

TIME AND US

DAILY Srinagar, Kashmir

WEDNESDAY

- OCTOBER, 25, 2017
- 04 SAFFAR 1439 AH
- ISSUE: 248
- 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 WEDNESDAY: 05:48 PM
SUNRISE WEDNESDAY: 06:49 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)

STATE | 3

NATIONAL | 5

BUSINESS | 7

SPORTS | 8

UNION MOS FOR AGRICULTURE FORMALLY LAUNCHES "SANKALP SE SIDDIH" AT

OPPOSITION TO OBSERVE NOVEMBER 8, NOTE BAN ANNIVERSARY, AS 'BLACK DAY'

CENTRE WAIVES FINE FOR DELAYED FILING OF GST RETURNS IN AUGUST, SEPTEMBER

USMAN DESTROYS SL AS PAKISTAN SWEEP ODI SERIES

Interlocutor Sharma to decide whom to talk to in J&K: Rajnath

GREATER NOIDA: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh today said the newly-appointed interlocutor for Jammu and Kashmir, Dineshwar Sharma, would decide whom he engaged with in the state.

Asked if Sharma would hold talks with the Hurriyat Conference, as suggested by some state politicians, Singh said, "It depends upon him whom he

talks to or engages with". Sharma, a former director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), was appointed by the central government as its representative yesterday to initiate a dialogue with all stakeholders in Jammu and Kashmir.

The retired 1979-batch officer of the Indian Police Service was the IB director from December, 2014, to



December, 2016. The minister dodged questions

by reporters on what signals the Indian government sought to send to Pakistan with the appointment of the interlocutor.

Singh was speaking on the sidelines of the 56th Raising Day parade of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police here.

Sustained dialogues would be initiated by the government for a

▶ See **Rajnath**...Pg 02

Appointment of interlocutor for Kashmir 'only for publicity': Cong

NEW DELHI: The Congress said today that it doubted the "intent" of the NDA Government in resolving the Kashmir issue, and alleged that it appointed an interlocutor towards the fag end of its rule "only for publicity".

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad said the Congress and other opposition parties had asked the government to talk to all stakeholders to resolve the "political issue" in the valley through confidence-building measures rather than "hot pursuit", but it "wasted" three-and-a-half years during which many precious lives were lost.



"We are not opposing the decision of the government. But at the fag end of their tenure, they have done this. This is only for publicity. This government has no Kashmir policy. They have no policy on demonetisation, GST, farmers issues and unemployment. We doubt their intent as they have no policy.

"They have policy only on how to divide and rule the country. That was the only policy pursued by foreign rulers," he told reporters at a joint press conference of opposition leaders.

Azad, who was flanked by Derek O'Brien of the TMC and Sharad Yadav of the breakaway JD-U faction, said that had the government taken steps as suggested by the Congress-led opposition, many precious lives of soldiers

▶ See **Cong**...Pg 02

ONLY TRIPARTITE TALKS CAN RESOLVE KASHMIR ISSUE: ABBAS ANSARI

Former Hurriyat Conference chairman and founder of Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen chief Moulana Abbas Ansari on Tuesday said that tripartite dialogue was the only way forward to resolve Kashmir issue.

Ansari made the remarks a day after the Centre appointed former intelligence chief Dineshwar Sharma as its pointsman for holding "sustained dialogue" on

▶ See **Abbas**...Pg 02

My doors are open to everyone: Indian interlocutor

New Delhi, Oct 24: The newly appointed interlocutor for Jammu and Kashmir Dineshwar Sharma Tuesday said that his doors for dialogue are open to everyone.

Government of India has appointed former Intelligence Bureau director Dineshwar Sharma as interlocutor for a sustained dialogue

▶ See **Indian**...Pg 02

Hurriyat must welcome dialogue and talk: Dulat

'Dineshwar Sharma understands pain of Kashmir'

Srinagar, Oct 23: Former RAW chief and Kashmir expert AS Dulat Tuesday said that Hurriyat must welcome the announcement of sustained dialogue and appointment of an interlocutor on Kashmir by the centre government.

While talking to KNS from New Delhi, Dulat said that he welcomes that decision of the centre government to initiate talks on Kashmir.

"I welcome the announcement. Dia-



logue must start. Though it is delayed

▶ See **Dulat**...Pg 02

Right time to do the talking: Nirmal Singh

Says Modi Govt determinant to solve issues

Srinagar, Oct 24: Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh Tuesday said it is the right time to start dialogue with all shades of stakeholders in Kashmir.

Welcoming the Union government's initiative for appointing former Director of IB, Dineshwar Sharma as an interlocutor to start dialogue to understand legitimate aspirations of people in Jammu and Kashmir, Singh said barring few everyone in Kashmir had welcomed

▶ See **Nirmal**...Pg 02

GOVT FAILS TO REVIEW JK CEMENTS

Samba cement plant likely to be outsourced

Srinagar, Oct 24: With authorities failing to review the JK Cements Limited, the government is mulling to outsource the Samba cement plant.

An official of the JK Cements Limited told KNS that government was considering outsourcing its Samba cement plant. "Final decision is yet to be taken," he said.

He said that government was mulling to outsource the cement plant in view of heavy losses witnessed by the JK Cements over the last few years. "So far the authorities have failed to review the JK Cements. Even its employees are willing to move out of the corporation on deputation to other departments," he added.

The JKCL was set up three-decades-ago of producing

▶ See **Govt**...Pg 02

Dy CM for coordinated efforts for redress of people's problems during winter

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 24: Deputy Chief Minister Dr Nirmal Singh today directed for a coordinated and synergized effort in order to ensure that the people living in the winter zones of the state do not face any inconvenience vis-à-vis the electric power supply during the ensuing winter season.

The Dy Chief Minister was speaking at a meeting convened to review the overall power scenario in the State and also the winter preparedness being done by the depart-



ment in view of the ensuing winter season.

Minister of State for Power Syed Farooq Ahmad Andrabi was also present.

Principal Secretary PDD Dheeraj Gupta, Chief Engineers and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

The Dy Chief Minister directed the officers to ensure that every possible measure is put in place in order to ensure that the consumers living in the winter zone of the State do not face any inconvenience. He said that the supply of electricity should be rational-

ized in such a manner that every area gets the requisite amount of power.

Dr Singh while referring to the formulation of the schedule of electricity to be maintained during the winters said that it should be strictly

▶ See **Dy CM**...Pg 02

JRL CALLS FOR SHUTDOWN ON FRIDAY

Terms 27 October as black day

Srinagar, Oct 24: While terming the 27 October as black day and the day of mourning for the Kashmiris, Joint resistance leaders comprising of Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Mohammad Yasin Malik called for complete shutdown on Friday October 27, 2017.

In a statement issued to KNS, JRL said, "71 years back India without any constitutional and moral justifications forcibly occupied the state of Jammu & Kashmir on the same day and since then Indian forces are mercilessly killing innocent and unarmed Kashmiris, vandalizing their properties and are involved in sexual assault on women.

Tuesday JRL said, "27 October 1947 is an unfortunate

▶ See **JRL**...Pg 02

Asphyxia forced fish to come on surface: Kohli

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 24: In the wake of recent fish stress and mortality along a particular stretch of River Jhelum, the Minister for Fisheries, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Abdul Gani Kohli today said that detailed examination suggested it happened due to lack of oxygen.

He said after it was reported by the local staff of the Department that fish are in distress and coming to the surface in a particular stretch of river Jhelum



from Gow Kadal to Weir Chattabal, in Kashmir Valley, a technical team under the

▶ See **Kholi**...Pg 02

FROM BRAID CHOPPING TO BEARD CHOPPING

Miscreants cut shopkeepers beard

Srinagar, Oct 24: At a time when braid chopping incidents have created a fear psychosis among female folk, the beard of a Srinagar shopkeeper was chopped off by miscreants on Tuesday morning.

The incident occurred at Batamaloo area of Srinagar city and the victim has been identified as Farooq Ahmed Bhat son of Abdul Majid, a resident of Kashi Mohalla Batamaloo.

The victim told news agency CNS that he had opened up his shop at 6:30 in the morning. "After opening up my shop a customer who was a Kashmiri appeared there for a purpose to buy cigarettes. As I reached out for cigarettes,

▶ See **Braid**...Pg 02

Congress lodges strong protest in Budgam, Srinagar

Describes braid chopping a ploy to create fear psychosis in valley

Srinagar, Oct 24: Lodging strong protests against unabated braid cutting and unnecessary harassment of innocent people, Congress today hit out at State Govt for failing to come up to the expectations of the people, resulting in deep alienation among the people, besides the unabated braid cutting has added woes to the people.

As part of the Congress party's awareness campaign, the J&K Pradesh Congress Committee held strong protest demonstration in Budgam and Srinagar Districts today and

▶ See **Protest**...Pg 02



SWINE FLU: UNVACCINATED DOCTORS PUTTING PATIENTS AT RISK, SAYS DAK

SRINAGAR, OCT 24: With Kashmir valley's first swine flu death of this season reported at SK Institute of Medical Sciences, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Tuesday in a communiqué said doctors, nurses and paramedical staff in hospitals are putting patients at risk as they are not vaccinated against swine flu.

President DAK and flu expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan said healthcare workers imperil vulnerable patients by snubbing flu shots.

"Most of the doctors and nurses are unvaccinated, even though majority of swine flu deaths are in those with underlying medical conditions who are in regular contact with them," he said.

▶ See **DAK**...Pg 02

Governor Chaired the 83rd meeting of the University Council at Raj Bhavan

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 24: Chairing the 83rd meeting of the University Council at Raj Bhavan, Governor N.N. Vohra, Chancellor of the University of Jammu announced that the VCs of the Cluster Universities of Jammu and Kashmir should be invited to attend the University Council meetings of Jammu and Kashmir Universities, respectively. He emphasized the vital importance of maintaining continued focus on high teach-



ing standards, quality research and strengthening linkages with identified institutions of excellence within the country and abroad. While appreciating the research projects undertaken by the University, he emphasised that state

▶ See **Governor**...Pg 02

PCI HAILS JK GOVT, DIPR FOR OUTSTANDING ARRANGEMENTS DURING COUNCIL'S SRINAGAR VISIT

SRINAGAR, OCT 24: The Press Council of India (PCI) has lauded the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for the outstanding arrangements made during the recent visit of the PCI Chairman and Members to the State.

"I would like to thank the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for all the cooperation and hospitalities extended to the team of Press Council of India during its visit to Srinagar from 8 October 2017 to 10 October 2017," Secretary PCI, Ms Vibha Bhargava said in a communication addressed to the Chief Secretary, B B Vyas.

She said the meetings of the Council and the interaction with the Chief Minister, the Ministers and the media fraternity was conducted smoothly and efficiently due to the special efforts of the Director Information,

▶ See **PCI**...Pg 02

Continue from Front Page.....

RAJNATH

solution to the Kashmir issue, Singh had said yesterday. The home minister had also made it clear that Sharma, who would hold the rank of a cabinet secretary, would have a free hand in deciding whom to engage with.

INDIAN

process with all stakeholders in Kashmir Valley. Sharma told news agency CNS that he is arriving in Kashmir Valley next week and hopefully will get a positive response from the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "I will be in Kashmir next week. I am hopeful. I will meet everyone and even Hurriyat leaders. My doors are open to everyone," he said.

Responding to a question, Sharma said that he will interact with everyone. "Let us hope for the best. I am hopeful I will deliver," he said.

DULAT

but it is better late than never," Dulat said in reply to a question.

He said that Hurriyat should participate in the dialogue process and "must welcome it". "There is no other option than talks for resolving issues. Hurriyat must talk," he said.

Hurriyat Conference has been tightlipped on the announcement of the dialogue.

Asked about other interlocutors on Kashmir appointed by successive governments and their reports pending in the home ministry, Dulat said that it was the "time to move forward".

"Let's not move backwards. Let's move forward and hope for a positive outcome," he said.

On the NIA raids on separatists and announcement of dialogue, he said, "Once the dialogue starts, hopefully these raids will stop".

Dulat said that Dineshwar Sharma, who is the interlocutor on Kashmir, is a good man, and he has been in Kashmir.

"He (Dineshwar Sharma) understands the pain of Kashmir," Dulat said.

Contrary to its stand from the last three years, BJP government on Monday announced that a sustained dialogue will be started on Kashmir through its interlocutor, former Director of IB, Dineshwar Sharma, to understand "legitimate aspirations" of people in Jammu and Kashmir.

NIRMAL

the initiative of central government.

"This is the time when this process should have been started. The person appointed for this task is widely acclaimed. He was active in North-East also," he told media persons at a function here, as per KNS correspondent.

Singh said, "I shall suggest that it is a right opportunity for everyone. Last time the Hurriyat people refused to meet the parliamentary delegation. This is now the right time," he said.

The Deputy CM said everyone who wants welfare of the people of J&K should come forward. "All shades of stakeholders should meet. This is even part of our Agenda of Alliance before we formed the government with PDP that we need to create an atmosphere for the sustained dialogue process," he said.

He said the grievances if any are solved only when people talk. "The grievances are solved only when put forth on the table. There are no preconditions. Our leadership is determinant and can solve the issues," he added.

CONG

and civilians could have been saved as well as the eyesights of many young girls could have been saved who lost them due to pellet guns.

"For three-and-a-half years, the BJP is talking about 'hot pursuit'. We all opposition parties both inside and outside of Parliament have been talking about 'confidence building' measures, besides 'hot pursuit'," he said.

Azad said they had maintained that this was a "political issue" and should be resolved politically.

"No political issue can be resolved by hot pursuit and we had asked government to talk to all stakeholders. We had said that if you have to take political decision, we have to talk to all stakeholders... Had the government taken action three-and-a-half years ago, we would not have lost hundreds of precious lives of soldiers and civilians," he said.

The Central Government yesterday announced its decision to appoint an interlocutor in former Intelligence Bureau chief Dineshwar Sharma, who would talk to all stakeholders in the troubled state with an aim of bringing peace there.

Sharma, with the rank of Cabinet Secretary, will have complete independence in deciding whom to hold talks with, Home Minister Rajnath Singh said while making the crucial announcement.

ABBAS

Kashmir issue.

"During President Musharraf's time, I told both the countries that dialogue process can't move forward unless all three parties sit together," said Ansari.

He said people from both sides of divided Kashmir need to be included in the talks to find a solution acceptable to all three parties - India, Pakistan and Kashmiris.

"Kashmir belongs to Kashmiris. It doesn't belong to India or Pakistan. However, we want better relations with both the countries to end the violence and destruction," said Ansari.

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh today said the newly-appointed interlocutor for Jammu and Kashmir, Dineshwar Sharma, would decide whom he engaged with in the state.

Asked if Sharma would hold talks with the Hurriyat Conference, as suggested by some state politicians, Singh said, "It depends upon him whom he talks to or engages with."

Sharma, a former director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), was appointed by the central government as its representative yesterday to initiate a dialogue with all stakeholders in Jammu and Kashmir.

The retired 1979-batch officer of the Indian Police Service was the IB director from December, 2014, to December, 2016.

The minister dodged questions by reporters on what signals the Indian government sought to send to Pakistan with the appointment of the interlocutor.

Singh was speaking on the sidelines of the 56th Raising Day parade of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police here.

Sustained dialogues would be initiated by the government for a solution to the Kashmir issue, Singh had said yesterday.

The home minister had also made it clear that Sharma, who would hold the rank of a cabinet secretary, would have a free hand in deciding whom to engage with.

GOVT

quality cements at the reasonable prices and generating revenue for the state. However, sources said that production has declined over the years due to government's interference in the affairs of the JKCL.

The samba plant was established at the cost of 27 crores. "The delay in its launching has been attributed to inordinate delay on the release of equity by the government and also delay in the installation of receiving station by PDP," sources maintained.

Sources maintained that though the government has considered outsourcing the production and marketing, but at the same time the contractor who was awarded the contract of installation of plant and machinery has claimed a revision of 5 crores.

Sources said that the board of directors in its recent meeting has ordered the management of JKCL to look into the matter after constitution of committee.

The commissioner secretary industries and commerce confirmed to KNS that JKCL management has been directed in this behalf. The Managing director JKCL said that the board has accorded approval to look into the matter of the claim preferred by the contractor.

Meanwhile though the terms about how to outsource the plant has not been put to public domain, but it is learnt from the sources that the proceedings about the same have been put in place.

Sources said that in violation to the business practices, the JKCL management has not issued letter of intent inviting the big business houses for outsourcing the plant so far.

Sources said that the plant was not able to face the tough completion of the private players in the market within and outside the state which are selling cement lower than the price fixed by the JKCL. "Though the JKCL enjoys the patronage of government for making direct purchases, but despite of that the Jammu office could not capitalize on the opportunity" sources maintained.

However sources said that the incumbent Managing Director was trying hard to bring samba plant on the profitable point.

The JK Cements has two plants with individual capacity of around 600 tonnes per day which has declined to 70 percent now. The successive elected governments had blamed each other for downfall in its production and both the NC-Congress and PDP-BJP government termed it a "victim of politics".

Being a state owned company, it has a pivotal role to produce cement of well standard quality at the reasonable rates. "Unlike other cement plants operating in the Valley, it has lost its market value due to production of lower quality cement as authorities have been purchasing sub-standard material for its production," insiders said.

There were also reports that government had decided to shut this cement plant. But the employees had resisted the move as around 10000 employees are dependent on it.

DY CM

adhered to and the tendency of unscheduled cuts should be done away with. He said that by ensuring strict adherence to the power schedule we would ensure the proper rationalization of the power, the demand of which registers an increase during the winters.

The Dy Chief Minister also asked for maintaining a proper buffer of electric transformers so that the damaged ones can be replaced within the shortest possible time while the damaged ones are being repaired. He said that a proper mechanism should be followed for ensuring that the repair of the transformers is done at an earliest.

Dr Singh also asked for ensuring that the transformer repairing workshop is provided with all the requisite men and material so that they can speed up the process of repairing the damaged transformers. He also directed for undertaking regular inspections so that the quantum of electric load can be gauged and the necessary steps taken for its augmentation.

The Minister of State for Power, Syed Farooq Ahmad Andrabi, while speaking on the occasion called for a sustained effort from the officers and the field staff so that the winter related problems can be redressed. He said that the main thrust should be to ensure that the people at large should not suffer.

JRL

day for the Kashmiris when we were deprived of our freedom and liberty and India against the wishes of the people landed its troops here.

The people of the Jammu & Kashmir were neither asked for their viewpoint about this forced occupation and nor are their wishes and aspirations being respected even today," said JRL.

While terming the accession of Maharaja Hari Singh with India as controversial, unreliable and undemocratic, the pro-freedom leaders said, that experts on historical events raise several important queries about its authenticity and over its occurrence and moreover late Maharaja had no such mandate from the people of the state.

Who had given this authority to an individual that a person will decide the future destiny of people of state on his own and that too at an occasion when people stood against him and rebelled against his autocratic rule, asked JRL and added he had no authority to sign accession as he while fleeing from Srinagar stayed at Jammu."

"The Indian National Congress had at that time adopted a policy about these princely states that the decision regarding to the future of these states will not be taken by the Maharajas or kings but it is the sole right of the people of the states and they will be asked for their political aspirations.

Although the ruling elite and kings in Hyderabad and Junagarh wanted to merge their states with Pakistan but India forcibility landed its army, claiming that it is against the principles of partition and the wishes of the people but the same rulers of India with regards to J&K adopted the policies contrary to this and occupied state against the wishes and aspirations of its people," JRL said.

The JRL said that since then the occupational forces are unleashing atrocities and cruelties upon Kashmiri nation to suppress the peaceful voices and till now more than six lakh people had been killed by these brute forces, ten thousand innocent people killed in custody and equal number sub-

jected to forced custodial disappearance.

Seven thousand unknown people are buried in unmarked graves and their identity is not being divulged, said JRL in their statement.

7500 women were molested or sexually assaulted, said JRL and rape has been used as a war weapon against women in Kashmir.

They said that inhuman laws like Disturbed Areas Act, AFSPA and Public Safety Act are in force and added that police and forces enjoy free hand to perpetrate atrocities.

Pro-freedom leaders are being denied their political space, said JRL and added that they are detained and restrictions imposed on them.

JRL said that as people are observing 27th October as black day and it will convey a message to global community that they are resisting and resenting the forced occupation and will continue till the last soldier leaves the state and added that it also illustrates their wish that they will not accept anything less than freedom.

KOHLI

supervision of Assistant Director Fisheries Srinagar was deputed in the area to ascertain the cause.

He said the Director Fisheries, Kashmir, along with Joint Director Fisheries Kashmir Division also visited the area to have firsthand information.

Kohli said that the fishes were physically examined on spot and it was seen that the fish were in distress. Accordingly, he said, samples of water and fish were taken as per procedure for detailed Physico-chemical analysis.

"Lack of oxygen was cited as the reason in the water column and the mortality was negligible," Kohli said while quoting the examination report. He said the observation regarding low oxygen level was supported by the fact that mostly big sized schizothorax spp was showing such distress. He said that fish fauna of river Jhelum mostly constitute of two species of fish that are common carp and schizothorax spp, out of which schizothorax being very sensitive to low oxygen level and common carp can sustain low oxygen levels.

The Minister said that the fact of depletion of oxygen level was also supported by the observations that common carp has not suffered such distress or mortality.

The Minister said that the team has observed the reason of depletion in oxygen as the running water volume of river Jhelum is reduced at this time because there were no rains and also nutrient/pollutant concentration is very high, which has already affected the amount of dissolved oxygen.

To reverse the effect, Kohli said, the matter was brought to the notice of District administration and they were asked that at first instance the water gate at Weir Chattabal be opened which will allow the flow of more fresh water from upper Jhelum and dilute the nutrient load of the river. He said the District Development Commissioner Srinagar has done an appreciable job and immediately directed for the same which has eased the situation and by today morning the situation has totally improved and was normal.

The Minister said that it is apparent that there is no use of any poisonous substance and the same thing was also communicated to the District Development Commissioner, Srinagar.

Kohli further said that the Senior Project Officer of Survey Division of Fisheries Department has been assigned to prepare a detailed report depicting the physico-chemical parameters of water as well as fish. He said the matter has also been discussed with Head of Fisheries Division SKUAST Rangil who has asked his scientists to co-operate with Fisheries Department to undertake a proper analysis of the facts.

BRAID

he caught hold my neck from backside and displayed a knife. His two associates, who were not looking Kashmiris and were talking in Hindi started abusing the assailant as he was continuously trying to spray mouth and nose. I tried to hold my breath for quite some time but as soon as I inhaled the chemical, I felt unconscious," Bhat said.

Bhat according to his father was taken to SMHS Hospital where doctors admitted that the victim has been administered some chemicals. "The miscreants looted money from his shop as well," Abdul Majid said.

"Prima facie it seems that criminals attacked the shop-keeper with an intention to loot. We are investigating the case," said a police official.

PROTEST

lodged a strong protest against the ruling dispensation of PDP BJP for failing to unravel the mystery behind braid cutting, which has made the people more restless besides creating fear psychosis among them.

In Budgam the protest demonstration were led by Former Minister and Sr. Congress Leader Taj Mohi U Din.

Addressing the party workers on this occasion Taj Mohi U Din stated that there is a complete uncertainty in the backdrop of unabated braid cutting and the irony is that State Govt has miserably failed to ascertain the identity of the culprits involved in this heinous crime thereby making people more apprehensive about their safety.

He (Taj) said that Congress Party understands that the unabated braid cutting across the valley is being carried to out vitiate atmosphere of peace and tranquility, besides that people also believe that some people get benefitted out of the turbulent and volatile situation, as a result, deliberate attempts are being made to disturb the peace, from time to time.

On this occasion MLC & vice President JKPC Gulam Nabi Monga lashed out at ruling dispensation led by PDP for adding chaos to the situation saying that how is it possible that despite dozens of braid cutting incidents there was no trace of culprits leading to the alienation of the people. He asked the Govt to come clean on braid cutting and ensure that persons involved in anti-social and anti-peace activities are identified and brought to book.

District President Budgam Zahid Hussain Jan hit out at PDP for being hand in glove on the issue of braid cutting responsible for prevailing uncertainty. He said Govt seems least bothered about the safety and security of the people, as that no culprit involved in this heinous crime was arrested so far.

Among other who were present on this included G. N. Mir Lasjan, Bilal Ahmad Khan, Mushtaq Ahmad Khan and other senior leaders of the District.

Similar programme was organized at Congress Party Headquarters Srinagar where Congress Leaders and workers led by Abdul Gani Khan held strong protest demonstration

against the State machinery for failing to put an end to anti-social activities and harassment of people in shape of braid cutting. Unabated braid cutting is a ploy to disturb peace, Ab. Gani Khan said.

Congress workers marched on MA Road Srinagar and held strong protest demonstration in Press Colony near Partap Park and blamed Govt for the restlessness and fear among the people

On this occasion Mohd Sultan, Nissar Ahmad Mundo and others senior leaders of the district were present.

DAK

DAK President said healthcare workers have the potential to transmit flu to patients who are 5 to 35 times more likely to acquire the infection if exposed to infected staff.

"Patients entrust healthcare workers with their lives and clinicians should not be the ones to make them sick," he added.

Dr Nisar said medical staff has a duty to take the flu jab, to ensure they don't pass the infection to those who are already sick, adding there is a moral imperative for health institutions to ensure staff vaccination for patient safety.

"If the healthcare workers remain unvaccinated, the rest of the population might be even more challenging to rally," he said

Dr Nisar said while vaccine is critically important to pregnant women, doctors are not offering flu jabs to expectant mothers putting them as well as their babies at risk.

He said a pregnant lady who was not given the vaccine is battling for her life at SKIMS due to swine flu infection.

"Women are about six times more likely to die if they get flu while pregnant," he said.

"With flu season set in, the best way to protect yourself and people around you is to get a flu shot," DAK President said.

GOVERNOR

specific research projects should be given high priority. Besides, it must be ensured that the outcome of the researches undertaken, especially those related to the State should be linked with formulation of policy by the Government. He stressed the importance of initiating research in identified fields in the vast arena of the Humanities, with special focus on the socially relevant issues facing the society. Chief Minister Ms. Mehbooba Mufti, Pro-Chancellor and Shri Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, Minister for Education also participated in the meeting.

Chancellor advised both the VCs to ensure that the infrastructure development projects are completed timely and particularly urged that sufficient hostel accommodation should be created, in both main as well as offsite campuses, to fully meet the requirements of girl students. He further emphasised that Human Resource Centre of the University should lay down a structured calendar of refresher courses for the teaching as well as non-teaching staff. Chancellor emphasised that quality initiatives, like feedback, should be integrated into the assessment system of the faculty.

Chief Minister Ms. Mufti, Pro-Chancellor, stressed the need to put adequate systems in place to ensure against delays in declaring results as these cost the students dearly and affect their career prospects.

Vice-Chancellor made a presentation regarding the initiatives and achievements of the University in the last 6 months, highlighting various administrative, academic, financial and examination related reforms.

Registrar, University of Jammu, Dr. Meenakshi Kilam, presented the Agenda and, inter alia, the Council approved the introduction of re-evaluation in all the P.G. Diploma Programmes; enforcement of nominal tuition Fee for given courses; Revised Statutes governing the Jammu University Entrance Test (JUET) and Adoption of Statutes under Choice Based Credit System in the Undergraduate courses.

In all thirty two agenda items were discussed by the meeting of the University Council which was attended by Prof. Vinayshil Gautam, Founder Director, IIM-K; Prof. V.K. Singh, Director, Indian Institute of Science Education & Research, Bhopal; Prof. Khurshid I. Andrabi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Sh. Umang Narula, Principal Secretary to Governor; Sh. Navin Kumar Choudhary, Financial Advisor (Universities); Sh. Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary, Planning & Development Department; Prof. Keshav Sharma, Dean Faculty of Business Studies; Prof. Naresh Padma, Dean Faculty of Sciences; Prof. Koushal Samotra, Principal, GCW, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu; Prof. K.S. Charak, President, Jammu University Teachers Association and Dr. D.S. Manhas, President, College Teachers Association.

PCI

Muneer-ul-Islam and his entire team of officers/officials. "We highly appreciate the commendable efforts put in by the Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K Govt during our visit," she added.

IGP JAMMU FLAGS OFF MINI BHARAT DARSHAN TOUR

JAMMU OCTOBER 24: As part of the Civic Action Programme (CAP), a Mini Bharat Darshan tour was organized by IRP 15th Battalion Jammu was flagged off by Inspector General of Police, Jammu, Dr. S.D. Singh Jammwal from Gulshan Ground, here today.

80 girl students from J&K within the age group of 12 to 20 are visiting Amritsar, Chandigarh and Delhi. During their tour they will visit places of historical importance and other places of interest in these states.

SSP (CO), 15th Battalion, Anita Sharma, SSP PCR, Joginder Singh, SSP (CO) 7th Battalion, Rahul Malik, SSP (CO) 10th Battalion, Randeep Kumar, SSP (CO) 14th Battalion, Rajneesh Pran besides other territorial officers of district Jammu were present on the occasion.

Interacting with the students, IGP impressed upon them to take best out of this tour. He said that such occasions will provide them new experience and also gave them vast exposure to become more confident and get immense knowledge.

Union MoS for Agriculture formally launches "Sankalp Se Siddhi" at Baramulla - Programme aims at doubling farmers income by 2022

Baramulla, October 24: Union Minister of state for Agriculture and Farmers welfare Gajendra Singh Shekawat today formally launched "Sankalp Se Siddhi" programme here at a function organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra Baramulla.

The programme was launched by the union government on the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement with the aim to help the lower income groups and to double the farmers income by 2022. Sankalp Se Siddhi which literally means "Determination to Attainment" is an integrated scheme, supervised by Union Agricultural Ministry as part of New India movement. It will last for a period of five years from 2017-22 during which various social and economical issues will be covered.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister stressed upon the importance of development of new technologies to improve the productivity of crops for doubling farmers income. He said that the Union as well as state government is committed to double farmers income by 2022.

Shri Gajendra said that seminars, awareness camps, kisan melas and conferences should be regularly conducted. He stressed on the need for educating the farmers about the benefits of organic farming and updating them about the latest technological



advancements in the farming sector. He said that organic farming requires less investment for cultivation but is much more profitable than conventionally grown crops. He further said that comprehensive agriculture policy is the priority of the government and concerted efforts are being made to realize the dream of doubling farmers income by 2022. The minister said that Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) has been implemented in the state under which the government targets to provide sufficient water for irrigation to every field. Speaking on the occasion, MoS Agriculture Government of J&K, Shri

Sunil Kumar Sharma emphasized the need for better application of technology towards enhanced farm productivity. He said that this can be achieved through coordinated efforts by all concerned and KVKs can play a significant role in this direction. He added that there is a need to aware farmers about availability of facilities and KVK should help them in identifying right technology for appropriate and timely application so that they are benefitted.

Member of Parliament Muzaffar Hussain Beig speaking on the occasion highlighted importance of agriculture towards improving living standards

of farmers particularly through application of modern scientific techniques wherein KVK can play much greater role. "In a State where sources of revenue are meagre and need for creating employment avenues skyrocketing, agriculture and allied sectors can offer vast opportunities for ameliorating this need to some extent" said Beig.

MLA Gulmarg, Mohammad Abbas Wani while thanking Union MoS Agriculture for choosing Tangmarg as host for his maiden visit to J&K reiterated the significance of horticulture for ensuring sound economic health of the people of Tangmarg.

Later the Minister laid the foundation stone of the Administrative block of KVK at Mangloora area of Baramulla district.

Among others Minister of State for Agriculture, Transport, Revenue, pwd, RDD and panchayati Raj, youth services and sports Sunil Kumar Sharma Member Parliament Muzaffar Hussain Beig, Vice chairman Kisan Advisory Board Daljit Singh Chib, MLA Gulmarg Mohammad Abbas Wani, District Development Commissioner Baramulla Dr Nasir Ahmad Naqash, Dr Manoj Kumar Senior Scientist KVK Baramulla, representatives of various departments besides a huge gathering of farmers were present on the occasion.

Two day Workshop on Olive Research and Development inaugurated at Old Airfield Rangreth

Srinagar, October 24: Two day Workshop on Olive Research and Development in India (24th - 25th, October, 2017) jointly organized by Oilseeds Division, DAC&FW & ICAR-CITH, Srinagar was today inaugurated at ICAR-CITH Old Airfield Rangreth.

Speaking on the inaugural session, Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekawat. Hon'ble MoS of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India made a mention of famous Bengal Famine in which nearly 30 lakh people are reported to have been killed due to hunger and how consistent efforts of Agricultural Scientists and Farmers over the years made India self sufficient in food grain production. However, as far as oilseeds are concerned India still faces acute deficit in the production and productivity with only 22% local production and lots of oilseeds are imported. Olive as an oilseed crop has a tremendous potential to fill this gap as during last few years olive oil consumption in the country has increased almost fivefold. North East and North west-

ern Indian Himalayan states including the state of Jammu & Kashmir in India are having a great potential to grow this crop that will ultimately enhance the livelihood security of farmers in the region. The objective of the workshop is to impart awareness to different stakeholders including farmers about this crop. Information about the prospects of this crop in the region, different technologies available to enhance the productivity and production will be deliberated upon during the workshop. The Hon'ble Minister stressed on the need for taking Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav programme seriously by the scientists in transforming technologies from lab to the farmers.

Hundreds of farmers all over Kashmir and delegates from all over India are attending the workshop. Shri Sunil Kumar Sharma, Hon'ble MoS Agriculture Production Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir and Prof. Nazeer Ahmad Vice Chancellor SKUAST (K) were also present on the occasion.

Linking of Aadhar and Mobile Numbers with Post Office Savings Accounts

Srinagar, October 24: After making Aadhaar mandatory for filing income tax returns, the government has now made it mandatory to link Aadhaar with savings accounts. In this backdrop, all the es-

teemed account holders of the Department of Posts are informed that the last date for seeding of Aadhaar numbers with the accounts has been fixed as 31/12/2017 by the government. All the account

holders of the department of posts are requested to contact their respective post offices along with Aadhaar card/Aadhaar number and get the Aadhaar numbers seeded with their accounts as a mandatory exercise.

2-day national seminar on Law, Medicine and Ethics begins at CUK

Srinagar, October 24: The two-day national seminar on "Law, Medicine and Ethics" organised by the Department of Law, School of Legal Studies, Central University of Kashmir (CUK) in collaboration with the Department of Islamic Studies, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora began at CUK's Nowgam-I academic block here Tuesday.

CUK Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj Ud Din Mir, IUST Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mush-taq Ahmad Siddique, CUK Registrar, Prof. M. Afzal Zargar, Dean School of Legal Studies, Dr. Sheikh Showkat Hussain, seminar Coordinator and Assistant Professor, Ms. Gulafroz Jan, Deans of various Schools, Heads and Coordinators of Departments, senior functionaries of the university and students were also present on the occasion.

In his keynote address, Vice-Chancellor, IUST, Prof. Mush-taq Ahmad Siddique, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion and has expertise in the field of medicine, deliberated upon the seminar topic threadbare through a Power Point Presentation. He said that Law, Medicine and Ethics were being discussed from thousands of years and

an oath is still being administered to doctors once they join their profession. He said this century has thrown up new challenges, with the advancement of technology and the role of ethics became more and more important with the changing technology. Prof. Siddique explained how genetic engineering could be advantageous in tackling the diseases diagnosed in the embryo of humans.

CUK Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj-ud-Din Mir, said that the faith of patients on doctors has faded away, as several cases of alleged medical negligence have been brought into the courts for adjudication. He said that the handlers of new technology in medical profession have to be very well equipped. He also thanked the dignitaries present on the occasion and also pressed upon exchange of students and researchers between the two universities (CUK and IUST).

Registrar, Prof. M. Afzal Zargar, said that earlier these advances were limited to Science, but with the technological advancement, it has transferred into other sectors, in order to make the life of human beings better. He said that it has contributed sig-

nificantly to unearth the crime. "We can now identify the culprits within no time and that too by just a drop of blood."

In his welcome address, Dean School of Legal Studies, Dr. Sheikh Showkat Hussain said that new technology has created many challenges, which has forced us to deliberate upon such issues. He said that around 55 papers from Scholars, Professionals, Medical practitioners were received by the department from across the country, adding that the seminar is spread over ten technical sessions and one panel discussion.

Seminar Coordinator and Assistant Professor, Ms Gulafroz Jan while conducting the programme proceedings said that some of the prominent themes that will be discussed in the technical sessions are: Surrogacy & Assisted Reproductive Technologies, Euthanasia: Ethico-Legal Debates, Medical Ethics: Islamic Perspectives, Criminal Investigation: Law & Ethics and Drug Abuse: Law & Ethics.

Later, a Panel discussion on "Law, Medicine and Ethics: Problems and Prospects," was held which was chaired by Vice-Chancellor, Raffels

University, Prof. V K Kapoor. Prof. K L Bhatia, former Director Law School, University of Jammu, Prof. Rafiq Pampori, former principal GMC Srinagar, Prof. Bhagat Oinman, from Centre for Philosophy, JNU, and Dr. G M Malik, J&K State President Indian Medical Association also participated in the discussion.

DLSA TO ORGANIZE LOK ADALAT ON NOV 9

KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 24: To mark the National Legal Service Day, District Legal Services Authority Kishtwar is organizing a Lok Adalat in the district Court Complex Kishtwar on November 9th for amicable settlement of cases pertaining to the courts of Principal District Judge Kishtwar, Sub Judge/Chief Judicial Magistrate Kishtwar and Munsiff/JMIC Kishtwar related to Criminal Compoundable offences, NI Act cases under section 138, Bank Recovery, MACT Cases, Matrimonial, Electricity and water Bills.

President of Afghanistan calls on the President

New Delhi, October 24: His Excellency Mr Ashraf Ghani, the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, called on the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (October 24, 2017).

Welcoming the Afghan President to India, the President expressed admiration for the astute leadership that he has provided to Afghanistan through difficult times. He also commended Mr Ghani for strengthening bilateral relations between India and Afghanistan.

The President said that for India, Afghanistan is not

just a strategic partner, but a nation that evokes endearing affection. He recalled President Ghani's speech at the Heart of Asia Summit in Amritsar in December 2016, and his visit to the Golden Temple. He added that civilisational links and people-to-people contacts provide a strong foundation to our ever-growing friendship.

The President said that in recent times, the two countries have deepened their strategic partnership. The India-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Show in New Delhi brought our businessmen together and generated busi-

ness worth over US \$ 200 million.

The President expressed happiness at the opening of the air freight corridor between Kandahar and Kabul and Delhi. He also noted that the Afghan cities of Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat have been connected directly by air to Delhi.

The President said that securing sustained peace and security remain the key fundamentals in leading Afghanistan on the pathway of economic recovery and growth. Unfortunately, mindless and senseless violence is being imposed on the people of Af-

ghanistan. President Kovind strongly condemned recent terror attacks in Afghanistan, including in the provinces of Kabul, Kandahar, Ghazni and Paktia, that have resulted in over 200 innocent people being killed.

The President said that India itself has been victim of state-sponsored, cross-border terrorism for decades. We can fully empathise with the ongoing quest of the Afghan people to secure peace. India believes that whatever initiatives are taken for bringing peace in Afghanistan should be Afghan-led and Afghan-controlled.

Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu launches CIPAM's Website

New Delhi, October 24: The Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Suresh Prabhu launched the official website for the Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) here today. CIPAM has been set up under the aegis of DIPP with a mandate to effectively implement the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy. Secretary DIPP, Shri Ramesh Abhishek was also present.

The website is interactive providing regular updates on all upcoming events including awareness and sensitization programs being conducted, as also information on all Intellectual Property Rights. It would make available resource material on IPRs specially curated for various levels: schools, universities, industry and enforcement agencies.

One can read the latest news and updates, specially curated feed on all latest happenings in the world of IP,

insightful and educational blogs by CIPAM and IP experts.

The website provides regular updates on the latest IP trends - statistics on applications filed, examined, grants and disposal for various IPRs. It would provide information on the various initiatives being taken by the Government to strengthen the IPR regime in the country. You may visit www.cipam.gov.in or follow CIPAM on Twitter at @CIPAM_India for updates.

Govt committed for development of hilly regions: Veeri Reviews implementation of Shopian DDB meeting decisions

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 24: Minister for Revenue, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, Abdul Rehman Veeri today reiterated the commitment of the Government to ensure holistic development of hilly regions of the State.

The Minister was speaking at District Development Board (DDB) of Shopian here to review the implementation its decisions.

The meeting was attended by MLA Shopian Muhammad Yousuf Bhat, MLA Wachi Aijaz Ahmed Mir, and MLC Zaffar Akbar Manhas. The Meeting was also attended by DDC Shopian Aijaz Ahmed Khan, Departmental heads, Chief Engineers and District Officers of the Shopian district.

During the meeting, Veeri called upon the concerned officers to put in their best efforts to achieve the targets well in time and implement all the decision of the Board in letter and spirit for the overall benefit of the public.

He stressed on concrete progress on all the decisions taken during



the last board meeting for ensuring their timely implementation.

The meeting was informed that Rs 5 crore District Hospital Building will be completed in May next year and fencing work of hospital is also in progress. The Minister was also informed that widening of road from Bonabazart to Haddipora is under way and Rs 2.25 crore land compensation has been allotted to the rightful owners.

It was also said that NABARD funded mega fruit mandi project worth Rs 17.80 crore has been approved, and construction of flood protection wall is under progress. District Development Commis-

sioner, Aijaz Ahmed Khan briefed the Minister that three parking slots have been identified in the district to ease the traffic mess.

The meeting was also informed that Reshnagri Bridge has been modified from single lane to double lane besides DPR worth Rs 4.40 crore has been prepared for construction of an additional block of circuit house.

The DDC also said that much progress has been achieved in health sector as well which includes construction of NTPHC Gatipora and Takia Imam, which is in final stages of completion, funds have been released for procurement of Critical

care Ambulance, Digital X-ray and CT Scan for district hospital.

The meeting also discussed the establishment of 10-bedded Ayush District Hospital with the staff creation besides creation of PHE Sub-division at Zainapora, creation of Flood Control Division at Shopian, creation of Mechanical Division at Shopian, which are under active consideration of the Government.

The DDC also presented an overall picture of Budget allocation and expenditure occurred under various heads which include Rs 27 crore under regular schemes, Rs 7.90 crore under NABARD, Rs 14.60 crore central share, 2.43 crore state share

for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

In the Engineering Sector, The meeting was told that Rs 549.8 crore was the Capex budget for the district which included Rs 21.6 crore in PHE, Rs 6.84 crore in minor irrigation, Rs 149.75 in R&E, Rs 0.45 crore in Energy (Power), Rs 0.15 in Urban development, Rs 0.72 in NFB, Rs 22.34 crore in MGNREGA, and Rs 5.31 in IAY.

MLA Wachi Aijaz Ahmed Mir raised various issues regarding implementation of health, roads, water supply, irrigation, rural development schemes in his constituency.

Tarigami chairs Environment Committee meeting

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 24: Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment met today at Legislative Assembly under the chairmanship of Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami to discuss environment challenges and steps needed to mitigate the problems resulting due to environmental degradation.

Legislators Bashir Ahmad Dar, Usmaan Abdul Majeed, Mohammad Yousuf Bhat, Davinder Kumar Manyal, Gulzar Ahmad Wani, Aijaz Ahmed Mir, Abdul Rahim Rather and Anjum Fazli attended the meeting and gave their suggestions to make the committee more dynamic and result oriented.

The committee discussed measures to restore ecological balance of the environment.

It was decided that issues related to the environment and its allied departments will be discussed in its next meeting and thereafter the committee will formulate action plan to curb the menace of pollution. Tarigami also took note of various schemes of rural development and directed the officials to adopt the norms being undertaken under Swachh Bharat Mission while constructing community Sanitary Complexes. He also directed officials to complete the pending works under MNREGA within a stipulated time frame.

Officials from Rural Development department informed the chairman about the progress of work undertaken under MNREGA and the steps being taken by department to protect environment while implementing the scheme, Swachh Bharat Mission and various other schemes.

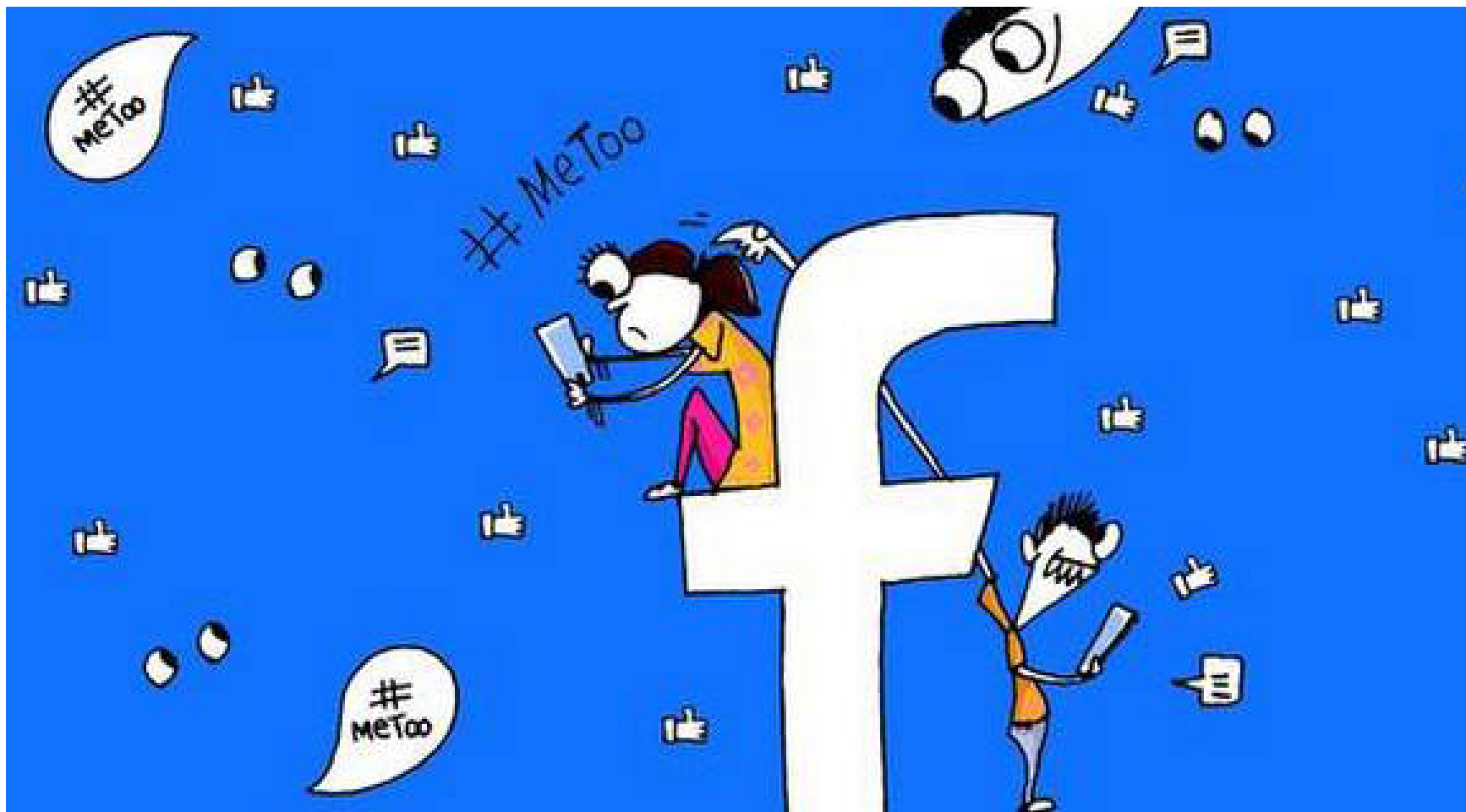
Commissioner, Director, Additional Secretary and other officials from Rural Development Department besides officials from Legislative Assembly were present in the meeting.

FACTS IN FICTION

That are facts in a work of fiction? Are they to be treated as incontrovertible truth or as a licence of creative imagination? In the answers to these questions lies the key to understanding the most pressing issue currently occupying the mind space of the politicians of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Tamil Nadu. Over the past week, senior State leaders of the party have been busy ferreting out references to contemporary realities in a film, Mersal, and testing them against their very own touchstone of truth. They now want the deletion of particular scenes on the goods and services tax regime (because these are factually incorrect) as well as those on the health care situation in the country (because these are critical of the government). India is no stranger to threats to freedom of expression whether in art and movies or in news and academic publishing, whether from organised civilian groups or from the government. From time to time, all sorts of self-identified groups have claimed to be offended by something or the other that they imagined to be an affront to their shared culture or communal heritage. In this Republic of Hurt Sentiments, religion, caste, language and geography have been variously invoked by such groups to mobilise opposition to some perceived insult in a painting or a motion picture. Controversial sections of the Indian Penal Code such as 153A, which prohibits the promotion of enmity between different groups, and 295A, which prohibits insult of religious beliefs, are routinely used to silence voices or harass those who hold dissenting views.

The cynical manipulation of such sections of the law is bad enough. But the censorship demand of the Tamil Nadu BJP has touched a whole new level of absurdity. There is not even a bad provision in the law that bars criticism of the government, whether in newspapers or in films. Mersal is a pure work of fiction, and if the lead actor got his facts about GST in a twist, this is best left to film critics and the audience to react to. To seek cuts in a film on the ground that some of the spoken words are false is ludicrous. By this token, there would be no place for fairy tales in cinema, no role for satire, allegory or hyperbole. Initially, the film's producers seemed to have been taken aback by the BJP's intimidatory demand that the 'offending' scenes be cut. However, the groundswell of support from the film fraternity and the public bolstered their confidence in fighting the threat. Given that the BJP is not much of a political force in Tamil Nadu, the entire controversy over Mersal has a farcical character to it. But it is impossible to ignore what may have happened had the party succeeded in arm-twisting the film-makers into effecting the changes it demanded. This would have sent out a chilling message to the entire film industry.

METOO AND THE SCALE OF THE CRIME



“IT WAS CONSENSUAL,” WEINSTEIN SAID. CONSENSUAL? PLEASE. IF ALL ELSE FAILS, BUY YOUR SONS A GODDAMN MIRROR.

An unusual hashtag trended on social media recently, and it wasn't very pretty. When I came across a status that declared 'MeToo', I was bemused. Why would someone want to revisit an old incident of sexual abuse, wade through the hurt and share it on Facebook?

Nevertheless, I added words of support. As I scrolled down, I came across another status with the same hashtag. And then another, and another, and yet another. Soon enough, the impact of the campaign sunk in. I lost count, and my eyes blurred with anger, sadness, even surprise, as I realised that so many of my friends have gone through some form of sexual harassment.

Alyssa Milano kick-started the MeToo campaign, encouraging women who have encountered any form of sexual assault or abuse to come out, speak about and acknowledge, so people get an idea of how widespread the malaise really is.

THIS IS THE POINT

For those who say, what's the point, the point is to raise awareness, the point is for parents to question the way they are raising their sons, the point is to give women a chance to discuss incidents that often get brushed under the carpet. If a man gropes a woman in a crowd, what choice does she have but to swallow the anger? And there is so much anger.

As I toyed with the idea of adding #MeToo to my status, I realised I was still connected to someone who had harassed me when I was in my teens. I searched for him and there he sat, on

my 'friends' list. I went to his profile page and 'unfriended' him. Then I blocked him. It was about time. Why had I even accepted his request to connect?

The answer isn't all that complex. I had moved on, and imagined he had grown up as well. I would run into him every once in a while and didn't want to feel awkward, neither did I want to give him the satisfaction of knowing that what he had done had caused me any discomfort. If I remain civil and behave normally every time I run into him, I can act like I never even noticed any inappropriate behaviour. Like my knees never shook when he entered my house.

Unfortunately, this was not the only instance of sexual assault I would encounter. While I would do everything in my power to avoid making any sort of physical contact, caving up inside myself every time I was in a crowded place, men would do the opposite, reaching out to make contact. Perhaps I should feel sorry for them — desperate males seeking cheap thrills.

WHAT I FACED

I was assaulted by a music teacher, a yoga instructor, by strangers on a street, in a cinema, in a Deepavali mela, in a store, the only time I hit back. I swung my bag in his face as he ducked and yelped, begging me to stop.

Many times my friends and I have been followed by men as we walked on the road or drove in our cars. We have been cat-called and whistled at, and I haven't even skimmed the surface of

salacious phone calls. For years I went to bed with the phone off the hook. Thank you, caller ID, for making an entire generation of girls' lives a little easier.

While growing up, it seemed all of morality rested on my shoulders. I was the one who had a deadline. My brother could return whenever he wanted to. I was the one who had to watch what I wore, who I spoke to. Despite these restrictions, despite having loving parents with the right intentions, I was harassed. And my Facebook feed clearly shows I was not the only one — far from it. When will we realise that this moral policing of girls isn't working! It is about time we parents started educating our sons about how they should behave. It's clear Harvey Weinstein's parents didn't! How shameful, to have achieved such success, only to be ostracised as you near the end of your career.

TO DO SOMETHING

There is, however, no point in dishing out moral outrage unless we resolve to do something about the situation. It is imperative that sons are taught to respect the girls they go out with, and their wishes. How many parents have explained the concept of consent to their sons? "She didn't protest too much. She wanted it. She was asking for it," they'll say.

"It was consensual," Weinstein said. Consensual? Please. If all else fails, buy your sons a goddamn mirror.

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ON A DIFFERENT TRAJECTORY: ON NAXALBARI MOVEMENT

► M. K. Narayanan

Half a century after the Naxalbari movement arrived like a Spring Thunder over India, questions are beginning to arise as to whether the spark that gave rise to it is in danger of being extinguished. Independent India had previously experienced armed peasant movements, including the Telangana armed struggle and the Tebhaga movement (in Bengal), but the Naxalbari movement seemed to follow a different trajectory.

It was ignited by a small group of Bengal revolutionaries (all members of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) formed in 1964) who felt disillusioned with the so-called embourgeoisement of the party which had only recently split from the CPI on the ground it had turned revisionist. Breaking away from the CPI(M), this faction received almost instant endorsement from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) under Mao. This was followed by a few cadres visiting China to receive the benediction of the CCP. In course of time some of the cadres went to China for training.

It was in April 1969 that the movement took formal shape, with the com-

ing into existence of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) under the leadership of Charu Mazumdar. It initially had a mesmeric effect, enthusing sections of the rural population as well as some semi-urban and urban elements mainly in the States of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. The Chinese Communists were keen that the new Naxalbari movement should follow the Chinese model of revolution relying on the peasantry, establishing base areas in the countryside and using the countryside to encircle and finally capture the cities. As the movement progressed, it became obvious that the Indian Marxist-Leninist revolutionaries preferred the Ho Chi Minh model to that of Mao. The CPI(ML), hence, consisted of both rural and semi-urban elements. In the early years, and till the 1990s, a number of recruits to the movement came from the urban intelligentsia.

From the beginning, the movement, which included many well-known ideologues, suffered from a series of splits. Several leaders from Bengal and Andhra Pradesh thereafter set up their separate parties. A high degree of ideological motivation, however, helped the move-

ment to survive despite the several splits. The ideological motivation could be sustained through the several hundred revolutionary journals in different languages published during the period.

The splintering of the movement subsided to some extent after Muppala Lakshmana Rao, aka Ganapathy, took charge in the early 1990s. Following this, the movement witnessed a degree of consolidation with the Communist Party of India (Maoist) formally coming into existence in the first decade of this century with the merger of several existing factions. Nevertheless, several smaller Marxist-Leninist parties and groups survive to this day.

The main strength of the CPI (Maoist) has been its organisational structure. It has a Central Committee headed by Ganapathy. It possesses a powerful military wing headed by Nambala Keshav Rao aka Basavaraj — the Central Military Commission (CMC). Members of key committees, and especially the Central Committee, are geographically distributed, thus ensuring a degree of cohesion across the party. The hierarchical organisational structure consists of regional bureaux, zonal committees and

area committees. Some of the area and zonal committees such as the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee, the Andhra-Odisha Border Special Zonal Committee and the North Telangana Special Zonal Committee have been more active than others.

Over a dozen States have been, or are, affected by Naxalite activity to varying degrees. The most affected States are Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha. Naxalite or Maoist violence is mainly concentrated at present in pockets such as Abujhmad and Narayanpur districts, Bastar, Dantewada and Sukma, all in Chhattisgarh. Areas of Odisha are also increasingly affected today by Naxalite violence. Considerable potential for Naxalite violence exists in Bihar, pockets in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Maharashtra and the tri-junction of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The movement's leaders are in constant search of new areas to expand their activities and to secure fresh recruits.

Maoist actions and scale of violence have steadily come down in recent years, and more so since 2010. The presence of over 100 battalions of Central paramilitary forces aided by State police

forces has had a sobering effect on the movement. It has not, however, prevented Naxalites from carrying out a few spectacular attacks during this same period. One of the deadliest attacks took place in April 2010, involving the massacre of 76 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel in Dantewada.

There have been other serious attacks as well, notwithstanding the overall decline in the tenor of the movement. This year, there have been at least two major attacks. One took place in March this year, leading to the killing of 12 CRPF personnel, members of a road opening party. In April this year, the Maoists carried out an even more daring attack on a CRPF patrol in Sukma district killing 25 personnel. On more than one occasion between 2010 and 2017, the Maoists were to demonstrate their penchant for large-scale attacks — in one instance ambushing a group of Congress leaders during electioneering (May 2013 in Chhattisgarh). At least 27 people, including former Union Minister V.C. Shukla, died.

In official circles, Maoist success is often attributed to the failure of police personnel to observe 'Standard Operat-

ing Procedures' and also to the failure of intelligence. This, however, ignores the intrinsic capacity of the Maoists to carry out ambushes, their skill in employing improvised explosive devices, and their capacity to resort to ingenious weaponry such as arrow bombs. It also underestimates the ability of the highly trained battalions of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army, who constitute the vanguard of the movement. They are well-armed and adept in the use of both orthodox and unorthodox weapons. Their skill is often evident in the so-called 'liberated zones' in the Naxalite heartland.

The decline in the rate of Maoist successes — in the past year the numbers of those killed by the Maoists was hardly 20% of that in 2010 — and the relative success of the security forces, seems to have induced some rethinking in Maoist circles. There is growing demand today for a change in approach, and for a new direction.

The spirit of Naxalbari was predicated on a mixture of intellectual fervour and armed struggle methodology. Over the years, the concept of capturing the cities by mobilising the countryside has lost much of its steam.

Opposition to observe November 8, note ban anniversary, as 'black day'



NEW DELHI: "Possibly this is the first time that a decision announced by the Prime Minister had to be changed 135 times. It just shows how ill-conceived it was," says Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad. To mark the first anniversary of demonitisation, Opposition parties have decided to observe November 8 as 'black day'. Leader of the Opposition in the

Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, addressing a joint press conference with Trinamool Congress's Derek O'Brien and JD(U) rebel Sharad Yadav, said, "Possibly this is the first time that a decision announced by the Prime Minister had to be changed 135 times. It just shows how ill-conceived it was." Mr. Azad, who coordinated with other Opposition parties, claimed that 18 parties were

on board. "In their respective States, they will be protesting in their own way," he said. Mr. O'Brien described the note ban as a "big scam". His party would observe the 'black day' in West Bengal. "My leader Mamata Banerjee was the first leader to have pointed this out," he said. On Monday, Opposition parties formed a coordination committee and met for the first time

in Parliament. Apart from Mr. Azad, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Yadav, the coordination committee meeting was attended by CPI MP D. Raja, DMK MP Kanimozhi, and BSP's Satish Mishra.

On Monday, Mr. Mishra informed the meeting that BSP chief Mayawati would kickstart her anti-note ban campaign with a rally at Azamgarh the following day.

There would be 13 rallies in all. Mr. Raja, who represented the Left parties in Monday's meeting, said the Left had planned a series of protest actions starting from the last week of October.

Beginning November 8, for three days central trade unions plan to demonstrate against the Modi government's economic policies and its impact on both organised and unorganised workers.

"The coordination committee will meet again just before the Parliament session," said Mr. O'Brien.

On November 8, 2016, the Union government made announced that all existing Rs 500 and Rs. 1000 currency would cease to be legal tender. The government announced that new Rs 500 and Rs 2000 notes would be issued on exchange of old notes.

Sambalpur University +3 Second Year 2017 result declared

Check suniv.ac.in

NEW DELHI: On Tuesday, Sambalpur University in Odisha declared the results for +3 second year examination on its official website - suniv.ac.in. Students who appeared for the exams can also check their results on orissaresults.nic.in.

The Sambalpur University declared results for +3 second year university exams for Arts, Commerce and Science Streams. Errors in the result can be rectified within 3 days. How you can check your results: 1) Enter your roll number 2) Fill the required details 3) Check your results 4) Keep a printout for posterity. Popularly known as Jyoti Vihar, the Sambalpur University offers courses at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels. It was established in 1967 and incumbent Governor of Odisha Chittaranjan Tripathy is the Vice-Chancellor of the university.

The Sambalpur University Act was passed by the Odisha Legislature on 10th December, 1966 to fulfill long cherished dream of the people of Western Odisha for establishment of a University. The University started functioning from 1st January, 1967 with Prof. Parsuram Mishra as the first Vice-Chancellor. The University was inaugurated on 4th January, 1967 by Hon'ble Chancellor A.N. Khosla. The University started functioning in 1967 in a rented private building at Dhanupali,

Sambalpur and in Government building at Ainthapali, Sambalpur from 1968-72. In the year 1973 the University was shifted to the present campus named Jyoti Vihar at Burla.

The territorial jurisdiction of the University covers 10 districts of the state of Odisha namely Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh, Bargarh, Bolangir, Subarnapur, Nawapara, Kalahandi, Boudh and Athamalik Sub-Division of Angul District.

The University at Jyoti Vihar provides Post-Graduate education in Twenty-seven subjects through Twenty Post-Graduate Departments.

The University Post-Graduate Departments offer one-year study Programme for M.Phil Degree, two years study programme for the Degrees of M.A. / M.Sc. / LL.M. / Business Administration / M.Lib & Inf. Science, One-Year P.G. Diploma Course in Computer Science & Application and Diploma Course in Sambalpur Studies and Three-Year course in M.C.A. and Executive M.B.A.

The P.G. Departments of Chemistry, Life Sciences, History, Economics, Library & Information Sciences, and Mathematics have been conferred Autonomous Status by the University. They adopt Semester system based on continuous evaluation. They adopt their own courses of studies.

Abdul Karim Telgi, Convicted In Stamp Paper Scam, Hospitalised In Bengaluru



BENGALURU: Abdul Karim Telgi, a convict in the counterfeit stamp paper scam, is on ventilator and is suffering from meningitis, according to his lawyer. He is alive, but very critical and has been admitted to Victoria hospital. He is in the ICU and on ventilator. He is suffering from meningitis," Telgi's lawyer MT Nanaiah said here today.

Telgi was admitted four days back, he added. "He should have been admitted a little bit earlier. There has been a delay," he said. Meningitis is an acute inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord, known collectively as the meninges.

Telgi was arrested in Ajmer in November 2001 and has been suffering from diabetes and hypertension for over 20 years, besides other ailments, including AIDS. He was serving his term in Parappana Agrahara Central Jail in Bengaluru after being sentenced to 30 years of rigorous imprisonment in multi-crore fake stamp

paper racket. A whopping fine of Rs. 202 crore was also imposed on him. Recently, Telgi was in thick of controversy when former DIG (Prisons) D Roopa alleged that prison authorities were giving him preferential treatment in the prison.

Netaji's daughter pushes for DNA test, to meet PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Anita Bose-Pfaff, the daughter of Subhash Chandra Bose, has said she is looking forward to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi next year for take forward her plans to bring the iconic leader's ashes from a temple in Japan to India and conduct a DNA test.

The plan to do a DNA test on the remains has long been mooted to scientifically prove that Bose died in a plane crash in Taipei on August 18, 1945. His remains after his cremation were reportedly stored at Renkoji temple in Tokyo.

Bose-Pfaff, 74, who was in London to deliver a lecture on "70 years of free India: What might Netaji have hoped for", told Hindustan Times it was time to bring closure on the issue through the DNA test, at least for the section of the Indian public that is amenable to scientific arguments.

Bose's death has long been the subject of debate, with some claiming he survived the crash, returned to India and lived anonymously. But Bose-Pfaff, who has no memory of her father because she was a month old when he last saw her, is convinced of his death.

"Two inquiry commissions came to the conclusion that he died in the plane crash. Recent documents released by the Japanese government essentially supported this, other documents did too. This is the only consistent story of his life," she said.

"Given the life that my father had had, which was very unusual, all sorts of stories cropped up. If you start with some idiotic story of 'Gumnami Baba' as Netaji, it is stupid. It is an insult to Netaji. "Just imagine this man who sacrificed so much for his country, would come back and live in questionable



circumstances in a place in Uttar Pradesh. It just makes no sense at all. For me, this is the only reality (that he died in the crash), some of my relatives have other views. It's a free world," she added.

It would be important for the Indian and Japanese governments and herself to agree on taking the ashes to India and conducting the DNA test: "I am not talking about the rest of the family because like any big family there are as many opinions as you have people, and on that issue the family is divided."

According to Bose-Pfaff, neither the Indian nor the Japanese government want to move first or put the other in an awkward position. "We'll have to see what Mr Modi will say: OK go ahead, or he might also say no. Politicians have a way, if they don't find ad-

vantage, they don't do things. It would be helpful if the Indian government, after dilly-dallying all these years, took a clear stand."

She added, "I have not seen him (Modi), but he is aware of that, but I have talked to the embassy in Germany that this is what I want to do. So he must be aware of what I want to talk to him about.

The only way is to go and see him next year, which is most likely." Clad in a green sari and red blouse, she referred in her lecture to her father as Netaji, recalling his words, deeds and India's history,

and ended it with "Jai Hind". She regretted that it was only in 1979 under a non-Congress government that veterans of her father's Indian National Army were given the status of freedom fighters. After independence, India

could not have continued to exist in any other form but as a secular state, Bose-Pfaff said. The course of history could have been different if Bose had survived until independence and beyond. "We can be certain that Netaji would not have envisaged that poverty, illiteracy and health would improve at such a slow rate, leave alone not,

be eradicated by today. And I cannot help being very sad when I try to imagine what the freedom fighters of my father's generation would think,

if they knew what has become of their beloved country in that respect," she said. A retired professor of economics at the University of Augsburg in Germany, Bose-Pfaff is married to Martin Pfaff, a former member of German parliament. The couple has three children.

NATIONAL ANTHEM ROW SUPREME COURT'S LATEST OBSERVATION ON PATRIOTISM CONTRADICTS ITS 2016 POINT OF VIEW

NEW DELHI: With its observation that people cannot be "forced to carry patriotism on their sleeves", the Supreme Court on Monday hinted taking a relook at its November 2016 order on playing the National Anthem in cinema halls.

Though the apex court was of the opinion that courts cannot "inculcate patriotism among people", the bench's observations in 2016 contradicted its observation on Monday.

"People do not need to stand up in cinema halls to prove their patriotism," the Supreme Court said on Monday, adding that it cannot be assumed that if a person does not stand up for the National Anthem,

then he is "less patriotic". However, in November 2016, a bench of Justice Dipak Misra and Justice Amitava Roy said, "It is the duty of every citizen to abide by the ideals ingrained in the Constitution and as such show respect to the National Anthem and the National Flag."

Observing that the society did not need "moral policing", the bench consisting of Chief Justice Dipak Misra claimed on Monday that next time "the government will want people to stop wearing T-shirts and shorts to cinemas saying this would disrespect the National Anthem." According to The Indian Express, in 2016, the apex court ordered: "All the cinema halls in India shall play the National Anthem before the feature film starts and all present in the hall are obliged to stand up to show respect to the National Anthem" as a part of their "sacred obligation", to instill "committed patriotism and



nationalism." It had given 10 days for the compliance of its directions.

"People must feel this is my country and this is my motherland," the bench said, adding, "At the root of protocol for National Anthem, is respect for national identity, integrity and constitutional patriotism." The order came with additional caveats such as everyone present in the hall must rise and "pay respect" to the National

Anthem. On Monday, the top court wondered why it had to pass the order in 2016 when the central government was competent to regulate the playing of the National Anthem.

The Supreme Court's order on Monday said: "We think it appropriate that the central government should take a call in this regard and, if necessary, as advised, may bring out the requisite notification or circular or rules. When we

say 'take a call', needless to say, the discretion rests with the central government. The discretion has to be exercised without being influenced by our interim order. We may further emphasize that the discretion may be utilised to regulate in an inclusive manner or as the central government feels fit."

News18 quoted the bench as saying on Monday: "Cinema halls are places of entertainment

after all. As the government, you have the power. Why do you have to throw the burden to this court? Why is there a reservation on your part to do it?" But its previous order, the Supreme Court in reference to Article 51A(a) called it "crystal clear" that it was the "sacred obligation of every citizen to abide by the ideal engrafted by the Constitution."

The Chief Justice once again suggests replacing "shall" with "may" in the order, and making it discretionary. This time the AG agrees.

— Gautam Bhatia (@gautambhatia88) October 23, 2017

The court had said, "Time has come when people should feel they live in a nation" and "even in Shastras, nationalism was accepted." The directions had considered multiple aspects of the playing of National Anthem in cinema halls. According to Live Law, the November 2016 order said, "Prior to the National Anthem is played or sung in the cinema hall on the screen,

the entry and exit doors shall remain closed so that no one can create any kind of disturbance which will amount to disrespect to the National Anthem. After the National

Anthem is played or sung, the doors can be opened." The top court,

had further directed that National flag be on the screen when the National Anthem shall be played in the cinema halls. The matter has been listed for hearing on 9 January, 2018. The playing of the National anthem remains mandatory in cinema halls till then, while the Centre has been told to take a call on regulating the issue.

When exercise becomes harmful

There are people who struggle to go to the gym. And then there are those for whom it's a second home. 'What's the big deal?' you may say. After all, you're simply committed to your health.

Getting anxious every time you skip an exercise session is a big deal, believes Dr Tanay Maiti, senior resident psychiatrist at CMC Vellore. Addicted to the feeling of euphoria caused by the rise in concentration of norepinephrine and serotonin, and secretion of endorphins by the pituitary gland during strenuous exercise, exercise junkies push the health pedal so hard that they don't realise when it's hurting.

Talking about identifying exercise addiction, Dr Maiti says, "Exercising for long hours, preferring exercising over any other things in life and at odd hours, continuing exercise despite pain, injury or against medical advice could be prominent early signs of exercise addiction," he says, adding that there are psychometric tools to quantify the problem.

A dangerous obsession
So how much is enough, really? Dr Rajesh Benny, marathon runner and consultant neurologist at Fortis Hospital, Mumbai, says, "Running a marathon

is a fashion statement." But many novice runners tend to be in a constant post-workout state by not resting sufficiently between days of long runs. This can lead to build up of toxic metabolites in the muscles which can prove dangerous. And yes, there is the tremendous stress on the bones and joints to worry about too. "So, train slowly, wisely and gradually, to reap the benefits of running," he says.

Middle-aged men, some of who have never indulged in endurance exercises in their youth, are often at risk because, "exercising a muscle if done excessively or incorrectly can lead to muscle breakdown. This may prove dangerous especially when it involves the heart," he says.

Dr Manu Bora, orthopaedic and sports medicine surgeon, Artemis Hospital, Gurgaon, adds, "Excessive exertion can exert too much pressure on our heart and blood vessels, which can lead to heart and blood vessel problems like angina, tachycardia, irregular cardiac rhythm, aneurysm, bleeding, even myocardial infarction and stroke."

So what is the optimum level of activity one needs to get? Bangalore-based certified Zumba and fitness instructor,



Sherene Vijayakumar believes, "An hour of exercise including cardio and strength training is ideal. If you are practising something like Zumba, you can do a 50- to 60-minute workout for five days a week as it has elements of cardio and toning. However, I would suggest incorporating two to three days a week of additional strength training," she says. Nothing more.

Deleterious to your health
Dr Benny says, "Overexercising can weaken one's immune system and leave one feeling tired and sad." Additionally, it can make people become more susceptible to colds and flu.

Free radical damage, ongoing sun exposure and a high-protein diet which often goes with excessive exercise can lead to early ageing in both men and women. In extreme cases, the menstrual cycle may cease. Dr Nameeta Bhalerao, fertility consultant, says, "There are many proven studies that around 19% of body fat is required to maintain proper hormonal balance. When you overexercise, the minimal amount of fat that is required gets burnt and there is a huge change in the hormones."

An exercise addiction may also lead to dysfunctional relationships. A person

starts avoiding social interaction and turns to exercise instead. This leads to conflict in relationship.

Over-exercising can affect the career of a person because the obsession becomes so much that one stops concentrating on his/her work.

Dr Maiti says, "They cannot think of a life without exercise and have anxiety attacks if they have to go without exercise even for a day. Addressing the cognitions behind it through cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) principles can be helpful," he says, adding that overexercising is often linked to anorexia nervosa, body dysmorphic disorder, and depression.

Addiction of any kind, even if it is related to fitness, is toxic to your well-being. Unfortunately, many addicts are in denial and don't see anything wrong with their behaviour.

Identifying and quantifying the problem is the first step towards solving the issue. After all, as Mukul Chowdhary, certified Hatha Yoga instructor from Bengaluru, says, "Health is not just about physical fitness, but it is also about mental and spiritual well-being. So, it is important that a person knows where to stop."

Jam-packed with goodness



Have you jumped on the exotic-berry bandwagon, with goji, acai and a whole bunch more? Berries are little antioxidant bombs, but they don't always have to be sourced from miles away and bought at exorbitant prices.

Score the same (plussome) benefits from the locally-grown, often underrated jamun. From June to August, it is filled with juicy goodness and plays an important role in preventing disease.

There's a reason seasonal fruit works for our bodies: the phytochemicals that protect the plant against disease during a particular season

also give us protection. They work against inflammation and help in the detoxification process. Flavonoids, one of the main phytochemicals in jamun, "are synthesised by plants in response to microbial infection, and hence are very effective antimicrobial substances against a wide array of micro-organisms," says a paper published in the Indian Journal of Scientific Research.

The polyphenols present are anti-cancer and protect the body from free radicals that damage cells. Jamun is hypoglycaemic. This means that eating it helps keep your

blood sugar stable, so it's a great snack. It also has micronutrients: calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, sodium, vitamin C, and B vitamins. It is heart-protective, thanks to its high potassium content. And it's low-cal: 100 gms delivers just 62 calories. It's your stomach's friend and aids in digestion, is a cardi-protective and a diuretic.

Jamun is one locally-grown fruit that is mostly organic and can be added to your armoury of health foods. Nishant Kumar Choubey, corporate chef, The Roseate, Delhi, finds jamun a very versatile food. Here are some of his favourite recipes.

Yoga mats on the pool

Yoga might be all about a striking a harmony between your mind and body, but it's not always that easy to hold the yoga asana poses for too long when your joints are whining and muscles are quivering! Spreading out your yoga mats in the water, however, is an entirely different story. This is the latest trend in the fitness world which is fast catching up in the city as well.

This new and effective workout regime adapts traditional yoga postures in the water. "In aqua yoga, the practitioner feels weightless due to the buoyancy force of water," says yoga instructor Mahua Deb, who conducted the first aqua yoga session at Hotel Novotel's Infinity Pool on Friday. Organised by Moxsha Yoga in association with Starlite Nutrition and Fitness Centre, the session drew many fitness enthusiasts.

Therapeutic
The most beneficial part



of aqua yoga is its therapeutic effect on the mind and body as it provides natural resistance, with no harmful impact on the joints "Aqua yoga can be particularly therapeutic to stroke and cancer survivors, pregnant women, those with arthritis, muscle, back or joint

limitations or pain as in water the same yoga postures bear less impact on the muscles.

Those who are overweight, also can start with aqua yoga as that will not be much taxing on their joints to begin with," Mahua explains. An aqua workout is power packed

and burns approximately 800 to 1000 calories in an hour.

In the beginner's session, only the standing asanas are practiced in aqua yoga under trained instructor. In the next level, the sitting asanas are done with proper breath monitoring. "Some of the tra-

ditional yoga poses can be modified for doing them in water," she adds.

Some basic water safety should be followed and new participants should be taken into only chest deep water. "Even learning to balance in water on both legs of single leg is more fun because while doing so if you fall, you won't get hurt," says Mahua, who has been practising yoga from the past two decades.

She practices yoga every morning at sunrise and also does kriyas or cleansing techniques regularly. Apart from being a hatha and ashtanga yoga instructor, Mahua is also a good swimmer, which led her to introduce the aqua form of yoga in her classes. "Yoga has helped me control my emotions better. I am a better, healthier and balanced person due to yoga. Additionally, aqua yoga has helped me to go into a meditative state more easily," says the yoga instructor.

Beyond physical well being

An ardent admirer of Yoga, for Benoy K Behl nothing could have been more rewarding than his recent five-week tour to three South American countries. Describing it as amazing and heart touching, he said, "Having covered Yoga, its teaching and practice in different parts of the world, the experience in Brazil, Argentina and Colombia was truly eye-opening. In Medellin, Colombia it was fascinating to see 300 young people attending free classes being offered at the Botanical Garden as was watching inmates of old people home exercise daily with enthusiasm. The user spectrum is indeed vast, covering men and women, young and old. People are not just fascinated by Yoga's physical and health benefits but beyond as they eagerly embrace spiritual and emotional well being qualities."

The renowned art historian, filmmaker and photographer is at present making a documentary Yoga For World Peace which documents practice and use of this ancient discipline in varied countries. Having shot in India, US, Japan, Germany and Vietnam it was during his stint in Bahamas that he chanced upon

Yoga teachers from Colombia. "The visit to South America was on the cards and when I was informed by them that Colombia with nearly seven million victims of violence and trauma had opted for Yoga as a means to heal their fractured and injured society, I decided to explore the South American countries."

Behl's interaction was across a cross section of the society and populace. In Colombia, at the headquarters of the National Police he addressed senior officers. "With their lessons about to commence they were absolutely serious. Leading a hectic professional life, I told them that it will help them concentrate better on their work while at the same time ensure peace of mind. On being informed that Yoga was used by Japanese Samurai warriors in the past for the same purpose, they were impressed."

BENOYKBEHL
Just as much law enforcers were keen, Behl found takers of this practice among those on the wrong side of law — juveniles and women prisoners. "At Juvenile Reform Facility located in Colombia's Cali I witnessed inmates scarred by trauma and



violence, find solace in Yoga. Interesting it thrilled me to see their lady teacher, Natalia, walking fearlessly among them. It proves how their innate humanness had come to fore." Talking to them, Behl perceived compassion, intelligence and wisdom. "They had many questions about Yoga, my films and travel experiences." The same effect he perceived at the Women's Prison Facility at Brazil's Sao Paulo. "They confided that doing Yoga regularly had brought about quietude and discipline in their life."

At these places Behl observed a

great deal of satisfaction on the part of teachers as well as the authorities. "Both sides concurred that while earlier inmates were difficult to control now they had changed for good. It is as if their frame of mind had altered."

Fit and youthful
But these experiences were nothing in comparison to what he saw at an old age home at the Centro Bienstar Del Anciano, Guarne, near Medellin. "With most residents unable to get up and walk, it was a sight to watch them make an effort and do at least simple exercises of stretch-

ing their hand and legs. Blanca Baiza, a lady about to turn 100 years was part of the group. They are all instructed by Carlos Dominguez, fit and youthful at 70. Carlos confided that over the past two years he felt their sense of despondency giving way to joy and enjoyment."

Having shot all this for his documentary, Behl says the objective of the film is to spread awareness about the benefits of Yoga and how it is being embraced by people world over. "Delving on its beauty and grace the film will emphasise how it can bring down stress levels and mental and physical ailments which have become widespread due to violence, conflict and exceeding material needs." Targeting the individual, he says it highlights how change in self can bring about a change others making the world a better place to live.

What elates Behl is the fact that Yoga has transcended geographical and man made barriers. "This proves that having evolved for human good, both Yoga and Indian philosophy are not parochial. Teaching peace, Yoga does not in any way clash with one's faith."

FROM BEYOND THE MOUNTAIN

Think Ladakh, think Himalayan magic. Wide open vistas, stark mountains set against bright blue skies and lakes that mirror the powder puff clouds dotting the region. And while the valley might seem like the ideal spot to vacation, there's so much more about it that we barely know. For instance, the food. Ever heard of Ladakhi moks or chutagi?

It is to create an awareness about Ladakhi cuisine and make the cold desert seem just a little more familiar that Arjun Nair, ideator, Discovering India, decided to organise Project Apricot Blossom, a three-city Ladakhi food fest by Nilza Angmo, an entrepreneur from the region. He says, "I'd gone to Ladakh for an entrepreneurship conclave in June this year and was mentoring entrepreneurs who were making pitches for a cash prize. Nilza was one of them and she runs her own restaurant in her town of Achi. Ladakh was new territory for me and I fell in love with the place and its people; they have an innocence to them. We tasted some of Nilza's food and that was my introduction to Ladakhi cuisine."

As he continued to communicate with Angmo over the next few months he realised the harsh realities that people of the region face. "They have virtually no work from October to March or April every year as Ladakh is cut off from the rest of the country. That is when I thought we could do something to change things a bit; maybe showcase Ladakhi food. I spoke with some of the hotel general managers in Hyderabad and Chennai and once I had people on board, we decided to put the plan in action."



There's just something about the twinning of the words 'flowers' and 'Thailand' that seems very natural and organic. While the South East Asian nation's national flower — the orchid — is flown into India by the plane-load almost every day straight from the Pak Khlong Talat wholesale flower mar-

ket in Bangkok, decorating many a wedding mandap, it's edible counterparts are ne'er too far away!

While we've seen the 'blooming' of chrysanthemum flowers and syrups in several cocktail preparations across India, it's another flower that's been recently painting the Mumbai dining

scene a vivid shade of blue. Enter the butterfly pea flower.

The flower, of the Clitoria ternatea plant, when steeped in water has been a perennial favourite herbal tea in Thailand for centuries where it is known as nam dok anchan.

It is renowned for its

health benefits, from taking care of conjunctivitis to enhancing memory. Distilling all this into one bizarre looking, but flavourful rice preparation is Mumbai's newest Thai restaurant Nara Thai.

Khao Phad Samunprai or Butterfly Pea Flower Rice may be a tongue-twister of

a name, but this novel rice preparation is a delicious blend of pre-cooked short grain rice, sliced lemongrass and kaffir lime leaves that are wok-tossed with young peppercorns, deep fried red chilli and splashed with the unusual white soy sauce and a decoction of dried butterfly pea flowers steeped

in warm water.

At first luridly blue, this rice takes on a shocking purple hue when one squeezes a bit of lime juice over it, with the acidity of the lime juice reacting with the butterfly pea flower to incite this change.

How's that for a touch of psychedelia on your plate!

Centre waives fine for delayed filing of GST returns in August, September

NEW DELHI: The government waived on Tuesday penalty on delayed filing of initial GST returns for the months of August and September.

"To facilitate taxpayers, late fee on filing of GSTR-3B for August and September has been waived," finance minister Arun Jaitley tweeted.

He said the late fee which has been already charged to businesses will be credited back to taxpayers' accounts.

The government had earlier waived late fee for delayed filing of the maiden returns for the month of July under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.

Businesses have been demanding that the government waives penalty for delayed filing of GST returns.

As per the data, 55.87 lakh GSTR-3B returns were filed for July, 51.37 lakh for August and over 42 lakh for September. Preliminary returns



GSTR-3B for a month is filed on the 20th day of the next month after paying due taxes.

As per the data with the GST Network (GSTN), a huge chunk of businesses file their returns after the expiry of the due date.

While only 33.98 lakh July returns were filed till the due date, the number has now gone up to 55.87 lakh. Similarly for August 28.46 lakh returns were filed till the last date, but the figure went up to 51.37 lakh later.

Also for September while 39.4 lakh returns were filed by the due date, the number is rising and was over 42 lakh till Monday.

The GST law provides for a nominal fee of Rs 100 per day on Central GST and an equivalent amount on State GST in case of late filing of returns and payment of taxes.



HDFC Bank posts record profit of Rs 4151 crore in Q2, bad loans largely stable

MUMBAI: HDFC Bank Ltd, India's second-biggest lender by assets, on Tuesday reported a record quarterly profit, buoyed by an increase in interest and fee incomes.

The Mumbai-based bank, which was recently added to the central bank's list of lenders it considers "too big to fail", raked in a net profit of Rs 4,151 crore (\$634 million) in the three months to Sept. 30, up 20% from a year ago.

That was mostly in line with an average estimate of Rs 4161 crore from 24 analysts, Thomson Reuters data shows.

Gross bad loans as a percentage of total loans stood at 1.26% at end-September, versus 1.24% in the previous quarter and 1.02% a year ago.

With its focus on retail clients and relatively smaller exposure to segments such as infrastructure financing, HDFC Bank has the lowest bad-loan ratio among top Indian lenders. That has made it an investor favourite in a sector that has been marred by a record \$146 billion of soured loans.

HDFC Bank's net interest income rose 22% in the quarter on a 22.3% rise in loans.

Non-interest revenue rose 24.3%, while core net interest margin steadied at 4.3%.

The bank has a market capitalisation of more than \$87 billion, making it the most valuable in the sector and second among all Indian companies.

Shares of the bank were little changed after the results in a Mumbai market that was up 0.3%.

It has rallied about 55% this year, outperforming the sector index that has risen 33% and the main market index that has added 24%.

Sensex trims initial gains, Nifty trades above 10,200 mark

MUMBAI: The BSE Sensex trimmed initial gains but the NSE Nifty was trading above 10,200 mark in late morning session backed by sustained buying mainly in realty, metal, banking, power, oil and gas and utilities stocks amid firm Asian cues.

The 30-share Sensex resumed higher at 32,619.26 and hovered in a range of 32,670.37 and 32,534.21 in late morning trade. It was trading at 32,594.50 at 1130 hrs, up by 87.78 points or 0.27%.

While, the NSE 50-share Nifty was also trading up by 30.10, or 0.30% to 10,214.95.

The S&P BSE Mid-Cap index rose 0.27%, underperforming the Sensex and the S&P BSE Small-Cap index advanced 0.79%, outperforming the Sensex.

GST collections in September touch Rs 92,150 crore

NEW DELHI: India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections in September totalled Rs 92,150 crore and were collected from 42.91 lakh businesses, the government announced on Tuesday.

"The total revenue in GST regime under different heads (up to October 23) for September 2017 is Rs 92,150 crore," a finance ministry statement said here.

Of this, Rs 14,042 crore is on account of Central GST, and Rs 21,172 crore as State GST.

Integrated GST collections stood at Rs 48,948 crore, of which Rs 23,951 crore came from imports.

The government also said that the Compensation Cess was Rs 7,988 crore, of which Rs 722 crore was from imports in September.

Till Monday, 42.91 lakh business entities had filed September's initial GSTR-3B return, which is basic self-assessment of sales and purchase, the statement added.

Over Rs 95,000 crore was collected through GST during July, the first month of its implementation, while the figure for August was over Rs 91,000 crore.

Earlier on Tuesday, the government waived the penalty for filing late returns for August and September.

"To facilitate taxpayers, late fee on the filing of GSTR-3B for August and September has been waived. Late fee paid will be credited back to taxpayer ledger," finance minister Arun Jaitley announced in a tweet.

To facilitate taxpayers, late fee on filing of GSTR-3B for Aug&Sept has been waived. Late fee paid will be credited back to taxpayer ledger.

Late fee of Rs 200 per day was being charged from businesses.

For August, only 55 per cent of businesses had filed returns till September 25. September 20 was the last date to file the GSTR-3B.

For September, the last date to file GSTR-3B was October 20.

GSTR-3B is a summary return of details of outward supplies, inward supplies, credit and payment of tax.

GOVT HIKES MSP FOR WHEAT BY RS 110 PER QUINTAL, PULSES BY RS 200 PER QUINTAL

NEW DELHI: The government on Tuesday increased the minimum support price (MSP) of wheat by Rs 110 to Rs 1,735 a quintal and of pulses by Rs 200 per quintal to help boost the output of these crops and check prices, official sources said.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the MSPs of all rabi (winter-sown) crops for 2017-18. MSP is the rate at which government buys grain from farmers.

According to sources, the CCEA approved Rs 110 per quintal hike in wheat MSP to Rs 1,735 per quintal for the 2017-18 rabi crop, up from Rs 1,625 per quintal last year.

To encourage the cultivation of gram and masoor, their MSPs have been raised by Rs 200 per quintal each to Rs 4,200 and Rs 4,150.

Among oilseeds, rapeseed/mustard



and safflower seed MSP has also been increased substantially, the sources said, adding that the support prices are in line with the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and

Prices. Wheat is the main rabi crop, sowing of which will begin from this month. The crop will be marketed from next year April onwards.

West Bengal will continue to raise its voice on GST: Mitra

KOLKATA: West Bengal would continue to raise its voice against the faulty implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) which had cost the nation in every manner, state finance and industry minister Amit Mitra said on Tuesday.

"I am going to Guwahati for the next meeting of the GST Council. I will continue to raise the state's voice and fight for the small and medium scale units," Mitra said at an event organised jointly by several chambers of commerce here.

Mitra said the state government,



under the leadership of chief minister Mamata Banerjee, had repeatedly asked the Centre not to implement GST in haste.

GST was implemented in the country from July 1, 2017.

"You see the consequences now. There had been tweaking in the GST rates every time the council met. This is the result of hasty implementation of GST," Mitra said adding, West Bengal was always in favour of the new tax regime as it would do away with the multiplicity of taxes.

Mitra said that during the last six years of Trinamool Congress rule, the state had performed better on every count.

State education and biotechnology minister Partha Chatterjee said that in the last six years, there had been no militant trade unionism and not a single event of strike.

"Unlike during the Left Front (rule), not a single strike has taken place. There had been state-sponsored strike in the state which was common during the previous regime," he said.

Infosys cuts full-year revenue forecast despite rise in quarterly profit

BENGALURU: Indian software services company Infosys Ltd trimmed its revenue forecast for the year despite reporting a surprise rise in quarterly profit.

It said it expected its full-year revenue to rise 5.5-6.5% in constant currency, compared with its previous guidance of a 6.5-8.5% increase.

Profit after tax rose 3.3% to 37.26 billion rupees (\$573 million) in the second quarter, beating the average analysts' estimate of 35.23 billion rupees, according to Thomson Reuters data.

The results are the first since Vishal Sikka quit as chief executive in August



after a lengthy feud between the board and the company founders that also

led to a reorganisation of the board. Nandan Nilekani, a co-founder and a former CEO, was named chairman and the company continues to search for a new CEO.

Bengaluru-based Infosys said its revenue from operations rose 1.5% to 175.67 billion rupees in the second quarter. Revenue from the financial services segment rose marginally to 47.18 billion rupees.

The Infosys board also reaffirmed that an investigation into alleged improprieties related to the acquisition of Israeli automation firm Panaya found no evidence of any wrongdoing. (\$1 = 65.0225 Indian rupees)

Goodricke Group acquires tea division of Godfrey Phillips India to drive aggressive expansion into its packaged tea business

SRINAGAR, OCT 24: Goodricke Group Ltd, (GGL) India's largest producer of Darjeeling tea, has entered into an agreement with Godfrey Phillips India (GPI) to drive aggressive expansion into its packaged tea business. The deal will give rights to Goodricke Group on the trademarks, titles and brands associated with the tea business.

These newly acquired brands will help Goodricke deliver on its plan of enhancing the tea culture of India through its packaged tea division. Goodricke has acquired the following brands from Godfrey Phillips- Tea City, SC Gold, Symphony, Samovar, SC Premium, Super Cup, Rangoli and Utsav at a total consideration of INR 20 crores.

With Goodricke's expertise in the field of manufacturing and packaging, this acquisition will reinforce its position in the business of packaged tea. Goodricke is presently managing a business of 9 million kgs through the FMCG route and it hopes to sustain 14 million kgs by absorbing GPI's brands, distributions and operations. J&K, Punjab, UP, Bihar, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh are some of the key markets for this.

Mr. A.N Singh, CEO & MD, Goodricke Group Ltd, said, "This acquisition will bring synergy to our branded tea business and help us integrate all channels and develop this department further."

Usman destroys SL as Pakistan sweep ODI series

SHARJAH: Left-arm paceman Usman Shinwari destroyed Sri Lanka with a five-wicket burst to help Pakistan achieve a convincing nine-wicket win in the fifth and final match for a 5-0 clean sweep of the One-day International series on Monday.

Usman's career-best 5-34 in seven overs reduced Sri Lanka to 103 all out in 26.2 overs at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium before openers Fakhar Zaman (48) and Imam-ul-Haq (45 not out) knocked off the paltry target in 20.2 overs.

Imam raised the victory by cutting spinner Jeffrey Vandersay to the boundary as Pakistan made a remarkable turnaround of form with a 5-0 victory after losing the Test series 2-0.

Pakistan paceman Usman Khan Shinwari celebrates after dismissing Sri Lankan batsman Milinda Siriwardana during the fifth ODI on Monday.—AP

"The way Usman bowled, I guess it's not seen quite a lot in cricket that you dismiss half the side within your first

three overs," Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed said. "The good thing is that (our) bench strength is getting stronger and stronger and more good players are coming."

This is Pakistan's sixth whitewash in a five-match ODI series. They had blanked Zimbabwe (2002 and 2008), Bangladesh (2003 and 2008) and New Zealand in 2003 in the past.

The result was never in doubt once man-of-the-match Usman assisted by man-of-the-series Hasan Ali (2-19) and Shadab Khan (2-24) had destroyed Sri Lanka who had totals of 209, 187, 208 and 173 in the series.

The win is Pakistan's ninth on the trot since winning the Champions Trophy in June this year while Sri Lanka plummeted to their 12th defeat in a row, also losing 5-0 each to South Africa and India this year.

Fakhar hit seven boundaries in his 47-ball knock before he fell with just 20 needed. Imam hit the winning boundary,



finishing his 64-ball knock with four boundaries and a six.

But it was Pakistan's new find Usman who rocked the Sri Lankans.

The 23-year-old finished with 5-34 as Sri Lanka, who won the toss and batted on an easy paced pitch, never recov-

ered from early jolts of losing four wickets in the first three overs.

Usman termed it his best bowling in the entire career.

"Yes, you can say this is my best performance," Usman said at the post-match presentation. "Our bowling coach [Azhar

Mahmood] always tells us to attack from the first ball and I did that and got wickets.

"It wasn't easy, but the environment of the team is as such that it gives you a lot of confidence," Usman added.

Sri Lankan skipper Upul Tharanga showed disappointment over the loss.

"For the last 15-18 months we are losing because of poor batting," said Tharanga, referring to Sri Lanka's defeats which also included their first-ever loss to minnows Zimbabwe at home. "We had no answer to Pakistan's bowling in the series and today we lost four wickets inside three overs and it was tough to come back after that."

Only Thisara Perera (25), Lahiru Thirimanne (19), Seekkuge Prasanna (16) and Dushmantha Chameera (11) reached double figures in an abysmal batting performance by Sri Lanka, their second lowest total in an ODI against Pakistan.

Their lowest total of 78 against Pak-

istan had also come at Sharjah in 2002.

Usman, who debuted in the fourth one-day of this series, bowled Sadeera Samarawickrama with the fifth ball of the match for nought and then had Dinesh Chandimal next ball, caught behind without scoring.

In his next over he Tharanga bowled off a nippy delivery for eight and then trapped Niroshan Dickwella leg before with the fifth to leave Sri Lanka tottering at 8-4.

Usman completed his maiden five-wicket haul when he had Milinda Siriwardana (six) caught by Fakhar Zaman, his wickets coming off just 21 balls—third fastest to five wickets in an ODI.

Perera hit three boundaries and a six before he became one of two wickets by leg-spinner Shadab in one over. Hasan finished with 14 wickets in the series.

The two teams now play a three-match Twenty20 International series, the first two in Abu Dhabi on Thursday and Friday while the last in Lahore on Sunday.

State Football League-2017: JK Bank beats AG's XI 2-1 in Premier Division match

Jhelum Sports plays goal less draw with Lone Star Blue in Super Division match

Srinagar, Oct 24: J&K Bank XI defeated Accountant General's (AG's) XI by two goals to nil in the Premier Division match of the ongoing State Football League-2017, at Synthetic Turf TRC on Monday (Oct 23) while the Super Division match played at the same venue between Jhelum Sports and Lone Star KFC Blue ended in a draw.

The Premier-Division match between the Bank and AG's XI was expected to be a closely contested affair and football fans in huge numbers had gathered at the venue to witness it. As the play started the forward lines of the two teams tried to make an early impact in the match and attacked each other's goal post regularly. However, till 28th minute of the match, no team was able to breach the defence line.

But all this changed in 28th minute when Danish of Bank scored the first goal of the match giving his team a huge boost. AG's XI tried to score an equaliser but failed to do so and at half time score line read 1-0 in favour of the Bank. The second half witnessed some attacking football by both the teams as AG's team was desperate to score an equaliser while the Bank wanted to double the lead. However, till the last minutes of the match no team was successful in their attempts. The



hopes of AG's team to score an equaliser were dashed in the last minutes of the match when Rohit of Bank team managed to score the second goal. The shocked AG's players had no time to react as the referee blew final whistle. Faisal Thakur of the Bank team was declared player of the match.

The Super Division match of the day between Jhelum Sports and Lone Star Blue ended in a goalless draw. Right from the start of the match, player from both the teams tried to attack opposite goal post frequently. But on all the occasions, they failed at the finish line. When the referee blew the final whistle the

score line read 0-0.

The State Football League-2017 is being organised by the J&K Football Association (JKFA) in all 22 districts of the state to unearth the hidden talent. More than 500 football teams and clubs with over 12000 players and over 1500 team officials are participating in the mega event, first of its kind in the history of J&K football.

While B-Division League of State Football League is already completed with IFC Nowgam winning the title, the A-Division League has reached to the final stage with Fort View FC and Novelty FC qualifying for final. In Super and Premier Division leagues,

more than 60 percent matches have been completed.

The premier division teams include J&K Bank XI, Forest XI, Police XI, Food and Supplies XI, Accountant General's XI, Maharaja FC, Iqbal FC, I-League Lone Star KFC, I-League Real Kashmir FC, Power Development Corporation and State Football Academy are participating in the event.

The DFA Srinagar, DFA Anantnag, DFA Baramulla, Sopore Zone and Pattan Zone, DFA Budgam, DFA Kulgam, DFA Shopian, DFA Pulwama, DFA Ganderbal, DFA Zone Kupwara and Handwara, DFA Bandipora Zone, Hajin Zone, DFA Kargil and DFA Leh will send their teams for Kashmir province after the culmination of district leagues.

Similarly, DFA Jammu, DFA Kathua, DFA Samba, DFA Reasi, DFA Udhampur, DFA Rajouri, DFA Poonch, DFA Doda, DFA Ramban, DFA Kishtwar will send their respective teams from Jammu province.

The participating teams have strength of 20 players each with three officials. Besides Srinagar, the matches are being played in Anantnag, Baramulla, Sopore, Bandipora, Pattan, Hajin, Handwara, Kupwara, Pulwama, Kulgam, Shopian, Ganderbal, Budgam, Leh and Kargil.

Good pitches more important than bat laws to strike a balance, says Rahul Dravid

Former India captain Rahul Dravid feels the nature of pitches is more important than bat size when it comes to striking a balance between bowlers and batsmen. The ICC has recently come down heavily on the use of thick bats, issuing guidelines of a maximum depth of 67mm and 40mm thick edges. But Dravid feels only a handful of batsmen were using bigger bats.

"The results will take time to show, I think a year or so. The regulations aren't very drastic. Only a few players were using very big bats. But it was going that way," said Dravid at an event organised by the FICCI Ladies Organisation on Tuesday to felicitate India women's captain Mithali Raj and fast bowler Jhulan Goswami.

"But it's more important you provide good wickets. The balance of cricket has got to do more with the wickets than the size of the bats," said Dravid, who is the India's overseas batting consultant



apart from being India A and U-19 coach.

With the next U-19 World Cup (to be held in New Zealand) only a few months away, Dravid defended the decision to not allow any player to play more than one World Cup even he was eligible. "When I took over the U-19, one of the things I felt was to stay on and play too much of under-19 cricket which I think was very dangerous. So we took a decision of not allowing anyone to play more than one World Cup," he said.

"That means five players of the last World Cup were

eligible to play this one too --- players like Washington Sundar, Zeeshan Ansari, Mahipal Lomror and Armaan Jaffer. The positive for me from this is part of them have been picked for the Ranji Trophy. So even the state associations are looking ahead and not forcing them to play U-19 cricket. Their mindsets and horizons are increasing," said Dravid.

Prithvi to play World Cup Dravid however confirmed Prithvi Shaw, the talented Mumbai teenage batsman who made his Ranji Trophy debut last season and scored 154 in

the Duleep Trophy final, will play the 2018 World Cup despite not making the squad announced for the Under-19 Asia Cup in Malaysia from November 9-20.

"Age-group cricket has a purpose to solve but it's limited. From then on you have to go on and play men's cricket. This is what we decided with Prithvi as well. At the moment we definitely want him to be part of the World Cup team but as and when the opportunity for him to play first-class cricket came we were able to give him that leeway," said Dravid.

Asked about his take on the 'yo-yo test', Dravid said, "We have done it in our time as well, there's nothing new about it. They are setting certain benchmarks and directions and that is how the team wants to go. We are following that in the 'A' team as well because it is a reflection of what the national team wants and we are conscious of that fact."

Dwayne Smith admits sending 'sexy' text to Australian massage therapist

West Indies cricketer Dwayne Smith has admitted sending a text message which included the word 'sexy' to an Australian female massage therapist, at a time when the Caribbean team was based in Sydney during the ICC World Cup 2015.

According to a report in The Sydney Morning Herald, Smith admitted sending such a text message only after he was shown a copy of it. Before that, the West Indies cricketer had denied sending such a message.

Smith made his admission during a

hearing at a Sydney court — a case in which his West Indies teammate Chris Gayle has sued Australia's Fairfax media for defamation over a series of articles that were published in The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age and The Canberra Times from January 6-9, 2016.

India vs New Zealand:

Virat Kohli & Co look to avoid first series defeat since 2015

The last time India had lost a one-day series at home, Mahendra Singh Dhoni was still captain in limited overs, Harbhajan Singh was a regular and Mohit Sharma was showing promise as a medium-pacer.

That was on October 25, 2015 when three South African batsmen ripped apart India's bowling to pile up 438/4 en route to winning the match and bagging the series 3-2. Two years later, Dhoni is still in the team but with a limited role while Harbhajan and Mohit haven't played an ODI since that loss.

Exactly two years since that series loss, India need to stave off a spirited New Zealand and keep the three-match series alive in Pune on Wednesday. A series loss wouldn't just be an unexpected blot on their formidable home record but also question the team's core strength at a time they have been experimenting heavily with the middle order.

Kiwis in good shape The first warm-up game in Mumbai was an indication of what could be expected from the visitors. Seam-



er Trent Boult took a five-wicket haul while Tom Latham and Ross Taylor looked comfortable tackling spin, showing how well they have prepared.

India's biggest problem is the absence of a plan B in case spin doesn't work. By the time Virat Kohli had turned to spinners for the second time in the first ODI, New Zealand needed just 63 off nine overs with seven wickets in hand.

Latham and Taylor look in ominous

form, having stitched together 210 in the second warm-up game and 200 in the first ODI. The ploy of pushing Latham down the order too had worked. During a phase spinners usually dominate, they had no clue how to take care of Latham.

Unfamiliar scenario Having built the reputation of a side that can decimate oppositions at will, India find themselves with their backs to the wall. After registering

back-to-back series wins against Sri Lanka and Australia, a loss doesn't bring the side under scanner but definitely leaves them needing a touch-up.

Still, Tuesday was declared an optional practice day with neither the pacers nor the skipper hitting the nets. Pressure definitely will be on the middle order that failed to stick together on Sunday. That perhaps explained the quality time spent by Dinesh Karthik, Kedar Jadhav and Dhoni at nets.

In all fairness though, the bowlers should have been more proactive as Sunday was the first time in over a year that they picked just four wickets in a home ODI. The ease with which the Kiwis dominated India's chinaman duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal should be a concern too.

Both Latham and Taylor looked in control, sweeping and reverse-sweeping at will but bowling coach Bharat Arun didn't seem too worried. "It's a one-off game and we won nine games on the trot before that. They did their job well," he said.

CM assures Dickason of top-level security for PSL matches

KARACHI: The International Cricket Council's (ICC) Foreign Security Consultant Reg Dickason held a detailed meeting here with the Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and other security authorities at the CM House on Monday with regards to staging the next year's Pakistan Super League matches in the city and expressed satisfaction over the security arrangements that will be in place for the games.

The meeting was attended by DG Rangers Major General Mohammad Saeed, IG Police AD Khwaja, Home Secretary Qazi Shahid Parvez and Special Secretary to CM Abdul Raheem Shaikh.

During the meeting, the chief minister informed Dickason that Karachi has become one of the peaceful cities of the world after the elimination of terrorists through a vigorous targeted operation conducted over the past year and a half.

"The important roads of the city leading from Airport to the hotels and the stadium have been reconstructed," said the CM.

"PCB's security in-charge has already held meetings with DG Rangers and IG Police and they both have agreed to provide top security to the international matches as per the ICC standards," he informed Dickason.

The ICC foreign security consultant said

the teams should be given a separate dedicated route right from airport to hotel, from the hotel to the stadium and back to which the chief minister agreed.

"Provision of foolproof security to cricket teams is our responsibility and giving security clearance to ICC is your responsibility."

The chief minister added that he is himself very fond of cricket and plays the game too. "I will personally be monitoring each and everything and our law enforcement agencies would follow the SOP of the security arrangements as suggested by the ICC," said Murad Ali Shah.

He asserted that Karachi, being the megacropolis, has the right to host international cricket matches. "You will find an amazing crowd in the stadium every day and literally each and every person living in this city would support you and will be hospitable to you," Murad told Dickason.

Dickason expressed satisfaction at the personal interest and support shown by the chief minister and said he will recommend it to the ICC that the environment and facilities in Karachi are up to the mark for holding international level matches.

Earlier, the DG Rangers and IG police also assured the visiting consultant that the cricket teams would be given the best possible security during their stay in the city.