

TIME AND US

DAILY

Srinagar, Kashmir

FRIDAY
 ● OCTOBER, 27, 2017
 ● 06 SAFFAR 1439 AH
 ● ISSUE: 250
 ● VOLUME: 03
 ● PAGES: 08

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

SUNSET FRIDAY: 05:46 PM
SUNRISE SATURDAY: 06:51 AM

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

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

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PAKISTAN CRICKET CAPTAIN SARFRAZ AHMED FELT 'FEAR' AFTER REJECTING FIXING OFFER

Centre to generate more jobs for Kashmiri youth



New Delhi: Days after naming former Intelligence Bureau chief Dineshwar Sharma as its interlocutor for talks in Jammu and Kashmir, the Centre on Thursday said it will expedite development projects to generate more jobs in the troubled-state where some 10 lakh men and women are unemployed. The decision was taken at a meeting between Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti here. "It has been decided to fast track projects

under Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) by making encumbrance free land available for the infrastructure projects including road, power and health," a Home Ministry statement said. The two leaders also decided to "accelerate the development projects relating to additional jobs to Kashmiri migrants, transit accommodations, transfer of cash relief or honorarium through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode and provide employment to

Kashmir situation improving, violence coming down: Mehbooba

New Delhi: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti today said situation in the state has improved a lot as violence has come down significantly. She said this after holding an hour-long meeting with Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, three days after the appointment of former Intelligence Bureau director Dineshwar Sharma as the special representative who will hold talks with all stakeholders in the state. "Situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved as violence has come down a lot," she told reporters here. The chief minister said she discussed with the home minister on the announcement of a special representative for Jammu and Kashmir, security situation in the state and various development issues. Mehbooba said a detailed discussions was also held on the Rs 80,000 crore package announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015. "Funds are getting released and many development

Representative for Jammu and Kashmir open to talks with Hurriyat: Official



New Delhi: The special representative appointed for holding a sustained dialogue in Jammu and Kashmir is open for talks with the separatists and Hurriyat Conference with an effort to bring a lasting peace in the troubled state, a senior government official said. Earlier this week, the Centre appointed former Intelligence Bureau director Dineshwar Sharma as its special repre-

sentative to initiate dialogue with all stakeholders in Jammu and Kashmir. "While insinuations have been made to the effect that the central government was not willing to engage with so-called real stakeholders (read separatists), it is factually incorrect," the official said on the condition of anonymity. The central government has been

HUSHING UP OF RAJOURI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SCAM BY SVO

Court directs GAD to hold regular inquiry
 Jammu, Oct 26: A Division Bench of the State High Court comprising Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur and Justice Sanjeev Kumar in the open court directed Commissioner/Secretary to Govt. of J&K, General Administration Department (GAD) to appoint a senior IAS Officer as Enquiry Officer to hold a Regular Departmental Enquiry against Mohammad Javed Khan (IAS) the then Chief Executive Officer, Rajouri Development Authority and presently Excise Commissioner J&K. The Division Bench further directed that the officer to be nominated must be senior to Mohammad Javed Khan in IAS Cadre. The

JK Pensioners to get free insurance cover from next year: Dr Drabu

'Senior citizens are nation's treasure, repository of culture'

Srinagar Oct 26: In a significant decision, Minister for Finance and Labour & Employment, Dr Haseeb A Drabu, today announced that the pensioners of Jammu and Kashmir government will get free insurance cover from the next year. "Pensioners are a nation's treasure. They are the repository of our tradition and culture. Keeping in view their contributions and hardships, we have decided that the gov-



Dr Haseeb A Drabu speaking at a function. The Finance Minister will provide them free insurance cover from the next fiscal," Dr Drabu said.

WILL SUPPORT DIALOGUE PROCESS IF INDIA ACCEPTS THREE CONDITIONS: UJC

Srinagar, Oct 26: Conglomerate of local militant outfits, United Jihad Council Thursday came up with three conditions for the viable solution of Kashmir issue. The UJC Chief Syed Salahuddin while addressing a press conference said that India should admit that Jammu and Kashmir is a dispute that can be resolved in the light of UN resolutions through tripartite talks. He said from past seven decades India has been illegally ruling Kashmir and in the name of dialogue it has always committed fraud. "When there remained no option, youth of Kashmir took to arms. Under present circumstances, armed struggle remains the only way out," he said and added that India is eager to change the Muslim

Congress stages protest against braid chopping in Anantnag

Ruling PDP BJP regime failed on all counts. Congress

Srinagar Oct 26: Blaming ruling dispensation of PDP BJP for failing to restore confidence and ensuring safety and security of the people, Congress today described the braid chopping and harassment of the people on the part of some anti peace and anti-social elements as very disturbing and serious matter, saying that this is highly unfortunate and Govt has failed to ascertain the identity of the culprits leading to the deep alienation among the masses.



Lodging a strongly protest against what it called the failure of the Govt on all counts, the Congress, as part of its week long aware-

ness campaign, held a meeting of Senior Party Leaders and Workers at Kahanbal

MY RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE TO MAKE SRINAGAR ADORABLE: SMC COMMISSIONER

'35 places identified for creating of green corridors'

Srinagar, Oct 26: New Srinagar Municipal Corporation Commissioner Riyaz Ahmad Wani who joined on Wednesday to the new posting said that Srinagar city is the 'crown' of the state and his responsibility will be to make this crown more adorable and beautiful.

Wani, who took over after removal of Dr Shafkat Khan, said that Chief Minister has described Srinagar as 'crown' of the state and as SMC commissioner his priority will be to upkeep and adore this crown.

Official panels to scrutinize applications for regularization of unauthorized constructions

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 26: The Government today constituted Empowered Committees for scrutinizing applications for regularization of illegal, unauthorized constructions in the cities of Jammu, Srinagar and Katra.

As per the Government order, the Divisional Commissioner Jammu would be the Chairman of Empowered Committee for Jammu City (Jammu Municipal Corporation and Jammu Municipal Authority), while as Vice Chairman, JDA, Chief Engineer, PW (R&B) Jammu, Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Jammu, Deputy Commissioners of Jammu and Samba, Commissioner JMC and Chief Town Planner, Town

Planning Organization, Jammu are Members of the Committee. Likewise, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir would be the Chairman of Empowered Committee for Srinagar City (Srinagar Municipal Corporation and Srinagar Development Authority) and Vice Chairman SDA, Chief Engineer, PW (R&B) Kashmir, Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal, Commissioner SMC and Chief Town Planner, Town Planning Organization Kashmir are Members of Empowered Committee.

The Government communicated further

PEOPLE DUTY BOUND TO MAKE CM'S PEACE INITIATIVES A SUCCESS: PDP

Party says Mehbooba's efforts to get JK out of crises yielding results

Srinagar, Oct 26: Ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) on Thursday termed the recent statement of the Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti in which she stressed for preparing ground for the dialogue process as a major initiative that has the potential to restore peace in the state.

The statement issued by party on Thursday maintained that the chief minister has been making earnest efforts since the inception of the government in the state for the

Mehbooba's chair proved very expensive for people of J&K - NC

Rather addresses workers at Chadoora, leads protest march

Srinagar Oct 26: National Conference on Thursday said Mehbooba Mufti's singular goal of becoming the Chief Minister of the State had proved to be a very expensive bargain for the people of the State and had resulted in an assault on the State's special status and political identity. Addressing a workers' meeting at Chadoora today, Former Finance Minister and Senior National



Conference Leader, Mr. Abdul Rahim Rather said the present stage of uncertainty, fear and anxiety was the darkest

phase for the people in recent history. "The present phase of fear, anxiety and chaos is the darkest phase in recent history. The people of Kashmir have witnessed unimaginable suffering and pain over the past few decades and the present circumstances are unprecedented in the extent of how the people have been left to suffer in an atmosphere

'FREQUENT TRAFFIC JAMS ON RAMBAGH, JAHANGIR CHOWK ROAD IRK COMMUTERS'

Srinagar, Oct 26: With Jehangir Chowk-Rambagh flyover having missed multiple deadlines and authorities are not sure when it will be completed, it is seen that massive traffic jams on this major road is causing immense hardships to commuters.

The commuters from other parts of the Srinagar City also allege that traffic jams go from bad to worse each day. This year alone, the authorities had set up several deadlines for the completion of first link of the flyover. First it was June then the September but could not complete within the set deadlines. Recently, the Divisional Commissioner set up October deadline for its completion. However, the government has told the court that a new

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CENTRE

youth of the state", the statement said. Sixty-three major development projects have been approved in the state under the Rs 80,068-crore package. Of this, Rs 22,042 crore have been released, according to the statement.

Jammu and Kashmir is one of the states with highest unemployment rate in the country. According to government records, some educated 600,000 men and women have registered for work with employment centres.

However, according to estimates, the actual number of unemployed youth is close to 10 lakh because not all educated youth register themselves and the figure with employment centres doesn't include those who have not passed Class 10.

The Thursday meeting which began around 11 a.m. and went on for an hour and a half was Mehbooba Mufti's first with Rajnath Singh after the government on Tuesday said Sharma will have a "sustained" dialogue with "all stakeholders" to solve the problems in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister arrived here in the morning along with a team of state government officers, including Chief Secretary B.B. Vyas.

The meeting was also attended by the Minister of State for Home Hansraj Gangaram Ahir and Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba.

The statement said the government decided to lay "special emphasis" for development of border areas while selecting projects under the Border Area Development Program (BADP).

"It was decided that to ensure safety of the people in border areas, construction of bunkers along the borders will be expedited."

MEHBOOBA

works are going on. Works on AIIMS in the state is also going on," she said.

Apart from the home minister and the chief minister, senior officials of the home ministry and the Jammu and Kashmir government attended the meeting, which lasted for about 45 minutes.

Singh and Mehbooba later had a one-on-one meeting for about 15 minutes.

On Monday, the home minister had announced Sharma's appointment as the government's representative for carrying forward a "sustained dialogue" with all stakeholders in Jammu and Kashmir, in a fresh move aimed at bringing peace to the troubled state.

Singh said on Tuesday that Sharma would decide whom to engage with for a resolution of the Kashmir issue.

OFFICIAL

maintaining that it was willing to talk to everybody provided the other side also exhibited willingness and came forward for talks.

This was reiterated recently by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh to various delegations, that came to meet him, when he visited Jammu and Kashmir last month.

The official also pointed at unsuccessful attempts of an all-party delegation, which visited the state last year, to meet Hurriyat (G) leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

The leader had refused to open doors to the members of the delegation.

At that time, Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti had also written to Geelani in her capacity as the president of the ruling People's Democratic Party, to come forward and talk to the delegation, which was refused, the official said.

The Centre's initiative to appoint Dineshwar Sharma as special representative for a sustained dialogue in the state is a continuation of the NDA dispensation's efforts to talk to all shades of opinion in the state, elicit their views and do everything possible for peace in the state and betterment of the people's life there, he said.

In his visits to the state, the home minister had met several delegations from all walks of life and taken all possible measures to ameliorate their problems, the official said.

He claimed the security situation in the Valley was largely peaceful and sans any fear factor. This may help people to come out freely, the official said.

The government has very "carefully chosen" Sharma as its representative, who is "fully cognisant" of all issues related to Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

SCAM

Division Bench further allowed three weeks time to the GAD to nominate the Enquiry Officer.

After hearing Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed with Advocates Rahul Raina and Supriya Chouhan appearing for the PIL whereas Senior AAG Seema Khajooria Shekhar for the GAD, the Division Bench observed that since Mohammad Javed Khan has been inducted into IAS as such Tourism Department cannot hold an enquiry against the IAS Officer and accordingly the Division Bench directed the General Administration Department to nominate a senior IAS Officer to hold the enquiry against the delinquent officer Mohammad Javed Khan.

When this PIL came up for hearing, Advocate S.S. Ahmed invited the attention of the Division Bench towards the latest status report filed by GAD wherein it has been stated that the GAD has initiated the process for holding enquiry and in this regard, a proposal has been submitted to the competent authority for approving appointment of some senior IAS officer as enquiry officer to hold a Regular Departmental Enquiry against Mohammad Javed Khan (IAS), the then CEO Rajouri Development Authority and presently posted as Excise Commissioner, J&K.

Advocate S.S. Ahmed vociferously argued that all out attempt is being made to shield the delinquent IAS Officer and the competent authority (Hon'ble Chief Minister as Minister Incharge Tourism Department) has directed that the Tourism Department should complete the Regular Departmental Action/Enquiry in the first instance.

Advocate S.S. Ahmed further submitted by referring to Division Bench order dated May, 2, 2016 when the GAD through its status report apprised the Division Bench that

the enquiry officer earlier appointed i.e. Director Tourism, Jammu had expressed his inability to conduct an enquiry into the matter as Mohammad Javed Khan the then CEO, RDA is senior to him and has been inducted into IAS. It was also divulged in the said status report that the Tourism Department has already referred the matter to the GAD for appointment of a new enquiry officer and on the said date the Learned Advocate General made a statement that a new enquiry officer would be appointed within 3 weeks.

Advocate S.S. Ahmed further invited the attention of the Division Bench towards the order dated May, 17, 2017 when Division Bench headed by Justice Alok Aradhe directed the GAD to conclude the departmental enquiry against Mohammad Javed Khan (IAS) within a period of 4 months. Advocate S.S. Ahmed further referred to order dated October, 4, 2017 when Division Bench headed by Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur expressed displeasure against the conduct of Commissioner/Secretary to Govt. of J&K, Tourism Department for not cooperating with the GAD and for not furnishing comments over the response filed by delinquent officer Mohammad Javed Khan.

At this stage Advocate S.S. Ahmed also submitted that when departmental enquiry was already pending, there was no need for holding fresh enquiry through Tourism Department particularly when the delinquent officer is an IAS Officer.

Confronted with this situation, Senior AAG Seema Khajooria Shekhar submitted that earlier enquiry was a preliminary enquiry and now the Government has decided to hold a Regular Departmental Enquiry against the delinquent IAS Officer.

After considering the submissions of both the sides, the Division Bench comprising Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur and Justice Sanjeev Kumar directed Commissioner/Secretary to Govt. of J&K, General Administration Department (GAD) to appoint a senior IAS Officer as Enquiry Officer to hold a Regular Departmental Enquiry against Mohammad Javed Khan (IAS) the then Chief Executive Officer, Rajouri Development Authority and presently Excise Commissioner J&K. The Division Bench further directed that the officer to be nominated must be senior to Mohammad Javed Khan in IAS Cadre. The Division Bench further allowed three weeks time to the GAD to nominate the Enquiry Officer.

Looking into the importance of the matter the Division Bench directed the Registry to list this matter after three weeks.

DRABU

at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall in Budgam where hundreds of pensioners from J&K Pensioners Welfare Association were present. They were led by the Chairman of the Association, Sampath Prakash.

The meeting was also attended by District Development Commissioner, Budgam, Muhammad Harun, Senior Superintendent of Police, Budgam, Tejinder Singh, Senior Citizens, Civil Society representatives and other officers of the District Administration.

The Finance Minister said the situation in the last three decades has taken a toll on the society which has lost the sense of eldership, "Our cultural values and tradition have got eroded due to the situation in the last three decades. Society has changed enormously which also impacts the way our senior citizens are treated in their day to day life," he said.

Dr Drabu said the new insurance scheme will cover all the state pensioners of Jammu and Kashmir, "Our Government's endeavor is that all senior citizens should get insurance cover, whether they have been state government employees or not and we will hopefully move towards that end in coming years," he said.

Earlier, the pensioners put forth a list of issues faced by them before the Finance Minister and sought his intervention in getting them addressed. They said the benefits given to pensioners of state government must be extended to state pensioners also.

The issues include removal in anomalies in SRO 94, enhancement of medical allowances for pensioners from Rs 300 to Rs 2000, decreasing commutation from 15 to 12 years, in toto implementation of Senior Citizens Act, fulfillment of demands put forth in pre-budget discussion in Dec 2016, separate department to deal with the issues of pensioners, hostels for pensioners in every district headquarter, One Rank One Pension policy for police personnel and low rate of interest on bank loans for pensioners.

The Finance Minister assured them that their genuine demands will be addressed in a proper timeframe.

UJC

demography of Jammu and Kashmir. "India is playing with the honour and dignity of Kashmiri women by chopping off their braids. The irony is that world community is silent while Pakistan needs to play proactive role on diplomatic and political front," he said.

Syed Salahuddin said that they are with the Kashmir leadership in case they start dialogue process. "Since India is no sincere so we have laid down our three conditions. Let India declare Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory and accept there are three parties. Let India accept Kashmir issue will be resolved in the light of UN resolutions as per the aspirations of people of Kashmir, we will fully support the Hurriyat leadership," he said and added that dialogue process should be meaningful.

Throwing light on the history, Syed Salahuddin said that India used dilly dally tactics to avoid implementation of UN resolutions in Kashmir. He said that India used ways and means to snatch the rights of people and adopted different tactics to cheat world community.

CONGRESS

in Anantnag today and protested against harassment of the people especially braid chopping, which the party believes is being carried to disturb the peace and tranquility in the valley.

The meeting was presided over by Former PCC President Peerzada Mohd Syed, in which Former Minister and Senior Leader Taj Mohi U Din, MLA Mohd Amin Bhat, MLA Gulzar Ahmad Wani participated and lashed out at ruling dispensation for inaction and inability to unravel the mystery behind braid chopping.

Addressing the meeting Peerzada Mohd.Syed said that

this is highly unfortunate that untoward incidents like braid chopping, which was never expected in this state is happening now and irony that despite having all resources and facilities available, Govt has not been able to ascertain the identity of the culprits, besides that it has also miserably failed to unknott the mystery behind these shameful acts, which is an attack on the modesty of the women.

Expressing concern over the fear psychosis created due to braid chopping among the people, Peerzada said that it was compulsory on the part of Govt to take very serious and effective measures to restore confidence of the people, but this highly condemnable that not even a single culprit was identified, so far, which is indicative of utter failure of the PDP BJP ruling dispensation on all counts.

Addressing the gathering Taj Mohi U Din expressed serious concern over the failure of the Govt to ensure safety of people saying that Govt must come clean on braid chopping and apprise people on this issue, for the fact, braid chopping has added chaos to the people, which the Govt should address and find out who is doing it and why?

He said people have lost faith in the present regime, as a result they do not feel secure, as they understand fully that the inaction on the part of Govt on this issue amounts to an encouragement of culprits, so it is high time for the Govt to identify the culprits for server punishment and restore confidence among the people.

Speaking on the occasion Legislators Mohd Amin Bhat & Gulzar Ahmad Wani urged upon the people to remain vigilant and defeat the designs of anti-social elements hell bent upon to create confusion in the society under the garb of braid chopping.

Those who addressed the meeting included Vice President JKPC Mohd Anwar Bhat, General Secretary Hilal Ahmad Shah, Abdul Qayoom Shah, Mohd Iqbal Mir, Farooq Ahmad Bhat, Ali Mohd Mantoo, Ab. Rashid Lone, Gulam Mohd Mir, Gh. Mohi U Din Bhat, Mohd Iqbal Khan and others.

Later Congress Leader submitted a Memorandum to His Excellency the Governor Shri N.N.Vora through Deputy Commissioner Anantnag seeking action against culprits involved in braid chopping. The Memorandum also reads that Govt has miserably failed to restore confidence of the people and urged that effective measures must be put in place to identify the persons involved in braid cutting.

SMC

"Extensive planning has already been done for development and beautification of the city, and my responsibility and priority will be to execute and monitor it within time limit," Wani told KNS after taking over. He said that under Smart city project, AMRUT for streaming urban transport system, the city will become more modernized and beautiful.

"35 places in the city have been identified by SMC for creating of green corridors, cycling and walking corridors will be built for the citizens," he said.

For sanitation, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan campaign will be carried forward, and a project funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) will be allotted soon for further sanitation and cleanliness process of the city, he said.

He said that face-lifting of the city t has been done but that need further improvement. He appealed all the stakeholders-citizens, employees, visitors- for cooperation with SMC for upkeep and beautification of the city. About challenges facing SMC, he said that winter in falling, snow clearance and water logging are the immediate ones for which SMC "will make advance preparations to overcome these challenges".

PANELS

says that the Deputy Commissioner Reasi would be the Chairman of the Empowered Committee for Katra City (Katra Development Authority) while as the Chief Town Planner, Town Planning Organization Jammu, Chief Executive Officer KDA, Administrator Municipal Committee Katra, Chief Executive Officer Municipal Committee Katra, and Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Katra would be the Members of the Committee.

The order said that the terms and reference of the Empowered Committees shall be to bring the illegal and unauthorized buildings, constructions and land use or building use conversions into the planning framework to the extent possible. The Committee shall facilitate the implementation of the Master Plans under revision and shall scrutinize all the documents as prescribed by the Competent Authority, submitted before the Empowered Committee in connection with compounding, regularization of layout, plots, buildings which have been constructed and completed before 31-12-2016.

The Empowered Committees shall recommend regularizations, compounding in respect of prescribed categories of violations under Policy i.e Building built at permissible sites but built without permission, Building built at permissible sites but built with permissions but having violated the permission, but without change of the land use and the buildings having restored to the conversion of land use.

It shall not recommend illegal, unauthorized building for regularization in the situations that the buildings coming in the proposals of widening of roads in the Master Plan or in the comprehensive Mobility Plan, over flood absorption basis, vulnerable slopes i.e. slopes with more than 30% grade to be demarcated by the local authorities, over lands belonging to the state or central government, public undertaking, Pan-chayat, waqf Board and local commons, the precincts, sites coming under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act-1958 or any other Act prohibiting the developments in the particular area. The Committee shall also not recommend regularization of unauthorized construction in case the use is obnoxious or hazardous as per the Master Plan, the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000, J&K Municipal Corporation Act, 2000, J&K Development Act, 1970 or any other Act in vogue etc, in the graveyards, burial grounds and crematoria, areas/sites falling within the ambit of Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources, Regulation and Management Act, 2010, Group Housing Projects, in restricted development zones as specified in the Master Plans like Green Areas, open spaces etc and the Empowered Committees shall also ensure that such regularization does not violate the provisions of any other Act, Legislation in vogue specific to such particular structures/sites.

The Empowered Committees, after scrutinizing all the documents in each case within 45 days of submission of

reference to the Empowered Committee shall come up with proposed amendments in the Plan, if any, and will seek comments, consent of the applicant within 25 days. After receiving the consent, the Empowered Committees will approve the building plan and, then, recommend to the Competent Authority for regularization of the construction or building use change or otherwise.

The Empowered Committees shall also abide by the provisions of SRO-391 dated 20.09.2017.

The Empowered Committees shall be serviced by the Jammu Municipal Corporation, Srinagar Municipal Corporation and the Municipal Committee Katra respectively.

PDP

restoration of peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir. It added that the directions passed by the chief minister to forces would have a major impact on restoration of peace as it is one of the remarkable Confidence Building Measure taken by the government. The Chief Minister had given directions to the security forces in the state that safety of innocents must be ensured so that they are not inconvenienced. She had further stressed for the efforts to persuade the alienated youth treading the violent path to return to the mainstream society besides not harassing the families of the militants.

According to PDP's Srinagar District President and member of Upper House, Mohammad Khurshid Alam the approach adopted by the chief minister towards ending violence and bloodshed in Valley has proved her ability of being a tolerant and just head of the place that has been craving for the earnest leadership since long. "She is following the footsteps of her father and PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayed who spent his entire life for the well being of the people of the state. Her consistent approach and pragmatist belief will for sure heal the wounds of the perturbed and shall go a long way in bringing the state back on track and put a lid over uncertainty and chaos," Alam said while addressing the party workers here at the PDP headquarters.

The PDP leader further underscored the importance of involvement of all sections of society in making the dialogue process a success and result oriented. He stressed that the initiative of talks to end violence in Kashmir must be supported by one and all across the party lines and ideologies. "The PDP has been stating right from the day one that it is only dialogue that would yield the results as all issues are resolved via talks and never by violence," said the PDP leader.

NC

of hopelessness and helplessness. It is the Government's basic and primary responsibility to ensure peace and stability and safeguard the lives and dignity of the people. Since the past three years not only has the PDP-BJP Government failed to ensure peace and stability but it has gone a step further to rob the people of peace of mind. The Mehbooba Mufti Government has utterly failed to dispense its duties", Abdul Rahim Rather said.

The Senior NC Leader and Former Finance Minister said the State had witnessed unprecedented turmoil, unrest and chaos since the very inception of the PDP-BJP Government in the State. "We had cautioned Late Mufti Sahab against aligning with the BJP and had even offered unconditional support to the PDP. Sadly, PDP chose to side with communal and divisive forces to satiate its thirst for power and today the consequences are in front of our eyes. PDP had promised and claimed that its alliance with the BJP would ensure that the State's special status is safeguarded and said that there would be a status quo on Article 370 and Article 35-A. Contrary to a status-quo, the BJP has left no stone unturned to launch one indirect assault after another against Article 370 and Article 35A through its affiliates. And despite these assaults, PDP is silent and has surrendered its voice to remain in power", Rather added.

"Through the extension of GST to the State, PDP has robbed us of our fiscal autonomy and has also paralyzed the State's Economy. Every sector of our economy is in deep distress and unemployment has increased manifold", the Senior NC Leader further said.

Lashing out at the Government over hundreds of incidents of braid-chopping across the Valley, the Senior NC leader said our mothers, sisters and daughters were living in a state of anxiety and apprehension as the Government was clueless and had failed to nab the culprits and unearth the mystery. "Misgovernance has become rampant and every key government department has utterly failed to provide people with basic public services and utilities", the Former Finance Minister added.

Rather also led a protest march against the Government on the issue of assaults on women and incidents of braid chopping on this occasion. Senior NC Leader and Central Zone President, MLC Mr. Ali Mohammad Dar, District Secretary Mr. Ghulam Ahmed Naseem, District Organizer Mr. Mohammad Maqbool, District Vice President Mr. Abdul Rashid Zargar and Block presidents of the area were also present on the occasion.

TRAFFIC

deadline has been set up for the Rambagh-Jehangir Chowk flyover.

Commuters allege that Traffic jams have become an everyday's headache on this road and other roads of the Srinagar city. "It seems that office of the RTO here is only busy in issuing driving licenses. Even the traffic police have also become a mute spectator," one of the senior residents of Srinagar city told KNS.

Commuters allege that the Traffic police only, make their daily-wage and conclude the day with bagful of consideration. "There has been a huge provision in the budget for organizing awareness camps through traffic weeks, but has there ever been a change which took place with such awareness camps and traffic weeks, said one of the observers.

They observers say that these traffic weeks organized by traffic police in collaboration with RTO's and civil societies looks to be limited to ribbon cuttings.

One of the experts was of the view that like in the foreign countries where it is mandatory for educational institutions to teach the basics of traffic rules along with the primary studies, education department should include one of the primary subjects of the traffic management system so that children get fully aware at a very early age.

Abdul Haq reviews progress of RDD works in Anantnag

4.71 Lakh mandays generated under MGNREGA, 353 works completed at a cost of Rs 52.79 cr

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 26: The department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has been able to generate 4.71 lakh Mandays so far in Anantnag district to provide jobs to 75181 job card holders in the district.

This was revealed in a meeting chaired by Minister for Rural Development Panchayat Raj, Law and Justice Abdul Haq on Thursday to review the progress of various developmental works taken up by the department under various schemes in Anantnag district. The minister was accompanied by DC Anantnag, Mohammad Younis and Director RDD Gazanfar Ali.

The meeting was informed that the department has generated 471722 days of works for the unemployed youths of the district. Officials said there are 75181 job card holders in the district who are authorized to work under MGNREGA.

Meeting was informed that as many as 1782 works have been taken up under the scheme at the cost of Rs 39.86 crore out of which 353 works have been completed so far. Officials said the district had an available budget of Rs 53.33 crore under MGNREGA out of which Rs 52.79 crore have been spent till date.

The Minister was informed that



under IAY Scheme the department has completed 1951 units so far out of the total pending works of 2312 including spill works of past three years. Officials said under PMAY the department has registered 1207 beneficiaries out of which 947 houses have been sanctioned till date and first installment have been released for 646 units. The department has spent Rs 3.23 crore out of the available budget of Rs 4.87 crore under the scheme.

Meeting was further informed that 134 works have been taken up in eight model villages of the district out of which 108 works have been completed so far and Rs 2.91 crore have

been spent on the works out of the approved budget of Rs 8.15 crore for the model villages.

Under National Rural Livelihood Mission, the district has included 4 blocks in the mission including Breng, Dooru, K-Pora and Qazigund. There are 2669 Self Help Groups in 4 blocks who have received a Revolving fund of Rs 3.37 crore and CIF of Rs 5.37 crore so far.

Under IWMP the department has treated 6926 Hectares of land at the cost of Rs 10.62 crores till date. The department intends to treat 56339 Hectares of land in the district at the cost of Rs 84.50 crore.

Speaking on the occasion

minister directed the officials to prioritize works for next year and concentrate of construction of water harvesting tanks under IWMP. He directed officials of IWMP to go for convergence of funds under MGNREGA for construction of harvesting tanks in rural areas. He said during past few years the department concentrated on developing road connectivity that emerged out to be a great success and a network of roads was developed in rural areas.

Minister asked the officials to lay stress on water conservation by constructing water harvesting tanks and small dams in upper belts of villages to tap water for future use besides construction of check dams and percolation tanks. He said aim of IWMP is to save every drop of water that falls on earth and coordinated efforts are needed to forward in its mission. He said in convergence mode with various other department consolidation of works can be done hence avoiding repetition of works as the similar works are done under MGNREGA, Irrigation, IWMP and Agriculture Department.

Abdul Haq also directed the officials to conduct a fresh baseline survey under Swach Bharat Mission within 15 days.

Altaf Bukhari inaugurates retail outlet Kunj-e-Zebaish at Kashmir Haat

Outlet offers for sale traditional goods designed by students of Women's College Nawakadal

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 26: In a bid to promote the skills of students, the Minister for Education, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari today inaugurated a retail outlet



Kunj-e-Zebaish at Kashmir Haat where the products designed by students of Government College for Women, Nawa Kadal are put for sale.

The outlet offers dozens of goods including Papier Mâché items, paintings, tablecloths, Roti baskets, aprons, T-shirts, Abhaya, tray covers, traditional Kashmiri items and other innovative goods.

The Minister was accompanied by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Baseer Ahmed Khan, DC Srinagar, Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Principal Government College for Women, Nawa Kadal, Prof Rifat Gillani, students, and other concerned officials.

The Minister praised the college authorities for this novel initiative and encouraged them by shopping various items worth Rs 11,000 from the outlet. He also asked them to install a PoS machine for smooth transactions.

Prof Rifat Gillani informed the Minister that the Skill Empowerment Cell which is already established at Government College for Women, Nawa Kadal, provides the training to students in dress designing and Papier Mâché craft.

"The products made by students of the Nawa Kadal College will be put on sale at the outlet," she said adding, this will help in boosting the confidence of students who can start their own business ventures in future.

Altaf Bukhari also visited various stalls where the artisans have put on sale of their products in the ongoing 12-day National Handloom Expo 'Dast-e-Hunar' which will conclude on November 3.

On the occasion, shopkeepers informed the Minister about the shortage of water in toilets at Kashmir Haat to which he assured a water tank will be installed within a day to address the issue.

Hanjura stresses on creating innovative avenues to boost JKAIDC business

Chairs annual general meetings of the Corporation

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 26: Minister for Agriculture, Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura today asked the officials of government-run Jammu and Kashmir Agro Industries Development Corporation (JKAIDC) to create new avenues of business for making the corporation a profitable organization.

The Minister was speaking at the annual general meetings of JKAIDC here today. The meeting was also attended by Vice Chairman JKAIDC Rashid Ahmad, Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department, Sundeep Kumar Nayak, MD JKAIDC, Rakesh Khajuria, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Altaf Aijaz Andrabi, Director Agriculture Jammu H K Razdan and other senior officials.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held on issues pertaining to status of accounts of the Corporation, short term and long term strategy, business plan for next 5 years, moderniza-



tion of Cattle Feed Plant, Bari Brahmana, besides cold store plant at New Delhi and functioning of sales outlets.

Hanjura called upon the Corporation officials to adopt business options on professional lines and come up to the expectations of the people. He directed that officials of the Agro-Industry to formulate short and long term plans so that business of agro products increases. He also said that Saffron business should be enhanced up to Rs 5 crore this season. Referring to financial position of the

Corporation, Hanjura also directed the JKAIDC to prepare a balance sheet of the corporation by March 2018 so that it would provide them information about the liquidity position of the corporation.

Minister stressed upon all the officers to adhere to the directions and guidelines and personally monitor on-going schemes across the State, adding that proper monitoring, judicious utilization of funds and optimal use of resources will ensure timely benefit to the people of the state in general and farming community

in particular.

Saying that there is need to infuse new blood in the functioning of the Corporation to make it more vibrant, the Minister said innovative measures are needed to be taken by the Corporation.

Speaking in reference to the functioning of the Cold Storage Plant, Ice Factory in Delhi and Cattle Feed Plant at Bari Brahmana (Jammu), the Minister, while expressing satisfaction with their functioning, said that these plants have earned a reasonable profit for the Corporation.

Naeem Akhtar chairs DDB review meeting of Ganderbal district

District Hospital to come up as specialized facility for Plastic Surgery, Nephrology

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 26: Minister for Public Works Naeem Akhtar today reviewed the District Development Board Meeting at Ganderbal wherein he announced that the prestigious district hospital will come up as specialization facility in nephrology and plastic surgery.

The meeting was attended by Legislators Sheikh Ishaq Jabbar, Mian Mohammed Altaf, Mohammed Akbar Lone, Yasir Reshi, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Chief Engineers R&B, PDD, I&FC and PMGSY, Director Tourism Kashmir, Director Health and other officials.

The meeting was informed that the 200 bedded district Hospital Ganderbal will be handed over to health department by 20th of November. The Minister was informed that the hospital with huge infrastructure will be developed as specialisations in Plastic Surgery and Nephrology. The Minister said that it will help in developing Med-



ical Tourism in the district.

The meeting was informed that the Polytechnic college being built at Hatbura would be completed by November ending. The Minister directed the officials to focus on skill enhancements for which the facilities need to be developed in tune with global standards. It was further informed that the Unani College Nawabagh Ganderbal built at a cost of Rs 32.50 cr has been almost finished and currently recruitment process for its staff is

underway. The officials said that the classes at the college will start from coming academic session.

The Minister directed the officials to immediately start the first phase of Pandach-Beehama road upgradation which will relieve major traffic problems in the district. The Minister also reviewed completion of DIET building at Nunnar, Dak Bungalow at Fatehpura, Degree college Kangan, Sumbal Bala road, WSS Ganderbal and other

projects. He directed the officials to complete the project at the earliest.

The Minister appreciated the officials for their hard work particularly in ensuring record macadamisation of district roads. He also directed the officials to restart the construction work on Central University of Kashmir campus at the earliest. He directed the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal to explore additional land at some other feasible place in the district for the university.

Director Tourism Kashmir informed the Minister that Stein Interpretation centre is coming up in the district which will be a major attraction for tourists. The Minister directed the Tourism and I&FC officials to do a joint survey for starting of water transport from Saidapora to Ganderbal.

The Minister directed the officials to stress on the need to do some brain storming for creation of employment opportunities in the district.

DDC Udhampur reviews performance of Health Dept

Calls for combating mal nutrition among children

UDHAMPUR OCTOBER 26: The District Development Commissioner, Udhampur, Ravinder Kumar, today chaired a meeting of officers to review physical and financial progress under Health Sector in the district.

He also reviewed the implementation of various centrally as well as statesponsored health related schemes, with special focus on the steps taken for combating the problem of malnutrition among the children.

Reviewing the implementation of Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), the DDC directed CMO to conduct a detailed survey of schools and ICDS centres for health analysis of children as per the WHO guidelines. He said it would help in better planning for combating malnutrition among children, reducing child mortality and improving survival of infants. He informed that Udhampur is one of the districts falling in red zone as per a national survey conducted to assess prevalence of malnutrition in the country. He further directed them to distribute iron and calcium supple-



ments among school children under the supervision of medical practitioner or teaching staff.

The DDC also directed to conduct joint workshops and camps by the department of Education, Health, Social-Welfare and ICDS to sensitize people about the problem.

Terming ASHA workers an important component for providing primary health care at the village level, the DDC directed CMO to instruct them to work towards achieving 100% institutional deliveries. He further directed the CMO to issue show cause notices to those ASHA workers who were not performing their duties in the field for the past 3 months.

To improve institutional deliveries, the DDC directed BMOs to establish pre-labour rooms at all the PHCs having Operation theatre to facilitate the institutional deliveries.

The DDC also directed to activate Village Health, nutrition and sanitation committees to hold sanitation drives to make hygiene and cleanliness an integrated part of village life. He also laid stress on making it mandatory for field functionaries to attend the monthly meetings to create awareness among villagers about sanitation.

It was informed that in last two years 51 medical cases were provided Rs. 35 lakh as financial assistance of in the district. The DDC also stressed

on meeting the shortage of 101 doctors in the district and assured to take up the matter with concerned authorities.

He also stressed on creating awareness regarding PC-PNDT Act to improve the child sex ratio. Felicitating the whistle blower for reporting the violation of the Act was among other issues discussed threadbare.

The DDC directed CMO to ensure 100% Aadhar seeding of beneficiaries under all health schemes.

Earlier, the CMO informed the DDC about the progress cum performance of Health department under State and Central Health related schemes including the progress achieved under RBSK, NIPI, PMSMS, RNTCP, NCD and Immunization program. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Ashok Khajuria, Assistant Commissioner Development, Sushil kesar, Project Director DRDA, Jagdish Mehra, Chief Medical Officer, K.C. Dogra, District Social Welfare Officer, Rachna Sharma, Chief Education Officer, BMOs, ZEOs and other officers of health.

Chairman LC stresses on early completion of OFC laying work on Drass-Kargil road

KARGIL, OCTOBER 26: Expressing concern over the stoppage of OFC laying work along the National Highway 1 from Drass to Kargil, Chairman Legislative Council, Haji Anayat Ali, today exhorted upon the officers of Vijayak and Vindhya Telelinks Limited (VTL) to sort out their issues in earnest and restart the work.

The Chairman stated this while chairing a meeting convened to review the pace of OFC cable laying work over the road stretch from Gumri to Leh.

Underlining the importance of the private telecom companies starting their mobile services in the region, the Chairman expressed hope that steps in this regard would go a long way in resolving the issues of poor service quality, connectivity and non-functioning of broadband.

The Chairman directed the General Manager Vindhya Telelinks Limited to ensure that no inconvenience is caused to the smooth moment of vehicles from Drass to Kargil due to the laying of OFC. He directed that the company shall carry out the restoration work vis-a-vis the laying of cables.

It was decided in the meeting that Vindhya Telelinks Limited shall submit a Bank Guarantee Bond of Rs. 6 crore to Vijayak as a se-



curity deposit, the validity of which shall extend for a period of one year from the date of issuance and the company would re-start the work after obtaining permission from Vijayak after the submission of the bond.

Unanimous decision was taken with regard to Vijayak serving demand notes to Vindhya Telelinks Limited on account of damage done to the road, culvert and other infrastructure pertaining to Vijayak besides the term of restoration to be extended for a period of one year in line with the term of BG bond.

Chairman and Chief Executive Councilor Kargil, Kacho Ahmad Ali Khan, Deputy Commissioner Haji Gulzar Hussain, Chief Engineer, Project Vijayak, S.K Doon, Commander, 762 BRTF Col Rajeev Lohari, General Manager, Vindhya Telelinks Limited Arvinder Pal Singh among other officers were present in the meeting.

DAILY Editorial
Time and Us SRINAGAR J&K
GST
AFTERTHOUGHTS

The Centre is clearly stepping up its bid to address concerns about the fledgling goods and services tax regime. In what is being seen as official recognition that drastic action is called for, Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia conceded in an interview over the weekend that it is possible that differential treatment to some similar items may not necessarily be fair. The rates will be revised, he indicated, wherever small and medium businesses and the common man face 'a big burden'. While GST has brought 27 lakh new registered entities into formal tax coverage in its first three months, just over half of those in the GST net are paying taxes and filing tax returns. September GST collections stood at ₹92,150 crore by Monday — compared to over ₹95,000 crore in July, its first month. Separately, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday sought to assure traders that anyone joining the GST net will not be harassed by taxmen seeking scrutiny of their past records. These latest statements of intent cap the overtures the Centre has made over the past three weeks to display its commitment to fix the flaws in the new tax regime, starting with the Prime Minister's October 4 promise to address the woes of small businesses and exporters.

With Mr. Adhia now saying that the GST regime will take a year to stabilise and the government signalling a major revamp in the coming days, we may still be some distance away from seeing the final shape of India's one-nation, one-tax plan. The commitment to correct course is welcome. But the real question is the timing and sequencing of changes. At the last GST Council meeting, rates of over two dozen items were reset, taking such rate changes since July 1 to over 100 — while some procedural and compliance-related norms were eased. But many measures announced on October 6 haven't been implemented swiftly enough — refunds to exporters, for instance, have been slow due to cumbersome norms for reconciling records. This should be a cue for the government to consider doing away with the stringent requirement for matching invoices in order to allow input tax credits, which is impeding the uptake of the new tax. On November 10, the Council is expected to take up more rate revisions, process simplification and the inclusion of real estate in the GST regime. Excessive tinkering with rates indicates that the initial levies were not thought through. While at one level, high or incongruent rate structures have driven small and medium enterprises to the wall, at another level, entire product categories are under threat of disappearing, such as eco-friendly hybrid cars. Lastly, given the amount of damage control the government has embarked on, in comparison with its spirited defence of the preparedness for a July 1 roll-out, there needs to be some real introspection about why those at the top were led to believe all GST systems were ready to fire.

The joy of small stories

► Shailendra Ghorpade

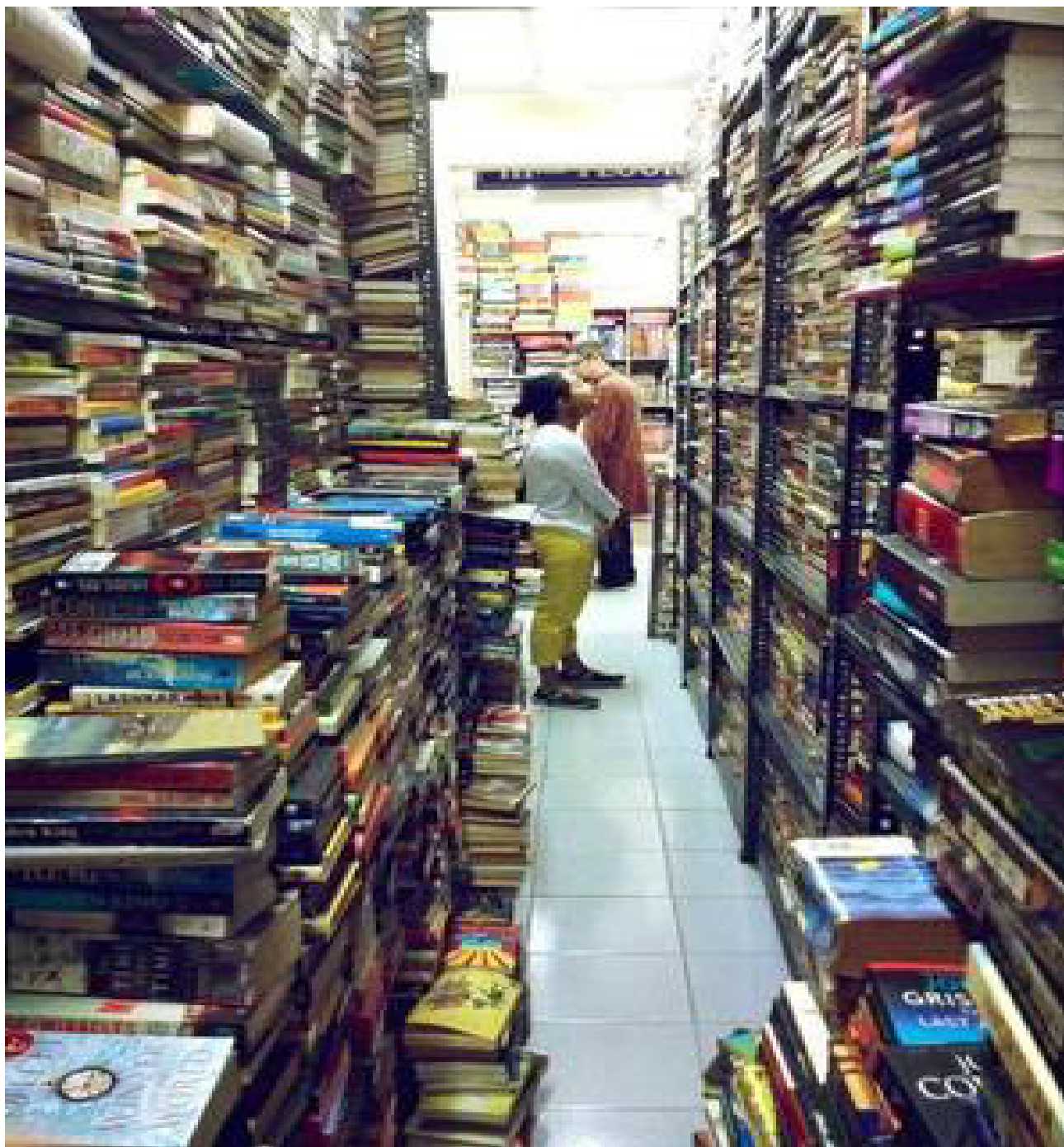
Bookstores stoke the imagination, feed our curiosity, and facilitate journeys across the world with the turn of a page. Some of them are like no other, for they hold the stories of my childhood, rich with tootling adventure and clean-cut heroes.

On a recent visit from the United States to my childhood hometown, Bangalore, or Bengaluru now, I popped into "India's oldest bookstore" to browse, but mostly to reminisce. Established in Madras in 1844, Higginbothams opened a branch on Bangalore's tony South Parade in 1905. After nearly two years of being shuttered for restoration, the Victorian façade of the Higginbothams building beckoned me once again to explore the authors who influenced my childhood.

The adventures of Enid Blyton's Famous Five — four school-age cousins and their dog — are flanked by Agatha Christie's sleuths, the dandy Hercule Poirot, and the matronly Miss Marple. Stacks of P.G. Wodehouse's iconic butler, Jeeves, sit alongside the Anglo-Indian authors. Jim Corbett stalked the man eaters in the Kumaon. Ruskin Bond still creates beautiful yarns about characters from the Himalayan hill towns he has lived in. □

I ask a store assistant where I can find the "Biggles" series and she looks muddled. Coming up empty handed, I realise wistfully that several of my childhood chums must be extinct. James Bigglesworth, the fictional pilot who was born in India in 1849 and fought in both World Wars; the retund, conceited, stammering schoolboy Billy Bunter at the Greyfriars School; and Sudden, the gunfighter with a lightning fast draw, seemed to have gone AWOL. The colonial shadow even extended to "Picadilly Western" heroes such as Sudden, written by English authors who had never been within a stagecoach ride of the Wild West.

With an armful of books and a bout of nostalgia, I head down Mahatma Gandhi Road in search of a café. South Parade during my school days in the 1970s was a broad esplanade anchored by a statue of the Empress of India, Queen Victoria; she still stands stoically with scepter and orb, swathed in pigeon poo, in Cubbon Park. Opposite an embankment ablaze with orange and scarlet bougainvillea, British-era establishments paraded like convivial grandees — Bartons, Higginbothams, Spencers; the cinemas, Liberty and Plaza; and The Ham Shop, which still retains its Harry Potteresque location under a stairwell since it first opened in 1930. Well-mannered patrons queued up like their British overseers once did, said "please" and "thank you," and their collective sense of civic responsibility kept "MGs" clean as a naval deck. The peace was broken only by an occasional, almost apologetic, car horn alerting turbaned waiters from the Lakeview café ferrying



trays of cold coffee and pastries to cars parked across the street.

But the view from over my cappuccino froth today is different. A grey, concrete elevated train track has replaced the vibrant bougainvillea, the pavement is strewn with litter from street food vendors, the architecture is chaotic, and the air is filled with raucous car horns and sputtering autorickshaws. The orderly British queue has morphed into a disorganised Indian crush.

I sipped my coffee and eagerly browsed Enid Blyton's The Famous Five go to Bilycock Hill, which felt reassuringly familiar after a hiatus of nearly four decades. In a flashback to my youth, as a boarder at Bishop Cotton Boy's School in Bangalore, I remembered the ersatz fort we built with fallen tree branches behind the school cha-

pel. Our famous-five gang, sans dog, solved many mysteries, mostly made up by imaginative schoolboys.

Biggles was my hero, partly because my dad was a pilot in the Royal Indian Air Force flying sorties over Burma. Jim Corbett inspired some tall tales of our own. Back from school holidays we swapped stories about our summer exploits. One chap told a nail-biting story of his open-top Jeep being chased down a narrow jungle track by a tiger. As it closed distance, our friend made a clever decision. Approaching a fork in the trail he turned on the right indicator and at the very last moment veered sharply left. The tiger bounded off to the right and our chap saved the day. To this day, he has carried the honorific, "Tiger", for his plucky wit.

An hour later and on my second cappuccino, I turn the pages of Paul Fernandes' illustrated coffee table book, Bangalore: Swinging in the 70s. It has turned my bout of nostalgia into a caffeinated, weepy display of pining for the good old days. I chuckle at a double-spread caricature of a politician, with Gandhi-topi, delivering a speech to an upper class, Anglicised audience. "I promise to make our city not like Singapore, not like New York, not like Paris but like Bangalore of the 1970s ..."

My vote is for Biggles and Bunter at Higginbothams, cold coffee at Lakeview, The Trojans performing at 3 Aces, and a silver salver from Bartons for the Queen on South Parade ... minus the pigeon poo.

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Feminist or not a feminist

► Harsha Mishra

I took a cab recently and was surprised to see a lady sitting on the driver's seat. It is not a sight that you come across very frequently in Delhi NCR. In fact, it was the first time it happened with me.

Being a curious girl, I started talking to her, asking about her routine. She told me she leaves home at 6 in the morning and reaches back around 8 at night. Amazed, I asked who takes care of cooking and cleaning for her, and was surprised again to know that she wakes up at 4 in the morning, cooks, cleans, and then leaves for work. A feeling of sympathy suddenly dawned upon me, that because there would be no one to lend a hand, this poor lady has to work, take care of her household, all on her own.

I guess she noticed me drowning in my thoughts, so she explained that she did all this because she liked doing it. Nothing could make a mother happier than cooking for her kids, a wife happier than when she takes care of her home. She loved driving, and now she

has enough time and courage to live her passion.

I looked at her, a lady in her 40s, confident and independent. Is she a feminist? I don't know if it is okay to call her one, because nowadays the definition of feminism has changed a lot. It has been moulded and modified according to the convenience of the person using the word for their own benefit.

Feminism, the term, was derived because there was a need to make people realise that those female foetuses had the right to live, that those little girls had the right of education, from whom these gifts were snatched away. Feminism meant being proud of being a female, and doing everything keeping your head high, no matter if you were a homemaker, or an actress, or a teacher.

Now, people crib about the fact that they have to bear the burden of wearing a bra, that they have to shave their legs, that they are shamed for wearing short dresses. These are all issues, I agree, but they don't qualify to be feminist in nature.



A girl who wears a saree or suit fights for the rights of women who are victims of domestic violence. A lady who fights for gay rights might be a feminist too. A man who strongly believes that all girls should be allowed to go

to school is also a feminist.

But, but, that lady, who is a Homemaker, who takes care of her kids and husband, and family, is also a feminist, does not matter if she does not shout or post on the media or fights with her husband for not letting her work, because maybe she did not want to, she is doing her part, teaching her kids, giving them good moral values, but most important of all, she is doing what she loves to do.

I don't know if I would love to be called a feminist, or I would call myself a feminist, because I have no problem with my periods, or with my bra, or with my body hair, I do what I want to do with them.

This is the way I am made, we all are.

I will call myself a feminist, because I love what I do, I respect my decisions and opinions, and because I will stand by them. I believe that's something we all need to do, feminist or not a feminist.

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Government bringing stringent consumer protection law: Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the government was in the process of enacting stringent legislation aimed at protecting consumers along with setting up a Consumer Protection Authority (CPA). "Consumers' protection is this government's priority. We are in the process of bringing a new law on consumer protection keeping in mind the need of the country and business practices here," Modi said at an International Conference on Consumer Protection for East, South and South-East Asian Countries. "We are in the process of forming a Consumer Protection Authority, which will have executive powers, for immediate redressal." The rules were being streamlined to solve consumer problems in less time and at less cost, he added. "The stress is being given on consumer empowerment.



Strict provisions are being contemplated against misleading advertisements," Modi said. He said India was among the few countries which had enacted a law a year after the UN adopted guidelines on consumer protection in 1986. The Prime Minister also said the prices of commodities

were set to go down and consumer interests were to be protected effectively due to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Due to the GST, the competition among companies was going to increase. So prices will go down. It will help consumers from lower middle

class and poor sections," Modi said. "Earlier, transportation by trucks would take five days but it has come down to just three three days now as checkpoints on borders have vanished after the GST. It means transportation cost has gone down. This is going to be transferred to consumers," Taking a dig at those opposed to the GST, he said: "Some people may be taking advantage of the lack of awareness. However, the benefits will be transferred (to consumers) in days to come." Talking about the conference, Modi said: "It shows how seriously we take the needs of our citizens and how we strive hard to solve their problems." It is the first conference in the region, where everyone is trying in their own ways to save the interest of consumers. However, we have to keep in mind that the world is going towards a single market," Modi said.

NIA files chargesheet against Zakir Naik in hate speech, incitement case

MUMBAI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday filed a chargesheet in a special court in Mumbai against controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik for allegedly inciting youth to take up terror activities, giving hate speeches and promoting enmity between communities. "We filed a charge sheet against Naik," an NIA official said.



Naik, who is currently abroad, is being probed under terror and money-laundering charges by the NIA. He fled from India on July 1, 2016, after terrorists in neighbouring Bangladesh claimed they were inspired by his speeches. The federal counter-terrorism agency registered a criminal case against the 51-year-old televangelist on November 18, 2016, under various sections of the Indian Penal Code a day after his organisation, the Islamic Research Foundation (IRF), was declared "unlawful" by the government. Since then, the NIA has been investigating the IRF and Naik. The NIA has also claimed Naik has been promoting en-

mity between different religious groups in India through his public speeches and lectures. Naik and his associates have been stirring up discontent against the Indian government, which affects harmony between communities and could disturb the peace, the agency has also said. Investigations have revealed that his speeches on several occasions led to communal tension and near violence among followers of different sects and religions and created serious law-and-order situations, the NIA said. The Enforcement Directorate also registered a case against Naik's close associate Amir Gazdar, allegedly for money laundering. In the complaint, Naik has been shown as an accused.

'They threaten to shoot me if I play cricket': Sonepat girl gets brothers booked



ROHTAK: A 22-year-old girl from Sonepat district's Devru village filed a police complaint against her brothers for threatening to shoot her dead if she continues to play cricket and study in college. per the FIR copy, the girl stated that she was a BA second year student and liked playing cricket in college. However, she said her two brothers forcefully made her drop out from college against her wishes. "They beat me whenever I express my desire to study and play cricket. My younger brother threatens to shoot me dead if I join college again," the girl said. She said she wants to make her own life's decision and none of her teachers in college or mentors in sports were supporting her. She told police that she wants to stay away from her brothers and continue doing what she likes, but said that she feared for her life. Based on her complaint, the police have booked her brothers under sections 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (crime committed with common intention) of the Indian Penal Code. The police said her elder brother works with the state Home Guards while the younger brother is a BA first year student. "She had come to us with a complaint on Sunday, following which we had verbally warned her brothers to let her study and play cricket. But, when she complained again two days later of the same behaviour, we registered a criminal case against her brothers," Sonepat sadar police station in-charge Dalvir Dangi said.

People in black T-shirts, shirts not allowed to enter Yogi Adityanath's rally in Agra

AGRA: The district administration did not allow anyone wearing black T-shirts or shirts to enter a rally addressed by Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath in Agra on Thursday to thwart any attempt to show black flags at the event. Uttar Pradesh Muslim Mahasangh had threatened to show black flags to Adityanath on his arrival in Agra, with its president Chaudhary Farhan alleging that the chief minister had disrespected the Taj Mahal by not including it in the state's tourism promotion booklet. Before the rally, Adityanath swept the road outside the Taj Mahal and then went inside the Mughal era monument in a damage control exercise following the controversy over its place in Indian heritage. The police officials manning the entry gates of the public rally at the Government



Inter College grounds sent back several people, mostly youngsters, who were wearing black T-shirts or shirts. Though policemen re-

mained tight-lipped about the issue, a senior police official, on the condition of anonymity, said those who were sent back were suspects and they would be allowed to enter later. Another official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said they had been instructed that no one should interrupt the rally. However, nobody wearing black T-shirt or shirt could manage to enter the rally. Some youngsters, who had taken off their black T-shirts and tied them on their waists to enter the rally, were also sent back by the police. More than 14,000 policemen have been deployed across the city for the security of the chief minister. There was a controversy after the Uttar Pradesh government did not mention the Taj Mahal in the states tourism booklet with many people criticising the Yogi-led government for ignoring the UNESCO world heritage site.

Will Kamal Haasan's birthday be his political D-Day

CHENNAI: Will November 7 be the day? Looks like it. Superstar Kamal Haasan, who has been dropping very obvious hints about joining politics, has asked his fans to expect a major announcement on his birthday. The actor and director has been talking about cleaning up politics in Tamil Nadu, which is still battling political uncertainty after the death of chief minister and ruling AIADMK chief J Jayalalitha in December 2016. The ruling party has been riven by factionalism and there is a political vacuum in the state. Writing in a Tamil weekly news magazine, Ananda Vikatan, on Thursday, Haasan said on November 7 he would tell his fans how to work with him and his team. In the write-up, with a telling head-

line Motthan Cholligirean, Tayaraagha irangal (Will tell everything, be ready), the 62-year-old actor said he was looking for people with commitment and responsibility to build Tamil Nadu. In the last few months, the actor has been vocal in his criticism of the state government and also the Centre and had expressed his views in the magazine and through Twitter. He has already said "saffron is not his colour", ruling out possibility of him joining hands with the BJP, which is looking for a toehold in the southern state. Haasan, who also made a mark in Hindi cinema, met Kerala chief minister and veteran CPI (M) leader Pinarayi Vijayan and declared, "Left leaders are my heroes". He has also hosted Delhi chief minister and Aam Aadmi

Party leader Arvind Kejriwal, a known BJP baiter, for lunch. Haasan's write-up appears a day after there was a media frenzy over the possibility of Mersal star Vijay entering politics. The Mersal star fell foul of the BJP over a dialogue or two mocking the goods and services tax, introduced recently by the Modi government, in his latest film. BJP Tamil Nadu president Tamilisai Soundararajan and her party colleague H Raja said Vijay's political ambitions had coloured his "incorrect" statements on GST. Mersal is playing to full house and has earned around Rs 176 crore at the box office, trade analysts say. Not just Haasan, his box-office rival, Rajinikanth, too, has been talking politics but Haasan seems to have stolen the march for now.

HC trashes Swamy PIL on Sunanda death probe as 'political interest litigation'

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court chastised BJP leader Subramanian Swamy on Thursday while rejecting his petition that sought a court-monitored investigation into the death of Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's wife Sunanda Pushkar. Terming Swamy's petition a "political interest litigation", the judges said there was no reason to believe the investigation was being influenced by anyone as alleged by the BJP leader.

"It is extremely unfortunate that the court is being used in this manner," the bench of justices S Muralidhar and IS Mehta remarked, adding, "courts should be careful in not letting the judicial machinery being used by political personalities for their own purposes". The police report, the judges said, does not suggest the investigation carried by the Special Investigating Team was being 'botched up or was under the influence of anyone'. Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain said the Delhi Police and the Centre do not "subscribe" to Swamy's views that Tharoor made attempts to hush up the case or continued to influence the investigation. Pushkar was found dead in January 2014 at a hotel room in the national capital. Officials believe suicide to be the most likely reason for her death, with autopsies identifying a deadly cocktail of drugs and alcohol after she passed away. "This is perhaps a textbook example of political interest litigation dressed up as public interest litigation," the bench said of Swamy's petition. In his plea, the BJP leader said there has been a constant attempt to block the investigation into the death of Pushkar and alleged a case was filed almost a year later and nothing had happened after that. Swamy sought a time-bound probe in the case, saying "very influential people are involved in the case, leading to attempts to protect them, and the matter has faced a lot of unnecessary delay already". But the court asked Swamy to explain the basis of the allegations since it involved a person who belongs to a rival political party. The bench asked why Swamy has not presented evidence in support of his allegations in the petition. "Which part of your petition is based on your personal knowledge and which part is based on belief," the court asked, saying Swamy cannot make such "sweeping allegation". The BJP leader sought time to file a separate affidavit to give details of the basis of his petition, saying he takes "100% responsibility" for what was said in the petition. "You said in your affidavit that you have not concealed any information. Today, when we ask you to explain the basis of your allegations, you say you will file another affidavit. That means you have concealed information," the bench remarked.

Congress plans mega rally in Karnataka to mark Indra Gandhi's birth centenary

NEW DELHI: The Congress party is planning a mega event in Karnataka's Chikmagalur in the third week of November to mark the culmination of the year-long celebration of former prime minister Indira Gandhi's birth centenary this year. To revive the memories of his grandmother's ties with Chikmagalur, Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi is likely to address a public meeting in the picturesque tourist destination. The date of the meeting is being worked out. The Congress-ruled Karnataka goes to polls in March-April 2018. Chikmagalur gained national prominence when the late prime minister decided to contest the Lok Sabha by-elections from the constituency in 1978, a year after she was defeated by Raj Narain of Janata Party from Rae Bareilly following the Emergency period from 1975 to 1977. One of her loyalists, DB Chandre Gowda, vacated the seat for her and she defeated former chief minister and Janata Party candidate Veerendra Patil by a margin of more than 77,000 votes. It was a turning point in Indira Gandhi's career and the victory gave her a political rebirth and two years later she swept back to power in the 1980 Lok Sabha elections, with the Congress winning



353 seats. However, she contested from Uttar Pradesh's Rae Bareilly this time and defeated the opposition candidate Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia and once again assumed the office of the prime minister. Following Indira Gandhi's drubbing in the 1977 elections, senior Congress leader D Devraj Urs split the party in 1978 to form a break-away faction. Many senior leaders such as Yashwantrao Chavan, Dev Kant Baruah, Kasu Brahmananda Reddy, AK Antony, Sharad Pawar, Sarat Chandra Sinha, Priyaranjan Das Munshi, and KP Unnikrishnan joined the Congress (Urs) faction. Karnataka's ties with the Congress party are deep.

Following the footsteps of her mother-in-law soon after joining the politics, Congress president Sonia Gandhi contested the 1999 Lok Sabha elections from two seats - Bellary in Karnataka and Amethi in Uttar Pradesh. She defeated BJP leaders Sushma Swaraj from Bellary and Sanjay Singh from Amethi. Sonia Gandhi, however, chose to represent Amethi and gave up Bellary. The year-long centenary celebrations coincide with the organisational elections in the 132-year-old party. The election to the Congress president's post is expected to take place sometime next month though these were initially scheduled between September 16 and October 15.

Sonia Gandhi stated earlier this month that Rahul Gandhi will soon take over the reins of the party. Congress sources say there could be two possible dates for the next All India Congress Committee (AICC) session - November 14 or the birth anniversary of first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru or Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary on November 19 - during which the election of the party chief will be endorsed. The Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party's highest decision-making body, at its meeting on November 7 last year unanimously appealed to Rahul Gandhi to take over the grand old party that was founded on December 28, 1885. Sonia Gandhi holds the record of being the party chief for more than 19 consecutive years after taking over from Sitaram Kesri in March 1998. During her entire tenure, Sonia Gandhi faced contest only once. She defeated Jitendra Prasad - who served as political advisor to former prime ministers Rajiv Gandhi and PV Narasimha Rao - in a one-sided contest on November 9, 2000. Once the Congress president is chosen, it will be followed by the elections to the CWC. As per the party constitution, 12 of the 25 CWC members have to be

electd by AICC delegates and the rest are appointed by the Congress president. The entire process of the organisational polls in the Congress has to be completed by December 31 this year as per the deadline set by the Election Commission. The CWC has not witnessed an election in more than two decades now. The last time CWC witnessed a contest was in 1997 during the Kolkata plenary and prior to that in 1992 at the Tirupati session. However, a senior Congress functionary referred to the party constitution to suggest that the change of guard could take place anytime. The Congress constitution gives special power to the CWC to take any decision, including the appointment of party chief, with the condition that the move has to be ratified by the AICC within six months. The CWC exercised the provision on March 14, 1998, to appoint Sonia Gandhi as the Congress president in place of Kesri. The AICC ratified the move on April 6, 1998. The entire process could happen in one day with the CWC passing a resolution in the morning and the AICC ratifying the move soon after. In Sonia Gandhi's case, the formalities were completed in less than a month.

Don't let the winter slow you down. Here are 4 easy ways to stay full of energy

In our modern, hectic lifestyles, we can't afford to get sluggish. Regardless of the weather outside, we need to keep up with the pace. This winter, try these four methods to be full of life:

1) Warm drinks
In winters, try swapping sodas, fruit juice and sparkling water for warm drinks. Sipping warm -- not boiling hot -- drinks before and after meals helps prevent the loss of heat while also favouring digestion.

Herbal teas with lemon, ginger, rosemary, fennel, aniseed and cinnamon warm the body and invigorate. Try them instead of tea or coffee for breakfast. For those with nervous temperaments or who are quick to anger, sip on peppermint tea, which is stimulating but fresher.

2) Eat orange
To load up on antioxidants and tasty flavours, tuck into topical vegetables. These seasonal stars are mostly yellow or orange in colour, and grow underground on the surface, like carrots, beetroot, parsnips, pumpkins, potatoes and sweet potatoes.

Your gut will thank you for the soothing effect of these easy-to-digest veggies. Foods that particularly invigorate the spleen and kidneys -- veritable reservoirs

of energy -- are dates, grapes, pears, potatoes, cucumber, carrots, melon, cereals, licorice, honey, cinnamon and aniseed.

3) Get to bed early
It's not always easy to slow the pace with today's ultra-connected and busy lifestyles. When the days get shorter, we should, however, respect this drop in energy and slow down our activities. Unless you're a natural night owl, you can snuggle up in bed from 10:30pm with no reason to feel guilty.

Reading a book, doing breathing exercises, inhaling in a few drops of essential oils (Roman camomile, lavender, niaouli) or listening to music can help you drop off.

4) Try yin yoga
Close to meditation, yin yoga is a slow and gentle stress-bursting activity that's a great for fall. Holding floor-based poses for three to four minutes forces us to slow down and listen to the feelings and sensations of the present moment. This "time out" can be highly beneficial in the evening, to stretch the body thoroughly and nourish the immune system.

If you have trouble getting motivated to go out, try an online class in the comfort of your home.



This is how skin plays a role in controlling BP - Read

Skin, the largest organ, typically covering two square metres in humans, plays a surprising role in regulating blood pressure and heart rate, scientists have found in a study on mice.

The findings revealed that skin helps regulate hypertension and heart rate in response to changes in the amount of oxygen available in the environment. High blood pressure, the risk factor for heart attack and stroke, is often caused as a result of reduced flow of blood through small

blood vessels in the skin and other parts of the body to the heart.

"Given that skin is the largest organ in our body, it perhaps shouldn't be too surprising that it plays a role in regulation such a fundamental mechanism as blood pressure," said Randall Johnson, professor at the University of Cambridge.

When the heart tissue is starved of oxygen -- as can happen in areas of high altitude, or in response to pollution, smoking or obesity -- blood

flow to that tissue will increase. In such situations, the increase in blood flow is controlled in part by the 'HIF' family of proteins.

For the study, published in the journal eLife, the team exposed genetically modified mice to such low-oxygen conditions. The mice which lacked in one of two proteins in the skin (HIF-1a or HIF-2a), showed an effect on the heart rate, blood pressure, skin temperature and general levels of activity. "These findings sug-

gest that our skin's response to low levels of oxygen may have substantial effects on the how the heart pumps blood around the body," said Andrew Cowburn, senior research associate at the varsity. Prior studies have revealed that blood pressure is regulated by the brain, by blood vessels, or by the kidney. However, the study "suggests that we may need to take a look at other organs and tissues in the body and see how they, too, are implicated", in controlling blood pressure.

Day-dreaming may not be so bad after all! This is what a study has revealed

Do you often find yourself day-dreaming? A study has revealed that it is actually beneficial.

The brain network involved in daydreaming plays an important role in allowing us to perform routine tasks efficiently, without investing too much time and energy, the study has found.

Far from being just 'background activity', the 'default mode network' involved in daydreaming may be essential to helping us perform tasks on autopilot. Day-dreaming is often looked down upon as a sign of laziness or absent-mindedness, however, this study may change a lot of perspectives.

Scientists at the University of Cambridge in the UK showed that the findings have relevance to brain injury, particularly following traumatic brain injury, where problems with memory and impulsivity can substantially compromise social reintegration. They may also have relevance for mental health disorders, such as addiction, depression and obsessive compulsive disorder, where particular thought patterns drive repeated behaviours, and the mechanisms of anaesthetic agents and other drugs on the brain. Previously, scientists at the Washington University School of Medicine had found that a collection



of brain regions appeared to be more active during such states of rest.

This network was named the 'default mode network' (DMN). While it has since been linked to, among other things, daydreaming, thinking about the past, planning for the future, and creativity, its precise function is unclear. In the new research published in the journal Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences, scientists showed that the DMN plays an important role in allowing us to switch to 'autopilot' once we are familiar with a task. In the study, 28 volunteers took part in a task while lying inside a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner. Functional MRI (fMRI)

measures changes in brain oxygen levels as a proxy for neural activity.

Participants were shown four cards and asked to match a target card to one of these cards.

There were three possible rules -- matching by colour, shape or number. Volunteers were not told the rule, but rather had to work it out for themselves through trial and error.

The most interesting differences in brain activity occurred when comparing the two stages of the task -- acquisition (where the participants were learning the rules by trial and error) and application (where the participants had learned the rule and were now applying it).

During the acquisition stage, the dorsal attention network, which has been associated with the processing of attention-demanding information, was more active.

However, in the application stage, where participants utilised learned rules from memory, the DMN was more active. In this stage, the stronger the relationship between activity in the DMN and in regions of the brain associated with memory, such as the hippocampus, the faster and more accurately the volunteer was able to perform the task.

This suggested that during the application stage, the participants could efficiently respond to the task using the rule from memory.

"Rather than waiting passively for things to happen to us, we are constantly trying to predict the environment around us," said Deniz Vatansever, former student at the University of Cambridge.

"Our evidence suggests it is the default mode network that enables us to do this. It is essentially like an autopilot that helps us make fast decisions when we know what the rules of the environment are," said Vatansever, who is now based at the University of York.

Do you pee often or hardly ever? Here's what your urine can tell about your health

You have to pee several times a day, yet like most people, you don't like to talk about it much. But did you know that every time you pee, your urine gives important clues about your overall health? Its smell and colour, in particular, can give vital clues to your well-being. "The healthiest urine colour is clear," says Dr Shubendu Ghosh, a urologist with RK Diagnostics, Kolkata. "It's a sign of good hydration." But if your urine is any shade other than clear or light yellow, it could indicate trouble. Here's a guide to what your pee may be trying to tell you - and what you should do. If your urine is cloudy... You may have an infection. Bacteria from a urinary tract infection (UTI) can cause a cloudy appearance, not to mention a painful burning sensation when you pee. If you think you may have a UTI, see your doctor, urges general physician, Dr Shayan Dasgupta. A UTI "typically won't go away on its own," he warns. And while over-the-counter treatments may help the symptoms, they don't treat the infection. "Anyone with a UTI should consult a physician," Dr Dasgupta said, adding, "Cloudiness can suggest the presence of proteins in the urine, and this can sometimes be due to a problem in the kidneys." If you are frequently urinating... Your food and liquid intake and activity level are to blame. If you are wondering how much is 'normal' to pee in one day, the typical urine output in a 24-

hour period varies between 4-8 times daily. "If you're urinating more than that, it could be because it's hot outside and you're drinking more water. On the other hand, it can also be a red flag for more serious medical conditions," DR Ghosh said. Frequent urination, he said, could be a sign of diabetes. It can also be a sign of kidney or ureter problems, urinary bladder problems, or another medical condition, such as pregnancy, or prostate gland problems. If you're urinating less than a litre... It's indicative of dehydration. The most common cause of less urine is dehydration. "If your urine is less frequent, smaller in quantity and darker in colour, it is definitely dehydration, so start drinking more immediately," Dr Dasgupta said. Decreased urination can also be due to infection, an obstruction in the bladder or urinary tract, or even be caused by some medications, he added. If it has a strange scent... It's most likely due to something that you ate. Urine usually doesn't have a strong odour. But certain foods, such as bananas, chicken, potatoes, and garlic, can give it a strong smell thanks to vitamin B-6 and sulphur compounds. Medicines can impart an odour, too. "An ammonia-type of smell may be a sign that you're dehydrated. And a bacterial infection can give your urine a foul odour. Less common causes of funny-smelling urine are rare genetic conditions," Dr Dasgupta said. If it smells sweet.

Limit smartphone usage to two hours a day to get good sleep, study tells teenagers

While technology has certainly made life convenient, it is also a major contributor of numerous health issues, especially among the youngsters.

According to scientists, adolescents are increasingly depriving themselves of sleep because they are busy spending time on their smartphones or other gadgets.

The research revealed that teens sleep fewer hours per night than older generations.

In order to be more engaged and productive as students, experts believe that nine hours of sleep every night is necessary. Less than seven hours is considered to be insufficient sleep.

Researchers from San Diego State University and Iowa State University in the US examined data of more than 360,000 US school students who took part in a survey.

The study, published in the journal Sleep Medicine, found that about 40

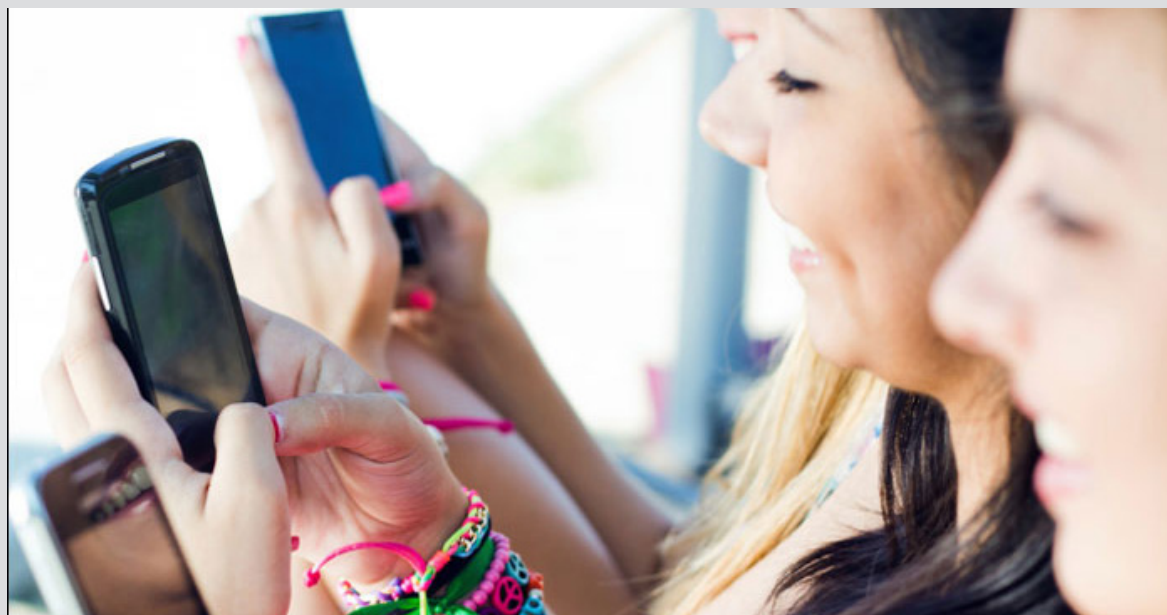
percent of adolescents in 2015 slept less than seven hours a night, which is 58 percent more than in 1991 and 17 percent more than in 2009.

Delving further into the data, researchers learned that the more time young people reported spending online, the less sleep they got.

Teens who spent five hours a day online were 50 percent more likely to not sleep enough than their peers who only spent an hour online each day.

Beginning around 2009, smartphone use skyrocketed, which researchers believe may be responsible for the 17 percent bump between 2009 and 2015 in the number of students sleeping seven hours or less.

Not only might teens be using their phones when they would otherwise be sleeping, but previous research suggests the light wavelengths emitted by smartphones and tablets can interfere with the body's natural sleep-wake rhythm.



"Teens sleep began to shorten just as the majority started using smart-

phones," said Jean Twenge, from San Diego State University in the US.

Students might compensate for that lack of sleep by dozing off during day-

time hours, said Zlatan Krizan from Iowa State University.

"Our body is going to try to meet its sleep needs, which means sleep is going to interfere or shove its nose in other spheres of our lives," Krizan said.

"Teens may catch up with naps on the weekend or they may start falling asleep at school," he said.

For many, smartphones and tablets are an indispensable part of everyday life, so they key is moderation, Twenge said. Limiting usage to two hours a day should leave enough time for proper sleep, she said.

"Given the importance of sleep for both physical and mental health, both teens and adults should consider whether their smartphone use is interfering with their sleep," she said.

"Its particularly important not to use screen devices right before bed, as they might interfere with falling asleep," she added.

Rs 2.11-lakh cr bank recap may make fiscal deficit target hard to achieve: Fitch

NEW DELHI: The massive Rs 2.11 lakh crore capital infusion in public sector banks may make the 3.2% fiscal deficit target for 2017-18 difficult to achieve if two-thirds of the planned recapitalisation bonds are issued by the government, Fitch Ratings said on Thursday. The announcement made on Tuesday "is a significant change from the drip-feed approach pursued over the last few years and should help address the capital shortages that are a major negative influence on the viability ratings of the banks", it said. Of the total Rs 2.11 lakh crore, Rs 1.35 lakh crore would be in the form of recapitalisation bonds, while the rest would involve a combination of already announced budgetary support and capital raisings by the banks themselves from the capital markets. "The recapitalisation plans could make this target more difficult to achieve if recapitalisation bonds are to be issued by the central government, which

might mean expenditure cuts elsewhere. Recapitalisation bonds would still imply contingent liabilities for the government if they are instead issued by quasi-government institutions. The \$21 billion of planned issuance is equivalent to 0.9% of GDP," it said. The rating agency, however, said the additional pressure on fiscal balances could be more than offset by the beneficial impact recapitalisation may have in eventually helping to return the banking sector to health, which would support the longer-term economic outlook and reduce uncertainty. Out of the total recapitalisation plan, the government will provide Rs 76,000 crore. Banks are expected to raise the rest through, for example, fresh equity issuance, with the government willing to accept a dilution of its ownership share to 52%. Fitch had last month estimated



ed that the Indian banks would require around \$65 billion of additional capital to fully meet new Basel III capital standards that will be implemented by end-March 2019. Also, that the state banks, which account for 95% of the short-

fall, would be dependent on the government to meet these requirements. "The latest planned injections will go a long way in plugging the total capital gap. They also exceed the \$6-7 billion that we estimated the govern-

ment would need to pump in on a bare minimum basis (excluding buffers) to address weak provision cover and aid in effective NPA resolution," Fitch said today. Lending growth, however, is still likely to remain weak, at least

in the short term, as banks will prioritise asset resolution and provisioning over expansion, it said. The government's plan is to provide capital to all banks that need it, which carries some risk of encouraging moral hazard. "However, the size of capital allocations is to be determined by performance, which suggests the largest share will go to stronger banks, while some banks — particularly smaller, struggling ones — could still be swept up into the government's consolidation agenda," Fitch said. The government is also planning structural changes to governance and underwriting standards at state banks to guard against future systemic asset-quality problems — although this reform process is likely to be slow and vulnerable to implementation risks. State banks will now receive Rs 2.11 lakh crore (\$32 billion) in new capital over the next two years, with the government providing \$24 billion.

The government had already budgeted \$3 billion for capital infusions under a previous plan. The other \$21 billion will be raised by issuing bonds earmarked specifically for recapitalisation. The government plans to begin issuing these recapitalisation bonds within the ongoing fiscal and has said it will front-load injections. Details on the programme, such as which entities will issue the recapitalisation bonds and who will subscribe to them, are still to be announced, Fitch said. "Finance Minister (while announcing the plan on Tuesday) has hinted that the recapitalisation bonds could be sold directly to the banks, with the proceeds returned as equity. Effectively, this would mean converting banks' excess liquidity into equity. Banks' liquidity ratios are healthy, having been given a boost by a surge in deposits after demonetisation," it added.

BSE seeks clients' Aadhaar number updation from brokers

MUMBAI: Trying to ensure compliance with anti-money laundering rules, the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) Indian equities exchange on Thursday asked its brokers to state and update their preparedness, mention the number of active clients and mention the number of clients who have submitted their Aadhaar numbers. In a circular the stock exchange said: "Members are hereby requested to note that, the number of clients compiled to be mentioned should be the cumulative number of clients who have complied with submitting Aadhaar numbers with respect to the client categories covered in the Amendment to PML (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005." "Members are requested to submit/update the details by October 31, 2017; after which the above link will be disabled and data will be sent to SEBI (Securities Exchange Board



of India)," it added. The circular said in the case of an individual one has to furnish his/her Aadhaar details. In the case of a company, "managers, officers or employees holding attorney to transact on company's behalf" need to submit Aadhaar details. For partnership firms, trusts and unincorporated associations or a body of individuals, the person holding power of attorney to transact on the firm's behalf needs to furnish the 12-digit identification number.

India's recapitalisation plan positive for banks' ratings: Fitch

NEW DELHI: The recent recapitalisation plan announced by the government for public sector banks will provide substantial funds to the lenders to address the capital shortages, that has a major negative impact on their ratings, says a report. The government recently announced to infuse Rs 2.1 trillion (USD 32 billion) in state-run lenders over a two-year period. Under the current plan, Rs 1.35 trillion of the total amount will come from recapitalisation bonds and Rs 0.76 trillion from budgetary support and fund-raising in the capital markets over the next two years. "The recapitalisation plans for state banks is a significant change from the drip-feed approach pursued over the last few years and should help to address the capital shortages that are a major negative influ-

ence on the viability ratings of the banks," Fitch Ratings said in a report today. Last month, the international rating agency estimated that Indian banks would require around USD 65 billion of additional capital to fully meet the new Basel III capital standards that will be implemented by end of March 2019. It also estimated that the state banks, which account for 95 per cent of the shortfall, would be dependent on the government to meet these requirements. The banks' viability ratings would come under more pressure if the problem was not addressed, it had said. "The latest planned injections will go a long way in plugging the total capital gap. They also exceed the USD 6 billion-7 billion that we estimated the government would need to pump in on a bare minimum

basis (excluding buffers) to address weak provision cover and aid in effective NPL resolution," the Fitch report said. The lending growth, however, is still likely to remain weak, at least in the short term, as banks will prioritise asset resolution and provisioning over expansion, it said. The government's plan to provide capital to all banks carries some risk of encouraging moral hazard, it said. "However, the size of capital allocations is to be determined by performance, which suggests the largest share will go to stronger banks, while some banks — particularly smaller, struggling ones — could still be swept up into the government's consolidation agenda," the rating agency said. The report further said that recapitalisation bond if issued by the

government could affect its target to reduce central fiscal deficit to 3.2 per cent of GDP this year. "The recapitalisation plans could make this target more difficult to achieve if recapitalisation bonds are to be issued by the central government, which might mean expenditure cuts elsewhere," the report said. Recapitalisation bonds would still imply contingent liabilities for the government if they are instead issued by quasi-government institutions, it said. "From a sovereign rating perspective, the additional pressure on fiscal balances could be more than offset by the beneficial impact recapitalisation may have in eventually helping to return the banking sector to health, which would support the longer-term economic outlook and reduce uncertainty," the report added.

Sensex hovers around 33K, Nifty flat ahead of F&O expiry

MUMBAI: The BSE Sensex fell by 79 points to trade below the 33,000 level in a volatile trade following profit booking in telecom, FMCG, finance, banking and consumer durables sectors ahead of expiry of October derivative contracts later on Thursday. The 30-share Sensex resumed lower at 33,025.17 and hovered in a range of 33,074.91 and 32,835.06 in morning trade. It was trading at 32,963.21 at 1100 hrs, down by 79.29 points or 0.24%. While, the NSE 50-share Nifty was trading flat, down by 8.80, or 0.09% to 10,286.55. Among secondary indices, the S&P BSE Mid-Cap index rose 0.25% and the S&P BSE Small-Cap index gained 0.49 per cent. Both the indices outperformed the Sensex. Major losers were ICICI Bank 2.50%, HDFC 2.24%, Powergrid 1.90%, Dr Reddy 1.08%, Hindunilver 1.01% and



Tata Mtr Dvr 0.72%. However, Larsen rose 2.70% followed by Cipla 2.05%, Kotak Bank 1.21% and Axis Bank 1.05%. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) bought shares worth a net Rs 3582.50 crore Wednesday, as per provisional data released by the stock exchanges. Domestic institutional investors (DIIs) sold shares worth a net Rs 155.71 crore. Globally, Asian stocks were mixed after Wall Street shares pulled back from record highs overnight. US stocks fell yesterday, on a batch of soft quarterly earnings, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average suffering its worst day in seven weeks after rising to a record peak the previous session.

Rupee still firm at 64.76 Vs dollar The rupee continued to remain firm, still up by 13 paise to 64.76 against the US currency on sustained selling of the greenback by banks and exporters in view of weak dollar overseas. Earlier, the rupee opened higher by 10 paise at 64.79 per dollar against Wednesday's closing level of 64.89 per dollar at the Interbank Forex Market (FOREX). The Indian unit hovered between 64.80 and 64.72 per dollar during morning deals, it was quoting at 64.76 per dollar at 1120 hrs. The euro inched higher early on Thursday, as investors awaited details of the European Central Bank's plans for scaling back its bond-buying stimulus program, while the dollar took a breather after its recent rally. The dollar's index against a basket of six major currencies, stood at 93.56, having retreated from Thursday's intra-day high of 94.00.

RCom shares continue to fall, down nearly 5%

NEW DELHI: Continuing to fall for the second straight session, shares of Reliance Communications on Wednesday fell by nearly 5% amid buzz that the debt-ridden company is planning to shut down its wireless telephony business. After a weak opening, shares of the company further lost 4.55% to Rs 15.70-52-week low-on BSE. On NSE, the stock lost 4.86% to hit a one-year low of Rs 15.65. The stock had fallen by over 3% on Wednesday. On Tuesday it had declined by 3.95%. RCom plans to shut down its loss-making wireless telephony business by November 30 and concentrate only on 4G Internet services, according to sources. "As already announced on October 1, 2017, RCom has decided to adopt a 4G-focused strategy for profitable growth of its wireless



business. Accordingly, RCom will be optimising its 2G and 3G footprint, and related infrastructure and human resources, with effect from November 30, 2017," the company said in a statement yesterday. RCom said its "4G-led strategy will be executed, as at present, on the back of capital-light access to India's most extensive 4G mobile network, through already operational spectrum-sharing and ICR arrangements with Reliance Jio".

L&T construction arm bags orders worth Rs 3551 crore



NEW DELHI: Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Thursday said its construction arm has won orders worth Rs 3,551 crore across business segments. In a filing to BSE, the engineering and construction major said its transportation infrastructure and water effluent treatment segments have jointly bagged orders worth Rs 1,123 crore in the domestic market. Apart from the joint order, transportation infrastructure and water effluent treatment business have also received orders worth Rs 777 crore and Rs 572 crore respectively. Its building and factories divisions have won orders worth Rs 866 crore for design and construction of 22 tower, while smart world and communication business vertical has got order worth Rs 213 crore in Gujarat. Shares of the company were trading at Rs 1,220.90 apiece, up 1.37% from the previous close on BSE.

Work to start on 150 projects on Ganga by March: Nitin Gadkari

NEW DELHI: The government is all set to launch 150 projects on Ganga by March, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said today while asking investors to join hands with the Centre in cleaning of the river. The projects, he said, aim at containing discharge of polluted water in the river and recycling the waste water to produce bio CNG to power transport fleet. "There is much pollution in Ganga by bigger cities like Kanpur and Mathura. We will start 150 projects by March 2018 to check discharge of polluted water in Ganga that are based on recycling etc," said the minister for river development and Ganga rejuvenation. "I urge industry bodies like PHD Chamber and Fici to join hands with the government in this mission of huge national importance," he said at the annual session of PHD Chamber. The government, he said, is ready to offer technology free of cost to the investors who can produce methane and bio CNG from the waste water which could be used to power buses and other vehicles.



Of the 150 projects, 90 have already been awarded, while the 7 will be awarded soon, Gadkari said, Adding that the remaining projects are on the anvil and work on all the 150 will begin within five months.

The minister also urged investors to participate in initiatives like amphibian buses and planes. Talking about agriculture, Gadkari said the wrong policies in the past have resulted in its occupying the back seat but a number of steps are being taken now to revive it by making irrigation facilities on larger chunks of lands across states. He said there are 285 projects involving an expenditure of about Rs 1.5 lakh crore. Gadkari said it was unfortunate that some states were fighting over river water distribution while nobody paid any attention to 70 per cent of the rainwater going to sea in absence of water harvesting. Likewise, no one is concerned about river waters going to Pakistan as India shares 6 rivers with Pakistan while states remain busy in internal fights over sharing of river water, the minister said. Gadkari said three projects on Ganga worth Rs 80,000 crore will be started within three months.

Pakistan cricket captain Sarfraz Ahmed felt 'fear' after rejecting fixing offer

KARACHI: Pakistan cricket captain Sarfraz Ahmed has spoken of the "fear" he felt after reporting an alleged illegal approach from a bookmaker during the one-day international series against Sri Lanka.

Sarfraz Ahmed on Wednesday confirmed that he contacted the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) after the approach was made.

The Pakistan skipper said he was left "scared" despite following the necessary procedures. "Whatever happened, it is done and I did what I was supposed to do," Sarfraz said on the first Twenty20 against Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi.



"I wasn't frightened after informing (the ICC and PCB); in fact, I was more scared watching myself on TV.

"I was discussed on TV so much that at some stage I started to feel fear. But by the grace of Allah, every-

thing is getting back to normal.

"When you are going into a series you need to be normal and everything is going good so far." Pakistan cricket was hit by a fixing scandal during the second edition of the Pakistan Super League earlier this year that saw Pakistan openers Sharjeel Khan and Khalid Latif banned for two-and-a-half and five years respectively.

The most infamous spot-fixing incident to hit Pakistani cricket came on the 2010 tour of England, when then-captain Salman Butt and bowlers Mohammad Amir and Mohammad Asif were all given prison sentences for conspiring to bowl deliberate no-balls in the fourth Test at Lord's.

Why Shoaib Akhtar is upset over Pune 'pitch-fixing' controversy

MUMBAI: Former Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar has expressed concerns after a 'pitch-fixing' claim shocked the cricket fraternity, just a few hours before the start of the second ODI between India and New Zealand in Pune. Akhtar said such instances should be dealt with an 'iron fist'. (Pune ODI highlights | Scorecard)

Pandurang Salgaonkar, the 68-year-old former First-Class cricketer for a decade and the head curator at the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) Ground in Pune, was suspended after he was alleged to have agreed to tamper with the pitch.

Salgaonkar was also accused to have allowed journalists from India Today, posing as cricket bookies, on the pitch, which is strictly against the rules set by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the International Cricket Council (ICC).



In a series of tweets separated over several hours, Akhtar said he was 'shocked' to learn about the incident. Salgaonkar was suspended following the sting operation which was revealed on Thursday morning, a few hours before the start of the second ODI in Pune. The Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) had immediately suspended Salgaonkar, and the match progressed after the pitch was inspected by ICC match referee Chris Broad.



Juan Martin del Potro wins opener in Basel to keep London hopes alive

LONDON: Juan Martin del Potro's quest for an unlikely spot in the ATP World Tour Finals gathered pace as he beat Portugal's Joao Sousa in his opening match at the Swiss Indoors on Wednesday.

The Argentine, twice champion in Basel, maintained the form he showed last week in capturing his first title in the year in Stockholm by overpowering Sousa 6-1 4-6 6-1.

Fourth seed Del Potro will face French qualifier Julien Benneteau in the last 16 at the St Jakobs Hall.

Where hometown favourite Roger Federer is bidding for an eighth title.

It looked being a quick assignment for the former U.S. Open champion as he blazed away with his power game but a lapse at 4-4 in the second set allowed Sousa to break and level. But Del Potro stamped his authority on the decider.

"I need to improve my game a little bit for tomorrow and see if I can keep winning because I'd like to spend more days in Basel," the fourth seed said.

Del Potro began the tournament 14th on the ATP Race to London list but with several players above him missing the rest of the season.

The door is still open for the 29-year-old to sneak into the prestigious year-ender in London.

Should he win the title in Basel he would be breathing down the neck of Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta, currently holding the last of the eight spots heading into next week's Paris Masters.

Six places have already been taken, but Belgium's David Goffin is also in the mix after beating South Korea's Chung Hyeon 6-4 6-1 to move into the third round in Basel.

American Sam Querrey and South Africa's Kevin Anderson are also in with a chance of making London as is France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Croatian youngster Borna Coric set up a meeting with second-seeded compatriot Marin Cilic when he came back from squandering set points in the opener to beat Swiss Henri Laaksonen 6-7(8) 6-1 6-3 in one of the day's other first-round matches.

Top seed Federer, bidding to catch Rafa Nadal and finish a resurgent year as number one in the rankings, returns to action on Thursday when he takes on Frenchman Benoit Paire.

Shikhar Dhawan credits Indian cricket team bowlers for 2nd ODI win vs NZ

PUNE: India opener Shikhar Dhawan credited the bowlers' effort for the six-wicket win over New Zealand in the second ODI on Wednesday, stating that the game was won at the end of the first innings with the opposition restricted to a paltry 230.

Shikhar Dhawan, who struck a well-paced 68 to get India off to a good start, told the media: "230 is not too much in these times. The bowlers bowled really well and the fielders backed them up well. The bowlers had done half the job actually for us."

While Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah rattled the top order, the spinners ensured the runs dried up in the middle overs. The pressure kept piling on the Kiwi batsmen, who never bounced back. Dhawan, however, was surprised New Zealand skip-



per Kane Williamson opted to bat on winning the toss. "There was no seam movement when India bowled, that's what I think. I guess we played their pacers

better than they (played our pacers)," he said.

"I was a bit surprised with their decision to bat first because there could be dew in the evening

usually during this time.

"But it wasn't a bad track to bat on even in the first innings. When we were batting we thought it slowed down a bit, the ball wasn't coming

that nicely, the way it should."

New Zealand all-rounder Mitchell Santner said: "Credit has to go to India the way they bowled in the start and put us under pressure. Losing the first three (wickets) in the first 10 overs is not ideal if you're batting first. We knew 230 was a little under-par and then the way they came out and batted took the game away from us."

Santner was confident his side would use their experience and hopefully clinch the series by winning the final game in Kanpur, having lost 2-3 last year.

"It's a bit disappointing tonight but we've learnt our part and going to Kanpur, we hope to take the series 2-1. Last year, we didn't put in a great performance to lose it 3-2, but I guess we can get the ball rolling at Kanpur and hopefully take the series 2-1."

Shakib seeks Bangladesh turnaround in SA T20s

BLOEMFONTEIN: Shakib Al Hasan will be Bangladesh's third captain on a disappointing tour of South Africa as they seek to regain some pride in two Twenty20 Internationals, starting in Bloemfontein on Thursday.

Bangladesh's all-time leading all-rounder was reappointed T20 captain after a seven-year gap following the retirement from the format of Mashrafe Mortaza.

He takes over a squad that has already suffered humiliating defeats in two Test matches and three one-day internationals.

So poorly have Bangladesh performed that both Test captain Mushfiqur Rahim and one-day leader Mashrafe were unable to hide their frustration in comments to Bangladesh media.

"I am not able to motivate my players or guide my bowlers," Mushfiqur was quoted as saying after the Tests.

Mashrafe said after the one-day games that "neither the batsmen nor the bowlers took responsibilities".

While Bangladesh's batsmen were always expected to struggle in South African conditions, the bowlers have been the most conspicuous failures on the tour.

In two Tests and three One-day Internationals, the bowlers have captured only 23 wickets at a combined average of 100.21.

With no new faces in the T20 squad and leading bowler Mustafizur Rahman having

returned home because of injury, Shakib appears to have the odds stacked against him.

South Africa, though, will be without inspirational captain Faf du Plessis, who suffered a lower back disc injury in the final ODI, which will keep him out of action for six weeks.

J.P. Duminy, who had a win and two losses against Australia in his only previous experience of captaincy three years ago, will take over.

The hosts have rested two of their leading bowlers, Kagiso Rabada and Imran Tahir.

The South Africans lost a T20 series against Sri Lanka last season despite outclassing them in the Tests and one-day games.

With South Africa fielding an unusually inexperienced bowling line-up, Bangladesh's batsmen will hope to seize the opportunity to make a strong finish to the tour.

South Africa's batting looks formidable, however, and the Bangladesh bowlers will need to perform far better than they have in previous matches if they are to contain them.

The second game will be played in Potchefstroom on Sunday.

Teams (from): SOUTH AFRICA: J.P. Duminy (captain), Hashim Amla, Farhaan Behardien, Quinton de Kock, AB de Villiers, Robbie Frylinck,



Beuran Hendricks, David Miller, Mangaliso Mosehle, Dane Paterson, Aaron Phangiso, Andile Phelukwayo, Dwaine Pretorius, Tabraiz Shamsi.

BANGLADESH: Shakib Al Hasan (cap-

tain), Imrul Kayes, Liton Das, Mahmudullah, Mehedi Hasan, Mohammad Saifuddin, Momtazul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Nasir Hossain, Rubel Hossain, Sabbir Rahman, Shafiqul Islam, Soumya Sarkar, Taskin Ahmed.

India vs New Zealand: Kanpur officials tread cautiously post Pune 'pitch-fixing'

LUCKNOW: Following the sacking of Pune curator Pandurang Salgaonkar ahead of the second ODI between India and New Zealand, neither the pitch curator nor the ground staff of the Green Park stadium in Kanpur, the venue of the third ODI, is ready to say anything 'officially'. The third and final ODI between India and New Zealand is on Sunday. "It's not because of the incident at Pune that we are tightlipped. But technically we aren't allowed to make any prediction about the pitch behaviour," UPCA curator Shiv Kumar told HT on Wednesday.

Following the Pune incident, the UPCA and district admin-

istration have already tightened their vigil around the staff and others who have access to the ground and pavilion.

UPCA's concern seems genuine as in May, three suspected bookies were arrested from the team hotel in Kanpur ahead of an Indian Premier League match between hosts Gujarat Lions and Delhi Daredevils. The Kanpur police reportedly even questioned two Gujarat Lions players who were allegedly named by the suspected bookies.

During the arrest, police had found Rs 40.90 lakh in cash and five mobile phones from the suspects - identified as Ramesh Nayan Shah, a businessman



from Thane, Mumbai, and two Kanpur residents Ramesh Kumar and Vikas Chauhan.

Interestingly, Ramesh Kumar, who had a contract of putting up hoardings in the stadium, had booked the room for Shah, who was in touch with someone called Bunty, a bookie from Ajmer, to whom he used to pass on information following which bets were placed.

During questioning, Shah allegedly disclosed the names of two Gujarat Lions players with whom he was in touch. Shah had sent a WhatsApp message to Bunty naming the players and claimed that they were 'set' and will do as asked,

Police sources had claimed. Shah had also sent out close up photographs of the wicket before the match.

In one WhatsApp message, Shah mentioned that Gujarat Lions would lose the match even after scoring 200 runs. Stunned by the incident, the BCCI had issued a statement claiming that a betting bid was 'foiled'.

"The Anti-Corruption Unit of the BCCI has been tracking activities of certain individuals, as a result of which, three suspects were arrested in Kanpur. The Uttar Pradesh police crime branch could successfully foil the alleged betting attempts," it had said then.