

TIME AND US

DAILY

SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

FRIDAY

● OCTOBER, 20, 2017
● 29 MUHARRAM 1439 AH
● ISSUE: 244
● VOLUME: 03
● PAGES: 08

WEATHER TEMPERATURE		
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	25.0	6.4
JAMMU	33.6	17.5
LEH	10.7	6.9
KARGIL	19.0	3.9

SUNSET FRIDAY: 05:54 PM
SUNRISE SATURDAY: 06:43 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR
Partly Cloudy Clear Sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 25°C & 06°C respectively.

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

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MANHAS FOR CULTURAL AWARENESS, PROMOTION OF ART, LANGUAGES

CENTRAL FORCES CANNOT SUBSTITUTE STATE POLICE

JAIPUR, SRINAGAR ARE AMONG WORLD'S BEST AIRPORTS IN 2 MN-5 MN PASSENGER

INDIAN CRICKET REFORMS REMAIN A DISTANT DREAMS, EVEN AFTER 'TAKEOVER'

Meeting jawans energises me:

Modi celebrates Diwali in Gurez valley

Srinagar: Like every year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spent his Diwali with soldiers. This year, Modi was in the Gurez Sector valley along Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir to celebrate Diwali with the troops posted in the forward area.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Army Chief General Bipin Rawat who was camping in the Gurez sector since Wednesday.

Northern Command chief Lt General Devraj Anbu and Chinara Corps Commander Lt Gen J S Sandhu are also in Gurez accompanying the Prime Minister

Gurez sector is the gateway of Gilgit-Baltistan area.

Narendra Modi offered sweets and exchanged Diwali greetings with the jawans.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offers sweet and exchanged Diwali greetings with the



jawans.

Addressing the Armymen, Modi said the Union government is committed to the welfare and betterment of Armed Forces, in every way possible. He also mentioned implementation of One Rank One Pension (OROP).

▶ See **Modi**...Pg 02

OMAR THANKS MODI FOR CELEBRATING DIWALI WITH PEOPLE, TROOPS IN GUREZ

Urges him to gift a tunnel to people, troops under Razdan pass

Srinagar, Oct 10: Following the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Gurez Sector along LoC in Jammu and Kashmir to celebrate Diwali with army, the former chief minister and opposition National Conference's (NC) working president, Omar Abdullah on Thursday thanked PM for celebrating the festival with people and troops in Gurez.

Omar also appealed PM Modi to gift the people and troops a tunnel under Razdan pass.

"Thank you for celebrating #Diwali with the people & troops in #Gurez. Please gift the people & troops a tunnel under Razdan pass @PMOIndia," Omar tweeted in this afternoon.

▶ See **Omar**...Pg 02

CM visits children's home at R S Pura, says their social integration every citizen's obligation

JAMMU, OCTOBER 19: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti has underscored the need for social integration and proper rehabilitation of orphans and the destitute.

Interacting with the inmates of a children's and destitute home at R S Pura today, the Chief Minister said though Government is doing what it is supposed to do for the welfare of orphans and destitute but, she added, besides Government it is the



obligation of every citizen to play its role in proper rehabilitation and social integration of these victims of fate.

Mehbooba Mufti appealed all sections of people to devote part of their mental,

▶ See **CM**...Pg 02

Diwali celebrated at Raj Bhavan



SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19: Governor N. N. Vohra and

▶ See **Diwali**...Pg 02

RESTRICTIONS IN 7 SRINAGAR POLICE STATION

Srinagar, Oct 19: The district administration Srinagar Thursday decided to impose restrictions in Srinagar areas falling under the jurisdiction of seven Police Stations in wake of the protest call given the Joint Resistance

▶ See **Police**...Pg 02

BIOMETRIC ATTENDANCE IN HOSPITALS DISCRIMINATE MEDICOS, PARA MEDICOS

'Mandatory for sweepers not for doctors'

Srinagar, Oct 19: The biometric system in health department installed in GMC associated hospitals to keep tab on the attendance of employees and their punctuality, is turning out to be "a mere joke now".

The biometric attendance has been made mandatory for the paramedical staff and other employees like sweepers, toilet cleaners, and not for the doctors, raising a question about the purpose of installing it in the GMC associated hospitals.

"It should have been mandatory for doctors as patients come to the hospitals to see doctors not to check the cleanliness of the hospital," said a group of para-medical

▶ See **Para**...Pg 02

Protest continues against braid chopping

'Expose the criminals, say protesters

Srinagar, Oct 19: Mysterious braid chopping incidents continue to give sleepless nights to whole Kashmir populace while victims both young and elderly have been under massive mental stress. The increasing incidents have been sparking protests and even clashes in different parts of Valley.

Reports said that an overnight braid chopping incident



sparked shutdown and protests in Hazratbal area of Srinagar

on Thursday morning.

According to locals the braid of a woman was chopped off at Dhobi Mohalla on Wednesday night. Reports said that the residents took to streets and staged massive protests against the increasing braid-cutting incidents.

Two incidents of braid-cutting have taken place in the area in past week.

▶ See **Protest**...Pg 02

DR FAROOQ ASKS PEOPLE TO REMAIN UNITED, SHUN DIFFERENCES

Meets student delegation from Poonch

Srinagar, Oct 19: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah Thursday impressed upon people to maintain unity among different sections of the society and work towards spreading the teachings of Islam.

According to a statement issued to KNS, while addressing a group of students belonging to Jamia Zia ul Uloom, Higher Secondary School Poonch at his Gupkar residence Dr Farooq Abdullah said, "The whole country is going through very tough times. The forces inimical to the unity are out on loose. Their only concern is to spread hatred and vitiate peaceful atmosphere. It therefore is incumbent

▶ See **Farooq**...Pg 02

In Srinagar city, vehicles contribute most to air pollution

Registered vehicles crosses 3.50 lac mark

Srinagar, Oct 19: The Srinagar city's air quality from vehicular emission has increased manifold as compared to that from other sources.

Sources in the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) revealed to KNS that there has been a rising trend in the air pollution of the summer capital, mainly because of the vehicular emission.

Data accessed by KNS from the transport department says that there are around 3.50 lac registered vehicles in Srinagar city.

One of the top officials of the RTO Srinagar told KNS that this year alone, around one lakh



vehicles have been registered.

He said that there is also biggest chunk

▶ See **Pollution**...Pg 02

'ARMY, CRPF SEEK FRESH BAN ON SALE OF COMBAT UNIFORM IN J&K'

Write to MHA, MoD to ensure ban is implemented

Srinagar, Oct 19: In the wake of the frequent militant attacks and increasing militant related activities, the Army and CRPF have sought a fresh ban on the sale of combat uniform in J&K especially in Kashmir valley.

Sources told KNS that the forces operating in valley have written to the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Home Affairs demanding strict ban on the sale and purchase of combat uniform.

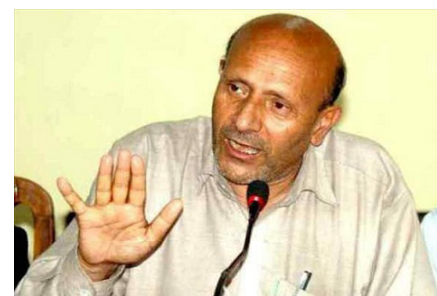
The move has been taken fearing apprehensions that militant may misuse the combat uniforms.

▶ See **Army**...Pg 02

'I am neither Indian nor Pakistani proxy: Er: Rasheed

Says he always speaks for his conscience

Handwara, Oct 19: A large number of people participated in an anti braid chopping protest at Handwara led by AIP Supremo and MLA Langate Er. Rasheed. Addressing the gathering at main Chowk Handwara Er. Rasheed appealed all the stake holders not to make Kashmir a hub of conspiracies and added they must refrain from destroying self respect and dignity of Kashmiri women for political goals. Er. Rasheed in his speech said "Govt. is duty bound to nab the culprits and find out the miscreants behind these shameful incidents. If Govt. fails in doing so, then onus lies on the Govt. and its agencies



as they are duty bound to protect the life and property of masses".

▶ See **Rasheed**...Pg 02

ERRATIC MOBILE SERVICES IRK PULWAMA LOCALS

Srinagar, Oct 19: The subscribers of telecommunication companies, Airtel, Aircel, Jio and BSNL have complained about erratic mobile phone services and poor internet services at several villages of Pulwama district in South Kashmir.

The Airtel, BSNL, Jio and Aircel subscribers from Adarbal, Nikas, Haal and its adjoining areas said that they are facing immense problems due to erratic mobile service. "We are unable to contact our nears and dears as every time we dial the number, the network comes busy or number does not exist," subscribers said.

They said that call drops are frequent in the area due to poor network.

"Many a times, we are not able to complete our

▶ See **Mobile**...Pg 02

JRL protests against growing incidents of braid chopping

'Attacks on mothers, sisters and daughters is unacceptable'

Srinagar, Oct 19: The activists and leaders of Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) Thursday staged a protest in Srinagar against the government's "failure" to stop braid chopping incidents in Kashmir. Leaders and activists gathered outside JKLF office Abi-Guzar and marched towards Lal chowk.

Holding placards in hands and raising slogans against



braid chopping incidents, protesters condemned these

attacks.

Among those who participated in today's protest program included Zamrooda Habib, Showkat Ahmad Bakhshi, Ghulam Qadir Baigh, Ghulam Rasool Dar Eidhi, Hakim Abdul Rashid, Farooq Ahmad Sodagar, Imtiyaz Haider, Sirajud din Mir, Muhammad Yasin Butt, Zahoor Ahmad Butt, Sheikh Abdul

▶ See **JRL**...Pg 02

RAHUL GANDHI RAISES QUESTIONS ON 'CHINESE ACTION' IN DOKALAM

New Delhi: Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi raised questions on Wednesday on recent media reports of Chinese action in Doklam area at a parliamentary panel meeting which was briefed by foreign secretary S Jaishankar.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs chaired by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor was briefed on the topic Sino-India relations with a focus on the Doklam situation.

Gandhi, who is also a member of the panel, had the maximum number of queries on the issue and raised questions about media reports that claimed China had

▶ See **Rahul**...Pg 02

DSEK, PSAK INVITE US EXPERT DR QAZI S. AZHER FOR TRAINING OF TEACHERS

100's of pvt, govt teachers attend day long workshop

Srinagar, Oct 19: Urging the government and private sector to train teachers in latest method of teaching, Dr Qazi S. Azher, Associate Clinical Professor and chairman Scientific Review Committee Michigan State University USA today said that unless Teachers are professionally developed they won't be able to give any quality output. Dr Azher was speaking at a daylong interactive workshop on STEAM (Science Technology Engg & Math) and NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards). The workshop was organised by Director School Education Kashmir in collaboration with Private Schools Association of Kashmir (PSAK) at GHSS Kothibagh. More than 200 teachers from both private and government schools participated in the event. Dr Azher compared the US system of education with the state education and highlighted the lacunae which needs to be filled in Kashmir. He expressed concern on the

state of research in educational institutes in Jammu and Kashmir. He also offered help and new ideas as to how the education sector can be gradually brought at par with global standards. The audience included Secretary education Er Farooq Shah, DSEK G N Itoo, Chairman PSAK G N Var, Asst Director Academics J&K BOSE besides teachers (K to 12 grades), science coordinators, faculty members of SCERT, and curriculum developers. The secretary education expressed interest in bringing Dr Azher as special invite for curriculum development in the State. The Secretary said that our aim is to raise the standards of education in the state in every level and in this regard the help from the likes of DR Azher is welcome. Dr Azhar heads many prominent research institutions in USA and is working with SCERTs of many states in India. He is involved in teaching Brain-Based Education, Science of Learning and Teaching, Hands-On Enquiry-Based Methodology.

DAK HOLDS CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BODY ELECTION

Dr Suhail Nayak elected as President, Dr Irshad Muntazir as Chief spokesperson

Srinagar, Oct 19: The elections for the Central Executive body of Doctors Association Kashmir were held today for the historic 4th term. The elections were conducted in Hotel Silver Star, Lasjan. It was for the first time that such a huge democratic exercise was carried out with massive participation from every nook and corner of the valley. The overall process was monitored and controlled by Chief Election Commissioner Dr. M. Saleem Bhat. Several dignitaries from medical profession graced the occasion which included founder members Dr. Mir Mushtaq, Dr. Khalid Parvez, Dr. Javaid Zargar, Dr. AG Dar & Dr. Sonaullah Qureshi. Besides, Dr Syed Masood, Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Baramulla, Dr. Ab. Rashid Para, Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Pulwama, Dr Asif Wani, Associate Professor ENT, GMC Srinagar, Dr. Ab Maajid, Associate Professor Department of Psychiatry, SKIMS Medical College, Dr Manzoor Ahmed, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, SKIMS Medical College, Prof. Iqbal Saleem, GMC, Prof. GM Malik, exHoD Medicine GMC Srinagar, Prof. Bashir Ahmed, Ex HoD, Ophthalmology GMC Srinagar also attended the occasion.

In addition, all other associations including Indian Medical Association, Medical Faculty Association GMC Srinagar, Medical Faculty Association SKIMS Bemina, Society of Consultant Doctors, Society of Dental Surgeons, Resident Doctors Association GMC, Doctors Association Jammu, Private Practitioners Association J&K and Indian Dental Associations participated in the elections. Election concluded at 2.00 PM and the results were declared at 2.45 PM. Simultaneously, District bodies were also elected in concerned districts. S. No. Name of the Doctor Post against elected

1	Dr. Suhail Naik	President
2	Dr. Mir Waseem	Senior Vice President
3	Dr. Mir Mohd. Ashraf	
4	Dr. Sajad Qanango	
5	Dr. Irfan	Vice President (Nominated from GMC RDA Quota)
6	Dr. Owais H. Dar	General Secretary
7	Dr. Irshad Muntazir	Chief Spokesperson
8	Dr. Imtiaz Bandyopadhyay	Spokespersons
9	Dr. Fayaz Ahmad	
10	Dr. Arshad Hussain	Joint Secretaries.

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MODI

Terming jawans as his family, Narendra Modi said that he too wishes to spend Diwali with his family and therefore, he had come among jawans, whom he considers his family. The Prime Minister said he gets new energy when he spends time among jawans and soldiers. He also appreciated penance and sacrifice of jawans, amid harsh conditions. Modi said, "Spending time with our Forces gives me new energy. We exchanged sweets & interacted. Happy to know the Jawans practice Yoga regularly." The Prime Minister said jawans who leave Armed Forces after completing their duty tenure, can become excellent yoga trainers subsequently.

OMAR

"Physical and mobile connectivity would be your biggest gifts to the area this Diwali," he said. The former chief minister also asked the PM Modi to help in providing the mobile services in Gurez sector. "You will have noticed that you can't tweet from there sir. That's because there is no data & almost no mobile service. Please do help with it," Omar said in his tweet.

CM

material or intellectual resources in bringing a large section of such socially fragmented people into the mainstream of society. During her visit, the Chief Minister sat with the inmates of the children's home and interacted with them. The children shared their interests like poetry, singing, painting etc. with the Chief Minister which she liked. Mehbooba Mufti extended Diwali greetings to the children and wished them happy and prosperous times ahead. Vice Chairman, SC/ST Development Board, Bushan Dogra; Vice Chairman, Women's Development Corporation, Vijay Dogra; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Dr. M K Bhandari; IGP Jammu zone, SDS Jamwal; officers of district administration and a large number of people were present on the occasion. Meanwhile, a large number of people from different walks of life met the Chief Minister here today and shared their festivities of Diwali with her. Mehbooba Mufti wished them well and enquired about their welfare.

DIWALI

Lady Governor Mrs. Usha Vohra celebrated Diwali with Raj Bhavan officers, staff and security personnel at Raj Bhavan here today morning. On this joyous occasion Governor and Lady Governor greeted the assembled staff and distributed sweets among all those present.

POLICE

Leadership (JRL). An official of the district administration told KNS that the restrictions under section 144 CrPC will be imposed in Srinagar areas falling under the jurisdiction of seven Police Stations. "Areas falling under Rainawari, Nowhatta, Khanyar, Safa Kadal and M R Gunj Police Stations will remain under tight restrictions while the areas falling under two Police Stations including Kral Khud and Maisuma will remain under restrictions partially," he said. The restrictions as per the officials will be imposed as precautionary measure. Pertinently, Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) including Syed Ali Geelnai, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Muhammad Yasin Malik has appealed people to protest after Friday prayers against the growing incidents of mysterious braid chopping in Kashmir.

PARA

employees. Official sources told KNS that it was earlier mandatory for all the employees, but later doctors managed to keep themselves away from bio-metric attendance, due to several reasons both unknown and known. "Had this biometric attendance been mandatory for the doctors then they would remain under check when they come and leave the hospital, but they have managed to stay away from this routine. They can come and leave as per their wish," said an employee. The para-medical staff questions the authorities what was the purpose of installing bio-metric system in hospitals; was it for sweepers and other fourth-class employees or for the doctors as patients from far flung areas come to these tertiary care hospitals to see doctors not the sweepers. "We fail to understand the logic behind it. We don't have

any problems with the technology, but we just want to know why doctors have been kept aloof from it. Isn't it more mandatory for them than us," a group of sweepers at Bone and Joint hospital said.

"I have never seen a doctor mark their attendances on the machine. I don't know if they have take it lightly or just feel it nothing important," an administrative official at Lal Ded hospital said.

Reports say that the lower rung employees are forced to do their attendances on biometric twice a day. "If we are late by a second we are marked absent, but the same doesn't apply for doctors."

PROTEST

Meanwhile, shops and other commercial establishments remained closed in the area.

Joint Resistance Leadership and Jammu Kashmir Mass Movement held a protest here in Srinagar city. The protesters in these two protests castigated government for acting mute spectator. They alleged that government and police have miserably failed to expose the criminals involved in braid chopping incidents.

The protesters were holding placards with messages urging an end to braid-cutting attacks. "Stop Braid Chopping", "Attacks on dignity of daughter not acceptable" and "Attacks on Kashmiri women and braid chopping is a ploy to intimidate Kashmiris" were some of messages written on placards.

Lesser known, All India Rahul Gandhi Association also held a protest in Press Enclave Srinagar and asked government to expose the criminals behind these braid chopping incidents.

Witnesses reported that people took to roads in Beerwah area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district after a fresh braid chopping incident. The victim according to locals was the same girl whose braid was chopped two weeks back. The protesters raised massive slogans against police and the government.

Protest was also held against an overnight braid chopping incident at Lari-Preng area of Kangan town of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. The braid of a middle aged woman was chopped off by miscreants on Wednesday sparking nocturnal protests.

Pertinently, over a 100 incidents of braid chopping have occurred in different parts of Kashmir Valley during the past month while police is still clueless.

The victims have told their families and police that unknown persons cut their hair after knocking them unconscious with some spray.

The police have formed Special Investigation Teams to probe the incidents. However, so far the police and the authorities have been clueless.

The police have announced a reward of Rs six lakh for credible information leading to arrest of any person behind braid chopping incidents. So far, no arrests have been made.

At several places, vigilante mobs have thrashed innocents mistaking them for braid choppers.

FAROOQ

upon all of us to defeat the evil designs." The students led by Darul Uloom Principal Moulvi Waheed Ahmad Bandy are on a 5 day visit to Kashmir. Dr Farooq Abdullah stressed upon the students to learn Holy Quran and imbibe the teachings of Islam in its true spirit. "As a Muslim it's our primary duty to spread Islam. The path is in front of you which is to first learn and then spread the teachings of the Holy book and help others understand it. It therefore becomes your duty to spread Islam all across," Dr Farooq said.

Dr Farooq Abdullah later distributed shawls and caps among students and appreciated the works done by the founder of the said Jamia and Dar ul Aloom Poonch Moulana Ghulam Qadir Bandy who is also a member of All India Personal Law Board. "His services towards Islam and welfare of the people will always be remembered," Dr Farooq said.

On the occasion party General Secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar was also present. He appreciated the work of the said Jamia and said it will go a long way in helping youngsters to learn Islam and its teachings in its true form.

POLLUTION

of the registered vehicles that are known as major air polluters due to poor emission standards. Concerned over the increasing level of air pollution, experts suggest that government come forward to bar all vehicles including private cars, bikes, commercial vehicles, buses and trucks - over 15 years old from plying in the state. They said that it has been found that state has lakhs of vehicles plying without the mandatory 'pollution under control' certificates. Experts said that with the number of vehicles increasing day by day here, the number of accidents also increased every year. "There are various reasons for the increase in number of

vehicles in the city. Change in life style, increase in income, availability of easy bank loans and increase in population were among the main reasons. There is no provision in law under which we could deny the permission for purchase of the new vehicle to a person or persons," the official in transport departmentsaid on condition of anonymity.

It is to mention here that the SPB report has cited vehicular emission as one of the major contributing factors to the rising pollution levels, while suggesting enforcement of a ban on worn-out and unfit vehicles, besides exploring the possibility of alternative modes of public and private transport.

One of the expert of transport said that pollution under Control Certificate is just a formality for vehicle owners and authorities. "Road Transport Department has a bigger, more serious role to play in controlling vehicular pollution. Even the vehicles that do possess a valid PUC certificate have been seen emitting horrifying black clouds. I fail to understand how these are given an OK," he maintained.

The High Court has banned all diesel vehicles older than 25 year to ply on roads. "This is perhaps the only state where we allow 25 year old vehicles to ply on roads. In other states, 15 year old vehicles are banned from plying. High Court needs to revisit its decision," said one of the citizens here.

It is also pertinent to mention here that recently the Pollution Control Board (PCB) had informed the High Court that the air and noise pollution levels of Srinagar city are beyond permissible limits. "It is clear that the pollution in city on all places is beyond permissible limits. It is more surprising that the Chairman PCB as per the report is now asking for inputs, from all the stake holders with regard to mediate the degradation in air quality", Division Bench of Chief Justice Badar Durrez Ahmad and Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey had recorded and directed the Chairman PCB to submit a report indicating the plan of action and the action taken before next date of hearing on these issues.

ARMY

"In every video clip we see militants in Army fatigue. Not only Army, they use other combat uniforms of CRPF, BSF and other forces. It is a point of concern. Recently we got hold on a video in which militants were wearing CRPF uniform," said a top Army official from New Delhi.

Militants in Army combat uniforms have carried out several attacks on army and paramilitary forces over the years. A deadly attack was carried at the police lines in south Kashmir's Pulwama last month in which 8 security personnel's and three Fidayees (wearing combat uniforms), who had stormed inside the camp, were killed in a two-day long encounter.

Later, a similar attack was carried near the Srinagar International Airport, sending alarming bells to the security establishment.

The combat uniforms are easily available in the market even though the divisional administration had already imposed ban on its sale and purchase.

"Implementing the ban is not in our jurisdiction. It is the duty of the State government," a top official in CRPF said.

"Anybody can buy it from anywhere. It needs to find out what the policy is and why it is available," said a top Army officer at Srinagar based Army's Chinara Corps headquarters.

The state government under notification number Div.com /PS/150-60/CID had earlier imposed ban on the sale and purchase of the combat uniforms but what has become a serious concern in the army and other security agencies is its easy availability in the market.

"Purchase, stitching, and storage of army combat uniform (camouflage and O.G colour) including stocking or sale of such ready-made dress materials, is strictly banned as per the order.

RASHEED

Amid slogans Er. Rasheed reiterated that he had nothing to hide and if NIA could be used to probe Kashmiri leaders just to stop them from talking about Kashmir resolution, why should not NIA be asked to investigate huge atrocities on Kashmiris including forced labour, custodial disappearances, custodial deaths, tortures and other shameful incidents committed by Govt. forces during all these years. He said "Using NIA selectively against Kashmiris has exposed the claims of PM Narinder Modi that Kashmir issue can be resolved by embracing Kashmiris. Similarly home minister's periodic claims that centre is keen to resolves Kashmir issue doesn't fulfill the purpose unless New Delhi doesn't come out of confusions". Er. Rasheed appealed militants not to forget that they always claim a moral ground while fighting for their cause, as such they need not to do any such action which would create chaos or confusion among masses.

However he added "Those condemning the murder of Sarpanch in Shopian or any killing at the hands of militants do loose the moral ground when they justify the action of forces targeting properties and relatives of militants. While pro-resistance leaders kept always mum over the killings at the hands of militants, main stream leaders have been equally responsible when dozens of Jamat-I-Islami workers and

those from other pro freedom parties were butchered by Govt. forces and counter insurgents. As such, it is important that the politicians of all the streams revisit their traditional policies of selective condemnation and need to respect human rights and human lives of all humans".

Rasheed said that complete silence by main stream and resistance camps over his being summoned by the NIA has given an ample proof that he is neither an Indian nor a Pakistani proxy but speaks the voice of his conscience and that of his people. He reiterated that seeking right to self determination by no means amounts to being anti-Indian as New Delhi is bound to agree to the demand of right to self-determination sooner or later.

MOBILE

conversation as the call drops suddenly due to the network error," subscriber Faizan Qayoom said, adding that they were now fed up with the poor services of the Airtel, BSNL, Jio and Aircel.

The subscribers said, "Although Airtel, BSNL, Jio and Aircel are the leading telecommunication companies, but all these companies have failed to provide quality service to the people of these villages of Pulwama district."

"We apprised Customer Care Executives about the erratic service many a time, but they failed to mitigate our problems," subscribers added.

JRL

Rashid, Advocate Yasir Ahmad Dalal, Muhammad Yousuf Naqash, Muhammad Yasin Ataiee, Nisar Hussain Rather, Muhammad Sideeq Shah, Bashir Ahmad Kashmiri, Ishfaq Ahmad Khan, Imtiaz Ahmad Shah, Abdul Hamid Alaie, Muhammad Sideeq Hazari, Sahil Ahmad War, Farooq Ahmad Sheikh and Firdous Ahmad Shah and many others.

Meanwhile, JRL including Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Mirwaiz Muhammad Umer Farooq and Muhammad Yasin Malik in a statement issued here said that "attacks on our mothers, sisters and daughters is not acceptable to us and if these attacks do not stop immediately, we will have no choice but to launch a peoples protest against it."

Calling for peaceful protests tomorrow on 20th October 2017, after Friday prayers, against these continuing attacks on Kashmiri women, JRL leadership said that "growing attacks on women and ugly acts of braid chopping are a direct attack on our dignity and no Kashmiri will tolerate these attacks anymore."

JRL leaders said that Kashmiri mothers, sisters and daughters are under attack from some hidden enemy. "We as a nation are living in an unrelenting horror and worry but so-called rulers, their police and other agencies remain absolutely naïve about it. The rulers are busy riding scooters and arranging music concerts and their forces and agencies are calling this menace as mere frenzy," they said.

"Hundreds of our sisters have been left shaken by unidentified assailants and police and forces who take no time to identify even masked protesters and take no time in finding the hidden faces behind every happening and are punctual while crushing the peaceful political activities till now claim no breakthrough. This ignorance is actually proving that entire matter is doubtful and situation extremely startling," they said.

Emphasizing on the need of unity to fight this menace, JRL leaders said that while dealing this threat, "we should enhance our society based vigil and deal with nobility. Joint leadership appealed people to hold peaceful protests tomorrow on Friday, 20th October 2017, after Friday prayers against these growing attacks on women and raise their voices against the hidden assailants."

RAHUL

again started constructing a road in the Dokalam area, a member present at the meeting said on the condition of anonymity.

Jaishankar replied that the government had no information on China building roads outside its territory.

The committee's members also appreciated the resolution of the Dokalam standoff through diplomatic channels. The 73-day face-off between Indian and Chinese troops in Dokalam started on June 16 after the Indian side stopped the construction of a road by the Chinese Army.

Gandhi wanted to know what the government was doing to ensure that such a face-off did not occur again, the member said. The Congress leader also raised questions about reports of Chinese incursions in Ladakh.

When contacted, Tharoor declined to share the details of the meeting but said, "It was an intense and interesting meeting".

During the 90-minute long meet, foreign ministry officials also briefed the members about the Rohingya issue. Only six of the 30 members of the panel were present at the meeting. Of them, only one MP, Richard Hay, was from the BJP.

Manhas for cultural awareness, promotion of art, languages

Assures Kargil intelligentsia of highlighting their issues

KARGIL, OCTOBER 19: Vice President Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Zafar Iqbal Manhas today held a meeting with the writers, poets and intellectuals of the district over several broader issues concerning the promotion and development of art, culture and languages in the sub-region.

Speaking on the occasion, Manhas while underlining the importance of cultural awareness in the present era urged upon the writers and intellectuals to work proactively to spread cultural awareness so as to prepare people's mind to keep the social and moral values alive and kicking which are to a great extent influenced by the onslaught of modernity.

He favoured the idea of greater coordination between the Academy and the intelligentsia so as to give further impetus to the cultural and literary activities in the region. Responding to the demands put forth by the writers, Manhas assured them all genuine demands would be considered on priority and highlighted at appropriate platforms so that steps for their fulfilment could be undertaken.

The Vice President said that he shall personally take care of the issue for the inclusion of Purgi in the 6th schedule. While admitting the importance of the setting up of exclusive sessions for Balti and Shina/ Dardi languages, he assured that the recruitment process of the posts in this regard shall be affected in near future. Manhas said that outsourcing of experts for



documentation of folklore, folktales and epics can be an ideal step to ensure their preservation so as to save them from going into oblivion and urged upon the participants to present their suggestions in this regard.

Meanwhile, a slew of issues and demands like the up gradation of Sub Office Kargil in terms of manpower at par with other Sub Offices of the Academy, immediate advertising and filling up of the posts of Research Assistants and Assistant Editors of Balti and Shina/ Dardi languages which were sanctioned in Central Committee meeting of the Academy in the year 2013, grant of rightful status to the Purgi language by way of its inclusion in the 6th Schedule of the State Constitution, up gradation of the sub-office Kargil to the status of a regional office having an Additional Secretary in place, provision of funds for construction of a compound wall for the newly constructed language-centre-cum-academy office Kargil, restoration

and rebuilding of the community-centre-cum-display room of the Academy located at Baroo with modern and local touch architecture as an auditorium, seminar hall cum library cum office on the lines of K.L. Sehgal Hall Jammu and Seminar Hall Lal Mandi Srinagar were raised by the participants.

The writers also pitched for the establishment of Music and Fine Arts Institute, Song and Drama Division Unit, creation of the post of Drama Instructor at Sub Office Kargil, conduct of special interstate cultural exchange and exposure programmes for the writers, poets and artists to enable them to acquire newer skills and trends, organizing state level drama festivals in Kargil district and provision of office vehicle and bus to Sub Office Kargil for necessary consideration.

Intellectuals and poets also put forth their demands for the opening of a publication section at Sub Office Kargil, dictionary projects for Balti,

Shina/Dardi and Purgi languages, holding of state and national level conferences at Kargil, provision of funds for holding of cultural and literary talks in schools and colleges with the aim to spread cultural awareness among the youngsters, opening up of an Academy library, due representation of Kargil in the Republic Day Tableaux, recording and documentation of epics, folk songs and folk tales etc.

Special Officer for Cultural Activities Leh, Tsewang Paljor, Special Officer for Cultural Activities Kargil, Nazir Hussain, Poets Sadiq Ali Sadiq, Tsewang Namgyal Yarkeum, Kacho Gulzar Hussain Khan, Nasiruddin Khafee, Muhammad Issa Sabiri, Muhammad Jawad Jalib, Ajaz Hussain Munshi also spoke on the occasion.

The meeting was attended, among others, by the representatives of cultural and theatre organizations, people associated with the media besides the members of Cultural Academy Leh and Kargil.

Braid cutting: DC Kulgam constitutes special investigation team

KULGAM, OCTOBER 19: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Talat Parvez Rohella today chaired a meeting to review the progress, so far, on reported incidents of braid chopping in the district.

He directed for constituting a special composite investigation team comprising officers from revenue and police, besides doctors, counselling psychologist/psychiatrist who will investigate braid cutting incidents and provide assistance to victims.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that Village Level Committees have already been constituted to maintain vigil and report facts on such incidents.

The members of the special investigation composite team said that during any incident, the crime spots are not preserved which debilitate them from carrying out proper investigations. In this regard, the Deputy Com-

missioner sought the cooperation of the people in helping the administration in preserving the crime spots so that evidence could be preserved on the basis of which, conclusive investigations are carried out.

The counsellors of the health department sought the cooperation of the victims and their families so that they can be taken out of the post-incident trauma.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner directed the members to ensure the investigation into the matters in a time bound manner with some conclusive evidences.

The Deputy Commissioner appealed the people to lend every sort of support to nab the culprits and help the district administration to prevent spreading of mass hysteria. In case of any assistance or help, people have been urged to contact the district administration on 01931260156/ 7051510654.

Braid chopping incidents District admin seeks cooperation from public to maintain peace

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19: According to the spokesman District administration Srinagar, two incidents of braid chopping were reported in Srinagar on 18th of October, one at Mehjoor Nagar at 7 a.m and another at Sangam Srinagar at 3:30 p.m.

Reportedly both the ladies (victims) were attacked by unidentified assailants within the premises of their residential houses. The district administration immediately rushed the teams to provide

medical assistance to the victims and to assess the situation in order to find ways and means to tackle this menace.

The Spokesman district administration said that it has come to fore after proper analysis that the braid chopping incidents occurred here over the past few days, are being used as a ploy by the trouble mongers to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere in the valley. He said that in many cases the braid chopping incidents are followed by stone

pelting and law and order derangements. Also, there have been cases where the thieves and criminals, disguising as braid choppers, take a free run. "In some cases braid chopping has become a tool of vengeance against mutual animosity. Some cases have been reported where past history of psychiatric affliction has also been found," he added. In this scenario, he requested the general public to remain cautious and help the administration to maintain law and order.

GHSS B'la celebrates annual day Quality education system foundation stone of a great nation: Farooq Shah

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 19: Secretary School Education, Farooq Ahmad Shah today said that a strong and quality education system is the foundation stone of a great nation. He said that those nations who consolidated their education mechanism have excelled in every field.

The Secretary said this while addressing annual day celebratory function of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Baramulla as the chief guest.

Among others, Director School Education, G N Itoo, Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Farooq Ahmad Baba, Chief Education Officer Abdul Ahad Ashie, Principal GHSS Baramulla, Suraya Jabeen, Chairman BWJA, Qaramat Qayoom, Tehsildar Baramulla, Maen Kakroo, and a large number of students were present on the occasion.



While terming teachers as nation builders, Farooq Shah highlighted their role in the overall career development of students and said that our commitment is to increase capacity building so that overall performance of the teachers are enhanced.

He impressed upon the

teachers to create conducive environment while dealing with the students and stressed for adopting student friendly-learning measures.

On the occasion, the Secretary announced the up gradation of basic infrastructure of the institute and said that every basic facility with

respect to the education will be facilitated within stipulated time frame. He also reiterated its commitment to providing quality education and said that all the vacant positions of the institute will be filled within a week's time so that the students may not suffer due to the scarcity of faculty.

Director School Education, who was the guest of honour, said that strengthening educational curriculum had always remained our priority. He also hailed various students who presented various cultural programmes on the occasion and announced Rs 10,000 cash award to a drama team for their stunning performance.

A similar function was organized by Government Higher Secondary School Patan, which was attended by Secretary Education and Director School Education.

VC SKUAST-K calls on Governor

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19: Prof. Nazeer Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, met Governor N.N. Vohra, Chancellor of the University, at the Raj Bhavan.

Prof. Nazeer Ahmed briefed the Governor about the progress achieved in the academic, research, extension and infrastructural development arenas in the past months. He also apprised him about the to-date outcome of the initiatives to rationalize available staff strength and the status of vacancies in the teaching and non-teaching positions in the University.



Prof. Ahmad informed Governor that the Faculty of Forestry, Beniama, has been accredited by the Accreditation Board of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun, for a period of five years (2017-2022); 808 students have been admitted to Undergraduate

and Postgraduate courses through the Common Entrance Test; 9 teachers have been selected by the ICAR to be given the Best Teacher Award; University has secured approval for 19 projects, worth Rs. 9.36 crore, which are funded by different external agencies; a herbal garden was

established at Faculty of Forestry, Beniama for germplasm conservation and experimentation; 'Sankalp se Siddhi' programme was organized by all KVVKs; and 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign was launched from 15th September, 2017 to 2nd October, 2017 at all KVVKs under "Swachh Bharat Mission".

Complimenting the VC for the continuing advancements being achieved by the University, the Governor reiterated his concern for high attention being paid, on sustained basis, for improving the teaching programmes and achieving tangible outcomes in all the research projects.

IGP CRPF calls on Governor



SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19: Sh. Zulfikar Hassan, Inspector General of Police (Operations) CRPF, called on N.N. Vohra, Governor, at Raj Bhavan. Sh. Hassan briefed the Governor about certain issues relating to the CRPF's role and responsibility and the outcomes achieved in the past year. Governor complimented

Sh. Hassan, and all his officers and men, for the difficult tasks being handled by the CRPF, in close coordination with all other Security Forces. Governor reiterated his concern about the need for minimum force being used and care being taken to ensure against fatalities while controlling agitating crowds.

AMK expresses grief over demise of Saifi Sopori

Srinagar, Oct 19: Adbee Markaz Kamraz Jammu and Kashmir has expressed deep shock over the death of educationist and poet Saifuddin Saifi Sopori.

In a condolence message AMK president Dr Shujaat Bukhari has said that his death is a big loss for the literary world. "We were still in grief after the death of Atiq Behnaji that Saifi Saheb has left us" he said. Besides being an eminent educationist Saifi Sopori was a versatile writer who wrote simultaneously in Urdu, Kashmiri and Persian. "Saifi Saheb had huge contribution in not only giving a new direction to education system but he also enriched the literature with his exemplary writings" Dr Bukhari said.

The AMK president said that Saifi Saheb's death has created a vacuum which cannot be filled easily.

Ganga celebrates Diwali with CRPF personnel

Hails their dedication towards service of nation

SAMBA, OCTOBER 19: The Minister for Industries and Commerce, Chander Parkash Ganga today celebrated the festival of lights -Diwali with the personnel of 38 Battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) stationed here at Smailpur.

The Minister joined the celebrations in presence of a large number of CRPF personnel led by Battalion Commandant, Ram Kumar Singh and Dy Commandant B. S Chauhan.

Ganga extended his warm greetings to the personnel and hailed their spirit for staying away from home in the service of nation when entire country is celebrating the most significant festival.

He lauded their role in protecting the borders and standing guard for the internal security so that people can celebrate the festival of lights amid peace. He appreciated the CRPF personnel for their commendable role in maintaining peace and tranquility in all odd



situations.

"We are celebrating Diwali because of unflinching courage you demonstrate while keeping vigil against enemies both on the borders and within the state," Ganga said while interacting with the personnel.

He hoped that the festival of lights will motivate every individual of the state and country to follow the path of righteousness and brotherhood.

BSF exchanges sweets with Pakistani Rangers at Attari-Wagah border

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday greeted the nation on the occasion of Diwali. In a Twitter post, the Prime Minister said, "Hearty wishes to the people of India on the auspicious occasion of Diwali." He also shared a picture with a message reading, "May this auspicious festival brighten your lives with prosperity and good health and may there be happiness all around."

Diwali, also known as Deepavali, is a major Hindu festival celebrated with much fervour across the country. Popularly known as the festival of lights, Diwali is also celebrated by Hindus in Nepal, Malaysia, Mauritius and Pakistan. According to the Hindu holy books, the festival marks the return of Lord Ram from Sri Lanka to Ayodhya Diwali is part of a five-day-long celebration of festivities for people in India. The celebration begins with Dhanteras on the first day and ends with Bhai Dooj on the fifth.

Hurriyat (G) blames administration for pushing nation into civil war like situations

Says forces, police are raiding and ransacking properties in South Kashmir

Srinagar, Oct 19: Hurriyat Conference (G) on Thursday while blaming state administration for pushing nation into civil war like situations, said that forces and police are raiding and ransacking properties in South Kashmir.

In a statement issued to KNS, Hurriyat (G) strongly condemned authorities for its revengeful approach against relatives and families of militants in Shopian, Tral and several other localities in South Kashmir, said that they have crossed all limits and added that forces action against civilians and arresting relatives of militants is unjustified, unconstitutional and a worst kind of state terrorism.

Targeting families related to militants is against all ethics as they have nothing to do with the activities of those facing resistance and working in active field, said Hurriyat (G).

No law on earth permits retaliatory action against families of militants and terming it frustration of authorities, Hurriyat Conference (G) asked to stop arbitrary actions against those not involved in militant activities.

Hurriyat Conference (G) said that India is losing its ground and failed to break our resolve for freedom and added that suppressive measures won't deter us from our cherished mission, nor it will break our resolve.

Hurriyat (G) while decrying these arbitrary measures, said that the more they rely on these suppressive and oppressive measure, the more we will become stronger and it will reinforce our commitment with ongoing freedom movement.

Hurriyat Conference (G) expressed its deep concern and sorrow over the increasing incidents of braid chopping incidents and said that there is not an iota of doubt that administration and police is shielding these criminals and under well thought out plane, they are being rescued and declared as "innocents", added Hurriyat.

DAILY Editorial Time and US SRINAGAR J&K

FOGGY THINKING

For the second time since November 2016, the Supreme Court has temporarily banned the sale of firecrackers in the National Capital Region. The idea is to test whether it cuts the deadly pollution levels seen in Delhi during and after Deepavali. In other words, to see whether they can be collapsed from the astronomical 1,000-plus micrograms per cubic metre of fine particulate matter seen in 2016 to merely life-threatening levels of a few hundred micrograms/cu.m that Delhi usually sees in winter. But that is a big if. Given that it came just about 10 days before the festival, it will be tough to impose the ban on an industry that has already produced stocks to order. Nor will it be easy to rein in revellers unconvinced by the court order. More importantly, despite delivering a big blow to the industry and incurring the displeasure of many, it offers too piecemeal a solution, akin to the even-odd licence number scheme of the Delhi government in 2015. North India needs a more holistic solution to the toxic air that residents breathe at the onset of winter. The major sources of pollution in the NCR have been clear enough to drive policy changes. While their relative contributions are still indeterminate, these include construction dust, vehicular pollution, waste burning, generators and crop residue burning in the Indo-Gangetic plains.

To tackle each of these will take decisive and persistent policy actions, not panic-driven and ill-considered bans. Take the 2015 ban on crop-residue burning in Punjab and Haryana for example. Two years later, farmers continue to violate it, because the State governments have still not taken the steps required to solve the underlying problem – the high cost of cleaning the paddy stubble instead of burning it to prepare the field to sow wheat. Though the government has offered subsidies on a machine called Happy Seeder, which doesn't require a stubble-free field to plant wheat, farmers haven't taken to it as burning remains cheaper. Another option is biomass-energy plants that buy paddy straw from farmers for use in generating power. Yet, government incentives for biomass-energy plants haven't been enough to galvanise industry. This, in turn, leaves farmers wary. The only answer is for the Punjab and Haryana governments to move purposefully on the solutions they know will work – just as the only option for the Delhi government is to raise awareness on the impact of firecrackers, while also tackling vehicular pollution, construction dust and other pollution sources. In the absence of these less dramatic, but more feasible solutions, it is unlikely a firecracker sale ban will avert the kind of health emergency that struck Delhi last year.

DANGERS IN A BILL

By PURNIMA

THE Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance (FRDI) Bill, 2017, which the Union Cabinet cleared on June 14, 2017, is to be introduced in the coming session of Parliament. The Bill seeks to create a Resolution Corporation which will exercise control over banks, insurance companies, regional rural banks (RRBs), cooperative banks and other financial institutions. The Bill is under the consideration of a parliamentary committee.

The general direction and management of the affairs and business of the Resolution Corporation will vest in a board, which will consist of a chairperson; one member each representing the Finance Ministry, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRA); three whole-time members; and two independent members to be appointed by the Central government.

The board will have the power to order amalgamation, merger, liquidation and acquisition of any bank, including State Bank of India (SBI) and other nationalised banks, RRBs, cooperative banks and payment banks, and any insurance company, including Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and other general insurance companies, if, in its judgment, the institution concerned (bank or insurance company) has got "imminent" or "critical" risk to its viability. The corporation, which will be under the Finance Ministry, will be empowered to hand over any such institution to another entity, public or private. It will be authorised to order discontinuation of service of employees or transfer of their employment or reduction of their remuneration upon such "resolution".

The FRDI Bill also envisages closure of the "Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation" (DICGC) established in 1961, which has been an insurance cover for the savings of depositors.

According to banking sector representatives, the creation of the Resolution Corporation goes against the spirit of nationalisation of banks in 1969 when it was decided that public sector financial institutions should serve the masses, besides the marginalised and underprivileged sections of society, and not be concerned with earning huge profits at the cost of the ordinary masses.

According to C.P. Krishnan, general secretary of the Bank Employees Federation of India's Tamil Nadu chapter, the Financial Stability Report of the RBI states that out of the total non-performing assets (NPAs), 88.4 per cent is the creation of large borrowers with loan exposure of Rs.5 crore and more. "On top of it, 12 large borrowers constitute 25 per cent of the NPAs, as admitted by the RBI itself," he said.

He claimed that 56 RRBs spread over 600 districts, with around 23,000 branches, rendered excellent service to the rural people by lending almost 80 per cent of their total advances to the poor and the marginalised. Besides, cooperative institutions, including 370 Central Cooperative Banks with around 14,000 branches and 93,000 primary agriculture cooperative societies, extended real service to the com-

mon man.

Similarly, despite stiff competition from private insurers, the LIC ranked number one in terms of market share and service in the life insurance sector. The LIC contributed Rs.14,23,055 crore to the 12th Five-Year Plan, which was double the Rs.7,04,151 crore it contributed to the 11th Plan, he said and added that there was no need for such an overarching mechanism as the Resolution Corporation.

In fact, the Bill seeks to place the entire financial structure of the country at the mercy of the government. The Resolution Corporation has been given powers that override those vested in the RBI, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and even the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Besides, the measures taken by the corporation cannot be challenged in court, including the Supreme Court. The Bill categorically states that an order for the winding up of a bank or an order sanctioning a scheme of compromise or arrangement or of amalgamation, or an order for the supersession of the committee of management or other managing body of a bank and the appointment of an administrator thereof made with the previous sanction in writing or on the requisition of the RBI or the corporation, as the case may be, shall not be liable to be called into question in any manner.

Besides, the Bill also proposes to amend the SBI Act in order to insert a clause for its liquidation. This has given rise to apprehensions that in due course the government might even take recourse to privatisation of the SBI. The clause says:

"After Section 45, the following section shall be inserted, namely:

"45A. Notwithstanding anything in this Act, the Resolution Corporation established under... the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Act, 2017, shall have the powers to carry out resolution of the State Bank under that Act."

As explained, the term resolution could mean amalgamation, merger, acquisition, or liquidation and the resolution process could be initiated if in the opinion of the board the bank is under "critical" or "imminent" danger for its viability.

The fears about the SBI have arisen because a few weeks before the Union Cabinet cleared the Bill, the SBI was designated as a "systemically important financial institution (SIFI)". The designation has its implications. In the Bill, the criteria for designating an institution as a SIFI could depend upon its size, complexity, nature and volume of transactions with other financial service providers, interconnectedness with other financial service providers, nature of services provided by the financial service providers and whether they are difficult to substitute, and such other matters as may be prescribed.

Once an institution has been designated as a SIFI, it comes under constant scrutiny of the corporation. The Bill proposes that every institution so designated shall, within a period of 90 days from the publication of the order of designation under Section 25, submit a restoration plan to the appropriate regulator and a resolution plan to the corporation, in accordance with the provisions of Section 38.

Also, every such financial institution shall provide such information to the corporation at such intervals and in such man-



ner as may be specified by regulations made by the corporation in order to monitor the safety, soundness and solvency of the institution.

The Bill specifies that the corporation and the appropriate regulator may, on the basis of the information received from any SIFI or otherwise and for reasons to be recorded in writing, jointly inspect the institution in such manner as may be specified by regulations made by the corporation in consultation with the appropriate regulator. Subject to the provisions of this Act, the regulation and supervision of SIFIs shall continue to be governed by the appropriate regulator with which the SIFI is registered.

What this means is that a SIFI continues to be under close scrutiny by the Resolution Corporation, which may initiate action against it at any given time—order its acquisition or amalgamation or liquidation. Liquidation may be ruled out in the case of the SBI, but handing it over to another entity is a real fear.

According to a note circulated by the All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), which is spearheading the agitation against this Bill, the FRDI Bill vests tremendous powers in the corporation, even undermining those that vest in the RBI, the CVC and the CBI. According to this note, the bankers have taken exception to the Bill because it seeks to undermine the spirit of bank nationalisation.

Besides, the SBI, which has a huge reach into the nooks and crannies of India, will come under the mercy of the government and will always be under threat of privatisation, whereas the present SBI Act says the bank can never be liquidated/privatised. Besides, if such an eventuality arises, no court can question this action. Since the SBI has already been notified as a SIFI, it is only natural that a sense of insecurity has been set in. Besides the SBI, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank have also been designated as SIFIs.

Similarly, the Resolution Corporation can transfer an insurance company to another service provider, decide the performance incentive for the chairman and executives of an insurance corporation, become a receiver, and remove managerial and other persons from office. The corporation will also have the power to supersede the board of directors of an insurance corporation. The corporation can also become a

liquidator.

According to Thomas D. Franco, general secretary of the AIBOC, the Bill gives draconian powers to an authority, which will be under the Finance Ministry, and also dilutes the powers of the RBI. Banks and insurance companies will be at the mercy of this corporation's board, which in turn will be subservient to the Finance Ministry.

In the name of deposit insurance also, the Bill is discriminatory in nature: it goes against the interest of small depositors through its provision of "bail-in". The depositor whose money is given as loan to the borrower is likely to lose his share of deposit in case of a "bail-in", whereas the borrower who availed himself of the loan is likely to get off scot-free. According to Franco, the "bail-in" concept is a double whammy.

In Cyprus, depositors lost almost 50 per cent of their savings when a "bail-in" was implemented by the resolution corporation, which is similar to what the FRDI has proposed in this Bill.

The Bill takes away the rights of depositors to get back what they deposited in full trust that their money was safe in a public sector bank as it was backed by the sovereign guarantee of the country. This provision, says Franco, goes against the fundamental right to equality, hence the Bill should be withdrawn immediately.

Banking and insurance sector employees observed a day's strike on August 22 and held a march to Parliament House against the Bill. They have also circulated notes to Members of Parliament urging them to oppose the Bill when it comes up for debate.

According to Franco, Krishnan and other financial experts, the Bill is fundamentally flawed because it has been blindly copied and pasted from the Western model, whereas the situation in India is totally different. "In our country, there is already a resolution mechanism for all financial service providers, which is available with the Reserve Bank of India. In addition, we have also brought in an insolvency and bankruptcy code. We have also created a National Company Law Tribunal. Hence there is no need for a new resolution mechanism," they say.

Similarly, they say, there is IRDAI for the insurance sector, and RRBs and cooperative banks have their own mechanism. In addition, the DICGC, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the RBI, is functioning effectively.

In fact, since its inception, the DICGC had to pay only Rs.50.3 billion, whereas it had Rs.701.5 billion as deposit insurance fund as on March 2017. It also has Rs.7,16,322 million as investments. As on March 2017, the balance in the Deposit Insurance Fund is Rs.6,45,578.48 million and the balance in the Credit Guarantee Fund is Rs.7,30,027.64 million.

Except cooperative banks, no other banks have had to make claims from the DICGC. "This clearly shows that the depositors are safe in our country and there is no need for another resolution mechanism to provide deposit insurance to consumers," they say.

But with the majority that the government enjoys in both Houses of Parliament now, it is anybody's guess which way the Bill will go. Unless of course, the government pauses and takes stock of the situation.

Diplodocus, again

Tiny Nair

With its walnut-sized brain mounted atop a 26-foot-long telescopic neck, the Diplodocus failed to grasp the implications of the orange-red shooting star, which was becoming brighter by the hour. He continued to relish the tasty tree-top vegetation, beating his shorter but more vicious competitors. That was 65 million years ago.

On July 12, 2017, sitting in the comfy living room in our southern Indian home, my attention was focussed on the TV show, live broadcast of the IIFA (Indian International Film Academy) Award function, held at the 'brim-filled' MetLife stadium at New York, with the Bollywood glitterati dancing and prancing about, on a high-voltage digital stage.

Meanwhile, an event I too failed to grasp the implications of an unusual ecological event happening silently on the same day. Some 9,500 miles south

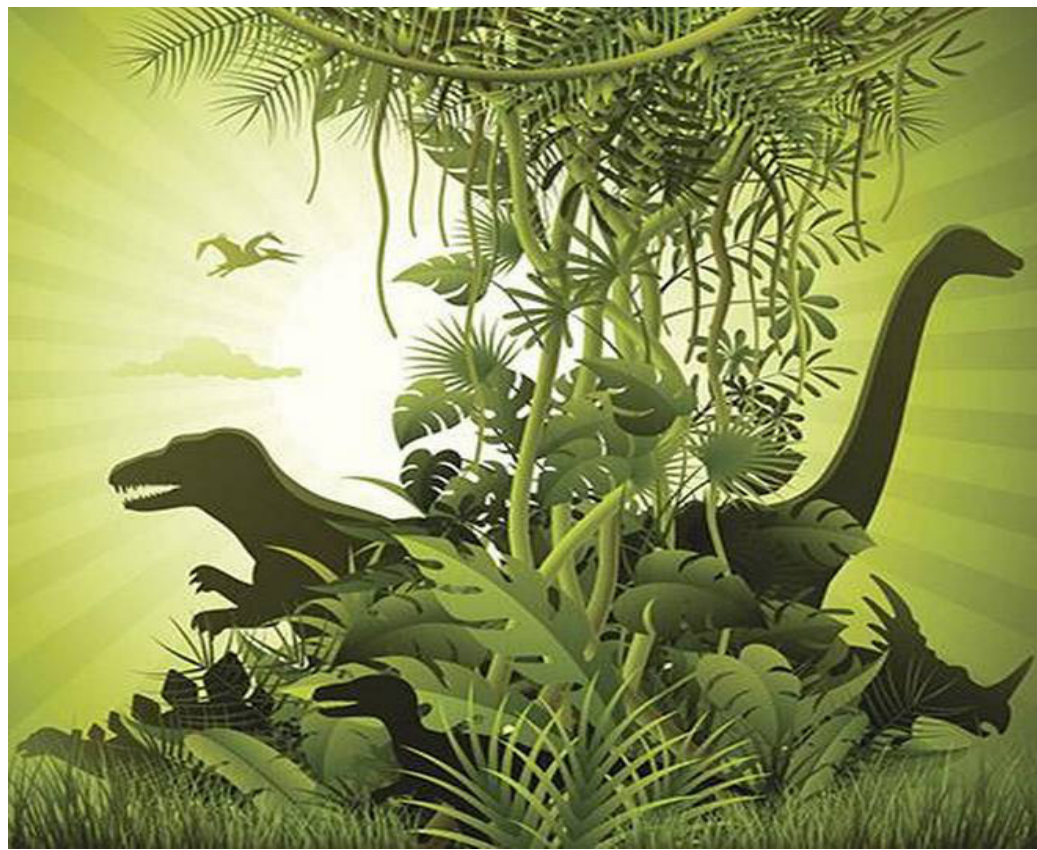
of New York, on the northwestern coast of icy Antarctica, the final separation of the 'Larsen C' ice shelf was under way.

I tried search 'the greatest rift on earth' and ended up reading one that began behind closed doors in a Beverly Hills home in Los Angeles, and ended in a private courtroom, where Brad Pitt and Anjelina Jolie separated, upsetting thousands of their fans.

In contrast, the MIDAS site representing the U.K.-based Antarctic Research project, tracking the developing rift in Antarctica, had few visitors; 'Larsen C' perhaps did not authorise them to use click-bait.

Captain Carl Anton Larsen, the master of the Norwegian whaling vessel Jason, was sailing along the icy coast of Antarctica in December 1893.

The ice-shelf Larsen quickly realised that the shoreline he was looking at was not a real one but a shelf of ice protruding out, like a balcony. The only difference was that the



natural icy projection was a billion times larger than a balcony. Extending hundreds of miles and thousands of square miles in area, the shelf was aptly named the 'Larsen shelf'. They are designated A to E based on location.

The Aqua satellite, armed with MODIS (moderate resolution imaging spectro-radiometer), primarily used to locate and assess water bodies, was the first to pick up a developing crack, a kind of mile-long fault line, in the ice-shelf of Larsen C.

Starting late-2014, scientists of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) working with satellite data tracking the rift found that the defect in the Larsen C was growing steadily. By 2016 the crack became 70 miles long and 300 feet wide. By January 2017 it measured 109 miles in length and 1,500 metres in breadth.

On July 12, it broke. The broken shelf, now an official iceberg, was massive, indeed the biggest-ever such iceberg, weighing 1.1 trillion

tons and measuring 2,200 square miles.

The consequence

What is the consequence of this rift? The detachment of more than one trillion tons of ice shelf, floating out in the open sea, and eventually melting, is expected to result in, well, just nothing. Ocean levels all over the world will not even rise by 1 cm. It's no doomsday.

The extinction of Dodo, the loss of hundreds of hectares of rainforest every year, the Royal Bengal Tiger population inching towards zero – none of this brought humanity close to doomsday. We will still enjoy our cup of hot coffee, drive to office and do our work.

The 'Larsen C' rift indicates the beginning of a major ecological shift, though. Despite our highly evolved '100-billion-neuron' brain, we have decided to ignore it and munch on our burgers.

Just like the Diplodocus.

tinynair@gmail.com

On Diwali, India will grant medical visa in all deserving cases, tweets Sushma Swaraj

NEW DELHI: External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj said on Thursday that on the auspicious occasion of Diwali, India will grant medical visa in all deserving cases that are pending, as she responded positively to a number of such requests by Pakistani nationals.

To a request for a visa by a Pakistani woman named Amna Shamin, whose father is already in Delhi for treatment and she wants to visit him, Swaraj said, "Please contact Indian High Commission in Pakistan. We will allow this." On the auspicious occasion of Deepawali, India will grant medical visa in all deserving cases pending today," Swaraj tweeted.

On Wednesday, she had directed the Indian High Commission in Islamabad to issue a visa to a Pakistani child for medical treatment in India.



The child's father, Kashif, had requested Swaraj on Twitter to grant medical visa for treatment of Abdullah, saying he needed post-liver transplant evaluation in India. "The treatment of your child must not suffer for want of medicine. I have

asked Indian High Commission to issue medical visa. @ChachaKashif," the minister tweeted on Wednesday. Kashif had said the child's medicines were about to finish and he needed immediate medical consultation in India.

In another tweet, Swaraj said a medical visa has also been approved for a Pakistani woman, who wants to undergo liver surgery in India.

The woman's son, Rafique Memon, had requested Swaraj to intervene and grant visa to his mother.

Swaraj also responded positively to a request for a visa by Nazir Ahmed, whose eight-year-old child Mohamad Ahmed was awaiting medical visa for a year.

"We will issue visa to facilitate treatment of your 8-year-old child in India," she said.

Swaraj has been taking a sympathetic approach in granting medical visas to Pakistani nationals, notwithstanding strain in ties between India and Pakistan over a host of issues, including cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

President Kovind, PM Modi greet nation on Diwali



President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to Twitter on Thursday to extend their greetings on the auspicious festival of Diwali.

In his tweet, the President wrote, "Diwali greetings to all. As we celebrate with our families, let us promote sensitivity to others and to our environment".

PM Modi extended Diwali wishes in a picture signed by him along with a caption in Hindi writing, "Warm greetings to the countrymen on the auspicious

festival of Diwali".

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj greeted the people on the behalf of her family members and wrote, "Heartiest Greetings and good wishes on Deepawali". Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar wished all a Diwali filled with light, joy and prosperity.

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari also came forward on Twitter to extend their Diwali greetings.

Solar Scam: Kerala Assembly special session on November 9

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday headed a cabinet meeting that decided to call a special one-day Assembly session on November 9 to table the Solar Scam probe report.

Cases were set to be registered against several Congress leaders including former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy on the basis of the Solar Judicial Commission report.

The cabinet recommended the Governor to call a special session, Vijayan said in his Facebook post.

According to rules, once a judicial commission report is received, the government can either accept or reject it. In case it accepts the report, along with the action taken report, it has to be tabled in the Assembly, within six months.

On October 11, the government decided to proceed with the Justice G. Sivarajan Commission report in the solar scam and gave the nod to register criminal, vigilance and sexual harassment cases against Chandy, his cabinet colleagues, a former Union Minister, legislators and other Congress leaders.

The multi-crore solar energy investment fraud, which rocked the Chandy government in 2013, was led by Saritha Nair and her live-in partner. At its height, Nair had in a letter claimed that she was sexually exploited by numerous political leaders. Chandy and the UDF have been demanding a copy of the report.

However, the Chief Minister ruled it out and said the report would be tabled in the Assembly at the appropriate time.

Vijayan, last week constituted a new special investigation team (SIT) led by Director General of Police Rajesh Diwan to investigate the cases mentioned.

Apart from Chandy, the others named in the report include former cabinet Ministers Aryadan Mohammed (now ex-MLA), Adoor Prakash, A.P. Anil Kumar, Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan (all are present legislators), legislator Hibi



Eden, former legislators Benny Behanan, P.C. Vishnunath and Thampanoor Ravi, Lok Sabha members Jose K. Mani, former Union Ministers K.C. Venugopal, Palanimanickam and party office bearer N. Subramaniam.

Except for Mani of the Kerala Congress (M), all others are Congress leaders.

The Commission report also indicted that the then solar probe panel led by now Director General of Police A. Hemachandran and his team did not conduct an effective probe and instead tried to save Chandy and others.

Based on these findings, Vijayan ordered that Hemachandran his deputy and then Inspector General of Police K. Padmakumar and eight other police officials should also be probed.

Hemachandran has already written to Vijayan that he has done no wrong but takes full responsibility and is prepared to face the probe but the other team members should not be proceeded against.

On Thursday, Padmakumar told reporters that he has written to the government that he has done no wrong and it was he who first arrested Nair in 2013.

"Till I gave the orders for the arrest of Saritha Nair, none knew that there was such a case. It was only after that arrest took place that the solar scam surfaced. I have done my duty and I have done no wrong," said Padmakumar.

The government order announcing the new probe has not come yet.

Vijayan has now sought expert opinion from former Supreme Court judge Justice Arijit Pasayat.

Rahul Gandhi condemns Ludhiana RSS leader's killing, says violence unacceptable

NEW DELHI: Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday condemned the killing of RSS leader Ravinder Gosai in Ludhiana and demanded that the guilty be brought to justice.

"I strongly condemn the killing of RSS leader Ravinder Gosai in Ludhiana. Violence is unacceptable. The guilty must be brought to book," he said on Twitter.

Gosai was killed by two unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants on Tuesday in the Kailash Nagar locality of Ludhiana.

Ravinder Gosain, 60, was return-



ing home after attending a morning drill (RSS shakha) when he was attacked, the police said. Gosain died on the spot while the attackers fled.

A three member Special Investigation Team (SIT) led by deputy commissioner of police Gagan Ajit Singh has been formed to probe the case. Yash Giri,

City secretary of the RSS, had condemned the incident and said it was "definitely a target killing". Union home minister Rajnath Singh had also raised the issue with Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh, who assured him of action soon.

After fare hike, Centre to set up expert panel to examine Delhi Metro accounts

NEW DELHI: The Centre has agreed to Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's demand for an independent expert group to review all issues concerning the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), including its income and expenditure.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government had demanded an audit of DMRC accounts while opposing the recent Metro fare hike, likening the transport agency to private power distribution firms that allegedly depicted "fake losses" for justifying high power tariffs.

In a letter sent to Kejriwal on Wednesday, Union housing and urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the Centre was open to his suggestion for an independent expert group to review the Delhi Metro's functioning. He also invited the chief minister for a de-

tailed discussion on the terms of reference for the proposed study. Puri's letter is likely to be a shot in the arm for the Delhi government, which had even devoted a day of its special assembly session to the issue. However, it refused to comment on the matter until it receives the letter. "We have always said that this hike is unsustainable and, as a 50% stakeholder, our demand for auditing the DMRC is not unjustified," said Nagender Sharma, media advisor to the chief minister.

In the second hike this year, the Delhi Metro on October 10 increased fares for those travelling over two kilometres by anywhere between Rs 5 and 10. The city government vehemently opposed the "anti-people" move, but acquiesced after the DMRC board decided in an October 9 emergency meet-

ing that it does not have the "competence" to roll back or defer the hike recommended by the Fare Fixation Committee (FFC). It cited Section 37 of the Metro Railways (Operations and Maintenance) Act-2002 to state that the panel's recommendations are "sacrosanct", and the Centre cannot interfere in the matter. Last week, the Delhi chief minister urged Puri to constitute an independent expert group acceptable to both the Centre and state to review Metro-related issues. "Since you are keen on a study of various aspects of the DMRC's functioning by an expert group acceptable to both governments, this ministry is (willing to) take it forward in the best interests of the DMRC. This, in turn, should benefit the people of the national capital too," Puri wrote to Kejriwal on Wednesday.

The Union minister was responding to two letters written to him by Kejriwal in the past fortnight, where the latter questioned the equal stake held by the Delhi government and the Centre in the Metro. "The entire episode demonstrates that while the Delhi government and Centre are equal partners in the DMRC, the Delhi government has virtually no say in its management," the chief minister said. A source in the housing ministry said Puri's letter was necessitated by the contradictory stand adopted by Kejriwal. "While the chief minister publicly tried to create the impression that the Centre was blocking him from reviewing the DMRC's functioning, his letter to the Union minister proposed the formation of an expert group acceptable to both governments for the purpose.

This indicates his agreement that no such unilateral review is possible or tenable," he added.

The Union housing minister's letter also urged Kejriwal to urgently take up the Delhi Metro Phase-IV proposal for further processing and consideration. "This crucial phase has already been delayed by about two and a half years.

This is effectively depriving over 40 lakh Delhi residents of Metro services," he wrote. Meanwhile, both AAP and Congress continue to protest against the fare hike by staging sit-ins outside Metro stations.

The DMRC had been requesting the hike since 2009, but was unable to execute it in the absence of a fare panel. The electricity tariff has gone up by over 90% since 2009, accounting for almost 30% of its total operating costs.

Congress hits back after BJP targets Robert Vadra, asks who paid for Modi's chartered flights as Gujarat CM

NEW DELHI: The Congress has questioned on Narendra Modi's chartered flight tours during his tenure as Gujarat chief minister between 2003 and 2007. The question came after the BJP targeted the Congress following a report by Times Now, which claimed that fugitive arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari had bought business-class air tickets for Rahul Gandhi's brother-in-law Robert Vadra in 2012.

Hitting back at the BJP, senior Congress leader and party spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi asked who paid for more than 100 trips that Narendra Modi made by chartered planes in India and abroad between 2003 and 2007, according to IE. Speaking to reporters, Singhvi said that the estimated cost of Modi's air trips was around Rs 16.56 crore.

"They are all chartered trips, not state plane. Chartered trips, the calculation on the then charter rates (comes to) Rs 16.56 crore.... Barring

a few foreign trips... who paid for these trips? Deafening silence continues till today," he was quoted as saying by Indian Express. The party also released a list of trips made by Modi in private planes and helicopters from 2003 to 2007.

The senior Congress leader said his claim was based on reply to an RTI query by Gujarat Congress leader Arjun Modhwadia. "These trips are by a constitutional functionary.... They are provided for by private persons and we do not have any account of them yet," he said. Among the 100 trips, he said there are four foreign travels.

"In November 2006 to China, in April 2007 to Japan, in June 2007 to South Korea and in July 2007 to Switzerland. All this trips are all by a chartered firm called Planet Aviation.... The people accompanying him are... the who's who of industry in India, all CMD-level people.... These foreign trips



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Central forces cannot substitute state police

NEW DELHI: The Union home ministry told state governments on Wednesday that paramilitary forces cannot act as a substitute for police as they were supposed to be deployed primarily in emergency situations.

The ministry's remarks come against the backdrop of an ongoing tussle between the West Bengal government and Centre over the latter's decision to withdraw forces from Darjeeling. In a statement issued to the press, MHA said it had asked all state governments to set up a committee for examining central armed police forces (CAPFs) required while keeping in view internal security and availability of central forces in nearby locations. "CAPFs can't substitute the state police force as their deployment is related to emergency crisis in states for maintaining law and order," the Union home ministry said. The central government earlier this week had decided to withdraw 10 of the 15 companies of central paramilitary forces that were deployed in the hills in the wake of summer unrest. "The central government has formulated standard operating procedures (SOPs) for deployment of CAPFs and according to it, the central forces would be able to meet more pressing commitments like guarding borders, fighting insurgency, anti-national operations and in related situations which need immediate mobilisation of forces," the ministry said.

Inflammation may train skin to heal faster: Study

In a recent research, the scientists found that stem cells help skin close recurring wounds faster. The discovery could advance research and treatment of psoriasis and other inflammatory diseases.

Inflammatory skin diseases are considered to be the most common problem in dermatology. These diseases come in many forms, from occasional rashes to chronic conditions such as dermatitis.

The researchers found that these stem cells, which replenish the skin's outer layer take their cue from inflammation, the body's own response to injury or infection. The first bout of inflammation sensitizes these cells; the next time they sense it coming on, they respond more rapidly. The scientists provide the first evidence that the skin can form memories of an inflammatory response. "By enhancing responsiveness to inflammation, these memories help the skin maintain its integrity, a feature that is beneficial in healing wounds after an injury.

This memory may also have



detrimental effects, however, such as contributing to the relapse of certain inflammatory disorders such as psoriasis," said Elaine Fuchs, the Rebecca C. Lancefield Professor. Whether burned by the sun,

attacked by microbes, nicked by a paper cut or worse, the skin quickly becomes inflamed as the body seeks to halt the damage and initiate repair. It has long been known that the immune system maintains

a memory of inflammation to mount faster responses to recurrent infections. But scientists in the Fuchs' lab suspected that other types of long-lived cells might similarly remember inflammation. In experi-

ments with mice, Shruti Naik, a postdoc, and Samantha B. Larsen, a graduate student, showed that wounds closed more than twice as fast in skin that had already experienced inflammation than in skin that had never been damaged, even if that initial inflammatory experience had occurred as long as six months earlier, the equivalent of about 15 years for a human.

Inflammation can sometimes run amok, as happens in autoimmune diseases like psoriasis, a disorder marked by scaly, red patches that often flare up repeatedly in the same spot. Larsen said, "Inflammatory diseases have long been blamed on immune cells that turn against the body. However, that is clearly not the only cause: Stem cells may also be important contributors." While taking about the study, Naik concluded, "A better understanding of how inflammation affects stem cells and other components of tissue will revolutionize our understanding of many diseases, including cancer, and likely lead to novel therapies.

Living near woods may cut stress, make brain healthy

People who build their homes in the lap of mother nature have a healthier brain and are at lower risk of developing anxiety disorders, depression and schizophrenia than city dwellers, says a study. The findings showed that city dwellers are at a higher risk of psychiatric illnesses such as depression, anxiety disorders and schizophrenia than countryside dwellers.



This is because life in a city is full of noise and pollution, and many people scramble in a confined space, increasing the risk for chronic stress.

In the study, appearing in the journal *Scientific Reports*, city dwellers' showed higher activity levels of amygdala -- a central nucleus in the brain that plays an important role in stress processing and reactions to danger. On the other hand, people living close to a forest showed indications of a physiologically healthy amygdala structure and were therefore presumably better able to cope with stress compared to those living the urban green, water or wasteland, the researchers observed.

"Research on brain plasticity supports the assumption that the environment can shape brain structure and function. "That is why we are interested in the environmental conditions that may have positive effects on brain development," said lead author Simone Kuhn, psychologist at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE) Hospital in Germany.

"Studies of people in the countryside have already shown that living close to nature is good for their mental health and well-being. We therefore decided to examine city dwellers," Kuhn added.

By 2050, almost 70 percent of the world population is expected to be living in cities, the researchers said, adding that these results could therefore be very important for urban planning.

Hypertension may up heart valve disorder risk

People with high blood pressure may be at an increased risk of developing common heart valve disorder, researchers said.

The findings showed that higher blood pressure in early life was associated with a significantly greater future risk of mitral regurgitation -- a condition which makes the heart less efficient at pumping blood around the body, and in severe cases can lead to heart failure. "Our research suggests this common and disabling valve disorder is not an inevitable consequence of ageing, as previously assumed, but may be preventable," said lead author Kazem Rahimi, Professor from The George Institute for Global Health at the University of Oxford.

Mitral regurgitation leads to a backflow of blood into the heart, causing symptoms such as shortness of breath, tiredness, dizziness and chest pain. It is more common in older people, and may be associated with a greater risk of mortality.

The study, published in the journal *PLOS Medicine*, followed 5.5 million adults in the UK over 10 years.

Despite significant advances in the understanding of valve disease, mitral regurgitation has until now been largely considered a degenerative disorder, resulting from a weakening of the valve over time due to 'wear and tear'.

This has led medical practitioners to focus on treatment, namely surgery to repair or replace the valve, rather than prevention.

Further research is needed to test whether lowering blood pressure, through exercise, diet or blood pressure-lowering drugs, could reduce the risk of the disorder occurring, the study suggested. "With worldwide ageing and population growth, we are likely to see an increasing number of cases of this condition," Rahimi said.

Antiretroviral therapy for HIV may damage kids' brains

HIV infection alters brain development in young children even when they adhere to antiretroviral treatment early in life, researchers say.

While HIV has been known to cause abnormalities in a child's brain development, therapeutic interventions can also harm a growing child, the researchers said.

The findings showed that children exposed to, but not infected by HIV also appear to have ongoing changes in their brain development.

"Despite early antiretroviral therapy, we continue to observe white matter damage at the age of seven years, with new damage evident between the ages of five and seven," said lead author Marcin Jankiewicz, a researcher at the University of Cape Town in South Africa.

The researchers used an advanced magnetic resonance imaging technique, called diffusion tensor imaging, to look at differences in one type of brain tissue -- called white matter -- between groups of HIV-positive and uninfected 7-year-old children who started antiretroviral treatment by the age of 18 months.

White matter plays a critical role



in transmitting information between distinct brain regions.

The study, reported in the journal *Frontiers in Neuroanatomy*, confirmed ongoing microstructural differences in certain tracts between infected and uninfected children.

The findings will contribute to a better understanding of brain development in HIV-infected and exposed children, as well as the impact of long-term antiretroviral treatment, the

researchers said.

"We hope that our work will eventually help identify the parts of the brain that are particularly vulnerable to HIV and/or antiretroviral therapy and clarify how the timing of therapy affects brain development," Jankiewicz said.

"This could inform treatment policy, help improve drug combinations, and guide early intervention strategies," Jankiewicz added.

Novel compound found to suppress HIV effectively

Scientists have shown that a novel compound effectively suppresses production of HIV in chronically infected cells and prevents viral rebound. The findings published online in the journal *Cell Reports* could open the door to a new approach to curing HIV infections.

"No other anti-retroviral used in the clinic today is able to com-

pletely suppress viral production in infected cells in vivo," said lead researcher Susana Valente, Associate Professor at The Scripps Research Institute's Florida campus.

"When combining this drug with the standard cocktail of anti-retrovirals used to suppress infection in humanised mouse models of HIV-1 infection, our study found a drastic

reduction in virus RNA present - it is really the proof-of-concept for a 'functional cure,'" Valente said.

The new approach, called "Block-and-Lock", blocks reactivation of the virus in cells, even during treatment interruptions, and locks HIV into a durable state of latency.

Valente and her colleagues used a derivative of a natural compound

called didehydro-Cortistatin A (dCA).

"Combining dCA with antiretroviral therapy accelerates HIV-1 suppression and prevents viral rebound after treatment interruption, even during strong cellular activation," Valente said. "It's important to note that our study uses the maximum tolerable dose of the drug - with virtually no side effects," Val-

ente said.

The scientists studied the combination therapy in a mouse model of HIV latency and persistence.

Once the combined treatment regimen was halted, viral rebound was delayed up to 19 days, compared with just seven days in mouse models receiving only anti-retroviral treatment.

Now it will take just 10 seconds to detect Malaria - This is how

A team of researchers claims

that a mobile phone mounted with a super-cheap paper microscope can detect the presence of malarial parasites in the blood in 10 seconds.

The team has developed a system that archives data and maps real-time distribution of the disease in a particular locality.

Dubbed "Centaur", the framework for detection, monitoring and mitigation of the deadly disease has been created by Nilanjana Daw, Debapriya Paul and Nilanjana Dutta Roy from Institute of Engineering and Management, in collaboration with Arindam Biswas of IEST, Shibpur.

It aims to eradicate human error, enhance diagnosis in remote areas and enable treatment as fast as possible. "The set-up uses a paper microscope, Foldscope, with the help of a mobile camera. When you adjust the camera a little, it clicks a magnified image (enabled by the microscope) of the blood sample. That image is stored by the camera.

"Through internet connection and via an app, the image is transmitted to a server hosted by our institute. Then an algorithm developed by our team will process the image and will be able to find out whether malarial parasites are there or not," Biswas told a media meet here.

Foldscope is popularly known as the "\$1 Microscope" developed by Manu Prakash and his team at Stanford University. It is pocket-size and can be folded into a microscope origami-style.

"The computation and detection takes 10 to 12 seconds," Biswas added.

The diagnosis is relayed back to the remote client and the case details are archived for future reference. "A doctor registered in our database can access the data," Biswas said.

Since it links GPS data with the test case, the system provides real-time data pertaining to malaria outbreaks.

"The system generates a real-time disease heat map which gets updated to reflect each case tested by the system, giving an always-up-to-date view of the malaria breakout scenario of an area, providing health care workers with the much-needed early warning before an imminent epidemic," Daw said.

The detection kit, including the Foldscope, has a manufacturing cost of Rs 80.

"It costs only Rs 10 per test against a drop of blood through a pin-prick. We are planning to have a small camera-based, internet and GPS-enabled device for remote areas where people may not have mobile phones. It has an accuracy of 90 per cent. The algorithm can also be developed for other diseases, including dengue," Biswas added.



India's tightened consumer goods standards could hurt China imports

NEW DELHI: India is tightening quality controls for consumer and capital goods, officials say, a move that follows calls to curb cheap imports from China amid diplomatic tensions between the world's two most populous nations over their shared border.

The new rules target toys, electronic goods, machinery, food processing, construction and chemicals, sectors dominated by China, and come amid greater scrutiny of mainland firms looking to enter India's multi-billion dollar power transmission and telecom business.

For India's toy retailers, who import everything from toy cars to musical phones and even robots from China, the new requirements have meant supply disruptions just ahead of the Diwali festive season. The government's Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has approximately 23,000 standards across industries, many of which are never fully enforced, officials say. Now, government departments have been asked to carry out

laboratory tests and spot inspection to ensure goods conform to the regulations.

"We have started this work on a war footing, to have quality control orders for almost every product that we are consuming in the country," said Ramesh Abhishek who heads the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

The new rules apply to both foreign manufacturers and domestic firms.

However, two people familiar with trade policy who did not want to be named said the sectors targeted are ones in which China controls more than two-thirds of the market, such as toy and stainless steel good industries, and where there have been "chronic" complaints of substandard products. Separately, Indian Steel Secretary Aruna Sharma said her department will soon release new guidelines, raising quality norms for welded stainless steel pipes that are used in oil and gas as well as construction sector.

"There is evidence of China



exporting semi-finished and finished goods using stainless steel that do not meet the BIS standards," Sharma said. India's trade ministry did not respond to Reuters' request for comment on the new rules. China's foreign ministry referred questions to the commerce

ministry, which did not immediately respond to request for comment. Bilateral trade between India and China boomed to \$71.45 billion in 2016-17 from \$1.83 billion in 1999-2000, though most of this is skewed to Chinese exports.

The trade deficit has widened

to \$51.1 billion over the past year, a nine-fold increase over the last decade, despite repeated Indian calls for China to address the imbalance and open its markets.

Those trade differences are now being amplified by the resurfacing of a long-running border

dispute, which has stirred protectionist sentiment in India.

In June, a nationalist group tied to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party began a campaign to discourage the use of Chinese goods in the country.

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch, an affiliate of the main Hindu nationalist organisation that fights for domestic industry and agriculture, has planned a protest rally in Delhi later this month against the influx of Chinese products. Toys from China

The new testing requirements for toys focus on their chemical content and flammability and demand more stringent testing for those that are electrically operated. China accounts for 85 percent of India's \$760 million toy industry and these are priced at anything from 50 cents to \$150.

Several toy importers are urging the government to delay the new regulations until the festival season is over, saying it would choke supply. "It comes out of the blue, with no forewarning and gives

no time for retailers to prepare for compliance," said Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO, Retailers Association of India that represents over 1,000 members. "As a result, it will have grave consequences, such as losses in terms of huge amounts of money paid in advance by retailers to suppliers overseas and a loss of jobs as some businesses that sell only toys will have to shut shop."

While the new rules could hurt local retail consumption, other industry participants argue they will ultimately help local firms by improving standards and keeping low-end imports in check.

They follow similar moves in August, when the government ordered makers of light emitting diode (LED) bulbs to register their products with the BIS for safety checks in an industry where smuggling of Chinese products is rampant. "There is a need for stronger enforcement for compliance to these standards," said Sumit Joshi, vice chairman and managing director, Philips Lighting India, the country's largest LED maker.

Reliance Jio revises Dhan Dhana Dhan plans: Now, you get 4GB data for Rs 149

NEW DELHI: Reliance Jio on Wednesday announced an update to its popular Dhan Dhana Dhan recharge plans, bundling more data benefits for its users.

The new revised plans come into effect from October 19 and are available for new and existing customers.

While the monthly data has increased, Jio users will continue to get the same unlimited free voice calls including local, STD and roaming, Jio apps subscription, along with high speed internet (with Fair Usage Policy). The biggest change has been introduced to the popular Rs 149 monthly plan. While earlier customers used to get 2GB of monthly data,



Jio now offers almost double at 4GB. Jio has launched a new Rs 459 plan under which Jio Prime users will get 1GB of data per day for three months.

For prepaid customers, Jio is offering same benefit but with validity up to 84 days. For heavy data users, Reliance is offering a Rs 509 plan under

which users will be eligible for 2GB data per day for 49 days.

The plan brings down the cost of 1GB data to Rs 5.2.

There's another Rs 999 plan under which customers will get 60GB data for three months.

For light users, Jio is offering daily and weekly packs under which users can 0.15GB data for as low as Rs 19 with one day validity. For Rs 52, Jio is offering same data benefits with one week validity.

The update to Jio's data plans comes a week after the company introduced a Rs 399 plan under which it was offering 100% cashback. The Rs 399 cashback plan expired on Wednesday.

These are the stocks to look out for during 'Muhurat Trading'

NEW DELHI: Indian stock exchanges 50-Nifty and BSE Sensex are set to turn welcome the Samvat 2074 in the one hour of Muhurat Trading from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

According to a Kotak Securities report, the Nifty50 index is likely to set a new high of 11,850 reported NDTV. "In the coming weeks or months, Nifty could correct to the levels 9,000 in the worst case scenario. But looking at the overall strength of the market, and excess liquidity in the system, we are expecting 9,400 to act as major support for the market," the domestic brokerage said.

Kotak Securities' Diwali has handpicked these stocks which it feels will do well:

BEML: The brokerage has a target of Rs 3,500 on BEML, which offers a potential of surge from its current level of around Rs 1,750. ITI: The stock is likely to achieve Rs 275 (minimum) and Rs 350 on the higher



side in next 10 to 12 months, says Kotak Securities, the brokerage adds.

Just Dial: According to NDTV, the brokerage is at a current price level of Rs 80 with stop loss at Rs 65.

JSW Energy: According to Kotak, the stock will achieve price target of Rs 100. Kotak recommends buying the stock at current of Rs 80 and "adding more on dips to around Rs 74 with stop loss at Rs 65".

Jaipur, Srinagar are among world's best airports in 2 mn-5 mn passenger class

NEW DELHI: AAI-owned Jaipur and Srinagar airports have been ranked among the best aerodromes in the world in the 2-5 million passengers per annum category by the Airport Council International (ACI). While Jaipur was ranked first, Srinagar was rated second in the 2-5 million passengers per annum category during the annual ACI-ASQ survey. This is for the second consecutive year that the Jaipur airport has been ranked the best airport in the World in the traffic volume of 2-5 million passengers per year.

The awards were presented to the two airports in the presence of Airports Authority of India (AAI) Chairman Guruprasad Mohapatra and member operations IN Murthy during the 27th ACI Africa/world annual general assembly, conference and exhibition at Port Louis in Mauritius yesterday. Since its inception in 2006, the ASQ Awards have become the world's leading airport passenger satisfaction benchmark with over 300 airports participating in it.

The Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards are the aviation industry's most prestigious accolades. It measures passengers' views on 34 key performance indicators, including airport access, check-in, security screening, restrooms, stores and restaurants. Each airport uses the exact same survey, creating an industry database that allows airports to compare themselves to other airports around the world.

The ASQ Programme also has a feature that facilitates sharing of best practices among airport operators. During the event, Chairman, AAI said, "I am very happy to be a part of the award receiving ceremony with Member (Ops.) along with the deserving winners: APD, Jaipur and APD, Srinagar. I wish more AAI airports to come into this category so that I come next year to cheer several APDs. I urge other AAI airports to please take up my challenge. Big cheers for Jaipur and Srinagar." "It was an exciting and proud moment when AAI received the Best Airport Awards for Jaipur and Srinagar in the ACI Award function at Mauritius and I personally request all our APDs to take up the challenge put up by our Chairman to achieve the Best Airport Award in ASQ Ratings in their respective categories for next year's awards of ACI. May the spirit of achieving excellence prevail with healthy competition across all Airports of AAI," said Member (Ops), AAI during the award ceremony in Mauritius. Meanwhile, GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL) on Wednesday said its Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) here has ranked no. 1 in the Airports Council International's service quality in the category of 5 to 15 million passengers per annum.

30 years since Dow's Black Monday: The lethal cocktail of events that caused the crash

MUMBAI: It is 30 years since the biggest single-day stock market collapse in the US, the reverberations of which sent share prices in major global markets tumbling.

On Monday, October 19, 1987, the Dow Jones Industrial Average crashed 508 points or nearly 23 percent to close at 1739. The collapse ended the five year bull run in US equities that had begun in 1982.

Much of the blame for the panic selling on that day was heaped on program trading, a strategy in which computers execute trades when certain price limits are breached.

Over the years, it has become clear that the correction was caused by a combination of factors. And while program trading may have aggravated the meltdown in share prices on that day, it was certainly not the trigger for the crash. The build-up to the fateful Monday had already begun the week before, when the Dow fell 10 percent in three trading

sessions, the steepest 3-day drop in almost five decades.

Till then, 1987 had been a strong year for the US stock market because of a booming economy, and strong corporate earnings growth. And then the wheels slowly began to come off the bull market.

Here is a look at the chain of events that eventually culminated in the unprecedented sell off in the US stock market.

Strong economic and credit growth raised concerns of inflation and overheating. The Federal Reserve responded by raising short term interest rates to temper inflation. Rising interest rates hurt stock market sentiment in two ways. One, corporate profit margins shrank because of higher interest costs. Two, investors shifted some of their money from equity to debt, as they now got better rate of return at a lower risk. Because of the 5-year-long bull run, share prices were rising

faster than earnings, and many commentators felt the stock market had become overvalued.

Program trading strategies were becoming popular. Algorithms would automatically start selling stocks and index futures when certain pre-decided limits were breached.

On October 14, a government committee proposed scrapping of tax benefits related to financing of mergers and acquisition (M&A) activity. Takeover deals—mostly hostile—financed by debt, were a rage in the US during the 80s. The proposal triggered a sell-off in many stocks thought to be potential takeover targets.

On the same day, the Commerce Department announced the trade deficit for August, which was above analysts' estimates. This weakened the dollar, raising concerns that Fed would raise interest rates further to support the currency.

Selling in shares accelerated on

Friday (October 16), dragging down the Dow by 4 percent. Many traders sold whatever stocks they could to meet margin calls. This is believed to have reduced liquidity in the system, leaving the market vulnerable if the selling pressure continued.

As selling pressure continued on Monday, many mutual funds were flooded with redemption requests. This triggered off a vicious cycle, as every wave of selling pushed prices lower, in turn prompting more investors to sell in panic. At some point, a steep decline in share prices triggered selling by computer programs as loss limits were breached. It is widely believed that program selling was the final nail in the coffin for the market which was already hemorrhaging. A Federal Reserve discussion paper later said "this strategy (program trading) was not entirely to blame", and that many other institutions were heavy sellers on that day. The following day, before the

market opened for trading, the US Federal Reserve put out a statement saying it was ready "to serve as a source of liquidity to support the economic and financial system."

Later in the day, the market stabilized as companies announced stock buyback programs to arrest the free fall in the prices of their stocks. Over the next few days, the Fed conducted open market operations, lowered interest rates to provide liquidity to the banking system and eased the rules for lending of securities. In addition, the Fed prodded market participants, in particular banks lending to brokers and dealers, to be flexible with their customers. All these steps helped limit the fall out of Black Monday on the US economy.

Following Black Monday, stock exchanges introduced 'circuit breakers' which allows exchanges to temporarily halt trading when there are steep moves down or up.

GST: Diwali dispatches only 20% of usual this year for Surat textile market

AHMEDABAD: The latest revision in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates that were announced on October 6 may have come a tad late, with the Surat textile market sitting on a huge inventory, say traders.

While the market may have gone on vacation, the peak Diwali season dispatch was only 15-20 per cent of normal.

As against a typical Rs 10,000-12,000 crore worth of business during Diwali through dispatch of 1,500 trucks daily for a fortnight, the same has been down to mere 15-20

per cent, say traders who will take a call on a strike on October 25 once they resume work after the festival.

"This is the first time we are seeing such a Diwali this year. In the last fortnight or so, which sees peak of Diwali dispatches, business has been merely 15-20 per cent of a typical season," Tarachand Kasat of the Surat-based GST Sangharsh Samiti and a leading textile trader told Business Standard. In the last few years, Surat has been dispatching textile goods through 1,500 trucks daily for a fortnight worth Rs 60 lakh each. However, the impact of GST has led to orders drying up this year, bringing down the daily dispatches substantially. According to local textile traders, not only have orders dried up during Diwali, especially from North and Central India wholesalers, but also resulted in an inventory worth hundreds of crores of rupees lying in Surat. "Surat could be sitting on an inventory of at least Rs 500-800 crore which is unusual," said a leading trader on condition of anonymity.

As a result, around 150 wholesale textile markets stayed

away from celebrating Diwali festival by decking up their offices. "The otherwise lit up textile markets during Diwali are gloomy this year. Traders have deliberately shunned lighting up their offices across 150 of the total 250 textile markets," Kasat added. The powerloom industry which has shut shop for Diwali vacation is unsure how many units could resume production post festival. "Many weavers are yet to decide whether to resume production or not. We may see an extended vacation in powerloom industry this Diwali," said Nikhil Godiwala, a powerloom owner in Surat. As for traders, Kasat said that while the community intends to resume work from October 25, it will decide on whether to call for a strike depending on the business scenario.

"The October 6 revision in GST for textiles has not fully addressed the issue in Surat synthetic textile market. With only 15-20 per cent business this Diwali, this is one of the worst festive seasons that one has seen. We will decide on whether to call for a strike or not once the market resumes," Kasat said.



Virat Kohli's Indian cricket team lose top ODI spot to du Plessis' South Africa

DUBAI: The Indian cricket team lost their top One-Day International spot to South Africa in the latest team rankings released by International Cricket Council (ICC).

The Faf du Plessis-led Proteas returned to top spot with 6,244 points from 52 matches on Wednesday, following their 104-run victory over Bangladesh in the second ODI.

India have moved down to the second spot with 5,993 points from 50 matches. India defeated Australia 4-1 to clinch the top spot in ODI rankings earlier. India will host New Zealand in a three-match ODI series scheduled to begin on October 22. They will then face Sri Lanka at home before travelling to South Africa next year.

Indian cricket reforms remain a distant dream, even after 'takeover'

NEW DELHI: It's Diwali, but there is little to cheer for domestic cricketers --- the primary stakeholders of the game. Two rounds of Ranji this season are over but almost 1000 first-class cricketers are waiting for their match fees based on 'gross revenue share' from last year. Players haven't been paid for matches in December 2016. Fans, the other key stakeholders, are also wondering whether reforms mentioned in BCCI's new constitution will be implemented. Stadium facilities are what they were. Claims of 'fan-first' policy remain hollow slogans, like election promises. Will complimentary tickets, as promised, be limited to 10% of stadium capacity? Will names of people receiving freebies be put on the website? The likelihood of either happening is as much as Ishant Sharma scoring a Test hundred. While there is no progress on substantive matters (even those that do not require court consent), there is admirable speed and eagerness to move things with PR/ media value. When Virat Kohli made a request that could not be refused, player fees and the value of annual contracts was instantly increased. Players were also given Rs 50 lakh for beating Australia, same for women cricketers after the World Cup.

With BCCI technically under 'President's rule', and officials subordinated to a set of administrators, there was hope of greater professionalism. Much cricket has been played from the time the BCCI was re-carded but a governance review since the 'takeover' shows little/no evidence of forward movement. The promised reforms are a distant dream, like monsoon clouds in a rainless desert and the BCCI resembles a car trying to negotiate a climb but actually sliding back. Like a scratchy batsman, the new BCCI has repeatedly played and missed, and there are plenty of edged shots. The India coach selection was a monumental fiasco, marked by a flawed process, silly press releases (one hilariously described the coach as a 'buddy') clarifications and retractions.



All this resulted in humiliating Indian cricket's legend Anil Kumble, a man of extraordinary dignity, and causing needless confusion about Rahul Dravid and Zaheer Khan. What happened with Duleep Trophy was another tragedy as the premier domestic tournament was reduced to a farce --- first scrapped, then restored and scheduled at a week's notice. Worse happened to Delhi and Rajasthan. Two frontline teams, one managed by BCCI, the other by a High Court nominee. In both states there was no off-season cricket. No tournaments, no matches, no practice nets. The national domestic calendar was delayed and revised at the last minute to include a combined A and A (Associates and Affiliates) team in the draw. The BCCI named the wrong Chahar (Deepak instead of brother Rahul, the leg-spinner) for the Board President's team and J&K's under-23 game was halted (because of a court order) after 23 overs were bowled. The Hyderabad T20 day/night game against Australia was abandoned due to rain without a ball being bowled, even though not a drop fell on match day. So, 15 months on after the Supreme Court ruling on BCCI, are we one stride forward or two steps back?

Ross Taylor, Tom Latham lead New Zealand to victory over Board President's XI

MUMBAI: Ross Taylor and Tom Latham both scored unbeaten centuries as New Zealand defeated the Indian Board President's XI by 33 runs in the second warm-up match in Mumbai on Thursday. It was a good comeback from the Kiwis after the visitors were defeated by 30 runs in their first encounter.

After putting up a massive total of 343 for 9, Mitchell Santner (3 for 44) and Colin Munro (2 for 25) claimed wickets in heap to put New Zealand on course of a big win at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai. The hosts were bowled out for 310 in 47.1 overs.

However, the Kiwis faced stiff resistance from the ninth-wicket pair of Jaydev Unadkat (44) and Dhawal Kulkarni (24) who added 64 runs to take the Indian side close towards the end. Karun Nair's 53 and Gurkeerat Mann's 65 were also not enough for the Indian Board President's XI. The middle-order failed to put runs again, with skipper Shreyas Iyer (24) and Rishabh Pant (7) failing for the second time on the trot, whereas Milind Kumar managing a mere 3.

With no KL Rahul in the mix, Nair opened with Prithvi Shaw. The Kiwis were disciplined with their line and lengths, and the batsmen had to wait for rare loose balls to get runs. It was in the eighth over when Nair provided his team some mo-



mentum, getting as many as four boundaries against Colin de Grandhomme to shrug off a slow start. Shaw, on the other hand, was forced to take risks in order to get boundaries. However, an early introduction of spin provided rich dividends as Santner struck twice in his first two overs. Shaw was cleaned up by Santner for 22, and the Kiwi spinner caused further damage when he got Pant caught for 7 in his next over. Pant went for an ambitious stroke despite hitting a six earlier in the over, only to be caught by Munro in the deep.

Iyer and Nair teamed up to bail the Indian team out of trouble, adding 57 for the third wicket. But once again, the home team lost wickets in a clump. Iyer was caught at deep midwicket by Taylor for 24, and on the next ball of the 21st over, Nair played it straight into the hands of the bowler. Gurkeerat and Karn Sharma put up the biggest stand of 71 runs, for the seventh wicket, but just when they started picking up pace, the partnership was broken. Karn was caught at mid-on for 19, which pushed the home team on backfoot again. A few deliveries

later, Gurkeerat's mishit landed in the hands of Munro at mid-on. Gurkeerat did well to score a 46-ball 65 with seven fours and three sixes with powerful strokes around the park.

Unadkat led the fightback with a quickfire 44, off only 24 balls studded with five boundaries and three sixes. He was the star performer for the home side with a spell of 4 for 57 earlier in the day.

Earlier, Taylor and Latham's centuries and their 166-run stand for the fourth wicket powered New Zealand to a strong total of 343 for

9. Both the batsmen retired out after scoring their respective centuries. New Zealand seemed to have lost their way after a brisk start, but Taylor took charge of the proceedings along with Latham. Starting with a four off an outside edge to graduating to powerful strokes, Taylor's innings was decorated with 14 boundaries and 1 six. Yet, his innings was a stark contrast to the one he played on Tuesday, scoring 32 off 54 balls with only one four.

The only blip in Taylor's characteristic innings came in the 32nd over when the home team captain Shreyas Iyer spilled a catch at point off Karn when he was on 77.

Latham, who had top-scored with 59 in the last match, made a fluent 108 retired out -- an innings wherein he played second fiddle to Taylor during their stand. Latham finished with seven boundaries and two sixes, off 97 balls.

The fourth wicket partnership between Taylor and Latham remained unbeaten on 166, as having completed his century, the former retired out to give Henry Nicholls a chance having scored 102 off 83 balls. The three-match ODI series between India and New Zealand begins October 22 at Mumbai.

New Zealand have made one forced change to their ODI squad, replacing the injured Todd Astle with Ish Sodhi.

Saina Nehwal, Kidambi Srikanth advance at Denmark Open badminton



ODENSE: Ace Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal knocked out Olympic champion Carolina Marin of Spain in the opening round of women's singles competition in the Denmark Open here today.

Saina, who won a bronze in the Glasgow World Championships, defeated Marin 22-20 21-18 in a hard-fought battle. She will play either Thailand's Nitchanon Jindapol or Russia's Evgeniya Kosetskaya in the next round.

Other Indians Kidambi Srikanth and HS Praneeth made positive starts to the tournament but B Sai Praneeth crashed out in the opening round of men's singles.

World number eight Srikanth overcame a spirited challenge from compatriot qualifier Subhankar Dey, who played for Greve team at the Danish league this year, 21-17-21-15 to set up a clash with Korean Jeon Hyeok Jin, the 2016 Australian Open runner-up.

On the adjacent court, Praneeth lost 10-21 15-21 to Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus in a lop-sided contest.

Earlier, world number 15 Praneeth recovered from a 6-11 deficit in the second game to oust Denmark's Emil Holst 21-18 21-19 in a hard-fought match. It was his third win over the Danish shuttler.

The Indian is likely to play former World No. 1 Malaysian Lee Chong Wei tomorrow.

Young doubles specialist Satwiksairaj Rankireddy also suffered twin defeats in mixed and men's doubles competition to end his campaign here. Satwik and his mixed doubles partner Ashwini Ponnappa, who had reached the semifinals last week at Dutch Open, lost 19-21 17-21 to the local combo of Niclas Nohr and Sara Thygesen. In men's doubles, Satwik and Chirag Shetty, who had reached the quarterfinals at Korea Open, failed to get across Korean pair of Chung Eui Seok and Kim Dukyoung, losing 21-14 18-21 17-21 in the opening round.

Experienced men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy lost 13-21 18-21 to Denmark's Mads Conrad-Petersen and Mads Pieler Kolding.

Another mixed doubles pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy, who had reached the semifinals at Japan Open, also crashed out last night in the opening round after losing 17-21 15-21 to the Irish duo of Sam Magee and Chloe Magee.

After wrapping up the match in 48 minutes, Praneeth told PTI: "It was a tough match. He is a tricky player and I have always played close matches against him."

"I was trying out few things in the second game but it didn't work out. He got points and had a good lead. I was getting tired but I am happy to win. Hopefully I will be better tomorrow."

Sikki was upset with service judgments and took to twitter to vent out her frustration.

"Today's match has been played by the service umpire and the chair umpire... well done guys Denmark Open they just made me mentally down," Sikki wrote on her twitter handle.

"Whatever rules they make there is of no use... there should be review system in the services that will be the best for the players," she tweeted.

Warner brings out the old 'Bull' to ignite Ashes

MELBOURNE: Age and fatherhood may have mellowed David Warner, but nothing coaxes the old 'Bull' out of the Australian vice-captain like a home Ashes series.

Warner's clarion call this week to summon 'hatred' for visiting England continued the revival of a once-famed chirpiness that cranked back into gear during the long-running pay dispute between the players and Cricket Australia (CA).

It signalled another nail in the coffin for the 'Reverend', the nickname bestowed upon Warner in a pious nod to his quieter demeanour on and off the field in recent seasons.

Prior to the 'Reverend', there was only the 'Bull', a moniker that aptly captured his rampaging ways, whether swinging his oversized bat in the middle, firing off an angry tweet in the early hours, or throwing a punch at England's Joe Root.

Off-field domestic bliss and the threat of suspension for multiple code of conduct breaches may have accelerated Warner's maturity, but the Ashes is a powerful red rag to the bovine spirit within.

"At the moment I'm not going to put any vibes out there or get into a verbal stoush," Warner said on Australian radio, only moments after describing the series as 'war'.

"But come day one when we walk out

there, there will definitely be some words exchanged."

While Warner won respect among some of his compatriots for being able to rein himself in, he could see his approval rating Down Under soar even higher if he lets himself go. Former Australia captain Steve Waugh endorsed the lefthander's call to arms.

"There's nothing wrong with that bit of byplay before the series starts. It gets everybody interested," Waugh told local media.

Warner's salvo has already ruffled feathers in England, with former opener Marcus Trescothick showing his disdain.

"To come out with those sort of comments is not needed. There's always the hype that comes around before the Ashes, so I don't think it's something the [English] players will be drawn into," he told the BBC.

The war of words hardly brought Australia undone during England's last tour to Australia, when Michael Clarke's side whitewashed the tourists 5-0.

Warner was in the thick of it, taunting England's batsmen for having 'scared eyes'



when faced with Mitchell Johnson's pace barrage in the first test in Brisbane.

Clarke, too, did not hold back and was caught telling England paceman James Anderson to get ready for a "broken... arm".

Barring Warner's 2013 punch on Root, now the England captain, the posturing has never escalated beyond fighting talk and the series starting in Brisbane on Nov 23 is certain to see more bark than bite.