

# Across State

Year:3 Issue : 02 Mumbai, Thursday 08-14 August 2019

Rs.5/-

Pages- 12

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## Tearful Nation Bids Final Farewell to Sublime Sushmaji

### ■ New Delhi

The last rites for Sushma Swaraj, the former foreign minister and a BJP stalwart, were conducted Wednesday to the sounds of ceremonial bugle and Vedic mantras, the widely different tunes emblematic of the woman herself who harmonised many different chords in her persona.

Swaraj, one of India's most high profile woman politicians who died on Tuesday night, combined her hard-nosed politics with compassion and empathy, winning admirers across the political spectrum and among ordinary people whose lives she touched often, sometimes personally and often through social media.

The 67-year-old veteran BJP leader and former External Affairs minister, always distinctive with 'sindoor' and a large 'bindi', brought a human approach to India's diplomacy.

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*The mortal remains of former external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj were consigned to flames on Wednesday as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior leaders, besides family, friends and admirers bid a tearful adieu to the political stalwart. A sea of mourners had gathered at the Lodhi Road crematorium here where she was cremated with full state honours. Swaraj, one of India's most high-profile woman politicians, who brought a rare empathy and a human approach to India's diplomacy, died at AIIMS here late Tuesday night, plunging the nation in a state of grief. The body of the former minister, wrapped in a tricolour, was brought to the crematorium in the afternoon from the BJP headquarters, where it was kept for few hours for people to pay their respects. Hundreds of people, including the prime minister, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, BJP chief Amit Shah, veteran party leader L K Advani, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Union ministers Rajnath Singh Harsh Vardhan and Ashwini Kumar Choubey, BJP working president J P Nadda, and New Delhi MP Meenakshi Lekhi bade her an emotional farewell.*



### Prez declares abrogation of provisions of Article 370



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### Most productive session since 1952, says Speaker



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### Swaraj was extraordinary woman, leader: UNGA President



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# BJP MPs celebrate passage of resolution on Art 370 in LS

## ■ New Delhi

BJP MPs in Lok Sabha on Tuesday celebrated with loud slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and thumping of desks as the House passed the Jammu and Kashmir reorganisation bill and a resolution on Article 370.

The mood among the treasury benches during the debate was boisterous with Home Minister Amit Shah joining the members in the applause several times as the MPs gave their speeches.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi too was greeted with loud cheers and slogans by BJP members when he arrived in the House just before Shah was to respond to the debate on motion to abrogate special status to Jammu and Kashmir and a bill which splits the state into two Union Territories.

Members of the treasury benches raised slogans of 'Vande Matram', 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and 'Jahan hue balidaan Mookerjee, woh



Kashmir hamara he'.

As soon as the Bill and the resolution were passed, BJP MPs got up from their seats and started thumping the desks amid sloganeering.

After Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die, members came to Shah's seat to congratulate him and greet Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Later Modi walked to-

wards opposition benches and shared greetings with leaders including BJD's Pinaki Misra, TRS' Nama Nagaeshwar Rao and briefly interacted with SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Modi also patted BJP's Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namagyan for his speech on the resolution and the bill.

When some opposition members took exception to the sloganeering, Shah said such slogans are being raised in every village of the country and the opposition should not have any objection.

## Traffic cop knocked down by truck in Maha

### ■ Thane

A 49-year-old traffic police constable was killed when a speeding truck hit him in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Wednesday.

The victim, Sanjay Patil, was on duty in

Ambernath town on Tuesday when the truck knocked him down around 8.45 pm, killing him on the spot, an official at the traffic police headquarters here said. The truck driver, identified as Sardarsingh Rambahadur Singh (27),

was later arrested and booked under Indian Penal Code Section 304-A (causing death by negligence) and provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, he said.

## NCP depends on voters, not leaders, says Nawab Malik

### ■ Mumbai

Newly appointed Mumbai president of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Nawab Malik, on Tuesday said his party does not depend on leaders, but on voters and workers who work hard for its victory. "We are confident that we still have the support of voters and we will show that in the elections," said Mr. Malik, who took charge of the Mumbai unit on Tuesday. On the recent exodus from the party, especially of his predecessor Sachin Ahir who joined the Shiv Sena, Mr. Malik said his party never depended on 'aayarams and gayarams' (people who come and go). "Why should we bother about those who chose to desert us," he said. "The only way to grow the party organisation in Mumbai is that we become the voice of the people. Whatever the issue, and however local it may sound, we have to raise it. This is going to be our job and the NCP will become the party of the people of Mumbai," he said.

## Six held for killing man in Kalyan

### ■ Thane

Six people were arrested on Tuesday for allegedly murdering a man in Kalyan in Thane district, police said.

The body of Jongol Budhwa Lohra (48) was found near an electric transformer under MFC police station limits in the early hours of the day, said Senior Inspector Prakash Londhe. "Lohra was killed between 2:30am and 4am with sharp weapons and sticks. The accused then dumped the body near the transformer and fled. They were arrested later in the day," he said. The official identified those arrested as Sandesh Jadhav, Navnath Rathod, Mangal Mangesh Hamal, Anish Shaikh, Nooralam Raju Jiprya and Popat Mama. A case under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered, he added.

## Can't allow animal slaughter in flats on Bakr-Id: HC

### ■ Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday restrained the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation from granting permission for slaughter of animals this Bakr-Id inside residential flats.

A bench of justices S C Dharmadhikari and G S Patel said it could not completely prohibit such slaughters within the compounds or grounds of housing societies.

However, the housing societies located within one km of religious plots and community halls, which could be used as alternate sites, must be directed by the BMC to carry out the slaughter there, instead of within their society premises, it said.

The bench said such restrictions were essential to "maintain basic standards of hygiene."

"It is impossible to maintain hygiene and sanitary conditions if slaughter of animals is permitted

within individual flats. Therefore, no permission can be granted for such slaughters within individual residential flats," the bench said.

The bench was hearing two petitions filed by local NGOs Jiv Maitri Trust and Vinayog Parivar, challenging the civic body's decision to grant temporary no-objection certificates to several housing societies for the slaughter of goats and sheep on Bakr-Id.

The petitioners argued that the civic body's policy violated the environmental and animal welfare laws.

BMC's counsel Anil Sakhre, however, told the court that such slaughters were permitted as per its rules, and it was regulated by a very specific policy on the area for such slaughters, compulsory enclosure of such space, maintenance of hygiene, and law and order.

Sakhre said it was a religious matter and the BMC

could not accept the petitioners' argument that such slaughter be restricted to the abattoir located in Deonar area here.

He said specific arrangements would be made to dispose of the carcass and clean the slaughter area.

The bench, however, said permission must not be granted to individual flats for the slaughter of animals.

It said several community halls, grounds and even some religious sites in the city were used for such slaughter.

Therefore, such housing societies that were located close to such sites must not be granted permission to carry out slaughters inside their own premises.

The court said suitable measures must be taken for transporting animals for slaughter and disposal of their carcasses.

The BMC must ensure that hygiene was maintained and other residents were not inconvenienced, it further said.

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# Prez declares abrogation of provisions of Article 370

## ■ New Delhi

President Ram Nath Kovind has declared abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

The move came after both houses of Parliament passed a resolution in this regard. "In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (3) of Article 370 read with clause (1) of Article 370 of the Constitution of India, the President, on the recommendation of Parliament, is pleased to declare that, as from the 6th August, 2019, all clauses of the said article 370 shall cease to be operative..." an official no-



tification signed by the President late on Tuesday night said.

It also said, except the following which shall read

as under, namely: "370. All provisions of this Constitution, as amended from time to time, without any modifications or excep-

tions, shall apply to the State of Jammu and Kashmir notwithstanding anything contrary contained in article 152 or article 308 or

any other article of this Constitution or any other provision of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir or any law, document, judgement, ordinance, order, by-law, rule, regulation, notification, custom or usage having the force of law in the territory of India, or any other instrument, treaty or agreement as envisaged under Article 363 or otherwise." The BJP-led government's bold move to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcate the border state into two Union territories secured Parliament's approval on Tuesday with the Lok Sabha passing the new measures with an over two-

thirds majority. The Rajya Sabha gave its approval to the resolution on Monday.

The government had announced on Monday the removal of some provisions of Article 370 to take away Jammu and Kashmir's special status and proposed bifurcation of the state into two Union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh -- a far-reaching decision that seeks to redraw the map and future of a region at the centre of protracted militancy.

With this, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has fulfilled one of its poll promises within 90 days of the Modi government 2.0 taking charge.

## Most productive session since 1952, says Speaker

## ■ New Delhi

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday said it was the most productive session since 1952.

He was speaking before adjourning the House sine die.

The first session of the 17th Lok Sabha, which began on June 17, was to conclude on July 26, but it was extended till August 7.

The session had 37 sittings of total 280 hours, in which 36 bills were passed



while 33 were introduced in the Lower House, Birla said.

He also mentioned that

the House sat for 75 hours during late in the evening to transact the business.

He said 1,086 issues

were raised by members mostly first timers during the Zero hour.

Out of the 265 first time members, 229 got chance to speak during the Zero Hour, while 42 out of 46 women MPs also spoke during the same period, he said. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi requested Speaker Om Birla to adjourn the proceedings sine die as "99 per cent" of the government business has been completed.

## NSA Doval meets JK gov, discusses security situation

## ■ Srinagar

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Tuesday met Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik here at the Raj Bhavan and discussed the prevailing internal and external security scenario in the state, a Raj Bhawan spokesperson

said.

Governor Malik and NSA Doval had an elaborate discussion on "the prevailing external and internal security situations in the state following developments in the Parliament relating to Jammu and Kashmir", he said.

Both of them stressed upon the need to ensure safety and security of general public and emphasised upon the need to maintain constant vigil, alertness and preparedness by various departments to meet any unforeseen situation, the spokesperson said.

They also sought various departments to have synergy in their functioning, he added.

The Centre on Monday got passed from the Rajya Sabha a resolution revoking the the provisions of Article 370 that gave Jammu and Kashmir a special status. It also got passed from the upper House a Bill seeking to bifurcate the state into two Union territories -- those of J&K and Ladakh.

## Govt abused executive powers to tear apart J&K: Rahul

## ■ New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi accused the government on Tuesday of abusing its executive powers to "tear apart" the state of Jammu and Kashmir and said this would have serious implications on national security.

He also alleged that leaders of political parties in Kashmir were jailed at secret locations, which was "unconstitutional and undemocratic", and demanded their immediate release.

Gandhi said the move



was "short-sighted and foolish" as it would allow terrorists to fill up the leadership vacuum created by the central government.

A day after the Centre

revoked the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution in Jammu and Kashmir and split the state into two Union territories, the Congress leader said na-

tional integration could not be furthered by unilaterally "tearing apart" the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"National integration isn't furthered by unilaterally tearing apart J&K, imprisoning elected representatives and violating our Constitution. This nation is made by its people, not plots of land.

"This abuse of executive power has grave implications for our national security," he said on Twitter.

This was Gandhi's first comment since the government revoked the provi-

sions of Article 370 on Monday to take away Jammu and Kashmir's special status and proposed that the state be bifurcated into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"Kashmir's mainstream political leaders have been jailed at secret locations. This is unconstitutional and undemocratic.

"It's also short sighted and foolish because it will allow terrorists to fill the leadership vacuum created by GOI. The imprisoned leaders must be released," he said on Twitter.



# Ayodhya case in SC: Hindu party seeks control of entire 2.77 acre disputed land

## ■ New Delhi

A Hindu body on Tuesday strongly pitched in the Supreme Court for control and management of the entire disputed 2.77 acre land in the politically and religiously sensitive case of Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title dispute at Ayodhya.

Nirmohi Akhara, one of the leading parties in the case, asserted its claim over the disputed site where the medieval structure was demolished on December 6, 1992, and said that Muslims have not been allowed to enter the place since 1934.

The Hindu body said it was claiming ownership and possession of the "main temple" as also to be the manager of the birth place of Lord Rama.

The top court, which commenced the day-to-day hearing Tuesday following the failure of the mediation proceedings to resolve the dispute amicably, was told by the Hindu body that since time immemorial "Janma Asthan now commonly known as Janam Bhumi, the birth place of Lord Ram Chandra was belonging to and in possession of the Akhara".

Nirmohi Akhara submitted before a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi that it was also acting as "its (property) Manager" through its 'Mahant' and 'Sarbrahkar' who had been managing and receiving offerings made there at in the form of money.

The bench, also comprising Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S A Nazeer, was told by senior advocate Sushil Jain appearing for the Akahara, that under the Muslim law no one can construct a mosque over the land which belonged to others.

Referring to the records, he said, "No Mohammedan could or ever did enter the temple building. It was specifically stated that no Moham-



medan has even attempted to enter it at least since 1934" and hence the claim of Akharara over the land was legal and should be honoured.

The senior advocate submitted that from 1934 to December 16, 1949, the site was in the exclusive possession of the Hindu body and the Muslims were not offering their daily 'five-time prayers'; they were only offering Friday 'namaz' that too under police protection.

Citing another evidence, he said that absence of provision for 'wuzu', by which Muslims wash hands and body parts before Namaz, at the disputed site, was interpreted by the high court to arrive at the conclusion that prayers were not being offered there since long and thus it had ceased to be a mosque.

It was on the intervening night of December 16, 1949, the idols of lord 'Ram Lalla' and other deities were placed inside the structure, Jain said.

While claiming management and possession of the entire land, Akahara said it was in possession of the outer courtyard and

Ram Janmasthan for hundreds of years.

"We were in possession of outer courtyard and Ram Janmasthan for hundreds of years. Outer courtyard having 'Sita Rasoi', 'Chabutra', 'Bhandar Grih' were in our possession and it was never a part of dispute in any case," the senior counsel told the bench.

The outer portion of the courtyard was "not attached under the judicial order of December 29, 1959 and continued to be in possession of the Akhara, he said. He said the litigation pertains only to the constructed portion that is only to "the main temple" also described generally as the "Inner Courtyard".

Further, the Akahara submitted that till filing of the law suit in 1989 by the Sunni Central Board of Waqfs, there was no dispute raised by any party relating to the outer courtyard.

"In the Outer Courtyard, there were undisputed structures of the plaintiff (Akhara) including the Sita Rasoi, Bhandar Griha as well as the Chabutra...", it said, adding that the other case was filed in 1989 by Gopal Singh Visharad, and

that too concerned with the inner courtyard only.

While Jain was making his submissions, the bench referred to the 2010 judgement of the High Court and said, "In any case, you have been given one-third of disputed area in preliminary decree by the High Court."

He was also asked to restrict his arguments to the civil case filed by the Hindu body.

The Hindu body said the access of the "main

temple or the Inner Courtyard" was through the outer courtyard only on which it had the right and the possession.

"There is no separate access to the Main Temple Area which is claimed by the Muslim Parties as the 'Babri Masjid'. It was specifically pleaded...that no Mohammedan could or ever did enter the temple building.

"It was specifically stated that no Moham-

medan has even attempted to enter it at least since 1934," Jain submitted, adding that "Akhara possessed the temple and none others but Hindus were allowed to enter and worship therein."

"After the demolition of the structure, the petition was amended and it was asserted that the main temple and other temples of Nirmohi Akharha were demolished by some miscreants, who had no religion, caste or creed," the Akahara submitted. It contended that it was due to the wrongful attachment, the Hindu body had been wrongly deprived of the management and charge of the temple. "Nirmohi Akhara was not only claiming ownership and possession of the property that is the Main Temple or the Inner Courtyard but was also claiming to be the manager of 'Janma Asthan' as well as the idols of Lord Ram Chandra, Laxmanji, Hanumanji and Saligramji," the senior advocate said. The court is hearing 14 appeals filed against the 2010 Allahabad High Court judgment, delivered in four civil suits, that the 2.77-acre land in Ayodhya be partitioned equally among the three parties -- the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.

## Passage of JK bill momentous occasion, new dawn awaits: Modi

### ■ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hailed the passage of bills on Jammu and Kashmir in Parliament as a "momentous occasion" in parliamentary democracy and said a new dawn awaits the state which is now free from the "shackles" of vested interest groups. "Together we are, together we shall rise and together we will fulfil the dreams of 130 crore Indians! A momentous occasion in our Parliamentary democracy, where landmark bills pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir have been passed with overwhelming support!" he said in a series of tweets soon after the Lok Sabha passed the bills. Parliament has given its nod to abolish the special status granted to the state under

Article 370 and also to bifurcate it into two union territories.

"For years, vested interest groups who believed in emotional blackmail, never cared for people's empowerment. J&K is now free from their shackles. A new dawn, better tomorrow awaits!" the prime minister said.

"Saluting sisters and brothers of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh for their courage and resilience," he said, adding that the bills will ensure integration and empowerment of these regions. These steps will bring the youth into the mainstream and give them innumerable opportunities to showcase their skills and talents, he said, adding that local infrastructure will significantly improve.



# Shah emerges stronger after delivering on BJP's agenda

■ New Delhi

After securing his legacy as the most successful BJP president, Home Minister Amit Shah has emerged stronger in the country's political landscape, especially within his party and its Hindutva allies, by successfully delivering on his organisation's core promise of revoking provisions of Article 370.

His successful piloting of the move to strip Jammu and Kashmir of its special status is undoubtedly the highlight of his ministerial stint since the Modi 2.0 government assumed office on May 30.

Parliament's nod to the bills to strengthen anti-terror laws during the ongoing session has also bolstered his image on two planks close to the saffron parivar: Hindutva and national security.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shah is getting the credit for bringing to fruition a cause for which the BJP ideologue Syama Prasad Mookerjee



died in a Jammu and Kashmir jail in 1953.

While BJP leaders were expectedly fulsome in praise of Shah in their speeches in Parliament, with some likening him to first home minister Sardar Patel, speakers from even parties outside the NDA fold like the YSR Congress were no less enthusiastic in

lauding him.

Party leaders said it was also to the credit of Shah, who remains at the helm in the BJP, that the government was successful in shattering any pretence of the opposition unity by winning over a number of non-allies like the BJD, YSR Congress and BSP.

An astute political strat-

egist, Shah framed the debate on resolutions and bills on Jammu and Kashmir around the theme of national security and unity, resulting in a party like Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP, a bitter BJP critic, ending up supporting the treasury benches. Since joining the Modi 2.0 government, Shah has enhanced his reputa-

tion as a champion of Hindutva ideology.

As the BJP president, he was an enthusiastic proponent of his party's contentious core agenda, which also includes building Ram temple in Ayodhya and enacting uniform civil code.

It gladdened the hearts of the party's ever-broadening base but the

government's lack of a majority in Rajya Sabha meant that the Narendra Modi dispensation could make no meaningful move in fulfilling these promises.

After playing a key role in charting his party's path to power in many states and a bigger majority in the Lok Sabha in the recent general election, Shah joined the government and spearheaded its exercise on this front. He has been instrumental in winning over leaders from the opposition, bagging support from non-allied parties and turning the numbers on their head in Rajya Sabha.

On paper, the BJP-led NDA still lacks a majority in the Upper House but the bill to bifurcate Jammu and Kashmir into two states received 125 votes in favour and only 61 against it on Monday.

Political pundits say Shah has used a skilful mix of ideological firmness, unlimited political imagination and realpolitik flexibility to keep the BJP ahead of the game.

## Modi critic Bhagawan praises PM for Govt's Kashmir move

■ Bengaluru

Controversial left leaning litterateur and historian K S Bhagawan, a staunch critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has heaped praise on him for government's move to revoke Article 370 giving special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

The decision has rid the people of Kashmir of their sufferings and brought happiness to the country, Bhagawan said.

"I am proud and happy that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will leave a permanent mark in the history of the country. Jai Narendra Modi," he said in a hand-written press release.

The move has brought the entire nation under one constitution, Bhagawan said, adding, the entire country was "desperately" waiting for it.



Without elaborating, the rationalist said at least Rs seven crore to Rs eight crore was being "wasted" per day in Kashmir, which can now be utilised for the people's welfare.

Later speaking to media, Bhagawan said: "There was a distinction between rest of the country and Kashmir. Modi erased that dichotomy in one go."

Justifying applauding Modi on the issue, Bhagawan said whatever is good for the country should be appreciated.

"What former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee could not do, was made possible by Modi, which everyone should welcome," he said.

The controversial author was reportedly in the hit list of a "right wing gang", which was allegedly behind the killing of journalist Gauri Lankesh and rationalist M M Kalburgi, following which his security was strengthened.

Bhagawan had drawn flak in February 2015 when he allegedly stated that certain stanzas of the Bhagavad Gita should be burnt as they promote caste-based discrimination against the "Shudras" or the lowest strata of Hindu society.

## Naxal leader on the run held in Telangana

■ Hyderabad

A leader of the armed underground 'dalam' (group) of CPI (ML) New Democracy was arrested on Tuesday and a .303 rifle along with ammunition was seized from him, police said. D Sammaiah (50) was apprehended in the forest area of Raigudem in the Bhadradi-Kothagudem district of Telangana, superintendent of police Sunil Dutt said. The naxal, wanted in 13 criminal cases in different police stations, was caught while police were searching for dalam members who were involved in firing at a police party in

Bhadradi-Kothagudem district on July 31, they said. In the firing, Linganna, state secretary of the CPI (ML) New Democracy, and the "Commander of the Linganna Dalam", the underground group formed by him, was killed. Of late, the naxalites have been camping in the forest area of Gundala mandal with a view to extorting money from contractors and businessmen. Besides, the naxal group was involved in inducing innocent tribals to indulge in illegal activities like cutting down of trees in the name of podu (slash and burn) cultivation.



# Fadnavis reviews flood situation in Maharashtra

## ■ Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday took a break from his ongoing mass outreach programme and chaired a meeting here to review the flood situation in various parts of the state.

He directed the authorities concerned to make adequate arrangements of food, drinking water and other essential items for the flood-affected people in Kolhapur, Sangli, Raigad and Palghar districts, a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said.

Western parts of the state witnessed heavy rains in the last few days, causing flooding at various places.

Nearly 53,000 people from Sangli district were shifted to safer places, while around 11,432 people were so far evacuated from Kolhapur and 3,000 from Raigad, the CMO said.

Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) were deployed to assist the affected people, it said, adding that the Navy, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard were also engaged in rescue and relief efforts.

The chief minister asked the water resources department to



share information on water discharge from dams and other projects with railways regularly.

He also asked the officials concerned to make available medical teams in the affected districts in case of any requirement or demand from the local administration, and directed for special care of children in flood-hit areas.

"All necessary items, such as medicines, should be made available on priority," the CMO's statement quoted Fadnavis as saying.

He also directed for immediate survey of crop damage in the flood-affected areas.

State revenue minister Chandrakant Patil, water resources minister Girish Mahajan, co-operation minister Subhash

Deshmukh, PWD minister Eknath Shinde, environment minister Ramdas Kadam and senior officials were present in the meeting.

Collectors of Kolhapur, Sangli, Pune, Satara, Palghar, Raigad and Ratnagiri districts joined the meeting via video-conferencing and briefed Fadnavis about various relief

measures being taken up by them, the CMO said.

After facing flak from the opposition on Tuesday for carrying on with his 'Maha Janadesh Yatra' despite rains battering many parts of the state, Fadnavis decided to temporarily suspend the mass outreach programme and chaired the cabinet meeting here.

## Parliament passes bill to increase number of SC judges

### ■ New Delhi

Parliament on Wednesday passed a bill which seeks to increase the number of Supreme Court judges from the present 30 to 33 with a view to reducing pendency of cases.

Moving "The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2019" for consideration and return, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said, "I would urge the House to consider the Bill".

Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad said, "We have no objection to it...but members of Parliament want to discuss it as we normally do not discuss judiciary...We get chance once in a decade or six months...We would also want to know about the judiciary."

Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said it is a Money Bill, to which the Law Minister said that he was

willing to have a discussion on the judiciary in November.

Satish Chandra of the BSP urged the government to ensure representation of Schedule Castes in the Supreme Court. Leader of the House Thaawarchand Gehlot urged the House to pass both the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2019 and "The Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019. However, the Chair took up the Supreme Court Bill alone, which was passed without discussion. The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on August 5.

As of now, the Supreme Court has a sanctioned strength of 30 judges, plus the chief justice of India -- 31 judges.

After Parliament's nod, its sanctioned strength will go up to 33, plus the CJI.



## Governor Das says 35 bps rate cut balanced, based on data

### ■ Mumbai

Governor Shaktikanta Das Wednesday termed the steeper 0.35 percent repo rate cut as a "balanced" call given the domestic and global developments.

He explained that a 0.25 percentage points reduction, as it has done thrice this year since February, would have been "inadequate", while a 0.50 percentage points cut would have been "excessive".

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) for the fourth consecutive times in a 4:2 vote resolved to cut the rates by 0.35 percent, taking the total cuts during 2019 to 1.10 percent to a near record low of 5.40 percent.

Das said the RBI has been preemptive in its actions on rates and the policy stance through the year and has also provided adequate liquidity to the system always.

Addressing the media at the customary post-policy presser, Das said there is nothing sacred about multiples of 0.25 percent

cuts and also made it clear that the rate cut has not been taken on "gut feel" but on hard data.

"Too much should not be read into it, it is judgement call which the MPC has taken," he said, adding that it was "prudent" to be accommodative.

The RBI will ensure that there is sufficient liquidity is available for the economy.

Expressing satisfaction on the transmission process by saying that the financial markets have

fully absorbed the benefits of the three past rate cuts and expressed confidence that there will be more rate cuts in the future by the banks.

Das said the decision of the MPC is its "own autonomous, independent decision."

To a question on real interest rates and the levels which the central bank is targeting, he said this is not the right time to look at that aspect as the RBI focus is to meet the output gap.

## SBI lowers lending rates by 15 bps from Aug 10

Within hours of a steeper 35 basis points reduction in the repo rates by the Reserve Bank to 5.4 percent in its fourth consecutive steps, the largest lender State Bank announced a 15 basis points reduction in its lending rates, effective August 10 across all tenors.

The new one-year MCLR or the marginal cost based lending rates will come down to 8.25 percent from 8.40 percent annum, the lender said in a statement. With this reduction, the bank's effective repo-linked lending rate (RLLR) for cash credit accounts (CC)/ overdrafts (OD) customers will be revised downwards to 7.65 percent, from September 9. After this cut, home loans of the bank have become cheaper by 35 bps since April. The bank is offering a repo linked home loans from July 1, 2019.



# Payal Tadv case: many gaps in probe, says HC

## Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday said there are many lacunae in the probe carried out by the Mumbai Crime Branch in the death of 26-year-old Payal Tadv and said the "medical profession was no longer noble."

A Single Bench of Justice Sadhana Jadhav was hearing bail applications filed by Dr. Hema Ahuja (28), Dr. Bhakti Mehare (26) and Dr. Ankita Khandelwal (27), all third-year resident doctors at BYL Nair Hospital currently lodged at the Byculla prison for allegedly harassing, ragging and abetting the suicide of Tadv, who belonged to a Scheduled Tribe.

When special public prosecutor Raja Thakare was reading the charge sheet, Justice Jadhav said, "Look at the number of authorities that [Tadv's] mother went to raise a complaint... Dr. Yi Ching Ling, who heads the obstetrics and gynaecology department at the BYL Nair Hospital has clearly shirked responsibility by refusing to



take cognisance of a complaint of harassment made by Tadv's mother, and therefore, she must be added to the list of the accused persons in the case."

The court then directed the police to initiate proceedings to seek necessary permissions to take action against Dr Ling.

After being pulled up by the court for not recording statements of relevant witnesses, Mr. Thakare said the Crime Branch will take all steps to record state-

ments of doctors Snehal Shinde, Geeta Kulkarni, Ziyar Sayyad, Anupama Kanwar, Devika and Surabhi by August 9 under Section 164 (recording of confessions and statements) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The court directed the chief metropolitan magistrate "to take expeditious steps to see the statements are recorded at the earliest."

Mr. Thakare said the investigating officer was

prima facie of the opinion that the doctors responsible in the case would be liable for an offence under Section 7 (deemed abetment) of the Maharashtra Prohibition of Ragging Act, and this included the conduct of Dr. Ching Ling for not paying heed to the complaints made by Tadv's mother Abeda, husband Salman, and her colleagues.

The court once again suggested the medical licences of all three accused

be terminated till the end of the trial.

Advocate Aabad Ponda, appearing for the three doctors, argued for their bail and said they have been in judicial custody for 70 days. He said they are deeply sorry and never intended that Tadv end her life. He said they deserved to be granted bail since they were not accused of murder or homicide.

The court, however, said the comparison with homicide or murder did not fit the case as the accused had inflicted continuous mental injury on the deceased.

Justice Jadhav said, "Often it is said that physical injury is better than mental injury for the latter goes unseen and is left untreated. However, in the present case there are no assumptions. The deceased and her family raised several complaints before the suicide, the mental injury was seen and it could have been curtailed, yet, no one too serious note of it. You can't say, thus, that this is not a case of murder or ho-

micide for mental injury was inflicted upon her," the court said.

Referring to the conduct of the doctors, the court said, "Everyone merely said this is common in medical colleges. What kind of attitude is this where doctors [behave] like that? This profession is no more noble." The prosecution also made a request before the court that media should be prohibited from reporting on court proceedings in the case. The defence consented to it, but the judge said an order will be passed on this later. The court added that the prosecution must keep in mind that another Bench of the HC had revoked a media gag order on the Sohrabuddin Shaikh fake encounter case.

Tadv killed herself in her hostel room on the hospital's premises on May 22. The three doctors was sent to judicial custody on May 31 and subsequently filed their bail pleas. Their pleas were filed in HC on June 29 after the city civil and sessions court refused to grant them bail on June 24.

## Maharashtra government plans MTDC resort in Ladakh

### Mumbai

With the withdrawal of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, the Maharashtra government wants to set up a tourist resort in Ladakh.

Tourism Development Minister Jaykumar Rawal said the official decision regarding this will be taken soon.

With the revocation of some provisions of the Article 370 of the Constitution, the bar on outsiders from buying land in Jammu and Kashmir is expected to cease to exist. The Centre has also proposed to turn Ladakh into a Union Territory. "We would like to purchase land and set up an MTDC

(Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation) resort in Ladakh. Sizable number of tourists visit Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir every year and with abrogation of Article 370, I think we can officially set up a resort," Rawal said.

"The resort will be as modern as those developed by MTDC in Maharashtra. Official decision will be taken soon," Rawal said. He was speaking to reporters after launching MTDC's booking facility at the Mantralaya, the state government's headquarters here.

The facility will offer discounts to government officials, he said.

## Nine states didn't follow procedure in rejecting claims of tribals: SC

### New Delhi

The Supreme Court observed Tuesday that nine states have not followed the procedure in rejecting the claims of tribals over forest land and said the matter related to eviction of around 11.8 lakh alleged illegal forest dwellers is "important".

A bench comprising Justices

Arun Mishra, M R Shah and B R Gavai asked several states, which have not yet filed affidavits giving details about the procedure adopted in rejecting the claims, to file their responses by September 6.

"Nine states say they have not followed the procedure. We would like to be addressed first on this. It is

an important matter," the bench observed and posted the case for hearing on September 12.

The apex court had earlier stayed its February 13 order directing 21 states to evict 11.8 lakh illegal forest dwellers whose claims over the forest land have been rejected by the authorities.

## Educationist Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy no more

### Chennai

Eminent educationist Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy, founder of the Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan (PSBB) Group of Schools, died at a private hospital here on Tuesday following a cardiac arrest.

She was 93 and is survived by her son, the actor Y G Mahendran.

Rajalakshmi, who was admitted to a private hospital on Monday night, passed away following a cardiac arrest around noon on Tuesday, hospital sources said.

Popularly known as Mrs YGP,



Rajalakshmi received the Padma Shri in 2010 for her contribution to the field of education.

Her husband, the late Y G Parthasarathy, was an actor and theatre personality. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami expressed his condolences and said Rajalakshmi was a pioneer in education. "It is a loss not just for her family, but to the education sector and student community. I express my condolences to Y G Mahendran and his family members," he said in a statement.



# Parliament passes new Consumer Protection Bill

## ■ New Delhi

Parliament on Tuesday approved a new bill to revamp the process of administration and settlement of consumer disputes, with stiff penalties including jail term for adulteration and fines for misleading ads.

The Consumer Protection Bill 2019, already passed by Lok Sabha, was approved in the Upper House by voice vote and will replace the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

Motions moved by Derek O'Brien (TMC) and K K Ragesh (CPI) for sending the bill to a select committee of Rajya Sabha for further scrutiny were rejected by the Upper House.

Members from Left parties, DMK and Trinamool Congress alleged the bill takes away indirectly the powers of the state governments and should be referred to a select committee.

The bill piloted by Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan seeks to establish a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce consumer rights.

Under the Bill, celebrities endorsing misleading ads are also liable for fine.

The Bill strengthens the rights of consumers and provides a mechanism for redressal of complaints regarding defects in goods and deficiency in services.

Replying to a debate on the Bill, Paswan said that the suggestions given by members would be included in the rules framed by the Ministry under this legislation.

The minister said if a product is found faulty, instead of earlier individual examination, the entire batch would be examined.

He said the new bill seeks to take care of product liabilities and service, as well as action against publishers and celebrities of misleading advertisements.

Paswan said there are a number of pending cases, over 20,304 cases at national level, 1,18,319 cases at state level and 3,23,163 cases at the district level, in the country.

"Now we are naming district commission, state commission and national commission, with the district and state commissions under state governments," he said.

The minister lamented that in 118 districts out of 596 districts the posts of president of consumer commissions are vacant, besides 362 posts of members.

Responding to a point regard-



ing celebrity endorsements raised by Samajwadi Party member Jaya Bachchan, Paswan said when the Bill was sent to a Standing Committee earlier, it set jail term as punishment. However, later when an assessment was conducted, it was found that world-wide there is no provision of serious punishment for celebrities. Paswan observed that media and celebrities must only advertise what has been given in writing to them by manufacturers, else they will be responsible (for the misleading advertisements). The minister was quick to add that celebrities were also endorsing Swachhta campaign and other social messages.

have been increased to Rs one crore, and Rs 10 crore for state level commissions, while the compensation for above Rs 10 crore has been kept for national commission," he said.

The proposed CCPA would make interventions to prevent consumer detriment arising from unfair trade practices. The agency can also initiate class action, including enforcing recall, refund and return of products.

The Bill also envisages simplified dispute resolution process and has provision for mediation and e-filing of cases. The consumer will be able to file cases in the nearest commission under the

gress) supported the bill but called for action against unfair trade practices as defined by the Bill and punitive measures thereof, saying the issue is being dealt by the Competition Commission also.

He demanded action against celebrities and others who promote such false advertisements.

Vijay Goel (BJP) suggested that a Ministry of Moral Responsibility or Moral Education be also set up to ensure that lawmakers follow certain rules. He cited the example of Ministry of Loneliness set up in UK and Ministry of Happiness in Bhutan.

He said the bill first came in 2015 but could not be passed by Rajya Sabha even after Lok Sabha approved it. The Bill has also been sent to two Stranding Committees, he noted.

Derek O'Brien (TMC) said sending the bill to a select committee is not a delaying tactic by the opposition but for ensuring that legislations are properly scrutinised. He alleged that through this bill, the central government is "snatching" away the rights of states. "All executive powers are

"This bill is a must in the current juncture but takes away the states powers. What is the reason for taking away the states powers indirectly in every bill?," DMK member Tiruchi Siva questioned in Rajya Sabha. He pointed to a provision in the bill wherein members of the state and district level consumer disputes redressal forums will be appointed by the central government, "usurping the powers of the state".

While proposing that the bill be referred to a select committee, Siva said the disputes redressal forums proposed in the bill do not have members from judiciary.

"How can it be called a quasi-judiciary body? It is a pseudo-judiciary body," he said.

Echoing the views, CPI(M) member K K Ragesh alleged it was a "sabotage of federalism" and centralisation of powers". He said states' powers to frame rules has been snatched away.

Supporting the bill, RJD member Manoj Kumar Jha noted, "In this session of Rajya Sabha, there was a pattern to reduce the position and powers of states. BJP has always been concerned about federalism. I don't know where those concerns have gone now."

He urged the government to take steps against advertisers on financial instruments and mutual funds to ensure the advertisements are clear to consumers.

Claiming that the bill is not "foolproof" and has many "drawbacks", TRS member K Keshava Rao said the government has not accepted the 11 recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee that vetted the draft law. He also said it challenges the federalism as members of the state and district forums will be appointed in consultation with the central government.

Rao also pointed that the bill has not been drafted in a "simple language" for the benefit of consumers. The definition of consumer rights is written in a complicated way, he said.

Speaking in favour of the bill, Ravi Prakash Verma (SP) demanded that the government create a consumer-friendly ecosystem in the country and create more awareness about consumer rights. Amar Patnaik (BJD) said the bill is good but several things need to be reconsidered, especially definition of consumer should be broadened. He welcomed the provision on class action. Supporting the bill, Kahkashan Perween (JD-U) shared her bad experience of buying diabetes medicine from an online platform.



He said the government will further examine rules regarding stunts in advertisements.

The bill has provisions for deterrent punishment to check misleading advertisements and adulteration of products. It also enables regulations to be notified on E-commerce and direct selling with focus on protection of interest of consumers.

Further, the bill deals with Product Liability as manufacturers or product service providers or product sellers will now be responsible to compensate for injury or damage caused by defective product or deficiency in services. "Since 90 per cent of cases are coming to district consumer commissions, the compensation

jurisdiction of which he resides.

On maximum retail price (MRP), Paswan said many restaurants were overcharging but when it tried to intervene, the matter was challenged in court.

He said MRP should be displayed prominently on products apart from date of expiry, date of manufacturing and complaints redressal mechanism.

He observed that there is no concept of levying a service charge globally and the government advised restaurants to make it voluntary. Paswan urged the state governments to pay more attention to consumer awareness programmes like Jaago Grahak Jaago. Participating in the debate, K C Ramamurthy (Con-

retained by the Centre, but the financial burden of setting up consumer commissions lies with the states. The states federal powers have been taken away," he noted.

O'Brien quoted Dr B R Ambedkar who had stated that "there is a majority and there is a minority and the rights of minorities should be protected". Earlier, Paswan noted that it is a long pending legislation and except five, all recommendations of a parliamentary standing committee have been included in the bill. He said this "non controversial" bill among other things, proposes setting up of Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and forums at the district, state and national levels for adjudicating consumer complaints.



# TEACHING CHILDREN THROUGH CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH

By Dr. Sangeeta N Srivastava

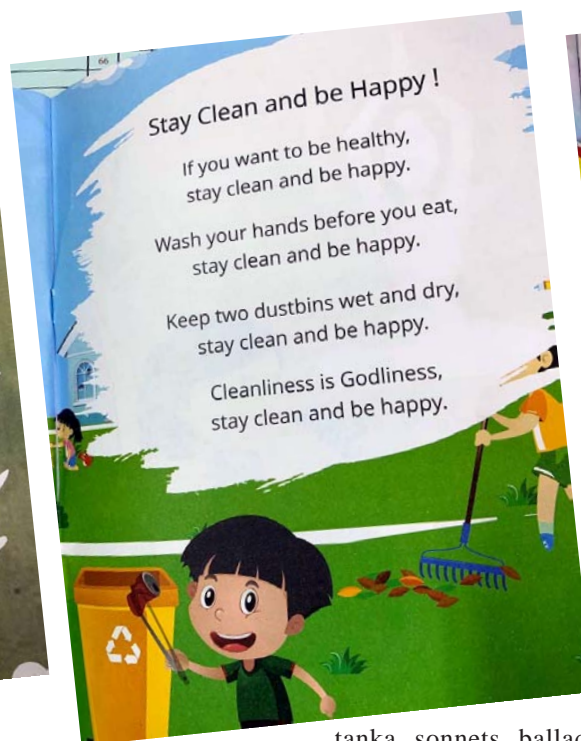
Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children memorize eight nursery rhymes by the time they are four years old, they are usually among the best readers by the time they are eight. (Fox, M. (2001). Reading Magic. San Diego, CA: Harcourt.)

The poems that I memorized as a child, my teachers and the memories related to them are till today fresh and unfazed in my mind. When I began teaching, I enjoyed creating simple poems based on the topics to be taught. This made it easy and interesting for my students. I felt good when I got encouraging results from students.

Confucius (551 BC- 479 BC) said, "I learn and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand." Based on this philosophy I developed creative writing activities on the 31 poems I wrote. Each activity is designed keeping in mind children's imagination and development of their creative writing skills. Students will find these activities very refreshing and helpful in developing their vocabulary in all the languages they are learning, including their mother tongue.

The activities are based on principles of constructivism, a learning theory found in Psychology which explains how people think, acquire knowledge and learn. The theory suggests that humans construct knowledge mainly from their own experience of learning. I realized that this is a sure way to make children learn through constructive approach. Therefore, this creative writing workbook will be useful for the students to think and express themselves based on their own experiences. Students of vernacular medium who want to improve their English language skills will also find the book useful. These simple poems are easy to memorize. Students can even sing them on tunes composed by them. These activities will also help students to improve their creative thinking skills.

Some of the qualities students will develop will lead to lifelong learning. The students will be able to develop their creativity and writing skills. They will be able to understand and appreciate poetry as a



literary art form. Students will learn to analyse the various elements of poetry, such as diction, tone, form, genre, imagery, figures of speech, symbolism and theme. Further they will be able to recognize the rhythms, metrics and other musical aspects of poetry.

Apart from gaining knowledge about poetry students will recognize poetry belonging to different cultures, languages and historic periods. Having been introduced to poetry from a variety of cultures throughout the world, they will develop a deeper appreciation of cultural diversity. This will help them to identify a variety of forms and genres of poetry from diverse cultures and historic periods, such as haiku,

tanka, sonnets, ballads, dramatic monologues and free verse.

Learning poetry will broaden their vocabulary and develop an appreciation of language and its connotations and denotations. Students will be able to read and discuss selected translated poems and apply the principles of literary criticism to analyse poetry. This will develop critical thinking skills. "All of these poems and the related activities are relevant for children in the age group of 5 to 15 years. The teachers as well as parents can create and add their own activities suitable for different age groups. This will make these exercises more meaningful and dynamic. Their minds will sparkle and shine with different ideas and they will be able to create

their own poems in languages they are familiar with.

Research has proved that through rhymes and poems, children understand that there are words which are similar in sound but with different meanings. They learn what a pattern is, and develop the capability of recognizing patterns. They understand, through patterns, what is a sequence. They have fun memorizing rhymes which in turn helps practicing memory both linked to audio and visual events. (Listening to someone reading rhymes, or reading themselves). Enhanced memory and recognizing patterns and sequences are also very helpful for learning of mathematics and new languages. "I have experimented and applied these activities on students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds and fail to perform in academics. I have experienced that poetry based activities helped them in more ways than I had imagined.

encourage their sense of humor and

sharing rhymes with their family creates space for fun within the family. There is an emotional attachment with the poetry and stories children read together with their parents. This induces social and emotional development. When children feel lonely, or need comfort, they can easily recall the rhymes they shared with their parents or teachers or friends and feel refreshed in that moment uplifting their moods.

Finally, these poems are aimed at engaging the young minds by making them think creatively and fall in love with the language through very simple activities. They can write in the worksheets provided alongside the poems using pencil and eraser enabling them to read, create, write and if need be erase, recreate and rewrite.



## Across State

## Clueless Congress

A few weeks ago, in a signed column, The Tribune had in utter disbelief asked, "Where is our shadow PM?" Opposition is the soul of a parliamentary democracy, which becomes dysfunctional without an effective bulwark against the government. Now, on Tuesday, former Congress president Sonia Gandhi seemed to have shaken her head in similar disbelief at her leader in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's statement on Jammu and Kashmir. He has questioned the long-held Indian stand that J&K is an integral part of the country, all issues concerning J&K are internal and that it does not appreciate any outside interference.

Chowdhury's jaw-dropping queries on the competence of the Indian Parliament to make laws concerning J&K came after Home Minister Amit Shah made a statement in the Lok Sabha on the government's move to scrap Article 370 and to create two union territories out of the old state. Chowdhury's references to United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, Simla Agreement and Lahore Declaration simply proved that more than being inarticulate in Hindi, the

leader of the largest party in Opposition is completely out of his depths. Earlier, the Congress chief whip in Rajya Sabha, Bhubaneswar Kalita, had quit the party and veteran Janardan Dwivedi had broken ranks



with the leadership and referred to mentor Ram Manohar Lohia to support the government. Worse, Manish Tewari of the Congress quoted, of all texts, an erotic novel, 50 Shades of Grey by EL James, to inadvertently explain his party's dilemma.

This is probably the most embarrassing moment in the Grand Old Party's history. Its stand on the abrogation of J&K cannot be 50 shades of grey or a bunch of inarticulate queries from a person who obviously does not understand the subject. The Congress has to clearly spell out why it is opposing the government or else support the Bill like BSP, BJD and YSRC. In all this din, the Opposition has disastrously failed to secure the freedom of a member and a coalition partner, who is still under house arrest. The Lok Sabha should not have discussed the Reorganisation Bill in the absence of its member from Srinagar, Farooq Abdullah. His presence and participation would have legitimised the government's actions.

## The BJP agenda



Abrogation of Article 370, implementation of the uniform civil code and building a Ram temple at Ayodhya have been the cornerstones of the BJP's political programme and prime promises in its poll manifesto over many decades. Of these, abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution that gives a special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir has been the oldest ideological argument of the RSS and its political offshoots, the Jan Sangh and the BJP. Jan Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee had quit Jawaharlal Nehru's Cabinet in 1950 primarily over this issue. This special status was offered at a time when most princely states, which had acceded to the Indian Union, still hung on to old practices, hierarchies and bureaucracies; when former rulers were

termed Raj Pramukhs and their coats of arms and flags were in vogue. Sheikh Abdullah wanted this status to convince and reassure his people to join a Hindu-majority nation and Nehru offered it to enhance the prestige of a multicultural, diverse India and to defeat Jinnah's identity politics.

Now, after seven decades, J&K loses its special status and gets reorganised into two union territories: one for Ladakh and the other for the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir. This doesn't come as a surprise because the RSS had passed a resolution in 2002 seeking the trifurcation of J&K into three administrative units comprising Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. It cannot be a coincidence that the Centre has moved the resolution to abolish Article

370 in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, soon after criminalising triple talaq — a step in the direction of a uniform civil code. So, of the core issues of the Sangh Parivar, only the Ram temple is now left on the table.

The BJP can claim that it is merely fulfilling its election mandate; the promises it has made to its voters all these years and particularly during the highly polarising General Election, which concluded less than three months ago. But has the government thought it through? Has it factored in all the international ramifications, the UN resolutions and the neighbourhood's response? The government, at home, could have acted with a lot more transparency in Delhi and in the Valley.

## UAPA Amendment Bill

THE Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill passed by Parliament, allowing the Central Government to designate an individual as a terrorist and seize his property, is likely to generate a controversy because of the powers it confers on the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The Bill has been justified on the ground that even after banning an outfit, a terrorist can float another group and continue with his activities and that countries like the US, China and Israel have similar laws.

Predictably, as such laws do, it will lead to apprehensions over the rights of an individual and civil liberties. If the government believes an individual is involved in terrorism, he can be declared a terrorist sans an FIR, charge sheet or trial in a court. Usually, an individual is presumed innocent until proven guilty, but here the onus will be on the person to prove he is not involved in terror activities. The NIA is believed to have asked for the amendments because such cases have inter-state and trans-national implications. But investigative

agencies in India already have questions to answer. The CBI, like in the Aarushi case, was accused of first zeroing in on individuals and then finding evidence to nail them. AFSPA, too, is open to the allegation of misuse despite the need for it in areas affected by insurgency. The UAPA Bill is reminiscent of MISA during the time of Indira Gandhi, giving sweeping powers to the law-enforcement agencies, including preventive detention and seizure of property. We live in a neighbourhood where the danger of terrorism lurks, the Mumbai terror attacks that led to the creation of NIA are its most potent reminder. Designating individuals will help notify the names of suspects, but the test will lie in separating the wheat from the chaff. The NIA has asked for an in-camera trial in the Malegaon case to ensure communal harmony and the security of witnesses. As charges of vendetta against individuals and communities may crop up, lending the law to greater scrutiny will mean more responsibility and also more accountability.

Printer-Publisher & Editor In Chief  
**SANJAY MANGESH BHAIRE**  
Allied publication Across Mumbai (Marathi & Hindi)

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# NARENDRA MODI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proved beyond doubt that he means what he says when his government abrogated the much abused and misused Article 370 of the Constitution to bifurcate Jammu & Kashmir along with Ladakh on Tuesday.

Modi's move has brought several Opposition parties to support the government action on J & K and declare it as a Union Territory to the discomfiture of both Pakistan and its supporters.

Article 370 has brought nothing but disaster to the valley as only three families led by Nehrus, Abdullas and Muftis benefitted from it and the vast majority of people were at the receiving end.

Modi waited for his turn and fired the gun only after the end of his first term as PM and won instant support from the people of India who could not even buy property in J & K while the separatists and anti-national elements were on rampage in the valley.

Prime Minister has endeared himself to the nation as India truly became independent once the Article 370 was abrogated and the J & K is now on par with other Indian States.

The very fact that several regional parties including YSR party in Andhra Pradesh, AAIMDK in Tamil Nadu, Biju Janata Dal in Orissa, Bahujan Samaj Party in Uttar Pradesh and Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi cast their lot behind the Union government underscores the fact that the Modi move has stood the test of time.

PM has asked all the political parties to rise to the occasion and see to it that our nation overcomes every problem which comes in its way of development and support the people of J & K in their hour of need and engage in developing the trouble torn State.

Well done PM Modi, the Indians are proud of you.



There is hardly any doubt that the Union Home Minister Amit Shah is the real architect of the bold move to bifurcate the State of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and give them the status of Union Territory.

Shah who was relishing the role of being the national president of Bharatiya Janata Party was especially roped into the Union Cabinet as the Home Minister to resolve some of long standing and seemingly unending issues confronting India.

Amit Shah who proved his mettle for the first time when he was named as the chief campaigner for Uttar Pradesh on the eve of Lok Sabha polls in 2014. Shah marshaled his resources and ensured that the BJP bags as many as 73 out of total 80 seats in UP and set the ball rolling in the direction of his imminent elevation in the party.

He was promptly designated as the national chief of

BJP to succeed Rajnath Singh and went on from strength to strength as several States came under the control of BJP.

The BJP high command inducted him into Rajya Sabha and he was given the onerous responsibility of getting second term for both BJP and PM Modi on the eve of 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Everyone knows how the burly leader from Gujarat once again came to the fore to ensure that PM Modi gets second term and the BJP gets absolute majority on its own.

It is not for nothing his admirers call him Chanakya of Indian politics and Amit Shah has now come out with a permanent solution to the issue of terrorism and militancy in the trouble torn state of Jammu & Kashmir.

His address in both houses of Parliament on the issue of Article 370 has taken the sting out of his detractors and he has truly emerged as the hero.

# AMIT SHAH





# Krishna, the Ever Youthful Cowherd Boy

## Incredible ISKCON

By His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Lecture given in New York City, December 5, 1966

In the Brahma-samhita (5.33) you will find Krishna described as advaita and acyuta. Advaita means absolute, and acyuta means infallible, or Brahman. He is Parambrahman. We are also Brahman, spirit, but we have fallen down into this material condition. But Krishna never falls down into the material condition. When He appears before us, don't think, "He is also a fallen soul like me." The fools consider like that. Avajananti mam mudha (Gita 9.11). Mudha means fools. The fools consider Krishna an ordinary man. Param bhavam ajanantah. The fools do not know of the immense potency of Krishna. Therefore they think of Krishna as one of us.

Krishna is sarva-adi, the primal. And sarva-amshi means He is the original of whom everything else is part. We are also part and parcel of Krishna, just as the hand is part of the body. We can understand the concept of part and whole. He is the whole, and everything else is His part.

Krishna is kishora-shekhara, "the supreme boy." He is just like a fresh

boy, but He is the Supreme. Chid-ananda-deha: He has a spiritual body. Just mark this description of Krishna: chid-ananda-deha. Chid-ananda-deha means a transcendental, spiritual body, not this material body. Less intelligent persons cannot think of a personal God. They think that personality can refer only to a material body. They cannot find out the shape of the spirit soul. It is so small that with material eyes and material instruments you cannot find out the shape of the soul. Therefore they conclude that it has no shape.

For example, in geometry the point is defined as having no length and no breadth, because a point cannot be measured by any human instrument. But nothing can be without shape. Even the atom has its measurement. But because we have no power to measure something, we set its measurement aside, dismiss it: "Oh, there is nothing." And we foolishly conclude, "Because we do not know what is spirit and we think spirit is something that is just the opposite of matter, which has form, therefore spirit should be formless."

But actually it is not so. We therefore require to learn from the authority. Lord Chaitanya says, chid-ananda-deha: Krishna has a transcendental, eternal body. And sarvashraya: He is the resting place of everything. You see before you that so many big planets and the sun are floating in the air. The sun is such a big body, some millions of times greater than the earth, and it is floating in the sky. How? Here it is explained. Sarvashraya: It is floating on Krishna's energy.

Sarveshvara, the next word in this verse, means the Supreme Lord. Lord Chaitanya is explaining everything very nicely. Sarva-adi: Krishna is the origin of everything. Sarva-amshi: He is the whole of all the parts. Kishora-

of material nature, which is pulling you by the ear. You are being influenced. It is like you've been thrown into the Atlantic Ocean. You have no power. The waves are tossing you this way and that way. You are simply struggling. That's all. How can we think we are acting independently when we are tossing in the Atlantic Ocean? Such thinking is all nonsense.

We cannot imagine, we cannot concoct, ideas about God. We have to hear from authoritative scripture. Then we will understand. Here is authoritative information from the Brahma-samhita (5.1):

*ishvarah paramah krishnah  
sach-chid-ananda-vigraha  
anadir adir govindah  
sarva-karana-karanam*

"Krishna, who is known as Govinda, is the Supreme Godhead. He has an eternal blissful spiritual body. He is the origin of all. He has no other origin, and He is the prime cause of all causes." There are many lords. We have got experience. In England you will find many lords. In our youth we had some dealings with Lord Zetland, the Marquis of Zetland. In your country also there are many lords. Any rich man is a lord. In our country also there are many lords. But Krishna is not a lord like them. These lords are under the grip of material nature. They are lord by name. But as soon as the material nature gives a slap on the lord, at once he has passed, and everything

vigraha. And He is anadi, without beginning. We have experience that everything has its cause. Suppose I am a lord. Then I had some cause to become a lord. Either my father was a lord, or I have accumulated some wealth, or the government has recognized me as a lord. I have become a lord under certain conditions. But Krishna is adi. Adi means He is the origin. There is nothing beyond Him.

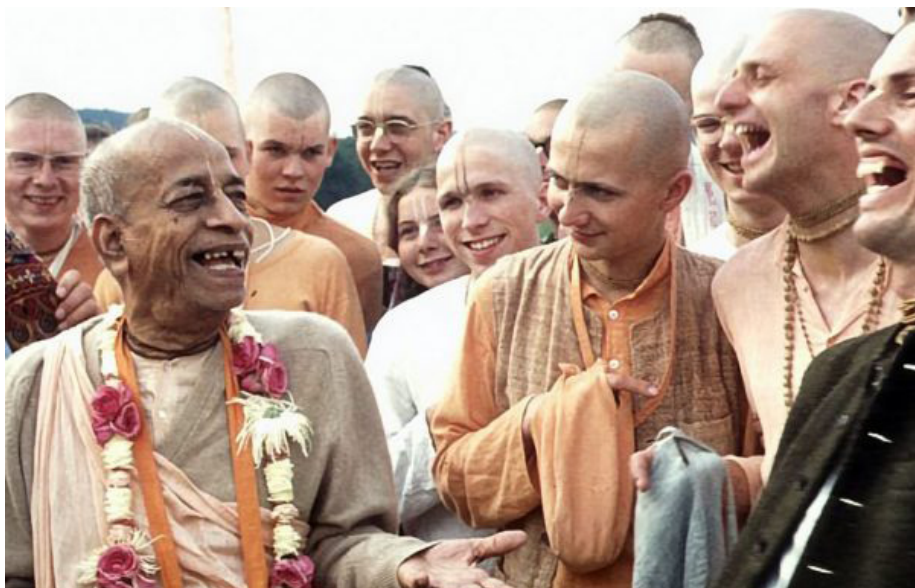
Anadir adih. Everything has a cause, but He has no cause. He is the Lord, but there is no cause by which He has become the Lord. When I am a lord, there is a cause. Perhaps you know that in England, if somebody becomes very rich he has to deposit some amount of money to the government, and then the government will award him the title "lord." With that huge amount of money his family will be maintained after he dies, and then the first son of the lord's family will be declared a lord. This is what I have heard. I do not know exactly. But this lord is made, recognized, by the government on deposition of some certain amount of money. The government agrees, "Yes, this family may be recognized as a lord family." In England they create aristocracy. Similarly, when the British were in India, they created many aristocrats. Krishna is not a created, aristocratic lord. That we should know.

**The Pleasure of the Senses, the Cow, and the Land**

old boy playing with cows. His father has many cows, and He takes the cows and goes on a pleasure trip with friends. That is Krishna's business. He is not going to any office or any factory. You see? He goes out, and His mother gives Him sufficient to eat. After eating breakfast, He goes outside for a pleasure trip with His friends and His flute and cows. That is Krishna's business. Therefore He is Govinda.

The cows—oh!—as soon as they see Krishna they lick His face and body. Each cow has a different name. As soon as He calls, the cow will come and drop her milk. Those cows are spiritual. That is described in the Brahma-samhita (5.29): surabhir abhipalayantam. Krishna tends surabhi cows. Surabhi cows are inexhaustible. You can milk them as much as you want. In the material world the cow is limited. There is a time when you can milk, morning and evening, and you get a certain quantity, not more than that. But you can milk surabhi cows anytime you like, and you can draw as much milk as you like.

Krishna is Govinda. He is giving pleasure to everyone. Go means senses. We are seeking sense pleasure. Sense pleasure means reciprocation between two people. I want to see a beautiful girl. That means two. Or I want to see a beautiful boy. So that means two. Without two there cannot be sense pleasure. I want to eat some-



Peerless Prabhupada, the founder of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, ISKCON



Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Golden Avatar of Radha Krishna and founder of Hare Krishna Movement

shekhara cid-ananda-deha: He is just like a fresh boy, and His body is transcendental, spiritual, full of bliss. Sarvashraya: He is the resting place of everything. He is the Supreme Lord. This is the description of Krishna.

### The Authority of Scripture

As we have seen, when Lord Chaitanya instructs He at once gives evidence from authoritative scripture. That is the way of presenting information about God. You should always remember that we cannot imagine things about God: "I think God is like this." This is nonsense. You have no thinking power. You are under the grip

"lordship" is finished.

Krishna is not a lord like that. Ishvarah paramah. He is a lord, but the Supreme Lord. He is not under anyone's control. Here the rubber-stamped lords are under full control. They may say, "I am the lord of all I survey," but that is foolishness. Nobody is a lord. The real Lord is Krishna. Therefore it is said, ishvarah paramah. Paramah means Supreme. And who is that Supreme Lord? Krishna. Ishvarah paramah krishnah.

Why is Krishna the Supreme? Because His body is spiritual, full of bliss, and eternal—sac-cid-ananda-

Anadir adir govindah. Govinda is a name for Krishna. Go means three things: the senses, the cow, and the land. Krishna gives pleasure to these three things. Wherever He is present, that place becomes blissful, ananda. Anandamayo 'bhyasat. The Vedanta-sutra (1.1.12) says that the Absolute Truth is anandamaya, always full of pleasure. Krishna is the reservoir of pleasure. So whenever He is present—in whichever land, in whichever country, in whichever planet He is present—that place becomes full of bliss, ananda. He is Govinda. He is playing just like a cowherd boy, just like a sixteen-year-

thing palatable. There must be two. At least the dish must be full of varieties.

There is no actual pleasure in the impersonal. Our relationship with Krishna, our service to Krishna—that is pleasure. Govinda. That is real sense pleasure. Seeing Krishna, tasting Krishna, smelling Krishna, touching Krishna—that is sense pleasure. That is our real sense pleasure.

Krishna is Govinda and the cause of all causes: sarva-karana-karanam. Beyond Him there is no other cause. This is the description Lord Chaitanya gives, and we shall gradually discuss other points.

Thank you very much.



# Tearful Nation Bids Final Farewell to Sublime Sushmaji

from page 1

The powerful orator leaves behind the legacy of an easily-accessible leader who played a key role in BJP's emergence in the late 1990s.

The commitment of a leader, who became an MLA for the first time when she was just 25 before going on to become Haryana's education minister, was there till the very end.

Hours before her death on Tuesday night, Swaraj was on Twitter, congratulating Prime Narendra Modi after the Centre's move to revoke the special status for Jammu and Kashmir.

"I was waiting to see this day in my lifetime," she said in her prescient message.

A short while later, she died at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences after suffering a cardiac arrest.

Swaraj, who had a kidney transplant in 2016, had opted out of fighting the Lok Sabha elections this year due to health reasons.

She was not part of the Modi government this time and S Jaishankar replaced her as the external affairs minister.

She will long be remembered for being that rare minister who exuded so much warmth that people didn't hesitate to reach out to her in times of need. Swaraj could be depended on to help out the diaspora in distress with her revolutionary social media outreach.

As the tributes poured in after her sudden death, there were many who remembered her as a mother figure.



Several path-breaking measures such as the passport infrastructure expansion and enhanced engagement with the East were the highlights of her tenure as the external affairs minister.

She was only the second woman to hold the portfolio after Indira Gandhi, who briefly kept the external affairs ministry under her while being the prime minister.

Swaraj had many firsts to her credit such as being the youngest cabinet minister in the Haryana government, first woman chief minister of Delhi and the first woman spokesperson for a national political party in the country.

She started her political life with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, the

RSS' student wing, and later joined the BJP.

She was the Information and Broadcasting minister in the 13-day Atal Bihari Vajpayee government in 1996 and got the Cabinet portfolio again after he led the BJP to power in 1998.

Always eager to take on a challenge, Swaraj contested against the then Congress president Sonia Gandhi in Bellary in 1999 Lok Sabha polls. Though she fell short of votes, she grew in stature.

Long seen as a protege of veteran BJP leader L K Advani, she also was Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha between 2009-14.

"She touched everyone with her warmth and compassionate nature. I do not recall

a single year when she missed bringing my favourite chocolate cake to me on my birthday," Advani said, remembering her fondly.

waraj had played a key role in BJP's emergence as a strong political force in late 1990s.

Swaraj, a law graduate who practised in the Supreme Court, was elected seven times as a member of Parliament and three times as a member of the legislative assembly.

She also held the portfolios of Telecommunications, Health and Family Welfare, and Parliamentary Affairs in the Union Cabinet.

She was married to Swaraj Kaushal, a designated senior advocate of the Supreme Court of India who served as Governor of Mizoram from 1990 to 1993. Kaushal was also a Member of Parliament from 1998 to 2004.

Swaraj was also the recipient of the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award.

During her tenure as the external affairs minister, she handled several strategically-sensitive issues, including Indo-Pak and Sino-India relations.

Her role in resolving the prickly Doklam standoff between the Indian and Chinese sides will be remembered.

Swaraj's humanitarian touch in diplomacy including extending help to people in distress, both Indians and foreigners, won her love and respect at home and abroad including in Pakistan.

Though known to be a tough fighter in the political battlefield, Swaraj was admired and respected across party lines.

## ■ New Delhi

India's sporting fraternity, led by cricket captain Virat Kohli, mourned the demise of former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, on Wednesday.

Swaraj passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi on Tuesday night after suffering a cardiac arrest. She was 67.

"Deeply saddened by the news of Sushma Ji's demise, may her soul rest in peace," Kohli wrote on his twitter page.

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said Swaraj will always live in the hearts and minds of the people.

"I have no words left with me at this point of time. She truly lived for the motherland INDIA. Sushma ji, you will forever live in our heart and mind," he said.

Former Sports Minister and Olympic silver-medallist Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore expressed shock at the sudden death of the senior leader.

"Shocked by the sudden demise of Sushma Swarajji. In a political career spanning over 50 years, she touched a

billion hearts with her strength, grace and compassion. Her clutter breaking approach as the External Affairs Minister will always be revered and remembered," Rathore tweeted.

Cricketer-turned-politician Gautam Gambhir said her death is a huge loss for the country.

"I'm beyond aggrieved at the passing away of Sushma Swaraj A veteran politician and a pillar of the BJP, she was loved by everyone. She will be remembered as the most endearing and helpful politicians of recent times. My condolences to her family and friends. A huge loss for India," said Gambhir.

Former India cricketer Virender Sehwag

expressed his sympathies with Swaraj's family.

"Heartfelt condolences to family and admirers of Sushma Swarajji," tweeted the former Indian opener.

Tennis ace Sania Mirza said she had the honour of working with the BJP leader.

"Shocked at the passing away of my dear Sushma Swarajji. Had the honour of working as the brand ambassador of the 'girl child' campaign under her able guidance and will cherish my personal relationship with her forever. R.I.P. ma'am," said Sania.

Decorated shooter Heena Sidhu described Swaraj as a great leader.

## Sports fraternity condoles death of Sushma Swaraj

"I was so sad looking at the headlines in the paper today. I really really liked Sushma Swaraj ji. She was someone to look up to. She was a great leader, a great orator, a strong woman and true to her work. India will miss her deeply," Heena wrote.

Other cricketers such as Suresh Raina, Mohammad Kaif and Aakash Chopra also condoled her death.

"Fierce, result-driven and a people's person she was all of that and more. A true leader. Still unable to process the news of Sushma Swarajji's passing away. Extremely disturbed! A big loss for our nation. May you rest in peace!" said Raina.

In his condolence message, Kaif wrote: "Here in the West Indies and just heard the terrible news of passing away of #SushmaSwarajji. Condolences to her family, gone too soon."

"One of my favourite politicians. Lots to admire. Heartfelt condolences. Huge loss. Rest in peace," said cricketer-turned commentator Aakash Chopra.



## NAVDEEP SAINI

The new pace bowler from New Delhi is making headlines in West Indies as he bowled his heart out in the three match T twenty series and played a pivotal role in the total rout of the host.

Saini who made a fine impression in the Indian Premier League and it left the Indian selectors with no choice but to include him in the Indian national squad for the Windies tour.

Saini made a very impressive debut as he took three wickets in the first match to the glee of his team mates and admirers and then contributed immensely in the other two matches too.

The Indian pace attack is now bolstered with his entry and he would be an ideal foil to the likes of Mohammad Shami, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma and Bhuvaneshwar Kumar.

He needs to be persisted with and should be encouraged to open the Indian attack in all formats of the game.

He has the support of Indian skipper Virat Kohli and the deputy Captain Rohit Sharma and that should stand him in good stead in his future endeavor.

We wish him all the best.



## Deepak Chahar



The Indian pace attack has now one more bowler in Deepak Chahar who got nod of the team captain in the third and last T twenty match against the host West Indies.

He took three wickets from three overs after conceding only four runs in his very first match and left a lasting impression on the followers of the game.

Chahar's inswing bowling spelt the doom for the Windies batsmen who could not negotiate with his controlled bowling and were shot out for around 140 runs.

He opened the attack along with Bhuvaneshwar Kumar and got into the act right from the word go and there was no respite for the Windies batsmen.

It is really nice to see plethora of Indian speedsters making good impression in their maiden appearances and it augurs well for the country.

One hopes that he would continue to contribute to the Indian pace attack and cement his place in the national squad and represent the national team for many more years..

Across State sends its best wishes to this player.



# Paradise Kashmir on Mumbaikars' radar

After 70 years of India's Independence, Article 370 and 35A, scrapped by the BJP government led by Narendra Modi, was rejoiced by Mumbaikars' by looking forward to explore the 'Jannat' as Kashmir is known all over the world.

The new historic law JK Reorganisation Bill 2019 has bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories of J & K and Ladakh, has open its door to rest of India, to visit the picturesque state which most of them have seen only in Indian films, like Kashmir ki Kali, Roza.

A jubilant Manali Deepak Naik, Asst Prof, Head of Mass Media department of Chandrabhan Sharma College, Powai, said, 'Revoking of Article 370 marks a historic day in India. For the past 70 year the state of Jammu & Kashmir was withheld with article 370 which gave the state special status but this in turn affected the states development and harmony.

With the bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories namely Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, citizens of the region can see a ray of development and corruption free government. The abrogation of Article 370 will ensure that the security of the state is improved and frequent terror threats are reduced so that citizens of the state can live in peace and harmony. The dream of one nation, one constitution and one flag has finally been achieved as the Article 370 prohibited the state of J&K from following the Indian constitution, Indian Flag and the Indian National Anthem.'

Dr Manish Mirani Thakkar, a practising Ophthalmologist, proudly says, the new Bill has brought all citizens of the country as one. Now no more two flags in JK, the Tricolor will be the only flag, which will be proud for all Indians.

He further, said, students will benefit from the Right to Education Act and also RTI will be applicable, which was not there earlier.

"Kashmir is the heartthrob of all Indians. Revoking Article 370 and 35 A is a landmark achievement - a thoughtful planned strategy to regain Beautiful Kashmir that has been encroached by Pakistan.

Pakistan also belongs to

Dream come true of many tourist lovers to visit the Jannat - Kashmir, once in a lifetime, which they have seen in yesteryear Bollywood films like Kashmir ki Kali and in musical romantic film Roza, reports VINOD RAGHAVAN



Dr. Usha Iyer



Manali Naik



Dr. Manish Mirani



Prof. Fenil Dedhia



Arshad Amir



Anil Hebbar



Sreenivas Poojari

us, we gave it to them, it was originally Bharat, that became divided into Hindustan with Hindus and Pakistan with Muslims by the divide and rule policy adopted by the British. Pakistan cannot claim an inch of Kashmir, It belongs to us. The NDA Government's move has received accolades from Indians all over the country who have been yearning for

so many decades for a solution to the problem of Kashmir. Kashmir runs through the veins of every Indian and hats off to our PM Narendra Modi for such a bold measure", said, Dr. Usha Iyer, Principal, SIWS College, Wadala.

Professor Fenil Dedhia of K J Somaiya College, Vidyavihar, opined, 'Process integration was started by the first Home Minister of

the country, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in 1947 and completed by Home Minister Amit Shah in 2019.

The Economics Professor, further said, "to solve this issue of Article 370, Modi government has used the formula suggested by eminent economist Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, albeit without credit to him. He further said, its time now Prime Minister Modi must

induct Dr. Swamy in cabinet to fix the sliding economic condition of the nation."

NCP, Mumbai, General Secretary, Arshad Amir Syed, asked what about Article 371 in Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Sikkim, Mizoram, which debar outsiders to settle in these states, wondering why Article 370 and Article 35A scrapped in JK, was it an issue.

"I am happy if the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A lead to lasting peace in Kashmir as widely hyped. Historically, India and Pakistan have been interested only in Kashmir and not Kashmiris, opined, Anil Hebbar an Entrepreneur, who had contested the recent Lok Sabha election from North East Mumbai constituency.

'Scrapping of Article 370, being a main point in

BJP's manifesto, but the way it was done without taking the Kashmiris into confidence at the point of the gun, under an information blackout reeks of insensitiveness. I hope the government now goes all out and sets up schools, colleges, hospitals, technical training centres and village industries to give employment to the Kashmiri youth and lures them away from forces like the Pakistani backed terror outfits, ISIS and the like who would now be doubly active. It is not time for celebration. It is time to apply balm on Kashmir's ruffled soul,' Hebbar added.

'I personally feel central govt has taken courageous decision of scrapping Article 370 to restore peace and development in JK. Also now the new Union Territories - JK and Ladakh will follow defence, external affairs, finance and communication will be same like Indian constitution.

With scrapping of Article 370, Indians can invest in property and more private and global investment will come in the state so that more jobs for the local youths can be generated, said, Sreenivas Poojari, DGM, Narayana Educational Institutions, Andheri.



# Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj passes away

■ **New Delhi**  
Former External Affairs Minister and senior BJP leader Sushma Swaraj passed away on Tuesday night, AIIMS sources said.  
She was 67.  
The senior BJP leader was brought to AIIMS around 9:30pm and was straight away taken to the emergency ward.  
AIIMS doctors said she died of a cardiac arrest.  
"A glorious chapter in Indian politics comes to an end. India grieves the demise of a remarkable leader who devoted her life to public service and bettering lives of the poor. Sushma Swaraj ji was one of her kind, who was a



source of inspiration for crores of people," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a series of tweets.  
Several senior ministers, including Harsh Vardhan, Rajnath Singh, Smriti Irani, Prakash Javadekar, reached AIIMS after she was admitted to the hospital.  
Swaraj had put out a tweet in the evening congratulating Prime Minister Modi after the Centre's move to revoke special status for Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcate the border state into two Union Territories secured Parliament's approval.  
"Narendra Modi ji - Thank you Prime Minister. Thank you very much. I was waiting to see this day in my lifetime," she had said.  
Prime Minister Modi, in his tweets, hailed Swaraj as a "prolific

orator and outstanding parliamentarian" and said she was admired and revered across party lines.  
"She was uncompromising when it came to matters of ideology and interests of the BJP, whose growth she immensely contributed to," Modi said.  
"An excellent administrator, Sushma Ji set high standards in every Ministry she handled. She played a key role in bettering India's ties with various nations. As a minister we also saw her compassionate side, helping fellow Indians who were in distress in any part of the world," he said.  
"Extremely shocked to hear of the passing of Smt Sushma Swaraj. The country has lost a much loved leader who epitomised dignity, courage & integrity in public life. Ever willing to help others, she will always be remembered for her service to the people of India," President Ram Nath Kovind tweeted.  
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said he was deeply shocked and anguished by the sudden demise of an extremely valued colleague.  
External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, "Deeply shocked to learn of the passing away of Smt Sushma Swaraj. Difficult to accept this news. The whole nation grieves, the Foreign Ministry even more so."  
The Congress condoled her demise.  
"We are saddened to hear about the untimely demise of Smt Sushma Swaraj. Our condolences to her family and loved ones," the party said.  
"I'm shocked to hear about the demise of Sushma Swaraj Ji, an extraordinary political leader, a gifted orator & an exceptional Parliamentarian, with friendships across party lines. My condolences to her family in this hour of grief. May her soul rest in peace. Om Shanti," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Twitter.  
Swaraj had a kidney transplant in 2016 and had opted out of contesting Lok Sabha polls earlier this year for health reasons.  
She is survived by her husband Swaraj Kaushal and daughter Bansuri.



1952-2019

## Prez, PM, Sonia among hundreds who pay homage to Swaraj at her residence

■ **New Delhi**  
President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top party leaders, including UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, were among the hundreds of people who paid their last respects to former external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj at her residence on Wednesday. The BJP leader, known as a powerful orator and the minister with the people's touch, passed away here on Tuesday night after a massive cardiac arrest. She was 67.  
Home Minister Amit Shah, who also went to Swaraj's residence, said her death has created a great void that would be hard to fill. "Crores of people who loved her are sad and will miss her. She



## Sushma a role for women leaders: Advani

■ **New Delhi**  
Paying rich tributes to Sushma Swaraj, BJP veteran L K Advani on Wednesday described her as one of his closest colleagues who rose to become one of the BJP's most popular and prominent faces and "a role model for women leaders".  
Remembering her fondly, Advani said he could not recall a single year when she missed bringing his favourite chocolate cake on his birthday.  
In a statement, Advani said Swaraj was someone whom he had known and worked with since the beginning of her "illustrious innings" in the Bharatiya Janata Party.  
She was a promising young activist who he had inducted into his team, he noted.  
"And over the years, she became one of the most popular and prominent leaders of our party - in fact, a role model for women leaders. A brilliant orator, I was often amazed at her ability to recall incidents, events and present them with utmost clarity and eloquence," the 91-year-old leader said.  
Swaraj, 67, who died of a heart attack on Tuesday night, was considered one of the closest associates of Advani.  
He said he was deeply dis-



was a bright star of Indian politics and an able administrator. In the last five years as foreign minister she has made India proud globally under the leadership of the PM. Her absence will be felt for a long time. I pray that she rests in peace," he told reporters.  
Veteran leader L K Advani, who was known as Swaraj's mentor, was tearful as he filed past the body of his long-time compatriot.  
Remembering her fondly, he said in a statement that she never missed bringing his favourite chocolate cake to him on his birthday. She was a promising young activist who he had inducted into his team, he noted.  
"And over the years, she became one of the most popular and prominent leaders of our party - in fact, a role model for women leaders. A brilliant orator, I was often amazed at her ability to recall incidents, events and present them with utmost clarity and elo-

## Nation lost patriot and leader in Swaraj: AAP

■ **New Delhi**  
The Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday condoled the demise of former external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj and said the nation lost a patriot and a leader who inspired countless people.  
AAP leader and Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said her contribution in Indian politics would remain immortal.  
Swaraj passed away at AIIMS on Tuesday night. The BJP veteran, who suffered a cardiac attack, died at the age of 67.  
"The news of passing away of Sushma Swaraj is extremely sad. Her contribution to Indian politics would remain immortal. May her soul rest in peace," Sisodia tweeted.  
Senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh said Swaraj was among one of the most honourable politicians.  
"In the sudden demise of #SushmaSwaraj our nation has lost a patriot and leader who inspired countless people," the AAP said in a tweet.

# Swaraj was extraordinary woman, leader: UNGA President

■ **United Nations**  
UN General Assembly President Maria Fernanda Espinosa has expressed condolences at the demise of India's former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, describing her as an "extraordinary" woman and leader who devoted her life to public service.  
Swaraj passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi on Tuesday night after suffering a cardiac arrest. The senior BJP leader was 67.  
Saddened by the news of the passing of @SushmaSwaraj, an extraordinary woman & leader who devoted her life to public service. I had the honour of meeting her in my visits to #India, & will always remember her fondly, Espinosa tweeted.  
She added in her tweet that she sends her deepest condolences to all of her loved ones @IndiaUNNewYork," tagging India's Permanent Mission to the UN in her message.  
Before assuming her role as the President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly in September 2018, becoming only the fourth woman to lead the General Assembly in its 73-year history, Espinosa had visited India and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Swaraj.  
In her meeting with Swaraj, the top UN official had discussed revitalisation of the UN, including reform of the Security Council, strengthening global counter terrorism legal framework and other global issues.  
Condolence messages poured from across India and the world at



the demise of Swaraj, one of the most charismatic and dignified political leaders.  
Over the years, Swaraj had visited the UN on multiple occasions, addressing world leaders in Hindi at the annual high-level General Assembly sessions.  
She had headlined the commemoration of the first International Yoga Day at the UN in June 2015, launching the annual celebration of Yoga at the world body's headquarters along side then UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.  
India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin tweeted a video montage of Swaraj's powerful speeches at the UN, beginning from her address to the General Debate at the 70th General Assembly session in 2015 till her statement in 2018.  
"Leaving behind indelible memories. @IndiaUNNewYork will always cherish memories of her @UN. Farewell Madam @SushmaSwaraj," Akbaruddin said in an emotional message on Twitter.  
The Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) also conveyed its heartfelt condolences on the passing of Swaraj. As minister looking after the Overseas Indian Affairs, GOPIO has had a close working relation and co-operation on many of the NRI and PIO issues as well as on new initiatives from her ministry.  
The organisation said it has been working with Swaraj since she was the leader of BJP in the Rajya Sabha. In her passing away, we will miss a Statesman as well as a sincere and able political leader, GOPIO Chairman Thomas Abraham and President Sunny Kulathakal said in a statement.

## Leaders mourn Swaraj's demise

■ **Dehradun**  
Political leaders from various states condoled the death of former external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj on Wednesday.  
The veteran leader of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), who breathed her last at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi on Tuesday night following a massive cardiac arrest, was 67.  
Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat expressed grief at Swaraj's demise, saying it was an irreparable loss for the country's politics.  
"Extremely saddened to hear about Sushma Ji's demise. It is an irreparable loss for the country's politics. We have lost a great leader and a brilliant orator who was full of human emotions," he said in a tweet.  
Rawat prayed for peace to the departed soul and strength to her family to bear the loss.  
Rawat's Punjab counterpart, Amarinder Singh, said he was shocked to learn about the former Delhi chief minister's demise and described her as a "dynamic and sensitive" leader.  
"Shocked to learn of the sudden demise of @SushmaSwaraj ji. I will always remember her as a dynamic and sensitive leader with the ability to empathise with the common people. Will miss her. May your soul rest in peace!", the senior Congress leader said in a tweet.  
Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar also said he was deeply shocked to learn about Swaraj's demise. "It is a personal loss for me," he wrote on Twitter.  
Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik expressed grief over Swaraj's demise.  
Describing her as a dynamic politician and a symbol of women empowerment who always worked for the country's betterment, he said it was difficult to fill the space left behind by Swaraj. In a condolence message, Malik prayed for peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family in this hour of grief.



# Developments around Gulf: U.S. finds friends and reluctant-friends

The United States is trying to build up coalition for its Gulf expedition. The world power is finding a few friends while a few of its friends are not feeling easy with joining the war-coalition and the world power is facing problems in building up the war axis.

Media reports said:

**U.S. allies feel 'ashamed', say Zarif**

The U.S. is unable to build a naval coalition to escort tankers in the Gulf because its allies are too "ashamed" to join it, said Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iran's foreign minister.

"Today the United States is alone in the world and cannot create a coalition. Countries that are its friends are too ashamed of being in a coalition with them," Zarif told a news conference in Tehran Monday.

"They brought this situation upon themselves, with lawbreaking, by creating tensions and crises."

Tension is soaring after the Trump administration stepped up a U.S. campaign of "maximum pressure" against Iran.

Asked on Monday about reports that he had been invited to meet Trump in the White House, Zarif said he had turned it down despite the threat of sanctions against him.

"I was told in New York I would be sanctioned in two week unless I accepted that offer, which fortunately I did not," said the Iranian minister.

The New Yorker magazine reported on Friday that Senator Rand Paul met Zarif in the U.S. on July 15 and had Trump's blessing when he extended an invitation to the Iranian minister to go to the White House.

The U.S. imposed sanctions against Zarif on Wednesday, targeting any assets he has in the U.S. and squeezing his ability to function as a globe-trotting diplomat.

The U.S. has struggled to gain support for the coalition from European and Asian allies, who fear it would further stoke tensions with Iran. European countries are believed to be concerned about being dragged into a possible conflict. The UAE and Saudi Arabia, who support U.S. policy against regional foe Iran, have called on the international community to safeguard maritime trade and security of global oil supplies.

So far, only Britain has officially said it would join the mission to protect merchant ships after Iran seized a British-flagged vessel.

The U.S. says the planned coalition's mission, Operation Sentinel, is to guarantee freedom of navigation in the strategic Gulf waters.

Iran says securing the Strait, the world's most important oil artery, should be left to Iran and other regional countries.

**China might escort its ships in Gulf**

China might escort Chinese commer-



cial vessels in Gulf waters under a U.S. proposal to secure oil shipping lanes following attacks on tankers, its envoy to the United Arab Emirates said on Tuesday.

"If there happens to be a very unsafe situation we will consider having our navy escort our commercial vessels," Ambassador Ni Jian told Reuters in Abu Dhabi.

"We are studying the U.S. proposal on Gulf escort arrangements," China's embassy later said in a text message.

The Chinese ambassador said the agreement could lead to cooperation on tackling terrorism and intelligence sharing, adding that further discussions would take place.

U.S. President Donald Trump said in a June 24 tweet that China, Japan and other countries "should be protecting their own ships" in the Gulf region, where the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet is based in Bahrain.

It was not clear if Washington had made an official request to Beijing, which has had to tread softly in the Middle East due to its close energy ties with both Iran and Saudi Arabia.

China has traditionally played a small role in Middle East conflicts or diplomacy despite its reliance on regional oil, but has increased its profile under President Xi Jinping.

We have the position that all disputes should be sorted by peaceful means and by political discussions, not through military actions, said Ni.

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan met President Xi during a visit to Beijing last month. During the visit, the two sides signed a military and defense cooperation deal.

China, which has a military base in

Djibouti, has participated in regional escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and off the Somali coast as part of a UN Security Council anti-piracy mandate.

**Britain joins US naval mission in Gulf**

Britain is joining the U.S. in the U.S.-planned naval mission in the Gulf to protect international shipping, following a series of tanker seizures by the Iranian military, in a move reflecting the escalating security crisis in the region.

Two Royal Navy warships already in the area will be working alongside two U.S. ships to accompany vessels through the Straits of Hormuz, which carries 20 per cent of the world's oil supplies.

Whitehall officials insisted the mission will not remain under U.S. control and, in time, will transition to one with European command in which the UK has offered to lead one of the Maritime Task Groups.

The new government under Boris Johnson will not change its stance towards Iran and will back, not follow, Donald Trump's administration.

U.K. continues to stand by Iran's agreement with international powers, they stressed, and will not follow the U.S. in imposing sanctions against Iran.

No other European power, however, has joined the U.S.-UK naval plan so far and the only other European warship in the waters, a French frigate, will continue to operate autonomously.

**Talks with European allies**

The U.K. government sources stated that talks have been held with a number of European allies and a number have expressed an interest in joining a future European commanded operation.

But some Western states, including

France and Germany, have expressed unwillingness to join a task force led by the Americans.

The U.K. decision to join the mission comes three weeks after a British flagged tanker, Stena Impero, was taken over by Iran's Revolutionary Guards. That followed the capture of an Iranian owned tanker, Grace 1, by Royal Marines off Gibraltar. Iran has repeatedly complained about the British seizure of Grace 1 and demanded the release of its crew and cargo.

Two British war ships – the destroyer HMS Duncan and frigate HMS Montrose – will continue to accompany UK-flagged and international shipping and two U.S. cruiser-destroyers, stationed at each end of the Straits of Hormuz, will protect British ships when called upon.

The two countries will operate, for the time being, under different rules of engagement.

Ben Wallace, the UK defense secretary, said: "The deployment of the Royal Navy assets is a sign of our commitment to our UK-flagged vessels and we look forward to working alongside the U.S. and others to find an international solution to the problems in the Strait of Hormuz."

Dominic Raab, the UK foreign secretary, said: "Our aim is to build the broadest international support to uphold freedom of navigation in the region, as protected under international law. Our approach to Iran has not changed. We remain committed to working with Iran and our international partners to de-escalate the situation and maintain the nuclear deal."

Speaking at news conference in Dubai, Zarif has accused Britain of collaborating with the US in "economic terrorism".



## ■ New York

Angelina Jolie wants the world to have more "wicked women".

The Hollywood star, in an op-ed for Elle magazine, goes on to redefine the labels often used to brand women as "unnatural" and "dangerous", saying the term "wicked" today should be used for those women who are tired of injustice and are not ready to give up their voice and rights.

Since time immemorial, women who rebel against what is considered normal by society-even unintentionally-have been labelled as unnatural, weird, wicked, and dangerous. What is surprising is the extent to which this kind of myth and prejudice has persisted throughout the centuries and still colours the world we live in," Jolie wrote.

The actor-humanitarian reflected on how often women who run for political office in democratic countries are described as witches.

"Bring together a group of strong women, and before too long someone will brand them a 'coven' the technical term, to be clear, for a gathering of witches meeting at night to consort with the devil. Women who stand up for human rights in many countries are still labelled 'deviant', 'bad mothers', 'difficult' or 'loose'," she wrote.

Jolie, 44, said the accusation of witchcraft has been used to control and silence women in almost all societies and in every century.

"Women could be accused of witchcraft for having an independent sex life, for speaking their mind on politics or religion, or for dressing differently. Had I lived in earlier times, I could have been burnt at

## 'Wicked women' are just women who are tired of injustice, abuse - Angelina

the stake many times over for simply being myself."

In her personal life, when the actor started dating Brad Pitt, she was called names like the "homewrecker" and "the other woman" for breaking up her "Mr and Mrs Smith" co-star's marriage with actor Jennifer Aniston, with Pitt let off easily in a well-publicised Hollywood scandal.

After 12 years of relationship and two years of marriage, Jolie filed for divorce from Pitt in 2016.

The actor, who is an UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, added that her essay was

not an attempt to "dismiss or downplay" the abuse against men and boys.

"But looking across the world, we have to ask, Why is so much energy expended to keep women in a secondary position?" she asked.

Jolie then attempted to yield a new connotation to the term "wicked women".

"Looked at in this light, 'wicked women' are just women who are tired of injustice and abuse. Women who refuse to follow rules and codes they don't believe are best for themselves or their families.

"Women who won't give up on their

voice and rights, even at the risk of death or imprisonment or rejection by their families and communities. If that is wickedness, then the world needs more wicked women," she wrote.

The actor, who will next be seen reprising her role as the eponymous antagonist in "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil", said there is nothing more attractive than a woman with an independent will and her own opinions.

"With love to all the wicked women and the men who understand them," she ended the essay on a hopeful note.



## Aaliyah to be honoured with wax statue at Madame Tussauds Las Vegas

### ■ Los Angeles

Actor-singer Aaliyah is set to be immortalised in wax at Madame Tussauds Las Vegas. The wax figure of the Princess of R&B will be installed in the throwback room of the museum and will be unveiled on August 21, reported Billboard. The official Twitter page in the memory of recording artist also confirmed the news. "We are proud to announce that Aaliyah will be the next iconic star immortalized in wax at Madame Tussauds Las Vegas (sic)" the tweet read. Fans and visitors will be open to viewing the statue starting on August 22. Aaliyah, aged 22, died in a plane crash in 2001 on her way back to the US from her "Rock the Boat" video shoot in the Bahamas. The single "Try Again" earned her a Grammy Award nomination for Best Female R&B Vocalist. Her third album 'Queen of the Damned' was released posthumously in 2002.



## Gemma Chan in talks to join Marvel's 'The Eternals'

### ■ Los Angeles

"Crazy Rich Asians" star Gemma Chan is in negotiations to come on board Marvel's "The Eternals".

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the actor will join a cast that includes Angelina Jolie, Richard Madden, Salma Hayek and Kumail Nanjiani.

This will be Chan's second Marvel role after she was recently seen essaying Kree sniper Minn-Erva in "Captain Marvel". However, it is uncertain whether the actor will reprise the part or play a different one.

Barry Keoghan, best known for "Dunkirk" and "Chernobyl", is also joining the project.

Brian Tyree Henry, Lauren Ridloff and Don Lee are also a part of the cast.

Created by Jack Kirby in 1976, the story of "The Eternals" is set millions of years ago when the cosmic beings known as the Celestials

genetically experimented on humans to create super-powered individuals known as the Eternals along with the villainous Deviants.

Award-winning director Chloe Zhao is attached to helm the movie from a script by Matthew and Ryan Firpo. Marvel head Kevin Feige is



producing.

The film is scheduled to be released on November 6, 2020.





## Veteran director J Om Prakash dies at 93

### ■ Mumbai

Veteran director and actor Hrithik Roshan's grandfather, J Om Prakash, passed away on Wednesday. He was 93.

The news of his death was shared by actor Deepak Parashar, who said that Prakash breathed his last in the morning.

"My dearest uncle Mr J Om Prakash passed away about an hour ago. So saddened as he joins his friend, my Mamaji Mr Mohan Kumar in heaven!

"Their contributions to Indian cinema is a gift they left behind for us! Took this pic few months ago when went to see him! Om Shanti!" Parashar tweeted.

A spokesperson for Hrithik said the veteran director's last rites were performed at a crematorium next to Pawan Hans, Vile Parle. Prakash is best known for his collaboration with two of Bollywood biggest

superstars -- the late Rajesh Khanna and Jeetendra. He had a strong penchant for beginning his film titles with the letter 'A'.

With Khanna, he made films such as "Aap Ki Kasam" (1974) and "Aakhir Kyon?" (1985).

His collaboration with Jeetendra yielded five big hits -- "Apnapan" (1977), "Aasha" (1980), "Apna Bana Lo" (1982), "Arpan" (1983) and "Aadmi Khilona Hai" (1993).

Prakash's last film as director was 2001's "Afsana Dilwalon Ka", starring Rahul Roy in the lead.

On Twitter, Amitabh Bachchan condoled his death, saying, "J Om Prakash ji Producer Director of eminence, passed away this morning... A kind gentle affable being ... my neighbor, Hrithik's grandfather... sad! Prayers for his soul..."

## Kirti Kulhari to play cop in 'The Girl on the Train'



### ■ Mumbai

Actor Kirti Kulhari will be playing the role of a British cop in the Hindi remake of Hollywood blockbuster "The Girl on the Train".

The film, starring Parineeti Chopra in the lead, is an official remake of the 2016 thriller featuring Emily Blunt. Parineeti will play an alcoholic divorcee, who becomes involved in a missing person's investigation.

Kirti will essay the part of Aaliyah Kaur in the film.

The actor said she is excited to reunite with director Ribhu Das Gupta for the film, after working with him on Netflix original series "Bard of Blood".

"I have had a great time shooting with Ribhu for 'Bard of Blood' and I

totally love his perspective and vision. What excited me the most was definitely the character, I have never played a role like this.

"It's challenging, it's full of layers. Really looking forward to shooting this one," Kirti said in a statement.

The movie is produced by Reliance Entertainment.

Set in the UK, the film will also feature Aditi Rao Hydari and Avinash Tiwari.

Kirti will next be seen in "Mission Mangal", slated to be released on Independence Day.

The actor also has season two of Amazon web series "Four More Shots Please" and film "Bataasha", in which she will play a musician, in the pipeline

## It's challenging to reinvent constantly: Kriti Kharbanda



### ■ Mumbai

Kriti Kharbanda was already an established star in south film industry when she decided to make her debut in Bollywood, a difficult decision that she says meant starting all over again.

The actor, who made her debut with 2016 film "Raaz: Reboot" and went on to star in films such as "Guest in London" and "Shaadi Me Zaroor Aana", says the most challenging aspect is fighting your own doubts.

"The toughest part for to start all over again is battling your own emotions. Not just as an actor but as a human being. It is challenging to fight your own thoughts and not put yourself down.

"Initially, it was difficult for me to come from somewhere where I was established and to start from scratch and then find my place. I have found my place here. I am pretty secure now," Kriti told PTI.

She says she has always been critical

of her own work.

I am my biggest critic and sometimes I forget that I am also human and I need to stop criticising myself. It is not about the place you make in but the place you make for yourself. You need to stop comparing yourself to other people."

Kriti has two forthcoming films -- "Housefull 4" and "Pagalpanti".

She says she is not worried about being typecast as the 'go-to actor' for comedy films at this point but is keen to explore other genres as well.

"I have done comedy films but they all have been different. The challenge is to reinvent yourself every time. I would like to explore different genres but I choose from what comes to me.

"My other films are different, like 'Chehre' and 'Taish'. I have found a balance between doing something in indie space like a Bejoy Nambiar film and then a slightly serious film like 'Chehre' and then comedy capers like 'Housefull 4' and 'Pagalpanti'," Kriti said on the sidelines of an event for Charles and Keith here. She lauded the wedding collection of the brand.



# INAUGURAL TEST WORLD CUP

## *Australia floors England in First Test*



### ■ Leeladhar Kunder

Steve Smith gave a fine display as he hit century in both innings of the first Ashes Test against the host England which led to a dramatic win for the Australians at Edgbaston.

The England team which is fresh from its World Cup victory came a cropper in the Test as it failed to restrict Australian team for less than 200 runs. At one stage the Australian team was really struggling when it lost eight wickets for less than 120 runs. The England bowlers including Ben Stokes failed to deliver the goods as Australian team went on to score 284 runs in the first inning.

A swashbuckling hundred from comeback player Steve Smith with a tailander enabled the Aussies to make a fine recovery and eventually grab the match.

The English batsmen gave a good account of themselves in the first innings and they scored 90 runs more than their counterparts and were all out for 374 runs, a substantial lead.

In the process, an England batsman established a record of batting on all five days of Test Cricket but that could not save his side from a defeat.

The Australian batsmen gave a stupendous account of themselves in their second innings and put an imposing total of

487 runs for the total of seven wickets, thereby giving a target of almost 400 runs to the host team.



The England batsmen lost the plot completely in their last innings and lost six wickets to the slow bowler Nathan Lyon who was in mesmerizing and men-

acing form.

Lyon took six wickets from 20 deliveries after conceding only 49 runs to bring

England.

C Woakes, batting for England at number eight position got maximum runs of 37 runs while none of the other batsmen scored more than 30 runs.

Both Lyon and Smith were the real architects of Australian victory as the host only flattered to deceive after their historic World Cup win. The Aussie side had also beaten England in the World Cup and they reinforced their dominance over England.

The hosts had a horrific start in the fourth innings after losing as many as four wickets for only 12 runs and lost the match to their traditional rival by 257 runs.

There are some interesting sidelights to the show as Moeen Ali, the England all rounder lost his wicket to Lyon for ninth time in the Ashes series. He seems to be having a dreaded time against Lyon as he is yet to find an answer to his wiles and guiles. The English skipper Joe Root survived two Leg Before Wicket decisions and the West Indian umpire Joel Winson was the culprit.

The Aussie Captain Tim Paine was all praise for Smith and paid him handsome compliments.

The English pace attack led by James Anderson, Stuart Broad and Ben Stokes was handled with ease by the Aussie batsman especially Steve Smith and in the end the spin and pace duo of Lyon and Cummins came out in flying colors to de-

liver a knockout punch to the host country led by Joe Root.

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# Kyrgios falls at first hurdle in Montreal

## ■ Montreal

Nick Kyrgios crashed back to earth with a first-round loss at the ATP Montreal Masters on Tuesday, a 6-3, 6-4 victim Briton Kyle Edmund.

Two days after winning the ATP 500 series title in Washington with a burst of consistent form, the Australian court jester was unable to maintain momentum in a match delayed for 90 minutes in the second set by light rain.

"I'm a little bit tired. Physically I actually feel like I'm OK," Kyrgios said after losing in 67 minutes of actual play.

"Kyle played well, served well and didn't really give me any rhythm into the match at all." With top seed Rafael Nadal due to open his campaign on Wednesday, third seed and 2017 champion Alexander Zverev led the way into the third round, battling to contain Cameron Norrie before dispatching the Brit 7-6 (7/4), 6-4.

"I have great memories here from two years ago, and I've never lost in Montreal," Zverev said.

"I hope it stays that way." Kyrgios, who has come under fire for his inconsistency, had been hoping to build on his Washing-

ton success in Montreal.

"Tonight was challenging, I was actually really looking forward to playing," he said. "But I just got beaten by a better player today." Edmund, who won the opening set and stood 4-all in the second when players returned to the court, broke immediately and served out victory.

"It felt good," he said after striking 35 winners to 14 for Kyrgios. "He's a tricky player."

"I was watching for his underarm serve and he bluffed me once on that."

"You just cannot predict what he will do. I could only concentrate on my side and play my game."

Kyrgios has returned to the Top 30 for the first time since last October as a result of his solid week in the US capital.

His loss was the third of the day for Australians, with Brit Daniel Evans defeating Alex de Minaur 6-4, 7-6 (8/6) and 12th seed John Isner rallying past Jordan Thompson 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (8/6).

Felix Auger-Aliassime won the highly-touted battle of Canadians over Vasek Pospisil 6-2, 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/3).

An electrifying clash lasting



just over two and a half hours marked another success in a breakthrough season for the 18-year-old winner.

The world number 21 has already reached his first three ca-

reer ATP singles finals and three months ago became the youngest player to crack the Top 25 since Lleyton Hewitt in 1999.

"I'm pleased that I won, it would have been tough to lose

that one," the teenager said.

"There were a lot of tough moments today, but I was able to deal with them in a good way every time. There's a lot of positives to take from that."

## Cilic hangs on

He next faces another Canadian, Milos Raonic, the 17th seed, whom he beat at Stuttgart in June after losing on hardcourt in March, 2018.

"A year and a half feels like such a long time ago. Physically back then, I changed a lot. Mentally, as well."

"For sure I have the confidence that I can win against these type of players. I'm not as nervous stepping on these big courts."

"We'll see what I can do, for sure I'm a complete different player." Two-time quarter-finalist Marin Cilic withstood 19 aces from qualifier Bradley Klahn to reach the second round 6-3, 7-6 (9/7).

Cilic, seeded 14th, has endured an indifferent season due partly to injury. He'll be hoping to see a return to form on North American hard courts, where he won the US Open in 2014.

## Arjun Tendulkar in Mumbai squad for 'Vizzy' trophy



## ■ Mumbai

I) Arjun Tendulkar, son of cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar, has been named in the 15-member Mumbai squad for the upcoming Vizzy Trophy scheduled to be held in Andhra Pradesh from August 22.

Arjun is a left-arm fast bowler and his name figures in the squad announced for the 50-over 'open' tournament by the Mumbai Cricket Association on its website on Tuesday.

In the past, 19-year-old Arjun

has played in the T20 Mumbai League after he was picked up for Rs 5 lakh.

The Mumbaikar has also bowled to the Indian team in the nets.

Squad: Hardik Tamore (Captain), Srujan Athawale, Rudra Dhanday, Chinmay Sutar, Ashay Sardesai, Sairaj Patil, Onkar Jadhav, Satyalaksha Jain, Minad Manjrekar, Arjun Tendulkar, Aman Sheron, Atharva Poojary, Maxwell Swaminathan, Prashant Solanki and Vighnesh Solanki.

## Ganguly, Harbhajan bat for Dravid after BCCI's conflict of interest notice to him

## ■ Mumbai

"God help Indian cricket," said Sourav Ganguly, expressing his displeasure after Rahul Dravid was issued a notice from the BCCI's ethics officer on conflict of interest allegations against the legend.

Ganguly was backed by off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, who excelled under his captaincy.

The BCCI ethics officer, Justice (Retd) DK Jain, issued the notice to Dravid on conflict of interest allegations made by Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association member Sanjay Gupta.

The India captain Rahul Dravid, who is currently the head of National Cricket Academy's Cricket Operations, is the latest big name to get notice from BCCI's Ethics Officer on specific Conflict of Interest allegations levelled against him.

BCCI's Ombudsman-cum-Ethics Officer Justice (Retd) DK Jain has sent a notice after receiving a complaint from Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association



(MPCA) life member Sanjeev Gupta.

According to Gupta's complaint, Dravid is allegedly conflicted as he is the NCA Director and also employed as vice-president of India Cements group, which owns IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings.

"Yes, I have sent a notice to Mr Rahul Dravid last week after receiving a complaint. He has been given two weeks to reply to the allegations of Conflict of Interest. Based on his reply, I will decide whether to proceed further or not," Justice Jain confirmed.

"New fashion in indian cricket .....conflict of interest ....Best way to remain in news ...god help indian cricket .....Dravid Gets Conflict of Interest Notice from BCCI Ethics Officer," Ganguly wrote on his twitter handle.

Supporting his former captain, Harbhajan said, "Really ?? Don't know where it's heading to.. u can't get better person than him for indian cricket. Sending notice to these legends is like insulting them.. cricket need their services for betterment.. yes god save indian cricket."



# Rishabh is future and we need to give him space: Kohli

■ Providence (Guyana)

Skipper Virat Kohli doesn't want to put undue pressure on young Rishabh Pant as he is the one for the future, who needs to be given some space to display his full potential.

The 21-year-old, who is expected to fill Mahendra Singh Dhoni's shoes in future, was widely criticised for his shot selection in the first two games but came up trumps in third T20 International with a cracking 65 not out off 42 balls, in the able company of his skipper.

"We are looking at him (Pant) as the future. He has got a lot of skill and lot of talent. It is about giving him some space and not putting too much of pressure," the skipper made his intentions clear at the post match presentation ceremony.

He has been around for a couple of years now and Kohli feels that he will soon start finishing games more consistently.

"He's come a long way since he's started. It's about winning and finishing games like these. In international cricket, you need to tackle pressure differently. If he plays like this regularly, we will see his potential shine for India," Kohli said.

He was all praise for seamer Depak Chahar, who got 3 for 4 in his first spell to set the ball rolling for India. The skipper compared him to senior pro Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

"Deepak is similar to Bhuvni. With the new ball, Deepak's skill is up there with Bhuvni. Bhuvni however has more experi-



ence at the death. Swing has been his (Deepak) USP in the IPL too. He is really lethal with the new ball - puts the batsmen in real trouble," said Kohli.

A 3-0 whitewash is certainly satisfactory and the skipper would like to carry on the momentum into the ODI series.

"It was a clinical performance. We

wanted to try out players but priority was to win games. Deepak was great, Bhuvni professional as always. The wicket over here was much better than the one in Miami. West Indies got to a decent total because of the wicket, but we were professional with both ball and bat," the skipper added. Kohli dubbed the Windies ODI side

as a stronger outfit and would want his side to maintain the consistency.

"We want to be as professional as possible in the ODIs and Tests. We want results, to win games of cricket. The Windies ODI team is even stronger, so it will be hard work, but we will try to have fun as a team for a month."

## Top-ranked Barty bounced in Toronto

■ Montreal

World number one Ashleigh Barty crashed out of the WTA tournament in Toronto on Tuesday, falling in three sets in her second-round opener to 29th-ranked American Sofia Kenin.

Australia's Barty, the French Open champion who was competing for the first time since a fourth-round exit at Wimbledon, battled back from an early break to take the opening set, but she was unable to do the same in the next two sets as 20-year-old Kenin triumphed 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-4.

"It just wasn't there today," Barty said. "I think a little bit of rust, but I think just in general it was just a bit loose."

"I think at times I was missing by big margins, which is not something that I'm very used to or comfortable with."

"It's not panic stations," she added, confident that she can get things together before the US



Open begins.

"It's my first match on hard court in a long time." Kenin, who has climbed the rankings this season with wins in Charleston and Mallorca and a runner-up finish in Acapulco, notched her first victory over a top-five player in her

fourth attempt.

She needed four match points to seal the victory, with Barty saving three on her own serve in the ninth game of the final set.

Kenin, who had seen Barty pull back one of two service

breaks in the set, then calmly served it out, giving herself a fourth match point with a forehand winner and lifting her arms in triumph as Barty fired a forehand long.

The defeat puts Barty's number one ranking in jeopardy, with both Japan's Naomi Osaka and Czech Karolina Pliskova eyeing the top spot.

Second-seeded Osaka will open her campaign on Wednesday against Germany's Tatjana Maria, a 6-3, 6-4 winner over China's Zheng Saisai.

Pliskova, seeded third, will face US qualifier Alison Riske, who saved three match points on the way to a 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (9/7) victory over Greece's Maria Sakkari.

"It's not something I focus about or worry about," Barty said of the ranking.

"I came here and tried to

do my best and it wasn't enough today."

Trailing 3-5 after an early break in the first set, Barty won three straight games before Kenin held to force the tiebreaker.

Barty opened a 5-1 lead in the decider and pocketed the set on her third set point.

Kenin raced to a 4-0 lead in the second set, and after Barty regained two breaks to narrow the gap to 3-4, Kenin broke again for a 5-3 lead then held at love to force the third.

Kenin again seized the initiative, taking a 4-1 lead with two breaks of serve -- Barty able to claw only one of them back.

Kenin posted a first win over Barty after three prior losses to the Australian. That included the Aussie's two wins this year over Kenin, one in the round of 16 at Roland Garros.



# INDIA DRUBS WINDIES IN T-20

## Captain Kohli gets his first wash out

By Leeladhar Kunder

Team India inflicted one of the heaviest defeats on the mighty West Indies team in the three match T-20 series which concluded on Tuesday at Guyana.

The Indian team was packed with several newcomers including the two brothers Deepak Chahar and Rahul Chahar, the right arm pace bowler Navdeep Saini, Washington Sundar and Krunal Pandya.

Fortunately for team India all of them came good and played stellar roles in three-zero washout against home team.

The Indian opener Rohit Sharma who is also the vice captain continued from where he left off in the World Cup and contributed his mite for his team.

Captain Virat also joined the party and especially played a crucial inning in the last match which resulted in three-zero washout.



Kolhi and the southpaw wicket keeper batsman Rishab Pant were engaged in a hundred run partnership for

the second wicket after the early fall of Shikhar Dhawan. That partnership took the wind out of sails of West

Indian batsmen and the team India cruised to a seven wicket win in the last match. Pant played his heart out

and scored a brisk 65 runs to remain not out and the team India shone in all departments of the game.

The Indian bowlers especially the newcomers – the Chahar brothers and Navdeep Saini rose to the occasion and did not allow their opponents to get better of them.

The veteran Ravinder Jadeja who played in the first two matches also played a vital role and he was rested for last match to give Krunal Pandya a chance.

The Indians did not find much difficulty in getting past the Windies in the first two matches and they relentlessly attacked and piled pressure on the home team.

The Indians won their second match due to Duckworth-Lewis method as the match was interrupted due to rains when the Windies batting second was short of 70 odd runs from the remaining four overs.

This victory augurs well for the Indian team which will now play the ODI series and thereafter the two Test matches.

The Indian team interestingly won the first two matches after batting first in the first match and batting second in the second match.

The selectors have done the right thing by giving chance to newcomers and resting time tested players like Shami, Hardik Pandya and Kuldeep Yadav.

The Windies team was served well by Keiron Polard and Pooran as skipper Brathwaite could not contribute much to his team's cause. S Narine and Heytmar also failed to come good and the host nation was no match for the visiting team.

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Across State अक्रॉस मुंबई



युनायटेड महाराष्ट्रीय  
सांस्कृतिक इंडियन फाउंडेशन

कैवल्यसम्राट

सिद्धपुरुष

राजाधीराज

श्री सिद्धरामेश्वर

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जयंती उत्सवनिमित्त

श्रावण  
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नवमी  
९ ऑगस्ट

विनम्र कोटी कोटी पुष्पांजली!



संजय मंगेश भैरे  
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