

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | 14 AUGUST 2019



WEATHER

Max: 30.4°C
Min: 24.5°C
RH: 77%
Rainfall: Traces

Forecast: Cloudy sky. Rain likely. Max/Min temp. 31/24ºC

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Sravana Sudda Chaturdasi till 3.46 pm
Star: Sravanam (full day)
Varjyam: 9.45 am to 11.32 am
Durmuhurtam: 11.55 am to 12.46 pm
Rahukalam: 12.00 noon to 1.30 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR
Zilhajj 12,1440 AH

PRAYERS
Fajar: 4:55 am
Zohar: 12:31 pm
Asar: 4.47 pm
Maghrib: 6:49 pm
Isha: 8:00 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.43 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.59 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 5.20 PM
MOONSET TODAY 3.55 AM

COUNTER POINT



Cabinet meeting on flood situation...

TN kids given caste bands

Chennai: Embarrassed by reports that school children are being forced to wear wristbands of various colours to identify their caste, particularly down south, Tamil Nadu Director of School Education S. Kannappan has issued a circular to all district officers to identify such institutions in their areas and take stringent action against the headmasters. The students in these schools are subjected to either preferential treatment if he/she wears a band identified with an upper caste or be discriminated against should the band relates to the lower rung of society.

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CoA clears Dravid's role as Head of Cricket at NCA



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APEX RAP

SC fines TS, 6 other states for laxity on HR courts

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC with agency inputs
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

The Supreme Court on Tuesday levied costs on seven states, including Telangana state, for failing to file responses on setting up human rights courts despite its direction last year.

The TS had little to no response to give to the SC on the issue. The last chairperson of the SHRC had retired in 2016, a position still not filled. Despite multiple raps from the SC and the High Court, the government has not moved to appoint a chairperson and other staff to the human rights commission.

More than three petitions have been filed before the erstwhile Hyderabad High Court to direct the AP government to constitute separate rights commissions for the two states. The High Court directions were not implemented by the two states. Taking serious note of these issues, Hyderabad High Court Chief Justice T.B.N. Radhakrishnan had noted: "We are amazed to hear that no appointment for the post of chairperson has been made to the SHRC and the secretary, who has been going through the cases filed before it, has also retired."

■ Page 5: Petitions pile up with no redressal

CJI: WHY CBI DOES A GOOD JOB WHEN POLITICS NOT INVOLVED?

New Delhi, Aug. 13: Observing that the possibility of the CBI being used as a "political instrument" remains ever present, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi posed a question on Tuesday: "Why is that whenever there is no political overtone to a case, the agency does a good job?"

Justice Gogoi said that efforts should be made to "delink crucial aspects" of the CBI from the overall administrative control of the government.

Delivering the 18th annual D.P. Kohli memorial lecture, organised by the agency after a hiatus of two years, Justice Gogoi said, "The CBI should be given statutory status through legislation equivalent to that provided to the Comptroller and Auditor General... I have no doubt that there is more strength within the organisation to deal with any situation," he said.

■ Page 6: CBI still a political instrument: CJI

Give the Centre time to stabilise J&K, says SC

■ Apex court says nothing can be done overnight in Valley

Srinagar/New Delhi, Aug. 13: As authorities said restrictions in Kashmir Valley are being eased in a phased manner, the Supreme Court on Tuesday observed that the Centre should be given a "reasonable time" to bring normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir which cannot be done "overnight" in view of the sensitive situation.

The apex court at the same time refused to pass any immediate order to the Centre to lift restrictions imposed on people's movement and telecom links after revocation of provisions of Article 370 taking away the special status of the border state and bifurcating it into two union territories — Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

In Delhi, a top government official said the restrictions were a trade-off between inconvenience and loss of life and any decision on lifting them will be taken by the local administration.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration also moved to hold a three-day global investors summit in Srinagar from October 12, in a move to woo investors. The summit will provide an opportunity to showcase strengths and potential of Jammu and Kashmir, said Principal Secretary of Industries, Naveen Choudhary.

A three-judge bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra said it was to be ensured that no life was lost in Jammu and Kashmir and posted a petition for further hearing after two weeks, saying it would wait for normalcy to return.

The petition filed by Congress activist Tehseen Poonawalla sought removal of the restrictions. "An individual has come to the court. The situation is very sensitive. Given the seriousness of the situation, the law and order restrictions have been imposed," the court said.

"Nothing can be done overnight. There are serious issues. Normalcy would return and we expect it will come with time. What is important is it has to be ensured that no life is lost," it observed.

Observing that it has to look into all the pros and cons of the matter before the court, it said, "Reasonable time should be given to the government to ensure normalcy returns in the state."

■ More reports on Page 7



A motorist shows his identity card to security personnel after being stopped for questioning in Srinagar on Tuesday. — *AFP*

Political lull leaves parties rudderless

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC
SRINAGAR AUG. 13

The high security Gupkar road, which always used to be teeming with activities, now wears a deserted look. Except for a posse of security personnel loitering around, there is no activity whatsoever.

Outside the swanky residence of former chief minister Farooq Abdullah, a group of safari clad security guards stand guard and ditto is the case outside Hari Niwas, the official residence of chief minister were presently Farooq Abdullah's son and former chief minister Omar Abdullah is lodged.

Till 48 hours ago, anther former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti was in the same bungalow but had to be shifted to another government accommodation in Chashmashahi, reportedly after she and Omar had an argument over the PDP-BJP alliance.

For the last nine days, all political leaders including the former CMs have been detained in different places, not allowed to come out or meet anyone inside.

This will be the first time that the Independence Day celebrations at the high security Sher-i-Kashmir cricket stadium on August 15 — the first after Narendra Modi government scrapped article 370 — will be held in the absence of political leadership of the state as they will continue to be in detention.

The absence of political leadership has clearly worked to the advantage of Jammu and Kashmir administration who have left no scope to them to issue any statements, meet party workers or media or go out among the people.

■ Page 7: Leaders detained

RAHUL ACCEPTS J&K INVITE, SAYS NO TO COPTER

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday took up Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik's offer of sending a helipcopter for him to visit the Valley, but said he didn't need an aircraft, just the freedom for him along with other Opposition leaders to be allowed to travel unimpeded across the state.

The Congress also asked the government to immediately begin a political dialogue and take all Opposition parties into confidence on what was happening in J&K. Mr Malik had on Monday invited Mr Gandhi to visit J&K, saying he would send an aircraft for him, after the Congress leader said: "People were dying in the state and the situation is not normal, as the government claims."

■ Report on Page 7

AP MLA held for violence

VADREVU SRINIVAS I DC
KAKINADA, AUG. 13

The lone Jana Sena MLA in Andhra Pradesh, Rapaka Vara Prasad was arrested by the Razole police on Tuesday on charges of attacking the police station and abusing police officials. About 10 aides were also arrested.

A large police team led by officer on special duty K. Arif Hafeez, Special Branch DSP S. Murali Mohan and Amalapuram DSP Basha was mobilised and Razole circle inspector K. Naga Mohan Reddy arrested the MLA and produced him in court. He was later released on station bail.

The alleged attack occurred on Sunday night when some people were taken into custody in a gambling case. The MLA went to the police station and demanded that the sub-inspector release one person who he said was suffering from a kidney ailment.

When the police did not agree, the MLA and his followers entered into an argument with the sub-inspector and staged a dharna.

Prasad alleged that the police had misbehaved with him. Meanwhile, a police official said the legislator's supporters had damaged police station property.

HUES OF INDEPENDENCE



The Parliament building lit up with colourful lights, ahead of the country's 73rd Independence Day. The lights were switched on by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday. — *PTI*

Curbs in J&K to continue

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC with bureau inputs
SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

The Jammu and Kashmir government said on Tuesday that said the situation in the Jammu region had been "restored".

Rohit Kansal, principal secretary to the J&K government and its spokesperson, said in Srinagar that the restrictions "are being eased out after a local assessment by relevant authorities of different areas and the localities of the Kashmir division".

In New Delhi, however, senior security officials at the home ministry said the security restrictions in the Valley are not likely to be eased anytime soon and will continue till well after Independence Day, adding that several security agencies deployed in the Valley had warned the Centre that any hasty move to remove the restrictions could trigger large-scale violence and protests in the present environment.

■ Report on Page 7

Prez seeks report on Inter students' suicide

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

President Ram Nath Kovind has sought a factual report from Chief Secretary S.K. Joshi regarding the 27 students who committed suicide after the Intermediate examination results were released in May, following a representation from state BJP president Dr K. Laxman. Dr Laxman submitted a written appeal on July 1, seeking the intervention of the President.

However, the Telangana High Court has given a clean chit to the Board of Intermediate Education in the matter of errors in awarding marks. It did not award any compensation to the families of children who committed suicide, stating that only a miniscule 0.16 per cent of failed students were declared as passed after reverification.

■ The High Court has given a clean chit to the Board of Intermediate Education in the matter of errors in awarding marks.

The letter received from the ministry of home affairs said, "We have received a petition seeking justice to the families of 27 Intermediate students who committed suicide alleging that the Board goofed up their results. It is requested that a factual report in the matter may be please furnished immediately."

FEEL-GOOD | FACTOR

■ Educationists say joyful nature is important for children's development

City students to have 'happy hours'

RAJESWARI PARASA | DC
HYDERABAD. AUG. 13

Schools in the city have started organising "Happy Hours", which does not imply what it does for pubs in the city. It is now seen as necessary that children must be happy and share their happiness.

In the happy hour, children will be given the opportunity to showcase their talents by reciting poetry, telling jokes and other such non-academic yet pleasurable activities. Educationists say that happiness relates to how we feel and that the feel good factor is very important and should be inculcated in children from a young age.

Government schools are also planning to introduce happiness in the curriculum. It is practised in social welfare residential schools called Freedom Schools. The happiness curriculum was inspired by the Delhi government, which introduced it and has been running successfully in state run schools there.

A teacher at a Telangana Social Welfare residential school said, "We believe in imparting stress-free education to our children. In Freedom schools, students are given a free hand for 45 minutes and various activities are scheduled for this time each day, such as dance, cultural activities, various subject clubs and debate competitions."

During free time every Friday, children are also made to interact with people from all social strata for overall understanding of the society. Private and corporate schools are also introducing happiness in the curriculum.

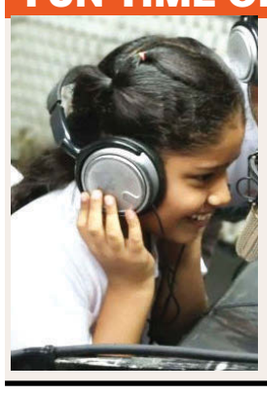
St Peter's International Residential School in Dhulapally recently introduced Happy Hours between 3 and 3.30 pm every day for its 280-plus students.

Saroja Reddy, director of St Peter's International Residential School, said: "We have a school radio show called Happy Hour. Children sing, speak, recite poetry, tell jokes, relate amusing facts or information during that hour on their School Radio. Students sit in their class and listen to them."

The idea is to break the monotony of studies from 9 am to 4 pm. "We have heard of a school in Delhi doing the same thing. And we are only following that small thought," Ms Reddy said.

Zilla parishad and mandal parishad government schools seem wary of the idea. However, a teacher belonging to the United Teacher Federation (UTF) said, "Our schools do not even have designated teachers for the arts and crafts, music and other extracurricular activities, which should be mandatory in the implementation of the happiness curriculum."

FUN TIME ON AIR



■ The St. Peter's International Residential School has a school radio channel called Happy Hour on which children sing, speak, recite poetry, tell jokes and give amusing facts.

■ State schools got this inspiration from inspired by state-run schools in Delhi, where "happiness curriculum has already been introduced.

■ Social welfare residential schools have "freedom schools", where children would be encouraged in cultural and other entertainment activities for 45 minutes.



Top award

Dr Coluthur Gopalan, centenarian nutrition scientist, conferred living legend award by Federation of Asian Nutrition Societies



Officials have to ensure Ganesh immersion is before dawn of the next day

— Bonthu Rammohan
Hyderabad Mayor

IN BRIEF

GHMC GEARS UP FOR GANESH CHATURTHI

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

Hyderabad Mayor Bonthu Rammohan on Tuesday asked officials of various departments to gear up and make preparations for the Ganesh festival which falls on September 2. He was speaking at a meeting with officials of the municipality, police, Metro Rail revenue and roads and buildings departments.

He requested officials to ensure that the immersion of idols was completed before the dawn of the next day as was done during previous years.

He suggested separated preparedness meetings at the respective zones to ensure better coordination between departments. He asked officials of the roads and buildings department to repair the roads before the festival.

GHMC commissioner M. Dana Kishore told the meeting that instructions have been issued to the sanitation wing to take up all necessary measures to lift garbage and left over waste as when formed during the immersion procession and after immersion.

Bleaching powder and fly ash was to be used and fogging operations on the route of the procession and at water bodies.

ZOO OFFICIALS RESCUE PYTHON IN KISHANNBAGH

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

A team from the Nehru Zoological Park rescued a rock python in Kishannbagh and brought to the zoo on Tuesday.

Locals said the python was found near the boundary wall of the nala adjacent to Deccan Bakery. They informed a zoo employee who was passing by who called animal keeper Sachin.

A rescue team rushed to the spot and rescued the snake. The python was said to be aged between 2-3 years and was 10 feet long. A zoo official said the snake was under observation.

Zoo curator N. Kshitija said after issuing veterinarians issue a fitness certificate the python will be released in the wild on the orders of the chief wildlife warden.

HYDERABAD ROADS, TAKE ME HOME





BUMPY RIDE: With structure remaining exposed like this, it's a disaster waiting to happen

STAGNANT WATER: The pictures once again highlight the poor condition of the drainage system in the city







ANIMALS RULE: While roads are meant for vehicles, the roads in Hyderbad, like other parts of the country, remains witness for everything but vehicles. Cows and pigs are often create ruckus in the middle of the road.

65% Indians exposed to 40°C during 2019 summer

Doctors call for a record of heat-related deaths

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

THE EXPERTS have taken into account a 2018 study that said that if global temperatures continue to rise, the sub-continent will see an eight-fold rise in the heatwave conditions.

The effect of heatwaves and extreme heat conditions was felt by 65.12 per cent of the Indian population from May to June 2019. The last time high summer temperatures affected large parts of the population was in 2016, when 59.32 per cent of the population was affected.

The World Resource Centre India has studied and analysed satellite data since 2016 to come up with these figures.

In 2017, the percentage was 61.4 but fell to 52.94 in 2018. In 2019, June temperatures were high in Telangana state and July temperatures were high in Delhi.

No deaths were registered from heatwave but the number of dehydration cases was at an all-time high in 2019 and there were 2,081 deaths due to dehydration.

Temperatures designated as being 'above normal' by the Indian Meteorological Department were found across all states in India, and in Telangana state it showed between 1 to 2 degrees above normal.

Temperatures in North India too were in the range of 3 to 5.1 degrees above normal in the month of June.

Data analysis by the World Meteorological Organisation found that in 2019, the temperatures in India shot up in the months of June and July, which is a departure from the normal climate conditions in the country.

Global warming is evident from this data and it is largely due to rising levels of carbon dioxide globally, creating more frequent and intense heat waves. The experts have taken into account a 2018 study by the IIT Gandhinagar, that said that if global temperatures continue to rise, the sub-continent will see an eight-fold rise in the heatwave conditions.

Increased heatwave conditions affect the core temperature of the body. Dr J. Anish Anand, consultant, internal medicine explained, "Heatwaves have led to an increase in heat stroke cases, bleeding from the nose, dehydration, dizziness and also death in those who are immune-compromised or elderly."

He said that "heat related deaths are not recorded." But now it is necessary to record deaths due to adverse events and climate change conditions.

While the day time temperatures have got the attention of the public it is also important to look at the night time temperatures which are equally warm. The hot winds and extreme heat at night is also on the rise, pushing up the sales of air-conditioners.

A senior government official in TS electricity department said, "We are allowed to remove power during the day but not at night as people raise a hue and cry. There are instances of angry customers coming to the station office and threatening officials. Hence till there is a strong wind movement or thunderstorm like condition, power is not removed at night."

With predictions of even hotter days to come, addressing climate change should be a priority.

Owaisi is the most active Parliamentarian from TS

COREENA SUARES I DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

TRS first-time MP Pasunuri Dayakar elected from Warangal on a TRS ticket with 61,000 votes, scored a straight zero in the number of questions asked, participation in debates and private member bills, according to PRS Legislative, an independent body that records the proceedings of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

The MP's first-timer colleagues Nama Nageswara Rao, Dr Gaddam Ranjith Reddy and Kotha Prabhakar Reddy asked 11 questions and participated in five debates. Hyderabad MP and MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi outdid all the rest by asking 68 questions, the maximum among TS Parliamentarians.

Independently accessed information from the Lok Sabha records shows that between June 21 and July 26, 6197 written answers were provided to the questions asked by MPs. In all, nine questions were specific to Telangana state, such as the national highway projects in Telangana state, funds for municipalities in the state, electronic park, consultant engaged for tourism circuit, inclusion of Telangana staet in the Swadesh Darshan project, safety dams, funds for the health sector and proposal for new trains.

TRS Peddapalle MP Borlakunta Venkatesh Netha and Zahirabad MP B.B Patil confined their questions to the state.

Mr Owaisi sought information on regional and national issues, which includes airlines responsible for post-landing accidents, waterborne diseases, fake news.

Dr Ranjith Reddy's queries included information on the national creche scheme, malaria eradication, drug monitoring system, national highway projects in the state and eco-sensitive area.

Among the handful of questions asked by Congress MP Komatreddy Venkata Reddy, one was on the dual time zone.

He asked if the government had any plan of considering dual time zones in the country in view of the time gap between the eastern and western states of India.

Congress Malkajgiri MP A. Revanth Reddy who is identified for his vigour in questioning the TRS government in the state Assembly as an MLA, was among list of MPs who asked the fewest questions. TRS MP M. Kavitha, the BJP's Bandi Sanjay and Bapu Rao Soyam were in the same category.

5 ACTIVE PARLIAMENTARIAN

1. Hyderabad MP- Asaduddin Owaisi – Debates – 17 , Questions- 68 , Pvt member bills -0
2. Zahirabad MP - Bheemrao B. Patil – Debates – 8, Questions – 32 , Pvt member bill -0
3. Medak MP-Kotha Prabhakar Reddy – debates- 5, questions -11, Pvt member bill – 0
4. Khammam – MP Nama Nageswara Rao – debates – 13, Questions -11 , Pvt member bills – 0
5. Warangal MP – Pasunuri Dayakar - Debates -0, Questions – 0 , Pvt member -0

SOURCE: *PRS Legislative*

- The budget session of Parliament was held between June 17 to August 7, 2019. This was the first session after the 17th Lok Sabha election and for 265 first-term MPs.
- The report card shows that around 94% of first term MPs participated in a debate in the 2019 budget session.
- This is significantly higher than the 16th Lok Sabha where 82% of first term members participated in a debate in the first session.



Liaison officer fails to meet students

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG, 13

The effort of the Centre's liaison officer for Kashmiri students, Mr Ashwin Kumar to meet the J&K Students Association at University of Hyderabad failed for a second time on Tuesday.

It is learnt that on Bakrid on Monday, the Maulana Azad National Urdu University shut its doors on the officer.

Sources said the university prioritised the security of its 150 Kashmiri students over his request to meet them.

Manuu officials were reportedly tipped off by the close-knit Kashmiri circle about Mr Kumar's visit and students shared messages on WhatsApp against speaking to him.

PhD scholar Mudasir Nazir told Deccan Chronicle, "The officer was stopped at the Manuu gate at about 7 pm on Monday. His calls to the University authorities were futile as they stood by the students. He was informed that the security and consent of the students was their priority and refused entry."

The officer took down the phone numbers of a few students and left. Students are of the impression that any talks with the officer will result in a report to the Centre that will portray them as being in favour of the latest developments. "When the freedom of movement of our families is curbed and they are disconnected from the world, why should we have tea or lunch sponsored by the Centre," asked Mr Nazir.

The Urdu university has opened doors for its students living outside the campus. The hostel authorities have relaxed the date of fee payment.

DUAL | TRAGEDY

During his stint as special collector, he was responsible for land acquisition and rehabilitation of Sagar dam

Dr Ahmed, Bhagawad Gita's Urdu translator, is dead

ATHER MOIN I DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

Dr Hasanuddin Ahmed, who translated the Bhagwad Gita into Urdu, passed away at 6 am on Tuesday. He was 97. Dr Ahmed, the son of Nawab Deen Yar Jung, was ailing for the last three years. He is survived by his sons Shamsuddin Ahmed and Zaheeruddin.

In a double tragedy for the family, his cousin Major Ahmed Abdul Aziz, the son of Ruknuddin Ahmed, passed away a few hours later.

The salat-e-janaza (crematory prayer) for Dr Ahmed and Maj Aziz was performed at Masjid Aziz Jung and they were buried in the graveyard adjacent to Masjid-e-Almas Khan, Noor Khan Bazaar.

Dr Ahmed, a former IAS officer, belongs to the fourth generation of the Hyderabad elite who served the state of the Nizams and had very cordial relations with the royal family.

Dr Ahmed obtained a position in the Nizam's Government in 1945 as assistant director of the ecclesiastical department.

He served in various positions before being elevated to the IAS. Among his many achievements, two stand out: His stint as special collector responsible for land acquisition and rehabilitation for the Nagarjunasagar dam project oustees, and the formulation of a scheme for the development of urban Wakf property when he was posted as the officer on special duty in the Union law department in Delhi.

After his retirement in 1981, Dr Ahmed served as member of the Central Wakf Council and as the chairman of the AP State Wakf Board. The last official government position he held was as chairman of the National Minorities Commission.

He was the only IAS officer on deputation post Independence to have attended with his spouse the very first celebration of India's independence on August 15, 1947, at India House, London.

He was one of the privileged invitees to attend a function organised by Agatha Harrison in London where celebrities of the likes of Pathik Lawrence, Krishna Menon, Dr Abdullah, the well-known Islamic scholar, and Ibrahim Rahmatullah, the then High Commissioner of Pakistan, were present.



As part of the post-World War II reconstruction plan, the government of the Nizam had sent 300 students and officers to the US, the UK and Scandinavian countries in 1946 to study the policies there so that they could work to improve Hyderabad on their return.

Dr Ahmed was among those selected for that purpose. He spent several years in the UK, Germany, Greece, Czechoslovakia, Turkey and Switzerland.

While in Europe and Japan, he donated several Urdu books to the overseas libraries to promote the Urdu language under the 'Pustak Daan' movement in the mid-1950s.



LEFT: Family and admirers pay their last respects to Dr Hasanuddin Ahmed who passed away at his residence on Tuesday.
TOP: The then PM Indira Gandhi launches Dr Ahmed's book

He attended the World Pacifist Conference and the World Religion Congress in Japan to promote World Peace in 1954.

Dr Ahmed earned his PhD from the prestigious Indian Ivy League university, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. He has written over 25 books in Urdu and English.

He was recipient of the Makhdoom Award in 2003. It is the highest award constituted by the Urdu Academy.

Dr Ahmed was a scholar of Islam and prolific writer in Urdu and English. In 1973 he completed a monumental study of contemporary Urdu literature to arrive at the statistical frequency of word usage. He hoped this would contribute to the design of a proper curriculum for Urdu teaching and keep the language alive and flowering.

The book was released to much acclaim by then Prime Minster Mrs Indira Gandhi in 1973.

His translation of the Bhagawad Gita into Urdu was also released by Mrs Gandhi in 1976.

He translated this sacred book in 1945 and titled it 'Naghma-e-Uluhiat', which invited the wrath of his uncle Ghazi Yar Jung and Muslim scholars.

Dr Ahmed will be remembered with affection by all those who knew him and with both affection and gratitude by the many poor students he helped to get a proper education and a good start in life.



Getting ready

Water Board chief Dana Kishore says board will arrange 32 lakh water sachets for Ganesh celebrations



Remove hoardings and cement barricades for the Ganesh procession

— Anjani Kumar
Hyderabad police commissioner

IN BRIEF

St Mary's Basilica
179th anniversary

Hyderabad: St Mary's Basilica will celebrate its 179th anniversary on August 15. Vicar General, Archdiocese Swarna Bernard, said "The church dedicated to Our Lady of Assumption (Mother Mary) was constructed in 1840."

POWER SHUTDOWN

9 am to 11.30 am: Lambadi Basthi, Kanakadurga Apartments, Sunday market, AP Dairy area, Nagarjuna-nagar, Gharonda Apartments, Mullapudi DTR, David Memorial College, Shanta Sriram Apartments.
10 am to 3 pm: Road No. 86, Jubilee HIlls, MLA Colony, Huda Heights.
11 am to 12 noon: Sagar Society Colony, Kamalapuri Phase-III, Arora Colony.
11.30 am to 1.30 pm: Tarnaka main road, Big Bazaar, Solex Computers, Tarnaka Street No. 1.
12 noon to 1 pm: Kamalapuri Colony, Satya Sai Kalyana Mandapam, Kamalapuri Phase-II, Indirabagar, Bata showroom line
2 pm to 3 pm: Laxminagar,JJ Hospital area, Ayurveda Hospital area
2 pm to 4 pm: Paramount Colony, Paper Board, Hakimpet, Hanuman temple, Bowli PT, Ambedkar Community Hall, Baba Hotel, Kabrasthan 1&2.
2.30 pm to 5 pm: Vijayapuri, Dwaraka Apartments, Jain Constructions, Sun Bakery area, Biryani House, Pushpa Nilayam Apartments, OU Quarters, Water Works.
3 pm to 4 pm: Srinagar Colony, PO, Road No. 3 main road area, Arora Colony, Sagar Society area, Andhra Bank ATM and Karnataka Bank.

Patients angry over Aarogyasri shutdown

Govt should clear pending bills first: Hospitals

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

Dialysis, diabetic and cardiac patient management were badly affected on Tuesday as private hospitals stopped Employee Health Scheme for state government staff and Aarogyasri in the state because the state government has not cleared its dues for nine months.

The withdrawal of services hit patients who come regularly for free dialysis and they were in for a shock when they were told that they must pay.

Mr Vishal Kumar, whose father had to undergo dialysis at Apollo Hospitals, said, "We were not aware of this change. I had to rush and get the money to pay for dialysis. There is no board outside, no information to the patients when they come in that the scheme has been stopped."

Hospitals had a rush of patients as it was after a long weekend and the people who came with cards where being told that free service had been stopped. They must pay or go to government hospitals.

Ms Sulochna R, 69, developed diabetic ketosis and had to be rushed to the hospital for medical management. The ambulance service explained that they have to opt between government hospitals and private hospitals where the scheme had been stopped. The family opted to pay in a private hospital to avoid going to a government hospital.

Mr Mujtabha Askari of Helping Hand Foundation, who works with government hospitals, said patients reached out for financial assistance as private hospitals were not taking up elective surgery or procedures.



Aarogyasri Network Hospitals have stopped services due to pending bills. Only those patients who joined before the strike are getting treatment.
—S.SURENDER REDDY

Hospitals facing lack of funds and employees

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

The shutdown by Telangana Superspeciality Hospitals Association (TSHA) and Telangana Aarogyasri Hospitals Association (TAHA) will be complete from August 15 onwards as a few pending cases are being admitted now, said the members.

With funds to the tune of ₹1,500 crore pending with the state government, the hospitals say that they cannot continue to be a part of the scheme.

There are 242 small hospitals and 28 big hospitals which are empanelled with the government. The amount is due from December 2018.

A senior member of TSHA explained, "The government has to clear our bills till June 2019. They must have a transparent pattern in place to release the money and only then can we continue the scheme. Every time they say will release a few crores and after that the actual money received by the hospitals is meagre." The Aarogyasri Healthcare Trust (AHT) states that they have encountered discrepancies in the hospital bills and for that reason the scrutiny procedure has become very detailed and this is leading to a lot of delays.

A senior official with the AHT said, "We are presently having two problems — lack of staff and funds. Due to this reason, there is a vicious cycle in place. It is taking too long to scrutinise the bills. When the bills are ready for payment there is no fund. ₹400 crore bills have been cleared and prepared for payment. But due to lack of funds these bills are not being cleared."

In the past three months, 10 small hospitals have returned the memorandum of understanding with the AHT stating that they cannot continue in the scheme. Of these, five have been taken over and other five have shut down. Senior doctors said they cannot allow their hospitals to be pushed to the stage of closure and would prefer withdrawing from the scheme. Patients who are not aware whether the scheme is operating or not are left in the lurch.

"When we agree to help them financially and put the options of private versus government they refuse government hospitals and want to mobilise funds for private only. Hence there is a reverse effect of this shut down as people are paying to the private hospitals for the treatment only," Mr Askari said. The shift of the patients seen is in the case of Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences where most of the patients go when they cannot afford to pay the private hospitals.

A senior doctor in Nims said, "The shutdown by private hospitals increases the patient load."

STUDENTS STIR AGAINST INCREASE IN CBSE FEE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

The All India Democratic Students Organisation has strongly condemned the fee hike by Central Board of Secondary Education and called for a nationwide protest.

Mr Ashok Mishra, general secretary of AIDSO said, "CBSE has increased the fees of Class X and XII Board examinations and slowly there will be a hike in other educational kits which are required for the schools. The steep fee hike is not acceptable and we demand that it must be reduced."

The revised fee structure has increased from ₹750 to ₹1,500 per student for five subjects in the general category. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes are seeing an increase from ₹50 to ₹1,200 per student.

₹300 is for additional subjects and migration fees is ₹350 from the earlier ₹150 per student.

The AIDSO alleged that the board is paving the way to make education commercial.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2019
N-CONVENTION, MADHAPUR
7 P.M. ONWARDS

No anomalies in MBBS seats: Varsity

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA I DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

- University Registrar Dr D. Praveen Kumar submitted a detailed affidavit of the process it had followed in the counselling to the division bench of the HC.
- The Registrar said that after the second phase of counselling, only 824 seat allotments had been released under the open category quota.

The Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences denied on Tuesday the allegation that it had adopted an unusual method to deny seats to meritorious reserved candidates (MRCs) in the open category in the second phase of counselling for medical and dental seats.

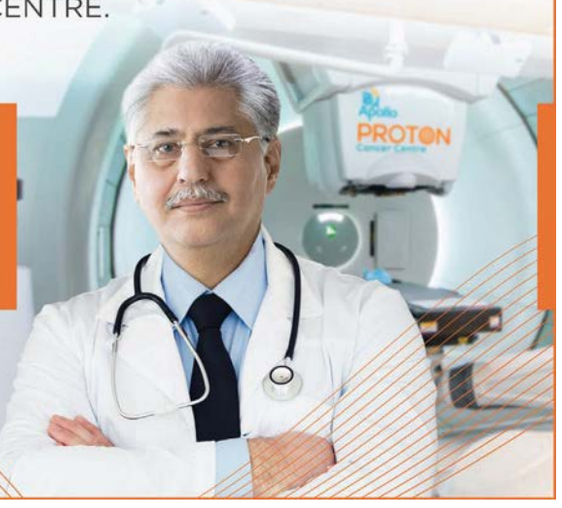
Urging the High Court to vacate the interim stay issued on August 7 on counselling, university registrar Dr D. Praveen Kumar submitted a detailed affidavit of the process it had followed in the counselling, to a division bench comprising Justices Sanjay Kumar and P. Keshav Rao. The bench had earlier given an interim direction to stay the process while hearing a petition filed by Nootenki Bhavana and four other students from Adilabad, Wanaparthi and Nirmal districts, charging the university authorities with doing injustice to students of reserved categories. The bench said that it will hear the case with several other cases filed on Tuesday, all of them making similar allegations.

In the affidavit, the registrar said that after the second phase of counselling, only 824 seat allotments had been released under the open category quota. These comprised 687 OC, 4 SC, 2 ST, 6 BC-A, 68 BC-B, 53 BC-D, and 4 BC-E candidates. He said that 1,663 candidates had been allotted seats under the reserved category, of which there were 396 SC, 163 ST, 186 BC-A, 449 BC-B, 313 BC-D and 126 BC-E students. In total, 687 seats had been allotted to the OC category and 1,800 seats to reserved category candidates, out of which 137 were from the open category by merit, the affidavit said.

The registrar said that the petitioners had filed the petition with malafide intentions as all five of them could not get MBBS seats as their NEET ranks were between 62,000 and 1,66,200. Two petitioners had got admission in BDS.

The petitioners alleged that there were irregularities in the admission process.

The authorities had deviated from the procedure contemplated under GO 114 as well as GO 550. They submitted that according to the Supreme Court the authorities had to follow GO 550 in the admission process for engineering, medical, and other professional courses.

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Helping hand

Owaisi announces donation of ₹10 lakh each to the CM's Relief Fund of flood-hit Kerala and Maharashtra



Counsels in criminal appeals should come prepared, they deal with life and death

— Raghavendra Singh Chauhan
High Court Chief Jutice

IN BRIEF

Edulabad VRA drowns in a canal

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABD, AUG. 13

The village revenue assistant (VRA) of Edulabad fell into a canal and died when he went to let water out from a lake for the crop at his agriculture field. The Ghatkesar police have registered a case and handed over the body to his family members on Tuesday.

According to inspector P. Raghuveer Reddy, the VRA, identified as Gummadi Narsimha left the house at about 1 pm on Monday telling his family members that he would let water for the crops at the field from the Edulabad lake.

Boy drowns on a fishing trip

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

An 18-year-old boy who went fishing at Narapally lake on Tuesday along with his friends slipped and drowned in the water. With the help of professional swimmers, the Medipally police are trying to recover his body.

Medipally inspector B. Anji Reddy said that at around 10 am, Shaik Sajeed Ali, a mechanic from Waheednagar in Malkapet, along with his friends Imran, Malik and Nawab went to Narapally Pedda Cheruvu for fishing.

Sajeed went ahead into the water and accidentally drowned. His friends alerted the police and a team rushed to the spot along with the professional swimmers to rescue the victim, he said.

"Sajeed's body is suspected to have gone at least 15 feet deep into the waters. Swimmers are trying to recover the body," said inspector Anji Reddy.

Cigarettes worth ₹21lakh seized

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

As many as 2.1 lakh cigarettes worth ₹21 lakh were seized by the Air Intelligence Unit officials at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Shamshabad. The officials booked four cases against 16 passengers, who arrived from Muscat and Dubai on Monday.

The Air Intelligence Unit sleuths of the Hyderabad Customs during routine checks of passengers at the RGI Airport found that 16 passengers who arrived at Shamshabad in separate flights from Muscat and Dubai were carrying cigarettes by concealing them in their baggage.

About 12 passengers arrived from Muscat and four from Dubai were checked and found 2.1 lakh pieces of cigarettes concealed in their baggage and were trying to leave the airport.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client viz., M/s EKTHA.COM Private Limited at Plot Nos.2 & 3, White fields, Kondapur, Hyderabad, Telangana, represented by its Managing Director/Authorized Direction: Sri Musani Sreenivasa Reddy has purchased the land admeasuring 11536.14 Sq.yds equivalent to Ac.2- 15.34 guntas in Sy.No. 296/Lu of Puppalguda Village, Gandipet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District through an Agreement of Sale -cum General Power of Attorney (with possession) dated 26-02-2019 bearing registered document No.2010 of 2019 with the office of Sub-Registrar, Gandipet from its owners viz., Sri Dandotikar Bajrang and 6 others who in turn acquired the same through registered Sale/Gift Settlement Deeds from Sri D.Laxmanji.

While so, some third parties are illegally brought into existence of fraudulent documents with the connivance of the officials of the Registration Department without any manner of right whatsoever on the various extents of land in various survey numbers of Puppalguda Village. It is hereby informed to the General Public that my client is holding valid, subsisting ownership, title and possession in and over the said land and said third parties do not have valid title and possession and hence the General Public is hereby cautioned not to enter into any sort of transactions with such fraudulent persons.

Sd/- M/s E.AJAY REDDY, B.Venkat Reddy, Y.Nageswar & E.Jagadeeshwar Reddy, ADVOCATES, # 107, Ashoka Capitol, H.No.8-2-120/76/6/7/8, Opp: K.B.R.Park, Road No.2, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500 034, Ph: 040-23224245, Cell: 9848044986.

Rival gang tracks down rowdy, stabs him dead

Five taken into custody for questioning

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

A history-sheeter from the city was killed brutally by a group of men at Shivajinagar in Borabanda on Monday night. The police have taken five persons for questioning and are searching for the other accused.

According to Sanathnagar police, the deceased person, identified as K. Narsing Das Goud (30), was a resident of Tukkuguda, which comes under the jurisdiction of the Pahadishareef police. At around 11 pm on Monday, a group carrying knives and talwars attacked him when he was in Shivajinagar and stabbed him mercilessly.

Soon after receiving this information, a team of police rushed to the spot and found Narsing dead, lying in a pool of blood.

The Clues team and dog squad were called in and some clues were collected.

"It was learnt that the group contained at least 10 persons who were waiting for Narsing and attacked him at one go when he reached RK Society Gas Godown area. Though he tried to escape, they stabbed him to death," said the police.

"Narsing suffered at least 20 stab injuries to his abdomen, head, and other body parts and died on the spot. After performing the post-mortem examination his body was handed over to his parents and a case of murder was registered for the probe," said Sanathnagar inspector K. Chandra Shekar Reddy.

He said that based on technical clues and other inputs, five persons who were suspected of having participated in the crime were taken into custody for questioning and special teams have been formed to apprehend the other absconding persons.

Narsing had to relocate last year

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

Narsing Das Goud was a notorious person. A history sheet was opened against him at SR Nagar police station. As his rivalry with other groups in the area increased, Narsing moved to Tukkuguda under Pahadishareef police station limits about a year ago.

Subsequently, the history sheet registered against him was transferred to Pahadishareef police station from SR Nagar police station and his activities were under watch.

Sanathnagar police, who are investigating his murder, found that some days ago, Narsing had made a phone call to members of a rival group and threatened to kill them for troubling his father.

"Narsing's father Charan Goud runs a toddy shop in Borabanda. Some days ago, a group of people with whom Narsing had rivalry earlier over petty issues, demanded money from Charan Goud."

On Monday noon, Narsing visited his father and spent time with him and visited the toddy shop. At around 11 pm, he decided to leave for Tukkuguda and was returning from the store along with his father and friends, when he was attacked, said the police.

Sources said "Though there was some public besides some friends and father of Narsing, no one could do anything, as the suspects were fiercely waving the weapons and stabbing him. Even if the police was at the spot, they could not have stopped the murder."

Responding to a query, Inspector K Chandra Shekar Goud of the Sanathnagar police, said: "Narsing was accompanied by his father and friends, but they remained spectators. We have eye-witnesses in the case. It is suspected that Narsing's threatening phone call was a reason for the attack."

GUTTED DOWN



A bus belonging to Meghana Travels that was heading to Tirupati caught fire on Monday night. Twelve passengers and the driver escaped unhurt in the incident, said fire department officials.

Rag-picker kidnaps girl, 5, at Nallagutta

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13



Fathima

A five-year-old baby girl was kidnapped by a rag-picker at Nallagutta, which comes under Ramgopalpet police station in Hyderabad on Tuesday. The police recovered footage of CCTV cameras installed in the vicinity and are hoping to find clues to the kidnapper.

According to Ramgopalpet police, on Tuesday morning, B. Raju along with his wife Hajira and three children reached Patny area in a bus from Yapral and wanted to go to Niloufer Hospital for Fathima's health check-up.

As they were all walking towards James Street Railway station via Park Lane, a rag-picker known to Raju greeted them.

The man in his early 30s asked Raju to buy him a cup of tea and started up a conversation. The family then headed towards Nallagutta to buy milk for the kids. The rag-picker offered to accompany them and took Fathima into his hands when Raju and wife went to get the milk. "When we returned, the man and my daughter both were missing," said Raju in his complaint to the police.

The police said that Raju does not know the name of the person to whom he handed over the child, but claims that he can recognise him as they both were earlier into rag-picking.

The police also recovered CCTV footage of the man taking away the child when her parents put their bags down and went to get milk.

Special teams have been formed to trace and rescue the kidnapped baby and nab the suspect said the police, who registered a case under section 363 of IPC.

Migrant returns home after 22 months in Saudi prison

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC
NIZAMABAD (TS), AUG.13

A netizen who underwent 22 months of imprisonment in Saudi Arabia for his post on the Rohingya crisis on social media, returned home to Perkit in Armoor mandal of Nizamabad district on Tuesday.

The posts had irked his employer who had filed a case against him.

It took the initiative of the PMO, the Indian embassy in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Telangana Welfare and Cultural Association to secure the relesae of Chenna Rakehs, 27, who had been sentenced to five years in a Saudi Arabia. Mr Rakesh, who went to Saudi Arabia in 2016, was working for a shoe company. Mr Rakesh told this newspaper that he had posted a comment on Facebook on the Myanmar communal conflict. "My employer was angered by the comment and lodged a complaint with the police," he said. The court sentenced him to five years.

Mr Rakesh said he faced a hellish situation in the prison and feared that he would not make it home. "My family members made endless efforts to bring me back home, but in vain," he said.

NAGA SHAURYA FINED FOR TINTED GLASS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

Actor Naga Shaurya was fined on Tuesday for using a tinted film in the car he was travelling in.

Punjagutta inspector (Traffic) M. Ravi said that while on an enforcement drive against the violations of the MV Act, a car (TS13 EG1188) which was moving towards Punjagutta side was stopped near the Muffakham Jah College. It turned out to be the actor's car.

MAN HELD FOR ATTEMPTED RAPE OF MINOR GIRL

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

A 48-year-old man attempted to sexual assault a 14-year-old girl, who was alone at her house on Monday night.

The house owner, who heard the girl screaming, came to her rescue. The locals, who were alerted by the owner, caught the accused and handed over him to cops.

According to the Mailardevpally police, the incident took place when the victim was alone at her house and her parents were away on work.

Till a few months ago, the family of the victim was living as tenants with the accused, K. Balaraj (48).

OBITUARY

Smt. SARITA TALWAR
W/O. Satish Talwar
Expired on:13-8-2019
FUNERAL WILL START @ 11:00AM TODAY
FROM HER RESIDENCE 23-6-855, SHAH ALI BANDA HYDERABAD TO PURANAPUL CREMATION GROUND HYDERABAD.

3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

M. LALITHA
D.O.D: 14TH AUGUST 2016
"Remembering you is easy, we do it everyday. Missing you is the heart ache that never goes away."
Inserted by:
FAMILY MEMBERS

IN LOVING MEMORY

CA JAKKAM VENKATAPPAIAH
DOB: 10-09-1940 DOD: 04-08-2019
You left us with loving memories which cherish through out our life
Inserted by:
US MURTHY ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants,
Ameerpet, Hyderabad. Ph: 9959999860

IN LOVING MEMORY

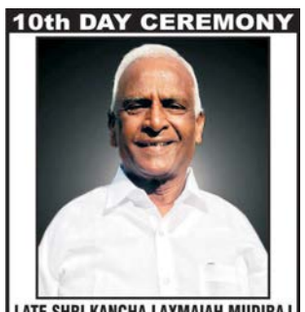
CA JAKKAM VENKATAPPAIAH
DOB: 10-09-1940 DOD: 04-08-2019
You left us with loving memories which cherish through out our life
Inserted by:
US MURTHY ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants,
Ameerpet, Hyderabad. Ph: 9959999860

14th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

K. SATYANARAYAN RAO
DOD: 14-08-2005
"Though you are not with us you will be always in our hearts."
Inserted by: Wife: S. Radha, Sons & Daughters-in-law, Daughters & Sons-in-law & Grand Children.
(CA-2918)

OBITUARY
I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23:6

G. JAMES
(Retd HM Govt School Kalasiguda)
BORN. 1-7-1928 Promoted to Glory 13-8-19
Funeral Service on 14-8-19 10 am at Centenary Baptist Church SEC thereafter Committal Service at Baptist Cemetery Bhoiguda Secunderabad.
Inserted by: Wife, Sons & Daughters in law, Daughter & Son in law, & Grand Children.
Tel: 9618644456 / 9849006795

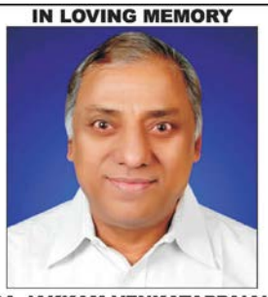
10th DAY CEREMONY

LATE SHRI KANCHA LAXMAIAH MUDIRAJ
"May his soul rest in peace."
Inserted by RAJESH PUTTALA, VANI PUTTALA & RITHVIK PUTTALA, RISHITH PUTTALA
Venue : on Wednesday, 14th August 2019 from 12.00noon onwards MS & Co Convention Hall, near Sweet Magic Hotel, Gachibowli Road, H.S. Darga, Raidurg, Hyderabad.

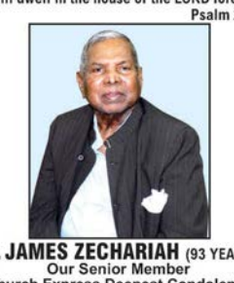
IN LOVING MEMORY

CA JAKKAM VENKATAPPAIAH
DOB: 10-09-1940 DOD: 04-08-2019
You left us with loving memories which cherish through out our life
Inserted by:
K. RAJA KRISHNA VENKATAPPAIAH & CO
Chartered Accountants, Hyderabad.

3rd Anniversary
In Loving Memory of
K. PAUL SUDHIR
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord (Rev.14:13)

DOB : 25-01-1969 DOD : 14-08-2016
Your memories are always in our hearts
Inserted by : P.S. Kalavathi (Loving Mother) Kiran Babu (Brother), Mary Madhuri (Sister), Walter (Brother-in-law) Joshua & John (Nephews) & Near and Dear
Ph: 9000128323, 7901258323

IN LOVING MEMORY

CA JAKKAM VENKATAPPAIAH
DOB: 10-09-1940 DOD: 04-08-2019
You left us with loving memories which cherish through out our life
Inserted by:
RAM P GUPTA & BROTHERS
New Jersey, U.S.A.
Ph: 001-201-4171451.

OBITUARY
I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23:6

G. JAMES ZECHARIAH (93 YEARS)
Our Senior Member
Church Express Deepest Condolences to Breaved Family.
Funeral Service on 14-8-2019, 10 AM @ Centenary Baptist Church, Sec-bad.
Inserted by :
Pastors & Standing Committee Members
CENTENARY BAPTIST CHURCH, SEC-BAD.

1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Late M. Mahesh
(Hyderabad Film Talent Guild)
DOB: 26.09.1959 DOD: 14.08.2018
"You are remembered every moment in our lives, Time flies away so soon but not a single day passes without you in our thoughts"
Inserted by: **Family Members**

"In Loving Memory of"
SMT D NAGAMANI

You gave your best as a mother and grand mother. Miss you forever. May your soul be happy wherever you are.
Inserted by:
Saroja, Sujata, Prasad (Children), Kriday (Great Grandson) and Others Family Members

OBITUARY
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted [Matthew - 5:4]

Mr. M. KOTESWAR RAO
(Retired Engineer HAL)
H/o Mrs. Hemalatha
Son-in-law of Late Mrs&Mr. Kalangi Roberts
DOB:12th Jan 1940 DOD:7th Aug 2019
Memorial Service will be held on **9th Day 15th Aug 2019, from 6:00PM onwards** At CSI Wesley Church, Secunderabad, Opp: Clock Tower.
Kindly treat this as personal invitation
From: **Family Members**
For further Details: **9170601234**
(S/1920/D00675)

IN LOVING MEMORY

CA JAKKAM VENKATAPPAIAH
DOB: 10-09-1940 DOD: 04-08-2019
You left us with loving memories which cherish through out our life
Inserted by:
GARIKIPATI INFRA
Moosapet, Hyderabad.
Ph: 9866648287

IN REMEMBRANCE
"And this is the promise that He has promised us - Eternal Life" ***1 John 2:25***

KADAVIL ONNI ALEXANDER
30.09.1938 — 14.08.2018
Always in the thoughts & prayers of:
Your Loving Family & Friends.
(S/1920/D00694)

13th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

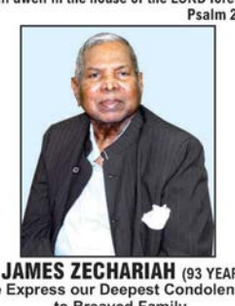
Late. Dr.Y.B.NARSING RAO
Retd.Prof.O.U.(Botany Dept)
Thirteen years have passed since you've been gone yet we feel your presence among us, you are in our hearts and thoughts every moment..
Inserted by:
Wife:Y.N.(L)Varalaxmi & Family Members

IN LOVING MEMORY

CA JAKKAM VENKATAPPAIAH
DOB: 10-09-1940 DOD: 04-08-2019
You left us with loving memories which cherish through out our life
Inserted by:
C. SRINIVASA RAO
Srinivasanagar Colony, Hyderabad.
Ph: 9849160856

2ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Shri G.C. Jeet Bhasin
(President : Surgical Association)
15th Agust 2017
We Miss you Every moment in our life, Your presence continues to surround us, in our hearts, you are always there.
Deeply Loved & Missed by:
Son: Vimal Bhasin & Family
Ph: 9849017881

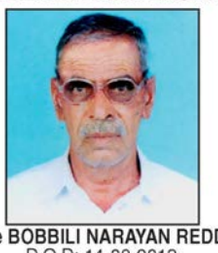
OBITUARY
I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23:6

G. JAMES ZECHARIAH (93 YEARS)
We Express our Deepest Condolences to Breaved Family.
Funeral Service on 14-8-2019, 10 AM @ Centenary Baptist Church, Sec-bad.
Inserted by :
TEAM TRANSFORMATION

IN LOVING MEMORY

CA JAKKAM VENKATAPPAIAH
DOB: 10-09-1940 DOD: 04-08-2019
You left us with loving memories which cherish through out our life
Inserted by:
MADHUSUDHAN & CO
Tax Consultants,
Abids, Hyderabad. Ph: 9394077333

25th Death Anniversary
Yea, God loved the people ; all his saints are in thy hands: and they sat down at thy feet ; Deut 33:3

MRS. B. SUGUNA WESLEY
DOD:14-08-1994
W/o. Late Pastor B.I. John Wesley. M.A., (Litt.)
(Founder / President CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CENTRES, T.S. & A.P.)
Inserted by - Grand Children
B. Suguna, B.Phebe, B. I.John Wesley (Jr) & B. I. Joseph Wesley
9908225151 - 42215151

6th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Late BOBBILI NARAYAN REDDY
D.O.D: 14-08-2013
MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE
Inserted by:
Brother: Bobbili Malla Reddy - Prabhavathi and their Sons & Family
Bobbili Srinath Reddy - Madhavi
Bobbili Srivenu Reddy - Bhavana & Grand Children.
Ph: 9989194677

11th ANNIVERSARY

Smt. T.S. MALINI
DOB: 16-08-1973 DOD : 14.08.2008
From sunrise to sunset, every movement would have been more wonderful if you had been with us today Your memories will never be forgotten
Inserted By:
Mother-in-law: T.N. Suryakumar
Husband: T.N. Sai Kumar
Daughter: T.S. Rakshitha
& Family Members Ph: 9059974673



Taking stock

National SC panel member K. Ramulu holds review meeting with activists over issues faced by SC/ST community



KCR had obstructed supply of water to Rayalaseema in the past

— K. Ramakrishna
AP CPI State secretary

IN BRIEF

Innovators' show on August 15

Hyderabad: The Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC) will organise, 'Intinta Innovation', an exhibition of innovation, on August 15 in all districts. About 500 innovators had applied of whom 220 were shortlisted. "People who haven't completed schooling can also innovate," said Mr Phanindra Sama, chief innovation officer. A large number of innovations have been selected from Jagtial, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Khammam, Nirmal, Peddapalli and Hyderabad.

DEGREE EXAM RESULTS OUT AFTER PROTEST

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

Following students protests, Osmania University released the degree exam results on Tuesday evening. The overall pass percentage stood at 55.78, and girls beat the mark with 66.05 per cent passes.

The results of the BA, BCom, BSc and BBA exams are released by the controller of administration. BBA students scored the highest pass percentage of 80.95 per cent. Of the 55,514 students who appeared for the sixth semester exams, 30,966 passed.

Exams were held in May and June but the results were released only after students went on a protest rally from NCC gate to the OU Administration building. An OU official attributed the delay in declaring the results to the delay in beginning the academic year.

BALKA SUMAN RIDICULES BJP'S CLAIM

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

TRS MLA Balka Suman ridiculed the statement of TS BJP president K. Laxman that Bangaru Telangana was possible only with the BJP. In a open letter on Tuesday Mr Suman said that in the last five years the BJP-led NDA government had not implemented the assurances given to TS in the bifurcation Act. Despite the Niti Aayog recommendations, the Centre had not funded Mission Bhagiratha and Mission Kakatiya. After repeated requests the Centre had not given funds nor announced Kaleshwaram as a national project. "How can the people believe that Bangaru Telangana is possible with the BJP," he asked. Mr Suman said the goal of the TRS was to provide water to every inch of land. The goal of the BJP was to provoke the people and create differences, Mr Suman said.

TRS, BJP EACH OTHER'S TAILS: MALLU RAVI

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

TPCC vice-president Mallu Ravi said that the TRS and the BJP were supporting each other. At the Centre the TRS was the 'tail' of the BJP. In the state, the BJP was the TRS's tail, he claimed. The BJP can never become alternative to the TRS, he told mediapersons on Tuesday. Mr Ravi pointed out that the TRS was supporting the every decision of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre. Central ministers were praising every scheme of the TRS. He alleged that there was a secret pact between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. He said the charges of the BJP against the Congress were propaganda and cautioned TS BJP president K. Laxman against speaking loosely of the party.

RaGa aide blamed for all Congress mistakes

Party leaders target Koppula Raju, pin debacle on him

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU I DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13



SEVERAL CONGRESS leaders who opposed the alliance with the Telugu Desam blamed Koppula Raju. A senior Congress leader who joined the BJP recently has written to Rahul Gandhi blaming Mr Raju for his exit.

In the wake of the leadership crisis in the Congress at the national level, the former IAS officer and former party president Rahul Gandhi's office incharge Koppula Raju has become the centre of controversy once again.

A section of Telangana Congress leaders has been critical of Mr Raju on several issues, and some of them have even left the party because of him.

During the recent Assembly elections and later as well, he was criticised for selection of candidates and supporting one section in the party. Some Congress leaders are of the opinion that it is due to Mr Raju that the party in Telangana state is in dire straits.

AICC secretary and former MP V. Hanumantha Rao, is one of those who believes this. His main allegation is that Mr Raju deliberately created a distance between Mr Gandhi and loyalists. Mr Rao alleged that it was due to Mr Raju that he has not been able to get an appointment to meet the then party president for more than a year.

A hardcore loyalist of the Gandhi family, Mr Rao is planning to leave the party. He announced that he will take a decision after August 20, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Sources said Mr Rao may launch a 'Rajiv BC Congress' to bring all Backward Classes onto one platform.

But Mr Raju and AICC general secretary R.C. Khuntia, the TS Congress incharge, have rubbished the allegation that a deliberate rift is being created between loyalists and the party leadership.

This has not stemmed the criticism. A senior Congress leader said that it was because of Mr Raju that Mr G. Vivek, a Congress MP, left the party and joined the TRS. He is now in the BJP.

Former Union minister Renuka Chowdary has criticised Mr Raju for interfering in TS party matters. At a party workers meeting recently she said, "The mistakes of Koppula Raju have cost the party a lot."

Several Congress leaders who opposed the alliance with the Telugu Desam in the Assembly elections blamed Mr Raju for the alliance. A senior Congress leader who joined the BJP recently has written to Rahul Gandhi blaming Mr Raju for his exit from the party.

AICC secretary and former MLA S.A. Sampath Kumar has come out in support of Mr Raju and said Mr Raju has never interfered in party affairs but has done whatever the high command instructed him to do. He said Mr Raju played a key role in implementing several welfare schemes during the UPA regime.

LEADERSHIP RUSHES TO RAJU DEFENCE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

AICC general secretary and TS Congress incharge R.C. Khuntia said that AICC member Koppula Raju was not involved in the selection of Congress candidates for the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

In a statement on Tuesday, he said the tickets were decided by the Pradesh election committee. He said the tickets were given after discussions in the PCC, with the leader of the opposition, and AICC in-charge secretaries and Mr Raju had nothing to do with it.

He said it was untrue that some hopefuls were denied tickets because of Mr Raju. He said if Congress leaders had any complaints they should take them to the PCC or AICC and not go to the media.

Mr Khuntia said that Mr Raju had no involvement in Telangana affairs.

Modi doesn't have vision of Nehru, Patel: Owaisi

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi said bifurcating Jammu and Kashmir and declaring Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir as Union Territories was violation of the Constitutional agreement. The actions of the Centre were against federalism, he said.

Addressing an Id Milap function on Tuesday at the party headquarters Darrusalam, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not have the sense and political wisdom of Pandit Nehru and Sardar Patel. "When they took a decision on the Kashmir, they did so in the interest of the country. (Mr Modi) is claiming that they are following Shyama Prasad Mookerji but they don't know his stand on Kashmir, that he had acknowledged Article 370."

Mr Owaisi said the BJP government had scrapped special status given to Kashmir under Article 35A. "Not only Kashmir, Assam, Himachal Pradesh and other regions are also accorded special status," he said. "There are many places where other Indians cannot purchase land."

Mr Owaisi said that Mr Modi considered then RSS chief Guru Golwalkar as his hero. "Golwalkar had written a letter in 1961 to the National Integration Council that the federalism of Hindustan promotes secularism."

The MIM president said scrapping of Article 370 was against the concept of federalism and it contradicted the two judgments of the Supreme Court.

MIM looks for 80 seats in Maha polls

ATHER MOIN I DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13



The MIM plans to contest 80 seats in the polls to the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly later this year. The party has two MLAs and had won the Aurangabad Lok Sabha in the recent elections.

The MIM has finalised a list of constituencies from where it desires to contest and sent it to its ally Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi, headed by former MP Prakash Ambedkar. Leaders of both parties discussed the sharing of seats on Tuesday.

The MIM is planning to contest in seats outside the minority pockets after wresting the Aurangabad Lok Sabha seat from the Shiv Sena. In the 2014 Assembly elections, the MIM had fielded its candidates in 24 constituencies and won from Byculla and Aurangabad Central. In secured about 5 lakh votes and drew the support of Muslim and Dalit communities.

Most of the seats that the party is seeking from are in the Marathwada and Vidarbha regions which have a sizeable number of Muslim voters.

MIM Maharashtra president and MP Imtiyaz Jaleel said, the MIM held discussions with leaders of the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi on seat sharing on Tuesday. "We discussed every constituency. Though we claimed 80 seats, but we would not stick to it. We are ready to leave a few seats for them," he said.



One of the corridors at BRKR Bhavan, the new seat of the administration, where work was still going on, on Tuesday. — *R. PAVAN*

BRKR Bhavan is far from ready

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

The shifting of the Secretariat departments to the Burgula Ramakrishna Rao Bhavan (BRKR Bhavan) has affected the administration. Most importantly, the finance department has stopped paying bills.

Chief Secretary S.K. Joshi moved his office across the road from the Secretariat to the BRKR Bhavan last week. He visited the office on Tuesday but all arrangements were not in place. After some time, he returned as he was not able to sit in his new office.

Other offices are still in the process of being shifted and set up in the new premises.

This is for the first time that the administration has shifted out of the Secretariat premises. Some departments are being moved to their commissionarate or directorate offices. Because of this, regular activity has come to a halt.

Officials said the finance department had stopped paying the bills and would resume it after settling down in the new premises. Officials said that all departments may start working from their new offices from Monday.

Several applicants who turned up at the Secretariat to pursue their paperwork were sent back.

When they return, the applicants will have a difficult time in locating the offices in the new locations. Besides, related departments may now be dispersed, giving them a tough time.

Talasani: Yes, it's Kalvakuntla govt

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

Reacting on TS BJP president K. Laxman's comments regarding family rule in the state, minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Tuesday said: "Yes it is Kalvakuntla government in Telangana". He said that Mr Rao's family members were not nominated but had been elected by the people.

Speaking to mediapersons on Tuesday, Mr Yadav asked what was wrong in running a government headed by Mr Kalvakuntla Chandrasekhar Rao. He alleged that the BJP was trying to provoke the people because of the TRS' alliance with the MIM.

The minister asked who was stopping the BJP of it wanted to take on the MIM. "If the BJP wants to strengthen the party in a democratic way, nobody will object."

He said Mr Rao wanted cordial relations between AP and Telangana states and was taking initiative on sharing of river waters between the two states. To a question, he said the TRS would support the Centre's plans construct a new Parliament building. The TRS was extending support to the Centre on issues, he said.

Pleas pile up, but no one at rights panel to check them

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs
HYDERABAD, AUG. 13

The Supreme Court on Tuesday levied costs on seven states, including Telangana state, for failing to file responses on setting up human rights courts despite its direction last year.

"There is some officer at a lower rank who may be available. Assuming the person too retires, a situation will arise when the last person in the office who is ordained to keep the lock and key of the office will be empowered to discharge statutory function," Justice Radhakrishnan noted.

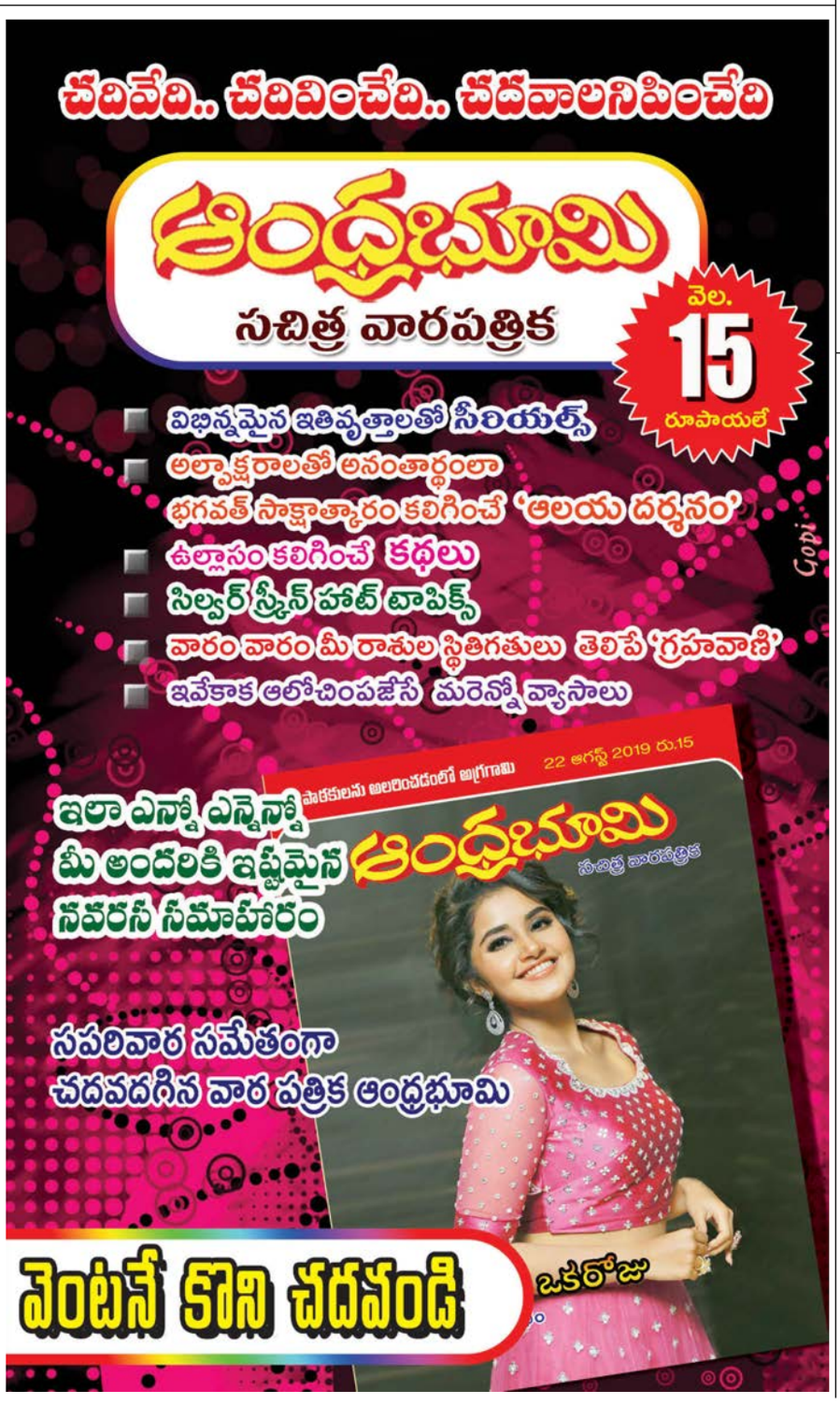
Petitions have continued to pile up at the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), with no chance of redressal of grievances. It is learnt that the petitioners were advised by some staff at the SHRC to find an alternative option.

Though the AP government issued a GO for the formation of a separate commission with Amaravati as its headquarters, nothing has been done to appoint members or transfer cases.

The top court imposed costs of ₹1 lakh each on Rajasthan and Uttarakhand because they had not filed responses and their advocates were not present in court.

A bench comprising Justices Deepak Gupta and B.R. Gavai slapped costs of ₹50,000 each on Telangana state, UP, Odisha, Meghalaya and Mizoram after it was told that they have not filed responses.

The bench said these states can file responses within four weeks subject to payment of cost. The top court had on January 4, 2018, directed the states to file their responses on the issue of setting up of human rights courts.



WANTED OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF CENTRAL TAX GST, MUSHEERABAD DIVISION

About 6000 sft accommodation for Musheerabad Divisional office and its 1 Range in a building duly approved by appropriate local authorities with sufficient parking space is required on HIRE / RENTAL / LEASE basis for housing office of the Deputy Commissioner of Central GST, Musheerabad Division, Secunderabad Commissioner at Musheerabad, Bholakpur, Kavadiguda, RTC X Road, Chikkadpally areas.

Tender copy is available on www.cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/tender/-idr Interested parties may send their tenders / quotations within 20 days from the date of publishing to the following address:

O/o Deputy Commissioner of Central GST, Musheerabad Division, Deccan Residency, 3rd Floor, Kavadiguda, Hyderabad-500 080. Contact No. 9848189073

Applications are invited from eligible Officers under the Central / State Governments / Recognized Universities / Recognized Research Institutions / Semi-Government / Statutory or Autonomous Organisations for filling up of one each post of 'Reader (Behavioural Science) and Reader (Teaching Methodology) in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad-500 052, by deputation for a period of one year.'

2. Pay, qualifications required, other eligibility criteria for the posts and application form are available in Academy website http://www.svpnpa.gov.in/vacancies.aspx. Duly filled in applications, along with all supporting documents, should reach the Assistant Director (Estt), SVP National Police Academy, Hyderabad 500 052 **through proper channel** not later than 60 days from the date of publication of this vacancy circulars in the Employment News.

Sd/- **(S. Ajeetha Begum)**
Assistant Director (Estt.)

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(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
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Fax No. : 0423-2232229

INVITES
"EXPRESSION OF INTEREST"
(i) For installation of Bio-metric system for Plantation Workers and Staff
(ii) Appointment of Regional Marketing Agencies in Southern Region (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andrapradesh, Telengana)

Details available in TANTEA website : www.tantea.co.in & www.tantea.in
e-mail:tantea.co.in@gmail.com
Contact person Ph. No. 7358965563, 8903771717, 9443613303
DIPR/ 896 /DISPLAY/2019 MANAGING DIRECTOR

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
CIN: L40101DL1989GOI038121
Regd. Office : B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110016
Corp. Office : "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001
Website: www.powergridindia.com, Email: investors@powergrid.co.in

NOTICE

1. Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations'1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations'2019 i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2014-19 tariff block and ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block for **Petition-1:** Transmission System Associated with SIMHADRI-II Generation project, **Petition-2:** LILO of Alamathy-Siperumbudur 400 kV DC line at North Chennai TPS switchyard under transmission system associated with Chennai NTPC-TNEB JV TPS, **Petition-3:** Spare Converter Transformer for Vizag back-to-back HVDC terminal and Petition-4: 2nd Spare Converter Transformers at Kolar and Talcher of Talcher-Kolar HVDC Link\

2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (a) KPTCL (b) APTRANSCO (c) KSEB (d) TNEB (e) Electricity Dept. of Goa (f) Electricity Dept. of Puducherry (g) APEDCL (h) APSPDCL (i) APCPDCL (j) APNPDCL (k) BESCOM (l) GESCOM (m) HESCOM (n) MESCOM (o) Chamundeswari Electricity Supply Corporation Ltd. (p) Transmission Corporation of Telangana Limited (q) TANGEDCO (r)TNTC

3. Tariff details:

a) **2014-19 block**

Petition No.	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Petition-1	528.80	514.68	499.50	484.39	469.82
Petition-2	2405.63	2341.02	2271.97	2203.34	2137.08
Petition-3	345.61	335.80	325.38	315.03	305.00
Petition-4	2217.49	2156.16	2090.51	2025.15	1961.93

Petition No.	DOCO	Line Length (kM)	No of Bays	Cost Admitted by CERC	Tariff for 2019-2024 Block				
					2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Petition-1	01.08.11	6.15	-	3164.73	446.81	431.89	416.96	402.03	387.07
Petition-2	01.08.11	65.575	-	14517.25	2057.48	1989.86	1922.19	1854.55	1786.83
Petition-3	01.01.12	-	-	2076.05	292.34	282.08	271.81	261.52	251.24
Petition-4	01.10.11	-	-	13531.95	1881.65	1816.65	1751.44	1686.09	1620.40

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at **www.powergridindia.com.**

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4th floor, Chandralok Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place : Gurgaon
Date : 08.08.2019

Sd/-
Sr. General Manager (Commercial)

PG/CC/Notice -16/Advt.-23/2019-20 Centum

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Chief Demand

Mayawati demands withdrawal of CBSE fee hike for exams



More Durga pujas being held in West Bengal under Trinamool rule

— Mamata Banerjee, WB Chief Minister

IN BRIEF

Arun Jaitley still in ICU

New Delhi: Former finance minister Arun Jaitley, who was admitted to AIIMS on August 9, is still in the hospital's ICU and is critical, but haemodynamically stable, sources said on Tuesday. A hemodynamically stable patient has a stable heart pump and good blood circulation. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has not issued any bulletin on Jaitley's health condition after Friday, when he was admitted.

Communal clash in Jaipur

Jaipur: Twenty-four people, including nine policemen, were injured when members of two communities pelted stones at each other believing a rumour in Jaipur, prompting authorities to use teargas to disperse the mob, police said on Tuesday. Following the communal tension, mobile internet services in 10 police station areas have been suspended till Wednesday night and five people have been arrested, they said. "The accused have been booked for obstructing public servants from discharge of their functions, blocking national highway and attacking police," said Additional Commissioner of Police (Second) Ajaypal Lamba. The violence on Monday night broke out after members of the minority community blocked the Delhi highway in front of an Eidgah near Galta Gate and pelted stones on a Haridwar-bound bus, leaving some passengers injured, according to police.

10 SDF MLAs JOIN BJP IN SIKKIM

New Delhi, Aug. 13: As many as 10 MLAs of the Sikkim Democratic Front joined the BJP on Tuesday, propelling the saffron party to the status of the main opposition in a state where it had not won a single seat in the recent Assembly polls.

The MLAs met BJP working president J.P. Nadda and joined the party in the presence of its general secretary Ram Madhav, who is in charge of the party's affairs in the north east. Madhav told reporters that the SDF had a strength of 13 MLAs and its legislature party decided to merge with the BJP. The BJP is running government as the main party or in alliance with regional parties in all the northeastern states except Sikkim and this development has pushed the party closer to power there as well. Two-thirds or more numbers of the MLAs of a party can join another party without violating the anti-defection law.

Priyanka visits firing victims, BJP sees red

Root cause of Sonbhadra is Congress, says UP minister

Sonbhadra (UP), Aug. 13: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday visited the Sonbhadra village where 10 tribals were shot dead over a land dispute, nearly a month after the UP administration prevented her from going to the site of the massacre by detaining her in Mirzapur.

Priyanka Gandhi covered the distance from Varanasi to Umbha village in Sonbhadra district, about 100 kilometres apart, by road, prompting Uttar Pradesh deputy chief minister Dinesh Sharma to say she was pulling off a "political stunt".

Shortly after arriving at the Varanasi airport, she tweeted, "I am going to Sonbhadra to meet the brothers, sisters and children of Umbha village, enquire about their well-being and to be part of their struggle."

"I had promised the members of affected families of Umbha village, who had come to meet me at Chunar Fort, that I will visit them," she said.

Later, the UP Congress tweeted photographs of her reaching the village, where armed men led by a former village pradhan had gunned down 10 Gond tribals when they resisted an attempt to take control of the disputed land on July 17.

Congress leaders said she will talk to the villagers and get a first-hand account of the steps taken by the state government for their security in the aftermath of the shooting.

Deputy Chief Minister Sharma, however, said Priyanka Gandhi should "repent" in Umbha.

"The root cause of the Sonbhadra incident can be traced to the Congress. She should go there to repent *(paschataap)* the act of former Congress leaders. After so many days, when action has already been initiated into the incident, this is only a political stunt," Sharma said.

On July 21, four days after the shooting incident, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had visited the area. *— PTI*



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra with locals at Ubha village where ten people had died in a firing incident over a land dispute last month, in Sonbhadra district on Tuesday. *— PTI*

CBI still a political instrument: CJI

New Delhi, Aug. 13: Observing that the possibility of the CBI being used as a "political instrument" remains ever present, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi posed a question on Tuesday: "Why is that whenever there is no political overtone to a case, the agency does a good job?"

The legal mandate of the CBI must be strengthened by having a comprehensive legislation addressing deficiencies relating to organisational structure, charter of functions, limits of power, superintendence, and oversight, Gogoi said.

Listing out "imminent concerns" before the agency, he said superintendence and control of the agency continues to, in large measure, lie with the executive by virtue of Section 4 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act 1946, the "possibility of it being used as a political instrument" remains ever present.

He said many recommendations of the judiciary to reform the functioning of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have been accepted as it is by the central government.

"However, given the entrenched afflictions, the current challenge is to ascertain how to make the CBI functional as an efficient and impartial investigative agency fully motivated and guided by the objectives of service to the public at large, upholding the constitutional rights and liberty of the people, and capable of performing in increasingly complex time," he said.

The CJI categorised the "crucial concerns" regarding the CBI in five heads -- Legal ambiguity, weak human resources, lack of adequate investment, accountability and political and administrative interference.

Underlining legal ambiguities in the functioning of the CBI, the CJI said in order to conduct investigation into a state, consent of the concerned state is crucial.

"Given vested interests or bureaucratic lethargy, such consent is often either denied or delayed, severely compromising the investigation," he said. *— PTI*



Ranjan Gogoi



NRC DATA TO GET AADHAAR-LIKE COVER, SAYS SC

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, AUG. 13

In a significant order, the Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected a plea to re-open and re-verify the National Register of Citizens data while observing that the security aspects of the data involving NRC will get the same kind of protection as of Aadhaar.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice R.F. Nariman also clarified that list of those excluded from the final Assam NRC will be published only online on August 31, while hard copies of the inclusions will be handed over to district offices concerned.

The top court said it has considered the provisions under Section 3 and 6(a) of the Citizenship Act as well as the prescribed rules under the Act. "The entire NRC exercise having been performed on aforesaid basis can not now be ordered to be reopened."

₹200CR DEFICIT LED TO FEE HIKE, SAYS CBSE

New Delhi, Aug. 13: A deficit of over ₹200 crore in conducting board examination for class 10 and 12 has forced the CBSE to hike fees, according to officials.

Early board results, measures to make examination leak proof and error-free evaluation have imposed a financial burden on the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), they said.

The passing on the responsibility of conducting competitive examinations like the JEE and the NEET to the newly-formed National Testing Agency (NTA) has also left it in a fund crunch, the officials said.

The CBSE last week notified an increase in the examination fees for class 10 and 12, registration fees for class 9 and 11 and migration fees. "The hikes are required for self-sustenance, and to maintain the quality in examination, evaluation and overcome a financial deficit of around ₹200 crore," CBSE's secretary Anurag Tripathi said. The CBSE spends around ₹500 crore annually to conduct examinations for class 10 and 12, he said.

"There has been a deficit of around ₹200 crore every year in the past few years. However, we were able to neutralise that deficit by conducting competitive examinations, but these have now been passed on to the NTA," he said. - *PTI*



An artist paints a graffiti of Hindu goddess Durga on a wall, part of a campaign ahead of upcoming Durga Puja festival in Kolkata on Tuesday. *— PTI*

Durga Puja committees in Bengal get I-T notices

Kolkata, Aug. 13: The Trinamul Congress on Tuesday accused the BJP-led government at the Centre of sending I-T notices to the Durga Puja committees to intimidate them and make them surrender to the saffron camp.

Accusing BJP of "political double standards" for alleging that the Trinamul was trying to stop Durga puja in Bengal, it said in reality it is the saffron party which is trying to do so.

The Trinamul held a day-long dharna here in protest against central government's decision to serve I-T notices to Durga puja committees.

"During the Lok Sabha poll campaign they (BJP) used to allege that our government had tried to stop Durga Puja in the state. This was completely false and politically motivated. It is the BJP government which is trying to do it now by sending I-T notices to Durga puja committees. This is political double standards," Trinamul secretary general and state education minister Partha Chatterjee said.

Post the Lok Sabha elections, the Trinamul and the BJP have been rushing to gain control of the Kolkata's prominent pujas, a time-tested medium to reach out to the people.

The sole intention of sending I-T notices to the puja committees is to intimidate them and make them surrender to the BJP so that its leaders can control them, he alleged.

"They (BJP) had initially planned to take over these committees but failed. So now they are trying to threaten puja committees with I-T notices. Most of these committees conduct Durga Puja with subscription taken from locals and handful of local advertisements. We fail to understand what it has to do with the Income Tax department," Chatterjee said.

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee had on Sunday criticised the Centre for issuing income tax notices to several Durga Puja committees in the city saying festivals should be exempt from levies. *— PTI*

COURT FRAMES CHARGES AGAINST SENGAR

New Delhi, Aug. 13: Expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Sengar along with his aides entered into a "criminal conspiracy" to deter and silence the Unnao rape survivor's father so that he cannot pursue with his complaint, a Delhi court Tuesday said while framing murder and other charges against them.

District judge Dharmesh Sharma clubbed two cases related to the alleged murder of the rape survivor's father and the other related to allegedly framing him in a case of possession of illegal arms.

The court charged Sengar and nine others for the offences punishable under sections 302 (murder), 506 (criminal intimidation), 341 (wrongful restraint), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 193 (false evidence) of the IPC and under section 25 of the Arms Act.

"You (Sengar) and others allegedly entered into a criminal conspiracy with the other accused persons to deter, intimidate or silence the father of the survivor from proceeding with his complaint of alleged rape upon the survivor by you on June 6, 2016 at your house and in the process, the father of the prosecutrix, his wife, mother and two daughters were voluntarily caused injuries....at the hands of co-accused, after preventing them from proceeding to their house," the court noted.

The charges framed against them also included sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 166 (public servant disobeying law, with intent to cause injury to any person) and 167 (public servant framing an incorrect document with intent to cause injury) of IPC. *— PTI*

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Last Date : 26.08.2019 at 16:00 Hrs. Phone: 08685-244504

Tender ID No: SPDCLYDD01169

Sd/- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
Operation Circle, Yadadri Bhongir

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum-2
Tender Notice No.-14-2019 O-F

Name of Work:- Work of Comprehensive mechanized cleaning and up keep of Ludhiana railway station for three years (1096 days)

The following amendments are made in tender document-

2) Clause 7a Financial Standings (T1-Liquidity) mentioned at page no.5 to be read as-

"The bidder should have an aggregate financial turnover not less than 1.5 times the advertised Bid value as per detail at Appendix-XIII in form of audited balance sheet certified by chartered accountant with her stamp, signature and membership number shall be considered as per clause 2.2 (i).

Note:- Accepted as per Appendix-XIII duly supported by audited balance sheet.

Whereas for current/ongoing financial year form 26-AS may be considered and acceptable."

2) Clause no.2.3 other criteria Item-2 at page no.16 to be read as-

"Item No.2: Audited balance sheet as mentioned in Part-II of tender document under clause 2.2 financial standing is taken under consideration for evaluation. Whereas for current/ongoing financial year form 26-AS may be considered and acceptable." **2586/2019**

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BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

B.D.C.No.B1/2722/2019

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Buildings Department -Construction of Building Works in various places in Zones 5,6,8,9,11,12,13 & 14 **and** Construction of Conventional Toilet Block in various places in Zones 1,2,5,7,9,11,12,13,14 & 15 (17 works)

For more information see http://tntenders.gov.in & www.chennaicorporation.gov.in	
Tender Works Value approx. **Rs. 21,02,08,428/-**	EMD Amount **Rs. 21,03,000/-**
Tender Date and Time: **18.09.2019** upto **3.00 P.M**	
Tender open Date and Time: **19.09.2019** at **3.30 P.M**	

DIPR/2743/Tender/2019 — Superintending Engineer (Buildings)

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The Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction/, N.Rly., Jalandhar City, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under **Single Packet System** for the under noted work:-

1.	**Name of work and location**	Providing roof covering over already constructed Limited Height Subway 11 Nos. LHS (06 Nos. on Amritsar -Khemkaran Section, 03 Nos on Amritsar - Dera baba Nanak section, 01 No. on Amritsar - Attari section, and 01 No. onBeas-Goindwal Sahib section) of Ferozpur Division.
2.	**Completion period of the work**	06 (Six) Months
3.	**Approx. Cost of work**	Rs 627.45 Lakh
4.	**Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)**	Rs. 4,63,700/-
5.	**Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender**	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11:30 hrs. on 06.09.2019 on IREPS web site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in.** The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11:30 hrs on 06.09.2019
6.	**Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document**	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web ste i.e. **www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in** and tender document is available on **www.ireps.gov.in** Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** from 22.08.2019 at 06.09.2019. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tender are given in tender document. The detailed, tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

Tender Notice No. 12-W/19-20/Dy. CE/C/JUC Dated : 09.08.2019 **2600/19**

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Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation

NIT NO.	NAME OF WORK	Estimate Amount /ECV	Start Date/Last Date & Times for receipt of Bid	Name Address Officer Cell No.
09/SE/Sec'bad Zone/ GHMC /2019-20 (Recall)	Engaging of 41 Nos. Sanitary Field Assistants, in Amberpet Circle-16, Engaging of 40 Nos. Sanitary Field Assistants of Circle-30, GHMC, through Outsourcing Agency from 01-07-2019 to 31-03-2020 (i.e., for 9 Months) for the year 2019-20(2Works), etc.	137.03 Lakhs	14.08.2019 at 1.00PM 17.08.2019 at 1.30PM	SE(Sec'bad Zone),GHMC Cell No.9989930374
23/EE/Cir-19/SLPZ/ GHMC/2019-20	4 BT Works/1 CC Work(5 Works), etc.	120.00 Lakhs	14.08.19 at 2.00 PM 19.08.19at 2.00 PM	E.E, Div-19/GHMC Cell No. 9963550657
21/DB/EE/Alwal/cir-27 /GHMC/2019-20	Construction of toilets, Providing Chain link mesh Laying of 200mm dia SWG, Remodeling of UGD, Laying of CC Road in Alwal Circle (8 Works) ,etc.	114.90 Lakhs	19.08.19 at 4.00 PM 22.08.19 at 4.30 PM	E.E/Alwal-Cir.27/GHMC Cell No.9989930401
27/Cir-18/KZ/GHMC/ 2019-20	Laying of CC Road, VDCC Road, Repairs and Maintenance of storm water drain, Laying of CC Patches table Drain and Engaging of tipper (100 cft) (7 Works), etc.	83.15 Lakhs	14.08.2019 at 4.00 PM 17.08.2019 at 4.00 PM	EE/Cir-18/KZ/GHMC Cell No.9989930414
10/SE/Sec'bad Zone/ GHMC /2019-20 (Recall)	Laying of VDCC Road from Old Safilguda to Bharath Nagar at Moula Ali in Div. No.138, Malkajgiri Circle-28, Sec-bad Zone, GHMC, (1Work), etc.	54.00 Lakhs	14.08.2019 at 3.00PM 17.08.2019 at 3.30PM	SE(Sec'bad Zone),GHMC Cell No.9989930374
26/Cir-18/KZ/GHMC/ 2019-20	Laying of CC Road, VDCC Road table Drain(3 Works), etc.	47.40 Lakhs	13.08.2019 at 4.00 PM 14.08.2019 at 4.00 PM	EE/Cir-18/KZ/GHMC Cell No.9989930414
06/EE/PD SZ-II/ GHMC/ 2019-20(2nd Call)	Engaging the IRT Vehicle (tractor/DCM with trolley) along with labours(a) pot hole filling with stores BT, (b) Minor CC patches, (c) Repairs to benchings in bahaduepura Junctions (SRDP), for a period of (3months)from Aug-2019 to Nov-2019, etc.	---	13-08-2019 at 2.00 PM 14-08-2019 at 2.30 PM	Y. Srinivas /E.E. (PD SZ-II) South Zone-II ,GHMC, Cell No.7331151748
06/EE/PD SZ-I/GHMC/ 2019-20(Recall)	Laying of BT Roads in damaged places in the stretch of the SRDP work of Construction of Flyover/ Grade separator at Owaisi hospital Midhani Junction and Midhani Junction (Left side & Right side), etc.	19.20 Lakhs	13-08-2019 at 3.30 PM 14-08-2019 at 4.00 PM	E.E. (PD SZ-I),GHMC Cell No.9704990966

For further details can be seen at e-procurement@-https://www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in

R.O.NO.120/CPRO/GHMC/2019-20 — Call 040-21111111 for 24x7 GHMC Services. — Commissioner.

SAD | CHAPTER — **Students in TN get preferential treatment based on their caste**

Schools force students to wear caste wristbands

A. ARUL PALANI | DC
CHENNAI, AUG. 13

While the Dravidian politicos of various hues and sub-faiths, swear by their guru Periyar as the architect of the multiple campaigns for social equality and eradication of discrimination against the lower castes, such ugly instances continue to pop up even in this modern era and despite all the high decibel 'rationalist' rhetoric.

Embarrassed by reports that school children are being forced to wear wristbands of various colours to identify their caste, particularly down south, TN Director of School Education S. Kannappan has issued a circular to all his district officers to identify such institutions in their areas and take stringent action against the headmasters.

The students in these schools are subjected to either preferential treatment if he/she wears a band identified with an upper caste or be discriminated against should the band relates to the lower rung of society.

The director said his circular was based on a representation given by the officer-trainees of the IAS 2018 batch — obviously after seeing such wristband at schools.

However, school education secretary Pradeep Yadav said the circular "is only in an advisory and precautionary measure just in case there are any such cases" and it did not mean there are indeed such wristband schools.

TN Director of School Education said he issued a circular based on a representation given by the officer-trainees of the IAS 2018 batch — obviously after seeing such wristband at schools.

"There was a report that came to the State Secretary for Adi Dravida Welfare and he wrote to my Director (Kannappan). He said if there such incidents, please take action. We do not have any specific information of any such school," Yadav told DC.

"Director Kannappan had issued this circular about three weeks ago, when things appeared to be getting really bad and there were reports of such wristband schools functioning down south, particularly in Tiruchy district", said an informed source, recalling that a similar crackdown had been ordered two years ago when the first cases popped up in Villupuram district.

Director Kannappan's circular in anguish to his district officers said "In some schools in Tamil Nadu, students are made to wear colour-coded wrist bands" and these bands come in shades of red, yellow, green and saffron, to indicate whether the student belongs to a "lower" or an "upper" caste.

He also said rings and 'tilak' on the forehead were also used as caste-markers; obviously for making unfair and discriminatory decisions during the sports team selections and also academic events.

"Allegedly, these practices are enforced by students themselves and supported by influential caste representatives and teachers," the circular said.



Chief Attack

P. Chidambaram only a burden on earth, says TN CM K. Palaniswami



J&K students staying away from home are facing financial, security issues

— D Raja
CPI General Secretary

IN BRIEF

'Kashmir will not be part of India'

Chennai: Alleging that the Centre had entangled India in "quick sand" by revoking special status for Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370, MDMK general secretary Vaiko has said "Kashmir will not be a part" of the country when the centenary of its independence is celebrated. Vaiko, known for his abrasive remarks on several issues, made the dramatic assertion while reacting to a question from reporters here on Monday on film star Rajinikanth lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah for junking the special status to J&K. "Kashmir will not be a part of India. During the centenary celebrations of India's independence, history is going to be written that Kashmir will not be a part of India; they (BJP-led Central government) have entangled India in quick sand," he said.

Editor's plea on J&K in top court

New Delhi: The Supreme Court asked Kashmir Times editor Anuradha Bhasin on Tuesday to hand over to its registrar the memo for urgent listing of her plea which seeks removal of restrictions on the media in Jammu and Kashmir after the scrapping of the provisions of Article 370. A bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra told advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for Bhasin, "you hand over the memo to the registrar and he will look into it".

ARMY CHIEF DOWNPLAYS PAK DEPLOYMENT

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG 13

Army chief Gen. Bipin Rawat on Tuesday downplayed Pakistan army deployment at line of control (LoC), saying that everybody does precautionary deployment and it is not a matter of concern.

"That's normal. Everybody does precautionary deployment and movement of precautionary resources. We should not get too concerned about it," said Gen. Rawat.

There have been reports that Pakistan was deploying more troops and bringing artillery along the LoC days after India revoked special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

When asked whether there could be increase in hostilities along the LoC, Gen. Rawat asserted that the choice is with Pakistan. "If the adversary wants to activate the LoC, the choice is his," the Army chief said.

Activating LoC means firing across the LoC. There has been more than 1,600 cease fire violation this year.

Give unimpeded access: Rahul

Cong leader says will visit J&K, don't need copter but should be allowed to meet all

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday took up Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik's bait of sending a helicopter for him to visit the Valley, but said he didn't need an aircraft, just the freedom for him along with other Opposition leaders to be allowed to travel unimpeded across the Valley

The Congress also asked the government to immediately begin a political dialogue and take all Opposition parties into confidence on what was happening in the region.

Mr Malik had on Monday invited Mr Gandhi to visit J&K, saying he would send an aircraft for him, after the Congress leader said: "People were dying in the Valley and the situation is not normal, as the government claims."

The Wayanad MP, now on a visit to his constituency, was quick to respond Tuesday, tweeting: "Dear Governor Malik: A delegation of Opposition leaders & I will take you up on your gracious invitation to visit J&K and Ladakh. We won't need an aircraft but please ensure us the freedom to travel and meet the people, mainstream leaders and our soldiers stationed over there."

In New Delhi, Congress spokesman Anand Sharma said, "The reaction by the governor only to Rahul Gandhi is not enough. Mr Gandhi does not need his hospitality. All Opposition parties should be asked to go to Kashmir."

"We demand that the government take the first step and start an immediate political dialogue in which all the Opposition parties should be taken into confidence," he said, adding for this it was also important that leaders and former chief ministers now in detention are released.

Mr Sharma said that it was high-time that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah call an all-party meeting and take all the Opposition leaders into confidence.

Meanwhile, AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who was on a visit to Sonebhadra in UP where 10 dalits were gunned down recently, said the abrogation of Article 370 had been done in an unconstitutional manner. "The way in which it was done is totally unconstitutional and against the principles of democracy," she told the media.

The other Opposition parties were not too enthused. Said CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury: "If the governor is sending a plane for Rahul Gandhi now, why did he stop us entering Srinagar when we went there?"

Meanwhile, Union minister Prakash Javadekar said on Tuesday said that the Congress is speaking in different voices on the special status of J&K because of its "frustration, despair and directionless politics", .

The minister also accused Congress leader P. Chidambaram of communalising the issue and said people of J&K were happy with the decision to revoke the state's special status under Article 370.

"This is Congress' frustration, despair and directionless politics. Karan Singh, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Milind Deora, R. P. N. Singh and other leaders are talking one thing and Chidambaram, Mani Shankar Aiyar saying another thing. The party is in perennial confusion. They never had a clear stand," Javadekar told reporters

Also, a lunch meeting between a central government officer and a section of Kashmiri students scheduled at the Jamia Millia Islamia was cancelled, a university official said on Tuesday.



Security personnel patrol a street during a lockdown in Srinagar. — *AFP*

LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO TAKE CALL ON EASING CURBS

Srinagar/New Delhi, Aug. 13: As authorities said restrictions in Kashmir Valley are being eased in a phased manner, the Supreme Court on Tuesday observed that the Centre should be given a "reasonable time" to bring normalcy in J&K which cannot be done "overnight" in view of the sensitive situation.

During the hearing, it also said the situation is such that nobody knows what exactly is happening in the region.

Mr Rohit Kansal, principal secretary and the designated spokesperson of the administration, said the restrictions in parts of Kashmir were being eased in a phased manner based on the assessment by the local authorities concerned.

Kansal said the administration is hopeful of further relaxation in the security clampdown after the dress rehearsal for the Independence Day celebrations on August 15 concludes in various districts.

He said while prohibitory conditions were relaxed in various parts of Kashmir, the Jammu region was "almost entirely" free of restrictions.

"Restrictions, however, do continue in parts of Kashmir," he added. Kansal said the administration was following the overall policy of "relaxation" of restrictions in all parts of the region and the Id celebrations and prayers were peaceful.

"There is a constant endeavour to ensure that people are not obstructed and are facilitated in every possible way".

The principal secretary said the administration is hopeful that the I-Day celebrations will be carried out in a "grand and benefitting manner". On the issue of snapped telecom links, Kansal said 300 public points have been set up for the locals, from where they can speak to their kith and kin. — *PTI*

RESTRICTIONS TO CONTINUE FOR NOW

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC with bureau inputs
SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

The Jammu and Kashmir government said on Tuesday that the restrictions in force in the Valley since August 5 were being eased out in a phased manner.

In New Delhi, however, senior security officials at the home ministry said the security restrictions in the Valley are not likely to be eased anytime soon and will continue till well after Independence Day, adding that several security agencies deployed in the Valley had warned the Centre that any hasty move to remove the restrictions could trigger large-scale violence and protests in the present environment.

In Srinagar, replying to questions, Mr Kansal said the government was conscious and sensitive to the hardships faced by the people, including the media, due to the communications blockade and security clampdown, "but whatever we do is to ensure no mischievous elements get an opportunity to create an untoward situation".

He said no report of any significant incident was reported from any part of the Kashmir Valley, Jammu or Ladakh in the past 24 hours.

Asked about the arrest of a large number of political leaders and activists and members of trade and civil society groups, he said: "Everything is being done under the appropriate laws."

He said global investment conferences will be held in all three regions of Jammu and Kashmir, including Ladakh, and the first of these will be in the Valley in October.

MHA officials in New Delhi directly involved with handling deployment of forces in the Valley said they were monitoring the situation on a daily basis, and it would take more time for the restrictions to be lifted.

The security forces had told the Centre and the local administration that "as and when the restrictions are eased, it should be done in a gradual and phased manner".

A senior security official said: "We have concrete information that certain elements are waiting for an opportunity to organise large-scale protests the minute the restrictions are lifted. So these need to remain in place for a few more days to avoid any major untoward incident."

At present, security arrangements in the Valley are being largely managed by the CRPF, with the help of the BSF and the SSB, as well as the J&K police in some areas. The Army is also being roped in some sensitive areas. Officials said while the administration is fully aware of the hardships faced by people, "if the trade-off is between inconvenience and loss of life, what should we choose?"

Trump mediation offer not on table any more, says Indian ambassador

Washington, Aug. 13: US President Donald Trump has made it clear that his offer of mediation on Kashmir is not on the table anymore, the Indian ambassador has said.

Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla said on Tuesday that America's decades-old policy on Kashmir has been no mediation but to encourage India and Pakistan to resolve their differences bilaterally.

"President Trump has made it very clear that his offer to mediate on Jammu and Kashmir is dependent on both India and Pakistan accepting it. Since India has not accepted the offer of mediation, he has made it clear that this is not on the table anymore, Shringla told *Fox News*, the favourite news channel of the US president.

On July 22, during his joint media appearance with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan at the White House, President Trump stunned India by saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought his mediation/arbitration on the Kashmir issue, a claim that was seen by many as outlandish and carrying little credibility.

India asserted that no such request was made by Prime Minister to the US president and all issues will have to be resolved with Islamabad bilaterally. A week later, Trump climbed down from his previous statement, saying it was up to India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue but he was ready to assist if the two South Asian neighbours wanted him to help in resolving the issue.

He said India made it clear to America that any discussion on the issue, if at all warranted, will only be with Pakistan and only bilaterally, which has long been India's stated position.

Shringla said that America's policy on Kashmir has been no mediation but to encourage the two South Asian neighbours to resolve their differences bilaterally including on Kashmir, the pace and scope of which would be chosen by New Delhi and Islamabad.

That has been the United States longstanding policy, he said in response to a question referring to America's decades-old policy.

Shringla said UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres was also very clear on the issue.

"He says, this issue has to be resolved bilaterally between India and Pakistan in keeping with the agreements that the two countries have signed: the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, he said.

— *PTI*



Donald Trump

'Outsiders' told by locals to leave Valley

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, AUG. 13

Muhammad Akbar was running a sweet shop in Srinagar's Khanyar area for the past two decades and more. He lived with his family of four in a rented room in the same roadside building. The turbulence that has been an inseparable facet of Kashmir's everyday life for years never bothered him.

A day after Parliament approved a resolution abrogating the special status for J&K under Article 370 and a Bill for splitting the state into two Union territories, thus also removing the legal impediments in owning of land and other immovable properties in the region by non-locals, Akbar, a resident of Bijnour (Uttar Pradesh) told a local resident: *"Ab mujhe yahan sey koi nahi nikaal sakta hai* (Now, no one can evict me from here)".

The word spread quickly. The very next morning, Akbar was visited by his landlord who asked him to vacate the premises within 24 hours. His plea that whatever he had said was only a *mazakh* (joke) went unheeded.

Akbar and his family were soon out.

In summer, Kashmir also becomes home to tens of thousands of seasonal labourers, small-time traders and other workers, mainly from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

There were roughly 4,00,000 such "non-locals" in the Valley prior to August 2 when the state home department issued the "advisory" to pilgrims, asking them to cut short their trip.

While a few thousand panic-stricken seasonal labourers also headed for home in whatever means of transport was available, hundreds others were coerced by the security forces to leave. However, a majority of the non-local workforce chose to stay put, ostensibly in the hope that things will return to normal soon.

But with the Valley and some other parts of the region having been pushed into a chaotic situation due to the prolonged clampdowns and complete communications blockade, thousands more started leaving the Valley in the past 10 days.

Most of them moved out on their own but there were many instances when they were asked to leave by locals.



A BSF soldier patrols near the India Pakistan border fencing at Garkhal in Akhnoor, about 35 kms west of Jammu on Tuesday. — *PTI*

Leaders detained, cadres in disarray

DC CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR AUG. 13

The high security Gupkar road, which always used to be teeming with activities, now wears a deserted look. Except for a posse of security personnel loitering around, there is no activity whatsoever.

"Extraordinary situations require extraordinary measures. They have been detained keeping in view the situation in the Valley. At this time, if they are freed, it could cause unnecessary provocation and things can go out of control. We will assess the situation and then decide when to free them," sources in the Jammu and Kashmir administration told *Deccan Chronicle.*

Besides the former Chief Ministers, nearly 50 MLAs have been "put up" in Centaur hotel on the Boulevard road and all roads leading to the hotel have been sealed and heavily guarded, round-the-clock.

"With the entire political leadership detained, there is no one to mobilise people or able to build a public opinion against the Centre's move of abrogating Article 370. In the given situation, it suits everyone," smiled a police official.

Sources who are keeping a close track of the supporters of both National Conference and PDP say that the party activists are in total disarray ever since their leaders have been detained.

Sher-i-Kashmir stadium set to host I-Day feat

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC
SRINAGAR AUG. 13

Back in October 1983, a one-day international cricket match was played between India Vs West Indies in this cricket ground. India batted first but the match was affected due to the protest by Kashmiris who dug the pitch during lunch interval. However the match resumed but the rain ended the match abruptly. Again in September 1986, India played Australia on this very ground and won the match.

Thereafter, the Sher-i-Kashmir stadium was used by National Conference where it held a special session to elect their new president in 2002 while in 2003, the then Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee addressed a rally at the ground which was attended by about 20,000 people.

Now, close to two decades later, history is being created at the Sher-i-Kashmir stadium once again as it is all spruced up for the first Independence day celebrations after the Centre abrogated Article 370 and bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories.

Though speculations are rife of some senior minister in the NDA government arriving in Srinagar for flag hoisting, the local administration says so far there is no information to suggest that.

With heightened security measures in place all over Kashmir Valley, the entry points to the stadium have been sealed. In fact, the area surrounding the stadium resembles a war zone. Looking straight into the eye, the heavily armed CRPF personnel have a volley of questions to ask any visitor to the stadium. It is only after he reads the body language, goes through the identity card thrice or even more, asks several more questions and only if convinced, will allow the visitor, mostly the media in this case, inside.

The stadium has been completely spruced up and on Tuesday morning, a full dress rehearsal was carried out by contingents of J&K police, CRPF, BSF among other participants.

While the atmosphere outside the stadium was tense, on the inside it was teeming with activity what with women folk and men alike dancing to various songs, preparing for the big day.

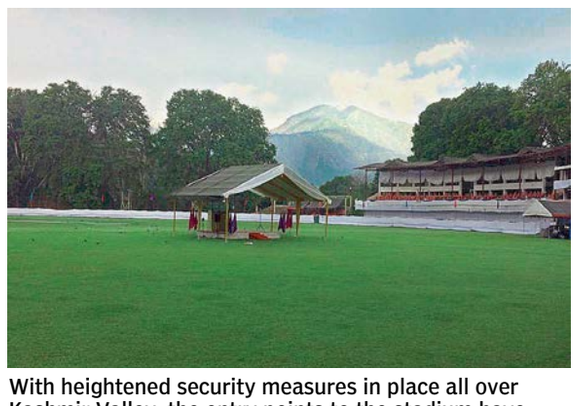
"We are performing on a Dogri song," smiled Chitra who came all the way from Rajasthan while another participant,

Pragya said that they have been practicising on a song that unites the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

"Of course, we have been facing problems as we are not able to contact our families as phones are not working here. We came here three days ago. Though there is tension outside, we are happy and the decision taken by the Centre was historic," they said.

Senior police officials also visited the stadium and reviewed the security arrangements.

As last minute preparations are on in full swing, it is likely that the children who normally participate in the I-Day celebrations will miss it out this time due to the severe restrictions in place.



With heightened security measures in place all over Kashmir Valley, the entry points to the stadium have been sealed.

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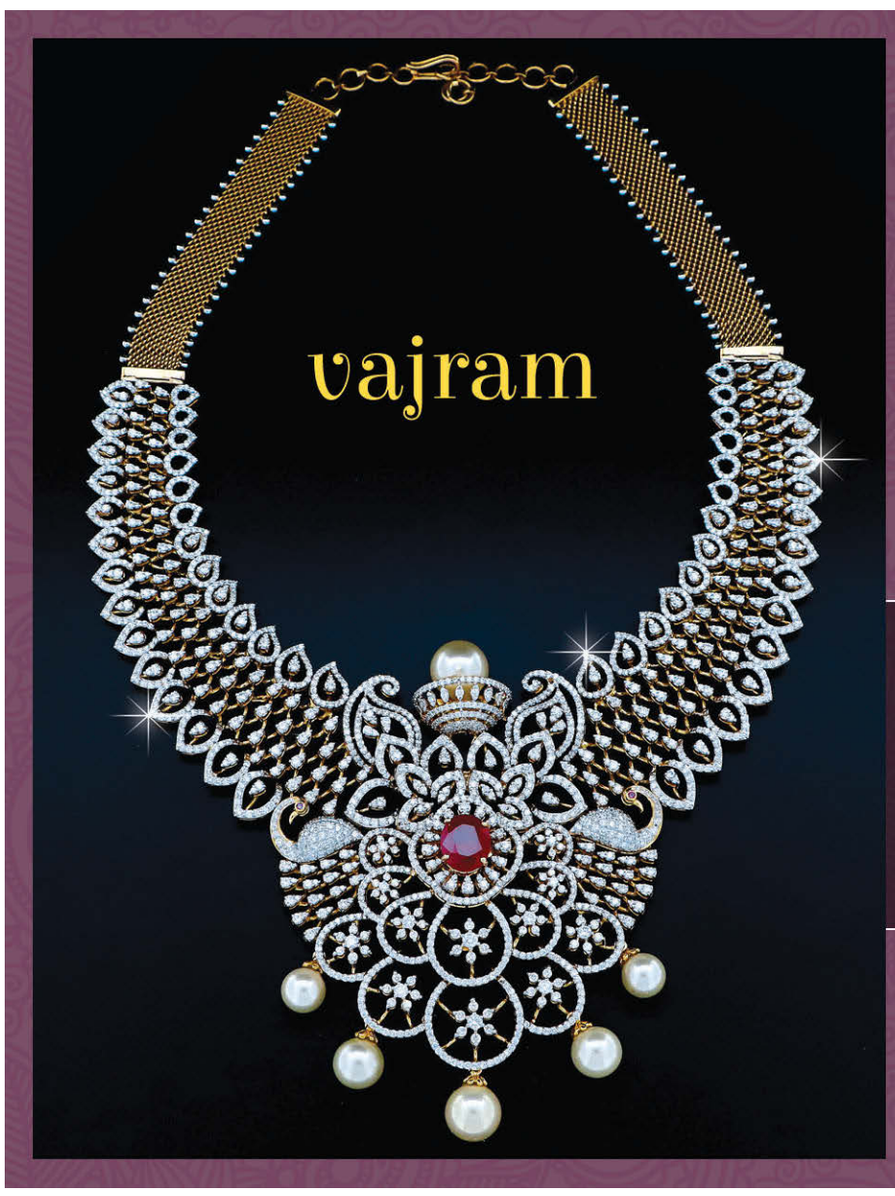
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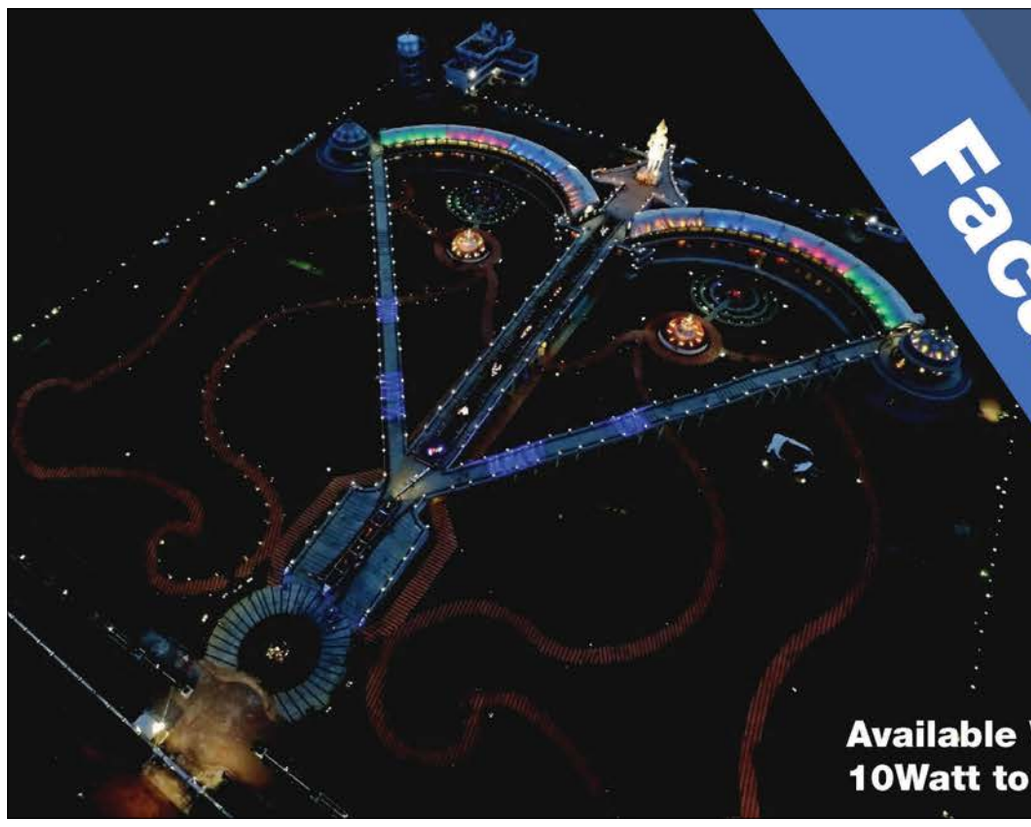

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Stern Warning

Stop trying to interfere in India's internal matter, Amarinder tells Pak minister Fawad Chaudhry

Hindu group tells SC, Lord Ram's birthplace itself is a deity

New Delhi, Aug. 13: The birth place of Lord Ram is also a deity and the Muslims cannot claim right over the 2.77-acre disputed land in Ayodhya as any division of the property would amount to "destruction" and "mutilation" of the deity itself, 'Ram Lalla Virajman' on Tuesday told the Supreme Court. The counsel for deity 'Ram Lalla Virajman was responding to a query posed by a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi that if Hindus and Muslims were jointly possessing the disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid site then how Muslims can be ousted.

"When property (*janmsthanam*) itself is the deity then the concept is that you cannot have the destruction, division or mutilation of deity. If the property is the deity then it will continue to remain as the deity and the mere fact that later a mosque came up does not make the deity itself divisible," the counsel for 'Ram Lalla Virajman' told the bench, also comprising Justices S. A. Bobde, D.Y. Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S.A. Nazeer.

Senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan, appearing for the deity, had started advancing the arguments on the fifth day of the hearing in the politically sensitive case.

"Place of birth of Lord Ram has become a deity by the faith of the people. The three-domed Babri mosque coming up in 1500s did not shake the faith in the sanctity and dignity of Hindus," he said.

The access was always contested but Hindus were never stopped worshipping, he said, adding, "There would be no death of a deity and hence, no question of succession of the deity".

Moreover, Muslims have not been able to prove that the mosque belonged to Babar, he said.

— PTI

NOW, MEWAR ROYAL FAMILY CLAIMS LINEAGE TO LORD RAM

Udaipur/Jaipur, Aug 13: After the erstwhile royal family of Jaipur, the former Mewar royal family and the Rajasthan transport minister have claimed they are the descendants of Lord Rama.

"It is historically proven that my family is direct descendants of Shree Ram. We do not wish to stake any claim on Ram Janmabhumi but believe that Temple must be built at in Ayodhya," Arvind Singh Mewar of the erstwhile royal family in Udaipur tweeted. *— PTI*

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DECCAN Chronicle
14 AUGUST 2019

Jaishankar, in Beijing, is forthright on Kashmir

The meeting of external affairs minister S. Jaishankar with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Beijing on Monday gave the impression of being another business day for the minister. His travel plans had been made before the critical constitutional changes made in respect of Jammu and Kashmir recently, and had several items on the agenda. Mr Jaishankar apparently made no direct reference to Kashmir. This is just as well. No matter how questionable the government's move on Kashmir — and it could have long-term implications that could influence the regional dynamics, besides having negative domestic consequences in Kashmir itself — it would not do for neighbours like China or Pakistan to act self-righteous.

As a world power, China has hardly lived up to its responsibilities regarding international or regional security, and also human rights. Mr Jaishankar as good as told Mr Wang Yi not to interfere in India's internal matters as New Delhi didn't comment on goings-on within China (although there is much to say). In contrast to the Jaishankar visit, Pakistan foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi landed in Beijing as a supplicant on Friday to urge the Chinese leadership to back Islamabad in taking the Kashmir matter to the UN Security Council. Will China support Islamabad? The jury is out on this, though the stand taken by Russia, a veto-wielding permanent member of the UNSC, that the Kashmir issue is "internal" to India, can't enthuse China or Pakistan.

Mr Jaishankar as good as told Mr Wang Yi not to interfere in India's internal matters as New Delhi didn't comment on goings-on within China (although there is much to say)

A useful thing for India to keep in mind is that Beijing is likely to cooperate very closely with Islamabad on the Afghan conundrum, which appears to be reaching a crucial stage. Washington too is expected to be solicitous of Pakistan. New Delhi must be diplomatically alert that these likely developments do not negatively impact India on Kashmir — in respect of which its actions have been reckless and unmindful of the democratic rights of the people of J&K - although Russia's stance provides some comfort.

In the aftermath of the changes in Kashmir effected by India recently, China had carelessly — no doubt in order to appease Pakistan, its "all-weather friend" — stated that making Ladakh a Union Territory affected its sovereignty. Mr Jaishankar politely informed the Chinese minister that this was balderdash as India's external boundaries had not changed, its position on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China remained unaltered, and that India was making no new territorial claims.

Being forthright in diplomacy is a good habit that India should inculcate in dealing with world powers. It was good to see the minister tell the Chinese side that the future of bilateral ties between the neighbours will depend on their being sensitive to each other's "core" concerns.

Win-win for India's biggest co

It's a win-win situation for India's richest man and his company. Given the scenario now, with most major industrialists facing debt/liquidity issues, Reliance Industries Ltd may have done a smart thing in selling a 20 per cent stake in its refining and petrochemical business, while also tying up with BP for the fuel retail business for close to $1 billion FDI. Saudi Aramco has a voracious appetite for India as it is a country where the consumption of the fossil fuel is rising. But Reliance's greater gain is the paring of its ballooning debt caused by the way the company disrupted the mobile telephony and Internet connectivity market with free services. The company brought about a paradigm shift in the way the average Indian uses his cellphone for entertainment and communication.

It's moot whether a rating downgrade for Reliance was the trigger for deals that were in the pipeline. What it may do is to smoothen the path for Reliance to be a game-changer in the home entertainment segment, where it could establish its dominance as it did in telecom by disrupting the existing business and turning the segment on its head with novel practices. With deep pockets, Jio Fiber is well placed to replicate the gathering of customers with deep discounts and freebies, and signing them up for life. The private sector behemoth's predatory pricing practices might be frowned upon, but the sheer imagination of attracting millions first is a revelation in terms of very old business acumen coupled with the harnessing of the most modern technology.

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Subhani



Naga talks hostage to developments in J&K



Bharat Bhushan

The constitutional backsliding that began in Jammu and Kashmir is unlikely to have only localised consequences. The subversion of the constitutional guarantees given to a state of the Indian Union appear "legal" because it has been approved by Parliament and it might even perhaps be accepted by the courts. However, there is no denying that it has led to a perceptible erosion of federalism and the worth of constitutional guarantees.

An immediate fallout of the removal of the special status of J&K will be on the Naga peace talks, making an early settlement difficult. The Centre is currently trying to renegotiate the nature of the federal relationship between the Nagas and the Union of India. Constitutionally guaranteed autonomy, which has been summarily denied to the people of J&K, is being promised in full measure to the Nagas.

At issue is not just the future of Article 371A. Any settlement reached with the Nagas will lead to a modification of Article 371A. However, if it is to be credible, the new constitutional provision will have to be immune from abrogation unilaterally by Parliament.

At the centre of the negotiation are two issues — a new federal arrangement or the special status of Nagaland and Naga-inhabited areas recognising the "unique history and situation" of the Nagas; and the irrevocability of the settlement reached.

The Nagas claim that they were never a part of India by consent, conquest or accession. They mark their "difference" with India by celebrating Independence Day on August 14, a day before India does. This is to make the point that they cannot be claimed by India as a legacy of the British colonial power.

When the negotiations began with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) in 1997, initially, the Naga insurgent leaders wanted complete sovereignty. Subsequently they de-escalated this demand to propose that India and Nagaland should become "two nations inseparably bound" (in negotiations on January 21 2003 in New Delhi and again on May 23, 2003 in Bangkok).

Finally, they decided to seek a "special federal relationship" with India in their letter of April 1, 2004. In a framework agreement signed between NSCN (I-M) and the Centre on August 4, 2015, the two sides agreed on three broad issues — One, that the Naga situation was unique; implying that any settlement with the Nagas would not be predicated on what was done with other states or with other demands for autonomy. Two, that sovereignty would be defined by a clear sharing of powers between the Centre and the Naga people — meaning that while the Naga people remained sovereign, the exercising of sovereignty demanded that the State, Union and Concurrent Lists of the Indian Constitution be redistributed. And three, that the two sides would seek a mutually acceptable and peacefully negotiated solution.

It is the nature of the proposed sharing of competencies in the Union, State and Concurrent Lists of the Constitution which is the crux of the negotiations. In a sense, what has been taken away from the people of J&K is being sought to be given to the Nagas by negotiating the extent of autonomy they can enjoy while being a part of the Indian Union. Even if the main interlocutors of the Nagas, the leaders of the NSCN (I-M), were to come to some sort of a settlement with the Centre, they may find it difficult to sell it to their constituency in the wake of the developments in Kashmir.

There are two other issues on which the Nagas are unwilling to give up — a separate flag and a separate constitution. These proposals have also received a setback after the developments in J&K. Those who imagine India to be a unitary state cannot countenance such demands. A separate and official Naga flag seems out of the question, especially if the NSCN (I-M's flag is adopted, bearing as it does the Star of David, which underlines the Christian majority of the Naga areas.

As for the constitution, there can hardly be a separate Naga constitution without convening a Naga Constituent Assembly. This is not something that a government in New Delhi would like, especially now. The NSCN (I-M) proposal that the agreement between the Nagas and the Centre itself be designated the Naga Constitution (called Yehzabo) and incorporated in the Indian Constitution again poses some serious problems. The peace accord would have to be adopted as the nominal Constitution of the Nagas by a representative body of the citizens of the Naga-inhabited areas. Can the government allow the convening of such a de facto Naga Constituent Assembly? Can the Nagaland Assembly assume the role of such a body? How will the Nagas in the adjoining states have any say in according the peace agreement the status of the Naga Constitution?

There can hardly be a separate Naga constitution without convening a Naga Constituent Assembly. This is not something that a government in New Delhi would like, especially now.

What could further complicate the protracted negotiations is also the role of the chief Indian negotiator, R.N. Ravi, recently promoted as governor of Nagaland. After the assurances that J&K governor Satya Pal Malik was giving to Kashmiri leaders even on the eve of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A proved false, no one is going to believe the word of a governor.

Already, the NSCN (I-M) has written a letter to the Prime Minister wondering why they were being asked to negotiate with the governor of Nagaland when one of the three primary commitments of the two sides for starting the negotiations was that the talks will be at the Prime Minister's level — the other two were they would be without any preconditions and that they would be held in a third country, a provision the Naga leaders agreed to change once they decided to return to India from exile.

The Nagas rightly claim that the governor is a representative of the President of India and reports to him through the Union home ministry. Constitutionally, he can no longer claim to be the Prime Minister's emissary for the talks, which will now also have to wait as the Nagas rethink their political future.

The writer is a journalist based in New Delhi

LETTERS

GREAT WORK

Special kudos to your representatives Yusuf Jameel and Vikram Sharma who must have faced plentiful barricades and threats in order to present the true picture in J&K. When all the media is toeing the official line, it is a breath of fresh air to see some people are following the true journalistic traditions.

Abbas Tyabji
Hyderabad

SHOCKING STAND

It is shocking to hear some politicians speak. Following the decision on scrapping Article 370 for Jammu and Kashmir, some BJP leaders seem to have had only one thing on their mind — getting married to "fair and beautiful" *(Kashmir now open to bring brides: Khattar)*. Such statements by those in high constitutional offices reinforces the notions of a patriarchal society.

Vani A.
Secunderabad

IRRESPONSIBLE

Former ministers P. Chidambaram and Mani Shankar Ayiar are making irresponsible statements only to provoke Muslims of both Kashmir and those in the rest of India *(BJP used muscle power in J&K: PC, Aug. 13)*. Both the leaders cannot be unaware of the fact that the rampant infiltration by terrorists from Pakistan into J&K and the huge avoidable cost of Central subsidies to that state have forced the Centre's hand.

K. Srinivasa Charyulu
Hyderabad

THAT WAS MGR

It was heartening to learn that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao took time to go the residence of one of the best directors, K. Vishwanath and honoured him. Vishwanath said Mr Rao was the second CM to visit him at his residence after M.G. Ramachandran (MGR). MGR had helped many artistes notably director K. Balachander, playback singer S.P. Balasubramaniam and Manjula, to mention a few but one hardly hears them mentioning that aspect. That is why Vishwanath is different

T.M. Uday Shankar
Hyderabad.

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Stephen Fielding

Lib Dems eye a bigger prize than blocking no-deal Brexit

Politicians determined to prevent a no-deal Brexit are locked in a Mexican standoff. If Boris Johnson cannot command a Commons majority, Jo Swinson has made it clear that under no circumstances will Liberal Democrats support a caretaker Jeremy Corbyn-led Labour government. John McDonnell has indicated that Labour will not back a temporary national unity government under an as-yet unnamed backbench MP. With Parliament in recess we are in the realm of second-guessing what might happen next.

When MPs return to Westminster, Boris Johnson might win a vote of confidence. But even if he loses, the Prime Minister could possibly engineer a general election to subvert the cunning plans of the no-no dealers.

The war of words now being waged between Lib Dems and Labour's Corbyn leadership might therefore turn out to be moot. But whatever the future holds, this dispute is not inconsequential. It reveals that, despite everything they say, there is something more important at stake than preventing a no-deal Brexit.

For the ultimate prize coveted by Swinson and Corbyn is the right to lead the Opposition to the Conservatives and — who knows? — come out the victor after the election everybody assumes will be held this autumn. This is the prize Liberals took for granted until the 1920s since which time it has been Labour's to hold aloft. But is it about to change hands once more?

Historians once debated whether Labour's rise and the Liberals' fall was inevitable. Some argued that in the Edwardian period a new reformist Liberalism had integrated Labour within a "progressive alliance". They claimed that had the First World War not split Liberals between supporters of David Lloyd George and the man he supplanted as coalition Prime Minister, party leader Herbert Asquith, centre-left politics would have taken a different shape. It was Liberal division that allowed Labour to become a fully independent national party. Other historians however contend that this was irrelevant. Britain was a class society with an increasingly powerful trade union movement: Labour's displacement of the Liberals was inescapable.

Perhaps both were wrong. For the truly fateful period was immediately after the collapse of the Lloyd George coalition in 1922, following which came a period of intense three-party competition with four elections held between 1922 and 1929. In such circumstances, ones much like our own just now, the first-past-the-post electoral system was like the national lottery: three relatively evenly matched parties meant the outcome of these contests was uncertain.

So far as whether the Liberals or Labour prevailed as the Conservatives' main opponent, the most critical of these was the election of 1923. Despite still being at loggerheads, the Liberals won 29.7 per cent of the vote and 158 seats: they held the balance of power between the Conservatives and Labour.

Asquith might have attempted to form a minority Liberal government; support the Conservatives, who had lost seats; or back Labour, which had gained ground. His party's strength lay in rural and suburban areas but it still enjoyed an important foothold in working-class districts: all was still to play for.

But Asquith took the path which the historian Roy Douglas described as: "the most disastrous single action ever performed by a Liberal towards his party" by joining with Labour in a vote of no confidence against the Conservative government. This led the King to call for Ramsay MacDonald, as leader of the second biggest party, to form an administration. If the Labour government lasted just a few months, Asquith's decision did irreparable damage to his party: the 1924 election saw the Liberals reduced to 40 seats. Labour was now unquestionably the second party of government, a position it has retained — until, perhaps, 2019.

Lib Dems have Corbyn's mishandling of Brexit to thank for their resurgence, one that saw them overtake Labour in the recent European elections, a position opinion polls suggest they have consolidated. If Swinson has a few critical decisions to make she has already made one by describing Corbyn as "not only dangerous for our national security but for our economic security too". It is unlikely that she will follow the same path as Asquith and ever put a Corbyn-led Labour party into power.

But unless the Lib Dems command a Commons majority, after the next election her choices are limited, and all are risky. If Asquith's decision to back Labour hurt his party, taking the Lib Dems into coalition with the Conservatives did not prove one of Nick Clegg's brighter ideas. But while Swinson faces some tricky decisions, she at least leads a united party. Corbyn's Labour is, in contrast, hardly harmonious. Indeed, her opposition to Corbyn personally — rather than Labour as a party — is probably intended to encourage some of his MPs to jump ship.

Corbyn can also not rely on class sentiment to ensure he prevails over the Lib Dems. If some historians believe that was the force behind Labour's rise and the Liberals fall, political scientists now tell us party affiliations are in flux. History never repeats itself, either as tragedy or farce, but looking back to the 1920s suggests that the fate of our political parties can sometimes rest on the key decisions of a few men — and women. Over to you Jo.

By arrangement with the ***Spectator***

A Greek tragedy: Is that how the Congress ends?



Shikha Mukerjee

There is nothing remotely amusing watching the Congress Party enact a Greek tragedy, totally unaware that it is doing so. It is, today, a disaster as it has no clue of what it should do next, under the present political circumstances.

It was the party in power at the Centre for almost all its existence. It was a platform and it worked to steer the behemoth down the middle. There were pro- and anti-factions; there were prominent leaders like Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the Jan Sangh's founder, and a contingent, routinely identified as socialists, among whom was Mohan Kumaramanglam. When the great leaders of the freedom movement, starting with the zero point one generation, down to the last of the lot, wrote the Constitution and set up the first government, it worked for a consensus, and struggled to reach it between polar opposites pulling the party in different directions.

However unsatisfactory the policies of a government by consensus with its endless machinations to please the Right and Left, the orthodox and the progressive, there was no doubt that the Congress could mean many things to many sections of the population. It could, then, include people with contradictory principles. The outcomes were nevertheless far-reaching; a mixed and muddled economy, which has revealed surprising strength, policies that set the course on how public goods and services should be a core of governance and a push me-pull you secularism.

The reappointment of Sonia Gandhi, albeit interim, as party president is an outstanding example of what a consensus ought not to be. A review of how the Congress handled leadership choices in the past - — Jawaharlal Nehru versus Subhas Chandra Bose, for instance — is pointless. The party doesn't have leaders like them anymore. It does not have sacrificial lambs like Pattabhi Sitaramayya, who was Mahatma Gandhi's candidate against Subhas Bose, after Maulana Azad and Nehru dropped out.

Cowardice and complacency are the distinguishing features of the Congress as a party these days. It has leaders who dare not take any responsibility for fear that it would damage their own careers and the party, more than it is already damaged.

Cowardice and complacency are the distinguishing features of the Congress as a party these days. It has leaders who dare not take any responsibility for fear that it would damage their own careers and the party, more than it is already damaged. Complacency, tantamount to suicide, is all-pervasive. The Congress, as a party, not an agglomeration of leaders, has no ideas about itself vis-a-vis its past, its purpose vis-a-vis its present, and its strategy vis-a-vis its future. The Congress mouths words loaded with meaning like democracy and the Constitution and foundational values, but when the push comes to shove, its leaders, primarily the younger ones, are unsure. The disgraceful spectacle of younger leaders quibbling about Article 370 and Article 35A as indeed dispensable, but not in the way that the BJP got rid of the provisions, reveals that these are not people of substance.

The current purpose of the Congress is to be a lousy bogeyman for the BJP, so that it can continue its ridiculous exercises in publicly measuring its decisive actions in contrast to the "ineffectual" and dishonourable leadership that ruled India for "70 years". Legislating corrections by reducing the state of Jammu and Kashmir to Union territory status, and temporarily (sic!) abrogating fundamental rights, or the chaotic identification of citizens in Assam can only be justified vis-a-vis the past.

The essential requirement of an Opposition, distinct and different, in an electoral democracy, which is also a republic, is the BJP's problem. Dressed in a shroud of its own and the BJP's making, the Congress is being used. It seems to have no idea of how it can stop the BJP from doing so; a Shivraj Singh Chouhan, defeated as chief minister by the Congress in an election, feels emboldened to take potshots at the party.

The BJP's legitimacy as the truly representative party of India hinges on the existence of the Opposition. Without the Congress as the Opposition, the BJP's credibility as an overdue efficient and futuristic waste disposal machine is jeopardised. To legitimise its trashing of due process, the BJP needs the Congress as much as it needs the smaller regional parties, who have at various times been its partner and hailed for their sagacity in teaming up.

The decimation of the Congress and the regional parties, and the further decimation of the Left, is a political risk for the BJP. Its ideology and its policies need the parties of the Left and the middle as a countervailing force so that it can continue to rearrange institutions and the Constitution and defend its actions.

The fragmentation of the central space in Indian politics is part of the BJP's dilemma. Regional parties, that once defined themselves as anti-Congress and more representative of the excluded and non-elite categories are neither here nor there in ideological terms. These parties are today anti-Congress sometimes, anti-Congress and anti-BJP sometimes, anti-BJP sometimes and locked in intense local rivalries all the time. Regional parties are neither politically and ideologically progressive nor regressive. Nor are they a stable collective to make them a viable Opposition for a party that is the biggest in the world, in the number of members it has enrolled and the massive fortress it has constructed to visually affirm its power and its presence.

Every time a leader of the old, decrepit Congress or for that matter a regional party attempts to be nimble and jump to avoid being burnt for past political and governance indiscretions or incompetence, the BJP wins another point. Its popularity rises proportionately. Every time the Congress, the Left and the regional parties critique the BJP, they negotiate a political minefield of voter sensitivities that cover imagined or real past injuries.

Every nuanced formulation from any of the Opposition parties becomes so messy that it makes no sense pitted against the simple certainties of the BJP's political message, which is a composite of four principal elements — saviour of the nation and all things Hindu, whatever that means; saviour of the poor and the marginalised from the corrupt, be it regional parties or the Congress; promoter of development, ending unemployment, advancing education, providing healthcare and creating business opportunity; and the only force that can deliver unto India its destiny as the leader on the global stage. In order to measure its progress, the BJP needs to have a yardstick; the Congress is the best and the easiest.

And, the Congress seems to have reconciled itself to being just that, because it has no appetite for risk and no passion for politics.

The writer is a senior journalist in Kolkata

What the economy needs now



Mohan Guruswamy

It is commonly accepted that the national economy is in dire straits. We are not sure at what rate it is now growing. But one thing we know for sure, that is we have fewer and fewer new jobs, investment has slowed down to a trickle and that something is seriously amiss. The title above is of a book, which is a compilation of prescriptions by some of our most distinguished economists called "What the Economy Needs Now", might have been just the clutch of straws for us to hang on to. The book has been edited by a collection of blue-riband economists headed by Raghuram Rajan, Gita Gopalan, Abhijit Banerjee and Mihir Sharma of ORF. The first three in particular are names that will add lustre to any marquee.

There are in all 14 prescriptions, and each one of them is by a shining star of India's economic and policy firmament. Each prescription is short, to the point and addresses the issue of concern directly. It covers all our concerns. But is this the book that Narendra Modi needs to read? Particularly since each chapter is organised with precise brevity. But I wonder if the immediate implementation of these prescriptions will solve our problems?

The problem with short prescriptions is that they are inevitably trite. What is being prescribed is well known. Like paracetamol for a flu. Take for instance the prescription for healthcare by Abhijit Banerjee. There is nothing new in what he suggests, save for the idea that we need to build a new district hospital in every district to parallel the existing ones. I agree the old district hospitals are now mostly beyond redemption and gradually need to be shut down. This is just about the only new policy idea I could spot in what the doctors prescribe.

In a book that features such luminescent names, I would have expected more. For instance, either Raghuram Rajan or Gita Gopalan could have addressed the issue of declining capital expenditures and how the government could reverse the trend. We now have a system that mostly takes care of itself leaving the poor people of India to take the hindmost. That is the problem with the book. When it doesn't grapple with some big issues, what it suggests is mostly anodyne.

Agriculture is still the mainstay of employment. Neelkanth Mishra starts well by letting us know that way back in 1880 the Indian Famine Commission "had observed that India had too many people cultivating too little land". This about encapsulates the current situation also. While as a percentage farmers and farm workers have reduced as a part of the workforce, in absolute terms they have almost tripled since 1947. This has led to a permanent depression in comparative wages, but has also led to a decline in per farmer production due to fragmentation of holdings. The average farm size is now less than an acre and it keeps further fragmenting every generation. The beggaring of the farming community is inevitable. The only solution to this is the massive redirection of the workforce into less skilled vocations such as construction.

But Mishra misses this entirely. Neither does he mention the

The contribution of agriculture to GDP has declined to around 13 per cent while the number of people still dependent on it remains at 60 per cent of the population. In 1947, the share of agriculture was about 70 per cent of GDP.

fact that almost two-thirds of farmlands in India are rain-fed and increasingly dependent on tubewells for irrigation. Free power has led to uncontrolled extraction of aquifer water and wasteful use. Massive water harvesting is the answer, but there is hardly any government in our villages, so who will undertake the job of getting the tens of thousands of water harvesting structures built?

There is another aspect to this reality: to see how the contribution of agriculture to GDP has declined to around 13 per cent while the number of people still dependent on it remains at about 60 per cent of the population. In 1947, the share of agriculture was about 70 per cent of GDP. The growing regional disparities further compound the widening urban and rural disparities.

The late Sharad Joshi, who founded the Shetkari Sanghtana, the farmers' organisation based in Maharashtra, was a UN bureaucrat before he returned to rural Chakan near Pune hoping to enjoy a pastoral life, assisted by an UN pension. He bought a farm and then for years tried to extract a living income from the soil. His experiments with rural life led him to understand the disparities that plague the rural and urban sectors. He discovered that the rural economy was still being exploited and savings were extracted from it by adverse terms of trade.

He also discovered that the experiments in nationalism such as a reversion to a regional language were only confined to rural areas, where the state provided education still is mostly in the vernacular. To convey this to his large following of farmers he explained it very pithily and with stark imagery. He said the struggle was between Bharat and India.

Never before has the Bharat and India divide been more vivid. Our social scientists are still unable to fix a handle to this as the class, cultural and ethnic divides still eludes a neat theoretical construct. Yet there can be little disagreement that there are two broad parts to this gigantic country, and one part is being left behind.

India is where we see the instruments of government such as the police, some local government and the many administrative arms of our government. It is in Bharat that the vestiges of government mostly disappear. The nerve ends of our public administration don't reach down to the millions of villages and localities of rural India. Where is the government when plastic choked drains are to be cleaned? Where is the government when a leaky tap or hand pump is to be fixed? Where is the government when a fused light bulb is to be changed? Who will empty the tens of thousands of new septic tanks as a result of Swachchh Bharat? As a matter of fact, in most of our villages there is no government presence at all, save for the occasional schoolteacher at the village school.

It is very clear now that one country, India, has been moving and doing well. Bharat is being left behind. Indeed, so well is India doing that an Oxfam study revealed that that as much as 73 per cent of growth in the past five years accrued to just one per cent of the population. This doesn't mean it is just the tycoons of Mumbai and New Delhi who are cornering the gains. The government now employs close to 25 million persons, and these have now become a high-income enclave. The number of persons in the private and organised sector is about another 10 million. In all this, the high-income enclave numbers not more than 175-200 million (using the thumb rule of five per family). Much of the consumption we tend to laud is restricted to just these.

The challenge is now to expand this high-wages enclave. This is easier said than done, when we realise that over four-fifths of the labour force is in the unorganised sector and the vast majority of these are unskilled and uneducated. Income transfer schemes will only put many of these in the consumption loop, but without addressing the problem of low productivity that blights the economy.

But who will carry the required development to the people? Realising that the government doesn't extend very much beyond the tarmac connecting the towns of India, every Prime Minister since Rajiv Gandhi had made the reform of public administration his number one priority. Yet our economists and social scientists generally tend to ignore this aspect of the national challenge — how to get better government, or as Narendra Modi pithily coined it, less government and better governance?

The challenge of bridging this gap is our biggest policy task. So one would have thought that when a over a dozen top economists come together to write prescriptions for our national ills, they would point to the nature of the regime inherited from the colonial era as being a major impediment. But there is not a single para in this book that addresses it. It has for long been a maxim of public administration that the nature of the regime determines outcomes. We can have no real prescriptions for our many conditions without addressing this..

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.

The Acropolis: Then and now



Taki

I am struggling up the slippery marble steps of the Acropolis with the Geldofs and the Bismarcks. We gaze upwards towards the façade of the Parthenon, whose simplicity has excited architects and conquerors for 2,000 years. There are no straight lines, everything curving upwards towards the centre. The whole structure tilts slightly towards the west end, the side you first see as you arrive, hot and winded. Yet every column seems perfectly straight, an optical illusion as real as the glory that once was Athens.

The crowds are shabby and rather ugly — fat people speaking Spanish or Chinese, their children munching candy and ignoring the most beautiful structure ever built by man. The Parthenon's subtleties are many: it arches, leans, swells and breathes. It also served as a place to make love in when I was a youngster. (It was open to the public but there were no tourists back then. Under the Athenian moonlight, mild breezes blowing, you had to be really gauche with women not to get lucky.)

Phidias, the man who oversaw the Acropolis project, was a friend of Pericles, and the gold plates, with which he covered the gown of the statue of the virgin goddess Athena, were worth about 25 million bucks in today's moolah. (They were sold in no time to pay for mercenaries.) The tiny Winged Victory temple is as beautiful as they come, desecrated long ago by the hated Turks. The Venetian Morosini fired on the sacred site in 1687, as horrible an act as there is — and he was supposed to be civilised.

As Geldof expounds his theories and wonders how the Athenians, who prided themselves on their cultural superiority, passed down their wisdom, he suddenly changes tack and tells us about a popular quiz programme for morons. When the panel is asked what Hitler's first name was "Paddy hits the button first and blurts out 'Heil'." All five of us collapse in laughter, but then it's back to culture.

When Byron first came here in 1810, Athens had 10,000 denizens. The poet was at once buoyed in spirit but depressed by the ruins he saw. He launched a bitter attack against Elgin for his 'vandalism', calling him a plunderer and a grave robber. Byron would ride east to Sounion and admire the Temple of Poseidon and its Doric columns, taking about eight hours each way. It now takes an hour by car and four hours if you sail. "*Place me on Sounion's marbled steep,/ Where nothing, save the waves and I,/ May hear our mutual murmurs sweep.*" He was 22 and had 14 years to live, dying in Missolonghi in 1824 after his return to Greece. "*For standing on a Persian's grave,/ I cannot deem myself a slave.*"

While lost in Byronic thoughts, I noticed three redheaded young women speaking with American accents and taking selfies as they posed in a stripper's come-on manner. I approached them with Leopold Bismarck and introduced myself as a morality policeman safeguarding sacred grounds from foreign sacrilege. I've never seen three more terrorised beings. "This is simply a warning," I said. "The Acropolis is not a strip joint." They breathed easier and were about to thank me when I told them I was a simple tourist like them and was pulling their leg. They got angry and left rather abruptly. Bolle thought it quite funny. I wonder what Byron would have made of it?

Greece for me is territorial, but for many foreigners it is cultural and artistic. Hellenistic culture lasted until the final triumph of Christianity around 500 ad. It was both universal and centred on the individual. Every time I ascend that sacred rock, I go ape about my Greekness. It's a strange thing. It is not necessary to become Roman to understand Julius Caesar. But to understand Aristotle is, in a small way, to become a Greek thinker. But how does a person achieve wisdom? That is a Socratic question. It has to do with the spirit. How does one become good? That was a Platonic question. Easy, says the ancient philosopher Taki. One cannot, at least according to Plato. Until Jesus Christ came along, that is. See what I mean when I say that Hellenism was over when Christianity came along.

As all Greek-speaking readers know, one shows respect by addressing someone in the second-person plural. The singular is used either when you speak to people you are extremely familiar with, or in order to show lack of esteem. When one of the housekeepers on the island asked me how the mother of my children was, in the plural, I replied that I had left my wife and was now looking for a younger one. The housekeeper looked appalled and said to me in the singular: "You're an idiot." When I told Alexandra this, she said that Eleni, the housekeeper, was a very wise woman with good taste. (One can't win against these females.)

On my last night in Athens, I sat up on a roof with the Geldofs and Bismarcks and reminisced about a great week that ended among the ruins of the Acropolis. I am now a ruin also.

By arrangement with the ***Spectator***

Are people afraid of freedom?



Amrit Sadhana

Posing this question at a time of a great hullabaloo of celebrations will sound weird but pondering deeply you begin to see the finer layers of truth in it. Freedom is such an exalted idea that everyone gets excited just by the thought of it, the heart flutters its wings and wants to fly high in the sky. But a romantic idea is very different from hard reality. Freedom is a fireball. If it comes to people, there are very few who are willing to burn their hands and hold it.

Then the question is, what is freedom? There are two kinds of freedom: negative freedom and positive freedom. The negative is much easier because in it you have to fight with an outside enemy, the torturer who has enslaved you. The whole being revolts against this situation and wants to get free. And when this is done, they end up with a huge responsibility of maintaining the freedom and evolving vertically, positively, not only themselves, but take the whole multitude in the higher direction. How many are capable of it?

Osho's insight into the human mind is stupendous. He observes that unconsciously, people prefer to throw their responsibility on someone. Even the responsibility for his evolution! They try to escape from the responsibility of freedom, of making a choice. Therefore, there is a great fear of freedom. When you are a slave, the responsibility for your life is never yours. So, in a way, slavery is a very comfortable thing. There is no burden. In this respect, slavery is a kind of freedom from conscious choice. It is scary to make your own choices. No one forces you to do anything; all alternatives are open to you. Then the struggle with the mind begins. So, one becomes afraid of freedom. But if you really want to evolve to your highest potential, it is only possible if you take individual responsibility. Accept that you alone are responsible. This responsibility is a great blessing in disguise.

MYSTIC Mantra

Osho's message for any independent nation is: Accept responsibility for yourself, because only then will you become free. If you can admit that this hell you are in is your choice, that no one else is responsible for it, then you have become free!

***Amrit Sadhana** is editor of Osho Times International. She facilitates meditation workshops*

Sino-Soviet troops clash on Sinkiang border

MOSCOW, August 13.

SOVIET and Chinese troops battled on the Sinkiang border today and each side accused the other of provoking the clash.An unspecified number of soldiers was reported killed. The Soviet Union also reported it had detained two Chinese officers.

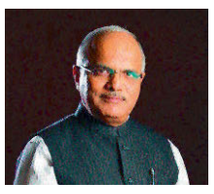
50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

This was the first time since open fighting broke out on the 4,500-mile Sino-Soviet border last March that the Soviets have reported the capture of any prisoners.

Both countries announced they had sent protests over this latest border incident to the corresponding Embassies in Peking and Moscow.

The Soviet report of the fighting said soldiers were killed and injured, but did not specify from which side.

China charged that several hundred Soviet troops, under cover of two helicopters, invaded Sinkiang and there were many Chinese casualties.



India was never a theocratic state and can never be one

— Vinay Sahasrabuddhe
President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations

US Congressman says sorry for letter on J&K

■ Not consulting Indian-Americans a mistake, says Suozzi

Washington, Aug 13: In an unprecedented move, a senior US Congressman has apologised to Indian Americans for not consulting them before shooting off a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to express his concerns on the situation in Kashmir after India scrapped the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Congressman Tom Suozzi in a letter to Pompeo on August 9 said the action by the Indian government in Kashmir "risks provoking mass social unrest..."

"These new restrictions on the autonomy of the state and the rights of Kashmiris could also embolden extremists and terrorists to act," Suozzi said in his letter after India scrapped Article 370 of the Constitution that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the state into two Union Territories.

Agitated over the letter, several Indian Americans, who constitute a significant part of Suozzi's Congressional District in New York and had played a key role in his election and fund raising, flooded the office of the Congressman with angry messages.

Suozzi called an emergency meeting of Indian Americans, which was attended by more than 100 Indian community members, who demanded the lawmaker to withdraw his letter.

Suozzi in a statement said, "On Sunday, I met with 100 of my Indian-American constituents regarding my recent letter to Secretary Pompeo expressing my concerns about recent developments in Kashmir."

"Based upon my meeting it is clear that it was a mistake to not consult with some of my Indian-American friends and supporters before I sent the letter. I should have. I am sorry. If I had met with them before sending the letter, I would have framed my concerns differently, Suozzi said.

He said that throughout his career in public service, he has been an ardent supporter of India, their sovereignty, and have always stood with them in their fight against terrorism.

The US-India relationship will be one of the most important over the next 50 years and beyond, he said, adding that he has spent his time in Congress promoting and elevating this relationship and will continue to do so.

"India, the world's largest democracy, remains critical for regional security and peace. The current situation in Kashmir presents some very serious challenges. The US should seek to be helpful in securing safety and peace for all people, Suozzi said. Moving forward, I will make sure to solicit the input of all of my constituents who have a vested interest in Kashmir and work towards a peaceful region," Suozzi said.

Indian Americans said this was a statement in the right direction, and sought a follow up letter from him to Pompeo. It is a statement in right direction, said Jagdish Sewhani, President of the American India Public Affairs Committee. —*PTI*

'YOU ARE A THIEF, DON'T DESERVE TO REPRESENT PAK': MALEEHA LODHI GETS HECKLED BY PAKISTANI MAN

New York, Aug 13: Maleeha Lodhi, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, was seen heckled, in a purported video, by a man here claiming to be a Pakistani.

In the video circulating online, Lodhi was seen evading questions based by the man during an interaction with the media.

When Lodhi was leaving from the event, the man heckled her and shouted, "from last 15-20 years, what are you doing?" He then shouted loudly "I have a question for you."

When he was asked to stop recording by the people present at the event, the man said, "I'm not going to stop recording. It is not against the law. I am asking her a question. I am a Pakistani." When Pakistan's top diplomat at the UN refused to answer, the man heckled her and said "did not deserve to represent Pakistan."

However, the authenticity of the video could not be ascertained. There was no official response from Lodhi and the Pakistani mission. —*PTI*



A protester shows a placard to stranded travelers during a demonstration at the Airport in Hong Kong on Tuesday —*AP*

Hong Kong airport shuts down for 2nd day in row

■ Operations resumed on Tuesday but hundreds of flights were cancelled even before the fresh afternoon action caused further chaos.

Hong Kong, Aug 13: Pro-democracy protesters blocked passengers at Hong Kong's airport Tuesday, causing further travel chaos a day after triggering an unprecedented shutdown and defying the city's leader who had warned against heading down a "path of no return".

The new rally came as Beijing sent further ominous signals that the 10 weeks of unrest must end, with state-run media showing videos of security forces gathering across the border.

The crisis, which has seen millions of people take to Hong Kong's streets, has become the biggest challenge to Chinese rule of the semi-autonomous city since its 1997 handover from Britain.

Hong Kong's pro-Beijing leader, Carrie Lam, gave an at-times emotional press conference on Tuesday morning in which she warned of dangerous consequences if escalating violence was not curbed.

"Violence, no matter if it's using violence or condoning violence, will push Hong Kong down a path of no return," Lam said.

But a few hours after her press conference, thousands of protesters returned to Hong Kong airport with many sitting down in front of security gates at the departure hall.

"I want to shut down the airport just like yesterday so most of the departure flights will be cancelled," a 21-year-old student who gave his surname as Kwok told at the rally.

The protesters set up a long barricade made of luggage trolleys at one of the main security gates, then stood up to block passengers who sought to get through.

On Monday a crowd that police said numbered 5,000 filled Hong Kong's airport to denounce what they said were violent tactics by police in trying to quell weekend rallies.

Hong Kong's airport authorities in response cancelled all flights on Monday afternoon.

Operations resumed on Tuesday morning but hundreds of flights were cancelled even before the fresh afternoon action caused further chaos.

TRAVELLERS BACK PRO-DEMOCRACY DEMONSTRATORS

Hong Kong, Aug 13: Travellers in Hong Kong's airport voiced support for pro-democracy demonstrators on Tuesday, despite an overnight occupation of the international transit hub that saw tens of thousands of passengers stranded.

The airport, one of the busiest in the world, reopened on Tuesday morning but hundreds of flights remained cancelled and several hundred protesters returned for a fresh rally on Tuesday afternoon.

Monday's abrupt closure came 10 weeks into a crisis that has seen millions of people take to Hong Kong's streets in the biggest challenge to Chinese rule of the semi-autonomous city since its 1997 handover from Britain.

"It may affect me, but I know what they are doing and I support them so it doesn't matter, said 27-year-old advertising worker Mag Mak, whose flight back home to Hong Kong from Dubai was delayed by five hours. —*AFP*

IN BRIEF

Italy senators in talks to save govt

Rome: Italian senators will on Tuesday try to hammer out agreement on a possible no-confidence vote in Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's government after far-right leader Matteo Salvini pulled the plug on the teetering coalition. Senators have been recalled at the height of the holiday season after the heads of political groupings in the house on Monday failed to agree on a timetable for the vote demanded by Interior Minister Salvini. He called last week for swift elections after withdrawing the support of his anti-immigration League party from an acrimonious alliance with the anti-establishment Five Star Movement plunging the country into turmoil.

Iran in touch with Britain over tanker

Tehran: Iran's port authority said Tuesday it has been in contact with British authorities as part of efforts to secure the release of a tanker seized off Gibraltar. Gibraltar -- a British overseas territory -- seized the Grace 1 supertanker on July 4 with the help of British Royal Marines on suspicion it was shipping oil to Syria in violation of EU sanctions. A court in Gibraltar is to decide the fate of the ship on Thursday, when order for its detention lapses. The deputy head of Iran's port authority, Jalil Eslami, said Britain had shown an interest in solving the problem and documents had been exchanged.

Ex-cop jailed for abusing minors

Singapore: An Indian-origin former national serviceman with the Singapore Police Force was sentenced to two years' jail on Tuesday for preying on underage girls online and involving them in sexual acts. A.R. Arun Prashanth, 25, committed sexual acts on three of his five victims who were then aged 12 to 15, and was found to have snapped more than 700 upskirt photos of unknown women with his mobile phone, the *Straits Times* reported. On July 31, Arun, who is now jobless, had pleaded guilty to one count each of sexually penetrating a minor, performing an obscene act on her and procuring the commission of an obscene act by another underage girl.

MAN ON KNIFE RAMPAGE KILLS ONE IN SYDNEY

Melbourne, Aug. 13: A knife-wielding man shouting "Allahu Akbar" on Tuesday went on a stabbing rampage in Sydney's busy central business district, allegedly killing one woman and injuring another before he was overpowered by passersby with a chair.

The attacker has been identified as 21-year-old Mert Ney and is said to have a history of mental illness. Police said the incident was currently not classified as a terror act.

Australian TV channels showed the attacker running through the King Street with a large kitchen knife yelling Allahu Akbar (God is Great).

The attacker, who was seen jumping on the bonnet and roof of a Mercedes, stabbed a 41-year-old woman passing on the street in the back before he was held down with chairs and a milk crate by onlookers, police said.

Paramedics found the woman with a stab wound taking refuge in a nearby hotel.

Later, police said they found the body of a 21-year-old woman, believed to have been an acquaintance of the detained suspect, inside an apartment near the crime site. Officers confirmed that the death was linked to the ongoing investigation.

FIVE ENGINEERS KILLED IN RUSSIA BLAST BURIED

Moscow, Aug 13: Thousands of Russians attended the funerals of five Russian nuclear engineers killed by an explosion as they tested a new rocket engine, a tragedy that fuelled radiation fears and raised new questions about a secretive weapons programme.

The engineers, who died on Thursday, were laid to rest on Monday in Sarov, which hosts Russia's main nuclear weapons research centre, where they worked.

Flags flew at half-staff in the city, located 370 km east of Moscow, which has served as a base for Russia's nuclear weapons programme since the late 1940s. The coffins were displayed at Sarov's main square before being driven to a cemetery.

The Defense Ministry initially reported that the explosion at the navy's testing range near the village of Nyonoksa in the northwestern Arkhangelsk region killed two people and injured six others.

The state-controlled Rosatom nuclear corporation then said over the weekend that the blast also killed five of its workers and injured three others. Its not clear what the final toll is. The company said the victims were on a sea platform testing a rocket engine and were thrown into the sea by explosion. Rosatom director Alexei Likhachev praised the victims as "true heroes". —*AP*

NO TO VOLKSWAGEN



Environmentalists block the rails and stop a train loaded with new Volkswagen cars that has left the Volkswagen plant in Wolfsburg, northern Germany, on Tuesday. The activists of the group "Aktion Autofrei" (action car free) call for the expansion of climate-friendly public transport. —*AFP*

Around 40,000 gear up for 'Howdy, Modi!' in Houston

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to address the session on September 22 during his visit to the States
- Houston, which has over 5,00,000 Indian-American community in the US, is the energy capital of the world.
- This will be Modi's third major address to the Indian-American community after he first became the PM in 2014
- "Howdy", short for 'How do you do?', is a friendly greeting commonly used in southwestern United States.



I look forward to welcoming PM Modi to Houston. This historic visit will strengthen the already robust bonds between Houston and India on trade, culture and tourism

— SYLVESTER TURNER, Houston Mayor

Taipei prez office opens to tourists

Taipei, Aug 13: Fancy spending the night in a presidential office? The unique accommodation is up for grabs in Taiwan, where authorities are rolling out the red carpet for visitors after the island's tourism industry was hit by a Chinese ban on solo travellers.

"I invite you to visit Taiwan and experience the warmth and hospitality of the people here," President Tsai Ing-wen said in an English video.

"And while you are here, why don't you be my guest and spend the night at this presidential office building?" Up to 20 international tourists will be picked to bed down in the 100-year-old Taipei landmark -- free of charge.

An invite to the daily flag-raising ceremony is also to be had, if travellers can brave the 5:30 am start time.

"This programme is the first of its kind in the world and our goal is to show Taiwan's freedom, democracy and openness," said presidential spokesman Xavier Chang.

The initiative comes weeks after China announced the suspension of individual travel permits to the island in a move that could hurt its economy.

Taiwan has experienced a sharp drop in mainland tourists since Tsai took office three years ago, and her Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) has accused Beijing of using visitors "as a weapon" to threaten her government.

Beijing still claims the self-ruling, democratic island as part of its territory awaiting reunification, by force if necessary. —*AFP*



Tulsi Gabbard

TULSI TO TRAIN IN INDONESIA FOR TWO WEEKS

Washington, Aug 13: Tulsi Gabbard, the first Hindu member of the US Congress and a Democratic presidential hopeful, has announced that she will leave the campaign trail for two weeks of training exercises in Indonesia that include counter-terrorism.

Gabbard, who has deployed to the Middle East twice in her time in the Army National Guard, heads to active-duty training during a crucial time in her 2020 presidential campaign.

"I look forward to joining my fellow soldiers for a joint-training exercise with the Indonesian military, focused on counter-terrorism and disaster response," the 38-year-old congresswoman from Hawaii announced on Monday.

Gabbard is the first ever Hindu lawmaker in the US Congress. She is also the first ever Hindu to run for presidential elections. Currently, there are nearly 20 Democratic presidential aspirants in the race to challenge incumbent Donald Trump for the 2020 elections. —*PTI*

■ **GABBARD,** who has been deployed to the Middle East twice, heads to training during a crucial time in her 2020 campaign.

LITTLE | MISTAKE

■ **A 72-yr-old Brit had his dentures stuck in his vocal chord and almost died**

Caution: Remove your false teeth before surgery

Paris, Aug 13: This is the story of a 72-year old retired electrician in Britain -- let's call him "Jack" -- who forgot to tell his surgeon that he wore dentures.

Anyone reading this account of what happened next is unlikely to make the same mistake.

Six days after having a benign lump removed from his belly while under general anaesthesia, Jack turned up at the emergency room.

He complained of blood in the mouth, difficulty swallowing, and pain so intense that he couldn't eat solid food.

Noting a history of lung problems, doctors assumed he had a respiratory infection, according to BMJ Case Reports, a medical journal that describes medically noteworthy cases.

They prescribed mouthwash and antibiotics, and sent him on his way.

But two days later, Jack showed up again with worsened symptoms -- he couldn't even swallow his meds.

"He was also feeling short of breath, particularly when lying down, and had taken to sleeping upright," Harriet Cunniffe, an ear, nose and throat surgeon at Universities Hospitals NHS in Yarmouth noted.

■ **HE REVEALED** that his dentures had been lost during his general surgery eight days earlier, and consisted of a metallic roof plate and three front teeth

The ER doctor suspected a type of pneumonia often caused by inhaling food or stomach acid into the lungs, and admitted Jack into hospital.

That's when a nasendoscopy -- a fibre optic camera on the end of a tube inserted through a nostril -- revealed a large, semicircular object covering his vocal cords.

"On explaining this to the patient, he revealed that his dentures had been lost during his general surgery eight days earlier, and consisted of a metallic roof plate and three front teeth," Cunniffe said.

The denture was removed surgically, and Jack was discharged six days later. Such incidents are less rare than one might think. In one 15-year period in Britain, 83 cases of "aspirated dentures" were identified, according to the journal.

Is this end of Jack's story? Not by a long shot.

Bouts of bleeding brought him back to the hospital a week later, and then 10 days after that.

His fifth trip to the emergency room revealed blistering in his throat surrounded by "wound tissue", which was cauterised to prevent further bleeding.

But by that time Jack needed a transfusion.

On his sixth -- and last -- slog to the hospital, the doctors discovered a torn artery and performed another round of emergency surgery.

Jack, it seems, simply forgot to tell his surgeon at the outset about his dental plate.

As for the doctors, there may be a couple of explanations as to why it took them so long to figure things out.

One, called "anchoring," occurs with a physician misinterprets data to fit into an initial diagnosis that was erroneous, Cunniffe said.

The other, known as "zebra retreat", is when "a diagnostician retreats from making a correct diagnosis because of self-doubt about entertaining such a remote or unusual diagnosis." —*AFP*

LIVE RICH

FINANCIAL Chronicle

WEDNESDAY | 14 AUGUST 2019 | HYDERABAD

July retail inflation eases to 3.15%

HFCs to be treated as NBFCs now: RBI



Overleaf

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	36,958.16	-1.66
Nifty 50	10,925.85	-1.65
S&P 500	2,925.77	+1.48
Dollar (₹)	71.40	+0.85
Pound Sterling (₹)	86.34	+0.35
Euro (₹)	80.16	+0.33
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	38,370▼100	-0.26
Brent crude ($/bbl)*	61.24	+4.56
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.518	+0.024
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	1.674	+0.034

* As of 10:30 pm IST

Make CSR violations civil offence: Panel

A government panel suggested making expenditure on CSR tax deductible as well as treat non-compliance with CSR requirements a civil offence under the companies law. The panel, headed by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas, has stressed that CSR expenditure should not be treated as a means of resource gap funding for government schemes.

Trump: Trade talks with China 'very productive'



US President Donald Trump said trade talks with China were "very productive" after US and Chinese negotiators spoke by telephone on Tuesday. His administration ealier announced that it was delaying new 10 per cent tariffs on consumer electronic goods imported from China to Dec. 15. "We had a very good talk with China," Trump said.

German investor confidence hits 8-year low

German investor confidence hit its lowest ebb in eight years in August, sapped by trade and currency wars and the threat of a no-deal Brexit, a survey by the ZEW institute showed. ZEW's monthly barometer measuring investors' expectations for the German economy plunged 19.6 points, to -44.1. That was far below its long-term average of 21.6 points.

Flipkart bets on 2GUD to woo value-shoppers

A year after launching 2GUD as a refurbished goods platform, Flipkart said this will offer fresh products across categories, including home and electronics, to woo value-conscious customers from smaller cities. The goods will be relatively more affordable. "We are changing our positioning...to a completely value-conscious platform," 2GUD Head Chanakya Gupta said.

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■ Rivals face heat; shares of telecom, multiplex players plunge

RIL jumps 10% on mega asset sale, debt cut plan

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, AUG. 13

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) gained over 10 per cent, its best single-day gain in a decade, on Tuesday, as investors and brokerages gave a thumbs-up to the Mukesh Ambani-led company's plans for $16-billion asset sales, debt reduction and disruptive telecom expansion, along with its five-year road map for unlocking values in the retail and telecom businesses. The plans were unveiled at its 42nd annual general meeting on Monday.

After rising 12.09 per cent intra-day, the RIL shares closed at Rs 1,275 on the BSE, up 9.72 per cent, adding over Rs 71,600 crore to its market-cap and taking the firm's market valuation to over Rs 8.08 lakh crore. RIL's gain was in sharp contrast to the dip in all but two stocks in the 30-share Sensex pack. The benchmark index fell 624 points, or 1. 66 per cent.

As the RIL stock soared, shares of its telecom rivals Bharati Airtel and Vodafone Idea plunged 5.28 per cent and 6.34 per cent, as investors expected heightened competition in the sector, once Reliance Jio launches broadband services from next month.

Brokerages raised RIL's target price after factoring in the impacts of Monday's announcements.

Brokerage Emkay Global said, "We have a Hold rating on RIL with Rs 1,375 as target price, the Aramco deal implies Rs 100 per share upside. The target of 15 per cent 5-year Ebitda CAGR (annual growth in operating profit), zero net debt in 1.5 years, Jio/Retail listing in five years and higher dividend/buyback add to the positivity."

Smaller direct-to-home (DTH) and Multiplex operator may now have to face intense competition to from Jio's broadband.

Reliance Jio's bundled broadband services plans may leave DTH firms most vulnerable, and work out to be neutral to slight negative for Bharti Airtel, as it raises competitive heat in corporate and home internet space, a Bank of America Merrill Lynch report said.

The report did not rule some pressure on Bharti's broadband revenue triggered by Jio's entry in the space. However, the impact is likely to be limited, as the overall fixed broadband penetration remains low at less than eight per cent and large greenfield opportunities remain, it said.

Reliance Jio's broadband services Jio Fiber will offer free voice calls for life from landlines, 100 mbps minimum broadband speed at subscription starting from Rs 700 a month and free HD TV set on a commitment to an annual plan. This, analysts said, will compete with the services of Hathway, Den and GTPL Hathway home broadband services offered at Rs 350-400 per month but at lower speeds of 50 Mbps.

Multiplex theatre players too could face competition from Mukesh Ambani's disruptive concept of watching new movies at home on the release day, as part of Jio Fiber's offering. This service will be launched in mid-2020.

Shares of multiplex operators PVR and Inox Leisure fell 4.10 per cent and 4.22 per cent, respectively, on the BSE.

However, theatre operators said that theatrical and at-home are two completely different experiences and each has their own places. Both these experiences have co-existed and prospered for decades and will continue to do so in the future, PVR said in a BSE filing, adding that it is extremely buoyant about cinema exhibition's growth prospects.

Stake sales to lower earnings, cashflow: Brokerages



New Delhi, Aug. 13: Reliance Industries' plan to sell a stake in its 'oil to chemicals' (O2C) business and the proposed commercial launch of Jio's fixed-line broadband services received a positive response from brokerages, who felt the move would make the firm debt-free but lower its consolidated earnings.

While seven brokerages, including Morgan Stanley and Macquarie, upgraded RIL, there was no downgrade from any of the 29 brokerages.

As many as eight brokerages raised target price of RIL shares. Average target price increased from Rs 1,396 pre-AGM to Rs 1,421 post-AGM.

The tally of stock recommendations now stands at: 24 Buy, 3 Neutral, 2 Sell.

On the announcement made by RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani to sell a fifth of the firm's oil and chemical assets to Saudi Aramco and nearly half of fuel retail operations to BP, Morgan Stanley said that over the past three months, the firm has under-performed the Sensex by about 11 percentage points on weakness in refining margins and decline in key chemical spreads.

J P Morgan said Aramco investment is a positive but "the effective push out of the IPO of retail and Jio is negative". "The focus on net debt reduction is a positive, though in a global recessionary environment, there is clear downside risk to our refining and Petchem estimates and after the AGM comments we do not see any telecom tariff hikes in the near term and hence there is downside risk to our overall estimates," it said.

Credit Suisse said the Enterprise Value of $75 bn for O2C is higher than its valuation of $61 bn.

"Once completed, we estimate the stake sale will make RIL's energy business nearly debt-free, but it will lower RIL's FY21 consolidated earnings by 9 per cent and operating cash flow by 14 per cent," Morgan Stanley said.

Edelweiss said the sale to Aramco is the fourth divestment announced by the company this year. "We note that during a similar divestment/split spree in 2006, the share price had jumped 38 per cent."

Bernstein said while the deal provides Aramco direct access to the fastest-growing refined oil product market over the next 20 years, for Reliance it provides cash to fund the expansion of its digital business and further expansion of downstream capacity with an experienced partner.

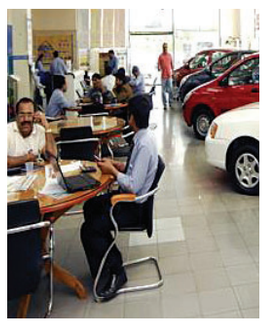
Bank of America Merrill Lynch said RIL would issue securities to Aramco without voting rights–implying no equity dilution. So RIL would have access to 80 per cent of the O2C cash flows, with 20 per cent going to Aramco.

Kotak Institutional Equities Research said RIL may be required to create a carve-out or special purpose structure, instead of a subsidiary, for O2C.

— PTI

CAR SALES AT 2-DECADE LOW

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, AUG. 13



For the ninth month in a row, the bloodbath in the automobile market continues, with sales of all vehicle segments staying in the red in July.

The deepening crisis in the automobile sector that has also triggered large-scale job losses, to the tune of some 215,000 jobs cuts at the dealership, some 100,000 at the suppliers, and the total job loss to be in the ballpark of 330,000 people getting retrenched.

Sales of passenger vehicles, the barometer of the economy, to car dealers fell 30.98 per cent to 200,790 units in July, the data from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, or Siam, on Tuesday showed. The passenger car sales decreased 36 per cent to 122,956 units.

These passenger vehicle numbers are the worst since December 2000 when sales were down 35.22 per cent, along with cars which slumped 39.86 per cent.

Commercial vehicles sales dropped 25.71 per cent to 56,866 units. The medium and heavy commercial vehicles, which essentially are the sturdy backbone of the automobile sector, were down 37.48 per cent at 17,722 units. And the light commercial vehicles were also down by 18.79 per cent to 39,144 units.

The three-wheeler segment, with sales of 55,719 units, is also down 7.66 per cent.

Motorcycle and scooters sales also declined 16.82 per cent to about 1.51 million units.

In July, total automobile sales fell 18.71 per cent at 1.82 million units, the steepest.

The data also showed that domestic passenger vehicle production was down nearly 17 per cent in the month to align with the tepid demand.

"The deepening crisis needs an urgent revival package from the government," Vishnu Mathur, Director General at Siam, said.

He said the situation is so grave that total job loss in the auto sector is roughly 330,000.

According to Siam in the previous downturns the sector witnessed in 2008-09 and 2013-14, at least some of the segments of the industry were growing.

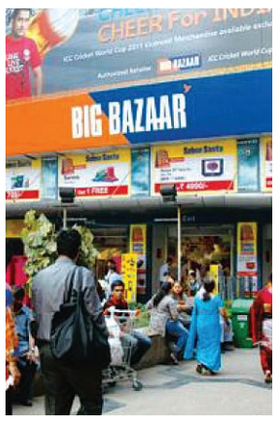
But this time around all segments of the industry are witnessing decline in sales, Mathur pointed out.

He said the industry is doing everything possible to increase sales but it needs government stimulus package to prevent the crisis from worsening.

Mathur said while Siam has proposed an overall GST reduction to be brought on vehicles of all segments, rollout of the scrappage policy will give a push to new vehicle sales.

Amazon closer to buying stake in Future Retail

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, AUG. 13



Amazon has resumed talks with Future Group to acquire 10 per cent stake in the latter's retail entity. This will give the e-commerce player a foothold in the online grocery business and improve the prospects in online apparel retail.

Amazon had been in talks with Future Retail for stake purchase a few months back. However, in between the talks were suspended when the FDI rules were tightened for the e-commerce sector.

The e-commerce biggies were worried about some of the clauses in the FDI rules that barred online marketplaces with foreign investments from selling products of the companies in which they hold stakes. There were also restrictions with regard to vendor purchases.

However, talks seem to have resumed and may not take much longer to get into the final stage, according to sources. Amazon spokesperson declined to comment on the development. When asked about it, Rakesh Biyani, Joint Managing Director of Future Group, too, declined to comment on 'market specualtations".

As per reports, Future is seeking a valuation of $20 billion for the stake sale. Amazon will also have the option to increase its stake later.

After Walmart bought Flipkart and started exploring the big opportunity in online grocery, Amazon too has been trying to make a foothold in the space. The e-commerce player operates Amazon Now, Amazon Pantry and Subscribe and Save to specifically cater to grocery. A stake in Future Retail, which operates hypermarket Big Bazaar and neighbourhood supermarket chains, Nilgiris, Easy Day and Heritage, will be a major boost for Amazon's grocery plans.

Moreover, Future Retail too has started trials for its omni-channel model through its neighbourhood stores in the NCR. It plans to roll out the model after perfecting it with the trial. A collaboration with Amazon will help Future Retail's omni-channel plans as well. Future Retail operates over 2,000 stores across 400 Indian cities.

Further, apparel is a strong segment for Future Retail. In online apparel retail, Flipkart with its brands Myntra and Jabong, have a stronger presence. A tie-up with Future will give Amazon a bigger role in the high-margin apparel e-tail.

Re plunges 62 paise, may weaken more

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, AUG. 13

The rupee on Tuesday closed at its lowest level in past six months on weak global risk sentiments as turmoil in Hong Kong and Argentina and US-China trade tensions spooked investors.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 71.15 against the dollar and touched a high of 71.02 and low of 71.40. The domestic unit finally settled 62 paise lower at 71.40 tracking losses in the yuan.

The rupee had closed at 70.78 against the US currency on Friday.

Monday was a holiday on account of Bakri-Eid.

Sustained foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows from the equity markets, stable-to-positive dollar also weighed on the domestic currency. So far, in August, the rupee has depreciated by 3.75 per cent against the US dollar.

So far, in August, the rupee has depreciated by 3.75 per cent against the US dollar

The benchmark bond yield rose by 2.5 bps to close at 6.52 per cent while the equity markets witnessed huge sell-off, down by 1.65 per cent for the day. With signs of rising global risks and worsening domestic macro conditions, traders and currency experts expect the rupee weaken further.

Madhavi Arora, Economist-Forex and Rates, Edelweiss Securities, said, "Global risk aversion largely led by US-China trade tension has been weighing on the currency. Besides there appears no clarity from the government on revoking the FPI surcharge announced in the budget.

According to reports, the government is also mulling whether it should go ahead with sovereign foreign bond. As global markets re-assess risks, domestic fragile fiscal conditions stand out."

"In the near-term, we expect the rupee and bonds to remain under pressure. The rupee may continue to depreciate as none of these global and domestic risks are showing signs of waning and infact continue to worsen. So the rupee could fiddle around these levels or worsen," added Arora.

Gold seen at ₹40K before Diwali

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, AUG. 13



Gold prices remained highly volatile on Tuesday as they touched all-time high levels during the early part of the session, only to fall Rs 1,300 per 10 gm later in the evening. Comex gold too gained $28 initially and lost $55 per ounce during the course of the session. However, analysts still believe gold will resume the bull-run and touch Rs 40,000 in the Indian market before Diwali.

In the Comex futures market, near-month contract of gold initially moved up to $1,546 per ounce during the intraday on Tuesday from the previous close of $1,519. With strong fundamentals supporting safe haven demand for gold, the Hong Kong protests acted as a geo-political trigger for increased purchases by investors, said Jateen Trivedi, Technical Research Analyst at Bonanza Portfolio.

The protests in Hong Kong against the Chinese government continued on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Argentina's stock markets fell 35 per cent and the currency by 25 per cent after the president was trounced in the primary election. The currency's fall was viewed by the markets in the back-drop of the ongoing currency war between the US and China. The trade war has been a pushing up gold prices in the past few days.

However, later in the evening on Tuesday US Trade Representative updated that additional tariffs on some Chinese goods, including cell phones and laptops, will be delayed till December 15. This saw a sharp rise in equity markets and sell-off in bullion.

From $1,546, gold prices came down to $1,490. Silver too fell from a high of $17.48 an ounce to $16.51.

In the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold had moved up to Rs 38,660, a new all-time high, from the previous day's close of Rs 38,240. Silver had gained close to 2 per cent in the MCX to touch Rs 44,585. The rupee had added to the glitter of the gold when it further depreciated to six-month low of 71.4 on Tuesday.

However, after the trade update from the US, gold in the MCX too fell to a low of Rs 37,344, losing more than Rs 1,300 in a session. Silver too fell from Rs 44,585 per kg to Rs 43,250.

"Trade update has led to a knee-jerk reaction in the market. However, the broader fundamentals, which have been triggering the bull-run in bullion, are still intact. Hence we still expect that gold can move up further in the medium-term,' said Trivedi.

"With gold coming closer to Rs 39,000 levels, it won't take much longer to touch Rs 40,000. We might probably see those levels before Diwali if the fundamentals remain strong. In the international market, we can look forward for $1,600 - $1,650 levels," he said.

"We expect gold to remain firm on various economic issues across the globe, although mild profit booking may keep prices under pressure near key resistance levels,' said Abhishek Bansal, Chairman, Abans Group.

CCL to invest $20m for enhancement

Hyderabad, Aug. 13: CCL Products (India) Ltd, world's largest private label instant coffee manufacturer would be investing $20 million during the current fiscal to enhance capacities and infrastructure, a senior company official said on Tuesday here.

"We will be investing $20 million during this fiscal. $12 million will be spent on the on agglomeration and packaging unit in India (Chittoor plant) and $8 million in Vietnam plant capacity enhancement. These are the two capex we are planning to do this financial year. All this (investments) is done through internal accruals," Challa Srishant told reporters in a press conference.

The coffee maker has a combined state-of-the-art manufacturing capacity of 35,000 tonnes per annum located at Duggirala, Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, Switzerland, Vietnam and recently commissioned a plant in Chittoor district.

All the units are debt-free except for the new SEZ for which about ₹350 crores was spent and the debt on account of this is in about ₹225 crores, he said. "In the next three years we will be debt free," he added.

The company which gets over 90 per cent of its revenues from exports has roped in actress Nithya Menon as its brand ambassador for consumer packs in the Indian market.

The ad campaign would be staring from August 15.

— PTI

Taxpayers duped by cyber fraudsters

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, AUG. 13

While taxpayers are busy filing their IT returns, cyber criminals have found new ways to extract bank account details by pretending to be income tax department officials.

Cyber criminals are using fake SMS to trick customers into sharing bank account details, finds Quickheal.

In the messages sent to taxpayers, fraudsters intimate them that they have a certain tax refund and that the amount will be credited to their bank account shortly. The message has a wrong bank account number and asks the customer to send the correct account number to a certain link.

"Note that the message opens on a good note to instantly attract your attention, immediately followed by a wrong bank account number. The message continues to trick into verifying account number if wrong, by clicking the link, ultimately making you an unsuspicious victim of the fraud," said Sanjay Katkar, Joint MD and CTO, QuickHeal Technologies.

Lifestyle, Flipkart in partnership

Hyderabad, Aug. 13: Lifestyle, India's leading fashion destination for the latest trends, announced a strategic partnership with leading e-commerce marketplace, Flipkart Group (Myntra, Jabong & Flipkart). The partnership will enable consumers to access the best in fashion, in a seamless manner across the country. This partnership will bring together the unmatched combination of the premium shopping experience of Myntra along with the reach of Flipkart Group, ensuring greater growth for Lifestyle's wide fashion offering from its successful portfolio of brands.

Business NOTE

Through this partnership, Lifestyle will take its wide selection of products, including its fashion private label brands, across womenswear, menswear, kidswear, footwear, handbags, fashion and accessories, to newer geographies while helping serve the over 160 million consumer base of the Flipkart Group.

Max ropes in ex-Sebi chief Sinha


UK Sinha

New Delhi, Aug. 13: Max Healthcare Institute (MHIL) on Tuesday announced reconstitution of its board with appointments of ex-Sebi Chairman U. K. Sinha along with ex-President of US-based HCA Healthcare Micheal Neeb as independent directors. Radiant Life Care Chairman and MD Abhay Soi will be its Chairman as part of a leadership change.

Radiant has nominated KKR (India) CEO Sanjay Nayar as Non-Executive Director on the board of MHIL, the company said.

The development follows the Rs 2,136 crore acquisition of 49.7 per cent stake in MHIL by Radiant.

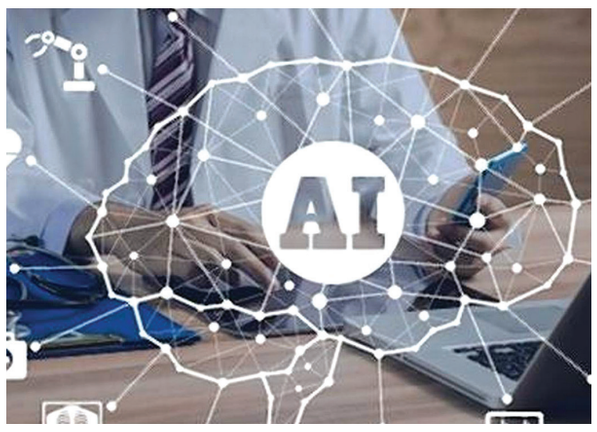
Tara Vachhani and Mohit Talwar will continue as Max India nominees, it added.

Stating that the process of amalgamating Radiant and Max under the chairmanship of Soi has begun, the company said it is likely to conclude the process within the next 8 to 12 months.

Chennai firm competes with Google, Microsoft & IBM

Uniphore raises $51 mn to add AI to call centres

SARITHA RAI
AUG. 13



An Indian startup that aims to use artificial intelligence to deliver faster and more personalised customer support for corporate clients is raising $51 million in funding from investors including March Capital Partners and Chiratae Ventures.

Uniphore Software Systems based in Chennai and Palo Alto, California, plans to use the emerging technology to change the labour-intensive business of call centres, displacing workers with machines. Former Cisco Systems Inc. Chief Executive Officer John Chambers' JC2 Ventures owns about 10 per cent of the startup. Existing backers also include Analog Devices Founder Ray Stata and Infosys billionaire Co-Founder Kris Gopalakrishnan.

Umesh Sachdev, 33, founded the company in 2008 with his engineering classmate Ravi Saraogi. They are competing with technology giants like Google, Microsoft and International Business Machines as well as at least a dozen AI startups to automate the $350 billion call centre industry, helping agents deliver more useful support while decreasing the number of infuriating and ineffectual experiences. "This is one of the largest rounds in an area of deep tech already seeing a lot of investor activity," CEO Sachdev said in a telephone interview. "It represents the coming of age of conversational AI."

He declined to reveal the startup's valuation, but said it is "one step away from turning into a unicorn," the tech industry's term for a value of $1 billion or more.

Voice bots and automated messaging systems are already changing the world of call centres, and experts reckon the majority of human workers will be driven to obsolescence by artificial intelligence. By 2021, about 70 per cent of organizations will integrate AI to assist employee productivity, researcher Gartner forecast earlier this year.

Using messaging apps, chatbots and speech-based assistants, so-called conversational artificial intelligence automates communication and delivers personalized experiences. "Virtual agents are gaining ubiquity via smartphones and messaging platforms to support customer care, marketing and employee efficiency," said Dan Miller, the lead Analyst with Saint Paul, Minnesota-based Opus Research.

Sachdev estimates that the US alone has 3.9 million call centre workers and those numbers will steadily diminish as companies adopt new technologies. "Humans will shift from taking mundane calls to enhancing knowledge and teaching AI what is the good answer and how to resolve issues," he said.

Uniphore will use the funds to hire talent, invest in research and development and accelerate expansion, particularly in its primary market in North America. The startup plans to increase its engineering and development operations to 200 employees in India by the year end, while another 60 will be based in the US and 40 in Europe and Asia Pacific. Its customers include BNP Paribas SA, Genpact, NTT Data, and PNB MetLife.

"Indian entrepreneurs are going from slow-followers to fast-innovators," said Chambers in an interview earlier this year, explaining why he's backing Uniphore. "I see a young breed of founders who are hungry for a piece of the future."

— Bloomberg

Bosch begins restructuring as auto woes bite

SACHIN RAVIKUMAR
BENGALURU, AUG. 13



India-listed manufacturer Bosch said on Tuesday it had begun restructuring parts of its business in light of a deepening slowdown in the country's automotive industry, as the German car parts supplier posted a drop in June-quarter profit.

Bosch, the latest firm to flag weak conditions in the Indian auto market, said its automotive sales dived 17.5 per cent in the June quarter.

The outlook for the auto industry was "extremely" challenging, Managing Director Soumitra Bhattacharya said.

Bosch, which makes a wide range of auto products including braking systems and batteries, is the latest firm to restructure its business or limit production due to the slowdown, which has been exacerbated in recent months by a liquidity crunch in India's shadow banking sector.

Automakers Tata Motors and Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) said last week they would cut production at some plants in response to slowing demand that industry executives say has driven the sector to one of its worst downturns.

Earlier on Tuesday, an auto industry body said India's domestic passenger vehicle sales in July had fallen at the steepest pace in nearly two decades.

Bosch has earmarked Rs 820 million ($11.5 million) as a provision for restructuring, which would include "manpower adjustments," it said.

"The slowdown is not cyclical, but structural," Bhattacharya said. "Necessary course correction measures will be taken in order to remain competitive."

Shares in Bosch's Indian unit dropped 3.4 per cent following the news of restructuring. The company's profit in the three months ended June dived 35 per cent to Rs 2.8 billion, while revenue from operations dropped 13.5 per cent to Rs 27.79 billion.

— Reuters

OPENING BELL
PROJECTION FOR TODAY

10830 to act as immediate support

Sensex and Nifty-50 erased last week's gains as they fell 1.65 per cent on a mix of negative domestic and global cues. While domestic slowdown fears haunt market participants anti-government protests in Hong Kong, the surprise primary election result that saw Argentina's President Mauricio Macri lose the first round of elections led to 35 per cent fall in local equity market and the currency lost 25 per cent of its value against the dollar.

Sensex opened in the green but soon lost the momentum on negative global cues. The benchmark Index fell 693 point intra-day as it touched a low of 36,888.49 with major heavy weights down 2 to 5 per cent. Big gains for Reliance Industries of close to 10 per cent was not enough to prevent the slide in indices.

Sensex finally closed 1.66 per cent or 623.75 points down at 36958.16 while the broader Nifty-50 Index settled 1.65 per cent or 183.80 points lower at 10925.85.

The selling pressure brought down the broader market too as BSE Mid-Cap Index fell 2.25 per cent and BSE Small-Cap Index was down 1.42 per cent.

Technical View

Mehul Kothari, Senior Technical Analyst, IndiaNivesh said, "The excellent recovery of past week was followed by a dreadful session wherein the benchmarks underwent heavy sell off. The Index Nifty spot started the session with an upside gap but collapsed as the day progressed to close with a massive loss of around 200 points. The Nifty is now back to sub 11000 levels. The Nifty Bank Index too plunged by around 2.47 per cent."

"Going ahead, 10830 would now act as an immediate support for the Index. However, the low of 10780 will now remain a very critical support for the markets," Kothari said.

Market View

Navneet Munot, CIO, SBI Funds Management which operates SBI Mutual Fund said, "Indian equity market held up reasonably well in first half of 2019, despite moderating economic growth. Sentiments have turned negative with unfavorable tax developments, lack of strong fiscal support towards growth, tight financial conditions and reduced growth visibility."

— Ravi Ranjan Prasad

Regulatory sandbox allowed for Fintech firms

Mumbai, Aug. 13: The RBI permitted startups, banks and financial institutions to set up regulatory sandbox (RS) for live testing of innovative products in retail payments, digital KYC and wealth management.

RS usually refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment for which regulators may (or may not) permit certain relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing. The RS allows the regulator, innovators, financial service providers and customers to conduct field tests to collect evidence on the benefits and risks of new financial innovations, while carefully monitoring.

— PTI

HFCs to be treated as NBFCs: RBI

Mumbai, Aug. 13: The Reserve Bank on Tuesday said housing finance companies (HFCs) will be treated as one of the categories of NBFCs for regulatory purposes and it will come under its direct oversight.

The Finance (No 2) Act, 2019 (23 of 2019) has amended the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, conferring certain powers for regulation of Housing Finance Companies (HFC) with Reserve Bank of India, it said in a release.

The RBI direction comes after notification issued by the central government, it added.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her maiden Budget 2019-20 speech in early July had announced that the National Housing Bank (NHB) will not remain as the regulator for the HFCs.

"HFCs will henceforth be treated as one of the categories of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for regulatory purposes. Reserve Bank will carry out a review of the extant regulatory framework applicable to the HFCs and come out with revised regulations in due course," the apex bank said.

In the meantime, HFCs shall continue to comply with the directions and instructions issued by the National Housing Bank (NHB) till the Reserve Bank issues a revised framework, it added.

"NHB will continue to carry out supervision of HFCs and HFCs will continue to submit various returns to NHB as hitherto. The grievance redressal mechanism with regard to HFCs will also continue to be with the NHB," the RBI said.

— PTI

Govt issues guidelines for ₹1L cr NBFC scheme

New Delhi, Aug. 13: The Centre has issued guidelines on operationalising Rs 1-lakh crore partial guarantee scheme under which public-sector banks can purchase high-rated pooled assets of financially sound non-banking finance companies (NBFCs).

NBFCs, including housing finance companies (HFCs), came under stress following series of defaults by the group companies of IL&FS in September last year.

To help the sector come out of the stress, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Budget announced support for fundamentally sound NBFCs in getting continued funding from banks.

"For purchase of high-rated pooled assets of financially sound NBFCs, amounting to a total of Rs 1 lakh crore during the current financial year, the government will provide one-time six months' partial credit guarantee to public sector banks for first loss of up to 10 per cent," she had said.

— PTI

July retail inflation eases to 3.15%

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

Despite prices of several food items moving up, the country's retail inflation rate eased marginally to 3.15 per cent in July over the month of June this year. The retail inflation, measured on Consumer Price Index (CPI) was down from an eight-month high of 3.18 per cent in June, according to data from the Ministry of Statistics, released on Tuesday.

However, the data showed a breather to consumers as it stayed below the central bank's medium-term target of 4 per cent for the 12th straight month, thereby triggering a further policy rate cut in October this year. As the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mainly factors in retail inflation in its bi-monthly monetary policy, the government has asked the RBI to keep inflation in the range of 4 per cent.

The data also showed that the inflation in the food basket was 2.36 per cent in July, which was marginally up from 2.25 per cent in the previous month as well. The RBI last week lowered its key benchmark interest rate for a fourth meeting in a row, by 35 basis points to 5.40 per cent, projecting inflation to remain at 3.4-3.7 per cent during the Oct-Mar 2020 period.

PERFORMANCE STREET

Sun Pharma posts Q1 profit of ₹1,387 cr

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,387.48 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2019. it had posted a profit of Rs 1,057.29 crore in the year-ago period. Total revenue from operations stood at Rs 8,374.36 crore. It was Rs 7,224.17 crore for the same period a year ago.

"Pola Pharma lnc Japan became a step-down subsidiary of the company with effect from January 1, 2019. Accordingly, the results for the quarter include results of Pola Pharma Inc, and hence are not comparable with quarter ended June 30, 2018," the company said.

Consolidated research and development investment was Rs 422 crore, or 5.1 per cent of the sales compared to Rs 500 crore or 7 per cent of the sales for the year-ago period, it added.

RInfra net up 20% at ₹299 cr

Reliance Infrastructure (RInfra) reported 19.5 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 299.15 crore for the first quarter ended June 30 against Rs 250.14 crore in the year-ago period.

The firm's income increased to Rs 6,074.09 crore, as against Rs 5,980.43 crore in the year-ago period. "Reliance Infrastructure's sale of Delhi-Agra toll road for enterprise value of Rs 3,600 crore to Cube Highways and Infrastructure III was on track to close by September-end," the company said. Its consolidated net worth was "of Rs 13,908 crore at the end of Q1 FY'20", RInfra said.

ONGC Q1 net dips 3.9%

Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) reported a 3.9 per cent decline in net profit for June quarter as it faced a double whammy of falling oil prices and declining production.

Net profit stood at Rs 5,904 crore, 3.9 per cent lower than Rs 6,144 crore in the year-ago period.

Revenue fell 2.4 per cent to Rs 26,555 crore. ONGC got $66.30/barrel of crude oil produced and sold, down 7.3 per cent from $71.49 a barrel net realisation in April-June 2018.

However, natural gas price realisation was up by a fifth to $3.69 per million British thermal unit.

ONGC said oil production dropped 4.7 per cent to 4.8 million tonnes.

CIL profit rises 22%

Coal India reported a 22.2 per cent increase in consolidated profit at Rs 4,629.87 crore for the quarter ended June 30, mainly on higher income.

The company had posted a consolidated profit of Rs 3,786.44 crore in the year-ago period, CIL said.

CIL's consolidated income increased to Rs 26,089.20 crore from Rs 25,359.30 crore in the year-ago period. Total expenses stood at Rs 19,077.44 crore as against Rs 19,272.43 crore in the year ago period.

Coal production stood at 136.94 million tonnes (MT) as compared with 136.85 MT in the year-ago period.

The company's offtake was at 153.49 MT as against 153.47 MT a year ago.

Apollo Q1 net profit jumps over 2-fold

Apollo Hospitals Enterprise reported over two-fold jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 49.15 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2019, mainly on account of robust growth in healthcare services and pharmacy verticals. It had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 23.34 crore in the year-ago period. Consolidated revenue from operations stood at Rs 2,571.89 crore as against Rs 2,210.47 crore in the same period a year ago.

Manappuram Fin Q1 PAT up 36% to ₹272 cr

Manappuram Finance reported a 36 per cent rise in its profit after tax to Rs 272.23 crore on a consolidated basis during the first quarter against Rs 199.99 crore reported a year ago. Income (consolidated) rose to Rs 1,184.70 crore, as against Rs 947.18 crore in the same period last year. The board of directors declared an interim dividend of Rs 0.55 per share having face value of Rs 2 each.

—FC BUREAU

IOC TO INVEST ₹2 LAKH CRORE

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUG. 13

The country's biggest oil retailer Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will invest Rs 2 lakh crore in next 5-7 years to expand refining and petrochemical business, a move to provide comprehensive energy solutions to diverse user groups in the country.

Revealing the plan in the company's latest annual report, IOC chairman Sanjiv Singh said, "IOC is implementing a Rs 2 lakh crore investment plan in next 5-7 years to evolve into a future-ready corporate that provides comprehensive energy solutions to diverse user groups in an exciting phase of energy transition and technology disruptions."

However, the move of the oil retailer is to almost double its oil refining capacity to 150 million tonnes per annum, expand fuels and LPG retailing network, jack up petrochemical production capacity and produce more crude oil and gas.

As per the report, the company's present refining capacity of 80.7 million tonnes per annum and it wants to maintain this leadership position by raising the refining capacity to 150 million tonnes through greenfield and brownfield expansions.

Making money on LNG in sea

ANNA SHIRYAEVSKAYA & NAUREEN S. MALIK
LONDON/NEW YORK, AUG. 13



Liquefied natural gas tankers are taking longer-than-usual journeys to deliver cargoes and spending more time idling at sea in a sign some traders are starting to use vessels for storage.

There may be other reasons for keeping the cargoes on the water, including logistical or weather issues, such as a monsoon in India. But with spot prices near their lowest since April 2016, sellers may be betting that they will rise as the northern hemisphere heating season approaches.

"It is saying one thing for sure: people are not too worried about shipping length," said Jean-Christian Heintz, Head of LNG broking at SCB Brokers SA in Nyon, Switzerland. "Whether they are waiting for a logistical or trading or pricing issue they do not worry about the time they spend at sea, meaning that there is no hurry in going back and loading the next cargo."

The use of floating storage this long before the heating season is unusual because of the costs of keeping natural gas in its liquid form and indicates how trading in LNG, the fastest-expanding fossil fuel commodity, is becoming more like the bigger crude oil market. It is also partly thanks to the shale boom that transformed the US into the third-largest exporter, increased spot trading, linked prices increasingly to gas hubs rather than oil and spurred a global drive for more flexible contracts.

LNG tanker owners GasLog and Flex LNG have said that they are seeing increased inquiries from traders to use ships as floating storage. That will likely intensify in September and beyond to hold fuel before the heating season officially begins in October.

"Does it make sense to float from the end of August to the end of September?" Heintz said. "We haven't seen that happen too often. That would be also interesting to see if we see cargoes floating for more than one month."

Cheniere Energy, said last week it sees a premium in winter prices encouraging floating storage, especially considering the premium of longer-term prices to short-term ones, known as a contango. Lower spot shipping rates also encourage the longer use of vessels.

"The market does as a whole look at the contango in the forward curve and assess if there is a floating storage possibility," Jonathan Westby, Co-Managing Director of Centrica Plc's energy marketing and trading unit, said last month in an interview. "If you look at the shape of the curve now for that period of time in the autumn, there is the possibility of people taking floating storage."

The use of floating storage is a risky business because anticipated heating demand may be softer, as happened last winter, and charter rates may shoot up to new records, as already forecast by the ship-owners.

"People are sophisticated enough to know that if they are going to entertain that proposition that they need to do appropriate risk management," Westby said. "We would certainly look. If the market is telling us to delay the deliveries and make them later in the year then we will respond to that accordingly."

— Bloomberg



New role

Former India coach Gary Kirsten has been appointed as coach of the men's Cardiff team for The Hundred league, scheduled to kick off next year

Dravid gets CoA backing


Rahul Dravid

Mumbai, Aug. 13: The Committee of Administrators (CoA) on Tuesday cleared Rahul Dravid's appointment as Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy (NCA), ruling that there is "no conflict of interest" case against the former India captain.

Lt General Ravi Thogde, the new member of the CoA, said the ball is now in BCCI Ombudsman-cum-ethics officer DK Jain's court.

"There is no conflict on Rahul's case. He has got a notice and we have cleared his appointment. We had seen no conflict, but if the Ombudsman finds any conflict, we will give our response to the Ombudsman stating why we found no conflict," Thogde said after a CoA meeting here.

"After that he (Ombudsman) has to consider. It's a process and it will continue."

Dravid, one of the most respected figures in Indian cricket, found himself embroiled in a conflict of interest case after his appointment at NCA since he is an employee of India Cements which owns the Chennai Super Kings franchise in the IPL.

Dravid, who was in Mumbai prior to Tuesday's CoA meeting, has sent his reply to Jain but it could not be ascertained if he has resigned from his post. While appointing him, the CoA had made it clear that Dravid will have to relinquish his post as vice-president of India Cements or be on leave until he completes his tenure.

Dravid did not resign, instead, he sought leave without pay from India Cements, prompting MPCA life member Sanjeev Gupta to persist with his complaint against Dravid.

> **There is no conflict on Rahul's case. He has got a notice and we have cleared his appointment. We had seen no conflict.**
> **—RAVI THOGDE, CoA member**

Thogde stressed that the NCA needs to be of international standard under Dravid. "There are a few things that needs to be done at the NCA. There are shortage of grounds and staffs, including coaches. There has to be continuity.

"Someone of Dravid's stature will have to ensure that the NCA is of international standard. He has given his vision and we are fully in support of his vision. We will work together."

The CoA also discussed the upcoming BCCI elections in Tuesday's meeting, besides the appointment of various coaches of the national team.

"We discussed about the upcoming elections. There were discussions with (Electoral Officer) N Gopalaswami and certain things have been resolved. A code has been drawn out," Thogde said.

Asked about the state cricket bodies which are yet to come on board for the elections, he said, "There will be minor delays but there is still ample time. We just took a review and most of them will join by then."

"I don't see such a great difficulty in getting it done." — *PTI*

> Everyone talks about his pace and his easy action but he's got some very good skills.
> **— Joe Root, England skipper on Jofra Archer**

SHORT TAKE

Ali takes break after Ashes axe

London: England all-rounder Moeen Ali will take a "short break" from cricket after being dropped from the squad to face Australia in the second Ashes Test this week. The 32-year-old was axed after scoring nought and four in England's first Test defeat at Edgbaston.

He also struggled with his off-spin, taking three wickets for 172 runs across Australia's two innings, failing to take advantage of a pitch that ought to have suited him. Moeen, who was a member of England's World Cup-winning squad, has been replaced by Somerset left-arm spinner Jack Leach for the Lord's Test, with his county Worcestershire revealing he will now take a "short break from action". "Mo is spending a little time away from the middle recharging his batteries and putting in some quality practice time which he feels he needs, and we completely respect," Worcestershire first-team coach Alex Gidman told the club's website on Tuesday.

"He has had an intense schedule of international cricket involving the ICC World Cup and the start of the Ashes.

"Mo loves playing for Worcestershire and he gives a lift to everyone in the dressing room when he comes back and plays for us. We look forward to when he returns soon." — *AFP*

Faf misses out, De Kock to lead SA

Johannesburg: Quinton de Kock on Tuesday was named South Africa's new T20 skipper for the three-match series against India in September, which will not feature former captain Faf Du Plessis in the squad. However, du Plessis will continue to lead South Africa in the three-Test series that follows the T20s, with Temba Bavuma named his vice-captain, Cricket South Africa announced. "I would like to stress that Faf du Plessis remains an important part of our plans for white-ball cricket," said CSA Acting Director, Corrie van Zyl. Rassie van Der Dussen will play deputy to de Kock in the T20 squad. "The T20 Series gives us the last chance to have a look at our leadership and batting options as the next edition of the T20 World Cup is now little more than a year away which is why we have gone with an inexperienced leadership group. This is our last chance to do this before we settle on an established squad," he added. Meanwhile, both T20 and Test squads will feature three uncapped players. Pacer Anrich Nortje features in both the squads, batsman Bavuma, spin bowling all-rounder Bjorn Fortuin will feature in the T20 squad. Wicketkeeper Rudi Second and spin-bowling all-rounder Senuran Muthusamy were handed Test caps. — *AFP*


Australian cricketers pose outside the Lord's cricket stadium ahead of their Ashes Test against England. — *ICC*

England hope Archer is on target at Lord's


>>> Jofra Archer

London, Aug. 13: England are set to field a revamped attack featuring fast bowler Jofra Archer as they try to finally get Australia's batting star Steve Smith out cheaply and level the Ashes in the second Test at Lord's.

Holders Australia, bidding to win their first away Ashes series for 18 years, humbled England last time out thanks in large part to Smith, who returned to this level following a 12-month ban for his involvement in a ball-tampering scandal with two centuries as they cruised to a 251-run first Test win at Edgbaston.

England have only twice won the Ashes after losing the opener — when all-rounder Ian Botham turned the 1981 series on its head with several superb solo efforts, and in the thrilling 2005 contest which they edged 2-1.

Defeat at Edgbaston was made worse for England by the fact that James Anderson, their all-time leading wicket-taker, broke down after bowling just four overs with a calf injury that has ruled the 37-year-old swing specialist out of a Lord's encounter starting Wednesday.

Live on TV
England vs Australia second Ashes Test
from 3.30pm on Sony Six & Sony Six HD



"We are very aware that England played without James Anderson, one of their best players and we got lucky," said Australia coach Justin Langer.

"That's the truth of it, with him not playing. He's a brilliant fast bowler, one of the all-time greats, so if he only bowls four overs for the match then we got lucky there. "Here at Lord's there's different conditions and different pressures so we just have to make sure we're right for this Test match," added the former Australia opener, who played at the 'home of cricket' for English county Middlesex.

Anderson's absence means England are set to give a Test debut to Archer, who will be returning to the ground where he bowled the dramatic Super Over that sealed a thrilling World Cup final win over New Zealand last month.

But the 24-year-old, coached at Sussex by former Australia paceman Jason Gillespie, has played just 28 first-class matches and Langer was looking to his batsmen to wear Archer down in a way that's not possible in a one-day international, where bowlers are restricted to a maximum of 10 overs. — *AFP*

DHAWAN FEELS THE HEAT

Opener under pressure to score big

Port of Spain, Aug. 13: Opener Shikhar Dhawan would be desperate for a big knock after four consecutive failures as India are eyeing another series victory when they clash with the West Indies in the third and final ODI here on Wednesday.

With scores of 1, 23, 3 in the Twenty series and single-digit score of 2 in the second ODI, Dhawan's comeback post injury has been far from ideal.

Troubled by in-coming deliveries, twice Dhawan lost his wicket to pacer Sheldon Cottrell.

Since Dhawan is not part of the Test squad, the Delhi left-hander would like to finish the Caribbean assignment on a high.

There is another mini-battle brewing in the Indian batting line up for the number four slot with Shreyas Iyer putting tremendous pressure on Rishabh Pant.

Pant has enjoyed the backing of the team management, especially skipper Virat Kohli but his repeated failures and Iyer's 68-ball 71-run knock in the second ODI has made things different.

Live on TV
India vs West Indies, third ODI
from 7pm on Sony Ten1 & Sony Ten 3

Pant's temperament is cause of concern as he threw away his wicket on numerous occasions. Any team would prefer a level-headed batsman for that crucial position and by his knock on Sunday, Iyer has made a strong case for himself.

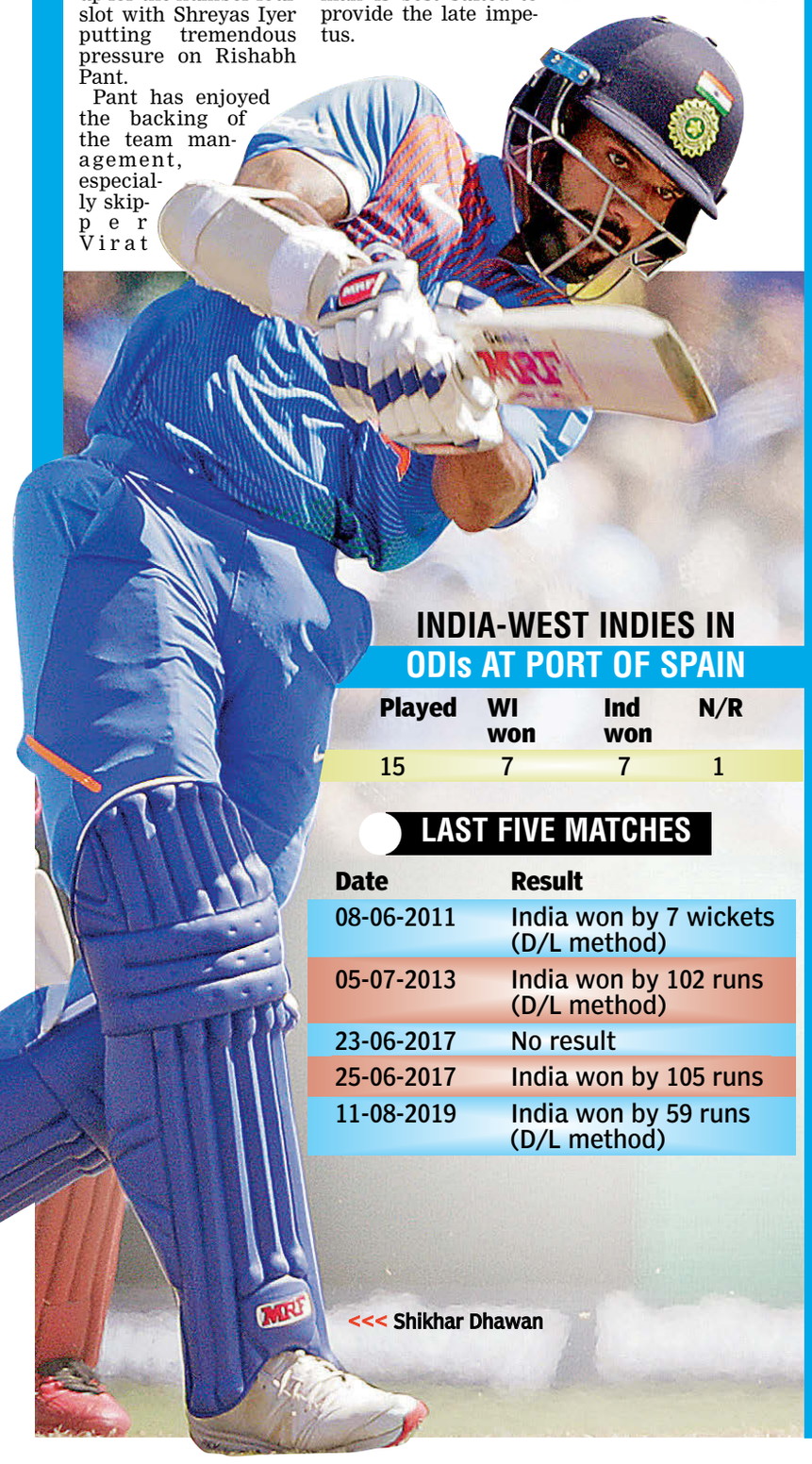
Even legendary Sunil Gavaskar has vouched for Iyer for the number flour slot. He wants Pant to drop down to number five as he feels the wicketkeeper batsman is best suited to provide the late impetus.

Elsewhere on the batting front, Kohli would look to carry on with his good batting form after hitting a brilliant 120 off 125 balls in the second ODI.

Kohli anchored India's innings in Iyer's company after openers Dhawan and Rohit Sharma were dismissed cheaply.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar was the star for India with the ball in the last match with impressive figures of 4 for 31 from eight overs and the pacer would look to carry on his fine form in the coming matches of the tour.

Bhuvneshwar's pace colleague Mohammed Shami (2/39) and Kuldeep Yadav (2/59) also chipped in wickets but the left-arm spinner went for some runs and he would be hoping for better display in terms of economy rate. — *PTI*



<<< Shikhar Dhawan

INDIA-WEST INDIES IN ODIs AT PORT OF SPAIN

Played	WI won	Ind won	N/R
15	7	7	1

LAST FIVE MATCHES

Date	Result
08-06-2011	India won by 7 wickets (D/L method)
05-07-2013	India won by 102 runs (D/L method)
23-06-2017	No result
25-06-2017	India won by 105 runs
11-08-2019	India won by 59 runs (D/L method)

IN | TROUBLE ■ **Sunil allegedly misbehaved with officials of Indian High Commission**

Team manager set to be reprimanded

New Delhi, Aug. 13: The Indian cricket team's administrative manager Sunil Subramaniam's is set to be severely reprimanded by the BCCI for allegedly misbehaving with officials of the country's High Commissions in the West Indies during the ongoing series there.

Subramaniam, who got a 45-day extension along with Ravi Shastri-led support staff is unlikely to be retained after the Caribbean series once the fresh round of interviews are conducted. India are touring West Indies for a full series, which ends with the Test rubber on September 3.

"The Indian team was supposed to shoot a small advertisement on 'Water Conservation' as this directive came from the government. It was learnt that the two High Commissions were informed by the BCCI that Subramaniam is their point person as he is the administrative manager," a top BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.


Sunil Subramaniam

"When a very senior person from Indian High Commission in Trinidad & Tobago called up Subramaniam seeking his co-operation, he told him 'Don't flood me with messages'. The BCCI has come to know that he refused to entertain their calls when all they were doing was to carry out the government's directive," the senior BCCI official added.

Subramaniam could not be reached for a comment despite repeated attempts by PTI. Subramaniam became team's administrative manager in 2017.

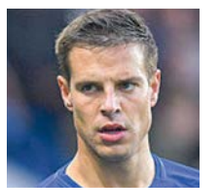
According to a BCCI source, Subramaniam was told to coordinate with the top officials of Indian High Commissions in Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago for the Indian team's shoot on 'Water Conservation', a project of Indian government. "The bureaucrat certainly wasn't amused and the matter reached government corridors in Delhi and in turn ended up at CoA chief Vinod Rai's doorstep. It is learnt that CEO Rahul Johri and his team needed to step in to ensure that things were back on track. However a severe reprimand is on cards for Subramaniam," an official informed.

The small video on 'water conservation', which will also feature skipper Virat Kohli and his deputy Rohit Sharma, is expected to be shot in Port of Spain on Tuesday. Subramaniam is a former left-arm spinner from TN. — *PTI*



China calling

Rafael Benitez says unfulfilled promises from Newcastle owner played a key role in his decision to quit EPL club for Chinese Super League team Dalian Yifang



We have a trophy to fight for on Wednesday against a good team and we have to be ready for it.

— Cesar Azpilicueta, Chelsea captain

Turkish delight

Liverpool eye silverware after losing on penalties to Man City in Community Shield

Istanbul, Aug 13: Jurgen Klopp wants Liverpool to make winning trophies a habit as they head back to Istanbul — the scene of one of the club's greatest triumphs — to take on Premier League rivals Chelsea in the Uefa Super Cup on Wednesday.

The Anfield club memorably defeated AC Milan on penalties to win the Champions League by the bosphorus back in 2005, and now they face Chelsea in the Turkish city after becoming European champions for the sixth time in June.

The traditional curtain-raiser to the European season may not be taken entirely seriously by everyone, but neither club will turn their noses up at the chance of lifting more silverware, with Liverpool having just ended a seven-year trophy drought and Frank Lampard eager to kickstart his Chelsea managerial career.

The clubs have already won the competition four times between them, but nine of the last 10 winners of the Super Cup have come from Spain.

Among the other protagonists on Wednesday will be Stephanie Frappart, with the French official becoming the first woman to referee a major men's match in an European competition.



Chelsea coach Frank Lampard (centre) watches his players at a training session at the Besiktas Park Stadium in Istanbul on Tuesday, the eve of their Super Cup match against Liverpool. — *AP*

Live on TV

SUPER CUP

Liverpool vs Chelsea from 12.30am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2, 2HD

ALISSON BLOW

After losing on penalties to Manchester City in the Community Shield, Liverpool began their league campaign with a comfortable 4-1 win over Norwich City with Mohamed Salah, Virgil van Dijk and Divock Origi all scoring.

However, that result was somewhat overshadowed by the loss of Alisson Becker, with Klopp confirming the formidable Brazil goalkeeper will be out for a while with a calf injury. Spaniard Adrian will deputise in Alisson's absence, and Klopp is hopeful his team can build on their win over Tottenham Hotspur in the Champions League final in Madrid.

CHELSEA REELING

Chelsea secured their place in this fixture thanks to their comprehensive victory over Arsenal in the Europa League final, but much has changed since then.

Coach Maurizio Sarri and star player Eden Hazard have left, and club legend Lampard is now in charge, handed the reins at Stamford Bridge despite just one season's managerial experience in the second tier with Derby County.

The prospect of winning a trophy in just his second competitive match with the London club will be an enticing one, although they could be forgiven for coming into this match with a sense of trepidation after their hammering at Old Trafford. It will be interesting to see if Lampard keeps faith with the likes of youngsters Mason Mount and Tammy Abraham here. — *AFP*

Liverpool started their Premier League's new season on a strong note with a 4-1 win over Norwich on Friday. — *AP*



Nikki Cross (left) and Alexa Bliss head to the ring for the Women's Tag Team title match against Asuka & Kairi Sane during WWE's Monday Night Raw at the Scotiabank Arena in Toronto. — *WWE.com*

Stunning steals and Raw deals

MOSES KONDETY | DC
TORONTO, AUG. 13

Excitement continued on the international wrestling circuit with a series of fights on Monday Night Raw keeping the heat up post the Summer Slam here. The Scotiabank Arena was packed yet again as some of the big names in WWE took centrestage to engage delightful fans.

There was Drew McIntyre, Braun Strowman, Becky Lynch, Alexa Bliss and the sizzling Sasha Banks among others who set the ring on fire in yet another entertaining night that saw quite a few flying bodies... and chairs. The pick of the lot was the fight between Drew McIntyre and Cedric Alexander. The latter startled the Scot with a sharp kick early on and ran circles around him but eventually the bigger Drew bulldozed his way through Cedric, slamming him to the floor. And yes, their spectacular flights and falls evoked that now familiar chant from the crowd: "This is awesome!"

Sasha Banks' blasting Becky Lynch was another top draw. They brawled in and around the ring a bit before launching into fast-paced fisticuffs that got blown into a bitter fight with American Banks raining Becky's body with a series of shots using a chair to leave the Irishwoman in a wreck. Ouch!

The Women's Tag Team (doubles) Title Match too was gripping as Asuka & Kairi Sane, who comprise the Kabuki Warriors, plunged full on into a scrap up with Alexa Bliss and Nikki Cross. They set furious pace to push the defending champions onto the backfoot before Bliss turned it on by sending Asuka into the post and out of the match. Nikki then nailed Kairi before Alexa made it blissful as they retained the title. In another match, the popular Samoa Joe made short work of Sami Zayn after quite a bit of trash talk.

Midway though, several wrestlers rushed into the ring to interrupt the match between The Revival and Lince Dorado and Gran Metalik with anyone fighting anyone in some serious fun that had the crowd in splits.

Towards the end, new Universal Champion Seth Rollins got the better of US Champion AJ Styles in a fight that saw Braun Strowman, Ricochet, Karl Anderson and Luke Gallows barging into the ring to make it a multiple-cornered affair. Eventually, big Braun cleared the ring, retrieved the belt from the ringside and handed it over to a deserving Rollins.

'BARCA OFFICIALS HEAD TO PARIS FOR NEYMAR TALKS'

Madrid, Aug 13: Barcelona officials headed to France on Tuesday for talks with Paris Saint-Germain to seal a return to the Spanish club for Brazilian star Neymar, reports said. The club's director for football, retired French international Eric Abidal, and two other top club officials few to Paris to meet with their Paris Saint-Germain counterparts, Catalan radio Rac1 and Catalan television TV3 reported.

"The breakthrough is significant as PSG had up until now refused to meet with Barcelona emissaries but it does not mean that the deal is close," Rac1 wrote on its website. The deal which the Barcelona officials will propose could include other players such as Philippe Coutinho or Ivan Rakitic, it added. Paris Saint-Germain revealed on Saturday that Neymar transfer talks are "more advanced than before" after the Brazilian was dropped for the French champions' opening Ligue 1 match. Sporting director Leonardo confirmed to reporters that the Brazilian was near the exit door but that PSG were "not yet ready to give their approval" for the transfer. Sports newspaper *AS* has reported that Neymar has been offered to Madrid by PSG, who are open to selling if they can either recoup the the deal. — *AFP*

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SHORT TAKES

Chennaiyin rope in Goian, Alves exits

Chennai: Two-time Indian Super League Chennaiyin FC on Tuesday announced the signing of Romanian central defender Lucian Goian for the 2019-20 campaign even as it parted ways with defender Mailson Alves by mutual consent.

The 36-year old Goian joins the club on a free transfer, and is no stranger to Indian football, having spent the previous three seasons at ISL Mumbai City FC.

"It feels great to sign with Chennaiyin. The coach (John Gregory) played a huge role in me coming here (to CFC). When he asked me if I wish to return to India to win the ISL trophy, I simply said yes," the Romanian said.

Mailson had started in both the 2015 and 2017-18 ISL finals which CFC won against FC Goa and Bengaluru FC respectively. — *Agencies*

Ingebrigtsen clan to aid Kipchoge

Paris: Norwegian siblings Henrik, Filip and Jakob Ingebrigtsen said on Tuesday that they will act as pace setters when Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge tries again to break two hours for a marathon, in Vienna on October 12.

Olympic champion and world record holder Kipchoge has already had one tilt at a sub two-hour time at the Monza race track in May 2017.

On that occasion the 34-year-old was just 25 seconds off the mark in a specially-prepared race using a pacemaker vehicle, as well as runners positioned to shield him in a bid to cut wind resistance.

The assistance meant his time could not be validated by the IAAF. That will also be the case in Vienna. The world record, which the Kenyan set in Berlin last year, is 2hr 01min 39sec.

Henrik Ingebritsen, 28, won gold in the 2012 European championships over 1,500m. — *AFP*

'NO SPACE FOR SHOOTING IN 2022 CWG'

London: Unfazed by India's boycott threat, Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) chief Louise Martin said that shooting will not be a part of the 2022 Birmingham edition.

For the first time since 1974, shooting has been excluded from the Games roster due to logistical issues but the CGF president maintained that shooting has never been a compulsory sport in the Games.

"A sport has to earn the right to be in the Games," Martin told Britain's *'Daily Telegraph'*.

"Shooting has never been a compulsory sport. We have to work through it but shooting will not be in the Games. We have no space anymore."

Shooting has always been one of India's strong points in the Commonwealth Games with the discipline yielding seven gold medals including 16 podium finishes at the last edition in Gold Coast.

Protesting the move, India has threatened to boycott the 2022 Games. The IOA president Narinder Batra has sought approval from sports minister Kiren Rijiju in this regard.

According to the report, Birmingham's had offered to hold two shooting events but the offer was rejected by International Shooting Sport Federation, which wanted a full program. Meanwhile, a gun industry group in Australia has urged the country to join India in threatening to boycott the 2022 Commonwealth Games for dropping shooting from the roster in Birmingham.

Shooting is an optional sport in the Commonwealth Games but has been part of every CWG since Kingston Games in 1966, with the exception of Edinburgh 1970. But the sport has not been included as part of 2022 edition. — *PTI*

Dutch hero Sneijder hangs boots

The Hague, Aug. 13: The Netherlands' most-capped player Wesley Sneijder announced on Monday his retirement from football, bringing down the curtain on a trophy-laden career that spanned 17 years.

The 35-year-old, who played 134 times for his country, made the announcement while speaking to the YouTube channel of his hometown club FC Utrecht after having bought a corporate box at their stadium.

"My connection to the town is big. Now I've retired from football I want a nice place to share my memories," he said.

Sneijder, who made his international debut in 2003 aged 19, picked up a World Cup runners-up medal in 2010 as the *Oranje* were beaten by a dominant Spain in the South Africa final.

His displays earned him the Silver Ball for the tournament's second best player behind Uruguay's Diego Forlan.

Four years later in Brazil he took his side to third place after missing a penalty in the semi-final shoot-out loss to Argentina.

He was also named in the Euro 2008 Team of the Tournament despite his team's quarter-final exit at the hands of Russia.

The 35-year-old, who played 134 times for his country, made the announcement while speaking to the YouTube channel of his hometown club FC Utrecht after having bought a corporate box at their stadium.

His run to the 2010 final with the Netherlands came after his finest season in club football, as the number 10 led Inter Milan's charge to a Serie A, Coppa Italia and Champions League treble under Jose Mourinho.

An Ajax academy graduate in 2002, Sneijder won the Eredivisie title and two Dutch Cups in his five years in the capital club's first team before moving to Real Madrid, where he linked up with countryman Arjen Robben.

He won the La Liga title in 2008 before making the move to Inter a year later, winning that famous treble before a succession of injuries saw him moved on to Gala, where he picked up two more league titles and three Turkish Cups in four years.

He finished his playing career Al Gharafa in Qatar's top-flight.



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