

TIME AND US

DAILY

SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

TUESDAY

- OCTOBER, 03, 2017
- 12 MUHARRAM 1439 AH
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- PAGES: 08

WEATHER TEMPERATURE		
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	28.8	9.3
JAMMU	33.7	22.7
LEH	21.9	9.4
KARGIL	24.1	7.0

SUNSET TUESDAY: 06:14 PM
SUNRISE WEDNESDAY: 06:29 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR
Mainly Clear Sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 30°C & 09°C respectively.

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

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BUKHARI FOR TANGIBLE MEASURES TO OVERCOME POPLAR MENACE

BOOKED IN RAPE CASE, FORMER AKALI MINISTER LANGAH ON THE RUN

INDIA'S HOLDINGS OF AMERICAN GOVT SECURITIES TOUCH \$135.7 BILLION, HIGHEST

SRI LANKA ALLOW BANNED CRICKETER CHAMARA SILVA TO TAKE FIELD

Braid choppers will be brought to the book: CM

'Govt putting every effort to trace the culprits'

Srinagar, Oct 02: Though the number of mysterious braid chopping incidents is mounting with each passing day, the chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Monday said that her government is putting every effort to nab the culprits.

According to the KNS correspondent, on the sidelines of the function here at 'Makai Point', situated on the embankment of Dal Lake, the Chief Minister said, "We have already taken initiatives to trace the braid choppers. In this regard, we have formulated the teams who are looking into the issue."

She also said that the doctors were also sent to the places where the mysterious braid chopping incidents occurred to come up with the facts. "We are putting every effort to trace the persons behind these incidents and the culprits will be brought to the book," she added.

Pertinently, dozens of mysterious braid chopping incidents took place in different districts of Kashmir especially South Kashmir's Kulgam and Anantnag districts.

After these incidents, Police formulated a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to trace the braid choppers while it also announced a cash reward to the person who will provide

See CM...Pg 02



Braid chopping: Will constitute 5-member doc team

Need to look chemicals, instruments used: Dir Health

Srinagar, Oct 02: The Directorate of Health Services after receiving the directions from Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti is all set to constitute a 5-member team of doctors

See Team...Pg 02

Indian agencies involved in braid chopping: Mustafa Kamal

Says Army gives shield to braid choppers

Srinagar, Oct 02: Blaming "Indian agencies" behind the increasing incidents of braid chopping in Kashmir, senior National Conference (NC) leader Monday said according to reports, Army is shielding the braid choppers.

According to KNS, he said as far as he came to know through different reports and cited an incident where Army came

See Mustafa...Pg 02



Pained at Dal situation, Mehbooba directs speeding up of cleaning, de weeding of lake

Asks for regular monitoring of lake restoration



Srinagar, Oct 2: Expressing concern over the pollution levels and quantity of weeds having come up in Dal Lake, Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today directed pacing up of conservation and deweeding activities in the

world famous lake. She said she would be herself monitoring the cleaning up of the lake periodically.

The Chief Minister gave these directions

See Mehbooba...Pg 02

THREE KILLED, 11 INJURED AS PAK ARMY FIRES UNPROVOKED ON LOC IN POONCH

JAMMU: Three children were killed and 11 civilians injured as Pakistani Army today fired unprovoked and shelled forward border villages and Indian posts along the Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Pakistani Army this morning violated ceasefire agreement and fired unprovoked, targeted forward Indian posts and villages," official sources here said.

They said small arms and mortars were fired which landed Qasba and Kerni villages of Poonch.

Minor boy namely Ashfaq Ahmed, 9, a resident of Naka Qasba, Yasmeen Akhter, 15, a resident of Degwar and Tazeem Akhter, 17, killed in the shelling while 11 other civilians

See Poonch...Pg 02

Bhagwat's Kashmir remarks aimed to deflect Criticism on PM for his disastrous policies: Cong PDP should be ashamed for bartering People's mandate and its honour for Power: Karra

Srinagar, Oct 02: Reacting sharply to RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat and Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Nirmal Singh's remarks about the need for constitutional amendments to repeal J&K's special status, Congress on Sunday said that RSS and BJP were stoking passions in the face of growing dissent across the country for its wrong policies. In a statement, Senior Pradesh Congress leader and former

minister Tariq Hameed Karra said that BJP has now fielded RSS openly to stoke passions and create a wedge between the people of the state and the rest of the country and Bhagwat's remarks were precursor to the renewed strategy of the saffron brigade, aiming to deflect growing criticism on Prime Minister for his wrong and anti-people policies. He however, said that nobody would be allowed



to fiddle with the special status of Jammu and Kashmir as the article 370 was the only constitutional bridge that connected the former prince-

lystate to the rest of the Country.

Karra said that it was astonishing that speaking openly for abrogation of article 370, the BJP and RSS were attempting to use Kashmir issue in order to garner support in the poll bound state of Gujarat but added that it was at the same time shame for PDP who is surrendering at every point in time

See Karra...Pg 02

CENTRE MULLS STUDY GROUP TO ANALYSE SECURITY ISSUES ALONG CHINA BORDER

MANA (Uttarakhand): The Centre is mulling setting up a study group to analyse the security and development issues along the China border, with a special focus on involving the frontier population in the mainstream of the country.

The study group or the committee will also interact with the state governments and other representative groups of the states whose borders run with China, before they submit their report to the Union home ministry.

Home minister Rajnath Singh, during his recent forward area tour to the China border areas along Uttarakhand, said that the group will be soon constituted to conduct a wholesome study on various aspects that pose a challenge

See Centre...Pg 02

'PDP isn't same what it was created for: G A Mir

'Choose Gandhi or Nathuram Godse'

Srinagar, Oct 02: Pradesh Congress Committee Chief, G A Mir Monday said people of J&K have to choose Mahatma Gandhi or his killer Nathuram Godse. He said J&K is passing through turbulent times and it is imperative on the people of Kashmir to revisit the political philosophy of Gandhi.

According to KNS, lambasting at PDP for its silence of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's remarks over the abrogation of Article 370, Mir said the silence of PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti speaks volumes about it. He said under Mehbooba Mufti, PDP has left the path of Mahatma Gandhi and have embraced the



killers of Gandhi. "They have set platform for RSS and BJP in Kashmir and are now busy

See Mir...Pg 02

MOHAN BHAGWAT HAS DAMAGED INDIAN SECULAR IMAGE, SAYS SOZ

Srinagar, Oct 2: Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader, Prof Saifuddin Soz Monday said that the RSS Chiefs in a row, have done great damage to the idea of India - secular, pluralistic, democratic, transparent and above everything else, a repository of high human values.

He said that the present Chief of the RSS Mr. Bhagwat is, however, dangerously oblivious to the limits to which he wants PM Modi to keep his (Bhagwat's) company!

"I have a feeling that Kashmiris, one and all, have rejected Bhagwat's assertion as an obnoxious narrative that can create enormous difficulties for the Union of India."

See Soz...Pg 02

PHE Minister puts Xen on notice for wrongdoing

Facing trial in SVO, tainted JE evades action

Srinagar, Oct 02: After two-and-a-half months of the transfer of Executive Engineer, the PHE Minister Sham Lal Chowdhary has put on notice the said Executive Engineer for allotting 90 percent Jurisdiction to only one Junior Engineer against whom a case of disproportionate assets is already registered in the state Vigilance Organisation under FIR No :31/2012-VOK; Dated: 10-11-2012..

Authoritative sources while disclosing this to KNS revealed that through Executive Engineer was transferred on July 18 this year vide Govt order no: 281 Pw (Hyd) and posted



to PHE Budgam. Interestingly Executive

See PHE...Pg 02

TELECOM COMPANIES POOR NETWORKING SERVICE TAKE SUBSCRIBERS FOR A RIDE

Budgam, Oct 2: At a time when all the telecom service providers are busy in expanding their customer base in Kashmir Valley, subscribers in whole Beerwah Sub-Division of Central Kashmir's Budgam district accuse these service providers of cheat and deceit saying that poor voice quality and slow internet speed have been irking them from past couple of months.

"Reporting a complaint to BSNL officials is useless as they never bother about customer care but we are surprised that even private service providers including Airtel, Aircel and Reliance Jio are not interested in addressing our problems," said a group of subscribers from Beerwah

See Telecom...Pg 02

Zulfkar handovers fellowship award letters to 15 journalists

Scribes to conduct in depth study on implementation of Govt schemes, programmes in Rajouri

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 02 - Minister for Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Information, Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali today handed over fellowship letters to 15 working journalists during a function organized by the District Information Center Rajouri in collaboration with District Administration.

The journalists including Sumit Bhargav, Arif Qureshi, Emroz Suri, Imran Khan,



Shakti Paul Sharma, Tazeem Malik, Sahil Sharma, Umer Arshad, Muneer Khan, Gagan Kohli, Akhil Mahajan, Avinash Jasyal, Jamsheed Malik, Madhur Gupta and Sushil Dutta were awarded 'Fellowship in Development Administration' by the District Administration.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister congratulated the selected journalists and encouraged them to work

See Zulfkar...Pg 02

JANATA DAL UNITED DEMANDS LIQUOR BAN IN KASHMIR

Srinagar, Oct 2: Janata Dal United has asked Mehbooba Mufti led State Government to impose a blanket ban on the use and sale of liquor in Kashmir Valley.

"There should be prohibition in the state which is a 'land of faith' and known for Kashmiriyat," JD(U) State Chief GM Shaheen told news agency CNS.

"Consumption of liquor is considered bad in all religions and Kashmir is a land of Sufis where evil business has no place," he said and alleged that State Government is intentionally pushing Kashmiri youth towards waywardness.

GM Shaheen expressed anguish over the flourishing trade of liquor in Kashmir capital Srinagar. "If liquor is sold in Kashmir, then it means that it is sold in a place of pilgrimage," he said.

See Janata...Pg 02

'SWACHHTA HI SEVA' FORTNIGHT CAMPAIGN CONCLUDES

Rallies, symposiums, quiz competitions held across Kashmir to spread awareness on proper sanitation

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 02: The nationwide sanitation campaign- 'Swachhta Hi Seva' which started on September 15 concluded today with an aim to further build on the cleanliness programme to enhance the importance of hygiene and proper sanitation among the public.

The campaign saw a large-scale mobilization of people from all walks of life in the Kashmir region who carried the campaign to Government offices, public and tourist places etc. to realize the objective of cleanliness and hygiene. Many programmes were held today to mark the successful conclusion of the sanitation drive.

In Shopian, awards for best essays, winners of quiz competition, paintings were presented to Swachhta champions from across the district. Journalist Shabir Ahmad Ganaie of Shopian, who received State award for his documentary film "Swach Sankalp Se Swach Siddhi" at SKICC Srinagar, was felicitated by District Development Commissioner, Moham-

mad Aijaz at a function here today.

Students of various Government and Private schools in the district who fared well in the events organized in connection with 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign during the last 18 days were awarded by the DDC on the occasion.

The DDC also lauded the efforts of Block Development Officers of Zainpora and Herman and their team, who by their tireless efforts made these blocks open defecation free.

In Pulwama, a quiz competition organized by Municipal Committee Pulwama in collaboration with district administration was held today in which Deputy Commissioner; Ghulam Mohammad Dar was the chief guest.

Hundreds of children from different schools participated in the quiz competition which revolved around the importance of cleanliness and hygiene.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC said that all-round clean-

ness and hygiene everywhere would have overall positive effects and shall lead to prosperity and development. He said achieving the goals of the Swachh Bharat Mission expeditiously will be an appropriate tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.

In Kulgam, a grand seminar was held today in the premises of Mini Secretariat in which Member Legislative Assembly; Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami was the chief guest. District Development Commissioner Kulgam, Talat Parvez Rohella was also present on the occasion.

Tarigami said that various steps are afoot to make the Kulgam Assembly segment a first green constituency in Kashmir. He said initiatives like 'Swachhta Hi Seva' can mitigate the environmental pollution to a large extent.

He said that conclusion of the campaign does not entail that we have to put our cleanliness and sanitation to the back burner but to sustain the spirit in future so that we can be able to transmit the

value of cleanliness to our future generations.

The DDC said that it would be the endeavour of the administration to carry on the cleanliness drive with further vigour. He also highlighted the achievements made during the campaign by different departments especially the municipalities.

The Departments who performed well during the campaign were awarded certificates and mementoes. ADDC Khwaja Nazir, ADC Parvez Ahmad Raina and ACR Shah Nawaz Ahmad Shah were also awarded for coordinating the efforts of various Departments.

In Anantnag, a function was held today at Government Degree College (Boys) Anantnag regarding the sanitation drive in which District Development Commissioner, Mohammad Younis Malik was the chief guest.

The programme was organized by the Rural Development Department in collaboration with Education Department and Municipal

Council Anantnag.

On the occasion, the DDC highlighted the achievements of the campaign and said that this tempo of working towards cleanliness and sanitation will continue with same energy and spirit. Various functions including essay competition, debates, painting competitions were held in which students from various schools of the district participated. The top position holders were awarded medals and certificates.

CEOs of Kokernag Development Authority, Verinag Development Authority, Chief Education Officer, CEO Municipal Council Anantnag, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees and Anantnag Working Journalist Association were awarded for their contribution in the 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign.

In Baramulla, to mark the culmination of the cleanliness fortnight under 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign a mega function was held today at Baramulla with District Development Commissioner,

Dr Nasir Ahmad Naqash as the chief guest.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Mohammad Qasim Wani, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Farooq Ahmad Baba, District and Sectoral officers besides a large gathering of students of various schools were present on the occasion.

The DDC lauded the work of various Departments and individuals in making the sanitation campaign a success in the district.

While terming the public cooperation necessary in achieving the goal of hygienic environment, the DDC stressed for awareness dissemination about the hazards of an unsanitary environment. He said that various community assets meant for people's welfare should be properly maintained.

Earlier a rally, which was flagged off by the DDC, was held which passed through various areas of the district and carried the message on the importance of cleanliness. Officers of district admin-

istration, students, 53 CRPF Battalion contingents, volunteers and others participated in it.

In Bandipora, cleanliness drives across the district were carried out and cleaning mops were given to various government institutions to mark the conclusion of fortnight sanitation campaign- 'Swachhta Hi Seva' which started on September 15. The sanitation drive was carried under the designated Officers of the concerned Departments.

The fortnight cleanliness drive was carried out at all educational institutions, tourist spots, markets, government offices, water supply schemes, irrigation canals, hospitals, besides, 21 villages situated at the bank of Wullar Lake which saw a good participation of people as well.

District Development Commissioner, Sajad Hussain and Additional Deputy Commissioner, Khurshid Ahmad Sanai throughout monitored the progress of the cleanliness drive in the district.

Continue from Front Page

CM

credible information about culprits.

The state Police doubled up the cash reward yesterday from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 6 lakh.

They also established a helpline so that "people could inform and seek assistance with regard to any braid cutting incident."

The Chief Minister had also directed the Director General of Police (DGP) S P Vaid to nab the culprits involved in mysterious braid chopping incidents.

TEAM

to probe the other aspects of the braid chopping.

Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Saleem-u-Rehman told KNS that they will constitute a 5-member team of doctors to find out the possible reasons of this braid chopping incidents.

"The doctors will try to examine the chemicals other instruments being used to chop the braid of women. There are lots of other questions that arise in the mind. Our team will visit these areas and will try to bring forth the details," he said.

MUSTAFA

to the rescue of braid choppers when people tried to chase and nab one braid chopper. "The nearby Army camp fired gun shots in the air and dispersed the people when they were chasing a group of braid choppers. The braid choppers later entered into the army camp," he said.

Kamal said the government has all the machinery with them, but it is still unfortunate that they have failed to expose the hands behind braid cutting.

He said the fire has been set by the ruling dispensation and they should now douse it rather than blaming the Opposition.

"The PDP and BJP have thrown people into a deep gorge. The Jana Sangh killed 5 lakh Muslims in Jammu during 1947 and they want to repeat the same," he said.

MEHBOOBA

during a visit to the interiors of the lake this morning during which she personally took stock of the weeds, algal growth and pollution having cropped up over the years. She enquired about the various measures being taken for controlling the algal growth and dumping of the weed material.

Mehbooba Mufti was informed that the LAWDA has already intensified de weeding efforts in the lake and at present 500 labourers have been pressed for the manual de weeding. During the last two months, the Chief Minister was informed that nine lakh cubic metres of weeds have been removed from the lake rendering a large area of waters as weed free.

The Chief Minister was informed that two studies at SKUAST-K have been commissioned for proper dumping and decomposition of weed material besides a biological solution for arresting the algal growth in the lake is also in the experimentation stage.

Mehbooba Mufti directed urgent de weeding of the Ashai Bagh track of the lake and cleaning of exit channels at Rainawari, Nawpora and Mir Behree for movement of clean waters through the lake.

The Chief Minister, during the visit, also took stock of the working of the Sewerage Treatment Plants and machines deployed for weed removal in the lake.

Minister of State for Housing & Urban Development, Asia Naqash; legislators, Noor Muhammad Sheikh and Khurshid Alam; Chief Secretary, B. B. Vyas; Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rohit Kansal; Commissioner-Secretary, Housing & Urban Development, Hridesh Kumar; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Baseer Ahmad Khan; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed; Vice Chairman, LAWDA, Abdul Hafeez Masudi; Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Dr. Shafiqat Khan, other senior officers and a large number of people were present on the occasion.

POONCH

also sustained injuries out of which three critically injured were shifted to Government Medical College and Hospital, Jammu.

The injured were identified as Saleema, 45, Soheeb Akhtar, 11, Mohd Sadiq, 35, Yasar, 12, Mohammad Sadiq, 45, Muneer Hussain, 45, Mohd Rafiq, 38, Reshmabi, 70.

"Indian Army gave befitting reply to the ceasefire violation," they said.

Deputy Chief Minister Dr Nirmal Singh termed the unprovoked ceasefire violation by the Pakistan as 'coward act.' "Pakistan is a terrorist state. On one hand it is showing white flags but on the other, targeting innocent civilians."

Dr Singh, however, said Army is giving befitting reply to them. On September 30, a tunnel dug by Pakistan was found by the BSF along international border in Arnia sector. An infiltration attempt was also foiled by the BSF troops.

On September 29, Pakistani Rangers and BSF held flag meeting and agreed to maintain calm and tranquility along the border.

KARRA

shamelessly without caring for the sentiments of the people who had voted them to power. He reminded PDP of its pre-poll agenda and promises made to the people of the state in the run off to the 2014 assembly elections and said the same party would urge people to vote for them for keeping the saffron brigade at bay. Now according to Karra, even the State BJP leaders who are part of PDP led government are publically demanding abrogation of Article 370 which PDP had promised to safeguard while seeking mandate. He said PDP has miserably failed to keep its promise and deceived people and breached their faith and trust which was 'unpardonable'. The former parliamentarian who resigned from his Srinagar Lok Sabha seat in protest during 2016 agitation, said that Silence of PDP on Bhagwat's and Nirmal Singh's remarks was a clear indication that it (PDP) was in league with the saffron brigade and was deliberately and consciously facilitating the right wing party to do away with the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. He said PDP leadership and ministers were enjoying protocol and ministerial perks without caring how much damage their lust of sticking to the chair has brought to the interests of the public. He said it appears that PDP leadership has blindfolded itself and was unwilling to open eyes and watch the political and otherwise turmoil it has brought to the state and its people. Karra however, cautioned that PDP was treading on extremely dangerous path which has the potential of wiping it out from the political map of the state. He said maintaining an apologetic silence on Bhagwat's remarks was an indication of a complete surrender and sell - out that could have far reaching consequences for the Jammu and Kashmir State.

He urged PDP leadership to come clean on the issue and said People of the Jammu and Kashmir have the right to know about its (PDP's) stand on article 370. Karra warned that by allowing Deputy Chief Minister to ask for the abrogation of special status to the state, PDP was playing with fire by collaborating with BJP on every trivial issue and said the day is not far when PDP will end up in splitting and a faction of it would rise against its leadership for selling-out the mandate for sake of power and chair.

CENTRE

and need improvement on the about 4,000 km border spread across five eastern states of the country.

Singh, after interacting with ITBP troops at their border post here in the Chamoli district, said the group will also look at ways to further expedite the work of completing border roads in these states.

The minister underlined the need to enhance the government support system in these areas in a recent speech in Joshimath when he called the border population as "strategic assets" of the country who need to be given due importance.

He urged border guarding forces, such as the ITBP, to ensure that the locals living in these areas do not migrate.

"The local population are the eyes and ears of the country and its security mechanism. If they are not there, then it is a worrisome situation," a senior official of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) said

"The study group, apart from studying these issues, will also analyse what more needs to be done to enhance the overall security and defence systems along the China border," the official said.

The home ministry had recently set up an expert committee of a similar nature to examine the rules which allow free movement of Indian and Myanmar citizens within 16 km of the border, but are exploited by militants for smuggling arms, drugs, and fake Indian currency.

Addressing locals and ITBP troops at Joshimath on September 30, Singh had said the border population should be given more importance as the government has "full faith and trust" in the people living in these remote areas.

"People living along the India-China border should not be made to migrate at any cost. They are our strategic assets. They should be given more importance. The day they will migrate... That will not be good for our border security," he had said.

The minister said the border population is considered important by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government.

"The prime minister has said special attention should be given to the well-being of the people living on the borders. I will request ITBP (personnel) to make friends with the local population in the area of their border deployment," he said.

The minister asked the border force to hold special camps to help the locals and assist them in redressing their problems.

The 3,488 km-long India-China border stretches through Jammu and Kashmir (1,597 km), Himachal Pradesh (200 km), Uttarakhand (345 km), Sikkim (220 km) and Arunachal Pradesh (1,126 km).

Recently, Chinese and Indian troops were in a face-off situation for more than two months in the Doklam area of the Sikkim sector after Indians stopped the construction of a road by China's Army.

The Sino-India border is not fully demarcated and the process of clarifying and confirming the Line of Actual Control is in progress.

The area is characterised by high-altitude terrain and thick habitation which has resulted in inadequate development of infrastructure in these regions.

To redress the situation arising out of lack of infrastructure along border with China, the government has decided to undertake construction of 73 roads of operational significance.

Of these, 27 roads involving 804.93 km are being constructed by the home ministry in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs 1,937 crore.

MIR

in propagating their ideologies," he said.

Mir said the PDP is the same party for which it was created. "Mehbooba has sacrificed her conscience and pain of Kashmiris for the sake of power," he said.

The PCC chief said development and roads are things that occur in every government but it is a shame for PDP that it has no come clear on its stand on Article 370 even at a time the Deputy CM of the state also spoke about its abrogation. "It is a shame for Mehbooba. Who has locked her mouth," Mir said.

He also asked Congress workers to get ready for the agitation over the issue of Article 370.

Senior Congress leader Taj Mohiddin at the occasion said the abrogation of Article 370 would lead to a change in the demography of the state and will also question the accession of state with India. He said if RSS and BJP are talking about the abrogation of Article 370 in a broad-day light, what stops PDP to break the silence.

SOZ

"The statement of the J&K State's Deputy Chief Minister supporting Bhagwat must have come as an unacceptable warning to the ruling PDP, who must now do a serious thinking on the entire subject," Soz said.

"I share my feelings with my fellow Kashmiris and entreat them to take Bhagwat's misplaced assertion as an invitation for them (Kashmiris) to solidify in unity for a noble cause of protecting their identity, irrespective of political and other affiliations."

PHE

Engineer was not replaced by any one at PHE division Shopian and presently he continues to hold charge of PHE division Shopian comprising two South Kashmir districts Pulwama and Shopian in addition to his own charge as Executive Engineer PHIE division Budgam.

On receiving reports about the allotment of 90% Jurisdiction to only one Junior Engineer already facing trial in disproportionate assets case in State Vigilance Organisation, the PHE Minister hinted at the possibility of probing all the allegations against both.

Allegations are galore that the Executive Engineer is allotting works to blue eyed contractors in the jurisdiction of only one Junior Engineer without following the formalities.

Interestingly the Junior Engineer is infamous for remaining posted in the PHE Division Shopian from August 1989

till today with brief intervals between his shifting to nearby divisions only to break stay.

Official records reveal that the Junior Engineer remained posted in PHE Division Shopian from July 1989 to June 1996, July 1999 to August 2003, June 2008 to December 2010, February 2011 to Aug 2013 and January 2014 till date. More over the case of disproportionate assets against Junior Engineer was also registered in the same division in November 2012 by the State Vigilance Organisation (SVO).

When contacted PHE Minister Sham Lal Chowdhary told KNS the Executive Engineer will be relinquished of the additional charge as Executive Engineer PHE Division Shopian on Monday.

"A full fledged investigation against both the Executive Engineer and Junior Engineer will be initiated simultaneously to probe all the allegations received so far," he said.

TELECOM

to news agency CNS.

They said that due to weak mobile signals they are unable to make a call and when they are connected, poor voice quality spoils the sport. "During rainy days and nights, even 2G service is not available, not to talk of 3G and 4G. A simple drizzle makes the mobile towers defunct. These towers are like Airtel dish antenna that stop working during rainy or windy hours," they said.

They also alleged that employees at Airtel Stores refuse to link their mobile numbers with Adhar always citing problems in their computer system.

ZULFKAR

dedicatedly for successful completion of the fellowship as it will go a long way in shaping their career besides knitting a close association of media persons with the development administration. He termed the fellowship as milestone for greater participation of journalists in a larger democracy.

Zulfkar also appreciated the journalists of Rajouri for their unbiased and positive reporting. He called upon them to carry legitimate and well-researched news items for projecting the issues of public interest. The minister expressed satisfaction over the proper use of social media by the journalists in the district.

The District Development Commissioner Rajouri Dr Shahid Iqbal while apprising the Minister about components of the fellowship said that the selected Journalists were allotted specific sectors such as health, rural development, education, disaster management, relief & rehabilitation, tourism, public service delivery, right to information act, rural sanitation and social welfare & community development.

He further informed that the fellows will do in-depth study about implementation of various schemes and programmes in the allotted sectors and submit a detailed report on impact of these schemes on the ground, public perception about government schemes & policies, structural and institutional loopholes in implementation of these schemes besides suggesting measures for improvement.

"Each fellow will be given a fellowship grant of Rs 20,000 and logistics for their field visits," said Dr Shahid adding the fellows will be submitting their final report by ending March 2017.

The Minister was informed that the district administration is also coming up with press club with provision of library, reading room, conference hall, internet facilities and badminton court. The press club, a long pending demand of media persons of the district will be registered as society and it will be a one stop center for all media related activities.

The Minister while lauding the district administration for its initiative such as press club and media fellowship directed to identify land for setting up of press colony in the district.

Among others, SSP Yougal Manhas, ACR Abdul Qayoom Mir, CPO Abdul Hamid, DSWO Abdul Khair, Tehsildar Salam Din, other senior officers and Journalists were present on the occasion.

JANATA

He said availability of liquor in Kashmir has been made so easy that even minors can access it. "I have seen minors having drinks. Everyone will appreciate the government if it bans liquor trade in Valley.

Liquor is banned in Gujarat, but there is no impact on revenue," he said, adding "When there is a ban on liquor in birth place of Mahatma Gandhi, then why is it allowed in the land of Sufis and Sanits like Kashmir?"

Bukhari for tangible measures to overcome poplar menace

Expert Committee to suggest long-term measures to address flying cotton problem

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 02: Minister for Horticulture, Syed Basharat Bukhari today called for tangible measures to tackle cotton (fluffy) pollutants shed by poplars in Kashmir during their pollination season which has become a source of health hazard in the region.

The Minister said this while chairing a meeting of experts and concerned officials regarding short and long-term measures needed to be taken to tackle the menace of cotton pollutants.

Vice Chairman Horticulture Development Board Abdul Salam Reshi, Secretary Horticulture Manzoor Ahmad Lone, Director Social Forestry A.K Gupta, Director Horticulture Matorra Masoom, Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, Representatives of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing Department and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) were present in the meeting.

Experts appraised, the Minister that poplar, locally known as 'Fras', is one of the ten prominent trees planted in Kashmir which generates revenue of Rs 600 crore annually, besides fulfilling the demand of ten



lake fruit boxes annually required to transport horticulture industry produce. It was given out that the cotton menace has become severe during last few years. As per the study conducted by SKUAST, poplars produce (fluffy) seed that acts as a pollutant in the atmosphere and hamper the normal life in rural and urban area of Kashmir region.

The Minister was informed that planting fast-growing male clones of poplars and gradual removal of female poplars need to be undertaken on a massive scale to arrest the problem of cotton shedding which impacts health.

Other methods to overcome the

menace which include short rotation forestry, establishment of wood-based industrial units of juvenile trees, heavy lopping in dormant season, regular pruning in late autumn, besides banning uncertified poplar nurseries were also suggested in the meeting.

On the occasion, the Minister directed that SKUAST-Kashmir identify male clones of poplars, besides introducing sterile hybrids to overcome cotton and pollen menace in Kashmir.

He directed for constituting a committee, comprising Director Horticulture Planning and Management, Director Social Forestry, Director Enterprise Development Institute, Dean Department of Forestry SKUAST

and Scientists of Environment and Remote Sensing Department, which will submit a report having long and short-term measures needed to tackle cotton menace in Kashmir.

The Minister asked the concerned Chief Horticulture Officers to submit a detailed data report regarding the number of poplar trees and nurseries present in the region, besides called for removing poplars from Karewas to avoid its ill effects on orchards.

Bukhari directed the concerned for checking out statuses of unauthorized poplar nurseries, besides taking initiatives for mass awareness among farmers regarding proper and harmless plantation of trees.

Reiterating Government's resolve to boost horticulture sector in the State, the Minister said the industry has huge potential to fillip socio-economic scenario and added that the Government is taking a slew of measures to revamp the industry, besides promoting modern farming technology.

He said that Government is formulating a visionary document in the form of State Horticulture Policy which will act as a roadmap for next 30 years to develop the horticulture sector.

Tassaduq Mufti conducts grievance redressal camps in Nubra Valley

Calls for expediting development works



LEH, OCTOBER 02: Extending the series of grievance redressal camps in Ladakh region, Coordinator Chief Minister's Grievance Cell, Tassaduq Mufti today continued the redressal camps in the Nubra Valley of Leh district.

At a camp conducted at Diskit, the Coordinator took stock of various developmental works including Mini Hydel project and construction of Tingdang Nala. He asked the concerned to expedite the work on the projects for their timely completion. The non-payment of work regarding Diskit Monastery was also taken up during the camp.

Issues like construction of functional toilets at Khardungla top, construction of paid washroom at Diskit town, and vacant posts in important offices were also projected at the grievance redressal camp.

Tassaduq Mufti also convened a public

darbar at Turtuk Tourist Facilitation Centre during which issues related to basic amenities, filling up of vacant posts and up-gradation of existing offices was discussed.

Vacant posts of lecturers in Higher Secondary School Turtuk, Creation of Degree College at Turtuk, up-gradation of NT office to Tehsildar Office and up-gradation of health centres to PHC was also discussed in detail.

Laying of transmission lines from mini hydel project and helicopter services from Turtuk to Leh on weekly basis was taken up with the authorities during the camp.

The Coordinator asked the officials to expeditiously work on all ongoing developmental projects so that their benefits reach the grass root level. He assured the locals that all of their genuine issues would be taken up and looked into for speedy redressal.

Abdul Haq flags off chopper services to Karnah, Machil

Service will help locals, Patients; Will give flip to tourism in the area

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 02: Minister for Rural Development, Panchayat Raj, Law and Justice, Abdul Haq today flagged off the much awaited Srinagar--Karnah-Machil Helicopter Service fulfilling the long pending demand of the area.

The Helicopter Service will connect the people of the area with rest of the state especially during adverse weather conditions besides giving flip to the tourism in the border areas of Kupwara district. The first flight that was flagged off today from Srinagar carried five passengers from Srinagar to Machil.

Speaking on the occasion Abdul Haq said the residents of Machil and Karnah have been suffering owing to connectivity issues in past. He said Being far away from the summer capital Srinagar, the people especially patients had to face many hardships during adverse weather condition and the helicopter service has come as a major relief for the people.

He said with the start of the helicopter, the long pend-



ing demand of the people have been fulfilled by the personal efforts of Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti. He said the Chief Minister has been very particular about the issue of the connectivity in far flung areas as these areas remain disconnected during winters.

He said the service will also give flip to tourism as more tourists will be attracted to the virgin valleys of the state where the helicopter service have been started including Gurez Valley, Poonch, Rajouri and Kishtwar. He said current dispensation is committed to develop remote

areas at par with urban areas on modern lines and increase job avenues in the district by giving flip to the tourism sector in the district.

He said former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed had a wish to see the winds of change and development in the remote areas and it is because of his efforts that we are seeing these developmental projects seeing the light of day in the remotest hamlets of the state which seemed to be impossible earlier. "Mufti Sahib's (Mufti Mohammad Sayeed) historical initiatives became the

bedrock for the development of these hitherto neglected districts. He said Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti continued the mission of her late father and is committed to develop the twin district on modern lines.

He said the helicopter service will act as another milestone for boosting the tourism of the district and will boost the economy of the area thereby helping to boost the economy.

He further said that providing relief to the people of far of region is the top priority of the government that is why government under the leadership of Chief Minister is focusing on inter-regional connectivity through surface by developing better roads and air connectivity to far off regions of state like Kishtwar, Paddar, Gurez, Rajouri and Poonch has been started by the state government.

He instructed the district administration to make the public aware about scheduled dates and times of take so as to avoid any inconvenience to the passengers.

Ganga, Bukhari celebrate Gandhi Jayanti with specially-abled children

Announce Rs 5 lakh each for MHS Solina, Chotay Taray Foundation Baghat

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 02: Minister for Industries and Commerce, Chander Prakash Ganga and Minister for Education, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari today celebrated Gandhi Jayanti with the specially-abled school children of Model High School (MHS) Solina, an institute for the visually and hearing impaired children and Chotay Taray Foundation (CTF) Baghat, an institute for mentally and physically challenged children.

The celebrations were part of the nation-wide celebrations celebrating the 148th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi as well as to pay tribute to his timeless contributions and struggles.

Vice Chairman J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB), Mansoor Hussain Sohrawardhy, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Department, Shalindra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary School Education Department, Farooq Ahmad Shah and CEO JK KVIB were also present on the occasion.

The Ministers first visited



the MHS Solina where they paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.

Various cultural performances were presented by the specially-abled students of the school on the occasion. The acts also included a specially-abled student drawing a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi and another student paying tribute to him with sign language.

At the CTF Baghat, the Ministers were presented several colorful performances, including a live painting performance, were performed as part of celebrations.

Minister for Industries

and Commerce, Chander Prakash Ganga, while speaking on the occasion, said the specially-abled children are God's gift and there is a lot to be done for them. He congratulated the managements and counselors of the institutes for their wonderful services.

He also announced Rs 50,000 each for the MHS Solina and CTF Baghat as well as Rs 25,000 each from all the six corporations under the Industries & Commerce Department. Commissioner Secretary I&C Department Shalindra Kumar also announced Rs 20,000 each for the two institutes.

Ganga said that all possible support to boost the development of specially-abled children in the State will be provided in keeping with Mahatma Gandhi's commitments to the upliftment of society. Highlighting the role of KVIB in providing opportunities to the unemployed youth of the state, the Minister said that till today KVIB has financed 4700 units in the state providing employment to the 210 million of unemployed youth and has registered a production of Rs 1827 crore in J&K state.

Altaf Bukhari thanked the KVIB, the organizers of the event, for choosing the two institutes for celebrating this year's Gandhi Jayanti, saying the occasion has been an eye-opener for him as well as others.

He announced an amount of Rs 50,000 each for MHS Solina and CTF Baghat as well as Rs 50,000 each for the two institutes on behalf of Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti. Secretary School Education Department, Farooq Ahmad Shah also announced Rs 20,000 each for the two institutes.

Govt to set up juvenile homes in every district: Zulfkar

Addresses valedictory function of child protection campaign

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 02: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs and Information, Choudhary Zulfkar Ali today said that the Government will soon establish juvenile homes in each district of the State to effectively rehabilitate the children detained for anti-social activities.

The Minister said this while addressing the valedictory function of child protection campaign organized by National Development Foundation, a Non-Governmental Organization, for protection of children and to sensitize the participants about the juvenile justice and child protection.

The event witnessed a significant participation of people from different fields including Anganwari workers and helpers, civil society members, students, officials of Health, Education and Social Welfare Departments.

Deliberating on the importance

of Juvenile Justice System, Zulfkar highlighted various issues that children had to confront on day to day basis and how the turmoil has exacerbated the already grim situation regarding better development of children.

Reflecting on various problems that children face, not only within the protective confines of their homes but also at schools, workplaces etc the Minister asserted that unfavourable circumstance often end up making children vulnerable to various misdoings and crimes.

He said the children who witness and suffer abuse, domestic violence, broken families in their early years of life are more likely to grow with fragile and often disturbing and anti-social personal traits, adding that many a time children who lack primary support system end up working in unorganized sectors providing cheap labour, making them vulnerable to abuse.



The Minister also deliberated on how the absence of proper and effective institutional system of guidance often leads children to drug abuse and crimes. He further affirmed that law and legislation alone can't help us to improve the situation. "Change can only be envisaged with our commitment towards ensuring overall welfare of children," he said.

He impressed upon the district administration to take up the implementation of various provisions of the Jammu And Kashmir

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2013, in the district on a mission mode.

He informed the gathering that the Government will soon establish juvenile homes in each district of the State to expedite protection, rehabilitation and restoration of juveniles into the mainstream society.

The Minister further instructed the officials to gear up their efforts for eradicating the menace of drug abuse, which can have detrimental effect on the growth and personal-

ity of the children He also called for coordination and collaborative approach among the field agencies in the matter so that the menace is rooted out from the district.

MLA Qammar Chowdhary who was also present on the occasion spoke for concerted efforts to ensure overall development of the children.

District Development Commissioner, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary called for a sensitized and empathetic approach towards children both in conflict with the law and for children in need of care and protection. He also highlighted the importance of a contextual approach for dealing with sensitivities of children.

Among others, Chairman Board for Development of Pahari Speaking People, Kuldeep Raj Gupta, SSP Yougal Manhas, Chairman National Development Foundation, Rajeev Khajuria and officers of district administration attended the function.

Need to change mindset on cleanliness: Sham Choudhary

Andrabi asks engineers to hold cleanliness drive at all PHE installations across JK

JAMMU, OCTOBER 02: Minister for PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control, Sham Lal Choudhary today said there is a need to change mindset of the people towards cleanliness for early realizing of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of 'Clean India'. He said collective efforts need to be made for creating awareness about the harmful effects of throwing garbage in open spaces and water bodies. He urged people to play their role in keeping their environs clean.

The Minister was speaking during the concluding function of nationwide sanitation campaign 'Swachhata Hi Sewa' at Institution of Engineers here. The PHE department organized various events under the campaign to spread awareness on maintaining cleanliness.

Minister of State for PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control, Syed Farooq Ahmad Andrabi also spoke on the occasion and said that the Government is committed to provide clean drinking water to every household in the State and added that various path-breaking steps have been taken in this regard. He directed the engineers to carry forward the cleanliness drives in all the PHE installations across the state and involve local populace in their cleanliness drives. Chief Engineer PHE, A.K Gandotra, Chief Engineer I&FC, P. N. Bali, Chief Engineer Ravi-Tawi Irrigation Complex, Rajeev Gandotra and other concerned engineers attended the programme.

DAILY Editorial
Time and Us SRINAGAR J&K

Return to normal

The U.S. Federal Reserve has resumed normal monetary service by raising interest rates for the second time in three months. The Fed's decision on Wednesday reflects its confidence in the continuing expansion and signals that its efforts to reflate the world's largest economy are largely on track — with overall inflation seen to be stabilising around its longer-run target of 2% over the next couple of years. Significantly, Chair Janet Yellen stressed that policymakers expect the strengthening economy would warrant "gradual increases" in the benchmark federal funds rate to ensure that the monetary policy stance remains accommodative of growth, even as price stability is ensured. This emphasis on 'gradual' provides a degree of policy predictability that markets, for now, can broadly factor in two more rate increases of one quarter of a percentage point each for the rest of 2017 — especially when coupled with a median projection for the signalling rate to reach 1.4% at the end of the year, from the current 0.75%-1.0% range. The statement has allayed fears of an accelerated rate normalisation, that could have triggered a sharp jump in outflows from emerging markets such as India. Investors worldwide are bound to feel more reassured that one of the world's key economic engines is in good shape and that should bode well for global demand. India's exporters, including of software services, are also likely to see a silver lining in the Fed chief's reference to a distinct firming in business investment, after having been soft in 2016, that has helped put business sentiment at "favourable levels".

Ms. Yellen also flagged caveats to the Fed's projections. Averring that policy is "not on a pre-set course", she pointed to the potential impact that changes in fiscal policy, among other factors, could have on the economic outlook. While acknowledging that it is still too early to anticipate exactly how the Trump administration's fiscal policies may unfold, the central bank is intimating that it will be closely monitoring the new dispensation's broad budget plans and remains ready to change policy tack if it were to perceive any risks to its price stability goals. There is also the matter of when the Fed may decide to initiate the process of normalising its balance sheet. Given that the central bank's holdings of Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities reached record levels in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, any plan to begin unwinding these holdings will need to be very carefully calibrated and communicated in advance to ensure that global markets don't witness a repeat of the 'taper tantrum' of 2013. Ms. Yellen stressed just that when she said the Fed "as a matter of prudent planning" had discussed issues related to an eventual change to its reinvestment policy and, while no decisions were taken, would ensure that the process be "gradual and predictable".

My Village, My Conflict

By Syed Suhail Yaqoob

An eerie of silence breaks out. Calm as dead. Leaves simply refuse to move. Chirping of birds nowhere visible, it seems walk over a graveyard. It might be a problem with my eyes and thoughts. I refuse to see beauty in nature; it refuses to make me believe in good about it. Our village will entertain our guests with best of what nature has bestowed it.

Our jewel is Rambiar, the famous and ferocious river. Its music soothing; the mighty Pirpanchal range beautifies it. Clouds are like desert over a meal, simply enchanting. Sometimes we village boys do upload picture in the carpet of stones, it gets thumbs up. In rain the carpet of stones turns shawls of Kashmir. It is nature at its best. A simple walk over these designed stones will feel thousand walks over heaven. We have more to offer at the table. Bright moon exposing its beauty mesmerising even the hardest lovers; Majnoon could have simply wiped out the thought of Laila seeing it dancing over our village. In night's deadly silence, the music of gushing water is soul soothing. Seems the angel of music comes down every night to sing songs which fire up every soul, every atom of that place.

We have more; those big Chinar and these apple orchards. Chinar! Our honour, representative of Kashmir's glorious past. Its height is like an arrow into the sky. Big, very big; many hundred years old. The nesting of birds over it, these are in hundreds. In dusk, there is such a huge chirping. It vibrates throughout our village. Many of us shut down their music systems and listen to these. Jagjit Singh, Shakeera, Lady Gaga is of no match to these. And, that naughty couple of Bulbul's (Nightingale) which sneak into my room checking every utensil and rob everything; food, peanuts. These even check pockets, not to take money but leftover of food. And those apple orchards!

Even Frankenstein would not dare to enter it, will tremble with fear. He will think many million times. Its history is menacing. It is a village of ghosts, cries and shrieks. Nineties! We were children that time, few feet tall, no potential threat to anyone; not even to state. Being tall was dangerous but being fatty was plus point. Fatty people are not looked upon with doubt. We were neither tall nor strong but small like evergreen. We could flirt with forces as well. We moved freely in and out of conflicts. Not adults, they usually came with some scars and dots. Torture was the main reason we guessed.



Over time we as children never get to know what was going on. We were simply ordered by villagers not to leave any stick in the village. We collected it out of fun, to be rewarded by toffee or some penny; we did not know these sticks would burst on the bones and clot the blood there in. We simply did not realise it then. Our mind refused to entertain these thoughts and ideas. Our concerns were those red cherries, delicious apples, peaches and pears. In nights we dreamed about to take down those down our throats. Besides these delicious dreams, nights were ferocious. Some dead people seemed to be walking those roads, who? Nobody knows. We that time had bloodsuckers (Rat-Choor in Kashmiri). Lights would be off before dusk. Everybody was inside like those sparrows out of fear. Rooms were locked heavily, more locks came in. Inside out there were locks and locks. No family ever missed to miss a single lock. Still we seemed not being safe. The windows were stitched with iron rods and big sheets of cloth. A single beam of light from rooms would bring ruin. It did many times. Shrieks were answered with silence from neighbours. Many called nobody answered. Silence as if nothing happened. Complete one.

Today our village is same, no change will anyone observe without a keen eye.

There is a horror. We have many orphans roaming, many young boys dead and many widows. From sisters to mothers everyone cries in pain, in loss of loved ones. There is an invisible but heavy pain in air. Those who used to roam smilingly on these roads and lanes. They are there in graveyards below many tons of earth. Heart wrenching is this, walking besides that graveyard brings gloom; it accompanies you many days.

Our friend is lost, our villager is lost, our talkative friend is lost and our companion below that shade of chinar is lost. We don't keep our windows open to let fresh air inside our rooms; we have kept big cloths hanging on windows. We don't want that smiles of those who were dead reach our rooms, make us gloomy, we don't want the sighs of wailing women come with fresh air, we don't want feel of ghosts, and we don't want cries. Our windows are shut as ever, we rarely open it. If sometimes we do, we see those people again roaming the streets; bright and young faces. We are shut. It's my village it is my conflict now.

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Today our village is same, no change will anyone observe without a keen eye. There is a horror. We have many orphans roaming, many young boys dead and many widows.

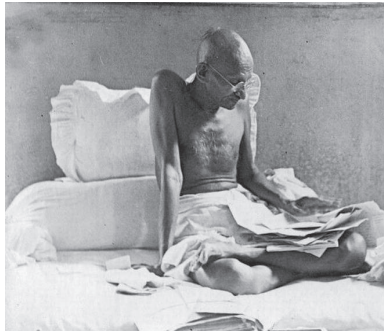
PRIVACY IS THE SWARAJ OF OUR TIMES

Ananya Vajpeyi

Privacy is not explicitly written about or protected in the Constitution, but the nine-judge Supreme Court Bench delineates very carefully how privacy must be presupposed to make sense of Article 19 (freedom of expression, association, residence and occupation), as well as Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty). As the lawyer Gautam Bhatia writes, this landmark judgment "will impact the interplay between privacy and transparency and between privacy and free speech; it will impact state surveillance, data collection, and data protection, LGBT rights, the legality of food bans, the legal framework for regulating artificial intelligence, as well as many other issues that we cannot now foresee or anticipate." While citizens battle the government's bid to impose Aadhaar as a universal identification system, the Hindu Right attempts to enforce a beef ban and make "cow protection" mandatory, criminalisation of same-sex love continues, and personal information is

usurped by social media and technology companies, this ruling becomes a strong foundation on which to shore up our endangered freedom.

It is the Hindi term for "privacy" — "nijata", an odd coinage, literally meaning something like, "the state of having something as one's own" or "mine-ness" or "one's own-ness" — that alerts us to the deep philosophical relationship between privacy and our fundamental modern term for freedom, which we owe to Mahatma Gandhi, "swaraj". As we know, swaraj means "self-rule", "self-determination" or "the sovereignty of the self". But the particle here indicating self or selfhood, swa-, is in fact a lot like the nija- of nijata. In Sanskrit, and thereby in Hindi, nija means pertaining to the self, that which belongs to the self, which cannot be alienated from the self. Both swa and nija, then, encompass the self, as well as all that belongs to it, goes along with it, cannot be taken away from it. We could, at least from a purely linguistic perspective, posit a word like nijaraj, which would mean the same as



swaraj; we could just as well use swatva, which is synonymous with nijata. Elementary etymology here reveals that both concepts in our political lexicon, freedom and privacy, swaraj and nijata, are semantically so close as to be practically interchangeable.

It is ironic but also fitting (if we assume that the arc of the moral universe is long but finally bends towards justice) that the same Gandhi who challenged the British Empire with his call for India's swaraj now returns through the idea of nijata to help us counter a dispensation which, though popularly elected by a

majority, tends to undermine our freedom at every turn. Gandhi had warned in his seminal tract, Hind Swaraj, that it wouldn't be enough to merely replace British rulers with Indian ones. For swaraj to really come about, it would have to fashion itself as an equal and opposite force to British Raj, not just materially but also morally. It would have to entail a distinct definition of political selfhood, a radically different idea of the place of violence in determining political power, and a space for truth at the heart of a new definition of politics. India freed itself from the yoke of the colonial master, but 70 years after decolonisation and Gandhi's assassination, it appears we have to wage yet another war of independence, yet another freedom struggle.

Privacy is a concept that has been explored as the very jugular vein, so to speak, of democracy. In the American Constitution (Fourth Amendment), it flows close to matters of property, security and surveillance, logically so for a country whose democratic self-definition

rests on strong conceptions of individual liberty, a panoptical state, and a capitalist economy. Thanks to philosophers Michel Foucault and Giorgio Agamben, we see its connections with the ancient origins of democracy in Greek and Roman thought, through an analysis of human life into zoe (animal existence) and bios (political existence), two conjoint spheres in which different but complementary rights accrue to the same individual by virtue of our indivisibly dual existence in nature and in politics, as creatures and as citizens. In the literature on the Holocaust, thinkers and survivors like Hannah Arendt and Jean Améry write against torture and other forms of extreme violence in the concentration camps as the ultimate violation of the individual's privacy, where the very limits of bodily integrity are breached to then break the human spirit.

Seven decades after the followers of Hindutva ideology murdered Gandhi, once more we have to stand up to the worst tyrannical tendencies that have captured power in India through the

mechanisms of right-wing populism and illiberal democracy. Yet again Hind Swaraj has to become our primary political project, only this time against a Hindu Rashtra; not an external ruler but the enemy within. Gandhi helped Indians to see that swaraj had to be rule by the self, but also rule over the self; in other words, that freedom is a vector, but paradoxically it has both inward and outward directionality. Freedom is about mastering our own unruly self, especially its primordial urge for violence and domination — hence the importance of ahimsa, overcoming the desire to harm others that is rampant within us. But it is also about the individual keeping at bay a coercive state — whether that state is foreign or native is less significant, because ultimately all states become authoritarian if allowed to encroach on our autonomy and invade our very being.

In an electoral democracy, ironically, the vote itself can be distorted as a warrant for such encroachment — by both state and non-state entities, governments and corporations equally —

Maharashtra cities declared ODF, CM says will shame people who defecate in open

MUMBAI: All 384 cities and towns of Maharashtra were declared open defecation free (ODF) by President Ram Nath Kovind at a function in Mumbai on Sunday.

The state government admitted that the announcement comes with the challenge of maintaining the status quo and changing the habits of people.

Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said the government had put in place monitoring system to check on open defecation, which will be continued for the next six months.

"ODF is only the first step towards the target. It doesn't mean we are free from open defecation unless the habits of people change. We have decided to continue OD watch (system for monitoring and curbing open defecation with local squads) for

the next six months, which will encourage people to use toilets as well as shame them if found defecating in the open," said Fadnavis. Fulfilling the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission will be the real tribute for Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary," the President said at a function organised to declare urban Maharashtra as ODF at NSCI, Worli. "Ensuring sustainability of open defecation would be the real challenge, which I hope will be sustained in Maharashtra."

Fadnavis said the state has to achieve the target of complete solid waste management by segregation and processing of garbage in the next two years. The state's rural development minister, Pankaja Munde, said rural Maharashtra will be open defecation free by March



next year. He said they have achieved the target of building toilets in 88% of households in rural areas.

However, Hindustan Times on Sunday witnessed and captures photographs of people defecating in the open in Mumbai at various

places including Mankhurd, Antop Hill, Mahim Causeway and Somaiya ground - to name a few.

The city had been declared ODF in 2016 and 2017 but authorities always offered conditions to such claims. BMC, for instance, has said

only areas in its jurisdiction were ODF but they would not vouch for the land under the Central government or railways.

However, HT found open defecation being practised on Sunday on BMC land as well.

The state government provides Rs 17,000 to build one toilet each and there is a three-tiered mechanism to verify its strict implementation, at least on paper.

However, officials admitted that ensuring that people use the toilets built in their own houses instead of defecating in the open is a challenge. Thus, a monitoring system called 'OD-Watch' was introduced to keep a check on such people.

The local bodies have formed task forces, which take rounds at open-defecation spots twice a day.

Booked in rape case, former Akali minister Langah on the run

CHANDIGARH: Former Punjab minister Sucha Singh Langah, who has been booked on the charge of rape, continued to be on the run even as police teams conducted raids to find him, officials said on Sunday.

Langah was booked by police on the night of September 28 following a woman's complaint alleging that the Akali leader had raped her repeatedly since 2009.

"We are conducting raids wherever we have information about his possible hideouts," Gurdaspur SSP Harcharan Singh Bhullar said today.

Police have booked Langah under sections 376 (rape), 384 (extortion), 420 (cheating) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The victim had provided a video clip in a pen drive to the police to support her accusations.

Langah had termed the complaint as a "classic example of political vendetta perpetuated at the most political opportune moment when the by-election to the Gurdaspur Parliamentary constituency is under way." In his statement, Langah had said that he would surrender before court on September 30. However, the former minister did not turn up before the court yesterday (Saturday). Meanwhile, a purported video went viral on the social media allegedly showing Langah in a compromising position.

Following this, both the AAP and Congress attacked the Shiromani Akali Dal, asking party chief Sukhbir Badal to clarify his stand on the issue. "The video of Sucha Singh Langah which has come out is shameful. Langah has been a Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) member. SAD chief Sukhbir Badal should clarify his stand on this issue," demanded state minister Charanjit Singh Channi.

AAP's Punjab unit chief Bhagwant Mann said the SAD was once known for making sacrifices and now one of their leaders had been found to be on the wrong side of the law. SGPC should also take note of the alleged act, demanded Mann.

The SAD had already accepted Langah's resignation from all party posts. Langah was Punjab's minister for agriculture from 2007 to 2012.

Pending cases go down in SC, HCs but see upward swing in lower courts

NEW DELHI: The number of pending cases in the Supreme Court and the 24 high courts has gone down in the past three years but the pendency has seen an upward swing in the lower judiciary, says law ministry data.

According to figures compiled by the ministry, the apex court had 62,791 pending cases at the end of 2014. The figures went down to 59,272 in December, 2015. But at the end of 2016, the pendency in the Supreme Court went up to 62,537.

The ministry said according to latest data provided by the SC, as on July 17, 2017, the pending cases have been pegged at 58,438. These include 48,772 civil and 9,666 criminal cases.

Similar is the case with the 24 high courts of the country where pending cases were pegged at 41.52 lakh at the end of 2014. In December, 2015, the pendency went down to 38.70 lakh. But at the end of 2016, the cases went up to 40.15 lakh, but were less than the pendency in 2014.

But in the subordinate courts -- considered the backbone of the country's justice delivery system -- the pendency of cases has gone up in the last three years.

While the pending cases in 2014 were recorded at 2.64 crore, they went up to 2.70 crore in 2015. In December, 2016, the pending cases went up to 2.74 crore.

The high courts have a shortage of 413



judges as on September 1.

While the approved strength is 1,079, these are working with 666 judges.

The lower courts with an approved strength of nearly 20,000 judicial officers is short of 4,937 judicial officers.

In case you missed it: Our top read stories this week

NEW DELHI: From the death of Eman Ahmed -- once called the world's heaviest woman -- to a stampede at the Elphinstone Road railway station in Mumbai, here some of HT's top read stories this week:

Eman Ahmed dies: 10 things about her stay in India Eman Ahmed, the world's heaviest woman who made news when she arrived in Mumbai earlier this year for a weight-loss surgery, died in Abu Dhabi on Monday. Officials from the Burjeel Hospital in Abu Dhabi, where Eman was being treated, confirmed the news. She had celebrated her 37th birthday only a week ago. Read 10 things to about her struggle with health and surgery. 22 killed in Mumbai Elphinstone Road railway station stampede

A rush hour stampede during a sudden monsoon downpour killed at least 22 people and wounded more than 30 on Friday at Mumbai's Elphinstone Road railway station.

The tragedy took place amid rain in the city around 10.40am when a foot over-bridge became heavily crowded. Opinion | Modi may be the last hope for the Indian economy to achieve greatness

By seizing the time still available in 2017-2019 (and perhaps for five years thereafter), Prime Minister Narendra Modi may still live up to his own revolutionary declaration of 2014: "Government has no role in business", writes Annat Jain -- founder of Acropolis Capital Group, a private equity firm that invests in India

He says Modi may represent the last best hope for the Indian economy to achieve true greatness. If Modi doesn't do it now, India will be condemned to this middling, snakes-and-ladder growth pattern for another several generations.

Comedian mocks every flag in Twitter thread Did you ever wonder about the red diagonals on the United Kingdom's flag not being aligned? Or, how the Sri Lankan flag, with a lion and a sword, is totally 'badass'? And that the flag of Cyprus looks like a Cyprus-shaped coffee stain

Rs 1 lakh reward for finding Pak-returned Geeta's parents: Sushma Swaraj

NEW DELHI: External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj has announced a reward of Rs 1 lakh to the person who would help in finding deaf-mute girl Geeta's parents.

Geeta, 24, who had mistakenly crossed into Pakistan as a child after being separated from her



family, was brought back to India last year.

Her story hit the limelight after Salman Khan-starring blockbuster Bajrangi Bhaijan featured a similar plot where the Indian protagonist overcomes all odds to take a deaf and mute girl back to

her relatives in Pakistan. Swaraj played a key role in ensuring Geeta's return to India.

However, although she had identified a family as hers, it turned out to be wrong and she was placed in a deaf and mute centre.

Efforts to locate her family have

been on since. Swaraj has repeatedly tweeted about the matter, and on Sunday, she appealed to people to help Geeta in finding her parents.

"I also announce a reward of Rs 1 lakh to the person who helps in finding Geeta's parents," Swaraj said in a video by news agency ANI.

Amethi admn asks Rahul Gandhi to reschedule visit; Cong says Yogi govt scared

GUJARAT: The Amethi district authorities have asked Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi to re-schedule his proposed visit to his Lok Sabha constituency on law-and-order grounds, leaving the opposition party fuming and the BJP making a counter-attack. Gandhi is scheduled to visit Amethi from October 4-6.

"In order to maintain law-and-order, a majority of the district police force will be on duty. Hence, there will be great inconvenience in maintaining peace. Therefore, it is requested that the tour be rescheduled on any date after October 5," a letter written by the Amethi administration to the district Congress chief said. The letter, signed by district magistrate Yogesh Kumar and Superintendent of Police Poonam, added, "Through a letter (dated September 30), it was informed that a visit of MP Rahul Gandhi is proposed from October 4 to October 6. However, on October 5, Durga Puja/Dussehra and Muharram will culminate at several places."

Reacting sharply to the letter, senior Uttar Pradesh Congress leader Akhilesh Singh accused the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government in the state of "using tactics" to stop Gandhi from visiting his Lok Sabha constituency. "The Uttar Pradesh government is worried and does not want Rahul to visit Amethi, fearing that he might raise issues directly related to the public. This scares the



BJP," he said.

Singh added that the Yogi government was perhaps worried that Gandhi's schedule might "eclipse" the proposed visit by BJP chief Amit Shah and Union ministers Smriti Irani and Nitin Gadkari to Amethi on October 10. Refuting the grounds on which the authorities have asked the Congress vice-president to re-schedule his visit, Singh told PTI

that by October 4, almost all the festivities would be over.

"After all, Rahul is visiting his own parliamentary constituency," he pointed out.

Hitting out at the Congress, state BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi said, "As an elected MP, Rahul has failed to work for his people and many of the development schemes promised by him are lying incomplete."

Taking a dig at the Gandhi scion, he said "missing" posters of the Congress leader had been put up in Amethi in the past.

"That is why, (Smriti) Irani has taken the initiative to start those projects in Amethi," said Tripathi.

Union minister Irani had unsuccessfully contested the 2014 Lok Sabha election from Amethi against Gandhi.

After 30 years of service, retired army officer from Assam branded as Bangladeshi

GUWAHATI: A retired army officer has been branded as a Bangladeshi immigrant by Assam police, asking him to prove his citizenship in a bizarre twist to the contentious issue of illegal migrants in the northeastern state.

Mohd Azmal Hoque, who retired as a junior commissioned officer (JCO) last year, after serving the army for 30 years was living a peaceful life with his family at Guwahati, when he received a notice from a foreigners' tribunal last month.

Hoque has been asked to prove he is Indian and not an illegal Bangladeshi immigrant.

In Assam there are 100 foreigners' tribunals set up to detect il-

legal immigrants, especially those who entered India after creation of Bangladesh.

The notice mentioned that the district police have registered a case against him alleging he entered Assam illegally without any valid documents after March 25, 1971, the day Pakistan army launched Operation Searchlight against the people of then East Pakistan.

The notice, issued on July 6, asked Hoque to appear before the court on September 11 to prove his citizenship, failing which the case against him would continue ex-parte. But the 49-year-old failed to keep the date as the notice reached his ancestral village Kallahikash near Boko, nearly 70 km



from the state capital, after September 11. He will now have to appear before the tribunal on October 13. "This incident has saddened me a lot. Even after 30 years of service to the nation, we are

asked to prove our identity. This is unnecessary harassment," he told Hindustan Times. Hoque joined the army in 1986 in a non-combat role as technician and retired from the corps of electron-

ics and mechanical engineers (EME) as Subedar after serving at several places including border areas in Punjab and Arunachal Pradesh.

Incidentally, Hoque's wife Mantaj Begum had also been summoned by a foreigners' tribunal in 2012 to prove her citizenship. Since she had all necessary documents, she was able to satisfy the tribunal. Hoque's son is at present studying in the prestigious Rashtriya Indian Military College in Dehradun while his daughter is at the Army Public School in Narengi, Guwahati.

Hoque maintains that his family is indigenous Assamese and his father's name is mentioned in

the voters list of 1966. His mother's name is listed in the 1951 National Register of Citizens (NRC).

"I have no doubt that I will get justice at the tribunal.

But it pains me when my daughter questions me if this is how the country treats those who serve it for so many years," he said.

Infiltration of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh is an emotive issue in Assam. A six-year anti-foreigner agitation from 1979 to 1985 led to signing of the Assam Accord which set March 25, 1971 as the cut of date for detection and deportation of illegal Bangladeshis. As per official records, nearly 80,000 people have been detected as for-

eigners in Assam since 1986 and 29,729 were deported. At present around 200,000 cases are pending in the foreigners tribunals.

An interim report submitted earlier this year by a committee set up by the state's BJP-led government to suggest measures to protect land rights of indigenous people claimed illegal Bangladeshis outnumber indigenous people in 15 of the state's 33 districts.

This is not the first time a tribunal served a notice to a public servant. Earlier, Assam police constable Abu Taher Ahmed was accused of being an illegal immigrant. A foreigners' tribunal later held him an Indian citizen.



DEPRESSION CASES UP BY 20 PER CENT: 6 BAD HABITS WE NEED TO STOP TODAY

The alarming rise in depression cases across the globe is a growing health concern. This mental illness seems to be affecting everyone - from teens and college students to adults and elder people. In a World Health Organisation (WHO) report published earlier this year, it stated that more than five crore Indians suffered from depression in 2015, and over three crore dealt with anxiety disorders. It also indicated that the declining mental.

health has been a major cause of global suicides, especially in the low and middle-income countries. Latest estimates from WHO show that by 2030, depression will be the leading cause of disability worldwide, drawing attention to the fact that immediate measures must be taken by all countries to address depression and prevent it. "These new figures are a wake-up call for all countries to re-think their approach to mental health and to treat it with the urgency that it deserves," said WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan.

Depression is a mental disorder where the person suffers from pro-

longed period of sadness, which disrupts not just their mood but daily activities as well. Patients find it even difficult to wake up and get out of bed in the morning. You can also notice visible changes in the person's behaviour, feelings and sense of well-being. We all feel sometimes, but this negative state of being can trigger various other health problems, including suicidal tendencies. As we go about with our day, we often fail to realise that some of our silly habits can be putting us at risk of depression.

After all, our lifestyle choices play a big role for our overall health, and sedentary lifestyle or unhealthy habits can lead to the onset of various ailments in the long run. When the hunger pangs kick in, some of us just lose control and go on a binge eating spree, savouring pizzas with extra cheese, king-size burgers and fries, sugar loaded beverages, etc. Binge eating doesn't just add extra kilos around your belly, but may put you at depression risk, says a study. Binge eating episodes lead to obesity which, in turn, causes depression owing to weight stigma, poor self-esteem

and reduced mobility. The hectic lives we lead today, stress is almost inevitable. But it comes with severe health consequences. Serotonin is a chemical compound in the body, which is popularly referred to as the happiness hormone. It plays a significant role in a person's mental and psychological well-being. Due to stress, the level of serotonin secretion could reduce, contributing to the development of depression. According to a study done by McMaster University in Canada, excessive use of internet may significantly increase the risk of mental health problems such as depression and anxiety, especially among college-going students. The findings showed that individuals with internet addiction had more trouble dealing with their day-to-day activities, including life at home, at work/school and in social settings.

We have all been found guilty of being drowsy in the middle of the day, despite a good night's sleep. While you may think it has much to do with your body's need for a caffeine boost, in reality it could also indicate obesity and depression. A

common symptom of depression is improper sleep. Physiological sleep disturbances, including taking longer to fall asleep and waking up in the middle of the night, explains daytime drowsiness in people undergoing depression. Let's admit it. We love fried and fatty foods knowing very well that they are harmful for health. The thought of biting into samosas, French fries, greasy burgers, and cheesy pizzas make our mouth water instantly, but let's not give into temptation. In a study done by researchers at the Louisiana State University, they found that a high-fat diet can alter behaviour and produce signs of brain inflammation. Further, it may also increase the risk for depression and other psychiatric disorders.

The importance of physical activities for our well-being is not a new thing. A few minutes of walking, jogging or dancing and other activities can charge you up instantly, releasing those happy hormones. The more tired we get with our work, giving into stress and letting go of exercise, we put ourselves at risk of various health issues, including mental diseases.

Suffering from cold? Large doses of Vitamin C can help you

Large doses of Vitamin C - up to eight grammes per day - can significantly reduce the duration of a spell of common cold, scientists have found. Previous studies on different animal species have found that vitamin C significantly prevents and alleviates infections caused by diverse bacteria, viruses and protozoa. Given the universal nature of the effect of vitamin C against various infections in different animal species, it also seems evident that vitamin C influences the susceptibility to, and the severity of infections in humans. The common cold is the most extensively studied infection regarding the effects of vitamin C. The majority of controlled trials have used a modest dosage of only one gramme per day of vitamin C. The pooled effect of all published studies has shown a statistically highly significant difference between the vitamin C and placebo groups, which indicates a genuine biological effect. However, the optimal doses and the maximal effects of vitamin C on the common cold are unknown. Harri Hemila from the University of Helsinki in Finland, analysed the findings of two randomised trials each of which investigated the effects of two vitamin C doses on the duration of the common cold. The first trial administered three grammes per day vitamin C to two study groups, six grammes per day to a third group, and the fourth group was ad-

ministered a placebo. Compared with the placebo group the six grammes per day dose shortened colds by 17 per cent, twice as much as the three grammes per day doses did. The second trial administered four grammes per day and eight grammes per day vitamin C, and placebo to different groups, but only on the first day of the cold. Compared with the placebo group, the eight grammes per day dose shortened colds by 19 per cent, twice as much as the four grammes per day dose did. Both studies showed a significant dose-response relationship between the vitamin C dosage and the duration of the common cold. It is possible that even higher doses may lead to still greater reductions in the duration of common cold, researchers said. Hemila noted that there have been proposals that vitamin C doses should be over 15 grammes per day for the best treatment of colds, but the highest doses that have so far been investigated in randomised trials have been much lower. "Given the consistent effect of vitamin C on the duration of colds, and its safety and low cost, it would be worthwhile for individual common cold patients to test whether therapeutic eight grammes per day vitamin C is beneficial for them," Hemila said. "Self-dosing of vitamin C must be started as soon as possible after the onset of common cold symptoms to be most effective," she said.



Heart flown from Delhi to Chennai in India's longest distance haul

CHENNAI: Heart of a deceased civilian of the Indian Airforce in Delhi was flown to Chennai recently, to save life of an old man, who was awaiting a suitable heart for transplantation. It is the longest haul of donated tissue in India, covering a distance of more than 2,000 kilometres, which has an average flying time two hours and 40 minutes. A donated heart has to be implanted into the recipient within four hours of its retrieval; hence government and private entities came forward to support this noble cause.

The transplant co-ordination team at Gleneagles Global Health City received an alert about the availability of a suitable donor in Delhi, from the TRANSTAN, the apex body that governs Organ transplantations in Tamil Nadu. The R & R Army hospital, took up the responsibility of 'harvesting' the organ and rushing it to the



Indira Gandhi - International Airport in New Delhi, with the support. of the Delhi Traffic Police, who created a 'green-corridor' for the smooth transit of the organ from the hospital. The organ was taken aboard a Jet Airways flight, which took-off at 4:12 pm from Delhi. The aircraft landed safely at the Chennai International airport at 6:50 pm, from where the Chennai City Traffic Police took over the responsibility of safely getting the heart, within 36 minutes by 7:26 pm, to the Gleneagles Global Health City at Perumbakkam.

Dr Sandeep Attawar, Director and Chair of Heart Failure and Transplant Program, Gleneagles Global Hospitals Group and his team of doctors successfully implanted the donated heart in a patient who was ailing with end-stage heart failure. Dr Attawar on this note said, "We were informed about a heart that was available for Transplant by TRANSTAN this afternoon about 1:15 pm at R & R Army Hospital in Delhi. Since we needed a heart for a patient at Gleneagles Global Health City we responded and embarked on something that was never tried in India before. There was a very short window of opportunity to get the

heart safely from Delhi to Chennai within the 6 hour window. The doctors at the army hospital were kind enough to harvest the organ and ensure all necessary parameters to transport the organ safely were taken." Adding, "The DGCA and airport authority in Delhi as well as Chennai played a monumental role in helping the heart reach us safely. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brigadier Sood of R & R Army Hospitals, the Chennai police, the various other private and government agencies that have helped us save our patient's life."

Transporting an organ for this far a distance, requires meticulous planning and innumerable clearances from several Government and private bodies, which include District Collectorates, Police departments, Fire and Rescue departments, Revenue Departments, PWD departments and the Aviation department.

This mammoth task has been accomplished by the careful ground work and perseverance of the transplant co-ordination team of Gleneagles Global Health City, the R & R Army Hospital, Delhi, TRANSTAN, the Delhi Traffic Police and the Chennai City Traffic Police. A feat which is this is nothing short of a social revolution indeed.

EATING PEANUTS MAY KEEP HEART DISEASES AT BAY

New York: Eating peanuts with a meal may help protect against cardiovascular diseases that can lead to heart attacks and stroke, a new study has found.

Researchers from Pennsylvania State University in the US recruited 15 healthy overweight and obese men for the study. Participants ate a control meal with around 85 grammes (average serving size) of ground unsalted peanuts in the form of a shake. A control group was fed a shake of similar nutritional quantity and quality, but without.

the peanuts. Blood samples from the subjects to measure lipid, lipoprotein and insulin levels after 30, 60, 120 and 240 minutes were taken. Researchers found that there was a



32 per cent reduction in the triglyceride levels - a type of fat found in the bloodstream - after the consumption of the peanut meal compared to the control group. The study showed that when peanuts are eaten with a meal the typical post-meal increase

of triglycerides is blunted. Eating peanuts can keep the cells that line the arteries healthy, helping them stay more elastic, researchers said.

"Typically, whenever we eat something, it causes the arteries to get a little bit stiffer during the post-meal

period, but we have shown that if you eat peanuts with your meal, this can help prevent the stiffening response," said Penny Kris-Etherton of Penn State. Over time, the arterial stiffening response can limit blood flow throughout the body and cause the heart to work harder, increasing the risk of serious cardiovascular problems over time. "As the heart works harder and harder, over a long period of time, it could lead, ultimately, to heart failure," said

Kris-Etherton. "After a meal, triglycerides increase and this typically decreases the dilation of the arteries, but the peanuts prevent that big increase in triglycerides after the meal," she said. The study was published in the Journal of Nutrition.

Losing sense of smell may signal onset of dementia in older adults, says study

Dementia is the most common forms of Alzheimer's disease and is an age-related mental condition, triggered by loss of memory and outlined with rapid and seemingly unprovoked mood swings and unnecessary aggression. Over the years, scientists have studied the disease thoroughly and have often found signs other than loss of memory that can signal the onset of dementia. A new study, conducted by researchers at University of Chicago in the US, has found that loss of the sense of smell is one of those unfortunate signs. According to the study, older adults who have trouble identifying common odours are more than twice as likely as those with a normal sense of smell to develop dementia within five years. Researchers conducted a long-term study of nearly 3,000 adults, aged 57 to 85 years. They found that those who could not identify at least four out of five common odours - peppermint, fish, orange, rose and leather - were more than twice as likely to develop dementia within five years.

The team found that although 78 per cent of those tested were

normal - correctly identifying at least four out of five scents - about 14 per cent could name just three out of five.

Five per cent could identify only two scents, two per cent could name just one, and one per cent of the participants were not able to identify a single smell. Researchers noted five years after the initial test, almost all of the study subjects who were unable to name a single scent had been diagnosed with dementia.

Nearly 80 per cent of those who provided only one or two correct answers also had dementia, with a dose-dependent relationship between degree of smell loss and incidence of dementia.

"Loss of the sense of smell is a strong signal that something has gone wrong and significant damage has been done," said Jayant M Pinto, professor at the University of Chicago. The study, published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, used a well-validated tool, known as "SniffinSticks." These look like a felt-tip pen, but instead of ink, they are infused with distinct scents. Study subjects smell each item and are asked to identify that odour, one at a time, from a set of four choices. The five odours, in order of increasing difficulty, were peppermint, fish, orange, rose and leather. Researchers noted that 78.1 per cent of those examined had a normal sense of smell, 48.7 per cent correctly identified five out of five odours and 29.4 per cent identified four out of five. They noted that 18.7 per cent, considered "hyposmic," got two or three out of five correct and the remaining 3.2 per cent, labelled "anosmic," could identify just one of the five scents or none.

Reliance Communications to evaluate alternate plans for its mobile business

MUMBAI: Reliance Communications (RCOM) on Sunday said it will evaluate an "alternate plan for its mobile business".

According to the company, its board of directors at a meeting held here on Sunday reviewed the ongoing strategic transformation programme and considered alternate plans for debt reduction.

"The board decided that RCOM will evaluate an alternate plan for its mobile business, through optimisation of its spectrum portfolio and adoption of a 4G-focused mobile strategy," the company said in a BSE filing. "RCOM already has the unique advantage of capital light access to India's most extensive world class nationwide 4G mobile network through spectrum sharing and ICR agreements with Reliance Jio." The company said that combination of the mobile business of Sistema Shyam Tele-services Ltd (SSTL) into RCOM is also expected to be completed this

month. "The addition of SSTL's valuable spectrum holdings in the 800-850 MHz band will strengthen RCOM's spectrum portfolio by 30 Mhz, and extend the company's spectrum validity period in eight important circles in the country till the year 2033," the filing said.

The company has valuable spectrum across 800, 900, 1800, 2100 Mhz spectrum bands aggregating 200 Mhz, valued at over Rs 19,000 crore for the balance of validity period, based on last auction pricing.

"The company will evaluate opportunities for monetisation of the same through trading and sharing arrangements," the filing revealed. Further, RCOM announced that merger of its mobile businesses with Aircel has been called off with mutual consent.

The two companies had signed a binding agreement in September 2016 for the merger of RCOM's mobile businesses with Aircel.



"Legal and regulatory uncertainties, and various interventions by vested interests, have caused inordinate delays in receipt of

relevant approvals for the proposed transaction," the BSE filing said.

"Unprecedented competitive intensity in the Indian telecom

sector, together with fresh policy directives adversely impacting bank financing for this sector, have also seriously affected industry

dynamics. As a result of the various factors aforesaid, the merger agreement has lapsed. The board approved the same."

The company elaborated that it will focus on domestic and overseas B2B (business to business) segment. "These B2B businesses generate equal revenues from domestic and overseas operations," the filing said.

"As part of the ongoing transformation and in order to enhance value for all stakeholders, the RCOM board reaffirmed the focus on these stable, capital light B2B businesses which have sustained and predictable revenues and profits, with immense growth potential." Besides its focus on B2B segment, RCOM will also go ahead with real estate monetisation.

"The company has made good progress in its monetisation plans for prime real estate assets, including at Dhirubhai Ambani Knowledge City, Navi Mumbai, admea-

suring nearly 125 acres, with development rights of potentially over 17 million sq.ft. and prime property near Connaught Place, New Delhi, admeasuring nearly four acres," the BSE filing disclosed.

"Indications of interest from leading developers, and independent third-party valuations, have established significantly higher present value monetisation potential of Rs 10,000 crore for the DAKC Complex alone.

The company is engaged with leading global and domestic players, and expects to finalise developments agreements through an open and transparent process over the next few months."

In addition to real estate monetisation, it will also monetise its tower and fiber assets.

"The company will continue to implement its plans for monetisation of its tower and fiber assets, as already announced," the filing added.

India's holdings of American govt securities touch \$135.7 billion, highest in a year

MUMBAI: India has sharply increased its exposure to US government securities with holdings worth USD 135.7 billion at the end of July, official data showed. Neighbouring China continued to top the charts with holding to the tune of USD 1.166 trillion, followed by Japan with exposure worth USD 1.113 trillion. In recent months, India has increased its purchase of American government securities and the country is the third largest holder among the BRICS group after China and Brazil (USD 271.9 billion).

At the end of July, Russia held securities worth USD 103.1 billion.

According to the latest data from the US treasury department, India's holding of the securities touched USD 135.7 billion as on July end - also the highest in a year.



There has been a significant jump in the exposure compared to June when it stood at USD 130.3 billion. Since February this year, India's holding of these securities has been on

the rise. At the end of January, the exposure was just USD 113.7 billion.

India is the 12th largest holder of US government securities just behind Saudi Arabia whose exposure stood

at USD 142.5 billion at the end of July.

Other countries in the top ten are Ireland (USD 310.8 billion) at the third place, followed by Brazil, Cayman Islands (USD 259.2 billion), Switzerland (USD 244.8 billion), United Kingdom (USD 229.7 billion), Luxembourg (USD 213 billion), Hong Kong (USD 199.1 billion) and Taiwan (USD 182.5 billion). In a recent release, the Treasury department said foreign residents increased their holdings of long term US securities in July and net purchases stood at USD 5.1 billion.

"Foreign residents increased their holdings of US Treasury bills by USD 3.1 billion. Foreign resident holdings of all dollar-denominated short-term US securities and other custody liabilities increased by USD 7.4 billion," the release said.

Lesser GST slabs, once revenue neutral-plus level is reached: Jaitley

NEW DELHI: Finance minister Arun Jaitley said on Sunday that Goods and Services Tax (GST) slabs may be reduced in the future, if a "revenue neutral plus" tax level is reached.

Jaitley made the remark at the foundation day event of the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN).

He said reduction in tax slabs under the current GST regime can happen, but only after the GST regime reaches a "revenue neutral plus" level.

Since July 1, GST has replaced around a dozen central and state taxes into a single national tax.

At present, there are four tax slabs of 5,



12, 18 and 28%, plus a levy on cesses on luxury items like cars, aerated drinks and tobacco products to compensate states for any revenue losses in the first five years.

An overwhelming 81% of items under the GST regime attract tax of 18% or below and only about 19% of items are taxed at the highest rate of 28%.

Hindustan Aeronautics starts IPO process, files DRHP with Sebi

BENGALURU: State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) on Sunday said it has initiated the process of initial public offer (IPO) with the filing of the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

HAL has initiated the process of IPO with the filing of the DRHP on 29 September 2017 with the market regulator, the company said in a statement.

Commenting on the development, HAL chairman and managing director (CMD) T. Suvarna Raju said, "This is a major milestone towards listing of the defence PSU which is slated for partial disinvestment by the government of India."

The Union government had in 2012 approved the sale of a 10% stake in HAL. It had in 2013 appointed four merchant bankers: SBI Cap, Goldman Sachs, Barclays and Axis Capital, for managing the stake sale.

A top company official during the Aero India in February had said that 3.615 crore equity shares at a face value of Rs 10 would be considered for the IPO, the valuation of which would be done by the book running lead managers (BRLMS) and the other financial experts.

During 2015-16, 120,000,000 (twelve crore five lakh) shares were offered for buyback in all, amounting to Rs 5,265 crore, HAL had earlier said.

LPG costlier by Rs 1.50 a cylinder, Jet fuel price hiked by 6%

NEW DELHI: Jet fuel or ATF price was on Sunday hiked by a steep 6% on firming international rates, the third straight increase in rates since August.

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) will now cost Rs 53,045 per kilolitre (kl) in Delhi, Rs 3,025 per kl more than Rs 50,020 previously, according to a price hike notification by Indian Oil Corp, the nation's biggest fuel retailer. This is the third consecutive monthly hike in ATF price, the last being by 4% (Rs 1,910 per kl) on September 1.

Also, cooking gas (LPG) price was hiked by Rs 1.50 per cylinder in line with the government decision to raise rates every month to eliminate subsidies by March.

A subsidised 14.2-kg LPG cylinder will from on Sunday cost Rs 488.68 in Delhi as against Rs 487.18 previously, IOC said.

The hike comes on back of over Rs 7 per cylinder increase effected from September 1.

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had on July 31 told the Lok Sabha that the government had asked



state-run oil firms to raise subsidised cooking gas (LPG) prices by up to Rs 4 per cylinder every month to eliminate all the subsidies by March next year.

Rates were, however, raised by Rs 2.31 per cylinder on August 1 and the oil companies effected a large

hike on September 1 to equalise that, sources said.

Since the implementation of the policy of monthly increases from July last year, subsidised LPG rates have gone up by over Rs 69.50 per cylinder. A 14.2-kg LPG cylinder was priced at Rs 419.18 in June 2016.

The government had previously asked IOC, Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) to raise rates of subsidised domestic LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) by Rs 2 per 14.2-kg cylinder per month (excluding VAT). The quantum has now been

doubled so as to bring down the subsidy to nil.

Every household is entitled to 12 cylinders of 14.2-kg each at subsidised rates in a year. Any requirement beyond that is to be purchased at market price.

The price of non-subsidised LPG or market priced cooking gas has also been hiked by Rs 1.50 to Rs 599 per bottle.

Rates at the latest revision on September 1 were hiked by Rs 73.5 to Rs 597.50 per bottle.

State-owned oil firms revise rates of LPG and ATF on 1st of every month based on average oil price and foreign exchange rate in the previous month.

Today's hike in the LPG price is fifth since the May 30 order of the oil ministry to raise rates by Rs 4 per cylinder every month.

There are as many as 18.11 crore customers of subsidised LPG in the country. These include over 3 crore poor women who were given free connections during the last one year under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna. There are another 2.66 crore users of non-subsidised cooking gas.

Reducing food waste top priority for India: Badal

MUMBAI: India has made it a huge priority to reduce its massive food waste, Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal has told American industry leaders seeking their investment and technology in this regard. India, one of the world's largest producers of food, is also the largest producer of milk and second largest producer of fruits and vegetables. This huge raw material base, paired with a growing 1.3 billion population, presents vast investment and partnership opportunities for the US, Badal said. "However, India is currently only processing 10 per

cent of its food, resulting in enormous food waste," said Badal, minister of food processing industries, at an industry round table organised by US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).

Badal is currently on a week-long visit to the US to interact with the agriculture industry and food processing companies in Chicago, Washington and New York.

During her visit, she had one-on-one meetings with industry executives from US companies including Pepsico, Amazon, the Hershey Company, Coca-Cola, Wal-Mart, Kraft Heinz, and Hon-



eywell, among others. In the last three years, India has focused on reducing food waste, she said. "With a growing country and population, the Indian government has made it a huge priority to reduce this waste," Badal said. Badal aims to partner with US industry by borrowing best practices, technology,

and innovation, in exchange for providing US companies with untapped investment opportunities that exist in India's enormous consumer base. As the fastest growing major economy in the world, India possesses a USD 6 billion food sector, of which 70 per cent is food retail. This market is set to triple by 2020. In addition, an average Indian spends almost 40 per cent of income on food. Over the next six years, this expenditure is set to double. This makes India an attractive destination for foreign investment, Badal said. India offers immense possibilities, said Muke-

sh Aghi, president of USISPF.

Badal's visit comes ahead of the mega World Food India Show to be held in New Delhi from November 3-5. This global event aims to facilitate partnerships between Indian and international businesses and investors. The conclave would be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Encompassing the entire food spectrum from production to consumption, World Food India aims to create a better sourcing environment which will enable higher returns for farmers, create employment, and foster entrepreneurship.

Cheque Books Of These 6 Banks That Merged With SBI Are Now Invalid

MUMBAI: State Bank of India (SBI), the largest bank of the country, had made cheque books of its erstwhile associate banks invalid from October 1. Old cheque books of its five erstwhile associate banks and the Bhartiya Mahila Bank, which have merged with the public sector behemoth, stand invalid from October 1, Sunday. Earlier, SBI had said that account holders of State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Raipur, State Bank of Travancore, State Bank of Hyderabad and Bhartiya Mahila Bank will have to apply for new cheque books. Old Indian Financial System (IFS) codes of the associate bank branches will also be invalid. SBI has its Twitter post dated September 20 pinned on top of its social media account: Users can avail the new cheque books via internet and mobile banking, ATM or by visiting the home branch.

PCB to offer \$10,000 per match in Pakistan to foreign PSL players

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to offer \$10,000 per match to each foreign cricketer who would play Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches in the country, sources told DawnNews.

The incentive is aimed at attracting foreign players to play PSL matches being held in the country. This amount

would be paid separately from all other payments.

In this regard, the PCB would add an extra clause in the contracts of foreign players. "\$10,000 per match is not a bad option for foreign players because the PCB is planning to host at least 6 to 8 PSL matches in Pakistan for the 3rd Pakistan Super League. So if a

player even plays only three matches in Pakistan, he will get straight \$30,000," said a source privy to the development.

Pakistan has not hosted top-level international cricket — barring five limited over matches against minnows Zimbabwe in 2015 — since the Sri Lankan team bus was attacked by terrorists in March 2009. Last month, in

a first since the attack, Pakistan successfully hosted the World XI squad comprising foreign players in the Independence Cup 2017.

Since the 2009 attack Pakistan has been forced to play most of their "home" games in the United Arab Emirates — with the Pakistan Cricket Board complaining they have incurred losses

of around \$120 million.

But security has dramatically improved across Pakistan in the last two years, signalling hopes for the slow revival of international sport in the country.

Sri Lanka Cricket officials have said that the team will play one T20 in Lahore, subject to security clearance

closer to the event.

In March, Pakistan successfully hosted the Pakistan Super League Twenty20 final in Lahore with English players Dawid Malan and Chris Jordan, West Indies' Darren Sammy and Marlon Samuels and South Africa's Morne van Wyk and Zimbabwe's Sean Ervine competing.

Sri Lanka allow banned cricketer Chamara Silva to take field

COLOMBO: Former Sri Lanka player Chamara Silva has been given temporary relief to participate in domestic matches after appealing his two-year ban for misconduct, the country's cricket board said Sunday.

Last month, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said a domestic first-class match between Panadura Cricket Club and Kalutara Physical Culture Club in January had not been played in keeping with the spirit of the game.

The two captains, Chamara Silva, who played in all formats of international cricket for the Sri Lankan national team until 2011, and Manoj Deshapriya, were banned for two years from all cricket-related activities while the other players and managers were barred for one year.

The two clubs were also fined half a million rupees (\$3,300)



each and the match was declared void. There had been allegations of match-fixing after Panadura

won following unusual scoring on the third day of their match, but SLC denied the claims.

"On the recommendation of the appeal's committee... the accused players would be permitted

to engage in domestic cricket activities pending the outcome of their appeal," Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said in a statement Sunday. The news comes a week after the International Cricket Council (ICC) said it was conducting an anti-corruption probe in Sri Lanka. It announced the probe a day after SLC said that 40 contracted national team players had asked for an immediate inquiry into "shocking" allegations by former player Pramodya Wickremasinghe. The former pace bowler and ex-national selector told a local television station last month he was concerned about "unnatural match patterns" and player selections. The SLC said players had refuted Wickremasinghe's allegations as "totally baseless" and added that they performed for their "motherland... with a 200 percent commitment".

Caroline Wozniacki seals spot in season-ending WTA Finals

SINGAPORE: Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki became the sixth player to qualify for the season-ending WTA Finals in Singapore, the WTA said on Sunday.

The Dane, who defended her Pan Pacific title in Tokyo last week and reached six other finals this year, joins Garbine Muguruza, Simona Halep, Karolina Pliskova, Elina Svitolina and Venus Williams in Singapore with two spots left.

Wozniacki, who will make her fifth appearance at the Oct. 22-29 event, reached the final in 2010 when Doha hosted the WTA Finals.

"I'm very excited that I've qualified for the WTA Finals again," the 27-year-old Wozniacki said in a statement.

"I have such great memories of the tournament, especially from 2010, and I can't wait to get to back to Singapore and play my best tennis in front of the amazing fans there."

The top eight singles players at the \$7 million prize money event will face off in a round-robin format for the Billie Jean King Trophy.

The eight best doubles teams will battle for the Martina Navratilova Trophy in a knock-out format.

Wozniacki, who has 26 career titles, is due to play local hope Wang Qiang in the first round of the China Open later on Sunday in Beijing.



FIFA U-17 World Cup: England edge out New Zealand in practice match

MUMBAI: It is too early to predict the stars of the FIFA U-17 World Cup but if England's Callum Hudson-Odoi and Rhian Brewster display the same skills in the main tournament as they did in the practice game against New Zealand on Sunday, they will give their opponents a tough time.

Hudson-Odoi is an attacking midfielder, plays on the left, likes to cut back into the box and is good with both feet. Brewster, who scored twice to give England a 3-2 win, can play not only down the centre as a traditional striker but also has the pace to operate from wide attacking positions.

With Jadon Sancho, the Player of the Tournament at the under-17 European Championship, yet to join the squad, pressure will be on Hudson-Odoi and Brewster to provide the firepower upfront. Both were England's joint-second highest scorers at the U-17 Euro behind Sancho. When quizzed about Sancho, England coach Steve Cooper said they are working closely with Borussia Dortmund to resolve the situation.

While Hudson-Odoi dominated the first half before being substituted, Brewster turned on the style when he came in after the break.

Hudson-Odoi, who signed a new three-year deal with Chelsea in July this year, was the one to put England on the offensive after they had gone a goal down. Oliver Whyte's wonder strike had given New Zealand the lead.

Sticking to the left wing, Hudson-Odoi peppered the New Zealand box with some delightful passes but there was no one present to put those away. England equalised through defender Marc Guehi soon after as New Zealand failed to clear from a corner.

When England kick off their group

proceedings in Kolkata, Hudson-Odoi and Brewster will be the first names on their teamsheet.

In the second half, Brewster was all over New Zealand, allowing their defenders no time to catch their breath. For his first, he placed himself between New Zealand centre-back and timed his run to convert a beautiful pass from Manchester City's Phil Foden. A few minutes later, he again rose above New Zealand defence to head home Nya Kirby's cross.

The 17-year-old has risen up the ranks at Liverpool after switching from Chelsea a couple of years ago. He has also caught the attention of Reds' manager Jurgen Klopp. Had both started together, England would have finished with a much better scoreline than 3-2. England are placed in Group F with South American runners-up Chile, CONCACAF champions Mexico and Asian champions Iraq. England will have to fine-tune their finishing and positional play in the final third ahead of their tournament opener against Chile on October 8. While some great crosses were put in, no one was there to finish them and when someone did get there, they lacked precision.

While coach Cooper was happy with what was dished out, he would like his wingers to get more into the box. "We looked like a real threat in the first half and played good football. Callum (Hudson-Odoi) and Emile (Smith Rowe) on both sides played well. They are both doing their job and they need to get into the box and create and score goals."

He praised Brewster for the impact he had after coming on. "He scored two goals and that is what you want from your No 9. I liked a lot of performances today. We tried different positions today. I thought a lot of players created positive impacts," he said.



Sachin Tendulkar asked for foot overbridges in 2016, Elphinstone never got one

MUMBAI: Sachin Tendulkar was assured by the Ministry of Railways a year ago that a provision for constructing five new foot overbridges (FOB) has been sanctioned in 2016-17 for Mumbai's train stations. (India vs Australia 5th ODI: HIGHLIGHTS)

According to the Indian Express, after repeated requests from Sachin Tendulkar and Shiv Sena MP Arvind Sawant, former Railway minister Suresh Prabhu had sanctioned upgrade work at the Elphinstone Road Station — where as many as 22 died and more than 35 were injured during a stampede on Friday. The sanction work amounting to Rs11.86 crore under Passenger Amenities, how-



ever, remained on paper.

The tender is valued at 12.8 crore rupees and will open in November,

more than one year after it was sanctioned in the Railway Budget for 2016-17.

Jagan Kumar wins sixth straight title at National Motorcycle Racing Championship

CHENNAI: TVS Racing's mascot Jagan Kumar notched his sixth straight title in the premier Super Sport,

Indian (165cc) class on a rain-affected day to bring down the curtain on the MRF MMSC fmsci Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship on Sunday.

Massive downpour in the early hours disrupted the proceedings here but a herculean effort by officials got the club circuit (short loop, 2.1 Kms) ready for racing with

the full circuit (3.7 Kms) not available due to water-logging. Thus, three of the seven races were cancelled since the championships in those categories were already decided.

Going into Sunday's race, Jagan enjoyed a six-point lead over Honda Tenno Racing's Rajiv Sethu, but the expected challenge did not materialize as the latter crashed at Turn-2 in the very first lap.

Thereafter, Jagan was on a cruise mode and seemed content to finish second behind Sethu's team-mate Mathana Kumar who eased past in the last lap. Harry Sylvester (TVS Racing) came in third.



It was a splendid comeback by Jagan who, at one point in the season, trailed Sethu by 33 points but three back-to-back wins, including one on Saturday, put the TVS Racing rider's campaign back on track as he clinched the title in this class, previously known as "Group B", for the sixth year in a row by a comfortable 24-point margin.

Aravind Balakrishnan (Honda Tenno Racing) took the title in the Pro-Stock class though he finished a distant eighth in the race won by his team-mate Anish Shetty. Balakrishnan thus finished with 138 points, 13 ahead of Aravind Ganesh (Moto-Rev).

Pakistan boxer Waseem maintains ranking in Panama fight

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani boxer Mohammad Waseem on Sunday maintained his position as World Boxing Council's (WBC) number one and undefeated Silver Flyweight champion by defeating Panama's Carlos Melo. Quetta-born Waseem knocked out his rival Melo in the first round after throwing punches relentlessly, marking the eighth consecutive victory of his professional career.

Following his win, Waseem, also known as Falcon Khan, thanked the nation for its support in a video message, vowing to continue the journey of his success and to bring honour to Pakistan.

Sunday's fight was his third in Panama. With this fight, he achieved the honour of culminating six out of his total eight contests on a knockout.

Falcon Khan is going to fight for the world title in January 2018. Earlier this year, he was invited to General Headquarters by the Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa when he had successfully defended his WBC Silver Flyweight title after defeating Gielmel Megramo of the Philippines in November. Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had also approved a Rs30 million grant for the country's top pugilist.

