

TIME AND US

DAILY

Srinagar, Kashmir

TUESDAY

● NOVEMBER, 07, 2017
 ● 17 SAFFAR 1439 AH
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WEATHER TEMPERATURE

STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	21.4	2.5
JAMMU	26.0	13.1
LEH	16.1	-4.6
KARGIL	16.3	-2.1

SUNSET TUESDAY: 05:34 PM
 SUNRISE WEDNESDAY: 06:58 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR

Mainly clear sky... Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 23°C & 2°C respectively.

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

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UNION HRD MINISTER SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR INAUGURATES 'CHINTAN SHIVIR'

PM NARENDRA MODI MEETS DMK SUPREMO KARUNANIDHI IN CHENNAI, PARTY SAYS

SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING RS 17K CR DETECTED AFTER DEMONETISATION

EX-ENGLAND CAPTAIN MIKE BREARLEY DEFENDS BEN STOKES, ASKS ECB TO BE LENIENT

Make sure budgetary allocations are fully utilised by fiscal end: Mehbooba to Admn. Secys.

Monitor pace of projects, ensure timely completion; conduct field visits to know ground position

Jammu, Nov 6: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today directed all Administrative Secretaries to ensure that the budgetary allocations to their respective Departments are fully utilised by the end of current fiscal and in no case should any funds re-valuation or lapses be allowed to happen.

Chairing the first meeting of Administrative Secretaries here after the opening of offices, the Chief Minister directed the officers to reflect the needs of their Departments in the coming budgetary meetings and ensure that funds allocated to them are utilised to full by the end of this financial year. She also asked them to see to it that the on-going schemes and projects are closed at the earliest to avoid cost and time over run.

Mehbooba Mufti asked the officers to keep a track of all the projects under Prime Minister's Development Plan and make it a point that these are executed as per the timeline already



decided and in no case be allowed to overrun. She asked them to take periodic reviews of these projects in their Departments so that the completion timelines are met with.

In view of the coming winter, the Chief Minister sought details of stocking of essential supplies at far flung areas of the State like Ladakh, Marwah and

Wadwan. She was informed that stock and supply position in these areas is by and large satisfactory. She directed the Power Secretary to improve distribution system during winter months as much as possible and ensure as minimum curtailment of electricity in Kashmir Valley in view of the harsh winters as possible.

On the health sector, Mehbooba

Mufti directed that all the medical staff be rationally posted and the concept of attaching them in cities and towns be done away with. She directed the Health Secretary to ensure that the Medical Supplies Corporation, entrusted with supply of medicine to hospitals, is made much more vibrant and active and supplies

▶ See **Mehbooba**...Pg 02

War with India not an option, only solution is continued talks: Pakistan PM

London: Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said that war is not an option with India and that only talks can resolve all outstanding issues including Kashmir.

Addressing a conference on 'Future of Pakistan 2017' at the London School of Economics' South Asia Centre here on Saturday, Abbasi described Kashmir as a "core issue" and said relations with India will remain tense until that is resolved.

"Kashmir is the core issue with India. Until that is resolved, Pakistan-India relations will remain tense. We are always open to talks at any level and talks are the way forward. War is not an option," Abbasi said.

Highlighting India's Cold Start Doctrine among recent developments, Abbasi said Pakistan had a "deterrent" in place.

"We have a deterrent to that (Cold Start Doctrine) but I don't think deterrents where both sides are nuclear powers is a solution to any problem. The only solution is continued talks," the Pakistani leader noted.

He, however, expressed little hope of any significant movement with talks between the countries as both prepared for elections - Pakistan next year and India the year after.

"Any expectation of a great initiative is probably misplaced," Abbasi said.



He also dismissed any support for the concept of an independent Kashmir on the ground while addressing questions from students at the LSE conference on Saturday.

"I have not seen support for that concept (independent Kashmir). This is something that is floated often but it really has no basis in reality. The solution lies with the Security Council resolution that the people are given the right of determination," he said.

Abbasi, who took charge of the Pakistani government in August following the disqualification of the Nawaz Sharif led PML(N) government by the country's Supreme Court, said that while there was "never a dull moment in Pakistan's political life", the country has achieved a level of stability despite the

▶ See **PM**...Pg 02



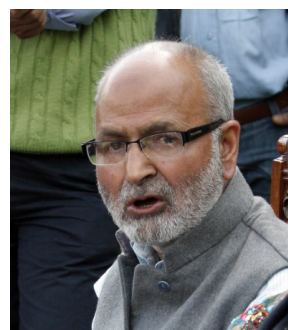
Interlocutor arrives in Kashmir

Srinagar, Nov 6: Centre-appointed interlocutor Dineshwar Sharma arrived on a five-day visit to hold talks with all stakeholders of Kashmir in this summer capital on Monday.

Dialogue with interlocutor: 'Don't jump to conclusions, Akhtar tells media'

Jammu, Nov 6: While reacting to the visit of Indian interlocutor to Kashmir Valley to hold talks with stakeholders, Minister for Public Works and official spokesperson of Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Nayeem Akhtar Monday asked media not to jump the gun before the talks get started.

Akhtar praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that he kept his promise by appointing a special rep-



representative for Kashmir to hold talk. "The appointment of former Intelligence Bureau

chief Dineshwar Sharma as the special representative reflected what the PM had said on Independence Day. PM had said that 'Na goli se, na gaali se, baat banegi gale lagane se' (Issues cannot be resolved by bullets or abuses, but by hugs) and Sharma's appointment was aimed at resolving the basic issue," Akhtar told reporters at the opening of Darbar Move.

"I advise media to stop ▶ See **Akhtar**...Pg 02

Autonomy to both sides of J&K only viable solution: Dr Farooq Abdullah

Says Art 35 A is non negotiable for Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh

Srinagar, Nov 06: National Conference President and Member Parliament of Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah on Monday invoked both India and Pakistan to take concrete political steps for resolving the vexed Kashmir issue.

"Autonomy to both sides of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir is the only viable solution to decades old problem," the NC President said while addressing a public meeting at Keran Kupwara. He is on a four day tour to LoC



areas in north Kashmir.

"Borders cannot be changed but these can be made irrelevant and soft for people to people exchange and open-

ing new vistas of trade and commerce for overall economic prosperity of the region," Dr Farooq Abdullah said adding, "Both India and Pakistan cannot keep people of the state hostage to their egos. Its time for the leadership of both countries to make opening of all traditional routes along LoC a priority."

He said that its time for both countries to realize the realities of present times and initiate the process which ▶ See **Farooq**...Pg 02

Valley's prominent trade bodies stay away from Sharma's dialogue process

Over 13 a political delegations meet on day 1

Srinagar, Nov 06: Prominent trade bodies in the Kashmir valley stayed away from the centre's special representative Dineshwar Sharma's dialogue process which began today here, saying that the previous exercise of interlocutors and their reports proved futile and did not yield any outcome for Kashmir resolution.

Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI), Federation Chamber of Industries Kashmir (FCIK), Houseboat Owners Association of Kashmir (HBOAK) and Kashmir Hotel and Restaurant Owners' Federation (KHAROF) refused to meet Sharma despite invitation from the divisional administration.

Javed Tenga of KCCI told KNS they got a telephone call from Divisional administration about meeting Sharma.

"KCCI decided not to meet him as earlier interlocutors were meaningless and without any outcome," he said. ▶ See **Valley's**...Pg 02

Interlocutor's Kashmir mission be made clear: Muzaffar Shah

Srinagar, Nov 6: Awami National Conference (ANC) Senior Vice President Muzaffar Shah on Saturday said New Delhi has once again decided to send Former IB Officer Shri Dineshwar Sharma to Kashmir to take stock of the tense situation in the Valley and to talk to leaders while as such attempts by the central government have failed to achieve any results till date.

In a press statement, Muzaffar Shah said the mission of the new interlocutor Shri Dineshwar Sharma should be made clear as on what issues is he going to start a dialogue process.

It is worth mentioning that someone had filed a petition in the Supreme Court to abrogate the Article 35-A from the Constitution of India and during the first hearing, the Attorney General of India has informed the supreme court that the center Government has appointed an interlocutor to hold talks with all stakeholders to resolve the Kashmir issue, ▶ See **Muzaffar**...Pg 02

DARBAR OPENS AT JAMMU

Chief Minister accorded ceremonial reception on her arrival at Civil Secretariat

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 06: The Darbar Move offices opened here today after their annual move from Srinagar on October 27. Civil Secretariat and other offices opened here today after a transit period of nine days.

Exactly at 9.30 am, Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti arrived at Civil Secretariat where she was warmly received by the council of her Ministers; Chief Secretary, B. B. Vyas; Director General of Police, Dr. Sheesh Pal Vaid; Administrative Secretaries; representatives of various employees' unions and a large number of officers and employees of Civil Secretariat.

The Chief Minister inspected the ceremonial guard of honour by a contingent of J&K Police and interacted with Ministers, officers and employees and enquired about their well being.



A delegation of representatives of ▶ See **Darbar**...Pg 02

PSAK AGHAST AT UNDUE OFFICIAL INTERVENTION IN SCHOOL

Condemns harassment of staff by ADC Pulwama at Dolphin Intl School

Srinagar, Nov 06: Private Schools Association of Kashmir (PSAK) today strongly condemned the unnecessary raid conducted by ADC Pulwama on the premises of renowned private school Dolphin International School.

The Association called on the government not to treat educational institutes on the lines of commercial establishments and follow some rules in this regard. "Educational institutes are second homes for students where they are given education and training in personal development. But unfortunately every now and then officials who have nothing to do with education intervene in the functioning of these institutes," said G N Var president PSAK. "This is done by some officials to settle their personal scores, exhibit power or some other reasons." ▶ See **PSAK**...Pg 02

Jammu massacre of Muslims in 1947 blackest day of human history: Yasin Malik

Srinagar, Nov 6: "Massacre of more than three hundred thousand Muslims at Jammu on 6th November 1947 is the blackest day of human history. PDP led regime has been facilitating RSS fascist mindset in Jammu, Pirpanjal and Chenab valley," this was stated by the chairman of Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Muhammad Yasin Malik while recalling the sacrifices rendered by Muslims of Jammu in 1947.



6th of November 1947 represents a blackest day of human history when Lakhs of Jammu Muslims, driven out of their homes were butchered ▶ See **Malik**...Pg 02

Protest march from Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan to Civil Secretariat

NC leaders detained; PDP-BJP Govt's failures highlighted

Jammu, Nov 06: Scores of National Conference workers, including senior functionaries, were on Monday detained, as the protest rally taken out from Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan taken out to protest against the failure of PDP-BJP government, reached in the periphery of Civil Secretariat on the opening day of bi-ennial Darbar Move.

Led by senior leaders, the protesters carried National Conference flags and placards,



of utility services and growing tendency of throttling the voices of dissent. They raised ▶ See **Protest**...Pg 02

DAK SEEKS OXYGEN FOR KASHMIR PERIPHERY

Srinagar, Nov 6: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) has demanded for uninterrupted oxygen supply in all rural hospitals especially District Hospital (DH), Sub District Hospital (SDH) and Primary Health Center (PHC).

"The oxygen is an essential drug in emergencies and is life saving in many human ailments", DAK president Suhail Naik was quoted saying.

"Furthermore according to a recent study, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) / Asthma patients form the majority of indoor admissions at hospitals during winter season and continuous oxygen supply is the lifeline for them. Meanwhile during winter season, a huge number of COPD patients are referred from SDH and DH's to Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital and Sher I Kashmir ▶ See **DAK**...Pg 02

ZULFKAR STRESSES FOR INTER-SECTORAL CONVERGENCE

Reviews Tribal Sub-Plan

RAJOURI NOVEMBER 06: Minister for Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs and Tribal Affairs, Chowdhary Zulfiqar Ali today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the achievements, expenditure and shortfalls under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) and Article 275 (1) for the last three years.

Giving details, DDC Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary informed that the district received INR 239.49 Lacs in FY 2015-16 under SCA to TSP whereas INR 272 Lacs, 100 Lacs and 100 Lacs were provided in FYs 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively. However no funds were allotted to the district in 2016-17 under SCA to TSP.

He further informed that for establishment of cluster model villages at Lah and Dhoke, milk village at Argi and Cluster Model Village at Khandarian, funds to the tune of INR 339 Lacs are provided to the district, out of which INR 80 Lacs could be expended till date.

The minister while expressing concern over the low expenditure under TSB said that a number of tribal hamlets are lacking in basic amenities like electricity, road connectivity and clean drinking water in spite of sufficient funds available in the district, only because of the lackadaisical approach of the executing agencies.

He directed the Chief Planning Officer to resubmit the detailed plan for 2016-17 so that the funds could be revaluated.

To ensure the electricity supply to remote located tribal hamlets he directed the X.En. to work out the number of such un-electrified tribal hamlets/villages and submit a detailed plan so that the earliest action in this regard can be taken.

Taking a serious view of tardy works on construction of additional block of Gujjar Bakrwal Hostel at Rajouri, hostel block of Gujjar Bakrwal residential school, at Nagrota and residential schools at Mera Rajouri, the Minister directed the concerned to gear up their men and machinery so that infra-structural gap for providing better facilities for students from these marginalized communities can be filled.

Other important works that came up for discussion in the meeting included remodeling of conference block of Gujjar Bakrwal hostel, completion of GB hostel at Kalakote, Eklavya Model residential school, Smart Tribal Village, Health Sub-Center at Hubbi Kallar and Tribal Heritage Museum at Nagrota. The Minister gave necessary directions for timely completion of these crucial projects for the welfare of tribal population.

Stressing that the TSB is only to supplement the district plan, Chowdhary Zulfiqar said the plan formulation should involve inter-sectoral convergence for ensuring maximum benefits to the marginalized communities.

The meeting was attended by secretary Tribal Affairs Mukhtar Ahmad Choudhary, Director FCS & CAS R. A. Inqalabi, SSP Yugal Manhas, Deputy Director Summan Bhalala, Joint Director Legal Metrology, ACD Noor Aalam, CPO Abdul Hamid, DSWO Dr. Abdul Khair, CEO Lal Hussain, district officers and executive engineers of various engineering departments.

Later the minister visited Gujjar Bakrwal Hostels for boys and girls, interacted with students, visited various wards of the hostels and enquired about the requirements of the students.

DIRECTOR VIGILANCE CALLS FOR SYNERGISED EFFORTS FOR PROMPT SERVICE DELIVERY

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 06: Director Vigilance SJM Gillani today visited all the sections of the Vigilance office and took stock of the functioning of the organisation on the first day after darbar move.

Director Vigilance while inter-

acting with the officers exhorted on developing a prompt public service delivery system to ensure a responsive and transparent functioning of the organization.

He asked the officers to take all necessary measures to spread

awareness among people and encourage them to report any case of dishonest functioning by a public servant.

He also emphasized on the officers to speed up working to streamline the organizational work and

clearing the pendency.

Director Vigilance stressed upon concerned officers to work in synergy to achieve the objectives of the organisation that is to help the public in redressal of their grievances and to control corruption.

SHAM CHOUDHARY FOR AUGMENTING WATER SUPPLY IN RURAL AREAS

Visits Jhiri Mela; inaugurates water treatment plant

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 06 - Minister for PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control Sham Lal Choudhary today directed the concerned authorities to take immediate steps for augmenting water supply in rural areas.

The Minister was speaking after inaugurating water treatment plant here at Pumping Station, Jhiri constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.50 lakh.

The Minister was informed that the Water Supply Scheme caters to the water supply needs of the devotees during the Jhiri Mela and adjoining villages of the shrine including Kalyanpur, Shamachak, Dub Ditta and Dab Karim Din.

The Minister paid obeisance at Baba Jitto and Bua Kaudi devsthan. He also inspected awareness camp put up by Communication and Capacity Development Unit



(CCDU), Water & Sanitation Support Organization of PHE Department, Irrigation & Flood Control at the mela.

The Minister was informed that the awareness camp is organised every year to educate the people about the importance of water conservation, benefits of hand washing, judicious use of water, testing of water, sanitation and hazards of open defecation.

The Minister said that such awareness programmes should

SDRF PERSONNEL UNDERGO SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 06: SDRF personnel underwent search and rescue training during the concluded day of two day long training workshop at SDRF 2nd Bn Hqrs here today.

During the workshop, SDRF personnel learned advanced techniques for using ropes while rescuing from high rise buildings on various methods of rappelling climbing by using mountaineering equipments such as ascender -descender -jumar with rescue pulley mitten seat harness.

Speaking on the occasion, Commandant General Homeguards/ CD/SDRF Dilbag Singh stressed on imparting specialized training to the SDRF personnel to enhance their skills in handling the disasters.

He emphasized that such trainings are useful for SDRF personnel and should be organized in future for effective response to any disaster.

Experts from Allied Safety Equipments private Limited, Thane introduced SDRF personnel to new equipments and rescue techniques that will prove helpful in crisis during disasters.

The workshop on Rope Rescue Equipments Usage during Disaster and other emergencies has been organized by Directorate of SDRF/ Home Guards /Civil Defence J&K, Jammu under the supervision of Commandant SDRF 2nd Battalion Rashmi Wazir.

Dy S P SDRF 2nd Battalion Sudershan Mehta and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

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MEHBOOBA

are ensured to hospitals in time.

The Chief Minister directed the officers to undertake periodic visits to areas to personally acquaint themselves with the developmental pace and needs of the people. She also asked the Secretaries to start a process of digitisation of their records and in this connection directed the General Administration Department to initiate the process with its records. She also directed that all Departmental enquiries, hanging fire for last so many years, be concluded at the earliest.

Mehbooba Mufti directed adoption of a monitoring mechanism to oversee proper implementation of Public Services Guarantee Act and Right to Information Act. She also laid stress on introducing File Tracking System in all Departments besides ensuring induction of biometric attendance system in every field office.

PM

challenges that remain.

The central message of his keynote address at the conference was that the world must acknowledge Pakistan as the country fighting "the largest war on terror in the world".

"Pakistan is fighting terror for the world and we are committed to fighting this menace," he asserted.

Giving a snapshot of the country's foreign policy and relations with global powers, Abbasi claimed that there was a greater understanding of Pakistan's role in the war on terror in the US and that Pakistan-US ties must not be seen only through the prism of Afghanistan.

ARRIVES

Sharma, former chief of Intelligence Bureau (IB), arrived here on a maiden visit after his appointment as interlocutor to start the multi-layered dialogue process.

"He will stay for three days in the Valley and two in the Jammu region to start the dialogue process with various political parties, socio-cultural organizations, individuals and opinion makers," sources said.

AKHTAR

jumping to conclusion. Let us wait for some time and see what happens on the ground," Akhtar said in response to a question whether stakeholders will talk to Sharma or not.

When asked if the Hurriyat's refusal to engage with Sharma was a setback, Akhtar, a veteran PDP leader, said "that is why talks are held. If there have been no issues, then need for talks would not have arisen".

He asked the media not to jump the gun before the talks get started. "It is a time consuming process," he added, advising the media to afford sufficient time.

When asked about Pakistan PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's reported rejection of the idea of an independent Kashmir, much to the chagrin of Hurriyat, Akhtar cautiously responded that Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India, but has some issues that need resolution.

"(There is) no need to be worried. Pakistan says something, Hurriyat something else, and we have a stated position (on Kashmir)," he said.

On whether the PDP would ask Sharma for more autonomy for the state, Akhtar cited "agenda of alliance" document wherein he claimed all such issues have been discussed.

FAROOQ

is acceptable to all including to the people of J&K. "The

elected representatives IN J&K have already made their stand clear when they passed a Autonomy resolution in 2000 with a thumping majority. Gol therefore must shun its rigidity and take it up in the upcoming Parliament session," Dr Abdullah said.

He added that the two nuclear powered nations cannot be afford to go for a military solution and therefore the two parts of the state should be granted maximum autonomy. He said the intermittent skirmishes on borders have only aggravated the problems of the two sides of Jammu and Kashmir.

Asking party workers to remain united against the divisive forces, Dr Farooq Abdullah said, "We must be ready to safeguard the state's special status which is under an assault from those who have always opposed J&K's political rights and dignity."

"Article 35A is vital and non-negotiable for the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. Those trying to divide us on regional and religious lines to further their agenda will have to be defeated. This is a battle for the interests, rights and dignity of every single citizen of Jammu & Kashmir, irrespective of his religion, region, language and caste. Our party is reaching out to people in every nook and corner of the state in all the three regions, to make people aware of the disastrous ramifications of Article 35A being struck down. We will continue with this process of outreach and consensus-building at the grassroots level," Abdullah said.

On the occasion senior party functionaries including party Vice President Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzaan, Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani, District President Kupwara Qaiser Jamsheed Lone and Nasir Khan also addressed the gathering.

VALLEY'S

Federation Chamber of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) President Mohammad Ashraf Mir told KNS that the traders have a "limited role" confined to economy of the state.

"Being traders, we have a limited role to play. Traders are not politicians. If there is any dialogue on economy and development of the state, we will participate. This programme is aimed at buying peace; let them talk to the people who will consider their offer," Mir told KNS.

House boat owners association of Kashmir and Kashmir hotel and restaurant owners' federation also did not attend their meeting with Sharma.

Kashmir Hotel and Restaurant Owners' Federation (KHAROF), too did not meet Sharma. A senior member of the federation told KNS that it stayed away from meeting.

The delegations which called on Sharma today included Fruit Growers association, Gujjar-Bakrwal, student association, sports federation among others.

Sharma, who kicked off his sustained dialogue process on Kashmir met over 15 delegations at Hari Niwas Palace in Gupkar after his arrival to the valley in the noon amid tight security.

Official sources told KNS that the meeting between the delegations and Sharma were fixed by the divisional administration. Sources said that Sharma will be staying in Srinagar till Nov 8 during which he will meet over 60 different delegations.

His meetings with political parties will begin from Tuesday, even as Hurriyat has rejected this dialogue process.

MUZAFFAR

and contended that it was not the right time to proceed with the matter.

But the questions arises that has the Government of India given the interlocutor to talk about the constitutional documents related to India-Kashmir relationship or to take stock of the law and order problem in Kashmir?, Muzaffar Shah

said.

He said if the interlocutor is coming to Kashmir to discuss the constitutional documents related to India-Kashmir relationship, then the law and constitution experts of Kashmir should aware him (interlocutor) about the real situation in Valley but before that the motive of the visit of Shri Dineshwar Sharma to Kashmir should be made clear whether he is entitled to talk about the articles 35-A and 370, and the India-Kashmir constitutional relationship.

He said there is nothing wrong in debating or holding discussion on the constitutional issues as nobody can deter the people of Kashmir from their stand.

DARBAR

employees of Civil Secretariat led by Ghulam Rasool Mir also met the Chief Minister and assured all support to her in the delivery of services to people.

Later, the Chief Minister convened a meeting of Council of Ministers in which she impressed upon them to work for addressing the grievances and problems of people.

PSAK

The Association said that the government should come out with standard operating procedure to deal with any kind of complaints coming against private schools. "We are not against accountability but it should be according to rules. People related with education sector should visit and inspect the schools for redressal for any kind of problem," said Var. "It is not everybody who has got some power would come visiting the schools."

The Association said that the ADC Pulwama unnecessarily raided the Dolphin International School on the pretext of checking school book distribution. The ADC accompanied by lower rung staff raided the school in most unprofessional way and behaved rudely with staff including female teachers. The Association said that the raid was illegal and unwarranted and particularly when the Principal was not present in the school and the lower staff with the team behaved in most uncivilised manner. "We welcome any checks and balances, but it should be done by district or zonal educational officers and taking into confidence the school administration," said Var.

The Association appealed the Chief Minister, Education Minister and Secretary Education to issue guidelines for inspecting any educational institute. "The educational institutes should be treated differently than normal commercial establishments and government should come out with rules for it," said Var. "These officials never raid any government school inspite of them having million reasons to do so in the name of quality, teacher absenteeism and so on. But they raid only private schools who impart quality education to students and it should be changed."

MALIK

by communal fascist forces patronized by rulers of that time. Jammu massacre in 1947 reminds us the brutal and criminal face of Hindu fascism and the criminal silence of international community on these kinds of massacres exposes the duplicity and double standards of it, asserted Yasin Malik.

JKLF chairman said that the people who were massacred at Jammu in 1947 stood for the freedom of Jammu Kashmir and by killing more than three hundred thousand of them brutally, fascist forces changed the demography of Jammu region completely. He said that when all this was happening in Jammu, Kashmiri Muslims stood for communal harmony as taught by their religion Islam, and despite provocations safeguarded their non Muslim brethren living in Kashmir.

Terming the sacrifices of Jammu Muslims for freedom

of Jammu Kashmir as a glorious page of resistance against oppression, JKLF chairman said that no one can forget these sacrifices and we today pledge to take forward the mission left behind these great martyrs.

Terming the recent demonstration of force by RSS in Chenab valley and Pirpanjal as an act of bullying Muslims living in these areas. He said that after assuming power in Jammu Kashmir PDP/BJP coalition have actually given a free hand to the same mindset that was responsible for Jammu like massacres in 1947. Today Jammu, Doda, Baderwah, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Poonch, Ladakh and even Kashmir is being polluted by this mindset and so-called rulers for their lust of power are ready to obey every order of Nagpur to fulfill its ugly agenda on Jammu Kashmir.

Yasin Malik said that people of Jammu Kashmir cannot forget the sacrifices rendered by Jammu Muslims and today when we recall their sacrifices, we pray to Allah almighty to fulfill their dreams and bestow us with liberty and freedom.

PROTEST

slogans against the PDP-BJP duo for bringing the state to such a morass, exit from which appears to be difficult.

Prominent among those detained included Provincial President Devender Singh Rana besides senior leaders Surjeet Singh Slathia, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Syed Mush-taq Ahmed Shah Bukhari, Dr. Kamal Arora, Th Kashmirira Singh, Th Rachpal Singh, Ajaz Jan, Bimla Luthra, Haji Mohammad Hussain, Depender Kour, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Ch Haroon, Vijay Laxmi Dutta, Babu Ram Pal, Dharamveer Singh Jamwal, Ramesh Motan, Satwant Kour Dogra, Chander Mohan Sharma, Anil Dhar, Gurdeep Singh Sassan, Ayub Malik, Surinder Singh Bunt, K.D Singh Jamwal, Ch. Rehmat Ali, Ashok Singh Manhas, Abdul Gani Teli, Vijay Lochan, Pt. Rameshwar Dutt, Mohinder Singh, Dilshad Begum, Rashida Begum, Pard-eep Bali, Dr. Shamshad Shan, Sarab Singh Nag, Sandeep Singh, Rakesh Singh, Sagar Chand Ram Parshotam, Rajesh Bakshi, Sham Narayan Mehta, Rohit Bali, Rohit Kerni, Mohd Shakeel and others.

They were taken to Police Lines and released after some time.

Before starting for the Civil Secretariat, the senior leaders expressed anguish over the failure of the government on all fronts, as a result of which people were forced to grapple with numerous problems. They said the present dispensation is suffering from developmental inertia and the utility services had gone hugely impacted.

DAK

Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), the only reason being lack of proper oxygen supply at Rural hospital thus overloading these already overburdened tertiary care hospitals thus hitting quality health care there also", he further added

"With progressive fall in temperature, frequency and severity of COPD/Bronchial asthma exacerbation are bound to increase, and oxygen is first and essential drug for their ailment. Hence lack of Oxygen supply in Rural hospitals is one of the main reason for increased mortality and morbidity in these patients suffering from respiratory ailment" Dr Naik said.

He further stressed that if some Hospitals don't have in built central oxygen supply system, an appropriate alternative arrangements for oxygen in the form of oxygen cylinders should be kept ready and which will thus decrease the referral to tertiary hospitals.

DAK stresses upon Health Minister, Bali Bhagat to take cognizance of this serious issue and make all possible efforts to provide uninterrupted oxygen supply in Rural hospitals, so that suffering of the patients is lessened.

Union HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar inaugurates 'Chintan Shivir'

New Delhi, November 06: Union HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar inaugurated a two-day National Workshop 'Chintan Shivir' organized by Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development in New Delhi today. The main aim of the workshop is to provide holistic education relevant for 21st century India and to bring together key stakeholders from various NGOs, private sector and individuals to deliberate on key themes in the education sector.

Speaking on the occasion HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar congratulated the officers of the ministry for organizing the workshop by which we can learn from the best practices of each other. He informed that workshop mainly focuses on

five themes i.e. Digital education, Life Skill education, Experimental learning, Physical Education and Value education.

He envisaged 'Operation Digital Board' to be operational in all the schools of the country in the coming years. He said government and various other organisations working in the field of education should do content corporation and create a common digital platform to provide digital education for all the students of the country. The Minister said education is incomplete without Physical Education. Students must do exercise, yoga, aerobics, running depending upon their choice to stay fit and healthy. The Minister further said life skill education and value education is the need of the hour

and one must inculcate these attributes in his behavior for the holistic development.

Speaking on the occasion MoS, HRD Shri Satyapal Singh said that the main aim of the education is to provide complete development of a person and to inculcate humanity in them. He said complete development involves development of human body, mind, wisdom and soul. He further said that human body can be developed by teaching physical education and wisdom can be gained by value education. We must teach our children the value of life and education. He appreciated the efforts of the organizers and wished them all the success in future endeavors.

Union HRD Minister Shri Prakash

Javadekar also launched a Compendium on 'Innovations and Best Practices in School Education' and a State-NGO-CSR Portal - 'Shaala Sarathi' on the occasion.

Over the course of two days a total of 157 organizations/experts will be making their point via presentations. The participants will be divided theme-wise and detailed discussion would be held amongst the participants who would create an actionable roadmap that will be presented to the Union HRD Minister.

Shri Anil Swarup, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Smt Rina Ray, Spl. Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Smt Anita Karwal Chairperson, CBSE and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

President of India visits Guru Ghasidas Jaikham at Girodhpuri in Chhattisgarh

New Delhi, November 06: The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, visited Guru Ghasidas Jaikham and attended the bhoomi puja for a Saamudayik Bhavan at Girodhpuri in Chhattisgarh today (November 6, 2017).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Guru Ghasidas was a remarkable social reformer among the dispersed community of this region almost 200 years ago. He struggled against social evils and injustice, and fought for the poor and downtrodden. His message was simple: that truth and noble conduct are synonyms for God. He made efforts to eliminate the practice of untouchability, and emphasised fraternity and social harmony. He also stressed women's rights and supported widow marriage. The President said that the teachings of Guru Ghasidas have given direction to social reform among not only the Satnami Samaj but in entire Chhattisgarh. He expressed confidence that by imbibing the ideals of Guru Ghasidas, the people and government of Chhattisgarh would continue to work to build a society based on equality and unity.

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Two-day conference of States Power Ministers to be held in Rajgir, Bihar

New Delhi, November 06: A two-day conference of Ministers for Power and New & Renewable Energy of States & Union Territories will be held in Rajgir, Bihar, on 10th and 11th of November, 2017. The Conference will be inaugurated by Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Union

Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy. The aim of this two-day conference is to review the implementation of various ongoing Schemes/ Programmes and deliberate on a host of issues pertaining to Power and Renewable Energy sectors.

Visit of Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of The Naval Staff to France

New Delhi, November 06: Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of the Naval Staff is visiting France on a bilateral visit from 05 to 10 November 2017. The visit aims to consolidate cooperation between the Armed Forces of both India and France and also to explore new avenues of defence cooperation.

During his visit, the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of the Naval Staff will hold bilateral discussions with Her Excellency Ms Florence Parly, Hon'ble Defence Minister of France, General Francois Lecointre, Chief of Defence Staff, Admiral Christophe Prazuck, Chief of French Navy, General Joel Barre, Director General Armament and Vice Admiral Herve de

Bonnaventure, Director General International Relations and Strategy.

In-addition to holding important bilateral discussions, the Admiral will be visiting the Maritime Prefectures at Brest and Cherbourg, and be conducted around the Maritime Operations Centre. He will also visit the French Airbase at Landivisiau, where he will be briefed on the operational employability of the Rafale aircraft by the French Air Force, and also visit the French Submarine Facility at Cherbourg.

India and France have traditionally maintained close and friendly relations. The two countries established a Strategic Partnership in 1998, thereby significantly enhancing bilateral cooperation in

strategic areas such as defence, nuclear energy and space. The Defence relationship between the two countries has been one of mutual trust and confidence. India has been importing critical defence technologies from France; the latest being the Rafale fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force and the Scorpene submarines for the Indian Navy.

The Indian Navy cooperates with the French Navy on many issues, which include operational interactions such as the VARUNA series of bilateral exercises, training exchanges, exchange of White Shipping Information and Subject Matter Experts in various fields through the medium of Staff Talks. Warships from Indian Navy have

been regularly visiting ports at France, with IN ships Mumbai, Trishul and Aditya making port call at Toulon from 24 to 27 April 2017. The French Navy ship Auvergne, a FREMM Class Frigate, also visited the Indian Naval Base at Karwar from 02 to 06 October 2017.

The Indian Army and Air Force also maintain robust cooperation with the French Army and Air Force. The Indian Army conducts the biennial exercise SHAKTI with the French Army, whilst the Indian Air Force conducts the GARUDA series of exercises annually. Both the Services also carry out exchanges of Subject Matter Experts and pursue a structured cooperation mechanism through the medium of Staff Talks of their respective Services.

Now Court Judgments available at click of button

Abdul Haq inaugurates Law Deptt's renovated library at Civil Secretariat

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 06: Minister for Rural Development Panchayati Raj, Law and Justice Abdul Haq on Monday inaugurated the renovated library of the Department of Law here at Civil Secretariat.

The renovation included updating of e-library that would make available court judgments at the click of the button. Law secretary Abdul Majeed Bhat, Additional Law Secretary Achal Sethi and other senior officers of the Law department were also present at the inaugural function.

The law Ministers said with the updating of library especially the e-library, law officers, attorneys and other legal officers will be able to update their knowledge with new judgments of any court of the country including high courts



and the Supreme Court. He said the updated facility will help them in proper examination of cases that would lead to early deliverance of justice. He said the manual browsing of books for research on a case was a time consuming process and the availability of e-resources in the form of

e-books and special software available online will help in getting the most recent judgments of Supreme Court and High Courts. "It will be easy for the lawyers of the government to research and update their knowledge. The e-library will act as a major tool to attain qualitative change in

grievance redressal system and a powerful force of democracy" he asserted.

The Law Minister said that the updated e-library would make available judgments at the click of the button and the Lawyers can get a printout of any judgment they need for ready reference.

Meanwhile, the Minister directed the officials to switch over to digital world and called for digitization of records. He said the advent of new technology has made it imperative to switch over to digital system for making things easier for the public.

He also assured all possible assistance for further upgrading of the library. He asked the concerned officers to explore the possibility of creating more space for the library.

Govt focused on development; augmentation of basic facilities: Nanda

Dedicates power sub-station to people at Laiter



REASI, NOVEMBER 06: Minister of State for Finance and Planning, Ajay Nanda today asserted that the state government has laid special focus on development and augmentation of basic amenities to ensure improve living standard of common man.

The Minister was speaking at a public grievance redress camp after dedicating power sub-station to the people of village Laiter Danga developed at a cost of Rs 3.35 lakh and provided by him out of CDF.

Ajay Nanda said that the Government is focusing on expansion of road connectivity, augmentation of drinking water and power infra and improvement of education standards in rural areas.

He reviewed the pace of developmental

works taken up under convergence of MGNREGA and other schemes and took stock of the grievances of the people.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to redress problems of the people on priority. He asked the field functionaries to create awareness among public about the schemes of their departments to enable people of far flung areas to take benefit.

Responding to various issues raised by locals, the Minister assured them of early redressal of all genuine demands.

BDO Harpal Singh, Tehsildar Rajesh Baru, engineers and officers of various departments, former sarpanches and panches besides a large number of people were present on the occasion.

Dir Agri for promoting organic farming

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 06: Director Agriculture Kashmir Altaf Aijaz Andrabi today held a meeting to review the progress of implementation of different State and centrally sponsored schemes and projects in all the districts of Kashmir division.

During the meeting, the Director was apprised with various activities carried out by the department at ground level. The meeting was informed that technical assistance is provided to the farmers by field functionaries for the sustainable development of agriculture and allied wings. The concerned officers informed the chair that the funds so far released have been allocated judiciously and almost 100 percent expenditure of funds on the implementation of different schemes has been achieved. The progress on the migration of bee colonies from Valley was also discussed during the meeting. The Director impressed upon the concerned that every technical support and guidance should be made available to the beekeepers and the farmers and the proceedings should be closely monitored.

The meeting also discussed the steps taken for the introduction and implementation of e-Governance and efforts for water harvesting amid the changing climatic conditions in the valley. Speaking on the occasion the Director Agriculture Kashmir highlighted the importance to stand by the guidelines and quality of work during the execution and implementation of different schemes and projects. He asked the officers to come up with innovative ideas and steps that after proper discussions and debates would be incorporated in the proposals for making the new plans for the betterment of the farming community.

The Director Agriculture called upon the concerned officers to adopt cluster villages as model villages for organic vegetable production so that vegetable farmers can fetch more prices for their produce. He asked the participating officers that the achievements made under different schemes should be showcased properly so that it can create an impact in the comprehensive development of agriculture sector.

DC reviews developmental scenario

PAHALGAM, NOVEMBER 06 The Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, Mohammed Younis Malik today chaired a meeting of the officers at Pahalgam club to take stock of the implementation status of CM directions and other issues related to development.

On the occasion, the DC directed for taking effective steps for preventing forest fires as the dry spell is expected to continue. He directed the SDM Pahalgam to constitute a control room of the officers of Forest, Revenue, Municipality and Police departments so that immediate action is taken in case of forest fires. He called upon the DFO to ensure adequate deployment in forest areas, besides, increasing the frequency of supervision. He also called for roping in with the di-

saster management volunteers and locals for effective responses.

Keeping in view the sensitivities of Pahalgam, the DDC directed the police to ensure that no vehicle carrying building material be allowed to enter Pahalgam without proper permission. Besides, SDM and CEO PDA were directed to ensure that no illegal construction takes place within the jurisdiction of Pahalgam Development Authority.

While taking stock of the implementation of CM instructions, the DDC was informed that development of 50 kanals of Aru as Lavender Village is under execution. In this regard, he directed the officers of Floriculture Department to expedite the process. Besides, the officer said that the work

on the development of Rose & Tulip Garden is going on. In addition, AD Tourism informed that development of ropeway facilities at Aru has been surveyed by the State Cable Car Corporation.

It was given out that over bridge connecting Golf Course with amusement park shall be launched after the shifting of HT line. The concerned engineer of R&B informed that 8 kms of the 12 kms roads have been macadamised so far.

The CEO PDA apprised the DDC that approach road to Betab Valley has been upgraded. Besides, the beautification of circuit road is also going on. He further informed that two parking slots have been developed and the other space adjacent to Mu-

nicipality Office is being worked upon. The DC directed the EO Municipality to ensure the sanitation and cleanliness of the town owing to the fragile ecosystem of Pahalgam. He exhorted upon ensuring complete check on use of polythene.

The other issues like the development of sports infrastructure, availability of essential food items, waste management, power and water availability were also reviewed.

The meeting was attended by CEO PDA, SDM Pahalgam, Commanding Officers of security agencies, SDPO, Tehsildar and other officers of PHE, PDD, R&B, Tourism, Wildlife, Municipality, Geology & Mining, J&K PDC, Forest, Floriculture and other departments.

DDC Kulgam holds public meet

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 06: The District Development Commissioner Kulgam, Talat Parvez Rohella today conducted a public redressal grievance camp at Qaimoh during which was deputations from various villages of the district projected their demands.

The camp was attended by deputations from Khudwani, Wanpora, Muthalham, T. N Pora, Chadder, Ganjipora, Gufbal, Rampora, Redwani, Babapora, and Bat-Tachloo villages. On the occasion, issues regarding safe drinking water supply from T.N Pora Water Supply scheme, early completion of Sub District Hospital Qaimoh, completion of the leftover work of Sports Stadium at Qaimoh, flood protection bunds on the banks of Vashov Nallah from Muthalham to Shamsipora, besides the establishment of Alamar Chowk, Bus Stand and JK Bank ATM Cum extension counter at Qaimoh Tehsil were highlighted by the deputations.

Responding to the demands of public, the DDC directed the officers to sort out the issues at an earliest and be prompt in resolving issues of the public. He directed officers to start cleanliness drive at Karl Naag, and take measures for better traffic management in Qaimoh area.

He also directed the Engineers of RDD to strictly follow the plans approved in Gram Sabhas. The DDC asked Exen R&B Kulgam to start the work on the construction of High School T. N Pora under RMSA for which land has already been identified.

The District Development Commissioner assured that all the issues would be taken care of and immediate and pro-active steps shall be taken to address them.

Among others ADDC Kulgam, ACR, ACD, Exens of R&B, PDD, PHE, I&FC, other district officers besides BDO, BMO Qaimoh, Numberdars and Chowkidars were present on the occasion.

Altaf Bukhari for fast pacing recruitment process in Education Department

Directs officers to dispose off pending issues on fast track

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 06: Minister for Education Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari today said that the process of recruitment on advertised posts of Education Department will be carried out on fast track basis.

The Minister was speaking during a meeting convened with the officers of School Education Department and Higher Education Department to discuss various issues and developmental aspects of the Education Sector.

The meeting was attended by Secretary School Education, Farooq Ahmad Shah, Chairperson JK BOSE, Veena Pandita, Director SSA, Abdul Rasheed War, Director RMSA,

Tufail Mattoo, Director Colleges Jammu, Director School Education, Jammu, Additional Secretary Higher Education and other concerned officials.

Altaf Bukhari directed the concerned officers to take up the issue with JK SSRB so that the process of recruitment on advertised posts is expedited and instructed the officials to prepare the list of vacant posts in the Education Department so that necessary steps are taken in this regard. He also directed the Project Director SSA and RMSA to fill the vacant posts on the fast track basis.

While reviewing the up gradation of various schools,

the Minister said that the ongoing works should be completed in a time bound manner and directed officials for the proper disposal of pending issues in the Education Department.

Stressing on the conduct of the ongoing examinations of Matric and 10+2 in a hassle free manner, Altaf Bukhari directed the BOSE officials to ensure fair exams and take strict action against any person found indulging unfair means. The Minister said that Education plays a great role in development of a child as well as society and the government is dedicated for overall improvement in Education sector.

ADC conducts surprise visit of examination Centres

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 6: Additional Deputy Commissioner Shopian Parvaiz Sajad Ganie and Sub Divisional Magistrate Zainapora today conducted surprise visit to various centers of 10+2 board examinations and took firsthand appraisal of the arrangements for smooth conduct of examinations.

They expressed satisfaction with regards to the smooth conduct of exams and deployment of adequate supervisory staff.

About 24,00 students are enrolled for the examinations and around 25 examination centers have been setup for smooth conduct of examinations.

DAILY Editorial
Time and Us
SRINAGAR J&K

ENSURING SWIFT JUSTICE TO ELECTED OFFICIALS WILL HELP DETER CORRUPTION

It is a significant step in the fight against corruption. The Supreme Court has suggested the creation of special courts to deal with criminal cases against politicians. According to an analysis conducted by the Association for Democratic Reform, based on self-sworn affidavits obtained from the Election Commission of India website, of the 542 winners analysed after the Lok Sabha elections of 2014, 158 members (34%) declared criminal charges against them; and 112 (21%) had serious criminal cases against them. Ten of these were murder cases. In the upcoming Himachal Pradesh elections, of the 338 candidates analysed, 18% face criminal cases, and 9% currently face serious criminal charges.

The rationale behind the apex court's move is that the longer political functionaries with charges against them stay in office, the more chance they have to manipulate the system. The only way to tackle this, since political parties are not averse to giving tickets to those against whom charges have not been proven, is to lessen the judicial delays in concluding cases. As it stands, a member of parliament or a state assembly found guilty of a criminal offence punishable with two years or more in jail immediately loses the membership of the house. The court's 2013 judgment also bars a convicted politician from contesting elections for six years from the date the sentence ends.

Banning convicted politicians from contesting elections forever is not the solution to the problem. In a reformative justice system, a conviction means that adequate punishment has been meted out; people who have fulfilled the punishment must be considered to have paid their debt to society. Once that debt is paid, the individual in question must be considered fit and ready to rejoin society. And if convicted politicians are able to win the trust of their electorate after their stipulated punishment, their candidature must not be invalidated.

If the resolution of cases were swifter, those guilty of corruption or other criminal charges could be taken out of the political system, albeit temporarily. This would be a positive step towards cleansing it. A special court to hear and complete cases involving elected representatives would also act as a deterrent to corrupt politicians who rely on the slowness of the judicial system to get away with subverting the law. This also emboldens them to convey the message that they are somehow floating above the fray on account of their power and privilege unlike the average Joe.

India must scrap the law that tags some tribes as hereditary criminals

FOLLOWING THE 1857 MUTINY, 237 CASTES AND TRIBES WERE GIVEN CRIMINAL-BY-BIRTH TAG UNDER THE CRIMINAL TRIBES ACT, 1931. AFTER INDEPENDENCE, THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT REPLACED THIS ACT WITH THE HABITUAL OFFENDERS ACT, 1952. BUT FAR FROM EASING THEIR LIVES, THE NEW ACT ONLY RE-STIGMATISED THE MARGINALISED TRIBES.



Over the last few months, there has been a lot of discussion and debate in India on the fate of the Rohingyas of Myanmar, who are facing State oppression. The NDA government at the Centre has argued that it wants to send the members of this community back to Myanmar because it wants to protect the fundamental rights of Indian citizens. Human rights activists opposed this view, saying that the law is clear on the issue: India cannot deport the Rohingyas.

While we discuss the fate of the Rohingyas, let's not forget the plight of certain tribes in this country who have been facing persecution since British times. Even under the Indian government, they are oppressed and have never been granted fundamental rights.

Following the 1857 mutiny, 237 castes and tribes were given the criminal-by-birth tag under the Criminal Tribes Act, 1931. After Independence, the Indian government replaced this Act with the Habitual Offenders Act, 1952. But far from improving

their lives, the new Act only re-stigmatised the marginalised tribes.

Today several variants of 'criminal' tribes such as the Pardhis, Kanjars, Ramoshis, and Vanjaris continue to remain outside the reach of affirmative State action. Stripped of their fundamental right to justice, equality, and freedom, these tribes live in fear of the authorities. They are often subjected to headcounts on account of their being considered habitual offenders by the State. Quite often, the members of such tribes become easy replacements for criminals whom the police fail to apprehend.

India is perhaps the only country that continues with this Orientalist notion of tagging tribes as hereditary criminals. The Centre has constituted a National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT) to specify the economic interventions required for raising their living standards through asset creation and self-employment opportunities. The panel is expected to submit its final report in 2018.

The National Human Rights Commission has recommended the repeal of the Habitual Offenders Act, 1952. In March 2007, the UN's Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination said: "The so-called de-notified and nomadic people which are listed for their alleged 'criminal tendencies' under the former Criminal Tribes Act (1871), continue to be stigmatised under the Habitual Offenders Act and rehabilitate the de-notified and nomadic tribes."

Sadly, there has been no movement on the issue. Since protecting fundamental rights is a moral obligation of the State, classifying all members of a tribe, including the newborn, as criminals is out of consonance with all principles of democracy and justice.

Sudhrendar Sharma is development researcher with the Delhi-based think tank The Ecological Foundation

Pulped by the polls

There is never a dull moment. Politics has seeped into the tiniest of pores in life that no matter how hard we try and foray to other subjects, the discussion, views and opinions tend to steer towards political issues and events. Gurdaspur bypolls, necessitated with the sad demise of iconic Bollywood star Vinod Khanna, were held recently.

A senior colleague of ours was keen to obtain feedback from the locals on the low voter turnout. "General saab, ki dassiye...roz di roz koi na koi electiona hundiyan re-

handiyan ne...asin taan dukhi hogayehan (we are fed up with multifarious polls around us)" this innocent farmer continued, "Dekho ji, pi-chle mahine samiti diyan electiona si.. uthon baad panchayat, block... hun agle hafte block diyan.. koi ethe aan nu kehanda hai koi othe.. banda kare tan ki kare!"

Starting from elections to the RWAs and clubs, and then moving all the way to the Lok Sabha, the excitement is endless. It seems the suffrage (right to vote) is indeed turning out to be a suffering. I was pleasantly amused to notice one of

our WhatsApp group rooting to hold polls to select an admin!

The frustration that the overbearing activities have on our daily routine, reminds me of an incident some years back. I was secretary of the officers' mess of my regiment. It was a pressure job as senior officers and VIPs visited the station routinely.

Bora was a disciplined and efficient waiter in the mess. Notwithstanding, the administrative pressure, the CO and all of us were committed to putting our best foot forward. Thus, Bora was kept in the

forefront. Every time, he applied for leave, the set reply would be, "Bora, hold on. General saab is visiting us... apply again after the visit."

Well, this carried on... the smiling face and endearing professional acumen of Bora enhanced his popularity with the visiting dignitaries, and at times, the repeat visitors would insist that they be served and looked after only by him.

The Regiment's annual inspection was scheduled and preparations took off. I was summoned to the CO's office and the instructions were crisp: "Major, see to it that Bora is

fit and available". I saluted and moved out, aware of the leave application put up by Bora a day before. In fact, this was the fourth in a row during the past quarter. As I approached my office, I saw an expectant Bora, waiting to serve me hot coffee and take his movement order to proceed to Assam, his home.

I decided to avoid beating around the bush and instead confront him head on. "Bora, general sab par kya jadoo kar diya... unka demand he ki inspection ke dauraan Bora ka hona zaroori hai." Bora smiled, saluted smartly and left.

Voluntary compliance is best to curb black money but a deterrent should also be there

► **Bibek Debroy**

Where is the black money? With canine metaphors dominating the discourse, let me mention a Dalmatian. A Dalmatian puppy is born pure white, but progressively acquires black (or tan) spots throughout its life. Unless it is FICN (fake Indian currency note), when born through RBI, a note is spotless. It acquires tinges of black because there is an act of tax evasion or because the note is used to transact a criminal activity. Do note, detected FICN numbers have dropped post-demonetisation. 5.94 lakh such notes in 2014-15, 6.32 lakhs in 2015-16 and 1.57 lakhs in the eight months from November 9, 2016 to July 14, 2017. Prorata, the decline is discernible. As with non-FICN black money, demonetisation is meant to address the stock. The flow of fresh FICN, or non-FICN black, has to be addressed through other instruments.

Cash (interpreted as currency with public) performs a useful transaction function. One doesn't have to be an economist to appreciate this. However, that transaction function is performed by "money" and all "money" needn't be cash. Excess cash with public is inefficient. It doesn't fetch returns for the

holder, nor does it perform money's multiplier role. How much is "excess"? Circa 2000-01, India had a cash/GDP ratio of 10.5%. With digitisation and use of non-cash instruments, that should have declined over time. Instead, in 2014-15, it increased to 13%. Clearly, something more than that useful transaction function was occurring. One needn't look for comparable figures in developed countries. In 2015, the ratio was 5.8% in Bangladesh, 3.5% in Sri Lanka and 9.3% in Pakistan. In India, post-demonetisation, the figure has dropped to a little less than 9% in 2016-17. Why is that undesirable? On November 8, 2016, the value of Rs 500/1,000 rupee notes (outside the banking system) was Rs 15.44 lakh crores and by June 20, 2017 (latest data from RBI), almost all had returned to the banking system. There can only be limited deductions. More and more people, and let's not forget sharp increase in Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts, have started to use electronic modes, recognising that cash fetches no returns and is inefficient. (Both volumes and values of electronic payment usage have increased.) More importantly, some people with black cash have recognised, this time the threat is credible, unlike in the past. Did you notice figures published



by the Swiss National Bank? Such data has been in public domain since 1987? Funds directly held by Indians with Swiss banks have been declining. We have data till end of 2016 and the absolute number is now one-third of what it used to be in end-2006. Correlating an event of November 8, 2016 with this decline would be crazy. But that is indeed the point. November 8, 2016 wasn't an isolated decision hanging in thin air. It is part of a process and only one instrument in a larger package designed to attack black

money. Do you remember a scene from "Mujhse Shaadi Karogi"? This is the dog metaphor again. Amrish Puri has a dog named Tommy. Parts of the pug are black. When it is replaced with another pug without black marks, the replacement is painted black. But the black paint washes off and the replacement Tommy bites Amrish Puri. In a reversal of sorts, just because black has come into the banking system, black marks don't wash off. After subsequent scrutiny, black continues to bite, because it is more than

paint and won't wash off. Operation Clean Money was launched on January 31, 2017. Based on this, 18 lakh accounts (with Rs 2.89 lakh crore of deposits) are suspect because they do not have transactions in line with historical trends. Use of data analytics added another 5.6 lakh suspicious accounts. Between November 2016 and end-May 2017, IT department investigations discovered undisclosed income of Rs 17,526 crores and led to seizure of Rs 1,003 crores. 3 lakh registered companies have had suspicious transactions and 37,000 shell companies have been identified. 2.09 lakh companies have been struck off the register, trading has been suspended for 163 companies and 1.06 lakh directors have been identified for disqualification. How did so many drop-box companies operate in Kolkata and Delhi, sometimes from a single postal address and a single email address too? How were there 150,000 shell companies in Kolkata? Down the years, how did they operate with impunity? Till 23 May 2017, 400 benami transactions have been identified and 240 provisional attachments have taken place. Indians travel abroad and in November 2015, December 2015 and January 2016, spent around 40 million US dollars a month on foreign travel. In November 2016, December

2016 and January 2017, this shot up to more than 200 million US dollars a month. Credit card bill payments in cash (more than Rs 1 lakh in cash) also jumped. No doubt these transactions will be scrutinised. This is involuntary compliance, though that expression sounds like an oxymoron. In the realm of voluntary compliance, Income Declaration Scheme led to declaration of Rs 67,382 crores between June 1, 2016 and September 30, 2016 and searches and seizures between May 2014 and September 2016 yielded Rs 56,378 crores. Because these numbers were substantial, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana yielded Rs 4,900 crores, from 21,000 declarants. The number of income tax returns filed has also increased.

In the broader anti-black package, of which, November 8, 2016, was one element, preference should be on voluntary compliance. But if that doesn't work, there has to be a credible deterrent of forced compliance. Unlike in the past, the deterrent and threat are now credible. Where is the black money? The answer is blowing in the wind, but one has to know where to look.

Bibek Debroy is chairman, Economic Advisory Council to PM and Member, Niti Aayog.

PM Narendra Modi meets DMK supremo Karunanidhi in Chennai, party says only courtesy call

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday met ailing DMK supremo M Karunanidhi, a former Tamil Nadu chief minister, even as the regional party indicated that the meeting did not have any political overtones.

This was the first meeting between the two leaders after Modi became the prime minister in May 2014.

The meeting at Karunanidhi's Gopalapuram residence during which Modi enquired about his health lasted about 20 minutes.

Modi sat next to wheelchair-bound Karunanidhi, 93, and held his hands.

"Met former Tamil Nadu CM, Thiru M Karunanidhi and enquired about his health. @kalanagar89," Modi wrote on his official Twitter page.

The opposition DMK indicated that not much should be read out of the meeting and that it was a courtesy call.

"Kalanagar (Karunanidhi) is a very senior leader in Indian politics. Mr Modi has respect for Kalanagar," DMK spokesperson TKS Elangovan said.

He said in the past, when both were chief ministers, they used to greet each other during meetings in Delhi and this has been the practice.



"This is a courtesy call," he said, adding, the meeting was only to greet the leader who is recuperating.

Karunanidhi's son M K Stalin, who is DMK Working President, welcomed Modi at the gate of the residence and honoured him with a red shawl.

Stalin, also Leader of the Opposition in the state assembly, in his official twitter page said that Modi during the meeting wished Karunanidhi a "speedy and full recovery."

During his visit, Modi was accompanied by state governor Banwarilal Purohit, defence minister Nirmala

Sitharaman, minister of state for shipping Pon Radhakrishnan and state BJP chief Tamilisai Soundararajan.

Soundararajan told reporters that the prime minister invited Karunanidhi to visit Delhi.

DMK leaders, including Kanimozhi, who is the daughter of Karunanidhi and a Rajya Sabha MP, were among those present during the meeting.

Later, Karunanidhi made a brief appearance outside and waved at his supporters who cheered him.

Karunanidhi, who was taken ill in October 2016 due to a drug-induced

allergy, was twice admitted to a private hospital in December last.

He has been since confined to his house, but made one rare appearance on October 19 this year when he visited an exhibition here held to showcase the 75-year journey of DMK's mouthpiece, 'Murasoli'.

Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi had called on the nonagenarian DMK patriarch at his residence in December, 2016

The Tamil Nadu government sought a financial assistance of Rs 1,500 crore from the Centre towards rain-relief efforts in the monsoon-ravaged parts of the state.

Chief minister K Palaniswami said a request in this regard was made to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit here on Monday. The prime minister also took a stock of the situation arising out of the torrential downpour.

"We have sought about Rs 1,500 crore. During heavy rains, there is water-logging in the low-lying areas of Chennai, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts. To put in place a permanent solution and create basic facilities, about Rs 1,500 crore is required," he told reporters here

No transactions done for personal purpose, says Jayant Sinha

Union minister Jayant Sinha's name has cropped up in the leaked list of 'Paradise Papers' of companies having offshore entities globally even as he on Monday said the transactions were not done for any "personal purpose".

Sinha had worked with Omidyar Network as managing director in India and Omidyar Network had invested in a US company D Light Design that has a subsidiary in Cayman Islands, according to a report based on the Paradise Papers investigation.

In a series of tweets on Monday, Sinha said the transactions were legal and bonafide.

"The transactions were undertaken on behalf of highly reputed world-leading organisations in my fiduciary role as partner at Omidyar Network and its designated representative on the D Light Board," the minister of state for civil aviation said.

Sinha, who is a former venture capitalist, also said all these transactions have been



fully disclosed to relevant authorities through all necessary filings as required.

"After leaving Omidyar Network, I was asked to continue on the D.Light Board as an independent director... On joining the Union Council of Ministers, I immediately resigned from D.Light Board and severed my involvement with the company," the minister said.

Sinha had earlier served as minister of state for finance.

The Paradise Papers is an investigation into offshore and banking assets carried out by the Indian Express with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICJI).

YSR Cong chief Jagan begins 3000 km-long 'padayatra' with attack on Andhra CM

YSR Congress president YS Jaganmohan Reddy on Monday launched his 3,000-km walkathon lambasting Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu over "rampant corruption, nepotism and utter inefficiency" in his administration, which he said has pushed the state backward in the last four years.

Jaganmohan Reddy also sought the support of people to get him elected in 2019 for the welfare and development of the state.

"People think Jagan is a good man like his father (late Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy). My only zeal is to help the public," the leader of Opposition in Andhra Pradesh Assembly said.

The YSRC chief launched his 'Praja Sankalpa Padayatra' at RK Valley in his native Kadapa district after paying homage at the grave of his



father. The YSRC coined a slogan "Raavali Jagan, Kaavali Jagan" (Jagan should come. We want Jagan) for the foot march that will take him across 125 Assembly segments in 13 districts of the state over the next six to seven months.

During the foot march, Reddy intends to interact with at least two crore people of the state in his quest to secure power in 2019.

"A former chief secretary who worked under Chandrababu Naidu has openly stated that governance is rotting in

the state. Corruption is rampant, nepotism in ruling the rooster while administration is suffering due to utter inefficiency.

"Chandrababu Naidu government's atrocities and corrupt practices are omnipresent across the state. From a village to the (state) capital. Not a single brick has been laid for the capital in the last three years," the YSRC chief said.

He alleged that various sections of the society like farmers, students, women etc

are facing a "great ordeal" under the current government.

"Weavers and peasants are committing suicide. I have undertaken this 'padayatra' to understand the plight of the people. I will introspect as to how to alleviate their pain," Reddy said.

He said the objective behind embarking on the mass outreach programme is to formulate a "people's manifesto", which he said will comprise just two pages, for the 2019 polls.

"I will elicit a public opinion as well as suggestions for this," he added.

Asserting that the special category status (SPC) is the only panacea for the truncated state, Jaganmohan Reddy said he has the "zeal" to achieve the same.

"Securing SCS for AP and providing jobs to all unemployed youths is my wish. I also wish to bring in a revolution in education," he said.

India's influence in Afghanistan has created chaos, says Pakistan

India's influence in Afghanistan has created chaos in the war-torn country, Pakistan foreign minister Khawaja Asif said on Monday.

"Pakistan is against India's intervention in Afghanistan," Asif told the media after the fourth round of Pakistan-US Track-II diplomatic talks in Islamabad, Geo reported.

The minister also emphasised the need for immediate removal of what he called terrorist safe havens in Afghanistan, adding the US Afghan policy was damaging the reconciliation process in the country.

Asif added that Afghanistan's economy and structure had been hampered and damaged by years of war and there were multiple pressure groups which wanted the war to continue.

He said Islamabad suggested that Afghan refugees in Pakistan needed to be sent home. But US officials ob-



jected, saying Kabul was "too unstable".

"It is not our problem," Asif said referring to the refugees. "The US can invest in the replacement of these refugees to their home country."

Headed that US-Pakistan relations needed to be worked on and the "blame game" needed to end so that both countries may work towards mutual understanding.

Earlier, US ambassador David Hale said India's role in Afghanistan was restricted to only economic assistance. He added that both Pakistan and India needed to improve relations and urged both countries to make efforts for regional peace.

Hale said the US had told Pakistani officials to take decisive action against terrorists active from its soil. "US secretary of state Rex

Tillerson has conveyed to the political and military leadership in Pakistan that the Pakistan-US relations are at a crucial juncture and if they don't cooperate, we will act accordingly," he said.

The meeting in Islamabad was also attended by foreign secretary Tehmina Janjua, Hale and Wilson Center Asia Programme Deputy Director Michael Kugelman among others.

HC seeks govt's stand on plea to ban use of President, PM's photo in private ads

The Delhi high court on Monday sought the response of the Centre on a plea to ban the use of photos of persons holding constitutional posts, including the President and the Prime Minister, in private advertisements.

A bench of acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar also issued notice to the Press Council of India, a statutory body that governs the conduct of the print media, on a plea which also sought evolving of guidelines for private advertisers.

Taking note of the petition filed by Delhi resident Ajay Gautam, the bench directed central government standing counsel Anil Soni to place before it the policy in this regard.

The counsel said the government was taking cognisance of the issues



and appropriate steps will be taken. The court fixed the matter for February 19 next year and said the

government should place its stand then.

Citing various newspaper adver-

tisements of private companies, Gautam in his plea said the use of pictures of the President, the Prime Minister, governors and chief ministers in classified ads misguided the public at large.

"A common man falls prey and becomes victim of such advertisements which carry messages and photographs of persons holding constitutional posts..."

"...such advertisements claim support of the persons holding constitutional posts. In this manner, lakhs and crores of citizens are exploited by such ads which depict messages and photos of the persons holding constitutional posts," the plea said.

While arraying a daily national as party to the petition, the plea alleged that the newspapers or broadcast agencies have offended the standards of journalistic ethics.

Now, Nitish Kumar bats for reservation in private sector

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday defended his government's decision to introduce reservation in outsourced services and said those criticising it understood little of the issue as he battled for quota in private sector while insisting that there is a need for a national debate.

"I personally feel that reservation should cover the private sector too. But the matter has to be decided by Parliament. Till then, it remains a subject for debate," Kumar said, while responding to a related question on the legality of Bihar cabinet decision mandating enforcement of quota provisions in jobs sourced through outsourcing agencies.

In the absence of technical manpower on its rolls, the state government engages technical staff, mostly dealing in information technology (IT)-based operations, through outsourced agencies. Thousands of IT professionals have been engaged by the state government and the district administrations to run IT operations including Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation or Beltron and skill development centres.

Kumar's assertion came after opposition from certain quarters, including from BJP Rajya Sabha member CP Thakur and Sachchidanand Rai, BJP MLC. He was interacting with the media after his weekly Jan Samvad programme at his official residence.

The chief minister said that last week's decision was in conformity with Bihar Reservation Act. "Who is saying what becomes immaterial, when things are spoken without basic knowledge of facts," he said brushing aside dissent.

"The moment you utilise government resource, you are liable to follow the applicable rules, be it in the case of data entry operators, technical support staff or otherwise," he explained.

The question has cropped up after some questioned the validity on grounds that quo-



ta was not applicable for IT sector. But the CM countered it by asking whether an Act had limited application.

As for the fear for non-availability of adequate pool of human resource, Kumar said, "we have abundant manpower for every sector to find candidates from SC/ST, OBC, EBC, women and even those entitled for horizontal quota from the category reserved for the grandchildren of freedom fighters."

He also underlined that it wasn't the first time such a decision had been taken.

"We have done it in the past, when we recruited ex-armymen on contract basis for special auxiliary police (SAP) in 2006 to overcome shortage of police personnel. We have made it observation across the board, instead of monitoring such appointments on departmental basis."

The government cannot give concession to anyone for compromising the rights of those entitled for the quota benefit. Moreover, the government has to come face to face with demands for absorption. "If processes are not followed at initial stage, we will be handicapped in even considering such demands," he said.

Reservation remains a sensitive issue in Bihar and had rocked the BJP boat in 2015 assembly elections when RJD chief Lalu Prasad went whole hog to make capital out of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's statement for review of quota policy.

India seeks UK cooperation in Vijay Mallya, Lalit Modi extradition

India on Monday sought cooperation from Britain for extradition of 13 fugitives, including Vijay Mallya and Lalit Modi, and asked it to not allow its territory to be used by Kashmiri and Khalistani separatists, officials said.

These issues were strongly raised by minister of state for home Kiren Rijiju with British minister of state for Immigration Brandon Lewis at a bilateral meeting here.

Rijiju has pressed for cooperation from Britain in extradition of 13 individuals, including liquor baron Vijay



Mallya, former IPL honcho Lalit Modi and cricket bookie Sanjiv Kapur, a home ministry official said.

India also sought legal assistance in prosecution of 16 other alleged criminals.

Rijiju asked Lewis not to allow the British territory to be used for anti-India activities by Kashmiri and Khalistani separatists, the official said.

Are you on anti-depressants? Be warned it may lead to increase in bone diseases

Consuming opioids and anti-depressants may increase the risk of developing bone fractures among people who are already suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, says a new study.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic disease that causes pain, stiffness, swelling, and limitation in the motion and function of multiple joints and organs of the body.

Chronic inflammation and pain in arthritis patients further leads to several diseases like cardiovascular, mental and gastrointestinal disorders. People take multiple medications in such cases that sometimes influences the risk of osteoporotic fractures or a disease caused due to reduced bone density, the researchers noted.

"Even at younger ages, rheumatoid arthritis is associated with a two-fold increased risk of osteoporosis and fractures due to chronic inflammation and glucocorticoid use. More impor-



tantly, osteoporotic fractures significantly contribute to the disability, health-related costs and mortality with substantially higher complication in rheumatoid arthritis patients," said

Gulsen Ozen, researcher at the University of Nebraska Medical Centre.

The researchers evaluated 11,049 rheumatoid arthritis patients, aged 40 and above, with no signs of osteo-

porotic fractures prior to the tests. After a median follow-up time of 5.7 years, the study found 863 patients affected with osteoporotic fractures.

The patients who developed fractures were significantly older and had higher disease risk and bone fracture risk at the baseline than those patients who did not experience fractures.

The results presented at the ACR/ARHP annual meeting 2017 in San Diego mentioned that the osteoporotic fracture risk increased within 30 days when the patients were given opioids. The associated medications also led to falls in certain cases.

"Knowing the risks associated with the use of these medications can guide rheumatologists and other physicians in choosing the most appropriate management strategies in patients, particularly the ones who have a high fracture or fall risk," Ozen added.

Your city's toxic air may harm even your mental health, finds study

The higher the level of particulates in the air, the greater the impact on mental health, a new study warns. Air pollution may be detrimental to your mental health, according to the study which found a link between toxic air and psychological distress.

"This is really setting out a new trajectory around the health effects of air pollution," said Anjum Hajat, from the University of Washington in the US.

"The effects of air pollution on cardiovascular health and lung diseases like asthma are well established, but this area of brain health is a newer area of research," said Hajat.

Scientists have identified "social determinants" of physical and mental well-being, such as availability of healthy foods at local grocers, access to nature or neighbourhood safety.

Air pollution, too, has been associated with behaviour changes - spending less time outside, for instance, or leading a more sedentary lifestyle - that can be related to psychological distress or social isolation.

The study, published in the journal Health and Place, looked for a direct connection between toxic air and mental health, relying on some 6,000 respondents.

Researchers then merged an air pollution database with records corresponding to the neighbourhoods of each of the 6,000 survey participants.

The team zeroed in on measurements of fine particulate matter, a substance produced by car engines, fireplaces and wood stoves, and power plants fuelled by coal or natural gas.

The study found that the risk of psychological distress increased alongside the amount of fine particulate matter in the air.

Fine particulate matter (particles less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter) is easily inhaled, can be absorbed into the bloodstream and is considered of greater risk than larger particles.

The current safety standard for fine particulates, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency, is 12 microgrammes per cubic metre.

How safe is the glass you drink from? Beware, it could contain toxic levels of lead

When was the last time you paid close attention to the glasses and mug you drink out of? They could cause you greater damage than you imagine. Researchers at the University of Plymouth in the UK carried out 197 tests on 72 new and second-hand drinking glass products, including tumblers, beer and wine glasses, and jars.

They found lead present in 139 cases and cadmium in 134, both on the surface of the glasses and, in some cases, on the rims, with concentrations of lead sometimes more than 1,000 times higher than the limit level. Tests showed that flakes of paint often came away from the glass under when simulating sustained use, indicating the substances could be ingested

over a prolonged period. "The presence of hazardous elements in both the paint and glaze of decorated glassware has obvious implications for both human health and the environment," said Andrew Turner, from University of Plymouth.

"So it was a real surprise to find such high levels of lead and cadmium, both on the outside of the glassware and around the rim," said Turner. There are genuine health risks posed through ingesting such levels of the substances over a prolonged period, so this is clearly an issue that the international glassware industry needs to take action on as a matter of urgency," he said. More than 70% of the products (52 out of 72) tested positive for lead, and the metal was



found in all recorded colours, including the decorated gold leaf of some items, according to the study published in the journal Science of the Total Environment.

A similar number (51 out of 72) tested positive for cadmium, with the highest concentrations usually encountered in red enamel. The lead concentrations ranged from

about 40 to 400,000 parts per million (ppm), while quantities of cadmium ranged from about 300 to 70,000 parts per million (ppm), the researchers noted. According

to the US Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the limit levels for the externally decorated lip area of drinking glass are 200 ppm and 800 ppm respectively.

Turner said additional analyses confirmed that hazardous elements are also used to decorate a wider range of consumer glassware that has the potential to be in contact with food. These include the exteriors of bottles for the storage of beer, wine or spirits, the external text and logos on egg cups, jugs and measuring cups, and the undersides of coasters and chopping boards. "Given that safer alternatives are available to the industry, the overall results of this study are both surprising and concerning," he said.

Do you pop pills for heartburn? Beware, it can put your kidneys at risk

Millions of people popping common heartburn and indigestion pills could be at an increased risk of kidney failure, suggests a recent analysis. The study found that individuals who used proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), which reduce gastric acid production, had a 33% increased relative risk of developing chronic kidney disease or kidney failure when compared with non-users. Previous studies showed a link between use of heartburn pills and kidney damage and even fractures.

To investigate, Charat Thongprayoon and his colleagues conducted an analysis of published studies that reported the risk of chronic kidney disease or kidney failure among PPI users compared with non-users. Five studies

with 536,902 participants met the eligibility criteria and were included in the meta-analysis. Individuals who used PPIs had a 33% increased relative risk of CKD or kidney failure when compared with non-users.

Thongprayoon noted that this study demonstrated a significant association between the use of PPIs and increased risks of chronic kidney disease and kidney failure. "Although no causal relationship has been proven, providers should consider whether PPI therapy is indicated for patients. Chronic use of PPIs should be avoided if not really indicated," he added. The findings are presented at ASN Kidney Week 2017 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA.

DO YOU FEEL HUNGRY AFTER A WORKOUT?



Exercising not just does miracles to our body, but also helps us to live a long life. Just 21 minutes of exercise a day can increase your lifespan by three years. The workout can be in the form of walking or even doing a chore. But a rigorous workout session can often leave you kicking around the kitchen, trying to fight off an insatiable hunger and if you are planning to shed some weight, binge-eating is the last thing you want to do. So what should everyone do to control their hunger after a satisfying workout? According to News.com.au, here are some tips that would help you to stop from undoing all your hard work:

Keep yourself hydrated: Our body commonly mistakes thirst for hunger. So, if people are not careful about that, it would leave them thinking that you need to eat more. It is really important to hydrate yourself before, during and after a workout, to avoid misdiagnosed hunger.

Be mindful of duration: The length of your workout also can affect how hungry you get, as the body can perceive a long workout as a famine, making you really hungry. To prevent overeating, plan your post-workout meal or snack before working up a sweat.

Be wary of weights and water: Weightlifting and water sports can be real hunger-driving culprits. This is because pumping iron causes micro tears in the muscle. As they repair, your muscles grow bigger and stronger. So, the more muscle you have, the hungrier you get.

As for water sports, like swimming and water polo, they are extra hunger-inducing because the temperature of the water cools down your body. Being immersed in water also causes you to use every muscle in your body, so you tend to deplete energy stores quicker.

8-year-olds having protein shakes, 10-year-olds lifting weights. Is this normal?

If you've been a regular to the gym, and have been pushing your family to follow your lead, here's a question: What age, you think, is best for children to start exercising? Like lifting weights and consuming protein shakes? Before you aver that even David Beckham's 12-year-old son Cruz goes to the gym, we say it's not about exceptional kids. Superior genes cannot be a yardstick for regular people.

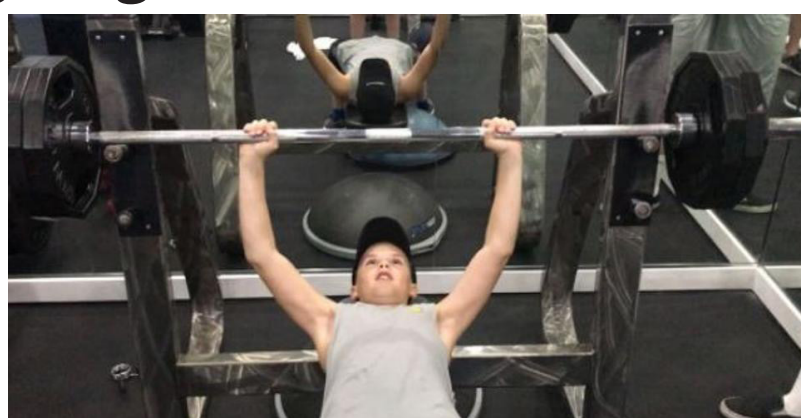
You'd probably find an ally in Daniel Herman, the founder of a US-based fitness nutrition company Bio-Synergy. He set tongues wagging in the fitness world recently when he said that it's perfectly fine for 12-year-olds like Cruz to lift weights. Many were shocked even more when he claimed that he gives his 8-year-old daughter supplements.

In an interview to The Sun, Herman said, "Depending on the age of the child, weight lifting may not be appropriate due to risk of injury, that said if properly supervised and structured it can certainly be beneficial. You can see in the video that Cruz is being chaperoned by his older brother and a trainer who are both actually helping him lift that heavy weight."

He added, "My daughter is 8 and swims competitively. She has to train a minimum of two hours for six days per week in order to maintain her squad position. As a result, there are lots of early morning and late nights, so I am happy for her to have a home-made smoothie with additional protein and a diluted version of an isotonic drink to keep her hydrated."

We spoke to a few experts about their views on this issue, and whether they felt this practice was ok.

"Protein supplements might be prescribed by doctors for children with nutritional deficiencies, poor appetites, for those who are pure vegetarians or for those who are involved in sports. But children should be prescribed protein only by doctors or qualified nutritionists and definitely not by gym trainers. Also such consumption is to be closely monitored by the paediatrician depending on the child's age and body weight for best results," said Deckline Leitao, a



Bengaluru-based exercise science specialist.

"Children should always be taught to eat wholesome natural foods so that they build healthy eating habits for a lifetime. Protein shakes and supplements can only be a supplement to good food and never a substitute. If an 8-year-old starts relying on getting their protein requirements through powders instead of milk, eggs, etc then when will they ever learn to understand the value of food."

"The above can be compared to 8-year-olds doing make up and wearing designer clothes. It might not harm their bodies per se but there is an appropriate age for everything. Also controversial statements and concepts are often used in the fitness industry to obtain mileage," Leitao added.

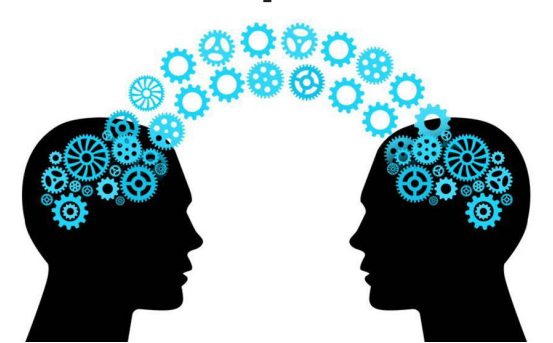
"Weight training for 12 year olds is effective as long as it's monitored by a qualified professional. The general guidelines are not to lift a weight that you can't do at least 10 reps with by themselves. Also they should control the weight by learning the correct technique and not push their bodies to complete exhaustion in the weights room. Children should learn to strengthen all the major muscle groups in the body and not neglect their leg strength or become only 'muscle addicts' while neglecting other aspects of fitness such as flexibility and cardiovascular endurance," he said.

Sonali Swami, winner of MuscleMania India 2014 (under the 'Model and Fitness' category), has a different view point. "Many people automatically think

that all supplements are bad and none should be consumed by children, especially protein shakes. When the fact is, nothing could be further from the truth. There is absolutely no scientific backing for such silly and ignorant claims. Protein shakes are nothing but a by-product of cheese making. It's simply a dry food form. While you don't want to have your children drinking five shakes a day, but there certainly aren't any issues with them having a shake a day. You can use a scoop of protein powder and a serving of fruit and make it into a smoothie after they have finished playing their sport for the day or just as a healthy snack. The shake can be made in water or milk and that's individual choice. And as far as the age goes, there really is no minimum age. Kids as young as 4 or 5 years old can drink protein shakes," says Sonali.

Sonali also addressed the issue of children lifting weights. "Once again there is no scientific backing to the claim that children should not be lifting weights. Certainly there are some important things to keep in mind, but there is no reason children can't or should not undertake weight training. Children can do all sorts of weight training. It just needs to be done under proper supervision so that they learn the right techniques. There is no truth when people say; weight training can affect your height. If you look at some of the sports involving strength, there are participants as young as 10 or 12 years old. In western countries they start weight training from as young as 4 or 5 years old."

Tired of unwanted thoughts? Scientists find brain chemical responsible for it



Scientists have identified a key chemical within the "memory" region of the brain that allows us to suppress unwanted thoughts.

The findings showed that the ability to inhibit unwanted thoughts relies on a neurotransmitter -- a chemical within the brain that allows messages to pass between nerve cells -- known as GABA.

GABA is the main "inhibitory" neurotransmitter in the brain, and its release by one nerve cell can suppress activity in other cells to which it is connected.

GABA concentrations within the hippocampus -- brain area involved in memory -- predict people's ability to block the retrieval process and prevent thoughts and memories from returning. The results may explain why people suffering from disorders such as anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and schizophrenia often experience persistent intrusive thoughts, the researchers said.

"Our ability to control our thoughts is fundamental to our well-being," said Michael Anderson, Professor at the University of Cambridge. "When this capacity breaks down, it causes some of the most debilitating symptoms of psychiatric diseases: intrusive memories, images, hallucinations, ruminations, and pathological and persistent worries -- key symptoms of mental illnesses such as PTSD, schizophrenia, depression, and anxiety," Anderson added.

In the research, published in the journal Nature Communications, the team used a task known as the "Think/No-Think", where participants learned to associate a series of words with a paired, but otherwise unconnected, word, for example ordeal/roach and moss/north. They were later asked to recall the associated word.

As the participants tried to inhibit their thoughts, the researchers observed that even within this sample of healthy young adults, people with less hippocampal GABA were less able to suppress hippocampal activity and as a result much worse at inhibiting unwanted thoughts.

The discovery could offer a new approach to tackling intrusive thoughts in mental disorders. "Our study suggests that if you could improve GABA activity within the hippocampus, this may help people to stop unwanted and intrusive thoughts," Anderson said.

Suspicious transactions involving Rs 17K cr detected after demonetisation

After last November's demonetization, over Rs 17000 crore was deposited into 58,000 bank accounts and subsequently withdrawn, the corporate affairs ministry said on Sunday, announcing what is perhaps the most significant instance yet of possible tax-fraud or, worse still, money laundering after the exercise to clamp down on black money by invalidating all old high-value currency notes.

Regulatory agencies unearthed these suspicious transactions on the back of intelligence gathering and data analysis after demonetization, the ministry said.

"In one case, a company with a negative balance as on 8 November 2016 (the day note ban was announced), deposited and withdrew Rs 2,484 crore post demonetization," the ministry added in its statement.

The ministry said that the number of shell companies struck off from of-

ficial records for either being a drag on the regulatory system or for financial irregularities after last November's demonetization has gone up to 2.24 lakh as on 5 November, up from 2.09 lakh reported in the first week of October.

The ministry doesn't define shell companies, most of which punctiliously comply with statutory requirements so as to not attract attention. Usually, shell companies are used to launder money, evade tax or engage in illegal activities.

Many of the 35,000 companies have been struck off from the registry, but their promoters and executives will still be held responsible. Earlier, the government had disallowed directors of dissolved companies from accessing the bank accounts of these companies.

Experts said that defunct and shell companies that have no economic activity clog the regulatory system at best



and commit financial crimes at worst.

"Weeding out such entities will help in cleaning up the system and ease the pressure on regulators. Statutory compliance by companies such as filing annual returns is essential for transparency in the corporate sector," said Pavan

Kumar Vijay, founder of advisory firm Corporate Professionals. Statutory filings by a potential business partner is a source of information for companies to do due diligence before entering into transactions.

Defunct companies, termed the dead

wood of the system by some, are those that have not met their statutory requirements for a variety of reasons, the most common being that they have gone under. Recently, the corporate affairs ministry struck off 162,000 defunct companies from its registry. In addition, around 300,000 directors have been disqualified because the companies on whose boards they sit, did not comply with the statutory requirement of filing annual returns.

Abuse of corporate structure has been identified by various panels that have looked into the menace of unaccounted wealth in the economy as a 'standard operating procedure' by tax evaders. Shell companies are also used for fictitious transactions aimed at inflating expenses by larger companies as well as by promoters of such to divert funds to privately held entities.

In the third week of September, the

ministry took the bold step of curtailing the flexibility available to businesses to form unlimited number of operating subsidiaries which opened up the possibility of concealing beneficial ownership in firms. The restriction on the layers of subsidiaries that companies can have to two applies prospectively, while existing companies have to disclose details of their entire list of subsidiaries to the registrar of companies within 150 days.

To make regulatory oversight over businesses more stringent, senior officials of the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), a multi-disciplinary body attached to the corporate affairs ministry, have been authorized to make arrests for certain company law violations. The corporate affairs ministry has also asked the finance ministry to make these offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

World Bank says India maybe high middle-income economy in 30 yrs: What it means?

Economic reforms such as GST could turn India into a high middle-income economy in 30 years, the World Bank said on Saturday. It credited the country's "extraordinary" achievement of quadrupling per capita income to reforms taken in the last three decades.

Last week, India moved into the top 100 of World Bank's Ease of Doing Business global rankings for the first time due to sustained business reforms over the past several years. The report had ranked India at 130 last year.

Speaking at India's Business Reform event organised by the ministry of commerce and industry, World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva said: "We have learnt that in reforms

what pays off is persistence... what we are recognising in India is that this success today is to be turned into more energy in reforms for the future."

"... And I have no doubt that when India hits another century, the century of Independence in 2047, most people in India would be the part of global middle class. India will be a high middle-income country," she said.

What is a high middle-income economy?

The World Bank considers countries of regions with a Gross National Income per capita between \$3,956 and \$12,235 as high middle-income economies. India currently falls in the lower middle-income category, recording a GNI per capita of \$1,680 in



2016, according to World Bank data.

While lower income economies accounted for GNI per capita of \$1,005 or less in 2016, lower middle-income economies were those between \$1,006 and \$3,955, and high income economies had \$12,236 or more.

What is GNI per capita? The UN terms Gross Na-

tional Income as all value added by domestic producers, plus any product taxes (sans subsidies) that haven't been included in output and the net income received from abroad.

GNI per capita is derived from the gross national income with respect to the country's population, and can indicate the standard of living enjoyed

by its average citizen.

The World Bank measures GNI per capita in US dollars by converting local currency using its World Bank Atlas method. Population estimates are also calculated by demographers of the 189-member group.

Where do other countries rank?

Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are among the countries listed as lower middle-income economies, along with India. China and Brazil are upper middle-income economies, while Nepal falls in the low-income category. The high-income category has countries like the United States, United Kingdom, Japan, Norway and the UAE.

Brookfield eyes mobile towers in India as deal with RCom stumbles

A unit of Canada's Brookfield Asset Management said it is evaluating a number of telecom tower portfolios in India to scale its presence after talks to acquire over 40,000 towers from debt-laden Reliance Communications hit a snag.

The deal with Brookfield hinged on Reliance Communications or RCom merging its mobile operations with rival Aircel but the merger was called off last month due to regulatory delays and legal uncertainties.

"The merger will not proceed and therefore our transaction as previously announced will not proceed either. However, we continue to monitor the evolving situation to determine if revised

terms can be agreed upon," Brookfield Infrastructure Partners said in an SEC filing on Nov 3. Brookfield said it is still pursuing RCom and other opportunities in this sector to scale its presence in India.

RCom, led by billionaire Anil Ambani, had Rs 443 billion (\$6.86 billion) of net debt as of March making it the most leveraged among listed Indian telecom companies.

The debt load has spooked investors, sending RCom's shares tumbling this year amid worries about whether it could pay back creditors at a time when profits across the sector are slumping due to stiff competition.

To shed debt, telecom companies are increasingly

looking to spin off their mobile

most businesses while focusing on core mobile services. India's largest phone carrier, Bharti Airtel said on Tuesday it had been approached by global investors interested in a controlling stake in its mobile tower unit Bharti Infratel.

The news of the approach from unidentified investors comes a day after Bharti Infratel said it was considering buying the rest of Indus Towers, the biggest mobile mast operator in India.

Indus Towers, with nearly 123,000 towers, is owned 42% each by Bharti Infratel and Vodafone's Indian unit. Third-ranked mobile carrier Idea Cellular along with its associate owns the remainder.

Israeli media claims Ratan Tata testified in Netanyahu case, Tata office says report incorrect

Ratan Tata has "testified" before the Israeli police in connection with allegations of corruption involving Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, reports in Israeli media said, which were denied as "factually incorrect" by the noted Indian industrialist's office.

Tata "testified to the police for two hours regarding suspicions that he was involved in a case in which the prime minister is alleged to have received gifts valued at hundreds of thousands of shekels," The Times of Israel reported.

The investigation into allegations against Netanyahu related to the expensive gifts has been dubbed as Case 1000, and also involves Israeli businessman and Hollywood producer Arnon Milchan.

According to a Channel 10 report, Milchan allegedly asked Netanyahu to promote a free trade zone near the Jordan-Israel border. The request by Milchan was allegedly made following consultations with Tata. The initiative never came through.

Other than The Times of Israel, the reports were carried by Hebrew language media and web portal Nana.co.il.

When contacted, Israel Police national spokesman Mickey Rosenfeld, in his email response to PTI, said that he had "no idea whatsoever".

Meanwhile, a statement emailed to PTI by Tata's office did not deny the meeting between him and the Israeli officials. But it said the reports in Israeli media on the contents of the meeting are "factually incorrect and appear to have been motivated".

"Tata holds Netanyahu in high esteem and considers him to be a respected friend. Allegations such as those made seem baseless and highly motivated," the statement added.

The statement gave a detailed account of the meetings.

It said that a few days before the 'Fuel Choices and Smart Mobility Summit' on October 31- November 1 in Israel, a section of the press reported that in connection with their probe of Milchan, an Israeli investigative team might also wish to speak to Tata while he was in Israel.

It said Tata was advised to cancel his visit but as he had nothing to hide, he attended the conference in Tel Aviv as



planned.

"Tata was requested if he would informally meet with members of agencies in connection with an ongoing probe in Israel as they wished to confirm certain facts relating to the investigations they were undertaking," the statement said.

"Tata agreed to meet them and two persons, presumed to be members of the agencies, met him at the David Intercontinental at 1530 hrs on November 1st. No IDs were offered," it added.

The officers asked questions on how Tata had met Milchan and their business relations, if any.

Tata stated how they met and clarified that they had no business relationship other than a client relationship with a security advisory company for the Taj Group of Hotels subsequent to the 26/11 terrorist attack in Mumbai where Tatas were later informed that Milchan had an interest, it said.

Tata was asked to recount events around a proposal in 2009 to build a low volume automotive assembly plant in Israel.

"Tata clarified that he was requested by a member of the Israeli security team to assist in preparing a concept plan for a project that was to be part of a peace initiative, to be built on the banks of the Jordan river with a free trade corridor to Haifa to offset higher logistics costs in Israel. It was intended to provide skilled jobs to Palestinians," the statement said.

A concept layout plan for the plant was drawn up but was never costed. The

peace initiative was never put in place and the project died a natural death, it said.

It said that the team member queried Tata on a figure he read out from a sheet of paper he had, stating that Milchan was spearheading the project and that it was estimated to be \$ 250 million.

"Tata immediately responded that he had never discussed this project with Milchan and the project cost had never been computed by Tatas. He stated that he had no knowledge as to how that figure was established.

"The number also seemed inordinately high for an assembly plant. They asked whether Netanyahu had been involved. Tata stated that there had been one meeting of about 10-15 minutes where Netanyahu was present at which he had suggested one or two preferred sites for the plant," the statement added.

It said Tata also "clarifies that at no time did he express or support a view that Netanyahu was involved directly and indirectly or derive any personal benefit from this project."

Netanyahu is facing two separate criminal investigations, known as Case 1000 and Case 2000.

Case 1000 revolves around alleged illicit gifts received by Netanyahu and his family from billionaire benefactors. Case 2000 focuses on an alleged clandestine quid pro quo deal made between Netanyahu and Israel's largest publisher and owner Arnon Mozes.

Paradise Papers: Sebi to look into fund diversion by listed firms, their promoters

Markets regulator Sebi will look into alleged fund diversion and corporate governance lapses at various listed firms and their promoters, including those linked to Vijay Mallya, named in the leaked 'Paradise Papers'.

While some entities linked to Mallya are already being probed by Sebi and other agencies, any fresh disclosure in the leaked documents made public by ICLJ (International Consortium of Investigative Journalists) would be thoroughly looked into, senior officials said.

The disclosures about other listed firms and those associated with them or their promoters would also be looked into for any irregularities including about corporate governance and disclosure norms, the officials added.

Officials maintained that mere presence of any Indian entity in an offshore tax-friendly jurisdiction may not amount to violation of laws, but non-disclosure about such entities and routing of funds to them could be ascertained only after a thorough investigation.

To start with, the stock exchanges and the regulator would ask the listed companies concerned to provide details about any offshore entities like them, which would be then matched with the statutory and regulatory disclosures made by those companies including in annual reports and other filings.

Sebi will also coordinate with other



regulators and government agencies, while information would be sought from foreign regulators if required, one official said, while adding that a structured multi-regulatory approach could be discussed at FSDC (Financial Stability and Development Council) or other such forums.

The 'Paradise Papers' investigation, carried out by ICLJ along with media partners across the world including the Indian Express, has unveiled offshore activities of some of the world's most powerful people and companies after exploring 13.4 million leaked files from offshore law firms and the company registries in some secretive countries.

The leaked files, including those from offshore law firm Appleby, purportedly provide details of tax planning by nearly 100 MNCs, while more than 700 Indian companies and individuals are said to be among those named in the list.

Among other Indian entities, Sebi is already probing various aspects about Mallya and his erstwhile listed firms, while some directions have also been passed in certain cases.

Recently, the Securities Appellate Tribunal asked Sebi to expeditiously pass a fresh order in the matter relating to Diageo Plc requiring to make additional payments to the minority shareholders of United Spirits Ltd (USL).

Diageo became a controlling shareholder of USL -- whose erstwhile promoter was now fugitive Mallya -- in May 2013 with 25.02 per cent stake after completion of a Rs 3,134.56 crore open offer.

Among the firms that have cropped up in the leaked list of 'Paradise Papers', shares of Jindal Steel & Power went down by 2.32% on BSE, Essar Shipping lost 2%, Videcon Industries fell by 1.82%, Sun TV Network dropped by 1.74%, GMR Infrastructure declined by 1.57% and Apollo Tyres dipped 0.88%.

On the other hand, shares of USL rose by 1.19% on BSE.

Meanwhile, NGO Transparency International called for stricter measures to regulate the financial sector and their participants, including real estate brokers, lawyers and bankers.

Hit by tepid demand from jewellers, gold prices move down Rs 115

Gold came under pressure from a rising dollar with a fall of Rs 115 to Rs 30,135 per 10 grams on Monday, which was compounded by tepid demand from local jewellers.

The fall was in line with a weak trend overseas as the strength in the dollar dented demand for the precious metal as a safe haven.

Silver too lost sheen, losing Rs 450 to Rs 40,050 per kg, following reduced offtake by industrial units and coin makers.

The dollar firmed up after upbeat US economic data



bolstered prospects of further interest rate hike by the Federal Reserve and diminished appeal of the precious metal.

A fading demand from local jewellers and retailers

and shifting of funds towards rising equity market came as a drag.

Globally, gold fell 0.03% to \$1,269 an ounce in Singapore.

In the national capital, gold of 99.9% and 99.5% purity came down by Rs 115 each to Rs 30,135 and Rs 29,985 per 10 grams, respectively.

Sovereign, however, remained unchanged at Rs 24,700 per piece of eight grams in sparse deals.

Following gold, silver ready dropped by Rs 450 to Rs 40,050 per kg and weekly-based delivery by Rs 490 to Rs 39,135 per kg.

Silver coins too plunged by Rs 1,000 to Rs 73,000 for buying and Rs 74,000 for selling of 100 pieces.

Ex-England captain Mike Brearley defends Ben Stokes, asks ECB to be lenient

Former England captain Mike Brearley has expressed his concerns over the manner in which the board is planning to tackle the Ben Stokes situation, stating that the authorities should be a bit lenient on the all-rounder given that "he's a human being".

Stokes was involved in an alleged pub brawl back on September 25 and had been subsequently arrested, released on bail, and dropped from the touring England squad to Australia for the Ashes. With the police investigation still in full flow, Stokes' future with England stands on thin ice as he will have to appear in front of the Cricket Discipline Commission chaired by the former Derbyshire cricketer-turned-lawyer Tim O'Gorman after the investigation.

"A lot hangs on this one person called Ben Stokes, who I have a lot of time for. I'm very sorry and saddened by his eruption, whatever happened," Brearley was quoted as saying by The Guardian. "I think the law should take its course like any other person and presumably it will but once it has happened, I don't think the cricket authorities should get high and mighty with him. He's a human being, and subject to forces which he has to learn



to control."

Brearley, one of the only three English captains to win an Ashes tour at home and away, stated that a lot will depend on the 26-year-old Stokes in the upcoming tour as well. "I think

it might, frankly. I think he's key. He is one of the best batsmen, a very useful bowler and a brilliant slip or gully fielder. It makes a huge difference to the make-up of the side, as Botham did when I was captain," he said.

Former skipper and the current team director Andrew Strauss reiterated Brearley's words, although he was more concerned since there was no clarity on how long Stokes will have to sit out because of the disciplinary procedures.

"The situation, in a word, is complicated," Strauss told the BBC. "There's two different potential disciplinary procedures he has to go through, one is the ECB's internal one and the other is any potential police action. Until we know more from the police, it's very hard for us to put a timeline on anything."

Strauss is the other captain apart from Len Hutton to have achieved Brearley's Ashes double feat. "What we all want is clarity on what that situation is and how much cricket he will be missing for England," the 40-year-old said. "We're keen to get into that and move this forward but we're in the hands of the police. Ben has been and is developing into a world-class cricketer. The fact he's not out there at the moment is a blow to the England team."

It was under Strauss that England had last won the Ashes in Australia back in 2010-11 when they won the series 3-1.

Sania Mirza out of top-10 in doubles ranking, Divij Sharan breaks into top-50

The consistent Divij Sharan broke into the top-50 for a career-high ranking while Sania Mirza dropped out of top-10 for the first time since March 2014 as the latest ATP and WTA charts were issued today.

The left-handed Sharan reached the final of the last three tournaments he participated in, winning the ATP 250 European Open while ending runner-up at Challenger events in Brest and Tashkent with different partners.

He is ranked exactly 50th after gaining a place. The 31-year-old Delhi player did not let his split with long-time partner Purav Raja affect him as he consistently did well on the Tour despite not having a stable partnership.

Now India has two top-50 players in doubles with Rohan Bopanna (15) leading the chart.

Purav Raja (62), Leander Paes (70) and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan (97) are the other top-100 Indian players.

Also making good progress in the doubles is Vishnu Vardhan, who jumped 16 places to touch his career-best ranking of 118. Vardhan and his partner N Sriram Balaji (139) had won the Shenzhen Challenger on Saturday to earn 90 ranking points

In the singles, Yuki Bhambri (140) con-



tinues to lead the chart and is followed by Ramkumar Ramanathan (148), Prajesh Gunneswaran (255), Sumit Nagal (331) and Balaji (350).

In the WTA charts, Ankita Raina is India's top-ranked player at number 281 and is followed by Karman Kaur Thandi (307) and Pranjala Yadlapalli (483).

Sania drops three places

In the doubles, Sania was placed at number 12 following a loss of three places.

Sania figured consistently in top-10 since March 17, 2013. The last time she featured outside top-10 was on March 3, 2013.

The Hyderabad was world number one in doubles through the entire 2016 season. Her slide started this season, which she began as number one but could not qualify for the year-end WTA Finale, where top-eight pairs and top-eight singles players compete.

State Football League-2017:

SK Pora FC, Real Wanpora FC, Pattan Zone, Fort View FC win district/zone league events

Srinagar, Nov 6: SK Pora FC, Real Wanpora FC, Pattan Zone and Fort View FC won their respective final matches of district/zone leagues in the ongoing State Football League-2017. All the four final matches were played on Sunday (Nov 5) at Synthetic Turf, TRC in Srinagar.

Being Sunday, football fans from all parts of Kashmir in huge numbers had gathered from early morning to support their favourite teams and players. The enthusiasm of fans from districts was huge as they had travelled a long distance to watch their football heroes perform at the Synthetic Turf.

The first final of the day started at 10 am between SK Pora FC and Syed FC. Amid huge roar from the crowd, the players of the two teams started attacking each other's goal post right from the start of the play. However, the forward lines of both the teams failed to breach each other's defence lines.

Both the goalkeepers made some exceptional saves drawing huge cheer from the crowd. With no team able to score in the allotted time, the match was decided in a tie breaker. While SK Pora FC succeeded in converting three kicks into goals, Syed FC players could convert only two.

In the second final of the day which started at 11:30 am, also turned out a close contest between two evenly matched



teams - Real Wanpora FC and Qaimoh FC. Both the teams tried to score right from the word go, but failed till the referee blew the final whistle. They missed several scoring opportunities in the allotted time and the outcome of the second final too was decided in a tie breaker where Wanpora FC prevailed over Qaimoh FC. While winning team scored four goals the losing team could convert only two kicks into goals. The final result was 4-2 in favour of Wanpora FC.

The third final of the day, which started at 1 pm, broke the jinx of no goals scored in the allotted time with the winning team - Zone Pattan - scoring five goals while the losers Ziya FC scoring two. The high speed and the quality of the football displayed by both the teams enthralled the spectators.

After scoring first goal in

the initial minutes of the match, Zone Pattan team never looked back. They kept the pressure on the defence lines of the opposite team throughout the match and were able to score five times. However, in between Ziya FC forwards also managed to breach the defence lines of Pattan team twice to reduce the margin of victory to 5-2.

The last final of the day, which started at 3 pm, between Fort View FC and Novelty FC turned out to be the match of the day. The players from both the teams were not ready to give an inch to the opposite team. While Fort View team scored two goals in the first half of the match and kept the defenders of the opposite team under sustained pressure, the Novelty FC players bounced back in the second half.

Novelty FC scored a goal in the second half and after reducing the margin to 2-1,

the match in the last minutes turned out to be a delight. While Novelty FC players were desperate to score an equaliser, the Fort View players were concentrating on maintaining the lead till end. When the referee blew the final whistle, it was 2-1 in favour of Fort View FC. Both these teams have qualified for Super Division League for next year after they finished as first two toppers in the A Division League.

The finals of the League tournaments were organised by the respective District/Zone Associations under the auspices of J&K Football Association from August to October 2017. 25 to 60 teams participated in each tournament. The finals were played in Srinagar with a view to provide an opportunity to players from remote areas to play at the Synthetic Turf. Secretary Sports Council Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, who was the chief guest on the occasion, distributed prizes among the winning and runner up teams.

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

Mir, Maroof lead Pakistan to maiden ODI victory against NZ

Strong shows by former skipper Sana Mir and current captain Bismah Maroof led Pakistan to a convincing maiden victory against New Zealand women in the third ODI of ICC Women's Championship in Sharjah on Sunday.

New Zealand won the toss and elected to bat first but early wickets meant the visitors were all out for 155 in the 44th over. Mir took four wickets, giving away only 25 runs while Sadia Yousuf managed 2-23 in her quota of ten overs. Sam Curtis was New Zealand's highest scorer with 50 runs to her credit.



New Zealand bowlers did not give much trouble to

guarded Pakistan batters who achieved the target in the 49th over.

Newly-appointed captain

Bismah Maroof — the highest scorer of the innings — was on the crease at 36 with Mir who hit the winning runs for Pakistan. The victory — first ever for Pakistan against New Zealand in ODIs — was a welcome win for the team which saw long-standing captain Mir being sacked after a winless World Cup run earlier this year.

"Cannot thank Allah enough for this victory we have achieved. Proud of team Pakistan. We will keep marching ahead," Maroof tweeted after the five-wicket win.

Sri Lanka axe Mendis, Silva for India Tests

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka on Sunday dropped the out-of-form top order batsmen Kusal Mendis and Kusal Silva from the squad for a three-match Test series against India starting in Kolkata next week.

The board brought back all-rounders Dasun Shanaka and Dananjaya de Silva to the squad led by Dinesh Chandimal.

Former skipper and all-rounder Angelo Mathews has recovered from a recurring knee injury and was included in the squad.

During Sri Lanka's home series against India, the hosts lost all nine games — three Tests, five One-day Internationals and a lone Twenty20 International — between July and September.

After playing the first Test in Kolkata from Nov. 16-20, the teams move to Nagpur for the second, which starts on Nov 24. The final Test will be played in Delhi between Dec 2 and 6.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka named former Test batsman Thilan Samaraweera as the batting coach to groom the national



team in the run up to the 2019 World Cup.

The 41-year-old, who retired from Test cricket in 2013, had been a batting consultant for the Bangladesh team. He will join the squad before they leave for India later this week.

Squad: Dinesh Chandimal (captain),

Dimuth Karunaratne, Dananjaya de Silva, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Angelo Mathews, Lahiru Thirimanne, Rangana Herath, Suranga Lakmal, Dilruwan Perera, Lahiru Gamage, Lakshan Sandakan, Vishwa Fernando, Dasun Shanaka, Niroshan Dickwella, Roshan Silva.

City sink Arsenal to continue winning streak

LONDON: It's a sign of Manchester City's incredible level this season that a 3-1 win over a major rival like Arsenal was met with a "could do better" assessment by manager Pep Guardiola.

"We could have scored five or six today," Guardiola said. "We just needed to be more clinical." Unbeaten. Ten wins from 11 games. 38 goals. And still Guardiola isn't satisfied. That's the standard the rest of the Premier League is up against this season.

Playing four days after an energy-sapping 4-2 win at Napoli in the Champions League, City weren't as fluent as usual but still swept past Arsenal at Etihad Stadium to make another statement heading into the international

break.

They opened up an eight-point lead at the top of the table before second-placed Manchester United's game against Chelsea and left the Gunners trailing 12 points behind.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger was angered by the awarding of a penalty against his team in the 50th minute and what he saw, with some justification, as an off-side when David Silva set up Gabriel Jesus for City's decisive third.

"Can anyone stop them? It will be difficult this season, the way they have started, the quality they have but you never know. If on top of that they have decisions at home like that, they will be unstoppable,"

Wenger told reporters.

City grabbed the lead in the 19th minute through a low drive from Belgian midfielder Kevin De Bruyne and doubled their advantage soon after the interval when record scorer Sergio Aguero slotted home a penalty after Raheem Sterling was barged over by Nacho Monreal.

Arsenal threw on striker Alexandre Lacazette in the 56th minute and he fired them back into the game with a clinical diagonal finish after being set up by Aaron Ramsey.

But City restored their two goal lead when Silva, in what replays suggested was an offside position, collected a pass from Fernandinho and slipped the ball to substitute Jesus for a simple tap-in.



Tottenham Hotspur remained in third position with 23 points, behind United on goal difference, after Son Heung-min's second-half goal secured a nervy 1-0 win over

Crystal Palace earlier on Sunday. Mauricio Pochettino's side, fresh from beating European champions Real Madrid in mid-week, found Palace a difficult nut to crack at Wembley and

could have been behind before Son curled in the winner midway through the second half.

"No point in beating Real Madrid on Wednesday if you can't win at home at the weekend," Tottenham defender Eric Dier said. "We knew it would be difficult today with players missing but we wanted to keep the momentum going."

Mauricio Pochettino's side laboured at times against Palace and had debutant goalkeeper Paolo Gazzaniga to thank for saves from Scott Dann and Andros Townsend.

"It was a tough game for us after Wednesday," Spurs manager Pochettino said. "Palace were compact, narrow and playing on the counter-attack. We had a few

problems after the Madrid game and that's why I'm so happy with the victory. In the end though I'm very pleased with an important three points."

The only member of the Premier League's top six in action on Saturday, Liverpool took full advantage.

Juergen Klopp's side won at West Ham United 4-1 to secure successive league victories for the first time since August.

Mohamed Salah scored twice, while Joel Matip and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain also found the net as Liverpool made light work of West Ham at the Olympic Stadium.

The victory took Liverpool level on points with Chelsea and Arsenal.