



Kerala government suspends IAS officer Sriram Venkitaraman
page 8



Unnao rape survivor airlifted to Delhi after Supreme Court order
page 9



Nirmala to interact with various sectors to find ways to boost growth
page 15



Nathan Lyon spins Australia to victory in Ashes opener
page 18

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J&K loses its special status, divided into two UTs

■ Home Minister Amit Shah announces the Centre's decision in the Rajya Sabha

VIJAYA SINGH
DEVESHK PANDAY
NEW DELHI

Ending Jammu and Kashmir's special status in the Indian Union, the BJP government extended all provisions of the Constitution to the State in one go, downsized the State into two Union Territories and allowed all citizens to buy property and vote in the State.

Leading the charge, Home Minister Amit Shah piloted two special resolutions and a Bill creating the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh through the Rajya Sabha on Monday. While the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will have a legislature, the one in Ladakh will not.

The first resolution informed the House that the President had used his powers under Article 370 to fundamentally alter the provision, extending all Central laws, instruments and treaties to Kashmir. However, the drastically altered Article 370 will remain on the statute book.

The government's surgical strike on the State's autonomy came as telephone and Internet services in the Valley were suspended, former Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti remained under arrest and thousands of additional Central security personnel were deployed.

Mr. Shah said that if the Union Territory model worked well, the government would consider giving Jammu and Kashmir the status of a State again and "no constitutional amendment would be required". Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present during the proceedings.

Mr. Shah said the Resolu-

■ RS adopts the J&K Reorganisation Bill, with 125 votes in favour and 61 against

■ The two new Union Territories will be Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

■ Ladakh will not have a legislature while Jammu & Kashmir will have one

tion for Repeal of Article 370 of the Constitution of India "would pass every legal scrutiny" and he was aware that an "NGO brigade", supported by some parties, would challenge it.

Slamming the Congress, Mr. Shah said, "It was your policy that has killed so many people, more than 41,000, since 1988. Why aren't youth in Rajasthan, Gujarat or Odisha misguided? Because there is no Article 370 in these States."

Dismissing concerns that there would be "bloodshed" in the Valley, Mr. Shah said this was a "new experiment" and everyone should support it. "Terrorism cannot end in the State till Article 370 or 35A continue. They are an obstacle to development. We want to embrace the Kashmiri youth. The move will bring development, tourism and industries to the State. These opportunities till now were controlled by only three families," he said.

Governor Satya Pal Malik on Monday night reviewed the security situation with top officials in Jammu and emphasised the need for constant vigil to deal with any eventuality. The Army's Northern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ranbir Singh met the Governor and briefed him about the security situation.

Reacting to the developments, U.S. State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said, "We call on all parties to maintain peace and stability along the LoC."

(With PTI inputs)

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12
CONGRESS MEMBERS TEAR
RESOLUTION COPY ▶ PAGE 12
QUICK TRIGGER ▶ PAGE 13
A WRONG WAY TO END
▶ EDITORIAL

The new order

Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced two statutory resolutions to recommend that the President issue a notification rendering Article 370 inoperative, and to accept the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill. A look at how the government changed the special status of the State overnight:

■ **370** Under Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir had its own constitution and the laws passed by Parliament were applicable to the State only with the State government's concurrence

■ **370** The President was empowered to decide which provisions of the Indian Constitution would be applicable to the State

■ **35A** Article 35A protected the laws such as bar on outsiders buying property in the State and women marrying non-Kashmiris losing their property rights

■ These special measures could only be altered on the recommendation of the Sadar-i-Riyasat (on the advice of the Ministers Council) or by the Constituent Assembly.
■ To scrap Article 370 altogether, a few clauses were added to Article 367 on Monday which contains "Interpretations": the reference to the "Constituent Assembly" was amended to read "Legislative Assembly of the State". All references to the "Sadar-i-Riyasat" will be construed as references to the Governor

SHARING OF POWER

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019, will bring about the following changes to the State

■ Two Union Territories to be formed out of the State of Jammu and Kashmir: UT of Ladakh (Kargil and Leh districts; ●) and UT of J&K (all other districts of the State of J&K ●)

■ Both UTs to have L-G, for now the Governor of State will continue as both



■ Four sitting Rajya Sabha members of the State will become MPs of UT of J&K

■ Five Lok Sabha seats to go to the UT of J&K

■ Legislative Assembly of UT of J&K will have 107 seats to be chosen through a direct election

■ One Lok Sabha seat to go to the UT of Ladakh

■ 24 seats in PoK will be vacant

Kashmiris fear fresh bout of violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA JAMMU

The people of Kashmir on Monday expressed apprehensions about a new cycle of violence in the Valley, with many saying that scrapping of Article 370, which gave special status to the State, could lead to change in its identity.

"We are shocked by the decision and it left us disappointed because our sentiments were attached with this Article... its scrapping means that the State will lose its Muslim-majority character," said Farooq Ahmad Shah, 50, a resident of Srinagar, who was visiting Jammu.

He said that though the State's ruling parties rendered the Article ineffectual over the last 70 years in "collusion" with the different governments at the Centre, its scrapping was bound to provoke the people.

"How long will they keep us under house arrest," asked Arshid Warsi, a man in his 20s from the Valley, who was also visiting the city. Revoking Article 370 does not mean "we cannot express our resentment", he said.

A school teacher, who wished not to be named, blamed the State's mainstream parties for the "current crisis".

"It is very unfortunate that the government has taken a decision which is going to create more resentment rather than bringing peace," she said.

■ "matter of shame" that the Centre had reduced the State to a non-entity with Lt. Governor's rule.

■ While introducing the resolution earlier in the day, Mr. Shah had said, "Under Article 370(3), there is a provision that the President, on recommendation of Parliament, has the power to amend or cease the implementation of Article 370, through a public notification." He later clarified to Mr. Chidambaram that the said provision has to be read with Article 371 D (Special provisions with respect to the State of Andhra Pradesh.)

■ Mr. Chidambaram appealed to the government not to "dismember the State" and warned it had committed a "cardinal blunder."

■ Momentarily you may

think you have scored a victory...drum beats on streets may force you to think that you have corrected a so-called injustice but history will prove you.... Future generations will realise what a grave mistake this House is making today. This will be a catastrophic blunder," he said.

■ He said the State was being reduced to the state of municipal administrations and instead of protecting the rights of the States, the Rajya Sabha was passing Bills which were on the concurrent list.

■ Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad said the State's head, considered India's crown, has been "chopped off" and it was a

"matter of shame" that the Centre had reduced the State to a non-entity with Lt. Governor's rule.

■ The way an atom bomb explodes, such an explosion

will take place in the House today when the Home Minister arrived," Mr. Azad said in the Upper House. He dared the government to bring a Bill to convert Gujarat into a Union Territory, saying it should not take things lightly, and accused the Centre of muzzling the State's history while being "drunk" with power.

■ Tiruchi Siva (DMK) termed the move unconstitutional as the Constitution says that only the Assembly should decide on such crucial issues.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12
BACKGROUNDER ▶ PAGE 13

Communication shutdown triggers panic outside J&K

Kashmiris in Delhi pray for safety of kin

HEMAMI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

NEARBY
Rajasthan Bills on honour killing, lynching passed

JAIPUR
The Rajasthan Assembly on Monday passed two separate Bills against mob lynching and honour killing, making stringent provisions of punishment and penalties for these offences that were made cognisable and non-bailable. While honour killing will be punishable with death sentence, those convicted of lynching will be punished with life imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹5 lakh.

NORTH ▶ PAGE 6

MALUKA IAS
2nd ARC CLASSES STARTS 10th Aug.
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Gogoi-led Bench to hear Ayodhya case from today
NEW DELHI
A Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi will commence hearing on August 6 on a day-to-day basis. The Bench decided to hear the appeals after it declared that the efforts to mediate a final settlement between rival Hindu and Muslim parties in the Ayodhya title dispute cases have failed.

NATION ▶ PAGE 9

It's not just her who is dis-

turbed by the government's decision to "reorganise" Jammu and Kashmir and scrap its special status under Article 370.

■ **'No say'**
A 46-year-old woman who did not wish to be identified started crying when asked about her opinion on the decision. She was watching the news on television to keep herself updated on the developments in Kashmir where her entire family and relatives were "under siege".

Ms. Aqiba's parents, brother and other relatives are in Srinagar and the last time she spoke to them was late evening on Sunday. Her only regret on Monday was missing her mother's call around 6 a.m. "My daughter is two years old and I was busy with her. I missed my mother's call and I have been trying the number since morning but it's not connecting. I just want to know they are okay and safe. The last time we spoke, she told me they are locked up in the house," said Ms. Aqiba as she wiped tears off her face.

She said her paternal uncle is a cancer patient and his condition was grave on Sunday. "I have no news about him. I don't know how they would take him to hospital if required," she said. "Internet connection and mobile services had been shut down earlier too, but landline phones used to work. Since Monday morning, even those are not connecting. This has happened for the first time in years," said Ms. Aqiba.

Her neighbour, also a Kashmiri who did not wish to be named, said, "This is all about politics and politicians. The common man in Kashmir had no say in this. We were not even informed, let alone be asked."

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PHOTO FEATURE

Monsoon DELIGHTS

The Capital's green canopy gets a lusher look after the recent spell of rain.

V.V. Krishnan captures the splendour of Delhi's parks in all its glory.

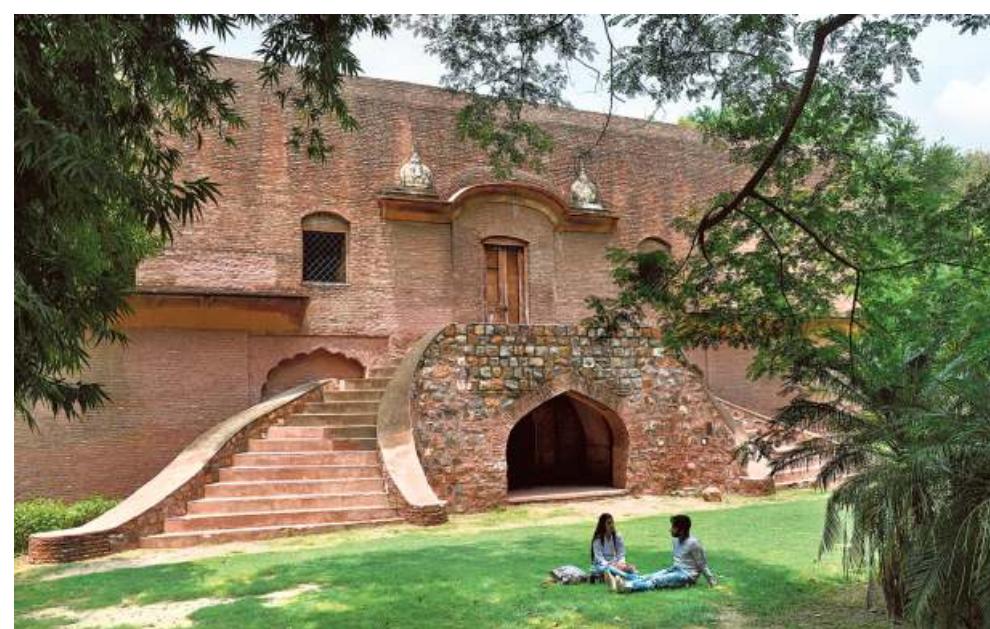


Sunder Burj, a 16th-century mausoleum, overlooks a sprawling garden with walkways and amphitheatre at Sunder Nursery, adjacent to Humayun's Tomb in central Delhi's Nizamuddin.

The Delhi Ridge along Sadar Patel Marg. The dry deciduous forestland is located on the northern extension of the Aravali Range in New Delhi.



A Mughal-era palace towers over visitors inside Qudsia Bagh, built in 1748. The garden, situated near ISBT on Sham Nath Marg, is named after Qudsia Begum, the mother of Mughal emperor Ahmad Shah Bahadur. Large parts of the palace were destroyed during the first war of Independence in 1857.



The Buddha Garden or Buddha Jayanti Park on Ridge Road near Daula Kuan is a picturesque green area with several paved pathways, lush landscaped lawns, streams and huge trees. The park was built in 1964 to commemorate the 2,500th anniversary of Gautam Buddha's enlightenment. A sapling of the Bodhi tree bought from Sri Lanka is planted here.

Schoolchildren take a stroll inside Roshanara Bagh, a Mughal-era garden built by Roshanara Begum, the second daughter of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. It houses a white marble pavilion built in the memory of Roshanara, who died in 1671 and was buried there. It is situated near Kamla Nagar Clock Tower in north Delhi.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	105	Gurugram	62
Ghaziabad	108	Faridabad	51
Noida	95	Greater Noida	114
Good	0-50	Satisfactory	51-100
Poor	101-300	Very poor	301-400
Severe	>401		

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]

IGI Airport passenger capacity to increase by 40% by 2022

Expansion work begins, 4th runway likely to be ready by 2021

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Man arrested at IGI with foreign currency
NEW DELHI
A man was arrested at the Delhi airport for allegedly trying to smuggle out foreign currency equivalent to over ₹42 lakh concealed in his check-in baggage, Customs officials said on Monday. The passenger was about to board a flight to Bangkok on August 3 when he was intercepted. The accused also admitted to his involvement in smuggling of foreign currency in his last visit.

DELHI TODAY

Poetry reading: The Raza Foundation presents a series of poetry readings "Aaj Kavita". The eleventh reading of the series will feature the poets, Savita Singh, Arun Dev, Soni Pandey and Pranjal Dhar at Lecture Hall-I, India International Centre, 6:30 p.m.

Exhibition: "Pratibimb", a group exhibition by Jyoti Sateej, Virendra Kumar at Open Palm Court Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Image-in-side-out", an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Sayam Bharat and Yamini Mohan at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kata Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Exhibition: "An Archeology of A New Identity", a solo exhibition by Sunil Yadav at Shridharan Court Gallery, Triveni Kata Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

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Spreading wings



- Passenger capacity to go up to 100 million passengers per year from 70 million by 2022
- 33 more parking stands at T1, including 22 aerobridges
- Fourth runway by June 2021
- Two elevated cross-taxiways
- Flyover to connect T1 to T3
- International-to-International transfer area at T3 to be doubled

runway is also expected to be ready by June 2021, which will make IGIA the only airport in the country with four airstrips.

Turnaround time
This facility, along with two of the three runways refurbished and two new elevated eastern cross taxiways, will help airlines improve their turnaround time.

At T3, work will be undertaken to expand passenger capacity from 34 mppa to 45 mppa, including doubling the size of the area for international-to-international transfers. A flyover will also

be constructed in order to reduce travel time between T1 and T3.

Larsen & Toubro has been entrusted with the entire engineering procurement construction work in the latest phase of development.

DIAL is a consortium, comprising the GMR Group, the Airports Authority of India and Fraport. The consortium, which was handed over the charge of IGIA in 2006, has a mandate to finance, design, build, operate and maintain the Delhi airport for 30 years with an option to extend it by another 30 years.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel also directed the Delhi Pollution Control

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Put in place response system to prevent waterlogging

HC asks AAP govt. to monitor chances of rain; to hear matter again on August 19

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court asked the city government on Monday to put in place a response system for preventing waterlogging in the Capital, which would automatically come into force when it rains.

19 govt. agencies yet to submit plantation audit

The report will provide details of survival rate of saplings planted in the city

NIKHIL M BABU NEW DELHI

Nineteen of 20 government agencies, which planted about 24.5 lakh saplings in the city under different plantation drives in 2018-19, are yet to submit a third-party audit to the Forest Department. The audit will give details of the survival rate of the saplings.

Without a third-party audit, it is impossible to know the survival rate of the saplings, for which the government had spent lakhs of rupees, according to experts.

At a meeting chaired by the Environment Minister Kailash Gahlot on July 23, the Minister "reiterated" diffe-

rent authorities to do the third-party audit, according to a senior official who was part of the meeting.

"The requirement of third-party audit was highlighted to check the survival percentage of saplings planted during previous seasons," the official said. The official said that the Forest Department does not know whether the agencies have done the audit or not, but added that their reports are "awaiting".

Forest Department is not responsible for the various drives as it is just a coordinating authority, the official said.

Apart from the South Deli

(SDMC), no other agency has submitted the report. The agencies which are yet to submit the third-party audits, include Delhi Jal Board, New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), Public Works Department, Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) among others.

When reached out, S. Challa, Director Horticulture of the NDMC, said, "The third-party audit has been done in the last 10 days by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and we are awaiting the report. Will submit it soon."

The DUSIB CEO and DJB spokesperson did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment.

Why third-party audit? "Third-party audit is very important, but no one does it. It has to be done and then only we can know how many trees survived. Else we will keep planting trees and they die and it is a waste of money," said Aditya N. Prasad, an environmental lawyer. He called for a law which makes it mandatory to do such audits. "Third-party audit is an extremely important step which should not be ignored in the light of climate crisis that needs to be responded to," said Kanchi Kohli, senior researcher, Centre for Policy Research.

Issue notice on sound limiters: NGT

Green panel directs govt. to set up monitoring stations

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Delhi government to issue appropriate notifications pertaining to the use of sound limiters in all sound systems.

The directions came following a plea which alleged that authorities had failed to curb noise pollution in the city.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel also directed the Delhi Pollution Control

Committee (DPCC) to conduct a gap analysis in order to set up requisite number of monitoring stations.

"The DPCC may under-

take gap analysis and set up sufficient number of monitoring stations and acquire requisite number of equipment, compile and publish statistical data relating to noise pollution and prescribe interim scale of compensation pending finalisation of the same by the CPCB [Central Pollution Control Board]," the Bench said.

Earlier, the green panel had directed the CPCB to prepare a noise pollution map and remedial action plan to tackle the issue across the country.

Reiterating the need for noise measurement equipment, the green panel added, "...the authority can certainly lay down measures, including the require-

ment of installing a noise meter on the noise creating equipment itself, such as loudspeakers, public address systems, DJs, etc."

DDA to launch sixth phase of e-auction

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is likely to launch the sixth phase of e-auction of vacant plots in the Capital by this week.

The move comes after the urban body collected over ₹2,500 crore in the last five phases of the e-auction where several residential, commercial, institutional vacant plots were put on offer.

Under the sixth phase, the urban body will offer approximately 100 vacant plots under the residential and industrial categories while around 85 vacant plots for shops will also be on offer.

The urban body will also offer around 100 vacant plots for installation of mobile towers.

In the upcoming phase of e-auctions, the urban body will also introduce a reserved category, officials said.

A Bench of Justice G.S. Sisani and Justice Jyoti Singh asked the Delhi government on Monday to put in place a response system for preventing waterlogging in the Capital, which would automatically come into force when it rains.

"Put a system in place which works like a generator when there is a power failure. Monitor the rain. When it starts raining, then the pumps should start working," the court said.

With the suggestion, the

Bench listed the matter for further hearing on August 19.

The court was hearing a petition initiated by it on its own in 2018 after coming across news reports of waterlogging in various parts of the city and how it was a recurring phenomenon.

People had been waiting for this for 70 years: BJP

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Celebrations broke out at the Delhi BJP headquarters here on Monday even as proceedings related to the withdrawal of special status to Jammu and Kashmir were going on in Parliament.

'Historic decision'

Terming it a historic move, State unit chief Manoj Tiwari and other senior party members exchanged sweets amid sloganising praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "People of all communities and religions are congratulating each other and showing the sentiment of one nation, great nation. We also congratulate the political parties both inside and outside the Parliament who have supported this Bill," said Mr. Tiwari.

He also said several persons have been waiting for the amendment of Article 370 for 70 years but "no government had enough courage to do so".

"I have no words to express my feelings on this historic decision of the Modi government. There is a patriotic atmosphere in the entire country. Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh have now become part of mainstream development with this decision. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee had raised the slogan: 'ek desh mein do nishaan, do pradhaan aur do vidhaan nahi chalenge' (there cannot be two Constitutions, two Prime Ministers and two flags in one nation'). He had sacrificed his life. Today the Modi government has fulfilled his dream," Mr. Tiwari added.

Students protest amendment to Article 370

Kashmiris living in the Capital say the Centre's decision has reinforced their feeling of 'alienation'

AARUSHI AGGARWAL
NEW DELHI

As Rajya Sabha members debated the amendment to Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and a Bill to divide the State into two Union Territories, several students gathered at Jantar Mantar on Monday to stage a protest against the move.

The group of protesters, including Kashmiris residing here, shouted slogans and waved banners against the government's decision.

The agitation was carried out under the vigilance of the police and paramilitary forces. Behind the Delhi Police barricades that cordoned off the street, protesters voiced their opinions.

Twenty-four-year-old Sharika from Kashmir expressed her fears of not being able to communicate with her family back home. She wondered whether she would be able to go home for Id.

'For us, without us'

"What has happened in Kashmir will not be repeated in any other State. We always felt alienated and this decision has reinforced that," she



Speaking out: Students and others protesting at Parliament Street here on Monday against the Centre's move to amend Article 370. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

said. Her brother Haider said: "This is a decision for us, without us."

Ever since most modes of communication were snuffed in the Valley, Kashmiris residing here are worried about their family members back home. "This is a

breach of trust and a blatant violation of the Constitution," said law student Palvi from Himachal Pradesh.

'Psychological warfare'

She said non-Himachalis too

cannot buy land in the State.

"Yet, the government has

only tried to reverse this law in Kashmir not even in Ladakh. This makes it evident that this decision is motivated by religion and nothing else. It is psychological warfare," she added.

Holding up a placard reading: "governance by conspi-

acy and coup: that is the democracy under Modi-Shah duopoly", a 27-year-old Kashmiri Sikh said: "The facade of democracy in Kashmir is no more. What was accomplished by underhand tactics has now been institutionalised."

"I fail to find a voice like Jayaprakash Narayan, who called the forced manner of integration a 'suicide of India's soul', I fear to ask if a moral fabric exists at all," he added.

Shweta and Malvika from Delhi said the move was a gross violation of human rights. "We see what has happened but there is no news from the Valley. The State recalled tourists and yatri but nothing was communicated to the residents. The bias against the State is clear. Are they not Indians?" they said.

Kejriwal supports Centre's decision

No similarities with Statehood of Delhi

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said his party supports the Centre's decision to end special status for Jammu and Kashmir.

The AAP national convenor's comments came after Union Home Minister Amit Shah moved a resolution in both the Houses of Parliament that Article 370 would be amended.

"We hope this will bring peace and development in the State," Mr. Kejriwal tweeted.

BJP takes a jibe

The Delhi BJP was quick to seize the opportunity to criticise Mr. Kejriwal for what it termed was his "doublespeak" and demanded that the AAP government give its nod for prosecution sanction in the Jawaharlal Nehru University sedition case.

"He [Mr. Kejriwal] should apologise [to the people of Delhi] for demanding proof of the surgical strike and for questioning the Balakot

strike. He should stop supporting the *tukde tukde* gang, give prosecution sanction in the [JNU sedition] case. The people will not be able to forgive him otherwise," said Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari.

The sedition case pertains to raising of "objectionable" slogans at an event on JNU campus in 2016 against the hanging of Afzal Guru, the mastermind behind the 2013 Parliament attack. Meanwhile, AAP sought to dispel similarities being drawn between the situation in J&K and the Capital regarding Statehood.

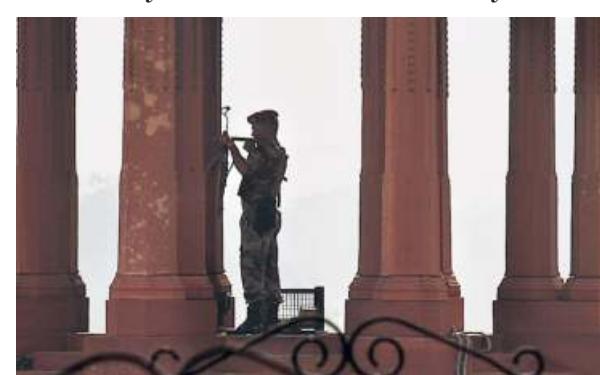
"The Kashmir situation is opposite to that of Delhi. We cannot compare the Kashmir situation with that of Delhi and Puducherry," the party said. "Two-thirds of original Kashmir is under the occupation of Pakistan and China. There were around 150 incidents of infiltration that occurred last year in Kashmir. We cannot compare a peaceful State with a disturbed border State," it added.

DMRC on red alert; checks to take longer

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) issued a red alert across its network on Monday following advisories issued by security agencies in wake of developments in Parliament on amendment to Article 370, and upcoming Independence Day celebrations.

"Please allow extra time in security checks," the DMRC tweeted.



On guard: A policeman on vigil at South Block in New Delhi on Monday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

After Kashmir move, police ramp up security ahead of Id

Kashmir Bureau of Information chief makes arrangements for students to contact their family members in the Valley

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

In the wake of the recent developments related to Jammu and Kashmir, and upcoming celebrations for Independence Day and Id-ul-Azha, Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik held a meeting with officers on Monday, asking them to be vigilant.

Mr. Patnaik briefed Special and Joint Police Commissioners about security and foot patrolling. "Apart from district police, we have de-

ployed Reserve Police Force [paramilitary] at certain places in the city," said an officer, adding that the commandos in anti-terror vans – Parakram – have been deployed at strategic locations here.

Officers have been instructed to increase patrolling frequency, especially in the busy markets, malls, government institutions, national monuments and State border areas.

"We are asking the college authorities to ensure the safety of Kashmiri students and keep a close watch on activi-

ties in hostels and mess areas," said Deputy director with Kashmir Bureau of Information, Veerush Kapoor.

She added that she got requests from students, who were worried about their families in Srinagar. "I have connected the students with the concerned DSP in Srinagar and they have spoken to their family members. We have distributed helplines numbers on social media for students and their family members," she added.



सत्यमेव जयते



Lt. Governor, Delhi

APPEAL

My dear fellow residents of Delhi,

We all know that trees are vital for the survival of our planet, as they give oxygen, improve air quality, store carbon, preserve soil, support wildlife and give life to our Environment. Therefore, Delhi Government has set an ambitious target of planting 24 lakh seedlings this year.

Your active support and participation can help us meet this goal to enhance Delhi's green cover.

I appeal to all of you – the children, the young, the elders, RWAs, Non-Governmental Organizations and all sections of the society to come together, obtain saplings for free from nurseries of Forest Department, and plant and nurture them for a cleaner and greener Delhi.

Anil Baijal

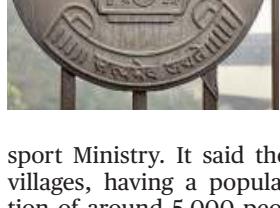
Centre's reply sought on connectivity to 8 Punjab villages

There are only two pontoon bridges in the area, states petition in High Court

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court sought response of the Centre on a petition seeking proper connectivity to eight villages in Punjab, which are fenced in between the international border with Pakistan and the rivers – Ravi and Ujh.

The petition has alleged that the State was not building bridges to connect the villages despite approval for it from the Union Trans-



sport Ministry. It said the villages, having a population of around 5,000 peo-

ple, are presently connected to the rest of the State through two temporary pontoon bridges which are removed during monsoons to prevent them from floating away.

"In view of the importance of the matter, you take instructions," the court said to Centre Standing Counsel and listed the matter for hearing on August 27. The court was hearing the plea jointly moved by lawyer Vimal Wadhawan

and several former and current sarpanch of the eight villages, located in the Gurdaspur and Pathankot districts of Punjab.

Scarce health facilities
During the rainy season, people travel to the mainland by boats, the plea said, adding that due to the poor connectivity, harvested crops are unable to be transported and health, as well as education facilities, are scarce.

Over 3K buses to be inducted by next May, govt. tells SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government informed the Supreme Court on Monday that 3,035 buses, including 1,385 low-floor AC and electric ones, will be inducted by next May to augment the public transport system here.

In an additional affidavit filed in the apex court, the government said the process of inducting 1,000 standard-floor non-AC CNG cluster buses with hydraulic lifts for differently abled persons will start this month and be completed in February 2020.

To be completed by Feb. "First lot of buses has been registered. Operation likely to start in August 2019 and to be completed in February 2020. The slight delay is on the part of manufacturers in meeting the specifications of CCTV," the affidavit said.

Regarding induction of 385 low-floor AC electric cluster buses, the government said the process of opening of bids is on.

Two held for killing constable

Incident took place last September

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two men have been arrested from Rajasthan's Alwar district for allegedly killing a Delhi Police head constable last year, said officers on Monday.

The accused – Chinder Pal (22) and Irshad Khan (19) – were carrying a reward of ₹1 lakh on their arrest, they said. The police said Ram Avtar Meena was shot by some unidentified persons in south-east Delhi's Jaipur on September 12, 2018, at 12.34 a.m.

During investigation, it was revealed that Meena had returned from work around 9.45 p.m., after which he went outside for some work. The police said he was spotted lying un-

Two men shot for resisting robbery

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GHAZIABAD

Two persons were shot and another wounded for resisting a robbery in Ghaziabad's Loni in the small hours of Monday, the police said.

The robbers decamped with cash and valuables worth over ₹3 lakh, they said, adding that provision store owner Dharmavir Sharma and his neighbour Sonu were killed during the incident.

SP (Rural) Neeraj Kumar Jadaun said the incident happened when six armed robbers reached the store where Sharma was sleeping outside and the shutter was partly open.

Barged into house
One of the robbers asked Sharma to fetch him a glass of water.

When Sharma entered the house, they also forced their way in and overpowered the whole family, the police said. When Sharma and his son resisted them, the accused shot him. While fleeing the spot, they were nabbed by two family members.

The robbers then fired at. The case is under investigation, the officer said.

HC directs shifting students of 100-year-old school

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Monday directed forthwith shifting of the students studying in a dilapidated 100-year-old school building in the cantonment area here.

It also asked the Army and the Aam Aadmi Party government to immediately

accommodate them in their schools.

A Bench of Chief Justices D.N. Patel and C. Hari Shankar observed that there was an emergent situation of shifting the students as the building of Rajputana Rifles Heroes Memorial Senior Secondary School here was in a dilapidated condition.

IN BRIEF

Vector-borne diseases:
17 new cases reported

NEW DELHI
Fifteen cases of malaria and two cases of dengue were reported in Delhi last week, data shared by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation on Monday stated. With this, the total number of cases of vector-borne diseases in the city this year so far stands at 157. At this time last year, the total number of cases stood at 202.

IP University gets new Vice-Chancellor

NEW DELHI
Professor Mahesh Verma was appointed the Vice-Chancellor of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University. Prof. Verma is an eminent academician, researcher, administrator and was serving as the Director-Principal of Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences. The notification has been released by the Secretary, Higher Education, Delhi government. PTI

Man jumps in front of metro train, dies

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 76-year-old man died after he jumped in front of a metro train at Welcome station on Monday morning, the police said.

In a note left behind by the deceased that has been recovered from his residence, he has held himself responsible for the act, they said.

"The police were informed around 07.15 a.m. about the incident that took place at Welcome metro station. They reached the metro station and found the man's body. They did not, however, find anything that could help the police identify the deceased," said a senior police officer.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health: 011-4076 9002 (Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.)

JNU student 'raped' by cabbie says police refused to help her

Victim wants legal action against police officers, accused; probe under way

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

A 21-year-old JNU student, who was allegedly raped by a cab driver in south Delhi, has levelled serious allegations on the conduct of Delhi police officers.

The victim, in her statement to the police, claimed that a female police officer refused to provide her assistance and that she was told to leave the police station at night.

Not carrying cell phone

On Sunday, the Delhi police registered an FIR against a cab driver for raping a woman passenger travelling in his vehicle. The woman was not carrying a mobile phone and the cab was booked by a "stranger" on the request of the woman.

The victim said she had taken a cab from in front of a temple in Mandir Marg on Friday around 8 p.m. It was a black car. During the ride, the driver started harassing her following which she slapped him. The driver stopped the cab and she got out of the vehicle but the

NCW seeks stern action against cab driver

NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Women on Monday sought strict action from the Delhi police against a cab driver for allegedly raping a second-year JNU student here.

In a statement, the commission also requested the victim to feel free to contact it for grievance redressal.

driver allegedly followed her.

"He grabbed me by the hair and pushed me on a seat at a bus stop. He tied my eyes and sexually harassed me," said the victim in her statement to the police.

The cab driver was drunk and dragged her to the car, pushed her inside and raped her, the woman alleged, adding that she kicked him and hit him with a bottle and managed to run away.

"I found a police station on the way where four officers, including two women officers, were present. A male officer asked me if he could drop me somewhere,

but I said I am not comfortable with men and wanted the women to drop me," said the victim in her statement.

"The women police officers refused to drop me and asked me to leave the police station because they work only from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.," the victim added.

The victim in her statement said she wanted to take legal action against the driver and the police officers. She said she would be able to identify the cab driver.

The statement further stated that she went out of the police station and came across many autorickshaw drivers on the way who were allegedly catcalling to her.

Reached JNU in morning

"I took shelter at a park as it was raining. The security guards there said I would have to leave and I did. I found a place to hide at night and the next morning, I came to the IIT bus stop where I found a guy who offered to drop me. I took his help and reached JNU," said the victim. She said she then went to the university's med-

ical centre reported the matter. From there she was taken to Safdarjung Hospital.

The Delhi police said that on August 4, the Mandir Marg police station received an information from Safdarjung Hospital regarding a woman who was allegedly sexually assaulted. A police team rushed to the hospital and the victim was medically examined.

On the basis of her complaint and the medical examination report, an FIR was registered at Mandir Marg police station and an investigation was taken up.

"The incident was reported after two days. During the medical examination, no injury mark was found on the body of the victim," read a statement issued by the police.

The statement by the police also said that besides the delayed reporting of the incident, there are some other inconsistencies in the version of the victim that are being verified. Teams have been constituted to apprehend the alleged offender and an investigation is underway, it said.

Teen, mother, sister held for kidnapping neighbour's son

Youth planned crime to arrange money for sister's marriage

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An 18-year-old youth, his mother and sister have been arrested for allegedly kidnapping their neighbour's three-year-old son in outer north Delhi's Bawana, the police said on Monday.

DCP (Outer) Gaurav Sharma said that the accused have been identified as Dhruv, his 21-year-old sister and 40-year-old mother, who allegedly kidnapped the boy for money. Dhruv's sister's marriage had been fixed but due to lack of money it was called off. He planned to kidnap the son of his neighbour, who deals in the sale and purchase of second-hand cars and was financially sound, the police said.

DCP (Outer) Gaurav Sharma said that the accused have been identified as Dhruv, his 21-year-old sister and 40-year-old mother, who allegedly kidnapped the boy for money. Dhruv's sister's marriage had been fixed but due to lack of money it was called off. He planned to kidnap the son of his neighbour, who deals in the sale and purchase of second-hand cars and was financially sound, the police said.

The police said that when his phone record was scanned, they found that Dhruv had made several calls to the complainant, who, however, could not identify the number, as he was not acquainted with the accused. "Later, the victim's pictures were also found in Dhruv's phone. Besides,

three audio recordings were found, in which, he was demanding ₹75 lakh from the complainant as ransom," Mr. Sharma said, adding that the calls were made while an investigation was under way and that the complainant had informed police about them.

Dhruv, who confessed to having kidnapped the boy, said that he had planned the crime with his mother and sister in order to arrange money for the sister's marriage. After kidnapping the victim, they took him to their rented accommodation in Daryapur and tied him. The boy was recovered from the location and the accused were arrested.

The police also said that Dhruv had recorded his voice by modulating it before sending the same to the complainant on WhatsApp. He said he was motivated by a crime TV show.



The accused in police custody. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

new place. On the day of incident, the victim and other two children were offered cold drink by Dhruv. Mr. Sharma said, adding that Dhruv was then brought for interrogation.

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Prisoners do not have voting rights, EC tells HC

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India on Monday informed the Delhi High Court that prisoners do not have voting rights under the Representation of People (RP) Act.

The poll panel said the right to vote is a statutory right created under Section 62 of the RP Act and the law is settled that the "right to vote being a statutory right is subject to the restrictions prescribed in the RP Act".

The EC filed its affidavit before a High Court bench on a petition filed by three law students seeking to grant and facilitate voting rights to all persons lodged in jails across the country.

The EC referred to a 1997 judgment of the Supreme Court in which it was held that the effect of sub-section (5) of section 62 of the act is that any person who is confined in prison while serving a sentence of imprisonment on his conviction for any offence or is under lawful confinement in a prison or in a police custody for any reason is not entitled to vote in an election.

But this restriction does not apply to a person subjected to any kind of preventive detention, the judgment said.

The petition has challenged the constitutionality of Section 62(5) of the RP Act, which deprives prisoners of their right to vote.

The three law students contended in their plea that a blanket ban on the prisoners' right to vote was a violation of the spirit and soul enshrined in the Constitution and the basic principle of equality.

DU panel clears first-semester syllabi of 4 subjects, sends rest for revision

About 164 teachers involved in syllabus-making allege spread of misinformation, say they are outraged at baseless falsification

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

where the syllabi of all other undergraduate departments was approved.

With regard to these four departments, however, Right-wing teachers' group NDTF, and students' group ABVP, had protested against certain material they deemed "objectionable" in the syllabi and had called for a complete review of the study material and the process of syllabus formation.

Reacting to the committee's decision, English professor Saikat Ghosh said that the panel had "succumbed for review once more.

The committee was set up after an Executive Council meeting was held on July 21,

Delhi University releases seventh cut-off list

NEW DELHI

DU released the seventh cut-off list for its merit-based undergraduate programmes on Monday. The university had initially scheduled only five lists but released the seventh list with seats at several colleges remaining open.

Right-wing political forces" and dismembered the syllabi. The decision "undermines the academic prerogative of the departments concerned and makes a mockery of the hard work

put in by hundreds of teachers and denies students a sense of their academic progression," he said.

Another professor, Rudrashish Chakrabarty, said that the syllabus had been formed keeping in mind the UGC guidelines of "Learning Outcome Curriculum Framework". Prof. Chakrabarty also attacked the committee saying it had no representation from the four departments under question and did not have the "academic wherewithal to have any deliberation on the matter, nor did it invite any re-

presentatives from the affected departments".

In a letter to the Vice-Chancellor on Monday, about 164 teachers of the English department involved in the syllabus-making alleged spread of misinformation by teachers of the NDTF and said that they were outraged at the baseless falsification.

"We hope that our statement of honouring all procedural and democratic practices in the two-year-long exercise of syllabus-making is tailed as a strong, verifiable response to the

Project to record city's oral history launched

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

of society over the next two years, the government said.

Titled 'Oral History Programme', the project aims to document the history of the city from the perspective of its senior citizens.

The project, undertaken by Delhi Archives in collaboration with Ambedkar University, is an attempt to democratise knowledge by recording stories told by hundred of common people in Delhi from different strata

cal gap that fails to project the real picture. It is perhaps for this one-sided historical perspective that history becomes unrelatable to most people."

He added that the story of Delhi is not just about epic wars and the fall and rise of kingdoms, it is also about intimate details, the songs, festivals, weddings, the recipes, the businesses that will come alive for the younger generation and this is what the project would aim to capture.

Two held for robbing truck driver of ₹14 lakh

'SUV used in commission of crime was stolen'

■ The two arrested men would be interrogated about their accomplices involved in the robbery

AN OFFICER

crossing and one of them pointed a gun at him.

The three men opened the door to the truck and took out the bag containing the cash, the police said. They then fled the spot when Randhir called the police. A case was registered.

The accused have been identified as Sarjeet alias Jeeta and Monu Kirad, both from Haryana's Mahendergarh. They were nabbed by Farrukhnagar Crime Branch team Jamalpur Chowk on Sunday following a tip-off.

The incident

The police said truck driver Randhir had come from Rajasthan to deliver poultry at Gwal Pahari on July 8 and then went to Sector 5 Chowk to collect payment.

One Vijay delivered him ₹14.70 lakh cash around 4 p.m. Randhir was on his way back to Rajasthan when four men in a car waylaid him near Sultanpur level-

of-Swaran Khad on the Right Bank of Swan River.

The accused told the police that the SUV used in commission of crime was stolen from Mahendergarh. The two were produced before the court on Monday and taken on three days police remand. The two would be interrogated about their accomplices involved in the robbery, the police added.

Minister seeks inclusion of more institutes in free coaching scheme

Some institutes vow to use their CSR funds for programme

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi SC/ST Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam on Monday chaired a meeting with around 15 heads private coaching institutes to include more such institutes in an existing free coaching programme for SC students.

Under the 'Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana', the government currently pays a maximum of ₹40,000 to selected eight institutes for the coaching of

each student. Apart from it, a monthly stipend of ₹2,500 is given to each student.

"The amount will be increased from ₹40,000 to ₹15,000 and the duration of the coaching will also be extended. The government is ready to rope in more reputed institutes under the scheme," the Minister had said last month.

"The Minister chaired a high-level meeting today with representatives of various reputed institutes like

Aakash, Chanakya, Nirvana, ALS, Dhyeya 635, GS World, Time, Khan Study Group, Ramaswamy, Dhrishti, Paaji Law Academy," an official statement said Monday.

An official said that some of the institutes had promised to use their CSR funds for the scheme.

About 4,953 SC students were enrolled under the coaching for different competitive exams in the first year of the scheme which was launched in 2018.

STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF JHARKHAND Government of Jharkhand

e-procurement Notice inviting Request For Proposal for Supervision Consultancy Services

RFP No: SHAJ/Procu/CW/SC/02/2019

1.State Highways Authority of Jharkhand, Ranchi invites Construction Supervision Consultancy Services for Reconstruction of existing Pavement to Two lane / Two Lane with Paved shoulder for Pakri Barwadih Coal Mines to Banadag Railway siding at Hazaribagh District in the State of Jharkhand. "(Length – 12.455 Km). The cost of the civil work is Rs 57,47,32,993/-."

2.The interested consultancy firm who have experience in services of similar works and required technical & financial strength may obtain Request of Proposal (RFP) document from e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in from 08.08.2019 (15:00 hrs) to 30.08.2019 (15:00 hrs).

The complete RFP Application shall be submitted online by 30.08.2019 (upto 15:00 hrs) on e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in as per instruction in RFP-Instruction to Bidder for e-tendering. All the details regarding this RFP will be available on the above mentioned website.

No claim shall be entertained on account of

Noisy scenes in Punjab Assembly over Bargari sacrilege probe issue

Oppn. walks out over CBI closure report

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

Noisy scenes were witnessed in the Punjab Assembly on Monday as the Opposition parties staged a protest over the probe into the Bargari sacrilege cases and the closure report filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation in this connection.

During Question Hour, the Shiromani Akali Dal members walked into the well of the House and protested against rejection of their adjournment motion on the issue. The Aam Aadmi Party members also launched an attack on the government protesting against the closure report filed by the CBI. The Akali Dal members later staged a walkout.

SAD leader Parminder Singh Dhindsa and former Minister Bikram Singh Majithia said the Congress government was running away from a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the cases.

"The very fact that the Congress is running away from a discussion on the issue indicates that it does not want the truth to come out," they said.

"We only want a discussion so that the Assembly can unanimously pass the resolution ensuring a Supreme Court-monitored probe. The Akali Dal will continue to raise this issue and do its best to ensure that the guilty are brought to justice," they added.

AAP's Harpal Singh Cheema, who is Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, and MLA Aman Arora said it was unfortunate that nothing had come out of the series of investigations during the past four years under the Special Investigating Team, the Justice Ranjit Singh Com-



Parminder Singh Dhindsa •
FILE PHOTO

mission and the CBI.

"We demand a White Paper on the issue, besides a two-day special session for an open debate on it," they told journalists.

'Paddy date unchanged'
Responding to a question during Question Hour, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh ruled out any change in the date of transplantation of paddy in the State from June 20 to June 1.

The date had been advanced to June 13 this year only on an experimental basis and there is no proposal to permanently alter it."

The Chief Minister said he would convene an all-party meeting to evolve a strategy to arrest the reckless use of groundwater and to change the cropping pattern to ensure water conservation.

Punjab has decided to follow the Union Public Service Commission pattern to increase the number of chances for the State Civil Services aspirants from existing four to six in the General category and to nine for the backward classes, while the SC category students will get unlimited chances, Capt. Amarinder announced.

He added that while the age limit for the SC category will be 42 years, for the General and the BC/OBC categories it would be 37 and 40 years respectively, as per the Central Commission's rules.

Rajasthan launches new higher education model

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A new higher education model has been launched in Rajasthan for distribution of faculties and movable assets among the government colleges at the district level to rationalise the availability of resources. The model will create a pool for sharing of facilities which will benefit the colleges lacking infrastructure.

Minister of State for Higher Education Bhanwar Singh Bhati inaugurated the model, titled Resource Assistance for Colleges with Excellence, in the presence of principals of colleges here recently. He said all the

colleges would get equal opportunities for imparting quality education with the adoption of the new model.

The colleges in need will submit their requirement to the nodal college in the district, which will send the teachers on deputation, if needed, and provide the facilities such as projectors, digital libraries, equipment and technicians. The model will help the colleges situated in small towns facing shortage of faculties and infrastructure. Though the sanctioned posts of teachers in the government colleges are 6,500, the State at present falls short by about 2,000 teachers.

DELHI ● Timings

TUESDAY, AUG. 06
● RISE 05:45 SET 19:09
● RISE 11:11 SET 23:09

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 07
● RISE 05:46 SET 19:08
● RISE 12:13 SET 23:47

THURSDAY, AUG. 08
● RISE 05:47 SET 19:07
● RISE 13:14 SET 00:00

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 37 27
Safdarjung 37 27
Palam 36 26

Delhi Palam Today
33°C A humid and hazy morning turns warm dry with cloudy sky. Few spells of rain will occur over many parts.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
32°C In temperature. Moderate spells of rain or thundershower will affect the city.

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THE HINDU
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'Give plantation data in a week'

STAFF REPORTER Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh Information Commission has directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to furnish information within a week to person who sought details under the Right to Information Act regarding plantation of 50 lakh saplings in the Satna circle in 2016-17.

"Despite the direction of the Commission on May 24 to provide information to the applicant, the circle had made it clear that it was holding back information sought under the RTI Act that was against the law," said Information Commissioner Rahul Singh. The Commission had issued a notice to Rajiv Mishra, Public Information Officer and the Conservator of Forests, Satna Circle, asking him why a penalty of ₹25,000 should not be imposed and disciplinary action initiated against him.

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STERLING & WILSON **STERLING AND WILSON SOLAR LIMITED**

Our Company was originally incorporated at Mumbai on March 9, 2017 as Rashmika Energy Private Limited, as a private limited company under the Companies Act, 2013, pursuant to a certificate of incorporation dated March 10, 2017 issued by the Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra at Mumbai ("RoC"). Subsequently, the Solar EPC Division of Sterling and Wilson Private Limited was demerged into our Company pursuant to the order dated March 28, 2018 of the National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench with the appointed date for the transfer of such Solar EPC Division being April 1, 2017. Thereafter, to reflect the association of our Company with the Sterling and Wilson group, the name of our Company was changed to Sterling and Wilson Solar Limited pursuant to the resolution passed by our Shareholders at their extra-ordinary general meeting held on March 29, 2018 and the certificate of incorporation pursuant to change of name was issued by the RoC on April 24, 2018. Subsequently, our Company was converted into a public limited company pursuant to the approval of our Shareholders at an extra-ordinary general meeting held on January 11, 2019. Consequently, the name of our Company was changed to Sterling and Wilson Solar Limited and a fresh certificate of incorporation consequent upon conversion from private company to a public company was issued by the RoC on January 25, 2019. For further details relating to changes in the registered office and name of our Company, see "History and Certain Corporate Matters" beginning on page 138 of the Red Herring Prospectus dated July 29, 2019 ("RHP"). Registered Office and Corporate Office: 9th Floor, Universal Majestic, P.L. Lokhande Marg, Chembur (West), Mumbai 400 043. Telephone no.: +91 22 2548 5300; Website: www.sterlingandwilson.com; Contact Person: Jagannatha Rao Ch. V., Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; Telephone no.: +91 22 2548 5300; E-mail: ir@sterlingwilson.com; Corporate Identity Number: U74999MH2017PLC292281

OUR PROMOTERS: SHAPOORI PALLONJI AND COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED AND KHURSHED YAZDI DARUVALA

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF UP TO [+] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 1 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF STERLING AND WILSON SOLAR LIMITED ("OUR COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [+] PER EQUITY SHARE ("OFFER PRICE") AGGRGATING UP TO ₹ 31,250.00 MILLION, COMPRISING OF AN OFFER FOR SALE OF UP TO [+] EQUITY SHARES BY SHAPOORI PALLONJI AND COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED AGGRGATING UP TO ₹ 20,833.33 MILLION AND UP TO [+] EQUITY SHARES BY KHURSHED YAZDI DARUVALA AGGRGATING UP TO ₹ 10,416.67 MILLION (TOGETHER, THE "PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDERS") AND SUCH EQUITY SHARES OFFERED BY THE PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDERS ("THE OFFERED SHARES") (THE "OFFER"). THE OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE [+]% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY.

QIB Category: Atleast 75% of the Offer **Retail Category: Not more than 10% of the Offer** **Non Institutional Investor Category: Not more than 15% of the Offer**

Price Band: ₹ 775 to ₹ 780 per Equity Share of face value of ₹ 1 each.

The Floor Price is 775 times the face value of the Equity Shares and the Cap Price is 780 times the face value of the Equity Shares.

Bids can be made for a minimum of 19 Equity Shares and in multiples of 19 Equity Shares thereafter.

ASBA* | Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!!

*Applications Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) is a better way of applying to issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For details, check section on ASBA below.

Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.

UPI UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE

UPI-Now mandatory in ASBA for Retail Investors applying through Registered Brokers, DPs & RTAs. Retail Investors also have the options to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account.

ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except anchor investors. UPI may be availed by Retail Individual Investors. For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in ASBA Form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "Offer Procedure" beginning on page 459 of the Red Herring Prospectus. The process is also available on the website of AIBL and Stock Exchanges in the General Information Document. ASBA Forms can be downloaded from the websites of BSE and NSE and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. List of banks supporting UPI is also available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. ICICI Bank Limited has been appointed as Sponsor Bank for the Offer, in accordance with the requirements of the SEBI Circular dated November 1, 2018. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number -18001201740 and MailId upi@npci.org.in. For the list of UPI Apps and Banks live on IPO, please refer to the link https://www.npci.org.in/upi-live-ipo.

Risks to Investors:

- The six Global Coordinators and Book Running Lead Managers and two Book Running Lead Managers associated with the Offer have handled 48 public issues in the past three years out of which 18 closed below the issue price on listing date.
- The Price/Earnings ratio based on diluted EPS for Fiscal 2019 for the Issuer at the upper end of the Price Band is as high as 19.57.
- The average cost of acquisition per Equity Share for our Promoter Selling Shareholders is Nil per Equity Share. The Offer Price at the upper end of the Price Band is ₹780.

*For details of build-up of Promoters' shareholding in our Company, please see 'Capital Structure - Build-up of the Promoters' shareholding in our Company' on page 80 of the RHP

BID/OFFER OPENS TODAY

BID/OFFER CLOSES ON AUGUST 8, 2019

Investor should read the Red Herring Prospectus carefully, including the Risk Factors on page 28 of the Red Herring Prospectus before making an investment decision.

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period will be extended by at least three additional Working Days after such revision in the Price Band, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, our Company may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/Offer Period for a minimum of three Working Days, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, shall be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a press release, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the GCBRLMs and BRLMs and at the terminals of the members of the Syndicate and by intimation to Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Bank.

The Offer is being made in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended ("SCR") read with Regulation 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, as amended (the "SEBI ICDR Regulations"). The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 6(2) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations wherein not less than 75% of the Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs") (the "QIB Portion"), provided that our Company and the Promoter Selling Shareholders in consultation with the GCBRLMs and BRLMs may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis. One-third of the Anchor Investor Portion shall be reserved for domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received from the domestic Mutual Funds at or above the Anchor Investor Allocation Price. 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Mutual Funds only, and the remainder of the QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIB Bidders (other than Anchor Investors), including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. If at least 75% of the Offer cannot be allotted to QIBs, the Bid Amounts received by our Company shall be refunded. Further, not more than 15% of the Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Bidders and not more than 10% of the Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Bidders in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. All Bidders, other than Anchor Investors, are mandatorily required to participate in the Offer through the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") process by providing details of their respective ASBA Accounts which will be blocked by the Self Certified Syndicate Banks ("SCSBs") as the case may be. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Anchor Investor Portion through the ASBA process. For details, see "Offer Procedure" beginning on page 459 of the RHP.

LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS OF OUR COMPANY: Limited by shares.

AMOUNT OF SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE: As on the date of the RHP, the authorised share capital of our Company is ₹ 500,000,000 divided into 500,000,000 Equity Shares of ₹ 1 and preference shares is ₹ 100,000,000 divided into 1,00,000 preference shares of ₹ 100 each, respectively. The issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital of our Company is ₹ 160,360,000 divided into 160,360,000 Equity Shares of ₹ 1 each. For details of the capital structure, see "Capital Structure" on page 75 of the RHP.

NAMES OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF OUR COMPANY AND THE NUMBER OF EQUITY SHARES SUBSCRIBED BY THEM: The signatories to the Memorandum of Association are Ravi Ananthakaran, Aniruddha Choudhuri and Kalpathy Hariharan Parameswaran, who subscribed to 10 equity shares each respectively of our Company at ₹ 10 each as initial subscription. For details of the share capital and capital structure of the Company see "Capital Structure" on page 75 of the RHP.

LISTING: The Equity Shares offered through the Red Herring Prospectus are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. Our Company has received "in-principle" approvals from the BSE and the NSE for the listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to letters dated May 14, 2019 and May 23, 2019, respectively. For the purposes of the Offer, the Designated Stock Exchange shall be BSE Limited. A copy of the Red Herring Prospectus and the Prospectus shall be delivered for registration to the RoC in accordance with Section 26(4) of the Companies Act, 2013. For details of the material contracts and documents available for inspection from the date of the Red Herring Prospectus until the Bid/Offer Closing Date, see "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" beginning on page 509 of the RHP.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA ("SEBI"): SEBI only gives its observations on the offer documents and this does not constitute approval of either the Offer or the specified securities or the offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 433 of the RHP for the full text of the Disclaimer Clause of SEBI.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE (The Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE Limited should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Red Herring Prospectus has been cleared or approved by BSE Limited nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Red Herring Prospectus. The investor is advised to refer to the page 437 of the Red Herring Prospectus for the full text of the Disclaimer clause of the BSE Limited.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF NSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to page 438 of the RHP for the full text of the Disclaimer Clause of NSE.

GENERAL RISKS: Investments in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and investors should not invest any funds in the Offer unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their investment. Investors are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in the Offer. For taking an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of our Company and the Offer, including the risks involved. The Equity Shares in the Offer have not been recommended or approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"), nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the Red Herring Prospectus. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "Risk Factors" beginning on page 28 of the RHP.

GLOBAL CO-ORDINATORS AND BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS

ICICI Securities	AXIS CAPITAL	CREDIT SUISSE	Deutsche Equities India Private Limited	IIFL SECURITIES
ICICI Securities Limited ICICI Centre, H.T. Parekh Marg, Churchgate, Mumbai 400 020 Telephone no.: +91 22 2288 2460 Investor grievance e-mail: customerscare@icicisecurities.com Website: www.icicisecurities.com Contact Person: Payal Kulkarni SEBI Registration No.: INM000011179	Axis Capital Limited Axis House, Level 1 C-2 Wadia International Centre Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli Mumbai 400 001 Telephone no.: +91 22 4235 2183 Investor grievance e-mail: complaints@axiscap.in Website: www.axiscapital.co.in Contact Person: Mangesh Ghoghe/Bhumika Gangar SEBI Registration No.: INM000011161	Credit Suisse Securities (India) Private Limited 9 th Floor, Ceejay House Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli Mumbai 400 018 Telephone no.: +91 22 6777 3885 Investor grievance e-mail: list.sterlingwilson@paripo@credit-suisse.com	Deutsche Equities India Private Limited The Capital, 14th floor C-70, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex Mumbai 400 051 Telephone no.: +91 22 7180 4444 Investor grievance e-mail: swsl.ip@db.com	IIFL Securities Limited 10 th Floor, IIFL Centre, Kamala City, Senapati Bapat Marg Lower Parel (West), Mumbai 400 013 Telephone no.: +91 22 4646 4600 Investor grievance e-mail: investorcare@iiflcap.com Website: www.iiflcap.com Contact Person: Devendra Maydeo/ Aditya Agarwal SEBI Registration No.: INM000010940

REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER

LINK Intime
Link Intime India Private Limited C-101, 1 st Floor, 247 Park, L.B.S Marg, Vikhroli (West), Mumbai 400 083 Telephone no.: +91 22 4918 6200 Investor grievance e-mail: sterlingwilson.ip@linkintime.co.in

Investors can contact the Company Secretary and Compliance Officer and/or the Registrar to the Offer, in case of any pre-Offer or post-Offer related problems, such as non-receipt of letters of allotment, non-credit of Allotted Equity Shares in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund orders or non-receipt of funds by electronic mode.

COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Jagannatha Rao Ch. V.,
STERLING AND WILSON SOLAR LIMITED
9th Floor, Universal Majestic, P.L. Lokhande Marg,
Chembur (West), Mumbai 400 043.
Telephone no.: +91 22 2548 5300
E-mail: ir@sterlingwilson.com
Website: www.sterlingandwilson.com

CORRIDGEM: NOTICE TO INVESTORS

This Corridgum is with reference to the Red Herring Prospectus dated July 29, 2019, ("RHP") and the abridged prospectus. In this regard, please note that all references to "the Indian Express" in the RHP and the abridged prospectus should be read as references to "The Financial Express". The RHP and the Abridged Prospectus stand amended to the extent stated hereinabove. Relevant changes shall be reflected in the Prospectus when registered with the RoC and filed with SEBI and the Stock Exchanges.

FOR STERLING AND WILSON SOLAR LIMITED
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

STERLING AND WILSON SOLAR LIMITED is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offer of its Equity Shares and has filed a RHP with the Registrar of Companies, Mumbai. The RHP shall be available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, on the websites of the Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and is available on the websites of the GCBRLMs at www.gcbrlms.com and BRLMs at www.indusind.com and www.yesinvest.in and the Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com. Investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to the same, see the section titled "Risk Factors" on page 28 of the Red Herring Prospectus. Potential investors should not rely on the Draft Red Herring Prospectus filed with SEBI, for any investment decision. These materials are not for publication or distribution, directly or indirectly, or in or into the United States. These materials are not an offer for the sale of the Equity Shares or other securities in the United States or elsewhere. The Equity Shares referred to herein have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("Securities Act") and may not be offered or sold within

IT forum seeks guidelines in emergency situations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

The city chapter of the Forum for IT Employees (F.I.T.E) has urged the Pune District Collector Naval Kishore Ram to issue an advisory directing IT companies to ask employees to 'work from home' or declare a holiday in wake of the emergency situation.

The F.I.T.E., a pan-national forum addressing the problems faced by IT professionals, has in their letter to Mr. Ram, said that "employees ought to be provided transport facilities by the companies and should not be forced to reach offices on their own to avoid accidents."

Rising water levels due to discharge of dam waters have disrupted communications between Pune city and the IT hubs of Hinjewadi and Talawade.

There are seven to eight lakh employees working in and around IT parks in the city who are forced to travel extensively through narrow, flooded underpasses and overflowing rivers, said Pavanit Mane, president, FITE.

"There are no clear instructions to employees in crisis situations which often put them in a dilemma as to whether or not to attend office. Employees often brave rains, excruciating traffic jams to reach IT hubs in Hinjewadi, Talawade, and Magarpatta City at considerable risk... With the rains unlikely to abate in the next few days, we have requested the District Collector to urge IT companies to issue an advisory to preclude any hazard arising from their travel to reach their workplaces," Mr. Mane, told *The Hindu*.

Officials at the India Meteorological Department (IMD)

Rain havoc in western Maharashtra continues; Satara, Kolhapur flooded

Schools, colleges in Pune to remain shut today; heavy rain forecast tomorrow for arid Vidarbha

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

There was no let-up in rains in western Maharashtra and the heavy downpour lead to increased discharge from overflowing dams in Pune and the districts in the sugar heartland, throwing communications off-kilter and flooding several parts of Pune, Satara and Sangli.

Continuous discharge from dams in Pune - Khadakwasla (more than 49,000 cusecs), Mulshi (35,000 cusecs) and Pavna (20,000 cusecs) - since morning caused flooding in several low-lying areas and led to traffic police shutting down vital bridges between Pune and the Pimpri-

Chinchwad which in turn resulted in massive traffic snarls.

In wake of the grim traffic situation, Pune District Collector Naval Kishore Ram said the administration has decided to keep schools and educational establishments shut on Tuesday (August 6) as well.

"More than 6,000 persons residing in the low-lying parts have been moved to safer areas by rescue teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the Fire Department since Sunday following increase in the discharge of water from the dams," said Mr. Ram, adding that the evacuated people were moved to shelters in schools set-up by the Pune civic body to cope with the crisis.

While the rain momentarily loosened its grip over Pune city in the morning, it commenced with renewed vigour post-noon with robust showers lashing the city.

Officials at the India Meteorological Department (IMD)



Women watch submerged temples and houses from a bridge covered with garbage on Monday along the banks of the overflowing Godavari after heavy rainfall in Nashik. ■ REUTERS



Help at hand: An NDRF team rescuing people from inundated areas of Pune. ■ MANDAR TANNU

said the grim situation in the State and over the city was likely to persist through the week and likely to improve only after August 9.

"While Pune city is expected to receive moderate showers tomorrow, heavy rain is expected to continue in other parts of the district like Maval, which received 175

mm rainfall till Monday morning," said Dr. Anupam Kashyapi, Head, Weather & Air Pollution Monitoring Unit, IMD, adding that the city was expected to record at least 40 mm rainfall by Tuesday morning.

The traffic police closed down the bridge linking Aundh with the Sanghi area

after a portion of it was damaged by incessant showers, while the new bridge at Hinjawadi was shut off after cracks developed across the structure, throwing awry traffic along the Pune-Bengaluru highway.

Several employees working with companies in the Hinjawadi IT Park were allowed to leave early or work from home as rising water levels completely cut-off communications between Pune and the areas of Wakad and Pimpri-Chinchwad.

Low-lying areas like Wakad, Pimpri, Saudagar, Aundh Gaon, Baner, Sinhagad Road were particularly affected as water flooded the streets and seeped through basements in residential areas, submerging private vehicles.

Meanwhile, the situation remained grim in the 'sugar heartland' with massive discharge of water from the Koyana

dam and the surging levels of the Krishna river throwing life and communications awry in Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur.

According to Satara district authorities, the discharge from the Koyna dam, which was completely filled to capacity, had been increased to 1,03,000 cusecs.

With the discharge severing communications between villages and tehsils, and road traffic coming to a standstill, the administration has urged people to remain indoors.

A similar situation was observed in Kolhapur district, where 17 vital roads were shut down following the extreme flood-like situation.

The roundabouts, streets, arterial roads and other major connectors were submerged with waters from the Koyna dam. State Transport bus services remained inoperational in Sangli and Kolhapur.

People living near the Krishna river were moved to nearby schools and shelters run by the municipal administration.

"Kolhapur and Satara have recorded 101.8 mm and 84.8 mm rainfall respectively till Monday morning. The heavy rainfall is likely to continue for the whole of this week," Dr. Kashyapi said, adding that Nashik also continued to be in the grip of unrelenting heavy showers with Tamhini ghat recording 350 mm rain, Trimbakeshwar 396 mm and Nashik city recording 158 mm rain.

He further said that the ghat areas would see heavy rain to extremely heavy rain in the next 72 hours while the normally arid Vidarbha region could expect heavy showers on August 7.



University elections in the State were banned in 1993 following the murder of a law student in 1989. ■ FILE PHOTO

Citing elections, State says cannot provide security for varsity polls

Government has decided to hold campus elections after 25 years

SHARAD VYAS
MUMBAI

The Home department has informed the State government that it may not be able to provide security for university elections to be held later this year. In a letter to the Maharashtra Cabinet, senior security officials have said there is a shortage of troops due to the ongoing situation in Jammu & Kashmir.

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However, the Assembly elections are expected to be held in the third week of October which would require a sizeable security detail. The Government has already deployed as many as six companies of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for the brewing crisis in Jammu & Kashmir. "We have taken these CRPF companies out from the Naxal-affected areas. We were short of forces even during the Lok Sabha elections, and do not want a repeat of the same scenario. Hence, we are curtailing our commitments," said a State Home Department official.

The schedule of the college elections will be released after the cabinet meet on Tuesday, while a meeting of the university official too is impending to firm up the plans.

University elections in the State were banned in 1993 following the murder of a law student in 1989. Under the new norms passed earlier this year, the government has barred candidates from political parties from contesting or using any symbol, officials said.

+ Goa CM, other BJP leaders hail move to repeal Article 370

Speaker to move congratulatory motion in Assembly later

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI

As leaders from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Goa, led by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, congratulated the Centre on Monday for its decision to repeal Article 370, that gave special status to Jammu & Kashmir, the Speaker said a motion hailing the move will be tabled in the House.

When Maharashtra leader Sudin Dhalavikar stood up to congratulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "assault on terrorism activity", BJP's Nilesh Cabral pointed out that the issue was not on the Assembly's agenda.



Pramod Sawant

"We will move a motion congratulating the Centre later during the session. That time, everyone can speak on it, Mr. Sawant said.

Speaker Rajesh Patnekar, too, said the congratulatory motion will be moved on the floor of the House "some-

time later".

While leaders could not

congratulate the Centre on the floor of the House, a majority of them took to Twitter to hail the decision to do away with the contentious Article of the constitution.

"A historic decision by Modi Sarkar towards unity, integrity and national sovereignty. I congratulate PM Shri @narendramodi ji and HM Shri @AmitShah ji for the bold step #Article370 #35A (sic)," Mr. Sawant tweeted.

Health Minister Vishwajit Rane tweeted, "I bow to our honble Shri @AmitShah ji (Home Minister) for his constant efforts in revoking #Article370. (sic)"

"We will have to see

People of J&K should have been taken into confidence: Pawar

Was decision to scrap Article 370 part of mediation proposal discussed with Donald Trump: Ambedkar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar on Monday expressed disappointment that the Centre had revoked Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir without taking the State's people and leaders into confidence.

The decision was announced in the Rajya Sabha by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Pawar said, "I can name Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mehbooba Mufti, Omar and Farooq Abdullah who have always taken a stand to stay with India. They should have been taken into confidence and it would have looked a wiser decision."

"We will have to see



Disappointed: NCP president Sharad Pawar (left), and VBA chief Prakash Ambedkar.

whether it is a final solution, or the beginning of large scale outrage in the Valley," the former defence minister added.

The Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi chief Prakash Ambedkar questioned whether the move had some connection with the mediation proposal

made by United States President Donald Trump, and also claimed the revocation might have a bearing on India's border dispute with Pakistan.

Dr. Ambedkar said, "Amit Shah, while moving the resolution to scrap Article 370, said Article 370 (1) will stay but Sections 2 and 3 will go.

"The proviso of Article 370 (1) states that the Indian government will not go against Article 370. So even if Sections 2 and 3 are removed, Article 370 (1) stays, (which means) you (Centre) need to have dialogue with local Assembly, government," he asked.

"Will this also mean the existing line of control will be considered as international line of control? This needs to be explained," he said.

"Going by the deployment of security forces in the Valley, it does not look like a 'one nation' policy, but a Hindutva nation dictating to Muslim minority Kashmiris," he claimed, adding that the reaction of Kashmiris from here would be crucial. He also accused past "secular governments" of "diluting" Article 370 progressively.

"The Centre must clarify whether the decision to scrap Article 370 was part of the mediation proposal allegedly

discussed with US President Donald Trump. Did Trump suggest abrogation of Article 370 so that the Indian government eventually can convince people it had given up its claim on PoK forever," he asked.

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Aamir Khan launches Mission Shakti initiative

Sports teaches us teamwork, says actor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDRAPUR

Actor Aamir Khan on Sunday attended the launch function of Mission Shakti, an initiative by Maharashtra Minister of Finance and Planning, and Forests, Sudhir Mungantiwar, to train athletes from Chandrapur and Gadchiroli for international events like the Olympics.

Among those present at the function in Ballarpur here was State Sports Minister Ashish Shelar.

"I don't remember much that I learnt in school except sports. It teaches us how to complete tasks through teamwork. It trains us to handle the situation during ups and downs," Mr. Khan told the gathering.

Motivating, rewarding
The actor also broke into a song mid-speech to motivate the athletes attending



Fond memories: Aamir Khan

says he doesn't remember much from school except sports. ■ FILE PHOTO

HC junks plea by witness in Sohrabuddin encounter case



Sohrabuddin Sheikh

cused policemen in the case, including former Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad chief D.G. Vanzara, had tried to extort ₹15 lakh from him and threatened to kill him in another fake encounter similar to Sohrabuddin's if he failed to pay the amount.

He thus, approached the High Court arguing that since the police officers had also been charged for extortion in the Sohrabuddin case and therefore, could not be considered as a victim.

that the same officers had tried to extort money from him, he be considered a victim in the matter, and his appeal be entertained.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which probed the case, through its counsel Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, however, opposed Mr. Zala's plea during its previous hearing.

The CBI argued that his plea was not maintainable since Section 372 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) permitted only the prosecution, State and Central government, complainant or victim in a case to file an appeal. Since Mr. Zala was merely a witness, his appeal must not be entertained, Mr. Singh had argued.

The High Court took note of these arguments and noted that Mr. Zala did not have any direct connection with the Sohrabuddin encounter case and therefore, could not be considered as a victim.

The move will bar the media from covering the court proceedings and will only allow the lawyers, the accused and the judge to be present at the trial.

On August 2, the NIA in an application to special judge Vinod Padalkar said the case involves facts having direct bearing on "communal harmony, national security and public order".

The five-page application by NIA said, "it is submitted that allegations against the accused in the case is that they have committed offence



Pragy Singh Thakur, one of the accused.

to take revenge against Muslim jihadis activities and to create rift between the two communities. As per the prosecution, for causing the bomb blast, Malegaon was chosen, because it is a Muslim-dominated area. Therefore, for maintaining harmony in the society, it is necessary to conduct in-camera hearing and restraint on publication of court

proceedings."

The journalists, represented through senior counsel Rizwan Merchant and advocate Gayatri Gokhale, said that this move will gag the media from reporting and/or disseminating information which the citizens have a "right to know". They have urged the court to reject NIA's application.

The court said on Monday that in the interest of justice and fair hearing, only NIA and not the accused, must respond to the plea, which will be heard on August 6.

On October 30, 2018, the special court had framed charges of murder, abetment and conspiracy for the blast against Bharatiya Janata Party MP Pragy Singh Thakur, Lieutenant Colonel Sameer Kulkarni, retired Major Ramesh Upadhyay, Sudhakar Chaturvedi, Ajay Rahilkar and

IN BRIEF



Ayyappa temple to open today for Niraputhari

PATHANAMTHITTA
The Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala will be opened on Tuesday afternoon for the Niraputhari celebrations, which marks the beginning of the harvest season. Tantri Kandaru Rajeevaru, assisted by other priests, will perform the Niraputhari rituals between 5.45 a.m. and 6.15 a.m. on Wednesday. The temple will be closed after Athazhapu on Wednesday evening.

16 sentenced to life in Warangal for murder

WARANGAL URBAN DIST.
Principal District Judge E. Tirumala Devi on Monday imposed life imprisonment on 16 people involved in a murder case. On March 4, 2012, a group attacked Gour Ashok Reddy, when he was on his way to Hanamkonda in Telangana's Warangal, over old rivalry, the police said. The group attacked him with sticks, iron rods and cricket bats killing him on the spot. His wife was also beaten up.

EWS quota: notice to T.N., Karnataka

SC asks them to reply to plea on 10% quota for economically weaker sections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Tamil Nadu and Karnataka governments to reply to a petition seeking that they implement the 10% quota for economically weaker sections (EWS), in addition to the existing reservation.

A Bench of Justices S.A. Bobde and B.R. Gavai issued notice to both the States on the plea claiming that all the other State governments

Kerala IAS officer suspended amid row

Govt., police accused of botching up probe into accident

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government on Monday suspended IAS officer Sriram Venkitaraman from service.

The police had on Saturday indicted the bureaucrat for having run his car over journalist K. M. Basheer in an allegedly drunken state. The scribe died on the spot.

The police had charged the civil servant with culpable homicide not amounting to murder. Mr. Venkitaraman faces up to 10 years of imprisonment and fine if convicted of the charge.

New officer to probe case

The government, which had come under criticism for the Police Department's 'botched' investigation, said it viewed the matter seriously. It scrambled to make amends by handing over the high-profile probe to Additional Director General of Police, Law and Order, Shaik Darvesh Saheb and placing



Sriram Venkitaraman faces up to 10 years of jail and fine, if convicted.

the officer who handled the case initially under suspension.

The police received a lot of public criticism for allegedly giving Mr. Venkitaraman leeway to dodge the law by not insisting that doctors take his blood sample to test for alcohol impairment immediately after the collision.

They also drew flak for the six-hour dubious discre-

pency in the FIR, between the time of the collision and the hour the Museum police received initial information about the accident.

Bail plea opposed

Meanwhile, the police vehemently opposed Mr. Venkitaraman's petition for bail. They told the court that he could sway witnesses and destroy evidence, given his top position in government. The police required Mr. Venkitaraman's custody to take his fingerprints to compare it with those lifted from the car. Investigators plan to conduct a test identification parade for witnesses to identify the person who drove the vehicle.

The police said Mr. Venkitaraman's co-passenger, a woman, had testified that he was "speeding under the influence of alcohol". The doctor who treated him initially had noted the same. They claimed to have a watertight case against the accused.

opposing the 10% EWS quota for some political reasons. The ruling party in the State was also critical of it.

It said the ceiling of 50% vertical reservation for SC, ST and BC was nowhere prescribed or mandated in the Constitution.

"The ceiling of 50 per cent vertical reservation for SC, ST and BC is a suggestion or discussion but not a mandatory direction to the Centre or State to adopt," the plea said.

Following the high quan-

tum of outflow from Basavasagar reservoir at Narayanpur in Yadgir district stood at 2.92 lakh cusecs and that from Lal Bahadur Shastri dam in Almatti was 3.03 lakh cusecs.

While 600 acres of farmland were inundated in Jamkhandi taluk of Bagalkot district, 150 acres of farmland at Nidagundi in Vijayapuram are under water. Alarming water level across the Chikkapadasalagi bridge has resulted in a ban on movement of heavy vehicles.

North Karnataka faces flood fury

The Krishna rises after Maharashtra releases 20 tmcft of water, two washed away

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI/RAICHUR/VIJAYAPURA/
HUBBALLI

The flood situation in the northern districts of Karnataka continues to be grim with increased outflow from reservoirs in the Krishna basin of Maharashtra, resulting in further inundation of villages, barrage-cum-bridges, and farmlands.

The death toll has risen to two with a youth getting washed away in the flood waters of the Krishna river in Belagavi district on Monday. Maruti Jadhav, 30, was washed away in the Krishna floodwaters at a field near Chikkodi. The police found his body downstream by evening. Three days ago, Shivanand Nayak got washed away in the floodwaters at Adeppa Ankalagi village.



Massive damage: An aerial view of the flood-hit areas of north Karnataka. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

No respite as Godavari rises again

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA

There seems to be no end to the ordeal of people living in the flood-affected villages on the banks of the Godavari river in East and West Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh.

Officials estimate that water level in the Krishna has increased by at least 4 feet after the release of around 20 tmcft from Maharashtra.

Though rain subsided in Belagavi and surrounding areas, water flow from Maharashtra increased to 3.01 lakh cusecs by Monday morning.

By evening, the outflow from Basavasagar reservoir at Narayanpur in Yadgir district stood at 2.92 lakh cusecs and that from Lal Bahadur Shastri dam in Almatti was 3.03 lakh cusecs.

While 600 acres of farmland were inundated in Jamkhandi taluk of Bagalkot district, 150 acres of farmland at Nidagundi in Vijayapuram are under water. Alarming water level across the Chikkapadasalagi bridge has resulted in a ban on movement of heavy vehicles.

Management Authority (APSDMA) in a bulletin said that the water level was going to rise further.

A press release from the government said that 384 villages in 27 mandals in East and West Godavari districts had been affected by the floods and heavy rains. As many as 18,510 people living in these villages had to be evacuated to 77 relief camps.

As many as 1.68 lakh food packets, 5.56 lakh water

packets, 74.2 tonnes of rice, 7,420 litres of kerosene, 3,710 kg each of red gram, palm oil, onion, potato and 5,300 litres milk were distributed to the flood-affected families in the camps and in the marooned villages.

Transportation links to 19 villages in West Godavari were cut off after roads and bridges across Yedduvagu and Siddaramvagu got submerged, the press release said.

discharge from reservoirs in the state.

In all, 69 villages (32 severely and 37 moderately) have been affected in Belagavi where the district administration has set up nine relief centres. The NDRF, State Disaster Relief Force, Maratha Light Infantry Regiment, Fire and Emergency services personnel, home guards and the police are working in the worst-affected villages.

Decide on petition of Emergency victims: HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHE

The Kerala High Court has directed the Central government to decide in six months a petition to "declare the fight against the Emergency as the second freedom struggle."

A Single Judge of the Kerala High Court issued the order on a petition filed by 40 people.

The petitioners sought directives to "take necessary steps for giving the Emergency victims the status of freedom fighters and to give them freedom fighter's pension, treatment expenses and all other facilities" being accorded to freedom fighters.

The fight of Emergency victims was akin to the freedom struggle for liberating India from the British rule and hence they were also entitled to the same status as freedom fighters, the petitioners said.

Centre's policy
Opposing the prayer, Assistant Solicitor General of India (ASG) submitted that granting of pension and other compensation for sufferings during the Emergency was within the policy realm of the Central government. He further submitted that the court cannot issue a writ of mandamus against the Central government and direct it to grant such relief through the writ petition.

Accepting the arguments of the ASG, the court said the sufferings of the petitioners cannot be overlooked. While refraining from making any observations on the merit of the case, the court said it was up to the Central government to consider whether any pension or compensation can be granted to the petitioners or similarly situated persons.

Time for prayer



A devotee performing rituals on the occasion of Naga Panchami in Hyderabad on Monday. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

Coffee estates await return of Assam workers

They have been stuck in their home State owing to NRC procedures and floods

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

The ongoing verifications for the National Register for Citizens (NRC) in Assam have stopped thousands of workers from returning to coffee estates of Karnataka. The Assamese workers left the estates in March-April, ahead of the parliamentary elections, and a majority of them are yet to return.

In Hassan district alone, more than 10,000 people from Assam are employed in many estates. Similarly, they work in estates of Chikmagaluru and Kodagu districts. For the last 15 years, the estates in the three districts have been dependent on workers from northeastern States, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.

The final draft of the NRC



Key role: Workers from Assam wait at a coffee estate near Arehalli in Belur taluk in Hassan, Karnataka. ■ SATHISH G.T.

was published on July 31, 2018. Many workers, whose names did not figure in the draft, were worried. They left to resubmit documents to claim citizenship. B.N. Jagdish Shetty, manager of IBC company-owned Hasirugud-

Estate in Belur taluk, said that last year more than 100 workers from Assam were in the estate. Now, there was none. "A few of them had returned very late and by then, we had made alternative arrangements. They must have

gone to other estates," he said.

The final NRC is expected to be published on August 31 and people are worried about leaving their native until then.

U.M. Thirthamallesh, president of the Karnataka Growers' Federation, said 25 Assamese were working in his estate and they had not yet returned. "The last communication I received was that they would come back after Bakrid (August 12). I hope they return as our estates are dependant on them," he said.

This year owing to decrease in rainfall, the demand for labour is minimum. Anticipating dip in production, estate-owners are trying to manage with the available workforce. "But if the workers delay further, the activities in the estates will suffer," he added.

"Coffee production has always been dependent on outsiders. In the past, there were workers from Dakshina Kannada. Later, it was Tamil Nadu. Many of them settled here over the years," said B.A. Jagannath, planter and former member of the Coffee Board. People from Assam are stuck in their home State because of the NRC procedures and the floods. They will not return until their citizenship issue is settled, he added.

Sources said that if all goes well, expansion was likely by the end of the week. However, they said it would happen in phases and by the weekend, the Cabinet was likely to get only a partial expansion. Several berths are likely to be kept vacant for the second phase and also for the rebels.

Mr. Yediyurappa has been the sole member of the

Yediyurappa reaches Delhi for consultations

Cabinet expansion likely in phases

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Amid fast-moving developments over Jammu & Kashmir that has kept the BJP central leadership busy, Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa reached New Delhi on Monday to hold consultations with the leadership on Cabinet expansion.

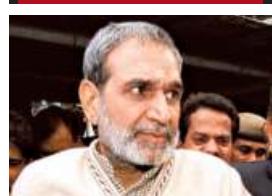
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Mr. Yediyurappa has

Cabinet for 11 days now, drawing sharp criticism from the Opposition. Reportedly upset over the delay, he has taken a long list of potential Ministers and his recommendation of around 25 persons, sources said. The Central leadership would hammer out the final list in consultation with the RSS and the factions in the State unit, sources said.

The expansion may not happen as early as Mr. Yediyurappa may have preferred. The appeal by 15 rebels against their disqualification will come up for hearing in the Supreme Court on Friday. Sources in the party said the expansion will mostly happen only after the Supreme Court hearing.

IN BRIEF



SC turns down Sajjan Kumar's plea

NEW DELHI

Cases related to 1984 anti-Sikh riots are not "ordinary" and it is "very difficult" to pass order suspending the life term sentence awarded to former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar without hearing the matter, the Supreme Court said on Monday. The court was hearing a plea by Kumar. PTI

Air India employee held for smuggling

NEW DELHI

Customs officials arrested two persons including an Air India SATS employee at the Delhi airport for their alleged involvement in smuggling gold bars worth over Rs 26 lakh. Air India SATS, offers end-to-end ground handling services such as passenger and baggage handling, and cargo handling services among others. PTI

Manipur cut off by multiple landslips

IMPHAL

Manipur has remained cut off from the rest of the country from the early hours of Sunday as a result of multiple landslides along the NH29 and NH37 triggered by incessant rains. Officials said that there have been massive landslides in Nagaland along NH29, and long stretches of the mountainous highway have been washed away. Reports say that there are at least 12 breached areas.

IMA calls for withdrawal of all medical services

NEW DELHI

The Indian Medical Association has announced a nationwide agitation on August 8 against the National Medical Commission Bill, 2019, "where there would be complete withdrawal of medical services across the country". "If the government still feels it correct to play with healthcare of people we will strengthen our agitation further," their statement read.

Rape survivor shifted to Delhi

Supreme Court had directed U.P. govt. to airlift her

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Unnao rape survivor was shifted to Delhi from Lucknow on Monday night following a Supreme Court directive earlier in the day. The Delhi Traffic Police cleared a corridor from the IGI Airport to the AIIMS Trauma Centre for her speedy passage, officials said.

"On the advice of the AIIMS doctors, the ambulance carrying the injured person was provided free passage."

It left T1 airport at 9 p.m. and reached AIIMS at 9.18 p.m., a senior police officer said.

She was brought via Thimayya Marg, Parade Road, GGR, Dhaula Kuan loop, Ring Road, Moti Bagh flyover, Hyatt flyover, under Raj Nagar flyover and Jhandu Singh Marg to the hospital, police said.

The rape survivor had suffered critical injuries in a



Fast corridor: An ambulance carries the Unnao rape survivor to the AIIMS from the Delhi airport. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

car-truck collision last week.

The Supreme Court directed the Uttar Pradesh government to airlift the rape survivor for advanced treatment.

Critical state

A Bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose passed the order after the mother of the girl, through her lawyer, informed the court that the victim, under critical care in a Lucknow hospital, had developed pneumonia.

The court said AIIMS should take over the responsibility of the girl "from the tarmac of the airport in Delhi."

It also directed the UP government to provide the same facilities to the lawyer, who was travelling with the family when their car was rammed by a speeding truck near Rae Bareli, if the family requested it.

He had also been under critical care in the same hospital in Lucknow. The woman was allegedly raped by BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar in 2017.

(With inputs from Legal Correspondent and PTI)

A fresh start



From scratch: A farmer carrying paddy seedlings for planting in his agricultural field in Nagaon district of Assam on Monday. As the floodwaters have started to recede, farmers are replanting their paddy fields. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Villagers claim hardship in NRC re-verification

They say summoning people at very short notice is 'authoritarian terrorism'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Amir Chand and his 18-member family reached Dergaon in eastern Assam's Golaghat district at 5:30 am on Monday for a re-check of their citizenship documents at a designated service centre for National Register of Citizens (NRC) at 9 am.

Most of them could not sleep during the 330 km trip by a hired minibus from their village Kanahara west of Guwahati. They reported at the Golaghat North Development Block office before 9 am but were told to wait for their turn.

"We were tired, but the apprehension about what would happen at the hearing kept us awake. It wasn't until

2 pm that we were called for the hearing. We were asked questions for almost two hours by officials who were polite and were made to give an undertaking about the authenticity of the documents and witnesses," Mr. Chand said.

They boarded the minibus soon after the hearing to reach home as early as possible, as the deal for the vehicle at Rs. 18,000 was for returning home by Monday night. The delay in Dergaon had eaten up much of their 'hire time'.

"We are not sure if the officials were satisfied, but at least we made it to the hearing unlike a few others from a nearby village whose bus met with an accident," he

said.

A truck had rammed into a bus carrying 52 people on the outskirts of Guwahati at 11:30 pm on Sunday. At least 20 passengers, who were travelling from Sontoli village near Kanahara for a hearing at an NRC centre in Golaghat, were seriously injured.

"Some were discharged after treatment for minor injuries but about 20, including five-six women, are not out of danger. We will let the NRC authorities know of their inability to attend the hearing," a police officer said.

Bulbuli Bewa, a 60-year-old, said she sold her jewellery and collected her savings from her days as a daily-wager to make the NRC re-verification trip to Sivasagar

district. "The money wasn't enough for us to hire a vehicle," she said.

The Forum Against Citizenship Act Amendment Bill termed the sudden summoning of people for re-verification as "nothing short of authoritarian terrorism".

"The NRC authorities summoned 30,000 people on the rolls for re-verification of papers, asking them to report at faraway places within 24-36 hours. This was despite the Supreme Court rejecting the Centre and State government's petition to allow 20% re-verification as unwarranted.

We condemn such steps and appeal to the authorities concerned," the forum's chairman and retired professor Hiren Gohain said.

Gogoi-led Bench to hear Ayodhya case from today

Out-of-court settlement proves futile

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi will commence hearing on Ayodhya appeals from August 6 on a day-to-day basis.

The Bench decided to hear the appeals after it declared that the efforts to mediate a final settlement between rival Hindu and Muslim parties in the Ayodhya title dispute cases have failed.

The Bench said the appeals of Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla, the Hindu deity, would be heard first.

Meanwhile, a Bench led by Justice S.A. Bobde asked

a petitioner, K.N. Govindacharya, to give a representation for live streaming of the Ayodhya case proceedings before the Constitution Bench.

No equipment

Justice Bobde, during an oral mentioning, told senior advocate Vikas Singh, for Mr. Govindacharya, that the court might not have the equipment for live streaming, but nevertheless, asked the latter to move on the administrative side of the apex court. The court, in a judgment last year, had directed live streaming of important proceedings of national importance.

Jaishankar to visit China ahead of Modi-Xi summit in October

External Affairs Minister to hold talks on bilateral issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will travel to China on August 11 on a three-day visit ahead of the second informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in India in October.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), announcing the visit on Monday, said Mr. Jaishankar would hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.

First visit
It will be Mr. Jaishankar's first visit to China after becoming External Affairs Minister.

The MEA said the two Foreign Ministers would also discuss upcoming high-level visits later this year.

In Beijing, Mr. Jaishankar will also co-chair the second meeting of the India-China High Level Mechanism (HLM) on cultural and people-to-people exchanges on August 12 with Mr. Wang.

Wuhan meet
The decision to establish the HLM was taken during the first informal summit between Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi in Wuhan in April 2018.

The inaugural HLM meeting was held on December 21 last year here.

"The second HLM meeting will provide an opportunity to follow up on the outcomes of the 1st HLM meeting and discuss new initiatives for enhancing people-to-people exchanges between our two countries," the MEA said.

It said the HLM reflected the desire on both sides to build greater synergies in the people-to-people ties between the two countries through enhanced exchanges in areas such as tourism, art, films, culture and sports.

In the second informal summit, Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi are likely to focus on further broadening India-China ties.

The two leaders held their first informal summit in April last year in the Chinese city of Wuhan months after bilateral ties came under severe strain following a 73-day stand-off between the Armies of the two countries in Doklam.

Three Haryana MLAs join BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Two MLAs of the Indian National Lok Dal and one Independent MLA on Monday joined the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in Haryana.

INLD's Ram Chander Kamboj and Naseem Ahmed, joined the BJP in the presence of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and BJP State president Subhash Barala. Jasbir Deswal, an independent MLA, also joined the BJP here.

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INLD's Ram Chander Kamboj and Naseem



A wrong way to end

The special status of J&K was never meant to be permanent, but it should not have been scrapped without wider consultations

Jammu and Kashmir has been a theatre of muscular Hindutva nationalism, in the early decades in script and since 2014 in performance. Adopting a highly militarist approach to separatism, and shunning political process entirely since 2014, the BJP has now delivered on a promise it has long made, by abrogating the special status that Jammu and Kashmir had enjoyed in the Constitution through a combination of executive and parliamentary measures. Additionally, the State is being downgraded and divided into two Union Territories. The mechanism that the government used to railroad its rigid ideological position on Jammu and Kashmir through the Rajya Sabha was both hasty and stealthy. This move will strain India's social fabric not only in its impact on Jammu and Kashmir but also in the portents it holds for federalism, parliamentary democracy and diversity. The BJP-led government has undermined parliamentary authority in multiple ways since 2014, but the passing of legislation as far-reaching as dismembering a State without prior consultations has set a new low. The founding fathers of the Republic favoured a strong Centre, but they were also prudent in seeking the route of persuasion and accommodation towards linguistic and religious minorities in the interest of national integration. The centralising tendencies increased in the following decades, but Hindu nationalists always argued for stronger unitary provisions and viewed all particular aspirations with suspicion. For them, Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional status was an impediment, not an instrument, for the region's integration with the rest of the country.

The entire exercise of getting Article 370 of the Constitution effectively abrogated has been marked by executive excess. The first step was to declare by a presidential decree that the 'Governor' – without regard to the fact that he has no Council of Ministers now to aid and advise him – can speak for the State government and give his concurrence to any modification in the way the Constitution of India applies to Jammu and Kashmir. Second, on the basis of this 'concurrence', the latest Presidential Order scraps the previous one of 1954, abrogating the separate Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir. Third, the fact that the State is under President's Rule has been used to usher in a new dispensation under which Jammu and Kashmir becomes a Union Territory with a legislature and Ladakh another such territory without a legislature. In sum, a purported process to change the constitutional status of a sensitive border State has been achieved without any legislative input or representative contribution from its people. The bifurcation of States in the past cannot be cited as a binding precedent as, under Article 3 of the Constitution, the President seeks the views of the legislature of the States concerned, even if concurrence is not mandatory. In the present scenario, J&K has been represented by an unelected Governor appointed by the Centre, while Parliament has ventured to ratify the conversion of a State into two Union Territories without any recommendation from the State.

If there is a legal challenge to these measures, it would centre around whether such far-reaching steps could be achieved in the absence of a representative government by assuming that its gubernatorial administrator is constitutionally capable of using his consent as that of the entire State. Further, there is a self-enabling aspect to the Presidential Order. It performs a hop-step-and-jump feat. It hops over the requirement of the State government's consent by declaring that the Governor is the State government. It steps over the need for aid and advice by the ministerial council by saying the Governor's opinion is enough. And it jumps over the fact that there is no constituent assembly now by merely reading the term as 'legislative assembly', and letting Parliament perform the role of the State legislature. Thus the President's power under Article 370 has been used both to create an enabling provision and to exercise it immediately to modify the Order, thereby dispensing with the role envisaged for the State Assembly. While it is true that in 1961 the Supreme Court upheld the President's power to 'modify' the constitutional provisions in applying them to J&K, it is a moot question whether this can be invoked to make such a radical change: a functioning State has now been downgraded and bifurcated into two Union Territories. It is inconceivable that any State legislature would ever have recommended its own demotion in status.

True, the special status of J&K was meant to end, but only with the concurrence of its people. The Centre's abrupt move disenfranchised them on a matter that directly affected their life and sentiments. Moreover, that this was done after a massive military build-up and the house arrest of senior political leaders, and the communications shutdown reveals a cynical disregard of democratic norms. It appears that the current government values J&K for its demonstrative impact before the rest of the country, as a place where a strong nation and its strong leader show uncompromising political will. But that may have other unintended consequences. Geographically and metaphorically, Jammu and Kashmir is the crown of secular India – a Muslim majority region in a Hindu majority country. Its people and leaders had chosen secular India over Islamic Pakistan, a fact that Islamists never reconciled with. The BJP's adventurous route also has as backdrop an impending U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan that will trigger an unforeseeable churn in Islamist politics in the region. Islamists have always viewed Kashmir as a component of their global grievances. Whatever its intent in enabling the full integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India, Monday's decision to alter the State's status could have unintended and dangerous consequences.

Piecing together Kashmir's audacious road map

The new doctrine will have to persuade Jammu and Kashmir that greater integration with India holds promise



AMITABH MATTOO

In 1948, the tallest leader of Jammu and Kashmir, Sheikh Abdullah, greeted Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru at Lal Chowk, Srinagar, with a couplet from the Sufi poet, Amir Khusro: "Mun tu shudam tu mun shudi, mun tun shudam tu jaan shudi; Taaks na guyad baad azeen, mun deegaram tu deegari" (I have become you, and you me, I am the body, you soul; So that no one can say hereafter, that you are someone, and me someone else). Five years later, Abdullah was dismissed from office and interned on the instructions of Nehru. Since then the body of Kashmir and the soul of the rest of the country have cohabited restlessly.

On Monday, August 5, 2019, the Narendra Modi government made arguably the most audacious decision of its tenure and probably the boldest decision made by any government on Kashmir since Indira Gandhi arrived at a *modus vivendi* with Sheikh Abdullah in 1975. By moving to revoke the 'special status' granted to the State under Article 370, and by reorganising the State into two Union Territories – Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh – it demonstrated unprecedented chutzpah, but it may have unleashed a chain of events difficult to predict or contain. For one, while even the founding fathers recognised that Article 370 was a transitional or temporary provision, there was a clear subtext; that its revocation would only happen once the acquiescence of the people of the State was obtained.

There is no doubt that the move will be legally challenged on grounds of procedural infirmities and, more substantively, that it un-

dermines the basic feature of the compact between Delhi and Srinagar that was agreed upon in 1947. But beyond the legality, the real test will be on the streets of Srinagar, Jammu and Delhi once the security cordon is lifted from the State. What was unbecoming is the unwillingness to enter into consultation with the mainstream political leaders; in no other State would former Chief Ministers have been dealt with so cavalierly. Similarly, the impression that the move on Article 35A is designed to engineer demographic change rather than to protect the rights of women and other marginal groups of the State, will need to be corrected.

A mirror to geopolitics

The move is clearly embedded in the larger geopolitics of the region and the manner in which regional alliances are marginalising Indian interests in the heartland of the region. With the United States seeking a quick exit from, and willing to let the Inter-Services Intelligence-sponsored Taliban to control Afghanistan (and China deeply embedded in the power play), the heartland of central Asia has rarely been as adverse to Indian interests since 1989, when the Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan. Kashmir could, in these circumstances, become even more vulnerable to external elements than it was in the 1990s.

On top of it, the new camaraderie between U.S. President Donald Trump and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and the repeated 'offer' by Mr. Trump to mediate in Kashmir may have precipitated the decision, which would, however, have in any case taken months of preparation. A decision to cancel the Amarnath yatra and take hard decisions, with both domestic and international ramifications, suggests that the government believed that a settlement in Jammu and Kashmir and its 'pacification' was vital for India's national security.

As a model, Gupkar Road reflected itself in a series of policies that had become predictable; a network of patronage and power that had been gamed by friends and adversaries alike. It sustained a politics of entitlement; be it politicians or newspaper editors or bureaucrats who were kept in good humour on the basis of some chimera-like national interest. The



ity. This was, of course, a marked departure from recent history.

The Gupkar model

Internally, for nearly 70 years, New Delhi managed Jammu and Kashmir (or more precisely the Kashmir Valley) through Srinagar's Gupkar Road. Gupkar Road became a metaphor for the Centre's approach, historically, towards Kashmir. New Delhi's follies and its firmness; its cleverness and its calculations; its vacillating largesse and its ubiquitous Leviathan-like presence, were part of Gupkar's landscape and legacy. Gupkar Road is the meandering gateway to the vistas of the Dal Lake, which runs from the desolate offices of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan at Sonwar to the fading charms of erstwhile royal palaces on the banks of the lake. It is here that security agencies are nested in close comfort with the political and business elite, and where interrogation centres have morphed into "haunted" guest houses.

Since the imposition of Governor's (and now President's) Rule, the State Administrative Council has acted with remarkable alacrity to devolve powers to panchayati raj institutions in the State. Implementation of important schemes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the Mid-Day Meal scheme, Integrated Child Development Services and social forestry projects has been devolved to the panchayats.

The monitoring and supervision of schools and health institutions has also been passed on to the panchayati raj institutions. In addition, panchayats shall also be conducting a quarterly social audit of works and programmes in their area.

Almost in parallel is the Savona

Gupkar model, it was obvious, had become redundant and counterproductive and had incentivised bad politics and the attendant rent seeking and other despicable forms of corruption.

Now, shorn of its ideological fervour, what is seemingly being put in place is a new audacious plan beyond the constitutional interventions. As a start, the Modi plan is fundamentally about directly reaching out to the people without the mediation of either separatist groups or mainstream politicians.

Grass-root reach

Reaching out to the people is seen as being best done by empowering local democracy to its fullest. In the past, the devolution of powers to the panchayats and urban local bodies carried little popular appeal with elected members of the Legislative Assembly, who saw this as directly eroding their authority and had a vested interest in centralising power. One of the key factors, it may be recalled, behind the Centre's disconnection with the Mehbooba Mufti government was its continued unwillingness to hold elections to local bodies.

Since the imposition of Governor's (and now President's) Rule, the State Administrative Council has acted with remarkable alacrity to devolve powers to panchayati raj institutions in the State. Implementation of important schemes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the Mid-Day Meal scheme, Integrated Child Development Services and social forestry projects has been devolved to the panchayats.

Will the Modi plan lead to greater harmony between New Delhi and Srinagar, bringing enduring peace to the body and the soul? If it does, it will have performed an extraordinary national service and resolved one of New Delhi's greatest challenges. For the moment, however, we have to live with the uncertainty that is germane to all high-risk, almost adventurous undertakings.

Amitabh Mattoo is Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

An integration without integrity

More than forced homogenisation with India, Kashmir needs a moral disposition towards truth and honesty



RAJGOPAL SAIKUMAR

Yesterday the Ministry of Law and Justice issued a notification titled The Constitution (Application To Jammu And Kashmir) Order, 2019 overriding the Order of 1954, and in effect scrapping Article 370 of the Constitution.

Nowhere in the world of constitutional-democracies can one see an executive government passing orders to amend the Constitution. This order lacks legality as well as moral legitimacy. I concur with the President of the Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Mehbooba Mufti's claim that the government's decision is illegal, based on insincere politics and constitutional abuse.

Let us backtrack to the political moves that have led to yesterday's notification: On June 20, 2018, under Article 92 of the Constitution of J&K, the State was placed under Governor's Rule after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) withdrew support to its alliance partnership with the PDP. Six months later, in December 2018, Governor's Rule got converted into President's Rule (Article 356 of the Indian Constitution).

Let us be clear about the implications of these tactical manoeuvres of carefully transferring power from a democratically

elected Assembly, to Governor's Rule and then President's Rule. It implies that all the powers of the Government of the State are now vested in the Governor under the superintendence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Given these conditions of severe democratic deficit, the government wrote up an order scrapping Article 370, sent it to itself for "concurrence", and had it signed by the President.

On concurrence

Let us then turn to Article 370(3) which lays down the procedure to amend or repeal Article 370. It states that the President may by notification declare that the article shall cease to be operative provided that it is confirmed by the Constituent Assembly of the State before the President issues such notification.

It says that only with the prior consent of the Constituent Assembly of J&K the presidential order will be valid. But the Constituent Assembly framed the Constitution of J&K and got dissolved. How then must we interpret Article 370(3) if the literal interpretation is not useful? By reading it in terms of its legislative history.

N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar who introduced the provision in the Constituent Assembly of India on October 17, 1949 states: "We have also agreed that the will of the people through the instrument of the Constituent Assembly will determine the Constitution of the State as well as the sphere of Union jurisdiction over the State...the President may, on the recommenda-



tion of that Constituent Assembly, issue an Order that this Article [370] shall either cease to be operative, or shall be operative only subject to such exceptions and modifications as may be specified by him. But before he issued any order of that kind, the recommendation of that Constituent Assembly will be a condition precedent."

A selective reading

To make a complicated legal history short, there was an acknowledgement that the Constituent Assembly, as a representative of the people of J&K, had to give concurrence before a Presidential Order is passed. But how does the Home Minister Amit Shah read Article 370(3)? He has read down the words "Constituent Assembly" to mean "Legislative Assembly of the State"; having cleverly dissolved the Assembly and usurped its power, in effect it is the government that is giving solipsistic concurrence to itself. Such self-indulgent narcissism has led to short-circuiting the entire process in letter and spirit.

The reason the Notification lacks moral legitimacy is because

of the way BJP has read down 'Constituent Assembly' to include even 'President's Rule'. More jurisprudentially, one needs to ask this: what is 'Constituent Assembly'? It is a body of representatives who are the embodiment of the 'constituent power' that is needed to constitute a nation-state into existence. So, at the core of constituent power is democratic consent. India derives its legitimacy from its Constitution, and the Indian Constitution in turn is legitimate because it is supported by a constituent power in the form of democratic consent.

Where in Mr. Shah's interpretation of the words 'Constituent Assembly' is there even an iota of acknowledgment of a constituent power?

Article 370(2) clearly mentions that the concurrence of the State Government needed to be taken only before the Constituent Assembly was convened. There is no mention that the State Legislative Assembly will have these powers after the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly. To read it so is absurd. The Constituent Assembly as the embodiment of constituent power is what creates and authorises, gives birth and grants the power to the legislative assembly. There is no equivalence between a Constituent Assembly and Legislative Assembly. If at all the words 'constituent assembly' in Article 370(3) have to be read down, it has to be done in such a way that its core meaning is saved. For example, it can be read down as meaning a 'special majority' of the State Legislative Assembly constituted

by free and fair elections.

The fact of the matter is that given the democratic deficit, the BJP knows well that legal manipulations are not enough to scrap Article 370. What it needs is the use of force, which is what it has been surreptitiously preparing for over weeks and months. The government has given Kashmiris two options: either assimilate into the mainstream, where mainstream is a code for Hindi, Hindu, Hindustan, or be banished, and evicted by force. That is the tragic state of affairs we have come down to in the name of national unity and integrity.

Salman Rushdie parodies the word 'integrity' in *Shalimar The Clown*: "The key to understanding this position was the word 'integral' and its associated concepts... the Indian effort was to preserve the integrity of the nation. Integrity was a quality to be honoured and an attack on the integrity of the nation was an attack on its honour and was not to be tolerated... Kashmir was an integral part of India. An integer was a whole and India was an integer and fractions were illegal. Fractions caused fractures in the integer and were thus not integral... When truth and integrity conflicted it was integrity that was to be given precedence." Mr. Shah conflates 'integrity' with 'integration'. Integration may involve forced homogenisation but integrity is moral disposition towards truth and honesty.

Rajgopal Saikumar is a doctoral candidate at New York University

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

An Article of faith

With a parliamentary majority on its side, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has implemented a key item on the core agenda of its parent organisation Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) – abrogation of Article 370. The Muslim-majority State's accession to India was premised on its special status. Hence, it is a valid apprehension that the BJP government's unilateral move, done without consulting the stakeholders in the State, may weaken, if not break, the bond between Kashmir and the rest of India and also alter the State's present

demographic profile. The saddest part is that the Central government has given the impression that the Valley's people are less important than its territory.

G. DAVID MILTON,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

■ Any changes to Article 370 require the assent of the State's 'Constituent Assembly'. The Centre may not agree with this provision, but the arrangement made between the then government and the people of Kashmir ought to have been respected and upheld. With one blow, the government has taken the relationship between the

Union and the people of Kashmir to a historic low. It is true that successive governments at the Centre diluted Article 370 to such an extent that it ceased to have any practical meaning. But still, it was that thin string which held Kashmir within the Union of India. The government has behaved like an occupying force imposing its will on a defensive population. One would be a fool to think that the move will not fan further extremist violence. And the way in which this was done, using the iron fist of the state, is a harbinger of times to come.

BIPIN THAIVALAPPIL,
Payyanur, Kerala

■ This move will make all provisions of the Indian Constitution applicable to Jammu & Kashmir. Further, there will be no separate laws for the State. Indian citizens from outside will be able to own land and property in Kashmir. There will be elections once every five years and Central laws will directly apply. People in Kashmir need to realise that their State will have a bright future following the closer integration. However, one wishes that the Centre had obtained the assent of Kashmiris prior to taking such a radical decision.

RIFA DEKA,
Guwahati, Assam

Drug safety

The review of the book *Bottle of Lies* highlights the laxity of drug regulatory authorities in India (Sunday Magazine, "Lessons from Ranbaxy," August 4). The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other Western regulatory agencies ensure that their citizens receive quality drugs. We do not see a similar concern for Indian consumers coming from our national and State drug control authorities. According to reports, over the course of 2015, nearly a third of the warning letters issued by the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research were tied to

violations of safe manufacturing practices in India-based facilities. What intrigues the Indian consumer is: what happens to the millions of formulations that are recalled? India has earned distinction as a supplier of generic drugs and is known as the pharmacy of the world. This goodwill and reputation will be seriously compromised if the pharmaceutical industry fails to restore confidence of drug authorities in other countries and of the Indian consumer.

H.N. RAMAKRISHNA,
Bengaluru

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A ND-NDE

Clouds of uncertainty over Afghanistan

There can be no peace unless the Taliban and Afghan security forces de-escalate



RAKESH SOOD

After Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's 'successful' visit to Washington last month, another round of Doha talks between the U.S. and the Taliban has started. U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad was in a hurry to go to Doha via Islamabad to ensure that Pakistan will deliver. On July 31 he tweeted, "In Doha, if the Taliban do their part, we will do ours, and conclude the agreement we have been working on".

U.S. policy reversal

U.S. President Donald Trump has reversed his Afghanistan policy over the past two years. The 2017 policy aimed at breaking the military stalemate in Afghanistan by authorising an additional 4,000 soldiers, giving U.S. forces a freer hand to go after the Taliban, putting Pakistan on notice, and strengthening Afghan capabilities. Within a year, it became clear that the policy was not working. The U.S. failed to understand that no insurgency can be defeated as long as it enjoys sanctuary. Direct talks with the Taliban began with the appointment of Mr. Khalilzad. But soon, the U.S. realised that it needed the Pakistan army's help to get the Taliban to the negotiating table. A politically savvy Khalilzad understood that his negotiating time frame was governed by President Trump's re-election due in 2020; therefore any deal had to be concluded before the end of 2019. This reality wasn't lost on either the Taliban or the Pakistan army; time was on their side.

While the U.S. maintained that the seventh round of Doha talks would cover four issues – a cessation of hostilities; assurance from the Taliban that Afghan territory would not be used for attacking U.S. interests; and U.S. troop withdrawal – the Taliban made it clear that its priority was the last issue. It rejected a ceasefire, instead launching its spring offensive, Operation Fath, as well as talks with the Afghan government, describing it as a "puppet regime". The Taliban



"The Afghan government has lost credibility." A suicide attack on Amrullah Saleh, the candidate for vice president, at his party office in Kabul marked the beginning of the campaigning period in Kabul. ■ NYT

provided some assurances on the third issue but kept demanding a firm date for U.S. troop withdrawal.

The Taliban relented on the second issue, an intra-Afghan peace dialogue, when pushed by Pakistan. In early July, it met with an Afghan delegation, which included some officials who were present in their personal capacity.

The quid pro quo for Pakistan for delivering on this soon emerged in Mr. Khan's meeting with Mr. Trump on July 22. On January 1, 2018, Mr. Trump had accused Pakistan of "lies and deceit". He tweeted that while the U.S. had given Pakistan "\$33 billion in aid", Pakistan was providing a "safe haven to terrorists". He conveyed his displeasure by cutting off \$1.3 billion of assistance. Nearly 18 months later, with Mr. Khan standing beside him, Mr. Trump told the world that "Pakistan is going to help us out to extricate ourselves".

Mr. Khan cleverly tickled Mr. Trump's ego by suggesting that as the leader of the "most powerful country in the world", he could "play an important role in bringing peace in the subcontinent". Mr. Trump lapped it up and offered his mediation skills to help resolve the Kashmir problem, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had himself suggested it during their exchange in Osaka, a claim that was promptly rejected by the Indian authorities. As a downpayment for the next round of Doha talks, the U.S. also cleared a \$125 million support package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet.

Meanwhile, elections in Afghani-

stan have been postponed twice and will now be held on September 28 to give time for the Doha talks. The Afghan government has lost credibility and there is little support for its term being extended. A deteriorating security environment makes it difficult for a credible election to be held. Afghan security forces are losing 25 to 30 men daily, a toll that is depleting ranks and dampening morale.

Campaigning kicked off on July 28 and was marked by a suicide attack on Amrullah Saleh, the candidate for vice president as Ashraf Ghani's running mate, at his party office in Kabul. Mr. Saleh had a narrow escape but the suicide attack claimed over 20 lives. Mr. Saleh has been among the most vocal critics of the hasty reconciliation process and the U.S.'s gullibility at reposing faith in the Pakistan army. A close aide to the former Northern Alliance leader Ahmad Shah Massoud, Mr. Saleh has long been targeted by the Taliban.

The Taliban is not going to take part in the election, and once a deal is concluded, its demand will be for an interim government. Even if elections take place, an elected government would soon find itself at cross purposes with the interim government. Further, a number of promised electoral reforms are yet to be implemented.

An interim government would prepare the ground for fresh elections after constitutional amendments and electoral reforms that would be decided by the traditional Loya Jirga process over two years.

However, this approach is strongly opposed by the more secular and liberal Afghan groups, including women, who see it as a step back from the democratic rights and principles enshrined in the 2004 Constitution. There is a deepening sense of unease and betrayal in the Afghan government which feels that its legitimacy is being eroded by the U.S. tacitly making deals and leaving it in the lurch.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has already indicated September 1 as a deadline for concluding the Doha process. Instead of a messy and contentious election, an interim government would provide a better environment for the U.S. to manage its exit in keeping with the 2020 election calendar.

Continuing uncertainties

The reality is that there can be no peace unless the Taliban and Afghan security forces de-escalate, and this will require talks between the Taliban and the government. The Taliban wants to bypass this by entering government through the back door, using the interim structure. Such a move is likely to create strains within the Afghan security forces which needs a clear chain of command to function. There is a rise in ethnic polarisation in Afghanistan. With the emergence of the Islamic State, there is growing evidence of sectarian polarisation. Any dilution of the cohesiveness of the Afghan security forces, which are dependent on external funding (primarily the U.S.), would dramatically increase the risks of fragmentation of Afghanistan.

All Afghans are tired of conflict, want peace, and accept that this requires reconciliation. But not all Afghans want peace on the terms of reconciliation dictated by the Taliban. Today 74% of the Afghan population is below 30 years and has lived for most part in a conservative but open society. That is why there is no national consensus on reconciliation. In the absence of a national consensus, external actors are able to intervene to support their own favourites. But that is not Mr. Trump's problem. The U.S.'s exit will end its long war in Afghanistan but growing political uncertainties will only exacerbate Afghanistan's ongoing conflict.

Rakesh Sood is a former diplomat and currently a Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation

The importance of finding funding

Investors should not be punished based on one-off events



GOPAL SRINIVASAN

Last week saw an outpouring of grief nationwide over the tragic decision made by an Indian entrepreneur to end his life. V.G. Siddhartha of Café Coffee Day had built a pioneering consumer business and acquired one of the largest retail footprints in the food and beverage space in India, attracting marquee investors. His story is a stark reminder that entrepreneurship is a journey of highs and lows, which doesn't just require capability and risk appetite on the part of the promoter but also demands great resilience.

Along with commiserations, the incident has also attracted some sweeping criticism – uninformed and unjustified – of the business practices of the private equity and venture capital industry. The truth is that the risk capital supplied by venture capital investors has been invaluable to entrepreneurship in India, where promoter funding by banks is frowned upon and founders are forced to rely on family and friends or take recourse to high-cost informal debt.

Spigot remained open in tough times

In the past decade, the ₹14 lakh crore of capital supplied by private equity and venture capital funds has played a pivotal role in birthing and scaling up over 4,000 Indian ventures. In addition to creating millions of jobs, firms funded by these investors pay more taxes, are better governed and make efficient use of scarce capital. This has resulted in the co-creation of popular consumer franchises like Ola, Swiggy and Paytm; bank-rolled roads, airports, oil pipelines and telecommunications assets; and aided the crucial economic task of deleveraging distressed firms. This spigot of private capital has remained open for Indian ventures even as the economy and public markets have witnessed sharp ups and downs.

In fact, private investors have come to play such an important role in the Indian economy that their annual investments amounting to 1%-1.5% of the GDP, once believed to be sufficient to meet the country's growth aspirations, are now proving inadequate. India's economy is reaping its demographic dividends and young entrepreneurs and mature mega firms are taking make-or-break bets on the consumer markets.

Banking and insurance companies require

billions of dollars in equity capital, privatisation is now on the anvil and an ambitious infrastructure build-out is transforming Tier-II towns. India will now need to attract private capital amounting to 3%-4% of GDP for the 'Great March' that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off to \$5 trillion GDP. This is why it is important that policymakers or entrepreneurs do not take their eye off the ball based on one-off incidents.

The equity vs. debt argument

There has also been criticism of private equity investors for focussing on debt deals. Today, private capital pools offer many classes of assets, from venture to private equity to venture debt to promoter funding to hybrid instruments. It is only at the promoter's best that private capital providers structure capital infusions as debt rather than equity deals. Further, promoters are often reluctant to cede control in their ventures and hence end up taking capital in the form of debt.

That's the fallacy of the infamous Indian promoter's 'curse'. Promoters embrace the double jeopardy of wanting to be in 'control' (the magic number of 51%) of their venture, while also believing that their equity is undervalued by the markets. Full of optimism about future pricing, they often resort to high-cost borrowings by pledging their shares. The result becomes evident during volatile times. As to the cost of debt, it must also be understood that the main mandate of private equity investors is to measure, underwrite and price risk. Structured as a limited-life closed-end funds, they have a contractual obligation and fiduciary duty to meet the return expectations of their investors and to return the capital within a relatively short time frame of five-seven years.

But the Siddhartha incident does have one major takeaway: founders in India need more equity funding, so that they can avoid the curse of overleveraging. When entrepreneurs take on aggressively priced debt payable within stringent timelines, it exposes their venture to extreme fragility.

Equity capital in contrast is patient. Companies with growth ambitions should therefore be ideally funded with 40%-50% equity, which can act as their lifeboats in difficult times. Equity funding makes sense for private investors too, as it allows a longer runway to scale up a business. This results in a larger pie for everyone – the founder, investors, lenders and the economy. However, punishing capital based on one event can prove to be a capital punishment for India's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Gopal Srinivasan is the founder of TVS Capital Funds

Code Red for labour

The proposed codes disempower workers

AKRITI BHATIA & CHANDAN KUMAR

countability in the case of irregularities on the part of the contractors.

Slavery-like provision

And if all this were not enough, the wage code also brings back the draconian provision of "recoverable advances", a system that the Supreme Court clearly linked to coercive and bonded labour, wherein distressed and vulnerable migrant labourers could be bonded to work through advance payments. This is akin to modern forms of slavery, also encountered in rural labour markets.

Similarly, the eight-hour workday shift has been done away with, and multiple provisions of increased overtime have been inserted. The code also gives ample alibis to employers to evade bonus payments.

Further, seeking justice against un-

fair practices of employers has become even more difficult now as non-payment of wages will now not be a criminal offence and penalties in case of non-compliance have been reduced. The government wants to provide a "facilitative" rather than a regulatory and punitive environment for the owners, with "facilitators-cum-inspectors" replacing the "inspectors" who used to ensure implementation of various labour laws to aid employees.

Finally, the code on industrial relations too is replete with restrictions, on forming or registering unions, calling a strike (which would entail prior permissions and notices) and seeking legal redressal for workers. To sum it up, it won't be a fallacy to assert that the proposed laws, as they stand, resemble 'employer codes' rather than 'labour laws'.

Akruti Bhatia is a Ph.D. scholar at the Delhi School of Economics; Chandan Kumar works with the Working Peoples' Charter collective



To minimise wage bills and compliance requirements, it is proposed that 'apprentices' be no longer considered employees, at a time when evidence indicates that apprentices are made to do jobs of contractual as well as permanent employees. The code even has a provision on "employees below fifteen years of age", which can be construed as legalisation of child labour. The code on wages legitimises and promotes further contractualisation of labour, instead of abolishing it, by insulating the principal employer from liabilities and ac-

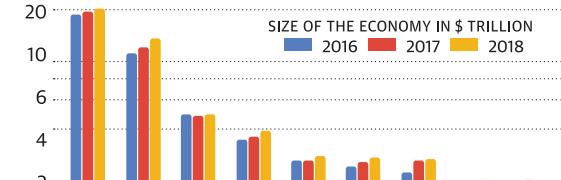


DATA POINT

Downturn continues

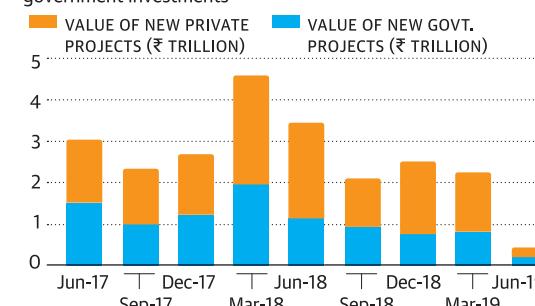
Drop in position | In 2017, the size of the Indian economy stood at \$2.65 tn, the fifth largest. In 2018, India's economy in \$ terms grew by 3.01% to \$2.73 tn. But in the same period, the U.K. and France grew by 6.8% and 7.3%, respectively, pushing India to the seventh place in the World Bank's GDP rankings in 2018.

By Vignesh Radhakrishnan and Suman Sen

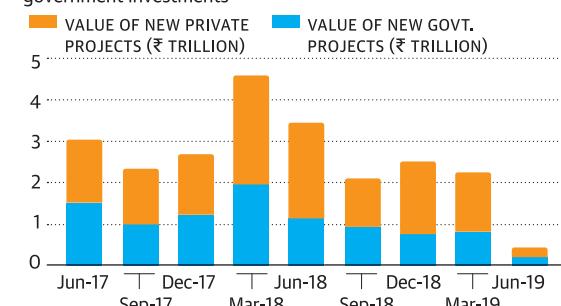


Investment woes | Investments in new projects nosedived to a 15-year low in the quarter ending June 2019. The drop in value of new projects was driven by a dip in both private and government investments.

■ VALUE OF NEW PRIVATE PROJECTS (₹ TRILLION) ■ VALUE OF NEW GOVT. PROJECTS (₹ TRILLION)

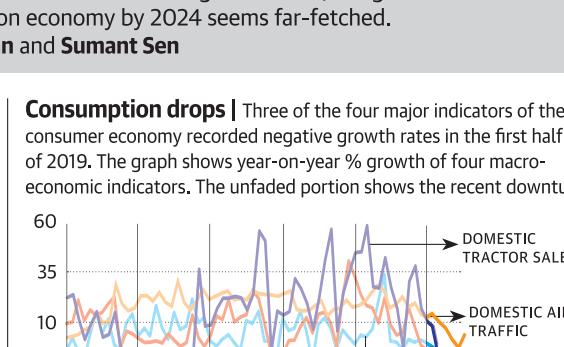


■ EARLIER FORECAST (%) ■ REVISED FORECAST (%)



Source: World Bank, SIAM, DGCA, Tractors Manufacturers Association, CMIE, IMF, ADB, CRISIL

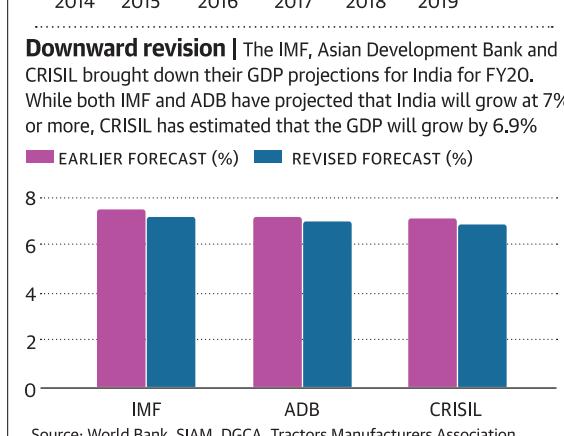
Consumption drops | Three of the four major indicators of the consumer economy recorded negative growth rates in the first half of 2019. The graph shows year-on-year % growth of four macro-economic indicators. The unfaded portion shows the recent downturn



■ DOWNWARD REVISION | The IMF, Asian Development Bank and CRISIL brought down their GDP projections for India for FY20.

While both IMF and ADB have projected that India will grow at 7% or more, CRISIL has estimated that the GDP will grow by 6.9%.

■ REVISED FORECAST (%) ■ EARLIER FORECAST (%)



Source: World Bank, SIAM, DGCA, Tractors Manufacturers Association, CMIE, IMF, ADB, CRISIL

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 6, 1969

Ice-filled craters on Mars

Television pictures of the Martian South Pole flashed 60 million miles across space last night [August 4] showed ice-filled craters on the edge of the Polar Cap and stretching deep into the Polar region. Scientists at the jet propulsion laboratory here [Pasadena (California)] said pictures transmitted live as the Mariner-7 spacecraft soared across the Martian Pole at a height of 2,000

FROM PAGE ONE

J&K loses special status, divided into two UTs

The provisions of Article 370 will cease to exist from the date the President of India issues a notification after the Lok Sabha passes the resolution on Tuesday.

Mr. Shah termed Article 370 discriminatory on the basis of gender, class, caste and place of origin, adding it was "temporary in the first place and it has to go in the larger interest of the people of the State." He said that from 2004 to 2019, the Centre sent over ₹2,77,000 crore to the State, but it did not percolate to the masses.

"In 2011-12, the Centre spent ₹3,683 per person in

the rest of India and ₹14,255 per person in J&K. In 2017-18 the Centre spent ₹8,227 per person in the rest of India whereas in J&K it spent ₹27,258 per person. Even then there was no development in the State because of corruption. 370 stopped anti-corruption bodies to function in the State. A monopoly was there," Mr. Shah said.

Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad described the move as murder of the Constitution and democracy by the BJP-led government, stating that the accession of J&K to India had happened through Article 370.

India briefs envoys on J&K move

"Senior MEA officials are briefing the envoys of several countries, including permanent members of U.N., on proposals related to Article 370 of the Indian Constitution and administrative reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir that were introduced in Parliament today," said a source, indicating that the envoys were told that the legislative procedure was an "internal" affair of India.

Diplomats were told that the Indian parliamentary move was aimed at ensuring "good governance, promoting social justice and ensuring economic development" in Jammu and Kashmir.

Following India's move, Pakistan maintained that the territory continues to remain an international dispute. "No unilateral step by the Government of India can change this disputed status, as enshrined in the United Nations Security

Council resolutions. Nor will this ever be acceptable to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan. As a party to this international dispute, Pakistan will exercise all possible options to counter the illegal steps," said the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Imran Khan had called for international mediation on Kashmir, citing escalating tension over Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that Islamabad would display "abiding commitment to the Kashmir cause." Continuing the Pakistani argument, the statement from the spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry reiterated that Islamabad would continue to extend support in the quest of "inalienable right to self-determination" of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The AAP, which has three

Congress chief whip in RS resigns

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

After a day of high drama in the Rajya Sabha, the Opposition lost the vote against the J&K Reorganisation Bill, 2019, with just 61 votes against 125 in favour. Three key Opposition parties, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), supported the government, while a Congress ally, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), chose to abstain.

The AAP, which has three

members, was with the Opposition when it trooped inside the Well in the morning, protesting the legislation. The AAP's Sanjay Singh had even moved a motion to suspend business to discuss the Kashmir situation. But an afternoon tweet by Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal saw the party change tack. "We support the government on its decisions on J&K. We hope this will bring peace and development in the State," Mr. Kejriwal posted on Twitter.

"Telugu Desam Party sup-

ports the Union Govt as it seeks to repeal Article 370. I pray for the peace and prosperity of the people of J&K," TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu tweeted. TDP has two members.

BSP president Mayawati is yet to explain her party's support for the Bill. The BSP has four members.

JD(U) walks out

The parties which opposed the Bill included the Congress, the DMK, the SP, the RJD, the CPI(M), the CPI, the Muslim League, the Kerala

Congress and the MDMK. The Trinamool Congress walked out at the last minute, just before voting. The Janata Dal(U), a key NDA ally, walked out in the middle of the debate after opposing the legislation.

The AIADMK, Lok Jan Shakti Party, Republican Party of India, Akali Dal, Shiv Sena, YSR Congress Party, Telangana Rashtra Samithi and Biju Janata Dal all voted in support of the legislation.

Two MPs from the J&K Peoples Democratic Party, Nazir Ahmad Laway and Mir

Two PDP MPs seek Opposition help

'Govt. needs to break its silence'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Two Peoples Democratic Party members of the Rajya Sabha have written to the Opposition parties seeking their support to get answers from the government in Parliament on the situation in Kashmir.

Nazir Ahmad Laway and Mir Mohd Fayaz, in a joint letter to the parties, said their own attempts to seek answers all of last week failed and they needed the Opposition to help amplify the issue. They were evicted by marshals from the Rajya Sabha after one of them tore the copy of the Constitution. Sporting black band on his arm, Mir Mohammad Fayaz trooped into the well of the House as soon as Home Minister Amit Shah announced the resolutions and introduced the two Bills.

"The people do not know as to what is cooking in the top brass of the present government vis-a-vis the Kashmir issue," they noted in the letter. The government needed to "break its si-



Mir Mohammad Fayaz and Nazir Ahmed Laway in Parliament on Monday.

lence" and make a statement to settle the matter. Over the past few days, there had been the "most irresponsible speculation" on the revocation of Article 35A, Article 370 and trifurcation of the State, the PDP MPs said. The Kashmir problem was a political one and could only be settled politically, they said. "But the present political dispensation in our country is hell-bent upon browbeating the concerted efforts of mainstream leaders and thwarting all political efforts which are seeking answers from the Centre," they said.

NDA has cut off India's head: Azad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Despite strong protests from Congress members in the Rajya Sabha against taking away the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, opinions were divided in the Congress on the issue.

Former Rajya Sabha member and veteran Congress leader Janardan Dwivedi said a historical wrong has been corrected. "A mistake of history has been corrected today, albeit late," he said.

Former Lok Sabha member Milind Deora too did not oppose the Centre's move. "Parties should put aside ideological fixations and debate what is best for India's sovereignty and federalism, peace in J&K, jobs for Kashmiri youth and justice for Kashmiri Pandits," he said.

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad, on Monday accused the government of doing vote-bank politics over Article 370.

At a press conference in the Parliament complex, Mr. Azad said the BJP government had "cut off India's head and weakened the country". August 5 would be written in black in India's history, he alleged. "The NDA has cut off India's head and the BJP is responsible for weakening India ... People of Jammu and Kashmir and the people of India - from Srinagar to Kanyakumari, from Sikkim to Gujarat - will fight against this," he said.

"We had never dreamt that the NDA would go to this extent of finishing off the identity and existence of J&K," he said.

Darjeeling parties seek UT status

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Taking a cue from the Centre's decision to reorganise Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, the political parties in the Darjeeling Hills on Monday demanded a similar status for the region in West Bengal. They argued that the status of Union Territory would be the best solution to the demand for a Gorkhaland state.

Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) leader Bimal Gurung congratulated the Centre, and hoped that it would also consider the demand of the Darjeeling.

Cong. MPs tear resolution copy

Cracks in Opposition seen as BJD, BSP, TDP back scrapping of special status for J&K

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Opposition leaders (L-R) Manoj Jha (RJD), Tiruchi Siva (DMK), P. Chidambaram (Congress), Ghulam Nabi Azad (Congress), Derek O'Brien (TMC) and others in New Delhi. ■ R.V.MOORTHY

Protesting over the manner in which Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced the resolution to amend Article 370 in the Lok Sabha on Monday, Congress members Hibi Eden and Ramya Haridas tore up a copy of the resolution on the floor of the House.

Opposition MPs from the Congress, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, the Trinamool and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) walked out of the Lok Sabha since the government only placed the resolution nullifying Article 370 that provides for special status to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

Deputy leader of the Lok Sabha and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh accused the Opposition of disrespecting the Chair.

Cracks in the Opposition could be seen as parties such as the Biju Janata Dal, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Telugu Desam Party supported the resolution, while others such as the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) did not walk out despite their opposition

to the government move. Mr. Shah introduced the presidential resolution soon after the Lok Sabha passed the Surrogacy Bill. Though Congress members protested, Speaker Om Birla allowed the introduction by a voice vote.

However, loud protests began after Mr. Birla started Zero Hour.

T.R. Baalu of the DMK asked the Speaker to give protection to the Opposition members to express them-

selves, while the AIMIM's Mr. Owaisi asked why the Speaker allowed a division of votes.

"Whenever the Opposition asked for division, I have allowed division," Mr. Birla said.

'In the dark'

National Conference member Hasnain Masoodi, who represents the Anantnag Lok Sabha seat in J&K, said the people of the State were in the dark about the develop-

ment, with all channels of communication cut off and former Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and Farooq Abdullah all in detention. "Where is the Bill? This House doesn't have a tradition of bringing a resolution before a Bill," said Trinamool's Saugata Roy.

Responding to the Oppo-

nition

tion's points, the Speaker said all their apprehensions could be answered on Tues-

day when the House takes

up the debate for passage.

Opposition divided, Rajya Sabha passes Bill

BSP, TDP and AAP support the government, while NCP member chooses to abstain from voting

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

After a day of high drama in the Rajya Sabha, the Opposition lost the vote against the J&K Reorganisation Bill, 2019, with just 61 votes against 125 in favour. Three key Opposition parties, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), supported the government, while a Congress ally, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), chose to abstain.

The AAP, which has three

members, was with the Opposition when it trooped inside the Well in the morning, protesting the legislation. The AAP's Sanjay Singh had even moved a motion to suspend business to discuss the Kashmir situation. But an afternoon tweet by Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal saw the party change tack. "We support the government on its decisions on J&K. We hope this will bring peace and development in the State," Mr. Kejriwal posted on Twitter.

"Telugu Desam Party sup-

ports the Union Govt as it seeks to repeal Article 370. I pray for the peace and prosperity of the people of J&K," TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu tweeted. TDP has two members.

BSP president Mayawati is yet to explain her party's support for the Bill. The BSP has four members.

JD(U) walks out

The parties which opposed the Bill included the Congress, the DMK, the SP, the RJD, the CPI(M), the CPI, the Muslim League, the Kerala

Mohammad Fayaz, were marshalled out for tearing the Constitution in the House.

Of the NCP's four mem-

bers, only Vandana Chavan

was present during the vote,

and she abstained.

"From 11 a.m. we have been seeing procedural hara kiri and constitutional im-

morality," Trinamool floor leader Derek O'Brien said.

"On behalf of the Trinamool, we can't see this any more. Our MPs are stuck in midair somewhere. In anguish we walk out," Mr. O'Brien said.

Former Lok Sabha mem-

ber Milind Deora too did

not oppose the Centre's

move. "Parties should put aside ideological fixations and debate what is best for India's sovereignty and federalism, peace in J&K, jobs for Kashmiri youth and justice for Kashmiri Pandits," he said.

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad, on Monday accused the government of doing vote-bank politics over Article 370.

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"The NDA has cut off India's head and the BJP is responsible for weakening India ... People of Jammu and Kashmir and the people of India - from Srinagar to Kanyakumari, from Sikkim to Gujarat - will fight against this," he said.

"We had never dreamt that the NDA would go to this extent of finishing off the identity and existence of J&K," he said.

Centre issues alert to all States, UTs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Home Ministry issued an alert to all States and Union Territories to ensure the safety and security of Kashmiris, especially students, in the wake of the Centre's decision to remove the application of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

The J&K administration was also asked to keep a watch on the possibility of "rebellion among the unformed personnel".

The Ministry also asked all States and Union Territories to inspire confidence among Kashmiris and to "sensitise the public against any mischief or breach of peace".

As per the article, except for defence, foreign affairs, finance and communications, Parliament needs the State government's concurrence for applying all other laws.

Prohibitory orders
Massive security deployment was made with prohibitory orders clamped across the State before the government announced the decision to scrap Article 370.

"My two children are studying outside the State and there is no contact with them. I know they will be worried about the situation here and I also don't know how they are doing," Mr. Bhat, who was in Jammu, said.

Fatima Bano, a middle-aged entrepreneur, said she has been praying for normalcy ever since she came to know about the government's decision to revoke Article 370.

"Will revoking Article 370 end the decades-long unrest in Kashmir? I don't believe in this theory," she said, asserting that Article 370 or Article 35A was no hindrance for the return of Kashmiri migrant Pandits to their homes as they have been natives of the Valley for centuries.

"It was the law and order

system which is the biggest hurdle in their return," she added.

Kashmiris who have moved to Jammu permanently were also worried about their families back home after the government made its decision on Article 370 public.

"We don't know how the situation will develop after the curfew-like restrictions are withdrawn. We feel we are heading for the worst of times," he said.

He expressed disappointment over snapping of phone and internet connectivity and said people in the Valley have totally been disconnected from the outside world.

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How Article 370 came about

The government on Monday issued a decree abolishing Article 370 of the Constitution, which gives special autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir. The Article had limited the power of the Parliament to impose laws in the State. A look at the events that led to J&K receiving special status

**1947**

- During an important year in India's history, Maharaja Hari Singh of the Dogra lineage was the ruler of J&K

Jawaharlal Nehru with Hari Singh during a visit to Srinagar in 1948. ■ PIB

November 1, 1858

- Half of Indian territories were princely States at the time of "Queen Victoria's proclamation" which effectively said that the queen would govern India

August 1947

- Jammu and Kashmir was one such princely State ruled by kings of the Dogra lineage under the British who were the ultimate power
- At the time of Indian independence, there were 565 princely States

October 1947

- The king of the border State did not sign the instrument of accession in favour of either India or Pakistan and remained indecisive
- After the withdrawal of the British, barely months after independence, armed tribesmen invaded Kashmir from the Pakistan border. King Hari Singh wrote a letter to Lord Mountbatten, the Governor General of India, seeking help. He attached a signed Instrument of Accession to India
- The Governor General of India signed the acceptance.

According to the instrument, defence, external affairs and communications were transferred to India's governance and the rest would be retained by the ruler

March 1948

- Hari Singh made a proclamation to convene a National Assembly and work out a new constitution for the State
- Sheikh Abdullah was appointed as Prime Minister of an interim government in the State of Jammu and Kashmir
- The Governor General of India issued a proclamation accepting the instrument of accession

June 20, 1949

- Hari Singh, through a proclamation, transferred powers to his son Yuvraj Karan Singh Bahadur



Former Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru with Sheikh Abdullah, Indira Gandhi and others. ■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

November 26, 1949

- Indian Constitution adopted
- The Constitution came into effect and India became a democratic Republic

January 26, 1950

- The Constitution of J&K was adopted
- Yuvraj Karan Singh issued a proclamation

August 1953

- Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah was dismissed by Karan Singh

August 1953

- Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed was appointed as PM. Sheikh Abdullah was imprisoned

February 1954

- J&K's Constituent Assembly ratified the State's accession to India. The process of integration with India was complete
- Internal administration was retained by the State
- But unlike most of the other princely States, which accepted the Constitution of India in totality, J&K's relationship to India was guided only based on the Instrument of Accession

Trump remark was quick trigger for overnight shake-up

Home Minister had been determined to change the status quo in the State, but U.S. President's statement added a certain urgency to the matter

NISTULA HEBBAR

NEW DELHI

The Union government's move to extend all provisions of the Indian Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir, stripping away certain special privileges of the State and reorganising it into two Union Territories were dictated by domestic and international situations.

According to senior sources in the government, the BJP's ideological imperative of doing away with Article 370 has been always there, but the impetus for it was provided first by Union Home Minister Amit Shah's determination to change the status quo in the State and also events in the past two weeks, after U.S. President Donald Trump publicly said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had approached him to play mediator for the dispute in the State.

The Union government, of course, denied any such conversation with Mr. Trump, but the realisation in government circles was to do something that would demonstrate that it was irreversibly opposed to U.S. mediation.

"Ever since the BJP withdrew support to the Mehbooba Mufti government and Governor's Rule and then President's rule were imposed in the State, the government took many measures to make a change in the status quo, including setting up an Anti-Corruption Bureau and the raids on Jammu and Kashmir Bank. The biggest move was the conduct of the panchayat elections in the State. There was always a thinking that Article 35A needed to be done away with and a delimitation exercise had to be conducted for the State, something that had been done for the rest of the country," a senior Minister said.

It was, however, Mr. Trump's statement that added a certain urgency to the matter. Government floor managers were told by Mr. Shah to explore how to get a majority in the Upper House, where the NDA does not otherwise have one. The creeping acquisition of a majority in the Rajya Sabha was under way with the merger of the Telugu Desam parliamentary group in the Rajya Sabha into the BJP (with four out of its six MPs joining the BJP) and the merger of the Indian National Lok Dal group (one MP) and the resignation of two Samajwadi Party MPs, Neeraj Shekhar and Surendra Nagar.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, and Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Piyush Goyal and Rajya Sabha member Bhupendra Yadav then worked the phones in the past four days to persuade parties whose ideological position was close to that of the BJP on the issue. Some were told that the matter was about Jammu and Kashmir. NDA allies were also spoken to and whips issued. The weekend saw Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad getting ready the drafts of the Bills that were passed on Monday. The Bills were carried with a two-thirds majority in the Rajya Sabha.

"There were credible threats to security as well, which is why everything was kept hush-hush," a Minister said.

The underlying principle behind all this was to shake the post-Independence status quo.

BACKGROUNDER

How J&K's status is being changed

Provisions forming the basis of separate Constitution annulled

K. VENKATARAMAN

CHENNAI

The special status enjoyed by Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution was considered temporary, and it will cease to be operative if the President issues a public notification to that effect. However, prior to that, a recommendation is necessary from the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir.

As a result of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir had its own Constitution, and laws passed by Parliament were not applicable to the State unless the State government gave its concurrence.

The President is empowered to decide what provisions of the Constitution of India would be applicable to the State and what are the exceptions, but with the State government's concurrence.

The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954, lists the Articles and provisions that apply to J&K. These special measures can be altered only on the recommendation of the Sadar-i-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir, acting on the advice of the Council of Ministers or by the "Constituent Assembly" of that State. As of now, there is no "Constituent Assembly".

This is how the Modi government changed the special status of Kashmir:

■ President Ram Nath Kovind issued a presidential order under Article 370(I) of the Constitution. This clause enables the President to specify the matters which are applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. As it can be issued only with the Jammu and Kashmir government's concurrence, the notification uses the words "with the concurrence of the Government of



Jawaharlal Nehru with Sheikh Abdullah. ■ THE HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

the State of Jammu and Kashmir". This presumably means the Governor, who is now administering the State under President's Rule, has given his concurrence on behalf of the State government.

■ The Order supersedes the 1954 Order. This effectively means that all the provisions that formed the basis of a separate "Constitution" of Jammu and Kashmir stand abrogated. The Order declares that all the provisions of the Constitution of India, shall apply to Jammu and Kashmir too.

■ However, some special measures were still needed for the scrapping of Article 370 altogether. Therefore, a few clauses were added to Article 367 of the Constitution, which contains "Interpretations". They contain guidance on how to read or interpret some provisions.

The new clauses say, when applicable to Jammu and Kashmir, all references to the "Sadar-i-Riyasat", acting on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, will be construed as references to the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

All references to the State

government shall mean "the Governor". And most importantly, the reference to the "Constituent Assembly" in a proviso to Article 370 (3) has been amended to read "Legislative Assembly of the State". This is the proviso that says the President can declare that Article 370 is no more operative only on the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly.

As there is no Constituent Assembly in existence now, there is no body to "recommend" the demise of Article 370. Therefore, the State Assembly has to play that role.

The government has made use of the fact that Jammu and Kashmir is under President's Rule, during which Parliament performs the legislative functions of the State Assembly.

Thus, when Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced two resolutions, one, to recommend that the President issue a notification rendering Article 370 inoperative, and another to accept the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, Parliament was ostensibly acting on the State government's recommendation.

Wide powers for Lieutenant Governor

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill of 2019, passed by the Rajya Sabha on Monday, means that the new Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir would be administered/governed like Puducherry.

The Bill proposes wide powers to the Lieutenant-Governor of the proposed Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and makes it the "duty" of the Chief Minister to "communicate" all administrative decisions and proposals for legislation to the L-G.

Moreover, all Central and State laws of J&K would apply to the new Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh. Assets and liabilities of J&K and Ladakh would be apportioned on the recommendation of a Central Committee within a year.

Employees of State public sector undertakings and autonomous bodies would continue in their posts for another year until their allocations are determined.

The police and public order are to be with the Centre.

The tabling of the proposed Reorganisation Bill is also proof that the long reign of the 1954 order has ended. The 1954 order had introduced a proviso to Article 3, namely that "no Bill providing for increasing or diminishing the area of the State of Jammu and Kashmir or altering the name or boundary of that State shall be introduced in Parliament without the consent of the Legislature of that State."



A year ago: In this photo dated August 5, 2018, Kashmiri traders stage a protest against a petition to the Supreme Court challenging Article 35A. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

What the repeal of Article 35A entails

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

CHENNAI

What does Article 35A convey? What does its abrogation entail?

Included in the Constitution through a presidential order of May 1954, the provision is apparently based on the principle of safeguarding the interests of "sons of the soil", apart from drawing strength through Article 370.

An offshoot of the 1952 Delhi Agreement between Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of the country, and Sheikh Abdullah, Premier of J&K, the provision envisages the creation of a group of persons, "permanent residents" who are entitled to be provided "special rights and privileges" in matters such as employment in the State government and acquisition of immovable property.

In addition to raising the question of the constitutionality of the provision on the ground that the inclusion was not made through a legislative route, critics of the Article often point out how "discriminatory" the provision has been towards women who marry "non-permanent residents". The popular interpretation of the law is that such women lose their rights and privileges. Though the President.

There are two models – Puducherry and the National Capital Territory of Delhi – which can guide the proposed Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir on becoming a Union Territory. While the former seems to be having no restriction with regard to framing laws on the three subjects. It was through an enabling provision – 239 A – that the Puducherry legislature was formed, whereas, in the case of Delhi, the provision – 239AA – spells out the contours of powers of the legislature and council of ministers.

With regard to Ladakh, where there is no Legislative Assembly, the role of the Administrator or Lt. Governor will be greater than that of J&K. His source of authority is the President.

Kashmiri Pandits hail decision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Kashmiri Pandits, displaced from the Valley in the 1990s, on Monday hailed the amendment to Article 370 of the Constitution as a "historic event", and hoped it would pave the way for their return to the homeland with honour and dignity.

The Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora (GKPD), a body representing the community across the world, said the decision cemented the territorial, political and cultural unity of the Indian Union.

"August 5, 2019 will go down in the history of the country as a day that has put the lasting seal on the sovereignty of Parliament over the entire Indian Union," it said in a statement.

"The draft Bill presented by Home Minister Amit Shah in Parliament vindicates the ideals of our great leaders like Syama Prasada Mooker-



Cause for joy: The Kashmiri Hindu Sabha of Hyderabad activists celebrating the repeal of Article 370, in Hyderabad. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

jee, Deendayal Upadhyaya, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and others who dedicated or sacrificed their lives for the integrity and sovereignty of India," the GKPD said.

The statement said the community was relieved that its identity, culture and symbols of heritage have found full protection under the Union Territory dispens-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

The Centre's move to revoke Article 370 has triggered apprehensions in the northeastern States enjoying similar constitutional safeguards. The Constitution bestows special provisions under Article 371A for Nagaland, Article 371B for Assam, Article 371C for Manipur, Article 371F for Sikkim and Article 371F for Mizoram.

Manoj Gaur, chairman of Jaypee Group told *The Hindu*, "Every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir will reap benefits of this in the next 10 years."

Several chieftains of India Inc. have come out in favour of the Union government's decision on the abrogation of Article 370.

Sajjan Jindal, chairman of JSW Group, tweeted, "I have always believed that Article 370 should be abolished – its

Mizoram will be under severe threat," he said.

The Mizo National Front government chose to adopt a "wait and watch" policy but NGOs such as the influential Young Mizo Association – which has spearheaded a movement against the Centre's bid to push the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill – said any move to "tamper with" Article 371G would be opposed to the hilt.

Former Mizoram Chief Mi-

nister Lal Thanhawla said the move by the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance was a "red alert" for the people of the northeast.

"It has become a threat to

States like Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal which are protected by the Constitution.

If 35A and 370 are re-

pealed, Article 371G safe-

guarding the interests and

existence was a result of un-

fortunate politicisation of

the Kashmiri Valley."

Harsh Goenka, chairman of

RPG Enterprises, said, "I

have absolutely no doubt

that this landmark decision

will spur investment but only

when the unrest settles

down. Not only will employ-

ment be created,

ELSEWHERE



Putin wants arms talks with U.S. to avoid 'chaos'

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday urged the U.S. to start arms talks following the demise of Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty. He said Russia would follow suit if the U.S. develops new missiles. **AP**

3 members of banned group held in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO

Sri Lankan police on Monday arrested three members of Jamathil Millath Ibrahim, a banned Islamic organisation, linked to Easter Sunday suicide bomb attacks that killed more than 250 people, an official said. **AP**

Indian man convicted of molesting air stewardess

SINGAPORE

A 39-year-old Indian man was found guilty on Monday of molesting an air stewardess on a flight from Cochin to Singapore in 2017. Vijayan Mathan Gopal was convicted of outraging the modesty of the 22-year-old air stewardess. **PTI**

Trump slams white supremacy, bigotry

He calls for monitoring of the Internet, mental health reform but backs away on stronger gun control

REUTERS
WASHINGTONTogether we stand: People holding up their phones during a vigil in memory of the victims in El Paso on Monday. **AP**

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday proposed tighter monitoring of the Internet, mental health reform and wider use of the death penalty in response to mass slayings over the weekend that killed 31 people in Texas and Ohio.

The man arrested for killing 22 people at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas, reportedly had racist motives and Mr. Trump said Americans must "condemn racism, bigotry and white supremacy."

Mr. Trump did not directly address accusations that his own anti-immigrant and racially charged comments have contributed to a rise in race tensions.

"These sinister ideologies must be defeated," he said in remarks at the White House. "Hate has no place in America. Hatred warps the mind, ravages the heart and devours the soul."

On Saturday, a gunman killed 22 people at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas, and several Mexican citizens

were among those killed.

Just 13 hours later, another gunman killed nine people in Dayton, Ohio. Dozens were also wounded in the attacks.

Death penalty

Mr. Trump, who has been accused of not doing enough to tackle extremist groups, said he was directing the Department of Justice to investigate domestic terrorism, and propose legislation to ensure that those who commit hate crimes and mass murders face the death penalty.

He also said the country needs to reform mental health laws to identify disturbed people as well as work with social media companies to detect possible mass shooters.

"We must make sure those judged to pose a grave risk to public safety do not have access to firearms and that if they do those firearms can be taken through rapid due process," he said.

Background checks

Mr. Trump had earlier on Monday called for "strong

Walmart to keep selling guns

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

U.S. retail giant Walmart has said it has no plans to stop selling guns and ammunition. A man gunned down 22 people with a rifle at a Walmart in Texas on Saturday, just four days after a Walmart employee shot dead two coworkers in Mississippi.

Cloudflare ends 8chan services

REUTERS
SAN FRANCISCO

U.S. cyber security firm Cloudflare on Monday said it would terminate online message board 8chan after a gunman used it prior to El Paso killings. The shooter allegedly posted a four-page statement on 8chan, which is hosted in Philippines.

background checks" on gun buyers but in his comments at the White House he gave no details on what he would push for, and it was not the central part of his message.

"Mental illness and hatred pulls the trigger, not the gun," he said.

Mr. Trump has previously called for background checks but then backed away, apparently reluctant to get into a fight with the powerful National Rifle Association.

The President also said on Monday that it was time to

stop glorifying violence in society, and pointed to "gruesome and grisly" video games. "It is too easy today for troubled youth to surround themselves with a culture that celebrates violence. We must stop or substantially reduce this and it has to begin immediately."

Democrats, who have long pushed for greater gun control, accused Mr. Trump of hiding behind talk of mental health reform and the role of social media instead of committing to tighter gun laws to address gun violence.

Now, it has joined what it

said was a U.S.-led "international maritime security mission". No other nations are yet involved.

"It is vital to secure the freedom for all international shipping to navigate the Strait of Hormuz without delay, given the increased threat," said British Defence Secretary Ben Wallace.

"The deployment of Royal Navy assets is a sign of our commitment to our U.K.-flagged vessels and we look forward to working alongside the U.S. to find a solution to the problems in the Strait of Hormuz."

U.K. joins U.S. to ensure safety of vessels in Gulf

Boris makes a major foreign policy move

The British tanker, Stena Impero, at sea. **AP**

U.S., South Korea defy North's warnings, begin joint drills

Seoul to test its ability to take operational control in wartime

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SEOUL

Seoul and Washington began their annual joint military exercises on Monday, defying warnings from Pyongyang that the war games would jeopardise nuclear negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea.

The drills come after North Korea tested a series of short-range projectiles in recent days, calling one of them a "solemn warning" to Seoul against pursuing the mainly computer-simulated



drills with Washington.

South Korean Defence Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo told Parliament that the joint exercise began on Monday, adding that Seoul was "clearly

maintaining its readiness posture against any military action by North Korea".

Details about the training have not been disclosed, but a Ministry official in Seoul said this year's exercise will include verifying South Korea's abilities to take operational control in wartime.

Under the U.S.-South Korea security treaty, an American general will take command of their combined forces in the event of armed conflict, but Seoul has long sought to reverse the position.

Clouds of tear gas billowed across multiple locations on Monday afternoon as the City buckled under a general strike, which protesters pushed to emphasise they still had broad public support following two months of unrest.

Sirisena says Bill to scrap death penalty is illegal

He signed death warrants of 4 convicts

ASSOCIATED PRESS
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's President said on Monday that the Attorney General has informed him that a Bill presented to Parliament last week seeking to abolish the death penalty is illegal.

Lawmaker Bandula Lal Bandarigoda presented a Bill in Parliament seeking to abolish the death penalty and commute the sentences of those already on death row to life imprisonment.

The move came after President Maithripala Sirisena

signed the death warrants of four prisoners convicted of drug offences and is seen as an effort by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe to stall the planned executions.

The two leaders formed a unity government in 2015 and have now become rivals after a fallout.

Kerry Robertson died in July, three months after the mother of two ceased treatment for metastatic breast cancer, the support group Go Gentle Australia said.

The State of Victoria passed a law in 2017 to legalise the practice, which went into effect this June. Other



Kerry Robertson

States are now expected to follow suit.

Ms. Robertson, who ended her life in the southeastern town of Bendigo, was

Clashes keep Hong Kong on edge

Carrie Lam says protesters pose challenge to 'one country, two systems' framework

A protester runs with a U.S. flag as tear gas shells are fired on protesters in Hong Kong on Monday. **AP**

In a rare public appearance, Chief Executive Carrie Lam warned protesters she would not cave to their

demands. "(They) have seriously undermined Hong Kong's law and order and are pushing our City, the City

that we all love and many of us helped to build, to the verge of a very dangerous situation," Ms. Lam said.

She later referenced chants by protesters for a "revolution", describing this as a challenge to the "one country, two systems" framework.

Activists descended on subway stations during morning rush hour, deliberately keeping doors open to stop trains from departing and paralysing large parts of a network that millions of people use daily. In the afternoon, they held simultaneous rallies at seven locations.

Air strike kills 42 in south Libya: officials

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TRIPOLI

At least 42 people have been killed and dozens wounded in an air strike on a town in southern Libya, a local official and the UN-recognised government said on Monday.

The Government of National Accord accused forces led by military strongman Khalifa Haftar of carrying out the strike on Sunday in a residential district of Morzuk. The raid left "42 dead and more than 60 injured, 30 of them critically," municipal official Ibrahim Omar said.

Australian cancer patient first to use assisted dying law

He signed death warrants of 4 convicts

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYDNEY

A 61-year-old cancer patient has become the first person in over two decades to die under controversial assisted dying laws in Australia, a charity said.

Kerry Robertson died in July, three months after the mother of two ceased treatment for metastatic breast cancer, the support group Go Gentle Australia said.

The State of Victoria passed a law in 2017 to legalise the practice, which went into effect this June. Other



Kerry Robertson

States are now expected to follow suit.

Ms. Robertson, who ended her life in the southeastern town of Bendigo, was

Yemen rebel drones target Saudi airports

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RIYADH

diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010 – which then spread into her bones, lung, brain, and liver.

She decided to stop receiving treatment in March when the side effects of chemotherapy were no longer manageable and took medication to end her life after a 26-day approval process, the charity said.

Euthanasia had previously been legal in Australia's Northern Territory, though those laws were overturned in a contentious move by the federal government in 1997.

The coalition said the strikes were "simultaneous" but did not specify the targets. The Iran-aligned Houthi rebels' Al-Masirah television earlier said the drones targeted civilian airports in Abha, Najran as well as King Khaled airbase in Khamis Mushait.

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A Butler County grand jury indicted Singh on four counts of aggravated murder in the fatal shootings of his wife, her parents and her aunt on April 28. With specifications of using a fi-

Indian man charged with killing wife, in-laws in U.S.

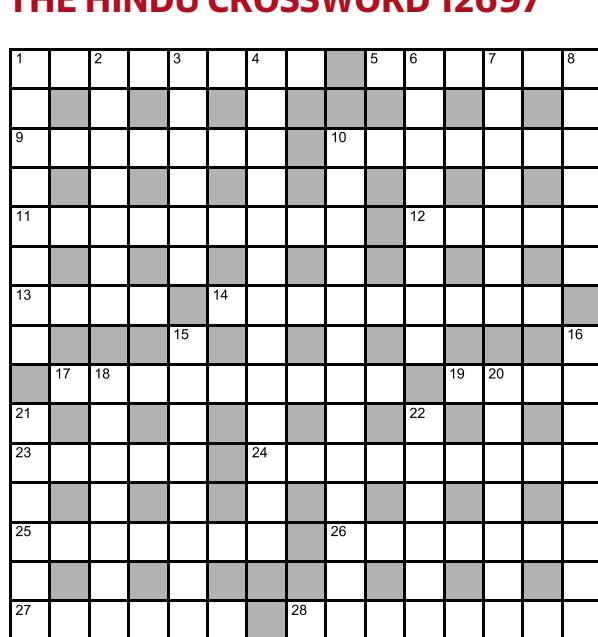


Gurpreet Singh

rearm and killing two or more persons, Singh could face the death penalty if convicted, FOX19 NOW reported.

Each family member had at least two gunshot wounds in the head.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12697



ACROSS

- Lack of punctuality of Delhi leader back in the French ship (8)
- Sailor returns with brown cane (6)
- Climb up with new, primarily invigorated muscles (7)
- One who doesn't play with anybody else (7)

(set by Gridman)

- Father moving again to part of South America (9)
- Safari employee no big consumer (5)
- Well, she drops top teacher (4)
- In hacienda, foremost of lodgers cooked a Mexican dish (9)
- True, a claw is damaged. What the cats do! (9)
- Scent model left in bar (4)
- Said to change part of church (5)
- I smoke languidly and follow sled puller (6,3)
- Last three bits of glass held back in cart (7)
- Wraps boy, seen wandering around and shivering (7)
- Ceremony gets trial conducted around union chief (6)
- Priest beginning to secure changes in church books (8)
- Yet some readers of newspapers might begin from here (4,4)
- Try volunteers rising and disrupting Met exercise (7)
- Saudi able to shoot heads in sonic range (7)
- Maul a cricket player (6)
- Without scruples, a man's taking a kind of exam (6)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12696

G	E	N	D	A	R	M	E	S	C	B
S	T	R	E	S	V	A	L	E	R	E
P	R	A	I	E	I	T	A	N	E	R
A	L	A	M	I	S	T	N	E	A	R
R	N	Y	T	E	A	V	T	E	A	R
S	I	T	E	O	C	U	S	G	R	O
I	T	E	O	C	U	S	G	R	R	O
F	O	C	U	S	G	R	R	R	R	O
O	C	U	S	G	R	R	R	R	R	O
C	U	S	G	R	R	R	R	R	R	O
E	S	G	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	O

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

MARKET WATCH

	05-08-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,700	-1.13
US Dollar	70.73	-1.62
Gold	36,970	2.21
Brent oil	60.47	-2.96

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	367.85	-7.60
Asian Paints	1525.40	-19.80
Axys Bank	662.45	-11.40
Bajaj Auto	2619.75	19.20
Bajaj Finserv	6986.95	-76.75
Bajaj Finance	3160.05	-77.85
Bharti Airtel	357.70	14.15
BPLC	339.00	-3.45
Britannia Ind	2578.35	-16.05
Cipla	518.90	2.80
Coal India	200.60	3.40
Dr Reddys Lab	2514.70	-14.50
Eicher Motors	16504.00	-40.00
GAIL (India)	122.95	-4.70
Grasim Ind	749.45	-28.55
HCL Tech.	1011.10	0.60
HDPC	2152.35	27.55
HDFC Bank	2179.25	-35.10
Hero MotoCorp	2399.25	-2.70
Hindalco	175.75	-4.65
Hind Unilever	1741.20	3.75
Indiabulls HFL	476.75	-12.90
ICICI Bank	402.65	-7.95
IndusInd Bank	1388.20	5.30
Bharti Infratel	245.35	-6.05
Infosys	776.70	1.10
Indian Oil Corp	132.25	-3.00
ITC	259.80	-4.70
JSW Steel	217.70	-7.45
Kotak Bank	1460.10	-47.50
L&T	1345.80	-24.45
M&M	545.45	-11.00
Maruti Suzuki	5670.35	-19.00
NTPC	121.00	-2.10
ONGC	131.30	-3.05
PowerGrid Corp	201.15	-9.40
Reliance Ind	1143.35	-41.00
State Bank	300.25	-8.20
Sun Pharma	417.15	-3.50
Tata Motors	123.75	-6.95
Tata Steel	399.25	-9.85
TCS	2248.60	43.30
Tech Mahindra	648.05	11.90
Titan	1036.80	-27.90
UltraTech Cement	4246.20	-52.85
UPL	540.95	-32.55
Vedanta	140.70	-2.30
Wipro	262.00	-1.65
YES Bank	81.10	-7.20
Zee Entertainment	330.95	-10.55

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.54	70.86
Euro	78.82	79.18
British Pound	85.79	86.19
Japanese Yen (100)	66.44	66.74
Chinese Yuan	10.02	10.07
Swiss Franc	72.35	72.69
Singapore Dollar	51.03	51.26
Canadian Dollar	53.36	53.61
Malaysian Ringgit	16.88	16.97

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

August 05 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	45.8	(44.3)
22 ct gold (1g)	3460	(3383)

Source: Indian Bank

FM to meet auto, NBFC, realty chiefs

Series of meetings planned from today to discuss measures to bolster growth

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will hold separate meetings with representatives of various sectors over the course of the week, following which the government will decide on the steps needed to bolster the economy, Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar said on Monday.

The Minister held a review meeting with the heads of public sector banks (PSBs) on Monday.

This will be followed by a meeting with representatives of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) on Tuesday, automobile sector on Wednesday, financial services sector on Thursday, and the real estate sector on August 11.

"We are getting inputs



The Centre has not taken further steps on overseas sovereign bonds, says Nirmala Sitharaman. ■PTI

from various sectors and trying to respond so that confidence of those sectors is restored," Ms. Sitharaman said in response to a question on whether she found the cur-

rent economic environment worrying

Speaking to reporters following a meeting with the heads of PSBs, Ms. Sitharaman said that the govern-

ment would decide on the way forward on the service tax demand from the banks after they replied to the notices sent to them.

Reply to notices

"Today in the meeting, where SBI chairman and Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India were also present, we have asked the banks to reply to the notices issued by the tax authorities," the Finance Minister said.

"They have agreed to this. Once the reply reaches us, the Revenue Secretary can take a look and we can take a call from there."

The income tax department had issued notices to the banks to pay service tax amounting to a total of ₹38,000 crore on the penal-

ties they imposed on customers for low balances in their accounts.

The banks had disputed this and approached the Delhi High Court for redressal.

Regarding the concerns of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), she said Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakrabarty would soon hold a meeting with the FPIs.

Ms. Sitharaman also said that the government had not taken any further steps regarding the issuance of overseas sovereign bonds.

"There are some numbers floating around because the Secretary has said 'this is the quantum,' but not much more work has happened because we have been busy in the Ministry with the various Bills that have been passed," the Finance Minister said.

Indian Bank profit rises 74.56%

Lower provisions, higher income boost bottomline



Padmaja Chunduru

gross slippages of ₹1,035 crore against ₹1,391 crore. It recovered ₹919 crore against ₹1,604 crore. Provisions and contingencies dropped to ₹794.82 crore from ₹1,029.56 crore.

According to Ms. Chunduru, corporate sector accounted for 58.84% of fresh slippages at ₹426 crore followed by RAM sector. Currently, the bank has a diversified loan book with RAM sector constituting 60%.

Gross non-performing assets increased to 7.33% from 7.20% of gross advances.

"NPAs are very much under control. But there is a slight increase in percentage due to denominator getting reduced," she said.

During the period, the bank's net interest income was lower by 1.2% while net interest margin contracted by 29 basis points. Total deposits grew by 15% and advances by 12%. Total income rose by 14% and other income by 58% respectively.

Indian Bank reported

Govt. unveils draft e-com norms

Guidelines forbid influencing price of goods, services

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

To protect the interest of online shoppers, the Department of Consumer Affairs has released draft guidelines on e-commerce that state that an e-commerce entity cannot directly or indirectly influence the price of the goods or services.

The draft e-commerce guidelines for consumer protection 2019, which adds that e-commerce firms need to ensure that personally identifiable information of customers is protected, is open for stakeholder comments for 45 days or till September 16, 2019.

"These are issued as guiding principles for e-commerce business for preventing fraud, unfair trade practices and protecting the consumers of the same.



GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

legitimate rights and interests of consumers. These guidelines apply to business-to-consumer e-commerce, including goods and services."

It added that every e-commerce entity needs to publish the name and contact details of the grievance officer on their website along with the mechanism by which users can lodge their complaints.

Besides, it proposed to make it mandatory for firms to display terms of contract with the seller relating to return, refund, exchange, warranty/guarantee, delivery/shipment, mode of payments and grievance redressal mechanism to enable consumers to make informed decisions. The draft also proposes that once an e-commerce firm comes to know about any counterfeit product, and if the seller is unable to provide any evidence that the product is genuine, the firm needs to take down the listing and notify the consumers of the same.

Jairam Varadaraj, managing director of Elgi Equipments, told media persons here on Monday that in April-June 2018, its sales in India and overseas markets were in the ratio of 57:43. For the corresponding period this year, it is 50:50.

The consolidated sales for the quarter was ₹467 crore this year, as against ₹413 crore for the same period last year.

However, the standalone Profit After Tax (PAT) for the quarter was ₹14 crore this year as against ₹22 crore for the same period last year.

The company did well in Australia, west Asian countries, and Europe.

Sales in the U.S. was not as good as expected.

In the past, the cost

would have been higher inflation over the medium term; today, it is more likely that the cost will be more future financial instability," Mr. Rajan said.

"This possibility, of course, will tend to depress market interest rates further rather than elevating them."

In order to combat this, Mr. Rajan added, central bankers have to explain to the public what their role is and why it is more than "simply moving interest rates up or down on a whim".

"Such misunderstandings could be deeply problematic for the economy."

"Worse, populist leaders may mistakenly believe the central bank can do more to encourage riskier play by govt."



Raghuram Rajan

rescue the economy from their policy mistakes than it actually can deliver," Mr. Rajan wrote.

"Though the central bank is still autonomous, it effectively becomes a dependent follower." In such cases, he added, such actions by the central banks could even encourage the government to implement riskier policies on the assumption that the former would bail out the economy whenever needed.

"Central banks are 'fall guys' for populist mistakes, says Rajan

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In her own skin

Aagaaz Theatre Trust's *Bhagi Hui Ladkiyan*, looks at the performers' personal stories which explore ideas like identity, gender, caste and sexuality

AKHILA KRISHNAMURTHY

Bhagi Hui Ladkiyan, as its director, Dhwani Vij says is not a declaration but an articulation of the performers' lives. In it, four Muslim teenage girls from Delhi's Nizamuddin Basti, share their everyday stories that explore ideas like identity, gender, caste, consent and sexuality. The performance, at The Hindu Theatre Fest this year, in Chennai (August 24th, 25th), looks at how it affects their understanding of self and how the aspect of listening to stories of the self, affect the audience and their relationship with the performance itself. Dhwani Vij answers a few questions. Edited excerpts.

At the core of *Bhagi Hui Ladkiyan* is an exploration of identity. What inspired that?

● The project began with a proposal to Gender Bender, a festival curated by Sandbox Collective and the Goethe-Institut, Bengaluru, submitted by Aagaaz Theatre Trust. At the heart of Aagaaz's practice is the need to develop a deeper understanding of the self – and the self's relationship with the immediate society and the world at large. The proposal (with a working title – Urban Turban) was to create a physical theatre piece that engaged with the experience of the cityscape in relation to the space occupied by men versus that occupied by women. The idea was to look at the intersectionality of gender, religion and class that inhabits the bodies of the actors situated within Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti. I was approached by Aagaaz to



direct a piece based on this proposal which was later selected for Gender Bender 2016.

How did it evolve further?

● The organisation has been engaging with children from the Basti since 2009 using drama (the journey began with Aga Khan Foundation's Urban Renewal Initiative and took life of its own in 2015) and the repertory of young actors, has been performing professionally since 2015. For the repertory members of Aagaaz, the discussion would come

back to the identity of the actors – poor, Muslim children. Even with their previous production *Raavan Aaya* (directed by Neel Sengupta), conversations would quickly gloss over the rich discourse of the narrative – to *Nizamuddin ki bechaari ladkiyan*, and "oh! how sorry we feel for them". No matter how they tried to steer the conversation – we would get stuck in the rut of identities. It was frustrating in the very least, which is what prompted Aagaaz to write the initial concept note which became Urban Turban and

then *Bhagi Hui Ladkiyan*. What does it mean to be a lower class, Muslim girl, practicing theatre in Delhi? Do the experiences transcend their identities? What are the negotiations between their self and the spaces they occupy, personal and public?

What went into the choice of the four actors?

● I honestly did not begin with a lot of fixed ideas.

Everyday stories Stills from the play; (below) Dhwani Vij ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As we proceeded, I decided to work with only female actors. As we began workshop processes with two of the actors – Jasmine and Nagina – the piece began to develop through personal narratives. Subsequently, we looked at the piece again in 2017 with Nagma, and after receiving the Refunction grant by Goethe-Institut, Delhi in 2018 with Zainab.

What was the process behind gearing the actors towards the performance?

● A lot of our process involved sharing of personal stories, finding commonalities in them and exploring their differences. The actors' engagement with Darpan – a space within Aagaaz that creates possibilities to look at issues of gender, sexuality, relationships, has been feeding into the stories that the actors brought into the rehearsal space. We struggled with the concept of remaining "true" to one's body on stage and through several performances found our comfort in it. Every performance reveals a new aspect of this understanding.

What is the dynamic like when the performers are so closely connected with the performance? How does it affect their performance itself?

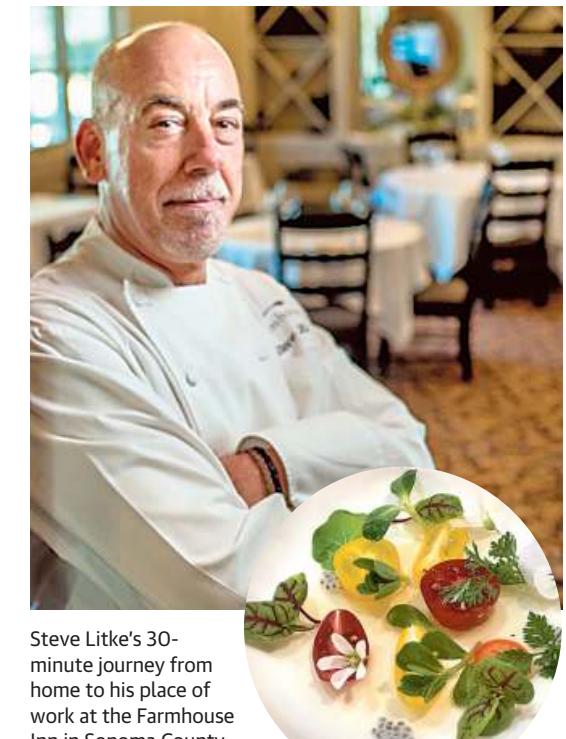
● One of the very obvious effect is on the stories. The stories keep changing with each subsequent show because they are linked directly to the lives of the performers. As life changes, the stories change, and with that the performance itself changes.



PEOPLE

Farm fresh

Michelin-star chef Steve Litke's maiden trip to India



Steve Litke's 30-minute journey from home to his place of work at the Farmhouse Inn in Sonoma County, takes him a couple of hours. He'll stop on the way at various farms, chat with the farmers, pick up produce, before he gets in.

"Here, in California, I'm lucky to have some of the greatest produce. We have many micro-farms, so I have someone who just grows lettuce. I don't like vegetables to sit, so I go on a daily basis and pick up the day's ingredients," says the Michelin-star executive chef, who does not operate with a freezer.

He'll be in Delhi and Mumbai soon, cooking a sit-down dinner that'll exhibit his farm-to-fork philosophy. He's never been to India, and he's been talking to the chefs here. "When I arrive I've asked the chefs to bring me to an open market so I can see what vegetables are available." So while the menu has been put out (it includes courses like Tomato Gelée Salad, from his restaurant in the US), there may be a few nips and tucks. Diners can expect a five-course meal (paired with wines by sommelier Nikhil Agarwal), with simple flavours, textures, and aroma, keeping the focus on the ingredients.

Litke is a gardener, and says it's important people know where their food is coming from. He works only with organic produce (they raise their own chickens, even turkeys for Thanksgiving). The real difference in taste, he feels, is reflected in beetroot and beet greens (there's Roasted Beet Tartare on the menu): "You taste more of the terroir. You have to bear with non-perfection, the bug holes and all. It's not going to look like a picture off the internet. This is real food."

Food is a great deal to do with gatherings, and the farm has a fair number of people working on it. Litke acknowledges them all as family: "As the farm grows, it takes people to do it all, so your family grows. It's important to know them and work with them."

It's when relationships grow, he suggests, that people begin to ask questions like, "Is there anything new you want me to grow?" It reflects on his fundamental beliefs in preserving heirloom varieties, and on preserving the family meal itself.

On August 10th at Pluck, Pullman New Delhi Aerocity; On August 7th at Sofitel Mumbai BKC; ₹3,000 all inclusive; for details: info@allthingsnice.in

SUNALINI MATHEW

PRODUCT

Coffee on-the-go



Sleepy Owl, so far an indie cold-brew label, has now entered into the hot coffee segment, with equipment-free dip-n-sip bags, which they say are 100% biodegradable. There are two variants of the Arabica beans: Original and Dark Roast. The move signals the company's eye on the growing coffee-drinking population in India.

Available on www.sleepyowl.co, ₹300 for 10 bags

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

#DELHIMOVES

GAGAN DHILLON KULLAR

Do you remember the rush of climbing a tree as a child? The tingling sensation in your palms as you dangled from a jungle gym? As we transition from playgrounds to hour-long traffic jams, these happy memories tend to disappear in the maze of deadlines and pending bills.

Aerial yoga helps relieve that adrenaline rush and endorphin kick, while we reconnect with our inner child. Inspired from aerial silk, a form of acrobatics and dance, aerial yoga blends yoga with gravity defying moves. And you don't need to be a gymnast to give it a try. "A typical class lasts about an hour or a little over, and usually ends with people taking pictures for Instagram," says Manisha Kohli, co-founder of The Yoga Chakra.

Beginners and experienced students are put in the same class to keep the motivation high. Warm-up exercises and stretches are done on the silk hammock. This is a length of silk-like fabric that is secured to the roof and supports your body weight. Initially the moves are simple. You learn how to knot the silk so you can stand on it. There are ways to wrap the silk around your foot to balance.



Unboundless

Feel the freedom of childhood with aerial yoga's letting-go exercises

Gradually, you'll learn to do flips, swings and more.

Letting go of your hands and trusting the silk to hold you up is easier said than done. Mentally, it pushes you to acknowledge the fear of falling or making a fool of yourself – both very real. However, the moment you let

go, it is liberating, bringing you into the moment.

"It's heartening to witness small and big wins. Every time someone achieves a pose they had initially feared, you can see the child-like excitement in their eyes," says Kohli.

Children especially enjoy the

Hanging out Aerial yoga is low-impact and counts as cardio, burning about 350 calories per hour ■ V V KRISHNAN

classes. They are bigger risk-takers than adults are, and are more trusting to let go. For an hour-long activity that can help a child hang loose while actually exercising, aerial yoga is a win-win. It is low impact, counts as cardio and builds mental resolve. In fact, according to the American Council on Exercise (ACE) it is considered moderate-intensity exercise that burns about 300-350 calories an hour. Pragya Aggarwal has been practising aerial yoga for a year and a half because she needed a change from gym-like workouts. "I leave each class feeling confident, stronger and calmer," says the 21-year-old.

Classes are conducted every Sunday morning, at The Yoga Chakra studio (theyogachakra.com), GK2, 9:30 a.m.; Yoga Palle, Arjun Marg, DLF Phase I, Gurugram



FOOD

Special menu

Antidot Waterbar Cafe, a botanical-themed restaurant, has introduced a new signature menu, which will have four non-vegetarian and three vegetarian variants. The elements, used in each one of them, are curated by the chef. The menu offers Dragon Dumplings, Crazy Shrimps, Soft Tofu Chimi Changas, and more.

VENUE: B-6/2 Safdarjung enclave

TIME: 12 noon - 12 midnight



EXHIBITION

Mixed-media

Parvaaz, an ongoing group art exhibition, features paintings, photography, crafts, sculptures, sketches, drawings and ceramics. Curated by art promoter Erum Khan, the show highlights distinct style of each participating artist, and their choice of media. On display till 8 August.

VENUE: AIFACS Gallery, 1 Rafi Marg

TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

FILM

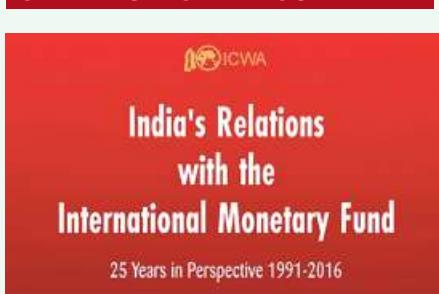
Telugu film

IHC Film Club is screening C/o Kancharapalem, a Telugu film, this evening. Directed by Maha Venkatesh, the film revolves around the lives of people of a locality, and their many facets. Everyone goes about their lives and yet, they are bothered about what's happening (or not happening) in each other's lives.

VENUE: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre

TIME: 7 p.m.

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



EXHIBITION



EXHIBITION

Unique handicrafts

To promote Indian handicrafts, the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India has organised Kala Sampada, an exhibition-cum-sale, at its premises. This 10-day show will include silver ware, wooden toys, Sanjhi craft, Rogan paintings, Chamba rumal, silk sarees, dress fabric, quilts, mats, and more.

VENUE: Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, Janpath

TIME: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.



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Using data smarts for handlooms

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

As this goes to print, a team in Noida is coordinating with a person from the weaving community in Maheshwar, to manage an order for handwoven hemp fabric, which they received from a boutique in Los Angeles.

In a nutshell, this encapsulates what Lali10, a four-and-a-half-year-old startup, has managed to do by cleverly leveraging tech. The B2B venture – run by Maneet Gohil, 29, Sanchit Govil, 30, and Albin Jose, 27 – has been trying to connect India's handloom and handicraft sectors, with global retailers of various kinds, looking for genuine and quality handmade products.

"With our experience, we've identified that this isn't a demand-constraint sector, but a supply-constraint one," says Maneet, explaining how many retailers have passed off cheap powerloom alternatives to buyers looking for genuine handloom.

For example, you can find a cheap knock-off of a Chanderi dupatta, of the famous Madhya Pradesh weaving cluster, in Old Delhi's Chandni Chowk for at least ₹1,000 less.

The trio started Lali10 in 2015, operating first out of their apartment room in Bengaluru. This is where Maneet and Sanchit, graduates from the Delhi College of Engineering, were working as trainees at Flipkart. Albin, another

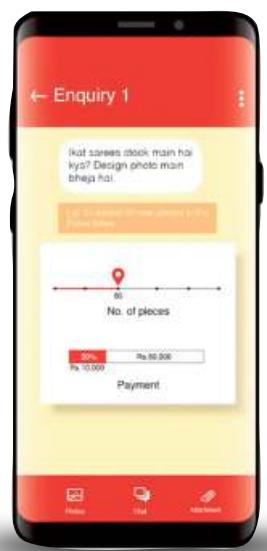
friend, who graduated from IIT Madras, would join them soon after.

Business beyond WhatsApp

Lali10's current model of operations is borrowed from the ITC Limited's e-Choupal programme, through which the company would directly connect with farmers in rural India to procure agri and aquaculture produce.

The team of 28 now works with 1,200 artisans across Odisha, West Bengal, Assam, Manipur, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana. In each of these states, they have a point-person, in the weaving clusters or artisan groups, with whom they work. They call this person the 'Cluster Champion'.

Initially, Lali10 had provided each of these Cluster Champions with a ₹6,000 WhatsApp-enabled smartphone through which they'd communicate and coordinate orders. This helped for a while, with Lali10's revenue increasing five-fold. But this got tricky to sustain. The cluster wouldn't just trust a WhatsApp message confirming an order.



They'd need more assurance than that – they'd need at least a voice.

In 2018, Lali10 hired 10 interns from IIT Bombay, who set out to further identify how they could streamline this system. Their findings – no 24x7 electricity, but cheap and decent mobile data, with app-literacy extending to the likes of TikTok and PUBG – had them confident that a dashboard, full with a mobile app, is the best way to optimise and streamline their business.

For social impact

They quickly outsourced building a customer relationship management (CRM), but Albin oversaw customisations specific to Lali10's requirements. Soon, the CRM app was installed into the Cluster Champion's phone, and all departments within Lali10's teams started working through the dashboard.

The sales team would be alerted as soon as they received an order on a website like Alibaba; they'd then understand their quantity and design-specifics, as well as budget and deadline; the design team would then be alerted in case of any specificity in order, with Cluster Champion receiving a ping.

EMPOWERING GEN-NEXT

Lali10's team has 16 textile and accessory designers from NIFTs across India, and NID. Depending on order and trends, they help in design interventions at weaving clusters – without hampering the traditional practices – to experiment with weaving new-age 'green' material like bamboo for accessories, and hemp and banana fibre for fabric.

"We get 3,000 orders each month, some of them as specific as wanting 50 metres of handwoven fabric from Phulia [a weaving cluster in West Bengal]," says Sanchit. "The CRM helps in scalability and efficiency."

What this also means is that in case the weavers have extra inventory that they've just stocked, they can log it onto the CRM, and Lali10 can bridge the gap between supply and demand even further – meaning weavers don't have to wait to go to the next exhibition in a

far off city, or wait for a high-profile designer to come back to them with next season's orders.

"We're tech-led, but impact-focused," say both Sanchit and Maneet, at different points in the conversation, adding that their aim is to have more regular incomes for the skilled artisans, as well as bat for better wages.

One more advantage of streamlining their order and inventory data? With their order histories, Lali10's designers have already mapped Spring/Summer trends for 2020, and with their Cluster Champions, are currently busy working to take that on – eight months in advance.



POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



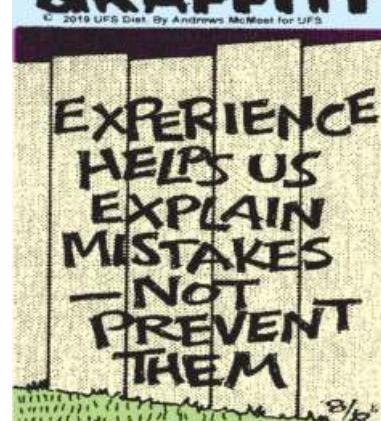
CALVIN AND HOBBES



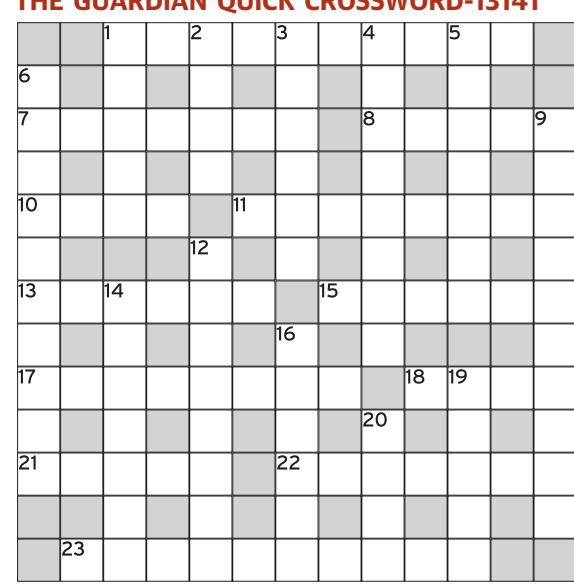
TIGER



GRAFFITI



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13141



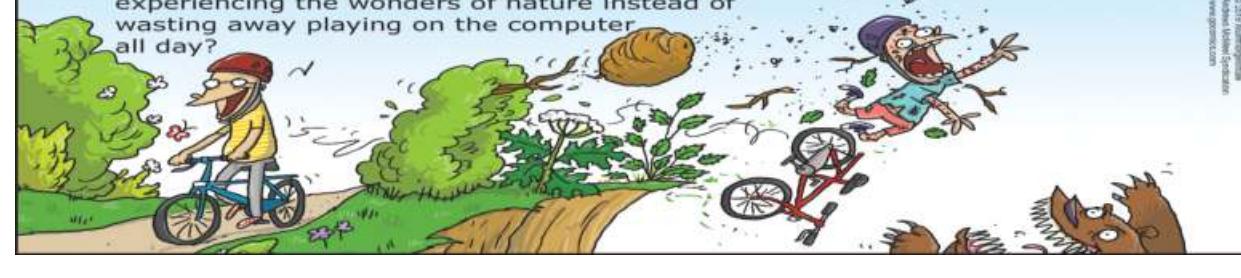
- Down
1 School punishment (5)
2 Rain cats and dogs (4)
3 Cause continuing irritation (6)
4 Court of arbitration (8)
5 What's left (7)
6 Mean-spirited (3-7)
9 Quality of being gross (10)
12 In fact (8)
14 One name (anag) – plant (7)
16 More intimate (6)
19 Wept (5)
20 Stop (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 7, 2019.

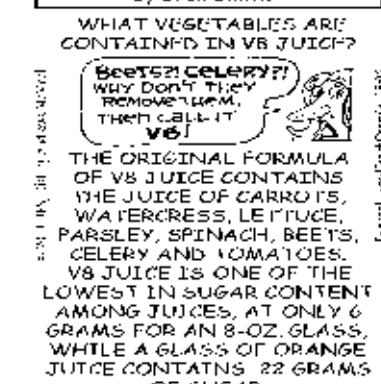
Solution No. 13140

D	E	F	I	C	I	N	C
D	E	L	L	L	O	K	
D	E	L	A	R	P	E	K
A	N	P	V	E	E		
D	A	N	K	B	A	D	I
B	R	E	C	L	D	I	N
D	R	A	E	T	A	G	I
O	A	I	B	L	E		
B	A	T	S	D	A		
D	S	O	S	S	D		
F	E	A	R	L	E		

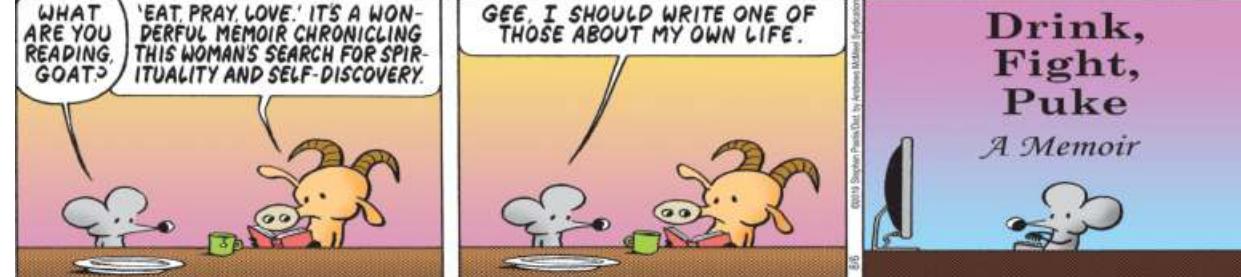
WUMO



HEALTH CAPSULES



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



- Across
1 Written works of merit (10)
7 Case for holding a light (7)
8 Publication (5)
10 Eat (slang) – food (slang) (4)
11 Struggle clumsily (5)
12 Contagious skin infection (7)
13 Deep sleep-like state (6)
15 Knight of the Round Table – the rag (anag) (6)
17 Loaded with regret (8)
18 Uncritically admired object (4)
21 Quaintly amusing (5)
22 Parched (10)

Lyon roars as Australia humbles England

Visitors register a massive 251-run win to take 1-0 lead in the series; Smith is Man-of-the-Match for game-changing hundreds

THE ASHES

REUTERS
BIRMINGHAM

Australia spinner Nathan Lyon made light work of England's batting line-up as the host was bowled out for 146 in its second innings, losing the first Ashes Test by 251 runs to give the visitor a 1-0 lead in the series.

Chasing the second highest successful run chase in Ashes history (398), England first innings century maker Rory Burns fell first in the second over of the day for 11.

The highest successful run chase ever was Australia getting 404 at Headingly in 1948.

Fellow opener Jason Roy (28) looked in good shape until he was bowled when coming down the pitch, before Joe Denly (11) and the key wicket of England captain Joe Root (28), having been saved by two earlier reviews, were out before lunch.

18-year wait ends

The wickets kept tumbling in the afternoon, with England's middle order collapsing for the second innings in a row, before Lyon ripped through the tail to finish with figures of six for 45 as Australia picked up a first win at Edgbaston in 18 years.

Burns did not last long at the crease this time around, lofting a bouncer from Pat Cummings to Lyon at backward point.

Saved twice

On-field umpire Joel Wilson's poor Test continued after Root was twice saved on review, meaning eight of Wilson's decisions have been overturned in this Test.

Lyon then got his first wicket as he enticed a big shot from Roy, which he got



The fatal edge: Stuart Broad is about to be snapped up by Steve Smith off Nathan Lyon, the off-spinner's sixth wicket. ■ GETTY IMAGES

The all-five club

England opener Burns becomes the 10th player to bat on all five days of a Test

M.L. Jaisimha
(Eng) vs Aus,
1960

Geoff Boycott
(Eng) vs Aus,
1977

Kim Hughes
(Aus) vs Eng,
1990

Allan Lamb
(Eng) vs WI,
1984

Ravi Shastri
(Ind) vs Eng,
1984

Adrian Griffith
(WI) vs NZ,
1999

Andrew Flintoff
(Eng) vs Ind,
2006

Alviro Petersen
(South Africa)
vs NZ, 2012

Cheteshwar
Pujara (Ind) vs
SL, 2017

badly wrong, wildly swinging and missing the ball completely.

Luck runs out
An inside edge onto pad saw Denly caught off Lyon, before Root's luck ran out, with

Cameron Bancroft taking fine catch.

After Root's dismissal, it felt very much like a matter of time until England's resistance was broken and in the first over after lunch, Jos Buttler was bowled for one.

Well played Smith.
What a way to make a comeback to Test cricket. Terrific bowling by @NathLyon421. Congratulations to Australia for winning the first Test match

— SACHIN TENDULKAR

golden duck.

Chris Woakes was last to go as he top scored with 37, with Cummings' fourth of the innings clinching a first opening game win in an Ash-

es series in England for Australia since 2005.

Second Test

■ August 14 to 18, Lord's

SCOREBOARD ENGLAND VS AUSTRALIA, FIRST TEST

Australia — 1st innings: 284.

England — 1st innings: 374.

Australia — 2nd innings: 487 for seven dec'd.

England — 2nd innings: 80. 4-85, 5-85, 6-97, 7-97, 8-136, 9-136.

Australia bowling: Siddle 12-28-0, Lyon 20-5-49-6, Paine 8-1-29-0, Cummins 11-3-3-32-4, Smith 1-0-0.

Man-of-the-Match: Smith.

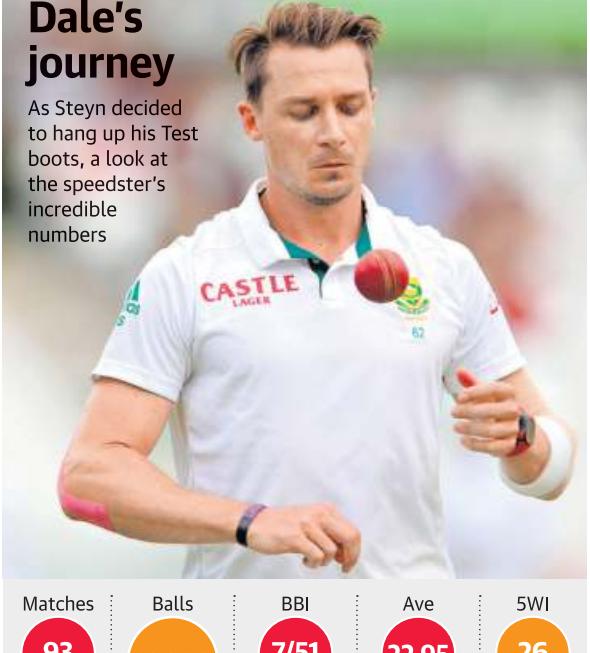
Australia won by 251 runs to rest a 1-0 lead in five-match series.

Steyn quits Tests

To focus on ODIs and T20s

Dale's journey

As Steyn decided to hang up his Test boots, a look at the speedster's incredible numbers



Matches	Balls	BBI	Ave	5W
93	18608	7/51	22.95	26
Inns	Wkts	BBM	SR	10WM
171	439	11/60	42.3	5

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JOHANNESBURG

South African Dale Steyn, one of the great fast bowlers of the modern era, on Monday announced his retirement from Test cricket in a bid to extend his longevity in the shorter forms of the game.

Steyn made his international debut against England in 2004 and last played a Test in February against Sri Lanka.

"Today I walk away from a format of the game I love so much," said the 36-year-old Steyn, his country's leading Test wicket-taker of all time and one of the top 10 in the history of the game.

"In my opinion Test cricket is the best version of this game. It tests you mentally, physically, emotionally. It's

terrible to consider never playing another Test, but what's more terrifying is the thought of never playing again at all

"So I will be focusing on ODIs and T20s for the rest of my career to maximise my potential and ensure my longevity in this sport... I look forward to continuing to play for the Proteas in the shorter formats," Steyn said.

Cricket South Africa chief executive Thabang Moroe hailed Steyn as "undoubtedly one of the all-time greats of cricket".

India may experiment with bowling combination

Putting up a coherent performance remains WI's challenge

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GEORGETOWN

The series pocketed, India is likely to experiment with the line-up when it takes on the embattled West Indies in the third and final T20 International here on Tuesday.

India concluded the two-match US leg of the series by taking an unassailable 2-0 lead after notching up a 22-run win in the second match on Sunday.

The Indian performance wasn't the most fluent in the first match, but Virat Kohli and his men were back to being a dominant force in the second match, though, the outcome was decided by the Duckworth-Lewis method after thunderstorm and consequent rain did not allow the game to continue.

While the batting line-up may not change much, India may try a new bowling combination. "...sealing the series gives the chance to bring a few guys in. Idea is always going to be to win first. But winning the first two games provides the cushion," Kohli said after Sunday's win.

It will not be a surprise if K.L. Rahul is drafted into the playing XI, replacing the struggling Rishabh Pant.

There is a strong possibility



Viv and Virat: Sir Richards has been called the "biggest boss" by Kohli. ■ COURTESY TWITTER

ty that leg-spinner Rahul Chahar may make the cut in place of young paceman Navdeep Saini.

Deepak Chahar may also find a place in the playing XI and Ravindra Jadeja could be the one rested.

For the West Indies, putting up a coherent performance remains a challenge. Considered a force in the shortest format, they have

not lived up to their reputation.

One demerit point for Saini

India pacer Navdeep Saini was on Monday handed one demerit point for making "aggressive gestures" at Nicholas Pooran following the West Indies batsman's dismissal in the first T20I.

Match starts at 8 p.m. IST.

India coach selection by mid-August: CoA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Kapil Dev-led panel has got the green light from the BCCI's legal team to appoint the next coach of the men's team by mid-August, CoA chief Vinod Rai said on Monday.

Besides Kapil, the newly appointed Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) comprises Aunshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy.

Regarding the conduct of the BCCI elections on October 22, Rai said 26 state associations are fully Lodha compliant and have appointed their electoral officers for the state unit polls.

The CoA met here to discuss a host of issues ahead of the Supreme Court hearing on August 8, and screening the conflict of interest declaration form topped its

agenda. "We have checked (the declaration form). It is fine. All clear," Rai said when asked if the CAC has got the mandate to appoint the next chief coach.

He added the "CAC's decision will be final and the meeting (interview) with shortlisted candidates will happen in middle of August followed by appointment. Their terms of reference is already there".

On the election front, Rai seemed confident that his team has made significant progress.

Dissent overruled

CoA member Diana Edulji expressed her dissent but was overruled 2-1. Edulji's opinion was at variance with committee chairman Vinod Rai and member Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Ravi Thodge.

Holding tight



Caught him: Dabang Delhi defenders tame a Jaipur Pink Panthers raider in their ProKabaddi League match at Patna on Monday. Dabang won 35-24. In another contest, Puneri Paltan defeated Gujarat Fortunegiants 33-31. ■ RANJEET KUMAR

McCullum calls time on career



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TORONTO

Former New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum announced on Monday he would retire from cricket at the end of the ongoing GT20 tournament in Canada.

One of the most hard-hitting batsmen of his generation, the 37-year-old McCullum skipped New Zealand to the 2015 World Cup final, where it was beaten by Australia. He also won plaudits for the aggressive yet sport-

ing way in which he captained his country, before quitting international duty in 2016 after his 101st Test.

McCullum has spent the past few years playing in T20 competitions across the globe, his final stint coming with the Toronto Nationals.

"It is with pride and satisfaction that I am today announcing my retirement from all cricket following the conclusion of the GT20 in Canada," McCullum wrote on social media.

U Mumba completed its five-match league engagements with an aggregate of 44 points. It is followed by Dabang Delhi (33 from four matches), Goa Challengers (30 from four) and RP-SG Mavericks (26 from four), Chennai Lions (24 from three) and Puneri Paltan (23 from four).

If Goa managed to marginally bridge the gap it was

because World No. 86 Robles bounced back to beat the highly-talented Kirill Gerassimenko, ranked 45, 2-1.

However, Goa's best bet,

World No. 9 Chinese Taipei girl Cheng I-Ching, was yet to

recover fully from indisposition

and committed too ma-

ny mistakes to give a morale-boosting 2-1 victory to a free-hitting Sutirtha Mukherjee.

Robles, the reigning men's doubles World champion silver medalist with Romania's Ovidiu Ionescu, was keen to make amends for the 3-0 mauling he and teenager Archana received in the

Thrilling battle

After dropping the opening game to World No. 45 Kirill Gerassimenko on "golden point" after leading 10-8, Robles raised his intensity further and what followed was the most thrilling battle of the evening.

Robles eventually came out stronger in the last two games, winning some long rallies, some ranging from 13 to 19 shots, on the way.

Before Robles gave Goa its only win, it was U Mumba all the way.

The results: U Mumba bt Goa Challengers 11-4 (Doo Hoi Kem bt Archana Kamath 11-8, 11-10, 11-8; Manav Thakkar bt A. Amalraj 11-7, 5-11, 11-9; Thakkar & Doo bt Alvaro Robles & Archana 11-7, 11-10, 11-8; Kirill Gerassimenko lost to Robles 11-10, 7-11, 7-11; Sutirtha bt Cheng I-Ching 11-6, 11-9, 6-11).

Tuesday's fixture: Chennai Lions v RP-SG Mavericks (Kolkata) (7 p.m.).



Creating a ripple: Sutirtha Mukherjee upstaged Cheng I-Ching, the World No. 9. ■ COURTESY UTT

AN-NDNE

TV PICKS

UTT: Star Sports 1 & SS Select 1 (SD&HD), 7:10 p.m.
TNPL: Star Sports 3, 7:10 p.m.
Rogers Cup tennis: Sony ESPN (SD&HD), 9:30 p.m.

Messi injured

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BARCELONA

Barcelona captain Leo Messi is out of action less than two weeks ahead of the opening of La Liga season after injuring his right calf in training on Monday. The Argentina star has already been ruled out of the team's trip to Florida for a one-off friendly against Napoli in Miami on Wednesday.

Russian team leads Gold event

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Russian team, comprising Andrey Gromov, Anna Gulevich, Dmitry Rogov, Aleksandr Dubinin, Yuri Khiuppenen and Vadim Kholomeev led with 51.27 VPs in the Team of Four Gold event at the 17th HCL International bridge championship on Monday. The total prize purse on offer is ₹1.8 crore.

Defending champion, South Sweden, a combination of South Africa and Sweden, was in second spot with 49.39 VPs after three of the first five rounds on the opening day.

In the Team of Four Silver event, the team of I-Doctors – Rahul Dalal, Ashok Bhavnani, Deven Doshi, Gurmeet Singh Chadha and Shrikant Tembay – led with 53.24 VPs. Team IBCA Group was in the second place with 49.04 VPs.

In the Team of Four Bronze event, the team of Apanjan, Gourav Biswas, Suman Routh, Samir Bhattacharya and Ashok Dey led with 53.79 VPs, ahead of Phenix which had 50.46.

There will be a total of 10 rounds in the Swiss league, before the top 16 teams meet in the knockout stage of the Gold and Silver events. It will be the top eight teams making the knockout stage in the Bronze event.

Croatia's Jarni is new NEUFC coach

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Former Croatian World Cupper and its National youth team coach, Robert Jarni, has been named as NorthEast United FC's new head coach ahead of the ISL season, a statement from the club said.

Jarni, who had in his playing career turned out for prominent Italian and Spanish clubs like Juventus, Real Madrid and Real Betis, replaces Eelco Schatteman, who helped the team to the playoffs last season.

Jarni, who earned 81 caps for the Croatian National side, was a member of the 1998 World Cup team when it finished third in its maiden appearance.

"I am thrilled to take on this role at North East United and the project has my full commitment. This is my first foray into managing an Asian club and I am thrilled to bring in an exciting brand of football which the supporters will thoroughly enjoy."

Indian spikers on a roll

SPORTS BUREAU

NAY PYI TAW (MYANMAR): India beat Thailand 3-2 in its last group (D) match to top the group with three wins and qualify for the quarterfinals of the Asian under-23 men's volleyball championship here on Monday.

India has now earned automatic qualification for the next championship. The result: Group D: India bt Thailand 3-2.

'The feeling is yet to sink in'

Satwiksairaj and Chirag say they are high on confidence now

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

The newly-crowned Thailand Open men's doubles champions, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, said that the feeling of winning their maiden Super 500 title was yet to sink in.

In their first interaction after arrival in the City on Monday, the two shuttlers, who shocked Chinese World champions Li Jun Hui and Liu Yu Chen in the final, said they had seen the video of them clinching the match-point at least 50 times.

"We must say it is an unbelievable and unforgettable experience."

"We just didn't know what happened for a few minutes after we snatched the thrilling final till our coach ran on to the court to join in the celebrations," said the smiling Satwik and Chirag at the Gachibowli indoor stadium.

"We played high quality game right through the tournament, showed lot more maturity, were more composed and adept in analysing the strengths and weaknesses of the opponents," said Satwik who revealed that being not fully fit, he preferred to play at the net.

"It was like playing at home with so much of crowd support. And obviously we won because we could control things better in crunch situations of the game," said Satwik, who also revealed that he had stiffness in the shoulder from the quarterfinal stage and it was not a serious problem.

"I must tell we idolised the doubles combinations and we learnt so much watching the Beating them in such a prestigious event is a truly special feeling," he said.

"We just took one round at a time and honestly had never thought we would win



Golden journey: Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty proudly display their medals. • K.V.S. GIRI

the title before the Thailand Open began," said Chirag.

Areas of improvement
On what areas they need to focus ahead of the World championship, Chirag felt they need to shore up the defense.

"I think we are not still 100% there in this department though we are conscious that we have to keep improving in other key areas too," he said.

"Definitely, we will be more confident in the coming

event. It is always a great feeling to enter the next big events, including the Hyderabad Open, backed by such a terrific performance," he said.

"We are grateful to the support staff for keeping us fit right through the demanding schedule," he added.

"The next big target it to break into the top five which is not going to be easy but we will not be found wanting in terms of efforts," they signed off.

Sameer and Yeo Jian given top billing

Sindhu, Saina and Srikanth give it a miss; Prannoy is a doubtful starter

HYDERABAD OPEN

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Defending champion Sameer Verma of India in men's singles and World No. 30 Yeo Jian Min of Singapore have been given the top-billing in the Hyderabad Open badminton championship to be held at the Gachibowli indoor stadium here from Tuesday.

Sameer, who has won the Syed Modi Open, Swiss Open and Hyderabad Open before making it to the prestigious year-end BWF World Tour finals, should be looking to regain his form in the lead up to the forthcoming World championship.

Significantly, the leading women shuttlers P.V. Sindhu and Saina Nehwal will not be in action. K. Srikanth, clearly struggling to find the kind of form which fetched him four Super Series title in 2017 besides the World No. 1 ranking, will not be in action either.

Main contender
The other main contender for the men's singles title should be the 26-year-old Sai Praneeth, who finished

runner-up in this year's Swiss Open losing to Shi Yuqi.

The other lead shuttler H.S. Prannoy in men's section is a doubtful starter.

In women's singles, apart from Min, the other contenders are World No. 33 An Se-Young of Korea, World No. 45 Zhang Yiman.

In the doubles, the championship features R. Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty (men), Ashwini Ponnapa and N. Sikki Reddy (women) and Ashwini Ponnapa and Satwik (mixed doubles) as the top-seeds.

The seedings: Men: Singles: 1. Sameer Verma, 2. B. Sai Praneeth, 3. H.S. Prannoy, 4. P. Kashyap, 6. Subhankar Dey, 6. Shekar Hiren Rhustavito, 7. Sourabh Verma, 8. Firmans Abdur Kholik.

Doubles: 1. R. Satwiksairaj & Chirag Shetty, 2. B. Sumeeth Reddy & Manu Attri.

Women's singles: 1. Yeo Jian Min, 2. An Se-Young, 3. Zhang Yiman, 4. Porntip Buranaprasertsuk, 5. Ksenia Polikarpova, 6. Pai Yu-Po.

Doubles: 1. Ashwini Ponnapa & N. Sikki Reddy, 2. Emilie Lefel & Anne Tran.

Mixed doubles: 1. Pranav Choppa & N. Sikki Reddy, 2. R. Satwiksairaj & Ashwini Ponnapa.

Kromah brace stuns Bagan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Striker Ansumana Kromah's brace helped Peerless upset defending champion Mohun Bagan 3-0 in a Calcutta Football League Premier Division-A match here on Monday.

Kromah spoilt Bagan's party in its first match by scoring a goal apiece in either half at the Bagan club ground.

The Liberian put last year's runner-up Peerless ahead by scoring from a through ball sent by Pan-kaj Moula in 21st minute.

Peerless maintained pressure on an error-prone Bagan and managed to score twice in the second half.

Laxmikanta Mandi slotted one over Bagan keeper Shilton Paul's head to make the most of a counter-attack and double the lead in the 77th minute.

Kromah completed his brace when he shot into the open goal after Paul came out of his place a minute later.

To add insult to injury, Bagan witnessed Salva Chamorro's penalty being saved by Peerless custodian James Keitan in injury time.

This was Peerless' first win in three matches.

The result: Peerless 3 (Kromah 21, 78; Mandi 77) bt Mohun Bagan 0.

India beats Chinese Taipei

SPORTS BUREAU
KUALA LUMPUR

India began its campaign on a fluent note with a 3-0 win over Chinese Taipei in Group-C in the girls' team event in the World junior squash championship here on Monday.

None of the Indians were truly stressed with Yoshna Singh, perhaps, having the easiest outing, giving away just three points in three games.

The result: India bt Chinese Taipei 3-0 (Sanya Vats bt Wu Yi-Chen 11-2, 11-1, 11-2; Ashwarya Khubchandani bt Wang Yuan 11-2, 11-6, 11-6; Yoshna Singh bt Hsiao Nai-Wen 11-1, 11-1, 11-1).

Second edition of Tennis PL in Dec.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The second edition of the Tennis Premier League, offering a total prize of ₹60 lakh, is scheduled to be held at the Celebration Sports Club in Andheri, Mumbai, from December 12 to 15.

Apart from leading players like Arjun Kadhe and Ankita Raina, the event will also feature under-18 girls and under-14 boys, apart from wheelchair participants.

"The response from the first edition was overwhelming and we got tremendous support and encouragement," said Kunal Thakkur, the founder of the event.

The results (finals): Boys: Under-16: Raghu Raj Dewan bt Vishad Vaid 6-4. **Under-14:** Modern Fighters bt Modern Risers 2-0 (Rishith Agarwal bt Rishiraj Dewan 6-2; Mukund

Benihu bt Ishan Talwar 6-3).

Double delight for Ojasvini Goel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Ojasvini Goel won both the girls' under-14 and under-12 titles as she beat Tayyaba Sajida in the finals of My Tennis Team junior tournament, organised by the Indian Tennis Academy. In the under-12 boys' section, Hansh Anand won both his singles and doubles matches to help DLF Sports Academy Champs beat Deuce Stars 2-1. Aarav Dhekial and Vihaan Jain won their singles in the under-10 section to help Duece Stars win the title 2-0 against United Tennis Players.

The results (finals): Boys: Under-16: Raghu Raj Dewan bt Vishad Vaid 6-4. **Under-14:** Modern Fighters bt Modern Risers 2-0 (Rishith Agarwal bt Rishiraj Dewan 6-2; Mukund

gyan bt Aarav & Vihaan 6-0).

Under-12: DLF Sports Academy Champs bt Deuce Stars 2-1 (Hansh Anand bt Vihaan Jain 6-0; Pragyan Bhati lost to Aarav Dhekial 2-6; Hansh & Pra-

niudhini bt Ishan Talwar 6-3).

Girls: Under-16: Ojasvini Goel bt Tayyaba Sajida 6-1.

Under-14: Ojasvini Goel bt Tayyaba Sajida 6-2.

Under-12: Geetarthi Sunaina Gaba bt Harshita 6-2.



Budding stars: The winners and runners-up of the My Tennis Team meet. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Aayushi builds a career in sports administration in USA

She is grateful to tennis for paving the way for a brilliant career

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Making an impact: Aayushi Chouhan, who won the NCAA Career Development award in the USA. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

about 200 sports administrators. The experience was priceless."

Hopes to work with IOC
She is grateful to tennis for paving the way for a brilliant career. "Tennis gave me an identity and an opportunity to succeed in life. I never knew that I could do well in academics along with tennis until I came to USA, said Aayushi, who intends to work for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) some day.

Having started with table tennis when she was five and then moving to tennis, thanks to her father Rupendra Singh Chouhan's coaching, she travelled with mother Bhawna across the country for tournaments.

Aayushi had diversified into soft tennis and competed in the World tennis championship. She also represented her state in squash in the National Games in Kerala.

"I came to the Delaware State University in January 2016 on a 100% scholarship from the then coach Dave Marshall who is currently with the Bryan brothers," said Aayushi.

The award helped her attend the Accelerating Academic Successs Programme in New Orleans. "This had

Services teams — Army Red, Navy — do well

Hold second string ISL sides to draws

DURAND CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

The reserve side of ISL champion Bengaluru FC managed to salvage a point following a 1-1 draw with Indian Army Red in its opening Group-A league assignment of the 129th Durand Cup football at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Monday.

The second match of the evening, held at the same venue, saw Indian Navy holding former ISL champion ATK's second team to a 1-1 draw in a Group-B fixture.

Russia routs Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Russia posted an emphatic 13-0 win over Bangladesh in the female division-I semifinal of the Special Olympics International football championship here on Monday.

The results:

Male: Malaysia bt Austria 9-0; Bangladesh bt Myanmar 3-0.

Korea bt Maldives 4-0; Bharat (1) bt Indonesia 3-0; South Korea bt Bangladesh 2-0.

Malaysia bt Bharat (1) 5-0; Egypt bt Maldives 4-0; Indonesia bt Bharat (2) 2-1.

Female: Malaysia bt Maldives 4-0; Russia bt Bharat 8-0; Philippines bt Indonesia 2-0; Bangladesh bt UAE 3-1.

Semifinals: **Div. 1:** Russia bt Bangladesh 13-0;

Prajnesh and Ramkumar to lead the Indian challenge

The team will take on host Pakistan in Islamabad on Sept. 14 and 15

DAVIS CUP

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Prajnesh Gunneswaran and Ramkumar Ramanathan will spearhead the Indian team in the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania group-I tie against Pakistan to be staged in Islamabad on September 14 and 15.

Saketh Myneni, Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan will be the other members of the five-member squad, in which the 292nd-ranked Sasi Kumar Mukund has been drafted as reserve player.

With the 196th-ranked Sumit Nagal ruling himself out with injury, which restricted the choice for the selection committee, Myneni was the next best singles player with a rank of 271.

The three best singles players available and the two best doubles players were chosen on the basis of their international rank. Bopanna and Divij had won the Asian Games gold last year.

Ranking difference

While Prajnesh is ranked 90 in the world and Ramkumar 184, Pakistan has no player in the top 1350. Its best ranked singles player is Ahmed Choudhary at Tied-1387. Pakistan has Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi as the doubles specialist, who has slipped to No. 55 in the world.

The seasoned Aqeel Khan has been travelling to the Grand Slams as Aisam's hitting partner. He may be ranked 1489 in singles and 2096 in doubles, but Aqeel can really compete hard, especially in Davis Cup.

In the last Davis Cup tie



Trump cards: The higher-ranked Ramkumar Ramanathan and Prajnesh Gunneswaran should ensure a good showing for India against Pakistan. ■ M. KARUNAKARAN

No worries, says Zeeshan Ali

N. SUDARSHAN
BENGALURU

The rising cross-border tensions seem to have had little bearing – at least for now – as India named a five-member squad for the Davis Cup tie against Pakistan.

Asked if there were any fresh apprehensions about travelling, India's Davis Cup coach Zeeshan Ali replied in the negative.

"With India and Pakistan something keeps happening daily. There are still five weeks to go for

the tie. The players were a bit concerned a few days back. But once those issues were cleared it has been fine."

"I am very happy that we have been able to choose a full strength team."

between India and Pakistan in Mumbai in 2006, Leander Paes won the decisive fifth rubber, 6-4, 7-6(4), 3-6, 0-6, 6-1 against Aqeel Khan, on grass at the Brabourne Stadium.

India has a 6-0 record against Pakistan in Davis Cup. India has lost only four

rubbers while winning 22 spread over the six ties, starting from 1962.

The new regional format that has been in practice for some time, has only two days of play.

The first day features two singles matches in the 'best of three set' format.

The second day will start with the doubles and will be followed by the two reverse singles.

The team: Prajnesh Gunneswaran, Ramkumar Ramanathan, Saketh Myneni, Rohan Bopanna, Divij Sharan. **Reserve:** Sasi Kumar Mukund. **Captain:** Mahesh Bhupathi; **Coach:** Zeeshan Ali.

The 20-year-old, playing in her first Major, shot 68 for 18-under to win by a single stroke from American Lizette Salas. World No. 1 Ko Jin-young had to settle for third place following a 66.

Shibuno, who had never played a professional event outside Japan before, became the second Japanese to win a Major, joining Chako Higuchi, who won the 1977 women's PGA Championship.

Hinako Shibuno wins British Open

AGENCE-FRANCE-PRESSE
WOBBURN

Japan's Hinako Shibuno hit a gutsy 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole to win a thrilling women's British Open here on Sunday, completing a fairytale story for a player nicknamed the 'Smiling Cinderella'.

The 20-year-old, playing in her first Major, shot 68 for 18-under to win by a single stroke from American Lizette Salas. World No. 1 Ko Jin-young had to settle for third place following a 66.

Shibuno, who had never played a professional event outside Japan before, became the second Japanese to win a Major, joining Chako Higuchi, who won the 1977 women's PGA Championship.



Hail the princess! Hinako Shibuno's fairytale finish at the British Open has made her the toast of a nation. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Japan goes ga-ga over 'Smiling Cinderella'

Is second Japanese to win a Major

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TOKYO

Japan on Monday hailed a fairytale finish for Hinako Shibuno, the 20-year-old golf sensation known as 'Smiling Cinderella' who was crowned the surprise winner at the British Open.

"She did it!" said TV presenter Tomoaki Ogura after Shibuno, in her debut tournament overseas, became Japan's first Major-winner in 42 years.

All over the media
Shibuno's win at her first Major dominated morning television shows in Japan on Monday, topping news items. The story broke too late for the front pages of Japan's newspapers, but was splashed across their websites.

Despite the huge popularity of golf in Japan, only one Japanese player – male or female

– had previously won a Major: Chako Higuchi at the 1977 Women's PGA Championship.

Social media was abuzz with congratulations for the 20-year-old Shibuno, who only turned pro last year.

"A star is born!" tweeted one Japanese user. "A historic achievement," another wrote.

On Japanese television, Higuchi said Shibuno looked as "relaxed" as if she were playing in Japan.

"She is a new kind of player," the Daily Sports newspaper quoted Higuchi as saying.

Shibuno herself seemed overwhelmed by the victory.

"I didn't feel that nervous when I was on the last putt," she told reporters. But after the win "I was just covered in goosebumps and I feel so tense now I just don't know what to say!"

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Coach Stimac calls up Halicharan Narzary

Names list of 35 for WC qualifier preparatory camp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Indian football team coach Igor Stimac on Monday named his list of 35 probables for the preparatory camp for the forthcoming 2022 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers against Oman and Qatar.

The players will be assembling at the camp on August 19 in Goa, with practice kicking off from the next day.

Winger Halicharan Narzary, who featured in every match of India's 2019 AFC Asian Cup campaign, got a



Narzary. ■ FILE PHOTO: H. VIBHU

call-up for the camp, his first under Stimac.

Besides, three players from Indian Arrows' batch of 2018-19 – Narender Gahlot,

Anwar Ali (Jr) and Amarjit Singh also earned call-ups.

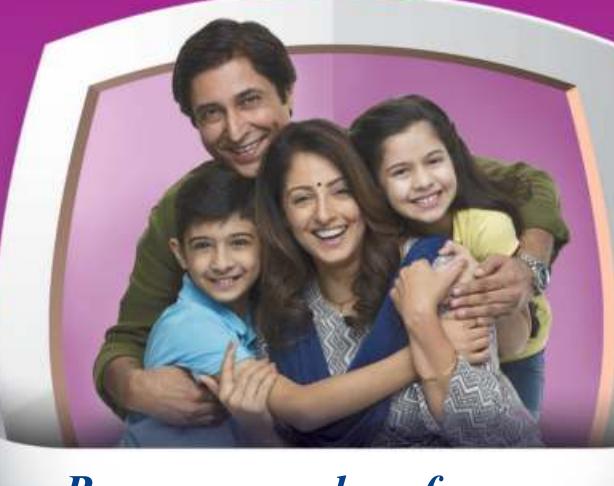
The probables: Goalkeepers Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Amrinder Singh, Kamaljit Singh, Vishal

Kaith. Defenders: Rahul Bheke, Nishu Kumar, Pritam Kotal, Anas Edathodika, Sandesh Jhingan, Anwar Ali (Jr.), Narender Gahlot, Sarthak Golui, Adil Khan, Salam Ranjan Singh, Subhasish Bose, Jerry Latrinzuala, Mander Rao Dessa.

Midfielders: Nikhil Poojary, Udanta Singh, Anirudh Thapa, Raynier Fernandes, Vinit Rai, Sahal Abdul Samad, Amarjit Singh, Pronay Halder, Rowlin Borges, Brandon Fernandes, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Halicharan Narzary, Ashique Kurunyan.

Forwards: Balwant Singh, Sunil Chhetri, Joby Justin, Farukh Choudhary, Manvir Singh.

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