under the jurisdiction of the Agripada Police, where the incident took place, to ensure there was no tampering of evidence.

BJP appoints Javadekar, Tomar and Yadav as poll in-charges

PNS NEW DELHI

According to a statement

issued by the Bharatiya Janata

Party (BJP), it has appointed its vice-president O P Mathur as poll in-charge for Jharkhand.

Assembly elections in Haryana, Maharashtra and

Jharkhand are slated for later

this year, while elections in

experienced political mangers

to steer the ship in these four

poll-bound states, of which the

two co-incharges Nityanand

Rai and Hardeep Singh Puri to

assist Javadekar in Delhi,

where BIP could won only 3

out of the 70 assembly seats in

Javadekar, who was earlier in-

charge of assembly polls and

Lok sabha elections for

Rajasthan, said he will dis-

charge his responsibility with

dedication and will prepare

plans for the Delhi polls after

consulting party president and

other leaders concerned.

Scrapping of J&K's special status spawns jokes,

On his appointment,

the last assembly elections.

The BJP has also appointed

The party has relied on its

Delhi are due early 2020.

BJP is in power in three.

PNS NEW DELHI

befitting for

Mukherjee'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the Bharat Ratna conferred on former president Pranab Mukherjee is a fitting recognition for his service to the

Mukherjee was conferred the highest civilian award by his successor Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday.

"Thank you for leaving no stone unturned towards making India more developed... It was an honour to witness you receiving the Bharat Ratna, a fitting recognition of everything that you have done for the nation," Modi tweeted.

Acclaimed Assamese singer Bhupen Hazarika and RSS leader Nanaji Deshmukh were conferred the award posthumously.

The prime minister said the music of Hazarika transcends all barriers.

He is a universally admired cultural icon, whose rich works capture all aspects of human spirit and emotions. The Bharat Ratna (posthumously) is a "manifestation of his contribution to our culture and music", Modi said in another tweet.

"India pays tribute to the great Nanaji Deshmukh Ji. He undertook many efforts to improve India's villages and empower the lives of our rural population. He epitomised honesty, humility and probity in public life. Happy that he has been conferred the Bharat Ratna (posthumously)," the prime minister wrote on the microblogging site.



Narendra Singh Tomar

Assembly polls in Delhi,

The party has relied on its experienced political mangers to steer the ship in these four pollbound states, of which the BJP is in power in three

For Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Harvana too, the BJP has appointed co-incharges. Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and OBC leader Keshav Prasad Maurya long with Karnataka leader Laxman Sevadi will be co-incharges for Maharashtra polls.

Tomar will be assisted by Bhupendra Singh a jat leader from Haryana, in handling election related affairs in the state. Jats have a sizeable population in Haryana.

state. During the protests, SP workers are giving memorandums to district magistrates regarding the chief spokesman Rajendra party is organising peaceful agitation across the state to law and order in the state. The to launch any new projects in

historic 'Quit India Movement'

initiated by Mahatma Gandhi in

Cloudburst kills 2, two washed in rivulet near Tehri

A woman and her son were killed in a cloudburst in Tehri district, while two others were swept away after a flooded rivulet inundated their house in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district in the early hours of Friday, officials said.

Heavy rains have wreaked havoc in the hills of Uttarakhand, washing away houses, cowsheds and bridges besides destroying crops. A cloudburst flattened a

house in Tharti village of Tehri district at 3 am, killing a 30year-old woman and her sixyear-old son, sub-divisional magistrate Shiv Charan Dwivedi said.

The woman's 12-year-old daughter was rescued from the rubble and rushed to a hospital in nearby Pilkhi for treatment, he said. Bodies of the mother and her son have been recovered, he said.

The cloudburst caused heavy damage in Bhilangana block of the district breaching Moolgarh-Tharti motor road as a 20-metre portion broke off and went down into the flooded Nailchami stream, he said. Rescue operation by SDRF



personnel is still underway in the area, he said, adding there were reports of two mules being washed away in Thati-Dagar village where a cowshed was damaged and three bridges washed out in the

A woman and her sevenyear-old daughter were swept away in Chamoli district early on Friday after a flooded rivulet inundated their home following heavy rain which also destroyed crops besides damaging 12 houses and cow-

The incident occurred in Faldia village of the district early on Friday. The district administration rushed rescue teams to the spot immediately but the mother-daughter duo is yet to be found, District Disaster Management officer NK Joshi said.

Muddy waters of the flooded Ulangara rivulet swamped around a dozen houses and cowsheds in Faldia village burying alive livestock, he said.

Heavy showers also caused large-scale damage to crops in Faldia, Vaganmaira, Padmalla and Nailpatta villages, the official said. Heavy rains also blocked

Rishikesh-Badrinath National Highway at Lambagad and several other places causing inconvenience to pilgrims going to the Himalayan temple as well as those returning from there.

memes on social media; offensive say many PNS NEW DELHI The abrogation of special status of Jammu and Kashmir has spawned a flurry of jokes and

the social media, with some bordering on being insensitive. From Facebook and WhatsApp to Twitter and Instagram, many netizens have in the past few days shared posters or memes themed on revoking of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution that among other restrictions, disallowed non-Kashmiris from having land rights in the Valley.

Many social media users have said that their feeds on Facebook and Twitter are showing jokes on Article 370 and "making light of an otherwise sensitive and serious issue".

A poster of a fictional developer in Kashmir, doing rounds on Facebook, reads: 'Plots and plots -- build your house with cheap installments, pay Rs 11,000 and get possession of your land, in Anantnag, Pulwama and Baramullah'. Another user on Facebook,

shared a post in Hindi, "Someone please find the rate of land near Kashmir, rates in Kashmir must be high.'



being widely circulated, about how "Chhath will now be celebrated in Dal Lake" with big fonts placed on the image of the

But, many other social media okes and memes have not been taken in good taste by netizes, like the one telling people that "now, way had been cleared for non-Kashmirs to marry fair Kashmiri girls".

Many people, both from Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country, have expressed strong objection to use of such "insensitive jokes" given the severity of the issue.

"People are cracking jokes and sharing memes on social On WhatsApp, memes were media, and circulating it on

WhatsApp, as if it is a laughing matter. For us Kashmiris, who have not even been involved in the decision-making, we are being made the butt of these jokes. Some of the posts and memes, especially on Kashmiri women, are in poor taste and highly insensitive," said a Delhibased Kashmiri journalist, who did not wish to be identified.

From students to professionals, belonging to both Jammu and Kashmir regions, many have expressed apprehension that taking away the special status will render the "ecologicaly sensitive" province "vulnerable" to exploitation due to infra-

structure-related activities. "Those 'own a plot now in

A poster of a fictional developer in Kashmir, doing rounds on Facebook, reads: 'Plots and plots -- build your house with cheap installments, pay Rs 11,000 and get possession of your land, in Anantnag, Pulwama and Baramullah'.

Kashmir' joke is like playing with our sentiments... Yes, some Kashmiri residents are doing illegal construction too in ecologically sensitive zones, but that should be checked, instead of making it an open season for everyone," said a Kashimri student, studying at a university

A BJP lawmaker had reportedly urged the youths of Uttar Pradesh to "marry the fair girls of Kashmir" and expressed a desire to settle down in Kashmir where "everything is so beautiful"

The alleged comments had drawn sharp criticism from people on the social media.

A Facebook user, in response to a make-believe real estate poster, said, "Please get it booked for me to. Route cleared for getting a bride. A wave of excitement among unmarried youths." On Twitter, many jokes and memes were shared, at times,

using religious overtone. "After Art 370 & 35A abolished- What do you think would be rate of a 200 square yard plot in decent colony of Kashmir, which ANY INDIAN BUY?" @Ish_Bhandari tweeted.

Another @Shree4Bharath, replied, "But vou get Rs.786/- as special discount, if you are a Hindu."

Twitter user @sweep_deep, however, did not appreciate such content being spread on the social media, "Hate content, rescinding of art 370, 35 proliferating in WhatsApp messages. What are these loonies aiming for - Only polarisation of Hindu votes or the more sinister plot -land grab of Kashmir minus its people?'



GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA Public Works Division Nanded

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. (17) FOR 2019-2020 E-tenders for 25 Works in B-1 form is invited by the Executive Engineer P.W.Division Nanded (Phone No. 02462-253711) from the registered contractors in appropriate class of Public Works department of Govt.of Maharashtra for the improvement in Dist. Nanded

- 1. The tender price for all above works is more than Rs.1.00 crores.
- 2. All information related to this tender is made available on the following website. Also, all the changes will be made available on this website.

www.mahapwd.com

https://maharashtra.etenders.in

Executive Engineer Public Works Division Nanded

DGIPR/2019/2020/1889

AXIS BANK Retail Assets Center Noida: , Noida: Axis Bank Ltd. K-10, 2nd Floor, Sector-18, Noida, Retail Assets Center Delhi: Axis Bank Ltd. 4/6B, Asaf Ali Road, Near Delite Cinema, New Delhi-110002, Retail Assets Centre, Gurgaon: Axis Bank Ltd. SCO 12, Sector 14, Urban Estate, Opp HUDA Office, Gurga Centre, Gurgaon: Axis saint Lic. Sci. 12, Sector 14, Urban Estate, Opp HubA Office, Gurgaot 122001 Haryana Retail Assets Centre, Faridabad: Axis Bank Ltd. SCO -8, Huda Shopping Centre Sector 16, Faridabad, Haryana, Corporate Office: Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound PandurangBudhakar Marg, Worli, Mumbal-400 025128, Nolda Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown Nolda (U.P.)-201301, Registered Office: Trishulf, 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Lav garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction o

Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors mentitioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Axis Bank Ltd. We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the corrowers/quarantors/mortgagors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and mounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset on the espective dates mentioned hereunder in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under Securitization and teconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of owers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 sued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI

	Act, 2002: calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mention in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the not and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the dat receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same						
	Name of the Borrower / Address/ Co- Borrower And Guarantor Name	Property Address of Secured Assets	1. NPA Date 2. Date of Demand				
	Mr. Hambir Choudhry S/O Sh. Vijay Singh Choudhry, R/O House No.2072 Sec-4c Vashundhara, Ghaziyabad- 201010,,Also Al: Mr. Hambir Choudhry, Io-20 Chandan Van Mathura Up-281001 Also Al:, Hambir Choudhry Flat No.	A Residential Flat No. 1105, 11th Floor, Amrapali Village Phase- LII" KM Block' Situated At Village Makanpur Ghazlabad Super Area 1425 Square Feet I.E 132.38 Square Feet I.E 105.91 Square	Notice 3. Outstanding Amt (Rs.) As On Date Of Notice 4. Loan Amount (Rs.)				
	1105, 11 Floor Amrapali Village Phase- LII Village Makanpur Ghaziabad-201014 Also At: Mr. Hambir Choudhry, C-56/40 Sec 62 Noida- 201301 (Up) 2. Mrs. Nilam Choudhry W/O Sh. Hambir Choudhry R/O House No.2072 Sec-4c Vashundhara, Ghaziyabad- 201010, Also At: Mrs. Nilam Choudhry, Flat No. 1105, 11th Floor, Amrapi Village Phase-LII Village Makanpur Ghaziabad-201014	Meter One-Cover Car Parking With Roof Right Etc. East & West As Per Sale Deed. East: Road Of Feet Wide West. Gali 4 Feet Wide. North : Other Land South : Other Land.	1.10-Jun-19 2.19-Jun-19 3.Rs.1,679,842 4.Rs.1908088/-				
	1. Mr. Deepak Gulati, S/O Mr. Madan Gopal Gulati, R/O Flat No. C-502, Aashiana Apartment, Mayur Vihar, Phase-1, New Delhi-110091 Also At: Mr. Deepak Gulati S/O Mr. Madan Gopal Gulati, Properitor Sai Machineries, 391/34, Himmatpuridsidc Centre, Pkt-2, Mayur Vihar, Phae-1, Delhi-110091 2. Mrs. Komal Gulati W/O Mr. Deepak Gulati R/O Flat No. C-502, Aashiana Apartment, Mayur Vihar, Phase-1, New Delhi-110091	Flat Bearing No. C-502, On Fifth Floor, In Aashiana Co-Operative Group Housing Society Limited Known As 'Aashiana Apratments' Plot No. 5, Situated At Mayurvihar, Phase-1, Extension, Delhi-110091.	1.11-Jul & 12-Jul-19 2.17-Jul-19 3.Rs-2,575,412/-& Rs 7,114,290/ & Rs 4,361,735/- 4.Rs 2,800,000/- & Rs 4,800,000/- & Rs 4,930,000/-				
•	1. Mr. Gokal Chand S/O Mr. Bishamber Dayal R/O 1718, First Floor, Dlf Phase-Iv Gurgaon-122002 Haryana, Also At Mr. Gokal Chand, S/O Mr. Bishamber Dayal Plot No. 274, Sector-28, Urban Estate, Gurgaon Haryana-122002 2. Mrs. Prem Vati W/O Mr. Gokal Chand R/O 1716, First Floor, Dlf Phase-Iv, Gurgaon-122002 Haryana Also At Mrs. Prem Vati W/O Mr. Gokal Chand Plot No.274, Sector-28, Urban Estate, Gurgaon Haryana-122002	Immoveable Assets Freehold Piot No. 274, Measuring 172.80 Sq., Mtrs. (206.66 Sq. Yards.) Situated in The Residential Colony Known As Sector-28, Urban Estate Gurugram, Toshsilk Distt. Gurugram (Haryana)	1.12-May-19 2.26s. 7,138,700/- 4.Rs.64,75,000/-				
	1.Ms. Honey Roy D/O Mr. Tapan Kumar Roy R/O House No. 901,Era Redwood Residency, Sector-78,Faridpur, Faridabad, Haryana-12101 Also At Ms. Honey Roy D/O Mr. Tapan Kumar Roy M/S Eicher Goodearth Pvt. Ltd. A-3, Select Crty Walk,3rd,Salet District Centre, New Delhi-110017 Also At Ms. Honey Roy D/O Mr. Tapan Kumar Roy Flat No. H/09-1,Tower No. 5 (H), Redwood Residency, Faridpur, Sector-78, Haryana-121004 2.Mrs. Bani Roy W/O Mr. Tapan Kumar Roy, R/O House No. 901,Era Redwood Residency, Faridpur, Faridabad, Haryana-12101 Also At Mrs. Bani Roy W/O Mr. Tapan Kumar Roy, R/O House No. 901,Era Redwood Residency, Faridpur, Faridabad, Haryana-12101 Also At Mrs. Bani Roy W/O Mr. Tapan Kumar Roy, Flat No. H/09-1,Tower No. 5 (H), Redwood Residency, Faridpur, Sector-78, Haryana-121004	Impartible Share And Interest In The Said Land Undermeath The Building In Which Said Unit Is Located And In The Common Areas And Facilities Provided In The Building Complex.	1. 12-Jul-19 2. 15-Jul-19 & 29-Jul- 19 3. Rs. 28,23,705/- &Rs. 245,009/- 4. Rs. 28.00,000/- 8. Rs. 53,88,62/-				
	1. Mr.Prithvi Kasana, S/O – Sh.Maniram Kasana, Vill – Kanawani Post – Chazarsi, Gautam Budh Nagar, Chaziabad, Indirapuram , Up -200010 Also At:_Mr.Prithvi Kasana, S/O – Sh.Maniram Kasana, At -M/S Akshay Internet, Central Market, Top Floor, Chaziabad, Indirapuram , Up -200010 Also At: Mr.Prithvi sasna, Cround Floor Flatno- Ban-12/2 Nova, Shipra Suncity, Vaibhay Khand , Indirapuram Ghazibad Also At:_Mr.Prithvi sana, S/O – Sh.Maniram Kasana, Std108suntower,	Ground Floor Flat No. Ban-12/2 Nova, Shiprasuncity, Vaibhawkhand, indirapuram Ghazibad along With Share And Interest In The Said Land Underneath The Building In Which Said Property Is Located And In The Common Areas And Facilities Provided In The Building/Scheme/ Complex And Bounded As Under(According To Sale Deed):East: As Per Sale Deed West: As Per Sale Deed	1.4-JUN-19 2.Rs. 8,48,551/- 4.Rs12,50,000/-				

Also At: Mrs. Maltisahu, W. O – Vijay | East: As Per Sale Deed West: As Kumar Pal, House No – 784 , Sector -8, Per Sale Deed North: As Per Urban Estate , Faridabad Haryana - Sale Deed South: As Per Sale In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the socured assets of the borrowers and the portigagors under Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security

Shipra Sun City Indirapuram Ghaziabad North: As Per Sale Deed

Singh House No. 97, Block-2, Ground Entire Ground Floor Of Property

Floor, Subhash Nagar,
New Delhi-110027 Also At Mr. Rohit
Singh S/O Mr. Surjjen Singh R.M.
Events 2/265, Subhash Nagar, Delhi140027

Singh Pythology Sylvent Sylvent

110027
2. Mrs. Ambika Kaur, W/O Mr. Rohit
Singh House No. 97, Block-2, Ground
Floor, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi110027 Also At Mrs. Ambika Kaur W/O
Delhi.

121006 Also At: Mr. Vijay Kumar Pal S/O – Sh. Ram Charan Pal At – Shiv Sweet And Cateres, 2398, Sector – 7 A, Ballabhgarh Faridabad Haryana Sector - 7 Faridabad Harvana - 121006 Along With Share And Interest I Also At:_Mr. Vijay Kumar Pal, S/O - The Said Land Underneath The Sh. Ram Charan Pal, House No - 784 , Building In Which Said Property Sector -8 Urban Estate , Faridabad Is Located And In The Common Haryana - 121006 Mrs .Maltisahu, W/O-Vijay Kumar Pal, R/O- H.No -2543,Sec-The Building/ Scheme/ Complex Chowk, Sector – 7, Faridabad And Bounded As Under (According To Sale Deed):

1.Mr. Vijay Kumar Pal, S/O - Sh. Ram Residential Property At House No 1.7-MAY-19 Charan Pal R/O- H. No -2543,Sec-7a - 784, (Ground And First Floor)
Chowk,Sector-7, Faridabad, Haryana- Area Measuring 250 Sq. Yrds .

Alongwith Proportionate Land

I. Mr. Rohit Singh, S/O Mr. Surjjan

Mr. Rohit Singh Raghav Sounds 2/265, Subhash Nagar, Delhi-110027

nterest Act. 2002 and the applicable rules thereunder.

Date : 10-08-2019, Place: Delhi

(ind attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act where under you can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses ncurred by the Bank only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Please also note that if the entire mount of outstanding dues together with the costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is not red before publication of notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty, you may not be entitled to redeem the secured asset(s lease note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, ease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior writte

Place: New Delh

2.20-Jul-19

3.Rs 2.134.179/-

Hong Kong chief warns of economic fall

Hong Kong's leader Carrie two months of pro-democracy demonstrations were causing economic chaos in the city but ruled out making concessions to "silence the violent protest-

The embattled leader abruptly announced a press conference after meeting business leaders as demonstrators rallied at the airport, with the protest movement entering its third month.

Lam, whose support for a bill to allow extradition to mainland China sparked the crisis, warned that the economic impact of the unrest threatened to be worse than the 2003 SARS outbreak in the financial hub.

The downturn this time came very quickly. Someone tsunami," Lam said.

"Compared to the economic downturn caused by SARS that we handled previously, which caused an economic storm, the situation this time is more severe." "In other words, the economic recovery will take a very long time," she

While Lam is a figure of hatred for many pro-democracy activists, her comments echo worried statements from the private sector and the tourism industry in particular.

Hong Kong carrier Cathay Pacific has warned bookings are down, travel agencies have reported drops of up to 50 percent in group tour bookings and the tourism board reported double-digit declines in visitor arrivals in the second half

Protesters have continued to stage almost daily rallies increasingly violent confrontations with police that have prompted several countries to issue Hong Kong travel warnings for their

citizens.

On Friday, thousands of pro-democracy protesters staged a sit-in at the airport to bring their message to arriving

Lam has suspended the bill that sparked the crisis, but has not yet responded to protester calls to withdraw it altogether, and she has brushed aside demands for an enquiry into police brutality.

She ruled out meeting the demands of protesters, which also include a call for the direct election of the city's chief executive, currently chosen by

US says no policy change on Kashmir

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US has said that there is I no change in its policy on Kashmir as it called on India and Pakistan to maintain restraint and hold direct dialogue to resolve their differ-

"No", replied State Department Spokesperson Morgan Ortagus when asked by reporters on Thursday if there has been any change in America's policy on Kashmir.

The US policy has been that Kashmir is a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan and it is up to the two countries to decide on the pace and scope of the talks on the issue.

'And if there was, I certainly wouldn't be announcing it here, but no, there's not," Ortagus said in response to a follow up question.

She said the United States supports dialogue between India and Pakistan over Kashmir and mentioned that a senior State Department official would be in New Delhi next week on a pre-scheduled

"It's something that we've called for calm and restraint by all parties. We want to main peace and stability, and we, of course, support direct dialogue between India and Pakistan on Kashmir and other issues of concern," Ortagus said.

India had on Monday revoked provisions of Article 370 to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status, and bifurcating the state into two union territories — Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Reacting to India's move, Pakistan expelled the Indian High Commissioner as part of its decision to downgrade the diplomatic ties with New Delhi. Pakistan also announced that it will review all "bilateral arrangements"

Maryam Nawaz remanded in custody of Pak's anti-graft body till August 21

PTI LAHORE

A Pakistani court on Friday remanded Maryam Nawaz, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's daughter, and her cousin in the custody of the country's anti-corruption authority till August 21 in a money laundering case.

Maryam and her cousin Yousaf Abbas Sharif were arrested from the Kot Lakhpat jail here on Thursday in connection to the Chaudhry Sugar Mills (CSM) case while the 45-year-old PML-N vice president was on her way back from visiting her father, who is lodged in the same prison.

She was supposed to appear before the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Thursday for questioning in the sugar mills inquiry but she sought more time for submitting her response and went to meet her father in jail instead. She was arrested for not appearing before the anti-graft watchdog.

UK economy shrinks for first time since 2012 as Brexit bites

AP ■ LONDON

Tender Notice

STN_DIC_2019 dt. 08.08.2019

dt. 08.08.2019

dt. 08.08.2019

following items

Aug 2019.

Aug 2019.

DAVP/10602/11/0036/1920

The British economy shrank **1** in the second quarter for the first time since 2012 as Brexit uncertainties weighed on business investment and firms reduced their stockpiling after Britain was granted an extension to its departure from the European Union, official figures showed Friday.

The decline is set to raise

WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

of Western Railway for a period of 5 year

STN KHAR 2019 of Dahisar station for a period of 5 years over Mumbai Division

of Western Railway for a period of 5 year.

Dept.: Commercial, Executive: Senior DCM, Date & Time of opening of tender is 30.08.2019 at 15.30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in. Like us on: f facebook.com/WesternRfy - Follow us on: w twitter.com/WesternRfy 19

TENDER NOTICE FOR PROCUREMENT

OF HYGIENE CHEMICALS ITEMS FOR CONSUMPTION YEAR 2019-2020

Tenders are invited by IHQ of MoD (Army)

Quartermaster General's Branch, Directorate General

of Supplies and Transport, New Delhi -110 105 for and

on behalf of the President of India for procurement of

(a) Hygiene & Chemicals. Poly Vitamin Capsules

(approx qty 73,16,000 Nos) for the consumption year

2019-2020 from Indian manufacturers only. The

vendors can search for the tender enquiry on DPP in

(Right side of home page)

www.defproc.gov.in→Open Home Page→Click on 'Tender Search" Type →Army Hygiene

In case of any clarification the officials can be

contracted at Tele No 011-23018963 or on e-mail ID

ddgstft-ihq@nic.in. These tenders will be available at

www.defproc.gov.in with effect from 03.00 PM on 08

Adv No: P/72002/2018-19/Q/ST-9/Hyg Chem dated 08

of Western Railway.

Tender for Bulk Advertising Rights ₹1.05,25,151/- ₹2.10,600/-

of Dahisar station for a period of 5 years over Mumbai Division

Tender for Bulk Advertising Rights \$1.89,02,402/- \$3,78,100/of Dahisar station for a period of 5
years over Mumbai Division
of Western Railway for a period of 5
year.

Tender for Bulk Advertising Rights ₹52.85,222/- ₹1,05.800/

Tender for Bulk Advertising Rights

71,22,82,319/- | ₹2,45,700/of Dahisar station for a period of 5 years over Mumbai Division

Tender for External Vinyl Wrapping ₹10,53,16,921/- ₹21,06,400/ on Rajdhani Trains (12951/12952/12953/12954) for a period of 5 years over Mumbai Division of Western Railway.

Work and location

alarm that Brexit uncertainty is increasingly weighing on the economy. Most economists expected the economy to flatline. The quarterly drop lowered the annual rate of growth to 1.2% from 1.8% in the first quarter.

The Office for National Statistics noted there was "increased volatility around the U.K.'s original planned exit date from the European Union in late March."

Brexit was meant to happen on March 29, but was delayed to the end of October after Parliament rejected the withdrawal agreement that the previous prime minister, Theresa May, had negotiated with the EU.

Before the extension request, many firms ratcheted up their inventories to help cushion the likely disruption from Britain crashing out of the EU on March 29 without a deal. That business activity helped the economy grow by 0.5% in the first quarter.

Since then, companies have stopped stockpiling as much. Many car companies also brought forward their annual maintenance shutdowns to April from later in the year to cushion the potential blow from Britain leaving the EU without a deal on

Trump names new acting intelligence director as Gordon quits

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has announced that his respected Deputy Director of National Intelligence was resigning, the latest chapter in a broad reshuffle at the top of the country's spy agencies. Sue Gordon spent a quarter-

century in the CIA before becoming second-in-command to outgoing Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats and was in line to serve as acting director. "Sue Gordon is a great professional with a long and distinguished career. I have gotten to know Sue over the past 2 years and have developed great respect for her," Trump said on Twitter on Thursday. "Sue has announced she will be leaving on August 15, which coincides with the retirement of Dan Coats," Trump added.

Qureshi visiting China to discuss Indo-Pak tensions

PTI ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Friday dashed to China to discuss with the Chinese leadership Indo-Pak tensions after India revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier this week, India revoked Article 370 to withdraw the special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the region into two Union Territories -Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh

Pakistan termed the Indian action as "unilateral and illegal", and said it will take the matter to the UN Security Council.

Pakistan expelled the Indian High Commissioner as part of its decision to downgrade the diplomatic ties with India and announced that it will review all "bilateral arrangements' with India.

Qureshi told the media

before embarking on the visit to China that India was trying to destroy the regional peace with its unconstitutional measures and Pakistan will take Chinese leadership into confidence, Goe News reported.

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Asset will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues, in the matter of ICICI Bank Ltd v/s HARI SHANKAR in CS. No 1902/18.

1. Description of Asset: Make: NISSAN MICRAXL Reg No: DL6CM7648 Manuf Yr: 2014 2. Date and Time of Auction: Aug 26, 2019, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

3. Venue: Car Trade Exchange (URLLinkwww.cartradeexchange.com)

A. Contact persons: Mr. Rajeev Ranjan, Mobile No: 8584874809 from ICICI Bank and Mr. Anuj Kumar, Mobile no: 9958769761 from Car Trade Exchange. Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant's are therefore requested in their own interest to requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to t before submitting the bids Successfully approved bidder

shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand.draft/RTGS/NEFT. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1 st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot no.7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi 110085 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle.

hacked up in Mexico gang feud convoy of pickups and SUVs openly marked with the letters

'CJNG" - the Spanish initials of the Jalisco New Generation

Cartel - drove through the

Michoacan city of Zamora at

night, shooting up police vehi-

cles and killing or wounding

several officers.

AP MEXICO CITY

Mexican police found nine bodies hanging from an overpass Thursday alongside a drug cartel banner threatening rivals, and seven more corpses hacked up and dumped by the road nearby. Just down the road were three more bodies, for a total of 19.

The killing spree reported by prosecutors in the western state of Michoacan marked a return to the grisly massacres carried out by drug cartels at the height of Mexico's 2006-2012 drug war, when piles of bodies authorities," were dumped on roadways as a message to authorities and rival gangs. Two of the bodies hung by ropes from the overpass by their necks, half naked, and one of the dismembered bodies were women, Michoacan Attorney General Adrián López Solís said at a news conference.

Uruapan had been shot to death. Some were hung with their hands bound, some with their

pants pulled down.

19 bodies hung from bridge or

While the banner was not completely legible, it bore the initials of the notoriously violent Jalisco drug cartel, and mentioned the Viagras, a rival gang. "Be a patriot, kill a Viagra," the banner read in part.

"This kind of public, the-

atrical violence, where you don't just kilĺ, but you brag about killing, is meant to intimidate rivals and send a message to the said Mexico security analyst Alejandro

Hope 'This kind cynical impunity has been increasing in Michoacan The victims in the city of Hope added.

In one par ticularly brazen attack in May, a

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SHORT NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION Through e-Procurement mode only over

https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON Short Quotation Notice No. Processing- 03/2019-20

Bihar Rajya Beej Nigam Limited invites quotation under two bid systems from reputed Manufacturers/Suppliers/Authorized Agents for supply of 1259418 pcs. H.D.P.E. and Non Woven bags.

Quotation Schedule/Programme:

PR No. 006086(Ni.Ni.) 2019-20

S.No.	Activity	Date/Time: Duration
1	Online Sale/Download	From 13.08.2019 to 24.08.2019 (15.00 hrs.) on e-
	date of Tender documents	Procurement Portal:
		(https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
2	Date/time for submission/	25.08.2019 Up to 1:00 pm. on e-Procurement
	uploading of offer/Bid	Portal: (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
3	Submission of form fee &	Before the time of opening of technical bid
	EMD in Hard copy/Original	26.08.2019 1100 a.m.
4	Date & time for opening of	26.08.2019 at 1:00 p.m.). on e-Procurement Portal:
	Technical Bid	(https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
5	Contact person/Nodal	Sri S.K. Adhikari Mo8002815248
	Officer for queries	
6	Financial Bid opening date	29.08.2019 at 11:00 a.m.). on e-Procurement
	& time	Portal: (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

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II. For support related to quotation process, bidders may contact at following address "e-Procurement HELP DESK First Floor, M/22, Bank of India Building, Road No.-25, Sri Krishna Nagar, Patna- 800001. Ph. No. 0612-2523006, Mob- 7542028164" or may visit the link "Vendor Info" at (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON)

II. Corrigendum/Addendum, if any, will be published on the e-Procurement Portal (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON) and departmental website www.brbn.bih.nic.in or http://www.krishi.bih.nic.in itself.

> Chief of Processing Bihar Rajya Beej Nigam

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EXTRACT OF UN-AUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30 2019

(Avinash Gaur)

AQMG (ST-10)

Lt Col

for DGST

		(in Laki	ns Except EPS)
Particulars	Quarter Ended 30.06.2019 (Un-audited)	Quarter Ended 30.06.2018 (Un-audited)	Year ended 31.03.2019 (Audited)
Total Income from Operations(Net)	0	0	16.48
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and for Extraordinary items)	(2.28)	(2.82)	1.36
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and /or Extraordinary items)	(2.28)	(2.82)	1.36
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and /or Extraordinary items)	(2.28)	(2.82)	1,36
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(2.28)	(2.82)	1.39
Equity Share Capital	360.13	360.13	360.13
Earning Per Share Basic and diluted (not annualised)	0.00	0.00	0.04

Notes: 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly financial Results filed with Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI(LODA) Regultions 2015.The full format of Quarterly financial Results are available on the stock exchnage vebsite www.bseindia.com and Company's Website at www. rotoindia.co.in

2. The above unaudited Financial Results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the board of Directors at their For Rotographics (India) Limited

Naresh Kumar Bansa

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— PAPER WITH PASSION ——

Congress at crossroads

Young Turks are impatient and if the CWC president emerges from the old guard, they could take drastic steps



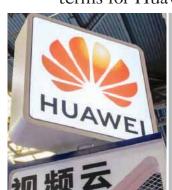
oday could be a transformative day for the Congress as it would not only choose a new party president but decide whether it would go down the road to perdition or revival, stifle itself with formulaic tradition or break out of boxes, part with the old and stake everything on the new, and simply put, matter anymore in news headlines. Of course, murmurs are of the predictable kind, that the leadership vacuum created by the exit of Rahul Gandhi will be filled by a loyalist and a retainer of the old order, an endorsement that guarantees the

centrality of the party's first family without owning responsibility for the post. Even Gandhi's good intentions, to force a rethink without dynasty and the baggage of history, will then come into question. It would seem like he, too, played along with the tested plot of foisting a lesser leader and seeking a distress vote to resume dynastic control. Clearly, that will be ruinous given the current context where the party is clearly split down the middle over key issues, the latest being the abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir. The younger lot of leaders, some of whom are believed to be of Rahul Gandhi's camp, like Jyotiraditya Scindia, Deepender Hooda and Milind Deora, are clearly looking for a changed axis in a Modi-fied and Naya India and want their voices heard as new Congressmen. So all of them publicly endorsed the revocation of Article 370 contrary to the stance of senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad in the Rajya Sabha. The less said about the forked tongue approach in the Lok Sabha the better with CLP leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury going to the other extreme of classifying Kashmir as not an "internal" matter. This forced the old guard to pass a united resolution emphasising the whole of Kashmir as an integral part of India and just criticising the NDA government's lack of a democratic and consultative political process behind the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir. Hooda and Deora are facing Assembly elections in their States and do not want to go against the national sentiment while seeking votes. Younger leaders like Sachin Pilot are also living down their dynastic entitlement and working towards creating their personal legacies with practical logic. With all of them now 40ish and middling, they want to take a last shot at credibility than perish away into extinction. This young lot is also not averse to organisational elections to build inner-party democracy first before espousing it in Parliament or blaming other parties for running roughshod over it. Elections, they feel, would infuse new energy and get new faces in on the basis of political acumen and deliverables. Particularly Jyotiraditya Scindia, the co-general secretary of Uttar Pradesh with Priyanka Gandhi and believed to be an inner circle member, has put pressure on the party by publicising his support for the Government move on Kashmir and sparking speculation whether the disenchanted Congress brigade had parked themselves in the shopping cart.

Of course, senior leaders are still prevailing on Congress matriarch Sonia Gandhi, warding off elections for fear of being sidelined. After all, their undisputed runs in the party have meant that they have carved their own fiefdoms too and legitimised their continuity by virtue of maintaining these turfs and votebanks. Truth be told, most senior leaders in the CWC have not fought elections in a long, long time and are out of depth with ground reality. For example, one of the names for CWC president, Mukul Wasnik, last won an election in 2009. Were they to contest now, they would lose their deposits. So they don't want to let go of their status quo in the Congress, hoping their posts would still lengthen their political careers. What the Gandhis need to understand is that egoistic dramas have run their course and it is time to either hand over charge fully or rescue it upfront. The Congress leadership, which is either calculatedly or helplessly driving the party to disaster, better value its political relevance over selfish interests. Because when the former is gone, even the latter won't be of any consequence. If all this is part of an elaborate attempt to create an irretrievable mess where the Gandhis would look like supreme saviours, then one could also look at a consensus candidate who is accepted in their presence. And that would be an anti-climax.

New Chinese threat

India on a hot tin roof as both US and China lay terms for Huawei's entry into 5G trials



It's not the best time for diplomacy with China following the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir and the declaration of Ladakh as a Union Territory. It is the latter that has riled our eastern neighbour as it immediately changes the dynamic on Aksai Chin. China has so far argued that its claim there is contingent on the final resolution of Kashmir. Now that it is part of the UT of Ladakh and cannot figure as an adjunct of the old State, China is refusing to accept it and upping the ante. However, if observers are to be believed, it is show-boat-

ing its anger by dilly dallying on visas for Mansarovar vatris while working on Premier Xi Jinping's informal visit to India. It is also staying away from making sweeping statements on the abrogation of Article 370, asking both India and Pakistan to exercise restraint. Trade is its bigger concern. So its threat to block Indian firms operating on its soil, if we stop Huawei Technologies from doing business here and participating in 5G trials under US pressure, is serious.

India is in a bit of a cleft stick here as Huawei is the pivot of a geo-political slugfest between China and the US. The Donald Trump administration put the company on a blacklist in May, citing national security concerns. It has asked its allies not to use Huawei equipment, which it says China could exploit for spying. Given Trump's transactional nature of dealing and knowing that India needs his support in the background of tectonic administrative changes in Modi 2.0, we are in quite a pickle about accommodating Chinese interests without upsetting the US and risking trade-protectionist hitbacks there too. And now that Chinese officials have threatened "reverse sanctions," India must frame a reasonable response. Besides, Huawei has already operated in India before, so denying it fair trial now would be inimical. A potential conflict over Huawei can end up inflaming emotions and jeopardising the long-standing territorial status quo. At the same time, India desperately needs to address a \$53 billion trade deficit during Xi's visit and can ill-afford trust issues at this point. A high-level group of officials, which has been looking into whether to open the 5G trials, has so far found no evidence to suggest Huawei has used "back-door" programmes or malware to collect data in its current operations here. On the face of it, one can't reject Huawei simply because it is Chinese. After all, it has 20 per cent patents, 50 per cent market share and is cost-effective. But what the government can do indeed is to get wireless carriers who will be rolling out 5G services to use India-made software. And then drive equipment supplied by gear makers. We cannot overlook security concerns either but considering Huawei entry is conditional for Chinese looking the other way in matters diplomatic, we have to step our way around it.

opānion

Toxic masculinity

It would be easy to attribute such mindset to the resurgence of revisionism or a stoking of primal instincts. But male behaviour in this era is linked to political contexts



RINKU GHOSH

nough has not yet been said of the brutality of the "One India" narrative and the brazenness with which legitimises the lowest common denominator of societal attitudes and a viral thinking. Two incidents over the last few days embody a deeply disturbing and distressing fallout of the muscular leadership in the political space degenerating into gender triumphalism in the social space. One that automatically assumes muscularity and decisiveness as admirable male traits and everything else as supine and feminine frailties. Is "toxic masculinity" then the new national character? Now codified almost?

The first case was of the Unnao rape accused Kuldeep Sengar, now expelled by the BJP, wishing a speedy recovery for the survivor with not even a twitch of emotion or even betraying his predatory nature, one that he had used to hound, scare and subjugate her for two years. The girl, whose family was neutralised or eliminated through means foul and his intimidation, had to threaten self-immolation in front of the UP Chief Minister's residence for her ultimate appeal to justice. And a national conscience. Sengar is in custody, booked under serious charges and now even guilty by evidence, but that hasn't stopped him from squashing his female victim where it hurts the most. As she fights for every breath of her life in a hopeless situation, Sengar publicly insulted her effort by "wishing her well," the final blow to her dignity, patronising in dispensing grace while being the perpetrator of her humiliation. Some distorted charity that he thinks will earn him clemency. Sadly, it has for the last two years.

The second instance was even more belly-churning. As the government road rolled its way into changing the character of Jammu and Kashmir by abrogating Article 370 and bifurcating the State into Union Territories, a majority of reactions on social media were about how every Indian male could now marry "fair Kashmiri girls," buy property and settle down in the Valley, the implication reeking of feudal conquests of the darkest ages of civilisation, where women were traded as spoils of war. A forceful integration amounts to a war on people over land. Nobody even stepped in to condemn such irresponsible and crass humour, which was relished by many. And considering that a certain level of awareness, power and education can be assumed of online citizenry, this truly was a new low, no different from the mentality of an invading, occupation force of the medieval era. Since when were Kashmiri women prevented from marrying outside the State? Many have already done that out of free will, knowing full well that it would entail relinquishing claims to their family inheritance. Of course, to the avaricious male, she can now be entitled to her birth heritage. Is that the implication? Also did anybody ask why Kashmiri women would agree to marry outsiders, particularly in challenged circumstances as now? Or why they are not a voice-



less tribe and just like other women in the rest of India? Yet there is a sweeping assumption of their acquiescence to a new order in this pernicious propaganda warfare that is deeply problematic. By denying them their equal, civil space and appropriating their human rights of choice and decision-making, it shows that political control is equivalent to a patriarchal social authoritarianism. Also, by equalising marriage with a Kashmiri woman and acquisition of land in Budgam for a summer chalet, the script-writers are blanking out consent and will of the other side and force-feeding choices.

It would be easy to attribute such behaviour and mindset to the resurgence of revisionism or a stoking of primal instincts. But male behaviour in the millennial era has considerably changed organically, lending heft to the definition of metrosexuality. This then is not latent expression but an adjunct of hardening politics worldwide, where sexism and gendered violence are being redefined as a masculine privilege of power. In the Indian context, it is about inequality of political power and the way it is dispensed. It is about a certain male chest size which can be the nation's armoured shield like no other. One has only to look at the way

political decision-making process has converted the democratic process as a fait accompli. Nowhere is this totalitarian might more evident than in Parliament, where productivity is about steamrolling legislation and the consultative, cooperative process is seen as wasting time and energy, where opposition is about anti-nationalism and considered opinions are national deterrents to possibilities, where plurality is pointless and negotiation an extinct tool of trade. In a system, where monotheistic and simplistic decision-making is blurring out layers and complexities, and power flowing from an iconised perception of maleness, it must follow that society will react to it. For it is only real life conditions and forces that sustain popular culture, in our case a brainwashed sort. One where institutions and purveyors perpetuate the sentiment rather than political thought. This explains why the celebrates toxic masculinity and a subjugation of gender roles, finds crores of takers in the 21st century and is frighteningly endorsed by the youth in middle and small town India. This is so different from the "angry young man" of the 70s, who was fighting the establishment against such ruthless toxicity of power.

What confounds the discourse is attributing male superiority to our cultural DNA when fact is an eco-system has been created to foster an old construct for easier acceptance. A study conducted in the US on alcoholism may be cited here to explain the context. The alcohol industry there had funded research to deny the relationship between alcohol and violence and instead blamed "masculinity" and "cultures of drinking." But the study uncovered strong evidence that the density of liquor shops in a given geographic area increased the local rate of domestic violence and recommended that any serious framework for preventing violence against women would have to address alcohol availability as well as sexist mindsets. In other words, such a mindset is being engendered by systematic and selective blanking out of existing narratives and pushing convenient ones with brute force.

The problem with this approach in our society is that we have still not begun to respect women's rights as evolutionary but as an imposition of grace by a male order. We have not been able to pass the Women's Reservation Bill at a time when it was required to ensure proportional representa-

tion that would ensure inclusive participation and policy-making, not even now when a flurry of other Bills have made the cut. All women and childfriendly schemes of the government are bestowed rather than earned. The very act of "empowerment" assigns the agency to an external power of dole rather than claiming rights. And with so much muscularity of purpose on display, embracing the virtues and strength of femininity as a man upsets operable binaries. If reason, counsel and civility are now emaciating characteristics, then the idea of power automatically gets slotted in the privileged domain of a raw, hunter-gatherer masculinity. The otherness gets lumped in baskets of minorityism, liberalism or feminism. Of these, feminism is the easiest to target as the tide of opinion still favours men. Generations of women in India have worked tirelessly to rebalance the equa tion between sexes, often mistakenly acquiring masculine qualities and benchmarks to do so. Now they have a far tougher political context of endowment to battle, one where humaneness is predicated on the dehumanisation of others.

(The writer is Associate Editor, The Pioneer)

NDBITE

It's probably the worst thing in cricket, the startstop game. The more stops you have, the more you have to be careful about injuries on the field.

India skipper



I am 40 today and it's been 14 years and the going is good. It is because of selfbelief. There will be roles for me at every point of time as long as I want it to happen.

-Vidya Balan



We want to maintain peace and stability and we, of course, support direct dia logue between India and Pakistan on Kashmir and other issues of concern.

US official –Morgan Ortagus



I would appeal to the parties fo voluntary code of conduct instead of it being mandatory so that compliance is good. Discuss, debate but decide on

Rajya Sabha Chairman —M Venkaiah Naidu



LETTERS

Where are the jobs?

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "A rate cut to nowhere" (August 9). Clearly, the Indian economy has come to a grinding halt. There has been a cut of 110 basis points this year, yet there are no signs of improvement. Signals are not positive. New firms are defaulting on a weekly basis and retail assets of quite a few are trending negative than ever before.

The view now is that this could be less of a cyclical and far more a structural issue. We don't know why the auto industry is in the dumps. The economic slowdown has led to unemployment. An estimated three lakh and a 50,000 people have become jobless due to spiralling layoffs in the auto sector. There is an inkling that this slowdown could last for

a long time. The Government has tied its hands on investment under the self-imposed fiscal custody. It has put hopes on private entrepreneurs to infuse money, which they do not have. It is also trying to ease norms to bring foreign equity but its rules and regulations seem to be wanting in a clear pat-

Winning the hearts of Kashmiris is challenging rime Minister Narendra Modi's address post the abro-

gation of Article 370 has come in for fulsome praise from many people as well as large sections of the media for reaching out to the people of Kashmir with a slew of promises and for not openly demonstrating triumphalism. But the moot question is whether his promises of early polls, restoration of Statehood, benefits to Government employees on par with their counterparts in Union Territories, filling job vacancies and investment will make up to the people of Kashmir for what they lost or were robbed of — special status or autonomy.

Memories die hard. They are not easily obliterated. People do not trade their identity for favours. Winning the hearts and minds of Kashmiris can alone facilitate their integration into India. The withdrawal of special status and privileges is not the way to win trust. As for the promise of development, human development indices in Kashmir are relatively better than in most parts of India. We are also struck by the incongruity of a leader of a party, that

R Narayanan

tern or steady policy stream as a

dependable benchmark for the

averse to dealing in an uncertain

business domain.



never tires of accusing secular parties of "Muslim appeasement", speaking of his resolve to improve material circumstances of Kashmiri Muslims, Prime Minister Modi did not speak a word on the deployment of more troops and the house arrest of Valley's mainstream leaders, perhaps, to suit the narrative scripted by the Sangh Parivar.

G David Milton

Conditions apply

external investor, who worries if he/she can have smooth approvals Sir — Seven decades of Article to undertake a project. One thing 370 and six-and-a-half of Article that the Government can do here 35A haven't quite made Kashmir is to ensure predictability. the paradise on earth it was once Investors, foreign or domestic, are described as. Jammu & Kashmir has been a model of underdevel-

opment under successive regimes. While debates on the consti-Navi Mumbai tutionality of the decisions ence of Article 370 conferring

announced about Jammu & Kashmir will rage for a long time, and perhaps be adjudicated in a court of law, there can be no question on the boldness of the initiative.

From a historical perspective, the presence of Jammu & Kashmir in the Indian Union was the repudiation of Jinnah's twonation theory; however, the pres-

special status on the territory contradicted, in substantial measure, this repudiation.

This Government has opted to shun the status quo and embark on a path quite different from any attempted in the past. If it ends the misery of the region's people and brings prosperity to them, its initiative must be welcomed.

Bengaluru

Prickly decision

Sir — The scrapping of Article 370 was due for a long time. The Modi Government has walked the talk on this count.

But what came as a bolt from the blue was its decision to unilaterally downgrade and split the State. This is not in the spirit of federalism. Though the Government has assured that full Statehood will be restored, normalcy will not return in this State any time soon due to such radical decisions.

> Vaibhav Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | AUGUST 10, 2019

analysis

FIRSTCOLUMN

Benefits amid a climate of tariffs

The US leadership wants to show there's a new sheriff in town and things will be done differently from now on. Once all global actors toe its line, it will normalise trade relations with everyone



he trade mechanism put in place after World War II to facilitate global trade and create prosperity across the globe seemingly let down tens of millions in America. Blue-collar workers felt that the system didn't work for them. Angry, they did what was unthinkable and elected Donald Trump to the most powerful office in the world. Trump espouses an "America First" policy, which American interests ahead of the corporates. The US, under Trump's leadership, has reversed its decades-old policy of enabling China's rise to containing it.

This has had implications for the India-US trade. While America's modest \$24 billion trade deficit with India pales in comparison to its \$222 billion trade deficit with China, the American leadership is leaving no stone unturned in working for its people even if it means erecting tariffs on goods exported by us. To mitigate the impact of a potential trade war, the Indian leadership should understand that in the eyes of the blue-collar American voters, China is the real threat, India much less so. Consider that farmers in America, who benefited significantly from exporting soy to China, aren't fazed that the latter has erected tariffs on products they export; they see this as a necessary part of containing the Middle Kingdom, whose ascent could dramatically alter the global landscape and America's ability to lead. Americans, who value commerce, are willing to endure financial losses to ensure their country stays number one. In the minds of Americans, who voted for Trump, India is an economic and military minnow, incapable of posing any challenge whatsoever to its leadership. Furthermore, most view India as a natural ally because like America, it, too, is a democracy, which fought for independence and because the Indian diaspora in America has proven themselves in their eyes. In a trade war focussed on containing China, India should be an afterthought.

Why America erected tariffs against India? The US rightly sees China as a threat. Consider that American companies, who want to do business in China, aren't often granted access to the Chinese market because of the country's protectionist stance. This view is widely shared by experts across the globe. Foreign companies enter China enthusiastically; yet are forced to retreat when local competitors abetted by the Chinese Government make it impossible for them to do business. China also regularly steals trade secrets from the US and engages in corporate espionage against American companies. It regularly violates patents as well — all of which costs billions to American corporations.

Furthermore, China doesn't share the liberal values as that of the US. Vast censorship across China, including a ban on Google and Facebook, is clear indication that the Chinese leadership is unwilling to allow its citizens access to information that might pose a threat to its leadership. Also, the Chinese leadership is creating home-grown companies capable of taking on American technology giants. Hence, rather than working alongside the US, as India does, China seeks to compete with America. Trump and those, who elected him to office, understand this well. So it's understandable why the US put tariffs on China. The latter treats American companies unfairly, manipulates its currency, commits espionage against it, prevents the flow of information to its citizens, has a league of its own on human rights violations and denies its people the right to vote. India grants American companies almost unrestrained access to its market, treats its companies fairly, works with Americans on human rights, helps it fight terrorism, exports its best minds to America and is a democracy.

America's decision to impose tariffs on Indian goods when seen in this context is puzzling unless viewed as part of a broader US strategy to ensure American dominance of the globe indefinitely. In history, the rise of a new power has rarely been peaceful. To eliminate any threat to its leadership, the US is leaving no stone unturned. Its removal of Indian exports from the Generalized System of Preferences costs Indian exporters a total of \$190 million, a pittance of India's total exports to America. However, it sends a signal to the world that America is changing. China has already capitulated somewhat to the US' pressure, as no doubt has India, yet as long as India's ambitions and those of America remain aligned, there is no reason to believe that the US will impose debilitating tariffs on us. American leadership wants to show there's a new sheriff in town and things will be done differently from now on. Once all global actors come to terms with this fact and toe the American line, it will normalise trade relations with them, although on its terms.

(The writer is an Advocate, Supreme Court of India)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

WE HAVE DECIDED TO SHUT DOWN THE THAR EXPRESS AS WELL. AS LONG AS I AM THE RAILWAYS MINISTER. NO TRAIN WILL OPERATE BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIA. —PAKISTAN'S RAILWAYS MINISTER





ACTIONS TAKEN BY PAKISTAN ARE UNILATERAL.THIS HAS BEEN DONE WITHOUT CONSULTING US.WE'VE URGED THEM TO RECONSIDER THEIR DECISION. —MEA SPOKESPERSON

India's diplomatic challenge

Whether India is considering any principal, definitional or fundamental changes to the IB, LoC and their security would further shape its diplomacy in dealing with international response



VIVEK MISHRA

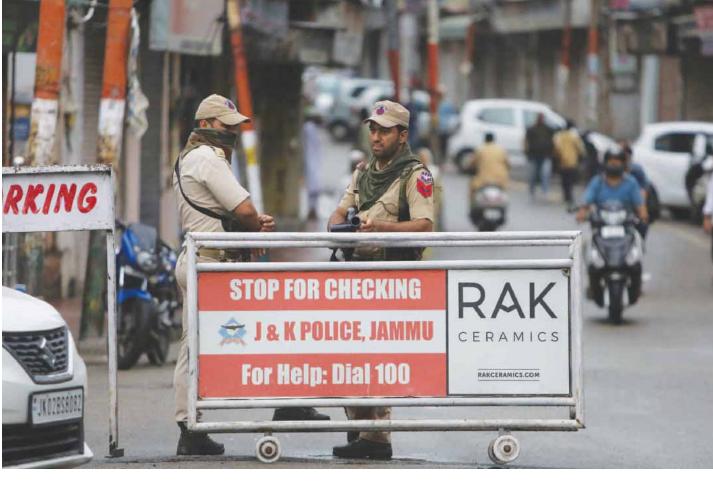
he internal reorganisation of the State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) into two Union Territories presents New Delhi with a new set of diplomatic challenges internationally, besides possible domestic upheavals in the days to come. To all sovereign democratic nation States in the post-Westphalian order, the causal relationship between internal contemporary between internal cartographic reorientation and the need for its justification through inter-national diplomacy is a troubling one. The broader justification for such thoughts is derived from the Charter of the United Nations, which states that "nothing should authorise intervention in matters essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State."

However, because of its historically fraught nature, early internationalisation of the issue and major power interventions in the past, the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan has not been insulated from international mediation. The latest round of arbitration offers between India and Pakistan from US President Donald Trump and Pakistan's attempt to reach out to other countries and organisations internationally, is a desperate shot at creating space for international intervention in the Kashmir dispute. Any attempts to offer international mediation in the Kashmir dispute, especially in the aftermath of the 1972 Shimla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration of 1999, which emphasise bilateral mechanisms to resolve disputes, will not be entertained by India.

In the latest round of diplomatic offensives, Pakistan has downgraded its diplomatic relations with India, sent back the Indian Ambassador, suspended trade, stopped the Samjhauta Express linking Lahore and New Delhi and partially closed its airspace. Besides, Islamabad has formed a seven-member committee to guide legal, political and diplomatic response to India on the Kashmir decision. Internationally, it has upped the ante on diplomatic outreach to the United Nations — promising to take the issue to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), and has tried to involve the leaders of Malaysia, Turkey and the United States, besides reaching out to the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC). The question is how much will these efforts create a space for international mediation on Kashmir?

The measured response from the UN and the OIC and balance from Turkey and Malaysia depict that most countries would be careful in wading into this complex bilateral issue. Earlier in March this year, India categorically rejected the OIC's criticism on Kashmir saying, "We reaffirm that Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India and is a matter strictly internal to India." At least two OIC countries — Maldives and the UAE — have termed India's decision an internal matter. The United Nations remains guarded in its harmless standard tone, "exercise maximum restraint" and the UN Secretary General spokesperson has declined to comment on India's decision to scrap the special status of Jammu & Kashmir.

If anything, the response shows that the UN is aware of its limitations in internal matters of countries and that it wouldn't want to pre-empt a diplomatic response from India, possibly in the



downgrading or diluting the role of the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) — a body established in 1949 to observe and report on ceasefire violations along and across the Line of Control (LoC) and the working boundary in Jammu & Kashmir as well as report developments that could lead to ceasefire violations.

Moreover, questions remain on the nature of impact, if any, that the decision to internally reorganise Jammu & Kashmir will have on the International Border (IB) and LoC. Whether India is considering any principal, definitional or fundamental changes to the IB, LoC and their security would further shape its diplomacy in dealing with international response. Although the decision to remove special status of Jammu & Kashmir wouldn't necessary solve India's problems of cross-border terrorism and other subconventionally destabilising efforts from Pakistan, it has the potential to reshape internal and border security in a manner that raises stakes for such activities significantly in the future, especially in the light of federal handling Jammu & Kashmir's security.

So how did we navigate major powers? There is enough convergence that Pakistan's attempt to bring the US as a mediator in the Kashmir bilateral dispute once again might have triggered or at least hastened India's decision on Jammu & Kashmir. President Trump's offer to mediate between the two countries is a result of Pakistan's repeated attempt to internationalise the issue in violation of the existing mechanisms, which forbade internalisation. The US State Department's clarification that India did not inform it before taking the big decision together with lack of any directed condemnation of India's actions, favourably plays

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BILATERAL ISSUE. IF ANYTHING, THE **RESPONSE SHOWS** THAT THE UN IS AWARE OF ITS LIMITATIONS IN INTERNAL MATTERS OF **COUNTRIES AND THAT** IT WOULDN'T WANT TO

PRE-EMPT A DIPLOMATIC RESPONSE

FROM INDIA

for New Delhi.

First, it vindicates India's stand that the decision is an internal matter. Second, it is indicative of India's independent decision-making and strategic autonomy despite close ties with the US. The only way in which the US' much-needed clarification on India's decision can be explained is the signaling to Islamabad that Washington officially hasn't sided with New Delhi on the decision. This signalling is important for the short-term interests of the US-Pakistan relations in solving the Afghanistan imbroglio and comes as a face-saver for the visit of the US Assistant Secretary for South Asia Alice Wells

The creation the Union Territory of Ladakh has drawn strong opposition from China, followed by India's strong rejection of its concerns. Ladakh borders Tibet to the east, the Lahaul and Spiti regions to the south, the Kashmir Valley, Jammu and Baltistan regions to the west, and the southwest corner of Xinjiang across the Karakoram Pass in the far north. It borders Aksai Chin, which both India and China claim. The recent decision places Ladakh in a contested geography with federal security structures, further complicating border talks between India and China.

While its new status provides an opportunity to view Pakistan-occupied Gilgit Baltistan and China-occupied Aksai Chin as two distinct conflicts, China's opposition is likely to continue. As such, in the broad spectrum of international ripples created by the recent decision on Kashmir, China's opposition is likely to test New Delhi's diplomacy in the most challenging way.

(The writer is Visiting Fellow at the Stimson Center in Washington D.C & Deputy Director Kalinga Institute for Indo-Pacific Studies)

Protect reproductive rights

There's a strong need to present counter-narratives to voices in the US calling for restricting access to safe abortion services. The discourse must be shaped keeping the woman and her alone at the centre



VINOJ MANNING

group of people walking the red carpet at the Cannes film rea carpet at the cannot be festival this year turned heads and made headlines — not for their peculiar outfits but for the green scarves they were waving. Repeating chants of "solidarity for women," this bunch comprised campaigners. They were drawing attention to the urgent need being felt to preserve women's reproductive rights.

This and similar protests have become even more critical in the face of an accelerated trend in many States in the US, advocating a ban on abortions. Since early this year, several provinces in America have proposed and successfully passed what they call a "Heartbeat Bill", that restricts women's access to safe abortion services

While Mississippi signed a Bill to ban all abortions beyond five to six weeks, Georgia and Missouri passed Bills to ban abortions after six and eight weeks respectively. Most recently, Alabama passed a draconian Bill that bans nearly all abortions, including in cases of rape and incest, making it punishable for the providers by up to 99 years in prison.

In a country where abortion so far is legal, women's rights have come under serious threat and would cease to exist if these Bills become laws. Such bans will have more profound ramifications for young women, and those from poor backgrounds. Their access to safe abortion services will be constrained due to their inability to travel to other States to seek abortion, with detrimental impacts on their health and

These recent developments in the US' policy environment on reproductive health and rights is a well-orchestrated, concerted move by the anti-choice groups to eventual-



ment, which guarantees the right to abortion. The Supreme Court of the United States classified the right to choose to abort as a "fundamental right." The judgement requires courts to evaluate challenged abortion laws under the "strict scrutiny" standard — the highest level of judicial review in America

The legal strategy of the anti-choice groups backed by ultra conservative legislators will have a direct foreseeable impact on abortion policy, access and discourse across it is through safe means or clandestine and unsafe methods, depends on

These amendments could set a wrong precedent for countries across the world reviewing their abortion laws, potentially restraining and reversing the progress made in women's reproductive rights historically. It has been well documented that restrictive abortion laws can only have one consequence — increased unsafe abortions and maternal deaths. If a woman decides to get an abortion, she will get it no matter what. Whether

its legality and accessibility. Banning abortion, contrary to common misconceptions, would not lead to a fall in abortion rates but more unsafe abortions and subsequently, higher

As a result of the narrative shaping up in the US, supported by the global gag rule, one could expect reverberations in the delivery of safe abortion services across the world. The withdrawal of funds for the provision of abortion care, coupled with the counter-narratives creeping in have an impact on the attitudes of health systems and abortion providers, with an increased fear or reluctance among them to terminate pregnancies. The alternative can have a particularly dampening effect by way of confusing and hampering the efforts of organisations and providers, who have been working on safe abortions globally.

The language and positioning of the issue also have a vital influence in shaping discussions and debate across the abortion eco-system.

To cite an example, the emotive use of terms like "fetal heartbeat"

rather than the clinical term "cardiac activity" is a deliberate attempt to imply personhood of the foetus and is a medical inaccuracy as the term "fetal heartbeat" is used in pregnan-

cies beyond eight weeks. A Missouri Republican State Representative used the term "consensual rape" when arguing in favour of a proposal that would ban abortions in the State after eight weeks of pregnancy — even in cases of incest or rape, though he apologised later. The abortion discourse must be shaped keeping the woman and her alone at the centre. It is a humiliation if in this day, women feel the need to fight for their rights to control their own bodies.

It is imperative to recognise and call out such an ultra-conservative and regressive mindset with complete disregard for women's rights and health that is behind this concerted moment to curb abortion access and shield ourselves from the insidious consequences of the legal changes happening in the US.

(The writer is CEO, Ipas Development Foundation)





GOLDEN AGE

Creative verve and business acumen have shifted from Tinseltown to Silicon Valley. While Hollywood squeezes its franchises until their pips squeak, Netflix does business differently, ruthlessly cancelling TV series after two or three seasons, the better to fulfil their remit of maximising subscribers. If we live in TV's new golden age, where the big screen has been eclipsed creatively and financially by the small screen, Netflix and Amazon are largely responsible for it. (The Guardian editorial)



Hindalco Q1 profit drops 28 pc to Rs 1,063 cr

NEW DELHI: Aditya Birla Group flagship firm Hindalco Industries on Friday posted 27.9 per cent decline in consolidated profit at Rs 1,062.89 crore for June quarter 2019 on the back of lower commodity prices and the global downturn. The company had posted a profit of Rs 1,474.69 crore in the year-ago period, Hindalco Industries said in a filing to BSE. Revenue from operations in April-June dropped to Rs 30,268.20 crore from Rs 31,205.61 crore in the yearago period. "While profits were impacted by the global downturn and lower commodity prices, Hindalco held its ground and delivered a steady performance," the company said in a statement. "We continued to maintain our strong position in aluminium and copper in Q1 FY'20 despite headwinds. The resilient performance owes as much to our backward integration, resource security, strong balance sheet. operational capabilities and rich product portfolio," Hindalco Industries Managing Director Satish Pai said



SpiceJet posts Rs 262 cr profit in June quarter

No-frills airline SpiceJet on Friday reported a net profit of Rs 261.7 crore in the three months ended June. The carrier had a net loss of Rs 38.1 crore in the year-ago period. In the latest June quarter, the airline posted a total income of Rs 3,145.3 crore compared to Rs 2,253.3 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, according to a release. SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh said the results would have been vastly better but for the painful grounding of the Boeing 737 Max aircraft. "We look forward to their swift return to service in the near future that will help SpiceJet increase its margins and provide a superior level of service," he noted. Shares of the company rose over 4 per cent to Rs 141.50 in afternoon trade on

Centre to cover 10cr farmers under PM-Kisan

The government aims to cover this year as many as 10 crore farmers under the PM-Kisan scheme, wherein they will be given Rs 6,000 annually in three equal instalments, Agriculture Minister Narendra

Singh Tomar said on Friday. Around 5.88 crore small farmers have so far received the first tranche of Rs 2,000 each under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) and 3.40 crore peasants have got the second instalment as well, he said.

"Barring West Bengal, all states are participating in the scheme. The progress so far is very good. We are targeting to reach out 10 crore farmers by end of the year," Tomar told reporters

The scheme will cover all 14.5 crore farmers in the coun-



try, irrespective of the size of their landholding, he said.

The scheme was launched on February 24 this year in the to the 2019 Parliamentary elections in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh where the first rounds of instalments was paid to several

Initially, the scheme was designed to cover an estimated 12.5 crore small and marginal farmers holding land up to 2 hectares

Later the scheme was revised

The scheme was launched on February 24 this year in the run-up to the 2019 **Parliamentary** elections in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh where the first rounds of instalments was paid to several farmers

to cover around additional 2 crore farmers, increasing the coverage of PM-Kisan to around 14.5 crore beneficiaries, with an estimated expenditure of Rs 87,217.50 crores by the Central Government in fiscal vear 2019-20.

Gems, jewellery exports dip 8.48 pc in Apr-July

Gems and jewellery exports declined by 8.48 per cent to USD 9.7 billion during April-July this fiscal, mainly on account of slowdown in demand in major developed markets.

According to data from the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GIEPC), exports stood at USD 10.6 billion in the same period of 2018-19. The labour-intensive sector

contributes about 15 per cent to the country's overall exports. The decline in shipments is mainly due to negative growth

in the export of cut and polished diamonds, coloured gem stones, and gold jewellery. According to the data, cut and polished diamonds exports

contracted 17.5 per cent. Similarly outbound shipments of coloured gem stones dipped by 10 per cent during the first



According to data from the Gems and **Jewellery Export Promotion Council** (GJEPC), exports stood at USD 10.6 billion in the same period of 2018-19

four months of the fiscal. Exports of gold jewellery declined by 4.8 per cent to

USD 4 billion. But, exports of gold medallions and coins grew to USD 309 million during the period under review.

India's main export desti-

nations are the US, Europe, Japan and China. America accounts for about one-fourth of the country's total gems and jewellery exports.

The gems and jewellery exports declined 5.32 per cent to USD 30.96 billion in 2018-

Oppo to double smartphone production in India by 2020

Chinese phone maker Oppo on Friday said it is expanding smartphone manufacturing unit to double production capacity by 2020 in India, and use it as export base for South Asia, Midddle East and African countries.

The company also has plans to further scale the manufacturing capacity to produce 100 million smartphones annually at its Greater Noida facility, the smartphone maker added.

"Currently, we are producing 4 million smartphones a month and by the end of 2020, we will double our existing capacity. With the increased production and future export plans, we aim to achieve our dream of making India a global export hub for smartphone phones," Oppo India vice president for product and marketing Sumit Walia said in a statement.

According to Counterpoint Research, Oppo brand smartphones at present are estimated to have around 8 per cent market share in India.

Oppo plans to export to South Asia, Middle East and Africa markets from the Greater Noida facility, spread across 110 acre, the statement "To ensure quality, the cam-

pus has over 10,000 strong workforce engaged across ture.

Sterlite Power bags 2 projects

The other win is the GEC

project of Lakadia-Vadodara

WRSS 21-Part B) in Gujarat.

The project will help connect

the wind energy zones of Bhuj

region to the load centres of

worth over Rs 3,000 crore



The company also has plans to further scale the manufacturing capacity to produce 100 million **smartphones** annually at its **Greater Noida** facility, the smartphone maker added

manufacturing line, quality assurance and product testing. The manpower capacity is expected to cross 15,000 by 2020," the statement said.

Additionally, Oppo is planning to increase investment in the Hyderabad R&D center, which is largest outside China. The Hyderabad facility has played a crucial role in the development of Reno - Oppo's recent flagship series which comes with 10 times zoom fea-

Gujarat and Maharashtra.

India

Power said

With these wins, Sterlite

These projects awarded

Power adds renewable trans-

mission to its portfolio in

through competitive bidding

have secured much lower tar-

iff than the cost-plus tariff esti-

mate and thus play a crucial

role in enabling access to

affordable power envisioned by the government," Pratik Agarwal, Group CEO, Sterlite

UK economy shrinks for first time since 2012

The British economy shrank in the second quarter of the year for the first time in six and a half years largely because Brexit uncertainties weighed heavily on business investment, official figures showed Friday.

The decline, the first since the fourth quarter of 2012, was unexpected. Most economists thought that the economy would be flat.

The Office for National Statistics said the contraction came "at a time of increased volatility around the U.K.'s original planned exit date from the European Union in late March."

Brexit was meant to happen on March 29, but has been delayed to the end of October after Parliament rejected the withdrawal agreement that the



revious prime minister, Theresa May, had negotiated with the EU. Compelled by Parliament, May requested the

Before the extension request, many firms stockpiled products to help cushion them in case Britain crashed out of the EU on March 29 without a deal.

That business activity helped the economy grow by 0.5% in the first quarter. Since then, companies have stopped stockpiling as much, weighing on growth overall.

The disappointing figure is set to raise alarm that Brexit uncertainty is weighing on the British economy more than

Before the extension request, many firms stockpiled products to help cushion them in case Britain crashed out of the EU on March 29 without a deal

anticipated. Business investment, which has been historically weak since the country voted in June 2016 to leave the EU, weakened further in the second quarter, contracting by 0.5% following a modest uptick in the first three months of the

May's replacement as prime

minister, Boris Johnson, has insisted that there will be no further delay to the Brexit date and that Britain will leave the EU on Halloween come what

That's stoked fears, particularly in currency markets where the pound has been sliding, that Britain will leave the EU without a deal, a development that would see tariffs and other restrictions imposed on traded goods.
With all that uncertainty, the

Bank of England warned last week that there's a one-inthree chance that Britain will slip into recession in the early part of 2020 even if a Brexit ends up being smooth.

The pound fell after the release of Friday's GDP figures, down 0.2% on the day at USD

Maruti Suzuki

opens

B2B payments startup launches corporate credit card for SMEs

PTI ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Business-to-business payments startup EnKash on Friday launched the country's first corporate credit card called 'Freedom Card' for small and medium enter prises (SMEs).

The Freedom Card would give SMEs and startups the freedom to avail credit facility for immediate needs and to manage their liquidity.

"Currently, banks offer corporate credit cards and Enkash partners with most of them to enhance the experience. While we will continue enhancing our capabilities for these bank partnerships, we realised that specific products are required to address cases which are peculiar to underserved SMEs and startups as their requirements are different," EnKash co-founder Naveen Bindal said.

Bindal added that these segments are not able to benefit fully with the existing solutions in the market, be it for enhancing their shortterm credit requirements or convenience or just simply getting access to a commercial credit card.

Locals disrupt coal supply to NTPC Kahalgaon

PTI ■ BHAGALPUR

Scores of locals are staging a demonstration at Kahalgaon near here, disrupting supply of coal to the 2340 MW NTPC unit even as officials on Friday expressed concern over fast depleting stocks which could lead to a major power crisis in Bihar if the situation remained unresolved for long.

According to NTPC Kahalgaon Public Relations Officer Saurabh Kumar, the locals mainly villagers whose land was acquired for setting up the unit and who had been paid compensation besides employment through ad hoc jobs have been squatting on the Kahalgaon-Lalmatia rail track for nearly 24 hours.

This has prevented offloading of coal at the unit, which receives about 12-14 freight wagons of the same every day, he said adding that the protesters are demanding permanent jobs at the super thermal power unit.

He also said after they had announced their agitation, NTPC officials held several rounds of talks, assuring them that their concerns would be duly addressed and urging them not to disrupt the coal supply. However, they have

We have sent an SOS to Chief Secretary and the states Home Secretary seeking their urgent invitation in the matter. We have also sought an appointment with them later in the day

VISHWANATH CHANDAN

gone ahead with their agitation. Since yesterday, four rounds of tripartite talks have been held wherein officials from the local administration as well as NTPC have tried to negotiate with representatives of the agitators. More rounds would take place today, he added.

NTPC Manager, Corporate Communications, (East-1) Vishwanath Chandan said in Patna it is a grim situation. Our coal stocks are fast depleting and we have reserves for not more than three days. If the crisis is not defused by then, power generation at the unit may get affected which would have a serious impact on electricity supply to many parts of Bihar.

We have sent an SOS to Chief Secretary and the states

Home Secretary seeking their urgent invitation in the matter. We have also sought an appointment with them later in the day, he added.

Security inside the NTPC unit is managed by the CISF and, hence, that may not be an issue. But if the coal supply remains disrupted the unit will not be able to function. The situation cannot be tackled without active intervention of the state government, he said.

Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Station is one of the coal based power plants of the NTPC. The total installed capacity of the plant is 2340 MW and Bihar gets 426 MW out of this, Chandan said. The coal for the power plant

is sourced from Rajmahal coalfield of Eastern Coalfields Limited in Jharkhand.

MPV XL6 PTI ■ NEW DELHI Maruti Suzuki India on Fridav

bookings for

announced opening of bookings for its upcoming premium multipurpose vehicle XL6.

The new vehicle which will be retailed through premium retail chain Nexa can be booked with an initial payment of Rs 11,000, the country's largest car maker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said in a statement.

on August 21. It will be powered by K15 BS-VI petrol engine with progressive Smart Hybrid technology.

The XL6 will be launched

It will be offered across two variant levels with a choice of manual and automatic transmissions, the company added.

"The XL6 is an exclusive 6seater premium MPV, designed to meet the aspirations of evolved and discerning Nexa customers," MSI Executive Director, Marketing and Sales Shashank Srivastava said.

The model will further strengthen Nexa products portfolio and provide customers with a range of products from hatchbacks, sedan, SUV and now a premium MPV at Nexa, he added.

Sovereign bond sale needs special safeguard: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

over Rs 3,000 crore.

Sterlite Power on Friday said it

has won two inter-state power

transmission projects worth

One of the projects bagged

by the company is the Udupi-

Kasargode project which will

decongest the ISTS (Inter State

Transmission System) corridor

and facilitate smoother power

flow within Karnataka and

Kerala, Sterlite Power said in a

Safeguards, including defining of borrowing limits, are essential if India were to raise money from abroad through a sovereign bond sale, a report

said on Friday. The sovereign bond issue abroad found a mention in Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget speech last month, leading to controversy on whether the country should take the step which was not tested even during the

1991 crisis In its report, India Ratings said if the government opts for the sovereign borrowing in foreign currency, it should be accompanied by a "well-crafted policy/special safeguard" as foreign exchange reserves is an accumulation of capital account surplus, rather than a



current account.

"One way of doing it could be to make it part of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, wherein annual limit as well as the total quantum of sovereign borrowings in foreign currency is

defined," it suggested.

of payment (BoP) position is "highly susceptible" to any adverse domestic or global macro development and warned that the "fickle" nature of foreign investors could be "destabilising" for the economy as has been experienced in the efined," it suggested. recent past as well, pointing to net outflows of USD 16 billion The sovereign bond issue abroad found a mention in Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget speech last month, leading to controversy on whether the country should take the step which was not tested even during the 1991 crisis

between April-October 2018. The rating agency said until now, the government has followed a fairly cautious approach by capping the FPI limit in government securities

(G-Secs). It noted the rationale given by the government for such a borrowing, including the external debt-to-GDP level at sub-5 per cent being among the lowest globally, diversification of resources and lower costs of borrowing.

"In the existing framework, allowing FPIs in the onshore market does not carry the currency or refinance risk, which is present in foreign currencydenominated debt," it pointed

In a scenario of depreciating currency, interest and debt obligations of foreign curren-cy-denominated debts balloon and quite often make it unsus-

Hedging currency risks carry significant costs and if opted,

may make foreign currencydenominated debt less attractive compared with domestic debt, it said.

Monetary policy transmission may also be affected through such a move as the rates will be decided by developments in global financial

markets, it said. It can be noted that a wide array of experts, including former Reserve Bank Governors have flagged such a move as a risky bet and adviced against going ahead, while some like billionaire banker Uday Kotak has been supporting it.

Amid reports of the Government mulling to raise USD 10 billion in the next few months, former RBI Governor D Subbarao has said he will be ok with the government "testing" the markets but adviced against high issuances.

Pfizer Q1 net up 23% at Rs 113 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Pfizer on Friday reported 22.83 per cent increase in net profit at Rs 112.81 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2019.

same quarter last fiscal, Pfizer said in a regulatory filing. Total income during the quarter under review stood at

profit of Rs 91.84 crore in the

The company had posted a

Rs 580.23 crore as against Rs 542.84 crore in the corresponding quarter last fiscal, it Total expenses during the first quarter were marginally higher at Rs 405.32 crore as

approval from Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) in July for transfer of its business undertaking at Thane, including land, plant, machinery and employees except for a certain portion of land, folcompared to 400.65 crore in lowing sale to Vidhi Research the year-ago period, it added. Pfizer said it has received & Development LLP.

Hyderabad erabad the pioneer

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> Saturday August 10, 2019

SUPER FOR T'WOOD IN NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

'Best actress' KeertHy Suresh tops in Tollywood's hour of reckoning, writes K RAMYA SREE

he delay in the announcement of the coveted 66th National Film Awards has come as a blessing in disguise for Tollywood. It is celebration time for all those asso-ciated with Telugu film industry as it has bagged an overwhelming seven awards this year, which were announced on

In a way, Tollywood has outshone itself with the icing on the cake coming in the form of a triple crown for *Mahanati*, a biopic on the legendary actress

Savitri. *Awe* received two, while Rangasthalam and Chi La Sow were bestowed with an honour

If the Best Film award was clinched by Gujarati film Hellaro and the best film in Hindi was won by Sriram Raghavan's Andha Dhun, the one cornering glory in the debutant category was Sudhakar Reddy Yakanthi, who was conferred the Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film Director for his Naal.

Incidentally, for all the accolades and critical acclaim for his powerful performance in

Khurrana had to share the best actor award with Vicky Kaushal for his equally captivating performance in Uri: The Surgical

The war movie also won the best director award for Aditya

Keerthy Suresh won the best actress award for playing the role of Savitri in *Mahanati*.

Mahanati starring Samantha Akkineni, Vijay Devarakonda and Dulquer Salmaan romped home the Best Telugu film category. Making it a triple success was the 'Best Costume Award'.

Awe made its mark by receiv-Andha Dhun, Ayushmann ing 'Best Make-Up' and 'Best VFX' awards.

Rahul Ravindran's debut movie as a director, Chi La Sow, won best original screenplay award. Rangasthalam, which was a huge hit at the box office, won an award for 'Best Sound Mixing'.

The much hyped Kannada star Yash's film *KGF* has won the 'Best Action' film award.

Ayushmann's Badhai Ho has won the 'Best Wholesome Entertainment'.

Last year, Village Rockstars won Best Film award, while Baahubali 2 won 'Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment'.















Women **BEST GARO FILM:** Anna **BEST MARATHI FILM:** Bhonga

BEST HINDI FILM: Andhadhun **BEST URDU FILM:** Hamid **BEST BENGALI FILM:** Ek Je Chhilo Raja

BEST TAMIL FILM:

BEST MALAYALAM FILM: Sudani From Nigeria **BEST TELUGU FILM:** Mahanati **BEST KANNADA FILM:** Nathicharami **BEST KONKANI FILM:** Amori

BEST ASSAMESE FILM: Bulbul Can Sing BEST PUNJABI FILM: Harieeta **BEST GUJARATI FILM:**

BEST CHEOREOPHY:

Padmaavat, Ghoomar **BEST MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Padmaavat **BEST SPECIAL EFFECT:**

BEST MUSIC DIRECTION: Sanjay Leela Bhasali. Padmaavat

BEST BACKGROUND MUSIC AWARD: Uri **BEST MAKEUP ARTIST:** Ranjith for Awe

BEST COSTUME DESIGNER: Mahanati. Raishree Patnaik. Varun Shah and Archana Rao **BEST ACTION:**

BEST LYRICS: Maniutha for Nathicharami **BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN:** Kammara Sambhavam **BEST EDITING:** Nathicharam

BEST LOCATION SOUND: Tendlya BEST SOUND DESIGN:

BEST MIXED TRACK: Rangasthalam **BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY:** Andhadhur **BEST DIALOGUE:**

Tarikh **BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY: BEST FEMALE PLAYBACK**

SINGER:

FEATURE FILMS Bindu Mani for Mayavi

> Padmaavat **BEST FILM ON SOCIAL ISSUES:** Pad Man

Manave from Nathicharami

BEST MALE PLAYBACK SINGER:

Arijit Singh for Binte Dil from

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS: Surekha Sikri for Badhaai Ho **BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR:** Swanand Kirkire for Chumbak **BEST ACTOR:**

Ayushmann Khurrana, Andhadhun, and Vicky Kaushal Hri **BEST ACTRESS:**

Keerthy Suresh for Mahanati **BEST DIRECTION:** Aditya Dhar for Uri **BEST FEATURE FILM:** Helaru (Gujarati)

BEST CHILDREN'S FILM: Sarkari. Hi. Pra. Shale Kasaragodu, Koduge **BEST FILM ON ENVIRONMENT**

CONSERVATION: NARGIS DUTT AWARD FOR **NATIONAL INTEGRATION:**

Ondanya Eradalu **BEST POPULAR FILM** PROVIDING WHOLESOME

ENTERTAINMENT: Radhaai Ho

JURY AWARDS: Kedara (Bengali), Helaru

MOST FILM-FRIENDLY STATE:

UTTARAKHAND

BEST BOOK ON CINEMA: Malayalam book *Mano Prarthana* Pulley, In A Cult Of Their Own gets Special Mention **BEST FILM CRITIC:**

Blase Johnny (Malayalam), Ananth Vijay (Hindi)



NON-FEATURE FILM CATEGORY

BEST FILM ON FAMILY VALUES:

Chalo Jeetey Hai **BEST SHORT FICTION FILM:**

Kasab **SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM:** Why Me, Ekant **BEST INVESTIGATION FILM:** Amoli

BEST SPORTS FILM: Swimming Through The

Darkness BEST EDUCATIONAL FILM: Sarlabh Virala

BEST FILM ON SOCIAL ISSUE: Taala Te Kuniee **BEST ENVIRONMENTAL FILM:** The World's Most Famous

BEST PROMOTIONAL FILM: Rediscovering Jahannum **BEST FILM ON SCIENCE AND**

TECHNOLOGY: GD Naidu: The Edison of India BEST ARTS AND CULTURAL FILM:

Bunkar **BEST DEBUT NON-FEATURE** FILM OF A DIRECTOR:

BEST NON-FEATURE FILM: Sunrise, The Secret Life of







CITY GUIDE

MUSIC

SAFARNAMA

Renowned singer Lucky Ali will take you on a ride through his soulful melodies along with his other popular numbers. August 10, 7.30 pm, Shilpakala Vedika, Madhapur.





LIKE THE AIR I BREATHE

 Artist Bakula Nayak exhibits her paintings inspired by the beautiful epic love poem Ritusamharam and vintage ephemeras. Ongoing, until September 2, 6.30 pm, Kalakriti Art Gallery, Banjara Hills.

OXFORD DRAWINGS

This exhibition showcases exquisite works by renowned and eminent artist KG Subramanyan done in the year 1987-88 while he was at Oxford. Ongoing, until August 13, 5 to 7 pm, Taj Falaknuma



WORKSHOP

KNIFE PAINTING

Palace, Falaknuma.

A free workshop organised by Suman Krishna and Nandini R Penna will deal with different techniques to use knife to paint on a canvas. Materials will be provided by organisers. August 10, 11 am, Lamakaan, Banjara Hills.

COMEDY

DON'T JUDGE

 Stage Adda brings Sumit Sourav, Raunak Rajani, and Shreeja Chaturvedi together for the very first time to your city Hyderabad with a laughter dose. August 10, 7 pm, IQ Lounge, Somajigudda.





>> THEATRE

ANDE KE CHILKE

Set in the 1960s, about a household that primarily indulged in vegetarian meals; eggs were a taboo. Interestingly, the house's daughter-in-law would brave the troubles and resort to eating some of the yellow and white goodness. She would also secretly cooking this forbidden delight and serving it to her husband and brother-in-law. August 10, 8.15 pm, Phoenix Arena, HITEC City.



MAIDANAM

Based on one of the most famous and most controversial of Chalam's novels, it is about Rajeswari, a young, frustrated housewife. It all starts with her thorough disillusionment with her tradition-bound, unfeeling, emotionally sterile lawyer-husband who treats her as a piece of property, as one who fulfils his sexual and social needs.

August 10, 7.30 pm, Lamakaan, Banjara Hills



KAIFI AUR MEIN

A theatrical and musical journey which will be Shabana Azmi's tribute to her father Kaifi Azmi. Javed Akhtar will



enact Kaifi in this venture. August 11, 7 pm, Shilpakala Vedika, Madhapur.

JAMBU DWEEPAM

This 1988 political satire starts with two characters — a king, Prajapati, and his Sevak, Nandi — finds that they are shipwrecked on an island called Jambu Dweeepam. The island is ruled by Bruhaspathi, a revolutionary leader who believes in inequality and social justice. What ensues is a battle between the conflicting ideals of the two leaders.

August 10, 7 pm, Phoenix Arena, HITEC City.



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

FUN TIME

ARCHIE









CALVIN AND HOBBES



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



I'D LIKE TO BUY WO MONTHS OF DAY PLANNER

BOOKS

BOOKS

GINGER MEGGS

HEY! HOW COME

I FAILED SCIENCE

THIS YEAR? I THOUGHT I PASSED THE

EXAM!



THAT'S AS LONG AS I CAN USE ONE BEFORE I

YOU DID PASS

SCIENCE, MEGGS. YOU

FAILED READING AND

COMPREHENSION.

GIVE UP ON IT

BOOKS









REALITY CHECK





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Rules									
ł	 Each row and column can 								

- contain each number (1 to 9)
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.
- 13 Where a cow stores its milk 16 A dry land with few plants 18 A long soft seat 19 A group of words which

makes sense DOWN

ACROSS

11 Clamber up

1 Sparkling precious stones

7 This vehicle has no wheels

and is pulled over snow

12 Prepare for a sports match

6 A machine for weaving

9 Make a rough estimate

- 1 Extremely pleased
- 2 Overhead 3 A bird makes this

4 Detected with the nose

17 A female sheep SOLUTION

5 False hair on the

8 Bears do this in

10 These spin webs

14 Die under water

the winter

head

15 Astound

tollywood

ASWINI DUTT GARU PREDICTED NATIONAL HONOUR: NAG ASHWIN

The director is excited about actress Keerthy Suresh winning the National Award for Best Actress, finds NAGARAJ GOUD

ith *Mahanati*, a biopic of Savitri, which depicted the late legendary figure's rise and fall in Telugu and Tamil cinema, adjudged as the best Telugu film on Friday in New Delhi, film's director Nag Ashwin is a happy man. He, however, is more excited about his leading lady Keerthy Suresh walking away with the best actress' trophy. Keerthy's performance was raved by one and Keerthy's performance was raved by one and all; with many critics pointing out that her performance was similar to watching Savitri on screen. From looks to mannerisms, the Kerala girl got everything spot on. "I'm happy about the film getting its share but I'm happier about Keerthy getting the award. It's something we feel Savitri garu deserved. She hasn't won a National Award in her career despite being deserving of it," he told us exclusively on Friday evening.

He wants to thank the entire team for the project, for it was a "crazy project" to make on celluloid. Did he have a word with Keerthy? "I left her a message but she hasn't got back to me yet. Guess she is shooting, else, she must be bombarded with calls like me," he laughs, adding that the acknowledgement calls for a celebration. "I want to gather the whole the gather the whole team and raise a toast."

Ashwin adds that his wife Priyanka and sister-in-law Swapna Dutt, both of whom produced the project, are ecstatic. So is Aswini Dutt, his father-in-law who presented the film under his prestigious Vyjayanthi Movies. "He had more faith on us getting the national honour than we did. And naturally, he is chuffed to bits," he exclaims.

At this moment of glory, Ashwin wants to extend his wholehearted thanks to Savitri's daughter Vijaya Chamundeswari who has been a "great support for the film on many creative levels". "She is a part of the film as far as I'm concerned," he ends.

There is a strong

production

duties

buzz that the director





to lock horns

The two movies will release on September 13. Director Harish Shankar retweeted Nani's tweet and said that it will be a festival of sorts for moviegoers

September 13. "Ashta Chamma. Bhale Bhale Magadivoy. I missed you September! Let's do it one more time *Gang Leader* from Sept 13th," the actor, who is playing a crime writer in the Vikram Kumar comic caper, posted on

The new date, however, isn't a clear window for Nani. Harish Shankar's Valmiki, starring Varun Tej in the titular role, is also slated to release on the same day. It was initially planned for the first

Rajini nod to Siva's masala film?

week of next month, but it was rescheduled to September 13 to give Saaho more mileage in the second week. The director isn't worried though, he tweeted that it will be a festival of sorts for moviegoers. "Wowwww it's going to be a festival on 13th September for movie lovers... Valmiki And Gang Leader...whole hearted wishes to the team of Gang Leader from the team of Valmiki...(sic)," Harish wrote, retweeting Nani's

has a masala story er-turned-filmmaker Siva met superstar for Rajini and the Rajinikanth at the latter asked his earlier this May, a wave of speculations triggered that they are friend Kalaipuli S Thanu to take care of

latter's Poes Garden residence in Chennai in talks to join forces for a film. Who wouldn't think? After all, Rajini made a career out of starring in a larger than altogether. Word in the corridors life cinema while Siva

right now in Tamil, with blockbusters like Veeram, Vedalam and Viswasam to his credit. However, speculations died down soon after it emerged that Siva was invited over for Rajini to congratulate him on the success of Viswasam, which the actor really liked. Right now, there seems to be

a different story developing of Kollywood has it that Siva has

once again met Rajini recently and this time its work-related. Apparently, the director has a masala story for Rajini that will satisfy his legion of fans and the actor readily evinced interest to spearhead it. Work on the project is on and there's a strong buzz that Rajini asked his friend Kalaippuli S Thanu to take care of production duties. The revered name in Tamil circles produced the box-office smash Kabali earlier with the sexage-

narian and he is credited to have given the moniker 'superstar' to the actor decades ago. The film will move in front of cameras after the actor wraps up Darbar with AR Murugadoss.

With back-to-back films in his kitty, one can't help but wonder if Rajini's full-fledged political entry has taken a backseat?





Rajendra Prasad counters Prudhvi Raj's comments on Jagan

SVBC Chairman Prudhvi Tollywood celebrities don't like YŚ Jaganmohan Reddy becoming Chief Minister and that is the reason why they are not meeting him since his swearing-in ceremonot businessmen to meet Chief Minister. He also added that there is no particular rule that urges actors to meet CM.

He made these statements on Friday after he visited Tirumala temple. Rajendra Prasad says, "I have good relations with YS Jaganmohan

esponding to the allegations of actor Prasad said that celebrities are Reddy. Both Telugu CMs have positive vibe towards the cinema industry. I was scheduled to meet CM Jagan on Saturday but it was postponed to three days later due

to some reasons." Even YSRCP leader and actor Posani Krishna Murali mentioned that Prudhvi's comments are wrong.

The makers of Sarileru Neekevvaru unveiled the actor's first look from the movie on

his birthday

on Friday

MEET MAJOR

s superstar Mahesh Babu blew out 44 candles on his birthday cake on Friday, the makers of his next, Sarileru Neekevvaru, have unveiled his first look from the film. He plays Major Ajay Krishna in the comic caper laced with action, and going by the picture, he has aced the look. He is as dashing as ever. Earlier in the day, the mak-

their camp with concertina wire in the foreground also dotted the video. Meanwhile, the shoot of the film is presently progressing in Hyderabad. While a lengthy humorous episode has been shot till now in a specially erected train set at Ánnapurna Studios, the action ers also released his has shifted to other scenes on Friday, with actor-turned-

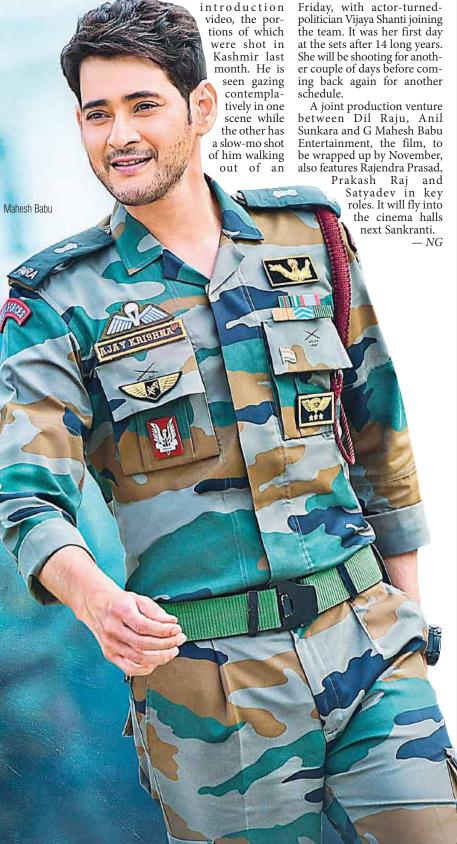
army camp in his signature

style, as the catchy title song

ran in the background. Shots

of soldiers marching towards

A joint production venture







bon appétit

No more traffic jams



Flying cars, which are like drones big enough to hold humans promise to be better than helicopters, which are expensive to maintain, noisy and require trained pilots

apanese electronics maker NEC Corp showed a 'flying car,' a large drone-like machine with four propellers that hovered steadily for about a minute.

The test flight reaching three

metres (10 feet) high was held in a gigantic cage, as a safety pre-caution, at an NEC facility in a Tokyo suburb. The preparations such as the repeated checks on the machine and warnings to reporters to wear helmets took up more time than the two brief demonstrations.

The Japanese government is behind flying cars, with the goal of having people zipping around in them by the 2030s.

Among the governmentbacked endeavour is a huge test course for flying cars that's built in an area devastated by the 2011 tsunami, quake and nuclear disasters in Fukushima in northeastern Japan. Mie, a prefecture in central Japan that's frequently used as a resort area by Hollywood celebrities, also hopes to use flying cars to connect its various islands.

Similar projects are popping up around world, such as Uber Air of the US. A flying car by Japanese startup Cartivator crashed quickly in a 2017 demon-

derogatory com-

explained.

- IANS

OPRAH

PRAISES

LATE FRIEND

prah Winfrey praised her late friend and

hailing the best-selling author's

"confidence and self-assuredness and

nobility". Winfrey and Morrison knew each

other for more than 20 years, dating back to when Winfrey was so determined to learn the

author's unlisted phone number that she called the local

fire department. Winfrey said that when she started her

book club in 1996, she was thinking of Morrison. Winfrey

recalled that when Morrison made her first appearance on *The*

Oprah Show, and talked about raising her boys as a single mother.

idol, Toni Morrison,

ment. It is just a comment," Taapsee

"Even my sister tells me

to put a filter before I open my

remain such as battery life, the need for regulations and safety concerns. NEC officials said their flying car was designed for unmanned flights for deliveries but utilised the company's technology in its

Cartivator Chief Executive

Tomohiro Fukuzawa said their

machines were also flying longer

80 sponsor companies for Cartivator's flying car, which also include Toyota Motor Corp.

group companies and video game company Bandai Namco Holdings. The goal is to deliver a

seamless transition from driving

to flight like the world of Back to

the Future, although huge hurdles

NEC is among the more-than-

travel and cybersecurity. Often called EVtol, for "electric vertical takeoff and landing" air-craft, a flying car is defined as an aircraft that's electric or hybrid electric, with driverless capabilities, that can land and takeoff vertically. All of the flying car concepts, which are like drones big enough to hold humans, promise to be better than helicopters. Helicopters are expensive to maintain, noisy to fly and require trained pilots. Flying cars also are being touted as useful for disaster relief.

US ride-sharing and trans-portation network Uber is plan-

other operations such as space

ning demonstrator flights in 2020 and commercial operations in 2023 and has chosen Dallas, Los Angeles and Melbourne as the first cities to offer what it calls Uber Air flights. Dubai has also been aggressive about pursuing flying cars. Japanese officials say Japan has a good chance of

emerging as a world leader because the government and the private sector will work closely.

Shah Rukh Khan **Scholarship at Australian** university

a Trobe University, Australia, on Friday announced 'Shah Rukh Khan La Trobe University PhD Scholarship', which provides a life-changing opportunity for an aspiring female researcher from India. This four-year PhD scholarship is being introduced in recognition of Mr Khan's dedication to women empowerment, through his Meer Foundation.

The announcement was made during Shah Rukh Khan's visit to La Trobe University as a chief guest of the 2019 Indian Film Festival of Melbourne. Shah Rukh Khan welcomed the announcement of a scholarship in his name. "As a passionate advocate for women's equality and empowerment, I am delighted that this scholarship will give an Indian woman a chance to pursue research in a field, which is likely to lead her towards an exciting and successful career. I thank La Trobe University wholeheartedly for giving someone this wonderful opportunity,

mouth in public. That is true because at times my honest opinion gets me into trouble. So my comment Mr Khan said. on 'keeping a filter' was not meant to be negative, though people on the other side took it nega-JOHN IS ANAND'S tively. I cannot change their perception, explained Taapsee. his films. Having

LUCKY CHARM Anand Pandit is on a success streak with recently acquired the all-India distribution rights for three films. Pandit is riding the

box office wave. Batla House, the second film to release under his banner in August stars John Abraham as the protagonist. He says, "*Batla House* is a gripping film and with John in the lead, it's superhit. The storyline has been developed carefully and it incorporates layers of every character's personality. John is my lucky charm, my last film with him was a

blockbuster and this will be no different." He has done films like, Great Masti, Sarkar, Baazaar, Batti Gul Meter Chalu,

WON'T APOLOGISE FOR HONESTY: TAAPSEE

take it as a compliment. I am also called *sasti* (cheap). Yes, I am not the highest-paid

actress, so that way you can call me sasti."

to that individual because they do not mat-

ter in my scheme of things. Why should I pay attention to people who do not matter to me? They are taking time out to say things

to me, meaning I matter to them. Everyone

knows how to bully, and even I know how

to answer back. But there is a certain use of language and vocabulary that I have not learnt and I never will. So, I answered in my

way."

The actress was speaking at a media interaction to promote her forthcoming film

Mission Mangal. She said that negative com-

ments like Rangoli's do not affect her spir-

it. "When a journalist asks me a question (on

the subject), I answer because through your

medium I can tell my audience who I am.

So you people matter to me," she clarified, about taking in questions on the contro-

The whole argument started a while back

because Taapsee jocularly mentioned in an

interview that Kangana needs a "double fil-

ter" because she is brutally honest and that

Kangana's sister and spokesperson

Rangoli, however, was not amused,

and she launched a tirade against

versial issue.

puts her into trouble.

Taapsee also mentioned, "I did not reply

that she will not apologise for her "double filter" comment about Kangana Ranaut, for which she has faced flak from the latter's sister and spokesperson Rangoli Chandel. The whole argument started when Kangana's sister Rangoli Chandel attacked Taapsee on Twitter. "Kuch log Kangana ko copy kar ke he apni dukaan chalate hain, magar please note, they never acknowledge

her, not even a mention of her name in praising the trailer. Last I heard, Taapsee ji said Kangana needs a double filter and Tapsee ji you need to stop being a sasti copy," Rangoli tweeted.

"Seriously, I will not apologise for my honest opinion. I did not know that she has a patent on curly hair because I was born with curly hair and my parents are responsible for that. So, I cannot apologise for that either. Rest, I do not know what else I have copied," said Taapsee,

Taapsee.
"One needs a filter when "However, if I she does not have any am a copy of a good pretension, and no filter between their actress like her (Kangana) — and mind and their I always main- mouth. I do tain that she not see this is a good actress

dialogue about the handloom sector going, it is important to couple it with a

business module so that the youth finds Magnificence is handcrafted it relevant and

cool, says **SAKSHI SHARMA**

Tò

keep the

Chippa Ramkishore Derawala, who is a master-printer of the Dabu and Bagru prints of Rajasthan, he said, Look at him, he took a vow 39 years ago that 'I will only wear handloom.' He is living by his words even today."

He further said that this discussion would not have any effect until and unless the government is included in this. Giving an example about

broader level in the country.

which the government has opened in various cities, he said, "They merely exist to showcase the efforts of the government but are hardly benefiting the weavers. It is important to go to the ground level and interact with the weavers to know the ground reality." He expressed his concern over the five per cent tax on weavers' products, which should be removed "to make the handlooms cheaper and the government should also provide subsidies." He added about making a powerloom mark so that people can differentiate between handloom and powerloom. He then agreed to what Ritu said over the drift between the young

generation and handloom,

'THE KARVATI SAREES OF MAHARASHTRA ARE LOST BECAUSE THERE ARE NO WEAVERS TO MAKE THEM. THE TECHNIQUE USED TO CREATE THEM IS VERY FINE BUT THEIR REVIVAL IS TOUGH'

showing his concern over the same. He said, "They prefer earning ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 working on computers rather than earning ₹600 per day for manufacturing handlooms."

Abraham said that the issue has to be addressed at various levels and one cannot expect only the government or private sectors to take the responsibility of reviving handlooms. The needle has "shifted." He said, "Over the

years, there has been an improvement in this sector. Young designers are also engaging themselves here. But they also need to understand that this is our USP and the greatest product of luxury in the world." He urged everyone to look at handlooms from the Indian perspective of sustainability and not from the Western prism as they already are way ahead

Madhu Jain, who is also known for her eco-friendly and sustainable production processes, added to this that we have changed the way we look at our treasure (handlooms). And it is very important for us to know the "intricacies of our products so that we are aware of its blending techniques." She stressed upon having clusters of passionate people throughout the country who focus on reviving this culture and preach the same by giving her example — it's her love for India's indigenous textiles that has been providing a livelihood to the weaver communities for

more than 30 years now. However, saree connoisseur and textile scholar, Rta Kapur Chishti pointed

towards the increase in consumption of handloom clothes only because of a sustained awareness about the artistry involved. Otherwise, the weavers and production were shrinking.
Giving an example of the

Karvati sarees of Maharashtra, she said, "These sarees are lost because there are no weavers to make them. The technique used to create them is very fine but their revival is tough." She agreed to the fact that celebrating one day for handloom is not enough as it is important to remind people of its very existence since "people, nowadays, are not aware that handloom still exists." She runs The Sari School' in the capital and believes that we can blend our heritage with "a lot of inventions and creativity" to help it sustain and grow.

The session concluded on discussing all the possible and practical solutions like relating handloom with all quirky designers to increase the youth's connect, and rather than a discussion, initiating an interface between people and weavers. It stressed upon keeping this dialogue going so as to couple the craft and handloom industry with the fashion

industry in a more open way. Photo: Ranjan Dimri



t was in 1905 when like synthetics and cotton, several freedom fighters had gathered in the Calcutta Town Hall to protest against the partition of Bengal by the British government and started a Swadeshi movement that aimed at boycotting all British products and reviving the use of homegrown ones. It's since then that the event marked itself in the history as the National Handloom Day. However, how much of it has been ever followed? Designer Ritu Kumar, who

was one of the panelists at a discussion at the Crafts Museum, questioned its theme, 'Can' our handloom heritage of the past be a springboard to the future?' How will a day's discussion help in reviving the handloom sector? Silence followed. She then stressed upon the reality of the handloom sector and asked people to talk logic rather than only working on sentiments. The reality is that handlooms are so costly, that they are not able to compete with other cheaper materials

which makes it quite obvious for people to prefer other clothes over handlooms. They need a solid commercial and marketing policy. She said, "We need to find out a practical solution to this rather than merely questioning our lost traditions." Giving an example of her 12-year-old project in Banaras to revive the traditions, she said that it was aimed at including the youth in restoring our values but nobody turned up signalling that they are not interested in their roots. Through this, she wanted to make the people aware about our rich heritage which makes our fashion aesthetics different from the rest of the world.

Sunil Sethi, FDCI chairman, answered her question. He said that it's the reason that baby steps are being taken today and this day is being popularised with the #handloomeveryday on social media, "since the youth is most active there, these days." Regular use would create markets, he felt. Pointing Padma Shri towards

To this, Ramkishore proudly responded that "yes," his kurta is of Andhra, "double ikkat (a fabric) bolte hai isey.

Before this, I used to wear Mangalagiri." He shared that he belongs to a family where everyone wears handloom. So, when newer, cheaper products such as terry cotton and synthetics paved their way, he said, "I decided that I won't wear anything other than handloom until I am alive." Such a strong take to sustain the sector and bring it in the mainstream makes it quite evident of how keenly he wants the acceptance and revival of handloom at a

the weavers' service centres,

To this, designer David

in their approach.

Textile conservationist

Lord's challenge



Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood warm up prior to the start of play on day 3 of the 1st Ashes Test between England and Australia at Edgbaston AP/File Picture

IANS LONDON

Right-arm pacer Josh Hazlewood reckons in a bid to level the Ashes, England will be tempted to explore options that are in favour of the bowlers during the Lord's Test which in turn might just play into Australia's hands.

England, who lost the first Ashes Test by 251 runs at Edgbaston, would be desperate to make a comeback in the five-match series when the two teams meet at the Home of Cricket from August 14.

Steve Smith proved to be England's nemesis as he scored hundred in both the innings and made sure Australia came from 122-8 in the first innings to register a big win in Birmingham.

Thus, England might be forced to provide pacer friendly conditions which, according to Hazlewood, can prove to be counter-productive for the

"I think there'll be a little bit more in it (at Lord's), but in saying that, probably their best exponent Jimmy's not going to play. So that might but I think there'll be more in it, maybe just to try to get Smithy out," Hazlewood was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au.

"But him batting on those sort of tracks is very hard work. I think it suits us as much as them if there is more in the wicket, so we'll weigh it up," he added.

According to Hazlewood, the Australia selectors have covered all bases with the pace options they have picked for this series and would be ready to pace on any kind of wicket which will be on offer in the second Test.

"If it's a dry wicket where reverse swing might come into play, or it's a very flat, then someone like Mitch Starc can come into play," said Hazlewood.

"If it's nice and green and seaming around, then it's myself and Sidds (Peter Siddle). I think they (the selectors) have definitely gone a different way to 2015 and I think that's purely because of how tight the Tests are (sched-

"That's why we've got six (quicks) here and any one can do a job on any given day. We've got three guys with proper air speed and three guys who seam and swing a little bit. I think that's what they (selectors) have got six quicks for, to have all bases covered. And I guess it's just who's bowling best at that particular time leading into the Test, and who gets the nod. I think every quick really feels the pressure of the other five and vice versa, and its great competition to have in the squad," he added.

Tim Paine went in with the pace trio of Pat Cummins, James Pattinson and Peter Siddle for the opening Test and the three quicks picked up 11 wickets during Australia's win which saw them go 1-0 up in the series.

Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc and Michael Neser, who did not feature in Birmingham, however, provided a sneak peek into what they can offer as they three of them picking seven wickets between them during the practice game

Rajasthan Royals and Royal

Challengers Bangalore.
Describing Sri Lanka as a

tough place to play, Taylor, a

veteran of 92 Tests, said he was

looking forward to the two-Test

series beginning in Galle from

"They (Sri Lanka) know the conditions very well and

play very well in these condi-

tions. And upsetting South Africa at home would give

them a lot of confidence. They

are also looking to play the

(ICC) Test Championship. Sri

Lanka is genuinely a tough

place to play cricket in," Taylor

Africa 2-0 at home a year ago.

the advent of ICC Test cham-

pionships, there is now a "con-

text" and meaning for every game and not just high-profile

and number on the back (of the

jerseys, like in ODIs). (There is)

context (and) there is some-

thing on every game. And

someone else mentioned to

clashes like the Ashes.

Sri Lanka trounced South

Taylor also said that with

"Obviously there are names

August 14.

NZ players: Taylor PTI MUMBAI

Gundogan signs contract extension

AFP ■ LONDON

Ilkay Gundogan, Pep Guardiola's first signing as Manchester City manager in 2016, signed a three year contract extension with the Premier League champions on Friday the club announced.

The 28-year-old German international midfielder -- who was entering the final year of his present contract and will now be tied to the club to 2023 -- played a pivotal role in City landing a domestic treble last term having also impressed in their 2018 title winning campaign.

"Ilkay's new deal is more excellent news for our Club," City's director of football Txiki Begiristain told the club website.

"He has shown how important he is to the team and has played a huge part in everything that we have achieved so far.

"We are thrilled he has committed his long-term future to Manchester City." Gundogan, who cost City around ?20 million when they signed him from Borussia Dortmund, said he was looking forward to more success with City.

"I have hugely enjoyed the last three years here at City and everyone at the Club has helped make me feel at home from my very first day," he said.

"I think we have played some great football over the past few seasons and have enjoyed a lot of

"It's a pleasure to be a part of the Club and I'm really excited about what we can go on to achieve in the next few seasons."

In the Edgbaston Test, weigh up different options, against Worcestershire. IPL immensely helped

enior New Zealand player ORoss Taylor has said that players from his country have benefited immensely by rubbing shoulders with the best players in world cricket and "picking the brains" in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

"I have been fortunate to play for a few teams (in the IPL) and play with great players. I think, there has been an aura around Australia, South Africa and a few of these teams. I think IPL helped New Zealand cricket sort of bridge that gap a little bit (between players)," Taylor

"Once you know these players....You are picking their brains and you are watching them train and that has helped Zealand cricket immensely.

"Players who have played over there and (who will play in) years to come will benefit by rubbing shoulders with best players in the world," elaborated Taylor.

Taylor has been part of various IPL franchises includ-

me the other day is you probably take note of other Test ing Pune Warriors, series a lot more

now than you would have (than) just following the big series (like) Ashes," the righthanded batsman After a heart-

breaking loss in the World Cup final, Kiwis are taking to the field for the first time.

"It is nice to get into a new format (Test, after the World Cup) and it is exciting to play the Test Championship. Not only that, a few players are coming into the Test squad, so they brings fresh vibes in the team and I am sure they are looking forward to get into the hot and humid conditions of Sri Lanka," he signed off.

Oz pacers ready for Archer in line for Test debut

World Cup-winner Jofra Archer is in line to make his eagerly-awaited Test debut after being included in England's 12-man squad for next week's second Ashes Test against Australia at Lord's, while Moeen Ali was left out on

Fast bowler Archer could replace James Anderson after England's all-time leading wicket-taker was ruled out with a calf injury that restricted him to sending down just four overs in a 251run first-Test defeat at Edgbaston.

Archer missed that match because of a side problem but has since proved his fitness in a second-team fixture for county side Sussex against Gloucestershire, taking 6-27 and hitting a quick-fire century.

England also have another seambowling option in Surrey left-armer Sam

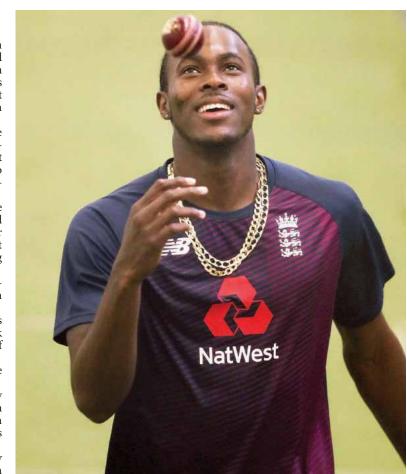
Meanwhile, off-spinner Moeen has been dropped, with left-armer Jack Leach recalled into the squad ahead of Wednesday's start at Lord's.

Moeen was omitted after a miserable match at Edgbaston.

The 32-year-old all-rounder only managed returns of 1-42 and 2-130 with the ball, while scoring just four runs in the match — including a first-innings

His second-innings bowling display was particularly concerning, with Moeen offering neither control or persistent wicket-taking on a wearing pitch favour-ing spinners and even bowling a couple of head-high beamers.

And both times he batted he was dismissed by Australia off-spinner Nathan Lyon, who has now claimed Moeen's wicket nine times in 11 innings.



Jofra Archer catches a ball, during a nets session at Edgbaston

Somerset's Leach played his last Test against Ireland at Lord's a fortnight ago when the nightwatchman made a careerbest 92 — an innings that helped set up an England victory and won him the man-of-the-match award.

AP/File Picture

England's middle-order trio of Joe Denly, Jos Buttler and Jonny Bairstow all had poor returns with the bat at Edgbaston, with wicketkeeper Bairstow also untidy behind the stumps.

But all three have retained their bowlers.'

places in the squad, although Denly's position at number four had been called into question following scores of 18 and 11 in Birmingham.

WARNE BACKS ARCHER

Australia great Shane Warne believes Jofra Archer could be the man to stop Steve Smith's Ashes run-spree as "no one likes to face tall 90 mph (145 kph)

World Cup-winner Archer is set to make his Test debut at Lord's next

Australia batting star Smith made 144 and 142 in a 251-run win for the visitors in the opener at Edgbaston during a superb return to Test cricket following a 12-month ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal.

Warne believes Archer's extra pace, as well as the knowledge gained from playing alongside Smith for the Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League, will stand him in good stead if he is selected.

"Steve (Smith) has been the star of the show so far but now we have Jofra joining his Royals (and England) teammates Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler," Warne, a former Rajasthan player turned brand ambassador for the Twenty20 franchise team, said Friday after Archer was named in England's 12-man squad.

Former leg-spinner Warne, the second-most successful bowler in Test history with 708 wickets, added: "Obviously I would love to see Steve go on and score a hundred in every single innings for the rest of the Ashes but with Jofra coming in I think he'll be set to face his biggest challenge yet and this could make the difference in the upcoming Tests.

"No one likes to face tall 90 mph

Rain washed out 1st India-WI OI



Virat Kohli and Chris Gayle shares a light moment during first ODI BCCI/Twitter

PTI PROVIDENCE

Rain played spoilsport as the first One-Day International between India and the West Indies was called off after the home side scored 54 for one in 13 overs here.

The stop-start match, which was reduced to 34-overa-side, was abandoned after a second rain interruption. After waiting for more than an hour and a half, the umpires were forced to call off the match on Thursday.

Opener Evin Lewis and Shai Hope were batting on 40 and 6 respectively when the match was called off after Indian captain Virat Kohli won the toss and asked the West

Indies to bat. The other opener Chris Gayle was out in the 11th over after scoring 4 off 31 deliveries in an agonisingly slow knock. He had come into the match 12 runs short of Brian Lara's 10,405 ODI runs, the most by

a West Indies batsman. The match was already reduced to 43-over-a side contest even before a ball was bowled as wet outfield due to rains had forced the toss to be delayed. The match began two hours later from its scheduled

The home side had scored 9 for no loss in 5.4 overs at the first rain break. The match was

about to be resumed 30 minutes later but wet area near the bowlers' run-up led to another delay of more than half an

The umpires made another inspection and after more than an hour's interruption, the match resumed for a 34-overa-side affair.

Kuldeep gave India the breakthrough as he dismissed dangerman Gayle who dragged the ball onto his stumps. Hope came in two overs later, but rains also came back to force the players to the dressing room once again.

The second one-dayer will be played in Port of Spain on

START-STOP MATCH

Start-stop matches are the 'worst" thing in cricket and can lead to injuries, a frustrated India skipper Virat Kohli said after their series-opener was washed out on Thursday.

"It's probably the worst thing in cricket, the start-stop game. The more stops you have, the more you have to be careful about injuries on the field. Some of the pitches can really test you," Kohli said after the match was called off.

Asked about the challenges of playing in the Caribbean, Kohli said while "some pitches offer good pace and bounce, others could be on the slower

"So you have to assess them and play accordingly," the Indian captain said.

Lo Celso ready to shine at Spurs

AFP ■ LONDON

Giovani Lo Celso, the "little monkey" to his team-mates and once the "ruby of Argentinian football", became on Thursday the next great hope for Tottenham and Mauricio Pochettino.

Only a few years ago, a pale-faced teenager from Rosario with a wand of a left foot was being circled as the most exciting talent since Lionel Messi to come out of Argentina.

Real Betis could receive up to 60 million euros if the transfer is made permanent but a 16million-euro deal for a one-year loan first allows Spurs a closer look at one of the world's most exhilarating creative players.

As a youngster, Pablo Aimar and Juan Roman Riquelme were the ones Lo Celso was told to imitate by his mentor, Jorge Griffa, the former Atletico Madrid and Espanyol player, whose prestigious academy he joined aged 12 in 2008.

Griffa had helped nurture the likes of Gabriel Batistuta, Carlos Tevez and Maxi Rodriguez, as well as a young Pochettino, whose own fledgling career began with Griffa knocking on his door and persuading him to sign for Newell's Old

Lo Celso grew up in the neighbourhood of Sarmiento, 15 miles away from Pochettino's home town of Murphy, but it was rivals Rosario Central, not Newell's, whom he signed for in

Central was the team Lo Celso had supported, served as a mascot and then watched as a ball-boy inside El Gigante de Arroyito. Everton were among those to make an early approach yet Lo Celso's father, who gave him his nickname 'Monito', 'the little monkey', told him to stay and in 2015, his 19-year-old son made his senior debut.

"I lived five blocks from the stadium," Lo Celso said in 2016. "Playing with the first team was a dream come true."

His idol is another left-footer from Rosario, not Messi, but Angel Di Maria, whose parents are family friends.

is so dynamic," Lo Celso said. "He's a winger that threatens the goal, who assists his teammates, and who is very difficult to get the ball off."

"I like him a lot because he

By 2016, the pressure on Central to sell was too much, the only doubt his price and desti-

"He is the new ruby of Argentine football," wrote El Grafico. "He is the most talented player in Argentina," said Central vice-president Ricardo Paris Saint-Germain agreed

and coach Unai Emery was impressed too, not just by Lo Celso's attacking prowess but his application and hunger.

"He is an example for every-one," Emery said. "He works with tenacity and humility."

Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Edinson Cavani meant opportunities up front would be limited but Emery was convinced Lo Celso's passing and energy could be used in midfield, where he tried him as a playmak-

ing pivot. The experiment brought mixed results and ended with a chastening Champions League defeat away at Real Madrid, for which Lo Celso's drifting performance was blamed. "Out of place and overwhelmed, he was a drag on his team," wrote Diario Sport.

Emery was sacked and when Thomas Tuchel replaced him, Lo Celso fell out of favour. With six goals and nine assists in 54 games, he took the chance for a fresh start last season at Betis.

It worked, their free-flowing style under Setien suiting him, as did a more advanced, central position behind the strikers. There were 14 goals in 39 games and a string of dazzling displays, marked by driving runs, dancing feet, lofted through-balls and bending shots into the cor-

Laxman calls for Krunal's ODI inclusion

Former India cricketer VVS Laxman on Thursday voiced his opinion for the inclusion of all-rounder Krunal Pandya in India's one-day international

In his column for the *Times* of India, Laxman said: "The older Pandya is street-smart and canny, capable of thinking on his feet. I would love to see him get more opportunities in 50-over cricket too because I believe he can slot in at the No 6 position and can offer a full complement of 10 overs."

The man of the match awards (in the three T20s against the West Indies) went to Navdeep Saini, Krunal Pandya and Deepak Chahar, which is testament to the Indian system that prepares players for the rigours and challenges of the international arena. Most hearteningly, these players believed in themselves and played to their strengths. Saini is an express pace bowler, and that's exactly how he bowled," the former bat-ting great added.



Laxman further said that the rise of young talents will help in removing pressure from seniors such as Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar as they have been playing regular crick-

"It's not fair or wise to rely only on Jasprit Bumrah or Bhuvneshwar Kumar to do the

job all the time. What this series has proved is that India have other weapons in their arsenal. But these players need to play more games so that they grow into their roles, become comfortable and therefore attain the consistency that they are capable of," Laxman said.

Nadal steps closer to history

Rafa overcomes Pella's challenge to enter Montreal quarters



AFP MONTREAL

afael Nadal stepped closer to a record 35th Masters 1000 title record 35th Masters 1000 title on Thursday, dispatching Argentina's Guido Pella 6-3, 6-4 Thursday to power into the ATP Montreal quarter-finals.

The Spanish world number two has now notched the most wins in the elite series, with his 379th Masters victory surpassing Roger Federer by

Nadal, an 18-time Grand Slam singles champion, could add another Masters footnote to his epic resume if he successfully defends his Canadian crown for the all-time trophy mark. He ended the evening with an ace

out wide on his fourth match point, moving into his ninth Canadian quarter-final. Nadal will play Friday for a smei-final berth against Italy's Fabio Fognini after the seventh seed beat France's

Adrian Mannarino 6-2, 7-5. Dominic Thiem reached the last eight by defeating Croatia's Marin Cilic

7-6 (9/7), 6-4, the Austrian's second victory in two days after waiting five years to break his duck in Canada. Second seed Thiem, who ousted home hope Denis Shapovalov on Wednesday, faced two break points in

Open champion before securing the triumph on a third match point. "I'm so happy with the two wins," he said after his 31st victory of the sea-

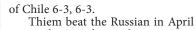
the final game against the 2014 US

son. "I beat two amazing players.
"I've really had a great transition from a good confidence in the

European summer." Thiem came to Canada after winning the Kitzbuhel clay court title at home last weekend.

MEDVEDEV NEXT

The world number four booked a last-eight clash on Friday against eighth seed Daniil Medvedev, who eased past unseeded Christian Garin



to win the Barcelona title.

"He's having a great season, playing unbelievable, solid tennis every week. It's going to be very, very tough

"Barcelona was of course in my favour because it's clay. We had a great, close match in St Petersburg, which

was a very high level. "I'll try to watch that one again, see what I did great there, and try to play similar tomorrow."

Medvedev beat Garin in 69 minutes, breaking the South American four times.

ZVEREV THROUGH

Third seed Alexander Zverev took some quick revenge by beating Nikoloz Basilashvili 7-5, 5-7, 7-6 (7/5) only 12 days after the German lost to the Georgian in Hamburg.

Zvereva, the 2017 Montreal win-

ner who remains undefeated in the city, destroyed a racquet

> almost lost his way in the final Up a break, he sent over a 10th double-fault to lose serve, 4-4. Only a

in frustration and

winning tie-breaker salvaged the victory and set up a last-eight clash with Karen Khachanov.

The Russian sixth seed earned his spot by ousting Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime on the youngster's 19th birthday — he shares one with Roger Federer, now 38.

Khachanov administered a 6-7 (7/9), 7-5, 6-3 victory then apologized to the crowd after taking out the last Canadian, but said he thought he got a raw deal from Canadian partisans.

Also advancing to a last-eight meeting were France's Gael Monfils, who beat Poland's Hubert Hurkacz 6-4, 6-0, and Spanish 10th seed Roberto Bautista Agut, who dispatched Frenchman Richard Gasquet 7-5, 7-

Serena, Osaka book rematch

Serena Williams and Japan's Naomi Osaka booked a rematch of last year's US Open final in the WTA Toronto quarter-finals after straight-set tri-

umphs on Thursday.
Reigning US and
Australian Open champion Osaka broke at love in the final game to defeat Polish teen Iga Swiatek 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 after one hour and 51 minutes. World number 10 Williams

was broken twice and dropped the first three games in 10 minutes then battled back to defeat Russia's 48th-ranked Ekaterina Alexandrova 7-5, 6-4 in 91 minutes.

That set the stage for Williams, a 37-year-old American who will try

for a record-

to face Osaka on Friday. 'I've been actually İooking forward to playing her for a while," Williams said. "She has had a great year early in the season and she's still doing pretty

tving 24th Grand Slam singles

title at the upcoming US Open,

It will be their first match since the controversial finish to their Grand Slam showdown last year in New York.

The 21-year-old Japanese star defeated her childhood idol 6-2, 6-4 in last year's US Open final, a match marred by an on-court dispute between Williams and the umpire that led to a game penalty against Williams.

Osaka was booed by some fans during the

what should have been her moment of glory "a little bittersweet." 'I guess I'll treat it like a

haven't been in a quarterfinal in a while," Osaka said after winning on Thursday.
"I'm just really excited. I

regular quarterfinal, but I

grew up watching her, so whenever I get the opportunity to play her, it's something I feel is a once-in-a-lifetime opportuni- Ostapenko 6-2, 6-2.

Naomi Osaka spins her racket as she wait for a serve from Iga Swiatek "And it feels more like I'm showcasing my skills to her, like, 'Look what I can do?' You

know what I mean? "So I go into the matches with that mentality. And just super grateful to get the chance to play her."

PLISKOVA CHASES NO 1

Czech third seed Karolina Pliskova kept the pressure on Osaka in the battle to take the world number one ranking by also reaching the quarter-finals.

Pliskova eliminated Estonia's Anett Kontaveit 6-3, 7-5 to set up a last-eight clash with rising Canadian star Bianca Andreescu, who outlasted fifth-seeded Dutchwoman Kiki Bertens 6-1, 6-7 (7/9), 6-

Pliskova, 27, must reach the

ing the top spot next week for the first time since 2017. Otherwise, Osaka will claim the number one berth. French Open champion Ashleigh Barty's stint as the

final to have any chance of tak-

world's top-ranked player was assured of ending after she was knocked out on Tuesday.

Defending champion and fourth seed Simona Halep of Romania, coming off a Wimbledon title last month, beat Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-2, 6-1 to book a quarter-final against Czech qualifier Marie Bouzkova, who ousted Latvia's



Lukaku hails 'world's best' Conte

 $R^{\text{omelu Lukaku said on Friday that having the}}_{\text{chance to play for Antonio Conte drove him}}$ to join Inter Milan, hailing the Italian as the world's best coach after arriving from Manchester United.

Asked by club media how the arrival of former Italy boss Conte at Inter this summer had influenced his decision to move to Serie A, he replied "a lot... he's the best manager in the world".

"He's somebody that can make players better all the time. You can see his record," said

Conte has been a long-time admirer of Lukaku and tried to sign him for Chelsea before the Belgian's move from Everton to United in 2017.

The 26-year-old completed his long-awaited move to Inter on Thursday, joining a club with ambitions of breaking fierce rival Juventus' stranglehold on domestic honours.

Belgium's all-time top scorer with 48 goals, he will be at the centre of Inter's attack, taking the number 9 shirt away from former club captain Mauro Icardi after the Argentina international was frozen out last season following a bitter and public contract row.

He hadn't played a single minute in United's pre-season campaign after being sidelined by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer despite scoring 42 times in all competitions while at Old Trafford.

"I think Inter is a club with a lot of upsides. I think for me it was something I needed," Lukaku said.

"I needed a challenge where I could help a team build for the future. For me, everything is present here to help me and I wish I can help my teammates with my hard work dedication to the game."

Milan-based Gazzetta Dello Sport reports that he will earn 8.5 million euros a season at Inter, and claims that Inter will pay United an initial 65 million euros (\$73 million) over five years with a further 10 million in potential addons, contrasting with reports in Britain that the

Premier League club brought in 80 million euros. They have strengthened a squad that finished fourth in Serie A last season by signing veteran Uruguayan international defender Diego Godin and promising midfielder Nicolo

KDB back to drive City's defence

AFP ■ LONDON

Kevin De Bruyne can't wait to play a key role in Manchester City's bid for a third successive Premier League title as the Belgian star finally returns to peak form and fitness.

Rafael Nadal celebrates after winning a point against Guido Pella during Montreal Masters ATP/Twitter

Pep Guardiola's side start their title defence at West Ham on Saturday with De Bruyne providing a reassuring presence for the champions.

City have bolstered their treblewinning squad with the 62 million pounds club record signing of Atletico Madrid midfielder Rodri, while also adding accomplished Juventus fullback Joao Cancelo.

But the prospect of De Bruyne driving City forward from midfield is a mouthwatering prospect for Guardiola.
The 28-year-old was an influential

League title triumph, but he had only a bit-part role in last season's domestic dominance due to knee and muscular injuries.

De Bruyne made just 22 starts in all competitions before returning to prove he was still a force to be reckoned with by winning the man of the match award in City's FA Cup final thrashing of Watford.

He is confident those injury issues wins. are behind him after proving to be one of the stand-out players during City's pre-season tour.

With De Bruyne back in their lineup, City look more formidable than ever — quite a feat after they amassed 198 points over their last two Premier

League title-winning seasons. If they can retain the crown, City will become only the fifth team in the history of English football to clinch three consecutive top-flight titles, after Huddersfield, Arsenal, Liverpool



Divock Origi, left, falls after a foul by Kevin De Bruyne during the English Community Shield match AP

figure in City's 2017-18 Premier and Manchester United (twice).

But Liverpool seem certain to push City all the way once again after they finished just one point behind Guardiola's team last term and then won the Champions League. And De Bruyne challenged City to maintain the Premier relentless consistency that League carried them to last season's title with 14 successive league

"You don't need to be better, you need to be consistent," De Bruyne said. "At the end of the year, with all the competitions, maybe you don't need 95 or 100 points.

"You need to be just one point ahead of the other ones and whatever you need to do, you need to do. "I think Liverpool will be up there, but they all will be there. We

have to be consistent." De Bruyne's return gives Guardiola an embarrassment of rich-

es in midfield, with Spain international Rodri likely to fill the holding role while the Belgian and David Silva swarm forward. "I think he's the perfect defensive

midfielder for the way we want to play," De Bruyne said of Rodri. Leroy Sane's long-term absence

with anterior cruciate ligament damage suffered in last weekend's Community Shield against Liverpool is a blow, but City have more than enough depth to prosper without the Germany winger.

Another benefit of De Bruyne's return is his ability to fill the void left by the close-season departure of club captain Vincent Kompany. Kompany's decision to join

Anderlecht as player-manager stripped City of their most experienced leader.

David Silva started the Community Shield as captain before the vocal De Bruyne took over when the Spaniard went off.

Real, Braca ready to battle for Neymar

D eal Madrid will rival Barcelona in the race Nto sign Paris Saint-Germain striker Neymar this summer, according to reports in the Spanish press on Friday.

Madrid have shifted focus to Neymar after the close of the English Premier League's transfer window on Thursday ended their hopes of signing Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba. According to Marca, Neymar has

"returned to the scene" with the club "believing for some time that the team is lacking a big star up front".

Sports newspaper AS claims the Brazilian has been offered to Madrid by PSG, who are open to selling if they can either recoup the 222 million euros they spent on him in 2017 or receive half that amount, with players

included in the deal. It means La Liga's two greatest rivals are set to go head-to-head in the battle to sign Neymar before the Spanish transfer window closes on September

Barcelona newspaper Mundo Deportivo 🕨 says the 27-year-old will wait until August 20 for < Barcelona to make a decisive move, after which "PSG's number 10 does not rule out any option in order to leave the French

champions,

where it is clear he does not want to stay any

But Mundo adds that "it is clear Neymar wants to play for Barcelona" while Diario Sport agrees, writing that "the winning card Barca continues to hold is the will of the striker to runite with players like Leo Messi and Luis Suarez. With them he has a great understanding on the pitch and also a strong friendship off it."

Marca believes Madrid also have factors in their favour. "Neymar's priority is not to go to Barcelona. His priority is to leave the PSG," wrote Marca, also citing their "magnificent relationship" with PSG, "quite the opposite" of how the French club view Barcelona.

Luka Modric is mentioned as a possible makeweight while Philippe Coutinho, who reportedly rejected an offer from Tottenham this week, could be included in an offer from Barcelona.

Sport admits whichever team signs Neymar will "inflict a blow on their rivals by snatching a star player from the other's grasp".

"From now on, it will be Neymar that decides," Sport added. "Barcelona want the player to go public but he understands such a move would be risky. If Barca and PSG do not reach an agreement he would be stuck in the French capital for a

tĥird year."

Tierney, Luiz deal stregthen Gunners

 $A^{\text{rsenal significantly bolstered}} \\ \text{their defence in the final hours}$ of the Premier League transfer window by completing the signings of Kieran Tierney and David Luiz on Thursday

Scotland international Tierney had been a target all summer for the Gunners and agreement of the payment structure of his £25 million (\$30 million) move from Celtic was eventually agreed on Wednesday night.

"It was the hardest decision in my whole life that I've had to make. I had to speak to my family

and my close friends and my agent as well because it's a hard decision to leave a club that you love so much," said Tierney. "I feel Arsenal is a massive club

and it's a great opportunity for me as well. I'm delighted to be here."

Brazilian centre-back Luiz's £8 million move across London is expected to fill the void left by former captain Laurent Koscielny's acrimonious departure to Bordeaux earlier this week.

"David has huge experience and I look forward to working with him again. He is a well known player and adds to our defensive strength," said Arsenal



Arsenal conceded 51 goals in the Premier League last season to miss out on Champions League football for a third consecutive

The double swoop would complete an impressive window for Arsenal despite missing out on the riches of the Champions League.

A club record £72 million was splashed on Nicolas Pepe from Lille to complete an exciting trio of attacking talent alongside Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Alexandre Lacazette.

Emery's midfield options were also boosted by the loan sign-

ing of Dani Ceballos from Real Madrid.

Iwobi joins Everton

Everton sealed the deadlineday signing of Arsenal forward Alex Iwobi on Thursday for a reported fee of £28 million (\$40 million), completing a busy transfer window

for the club. Nigeria international Iwobi penned a five-year deal which was only announced more than four hours after the transfer deadline of 1700 local time (1600 GMT).

The 23-year-old, capped 36 times by Nigeria, scored 15 goals in 149 appearances for Arsenal after

making his first-team debut in

"He is still young but already with a lot of top-level experience -100 Premier League matches, more in Europe and many international games," said Everton manager

Marco Silva. Iwobi is the seventh new arrival at Goodison Park in the close season, following Italy striker Moise Kean — who joined from Serie A champions Juventus for 27.5 million euros (\$31m, £25m) — right-back Djibril Sidibe, midfielders Andre Gomes, Fabian Delph and Jean-Philippe Gbamin, as well as goalkeeper Jonas Lossl.