



# THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

HYDERABAD • TUESDAY • AUGUST 13, 2019 • ₹6.00 • PAGES 26 • LATE CITY EDITION



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## AIR INDIA TO FLY OVER POLAR REGION TO SAVE FUEL, TIME

Taking a new flight path to save time as well as fuel, Air India will soon start flying to San Francisco from Delhi over North Pole

## FLIGHT TIME TO BE CUT SHORT BY 1.5 HOURS

With the new route, the flight duration will come down to 13 hours from 14.5 hours at present. Air India has flights between India and North America over the Atlantic and the Pacific routes. Fuel savings would be in the region of 2,000 to 7,000 kg on these routes with the decrease in carbon emission of 6,000 to 21,000 kg per flight, the airline said

## ALL SAFETY MEASURES TAKEN: AI

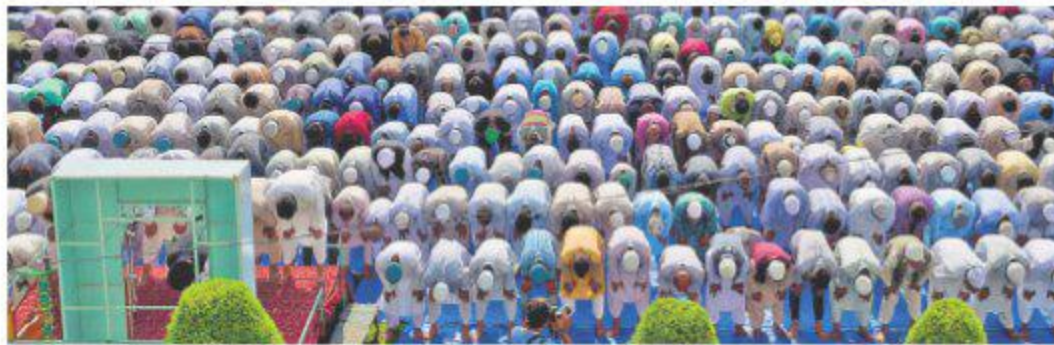
- Risk analysis has been conducted and crew training, weather monitoring, and aircraft serviceability have been enhanced to ensure safe operations on this route, Air India said
- The airline also said a reputed diversion support agency would assist in aircraft and passenger retrieval in case of diversion

Aug 15

WHEN AIR INDIA WILL START THE NEW FLIGHT PATH OVER THE NORTH POLE

### RIL to help build infra

Reliance will create a special task force on J&K and Ladakh region to be part of their growth story and roll out plans in the next few months, its chairman Mukesh Ambani said on Monday



People participate in Eid al-Adha prayers outside a mosque during a security lockdown in Srinagar on Monday | AP

### CRPF ACTIVATES ITS HELPLINE FOR VALLEY

Kashmiris who require help for their families can now call up 14411. "14411 Restored: #Kashmiri students and general public residing in Kashmir or outside can contact #CRPF Madadgaar on 24x7 toll free number 14411 for speedy assistance," the CRPF said in a tweet. Over 500 calls have been received on the helpline since late Sunday

## RIL will be debt-free by March 2021, says Mukesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

RELIANCE Industries will be a zero-debt company by March 2021, RIL chairman Mukesh Ambani said at the company's AGM here on Monday. RIL announced a 20% stake sale in its oil to chemicals business to Saudi Aramco, which together with the recent deal to sell 49% stake in fuel retailing would bring in ₹1.1 lakh crore. It is also looking at strategic/financial investors picking up stakes in its retail and telecom ventures that would help the firm deleverage.



### Aramco's rare disclosure

Saudi Aramco said on Monday its first half net income for 2019 had slipped to \$46.9 billion from \$53 billion a year ago

Last year, the company transferred the telecom assets to two infrastructure trusts for a consideration of ₹1.25 lakh crore, after which its net debt has come down to ₹154,478 crore. RIL's gross debt is ₹2,87,505 crore and its cash and investments in hand are ₹1,33,027 crore resulting in a net debt of ₹154,478 crore. Apart from the large deal in the oil to chemicals segment, RIL has received strong interest from strategic and financial investors in its consumer, Jio and Retail businesses, Ambani said. Global partners would be inducted into these businesses and move towards listing them within five years, he said. Further, RIL is also looking at unlocking value in its real estate and financial investments. "With these initiatives, I have no doubt that the company will have one of the strongest balance sheets in the world," Ambani said. P11

## Jiofiber to roll out on Sept 5

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

RELIANCE Jio will be launching its keenly awaited high speed fibre-to-the-home service, JIOFIBER, across India next month, with subscribers being offered combined TV, high-speed broadband internet and fixed-line telephone services in one package.

While detailed tariffs will be announced on its launch on September 5, JIOFIBER subscriptions will cost between ₹700 and ₹10,000 a month depending on the plan. "We are pricing our plans at less than 1/10th the global rates, to make it accessible for all," RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani said on Monday.

JIOFIBER is seen as a game-changer in the fixed-line segment thanks to its pricing and bundled offerings, with TV, high speed internet and land-line telephone services likely to be offered at a much cheaper combined rate than prevailing market prices.

## Subdued, peaceful Valley Eid

Govt denies claims of firing by security forces; 300 public points for phones opened

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

BARRING minor incidents, Eid al-Adha festivities passed off peacefully in Jammu and Kashmir, and there was no firing anywhere in the Valley, the police said on Monday. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Monday undertook an aerial survey of the city and South Kashmir areas to take stock of the situation. Likewise, police chief Dilbag Singh and Army commanders did separate aerial inspections. Inspector General of Police (Kashmir) S P Pani said, "Eid namaz was offered in different mosques and after the prayers, the congregations dispersed peacefully. There

have been a couple of minor localised incidents of law and order, which have been handled very professionally. In these incidents, a couple of injuries were reported. Otherwise the entire Valley situation is peaceful," he said. However, Eid prayers were disallowed at the Syed Yaqoob Shah shrine at Sonawar in Srinagar and the famous Hazratbal shrine. J&K principal secretary Rohit Kansal said not a single bullet was fired by the security forces in the Valley on Monday. "There have been some reports in the media about firing by security agencies and deaths. The police carried out a detailed briefing and I would like to reiterate

and categorically deny that any firing incident has happened in J&K," he said. Pani said some arrests were made but these were "absolutely in the ambit of law". All those arrested were produced before the court, he said, adding lifting or imposing restrictions was a dynamic process. Kansal said that in order to address problems of lack of connectivity, 300 public points have been provided to people to talk to their relatives over phones. "Over 5,000 calls were made from the Srinagar office alone by people wishing to greet their near and dear ones," he said. Due to tight security, most

of the families could not visit their relatives to greet them on Eid. "I live in Pantha Chowk area of Srinagar and my brother lives in Soura. Due to the curfew-like situation, I could not visit him. I also did not sacrifice an animal. I have been following the sacrifice ritual since the past few years but this year I did not purchase any sacrificial animal," said Aijaz Ahmad. As for Javed Ahmad, a resident of Sonawar in uptown Srinagar, he sacrificed an animal but could not distribute it among his relatives. "I shared it with my neighbours instead. Owing to restrictions, I could not call on my relatives to offer a portion of the meat," he said. P9

### Tight vigil till I-Day

With Eid out of the way, the focus is now on smooth and peaceful conduct of I-Day. Restrictions in place since last Monday after scrapping of Article 370 would remain in force. Security to be further tightened as intel suggests militants are planning spectacular strikes on Aug 15

## Rains stop, but fear remains

- AFTER 4 DAYS OF INTENSE RAINS, CLOUDS STAYED CLEAR OVER MOST PARTS OF KERALA ON MONDAY
- HOWEVER, MET DEPT FORECASTS HEAVY RAINS ON TUE DUE TO LOW PRESSURE OVER BAY OF BENGAL



**WAYANAD | KERALA**  
• Toll rose to 86 as on Monday • 50 people are still missing in Malappuram • Rains subside, no 'red alert' for any of the 14 districts on Tuesday, but 'orange alert' in six districts • Northern districts of Malappuram, Wayanad and Kozhikode among the most affected. P6,7

**31,052** People are in relief camps as on Monday  
**Holiday for edu insts in 9 districts**  
Institutions in Kottayam, Kannur, Kozhikode, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Wayanad, Malappuram, Pathanamthitta closed



**MYSURU | KARNATAKA**  
• Flood-related deaths stood at 42 as on Monday, 12 still missing • A total of 5,81,897 people evacuated and rescued so far • 3,32,629 people in 1,181 relief camps • 2,694 villages in 86 taluks of 17 districts hit • CM announces ₹5 lakh relief to those who lost houses in floods



**KURNOOL | ANDHRA PRADESH**  
• Second Flood Warning issued along the course of the River Tungabhadra in Kurnool district • High alert in low-lying areas of Kurnool city and other villages along the Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers • People are being evacuated • Schools located in low-lying regions downstream of the Tungabhadra will be shut

**3,931** Number of people who have taken shelter in relief camps across the State

**2 Lakh** Cusecs flood discharge at Tungabhadra Dam | 10 crest gates at Srisailem lifted to height of 42 ft

## NALGONDA | TELANGANA

## ALL GATES UP, WATER GUSHES OUT OF NSP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad/Nalgonda

FOR the first time in a decade, all 26 crest gates of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project (NSP) were lifted on Monday, with a deluge of water reaching the reservoir from Srisailem. The swirling floodwaters are rushing downstream of the Krishna and are likely to reach the Pulichintala balancing reservoir early on Tuesday. On Monday evening, the storage at Pulichintala was 7.94 tmcft as against its gross storage capacity of 45.77 tmcft. The water level was 135.31 ft as against the full reservoir level (FRL) of 175 ft. After the Pulichintala reservoir fills up, the water would reach the Prakasam barrage in Vijayawada, which is the last on the Krishna, and after which, the river joins the Bay of Bengal. The combined discharge from all gates of the NSP was 3,67,580 cusecs on Monday evening. The water level at the NSP was being maintained at 567 ft as against the FRL of 590 ft. The last time all the crest gates were lifted was in 2009, when the Krishna experienced an unprecedented flood. P4



Water pours out of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project in Nalgonda district after all 26 crest gates were opened on Monday, a first since 2009 | EXPRESS

### GREEN CELEBRATIONS

## Emulate Ahmedabad and stop immersing Ganesh idols, says KTR

### To be mooted at meet today

The GHMC will discuss adopting KTR's proposal at its coordination meeting for Ganesh nimajjanam on Tuesday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

AS the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi nears, TRS working president KT Rama Rao on Monday took to Twitter to share an idea from Ahmedabad that people in Hyderabad can emulate to protect lakes from pollution due to the immersion of Ganesh idols.

Rao shared a tweet by Amdavad Municipal Corporation commissioner Vijay Nehra on how residents of the region decided to keep the Sabarmati clean by not immersing idols of goddess Dashama in the river. Rather, they left the idols on the river bank, to be later removed

by the municipal authorities. "If Ahmedabad can do it, why can't we in Hyderabad take a leaf from their book and try the same for Ganesh Chaturthi? What say @bonthurammohan @ CommissionrGHMC and Hyderabadis?? (sic)," Rao tweeted. As he proposed this,

GHMC commissioner M Dana Kishore responded saying it would be discussed at the GHMC's coordination meeting for Ganesh nimajjanam on Tuesday. "Shall moot it in tomorrow's coordination meeting on Ganesh Nimajjanam, sir: I am sure Hyderabadis will respond positively. It can also gain major traction if spread by 30 NGOs working

on Saaf Hyderabad & Shaandaar Hyderabad. More on this in next few days... (sic)," he tweeted. While Rao's tweet saw many supporters for the replication of the Ahmedabad model, many others used the opportunity to criticise the government for not enforcing strict rules on restricting the height of Ganesh idols.

### BCI MOVE

## Three-year moratorium on new law colleges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

STATING that there are enough institutions in all parts of the country to feed law courts and serve the people, the Bar Council of India (BCI) on Monday imposed a three-year moratorium on opening new law colleges in the country. The BCI said that for the next three years it will focus on improving the existing institutions, and those which don't have proper infrastructure will be shut. "There is no dearth of advocates and the existing institutions are sufficient to produce the required number of law graduates [...] there is an urgent need to improve the standard of teaching, and in order to achieve that goal, the Council has planned to train the law teachers of the country," the BCI noted.

BCI chairman Manan Kumar Mishra, in a press release, said the restriction will not apply for any national law university if proposed by any State government, if that State had no varsity before. The BCI, if it decides to open a model institution of legal education, as it did earlier by opening the National Law School of India University, Bangalore, could do so.

It was also resolved at the council meeting on August 11 that the BCI would consider only pending proposals for new institutions, and no fresh applications would be entertained. The reason, it said, was that there are about 1,500 law colleges in India and several don't have proper infrastructure due to lethargy of the university managements and State governments. P5



5-YEAR-OLD SEXUALLY ASSAULTED BY YOUTH

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

DAYS after a rapist was sentenced to death in Warangal district, another youth in Vikarabad district allegedly sexually assaulted a five-year-old girl. The incident which happened on Friday, came to light on Monday when the parents of the girl approached the police. The accused Nagesh, 20, has been arrested.

The incident has once again raised questions on the safety of women and minor girls, in particular.

Nagesh and the victim are neighbours in Regoindi village of Peddemul mandal in the district.

Nagesh and the girl's parents are daily wage labourers.

On Friday evening, before her parents returned from work, the girl was playing outside their home. Nagesh who noticed that the girl was alone, called her inside under the pretext of offering a snack.

When the girl went inside, he sexually assaulted the girl. He then let her go when she started crying out of pain. Though she went home, she did not inform anybody, as Nagesh had threatened her.

Next day, she fell sick. As the sickness continued for the second day and she started complaining of pain in her private parts, she was taken to the hospital. Doctors examined her and said she was sexually assaulted.

Later on inquiry the girl confided in her mother, after which they confronted Nagesh and he admitted of sexually assaulting the girl. The parents then lodged a complaint on Monday.

DSP Tandur M Ramchandrudu said a case under charges of rape and POCSO act is registered.

WHAT MAKES A CRIMINAL?

Express takes a look into the widely different behavioural patterns exhibited by two notorious criminals, involved in sensational crimes that rocked Telangana

PINTO DEEPAK @ Hyderabad

MARRI Srinivas Reddy and P Praveen could arguably be two of the most abhorred names in Telangana at the moment. The two notorious criminals, both involved in sensational crimes that rocked the State recently, had been startlingly similar in the way they committed the crimes. Both Srinivas Reddy (who had abducted, raped and killed three minor girls in Hajipur village) and P Praveen (sentenced to death for raping and murdering a nine-month-old infant in Warangal), however, exhibit such different behavioural patterns that it has taken even the police by surprise.

Poles apart

Srinivas Reddy (28), who used to work as a crane operator, had a habit of visiting commercial sex workers regularly. In 2017, he killed a woman in Kurnool. He was also involved in a harassment case in his village, but it was settled through compromise. In fact, most of the 2,000 residents of his village know very little about this school dropout-turned-bike mechanic.

Investigations revealed that he was addicted to child pornography, something he was regularly spotted watching on his two mobile phones. In April 2019, after killing and burying his last victim (12) in the well, Srinivas reportedly went ahead and played cricket with a few boys in the area. The very next day, he even attended a friend's wedding. He also did not personally know any of his victims. He had lured them by offering to drop them on his bike. He had employed the same modus operandi when he abducted, raped and killed two girls in March 2009, and 2015 as well.

Srinivas Reddy was a known womaniser, with an active criminal record. P Praveen (21), on the other hand, was what one could term a 'voyeur'. He got married a couple of years ago, and was making a living by doing odd jobs. It is learnt that even his wife had little complaints about him. When the police approached her, they were told that "he took good care of her".

The investigators found that before he raped and murdered the nine-month-old baby in June 2019, he had stolen two mobile phones of girls who were sleeping on the terrace opposite to his building. He was involved in thefts such as this, small property offences, etc., but generally nothing more. A chain-snatching attempt that happened a few years ago was the only complaint reported against him.

Praveen, however, also had a history of watching women while they were changing clothes or bathing. He has also groped women while in crowded places, but was never caught. Though he was involved in crimes, none of his acts came to the book, unlike Srinivas Reddy.



'Accused knows bail is inevitable'  
 "The accused often does not care about the consequences he would face as he knows that bail is inevitable and that the chargesheet maybe late," said Padmawathi, chairperson, CWC

48 days  
 after the brutal rape and murder of a nine-month-old infant in Warangal, a POCSO Special Court sentenced the accused P Praveen to the gallows, in what is now being considered a landmark judgment

'Child-friendly courts should be set up'

Officials involved in trials of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) cases also note that the High Court must set up child-friendly courts and legal systems in every district at the earliest

One of the things we need to see is that a majority of those accused are not socially well-placed to feel the deterrence. So one or two judgments will not deter them

Padmawathi, chairperson, Child Welfare Committee

A DAY AFTER 14-YEAR-OLD RAPE VICTIM COMMITS SUICIDE, COPS ARREST TWO

Warangal: City police on Monday arrested two persons who had allegedly raped the 14-year-old girl who committed suicide the previous day. The accused — Prasanna Kumar (16) and Tirupathi (20) from Pembarthi village near Kamalapur — had picked the girl up from her home and took her to their village where four men were waiting for them. They raped her in turns and dropped her back home at night. Afraid of facing the society after her ordeal, she hung herself from the ceiling. Investigation Officer and ACP Ch Sridhar said a case had been registered against the two who were arrested under Sections of IPC, 306, 376DA, 506 and Section 5g (R/W) of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act of 2018. The girl's family have demanded the government to set up a fast track court similar to the one that had recently convicted one Praveen for raping and murdering a nine-month-old less than 50 days from when the crime took place. Meanwhile, Panchayat Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao and Warangal West MLA D Vinay Bhaskar visited the bereaved family and consoled them. Several social activists and NGOs staged a demonstration at Bheemaram Check Post in the city. They appealed to the State government to constitute an expert committee that would suggest measures to prevent atrocities against women. They demanded the police to ensure the culprits get the death penalty as per the revised POCSO Act

'Publicise swift action by law to deter POCSO crimes'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

THE suicide of a 14-year-old rape victim in Warangal, merely two days after the landmark judgment that served death penalty to a convict who raped and murdered an infant, has once again sent waves of shock across the State. Despite two landmark judgments — life imprisonment for one, and death sentence for another — in separate POCSO cases within the span of 2 months, there seems to be no reduction in the number of minors being raped. The death penalty was especially historic as it was

pronounced within 48 days of the crime being committed.

According to experts, there is an urgent need to publicise such judgments. The fact that the trials are being taken up in a speedy manner will not only create a deterrence amongst the anti-social elements but also improve public faith in the system.

"One of the things we need to see is that a majority of those accused are not socially well-placed to feel the deterrence. So one or two judgments will not de-

ter them. Moreover, we have seen that the accused often does not care about the consequences he would face as he knows that bail is inevitable and that the chargesheet maybe late. So they commit the crime anyway," noted Padmawathi, chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Rangareddy district. Padmawathi says publicising such verdicts can help showcase the might of law.

Officials involved in trials of POCSO cases also note that the High Court must set up child-

friendly courts and legal support systems in every district at the earliest. "Most victims are from underprivileged backgrounds and feel overwhelmed by the legal procedures concomitant with a trial. There is an urgent need to set up systems like Bharosa center in districts so that the victim can be familiarised with the system," added S Spandana, Legal Officer from Bharosa centre. According to activist Achyutha Rao of Balala Hakkula Sangham, an expert committee needs to sit upon the issue and workout modalities for the safety of girls.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

13<sup>th</sup> August: To continue yesterday's discussion, does anyone have any theories about how astrology works? Some astronomers think it's all due to the way electro-magnetic fields are affected by the Sun during birth and the first weeks of life. It's a fascinating idea, one which may become clearer as we discover more about the Sun's energy.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Without a shadow of a doubt, this is an ambitious time for Aries. Yet no two of you share exactly the same goal. One thing is clear, though - that this week success will only follow if you put your own unique aspirations above duties or obligations to other people.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Whatever challenges you face, remember one thing: the planets are on your side now and over the rest of the month. Few people are as fortunate as you when it comes to long-term planetary prospects, all the more so if you're ready for a spot of revolution.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The way out of current financial complications is twofold. First, you can attempt to run your affairs in a traditional manner. Secondly, you may realise that your fortunes are linked to other people's and make teamwork your priority. You can even offer them a helping hand.

CANCER (June 22 - July 21)

Events are moving very fast, and will continue to do so for the next month. The problem is that a great deal that happens may seem to be outside your control. Yet if you are honest, you'll see that you laid the seeds of current crises - and triumphs - over the last twelve months.

LEO (July 22 - Aug 21)

The crucial factor today is the planets' desire to stir up mysteries and confusion, a factor which leads you away from everything of worldly significance, towards solitude, charity, imagination and dreams. You may therefore feel a little out of touch with certain daily duties.

VIRGO (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You're not usually interested in small talk, yet I would advise you to do whatever is necessary to mix as widely as possible, no matter how unimportant social contacts seem. Eventually something of value will emerge from a new relationship, if only you can wait!

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

Home entertaining and family engagements are favoured all week. Some may be pleasurable, some may be tedious to deal with knotty problems and a awkward business. If it's agreement you're after, remember that where there's a will there's a way. In other words, it's all up to you!

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

Excellent, intuitive and commonsense/unar aspects should put you on the right track today. The beneficial impact will benefit primarily on your instincts, those mysterious Scorpionic feelings which are responsible for guiding you through life's many minor perils.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Money worries resurface today, but those of you who have already decided to do something positive about your situation will take a further step towards greater prosperity. The general drift of events this week is supportive, so don't falter now.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

The Moon takes up a powerful position, raising your confidence but also indicating that your intuitions are on top form. This has two consequences. On the one hand, you will be very sensitive to the fact that partners' interests must be respected. On the other, you will be challenged to broaden the scope of your own activities.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

This is a lively day and everyone seems to want more than they can have. An unforeseen obstacle brings the greatest risk of a clash but, in some strange way, the consequence of any irrational disagreement could be a deeper insight into your real aims and options.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Social commitments are crystallised magnificently by the Moon's creative dimensions. If you seek out fresh group and community responsibilities, then you'll find your true role. You are the right person to show the rest of us the best way forward.

THE PHANTOM



HI AND LOIS



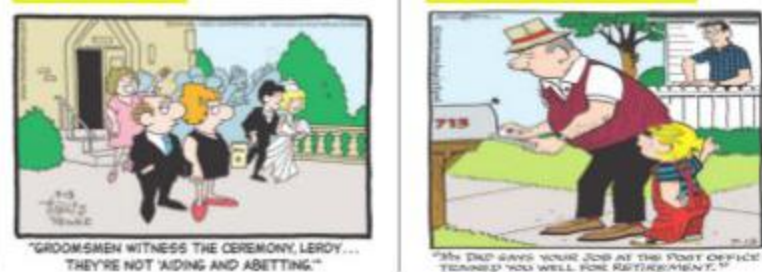
BEEBLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



LOCKHORNS



DENNIS THE MENACE



SU DO KU

			7	3	
8		1	2		
9	8		2		
4			1	3	
1	3	8	7	4	
	7	4		1	
	1		6	9	
	6	9	7	5	
6		1			

HARD

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

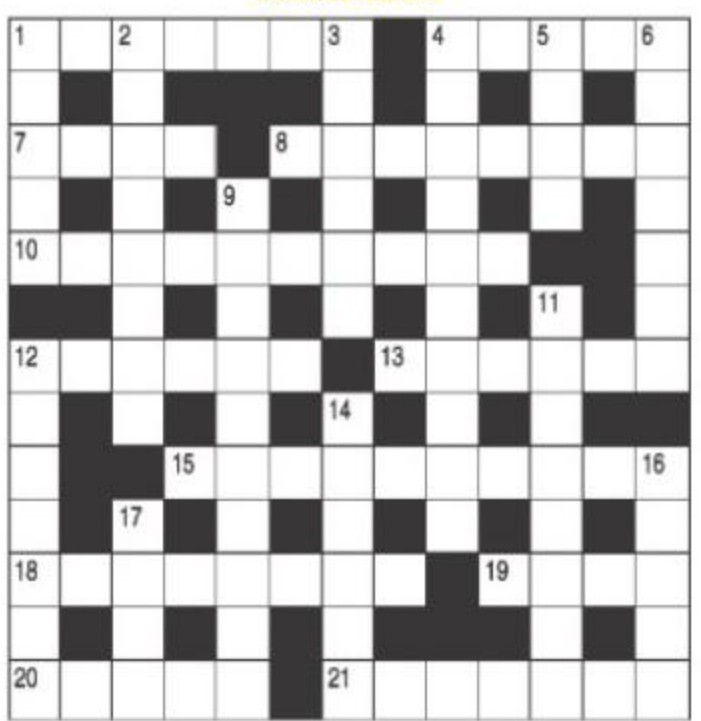
LZWTA  
 COIVE  
 NHYINW  
 DLIMAS

THE CARPENTER WAS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY THE STAIRS SQUEAKED BUT COULDN'T.

Now arrange the correct letters to form the appropriate answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers: LIZARD, COIN, WINDY, MILDAM

CROSS WORD



ACROSS

- 1 Doesn't let go, but changes instead (7)
- 4 Star that may have to be examined microscopically (5)
- 7 No article from Spain for Christmas (4)
- 8 Clear evidence of what a ship is carrying (8)
- 10 Extra parts? (5,5)
- 12 Shut a letter in a cupboard (6)
- 13 Gets calmer after a wild rally (6)
- 15 Devious game of golf starts a fight (10)
- 16 Tip fifty into the boat (8)
- 19 Capital punishment? (4)
- 20 Check the advance of a sick man's comeback (5)
- 21 See 2 Down

DOWN

- 1 Dug up some fabric (5)
- 2 and 21 Across: As far as it goes, in a way (3,3,2,3,4)
- 3 Main reason for poor visibility (3,3)
- 4 New coalfields cut into handy pieces (6,4)
- 5 Quits the day before new start is to be made (4)
- 6 Answers which may be dispensed with (7)
- 9 A fight, but nobody is charged (4-3-3)
- 11 Polo man breaks in one horse (8)
- 12 He applauds the bellringer (7)
- 14 Inferior bangle? (6)
- 16 A step in making wine? (5)
- 17 Pins up a small piece (4)

• YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS  
 Across: 1 Ingrid, 9 Two-step, 10 Ascot, 11 Tree, 12 Inside, 14 Option, 16 Insect, 18 Codeword, 19 Spar, 22 Poach, 23 Big game, 24 Parting shot.  
 Down: 2 Noose, 3 Rats, 4 Tapes, 5 Training, 6 Decline, 7 Stethoscope, 8 Street cries, 13 Somewhat, 15 Toccata, 17 Reuben, 20 Piano, 21 Ages.



LOW PRESSURE

IMD warns of heavy rains across State

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad



AIDED by a low pressure area formed over the northwestern Bay of Bengal, heavy rainfall will occur over isolated places across the state on Tuesday and Wednesday, according to a weather forecast by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The state witnessed heavy rains in the last week of July and for a few days in the first week of August making the state of south-west monsoon rainfall in the state more deficient to normal. However, for the past more than a week there have not been many rains in the state.

As on Monday, the actual monsoon rains in the state remained close to the normal value. While the actual rainfall in the state till Monday was 465.8mm, the normal value is 463.6mm. In most districts the monsoon rainfall is normal but a six districts continue to reel under deficient rainfall including Sangareddy, Vikarabad, Rangareddy, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Khammam and Gadwal.

First time in 10 years, all gates between Almatti, Jurala opened

PAGE 1

On Monday, for the first time since 2009, all gates of all the reservoirs across the Krishna, from Almatti to NSP, were opened. With heavy inflows continuing into the Almatti and Jurala projects, the water is being allowed downstream. The inflows into the projects will continue, as heavy rain has been predicted for the next five days in the catchment area.

"We have decided to open the gates of the Pulichintala, following heavy releases from the Nagarjuna Sagar," an irrigation official of Andhra Pradesh told Express over the phone. "The outflows from the NSP are about five lakh cusecs per day and Pulichintala will be full. The flood is heavy and that is why we decided to open the gates of Pulichintala after midnight on Monday," official sources said.

The authorities are getting ready to impound 45 tmcft water in Pulichintala now, and concerns of villages being submerged have already been addressed, the sources explained.

Meanwhile, inflows to the Jurala Project have touched a record high of 8.34 lakh cusecs since 2009. Accordingly, inflows to Srisailem were 8,19,254 cusecs on Monday evening. The outflows from Nagarjuna Sagar were

3,67,580 cusecs, and are expected to increase further. With this, the Pulichintala too would be filled to the brim for the first time.

It may be recalled that the inflows to Jurala on July 30 were just 10,000 cusecs. Now, they have gone up to 8 lakh cusecs. During the 2009 floods, the inflows to Jurala were 10.2 lakh cusecs.

Hydel power generation is in full swing at Jurala, Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar, and is set to begin at Pulichintala too. Telangana generated 18.75 million units of power at Srisailem left, and 16.9 million units at Nagarjuna Sagar on Sunday.

A advisory from the Central Water Commission (CWC) stated on Monday that due to heavy rains in the last 14-to-15 days upstream of the Krishna and Bhima basin, along with a heavy rainfall warning for the next five days, inflows are expected to be high.

Due to very heavy releases of 8 lakh cusecs from Jurala and 2 lakh cusecs from the Sunkesula barrage, very heavy inflows are expected further at Srisailem. Due to the release of 2.8 lakh cusecs from the Nagarjuna Sagar, heavy inflows are expected at the Pulichintala project. The outflows from Nagarjuna Sagar are set to increase in next couple of days.

EXPRESS READ

2,200 MT waste generated on Bakrid

Hyderabad: Bakrid festivities generated over 2,200 metric tonnes of animal waste in the twin cities on Monday. GHMC Sanitation wing moved over 1,500 MT to Jawahar nagar dumping yard. The remaining would be cleared by the night. The maximum waste was generated in Charminar zone (700 MT), Kattedan and Mir Alam Tank (120 MT).

2 more nabbed in bizman kidnap case

Task force sleuths on Monday arrested two more in connection with the kidnap of Gajendra Parekh in Chikkadapally police jurisdiction. They are Mirza Omer Ali Baig (25) and Mirza Azhar Ali Baig (63). Omer Ali Baig was absconding since kidnaping Parekh, owner of Maina Finance Company, Domalguda on July 28.

UoH revokes prohibition on protests

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad

THE University of Hyderabad on Monday revoked the ban on protests imposed by the university a couple of days ago following the imposition of Section 144 in the city, following the announcement of abrogation of Article 370 by the Central government.

The university released a circular on Monday saying that the regulation prohibiting protests and agitations in the UoH campus imposed on August 5 as per directions of the Cyberabad police, stands withdrawn.

PINTO DEEPAK @Hyderabad

IN an unusual hearing, four chain snatchers who robbed a gold chain from a woman were acquitted, but the gold smith who received the chain, was convicted by a city court.

The absence of ironclad evidence that could establish that the accused had indeed snatched the gold chain led to their acquittal. The court, while delivering the verdict in connection with a February 2018 chain snatching case registered at Adibatla police station, pointed out that the available evidence failed to connect the snatchers and the receiver to the offence. Additionally, both the victim and other pros-

KRISHNA GETS FURIOUS

Widespread crop damage across erstwhile Mahbubnagar district; riverine island of Gurrangadda cut off completely; Minister Srinivas Goud, MP Srinivas Reddy tour region, assure people of rehabilitation by State govt



Floodwaters released from Jurala project on Monday; (Below) Minister Srinivas Goud inspects Hindupur village | EXPRESS

K AMRUTH RAO @Mahbubnagar

BIRELLI village in Gadwal mandal on Monday saw heavy flooding by water released from Jurala project. People living in the region were fearful of the Krishna river's rising water level and kept themselves ready for evacuation. Many living in low-lying areas were removed from their homes as a precautionary measure. Many of them left their houses voluntarily and took their valuables with them to the village's public elementary school. They planned to spend the night there.

The riverine island of Gurrangadda on the Krishna, with a population of 800, was virtually cut off from the world due to flooding. The village has no power connection and officials said it would take at least a week for it to be repaired. The bridge out of the island has been submerged under water.

The water had on Monday reached the villages of Malleeswaram, Somashila, Jataprolu, Manchalakatta, Yaparla, Pebbair, Bekkem, Periyamaur, Tarur, Amaragiri, Baswapuram and Goodem. Vasunagar at Maganur too was



submerged. The farmlands in these villages, on which sowing was done only recently, were inundated with water. Shepherds and fishermen from the region have been asked to stay away from the Krishna river.

Heavy crop damage was also reported at Hindupur, Murahardoddy, Mudumala, Pasupula, Nandimala, Dharalur, Khammapadu and Garlapadu.

Meanwhile, officials of Nagarkurnool and Wanaparthy district warned the people of possible flooding by the Tungabhadra river.

It may be recalled that the inflows to Jurala on July 30 were just 10,000 cusecs. Now, they have gone up to 8 lakh cusecs. During the 2009 floods, the in-

flows to Jurala were 10.2 lakh cusecs. The Tungabhadra was relatively tamer at 7.50 lakh cusecs.

The water capacity of the nearby Srisailem reservoir is 215 tmcft. Currently, it has 193 tmcft and it is being pumped out at 6.8 lakh cusecs to Nagarjuna Sagar through 10 gates.

The district collectors of Narayanpet and Gadwal were on alert along with Irrigation officials who were monitoring water levels. The tahsildars of each mandal were ordered to remain in the catchment area to monitor the situation. A separate control room was set up in district centres. The public was informed of toll-free numbers to call immediately in the event of catastrophic flooding. The numbers were propagated through social media websites.

Minister inspects damage

Minister V Srinivas Goud and Mahbubnagar MP M Srinivas Reddy visited the village of Hindupur which was badly affected by the rising waters. Goud told the residents a site had been identified for people who were losing their houses to the floods. He assured the government would take care of them.

Tourists from TS, AP swarm Nagarjuna Sagar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Nalgonda

INFLOWS into the Nagarjuna Sagar project were rising by the hour on Monday. Tourists, looking to witness the majestic views, too swarmed the dam. Officials said this was the first time in 10 years that all 26 crest gates of the dam were lifted. Tourists from both Telugu states, on knowing this information, rushed to the place.

Early in the morning, only around 100 people were at the dam. By the afternoon, as many as 80,000 had visited it. Roads leading to the place were jammed from nearly 5km on the Macherla side. The police did not allow any vehicles near the dam and stopped them at the old police station

around 3km from it. The elderly were largely unable to walk the distance and had to go back home disappointed.

Selfie turns dangerous

Meanwhile, one Shaik Nagul Meera (35), a resident of Gurala of Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh was washed away by the water while trying to take a selfie on the old bridge located on the right bank canal. Locals feared he had died. Police and NDRF teams launched a search and rescue operation and managed to save him. He was rushed to the local government hospital where is undergoing treatment. Earlier in the day, one Narasimha (41) was washed away while visiting the Shivalayam Pushkara Ghat.



Visitors enjoy the scenery as all gates of Nagarjuna Sagar are lifted | EXPRESS

One washed away at Pushkara Ghat near NSP



M Narasimha

Nalgonda: One person was washed away at the Shivalayam Pushkara Ghat near the Nagarjuna Sagar project on Monday. M Narasimha, 41, a resident of Sangareddy, was there to see the water being released through the dam's crest gates. The dam officials, unbeknownst to Narasimha, had lifted several crest gates within minutes of his arrival at the place. The water gushed towards him and before he could escape, he was swept away. His friends tried to rescue him but could not do much due to the heavy flow. The previous night collector Gaurav Uppal had directed officials to alert people living on the river banks but there was no one to warn the tourists at Pushkara Ghat

Long way to go for adoption of EVs

VV BALAKRISHNA @Hyderabad

OWNERS and operators of over 3,000 public charging points plying on Hyderabad's roads, including auto-rickshaws, do not have any public charging points at their disposal. However, the city is still positioned better than the Bengaluru, where around 8,000 electric vehicles are plying without any public charging points whatsoever. With the delay in formulating the State's Electric Vehicle policy, due to a series of election, the emerging electric vehicle market is facing initial hiccups.

Of course, the picture is not completely gloomy. "Currently, two major companies are scouting for locations in the city to set up public charging points for EVs," an official in the Energy department said.

Sources said that the two companies are willing to set up charging points at all Hyderabad Metro stations, RTC bus depots, cinema halls and other such places in the city. This will likely encourage people to shift to EVs in next one or two years.

According to sources, a normal charger may cost around ₹50,000, which would take around five to six hours to charge the battery of a normal EV. The speed charger, which would take less than two hours, costs

around ₹4 to ₹5 lakhs. "If a person buy a house worth ₹1 crore, he/she can set up his own charging point at his residence by spending ₹5 lakh. It would not be a problem for them," the official said.

However, the real problem is that the manufacturing of EVs has not picked up in the country. "The Central government placed an order for 10,000 EVs. But, the manufacturers have been unable to deliver them for many months," the official explained.

High price of entry a deterrent

The price of an EV car is around ₹12 lakh. This is also one of the reasons buyers are not so inclined to shift from petrol/diesel vehicles. "Sports utility vehicles cost around ₹25 lakh. Transport operators may prefer buying them," said the official. A normal charger used to charge such a vehicle can cost around ₹50,000

STUCK IN UAE

Woman seeks MEA help to save son

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad



A city-based woman, who was allegedly kept in solitary confinement for 30 years in the UAE, appealed to Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar on Monday to repatriate one of her sons lodged in a jail in the country. Fatima, who has since returned, does not have any documents to prove that he is her son, and has therefore asked for a DNA test to be made available.

She claimed that after her husband's death, the second wife took hold of Fatima's documents and forced her out of the house. "I approached the Indian Embassy for help and returned to Hyderabad on February 12, 2013, using a temporary passport. On June 20, my son Mohammed Sami was arrested by the Ajman police. The UAE authorities wanted to deport him to India. But as he does not have the documents required, he is languishing in Jail," she lamented.

In a letter to Jaishankar, Fatima recounted how she was married to then 80-year-old Omran Ali Abdul Jaleel Ali, at the age of 15. "After three years of marriage, my husband died. I did not have any children with him. As there was no one to look after me, my relatives convinced me to remarry. I then got married to a man working in UAE Army," she wrote.

According to Fatima, she was married to Ashraf for 25 years, and had seven children with him.

STRANGE FILES

Chain snatchers go free, but goldsmith gets jail term



This court is of the opinion that when the victim and the witness did not identify the offenders during TIP and later identified the offenders in the open court, this becomes a weak piece of evidence

Court

ecution witnesses failed to identify the snatchers.

During the trial, one of the witnesses deposed before the court that the offenders had worn masks and came from the opposite direction. Therefore the chance of identifying offenders was established to be remote. Apart from this, during the Test Identification Parade (TIP), the victim and the witnesses did not identify the offenders.

"This court is of the opinion that when the victim and the witness did not identify the offenders during TIP and later identified the offenders in the open court, this becomes a weak piece of evidence. Therefore, such evidence cannot be-

come the basis of identification of the accused as offenders," the court stated.

Further, it was found that the statements of the offenders were recorded in the presence of police officers. Section 25 of Indian Evidence Act states that no confession made to a police officer shall be proved against a person accused of any offence.

While the Section 26 of the Indian Evidence Act says that confession by the accused while in custody of police not to be proved against him. Thereafter, the court observed that the confessions recorded could not be proven against the offenders and set the four snatchers free.

While dealing with the gold smith, the court stated that since the stolen property was in his possession, the burden lies on him to account for the possession.

But as he did not cite any evidence, and due to the absence of any rebuttal evidence, court declared him of having received the goods, knowing them to be stolen property. Though it acquitted him of robbery charges, it found him guilty of receiving stolen property. "Though relevant charge is not framed, section 221 of IPC empowers court to convict an accused for an offence even if a charge is not framed," stated the court, giving him imprisonment for one year.





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"We will script history, which was never witnessed in the last 60 to 70 years in the history of Telugus," Rao said. Speaking to reporters in Nagari in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh on Monday, Rao said Godavari waters should be diverted to Rayalaseema.

"We will transform Rayalaseema into Ratanala Seema," he averred. Chandrasekhara Reddy on Monday visited Tirupathi and Kanchi temples. He also visited Aththi Varadaraja Swamy temple in Kanchipuram. He had the darshan of Aththi Varadaraja Swamy, who was taken out of temple tank after 40 years this year. As the Darshan of Aththi Varadaraja Swamy would be available

only for 48 days, Chandrasekhara Reddy along with his family members went to Kanchipuram.

Visits Roja's residence

Later, Rao also went to the residence of YSRCP MLA and Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation chairperson RK Roja in Nagari.

Speaking to reporters at Roja's residence, Rao said: "Thad a good darshan of the lord. My aim is to divert Godavari river waters to Rayalaseema region. Now, we have a dynamic, robust, committed and young YS Jagan Mohan Reddy as chief minister of Andhra Pradesh. It is (diversion of Godavari waters) definitely possible. The problems of Rayalaseema will be resolved 100 per cent. I will help Jagan Mohan Reddy as an elder brother."

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vari waters flowed into the Bay of Bengal untapped, he said: "Now, all the projects have filled up on Krishna and water is going into the sea, without serving any purpose. We have to utilise these waters for Rayalaseema."

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Rao said that he would work in tandem with Jagan Mohan Reddy for the betterment of both the Telugu States. Rao spent almost two hours at the residence of Roja on his return journey to Hyderabad.

AP Deputy Chief Minister K Narayana Swamy, AP Panchayat Raj Minister Peddiredy Ramachandra Reddy, TTD chairman YV Subba Reddy, Rajampet Lok Sabha member MP PV Mithun Reddy and MLA K Adimoolam welcomed Rao in Nagari.

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Shabbir wants PM to take action against Khattar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

CONGRESS leader Mohammad Ali Shabbir demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take action against Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar for his derogatory comments against Kashmiri women. The senior Congress leader, who participated in Eid-ul-Azha prayer on the occasion of Bakrid on Monday, stated that Muslims of Kamareddy



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ter and actions of his own party leaders.

While everyone is praying for restoration of normalcy in the Kashmir valley, BJP leaders are making provocative statements to disturb peace, he alleged.

If the prime minister is sincere in his approach then he should take action against Haryana chief minister and other leaders who made provocative statements against Kashmiri women, he said.

'There is an acute dearth of good law teachers'

FROM PAGE 1

STATE governments grant 'no objection certificates' (NOCs) and universities grant affiliations recklessly, and varsities are unable to stop the use of unfair practices at law examinations in most rural areas, the BCI said, adding that State governments do not show any interest in checking unfair practices.

Besides, due to negligence of the University Grants Commission (UGC), 90 per cent of law colleges do not get grants. Moreover, it is very easy to get LLM and PhD degrees because the HRD ministry and universities are indifferent, it said, adding that as a result, there is an acute dearth of "good law teachers" in the country. LLM and PhD degrees are not under the control of the BCI, and only approval/recognition of LLB degrees is within its domain, it added.

The Council has requested State governments and universities to stop unfair practices and ensure the filling up of all vacancies of law teachers within four months. In 2016, the BCI decided to stop approving new law colleges, and requested the State governments not to grant NOCs to any new law college or university for two years. Universities were requested to stop granting affiliations to new colleges and to improve the standard of the existing institutions.



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According to sources, the water pumping was done for 45 minutes on Monday afternoon at a speed of 89.73 cusecs with a total of 85,54,589 cubic feet — around 24.4 crore litres — of water pumped through delivery cisterns.

The sources said that the second day of the wet run too was successful. The wet run started at Laxmipur underground pump house on Sunday.

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The draft list of polling stations of municipalities prepared by municipal commissioners will be published on August 13, time for receipt of claims and objections and suggestions will be up to 5 pm on August 16.

Meeting the representatives of political parties at municipality level will be held at 3 pm on August 16. Disposal of claims and objections will be August 19, submission of final list of polling stations by the municipal commissioners concerned to the Collector and district election authority will be on August 20. The final publication of the list will be on August 23.



G Vivek, who recently joined the saffron party, with BJP State chief K Laxman in Hyderabad on Monday | SATYNA KHEERTHI

'Cong leadership acting as subordinate of TRS'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

DESCRIBING Congress as a 'benami' party of TRS, BJP State unit chief K Laxman alleged that the grand old party state leadership is acting as subordinate to the ruling TRS and strengthening it by weakening their own party.

Speaking to the media, along with former MP G Vivekanand, here on Monday, Laxman alleged that Congress instead of playing the role of main opposition party is acting as TRS's subordinate. "Congress MLAs who were supposed to fight for the rights of people are joining TRS for selfish gains."

According to him, the narratives of TPCC chief N Utam Kumar Reddy and TRS working president KT Rama Rao are similar, which indicates that both are hand-in-glove. The State BJP chief claimed that there was a

strong wind blowing in favour of the BJP in the State.

He said that a senior leader like Vivek, who belongs to a political family loyal to Congress for decades, could join BJP shows that even political leaders believe that only BJP has the capacity to end K Chandrasekhara Reddy's family rule and establish a democratic rule in Telangana.

'Devil preaching gospel'

Taking exception to KT Rama Rao accusing BJP of branding people not supporting it as betrayers, Laxman stated that it was TRS which branded people criticising it as anti-Telangana and never allowed people to express their views.

"KTR talking about ethics and values is like a devil preaching gospel. His party never allowed democracy to prevail in the State and is now making a hue and cry as the saffron party was expanding in the State," he said.



Cong leader Sridhar joins BJP

Senior Congress leader and former Wardhanapet MLA K Sridhar, along with his supporters, joined BJP in the presence of party's State unit chief K Laxman on Monday.

Sridhar, who served as an MLA between 2009 and 2014, was in the news for attempting to commit suicide due to financial crisis in 2014. Speaking to reporters at the BJP state headquarters here, Sridhar stated that he decided to join BJP as it is the only party which could take on TRS

"People of the State are coming closer to BJP as they see it as an alternate to TRS. BJP is the only party where there is future. Congress is a dying party in the State," he said

NLC India Limited advertisement containing technical specifications for power stations, tenders, and contact information.

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED advertisement for procurement tenders.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS advertisement for museum officer recruitment.

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED advertisement for competitive bidding.

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The draft list of polling stations was to be published on July 17. A meeting with the representatives of political parties was also fixed for July 17. The final publication of the list was scheduled for July 21.

The draft list of polling stations of municipalities prepared by municipal commissioners will be published on August 13, time for receipt of claims and objections and suggestions will be up to 5 pm on August 16.

Meeting the representatives of political parties at municipality level will be held at 3 pm on August 16. Disposal of claims and objections will be August 19, submission of final list of polling stations by the municipal commissioners concerned to the Collector and district election authority will be on August 20. The final publication of the list will be on August 23.



G Vivek, who recently joined the saffron party, with BJP State chief K Laxman in Hyderabad on Monday | SATYNA KHEERTHI

'Cong leadership acting as subordinate of TRS'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

DESCRIBING Congress as a 'benami' party of TRS, BJP State unit chief K Laxman alleged that the grand old party state leadership is acting as subordinate to the ruling TRS and strengthening it by weakening their own party.

Speaking to the media, along with former MP G Vivekanand, here on Monday, Laxman alleged that Congress instead of playing the role of main opposition party is acting as TRS's subordinate. "Congress MLAs who were supposed to fight for the rights of people are joining TRS for selfish gains."

According to him, the narratives of TPCC chief N Utam Kumar Reddy and TRS working president KT Rama Rao are similar, which indicates that both are hand-in-glove. The State BJP chief claimed that there was a

strong wind blowing in favour of the BJP in the State.

He said that a senior leader like Vivek, who belongs to a political family loyal to Congress for decades, could join BJP shows that even political leaders believe that only BJP has the capacity to end K Chandrasekhara Reddy's family rule and establish a democratic rule in Telangana.

'Devil preaching gospel'

Taking exception to KT Rama Rao accusing BJP of branding people not supporting it as betrayers, Laxman stated that it was TRS which branded people criticising it as anti-Telangana and never allowed people to express their views.

"KTR talking about ethics and values is like a devil preaching gospel. His party never allowed democracy to prevail in the State and is now making a hue and cry as the saffron party was expanding in the State," he said.



Cong leader Sridhar joins BJP

Senior Congress leader and former Wardhanapet MLA K Sridhar, along with his supporters, joined BJP in the presence of party's State unit chief K Laxman on Monday.

Sridhar, who served as an MLA between 2009 and 2014, was in the news for attempting to commit suicide due to financial crisis in 2014. Speaking to reporters at the BJP state headquarters here, Sridhar stated that he decided to join BJP as it is the only party which could take on TRS

"People of the State are coming closer to BJP as they see it as an alternate to TRS. BJP is the only party where there is future. Congress is a dying party in the State," he said

NLC India Limited advertisement containing technical specifications for various power and township projects, including tender details and contact information.

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED advertisement for procurement of tenders for various electrical and mechanical works.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS advertisement for recruitment of staff for the Chief Museum Officer, Tirupati.

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED advertisement for national competitive bidding for various supplies.

edex advertisement for education, goals, and game changing decisions, featuring the logo of The New Indian Express.



# KURNOOL, SEVERAL VILLAGES PUT ON HIGH ALERT

As a precautionary measure, Kurnool dist officials declare two-day holiday for schools located in low-lying areas along course of Tungabhadra, Krishna rivers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@ Kurnool/Guntur

KURNOOL city and several villages have been put on alert with floods in Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers increasing hour after hour. Inflows in the Tungabhadra reached Sunkesula Barrage on Monday morning and Srisaillam reservoir by evening. By 6 pm on Monday, the total inflows into Srisaillam reservoir stood at 10.29 lakh cusecs, including 2,08,363 cusecs received from Sunkesula and 8,61,498 cusecs from Jurala.

With increased inflows from both the rivers, Srisaillam project authorities lifted 10 crest gates to a height of 42 feet to allow discharge of flood water. The total outflows were at 8,48,673 cusecs. According to officials, a declining flood trend was noticed, though they were expecting five to six lakh cusecs of inflows to continue for another five days.

As a precautionary measure, Kurnool district administration declared a two-day holiday for schools located in low-lying areas along the course of Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers in the district. The schools at Kowthalam, Kosigi, Mantralayam, C Belagal, Kurnool, Nandikotkur, Pagidyalu and Kothapalli mandals in the district will remain closed on August 13 and 14.

Meanwhile, for the first time after a decade, all the 26 crest gates of Nagarjuna Sagar Project (NSP) were lifted on Monday with a deluge of water kept reaching the reservoir from Srisaillam.

Kurnool city and several villages have been put on alert with floods in Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers increasing hour after hour.

In view of increasing inflows into Pulichintala, officials in Guntur district, started evacuating people living in low-lying areas upstream of the project. People in Dachepalli, Bellamkonda, Krosuru, Achempeta, Amaravati mandals in Guntur district being evacuated.



An aerial view of flood-affected areas in Tirumakudalu Narasipura town of Mysuru district on Monday | EXPRESS

## Amid flood worries, this K'taka village sends a message of religious harmony

SHREYAS H S  
@ Mittabagilu (Mangaluru)

THIS Eid brought heart-warming instances of harmony in the communally-sensitive Dakshina Kannada district. The district, ravaged by floods, seemed to have washed away religious differences.

On Monday, men and women hailing from Hindu and Muslim communities worked together cleaning the trail of mess created by floods. The first sign of this came when re-

ligious places offered shelter to people. Friday (August 9) dawned as usual, but with spells of rain, which was not unusual at this time of the year. Mohammad Arif and Mohammad Shafiq left their house in Mittabagilu village to offer special prayers at the mosque. Netravati river, although the water level was rising, was flowing on a regular course.

While all were at the mosque, suddenly the scene changed.

Flash floods caused by massive landslides and cloudbursts swelled the river and water entered all the houses in no time. They had never witnessed such a sight before. Arif and Shafiq went to a temple premises. The temple management immediately made all the arrangements opening the hall for the victims to stay the night. The people left the next morning after water receded. Shafiq said the it taught them that all are equal.



### 'Will put pressure on Centre for compensation'

Puthumala: Congress leader and Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi on Monday consoled the people who lost their kin and property in the landslide at Puthumala. "We will put pressure on the Centre for compensation. I have already spoken to Prime Minister and the Kerala Chief Minister in this regard," he said. Rahul visited the landslide spot at Puthumala too. "Being in the Opposition doesn't matter. I don't want to politicise this and distract focus. The focus must be on pacifying people and providing compensation."



More bodies were pulled out from Kavalappara, a place in Malappuram district of Kerala, which witnessed a massive landslide on Thursday | TP SOOBAJ

## Natives blame official negligence for major landslide in Kavalappara

DHINESH KALLUNGAL  
@ Kavalappara (Nilambur)

ALMOST all natural disasters are to some extent man-made. Here also, the negligence of authorities and greed of a section of people led to the major landslide that claimed the lives of around 58 people at Bhoothanam colony near Kavalappara in Nilambur, Malappuram, on Friday. According to a cross section of people with whom Express spoke, the landslide was a result of the delinquency of authorities who failed to act in time and take preventive measures despite clear warnings.

There was a mudslip in the region a year ago after a few individuals who possess large chunks of land in the hilltop razed a portion of the hill to create a rubber plantation. This resulted in the loss of the carpet of grass and other foliage on the hilltop as they used earthmovers to level the land.

**Mystery over study**  
Soon after last year's mudslip,

the people in the colony were evacuated by the authorities.

Later, a study was conducted by Geological Survey of India (GSI) officials. However, the local administration is still not certain about who had conducted the study — were they GSI officials or geologists from the Mining and Geology Department. The study, according to colony residents and local administration officials, found that there was a slight chance of a mudslip in the area once the rain subsided in the region, but there was no major threat.

Both proved wrong as there was no major or minor mudslip after the rain last year but, this time, a big portion of the hill came crashing down and fell on the colony burying as many as 58 people alive. Krishnan Athimukkam, a resident whose house is perched on the hill and who miraculously survived the landslide, avowed that the geologists who held the study intimated them that there was no major landslide threat in the area.

### CAR ON THE WALL



After hitting a flag post, the car flew and landed atop a roadside shed, at Gundlapalli in Karimnagar on Monday | EXPRESS

## CAR SOARS THROUGH AIR, LANDS ATOP SHED

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@ Karimnagar

A NOBLE attempt to avoid hitting a cyclist led to a bizarre turn of events for an unsuspecting family in Karimnagar on Monday. The incident occurred at Gundlapalli on the busy Rajiv Rahadari in the district.

Four of a family were travelling in the car to Hyderabad when they reached the Gundlapalli crossroad which has a rather steep curve. When a cyclist suddenly appeared in front of

them, the driver swerved the car in an attempt to avert an accident, an action that inadvertently led to him losing control of the vehicle. The car then crashed in to a flagpost, which served as a 'launch' for the vehicle to soar into the air, and subsequently land on the rooftop of a roadside kirana shop.

All persons in the car were injured. Cyclist Sachikan, a native of UP, has also sustained injuries. The victims were taken to Karimnagar hospital for treatment. Their condition is stable now.

## I killed as ship catches fire off Vizag coast

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@ Visakhapatnam

ONE person died and another was reportedly missing, while 27 were rescued by the Coast Guard after huge fire broke out in offshore support vessel Coastal Jaguar off Visakhapatnam coast on Monday. The vessel was hired by a contractor of HPCL to undertake handling of crude and oil at a SPM offshore terminal.

The members of the crew abandoned the vessel and jumped into water to save themselves from fire. There was reportedly a loud explosion on board the vessel followed by billowing of thick smoke. While one body was recovered, the search for the missing person was launched. Sources said one person admitted to hospital for treatment suffered 90 per cent burns. While five were discharged, others who suffered over 50 per cent burns are undergoing treatment.

## YSRC announces MLC candidates for by-election

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@ Vijayawada

PUTTING an end to suspense, the YSRC on Monday announced the names of its Member of Legislative Council (MLC) candidates to be elected under MLA quota. The YSRC nominated minister Mopidevi Venkata Ramana, former IPS officer Sheik Mohammad Iqbal and former MLA Challa Ramakrishna Reddy as its candidates for the MLC by-election.

Ramana was inducted into YS Jagan Mohan Reddy cabinet on June 8 despite losing Assembly election from Repalle. He has now been nominated to the Council to fulfil the constitutional obligation. He had to get elected from either an Assembly constituency or should have a representation in Council within six months to continue as minister. Given these circumstances, Venkataramana was the



### Jagan to leave for US on August 15

AP CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will leave for the US on August 15 on a personal visit and return to the State on August 24. According to sources, after participating in the Independence Day celebrations, he will leave for Hyderabad and from there for the US with family

obvious choice for one of vacant seat, party leaders said.

The other leader who will represent the party in the Council will be former IPS of-

ficer Md Iqbal. The former IPS officer contested from Hindupur assembly ticket, but lost the election. On the Ramzan festival day celebrations, Jagan announced that Iqbal will be elected to the Council as he was the only Muslim candidate who had lost on the party ticket. The YSRC gave tickets to five Muslim leaders and of them four have won, barring Iqbal, who lost to actor politician Nandamuri Balakrishna. Interestingly, while the promise was made on Ramzan, his candidature was officially announced on Bakrid.

There were many aspirants for the three seats and though it was clearly evident that Mopidevi Venkataramana and Iqbal will be the obvious choice, there was race for the remaining one seat. Several party leaders, who were with the party since its inception and those who joined the party before the elections, were in the race.

## YSRC MLA booked for 'attacking' weekly editor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Nellore

THE Dargamitta police booked a case against YSRC MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy on charges of abusing and attacking a journalist, Nellore Dolendra Prasad, at latter's house.

The police registered the case invoking sections 448 (house trespass), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation), 307 (attempt to murder) read with 34 of IPC.

The case was filed based on a complaint filed by the journalist. Meanwhile, in a press conference, the Nellore rural MLA denied the allegations and said he went to the editor's house after getting a call from him.

Dolendra Prasad hailing from Lecturers' Colony in Magunta layout is the editor of Zamin Ryot, a local Telugu weekly.

"Around 7.30 pm on August 11, the Nellore rural MLA along with his followers Vishnu, Murali Krishna Yadav and Suresh entered my house and used filthy language and attacked me. Sridhar Reddy told me that I can lodge a complaint either with the SP or with CM Jagan himself and that he is not afraid of anyone. He also said that I have published a story degrading him in Zamin Ryot and he also asked me to publish a three-page story on this attack," Prasad said in his plaint. The MLA held a press conference at the YSRC rural office on Monday and alleged that Dolendra Prasad was a money collection agent and not an editor. Meanwhile, TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu came down heavily on YSRC over the incident.



### EXPRESS READ

#### Abuser killed by man for molesting wife

Hyderabad: A 30-year-old man, Dhurga, a resident of Uppal, was allegedly killed by a person on Sunday night for reportedly molesting his wife at knife-point in their house. The deceased had been allegedly harassing the wife of the accused for a long time

#### Sholapur man falls from moving train, dies

Hyderabad: In a tragic incident, a Sholapur native man accidentally fell from a moving train and died at Vikarabad district on Sunday. Tandur police've registered a case

#### Real estate agent arrested by cops

Hyderabad: A real estate agent was arrested by the Banjara Hills police on Monday for duping a businessman to the tune of ₹80 lakh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@ Bengaluru

IN a rare medical feat, a 55-year-old doctor got a new lease of life when a successful kidney transplant was performed on him despite his blood group being different from the donor, his wife. In October 2018, Dr Sumathi Kumar developed symptoms like swelling feet, weakness, nausea and vomiting and was later diagnosed with end stage kidney failure. Situation looked grim as none of his relatives who shared his blood type (B+)



Dr Sumathi Kumar and his donor wife Vanitha | SHIRAM BN

was fit to donate a kidney and unrelated kidney transplant is not legally viable.

"With all my relatives suffering from medical conditions like diabetes, my chances of finding a matching donor

was reduced to 5-7 per cent," said Dr Sumathi, who is an anaesthesiologist. His wife Vanitha then came forward to donate a kidney even though her blood is A-ve. "Though I knocked on the doors of several doctors in hospitals in Bengaluru, Chennai and Mumbai, none were willing to perform incompatible kidney transplantation. Several doctors, in fact, did not even know that there were recent developments where incompatible kidney transplant (that is ABOI — ABO-incompatible) were possible," he said.

After six months of searching, he was referred to Dr Deepak Kumar C, chief consultant, Nephrologist and Transplant Physician, and Dr Ajith Huligol, head of Kidney Transplant Surgery, from Columbia Asia Referral Hospital. "Many die without a donor as doctors do not know this kind of transplant is possible. It is risky, but can be done," Dr Deepak said. Speaking to Express, Vanitha said, "I was not scared as the doctors counselled us. This was better than him having to undergo dialysis for the rest of his life."

### 'INCOMPATIBLE' ORGAN

## Doc gets new life with rare kidney transplant





6 women inmates, one of them five months pregnant, fled from a government-run shelter home in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow.



INDIA	Max	Min	Max	Min	
Ahmedabad	32	25	Mumbai	30	25
Bhopal	30	24	Panaji	29	24
Jaipur	32	25	Patna	34	27
Amritsar	34	27	Lucknow	35	26
Chennai	37	28	Port Blair	29	25
Kolkata	32	26	Imphal	31	23
Srinagar	28	21	Chandigarh	32	27

While the western part of Nashik district in Maharashtra is experiencing floods, people in over 400 villages in the eastern part rely on water tankers for drinking water; two buildings swept away in swollen river in Uttarakhand; as waters recede, people in Maharashtra relief camps expected to start returning home



Floodwaters gush down the Chufalagad river in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand on Monday | PH

## FLOOD AND LANDSLIDES

EROSION CAUSED BY SWIRLING WATERS ADDS TO DEATH TOLL

MAHARASHTRA	UTTARAKHAND	GUJARAT
<p><b>17</b> Death toll in Sangli</p> <p><b>5 lakh</b> cusec of water discharged from Almatti dam</p> <p><b>4 lakh</b> people evacuated from flood-affected regions</p> <p>financial assistance by Shri Saibaba Sans than Trust <b>₹10 cr</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> people dead in landslides</p> <p><b>3</b> villages suffered landslides</p> <p><b>3</b> dead in landslide in Resal district</p> <p><b>2</b> injured in Laar village in Resal</p>	<p><b>125</b> people rescued by IAF in Kutch district</p> <p><b>3</b> shuttles made to rescue people</p> <p><b>300</b> People stranded</p> <p><b>31</b> Death toll</p>

## Pune-Bengaluru highway reopens

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mumbai

THE Pune-Bengaluru national highway was partially reopened for traffic on Monday after six days as floodwaters receded. The highway, along with several other roads in the Kolhapur-Sangli area, was under several feet of water for almost a week, making relief work difficult. With the traffic restored, relief material has started reaching Kolhapur and Sangli.

Traffic movement between

Kolhapur and Belgaum in Karnataka began on one lane on the Shirol bridge on the six-lane NH-4, where thousands of vehicles were stuck after the highway was submerged in floodwaters last week. "The water level has come down and Shirol bridge can be used for vehicular movement. We have so far decided to open only one lane on either side of the national highway as a precautionary measure," said Abhinav Deshmukh, Superintendent

of Police in Kolhapur.

In all, 761 villages in 70 blocks in nine districts of Maharashtra are affected by the flood, and relief operations are under way at all these places. A total of 111 teams of the Army, Navy and Coast Guard, and 33 NDRF teams are engaged in the relief work, while 4,66,963 people are in 441 shelters.

With the water receding, the people at relief camps are expected to start returning home from Tuesday

# NASHIK FLOODED YET PARCHED

ABHIJIT MULYE @Mumbai

NATURE seems to be playing strange games in Nashik district of Maharashtra, where all major dams are full and their discharge is causing floods in the Godavari basin, yet more than 3 lakh people in over 400 villages in the district are dependent on tankers for water to quench their thirst.

The Godavari river was flooded for the first time this monsoon on August 4. The floods receded only after a week, on August 11, when the discharge from Gangapur dam on the river came down to a few hundred cusecs from tens of thousands of cusecs for most part of the week. The Tryambakeshwar and Igatpuri blocks of the district had experienced heavy rains over the past two weeks, which filled the Kashyapa, Gautami and Alandi, along with Gangapur dam, almost to the brim. However, while the western part of the district is experiencing floods, the eastern part is still waiting for adequate rains.

The residents of Manmad town get piped water only once in 12 to 14 days. "It has just drizzled and not really rained this year. This has led to drying up of water sources for the city. We have been trying hard to manage the demand-supply balance. However, we would be left with no option but to impose more cuts if it doesn't rain," said Manmad mayor Padmavati Dhattrak.

According to officials, though the district has received more than 80 per cent of its annual rainfall, the water crisis in over 400 villages per-



A view of a flooded area following incessant rainfall in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra on Monday | PH

### 119 tankers in use

A population of about 3.09 lakh in over 400 villages is relying on tankers to get drinking water. As many as 119 tankers are being used to deal with the situation.

sists. As many as 119 water tankers are being used to deal with the situation. A population of about 3.09 lakh is relying on tankers to get drinking water. The maximum number of such villages, 130, is in Nandgaon block, while Yeola block tops in the number of tankers, with 36 of them deployed. Bagan block has the maximum number of people, 83,000, dependent on tankers for water in the district. Deola, Sinnar and Chandwad blocks have six tankers each providing drinking water to 31, 74 and 23 villages, respectively

## Uttarakhand landslides kill six, roads to shrines blocked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Lucknow

LANDSLIDES triggered by heavy rains killed six people in Uttarakhand on Monday, the victims buried alive when debris fell over their houses.

In addition, two buildings were swept away by the swollen Chufalagad river, and roads to Himalayan shrines blocked by landslide debris in the state.

All the landslide victims suffocated to death, the state emergency operation centre (SEOC) said in Dehradun, adding that all the deceased except one were women. A mother and her nine-month-old daughter were among the victims.

While Rupa Devi and her daughter Chanda were killed in

Banjbagad village, 21-year-old Naurati Devi was killed in Ali-gaon and three others died in Lankhi village, it said.

Those killed in Lankhi village were identified as Kumari Arti, Kumari Anjali and Ajay, the SEOC said.

Erosion caused by the swirling waters of the Chufalagad river in Chamoli swept away two buildings from the Ghat bazaar area, the SEOC added. There was no casualty as the buildings had been vacated by their occupants.

Boulders falling from hillsides due to landslides blocked the national highway to Badrinath, and the Rishikesh-Kedarnath highway was blocked by landslide debris.

## Phogat father-daughter duo join BJP

HARPREET BAIWA @Chandigarh

WITH Assembly elections approaching in Haryana, international wrestler Babita Phogat and her father, Dronacharya awardee Mahavir Phogat, on whose family the Bollywood movie *Dangal* is based, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday.

Praising the NDA government for withdrawing the provisions of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, Mahavir Phogat said that he and his family were impressed by the policies and programmes of the Narendra Modi-led government. He also praised Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar for providing transparent government in the state and giving jobs to youth in a fair manner.



BJP working president JP Nadda felicitates wrestler Babita Phogat and her father Mahavir Phogat after they joined the party at the BJP headquarters | PH

Mahavir had joined the Janayak Janata Party (JJP) a few days before the Lok Sabha polls this year and was in charge of its sports cell. The Phogat family, which is from Balali village in Dadri, was expecting a ticket for Babita

from Badhra or Dadri Assembly segments, which was not given. The JJP was for med following a vertical split in the Indian National Lok Dal.

The saffron party is expecting that the Phogats joining the party will help it in the As-

sembly polls. "I am a big fan of PM Modi, I have been his fan since 2014 and he has worked a lot for the country. I am very happy with joining the BJP and I think everyone would like to join the saffron party," said the 29-year-old Babita.

When Babita Phogat was asked to comment on Khattar's remark on brides coming from Kashmir after the amendment of Article 370, she said, "Khattar has not made any such statement that is offensive to our sisters and daughters. I urge the media not to misinterpret his statement."

The father and daughter duo joined the BJP in the presence of Union minister Kiren Rijiju, Haryana in-charge Anil Jain and Haryana BJP president Subash Barala at the BJP headquarters in Delhi.

### TRAGEDY

## One killed in stampede at Bihar temple

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @Patna

ONE person was killed and six injured in a stampede that broke out during the entry of devotees into a temple in Lakhisarai district of Bihar early on Monday on the occasion of the last *sombari* of the Shraavan month of the Hindu calendar.

The Ashok Dham temple is one of the oldest Shiva temples in Bihar.

On Monday, crowds of devotees became uncontrollable as they attempted to enter the temple, leading to a stampede after all barricades erected by the town police station were broken.

According to SHO of the town police station, SK Singh, the situation was controlled soon and the unidentified devotee's body was sent for post-mortem, while the injured were admitted to a hospital. He said that no injuries were seen on the body of the deceased, who had perhaps died due to cardiac arrest.

## Work starts for release of 'declared foreigners'

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

THE process of conditional release of 'declared foreigners' who have spent at least three years in detention camps in Assam is now underway.

Confirming this, the state's Special Director General of Police (Border), Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, said that the filing of applications, collection of sureties and verification of addresses was underway.

Altogether 1,145 declared foreigners are lodged in various detention camps, but only 335 of them have spent more than three years in detention.

"The process will take time as it involves the examination of applications, verification of their residential addresses etc. This is being done. The process is on," Mahanta said, adding, "The applicants have to fulfil all conditions".

The modalities for the conditional release of eligible detainees were notified by the state

government last month. The conditions include payment of two sureties of ₹1 lakh each, submission of a verifiable address, and collection of biometrics, including fingerprinting and an iris scan. The persons must report to a police station every week.

The first condition could act as a deterrent given that most detainees are from poor families.

Advocate Aman Wadud, who has represented alleged foreigners in Gauhati High Court and Foreigners' Tribunals, alleged there was no clarity on the persons' release. He said he was helping some families.

Senior Gauhati High Court advocate Hafiz Rashid Ahmed Choudhury said some NGOs were helping the families of detainees. "The NGOs have engaged some lawyers and they are helping people how to go about it," he said. "The process of the detainees' release is likely to begin next week".

### EXPRESS READ

#### Sanskrit may be taught in HP

Shimla: To help Sanskrit regain its lost glory, efforts will be made to teach the language in government primary schools in Himachal Pradesh, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said on Monday. He was speaking at the 'Sanskrit Abhinandan Samaroh' organised as part of 'Sanskrit Week'.

#### Actor held for harassment

Mumbai: Television actor Abhinav Kohli has been arrested for allegedly sexually harassing a woman and beating her up, police said on Monday. Kohli (39) was arrested after the victim approached the Samta Nagar Police Station in suburban Kandivalli along with her mother.

#### Three held for raping woman

Guwahati: Three people who allegedly raped an Assam woman in front of her physically-challenged husband have been arrested by the police. The incident took place at the house of the 40-year-old woman in Upper Assam's Dibrugarh district in the wee hours of Sunday.

## Bihar medical college hospitals to have eye bank



Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi said on Sunday that each of the nine medical colleges and hospitals in Bihar will have a full-fledged eye bank functioning from October. A fund of Rs 1.5 crore has already been sanctioned for setting up the eye banks. Speaking during a function held on International Organ Donation Day, Modi said a target of successful transplantation of corneas in the next one year will be achieved. He said 412 cornea transplants and 54 kidney transplants had been done successfully.



## PATNA DIARY

### Career portal launched to help students

The Bihar Education Project Council (BEPC), in association with the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), has launched the state's first career portal in a move to help students choose their careers. Launched by state education minister KN Verma, www.biharcareerportal.com provides information on careers, scholarships, colleges, entrance exam preparation, and other subjects. The head of the Bihar chapter of Unicef, Assadur Rahman, said that more than 78 lakh youths would benefit from this portal. He said nearly 13.88 lakh students of Class 10 and 10.83 lakh students of Class 12 can also benefit from the portal in seeking details on careers. The career portal will help the students make appropriate career choices.

RAJESH K THAKUR  
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in Bihar  
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## Anganwadi centres to be linked with HQ

Around 1.24 lakh Anganwadi centres run by the Integrated Child Development Services will be linked with the state headquarters through a digital app by November this year. Following this, officials would be able to monitor the functioning, attendance of pupils and other activities of the centres online. By August 31, all the volunteers at the centres would be equipped with smartphones to run the digital app. The Integrated Child Development Services department has made preparations to provide training on running the system in 21 districts of the state, including Patna.

## RJD leaders scramble to get Kashmir apples for Lalu



Sources in RJD in Patna have revealed that party chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, who is in prison in connection with fodder scam cases, eats two Kashmiri apples a day to remain healthy. But the amendment of Article 370 has led to a shortage of the apples. With the apples hard to come by in the Ranchi and Patna markets, RJD leaders are scurrying to get them from across the country for their leader. A number of RJD leaders have asked their contacts in other cities, including in Jammu and Kashmir, to send Kashmiri apples for Lalu Yadav by any means. "The BJP has again created inconvenience for our leader, albeit indirectly, by scrapping Article 370, as it has caused a shortage of apples from Kashmir which are eaten by our sahib", an RJD leader remarked in lighter vein.





He only is a well-made man who has a good determination

Ralph Waldo Emerson

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

## COMBATING THE SLOWDOWN IN OUR ECONOMY

Sucked into an economic slowdown of alarming proportions, the Indian industry has sought a ₹1 lakh crore stimulus package, over and above the Budget that the Centre announced recently to help revive demand and create fresh jobs. That the government too is worried about the economy is obvious from the series of meetings the finance minister has been holding—with automobile barons, bankers, realtors and others.

The big question that arises from all this churn is: Will the Centre bite the bullet and accept the Keynesian dictum that the only way to reverse a slowdown is to spend one's way out of it? Indications are it will, but only to a limited extent. The government's ability to give tax sops that could give consumers some money in hand is limited by the fact that tax collection targets set for this year are possibly too ambitious. Non-tax revenue targets including money that may be raised from disinvestment and auction of telecom airwaves may be difficult to meet given the turbulence in stock markets worldwide.

As inflation rates are still benign, the Centre may be tempted to borrow more to fund a spending spree on infrastructure projects to help beat the recession. Its economic policy advisors are believed to be in favour of this route. There is talk of front-loading infrastructure investment plans, especially in sectors that give quick returns—such as rural and urban housing, roads, minor irrigation works, etc. An infrastructure push has the merit of being able to create a demand cycle for cement, steel and other materials needed. Which in turn means money would be circulated to other sectors of the economy as well as passed on to workers who get jobs in these projects.

However, any expansion of state borrowing also risks pushing up inflation rates beyond RBI's self-set target of 4%. For policymakers on Raisina Hill in New Delhi and on Mint Street in Mumbai, this will be the real challenge—to spend in a large-scale fashion on infrastructure without allowing consumer inflation to go haywire.

## IGNORING ODISHA'S TOURIST SITES

The political chorus, cutting across party lines, against the omission of monuments and natural treasures in Odisha from the Centre's 'iconic tourist sites' list has grown louder, and with sound reason. The BJP too has joined in with its MPs from the state dispatching a memorandum to their own government at the Centre demanding inclusion of the Sun Temple at Konark and the Puri Jagannath temple in the list along with the development of various other destinations like Chilika lake.

Not including any location from Odisha in the sites proposed to be developed holistically by the Centre defies logic as the state has an unparalleled wealth of tourism spots—be it nature's treasures from beaches to forests, or man-made marvels of temple architecture. The anomaly in the selection is obvious as none other than the Union minister for tourism and culture admitted in Lok Sabha in the recent session that the Konark temple is fifth in the most-visited tourist spots in India after the Taj Mahal, Red Fort, Qutub Minar and Agra Fort. With over 24.66 lakh tourists visiting it in the fiscal year 2018-19, the Sun Temple is way ahead of some of the 17 chosen sites such as Humayun's Tomb.

The issue here is unlike the four other prime tourist destinations, Konark has poor infrastructure and amenities. Despite boasting of a one-of-its-kind architectural wonder, a gorgeous beach and marine forests, Konark doesn't even have a proper hotel for tourists or a decent restaurant. The same is the case with other sites in the state. The state government, no doubt, has continually failed to leverage the unmatched tourism potential of its treasures—be it the Konark temple, Chilika lake, Similipal, Satkosia or Bhitarkanika wildlife reserves or the 'see-it-to-believe' ancient Buddhist heritage in the Diamond Triangle. This is why the sites need the Centre's push. Inclusion of important sites from Odisha in the list will lead to much-needed development on the ground, so that the doors finally open to some of India's best-kept secrets.

## OPINION



**A SURYA PRAKASH**  
Chairman, Prasar Bharati  
Email: suryamedia@gmail.com

Back in the sixties, the Congress had many patriotic leaders who called for the abrogation of Article 370

## MODI DELIVERS WHAT CONG MPs WANTED IN 1964

It appears as if every leader of the Indian National Congress (INC) is running around like a headless chicken after the momentous decision taken by the Modi government to abrogate Article 370 and fully integrate Jammu & Kashmir into the Indian Union.

That the INC is no longer "national" or "nationalist" is now obvious going by the utter confusion prevailing at the top, but the party was not always like this. It had robust and patriotic leaders in the past and there is sufficient evidence of this in our parliamentary records. Here is a sample of what tall leaders of the party including K Hanumanthaiya, member of the Constituent Assembly, former CM of Mysore state, and later, Union minister had to say in Lok Sabha on 11 September 1964 on abrogation of Article 370 and of their disillusionment with the pusillanimity of the Congress:

Kengal Hanumanthaiya (Congress): "Not merely MPs from Kashmir, but irrespective of parties, from the extreme right to the extreme left of this House... we are all of one opinion that this Bill (abrogating Article 370) should be made into law. To go against it or to say anything against

this unanimous opinion of this House is to disown constitutional responsibility in a convenient manner. Article 370... stands in the way of full integration."

Hanumanthaiya also dealt with the constant fear in the government about the world's opinion. Referring to Western nations, he said, "They are not our masters." He asked the government "not to be nervous about world opinion". Shake off your "inferiority complex" and stop worrying about the response of foreign powers, he said and added, "Here is a case where we could show courage and solve the problem once and for all."

Considering how Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah executed the plan to abrogate Article 370 with quiet determination—and the virtual endorsement of their decision by many nations, thanks to Modi's sustained, calibrated diplomatic contacts with global leaders over the last five years—it appears as if they were following the advice given by Hanumanthaiya to his own party 55 years ago.

In fact, some parts of Hanumanthaiya's speech sound like he was delivering them on 5 August 2019. He said, "This

is the unanimous opinion of this House (to abrogate Article 370) and it is applauded by the whole country. So, I want the government to take a determined stand."

In conclusion, he thanked Prakash Vir Shastri for bringing the private Bill for repeal of Article 370, which had won the admiration of MPs across the political divide. Many other Congress stalwarts forcefully demanded repeal of Article 370 during this debate.

Bhagawat Jha Azad (Congress): "Government must fearlessly declare its policy on Kashmir. From Kashmir and across the Gangetic plains and the Narmada to Kanyakumari, people want to see full integration. No government or party can go against the wishes of the people."

Ram Sahay Pandey (Congress) blamed Jawaharlal Nehru for rushing to the UN to complain about infiltration of Pakistani troops into Kashmir after it acceded to India. He said by seeking UN's intervention and accepting its ceasefire order, Nehru had squandered away a fine opportunity to recapture the territories that were in illegal possession of Pakistan. Gen. Thimayya, who was handling the military operations, had

pleaded with the government for just two more days to recapture these territories but Nehru's move and the ceasefire wrecked the Indian Army's plans.

Gopal Dutta Mengi (Congress): "I support this Bill. All over India, people want Jammu & Kashmir to be fully integrated with the country."

Inder J Malhotra (Congress): "I... agree that Article 370 be omitted. The people of the state have no special liking for Article 370... and we shall be very happy as soon as this is omitted."

These sentiments were echoed by MPs across parties including H V Kamath (PSP) and Ram Manohar Lohia (Socialist Party). But the clincher came from D C Sharma, an independent MP. He said Article 370 had disfigured our Constitution. "This is a constitutional anachronism. I say that for the good name of India... this article should be scrapped forthwith."

When we reflect over the advice Sharma gave the Congress way back in 1964, which was not acted upon, and the clarity of thinking in the present government on such a tangled issue and the precision with which Modi and Shah have handled it, we real-

ise the yawning gap between the Congress and the present dispensation on critical issues pertaining to national integrity and security. Here is another example.

D C Sharma (Ind): "Wisdom consists in settling unsettled things. The act of statesmanship is an act of boldness, firmness and decisiveness. But I do not know what has happened to my country that instead of settling unsettled things, we have unsettled settled things."

Finally, the clincher: "Article 370... is not a wall. ... It is a big mountain that stands between India and J&K. I feel this mountain should be blasted with dynamite, with the dynamite of goodwill and firmness. That way lies the salvation of India and that way lies the good and welfare of the people of J&K."

Thanks to Modi, India no longer suffers from an "inferiority complex" that Hanumanthaiya lamented about. Modi and Shah have acted with "boldness", "firmness" and "decisiveness"—the qualities that MPs wanted the Congress to exhibit in 1964, "to settle unsettled things" and to blast the mountain called Article 370 "with the dynamite of goodwill and firmness!"



AMIT BANDRE



That the Indian National Congress is no longer "national" or "nationalist" is now obvious going by the utter confusion prevailing at the top, but the party was not always like this. Here is a sample of what tall leaders of the party including Hanumanthaiya, had to say in Lok Sabha in 1964

At Olifantsvlei cemetery on the outskirts of southern Johannesburg, undertakers clad in white plastic overalls, boots and face masks take on a grim task: mass pauper burials

## SEARCHING FOR LOST LIVES



### Bodies unclaimed for three months

They are burying 46 bodies that have been lying in public morgues, unidentified and unclaimed, for up to three months. It is a task undertaken every month—and the numbers are usually higher, according to AFP

The routine is a sombre reminder of South Africa's perennial failure to identify many corpses

### WHO ARE THE DEAD?

Most of the unidentified bodies at the morgues are thought to be undocumented migrants

Millions of African migrants pour into South Africa, the continent's most advanced economy, in search of greener pastures

"The facility with the highest percentage is Johannesburg because of the migrant and immigrant population," Jeanine Vellama, head of forensic pathology at Johannesburg's Wits University, told AFP

### Victims with no identity

Many of the bodies are accident or murder victims, found with no identity or fake identities, in a country with one of the world's highest murder rates, at 57 per day. "An unidentified body doesn't really tell us anything about their origin. It's a massive continent," said Stephen Fonseca, a forensic expert with the Red Cross

### Trying out new ways

Scientists are also examining ways to distinguish where people come from through chemical "signatures" found in a corpse, possibly linking them to food, drink or air from a specific location

## MINDSPACE

Write to: mindspace@newindianexpress.com

## Without luxuries in the good, old days

About forty years ago, many villages in rural India did not have even a single landline phone connection. The only house that had that facility in my village of Vellanguli in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli district, was of our panchayat president B Venkatchalapathy. He was a Congress leader who served the public with utmost dedication. He was untainted by corruption and was known as Mr Clean among the people.

Our village was bereft of most things that made life easier: No cars. No television. If somebody became seriously ill, they had to be taken to a hospital in a nearby town that was about 8 km away. Venkatchalapathy's house was like a heaven in critical times. We would run to his residence and the gentleman would make a call to one of his acquaintances in the town, who, in turn, would arrange for a taxi to come to our village and take the sick person to the hospital.

In case one had to convey some important message to far-away relatives, they would get a trunk call booked through the telephone in Venkatchalapathy's house and await call connection. Sometimes we had to wait for as long as two hours for the call to get connected. Whenever someone went to his house to make a call, the gentleman would readily oblige them

## CONTENTED

**ESETHURAMALINGAM**  
Email: esethuram@gmail.com

and showed no reluctance.

If I am right, no pregnant woman had to meet a tragic end due to unavailability of timely treatment arising out of inability to make a phone call and get a taxi from town in time. Coming to child births, which are supposed to require the help of skilled healthcare professionals, I should speak about the yeoman service rendered by an experienced traditional midwife. Fondly called Kuppu paati (grandma), she made almost all deliveries easy.

To drive home how much she was 'blessed' (with lucky hands), a factual disclosure. The same old birth attendant who had assisted my mother in giving birth to me, did a fantastic role of providing care to my wife during all her four deliveries. Our family felt safe in her presence during about 60 child-births. In return for her assistance she only asked for a simple saree and 50ml of gingelly oil. Today, we have all the comforts that were unthinkable during those days. However, everyone was content back then and none in my village complained about the absence of the luxuries of those days.

## MAILBAG

Write to: letters@newindianexpress.com

## Destroying the environment for profits

It was disturbing to read reports about the flood situation in Kerala. Large-scale conversion of forest lands and water bodies into liveable spaces, thanks to mankind's ever-growing greed, is to be blamed. Crony capitalists have destroyed the environment in pursuit of maximum profits.

N Visveswaran, Chennai

### Did Kerala learn any lessons?

The emerging monsoon pattern in Kerala could be a result of climate change. However, what cannot be brushed aside is the state's inability to handle torrential rains and their aftermath. This time, like last year, the damage to property and loss of human lives are big. The state government must have learned a lesson or two from last year's deluge.

Swami Nagarajan, Chennai

### Hobson's choice for Congress

Although Sonia Gandhi is the most respected Congress leader in India today her ability to impress people leaves a lot to be desired. Congress leader K C Venugopal in a recent interview with this newspaper (Aug 12) highlighted the Gandhi family's sacrifices. But for how long would the party play the sacrifice card? In the leadership issue, the Congress is presently faced with a Hobson's choice.

P Mangalachandran, Kannur

### The eternal dynasty

As BJP leader Shivraj Singh Chouhan remarked, although people have rejected Congress' dynasty politics, the party is yet to learn a lesson. But the Congress does not have many options until and unless members of the dynasty go on political sanyas.

Geetha B K, Mangaluru

### Time for new faces

The country was eager to see a new leader take over the Congress party. No doubt, the Nehru-Gandhi family has contributed a lot to the development of the grand old party. However, after losing Lok Sabha elections twice, the time has come for the party to have new leaders.

Vihaan Gupta, Ujjain

### No death of talented leaders

The Congress Organisational Secretary K C Venugopal has said that there is no dearth of leadership in the party. Yes, the party has plenty of capable leaders. But the appointment of Sonia as the interim president may be due to a lack of interest on their part to take up leadership roles. They know that the political atmosphere in the country is too unfavourable for the party due to the rise and efficient leadership of PM Narendra Modi.

T R Anandan, email

### After the CWC charade

After almost eleven weeks in a sea of confusion, the Congress has realised the fact that the party could only be led by Sonia Gandhi. One wonders why it took the CWC weeks to make a decision.

R Sivakumar, Chennai

### Centre in a hurry over Article 370

The speed with which Article 370 of the Indian Constitution was rendered toothless without adequate communication and after detaining political leaders shows the undemocratic instincts of the ruling party. The Centre should have held dialogues with all the stakeholders. One wonders why it was in such a hurry to implement the crucial measure.

V Padmanabhan, Bengaluru

### On Modi's Kashmir move

This is with reference to the report 'What to celebrate? Eid with whom?' (Aug 12). I don't agree with the assessment that the government has robbed the rights of Kashmiris. For years, some Kashmiri youth have attacked Indian soldiers and civilians, making normal life almost impossible in the Valley. The Modi government is making sincere efforts to bring normalcy and prosperity to the Valley. It must be appreciated.

Madhu Shetty, Coimbatore

### Another milestone for Kohli

Indian skipper Virat Kohli's century helped India defeat West Indies in the second ODI. Kohli also broke a 26-year-old record when he surpassed Pakistan's Javed Miandad as the batsman with most runs against West Indies. It was also a delight to watch Bhuvneshwar Kumar bowl.

N J Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

## THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: Manoj Kumar Sonthalia  
Editor: GS Vasu

Resident Editor (Telangana): Ch V M Krishna Rao  
Published by R K Jhunjhunwala on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at H.No.6-3-11B/1, B.S. Maikata Lane, Somajiguda, Near Grand Kakatiya Hotel, Purjagutta, Hyderabad - 500 016 and printed by him at M/s. Sree Seshasal Enterprises, Plot No.19, IDA Industrial Estate, Balanagar, Hyderabad - 500 037.

Hyderabad: Vol. 43, No. 192  
RNI Reg. No. 3279/77

Phone: 040-23419908, Fax: 040-23414282.

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Officials said the Pakistani side refused to attend the ceremony after the BSF sent an official communication to exchange sweets and greetings along the border; Jaishankar holds discussion with Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan on bilateral ties in the context of China's concerns over the bifurcation of J&K

Lonely Eid for Abdullahs and Mehbooba

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Srinagar

UNLIKE previous Eids, the homes of Kashmiri leaders wore a deserted look on Monday as the three leaders were detained after the Centre revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370.

It was a quiet and lonely Eid for former J&K chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, quite unlike previous years when their homes were full of supporters, friends and family members, officials said.

On Monday, a week after the government's announcement, their homes in the city's posh Gupkar Road were deserted with only a security vehicle stationed outside.

Several political leaders, who were picked up on August 5, offered prayers at the Centaur Hotel, officials said.



Kashmiri Muslims participate in Eid prayers outside a mosque during a security lockdown in Srinagar on Monday. Some people were arrested, IG S P Pani said | AP

DELHI-LAHORE BUS SERVICE CANCELLED

DTC on Monday cancelled the Delhi-Lahore bus service as Pakistan has decided to discontinue it in the wake of India revoking J&K special status. On Saturday, a senior Pakistani minister has announced to suspend the friendship bus service from Monday. A Delhi Transport Corporation bus was scheduled to leave for Lahore on Monday. However, it did not leave due to the Pakistan's decision to suspend the bus service.

NO CLASH BETWEEN J&K POLICE, CRPF

Security forces dismissed a "malicious" social media post by a Pakistani journalist about an alleged fratricidal clash between the CRPF and the J&K Police, saying the content was untrue. Kashmir police said on its official Twitter handle it has reported the post to the micro-blogging site. The post on the clash in the wake of revoking of the special status of J&K was made by Pakistani journalist Wajahat Saed Khan.

CRPF HELPLINE FLOODED WITH CALLS

A Srinagar-based CRPF helpline, which was restored on Sunday, has been inundated with calls from Kashmiris living in India and abroad seeking to know the wellbeing of their kin in J-K, officials said. The 'madadgar' helpline number - 14411 - has received over 870 calls over two days and over 55 per cent of the callers wanted to know about their families, they said. The helpline had received over 470 calls on Monday.

NO EXCHANGE OF EID SWEETS ALONG INDO-PAK BORDER

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @NewDelhi

THE customary exchange of sweets between the BSF and Pakistan Rangers along the International Border did not take place on the occasion of Eid on Monday as the neighbouring country refused to send its personnel, officials said.

There has been a fresh strain in ties between India and Pakistan after the government scrapped special status to Jammu and Kashmir, with Islamabad unilaterally downgrading diplomatic relations.

On Monday, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi asked Opposition parties to come together on the Kashmir issue, saying the country should have a united stand on the issue. "Pakistani nation and political leadership is united on the issue of Kashmir and one voice will be sounded on August 14 in support of Kashmiris," he said.

The officials said the Pakistani side refused to attend the ceremony after the Border Security Force (BSF) sent across official communication to exchange sweets and greetings along the IB running through Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

"The customary event did



Police and administrative officers offer sweets to Muslims after they offered Eid al-Adha prayers in Jammu on Monday | PTI

not take place at any location along the India-Pakistan border on the occasion of Eid al-Adha," a senior official said.

The two forces that are deployed along the over 3,000 km of the border exchange sweets on major festivals such as Eid, Holi, Diwali and their respective national days.

Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan Ajay Bisaria returned to India on Saturday, days after Islamabad expelled him following its decision to downgrade diplomatic ties.

India has been maintaining that its decision on Jammu and

Kashmir was an internal affair aimed at ensuring the overall welfare of the region.

Meanwhile, exchange of sweets between BSF personnel and their Bangladeshi counterparts, Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB), took place at designated locations along the 4,096-km frontier shared by the two countries.

Senior commanders of the two forces exchanged best wishes and presented sweets to each other as part of the existing friendly protocol along the Bangladesh border, the official said.

Will send aircraft for Rahul: Malik

J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his remarks that there have been reports of violence in Kashmir, saying he will send him an aircraft to visit the Valley. The governor said Gandhi should feel ashamed about the behaviour of one of his leaders who was talking like an "idiot" in Parliament. "I have invited Rahul Gandhi to come here. I will send you a plane, to observe (the situation) and then speak up," Malik said.

Manmohan on Kashmir

Criticising the Centre, former PM Manmohan Singh said the decision to scrap the provisions of Article 370 is not to the liking of many people and voices of J&K residents must be heard.

The former PM also said India is passing through a "deep crisis" and it needs cooperation of like-minded people. ENS

Punjab CM plays host, AMU invite gets snub

AMITA BAJPAI AND HARPREET BAJWA @Lucknow/ Chandigarh

FOR Kashmiri students who could not make it back home, Eid-ul-Azha, Monday, turned out to be a day of mixed feelings.

While for 125 students of various Punjab universities, CM Captain Amarinder Singh turned out to be the perfect host at a feast he organised in Chandigarh, a thousand kilometres south in Aligarh Muslim University, a feast funded by the Governor of J&K, came a cropper.

For Farzana Hafeez expecting to be 'all alone,' the invitation from Amarinder for lunch at Punjab Bhavan made it 'an occasion to cherish and to feel at home.' "We cannot replace your families but I hope you consider us your family too," the CM said, adding, "Kashmir is my second home too."

The students were drawn from Chandigarh University, CGC Jhanjheri and Landran, Chitkara University, SVIET University Banur, CT University Ludhiana, Lovely University and SWIFT College Rajpura.

However, at AMU it was a gloomy day as a lunch arranged for 700 Kashmiri students by the J&K Governor Satyapal Malik, was boycotted by 250 students left on the campus. "How can we celebrate without knowing how our family is doing back home?" said one.

Almost all students joined a protest march and claimed the invite to lunch had political connotations and was aimed at rubbing salts into their wounds.



Kashmiris shout slogans during a protest after Eid prayers in Srinagar on Monday. Life has been paralysed owing to heavy security deployment | AP

Jaishankar, Chinese VP discuss Kashmir issue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

INDIA on Monday told China that it is important to ensure that any bilateral differences should not become disputes, as Beijing said it is "very closely" following the Indo-Pak tensions over Kashmir and its "ramifications" and asked New Delhi to play a "constructive role" for regional peace and stability.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is on a crucial three-day visit to China, called on Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan, considered a confidant of President Xi Jinping, and later had restricted delegation-level talks with Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Welcoming Jaishankar, Foreign Minister Wang referred to the Indo-Pak tensions without directly mentioning about India scrapping Article 370 of the Constitution that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

"When it comes to the recent tensions between India and Pakistan and the possible ramifications, we follow these developments very closely. We hope that India would also play a constructive role for the regional peace and stability," Wang said.

Both the countries also signed four agreements to further strengthen the cultural and people-to-people ties between the two neighbours and ancient civilisations. The two countries signed four agreements on cultural exchanges, healthcare, sports and cooperation in museum management, according to an official statement.

On the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, we can have mutually beneficial cooperation. Wang Qishan, Chinese Vice President

Air India to fly over North Pole to save fuel and time

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @NewDelhi

THE national carrier Air India will be the first Indian airline to fly over the North Pole region. The inaugural flight over the Polar region will take flight on August 15, 2019, and will fly from Delhi to San Francisco.

While the new route would save around 90 minutes, it also has unique challenges including the area of Magnetic Unreliability, limited choice for diversion alternate airports, solar radiation, fuel freezing etc.

The first revenue flight over the Polar region will be piloted by Capt Rajneesh Sharma and Capt Digvijay Singh and this will mark the maturing of civil aviation in India as another frontier is crossed. Officials claimed that passengers will benefit from the reduced flight times, the airline from the reduced fuel consumption and



the environment from reduced carbon emissions.

Interestingly, Air India has already conquered this frontier in 2007 when a Boeing 777 flew over the polar region under the command of Capt Amitabh Singh, the present Director Operations. Upon taking delivery of the brand new aircraft, he flew the aircraft over the North Pole from Seattle to New Delhi, becoming the first Indian pilot to do so. It is a log-

ical progression from that to now seeking Regulatory permission to fly with passengers on this route, said a senior Air India official.

The fuel savings are expected to be in the region of 2,000 kg to 7,000 kg on these routes with the resultant decrease in carbon emission of 6,000 kg to 21,000 kg per flight. This is part of the initiatives of the Fuel Conservation Committee set up by the Director Operations.

EXPRESS READ

Amarendra Sharan passes away

New Delhi: Former Solicitor General of India, Senior Advocate Amarendra Sharan passed away on Monday after suffering a heart attack. He was 70 years old. He had served as the Additional Solicitor General of India for a five-year term between August 2004 and June 2009. He has also served as the special counsel for the CBI to appear before the SC in the Coalgate case.

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @NewDelhi

THE Centre is all set to equip district hospitals and community health centres with protocol software that will help MBBS doctors effectively manage patients with lifestyle diseases such as diabetes and hypertension like specialists.

The software has been developed by a team of doctors, led by endocrinologist Nikhil

Tribal body seeks Nagaland bifurcation

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

AN influential tribal organisation in Nagaland has intensified its demand to bifurcate the state for the creation of "Frontier Nagaland" state.

The demand of Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) is perceived to be in conflict with the demand of major rebel group National Socialist Council of Nagalim

which envisages the integration of Naga-inhabited areas of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh with Nagaland for the creation of a unified Naga homeland called "Greater Nagaland".

Days after the ENPO took a decision not to take part in Independence Day celebrations, the Centre has invited the tribal organisation to Delhi on August 13 for talks. A four-member

ENPO delegation left for Delhi on Monday to hold talks with Home Ministry officials.

The ENPO said decades of neglect have forced them to raise the demand for Frontier Nagaland. "Today, we are far behind from the rest of Nagaland as regards development. We want to have our administration so that we can develop ourselves," ENPO chief Ke-kongchem Yimchunger said.

Software to aid doctors to treat lifestyle diseases

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @NewDelhi

THE Centre is all set to equip district hospitals and community health centres with protocol software that will help MBBS doctors effectively manage patients with lifestyle diseases such as diabetes and hypertension like specialists.

The software has been developed by a team of doctors, led by endocrinologist Nikhil

Tandon at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi. Currently, this software is being tested on a pilot basis at the Shaheed Bhagat Singh district in Punjab.

Senior officials in the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said the biggest problem in dealing with diabetes and hypertension is that the volume of such patients is large and there are not enough

SILENT KILLER

70 million people in India have diabetes. 40 million are insulin-resistant, which is a precursor to diabetes. 4 in five diabetics on medication in India do not have their blood glucose under control. 1 out of every 3 people in the country has hypotension.

specialists. "After the experience in Punjab, if some improvement is needed in the software, it will be done, otherwise it will be installed in all district hospitals, government health centres in a phased manner," an official said.

Another official said the initiative is part of a government strategy to rely more on technology to improve access and quality of healthcare in India.





5 kids killed  
in a fire at a Pennsylvania day care centre. Victims' ages ranged from 8 months to 7 years



Beijing	28	19	LC	Los Angeles	22	14	HR
Colombo	31	25	TDS	Melbourne	12	8	LC
Doha	46	34	SNV	Moscow	26	11	LC
Dubai	42	29	LC	New York	21	16	LC
Houston	32	23	TDS	Singapore	32	25	TDS
Istanbul	30	21	LC	Toronto	19	11	LR
London	20	12	LC	Washington	26	18	LR

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain  
• TDS: Thunderstorm • LC: Light Cloud • SNV: Sunny



**NEW YORK**  
Autopsy of Epstein done, details yet to be released

The details of how Jeffrey Epstein died in his Manhattan jail cell on Saturday have yet to be released, but medical officials have performed an autopsy on the high-profile inmate accused of sexually abusing underage girls and paying them hundreds of dollars in cash for massages. The 66-year-old was denied bail and was awaiting trial for his crimes.



**BEIJING**  
Huawei's founder to create 'iron army' to fight US

Huawei's founder Ren Zhengfei has said in an internal memo that he plans to do a three- to five-year haul of the company, creating an 'iron army' that will help it survive a US onslaught while protecting its next-generation wireless lead. With US sanctions threatening the networking giant's cash-cow smartphone business, he said major structural shifts are in order.



**SEREMBAN**  
Shaman joins the search for missing UK teen in Malaysia

A Malaysian shaman on Monday joined police from Ireland, France and the UK in the search for a 15-year-old London girl who mysteriously vanished from a nature resort eight days ago, as her parents offered a cash reward and appealed for information. Nora Anne Quoirin went missing from the Dusun eco-resort in southern Negeri Sembilan on August 4.



**GUATEMALA CITY**  
Conservative Giammattei elected as Guatemala prez

Conservative Alejandro Giammattei has been elected president in Guatemala, sweeping to victory on promises to stem mass migrations to the United States by combating poverty, corruption and violence in the Central American country. Giammattei defeated former first lady Sandra Torres in a run-off Sunday, garnering more than 58 percent of the vote.



**MOSCOW**  
Russians killed in blast were working on 'new weapons'

Russia's nuclear agency chief on Monday confirmed that five scientists killed last week were developing "new weapons" and vowed to continue testing "until the end", despite the explosion. The accident took place at an Arctic military facility on the coast of the White Sea on Thursday, but Russian authorities only admitted its nuclear nature on Saturday.



**SEOUL**  
K-pop superstar group BTS to take a break from music

K-pop superstars BTS will take a 'long-term break' from the music scene, their agency BigHit Entertainment said Monday, after the boy band topped charts in the US and Britain earlier this year. The pause may only last a few weeks, as BTS — or Bangtan Sonyeondan (Bulletproof Boy Scouts) — is due to play a controversial show in Saudi Arabia on October 11.



**LOS ANGELES**  
Change is inevitable: Miley Cyrus on her separation

A day after the news of Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth parting ways made headlines, the singer apparently addressed their split in a social media post, saying "change is inevitable" and it is futile to fight evolution. Cyrus, 26, posted on Instagram when she appears to be on a nature trek. The couple tied the knot seven months ago in a private ceremony.

# Migrants using public dole out of green card ambit

**WASHINGTON**

THE Trump administration is moving forward with one of its most aggressive steps yet to restrict legal immigration, denying green cards to many migrants who use Medicaid, food stamps, housing vouchers or other forms of public assistance, US officials announced on Monday.

Federal law already requires those seeking to become permanent residents and gain legal status to prove they will not be a burden to the US — a "public charge," in government speak — but the new rules detail a broader range of programs that could disqualify them.

It's part of a dramatic overhaul of the nation's immigration system that the administration has been trying to put into place. While much of the attention has focused on President Donald Trump's efforts to crack down on illegal immigration, the new change targets people who entered the United States legally and are



US President Donald Trump

seeking permanent status. Its part of an effort to move the US to a system that focuses on immigrants' skills instead of emphasizing the reunification of families.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services will now weigh public assistance along with other factors such as education, household income and health to determine whether to grant legal status.

The rules will take effect in mid-October. They don't apply to US citizens, even if the US citizen is related to an immi-

grant who is subject to them. The acting director of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Ken Cuccinelli, said the rule change fits with the Republican president's message.

Migrants make up a small percentage of those who get public benefits. In fact, many are ineligible for public benefits because of their immigration status.

**Protections for endangered species overhauled**

The Trump administration also rolled out some of the broadest changes in decades to enforcement of the landmark Endangered Species Act, allowing the government to put an economic cost on saving a species and other changes critics contend could speed extinction for some struggling plants and animals.

Democratic lawmakers, several state attorneys generals and conservation groups said the overhaul would hamper protections for endangered and threatened species. AP

# HK airport shuts down amid protests

China slams violent demonstrations as 'terrorism'; over 5,000 activists flood into airport

**HONG KONG**

ALL passenger flights in and out of Hong Kong were cancelled on Monday after thousands of pro-democracy protesters flooded the city's airport to denounce police violence.

The abrupt shutdown at one of the world's busiest hubs came as the Chinese government signalled its rising anger at the protesters, denouncing some of the violent demonstrations as "terrorism".

Authorities said they were working to reopen the airport by 03:30 AM ISD on Tuesday morning, but hundreds of protesters remained in the arrivals hall well into the night with no sign of leaving.

The developments marked yet another dramatic escalation in a 10-week crisis that had already become the biggest challenge to Chinese rule of Hong Kong since the 1997 British handover.

A crowd of protesters that authorities said numbered more than 5,000 descended on Hong Kong airport on Monday carrying placards and chanting



At least 150 flights were cancelled at the world's eighth busiest airport, where Monday's rally was the first to have a significant impact on passengers. | AFP

slogans about police violence.

Although other rallies had been held at the transport hub over the previous three days, Monday's was the first to have a significant impact on passengers.

The airport authority said operations "have been seriously disrupted as a result of the public assembly".

At least 150 flights were cancelled at the world's eighth bus-

iest airport, which handles around 200,000 passengers a day.

Hong Kong-based carrier Cathay Pacific warned the disruption could extend into Tuesday, and advised customers to "postpone non-essential travel".

At the airport, protesters held signs reading "Hong Kong is not safe" and "Shame on police".

They accuse the force of us-

**Airline, luxury brands follow China's lead**

The chief executive of Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways warned Monday there will be "disciplinary consequences" for employees involved in "illegal protests," as the airline joins a slate of businesses that have appeared and apologized to China in recent days. Luxury fashion brands Givenchy, Versace and Coach have apologized after Chinese social media users lambasted the companies for selling T-shirts which listed Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan as their own countries. A Taiwanese bubble tea firm also apologised.

ing increasingly violent and disproportionate tactics to suppress protests.

Over the weekend police fired tear gas into subway stations and crowded shopping streets as they confronted protesters at nearly a dozen locations across the city.

Protesters responded by hurling bricks and spraying riot police with fire extinguishers and water hoses. AFP



A family wades through a flooded street in Karachi, Pakistan on Sunday. Large parts of the southern city are underwater. | AP

# 161 killed since July as heavy monsoon rains lash Pakistan

**ISLAMABAD**

A total of 161 people have been killed and 137 others injured in rain-related incidents since July in the country due to monsoon-triggered heavy rains, confirmed an official from Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority.

Saqib Mumtaz, the focal person for media from the disaster management authority, told Xinhua news agency on Sunday that the current spell of rains is likely to subside from Karachi on Monday, with the rain-causing low air pressure receding to Arabian Sea off the Karachi coast, Xinhua reported.

At least 11 people were killed and dozens others injured in separate rain-related accidents in Karachi of Pakistan's south Sindh province over the last two days, local media reported Sunday.

Torrential rains, which was recorded as high as 192 mm per hour, caused urban

flooding by inundating low-lying areas and main thoroughfares in the city, trapping people inside their houses and disrupting road and railway traffic, local Samaa TV reported.

Most of the fatalities happened due to incidents of roof collapse and electrocution, the report said, adding that dozens of animals, which people bought to slaughter on Eid, which falls on Monday, have also been electrocuted or washed away in the flash floods caused by rains.

Chief Minister of Sindh Murad Ali Shah told a press briefing that dozens of people have been displaced by the rains, and they have made arrangements for them in makeshift tents where they are being provided with food, bedding and medicine.

Electricity supply was interrupted in 35 percent of the city, as about 500 electricity feeders were turned off due to bad weather conditions. IANS

## A GAMING RENAISSANCE

There's been a renaissance in gaming over the last decade or so, says Lewis Ward, an analyst at market research firm IDC. The creative success of gaming companies is partly driven by cost-efficient tech components. We take a look

2 bn people buy video games around the world, fueling a growing diversity in gaming



A soon-to-be-launched device, Playdate has old-style chunky buttons and, surprisingly, a hand crank. | PAMC

\$174 bn in revenue video games are expected to generate in 2019, according to IDC

**OUR STREAMING FUTURE**

Streaming devices from giants such as Amazon, Apple and Google all double up as gaming consoles. There's been a huge push into cloud-based games from Tencent Holdings Ltd. and Nvidia Corp. that can be streamed over the Internet



**GOOGLE STADIA**

Beyond core consoles from Sony Corp., Microsoft and Nintendo, there's the smartphone, tablet and streaming-based hardware from the likes of Google and Roku

**CONSOLE PIONEERS**

Microsoft, Nintendo and Sony have over the years crushed console pioneers like Atari and Sega. Even still, the three fight severely for market share among themselves and against new entrants

Nintendo has watched its fortunes rise and fall and rise again between each new risky release. The Switch, with its mobile-inspired hardware, almost whimsical user experience and embrace of indie developers, has proven such a radical, and prosperous, departure from the Xbox and PlayStation



**VR STILL IN THE GAME**

Samsung Electronics Co., HTC Corp., Lenovo Group Ltd., Sony and Facebook are investing heavily in virtual reality

TEXT: BLOOMBERG

# Farage calls Queen's mother 'overweight, gin drinker'

**LONDON**

BREXIT party leader Nigel Farage derided the royal family in an incendiary speech at an Australian right-wing political conference, calling the late Queen Mother an "overweight, chain-smoking gin drinker" and abusing Prince Charles. He also mocked the Duke and Duchess of Sussex for their "irrelevant" social justice and environment campaigns.

According to The Guardian, Farage's speech at Sydney's Conservative Political Action Conference ranged across his views on Brexit, media bias, the United Nations and the royal family. He lauded the Queen, calling her "an amazing, awe-inspiring woman, we're bloody lucky to have her".

But he reserved his fiercest condemnation for her son, grandson and mother. "Her mother, Her Royal Highness the Queen's mother was a slightly overweight, chain-smoking gin drinker who lived to 101 years old."



Far-right British politician Nigel Farage

Whether Prince Harry has two kids is irrelevant given there are now 2.6 billion Chinese and Indians on this Earth

Nigel Farage, the leader of Brexit Party

He also commented on Harry and Meghan's decision to have only two children. "We're all completely ignoring that the population of the globe is exploding but no one dares talk about it and whether Prince Harry has two kids is irrelevant given there are now 2.6 billion Chinese and Indians on this Earth."

**SHORTCUT TO SUCCESS**

# Ivy League admission industry gets rich off Chinese students

**BEIJING**

FROM hiring ghostwriters and forging sports credentials to generous 'gift-giving', admissions middlemen in China are advising wealthy parents to take an array of 'shortcuts' to secure places at foreign universities.

The service comes with a hefty price tag, often running into tens of thousands of dollars, but nonetheless the industry is booming.

The lengths to which some are willing to go to were highlighted in the admissions scandal that shook US universities this year, where prosecutors



found one Chinese family had given \$6.5 million to an admissions agent to get their daughter to Stanford, while another had coughed up \$1.2 million for entry to Yale.

The case saw dozens of people -- including Hollywood stars and CEOs -- plead guilty to using bribery to ensure places at prestigious schools, but education experts

in China say it's not unusual to advise such practise to families keen on foreign universities.

"In the admissions world, it's called gift-giving instead of bribing. About \$10,000 is on the lower end of the spectrum. An average gift will be about \$250,000," one former college counsellor revealed, on condition of anonymity.

Six current and former employees of admissions agencies told AFP they suggested parents "find shortcuts" to circumvent the traditional process.

"I have done things I am not proud of including coaching parents on how to embellish transcripts or fake sports cre-

dentials. I have received mangled essays, which are then heavily edited by professionals," one advisor confessed.

Fu Rao's family spent 250,000 yuan (\$36,300) on her admissions consultant. The entire package included advice on how to correspond with professors, which courses to take to make sure her high school transcript was filled with A grades, and how to chat about American football.

It has been an 18-month process so far during which she has also taken the SAT exam four times -- so Fu Rao was certain she would get the score she needed. AFP



# Aramco to pick up 20% in Reliance's oil biz

Valuing RIL's oil to chemicals business at \$75 billion, the deal is the largest foreign direct investment made in India

M C VAIJAYANTHI @Mumbai

In India's largest foreign direct investment (FDI) deal, Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) on Monday announced that it has agreed to sell a strategic stake in its oil to chemicals business to global oil giant Saudi Aramco. According to RIL chairman Mukesh Ambani, Aramco has agreed to pick up a 20 per cent stake in the division whose enterprise value is pegged at \$75 billion.

RIL's oil to chemicals business would include all its refining and petrochemical assets, and the petroleum retail chain in which BP recently took a 49 per cent stake.

The Aramco and BP deals are seen part of a major de-leveraging exercise by the conglomerate after analysts began flagging concerns over its growing debt. BP would pay \$7,000 crore for its stake, with both investments together set to bring in ₹1.1 lakh crore, Ambani told shareholders at the company's 42nd Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Aramco will also supply up to 500 kbpd of crude oil on a long term basis to RIL's Jamnagar refinery under the agreement. The Jamnagar refinery, with a processing capacity of 1.24 mtpd, one of the largest and most complex such units in the world, is also future ready to transform from being a leading producer of fuels to chemicals, Ambani said. "As the world moves towards renewable energy sources and electric vehicles, Reliance has positioned itself far ahead of the curve to cre-

ate new value," he said. The roadmap in RIL's oil to chemical mission aims to convert greater than 70 per cent of crude oil refined in Jamnagar into commercially competitive chemical building blocks, RIL had said in its annual report. "The Jamnagar refinery product slate, at the culmination of oil-to-chemical transition, shall be only jet fuels and petrochemicals. All refined products priced below crude shall be eliminated for chemicals at the initial stage. Final fuel de-risking shall target elimination of gasoline, alkylate and diesel," the company had said.

Ambani also told shareholders that the company would try to become a zero debt entity at the net level within 18 months, and then try to pay higher dividends, periodic bonus issues etc., Currently, RIL's net debt stands at ₹1.54 lakh crore, and gross debt at ₹2.88 lakh crore.

Though Ambani did not spell out the details of how the Aramco deal would be structured, since RIL also operates telecom and retail businesses, he said efforts are on to bring in partners for these two and move towards listing within five years. The oil to chemicals business, meanwhile, is likely to be carved out but kept within RIL fold for now. Once the due diligence and approval process is over, RIL is likely to issue shares to Aramco in some form to match its 20 per cent economic interest in the unit.

**Large scale deleveraging**

Saudi Aramco will invest in Reliance for a 20 per cent stake in Oil to Chemicals division at an enterprise value of \$75 billion. This will cover all of RIL's Refining and Petrochemicals assets

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman, RIL



Chairman of Reliance Industries Limited Mukesh Ambani (C) arrives for the company's 42nd AGM in Mumbai on Monday | AP

## RIL to make a 'New Commerce' bet

SESA SEN @NewDelhi

With a successful disruptor like Reliance looking to settle in for the long haul in the retail business, the likes of Future Group, and e-commerce giants like Amazon and Flipkart, are set to see intense competition.

On Monday, Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) revealed the contours of a plan that could recast the entire retail industry. With trials of its digital commerce venture — which seeks to integrate producers, sellers and consumers under one platform — yielding promising results, Ambani said it is now working towards empowering three crore merchants and

kirana shop owners across the country with its end-to-end digital and physical distribution.

"Reliance Retail has built the capabilities to address the \$700 billion unorganised retail opportunity, which we call New Commerce," Ambani said, adding that RIL plans to bring the country's small retailers on to a digital platform which also connects suppliers with Reliance Retail stores. "The new commerce platform would enable small merchants to do everything that large enterprises and large e-commerce players are able to do," he said.

Retail has become one of RIL's biggest bets of late, as RIL

attempts to prune its dependence on traditional avenues like oil refining. Reliance Retail had crossed ₹1.3 lakh crore in revenue last year, with Ambani stating that "it (was) four times larger than the second-largest retail player".

Analysts say RIL's retail gambit has the potential to unsettle Big Bazaar, Avenue Supermarts and others in the sector, primarily due to the company's deep pockets and strength in pricing. "Fast-forward five years on, Reliance will have metamorphosed into a company with a larger consumer play," said Abneesh Roy, senior vice-president, Edelweiss.



## Etihad, Anil Agarwal not interested in bidding for Jet Airways

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @NewDelhi

IN a big blow to Jet Airways' hopes for a revival, Etihad Airways said on Monday that it will not express interest in re-investing in the beleaguered airline "because of unresolved issues concerning its liabilities". The gulf carrier, which already holds a 24 per cent stake in Jet Airways, had in May "confirmed its interest to re-invest in Jet" subject to various conditions like securing an exemption from making an

open offer and banks taking a big haircut on their loans.

"Since then, Etihad has consistently and constructively sought and advanced solutions to help resolve Jet's issues. But, as a minority shareholder, Etihad has had limited capacity to secure required changes," Etihad said in a statement. While noting that "despite the endeavours of everyone involved there remained very significant issues relating to Jet's previous liabilities", "It was neither feasible nor responsible" to re-invest in Jet at this time, Etihad



**Eol deadline extended**

The lack of sufficient bidders had forced Jet Airways' Resolution Professional to extend the deadline to submit Expressions of Interest (EoI) from the earlier August 3 to August 10.

asserted that the decision does not affect its commitment to the Indian market.

Incidentally Anil Agarwal's family trust-led Volcan Investments has also decided to withdraw its Expression of Interest just hours after Etihad declined to bail out Jet Airways. In a statement, the company said, "The EoI... by Volcan was exploratory in nature. On further evaluation and considering other priorities, we intend to not pursue this further."

Jet Airways had suspended operations in April due to an

acute fund crunch.

The resolution professional handling Jet case under the insolvency and bankruptcy code process has so far received 16,643 claims worth ₹24,888 crore from financial, operational and other creditors. Only claims of 33 financial creditors worth ₹8,463 crore had been admitted however.

The RP, who had set a deadline of August 3 initially for the submission of EoIs, had to extend the deadline to August 10 since it had not received any bids as of then.

### EXPRESS READ

#### Tech Mahindra to buy 65% in Mad\*Pow

New Delhi: Tech Mahindra will pay \$70 million (about ₹490 crore) to acquire 65 per cent stake in US-based strategic design consultancy firm Mad\*Pow. "... the balance 35 per cent will be acquired subsequently from the management team and the founders..." it added.

#### OYO, ACKO ink pact to provide insurance

New Delhi: OYO on Monday partnered ACKO General Insurance to offer guests a complimentary insurance cover for its properties across India. The guests will get insurance against accidental death, baggage loss and accidental medical expenses for the entire duration of their stay.

#### Kotak special fund gets \$1 bn commitments

New Delhi: Kotak Investment Advisors on Monday said it has achieved the final closure for the Kotak special situations fund, having received an aggregate commitment for \$1 billion. The fund will focus on non-performing loans (NPLs) which are either facing insolvency procedures or are outside the IBC process.

### CORPORATE RESULTS

#### Muthoot Finance Q1 profits up 9%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @NewDelhi

Muthoot Finance on Monday reported an increase of 9 per cent in its consolidated net profit for the first quarter of the financial year ended June 30. The company recorded a net profit of ₹563 crore for the quarter compared to ₹518 crore recorded during the same quarter of the previous year. Total income increased to ₹2,067.67 crore during the quarter against ₹1,783.47 crore the previous year. Consolidated loan assets under management (AUM) rose 18 per cent to ₹40,228 crore during the latest June quarter, as against ₹33,954 crore a year ago.

#### SJVN net profit rises 44% to ₹423 cr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @NewDelhi

State-owned SJVN on Monday posted a 43.54 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at ₹422.51 crore for June quarter 2019 as compared to the year-ago period on the back of higher revenues. The company's net profit was ₹294.35 crore in the June quarter of 2018-19, a BSE filing said. Total income rose to ₹815.06 crore during the latest June quarter from ₹650.50 crore a year ago. Gross power generation in the quarter under review rose to 3,200.57 million units from 2,404.92 million units a year ago. The company is primarily engaged in generation and sale of power across India.

#### Motherson Sumi Q1 profit falls 42%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @NewDelhi

Auto component major Motherson Sumi Systems Ltd (MSSL) on Monday said its consolidated net profit declined 41.67 per cent to ₹360.64 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2019. The company had reported a profit of ₹618.35 crore during the same period of previous fiscal. Total revenue from operations rose to ₹16,792.53 crore for April-June 2019 as compared with ₹14,775.46 crore in the year-ago period. MSSL said in a regulatory filing. The company's profitability was impacted by adverse ramp-up costs at Samvardhana Motherson Peguform (SMP) greenfield projects and tough market conditions.

## Catholic Syrian Bank files draft papers for IPO with SEBI

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @NewDelhi

KERALA-BASED Catholic Syrian Bank on Monday said that it had filed a draft prospectus for its planned initial public offer (IPO) with markets regulator Securities and Exchanges Board of India (SEBI).

According to an official statement, the private sector lender

is planning to raise fresh capital by issuing shares worth ₹30 crore, besides an offer for sale of 1.98 crore shares by existing shareholders.

"The net proceeds from the fresh issue are proposed to be utilised towards augmenting the bank's tier-1 capital base to meet future capital requirements which are expected to arise out of growth in our

bank's assets, primarily our bank's loans/advances and investment portfolio, and to ensure compliance with Basel III and other RBI guidelines," it said, adding that the bank's shares will be listed on both the BSE and NSE.

The net proceeds from the fresh issue are proposed to be utilised towards augmenting the bank's tier-1 capital to meet future needs  
Official statement, Catholic Syrian Bank

#### Andhra Bank reduces MCLR rates by 25 bps

Andhra Bank announced last week that it will be reducing the Marginal Cost of funds based Lending Rate (MCLR) effective from August 16, 2019, across all five tenors: Overnight (now 7.95%), 1 month (8%), 3 months (8.2%), 6 months (8.35%) and 1 year (8.45%).

#### Indian Bank to launch Repo-linked loans

Indian Bank last week announced that it has launched new home loan and vehicle loan products linked to the Repo rate. These products will carry interest which will change along with RBI's repo rate changes and will facilitate quick transmission of policy interest rates.

## Business & Beyond

#### K Sreekant now CMD, PowerGrid

K Sreekant assumed the charge of Chairman and Managing Director of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited on August 5, 2019. Prior to taking up this assignment, he was serving as Director (Finance) POWERGRID. The new CMD is a B.Com(Hons.) graduate, CMA and PGDBM (Finance), with more than 33 years of experience in the power sector involving all Finance and Accounting functions.



#### IBRAD bags West Bengal project

The Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research & Development, which has developed the concept of Integrated Landscape Management and Sustainable Agriculture in order to address the need for food security and human development in tribal communities, has bagged a project from West Bengal's Department of Agriculture. Tribal farmers under the project are engaged in organic and sustainable farming.

#### Canara Bank cuts MCLR rates by 10 bps

To pass on the benefit of reduction in interest rates effected by the RBI, Canara Bank has cut its marginal cost of fund-based lending rate (MCLR) by 10 basis points across all tenors, effective from August 7, 2019. With this, it has cumulatively reduced its MCLR by 20 bps in 6 months.

#### Syndicate Bank cuts MCLR, to offer repo-linked loans

Syndicate Bank has decided to lower its MCLR rates by 25 basis points across all tenors from August 12. With this, during the current financial year, the bank has cumulatively reduced its MCLR in different tenors up to 50 bps. It has also decided to introduce Repo Linked Deposit and Lending Rates.

#### AIC to provide relief to the farmers affected by recent floods

Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC) is closely monitoring the losses arising out of the recent floods and fully geared up to pay claims to the affected farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) Scheme, the company said, adding that it was in touch with the State & District administration.



# CoA to go slow on Aug 14 deadline

With several state units still to finalise poll process, administrators look at September for total compliance

ATREYO MUKHOPADHYAY  
@Chennai

ELECTIONS and dates of interviews for the chief coach's post are among the matters likely to be discussed at a meeting of the committee of administrators (CoA) in Mumbai on Tuesday. About eight of the 34 state associations are yet to comply fully to the reform orders and the CoA is sticking to its deadline of September 14, by which time all the affiliated units have to hold elections and submit names of representatives to attend the BCCI annual general meeting on October 22. But it looks unlikely that the

units yet to fulfil the mandatory clause of appointing electoral officers will be able to meet the other deadline. The CoA had on May 21 issued a directive asking the states to finalise their electoral college and protocol under the guidance of the electoral officer by August 14. The units of Mumbai, Tamil Nadu, Bengal, Madhya Pradesh are among those not in a position to do this by that date. "The CoA will most likely wait till September 14 and see if that deadline is met," said an official following developments. "There is an August deadline as well, but considering the circumstances and the

fact that elections in the state bodies by September 14 is what finally matters, they are probably looking more at that." This suggests there would be no penalty for the units that fail to finalise their electoral details on time. They may only get a reminder that failure to get everything in place by September 14 would make them ineligible to take part in the BCCI electoral process. "Disobedient associations will not be treated on a par with others. Their cricketing activities may not be affected, but they won't have voting rights."

There have already been murmurs in some of the units that September 14 is too early. A few are even of the opinion that the CoA has set unrealistic dates. If the body comprising Vinod Rai, Diana Edulji and Ravindra Thodge relaxes the August 14 time frame, it may lead to calls to push back the September date as well. The process will get stalled if that happens.

**In person, on Skype**  
As far as the appointment of coach is concerned, short-listed aspirants would appear in interviews in person at the Crick-

et Centre in Mumbai and over Skype. It's unlikely to take place before August 16. Whether interviews would be held over one day or two will depend on the number of candidates. As of now, Ravi Shastri is tipped to be retained by the Cricket Advisory Committee of Kapil Dev, Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy. There are unconfirmed reports that the CoA will also discuss the anti-doping issue. There are talks that following the decision to become NADA-compliant, the administrators might make this part of the constitutional framework of the BCCI.



## Six in line to be India's head coach

PTI @ NewDelhi

SIX candidates, including incumbent Ravi Shastri, were on Monday short-listed for the high-profile post of the Indian cricket team's head coach. The six candidates are former New Zealand coach Mike Hesson, ex-Australia all-rounder and Sri Lanka coach Tom Moody, former West Indies all-rounder and Afghanistan coach Phil Simmons, ex-India team manager Lalchand Rajput, former India fielding coach Robin Singh and Shastri.

The candidates will give a presentation to the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) headed by the legendary Kapil Dev, and a final decision will be arrived at by end of this week or early next week. Besides the country's first World Cup-winning skipper Dev, the newly-appointed CAC comprises Anshuman Gaekwad and former women's team captain Shantha Rangaswamy.

"These six will give presentation for head coach before CAC. It has been learnt that these six have been short-listed for interview with the CAC," a senior BCCI official, privy to the development, said. Before leaving for the tour of West Indies, captain Virat Kohli had said that he is in favour of Shastri continuing as the head coach of the Indian team despite the criticism he faced following the semifinal ouster from the World Cup.

The current support staff comprising Shastri, bowling coach Bharathi Arun, batting coach Sanjay Bangar and fielding coach R Sridhar were given a 45-day extension following the World Cup, covering the ongoing West Indies tour from August 3 to September 3.



Phil Simmons is also in fray

## MIDDLE MAN MANAGEMENT

India's middle-order concerns are well known. Shreyas Iyer brings hope that if given a fair run, he could be the answer...

4 Iyer's success and Pant's failure may soon lead to calls to have the former at No. 4.

## FLAWLESS DISPLAY

Iyer made a case for himself by making a 68-ball 71 in the second ODI against West Indies. Coming in at 101/3, stitched a 125-run partnership with Virat Kohli. Playing second fiddle to captain early on and gradually coming to his own, he played his role to perfection.

## TRAVAILS OF THE PAST

The top-heavy team got just a handful of half-centuries from middle-order specialists in the recent past. In 10 ODIs before the World Cup, there were only two — Ambati Rayudu (90) vs New Zealand and Kedar Jadhav (81) vs Australia.

## SAME STORY IN WORLD CUP

The trend continued in the World Cup. Barring a 52 by Jadhav vs Afghanistan, no other specialist batsman No 4 downwards got a fifty. MS Dhoni made one against West Indies, but he is not a specialist batsman.

## INCONSISTENT SELECTION

Since the start of this year, India tried out Rayudu, KL Rahul, Vijay Shankar, Rishabh Pant, Jadhav, Dinesh Karthik as specialist batsmen in the middle-order. Not one of them got a long enough run.

3 Half-centuries by Iyer in 8 ODIs. He averages 46.83 and has a strike rate of 98.25.

"I want to stay in the team for a while. For that, consistency is important. When I came in to bat, Virat Kohli told me to stick around and bat till the 45th over. I'm glad I did that. When you achieve what you set out to do, that becomes satisfying. My experience of playing in the West Indies for India A helped."

Shreyas Iyer, India batsman



He (Iyer) is a very confident guy and has the right attitude. Really got the tempo going and took the pressure off me. After I got out, he got the extra runs as well.

Virat Kohli, India skipper



## Back from toe injury, Arokia set for return to national camp

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN  
@Chennai

AROKIA Rajiv is expected to report back to the national camp in less than a week's time. Rajiv, a member of the 400m squad that trained in Spala for over two months, was sent back home after he picked up an injury near the big toe. A frustrating injury, it set him back — he hasn't raced competitively since the 4x400m relay at the Asian Championships on April 24 — but the 28-year-old is thankful that he is finally ready to come back.

"I have started training, my treatment is almost over," he told this daily. "It's been frustrating that the injury has taken this long to heal but I am happy to get back to track soon." Even though he is still at home in Trichy, he is confident of leaving for Patiala in '67 days' time. "I am training at home, the pain has almost subsided. I think I will join up with the national campers in Patiala in less than a week's time."

Interestingly, the 2014 400m Asian Games bronze medallist main-



"It's been frustrating that the injury has taken this long to heal but I am happy to get back to track soon."

Arokia Rajiv, India sprinter

tained that he will most likely miss the World Championships in Doha. "I think I will miss that, it's important to note that I haven't even started training on the track yet." This is interesting because the team management, as it stands, believe that he will be there with the team. Arokia will also miss the upcoming Inter-State Championships in Lucknow.

Meanwhile, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) is of the opinion that the 400m relay is India's best bet at the Worlds in September-October. Even though the men's 4x400m relay team hasn't had the greatest of seasons so far — they are on the verge of missing the trip altogether if they fall in the world rankings by the second week of September — and the women's 4x400m relay has visible weaknesses with a few of the runners registering below par times, they believe the mixed team has a fair chance of medalling.

GAME CHANGER

## Nagaland to Bengaluru: Flag-bearer foresees fast progress in Northeast cricket

ASHIM SUNAM @Bengaluru

FOOTBALL is the No 1 sport in the Northeast. The likes of Eugenson Lyngdoh, Jeje Lalpekhlua, Jackichand Singh are popular figures. In the steady supply of footballers, cricketers from the region cut forlorn figures. Nagaland's Jonathan Rongsen is an exception in this regard. For some years now, he has been Northeast's flag-bearer in cricket.

As a child in Nagaland, he spent a lot of time watching cricket. There was not much chance for him to play cricket in his hometown due to inadequate infrastructure. His journey started only after shift-

ing to Bengaluru around 20 years ago.

"When my father came here for PhD, we all had to come down as well. That's how I joined St. Joseph's Boys School and my cricketing journey started," says Rongsen.

He decided to stay back even though his parents left Bengaluru after five years. By then, Rongsen had realised that staying in the city could help him fulfil his dreams of becoming a cricketer.

Life was hard, but his struggle paid off. The right-handed batsman went on to play in the KSCA first division league when he was just 16. He represented Karnataka at various

age-group levels and made his senior state team debut in the Vijay Hazare Trophy against Goa in 2010. He has also played for Railways.

The 32-year-old has always been a part of the Karnataka Premier League and one of those in demand at the auctions. For this year's edition, he was picked up by Bengaluru Blasters for ₹6 lakh, the third highest bid of the season. He is the second batsman to score 1,000 runs in KPL, after Mayank Agarwal.

Although these achievements will remain special for him, one of Rongsen's proudest moment came last season when he captained Nagaland in the

domestic circuit. Nagaland won just two matches in Ranji Trophy, five in Vijay Hazare and none in the Mushtaq Ali T20s, but he expects the sport to grow in those places.

"I never thought Ranji Trophy will come to the Northeast. When I went back, my job was to educate them and help them with their techniques since I was playing a higher level of cricket in Karnataka. After we played Ranji, I saw with my own eyes that a lot of people have interest in cricket. In the coming years, cricket may overtake football," said Rongsen.

The BCCI has been doing its bit for the promotion of cricket

in the region. The need of the hour is better infrastructure, more grounds and funds.

The cash-rich board also provided coaches, physios and physical trainers in each age-group to all these teams. Rongsen is pleased with the BCCI's efforts and confident that the cricket landscape in his home state and adjoining states will change.

"They conducted national academy camps in all age-groups including seniors. They got the best national-level coaches to train the boys. With BCCI showing such kind of interest, in the next three to four years, we will be able to do well," added Rongsen.



Jonathan Rongsen of Nagaland is the second batsman to score 1000 runs in KPL

## SECURITY CONCERN

# AITA leaves it for ITF to decide on Davis tie

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN  
@Chennai

MONDAY saw a new twist to the upcoming Davis Cup tie between India and Pakistan, with the All India Tennis Association (AITA) requesting the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to conduct one more safety check before arriving at a decision vis-a-vis the match. The approach is contrary to what AITA had been saying in the last few days on shifting the venue to a neutral location. Interestingly, now the onus is on ITF to decide on the security issues instead of India pulling out and incurring a penalty. Since the ball is in the international federation's court, it is likely to take the decision within the week, keeping the busy schedule of players and their logistics in mind.

In the last few days, worsening diplomatic relations between India and Pakistan have continued to cast doubts over their Asia-Oceania Group I Davis Cup tie, scheduled to be held in Islamabad on September 14 and 15. ITF had already conducted one security check — as is the norm for every tie — in July. After the world body had expressed their satisfaction, AITA had started the visa process before the Indian government withdrew special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. That move had led to Pakistan downgrading diplomatic ties.

"We are aware that you had done a safety check before the diplomatic ties were downgraded," AITA has reportedly said in a letter addressed to ITF. "ITF may find it appro-

priate to do another check to its own satisfaction to ensure the safety of all the stakeholders connected with the tie.

"AITA is, therefore, waiting for your (ITF) final certificate confirming the safety of all the stakeholders and the details of the security plan prepared from the arrival of the team to its departure so that we can start applying for visas... In case ITF, in consultation with PTF (Pakistan Tennis Federation), is not 100 per cent sure about the safety of the stakeholders, ITF may advise us the future course of action..."

ITF had maintained that the risk rating in Pakistan remained unchanged. "Safety and security are our top priority," ITF told this newspaper. "The ITF works closely with the host nation and an expert independent security advisor. Thorough security assessments have been conducted for all Davis Cup and Fed Cup ties. The overall security risk rating in Pakistan has not changed and we will continue to monitor the situation with our advisors."

AITA's letter to the ITF was sent a few hours before sports minister Kiren Rijiju said the government has no say in the matter.

"If it is a bilateral event, then whether India will play with Pakistan becomes a political decision. But Davis Cup is not a bilateral (meet) and is organised by a world sporting body," Rijiju said. "Since India is a signatory to the Olympic charter, the government of India or the national federation do not have a say on whether India will participate or not."

## EXPRESS READ

### World Cup League 2 qualifiers from Wednesday

DUBAI: The ICC on Monday launched World Cup League 2, a part of the new four-year qualification for the 2023 World Cup. The competition will have seven teams — Namibia, Nepal, Oman, PNG, Scotland, UAE and the USA. There will be a total of 126 matches to be played across 21 tri-series. Each of the seven teams will play 36 ODIs over a period of two and half years from August 2019.

### Rahane may play for Delhi in next year's IPL

NEW DELHI: Ajinkya Rahane, one of the biggest names synonymous with Rajasthan Royals over the years, could turn out for Delhi Capitals from the next season if the franchise manages to strike a deal with Rajasthan. Sources in the know said that talks are on and if all goes well, Rahane will be a Delhi player in the next IPL.

### MCC to review WC overthrow

PTI @ London

THE throw from the deep that ricocheted off Ben Stokes' bat to the boundary during the World Cup final will be reviewed in September, Marylebone Cricket Club said on Monday. "The World Cricket Committee discussed Law 19.8 in relation to overthrows, in the context of the World Cup final. WCC felt the Law was clear but the matter will be reviewed by the Laws sub-committee in September."



# IGU's selection trial under the microscope

Derecognised golf body says it's alright, committee running the sport terms it illegal

ATREYO MUKHOPADHYAY @Chennai

SELECTION of the team for the Nomura Cup Asia Pacific amateur golf championship may run into rough waters. The Indian Gold Union (IGU) conducted trials which got over in Noida Golf Course on August 11. This body has recently been derecognised by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), which formed a temporary committee to run amateur golf in the country.

Status of national sports federation taken away for its constitution being "in violation of the National Sports Development Code" — as stated by IOA president Narinder Batra in a letter dated July 9 — can the IGU still hold such trials is the question. An official of the body says it can. A representative of the IOA committee thinks this is beyond IGU's jurisdiction at the moment. The matter may eventually require the intervention of the IOA, sports ministry or the International Golf Federation (IGF).

"IGU officials are very much in charge of running amateur golf in the country. The IOA comes into play only when teams are selected for the Olympic and Asian Games. Otherwise, activities are still looked after by the IGU. There are over 70 competitions a year, other than academies and camps. Who is going to manage all that if the IGU doesn't? We don't understand why there should be a problem with us holding trials," said an official of the IGU.

Although the Golf Governance Committee (GGC) is still to start functioning, a mem-

ber of this panel is of the opinion that the IGU is not in a position to conduct selection trials right now. "The ministry and IOA have derecognised the IGU. I don't think they can select a team at this juncture. Even if they do, it will have no validity. And they should not be able to send a team abroad either," said the official. For any Indian team under a national sports federation needs a no-objection from the sports ministry to participate in competitions overseas.

However, there is an unanswered question here. If the IGU is deemed ineligible to function until the GGC conducts fresh elections and the GGC is non-functional, whose responsibility is it to run affairs of the IGU in the meanwhile? As things stand, perhaps the IOA or the sports ministry will have to take a call.

"The matter of team selection by the IGU should reach the IGF and it has to be seen what they say. As far as the GGC is concerned, we are still awaiting the name of an IGF representative to be included in the panel. Once that's done, we are likely to have our first meeting in the first week of September," said the GGC member. At present, it has four members. The IGF representative will make it five.

According to Batra's letter to the IGU announcing the decision to derecognise it, the IGF is aware of the step taken by IOA. It says that the IOA chief and secretary-general Rajeev Mehta met IGF executive director Antony Scanlon in May and briefed him about the situation. "It was agreed that a GGC would be formed to reform governance," it reads.



A section of PSG supporters hold a banner reading "Neymar, buzz off!" prior to the Ligue 1 clash against Nimes Olympique in Paris on Sunday (AFP)

## No love in Paris

The world's most expensive player has become an unwanted man at PSG and the feeling is mutual. A brief look at why the relationship soured...

### MUCH ADO ABOUT A PENALTY

The initial cracks appeared as early as three months into his first year there. The Brazilian did not allow Edinson Cavani to take a late penalty, inviting jeers from the crowd.

### MISSED CL MATCHES & PARTIES

Some of this is hearsay and alleged but Neymar hasn't helped himself with his image as a 'party boy' and frequent visits to Brazil. That he has missed several key CL visits also didn't sit well with the fans.

### £200M

Neymar moved from Barcelona to PSG in 2017. It's now expected that he will either move to his former club or Real soon.

### SKIPPING PRE-SEASON

The Brazilian's absence to report to pre-season on time this year meant PSG were forced to issue an angry press release in July.

## EXPRESS READ

### Returning Ghosh claims bronze medal

NEW DELHI: Soumyajit Ghosh claimed bronze in the 2019 ITTF Challenge Plus, Nigeria Open in Lagos on Sunday. This was his first international meet post his ban getting lifted. He lost to eventual champ Aruna Quadri 8-11, 5-11, 4-11, 11-8, 4-11 in the semifinals. Soumyajit had beaten multiple higher-ranked players en route to the last four.

### Bengaluru Challenger rescheduled for 2020

CHENNAI: The 2019 edition of the Bengaluru Challenger, originally scheduled to be held in the third week of November, will now be held either immediately before or after the 2020 Pune Open. The Karnataka State Tennis and Lawn Association (KSLTA) took this decision more than two months ago.

# Indisposed Abhishek seeks fresh trials

AYANTAN CHOWDHURY @New Delhi

WITH the Sports Authority of India notifying all archers and their coaches that only a top-12 finish in the trials can guarantee a place in the national camp, Asian Games gold medalist Abhishek Verma, who was suffering from acute viral fever for the last five days, was forced to dig deep and find the strength to take part in the trials. He ended up finishing 11th and secured a place in the camp.

The 30-year-old finished ninth after the first round amidst torrential downpour. That led to the fever increasing and he was forced to miss the second part of the trial. Severe shivering followed and he was rushed to Nidaan Hospital in Sonapat where he was put under medical care. His body temperature had touched 104. "I was leading initially. Then

when the rain started, I started shivering badly and ended up ninth. I was suffering from high fever even before the trials started but with the new rule in place, I could not afford to miss out on Asian Championship qualification. I had to find the mental strength to carry on and keep fighting," he told this daily from the hospital.

Incidentally, the trials in the compound section saw very low scores from most of the archers involved.

The Arjuna awardee is still receiving intravenous drip and is not fit enough to compete. Though no official communication has been issued by SAI, many are claiming that only the top four will take part in the Asian Championships. Abhishek has written to the authorities in-charge of conducting trials to ask them to hold fresh trials so that he gets another shot at making the team



for the Bangkok event. The letter, in possession with this newspaper, has been signed by fellow compound archers as well as the coaches.

It remains to be seen what step the authorities now take.

### Camp shifted

To add to archers' woes, the national camp for compound archers is being shifted from

SAI Northern Regional Centre, Sonapat, to the National Boxing Academy, Rohtak. This was intimated to the archers after they assembled in Sonapat for the trials.

The compound camp has been running in Sonapat for over five years and the archers do not want to move. Initially, talks were going on to shift the archers to Pune, where the recurve archers train. "The Rohtak centre is too small to hold a national camp. How can all of us be accommodated there? There is no proper hostel or ground and it will prove to be a downgrade for us from here," an archer said on conditions of anonymity.

Most of the compound archers requested SAI officials in-charge of the Sonapat unit to not go ahead with the plan. SAI officials in Sonapat could not be contacted regarding the matter.

# Nadal outplays Medvedev to clinch 35th Masters crown

AP @Montreal

RAFAEL Nadal won his fifth Rogers Cup title, beating Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 6-0 on in just 70 minutes on Sunday at breezy IGA Stadium.

The 33-year-old Nadal won the event for the third time in Montreal. The first came in 2005 over Andre Agassi, and the second in 2013. Nadal won in Toronto in 2008 and 2018. "I played a solid match, my best match of the week so far without a doubt," Nadal said. "I did a lot of things well — changing directions, changing rhythms."

The second-ranked Spanish star won his 83rd singles title and third of the year, following clay victories in Rome and at the French Open. He extended his tour record for Masters 1000 titles to 35, two more than top-ranked Novak Djokovic. "He was playing very well

during the whole week. So for me, it was important in the beginning that he doesn't take advantage, because finals are always a little bit more difficult for everyone," Nadal said. "I've played a lot of these. I know beginnings can be tricky, especially against a great player like him but especially when a player like him is playing with a lot of confidence like he was playing during the whole week."

Medvedev, from Russia, was seeded eighth. The match was his first against Nadal.

"I knew how it's going to be," Medvedev said. "I was kind of ready for it. Then didn't manage to probably show my best tennis, but at the same time Rafa was incredible today. I need to see the match on the TV to say for sure, but congrats to him. I need to do better next time." Nadal had a walkover in



Rafael Nadal of Spain in action against Daniil Medvedev (AFP)

the semifinals on Saturday when Gael Monfils withdrew because of an ankle injury.

Spain's Marcel Granollers and Argentina's Horacio Zeballos won the doubles title in their first event together. They

beat Robin Haase and Wesley Koolhof of the Netherlands 7-5, 7-5.

**Andreescu creates history**  
Bianca Andreescu became the first Canadian to win the Rog-

ers Cup in 50 years when Serena Williams retired because of an injury on Sunday.

Andreescu was up 3-1 in the first set when Williams called for a medical timeout.

Less than a minute later, the chair umpire announced that the 37-year-old Williams was retiring from the match, handing Andreescu her second WTA Premier title of the season. The tournament's final lasted only 16 minutes. After the chair umpire announced the retirement, Williams started to cry on her bench. Andreescu went over to comfort her, hugging her and telling Williams how much she admires the 23-time Grand Slam winner. "I'm not a crier, but, thank you guys," said Williams as she choked back tears after accepting the second-place check. "I'm sorry I couldn't do it today. I tried but I just couldn't do it."

# Ivorian footballer found dead on railway track

ENS/AGENCIES @Chennai

AN Ivorian international footballer was found dead on railway tracks on the Mumbai-Howrah route in Janjgir-Champa district of Chhattisgarh, police said on Monday.

Diomande Aboubacar's mutilated body was recovered from the tracks near Baradwar station, around 200km from Raipur, on August 9, Sub-divisional Officer of Police Champa area Udayan Behar said. According to the officer, a cell phone in his pocket helped establish his identity. It has since emerged that Aboubacar's death was widely reported by the Ivorian media on Saturday, with former Chelsea star Didier Drogba taking to Twitter to

pay tribute. Aboubacar apparently played for Ivory Coast in the 2009 African Cup of Nations and had stints in England and Belgium.

Initial investigation suggests Aboubacar was granted a visa in July for playing football and was on his way to Kolkata by train. The officer said prima facie it appears Aboubacar died after falling off the train but more details would be known after an investigation is completed.

"We have contacted his friends in Delhi and also spoken to his brother and informed him about the incident," the SDOP said, adding so far nobody has come to claim his body, which has been kept in a morgue of Baradwar.

## GEARED UP

# On hot wheels: Jehan making most of F3 platform to fuel F1 dream

VISHNU PRASAD @Chennai

WHATEVER connection there was between Formula One and India has now long been untethered. The Indian Grand Prix was last held in 2013. Force India is now defunct. And the last time an Indian drove a car in the series was more than seven years ago.

Jehan Daruvala might soon be able to put that last bit right though. The 20-year-old has been having the season of his life in Formula 3. With a couple of victories and five podiums, he is placed third overall with three weekends (six races) to go. He is just 20 points away from leader Robert Shwartzman and would have been a lot closer had

it not been for some bad luck over the last weekend in Hungary.

"When I started the year I felt that any finish in the top 5 would be a good result," says Jehan. "However with three weekends to go, being third in the championship and only 20 points behind Rob, I feel I have a very good chance to challenge for the championship. Other than Hungary, I have been qualifying in the top four and have had good race pace. If there is no bad luck over the next three weekends, I feel it will go down to the last weekend."

"My pace in Hungary was good. However, on my last set of tyres, when it mattered the most, I got blocked by the driver

in front on both my push laps. Hence I did not get a representative qualifying lap, which put me 17th. On a track where there is barely any overtaking, qualifying 17th was a disaster and ruined my entire weekend."

Jehan started out as part of Force India's academy programme, so the team folding was a big blow to his hopes of making it to Formula One. It might even be argued that he could have been higher up the ladder, had the team still been there. The relationship with Force India was not the same as the one he maintains with their successor Racing Point F1. "Over the past four years, my relationship with Racing Point has been very limited," he says.



Jehan Daruvala after his first-round victory in Spain

"With three weekends to go, being third in the championship and only 20 points behind Rob, I have a very good chance to challenge for the championship."

Jehan Daruvala

"It has been more of an advisory role, which has been very helpful. I have not been using their simulator and there is no development driver deal with them at the moment."

He is hopeful that his F3 performances can help him overcome that handicap. "With the F3 races being on the F1 weekends, any driver who is competitive here is noticed by F1 teams.

I am the only driver among the top five in the championship who is not affiliated with an F1 team. I am hoping that if I keep up my performance till the end of the season, there will be interest from F1 teams."

And while F1 remains the ultimate goal, Jehan is taking it one year at a time. "I will be doing F2 next year. The important thing is to get into a competitive F2 team. With every team having only two seats and a number of them being affiliated with F1 teams, it's not easy. However, a good show in F3 is definitely helping in getting a good seat for next year. F1 is an obvious goal. As of now, I am mentally plan for two years in F2 and see where it goes."





Twitter is testing a search bar for DMs on its app, which would let users search for messages via profile name and Twitter handle, according to famed reverse engineer Jane Manchun Wong.



On Monday, LG Electronics unveiled a teaser video of the second 5G phone with a detachable dual screen, which is set to make its global debut next month.

# Knee replacement surgery in just four hours

Procedure allows patients to leave hospital the same day the operation is performed

## ARTHROPLASTY

LONDON: A revolutionary knee replacement procedure being offered by the UK's National Health Services (NHS) is changing the way we look at traditional approaches.

The new procedure allows patients to walk in and walk out the same day, thus sparing them a lengthy stay in hospital.

Traditional procedures require a mandatory admission of at least three days after the surgery. The new operation can be performed within four hours. Surgeons have called the new procedure 'pioneering' and claim the speedy recovery will free up beds, potentially saving the NHS millions of pounds every year, the *Daily Mail* reported on Saturday.

The surgery is conducted almost identically to traditional methods. But instead of having a general anaesthetic, patients are awake. The surgery is similar to traditional methods. But, instead of having a general anaesthetic, patients are awake.

The technique has been developed by consultant orthopaedic surgeon Graham Walsh. He introduced it at the Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS

Foundation Trust and believes it is the start of a 'big explosion in day-case knee surgery' in the NHS, *Daily Mail* added.

The Huddersfield Hospital, has been carrying out the procedure since February 2018.

Knee replacements are the third most common surgical procedure in the UK, with more than 1,00,000 carried out in 2017.

For the procedure, a velcro strap tourniquet is fixed above the affected knee to reduce blood flow to the lower limb. The surgeon makes a vertical incision on the knee and the kneecap is pushed to the side, exposing the thigh bone and shin bone.

The surgeon chips away the ends of the two bones before inserting a shiny cobalt-chrome metal cap on each end. A plastic disc is placed between the pieces of metal and at-

tached to the shin bone, to act like cartilage, reducing friction as the joint moves.

Finally, the wound is stitched and a water-proof dressing applied and the patient will then be visited by a physiotherapist up to three times.

According to Walsh, about 40 per cent of patients needing a total or partial knee replacement are eligible for day-case surgery



### BEND THE KNEE

Knee replacements are the third most common surgical procedure in the UK, with more than 1,00,000 carried out in 2017. Doctors say that patients would still have some difficulty moving after the operation, especially bending their knee

## EXFILE • BIG FRESH WATER FAUNA AT RISK

Freshwater ecosystems are among the most diverse ecosystems on Earth. But, a new study published in the journal *Global Change Biology* claims that the number of larger freshwater animals are in sharp decline all over the world. *Xplores* takes a look at the findings



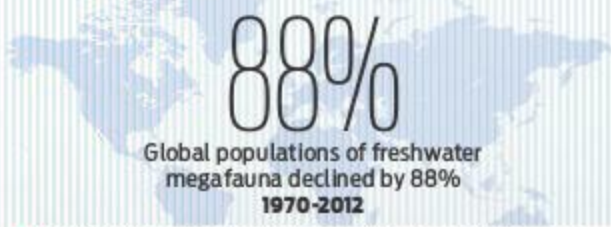
1% of Earth's surface is made up of rivers and lakes

1/3 of vertebrate species call freshwater ecosystems their home

### LARGER SPECIES AT DANGER

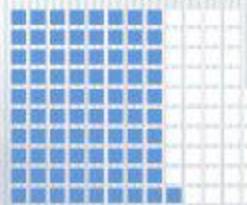
Scientists from the Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB) have quantified the global decline of big freshwater animals.

● ACCORDING TO THE STUDY, LARGE FISH SPECIES ARE PARTICULARLY AFFECTED



● This is twice the loss of vertebrate populations on land or in the ocean

### DATA RECORDED



126

44

This included geographic distribution data of 44 species in Europe and the US

94% drop of large fish species such as sturgeons, salmonids and giant catfishes

72% decline in reptile population

### REASONS FOR DECLINE



1 Study says overexploitation was the primary threat to freshwater mega-fauna, which were often targeted for meat, skin and eggs

2 Decline of large fish species is also attributed to the loss of free-flowing rivers, as access to spawning and feeding grounds are often blocked by dams



### DAM THREATS

Scientists pointed that 3,700 large dams were planned or under construction, which would exacerbate river fragmentation even further

800 of these dams are in diversity hot spots such as Amazon, Mekong and Ganges river basins

### WHAT ARE FRESHWATER MEGAFAUNA

Freshwater mega-fauna include all freshwater animals that weigh 30 kgs or more

● Examples: River dolphins, beavers, crocodiles, giant turtles and sturgeons



A redtail catfish in Baltimore

An Amazon pink dolphin at the Amana Lake at Amana Sustainable Development Reserve in Brazil

## 80% workers become ill at job place

### UNSAFE ENVIRONMENT

CANBERRA: Four in five working people in Australia are exposed to unsafe work practices as they have been injured, become ill, or both due to traumatic situations at work, reveals a survey.

The survey, *Work Shouldn't Hurt*, released by the Australian Council of Trade Unions on Monday included 26,000 workers, reported *Xinhua*. Nearly 80 per cent of working people have been injured, become ill, or both because of their work whereas 16 per cent knew someone who was killed at work or by a work-related disease, the survey showed.

It also found that 47 per cent of respondents were exposed to either traumatic or distressing situations at work in the last 12 months and 31 per cent said they have been abused, threatened or assaulted by co-workers, clients or customers.

Three out of five workers said they experienced poor mental health in the last 12 months as a result of their employer failing to address unsafe working conditions.

## S'pore to ban sale of elephant ivory

### ENDANGERED SPECIES

SINGAPORE: Singapore said Monday it will impose a blanket ban on the domestic sale of elephant ivory and products from 2021 as the government tightens its campaign against illegal wildlife trade.

The announcement on World Elephant Day followed

two years of consultations with non-government groups, ivory retailers and the public. Singapore has banned international trade in all forms of elephant ivory products since 1990.

Such items could be sold domestically if traders could prove they were imported before that year or acquired

prior to the inclusion of the relevant elephant species in an international convention protecting endangered species.

In a statement Monday, Singapore's National Parks Board banned the sale of elephant ivory and products with effect from September 1, 2021.



### TOUR ON THE BACK

A man carries a flower arrangement inspired by Colombian Tour de France champion Egan Bernal, during the traditional 'Silleteros' parade held as part of the Flower Festival in Medellin, Colombia | AFP

## France mulls crackdown on e-scooters

### RASH RIDE

PARIS: The French government is meeting with people who have been injured by electric scooters as it readies restrictions on the vehicles that are transforming the Paris cityscape.

The Transport Ministry says Monday's closed-door meeting is part of consultations aimed at limiting scooter speeds and where users can ride and park them. A draft law is under debate in parliament, and the government is preparing a scooter-specific decree.

Critics say the current proposals don't go far enough. Arnaud Kielbasa of the Apacaivi victims' association said Monday on *BFM* television that riders should be traceable and held responsible for accidents. Some 20,000 of the two-wheeled vehicles are available in the French capital, where use has exploded this year, notably among tourists.

In July, the death of a British YouTuber in an electric scooter accident raised concerns about the safety of these increasingly popular vehicles.

### FACT OF THE MATTER

## Social media to face UK fines



### FILTERING CONTENT

Social networking giants Facebook, Instagram and YouTube are set to face heavy fines in Britain for failing to filter out harmful content on their platforms. As part of the government's plan, Britain's broadcasting watchdog Ofcom would be given new legal powers to monitor, investigate and fine social platforms for sharing "harmful" videos, including pornography, violence and child abuse, the *Telegraph* reported. If the tech giants fail to comply with enforcement measures, the Ofcom can "suspend" or "restrict" the tech giants' services in the UK.

## Being fit after retirement



### ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

Middle-aged people, particularly those over 55 years of age, should be doing more to keep fit as they approach retirement age because of the physical, mental and social benefits of being active, says a study. Retirement frees up time, but deteriorating health becomes a barrier to enjoying this freedom. "In order to enjoy a fit and healthy retirement, a really key thing is that people need to maintain their physical fitness through their fifties and beyond," said Charlotte SALTER, the study's lead author from the University of East Anglia in England.

## Polar bear encounters increasing



### MOVING ON LAND

Alaska scientists say the chances of a polar bear encounter have increased after research reveals the bears are arriving on shore earlier and staying on land longer. Scientists at the US Geological Survey found that changes in sea ice habitat have coincided with evidence that polar bears' use of land is increasing, the *Anchorage Daily News* reported Saturday. The polar bears come to land from the Beaufort Sea during the ice-melt season, when the sea ice breaks up in the summer and refreezes in the fall. The average ice-melt season duration has increased by 36 days since the late 1990s, researchers said. Polar bears usually come to shore in mid-August, but residents have reported sightings as early as May in Kaktovik, a small town about 1,030 kilometres north of Anchorage.

## Pacific island nations want Oz to reduce coal dependence

### EXISTENTIAL THREAT

SUVA: Fiji on Monday challenged Australia to do more on climate change ahead of a regional summit of Pacific nations this week, warning Canberra's reliance on coal posed an "existential threat" to low-lying islands.

Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama (pictured) said Australia should recognise the threat that climate change poses to Pacific island nations.

"I appeal to Australia to do everything possible to achieve a rapid transition from coal to

energy sources that do not contribute to climate change," he told a function in Tuvalu, which will this week hold the annual Pacific Islands Forum.

Some low-lying Pacific island nations are threatened by rising seas, while others are pumelled by cyclones that are more regular and powerful due to climate change.

"We face an existential threat that you don't face and challenges we expect your governments and people to appreciate," Bainimarama said.

"Put simply, the case for coal as an energy source cannot con-



I appeal to Australia to do everything possible to achieve a rapid transition from coal to energy sources that do not contribute to climate change

Frank Bainimarama, Fiji PM

tinue to be made if every nation is to meet the net zero emission target by 2050."

Smaller members of the 18-nation Pacific Islands Forum have been unusually vocal in criticising Australia's climate policies ahead of this year's summit amid a diplomatic push from Canberra to counter China's growing influence in the region.

High-level representatives from Tuvalu, Palau and Vanuatu have criticised their neighbour for not doing enough to halt global warming.

Bainimarama, who seized

power in a 2006 military coup but has since reinvented himself as a climate campaigner, is making his first appearance at the forum in a decade.

He has been sharply critical of Australia in the past and is unlikely to let Morrison's concerns, centring on Beijing's activities, to dominate the Pacific Islands Forum agenda at the expense of climate change.

The Pacific Islands Forum summit in Tuvalu will officially open on Tuesday. Australia's climate change adviser Simon Bradshaw said it was shaping up as a key test for Canberra.

### CLIMATE CRISIS





# Hyderabad Express

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TUESDAY

13 • 08 • 2019



## FEMINISM IS ABOUT WOMEN REALISING THEIR OWN WORTH

Actor Vidya Balan, known to bag meaty roles in mainstream Bollywood, clarifies some misconceptions about the most talked about word in India today

ON PAGE 2

VD TO PLAY MARTIAL ARTIST WITH A STUTTER IN PURI'S NEXT?

P12



### I WILL STAY DIFFERENT AND I WILL STAY IN THE INDUSTRY

PAGE 11



COLOURS OF FREEDOM

PAGE 6&7



FASHION

PAGE 8  
EVERYDAY FASHIONABLE



● Shilajit Mitra

**V**idya says she grew up idolising Sridevi, and was getting to know her personally when the actor passed, in February last year. That's why she did Nerkonda Paarvai -- in her memory. "My heart went out to Boney (Kapoor) ji and the girls, just like the rest of the country," Vidya recalls. "Boney ji has always been very warm, whenever I met him. So when he called me and said he's remaking Pink in Tamil, and had a special appearance for me, I said I'd do it."

In the film, which released on August 8, Vidya plays Ajith's wife. Although not part of the main story, Vidya was happy to associate with project. In this interview, she discusses this film, her thoughts on feminism, and her upcoming work in Bollywood.

**Excerpts:**

**You have mentioned before that you are not a fan of remakes. What made you decide to take on the Tamil remake of Pink?**

This film is an exception for me, because it tells an important story. It has a pertinent and relevant message, one that all of us need to hear and practise. So I felt that this film should be made in all languages.

I also did this film out of reverence for Sridevi and my affection for Boney Kapoor. There was also the bonus of getting to work with a huge star like Ajith; I found him to be a lovely person. My character, Kalyani, is part of his back story; so it's quite different from the Hindi version. I also got to feature in a lovely romantic Tamil song (Agalaathe).

**You have a Tamil background; did that play a part in your decision to be part of Tamil cinema?**

Honestly, no. Owing to my early experiences in Tamil cinema, I wasn't very open to doing Tamil films. As you grow up though, you realise that those experiences have contributed to making who you are. Also, you can't write off an entire industry due to one experience. Also, I'm a Tamil girl, after all. So how long could I have shied away from doing a Tamil film?

**You play a scientist in Mission Mangal. Tell us about the role.**

I enjoyed playing the character. To be honest, I am not quite of a scientific bent of mind. But all that I needed to know was either in the script or in videos and research material provided by Jagan (Shakti, director). My character is not referenced from a particular individual. The writers borrowed elements from the lives of the ISRO women scientists for all of us.

And there's the Shakuntala Devi's upcoming biopic in which you are playing a mathematician.

The amazing thing is, since the announcement of the film, every second person I meet tells me they have met her. I wonder what the math on that would be (smiles). So many people told me that she came to their school to do programmes, or met her socially, or sought an appointment with her for an astrology session. Everyone has a fascinating story to tell about Shakuntala Devi, the human computer. I am really enjoying prepping for the role.

**On a related topic to Nerkonda Paarvai, do you believe India has become more gender sensitive in recent years?**

There's growing awareness of the fact that we need to become gender sensitive. I'm not sure we are there yet. Thanks to the stories being told, the #MeToo movement and the general conversation around women's rights, we have no choice but to acknowledge that men and women are equal.

There seems to be a tendency for female actors to shy away from identifying themselves as a feminist.

That's because feminism is often confused with being a man-hater. There's a huge difference. Feminism is about realising your own worth as a woman and as an individual, and thereby, challenging the status quo. It's not about hating men.

# 'FEMINISM IS NOT ABOUT HATING MEN'

VIDYA BALAN TALKS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF NERKONDA PAARVAI IN POST #METOO INDIA, MISCONCEPTIONS AROUND FEMINISM, AND HER UPCOMING ROLES IN MISSION MANGAL AND THE SHAKUNTALA DEVI BIOPIC







## HOW ABOUT USING THE KNIFE TO CREATE A MASTERPIECE?

TWO HYDERABADIS DITCH THEIR REGULAR JOBS TO TAKE UP KNIFE PAINTING AND ARE NOW TEACHING THE SAME TO ENTHUSIASTIC FOLKS

● Aarthi Sreenath

Two Hyderabadis have decided to give up their booming careers in the corporate to start up a business of their own by holding workshops at various place. Nandini Penna and Suman Krishna organised their first knife art workshop on Saturday at Lamakaan where a lot of youngsters participated with great enthusiasm. The drawing instrument used here is a painting knife, an artist's tool with a flexible steel blade. These two artists taught participants the use of acrylic paints with knives on canvas. Interestingly, the painting can also be done on paper. Suman, a HR Manager - Training quit her job to get the training in this art form and started this venture along with her partner Nandini a month ago as they turned their passion into their profession. "Knife painting is a little complicated as the painters have less control over the strokes, colour and the shapes. Knife art demands planning and creativity, she says. The duo practiced the art and have decided to take workshops at educational institutions and the corporate houses in the near fu-



ture. At Lamakaan, the participants were given canvases and colours to paint. Pratibha, a fashion designer and a lecturer was excited to be a part of the workshop and was eager to learn the use of knife for painting unlike brushes in the other kinds of paintings. Kushali, Chanchal and Ankit Kumar were among those participants who did not have much knowledge about this kind of painting earlier and found knife art much gratifying than the brush painting. "I found knife art exotic and was curious to learn more.

While I found this form of art much easier

because one need not know the nuances of painting. The knife which is also called as the palette only needs to be handled carefully for the perfect picture," adds Nandini. She found the painting experience quiet relaxing and prefers to paint with the knives than with the brush. The amount of satisfaction on finishing the painting is much more as it gets done faster than with the brushes.



## FASHION TV PAINTS CITY RED WITH WHITE PARTY

Fashion TV, considered the world's first fashion channel with a niche audience consisting of celebrities, designers and models, in association with Prism Club & Kitchen hosted a White Party with DJ White on Saturday. The White Party had Kashiff Khan, Asia Head, Fashion TV along with Monish Pattipati, CEO of Pick N Hook, leading e-commerce platform who is also the India Head for FTV Fashion Merchandise. Fashion TV (FTV) merchandise will be available exclusively only in Pick N Hook shortly and will be the only portal with right to exclusively sell the merchandise to consumers across India, it was announced at the party. Tollywood actor Allu Arjun made a special entry for the event.



## Gamers to unite in Nov in city

The India Game Developers Conference (IGDC), the coming together of global gaming studios, developers and gaming enterprises, will host its 11th edition on November 22 at HICC in the city. IGDC will showcase the latest development of the game industry in Indian Subcontinent, and debate the new trends and inventiveness in the functions and contents in the digital entertainment industry in India.



IGDC has a consistent ambition of being interactive and open, addressing Developers, Indie Developers, Investors, Publishers, and Tool Providers; for both B2B and B2C ecology.

"The conference will

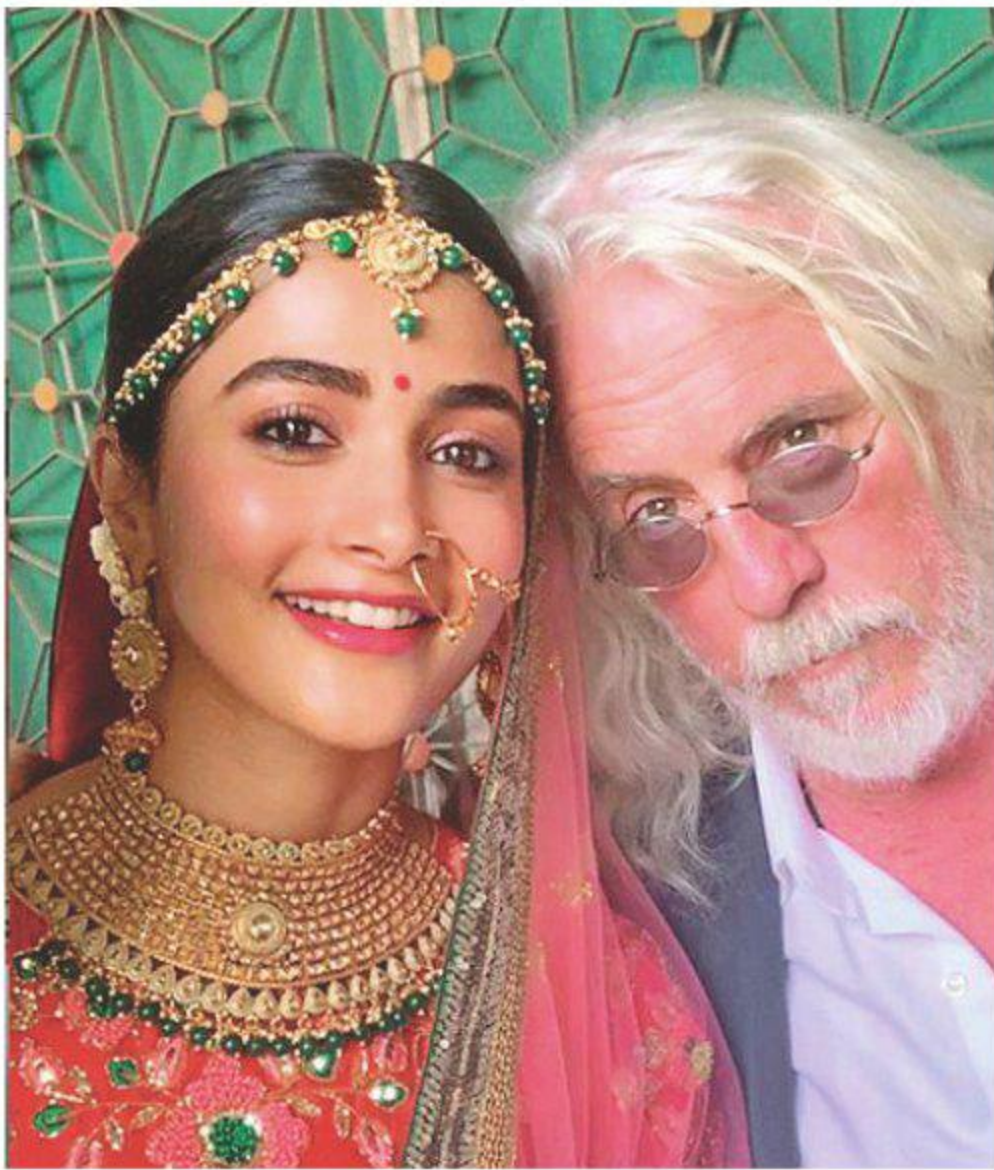
catch the latest trends, market intelligence, success stories, upskill with great talks and workshops, meet investors and of course everyone in the Indian gaming ecosystem will be there, presenting excellent networking opportunities," says Rajesh Rao, President of India Game Developer Conference. This year, IGDC is readying to host more than 3000 industry professionals, 200 industry expert speakers, 8 major tracks, 10 major events, 200 expo stalls, 25 publishers and 25 investors.



### SHIMMER AND SHINE

Actor Madhu Shalini at the launch TBZ - The Original's Mangala Collection at Punjagutta recently. The 15-year-old jeweller is also offering a Rs 1 per gram making on gold jewellery. The collection comprises waistbelts, harams, chottis and necklaces for the upcoming festive season of Sravana-masam.





Best pic of the day from celeb social media accounts



Actor Pooja Hegde captioned, "From watching Kill Bill, Inglorious Bastards, Shutter Island and Hugo to actually being shot by #RobertRichardson ...woahhh".

Janta ki Adalat

What measures must the state take to increase ridership in metro trains in the city?

Email: cityexpresshyd@newindianexpress.com along with a high-resolution picture and subject line as: The metro route

Flipkart is reportedly launching a free video streaming service. Will it affect other paid players?

CLASH OF TITANS?

It would be interesting to see how other players respond to this launch which is reportedly happening soon. Ultimately, consumers stand to win, as they get more options for entertainment.

- Avinash Reddy



You have won two entry tickets to DHOLA-RI-DHANI. Call 23413908 between 10 am to 6 pm for details.



Whether free or paid streaming service, it is the content that attracts users. In the face of the free service offered by Flipkart, other paid players should maintain good content to retain users.

- Dr NV Subba Rao



FIRST DAY FIRST SHOW

TELUGU

Dear Comrade (UA)

Asian LakshmiKala Cinepride: Moosapet 09:45 PM 07:40 PM INOX: GVK One, Banjara Hills: 10:25 AM 05:00 PM 10:10 PM PVR ICON: Hitec: 07:30 PM 10:00 PM PVR: Next Galleria Mall: 11:20 AM 04:30 PM 08:00 PM 11:00 PM Prasads: 10:15 AM 03:10 PM 08:10 PM 11:00 PM PVR: 11:10 AM 07:50 PM 10:50 PM PVR Forum Sujana Mall: 11:10 AM 02:00 PM 04:40 PM 07:30 PM 10:30 PM Tivoli Cinemas: 11:00 AM 07:20 PM Carnival: 01:30 PM 04:40 PM

Manmadhudu 2 (UA)

Cinepolis: Mantra Mall, Attapur 10 PM Asian Cineplanet Multiplex: Kompally 10:25 PM Cinepolis: Manjeera Mall, Kukatpally 10:50 PM 02:15 PM 05:45 PM 09:15 PM Mallikarjuna 70mm A/C DTS: Kukatpally 09:30 PM Raghavendra Mini Mallakajiri 11:00 AM 02:00 PM 06:00 PM 09:00 PM

Kobbari Matta (UA)

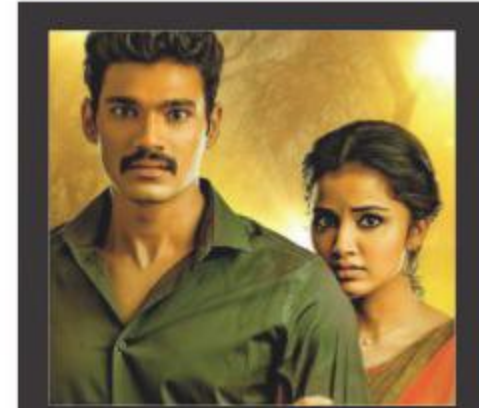
Asian GPR Multiplex: Kukatpally 10:40 PM Asian CineSquare Multiplex: 10:35 PM Asian Ganga: Dilukhnagar 9 PM Asian Swapna 35mm: Katedan 11:00 AM Asian Shiva: Dilukhnagar 02:15 PM Amba Theatre: Mehdiapatnam 11:15 AM 02:30 PM 06:15 PM 09:30 PM Carnival: Leonia, Shameerpet 01:35 PM Bhujanga 70MM: Jeedimetla 11:00 AM 02:00 PM 06:00 PM 09:00 PM

HINDI

Judgmentall Hai Kya (UA)



AMB Cinemas, Gachibowli: 01:20 AM, 01:30 PM, 04:10 PM, 07:00 PM, 10:15 PM Trivoli Cinema: Hyderabad: 10:40 PM Cinepolis, CCPL Mall, Hyderabad 07:35 PM 08:05 PM 10:55 PM INOX GVK one: 08:10 PM 10:50 PM PVR Inorbit 08:05 PM 10:20 PM



Raakhasudu (U/A)

PVR: Inorbit, Cyberabad 07:55 PM Asian LakshmiKala Cinepride: Moosapet 09:30 PM PVR: Panjagutta, Hyderabad 05:05 PM Asian CineSquare Multiplex: Uppal 7:40 PM 10:35 PM AMB Cinemas, Gachibowli 07:40 PM 09:55 PM PVR: RK Cineplex, Hyderabad 01:10 PM INOX: GVK One, Banjara Hills 04:45 PM INOX: Maheshwari Parmeshwari Mall, Kachiguda 04:35 PM Prasads: Hyderabad 02:45 PM Cineplanet Multiplex: Kompally 10:30 AM 04:45 PM 10:20 PM Carnival: Ameerpet 01:20 PM Aradhana Theatre: Hyderabad 06:00 PM 09:00 PM; PVR: Panjagutta, Hyderabad 10:10 AM 10:40 AM 01:20 PM 04:10 PM Anjali Movie Max Secunderabad 11:15 AM 02:15 AM 06:15 PM 09:15 PM Cine Town Miyapur 11:00 AM 02:30 PM 06:00 PM 09:00 PM Asian Swapna 70 mm: Katedan 11:00 AM

Jabariya Jodi (UA)

Prasads: Hyderabad 11:00 PM INOX: GVK One, Banjara Hills 05:00 PM Asian M Cube Mall: Attapur 07:40 PM Cinepolis: Mantra Mall, Attapur 10:15 PM PVR: Inorbit, Cyberabad 11:00 PM INOX: Maheshwari 02:05 PM Mukta A2 Cinemas: Abids 11:15 AM 02:30 PM 06:00 PM 09:15 PM PVR: Next Galleria Mall, Panjagutta 10:50 PM Trivoli Cinemas: Secunderabad 04:40 PM

ENGLISH

Fast & Furious: Hobbs & Shaw (A)

AMB Cinemas: Gachibowli 10:10 PM 10:40 PM 10:10 AM 10:40 AM 01:20 PM 04:10 PM Anjali Movie Max Secunderabad 11:15 AM 02:15 AM 06:15 PM 09:15 PM Cine Town Miyapur 11:00 AM 02:30 PM 06:00 PM 09:00 PM Asian Swapna 70 mm: Katedan 11:00 AM 02:15 PM

Avengers: Endgame (U)

PVR ICON: Hitec, Madhapur 07:00 PM PVR Forum Sujana Mall : Kukatpally, 05:50 PM 08:10 PM Asian CineSquare Multiplex: Uppal 05:00 PM 07:40 PM Asian M Cube Mall: Attapur 04:10 PM



IN ALL THEIR HANDMADE GLORY

Everything delightfully woven by our very own artisans from different parts of the country was showcased under one roof at Vengala Rao Nagar in the city recently.

Entrepreneur Sarva Mangala from Anagha Boutique said, "We are a group of women who are passionate about handloom, and decided to have an event where we could celebrate our love for handlooms. A lot of women in Hyderabad are committed to

handlooms. We decided to invite handloom lovers and weavers, who could directly sell their products to consumers."

She says that a lot of camaraderie and networking is seen in such exhibitions, where many enthusiastic women come together for a cause.

Sangita, a psychologist who is a part of the volunteering team, said, "I am excited to be here and celebrate the essence of handloom. It is a delight to give oppor-

tunities to the weavers directly, instead of the middlemen. Over 80 volunteers have joined hands to promote and work for the cause." Bhakti, a volunteer, said that one of the reasons for the exhibition is to break the myth that handlooms are meant for the older lot. The young crowd chatted animatedly about the growing popularity of handlooms and it was truly a visual pleasure to watch them all in the desi attire!



WHAT  
WHEN  
WHY  
WHERE



**All about Birds**

Birdwatcher Dr VA Manga to speak on her experiences in penning a book  
**When & Where:** Aug 14, 6:30 pm, Goethe-Zentrum, Banjara Hills  
**Contact:** 23350473



**Divine Tales**

An art expo showcasing spirituality, curated by artist Annapurna  
**When & Where:** Ends Aug 13, 11 am, Gallery 78, Road no. 3, Izzat Nagar  
**Contact:** 9848025184



**Musical Tribute**

An art show in tribute of renowned composer Pt. Shivkumar Sharma  
**When & Where:** Aug 18, 6 pm, PV Reddy Hall, Lower Tank Bund  
**Contact:** 8686366666

**HANDICRAFT EXPO**



A seven-day exhibition of West Bengal-based handicrafts such as bed covers, jute jewellery, jute footwear, etc.  
Aug 14-20, 10 am to 8 pm, YWCA, West Marredpally Road, Secunderabad. **Contact:** 7207088976



**Puppet Ballet**

Relive those old memories in this puppet show by artiste Sabrina Arusam  
**When & Where:** Aug 21, 7 pm, Ravindra Bharathi, Saifabad, Lakdikapul  
**Contact:** 23233672



**Ba and Babu**

An emotional account of two crucial years in the lives of Mahatma Gandhi & Kasturba  
**When & Where:** Aug 16 & 17, 7 pm, Radisson Blu Plaza, Road no. 6, Banjara Hills  
**Contact:** bookmyshow.com



**Learn Embroidery**

Take part in this workshop and learn to create exciting designs on cloth!  
**When & Where:** Aug 18, 10 am, Our Sacred Space, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad  
**Contact:** 9030013344



**Standup Comedy**

Laugh your hearts out in 'Bloody Swain' show by artiste Rohit Swain  
**When & Where:** Aug 17, 8 pm, Tease, Vivanta by Taj, Mayur Marg, Begumpet  
**Contact:** 67252626



**Dance Ballet**

'Atithidevobhava' event featuring artistes performing lavani folk dance, malkambh and more  
**When & Where:** Aug 14, 7 pm onwards, Ravindra Bharathi, Lakdikapul, Saifabad  
**Contact:** 9394580844



**All things Green**

Choose from numerous saplings in this five-day horticulture, agri and nursery mela  
**When & Where:** Aug 15 to 19, 9 am to 9 pm, People's Plaza, Necklace Road  
**Contact:** 9989336911

**Gitam holds Math fest**

A three-day international conference on 'Mathematical Sciences and Applications' (ICM-SA-2019) has been organised by Department of Mathematics, School of Technology, Gitam Deemed-to-be University, Hyderabad recently. Nearly 300 delegates came from across the world to take part in the event.

The conference provided an opportunity to bring together academicians, researchers and scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all areas of mathematical sciences.

Research contributions were presented on themes like Abstract Algebra, Mathematical Modelling, Discrete Mathematics, Operations Research, Dynamical Systems, Probability and Statistics, Fluid Dynamics, Data Analytics, Fuzzy Logic, Computational Methods, Fixed Point Theory and Reliability and Stochastic Process.

Later, numerous cultural events were held to de-stress the loaded minds.



**Nurturing scientific temper**

Government teacher G Kumar has received a certificate of appreciation and memento for 'The Best Science Teaching Practice - Participation' from principal secretary Dr Janardhan Reddy at a national-level science exhibition held at Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University in the city recently.

**Sky is the limit**

Two students of Narayana Schools have secured silver and bronze medals in the 13th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics held at Hungary from August 2 to 9. Managing Director of Narayana Group, Dr Sindhura, congratulated the medal winners M Adarsh Reddy and V Sai Teja. Executive Director Puneet Kothapa congratulated the students, teachers and parents for their continued support.



**BESPOKE ENSEMBLE**

Activist and actor Amala Akkineni taking part in the launch of 'Trisvaraa' expo hosted by Sarang boutique at Banjara Hills recently. The ongoing expo which began on August 9 features a heritage collection of handwoven sarees and bespoke handcrafted ensembles.



**VARAMALA ACT WINGS IT FOR THEM**

Team Shooting Starz Events bagged the 'Best Bridal Entry - Varamala act' at the Telangana Chambers of Events Industry TCEI Excellence Awards award at Hifex recently, as part of TCEI 2019 awards. The team won the award for best use of drama, décor, music, fireworks, props, hydraulic, etc. to usher in the bride at a wedding this year.



**CHANTING THE HOLY MANTRA**

A 'Gayatri japam' event is being held on August 16 at Saraswati temple in Wargal, Siddipet district. The mantra will be chanted for 1,008 times, followed by religious sermons. For details, contact 9000013755.





CLICK  
of  
Bait



# COLOURS OF FREEDOM

WITH JUST TWO DAYS LEFT FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY, SHOPS ARE DOING BRISK BUSINESS SELLING FLAGS AND OTHER SUPPLIES THAT CAPTURE THE SPIRIT OF THE DAY. INDIA IS CELEBRATING 73RD INDEPENDENCE DAY THIS YEAR.

PIC: SATHYA KEERTHI AND S SENBAGAPANDIYAN







**1 OFFICE FORMAL**

For the big day at work, a white shirt is the way to go. A white shirt with a formal pant is always a good idea. It's a classic and sleek look. To glam it up a little go for the red lip and a comfortable pair of mochasins or oxfords.



**2 DATE NIGHT**

You can never go wrong with the LBD. Pick your favourite black lace dress with a pair of pumps. Add a hint/pop of colour when you choose your footwear or accessories. Wear a pair of striking danglers, a sleek watch and a clutch to complete the look.

**3 COLLEGE CASUAL**

Jeans are your best friend. A pair of jeans and a basic t-shirt never goes out of style. Add hoops, a watch and a high bun to it wear it with a pair of sneakers and you're all set for the long day ahead.



**4 EASY ETHNIC:**

Always invest in a well-fitted white kurta. A solid white kurta is a staple. Pair it up with jeans/palazzos in an earthy colour. Add silver jhumkas, a tote bag and wear it with Kolhapuris to complete the look.



**5 DAY OUT**

A midi dress in a bright colour will catch some attention. Pair it up with shoes/flats and nice accessories. This is a fresh and easy look to carry which will keep you comfortable and not need you to struggle for fashion.

**EVERYDAY FASHIONABLE**

**SOMETIMES BEING YOUR FASHIONABLE BEST CAN TAKE A TOLL ON YOU. WE SPOKE TO STYLIST GAURI NAIDU TO LOOK INTO HER CLOSET AND TELL US WHAT SHE WOULD WEAR FOR THESE USUAL OCCASIONS. CHECK OUT HER PICKS AND TAKE WHAT WORKS FOR YOU!**

**G**auri Naidu calls herself a minimalist and loves easy and comfortable fashion. Isn't that what all of us love!? She has quite the following for her everyday #OOTDs on her Instagram and it was only obvious that she would have a few tips for all of us to take home from her own experience as a fashionista. Here's what her picks are:

— **Srividya Palaparathi**  
srividya.palaparathi@newindianexpress.com  
@PSrividya53

**Make the most of "Freedom Sales"**



**Express Features**

**A**s Independence Day approaches, online retailers are going berserk to provide offers for their customers. And for fashion lovers this is the time to make the most of it. Here are a few websites that have incredible sales on fashion and accessories this week. Check them out:

**Flipkart:** Flipkart like every year is offering their Freedom Sale. The website promises fashion under Rs 999 and has brands across the board with about 50% off. Fashion for men too is upto 70% off. Pick



your favourite brand and stock up your closet for the season.  
**Nykaa:** For all those makeup addicts Nykaa has always been a saviour. Now with its Freedom Sale, Nykaa not only

has offers on make up and skin products but also on fashion on their Nykaa Fashion portal. Take a look.

**Myntra:** Myntra's Right to fashion sale also has offers ranging from 50% to 80% off on its website. With coupon codes and extra deals, this one will make you want to keep coming back.

**Jabong:** Open the Jabong website and you will find a plethora of options to pick your deal from. Fashion in Rs 1499 to Rs 499 is available and it is left on your fashion prowess to pick out your style.





● Sarita Jenamani

**T**his is an abridged version of the introduction to 'Silence Between the Notes: An Anthology of Partition Poetry' jointly edited by Sarita Jenamani and Aftab Husain, published by Dhauri Books Bhubaneswar, Odisha in 2019.

After the Second World War German cultural critic Theodor W. Adorno had famously pronounced, "writing poetry after Auschwitz is barbaric." [nach Auschwitz ein Gedicht zu schreiben, ist barbarisch...]. He meant, perhaps, that any attempt to capture life in concentration camps in poetry, simply denigrates the horror faced by those who lived and were murdered by Nazis. However, many survivors, their descendants, and the writers who saw that horrendous crime, have used poetry to portray the terror and dread of the Holocaust into words.

Shortly after Holocaust, August 1947 saw the colossal catastrophe of the subcontinent – the Partition of India, the Indian holocaust. At least one million Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs were killed in the communal violence that broke out as the Indian subcontinent was divided by the British Empire into India and Pakistan. Needless to say, Holocaust has clearly a quite different context and socio-political background from the tragedy of Partition, especially in terms of murders, arson, looting and raping from both sides of the border in the areas directly affected by the Partition and its resultant exodus. Whereas the events in the Nazi Germany were directly engineered by the regime, both the governments in the bifurcated states chose to look away. This event not only divided the Subcontinent, but also destroyed its assimilative character reflected in the social and cultural mosaic that has taken centuries to get its unique shape.

After 1947, India and Pakistan picked different routes to reformulate their common past, including Partition, and in that way, they tried to legitimize their respective political ideas. To create a national identity, Indian official history writing sometimes downplayed the period of Muslim rule and its significant impact on the specific culture of today's India. On the other hand, the official history of Pakistan preferred to cite the arrival of the Muslim invaders as the beginning of their cultural development, while shying away from their rich pre-Muslim cultural antecedents. Unlike official history, literature speaks in the ways the most brutal chronicle can't. It enlivens and thrusts an event; it removes spatial and temporal tags from

# WRITING POETRY AFTER PARTITION



a history, thereby making it a personal and immediate phenomenon for its readers. Literature is an emotional chronicle, a history of the intangible, a quest to transmit sentiment, not information. Poetry can say more in fewer words. It can often and easily awaken empathy and strike a chord in us. The memory of the Partition has also been kept alive by poets. They offered us a window into a period that is otherwise difficult to comprehend or imagine today. Just like Holocaust poetry, poetry on the Partition offers a rich and varied tapestry depicting a dark time.

All these moments of the Partition-engendered problematic times have been narrated and re-narrated by our writers. However, in our literature it was prose, especially fiction, wherein we have an immediate effusion of the Partition narratives. Written primarily, by the writers who either experienced the dislocation with all its horrendous attendants, or they belonged to the affected areas, and they were witnesses or observers of the happenings. A huge body of short stories and

novels was produced in Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, English and Sindhi, along with some other languages. In some languages, for example in Urdu, there seemed to be almost a suspension of all other themes except the Partition and its effects.

Visual media, that is, film industry, took, however, quite some time to come in terms with the issue of Partition. Though we have, meanwhile, a series of powerful films not only on Partition, but also on its various ramifications, its delayed attention looks somewhat strange in retrospect.

Our poets too resisted reacting immediately, if they were not completely indifferent, to the disquieting and sickening present. Many of them wrote poems about freedom, but remained silent on dealing with the painful experience of the division of the country. Putting aside 'Subh e Azadi' by Urdu poet Faiz, or to some extent, Amrita Pritam's 'Aj Aakhan Waris Shah Noon' in Punjabi, our collective memory can hardly recall a third poem on the subject. Does it mean that our poets had simply no courage to look into the

eyes of the naked realities, or poetry itself, to them, was too mild and mellow a medium to grapple with the brutalities of the given situation? Were they more concerned with the poetic niceties and subtleties than giving vent to the feelings of their agony and anguish? Or, did they share the idea of German philosopher Adorno? However, despite the meagre quantity of the poems produced on this subject, this poetry is very poignant, passionate and, in most cases, very powerful.

In her study, "poetry after Holocaust", Susan Gubar demonstrates that Theodor Adorno's famous quote against writing poetry after Auschwitz paradoxically inspired an ongoing literary tradition. From the 1960s to the present, as the Holocaust receded into a more remote European past, writers struggled to keep its memory alive. Similarly, poetry on the Partition of India will never allow the coming generation of South Asia to view Partition as a distant historical event.

*The writer is a poet in English, Hindi and in her mother tongue, Odia. Based in Vienna, Austria, she is general secretary of Austrian chapter of PEN and edits a bilingual magazine for migrant literature – 'Words & Worlds'.*

## Book on Snowden

**SNOWDEN'S FIRST  
EVER MEMOIR  
'PERMANENT RECORD'  
TO BE PUBLISHED ON  
SEPTEMBER 17**



**E**dward Snowden's memoir 'Permanent Record' will be published globally by Macmillan Publishers on September 17. In 2013, former CIA agent and NSA contractor Snowden had shocked the world when he broke away from the American intelligence establishment and revealed the extent of information, including phone calls, text messages and emails, the US government was secretly gathering. The result would be an unprecedented system of mass surveillance with the ability to pry into the private lives of every person on earth.

Snowden, who faces charges in

the US which could land him in jail, is presently living in exile in Moscow. In 'Permanent Record', he tells his story for the very first time, taking the reader along as he helps to create this system of mass surveillance and then experiences the crisis of conscience that led him to try to bring it down.

"Edward Snowden decided at the age of 29 to give up his entire future for the good of his country," said John Sargent, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Macmillan Publishers. "He displayed enormous courage in doing so, and like him or not, his is an incredible

American story. There is no doubt that the world is a better and more private place for his actions. Macmillan is enormously proud to publish 'Permanent Record'," Sargent added. 'Permanent Record' will be published in more than 20 countries.

In the UK, Australia, India and South Africa the memoir will be published by Pan Macmillan; in the US by Metropolitan Books, an imprint of Henry Holt; in Germany by S. Fischer Verlag. The book has been edited by Metropolitan Books under the leadership of Sara Bershtel, senior Vice President and publisher.





## ZEENAT AMAN'S SON DEBUTS AS A COMPOSER

**Z**eenat Aman's son Zahaan Khan is making his Bollywood debut as a composer in *Dunno Y: Love Is Love*. He has composed the track *Toh Kya Hua* for the film, which is directed Kapil Kaustubh Sharma. Zeenat had earlier worked with Kapil's father KC Sharma in the '90s. Asked about working with Zahaan, Kapil said, "Zahaan is a great composer and has a bright future in Bollywood. It was a good experience working with him and I wish him all the very best for all his future

projects." Zahaan spoke about his musical interests. "I listen to a lot of music and explore genres from across the globe. That is what defines my approach to making it. Before this project, I have created a few other professional and personal compositions."

*Dunno Y: Love Is Love* also stars Kitu Gidwani, Mona Ambegaonkar, Zareena Wahab and Yuvraaj Parashar. A glimpse of the film was recently screened at the Kashish Film Festival.

## 'PRABHAS IS THE LOVELIEST PERSON I HAVE COME ACROSS'

**S**hraddha Kapoor, who has had a packed year with *Saaho*, *Chhichhore* and *Street Dancer 3D*, shares her experience of working with Telugu star Prabhas on her first multilingual film. Shraddha says, "*Saaho* is my first multilingual project and it has been such a privilege to have worked in this film, especially because of the kind of talent that came together for it. Whether it is the creative team, stunt team, director, producers or the entire cast, it was amazing." Speaking about Prabhas as a co-actor, she shared, "He is one of the nicest, sweetest,

loveliest people I have come across. He has a kind heart and he took care of me and my team like we were at home on set. Same for our producers. They always made me feel like I am a part of the UV family and I always felt at home when I was in Hyderabad."

Touted to be India's biggest action thriller, *Saaho* is scheduled to release on August 30. Up next, Shraadhha will be seen in *Chhichhore*, alongside Sushan Singh Rajput, which is slated to release on September 6.



## VJS CONFIRMS A FILM WITH AAMIR KHAN

Vijay Sethupathi, who is currently in Australia to participate in the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne, has confirmed that he will be sharing screen space with Aamir Khan in an upcoming project, details of which will be made public soon. Reports of the duo collaborating started doing the rounds last month after the *Dangal* star paid a visit to the sets of Vijay Sethupathi's upcoming film, *Sanga Thamizhan*, directed by Vijay Chander, and co-starring Nivetha Pethuraj and Raashi Khanna. Sethupathi, who was awarded the Best Actor award for his role in *Super Deluxe*, which was nominated in the best director and best film categories. The film won an honorary award 'Equality in Cinema' at the festival. Apart from *Sanga Thamizhan*, Vijay Sethupathi has *Maamanidhan*, *Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy*, and *Ka Pae Ranasingam* in the pipeline.





# I WILL STAY DIFFERENT AND I WILL STAY IN THE INDUSTRY

As her next Telugu film, *Evaru*'s release approaches, Regina Cassandra ends her media hiatus. A year since her last direct Telugu release, she has a new attitude towards life and work



en – that's what describes Regina Cassandra's demeanor lately as she juggles promotions for her next Telugu release *Evaru*. Starring herself and Sesh Adivi in lead roles, this is her direct Telugu film after *Awe* which released over a year ago. And *Evaru* she says is "nothing like she's ever done before". She does seem pretty thrilled about the film herself while the thriller's trailer already has the audience guessing. We chat her up in her snug hotel room as she curls up in the sheets taking a moment to breathe between her busy schedule. Here's what she's got to say about her little self-discovery, the hardwork behind *Evaru* and her plan of action.

### Excerpts:

**Where have you been!? It feels like it's been forever since Regina Cassandra has been out in public?**

That's how I wanted to be off the grid I'm not someone who can stay in that zone for a long time. I take time off and come back. (Pauses) I kind of redid myself. I put a comma to everything and tried to figure out everything happening around me. I started to think a lot about a lot of things. "Is what I want to do fit for this industry?" People around me always said you aren't like everyone else in the industry. "You're not ambitious enough, not pushy enough, not aggressive enough". It got to me and I thought may be they are right. May be there is something more that I need. People are right I am different. And then after contemplation I decided that no! I will stay different and still stay in the industry. Now I'm like I don't care anymore. In fact despite my absence the media has been writing about me even when I am off the grid! Apparently I was "engaged in a hush hush ceremony". (Laughs)

**The trailer of *Evaru* looks pretty intense and so does your part. Did it take a toll on you to perform such a challenging role?**

As an actor, I do not let the role I play interfere with my own personal space or time. No matter who or what I play, the moment the director calls cut, I am Regina again. Sameera is a role I have never played before but I as a person do not dwell on the role I play. When I was introduced to Sameera, I felt she was meticulous, prim and proper and felt that someone like her would have short levelled hair. Although my director (Ramji) didn't think it was necessary, I insisted on chopping off my hair and it did

work well ultimately. But once I stopped playing Sameera I was just the same person being cute in short hair.

**Was there homework or preparation that went into making the character of Sameera?**  
This is the kind of film where we all needed to be on the same page. We had script readings and we rehearsed everything right from the lines to the movement. I had rehearsals with Sesh because we have a lot of banter in the film and we had to warm up to the nuances of each scene and each conversation. I also rehearsed with Naveen Chandra. The rape scene was a long scene and it was really intense – not because it was that scene but it was shot like that. We worked on where we would stand, where the camera would go and how we would move before we shot the rape scene. This movie probably was mostly physically taxing on me rather than mentally or emotionally because I had a scene with Murali Sharma *garu* where we shot in rain for eight days. I didn't fall sick only because my team – my costumers, hair and make up team and assistant – took very good care of me after every shot, covering me in blankets and keeping me warm. The character, the team and the movie have really stuck with me.



**What do you have lined up after this?**

There are three Tamil films that I am working on. One is called *Party* directed by Venkat Prabhu, another called *Kasada Thapara* directed by Chimbu Devan and another called *Kallapart* alongside Aravind Swami. There's another announcement in Tamil soon which I think will raise a few eyebrows.

**So no Telugu films anytime soon? What's the strategy?**

There's no real strategy as such. I don't think it works like that either. I have been getting quite a few films but I am yet to decide on any. My major attention when I hear a narration is firstly if it is a substantial role, and secondly the director's vision – what they narrate, how they narrate, what I feel while they're narrating. I might really love a story or narration but my team – artist management team – might advice me that it doesn't place me well if I do it. I believe if you're not good at something get a team who can do it for you. So my team has drawn out a plan for me and I think right now it's best for me to just stick to it.

— Sridvidya Palaparthy

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**I do not let the role I play interfere with my own personal space or time. No matter who or what I play, the moment the director calls cut, I am Regina again**  
— REGINA CASSANDRA







## VIJAYASHANTI'S COMEBACK AS A PROFESSOR!

Actor Vijayashanti is returning to films with Mahesh Babu-starrer *Sarileru Neekevvaru*. The 53-year-old lady superstar, who was last seen in *Naayudamma* has been signed on to play a pivotal role in the film directed by Anil Ravipudi. On Monday, Vijayashanti has begun shooting for her portions in Hyderabad. Anil welcomed the diva of the 90s onboard and also strongly endorsed her for being the same self all these years. "After 13 years... It's makeup time for Vijayashanti garu. Nothing has ever changed in all these 13 years. Same discipline, same attitude and same dynamism. Welcome on-board Vijayashanti garu," tweeted Anil. Vijayashanti replied, "Anil Ravipudi Garu and Mahesh Babu Garu... I duly honour the welcome. Attitude is an altitude of the person. Climate may change but attitude will never. So are you... So am I..." Currently, the shooting is progressing at the Nalsar University of Law in Hyderabad and grapevine is that Vijayashanti is playing a professor in the film set against the backdrop of Rayalaseema. Rashmika Mandanna is paired opposite Mahesh in the film slated for release during Sankranti.



# 'I NEED A BREAK FROM INTENSE ROLES'

SAYS RANARANGAM GIRL KAJLAGGARWAL, WHO HAS BEEN CHOOSY ABOUT HER CAREER CHOICES

• Murali Krishna CH

**K**ajal Aggarwal has revealed that playing the titular role in her last outing *Sita* has taken a toll on her. "Sita is one such character which was complicated, demanding and challenging. In every actor's life, you need that one character which sets you apart and proves you as an actor. I'm happy that I got to do this character. But I got into the mind of the character and it has affected my reactions and behaviour towards people. To control these behavioural changes and mood swings, I meditated for a few days and it helped me to overcome this problem," reveals Kajal.

The actor says playing serious roles like *Sita* has compelled her to take up a conventional role in her upcoming film *Ranarangam*. "I can't always play serious roles which are demanding. And I can say *Sita* is the reason why I have chosen to do *Ranarangam*. I play a doctor in the film and my character appears in the second hour. Even though it's a routine character without any exceptional weightage, it drives the narration forward. This role has come as a huge relief for me," she says, adding, "There is no regret. I enjoyed working in that film, but it's just that I needed a break from such roles. I am happy that I have reached a stage in my career where I can be choosy about my roles."

Kajal recently appeared in *Paris Paris*, a remake of 2014 Hindi comedy-drama *Queen*. Directed by Ramesh Aravind, the film recently run into censorship issues after the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has asked the makers to blur/mute about 25 scenes. Responding to the issue, Kajal says, "Paris Paris is a faithful remake of *Queen*. It must be noted that the Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada versions were cleared by the censor board, but the Tamil version alone has landed in trouble. The makers have referred the film to Revising Committee and we are waiting to hear from them."

Amidst reports of her walking out of Kamal Haasan-starrer *Bharateeyudu 2*, the actor has offered a denial. "I will join the sets in November. I'm playing a powerful character which required me to undergo some physical training to look strong for that part. I am feeling excited to work with legends like Shankar and Kamal Haasan. I am looking forward to the shoot," avers Kajal, who is also working on a Telugu-English bilingual titled *Call Centre*.



## VD TO PLAY MARTIAL ARTIST WITH A STUTTER IN PURI'S NEXT?

**D**irector Puri Jagannadh, who is back in the reckoning after *iSmart Shankar*, will join hands with actor Vijay Deverakonda for a romantic action entertainer, announced the makers today. According to reports, the *Dear Comrade* actor plays a martial artist with a stutter, in the film produced by Puri and Charmme Kaur under Puri Jagannadh Touring Talkies and PC Connects banner. It is learnt that the director has made it a point to make the content and dialogues

entertaining for the audience. It may be recalled that Puri has accused the makers of Jr NTR-starrer *Jai Lava Kusa* of stealing his idea since *Jai* — one of the three characters in the action drama, directed by Bobby — stammers in the film. Jr NTR, however, denied the news during his interview with *Cinema Express*. We hear Puri has made a few changes to his script and has now got Vijay on board. The film is expected to go on floors later this year.



