

TIME AND US

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WEATHER TEMPERATURE

STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	30.1	12.6
JAMMU	33.7	24.8
LEH	22.8	5.5
KARGIL	25.2	7.2

SUNSET FRIDAY: 06:20 PM
SUNRISE SATURDAY: 06:26 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR
 Partly Cloudy Sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 29°C & 11°C respectively.

RNI NO: JKENG/2015/62397 • PRICE RS.3/- (AIR SURCHARGE FOR DELHI, JAMMU & LADAKH 50/- PAISA)

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'80 TO 85 MILITANTS, MOSTLY FOREIGNERS, PRESENT IN NORTH KASHMIR'

LeT behind killing of local BSF constable in Hajin: DIG North

Srinagar, Sep 28: Stating that 80 to 85 militants are present in north Kashmir out of which majority are foreigners, DIG North Kashmir Nitish Kumar Thursday blamed Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militant outfit for the killing of off-duty Border Security Force (BSF) man Rameez Ahmad Parray in Hajin area of Bandipora district.

According to KNS correspondent, Kumar while addressing media persons in Baramulla today said the LeT commander Mehmood Bhai carried out the killing of Parray. "He was accompanied by few more militants when the killing took place," said Kumar.

He said there are some 80 to 85 militants present in North Kashmir. "Most of the militants are foreigners," he said.

See North...Pg 02



Amid shutdown CASO launched in Hajin to nab the killers of BSF man

Bandipora, Sep 28: In a bid to nab suspected armed men responsible for the killing of a local BSF man, government forces on Thursday launched Cordon and Search (CASO) in Hajin area of Bandipora district.

See Hajin...Pg 02

Transfers and Postings:

Tahir Saleem Khan is new SP Traffic City

Srinagar, Sep 28: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday ordered transfers and new postings in the police department.

Sunil Gupta, IPS (JK: 2007), SSP Jammu, is transferred and posted as SSP CID Cl Kashmir vice Vivek Gupta, IPS.

Vivek Gupta, IPS (JK: 2007), SSP CID Cl Kashmir, is transferred and posted as SSP Jammu vice Sunil Gupta, IPS.

Sargun Shukla, IPS (JK: 2012),

SP Traffic City Srinagar, is transferred and posted as SP Leh vice Udayabhaskar Billa, IPS (JK: 2008), who shall report to PHQ for further posting.

A.K. Mahajan, SO to ADGP HG/CD/SDRF, J&K, is transferred and posted as CO IR-16th Bn. vice Altaf Hussain Khan.

Ab. Rashid Bhat, CO IR-20th Bn, is transferred and posted as CO JKAP-12th Bn vice Bakar Hussain Samoan.

Rajesh Pran, SO to DIG JSK Range, is transferred and posted as CO JKAP-14th Bn vice Anil Kumar Katoch.

Javid Ahmad Koul, SSP (SS) CID Hqrs, J&K, is transferred and posted as SSP Crime Branch, Kashmir vice Shahid Mehraj Rather.

Shahid Mehraj Rather, SP Crime Branch, Kashmir, is transferred and posted as SSP PCR, Srinagar vice Suhail rVILfiawar Mir.

Suhail Munawar Mir, SSP PCR, Srinagar, is transferred and posted as SO to IGP Kashmir Zone vice Muzafar Hussain Shah.

Dr. Koshal Kumar Sharma, CO IR-11th Bn, is transferred and posted as AIG (Welfare) PHQ.

Parshotam Kumar Sharma, CO JKAP-6th Bn, is transferred and posted as CO IR-1st Bn vice Tej Ram Katoch.

Bakar Hussain Samoan, CO JKAP-12th Bn, is transferred and posted as CO IR-20th Bn vice Abdul Rashid Bhat.

Sanjay Kumar Kotwal, SSP, See Transfers...Pg 02

MEHBOOBA DISBURSES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AMONG PELLET VICTIMS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today disbursed financial assistance among a group of victims of pellet injuries who suffered injuries during the law and order situations in the Valley last year.

This is the second group of injured victims who were provided financial assistance by the Chief Minister today. A group of 17 visually impaired victims were provided financial assistance by Mehbooba Mufti recently on September 14.

The Chief Minister, it may be mentioned here, has

See Mehbooba...Pg 02

Government keenly monitoring functioning of PHE and I&FC Department

Srinagar, Sep 28: Mehbooba Mufti led Jammu Kashmir Government has been keenly monitoring the functioning of Public Health Engineering and Irrigation and Flood Control Department, after receiving complaints of corruption and nepotism about some top officials, reliable sources informed news agency CNS.

Sources said that Government after taking cognizance of multiple complaints recently transferred a top official of the department while earlier another top official was also attached on the same allegations.

Sources added that some top officials have allegedly grabbed money from the engineers against their elevation to the rank of Executive Engineers. The elevation file has been approved by the Minister but the formal order is reportedly pending as the officials wished to earn more by promoting more engineers.

Reliable sources added that huge funding to the tune of 3300 crore (from Modi's 80,000 crore flood relief package) were made available to PHE and I&FC Department for the improvement of capacity of river

See PHE...Pg 02

PRINCIPAL SECY REVIEWS ARRANGEMENTS FOR DURBAR MOVE

Inspects govt quarters, directs for starting face-lifting work

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 28: Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rohit Kansal today chaired a meeting with senior officers of various departments to review the arrangements for ensuing Durbar Move to the winter capital.

The meeting was attended by Director Estates, Tasaduq Jeelani, Director Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), R.A Inqalabi, Director Floriculture, Babila Rakwal, Engineers of Estates, R&B, PHE, PDD, Deputy Director Estates, Deputy Director Fire Services besides security officers and other concerned officials.

During the meeting detailed discussion were held regarding residential accommodations for move

See Durbar...Pg 02

Rajnath pitches for diplomatic efforts for flood mitigation

NEW DELHI: Home Minister Rajnath Singh today pitched for diplomatic efforts to bring consensus among different countries on sharing hydrological data on rivers, a month after China did not share information on Brahmaputra.

Inaugurating the 13th formation day of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) here, Singh said hydrological data on rivers should be shared by



be taken to solve the flood problem. Hydrological data of some rivers, which come there is an existing expert-level mechanism, established in 2006, and there are two

INTELLIGENT LIGHTS TO CURB TRAFFIC CONGESTION

ADC reviews DRSAP for Srinagar

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar (ADC), Purnima Mittal today convened a meeting to review the preparation of District Road Safety Action Plan (DRSAP) for the City.

RTO Kashmir, SP Traffic, Executive Engineers of R&B, SMC & PDD, Principals of Educational Institutions, Representatives of NGOs and other concerned officers were present in this meeting.

The meeting was informed that the Ministry of Roads & Highways (MRH) devised a format for District Road Safety Action Plan 2017-18, in which every district in the country were directed to make their plan according to this format. In this format, six pillars of road safety measures

See Lights...Pg 02

APDP protests against Gov's refusal to allow any discussion on HR situation in JK

'Govt fails to trace over 8000 disappeared persons'

Srinagar, Sep 28: The Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) on Thursday protested at Srinagar against the Government of India's 'unremitting refusal to allow any discussion on the reality of situation of Human Rights in Jammu and Kashmir'.

Scores of APDP members assembled at Srinagar's Pres Enclave and held a silent protest.

APDP spokesperson, Tahira Begum according to KNS correspondent expresses serious concern over the Government of India's unremitting refusal to allow for any discussion on the reality of situation of Human Rights



in Jammu and Kashmir. "A part of this See APDP...Pg 02

TRAL SHUTS AGAINST CIVILIAN KILLINGS IN GRENADE BLAST

Pulwama, Sep 28: A complete shutdown was observed in south Kashmir's Tral town of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday against the death of a civilian.

Mushtaq Ahmed Sheikh who was injured in a grenade blast last week succumbed to his injuries in the hospital on Wednesday. Earlier two civilians—Rattandeep Kour alias Pinky Kour daughter of Ichpal Singh resident of Chattargam and Ghulam Nabi Trag son of Ghulam Ahmad Trag resident of Tral-e-Payeen were killed after a grenade attack on the cavalcade of PDP leader and R&B minister Naem Akhtar. At least 30 persons including some forces personnel were also injured in the incident. The incident received widespread condemnation from the government, militant outfits and joint resistance leadership.

See Tral...Pg 02

Terror funding case: NIA summons independent J&K MLA Er Rashid

SRINAGAR: Independent Jammu and Kashmir MLA Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Rashid Engineer, has been summoned by the NIA for questioning in a case related to the funding of terror activities in the Valley, officials said today.

Rashid, who has been called for questioning on October 3, is the first mainstream politician to be summoned by the National Investigation Agency in the case, the officials said.

His name had cropped up during the interrogation of businessman Zahoor Watali, who was arrested by the NIA for allegedly supply-



ing money to terror groups and separatists in the Valley. See NIA...Pg 02

CHANGE IN SCHOOL TIMINGS FROM OCT 3

SRINAGAR, SEP 28: According to the Director School Education, all Government as well as private (recognized) schools within the Municipal limits of Srinagar city will observe school timing from 9.00am to 3.00pm and schools falling outside Srinagar Municipal Limits will observe school timing from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm w.e.f 03-10-2017.

The instructions shall

See School...Pg 02

140 lady constables pass out from SK Police Academy

New batch of lady Constables will help to fight against crime: DGP

Udhampur, Sep 28: An impressive passing out parade of 140 lady Constables was held at Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy Udhampur today where Director General of Police Dr. S.P Vaid was the Chief Guest.

In his address to the passing out lady Constables, DGP said that it was very heartening to know that 140 lady Constables are joining the



force which will help us in

strengthening the existing Police Stations in the State and also Women Cells opened in some other towns of the State.

Complementing the Director and the training staff of the Academy, Dr. Vaid said that since 60% of the batch is below the age of 25 years and 36 pass outs are having

See DGP...Pg 02

Comprehensive package for JK's Carpet industry on cards: Dr Drabu

Official panel to work-out modalities; 'Will approach GST Council for bringing down tax on carpets to 5%'

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: Minister of Finance, Dr Haseeb Drabu today said J&K government mulls a comprehensive package to address the issues faced by the state's carpet sector.

A delegation of carpet traders and manufacturers today called on the Finance Minister at his office here and

See Drabu...Pg 02



03 PERSONS INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS

SRINAGAR, SEP 28: Three persons were injured in different road accidents across the valley.

In Kupwara, a Wagon-R car bearing registration number JK01AD-8674 driven by Reyaz Ahmad Wani resident of Nowhatta, Srinagar hit a scooter bearing registration number KMR01H-1105 driven by Raja Tasaduq resident of Zachildara, Handwara at Dragma in the jurisdiction

See Road...Pg 02

VEERI ASKS OFFICERS TO ENSURE BASIC FACILITIES AT MIGRANT CAMPS

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: Minister for Revenue Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Abdul Rehman Veeri today asked officers to ensure basic facilities at migrant camps. He said while reviewing functioning of Relief Organization here. The meeting was attended by Secretary Revenue Muhammad Ashraf Mir, MD JKPC Daleep Thuso, Relief Commissioner ML Raina, Director planning Zahoor Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner Relief Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Chief Engineer UEED and other

officials. The Minister directed the officials to provide full cash assistance to the new born babies as well. To ease out functioning of the organization, The Minister asked the officers to create Durga Nagar and Jagti as new zones for migrants. Asking the officers to pace up the work on transitional accommodation, Veeri setup the deadline of November ending for the completion of 48 flats at Vessu and Sheikhpora. He also asked the officials to



pace up the construction of new flats at Purkoo besides boundary walling the entire camp. He also

asked them to keep the provision of health center, shopping mall and a park in the DPR on the modern lines. The Minister also stressed on the officials to immediately start work on first phase of renovation and repair work on Jagti flats. The Minister also impressed upon the officers to upgrade the system of their offices by adopting e-mode and computerization so that people are facilitated in a better manner. He also asked the officials to ensure safe drinking water facilities, health facilities, sanitation

and timely availability of ration for the migrant families. The Minister also directed to setup camps for smooth completion of Adhar completion, besides coordinating up with various departments for special camps of various employed related schemes. While receiving an appraisal regarding the bifurcation of ration cards of migrant families, the Minister directed simplifying the process and ensuring time bound disposal of these cases after proper verification.

Continue from Front Page.....

NORTH

Also Director General of Police SP Vaid said that 3-4 militants barged inside Parray's home and shot him dead.

"3 to 4 militants came to the BSF jawan's residence and started shooting. He was dragged out of his house and shot," said Vaid.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference Working President Omar Abdullah has termed the killing as "abominable".

"What a terrible incident. This is abominable. Heart-felt condolences to the family of Rameez Parrey. Hope the injured recover soon," Abdullah wrote on micro-blogging website Twitter.

HAJIN

Operation in Shahgund and Gund Bune areas of Hajin town of North Kashmir's Bandipora district.

Pertinently, suspected militants shot dead a Border Security Forces man Rameez Ahmed Parray and wounded four of his family members at Parray Mohalla Hajin.

Reports said that a thorough search operation was conducted in these areas, however, no arrests were made.

A police official told news agency CNS that they had received information about the presence of militants in these areas, however, after cordon and search operation they could not establish a contact with the militants.

Meanwhile, shops and business establishments remained closed in Hajin town, while heavy contingent of government forces personnel were deployed to maintain the law and order there.

TRANSFERS

awaiting orders of posting at PHQ, is posted as SO to IGP Armed/IR, Jammu against available vacancy.

Anil Kumar Katoch, CO JKAP-14th Bn, is transferred and posted as Principal STC Talwara against available vacancy.

Shabir Ahmed Malik, SSP, awaiting orders of posting, is posted as SO to ADGP HG/CD/SDRF, J&K vice A.K. Mahajan.

Tej Ram Katoch, CO IR-1st Bn, is transferred and posted as CO JKAP-5th Bn vice Mohammad Farid.

Mohammad Farid, CO JKAP-5th Bn, is transferred and posted as CO JKAP-6th Bn vice Parshotam Kumar Sharma.

Pawan Kumar Parihar, SSP, awaiting orders of posting at PHQ, is posted as SO to DIG JSK Ranque vice Rajnesh Pran.

Altaf Hussain Khan, co IR-16th Bn, is transferred and posted as CO IR-11th Bn vice Dr. Koshal Kumar.

Tahir Saleem Khan, SO to IGP Armed/IR Kashmir, is transferred and posted as SP Traffic City, Srinagar vice Sarjun Shukla, IPS.

"Advance T.E as admissible under rules is also sanctioned in favour of the officers, in whose case change of station is involved," Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department, RK Goyal said in his order.

MEHBOOBA

initiated a series of measures for the rehabilitation, social integration and empowerment of victims of violence in the State and providing financial assistance to them is one aspect of these measures.

The injured who were provided financial assistance today were affected due during law and order situations last year.

PHE

Jehlum, however, in the name of removal of silt at couple of places, general public was hoodwinked. Furthermore, the silt is also being sold in open market. There is no improvement in the capacity of river Jhelum after floods and the funds meant for the same have reportedly been looted by some top officials.

Well placed sources said that a top official who was recently transferred, has been also found involved in illegal transmission of funds under various sectors especially under Operation and Maintenance head to the Chief Engineer of PHE Kashmir who had recently removed by the government. Reliable sources told CNS that more than 100 crores of liability has been created by these officials.

"Though the officials in question have been removed from the department but there is still a top official who has not been removed and government is likely to initiate action against him.

When contacted, one of the officials in question said that he was transferred from the department after developing some differences with the concerned Minister. "These allegations are baseless and don't carry any weight," he said.

DURBAR

employees, besides sanitation and renovation works to be taken up in Government Quarters and civil secretariat complex.

Kansal directed the Director Floriculture for face lifting of the Secretariat lawns and beautification of roads in and around the Secretariat and government residential colonies.

He asked FCS&CA department to ensure adequate supply of ration and other essential commodities to move employees during their stay in Jammu.

He asked the officers of the concerned departments to ensure that the renovation and repair work in all the Government residential colonies is completed well in time, while facilities like drinking water, electricity etc are made available.

He also stressed on better synergy among the department for putting in place the arrangements for smooth functioning of offices.

Later, the Principal Secretary accompanied by Director Estates visited various government quarters and inspected ongoing construction/repair and renovation works.

The meeting also discussed security arrangements at Secretariat and residential quarters for move employees in detail.

RAJNATH

as there can be "technical reasons" behind China not sharing the data.

At that time, the border standoff at Doklam between India and China was on.

The home minister expressed hope that a beginning in this regard will be made during the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) disaster management exercise to be held in India next month.

Singh said all countries stand together when there is any humanitarian issue.

He said there could be differences on some issues among the countries, but all nations stand together in case of any disaster in the world.

The home minister said when any country enhances its capabilities and expertise, it gets success in getting others close to it.

Singh said every country has a boundary, but the nature does not recognise these boundaries. Any disaster happening in any country is bound to affect the neighbouring country in that geographical area.

He said India had extended help to earthquake-hit Nepal in 2014 and also India had sent NDRF team to Japan for help.

Speaking on this year's theme of 'school safety', Singh said the children can volunteer in this area and their energy and imagination can be of great help to NDMA.

In his address, Union home secretary Rajiv Gauba said legal and institutional systems in place for disaster management should be further strengthened.

He said climatic conditions and density of population make India prone to disasters. He said 2 per cent of the GDP is lost due to disasters.

Gauba said now there is a paradigm shift from relief-centric approach to holistic approach towards disasters.

He said a lot of school infrastructure is lost in disasters and education services also get affected in post-disaster phase.

Children become more vulnerable, so special care and attention needs to be given to them, he said.

LIGHTS

were prescribed viz a viz Road Safety Management Institution & Capacity Building, Road Safety & Mobility, Safer Vehicles, Improvement in Enforcement of Traffic Regulations: Safer Road Users, Education and Emergency Care.

ADC directed all concerned departments to submit the feedback and suggestions, according to the format devised by Ministry of Roads & Highways, within a week so that the District Road Safety Action Plan for Srinagar district will be made immediately for the safety of passengers, commuters and drivers.

Executive Engineer SMC informed the meeting that the Corporation will install Intelligent Traffic Lights (ITL) in the City Soon. These ITL will automatically read the intensity of the traffic in the crossing and accident prone areas which will reduce the traffic jams quickly besides reduce tendency of road accidents in the Capital City.

On the occasion, ADC said the administration is ensuring that road accidents which claim precious human lives, cause disability and injury, should be minimized. All required measures in terms of effective regulation, better road engineering and greater use of technology need to be taken with full commitment.

APDP

refusal often masked by rhetoric and generalizations is the absence of any acknowledgement that enforced disappearances are widespread and a serious phenomenon in Jammu and Kashmir," she said.

She added that there is no trace about the fate of more than 8000 disappeared persons and their families suffer endlessly. "The government seems to deliberately defer any investigation into the cases of enforced disappearances and hold the perpetrators accountable. The government is also increasingly disinclined to apply international law or allow any international scrutiny or accountability concerning exist-

ing situation of human rights including enforced disappearances in Jammu and Kashmir," she added.

"Amid rhetorical claims for respect to human rights before the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in May 2017 of UN Human Rights Council and during the recent UN General Assembly sessions, the government of India has continuously been averse to grant access to the International human rights bodies including OHCHR, UNMOGIP and UN special Procedures," APDP spokesperson said.

She also said that on the one hand, India is aspiring to be the permanent member of the UN Security Council, while as on the other hand, India is reluctant to ratify the international convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearances and the convention against torture. "During the cycle of UNHRC's UPR India has not offered any positive response regarding the ratification of these conventions despite recommendations from various member countries. Having signed the convention against the enforced disappearances in 2007, the government has delayed its ratification," she said.

APDP spokesperson also said that the Sri Lanka has more than 60,000 cases of enforced disappearances during the Tamil conflict and yet in 2016, Sri Lanka became the first South Asian country to ratify the convention against the enforced disappearances. "If Sri Lanka can take a progressive and pro-active approach to ratify the convention, Why can't India," she questioned.

TRAL

Reports said that all the shops, educational institutions and business establishments remained shut while skeletal movement of vehicles was observed on the roads.

NIA

Rashid, an independent MLA from Lagate in North Kashmir, has been denying any involvement in the case and has appealed to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly speaker to initiate an inquiry.

The NIA had registered a case on May 30 against separatist and secessionist leaders who have allegedly been conniving with active militants of proscribed terrorist organisations Hizbul Mujahideen, Dukhtar-e-Millat, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and other outfits and gangs, officials said.

The case was registered for raising, receiving and collecting funds through various illegal means, including hawala, for funding separatist and terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir and for causing disruption in the Valley by way of pelting stones on the security forces, burning schools, damaging public property and waging war against India, the probe agency said in the FIR.

Hafiz Saeed, the Pakistan-based chief of the Jamaat-ud-Dawa, the front of the banned terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), has been named in the FIR as an accused.

The FIR also names organisations such as the two factions of the Hurriyat, one led by Syed Ali Shah Geelani and the other by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the Hizbul Mujahideen and the Dukhtar-e-Millat, an all-women outfit of separatists.

NIA has secured confessional statements from two of the accused in the case.

A confessional statement is recorded before a judicial magistrate. The accused confirms in it that he or she is giving a statement without any pressure from the probe agency.

The entire process is videographed and no investigation officer is present in the court premises during the proceedings. In case of retraction later, the agency can file a case of perjury.

The NIA has arrested 10 people so far in the case. The list includes Altaf Ahmed Shah, Geelani's son-in-law, and Watali.

Geelani's close aides Ayaz Akbar, who is also spokesperson of the hardline separatist organisation Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, and Peer Saifullah have been also arrested.

Others in the list are Shahid-ul-Islam, spokesperson of the moderate Hurriyat Conference, Mehrajuddin Kalwal, Nayeem Khan, Farooq Ahmed Dar alias 'Bitta Karate', photo-journalist Kamran Yusuf and Javed Ahmed Bhat.

SCHOOL

be adhered to strictly by all the concerned institutions.

DGP

educational qualification of graduation and above, these lady Constables will prove helpful in enhancing the working efficiency of Women Police Stations in the State.

DGP said that the increased number of lady Constables in districts will go along in curbing the crimes against women as women complainants feel comfortable with the officers and personnel of their gender.

Referring to the various welfare measures DGP said that although a number of welfare measures have been taken for the constables such as increase in selection grade constable quota and removing of pay anomaly, having tie up with J&K Bank and SMVD Narayana Hospital, many more measures are in pipeline for the benefit of J&K police personnel.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Director Academy M.

Sulaiman Salaria, IPS, IGP gave a resume of the training activities in general and regarding the training of passing out lady Constables in particular. He thanked PHQ J&K for full co-operation and assistance for the overall development of the Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy Udhampur due to which SKPA Udhampur is successfully conducting basic and Pre Promotional courses for J&K Police personnel as well as specialised courses on various themes not only for J&K Police personnel but for the officers of other departments like Judiciary, JKAS, Forest Protection force etc in addition to the routine courses of the Academy and the courses sponsored by BPR&D, NHRC & NISD New Delhi.

Dr. S. P Vaid, IPS, DGP J&K gave away prizes to the outstanding trainees of the batch. Lady Const. Ishrat Ahad, 1318/Gbl was promoted Out of Turn for securing All Round Best position during the training. She was also rewarded for 1st position in Range Classification (firer) with DGP's Commendation Certificate class-1st along with cash reward of Rs-7500/-.

Lady Const. Anu Radha, 697/IRP-1st was rewarded for securing 2nd All Round best position and 1st position in outdoor with Commendation Certificates class 1st with cash reward of Rs. 17500/- (Rs. 10,000+Rs. 7500).

Lady Const. Suman Kumari, 3073/J, was rewarded for securing 3rd All Round Best position, with Commendation Certificate class 1st and cash reward of Rs. 7500/- where as lady Const Simmy Khana, 825/AP 14th was rewarded for securing 1st in indoor position with Commendation Certificate class 1st along with cash reward of Rs-7500/-

The Chief Guest of the occasion was presented a memento as a memorabilia for his visit to the Academy as Chief Guest of the occasion.

DRABU

made a representation for reduction of rate of tax on carpets which is presently at 12% under Goods and Service Tax (GST) regime.

The Finance Minister said in fact the crisis in J&K's carpet sector is much deeper and structural in nature, and not because of GST. "The Government is examining the possibility of a comprehensive package which will alleviate the problems faced by the people involved in the carpet sector," he said.

Dr Drabu said the State Government will take up in next GST Council meeting the issue of bringing down GST rate on carpets from existing 12% to 5%. "In any case, the artisans and handicraft exporters with turnover of Rs 20 lakh per annum have already been exempted from the GST registration. We will try to bring down the effective incidence of taxation on carpets closer to five percent," he said.

During the meeting, the Finance Minister was informed that 15 lakh people from 3.5 lakh families are involved in the carpet industry and the hike in tax will impact their livelihood since the J&K's carpet sector is already in crisis.

"We are intervening in a much bigger way in the area of Handicrafts including Carpet sector in order to revive the traditional industries of J&K. Our government is committed to restore the glory of these sectors which will also go a long way in addressing the issue of unemployment as well," the Finance Minister told the delegation.

Later, Dr Drabu directed the officers from Commercial Sales Tax Department to form a committee comprising representatives from J&K Bank, CST, carpet association and Industries Department to work out modalities of a comprehensive package for the carpet sector.

Meanwhile, a delegation of LoC Traders also called on the Finance Minister and apprised him about the issues faced by them in the cross LoC trade. Dr Drabu gave them a patient hearing and assured that all their genuine grievances will be addressed.

The meetings were also attended by Commissioner, Sales Tax, Parvaiz Iqbal Khateeb, and other officers of CST and Finance Department.

ROAD

of Police Post Dragma, resulting in injuries to the scooty rider.

The injured was shifted to Sub District Hospital Kupwara for treatment where from he has been referred to Bone & Joints hospital Srinagar for further treatment. Kupwara police has registered a case in this regard.

In Srinagar, a Tipper bearing registration number JK02X-4947 driven by one Bashir Ahmad resident of Dardpora Lolab, Kupwara turned turtle near Momin Abad in the jurisdiction of Police Station Batamaloo, resulting injuries to the driver. The injured was shifted to hospital for treatment. Srinagar police has registered a case in this regard.

In Ganderbal, one person Ishtiyaq Ahmad Reshi resident of Akhal fell from a bus bearing registration number JK02U-3247 driven by Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh resident of Pandch, resulting in injuries to the said person.

The injured was shifted to Sub District Hospital Ganderbal for treatment where from he has been shifted to SKIMS Soura for further treatment. Ganderbal police has registered a case in this regard.

Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates 13th Formation Day of NDMA

New Delhi, September 28: The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 13th Formation Day of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) here today. The theme of this year's formation day is 'School Safety'.

Delivering the inaugural address, Shri Rajnath Singh said that NDMA has covered a long distance in short time span of 13 years since its formation. He said that NDMA has established credibility of India across world. He further said that there was no institutional framework for disaster management earlier, but after the setting up of NDMA, a mechanism has been developed not only for disaster management, but also for disaster risk reduction. He expressed happiness that India got appreciation due to NDMA's work at Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting on Disaster management held in Kyrgyzstan last month, where he had participated. He said that NDMA has done good work for enhancing the disaster management capabilities. The Home Minister said that he had also moved a proposal to organise a Joint Urban Earthquake Search and Rescue exercise to improve collective preparedness and this proposal was accepted unanimously by all the members of the SCO.

The Home Minister said that all countries stand together when there is any humanitarian issue. He said that there could be differences on some issues among the countries, but we stand together in case of any disaster in the world. He said when any country enhances its capabilities and expertise; it gets success in getting others close to it. Shri Rajnath Singh

said that every country has a boundary, but the nature does not recognise these boundaries. Any disaster happening in any country is bound to affect the neighbouring country in that geographical area, he added. He said that India had extended help to earthquake-hit Nepal in 2014 and also India had sent NDRF team to Japan for help.

Shri Rajnath Singh said that diplomatic efforts are also required in managing disasters arising out of floods. He said that hydrological data on rivers should be shared by the neighbouring countries and a consensus needs to be developed in this regard. He expressed hope that a beginning in this regard will be made during BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise next month.

Speaking on this year's theme of 'school safety', Shri Rajnath Singh congratulated NDMA for focussing on integrating children in their disaster management exercise. He said that the children can volunteer in this area and their energy and imagination can be of great help to NDMA. He further said that children should be involved based on their interest in this subject. He congratulated NDMA for making efforts for disaster safety and he expressed belief that NDMA will fulfil dream of a 'Safe India'.

The Union Home Secretary, Shri Rajiv Gauba said that legal and institutional systems in place for disaster management should be further strengthened. He said that our climatic conditions and density of population make us prone to disasters. He added that 2% of GDP is lost due to disasters. Shri Gauba said that now there is a paradigm shift from relief

centric approach to holistic approach towards disasters. Speaking on the theme of 'School safety', he said that lot of school infrastructure is lost in disasters and education services also get affected in post-disaster phase. Children become more vulnerable, so special care and attention needs to be given to them, he added.

The Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shri Anil Swarup said that implementation of the laws and regulations on ground is very important. He also said that the department will extend all support in the efforts of NDMA for school safety.

On the occasion, Shri R. K. Jain, Member, NDMA highlighted the activities undertaken by NDMA during the last one year since the last formation day. He said that in November last year, India had hosted the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in New Delhi which was first such conference after Sendai framework. He said that New Delhi Declaration, Asian Regional Plan were adopted during the AMCDRR, 2016. He also said that second meeting of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was held in New Delhi in May this year. He also informed that India is hosting first 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017' from 10th-13th October this year. He highlighted India's efforts in conducting joint exercise by SAARC nations (SAADMEX) to respond to simulated disaster situations, urban flooding and cyclones. He also said that a comprehensive plan to mitigate the effects of earthquake and landslides is also being formed.

During the event, a message of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was also presented to the participants.

On the occasion, the Union Home Minister also released National Disaster Management Guidelines on Boat Safety and Cultural Heritage Sites & Precincts. A study report on "Tamil Nadu floods: Lessons learnt and best practices" was also released by Shri Rajnath Singh.

During the event, the stakeholders are discussing the roadmap, their roles and key challenges in the implementation of the School Safety Policy across the country. States are sharing their experiences in terms of best practices and lessons learnt through their efforts towards school safety initiatives.

The event is being attended by NDMA Members and officials, former NDMA members senior officials from the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministries/Departments of the Central Government, State Governments, Municipal Commissioners, District Collectors, NGOs, and ex-Members and Advisory Committee members of NDMA. Representatives of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), technical institutions, educational institutions such as Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, District Education Officers (DEOs), school principals, teachers and school children are also present. The Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju will address the Valedictory Session of the Formation Day here in the evening.

'Department of Post to organize a Special Philately Exhibition on 2nd October 2017 in Srinagar GPO'

Srinagar, September 28: Department of Posts is organizing a Special Philately Exhibition on 2nd October, 2017 in Srinagar GPO Complex. In this exhibition the renowned Philatelists of Jammu and Kashmir regions Dr Semin Rubab, Shri Aashiq Hussain, Shri Chetan Kohli, Dr Puri, Shri Sanjay Gupta will display more than 2000 rare stamps issued by Postal organization of India and abroad on Mahatma Gandhi.

Sources from Department of Post, J&K Circle, Srinagar informed that best 9 letters chosen in the National Level Letter Writing Competition under the "Dhai Akhar/Letter

Writing Campaign which run from 24th June, 2017 to 15th August, 2017 will be awarded Circle level cash awards in the exhibition. The best three letters writers who secured 1st Position in different categories are Kasak Katoch Jammu, Samriti Sharma Sunderbani Rajouri and Aqib Bashir Frisal Kulgam and will be awarded Cash Award of Rs 25,000- each. Kibra Javid PCHSS Srinagar, Sanaya Mahajan of KC International School Jammu and Falah Fida Wani Hawal Srinagar who secured second position in the respective categories will be awarded Rs 10,000- each while as Shabir Ahmad St.

Paul's Academy Srinagar, Kanhiya Lal Sharma Samba Jammu and Hamid Ali Shah Jammu University will be awarded third prize of Rs 5,000- each in the respective categories.

Sources from Department of Posts said that the letter writing competition was open for all citizens and sizeable number of participants participated in it across the state of J&K. The theme of the Letter Writing Competition was "Dear Babu (Mahatma Gandhi), you inspire me...". A special cover on Dhai Akhar Letter writing campaign will also be released by Department of Posts in the exhibition.

AAI's Srinagar and Raipur Airports awarded as Best Airports under National Tourism Awards 2015-16

New Delhi, September 28: The Airports Authority of India's Srinagar International Airport, Jammu & Kashmir and Swami Vivekananda Airport, Raipur, Chhattisgarh have been jointly conferred with the prestigious National Tourism Awards 2015-16. The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind, presented the award for Best Airport under 'rest of India' category at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on the occasion of World Tourism Day on 27th September, 2017.

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India presents National Tourism Awards to various segments of the Travel, Tourism and Hospitality industry annually in recognition of their performance towards comprehensive development of tourism in the country. It is the first time that two airports jointly have been selected as best airports for their innovative style of functioning, pro-environment initiatives and passenger friendly approach.



Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, IAS, Chairman, Board Members and senior officers of Airports authority of India with prestigious National Tourism Awards 2015-16 in Best Airport category jointly won by Srinagar International Airport, J&K and Swami Vivekananda Airport, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

JKBOSE convenes Annual Convocation after 7 yrs

Education Minister presents Gold Medals to 104 meritorious students

Pleads for making academics politics-neutral

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: Pleading for insulating education from disturbances, Minister for Education, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari today said disrupting academics for serving political interests is like pushing the society into perpetual darkness.

"Education is not merely about employment, it takes an individual on the path of knowledge and emancipation and it has to be made disturbances-neutral," the Minister said while addressing an impressive function at SKICC here this morning organized by J&K State Board of School Education (JKBOSE) to felicitate the meritorious students of Class 12th and 10th.

104 meritorious students from across the State who topped the Classes 10th and 12th examination between 2011 and 2016 were presented Gold Medals and Certificates of Merit by the Minister at the annual convocation 2017 organized JKBOSE after a gap of 7 years. 24 first positions holders in Matric and 80 first position holders in 10+2 level in different streams were felicitated on the occasion. 69 gold medals were bagged



by the girls. "A place like J&K which has been a source of inspiration for knowledge in the entire sub-continent has to be revived as a hub of emancipation for our future generations," the Minister said and added that the present generation of youth in Kashmir have gone through the most turbulent times in history unlike their predecessors and it is now time to secure their future through best possible education.

Commenting on the huge success of girl students, the Minister said that girls are intelligent and are catching up in every field and are proving themselves through their hard work and dedication. He said through the felicitation ceremonies, the students get encouraged. "From now onwards, we will organize the

convocation annually on time," he said and added that not only the meritorious students but the institutions to which they belong would be also suitably rewarded in future.

The Minister also hailed the untiring efforts of the teachers and the non-teaching staff of the Education Department in keeping the light of education beaming amid difficult circumstances in Kashmir in the past.

On the occasion, Bukhari directed Secretary School Education, Farooq Ahmad Shah to start a suggestion platform through which teachers can provide their suggestions for the betterment of education sector. He said that Education Department will also look for the suggestions of the students which can be incorporated during the for-

mation of curriculum for studies. The Minister also complemented the private sector for supplementing the Government's efforts towards betterment of education in the State.

Addressing the function, Secretary School Education, Farooq Ahmad Shah said that various initiatives have been taken of late to revive the education sector in the Valley.

He said around 750 ReTs have been regularised recently while regularization orders for another 600 ReTs are being issued within a couple of days. "Besides there were some career progression issues of JKBOSE staff which have also been sorted out to some extent," he said and added that besides around 800 cases involving extension of registration.

Kohli, Jugal inaugurate Rs 6.65 cr Chingus, Narian road projects in Rajouri

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 28: Minister for Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries, Abdul Gani Kohli, accompanied by the Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma, today inaugurated Chingus to Badther and Narian to Dughani roads in Kalakote sanctioned under PMGSY in district Rajouri. These road projects were constructed and completed at an accumulated cost of Rs 6.65 crore.

The Minister was apprised that the two vital roads have been completed by the PMGSY in a record period. The 4.16 km long road from Chingus to Rani Badther was constructed at a cost of Rs 2.16 crore while as the 8.90 km road from Narian to Dughani was constructed at a cost of Rs 4.49 crore. He was informed that these roads will connect a dozen of hilly habitations and will provide better road connectivity to more than 6000 people of the area.

Addressing the gathering after inaugurating these road projects, the Minister assured the people that the government will take all out efforts to provide better and quality education to the children of the remote and far flung areas. He said the constructions of



number of school buildings in the area have been taken up this financial year which will be completed in a stipulated time.

The Minister said the government is abreast with the people's problems and assured that their demands will be looked into time bound manner.

Asking Officers of PMGSY to ensure speedy and time bound execution of works carried by the Department in Rajouri district directed for conducting of Survey of area and identify the projects and prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and submit the same to the concerned quarter for accord of necessary approval.

The Minister said that the government has already taken strict measures to ensure adherence to quality of highest standards so that new macadamized roads would be in good condition for years to come.

On the occasion Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma while addressing the gathering said that the collaboration government is committed to provide road connectivity to all uncovered habitations of the State. He said in this regard Centre has provided liberal funding to J&K State under various sectors including Roads and Buildings but need of the hour is to identify the habitations that have not been

covered under road connectivity so far.

The MP said that crores of rupees will be spent on the Macadamization of roads in the State and in the coming years, entire scenario of road network will be changed.

During the tour, several deputations met the minister and apprised him about their problems. These included construction of protection bunds, up-gradation of lanes, damaged drains and health infrastructure. The Minister gave them a patient hearing and assured them that their genuine demands will be looked into. A team of Senior Officers accompanied the Minister during his tour to district Rajouri.

Governor awards Rajya Puraskars to Bharat Scouts and Guides

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: Governor N.N. Vohra, who is Patron of the J&K State Bharat Scouts and Guides (S&G), presented Rajya Puraskars to 135 Scouts and Guides, and 20 Rovers and Rangers of the State, at an Award Presentation Ceremony held at Raj Bhavan here today.

Mrs. Usha Vohra, First Lady; Sh. Naeem Akhtar Andrabi, Minister for Public Works and President J&K State Bharat Scouts and Guides (S&G), and other dignitaries were presented Scout Scarves on the occasion.

Governor congratulated the recipients of the Awards and wished them bright careers ahead. He lauded the valuable work being done by the functionaries of

the J&K State Bharat Scouts and Guides.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor stressed the Government's responsibility to allocate adequate funds for supporting the maintenance and growth of the Scouts & Guides movement in the State and to progressively bring a much larger number of youth under its ambit.

Governor observed that he would take up with Sh. Bukhari, Education Minister, the allocation of a suitably located unused Government School building for the accommodation of Scouts and Guides Headquarters. This will boost the Scouts and Guides activities in the State.

Governor noted that there is an urgent need to enlarge and strengthen this



movement, involving all government and private schools. He stressed that involvement of students in such character building activities is as essential

as securing good results in the examinations. Emphasising the vital significance of involving youth in extramural activities, Governor observed that we have

failed to do this, to the disadvantage of the upcoming generation.

Governor observed that if the political system and the society want our youth to be at the forefront in every arena then establishing a peaceful environment is imperative. He wished continuing success to the Scouts and Guides movement and to all their leaders and seniors.

Sh. Naeem Akhtar Andrabi, Minister for Public Works and President, J&K State Bharat Scouts and Guides, shared his experiences of being associated with Scouts and Guides movement since his school days and highlighted the importance of such activities shaping sound minds and healthy bodies. He assured

the Movement of all required help to forge ahead. Earlier, the Governor unfolded the Scouts and Guides Flag and the Scouts and Guides presented the Prayer and the Flag Song.

The students presented scintillating cultural programme and displayed their skills in First Aid Drill on this occasion.

Ms. Roma Wani, Senior Vice-President, J&K State Bharat Scouts and Guides, presented the Progress Report of the Organisation.

The Welcome Address was presented by Sh. N.A. Khan, State Chief Commissioner, J&K State Bharat Scouts and Guides and Sh. G.A. Parry, Joint Commissioner J&K State Bharat Scouts and Guides presented the Vote of Thanks.

DAILY Editorial
Time and Us SRINAGAR J&K

Confusing consent

In acquitting writer-film-maker Mahmood Farooqui of the charge of rape, the Delhi High Court concluded that it could not be established without reasonable doubt whether the incident took place. The rationale of arriving at such a conclusion may be debatable, but it is the court's reasoning on the issue of consent that is unsettling. It ruled that even if rape had taken place, it is doubtful that it was without the consent of the American researcher who pressed the charges. The court, by and large, accepted her version of events, described her as a stellar witness, and found that vital aspects of her testimony were corroborated. It rejected doubts raised by the defence based on her behaviour after the incident, saying she was only manifesting signs of post-rape trauma and disorientation. At the same time, in saying that the victim's unwillingness was only in her mind, the judge gave credence to Farooqui's defence that he was unaware of the lack of consent. When the court raises a doubt as to when exactly the consent was withdrawn, it seems the victim is being faulted for the man failing to comprehend a 'no'. Requiring a victim to prove that her refusal had been understood by the person who assaulted her is an unreasonable burden. It may aid the use of consent as a defence against a rape charge. Consent, a major ground for defence in rape cases, was allowed to be raised in the appeal although it was not made during the trial, which resulted in the conviction and imprisonment.

The Delhi High Court's verdict may be largely free of the kind of platitudinous moralising that finds its way into judgments in such cases. But it can be held to account for casual phrasing, which makes it hard to distinguish between its own views and those of the defendant's counsel in some places. Also for unnecessary and indefensible remarks such as the one about "feeble hesitation", which it said does not amount to a positive negation of advances. Earlier this month, an order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court suspending the 20-year prison term imposed on students of a private university for gang-rape, and granting bail to them, was notable for its sweeping comments blaming the "degenerative mindset" of youth for the offence. In effect, it sought to shame the victim as one given to casual relationships and adventurism. Judicial decisions containing a mix of sound law and regressive personal opinion are not uncommon. Some blame victims of rape or insinuate that they had brought shame on themselves and their families. When superior court orders contain such remarks, there is an inherent danger that they could be seen as a legal basis for deciding cases of rape. These cases, like any other, must be decided on evidence, and courts should avoid tangential theorising.

Marriage most foul

► K. Venkateshwarlu

Noorjahan (name changed) was like any other 15-year-old Muslim girl from the old city of Hyderabad — bound by tradition, and coy, but as impetuous as the average teenager. She wore a burqa to the government school where she studied and the garment helped hide her torn school bag, a mark of poverty. Noorjahan and her friends were pranksters and the one kilometre walk to school was never short on adventure.

Both Noorjahan's house and school are located in the Muslim-dominated Nawab Saheb Kunta, a ghetto of labyrinthine lanes. This squatter settlement that came up on the bed of a pond is only a stone's throw away from the Nizam-era's opulent hilltop palace named Falaknuma, now a five-star hotel belonging to the Taj group. Wealth and poverty sit side by side in this area of the old city.

Noorjahan was different from her classmates. While everyone dreamt of lucrative careers post studies in professional courses, the young girl, perhaps acutely conscious of her modest family background, harboured dreams of becoming a schoolteacher. Though rated average by her class teachers, Noorjahan tried hard to score better marks, recalls her primary schoolteacher, Amtul Habeeb.

As the summer holidays approached after a good academic year in school, Noorjahan was looking forward to spending time with her paternal aunt, Ghousia, and her cousins, one of the attractions in their house being the air cooler. The cool breeze of the boxy device was a luxury for Noorjahan, the daughter of a homemaker-bearer couple. Her father got an opportunity to work whenever there was a nikah or walima at the S.K. Garden Function Hall, a venue for weddings. The family could not afford material comforts like air coolers.

But little did she know how life would change after her brief stay at her aunt's place. The signs were all there. All day aunt Ghousia and uncle Sikander never lost an opportunity to tell her that she must share the responsibility of taking care of her poverty-ridden family. Their brainwashing worked; her stay there changed Noorjahan. She soon lost interest in going to school. When the school reopened after the summer vacation, there was no sign of Noorjahan in the eighth grade. "We were surprised and sent a word to her brother. Now, after two months, we hear this unfortunate news of her marriage," Amtul says.

When the moon was sighted and fasting during the holy month of Ramzan began May-end, Noorjahan got the first hint of what lay in store for her. Her aunt, uncle and their "friends" began visiting frequently. In hushed tones, a marriage proposal, and how the family would benefit from it, was discussed. And then one day Noorjahan was summoned. A "good marriage proposal" from an Omani had come, she was told, and with it came a mehr of "thousands of rupees", a house, an air cooler, a two-wheeler for her father, and a monthly remittance of ₹5,000.

Little Noorjahan was shocked to hear the groom's age. He was 65, twenty years older than her father. But as her aunt and uncle hammered away, she gave in. After



all, her father was not getting any younger and his meagre daily wage of ₹300 troubled her. Noorjahan became quiet and withdrawn. All that was required now was for her to say 'Nikah qubool hai' (I agree to the marriage) in the presence of a qazi (who performs a marriage), after which a bundle of notes would be pressed into her father's hand and she would be required to sign on blank papers which would be used later in the event of a divorce. A file of fake documents, including a voter identity card and an Aadhaar card, would be furnished to show her age as 18, and a video of a grand lifestyle she could lead in West Asia would be passed around for her relatives to see.

The modus operandi Noorjahan is not an isolated case of Arab nikah, as this type of Muslim marriage is known in Hyderabad. The modus operandi is the same. Detailed conversations with multiple sources in the police and the community reveal the sad picture of how a group of dalals (touts) persuade vulnerable, impoverished families with three or four minor daughters with a story of how sheikhs hold the promise of altering their lives for the better. In some cases, they say this is a 'short-term marriage of convenience' in exchange for money.

Once convinced, the family pressures their young daughters. Touts produce documents to show the girl as an adult and her signature is taken on blank bond papers, to come in useful later in the case of a divorce. Meanwhile, the touts enter into a deal with the sheikhs, who fly into the country and camp in local hotels and guest houses once the deal is sealed. A pliable qazi is located, and the marriage solemnised within minutes. In most cases, the sheikh spends some time with the little girl and leaves for home after divorcing her. In the last seven years, over a dozen such child marriages to wealthy Arabs have been performed, at least two to three a year, most of these marriages lasting from a few days to a few months.

Such marriages have become public largely on account of cases registered in five police station limits in Hyderabad. Many more may have escaped the radar, such as the case of a 17-year-old girl who had approached the Santoshnagar Police Station stating that her parents and touts were trying to perform her marriage for the sixth

time in January 2014. Her five marriages in the previous two years had ended in divorce, she had said in her statement.

The girl's ordeal began soon after she completed tenth grade. She was first married to Basheer of Nagpur, an NRI, and then to Jamal of Pune, both for ₹30,000 each. Next in line were two Saudi sheikhs after payments ranging from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh were made. Her fifth marriage was to a Bahrain national, and the sixth to a Sudanese, both weddings together bringing home her parents ₹2 lakh. But it was before the sixth marriage that she fled, and with the help of a local NGO, filed a complaint against her parents. In the complaint, she narrated how her parents spent all the money they received in leading a luxurious lifestyle. Her father, who had four wives, got her two sisters married in the same way in return for money.

But unlike her, not many Hyderabad Muslims want to speak about this child bride bazaar, let alone acknowledge it as commonplace. With a close vigil on such practices, however, the Arab nikahs appear to have come down, even if they show no signs of ending.

The heyday of such marriages was in the late 1970s and '80s, and the chosen months were July, August and September when wealthy Arab sheikhs would dash to Hyderabad, indulge in multiple marriages with the help of touts, and then scoot home.

When the marriages did not work back home, the sheikh would simply say 'talaq, talaq, talaq' and dispatch the young girl to Hyderabad with the promise of sending maintenance, which would never come. The police estimate hundreds of such contract marriages. A few years ago, Hyderabad saw the unusual spectacle of these hapless women left behind by sheikhs hitting the road seeking support for their livelihood. Many of them have ended up as domestic helps.

In the 1990s, ten-year-old child bride Ameen's case shot into the limelight when flight attendant Amrita Ahluwalia rescued her from Yahya al-Sagih, a 60-year-old Saudi who married her and was taking her to his country. Asked why she was married off like that, her father, Badrudin, an autorickshaw driver, had this to say: "I earn ₹20 to ₹40 a day, which is hardly enough

to feed my wife, six daughters, and two sons."

Duped by relatives and touts Noorjahan's case is somewhat different. While a majority of those who got married to sheikhs were left behind after short-term contract marriages, her husband, Ahmed, took her to Oman. But even before the wedding mehndi on her palms dried, she ran into problems.

Noorjahan frantically made calls to her parents to rescue her, often crying that she was treated worse than a slave. When her father called Ahmed, the sheikh made it clear that he would not send the girl back till the family returned the mehr of ₹5 lakh. By now it was evident to the family that they had been duped not only by the sheikh, but also by their own relatives and a ring of touts.

With no trace of Sikander, Ghousia, or their friends, Noorjahan's mother knocked on the doors of the Falaknuma Police Station. Police investigations have so far revealed that Sikander has arranged the marriages of several women with Arabs. "I made a mistake by marrying her off like that and relying on Sikander," laments Noorjahan's father. "A poor but young rickshaw-puller would have been better. All he has given us so far is ₹7,000, a used Honda Activa, and an air cooler."

Falaknuma Inspector of Police P. Yadagiri says they have booked cases under provisions of the Child Marriage Act, POCSO (Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act), and Sections of the Indian Penal Code relating to rape, trafficking, and cheating by the people named by Noorjahan's parents. Though the parents are equally culpable, the police is taking a sympathetic view in this case.

But the case got bigger and bigger. Given the gravity of the situation, the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mohammed Tajuddin Ahmed, was appointed as the investigating officer. As the news spread via national TV channels and social media, Union Welfare Minister Maneka Gandhi tweeted seeking the help of External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. Even as the Indian Embassy, the Government of India, and the Government of Telangana try their best to get her back, Noorjahan's plight has once again brought into focus the poor economic and living conditions of Muslims in the old city of Hyderabad.

Why are there child brides? The narratives here have common elements: illiteracy, religious beliefs, and a desperation to earn money, with the dubious role of qazis thrown in. Families who marry off their minor girls often disappear to escape detection. "Among a section of Muslims, there is this belief that attaining puberty is enough to marry off the girls, not when the girls turn 18. There are families in Hafeez Baba Nagar who find nothing wrong in minor girls being married off to elderly Arab sheikhs. Then there are qazis who advocate marriage at the age of 16, their contention being that sexual desires start around that age," says Jameela Nishat, a social activist who runs an NGO called Shaheen that works for gender justice and rehabilitation of child brides deserted by sheikhs.

MAXIMUM SUPPORT, MAXIMUM PRICE

► Vikas Pathak

It is past noon and the Sardar wholesale agricultural market in Surat is bustling with activity. Trucks drive in every minute and so do lorries smaller in size. Farmers arrive in these with loads of agricultural produce to sell. The place has multiple rows of platforms interspersed with streets and parking spots. Each platform is dedicated to different kinds of produce: onion, fruits, vegetables, etc. Things move with clockwork precision. Daily-wage labourers offload the sacks of farm produce from trucks, dumping them in huge heaps on the floor of the platforms. A different set of merchants buys this grain and transports it from here, to be sold in towns nearby. The merchants registered here who act as conduits for the sale take a 6% commission on the produce sold. The rest goes to the farmer, and is delivered in cash on the second or fourth day.

This correspondent — who accompanied the ongoing yatra of farmers' organisations from Madhya Pradesh to Delhi through parts of Maharashtra and Gujarat — took a detour to talk to people at this wholesale market to make sense of agricultural marketing operations.

The place is a market seeing daily fluctuations of prices, based on demand and supply. If a greater quantity of a crop comes to the market on a given day and

fewer merchants land up to buy it, the price falls. If more merchants come and there is dearth of a commodity, the price rises. Farmers benefit from a higher price and return disappointed if the prices are low. The prices fluctuate even within a day. To sell for a good price is like being lucky in a draw of lots.

Rakesh Bhambre and Sunil Sonone, who have driven down in a rented truck from Daswel village of the Baglan taluka in Nashik district of Maharashtra, have had a hectic day. They arrived here at 2 a.m. Through the morning, they have sold their onions, which were harvested in April, and have managed to get a price of ₹6-7 per kg, which is not bad. They will now head back to their village in a bit. The merchant will send them the money for their produce in cash two days from now, which another truck coming from their village will deliver to them. The two Nashik farmers say they engage only in farming and have no side work to do. Their annual calendar is hectic. In June/July and October, they sow sugar cane, which requires a lot of water and takes close to nine months to be ready. This year isn't a good one for sugar cane, they fear, as it isn't raining yet. They sow onion in August and also in November. They have brought the harvest of their November crop of onion here, they say. The advantage with onion is that it can also be stored for



four-five months.

They also sow tomato in June and July, and the crop takes two months to be ready. The agricultural process requires a variety of expenses. They need to buy seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and machines on hire for harvesting. They have to pay the bills for power consumed while watering their fields. They also need to hire labour for various operations, from preparing the fields, taking care of the crop to loading the produce on to trucks. Labour charges range from ₹70-100 a day.

These expenses — varying for different crops — are facilitated both by the money they get by selling their pre-

vious produce in the market and by borrowing from cooperative banks, nationalised banks and regional rural banks at an interest of around 7%. Sometimes, they have to borrow from private merchants too, at a higher rate of interest on a monthly basis. Most farmers are under debt of a few lakhs, and sometimes borrow from one lender to pay another. A good crop and remunerative prices — a matter of chance — can lead to better incomes. A slump in prices of a crop or erratic monsoon can lead to loss.

This year, farmers in Nimaad region of Madhya Pradesh and in adjoining parts of Maharashtra — like Nashik and Ahmednagar — are still awaiting rains.

If it does not rain for another week, they say, their crops will be damaged. Villages, of course, have farmers of varying means. The richer ones have more land — perhaps 20 acres — and can try three or four kinds of crops in their fields. If one fails, they believe the other will not. The smaller farmers find it harder to get by. The truck in which Bhambre and Sonone brought their produce to Surat has been hired from a bigger farmer of their village, who owns trucks and hires them out.

These two farmers — each owning 7-8 acres of land — however spend the year in farming, both with their family labour and hired daily wagers. The poorest in villages own no land of their own, and work on the fields of others.

The wealthier farmers have also diversified into related occupations and other businesses as an additional cushion, as farming is not very lucrative and yields and prices are unpredictable. The poorest in the agricultural world either work others' fields or do additional work as rickshaw pullers, construction workers, etc., sometimes becoming poor migrants. Hours before reaching the Surat market, this correspondent visited Koribharna village near Surat, where daily wagers were working the fields of a richer farmer where okra was being grown. Dinesh, a daily-wage labourer of the village with no land of his own,

said he works through the year at a daily wage of ₹100. He gets one or the other agricultural work through the year, he says, but adds that the money he earns is not enough for maintaining his family well.

Pandane village in Nashik district is situated close to a dam from where it gets what villagers complain is sand-laced water. Pradip Shivaji Chitte, whose joint family has 7.5 acres of land, of which he works on just 2.5, has opened a small shop dealing in seeds, fertilisers and pesticides. He rented this shop two months ago in a bid to diversify beyond farming. "I invested ₹1 lakh in this; some of my friends also contributed," he says. "But till now, I am just being able to break even." Chitte says he is under ₹16-lakh debt and practises grape farming in the village. "In our village, half the farming is grape farming; the rest is of all other crops," he says.

Just preparing the fields for the crops entails a labour charge of ₹20,000 per acre, he claims. The fields are prepared from September and the harvest comes only by January, before which the crop requires a lot of care. "The total expense, including labour, fertilisers and pesticides, comes to ₹1.6-1.7 lakh per acre. The selling of the produce begins from January and it sells at about ₹18-25 per kg. If one subtracts the expense borne from the selling price per acre.

Kerala priest Tom Uzhunnalil, rescued from ISIS, reaches India; meets PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Father Tom Uzhunnalil, a Vatican priest from Kerala who was freed from the clutches of the Islamic State terror group in Yemen earlier this month, returned to India on Thursday morning and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here. On reaching Delhi, Uzhunnalil paid gratitude to all those who made his freedom possible. "I am very happy, thank Almighty for making this day possible. I am grateful to all those people who have worked in their own way (to secure my release)," the priest told reporters at Delhi airport. He later met Prime Minister Modi.



External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar posted a picture of Modi handing over a bouquet to the priest. Uzhunnalil was abducted by terrorists in March last year when militants barged into a care home for the elderly set up by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity in Yemen's Aden and shot dead many people, including four nuns of the charity organisation, among whom one was from India. He was rescued from captivity from an undisclosed location in Yemen thanks to the intervention of the Sultanate of Oman that helped to find and rescue him.

Congress hails Yashwant Sinha's take on economy

NEW DELHI: The Congress endorsed former Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha's view that the "Indian economy is in a mess" under the Narendra Modi government. "It is not often that the principal Opposition party will welcome a statement of a veteran leader of the ruling party. Today, I warmly applaud the article of Mr. Yashwant Sinha because it speaks the truth about the economy," former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said at a press conference here on Wednesday. Mr. Chidambaram said he agreed with Mr. Sinha's observation that the economy's actual growth was 3.7% instead of 5.7% if one took into account the change in the methodology for computing GDP. Accusing the Modi government of being "clueless about what is causing the economic decline," he said: "It will be a miracle if they can turn it around."



Tweaking the BJP's original slogan Ache din aanewale hain (Good days are going to be here), Mr. Chidambaram used another Hindi phrase that people have now started asking: acche din to aaye nahi, yeh burre din kab jaayenge? (Since good days didn't arrive, when will the bad days leave?)

Urging industry to speak out on the economy, Mr. Chidambaram alleged that there was "an atmosphere of fear" that prevented people from speaking out. "Indian industry does not complain. They complain to us privately... Indian industry must speak out... Indian industry must, at least, have the courage to speak on matters relating to the economy," he said. Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh blames 'faulty advisers' for economic slowdown Mr. Sinha, now part of the BJP's Marg Darshak Mandal (Group for Guidance), said in an opinion piece that the economy was in the doldrums "as private investment has shrunk as never before in two decades, industrial production has all but collapsed, agriculture is in distress and the construction industry, that is a big employer of the workforce, is in the doldrums."

Former Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal charged with rape, trial begins November 21

NEW DELHI: Tarun Tejpal will be tried for rape after a Goa court Thursday framed charges against the 54-year-old journalist accused of sexually assaulting a junior colleague. The founder and former editor of Tehelka pleaded not guilty to the rape charge, public prosecutor Francisco Taviera said. He pleaded guilty to charges under Sections 341 and 342 (wrongful restraint) and 354 (sexual harassment) of IPC, he said. Tejpal will be tried under Sections 376(2)F and K. The stringent

provisions introduced after the 2012 rape and murder of a young physiotherapist in Delhi say a person who is in a position of power and trust faces a maximum of life imprisonment for rape. The additional and district sessions court at Mapusa will begin the hearing on November 21. The charges were framed two days after the Bombay high court rejected Tejpal's plea to put on hold the framing of charges till it decided a petition to drop all charges against him.



Yashwant Sinha's views in BJP's and national interest: Shatrughan

NEW DELHI: BJP MP Shatrughan Sinha on Thursday came out in support of his party colleague Yashwant Sinha over his criticism of the state of economy, saying he was a true statesman and had shown the government the mirror. The Bihar MP, who has been at variance with the BJP's stand on a host of issues, also targeted his party leaders for dismissing the former finance minister's views, saying it would be "childish" to do so as they were "entirely in the party's and national interest". Taking a dig at the government in a series of tweets, he claimed motives were being ascribed to Yashwant's observations and "we all know that the infamous and pervasive dirty tricks department" was behind them. The cine star-turned-parliamentarian quoted Narendra Modi, saying the prime minister had recently reiterated that the nation was bigger than the party and the national interest came first. "I'm of the firm opinion that everything that has been written by Mr Sinha is entirely in the party's and national interest," he tweeted. "He is a true statesman and a tried and tested man of wisdom, who has proven himself as one of the best and most successful finance ministers of the country. He has shown the mirror on the economic condition of India and

has hit the nail right on the head," he said. Describing Yashwant as an elder brother, he said the BJP veteran must be appreciated and applauded for coming out with these views. In his tweets, Shatrughan also praised Arun Shourie, who was Yashwant's colleague in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Cabinet and now has become a strong critic of the Modi government's policies. "Yashwant Sinha and Arun Shourie are extremely learned and experienced intellectuals. Neither has any expectation or interest in being given a post (or minister-ship), especially with the next elections less than 2 years away," he tweeted. He said those criticising Yashwant should rebut him point by point. "Sadly, I'm yet to hear even one point by point rebuttal. Hope, wish and pray that all those people who matter in our party ponder over what has been said by Yashwant Sinha and remedial action is taken soon. Sooner the better. Long live BJP/NDA," he posted on the micro-blogging website. In a newspaper article headlined, "I need to speak up now", Yashwant had criticised Finance Minister Arun Jaitley over what he called the "mess the finance minister has made of the economy" and flayed demonetisation and the way the GST had been rolled out.

There can't be total ban on use of charcoal as fuel: Environment ministry to NGT

NEW DELHI: There cannot be a complete ban on the use of charcoal as fuel by the industries, the environment ministry told the National Green Tribunal. The ministry of environment and forests (MoEF) told a bench headed by Justice Jawad Rahim that no fresh study was necessary in view of the study conducted by a Tamil Nadu based institute. "During proceeding in this case, report was called for from MoEF and in the subsequent proceedings, it has taken a stand that no fresh study was necessary in view of the study... MoEF relies on that report to contend that there cannot be total ban on use of charcoal as fuel/raw material in the industry," the bench said. During the proceedings, the counsel for the applicant asked the bench to consider the suggestion that requisite safeguards should be provided even in case charcoal is used as fuel in the industry. The matter is fixed for next hearing on October 9. Earlier, the tribunal had directed the MoEF to conduct a study to ascertain whether the use of charcoal



as fuel in the industries had any adverse impact on the environment. It had asked the ministry to examine the process involved in production of charcoal and submit a report to the tribunal. The Indian Institute of Sustainable Development had filed a plea alleging that trees were being indiscriminately cut for converting

them into charcoal. The NGO had also sought a ban on the use of charcoal as fuel or raw material in industries across the country. Noting that the indiscriminate and illegal felling of trees would lead to environmental disaster, NGT had earlier imposed a ban on the cutting of trees without clearance from appropriate authorities.

"There shall be an order of injunction against companies/ authorities from illegally cutting trees in the forest areas in the whole of country to be used for charcoal without obtaining environmental/forest clearance or permission from appropriate authorities," the bench had said.

Policy flip-flops risk harming 'Make in India' drive, say industry executives

NEW DELHI: Surprise policy shifts, such as an apparent U-turn over a locomotive deal with General Electric (GE), risk undermining Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship 'Make in India' initiative, which aims to create millions of jobs and boost growth, industry executives say. GE won the \$2.6 billion contract in 2015 to supply 1,000 diesel locomotives — the biggest direct investment in India by a U.S. firm and the first deal awarded to a foreign firm after India allowed 100 per cent foreign investment in railways — part of efforts to overhaul its creaking, colonial-era infrastructure. But the Railway Ministry said last week that it wouldn't need diesel after all — hoping to save on fuel and maintenance costs — and sug-

gested GE might want to make electric engines instead. No sudden changes in policy: Piyush Goyal However, Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said "Our government does not make sudden changes in policy. We take considered decisions in the interest of the country. Electrification is a process going on for years. I hope to take it to next level in the days to come." On reports of the government ending GE contract for the diesel locomotive plant in Bihar, he said: "I would urge all of us from restrain from knee-jerk reaction on reporting on internal discussions without any official communication. "Work on GE factory is going on as per the plan. In view of the thrust to address concerns of pollution and climate change, going in for electric



Engines are usually used for passenger trains, while diesel is used for freight. Around 25-30 per cent of India's locomotives are diesel-engined. The policy shift could cost New Delhi in compensation - GE is already building a factory for the diesel locos - but executives and investors say it is also an important test for a government that needs foreign investment to create jobs and reboot growth ahead of a 2019 general election. "The GE case is very important symbolically because they have been among the earliest and most committed investors," said Amitabh Dubey, a political analyst at research firm Trusted Sources. "People will be watching to see how this plays out, particularly because the railway contracts were initiatives that the government

pushed consciously and worked very hard to get these people in. To then turn around two years later and change your strategy will bother a lot of people," he said. 1,000 jobs created at Bihar loco plant GE has already shipped its first diesel locomotive to India and is completing the factory. It has created around 1,000 jobs at the plant and a maintenance shed, and 5,000 jobs in the supplier network. In a statement, the U.S. firm said the government's change would put future foreign investment at risk. "An alteration of this contract will have serious impact on job creation and skills development, and cause the government to incur substantial costs," it said. "This will also undermine government's signature 'Make in India' initiative."

HRD ministry to soon begin search for BHU V-C's successor amid row: Report

NEW DELHI: The HRD ministry has moved a file to form a panel in search of BHU vice chancellor GC Tripathi's successor, ruling out an extension for him amid a row over a police crackdown on students, according to the Indian Express. The report also said Tripathi was "nudged" over the option of "going on leave". Students, mostly women, were cane-charged on Saturday night while they were protesting the university's alleged inaction over a reported molestation on the campus last Thursday. The police crackdown triggered a nationwide

condemnation and several political parties hit out at the Bharatiya Janata Party government for the action. "In what rules out an extension for Tripathi, the ministry has moved a file to constitute the search and election committee for finding his successor. According to the BHU Act, the incumbent V-C will continue in the post unless a new one is appointed," the Indian Express report said. Tripathi earlier denied that police baton-charged women students and said they only used force to drive away anti-social elements, who hurled stones and vandalised the campus. He also dubbed the incident of sexual harassment as part of a larger conspiracy to instigate women students against him. The Indian Express report quoted sources as saying the ministry wants to identify a successor before Tripathi's retirement on November 27. If the vice chancellor goes on leave before his term ends, then, according to the BHU Act, his duties will be performed by the Rector until an appointment

has been made. The BHU Act says: "If the office of the Vice-Chancellor becomes vacant the functions of his office shall, until some person is appointed under sub-section (1) to the vacant office, be performed by the Rector. Provided that if there is no Rector, the Registrar shall carry on the current duties of the Vice-Chancellor and call a meeting of the Executive Council forthwith and take its directions for the carrying on of the work of the University." Meanwhile, Mahendra Kumar Singh, the head of the department of ophthalmology, has been given the additional charge of chief proctor after ON Singh resigned from the post, taking moral responsibility for the incident of violence on the campus. University spokesperson Rajesh Singh said that Tripathi has accepted the resignation of Singh and appointed Mahendra Singh in his place. ON Singh was the first official to be approached by the woman student, who was sexually harassed on campus.

Himachal orphanage horror: Girls say they were drugged, exploited

SHIMLA: Six inmates of a government-run orphanage for girls in Himachal Pradesh alleged that the staff of the home used to drug them during dinner before sexually exploiting them. They made the allegation a day after three employees of the Balika Ashram in Chilli village of Chamba district were arrested for the sexual harassment. According to a source in the child welfare department, the six girls, aged between 11 years and 18 years, told counselors in Chamba on Wednesday that they "used to feel sleepy soon after having dinner and remained drowsy till late the next morning." "The girls said they felt something wrong had happened with them at night," the source said, requesting anonymity. The six girls, who complained against a clerk, a cook and a sweeper of the orphanage, were shifted to the Balika Ashram in Chamba. The medical examination of the six complainants was conducted on Wednesday and its report is expected later on Thursday. The three accused will also be produced in a court on the same day. Police have seized the recording of CCTV cameras in the orphanage. "There are three CCTV cameras in the child protection home, but police could only get a single day's recording. The staff said the cameras were out of order," the source said. The incident came to the light when a 15-year-old inmate, a student of Class 10, informed orphanage in-charge Juma Khan about the sexual harassment. Following her complaint, the 33 other inmates were counselled. It's then that five more girls reported harassment by the three employees. Superintendent of police Virender Tomar said the statements of all six girls were recorded and the accused were booked under Section 354A (punishment for sexual harassment) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 12 of POSCO Act on Tuesday.



It takes four days for human heart to form in a womb, finds study

The world has made immense progress where the field of medicine is concerned. From a time and age when diseases and other medical conditions had the upper hand to the present, when scientists are just a few steps away from discovering the cure for some of the world's deadliest conditions.

With medical advancement taking pace, the world's future seems bright and breakthroughs do give us new hope. That said, a study that may pave the way for new ways to prevent miscarriages has found that major structures of a baby's heart form within a span of four days in the womb.

The study, published in the Nature journal Scientific Reports, looked at how the heart developed 13 to 20 weeks into pregnancy.

Researchers, including those from University of Leeds in the UK, used MRI technology, specifically-written algorithms and 3D computer software to visualise on 23 foetal hearts with a gestational age range of 95 to 143 days in the womb.

They found that the most remarkable changes occurred over a four day period 124 days into the pregnancy. Within this short period, the muscle tissue of the heart rapidly organises. Cardiac fibres were laid down to form the helix shape of the heart within which the four chambers of the heart form.

Without this essential architecture in place, the foetal heart cannot survive outside the womb, researchers said. One in 10 miscarriages is believed to be caused by the failure of the heart to form normally, they added. "We have identified a critical time of development of the human heart in pregnancy. We now have a map that we can use to interpret problems during development and look at ways of trying to resolve those problems," said Eleftheria Pervolaraki from the University of Leeds.

Identifying the precise time when the four chambers of the heart develop opens up the possibility that doctors could eventually be able to monitor babies during this critical phase of their development, researchers said. The team also identified a possible mechanism involved in heart development. During the critical four day period, they found increased levels of two proteins: connexin 40 and connexin 43.

"The expression of connexin 40 and connexin 43 helps cells in the heart to communicate with each other," said James Dachtler, from Durham University in the UK.

"As the amount of these proteins increases, cells can 'speak' to each other more effectively, which is why we believe we observed this structural development of the heart," Dachtler added.

6 dumb diet myths that Indians still follow

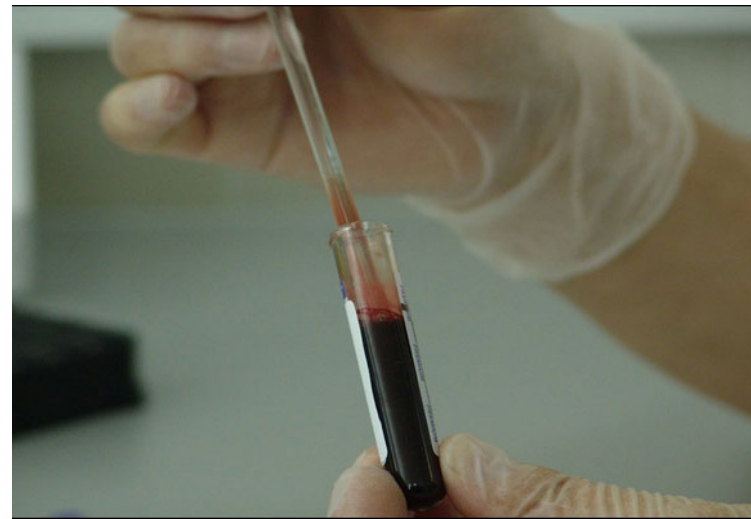
NUTRITION MYTHS THAT INDIANS STILL BELIEVE: All the gym goers take what their trainers say as the Bible's truth, even if they tell them to eat stones and drink nothing. However, the problem is that most of the desi trainers in India are doing nothing better than floating dumb myths about nutrition. Here are six such stupid myths that people in India still follow. **MYTH 1: SUPPLEMENTS WILL BULK YOU UP AND SHED FAT:** If your gym instructor is asking you to clog yourself up on supplements, it is a warning sign for you to immediately stop his mentorship. Supplements are supplements, if you know what the word means. They should never be more than ten per cent of your diet. If you are relying on them too much, there can be nothing unhealthier. **MYTH 2: NO CARBS POST SUNSET:** This is not saying that you should binge carbs after sunset but you shouldn't restrict them either. Specially if you are working out hard, running kilometres on treadmill and lifting tens of multiples of kilos, you need carbohydrates. Period. But as a thumb rule, main-

tain a gap of two to three hours in your last meal of the day and your sleep. **MYTH 4: ONLY CALORIE COUNT MATTERS:** Everyone knows how much calories they are to consume in a day. If you want to build muscle, you increase your calorie intake to, let's say, 2400 kcal. But is that all you need to know? Not at all. You should also know how many of these calories should come from carbs, how many from proteins and how many from fats. Sure, you may be focusing on proteins but that is likely to be over-emphasized because of supplement-advertising markets. Your diet has to be a right combination of all these three macro nutrients. **MYTH 5: FATS MEAN FAT:** A lot of people think that ditching fats simply translates to losing fat. However, the equation isn't that simple. In fact, ditching fats may not help at all. What you need to stop is bad fats, that is the ones that are contained in junk foods. However, unsaturated or monosaturated fats that are available in healthier options are needed by your body. What you need to limit is, in fact, carbs. **MYTH 6: BANANAS MAKE YOU FAT:** This is absolutely false as bananas are rich in fibre and pectin. These help in decreasing bloatedness as they allow a good build-up of healthy bacteria. Banana is not only low in fat but it also helps in reducing cholesterol levels and helps in burning fats.

Now, a blood test that can detect a heart attack 'instantly'

Just a day prior to World Heart Day, the development of a revolutionary new blood test for detecting a heart attack has surfaced.

The test could speed up diagnosis and help patients get out of hospital more quickly, researchers have said. by researchers from King's College London and tested across Europe, the test is quicker than the standard detection test and can rapidly rule out a heart attack in more people. At present, people suspected of having a heart attack are tested for high levels of a protein called troponin in their blood as soon as they arrive in an emergency department, and again after three hours researchers said. Depending on the type of troponin test used, up to 85 percent of people need to remain in hospital for further tests in order to rule out a heart attack, they said. The new test, however, uses similar technology to



the troponin test, but analyses the level of a protein called cardiac myosin-binding protein C (cMyC). Levels of cMyC in the blood increase more rapidly after a heart attack, and to a

higher extent, than troponin, meaning that the test can rule out a heart attack in a higher proportion of patients straight away. "Big heart attacks are often easy to diagnose with an ECG

but smaller heart attacks, which are more common and also life-threatening, are more challenging," said Professor Nilesh Samani, Medical Director at the British Heart Foundation. "The troponin test has been used for around 20 years and is currently the most powerful tool we have for diagnosing such heart attacks, but there is always room for improvement," said Samani, who described the potential importance of the new test in the journal Circulation. "These initial results with the cMyC test look very promising for patients, who could be more quickly diagnosed and treated or reassured and sent home." This test could also allow hospitals to save hundreds of thousands of pounds by freeing up valuable hospital beds. However further research is necessary before it can be recommended as a replacement for the troponin test," he said.

Three-fold rise in cardiovascular disease in national capital, says survey

Ahead of World Heart Day, a survey on Wednesday revealed that there has been a three-fold rise in cardiovascular disease (CVD) among Delhiites over the last three years.

Meting out a warning for diabetics and obese people, the survey said that the risk of heart attack and stroke is increased for those suffering from the conditions.

About 40 percent of men and 38 percent of women in the age group of 40 to 50 years have been tested positive for diabetes which has increased their chances of heart ailments.

Of these, 20 percent men and 22 percent women are obese too, said the survey by Indus Health Plus.

"In Delhi, young working women between the age group of 25 to 35 years are prone to heart diseases due to lack of estrogen," said Amol Naikawadi, Preventive Healthcare Specialist Indus Health Plus in a statement.

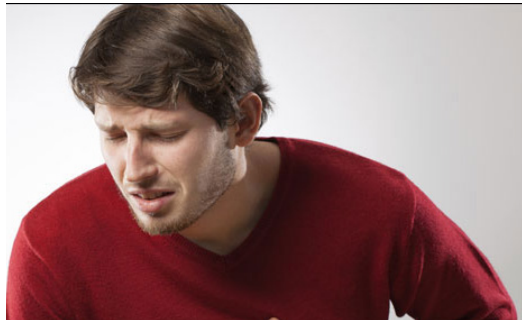
"Prolonged intake of painkillers, hormonal and contraceptive pills can

cause clotting of blood in the arteries. This coupled with unhealthy lifestyle and stress increases the risk of heart diseases."

According to the survey, more than 50 percent of corporate employees (both men and women) are suffering because of hypertension and heart ailments. Furthermore, over 70 percent of urban men and 69 percent of rural men from the age group of 35-55 years are under the risk of heart diseases due to hypertension, obesity and diabetes.

The survey also revealed that 60 percent of urban as well as rural women between 25 and 40 years were ignorant of heart diseases.

Day-to-day lifestyle modifications and changes like jogging, stair climbing, healthy eating or playing an outdoor game will help in reducing the risk of heart ailments, Naikawadi added.



Wikipedia defines cardiovascular disease (CVD) as a class of diseases that involve the heart or blood vessels. CVD includes coronary artery diseases (CAD) such as angina and myocardial infarction (commonly known as a heart attack).

Other CVDs include stroke, heart failure, hypertensive heart disease, rheumatic heart disease, cardiomyopathy, heart arrhythmia, congenital heart disease, valvular heart disease, arthritis, aortic aneurysms, peripheral artery disease, thromboembolic disease, and venous thrombosis.

70% of Indian cancers preventable

Cancer continues to be dreaded because few realise that timely diagnosis and treatment can cure most types of tumours. Fewer still know that cancer can be prevented by healthy lifestyle. It is to make people aware of these that All India Institute of Medical Sciences started a cancer prevention clinic last week. At the clinic, families of patients are counselled about the risk of familial cancers and screening tests available to diagnose them at an early stage to reduce mortality rates. They are also educated about the identified risk factors such as smoking, alcoholism or obesity for different cancers. At present, doctors say survival rate for most cancers stagnates at 20% because a majority of the patients come when the disease is already in the advanced, or III and IV, stages. "If cancer is detected early, 80% patients can be cured of the disease," asserted Dr GK Rath, chief of AIIMS' cancer centre, the Bhim Rao Ambedkar Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital. Bhawna Kapoor (name changed), a resident of Vasant Kunj, whose brother-in-law died of esophageal cancer and another relative is suspected to be suffering from breast cancer,

went to the centre to enquire whether she was at risk too. The doctors counselled her and advised her to undergo genetic tests. "If she proves positive for BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutation, then all family members may be advised to undergo age-specific cancer screening," said Dr Abhishek Shankar, assistant professor of preventive oncology, AIIMS.

Another patient came to the clinic with his father, who had undergone surgery for mouth cancer caused by tobacco consumption. The father told the doctors there, "My son also chews tobacco. Please counsel him. Tell him to stop this habit." Only a week old, the cancer prevention clinic has already attracted over a dozen people. "We plan to offer preventive vaccination for cervical cancer, genetic tests for breast cancer and facilities to make early diagnoses. Also, we will provide counselling to create awareness," Dr Shankar said.

The AIIMS' cancer facility began functioning in 1983 with 35 beds on two floors. At present, there are 182 beds, six of them in ICU. Doctors say the patient burden has increased manifold during this period, one reason being the cost

of treatment. "Poor people cannot afford private treatment for a disease like cancer because it costs Rs 5 lakh-40 lakh."

A recent event organised by Indian Cancer Society (ICS) also highlighted how creating awareness about preventive measures could help fight the disease. "Once you get cancer, it is difficult to get cured."

It's better to understand the disease and keep it at bay," said Jyotsna Govil, vice-chairperson, ICS. According to a review on preventable cancers in India published by oncologists from AIIMS in an international journal, 70% of Indian cancers (40% tobacco-related, 20% infection-related and 10% others) are caused by potentially modifiable and preventable risk factors.

The American Cancer Society recommends that one should maintain a healthy weight throughout life by balancing food intake with physical activity and avoiding excessive weight gain. Experts also advise breastfeeding to reduce the risk of breast cancer.

Stopping intake of tobacco-related products is considered top priority in keeping the disease at bay.

Pamper your skin & hair this festive season with homemade packs & soaps. Here's how

Why don't you give your skin a break this festive season and ditch chemical-based products? Instead try natural ingredients-based products like peppermint soaps, face packs with turmeric powder, fresh cream, pumpkin, essential oils to look fresh.

Amit Sarda, managing director at brand Soulflower, and Naresh Arora, founder of Chase Aromatherapy, a cosmetics manufacturing brand, list the following natural ways to look after your skin:

Take a small bowl and add some lavender oil with two teaspoons of gram flour (besan), a pinch of turmeric powder, butter or fresh cream. Mix all thoroughly and make a pack to get glowing skin. Remove it with gulaab jal (rose water) after 20 minutes. Perk yourself up in five minutes with a refreshing peppermint soap. Add this moisturising soap to your daily bath routine and you will instantly feel revitalised and refreshed.

A pomegranate and honey face pack is also very refreshing and easy to make. Pomegranate is a rich source of vitamin C. It also has anti-ageing and antioxidant properties. Take a homemade paste of pomegranate and add about a tablespoon of honey to it. Apply this paste on your face and neck and wash it off with rose water after 30 minutes.

Include citrus fruits in your beauty regime as they are packed with vitamin C which increases energy and alertness. An easy way to look rejuvenated and refreshed is by using a soap rich with the goodness of orange and carrot.

Marigold flower is easily available in your garden. Pluck out petals from three to four marigold flowers and make a fine paste. Now add one teaspoon of honey with some raw milk. Mix it well. Apply on your skin and wash it away with lukewarm water within 15 minutes. The pack will make

your skin glow. Use enzymatic exfoliants. Papaya contains the natural enzyme papain which helps naturally exfoliate the skin. If you have sensitive skin, papaya cucumber soap will definitely help your skin get the glow you desire. Skip synthetic fragrances containing harmful ingredients such as phthalates. Instead use natural fragrances in the form of pure essential oils such as ylang ylang.

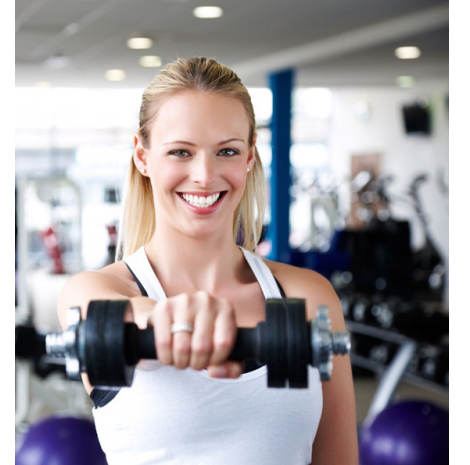
In addition to having a lovely smell ylang ylang helps balance sebum levels for both dry and oily complexions and has a soothing and smoothing effect. Nourish hair with oil treatments once or twice a week. Apply olive oil on the scalp and hair. Then

dip a towel in hot water, squeeze out the water and wrap the hot towel around the head. Keep it on for five minutes. Repeat the hot towel wrap 3-4 times. This helps the hair and scalp absorb the oil better. For the hair, simply run anti-frizz serum like avocado carrier oil through your tresses and braid them. Get on with the rest of your routine.



Just 21 minutes of exercise a day can increase your lifespan by three years

Exercise not just does miracles to our body, but also helps us to live a long life. A research has proven that by exercising for just 21 minutes a day can boost the lifespan by more than three years, the Independent reports. According to the study, which was carried out on 6,600 people over 12 months, people who increased their activity levels to 150 minutes a week — about 21 minutes a day — saw their life expectancy increase by more than three years. This is the current UK national guideline amount of exercise for adults, but if that seems unachievable, the researchers found that moving for just 90 or 60 minutes a week increased life spans by 2.7 years and 2.4 years respectively. The researchers calculated their findings by analysing each participant's "Vitality Age," and it is an aggregate measure of wellness that evaluates the gap between physical body age and actual age. The researchers were able to assess the impact of behaviour on life expectancy, by surveying participants before and after they made changes to their everyday behaviour. As revealed by the participants, the main barriers preventing them from exercising



were time constraints (31%), cost (21%) and not enjoying it (19%). The objective of the survey was to make small changes like taking the stairs or standing for half an hour at work.

Exercise improves mental well-being, self-esteem, strength, fitness and motivation, but if those reasons aren't enough to inspire to get moving, perhaps the prospect of adding three years on to our life will do the trick.

Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai CBDs top prime office yield earners in the world

MUMBAI: Three Indian metros Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi earned the highest prime office yields among 34 leading international markets. Bengaluru topped the table with 10 percent yield followed by Delhi (9.20 percent) and Mumbai (8.50 percent), as per the Knight Frank Global Cities - The 2018 Report. The flagship global report reveals the trends shaping 40 leading international cities across the globe. Among international markets, Pittsburgh was a 7.50 percent yield, Bangkok at 7 percent and Kuala Lumpur at 6.5 percent.

What USD 100 million could buy? Delhi emerged as the most expensive office market in India on the 'What USD 100 mn could buy?' index followed by Mumbai. In Delhi, 156,304 sq ft is available for this amount while in Mumbai 163,032 sq ft is available. In Bengaluru, 512,385 sq ft is available. Globally, 445,739 sq ft is available in Kuala Lumpur, 327,225 sq ft in Pittsburgh, 31,282 sq ft in Tokyo and only 11,698 sq ft in Hongkong.

Most affordable tech district Bengaluru's Whitefield is the most affordable tech district among 29 global tech hubs in the world at USD 9.65 per sq ft. Ranking 25th on the Tech Districts Index, Gurugram's Cyber City

(USD 20.40 per sq ft) beats Madrid's Julian Camarillo area (USD 13.65 per sq ft) and Kuala Lumpur's Cyberjaya Office Market (USD 11.55 per sq ft) in office rents, says the report.

Shoreditch in London is the most expensive tech district in the world (USD 90.75 per sq ft), with intense demand for office space pushing rents higher than those in mid-market, San Francisco, and almost double those in Brooklyn, New York, according to new research from Knight Frank.

Shoreditch is followed by Mid-Market in San Francisco, where rents are USD 77 per sq ft, and Silicon Docks in Dublin (USD 76.30) which has become the European base for many tech corporates including Twitter and Google. The top five of the list is completed by the CBD: Rama 1 in Bangkok (USD 74.25) and the 1st, 2nd and 9th districts in Paris (USD 74.00).

Knight Frank's analysis shows that a number of European cities offer more affordable workspace for tech and creative businesses. In Berlin's Potsdamer Platz office rents are just USD 40.70 per sq ft, while the city centre in Amsterdam, which is home to the city centre's burgeoning tech sector, offers office space at USD 34.45 per sq ft.

Skyscraper Index Mumbai ranks 6th on the Skyscraper Index growth in six months to the second half of 2017. Prime office rents in the upper floors of high-rises in Mumbai see 1.8 percent growth, among the top six international rent appreciating markets India's financial capital pips iconic global destinations such as London (0.0 percent), Hong Kong (1.1 percent), Tokyo (0.0 percent), Dubai (0.0 percent) and established office markets such as Singapore (-0.9 percent) and Kuala Lumpur (-0.8 percent) see negative, says the report.

Office rents in London's skyscrapers are the highest in Europe as companies continue to pay a premium for space in the city's tallest buildings, according to Knight Frank's Global Cities 2018 report.

The report, which examines the rental performance of commercial buildings over 30 storeys, shows that prime rents in London's skyscrapers remained at USD 110 per sq ft in the first half of 2017, approximately double the rents in tall buildings in Paris (USD 58 per sq ft) and Frankfurt (USD 54 per sq ft). London is the only European city to make the global top ten in the ranking. Hong Kong's skyscrapers con-

tinued to command, by some margin, the highest rents in the world at USD 304 per sq ft, followed by New York and Tokyo at USD 162 per sq ft and USD 140 respectively. San Francisco, where rents have risen to USD 117 per sq ft, completes the top five, ahead of London. Mumbai commanded rents of USD 56 per sq ft. Employment and property cost index Bengaluru emerged as the most valued destination on the Employment and Property Cost Index with total cost (salary + property) of USD 1,264,000. Cape Town was at USD 1,626,900, Warsaw at USD 1,631,670 and Zurich at USD 7,947,260.

For the first time, Knight Frank has compared the total cost of employing 100 people in the world's leading cities, based on the cost of workspace and average salaries. Knight Frank estimates that employing 100 staff in conventional office space in London costs USD 5,228,140 per year, significantly less than rival financial centres New York (USD 6,938,000) and Hong Kong (USD 5,964,990). Despite being one of the world's pre-eminent business locations, London is ranked only sixth on the list overall. The list is topped by Zurich where high salary costs in the banking and asset management sectors mean com-

panies would pay USD 7,947,260 to locate 100 staff in the city, per year. Zurich is followed by New York, and then San Francisco (USD 6,696,700), where the cost of employing a highly-skilled tech workforce drives up total occupancy costs. The top five is completed by Hong Kong, where office rents are the highest in the world, and Boston (USD 5,936,820).

How rising income spends influence the shape and content of urban environments Bengaluru and Mumbai top the chart among 10 future cities in terms of eating out spends between 2017 and 2027. While Bengaluru is at 176.9 percent, Mumbai at 136.7 percent, globally Shanghai is at 97 percent, Beijing at 96 percent, Nairobi at 82.8 percent and Singapore at 35.2 percent.

Bengaluru and Mumbai also feature among the top 5 future cities in terms of households with significant incomes. Forecast growth in households with an income of USD 35,000-USD 70,000 between 2017 and 2027 was at 153 percent in Shanghai, 144 percent in Bengaluru, 133 percent in Beijing and 67 percent in Mumbai. "The Global Cities: The 2018 Report offers a bird's-eye view into the future of the most state-of-the-art world cities. Our spaces are being

redefined. And, one of the most disruptive facets of the change in spaces where we work, live and the overall urban ecosystem would be an acquisition of talent. Organisations would have to thoughtfully handpick global cities, zoom into smart office locations within them and tastefully shape these spaces in sync with the fascination of the crème-de-la-crème workforce making the world work today. And, it is needless to state that the evolution would be driven by technology and smart intelligence," says Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India. According to Dr. Samantak Das, Chief Economist & National Director - Research, Knight Frank India, "Desires of the talent pool and rising disposable incomes are set to shape our urban environments in the near future. Global cities that are aspirational and successful in encapsulating an inherent wow factor are set to see the most dramatic transformation. We have already seen glimpses of the transformation with a shift in the expectations of mainstream occupiers. Today we see that the office space expectations of mainstream occupiers resembling those of niche sections such as the Start-up fraternity or the Googles of the world."

Markets will need 'sophisticated cyber security': Sebi chief Tyagi

NEW DELHI: Sebi chief Ajay Tyagi on Thursday emphasised the need to put in place sophisticated cyber security for capital markets even as he wondered about ways to supervise data maintained at bytes among hundreds of computers worldwide.

Touching upon the increasing use of technology in the markets, he also said regulators might have to put in place checks and balances of investor protection in algorithms itself. According to him, technology is of prime importance for smooth functioning of exchanges and market intermediaries and as data usage gets further deepened, concerns relating to "security" of data would become even more pronounced. Against the backdrop of instances of systems in different parts of the world coming under cyber attacks, the Sebi chairman also emphasised the need for having "sophisticated cyber-security and cyber-resilience measures". In recent times, there has been increased use of high frequency trading activities and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is also working on ways to make the existing system more robust. While the functioning of exchanges and market intermediaries have been streamlined due to adoption of technology, Tyagi said machine-learning or artificial intelligence and block-chain would be the "two significant technological changes" that would fundamen-



tally alter capital markets.

"Machine-learning and artificial intelligence have made inroads in the area of high frequency and algorithmic trading and some bits of fund management as well," he said.

Regulators "may have to develop the capacity to vet software codes and algorithms, test those algorithms for malfunction, if any, and consider encoding checks and balances of investor protection in those smart contracts and algorithms itself", Tyagi said.

He made the remarks at a speech on Thursday at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) & Harvard Law School India-US Symposium on 'Building the Financial System of the 21st Century' here. The speech copy has been put out by the regulator on its website. Tyagi also said block-chain technology might pose serious challenge to any centralised record-keeping institution such as exchanges, depositories and other entities related to payments and settlement.

Industry seeks GST exemption for merchant exporters, easy compliance for small players

NEW DELHI: Industry has sought faster refund of duties on account of Goods and Services Tax (GST), exemption from tax payment for merchant exporters and simpler tax compliance for small exporters from the government.

In a meeting with Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and chief economic advisor Arvind Subramanian, exporters and industry representatives flagged the issues faced by exporters due to GST.

The apex body of exporters, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) pushed for a complete exemption from import charges on inputs used in exports.

"Indian exporters are losing out to their competitors from such countries. Ab-initio exemption from IGST may be provided against such Advance Authorisation/EPCG and EOU Scheme," FIEO said in its presentation. Merchant exporters account for over 30% of country's exports



who usually work on razor thin margins of 2-4%. The imposition of GST has made their costing hay-

wire, particularly for products having higher GST rate,

As they have to pay GST and seek refund after some time lag, FIEO said as it asked for timely refunds from the government.

The minister heard our concerns and said that certain issues are still settling down.

He said it is too early to say what the impact of GST as two months is a short period of time," said an official who attended the meeting.

MAS Financial Services sets IPO price band at Rs 456-459

NEW DELHI: MAS Financial Services today said it has fixed a price band of Rs 456-459 per share for its initial share sale offering, through which it is estimated to raise Rs 460 crore.

The initial public offer (IPO) will be open to public subscription during October 6-8, MAS Financial Services said in a statement.

The company is a Gujarat-head-



quartered non-banking financial company (NBFC) with more than two decades of business operations and presence across six states and

the NCT of Delhi.

The public issue comprises fresh issue of shares worth up to Rs 233 crore and an offer for sale of up to Rs 227 crore by existing shareholders. Besides, the company has undertaken a private placement of 39,90,422 shares for cash consideration aggregating Rs 135 crore.

Net proceeds from the fresh issue will be utilised towards aug-

menting its capital base to meet future requirements.

Motilal Oswal BSE 4.59% Investment Advisors Pvt Ltd will manage the company's initial public offering. The shares are proposed to be listed on the National Stock Exchange and the BSE.

Earlier in May, the company had received markets regulator Sebi's go-ahead to float an IPO.

WGC to form panel to set up spot gold bourse in India

MUMBAI: The World Gold Council (WGC) plans to form a committee soon to help set up India's first spot gold exchange within 12 to 18 months, a senior official of the industry body said on Thursday.

A dedicated exchange for physical gold is expected to pave the way for standard gold pricing practices in India, apart from bringing in transparency into a market which sees large cash transactions. "We will be taking lead in forming the committee, which will have all the stakeholders," Somasundaram PR, managing director of the WGC's Indian operations, told Reuters. The committee, which is likely to be formed in the December quarter, will not set up the exchange. It will provide guidance in setting up the exchange, he said, while releasing a WGC report highlighting the need for a dedicated spot gold exchange in the country. In 2015, Indian government had floated the idea of setting up a national gold exchange. India's push for an exchange follows the gold monetisation and sovereign bond schemes launched in last few years, designed to mobilise the country's gold hoard and reduce imports of the precious metal that weighs on the country's trade deficit. The Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) and National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) currently offer gold futures contracts in India, but do not have a platform for physical trade. A physical exchange would enable jewellers, retailers, refiners and banks to trade over a regulated platform, the WGC report said. China, world's top gold consumer, runs such a bourse where gold, both domestically produced and imported, can be bought and sold.

'Surge in data usage will fuel push to digital economy'

NEW DELHI: The heads of India's top telecom companies have said the sharp growth in data usage will fuel the push towards a digital economy, and underlined the need for cooperation between carriers to catalyse it. At the India Mobile Congress on Wednesday, Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Bharti Mittal and Vittorio Colao—the top honchos of Reliance Industries, Bharti AirtelBSE -0.77% and Vodafone Group, respectively—put aside their rivalries to envision the creation of India's digital infrastructure and economy, and left their differences on micro issues to be sorted out by their CEOs.

Reliance Industries chairman Ambani, who leads Reliance Jio Infocomm, said India's economy is poised to grow nearly threefold to \$7 trillion over the next decade to become one of the world's top three economies.

But to make it happen, the country's telecom and IT industry would need to play a foundational role and create the necessary digital infrastructure, he said.

Ambani said data is the new oil, which India doesn't need to import. "We have it in super abundance. It will be a source of value and will create opportunities and prosperity for India and Indians," he said.

Calling data the "oxygen" of the digital economy, Ambani said the telecom industry has the task of empowering 1.3 billion Indians with tools needed to flourish in the digital marketplace.

"We cannot deprive Indians of this vital

life-sustaining resource," he said.

Mittal said his phone company will "invest Rs 18,000-20,000 crore this year and will be a major player in leveraging the digital economy to stay ahead in the telecom sphere". He said he will also use his position as chairman of London-based GSMA to ensure the global mobile industry lobby group combines forces to make India Mobile Congress events the perfect global platform for showcasing the new stirrings in India's digital technology.

Bharti Airtel, he said, is undertaking "a massive countrywide deployment of MIMO, or multiple-input multiple-output" technology" which will enhance its network capacity manifolds, facilitating 5G technology.

Vodafone Group CEO Colao, backed the view, saying Indian consumers have a strong appetite for data services.

But with still over half a billion people without internet connection, there is "a great opportunity for all".

Vodafone, he said, will combine multiple technologies into a single machine network for seamless, high-speed digital connectivity, called unified communication, and roll it out in India.

"We offer unified communications in most parts of the world, and want to offer it also in India," Colao said in his video speech at the event.

No consumer good at Paan shops: Biscuit, beverage, FMCG firms to bear brunt

MUMBAI: The directive of the Health Ministry asking paan-plus stores to desist from stocking non-tobacco products will hit categories such as confectionery, snacks and mosquito coils hard. Typically, these segments derive between 10 and 30 per cent of their sales from these outlets, pushing them to seek alternative channels, experts tracking the market said. "I am not sure how the small traders' bodies will react to this directive," says A Mahendran, chairman & managing director, Global Consumer Products, an FMCG start-up. "In recent years, these paan-plus stores have become important points of convenience for a number of consumers. An impact is bound to be there."

Typically, paan shops constitute around 25 per cent of the nearly 10-million FMCG retail universe in India. Most of these shops stock everything from toffees to biscuits, snacks, confectionery, beverages, mosquito coils, incense sticks, shampoo sachets and even hair oils. The view of the Health Ministry is that children and even adults, who are non-smokers, should be prevented from being exposed to tobacco-related products such as pan masala, cigarettes and bidis when buying non-tobacco products from these stores.

The directive aimed at chief secretaries of various states says that effective regulation of tobacco products is possible if a framework is put in place preventing the sale of non-



tobacco products at these outlets.

"While the intention is noble, how this will be enforced is something that most companies would be keenly tracking," says Mayank Shah, category head for biscuits and chocolates at Parle Products, says.

Analysts estimate that a cross-spectrum of companies from ITC to Britannia, Parle Products, Perfetti Van Melle, DS Group, PepsiCo, Haldiram's as well as mosquito coil and agarbatti makers could be hit due to this move. Confectionery makers, in particular, are expected to be the hit the most since almost 25-30 per cent of their sales come from paan-plus stores. "Not only is a paan-plus shop convenient for a confectionery maker, but toffees, sweets etc act as exchange settlement in the absence of coins," Mahendran, who understands the confectionery category well, said. Experts say that these companies may now shift their attention to small kirana shops and outlets to push sales.

RONALDO LEADS REAL PAST DORTMUND, IN-FORM KANE FIRES SPURS

LONDON: Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice on his 400th Real Madrid appearance as the Champions League holders defeated Borussia Dortmund 3-1 to stay at the top of Group 'H' along with Tottenham, Hotspur for whom Harry Kane grabbed a hat-trick in a 3-0 win at APOEL Nicosia on Tuesday.

Liverpool were held to a 1-1 draw at Spartak Moscow to remain winless after two matches, while Manchester City made it two wins in a row with a 2-0 victory over Shakhtar Donetsk in England.

FC Porto picked up a stunning 3-0 victory at AS Monaco, while Sevilla easily defeated NK Maribor of Slovenia 3-0 in Spain. Gareth Bale struck an exquisite volley as record 12-time European champions Real secured an 18th-minute lead at Signal Iduna Park, with the Welshman supplying Ronaldo for Real's second just after half-time. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang poked in Gonzalo Castro's cross to give Dortmund hope, but Ronaldo — who had also found the net twice in the team's opening 3-0 win against APOEL — rifled past Roman Burki to cement a second straight win for Real and leave the Germans still without a point.

It was the first time Dortmund have lost at home to Real in seven European games while holders Real have now scored in 38 successive Champion League games. Ronaldo, without a goal in his last two outings following his return from a five-match domestic ban, took his Real haul to 411 on what was also his 150th career appearance in Europe. "I'm delighted for Ronaldo and Bale," said Real coach Zinedine Zidane. "It is difficult to play in this stadium, we have never won here, so this victory was important to us, and the whole game was good for us from start to finish." England striker Kane notched his sixth hat-trick of the year — and made it 11 goals for club and country in September — as Spurs backed up their opening victory over



Dortmund with a comfortable win in Cyprus.

Mauricio Pochettino's side survived an early scare when Igor De Camargo rattled the crossbar, but Kane's clinical finish six minutes before the interval settled the visitors down. Kane converted his second on 62 minutes and sealed his treble with a terrific header five minutes later to leave Spurs level on six points alongside Real ahead of their double-header with Zidane's team. "There were some good performances from players who are not regulars and a hat-trick for Harry Kane, it was a fantastic performance," said Pochettino.

Kevin De Bruyne curled in a sublime 25-yard strike as Manchester City overcame spirited resistance from Shakhtar Donetsk, with Raheem Sterling completing the victory at Eastlands.

Pep Guardiola's men top Group 'F' with six points, three more than Shakhtar and Napoli, and the Premier League leaders could even afford a missed penalty from Sergio Aguero whose effort was turned away by Andriy Pyatov. Napoli, who opened group play with a 2-1 loss at Shakhtar, rebounded with a convincing 3-1 home win over Feyenoord. Dries Mertens extended his red-hot form by scoring one goal and setting up another, while Lorenzo Insigne and Jose Callejon also found the net. Napoli goalkeeper Pepe Reina kept out Jens Toornstra's second-half penalty, as Sofyan Amrabat's stoppage-time goal was scant consolation for the Dutch champions who remain pointless. Missed chances were costly for Liverpool as they dropped points again in Russia despite a sparkling strike from Philippe Coutinho.

Coutinho linked up superbly with Sadio Mane to cancel out Fernando's free-kick in the 31st minute, but Liverpool were unable to claim a winner as they recorded a second straight draw in Group 'E'.

"In the Champions League group stage, the only target is to go through to the next round. That's now possible for us. There were a lot of good things tonight," said a positive-thinking Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp.

Spartak look set for more UEFA punishment after their fans displayed a banner reading "UEFA mafia" and set off smoke bombs. They were protesting UEFA's decision to punish the club for a flare fired at the referee during the club's previous Champions League fixture. Wissam Ben Yedder fuelled Sevilla took the group lead with the comfortable home win against Maribor of Slovenia. Joaquin Correa's dazzling run left the French striker with a simple tap-in for the opening goal after 27 minutes in Spain. Ben Yedder then tucked away a second before the break and rounded out his hat-trick from the penalty spot late on as Sevilla moved top of the section on four points, two more than both Liverpool and Spartak. Porto earned their first group win by stunning French champions Monaco in the principality in a repeat outcome of the 2004 final.

Monaco, last year's semi-finalists, were taught a lesson in counterattacking football as they remained winless following its opening 1-1 draw at RB Leipzig.



DAVID WARNER SHINES ON HIS 100TH ODI WITH CENTURY AGAINST INDIA

BANGALORE: David Warner showcased his class on his 100th ODI as he smashed his 14th century to put Australia on course for a big score against India at the M Chinnaswamy stadium on Thursday.

For Warner, this was not only a continuation of his good form in the

last year but it represented a redemption for the left-hander in India. Warner has a poor record in Tests in India, averaging just 24 in eight Tests while in three ODIs, he managed scores of just 25, 1, 42. (India vs Australia 4th ODI Live Scorecard)

After opting to bat on a flat Chinnaswamy stadium wicket, Warner and Aaron Finch started cautiously before the dashing left-handed opener broke the shackles by smashing Mohammed Shami for two boundaries in the fourth over. Warner also capitalised on some loose bowling from Umesh Yadav as he

smashed him for two consecutive fours in the sixth over. The 30-year-old reached the landmark when he hit a four off Kedar Jadhav towards backward point. Australia have lost the ODI series but will be aiming to snap their woeful overseas record. In the last one year, they have lost

11 out of 13 ODIs played away from home. Steve Smith's team made two changes to their side, with Adam Zampa and Matthew Wade replacing Ashton Agar and Peter Handscomb. India made three changes, resting Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jaasprit Bumrah and Kuldeep Yadav.

Kumar Sangakkara calls time on first-class career, goes out on a high

LONDON: Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara says he is retiring from first-class cricket at the perfect time after a remarkable English county championship season with Surrey. The 39-year-old left-handed batsman made an unbeaten 35 in his final first-class innings against Lancashire to finish the campaign with eight centuries and 1,491 runs at an average of 106.50.

"I'll miss it terribly, without a doubt, but that's a good thing," he told the BBC on Wednesday. "A lot of players walk away bitter and upset and regretting a lot of the things that might have been."

"I walk away with a few regrets, like anyone would, but I'm absolutely happy with the way I played the game and what I've achieved."



"Sometimes you hold on a bit too long and I always think it's better to let go a bit sooner than later." Sangakkara, who quit Test cricket

in 2015, is fifth in the list of all-time run scorers. He will continue to play in international Twenty20 competitions next year.

Alvaro Morata making the most of his time in the spotlight

NEW YORK: Alvaro Morata was only a few weeks into life at Chelsea when some of the vulnerability that has cropped up during his career appeared to strike again. "They're already killing me," Morata said of his perceived critics following his miss in Chelsea's penalty shootout loss to Arsenal in the Community Shield.

They were worrying words from a player who was about to start the season as the undisputed No. 1 striker at a top club for the first time.

Could he handle filling the boots of the larger-than-life Diego Costa, a title-winning striker who would become estranged from Chelsea? How would he adapt in a new country following his move from Real Madrid? Could he live with his club-record transfer fee, an initial 58 million pounds (now \$77.5 million)?

It turns out there was no need to worry. Morata has been one of the revelations in the early weeks of the Premier League, scoring six goals in six games and showing with his movement, aerial ability and turn of pace that he can be the heir albeit a different, slicker version to Costa and Didier Drogba before him.

Wrestling Federation of India suspends coach Kripa Shankar Patel

INDORE: The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has suspended its coach Kripa Shankar Patel, an Arjuna awardee, for an "objectionable" social media post.

The WFI has also decided to refer the matter to its disciplinary committee.

Kripa Shankar Patel (40) will remain suspended till the disciplinary committee takes the final call on the write-up, WFI Assistant Secretary Vinod Tomar said. In the September 12 post, Patel expressed his disappointment that the WFI is only partially endorsing the tweaks made in wrestling rules by the international body (United World Wrestling) governing it. "Do you know that in Gujarat's Kutch there was an animal mule - the offspring of a donkey and a horse. Yes, WFI has endorsed the tweaked rules in this manner," his post read. On the WFI's decision, Patel said, "What I said in the post was in the interest of Indian wrestling."

If the WFI's disciplinary committee calls me, I will put forth my side." WFI president Brijbhushan Sharan Singh on September 13 slapped a notice on Patel asking why he should not be banned for six years for the post, to which Patel had issued a reply.

We have got Patel's reply but this matter has been referred to disciplinary committee headed by the WFI senior vice president ID Nanavati," Tomar said.

Patel's post said the WFI has decided to hold the upcoming National Senior Wrestling Competition from November 15 to 18 in Indore. The competition is being held by incorporating only ten new weight categories according to United World Wrestling's new modified rules. The whole set of rules won't be endorsed in this event, the post read.

Indian cricketers' transformation: From brand ambassadors to brands

NEW DELHI: In what is a spectacular rise, Mithali Raj is cricket's latest celebrity. The last few months, her appointment diary is full with felicitation ceremonies, KBC, motivation lectures, corporate events, photo shoots, media commitments --- even a TV commercial to endorse agarbatties!

Such attention for an outstanding athlete is not surprising considering cricket stars are role models and present-day royalty. Virat, for instance, is King Kohli whose sway extends beyond cricket's field of play. Earlier, the celebrity business was simple and less nuanced. Then, cricketers endorsed products and helped sell soap, scooters, mobiles, colas and cars. Later, the rules changed and the player, now the 'brand ambassador' was more actively engaged to front a product, campaign, project or a business venture. Taking a cue from the corporate world, others too saw merit in using cricketers to spread social messages. The long list of brand ambassadors includes Sachin Tendulkar whose body of work is impressive: he backed various campaigns from anti-drug to polio eradication, open defecation and beti padhao. Rahul Dravid hit out against tobacco smoking. Virender Sehwag batted for road safety, Yuvraj Singh for



cancer cure and Anil Kumble for wildlife protection. Virat Kohli works with the Election Commission and Suresh Raina is actively engaged with the Swachh campaign. Cricketers have also stood up for the armed forces. SRT is a Group Captain of the Air Force; MSD and Kapil Dev Lt Colonels in the Territorial Army. Virat supports the BSF; his posters greet passengers in the arrival lounge of Srinagar airport. The reasons for leveraging the stardom of Sachin/Dhoni/Virat for the larger good are easy to understand. Brand ambassadors ensure media coverage, 'mileage' and connect. Stars do this happily, driven by a desire to 'give back', repaying a debt for the affection and adulation they receive.

But does celebrity endorsement and the business of public service messaging really work? Stars attract eyeballs but whether they influence behaviour is debatable. There are cynics who feel splashy media attention is quickly forgotten and the noble intent of 'inspiring and motivating' is a myth. There is no disagreement, however, that the commercial clout of cricket stars has gone through the roof. With growing reach and a large fan base, thanks to the social media, cricket stars are not just brand ambassadors but brands themselves. For star players, measurable popularity in terms of followers is more than an ego boost. Active presence on social-media platforms is a commercial asset. Marketing experts call this 'brand value' but in simple language it means the popularity is a fixed deposit that can be readily encashed.