

TIME AND US

DAILY

SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

MONDAY

- NOVEMBER, 13, 2017
- 22 SAFFAR 1439 AH
- ISSUE: 265
- VOLUME: 03
- PAGES: 08

WEATHER TEMPERATURE		
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	19.6	0.9
JAMMU	27.4	12.8
LEH	11.9	-4.6
KARGIL	14.8	-3.2

SUNSET MONDAY: 05:31 PM
SUNRISE TUESDAY: 07:02 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR
Mainly clear sky... Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 20°C & 01°C respectively.

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

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VEERI INAUGURATES 12 KM BIJBHARA-ANANTNAG STRETCH OF SRINAGAR-QAZIGUND

THREE UNION MINISTERS PRESENT CASE ON 'EASE OF LIVING' BEFORE PM MODI

WILL NOT PURSUE ISLAMIC BANKING IN INDIA, SAYS RBI

ASHES 2017/18: ENGLAND COACH TREVOR BAYLISS CONCERNED BY BATTING COLLAPSES

Sharma can only succeed if report tabled in Parliament: Farooq

SRINAGAR: Veteran politician Farooq Abdullah has said the efforts of the Centre's special representative for Kashmir can move forward only if Dineshwar Sharma's final report is tabled in the two Houses of Parliament for discussion.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, who was re-elected president of the National Conference, the state's main opposition party, stressed that New Delhi also needed to explain what it wished to achieve by appointing Sharma as a special representative for talks on Kashmir.

Different voices emerging from power corridors had reduced him to a "zero" even before he could start the talks, he said.

Abdullah, 80, stressed he had never been against talks, but was "baffled by the lack of clarity" on the Centre's move.

"Even before he (Sharma) was to



visit the Valley, there were different voices emerging from New Delhi including that from the minister in PMO (Jitendra Singh) who said Sharma was not an interlocutor," the ex-chief minister said.

Sharma's mandate, he added, was not clear to anybody in Kashmir.

"So we are confused about what he is and what his agenda is going to be," the Lok Sabha member said here.

Asked why he did not meet Sharma, who was on a four-day visit to the Valley last week, Abdullah replied, "I thought it's of no use until Delhi makes it clear that he has some powers and

that whatever he finally recommends will be taken up in Parliament. That is the only way forward."

Abdullah also referred to earlier such moves.

"The past has shown that none of such efforts has been sincere. Does anyone talk about the report prepared by Dileep Padgaonkar and his team, Radha Kumar and M M Ansari?"

The Congress-led UPA Government had appointed the three-member team for talks in Kashmir in 2010. In 2012, it submitted its report which favoured "meaningful autonomy" for the state, while preserving its distinct diversities.

"Till date, that report has not seen the light of day. It is collecting dust in the home ministry. The best thing would have been to table that report in both the Houses of Parliament," Abdullah said.

▶ See **Farooq...**Pg 02

CM'S PUBLIC OUTREACH Mehbooba visits Pahalgam, reviews tourist facilities, beautification works, interacts with hoteliers



PAHALGAM, NOVEMBER 12: On the second day of her tour to Anantnag district in connection with the Public Outreach programme, Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today visited the famed tourist resort here today. She enquired about the tourist arrivals, sanitation, preparations for the winter festival and other facilities available to tourists here.

The Chief Minister visited Pahalgam Club and took stock of the facilities put in place for the visitors. She also visited some other places in the town where developmental activities are going on and asked for pacing them up.

Mehbooba Mufti, on the occasion, was briefed about various beautification works at the tourist spot under execution. She was informed that beautification of Aru village is under execution at a cost of Rs. 1.37 crore which involves Rs. 70 lac fencing project for the 1500 kanal park.

▶ See **Mehbooba...**Pg 02

At Pahalgam, Mehbooba meets DM



Raises rent issue of Anantnag High Ground land owners, Nirmala assures positive action

PAHALGAM, NOVEMBER 12: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti had a one-on-one meeting with Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman here today who was here to attend the meeting of Executive Council of Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering & Winter Sports, Pahalgam.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister brought several issues pertaining to Defence into her notice. She strongly pressed for speeding up the cases of revision and payment of rent in respect of the land owners of High Ground Anantnag whose land is being used by the Army. She also sought

▶ See **DM...**Pg 02

AHEAD OF CHILAI KALAN, PESKY POWER WOES RETURN

People remind PM Modi his words that Kashmir can light whole country

SRINAGAR, NOV 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his first rally in Srinagar had stated that Kashmir's water resources can be utilized to lighten whole country, but who will tell the prime minister that ahead of the Chilai Kalan (harsh phase of winter), whole Kashmir valley has plunged into darkness.

While most of the areas in rural Kashmir are facing acute power woes, the Srinagar city and other major towns' also paint a similar story. Somewhere people hold protests

▶ See **Ahead...**Pg 02

Altaf Bukhari inaugurates maiden Teachers' Science Congress at JKIMS

'Govt to set up 15 new colleges in JK'

SRINAGAR, NOV 12: Minister for Education, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari today inaugurated a three-day 'J&K Teachers Science Congress' at Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Mathematical Sciences (JKIMS) at Amar Singh College, here.

The three-day programme, which will conclude on November 14, was organized by JKIMS in collaboration with Directorate of School Education J&K. The programme was



also supported by Department of Science and Technology. Principal Secretary Higher Education Department, Dr

Asgar Hassan Samoon was also present on the occasion. The Congress was attended by VC Cluster Univer-

sity Srinagar, Dr. Sheikh Javid, VCIUST, Prof. Mush-taq Ahmad Siddiqi, District

▶ See **Altaf...**Pg 02

GOVT YET TO FILL VITAL POSTS OF REVENUE COM SEC, RTO KASHMIR

People facing difficulties

SRINAGAR, NOV 12: The government has left key positions vacant in the administration leaving people to face lot of difficulties. Despite weeks having passed since the retirement or transfer of the officers, these positions are yet to be filled by eligible officers.

Important posts of Administrative Secretary Revenue Department and Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, are yet to be filled by the government after retirement of former commissioner secretary Mohammad Ashraf Mir and transfer of Farooq Ahmad as RTO.

Mir retired in October 11 while RTO Ahmad was

▶ See **RTO...**Pg 02

Inculcate problem solving, analytical, creative skills in students: Prof Mattoo

Attends MIER's 82nd foundation day celebration

JAMMU, NOV 12: Advisor to Chief Minister, Prof. Amitabh Mattoo, today exhorted upon educationists to inculcate problem solving, analytical, creative and collaborative skills in students so that they contribute towards development of the society.

Prof Mattoo said this while addressing a large gathering of students, parents and educationists during the 82nd foundation day function of Model Institute of Education and Research at its B.C Road campus.

Speaking on the occasion, Mattoo said



that State Government has initiated multiple

▶ See **Mattoo...**Pg 02

G H MIR CHAIRS PARTY WORKERS MEET

Discusses present political situation

SRINAGAR, NOV 12: Democratic Party Nationalist (DPN) president and former agriculture minister, Ghulam Hassan Mir Sunday chaired party workers meet in Khoori Sheerabad area of Pattan.

The meeting discussed the current prevailing political situation in Kashmir.

According to KNS correspondent, the meeting also stressed upon strengthening the party. "We will launch a membership drive in the state," Mir said while addressing the workers.

Mir also said that there is a need to upgrade the Kungundara receiving station. "The population has increased but the people are not getting adequate power. Keeping in view, the government must upgrade the receiving station,"

▶ See **Mir...**Pg 02

BJP on splurge to distort my image: Rahul

AMBAJI, GUJARAT: Congress Vice-President Rahul Gandhi on Sunday accused BJP of splurging to distort his image. "But the BJP will not succeed in its efforts," he said.

Mr Gandhi said this while interacting with the workers of his social media and IT cell at Ambaji in Banaskantha assembly constituency in north Gujarat.

He said his party will continue to speak the truth and expose the fallacies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "But we will not cross the limits of decency in statements which could lower the dignity of Prime Minister's post," he added.

He claimed that Modi was on the verge of



losing the Gujarat polls. He said he gets strength from Lord Shiva to counter the negative propaganda of the BJP to distort his image.

▶ See **Rahul...**Pg 02

PANUN KASHMIR DELEGATION BEGINS TWO-DAY VISIT TO VALLEY

Veth Vatur, Shailputri-Devibal need urgent attention

SRINAGAR, NOV 12: A two-member delegation of Panun Kashmir is on a two-day visit of Kashmir Valley.

The delegation comprising of Ashwani Kumar Chrun-go, President and Upinder Kaul, General Secretary respectively of Panun Kashmir.

The visit is in connection with the decade event of the 50-day Kashmir Sankalp Yatra that was initiated from Srinagar way back on 11-12 November 2007.

"The delegation under the leadership of Ashwani Kumar Chrun-go, President, Panun Kashmir started the tour by visiting first Veth Vatur (VETRAVATI)-Verinag, the

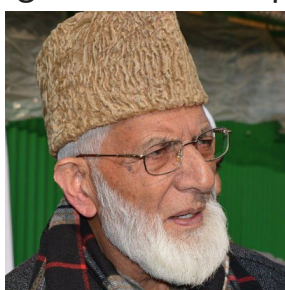
▶ See **Panun...**Pg 02

Geelani expresses surprise over Dr Farooq's statement

Says he is speaking against wishes of people

SRINAGAR, NOV 12: Denouncing the statement of Farooq Abdullah, wherein he has said that "Azadi is no option," Hur-riyat (G) chairman, Syed Ali Geelani Sunday asked him to revisit annals of history as he is speaking against the wishes and aspiration of people.

Geelani according to the statement issued to KNS, criticized Farooq Abdullah for his recent statement, say-



ing that these power-hungry politicians always played deceit and added that these

irresponsible and short-sighted people have always served the interests of their masters.

"They are barefaced, follow their treacherous politics and never feel ashamed for their absurd statements," said Geelani and while blaming them for prevailing political uncertainty and chaos, said they should learn from history and see how their predecessors were humiliated and

insulted by authorities in New Delhi.

Geelani while referring to history, advised Farooq Abdullah to see how his predecessors were forced to beg for Chief Minister's berth, after being sacked from Prime Ministers status.

"It is an irony," said Geelani and expressed his surprise over his statement, saying

▶ See **Geelani...**Pg 02

NOTIFICATION FOR AMK ELECTIONS ISSUED

Elections to be held on Nov 26

SRINAGAR NOV 12: Formal notification for the election of various office bearers of Adbee Markaz Kamraz Jammu and Kashmir has been issued. The election is scheduled to be held on November 26.

According to a notification issued by Advocate Abdus Salam Rather who has been nominated as Election Officer, the election will be held for the posts of President, Vice President-I and II, General Secretary, Secretary, Media Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian. According to him the last date for submission of nomination forms in his office at District Court Baramulla will be November 18 till 2 PM. Scrutiny of nominations will take place on November 20

▶ See **Elections...**Pg 02

EXPEDITE JHELMUM DREDGING ON PRIORITY: ALTAf BUKHARI TO I&FC

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 12: Minister for Education, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari today convened a meeting to review the progress of dredging work on river Jhelum.

Legislators, Noor Mohammad Sheikh and Yasir Reshi, besides DC Srinagar, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah were also present in the meeting.

On the occasion, Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Engineers informed the meeting that in Srinagar 4.44 lakh cubic meters out of 7 lakh cubic meters, in Baramulla 4.46 lakh cubic meters against 9.16 lakh cubic meters and in Shariefabad 4.74 lakh out of 8 lakh cubic meters were dredged and rest of dredging work of the river will be completed soon.



The Minister directed I&FC department to expedite the dredging of river Jhelum and its flood spill channels on priority so that carrying capacity of the river increases.

He asked DC Srinagar to provide suitable land compensation to the affected landowners of Shariefabad immediately and start the

prepare a proposal for the procurement of Geobags, which can be used during the emergency on river Jhelum and its tributaries.

Bukhari also reviewed the process of auctioning and tendering of earth lifting from the banks of river Jhelum. Later, the Minister also reviewed the drinking water supply position in the city and asked the PHE Engineers to provide uninterrupted water supply to the City inhabitants.

He also directed I&FC and PHE Engineers to prepare a Detailed Project Report so that these vital Departments would be equipped with latest and modern machinery.

Engineers of I&FC, PHE and other concerned officers also attended the meeting.

dredging work on flood spill channel which passes through the area.

He also directed engineers of I&FC to remove all illegal slums from Dhoo Ganga immediately and start the dredging work there immediately. It was said that the affected families will be rehabilitated at other suitable places.

The Minister also directed the I&FC Engineers to

CEC KARGIL REVIEWS PROGRESS UNDER CAPEX BUDGET

Calls for time-bound completion of works

KARGIL, NOVEMBER 12: Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor Kargil, Kacho Ahmad Ali Khan today reviewed the physical and financial achievements registered under the annual District Capex Budget 2017-18 at the General Council review meeting held here today.

Executive Councillor for Education, Advocate Muhammad Amir, Executive Councillor for Rural Development, Aga Syed Hassan Armaan Mosavi, Executive Councillor for Agriculture, Muhammad Hussain, Executive Councillor for Tourism, Tenzin Sonam, Advisor to CEC Kargil, Haji Muhammad Shafi, Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Haji Gulzar Hussain, Councillors besides other sectoral officers

were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions and deliberations were held on the implementation of the decisions taken in the annual General Council meeting held in April this year.

The CEC took sector wise review of the projects taken in hand by different Departments under District Capex Budget, State sector as well as Centrally sponsored schemes. He directed officers to take concerted measures to further the pace of works in hand and ensure their completion within the stipulated time. He called for optimal utilization of funds for developmental activities being executed by the respective Departments.

It was informed that against the availability of 50 percent of the approved allocation amounting Rs 47.23 crore, Rs 26.78 crore stands expended so far representing 56.70 percent of the released allocation.

The CEC, while taking serious note over the slow pace of progress on certain projects, directed the officers to accelerate the pace of work execution and ensure complete expenditure by the end of December 2017, so that the targets are achieved in the best possible manner.

The meeting was informed that under District Plan work on different roads having 56 km length are under execution in the district, out of which roads with a total road length

of 8.14 kms have been black-topped, 3.54 kms soled and metalled while as 44.32 kms fair weather stretch has been completed up to ending October 2017.

It was apprised that 300 hectares of potential and 400 hectares of utilization have been achieved under the minor irrigation sector. The concerned officers further informed that out of 10 water supply schemes targeted for completion this year 5 have been completed while as 10 hectares of the area have been protected and reclaimed under flood control sector.

Kacho Ahmad Ali Khan said that providing best governance and delivery of public services is the foremost priority of the Council.

Continue from Front Page

FAROOQ

He was also sceptical about the success of Sharma's mission.

"I don't see it progressing unless the Government of India makes its mind clear and gives him that authority (of tabling the report). Otherwise he will be subservient to (National Security Advisor Ajit) Doval," he said.

Abdullah said any effort so solve the Kashmir issue had to include Pakistan.

"When I talk about the Kashmir issue, I mean the entire Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. This is not only a developmental issue, but also a political issue, and this political issue also involves Pakistan, as a part of this state is with them."

Unless Pakistan was taken on board, "whatever we decide with Delhi will not carry any weight," he said.

"The skirmishes between the two countries at the border are only leading to death and destruction. This needs to be stopped," he said.

Abdullah said "to the best of his understanding", granting autonomy would be "the best possible solution" as it was within the provisions of the Constitution.

"Now there are some problems as far as autonomy is concerned. We have repeatedly said we can discuss (them)... If there is anything in that autonomy report which will not (be of) benefit... We can look into them, either they (the Centre) convince us or we will convince them," he said.

Instead of "just shutting it out", there should be a discussion, he added.

Abdullah also made it clear his party had said nothing against accession to the Indian Union.

"Never have we asked for azadi," he said and recalled a statement made by former prime minister P V Narasimha Rao, who had once said in Parliament that other than 'azadi', the sky was the limit as far as autonomy was concerned.

"Where is that sky," asked Abdullah.

People of the state, he said, were aware of the "agenda of the BJP and RSS" of abrogating Article 370.

"But let me warn you, it will further aggravate the situation. Nobody will be here for autonomy... Everyone will shout for 'azadi'. At that time don't blame me," he said.

Abdullah said he'd had a number of meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "His speech from the Red Fort on Independence day asking all countrymen to embrace Kashmiris was a nice gesture. However, his team down below has not been translating these words into action," he said.

The Member of Parliament also requested Modi to rein in army chief Gen Bipin Rawat.

"Of late, we have seen the Army chief making political statements and this practice is not good for democracy. I am sure one day the Prime Minister will ask him to focus on our borders and look after the welfare of our Army."

MEHBOOBA

The Chief Minister also reviewed the status of Rs. 2.69 crore Serene Park being built over an area of 88 kanals of land. She also took briefing on the Chookadal Bridge being built at a cost of Rs. 85 lacs. The bridge would enhance the tourist attraction of the place by connecting Pahalgam bowl with Shikargah, a famed destination for foreign travelers in yesteryears. She also took review of Rs. 1.86 crore Tourist Facilitation Centre, Aishmuqam which would have many facilities for the convenience of visitors.

Mehbooba Mufti impressed upon all the concerned agencies to get the works completed at the earliest and ensure that sanitation is maintained to the highest level to make visitors' stay much more comfortable.

The Chief Minister also interacted with the hoteliers and other members of tourism fraternity who apprised her of their activities and difficulties.

Vice Chairman, JKTDC, Rafi Ahmad Mir; Secretary, Tourism, Sarmad Hafiz; Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, Muhammad Younis Malik; Chief Executive, Pahalgam Development Authority, Simnani and other officers of Tourism, PDA and district administration accompanied the Chief Minister during the visit.

Later, the Chief Minister, along with Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 8th meeting of 3rd Executive Council of Jawahar Mountaineering Institute and Winter Sports, Pahalgam.

DM

intervention of the Defence Minister for the return of certain pockets of land in the State which are no longer required for operational purposes by the Army.

Nirmala Sitharaman assured Mehbooba Mufti to look into the issue of revision and payment of rent to the land

owners of High Ground Anantnag. She regretted the delay and inconvenience caused all these years to these land owners who have not been paid rent and said that it was only during her first meeting with the Chief Minister recently that her attention was drawn towards this by her.

A deputation of land owners of High Ground Anantnag also met the Defence Minister on the occasion and apprised her of their problem.

The Defence Minister assured the deputation that she would try to fast track their case of rent payment and revision and ensure that they are released their due amount forthwith.

AHEAD

and get the police beating and somewhere the agitated locals locked the PDD offices.

"Every day the government claims that this power project and that power project have been started. Where is that electricity? Where does it go? We are paying huge tariffs, but still we are left in darkness," the locals say.

If the poor power scenario continues, the situation may worsen further and may compel people to take to the streets. The student community is the worst hit. The students, who are writing exams these days, said this pesky power supply had badly affected their studies. "How can we prepare when there is no electricity? We can't study under the candle for whole night or long hours," says Aiman Manzoor, a class 10th student.

Furthermore, not only the erratic power supply has left people reeling under darkness, but the floodlights installed at several places in the summer capital are also non-operational making it quite risky for the commuters.

Chief engineer, PDD Shahnaz Goni told KNS that the government has imposed ban on crude boilers, micromer coils and heating devices in Srinagar city. "I hope it will help to solve the crisis," she said.

ALTAf

Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah, Director School Education, Kashmir, Dr G.N Itoo, Director Ramanuja Institute of Mathematics, Chennai, Dr. G.P Youvrajan, Director JKIMS Srinagar, Prof. Assia Siddiqi, Nodal Principal Kashmir, Dr. Yasmeen Ashai, Dean Academics, Cluster University Srinagar, Principals and teachers from various colleges and students of JKIMS.

On the occasion, Bukhari appreciated organizers for holding such a programme and said this will help in the training of teachers which would prove a good step towards improvement in the deliverance of education. He said that Education Department is conducting workshops, training programmes, seminars on a regular basis in various schools, colleges and universities in the State to enrich teachers and students with vistas of the field.

The Minister said that the Government under the leadership of Mehbooba Mufti is keen to improve the Education sector in J&K. "We have already started the process of providing adequate faculty to all the schools and colleges across State, and we will complete the process of filling by next year," Bukhari said.

He said that Education Department is trying to access the various requirements in different parts of J&K with regards to education and we are on a job to fulfil those requirements. In this regard, Bukhari said, 15 new colleges will be established in the various uncovered areas of J&K that will cater the needs of students in those areas. In addition, two Colleges of Education will also be established in the State.

Bukhari said that the overhaul of education sector cannot be done overnight but if worked with zeal and dedication we can achieve 20% of the goal in a year and within four to five years we will have a different face of the education system.

Commenting on the news of fee hike by some private schools, Bukhari said that every school has to obey the rules and regulations set by the Government and if any school doesn't abide by the rules, strict action will be initiated against them.

About the upcoming Children's day celebrations, the Minister said Education Department will celebrate this year's Children's Day as "Enrollment Day" with the slogan "Hamaray Bachay, Hamara School". Through this event we will try to bring more and more children towards schools for their better future, he said.

Director School Education Kashmir, Dr G.N Itoo appealed all the heads of Schools to organize the special functions on "Enrollment Day" on November 14 in their respective schools and appealed them to invite parents and students as well in such functions.

Later, the Minister released the College magazine, 'Souvenir'.

RTO

transferred and posted as Chief Executive Officer, Integrated Watershed Management Programme, J&K, against an available vacancy.

Minister of Transport Sunil Sharma did not reply to repeated calls from KNS while minister for revenue A R Veeri was not available for his comments.

Officials said that besides hampering working of these departments, key decisions have been delaying and also public faces lot of problems in redressal of their issues.

The officials said the delay has occurred as the Government has failed to set-up Cabinet Committee to deal with the transfers of senior IAS and KAS officers.

Important decisions on policy matters and financial aspects are taken by the Administrative Secretary of the concerned department in consultation with the Minister Incharge or on the directions from the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary. And in absence of the revenue secretary, all the issues are pending.

And without RTO, transporters said, their issues have mounted in the RTO office in Srinagar.

"Also, the budget formulation is in process, so empty positions means no forward movement on that account as well," the officials said.

MATTOO

initiatives in the field of education to improve literacy rates in the state with focus on rural and far flung areas. He further said Education Minister Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, under the leadership of Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti is committed to ensure that quality education is made accessible to all students in the state.

Congratulating MIER on their efforts to impart quality education to the student besides enthusing in them high ethical values, Mattoo expressed optimism that the institute will carry forwards its objective with the same spirit.

On the occasion, a cultural programme was presented by the students of the institute.

Prof Mattoo presented mementos to the students who had won medals at different national level sports events.

MIR

he said. He also said that the Ahmad Pora lift irrigation scheme which awaits completion should be completed immediately so that the people could have a sigh of relief.

Mir also said that there is also a need to establish Tehsil office at Sheerabad.

The meeting further alleged that the developmental works are being done only to provide benefits to some blue eyed persons.

Others who spoke during the meeting were Muhammad Yousuf Ganie, Ghulam Muhammad Ganie, Abdul Salam Bhat, Ghulam Hassan Banka and Shabir Ahmad.

RAHUL

I know my image and truth.

Public will see the truth no matter how much the BJP spends to sully my image," Mr Gandhi told party workers. He reached Ambaji on second day of his Navsarjan Yatra on Sunday and held hectic meetings with party workers, besides addressing public at many places during the yatra currently criss-crossing the north Gujarat region, considered a strong belt of Congress.

Mr Gandhi said Congress goes for introspection while BJP and Mr Modi never accept their misdeeds. Being solely responsible for failure of demonetisation and GST, Modiji never accepts it, he said.

The Congress Vice-President also charged Modi and Amit Shah with controlling the media from behind and said all their efforts will fail as 'truth cannot be fine tuned'.

Rahul on Sunday admitted that he personally did not do all tweets at his official twitter account. He revealed this while talking with his social media and IT Cell workers at Ambaji.

He however asserted that all tweets on political issues are handled by him personally. On politics related issues he shared suggestions with a team of three-four members and after fine tuning the text the issue is tweeted.

He said BJP's social media campaign is fake while Congress' is based on truth. He said the social media cell of the Congress would continue showing the truth to the public.

The Gujarat polls results will expose everything, he added.

PANUN

original source of the river Vitasta (Jhelum). It was fol-

lowed by paying visit to Devibal-Shailputra-Baramulla, Jeshta Devi Asthapan-Srinagar, Kheerbhawani-Ganderbal, Ganpatyar Temple-Habbakadal and Sheetalnath-Nai Sarak, Srinagar," the statement issued to KNS reads.

"We express our deep concern regarding the conditions that have been witnessed by us at Veth Vatur and Shailputri-Devibal, we make a fervent appeal to the government of Jammu & Kashmir to come forward as promised and planned by the concerned Ministry to save these two important symbols of Kashmir's heritage, history and culture. They are in a very bad shape and need immediate and urgent attention," they added.

The delegation also paid tributes to the Samadhi of 1967 Martyrs at the historic Sheetalnath Grounds today.

The Kashmiri Pandit displaced community continues to live as refugees in its own country. A serious dialogue process should be initiated by the government of India for the establishment of a separate Homeland in Kashmir valley as explicitly demanded in the Margdarshan Resolution of 1991.

There has to be a full and free flow of the Indian Constitution in the Homeland that needs to be designated as the Union Territory. As the first and primary stakeholders to the land of Kashmir, we need to declare from the land where 'the ashes of our forefathers and the temples of our gods lay' that Kashmiri Pandits belong to Kashmir and have an equal stake in Kashmir.

The Kashmiri Pandits have clarified that the Article 370 and Article 35A have become an unnecessary baggage of the past errors of the rulers of India; there is a national consensus to review these absurd laws that are in contravention of the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Indian Constitution to the citizens of India. They should be abrogated under the due process of law as soon as possible and the Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir state) Order 14th May 1954, since was/is an intentional fraud, be also abrogated along with.

We are of the strong belief and understanding that no government is mandated to discuss and negotiate the issue of unity and integrity of India and Jammu & Kashmir is no exception in this regard. The government needs to make it very clear than to keep the people in dark as it has happened for the last more than six decades. There is an imperative need to restore peace in the Kashmir valley.

The Pandit community has all along supported the initiatives that have the potential to restore law and order in the valley. "Being the first and worst victims of terrorism, the Pandits want complete finish of terror from the valley," they said. In this context, the appointment of the Centre's Interlocutor can prove a small window that can pave way for new vistas. We prayed for peace in the valley at all the pious places we visited during these two days and prayed specially at Mata Kheerbhawani Shrine of reverence for Eternal Peace in Kashmir."

GEELANI

that these politicians are still following their politics based on betrayal and deceit.

"People are offering sacrifices to achieve their right to self-determination and not for their stale theories or so-called autonomy," said Geelani, saying that all these politicians are just slaves of their masters and parroting what they have been assigned and asked to do. "We are not pursuing power politics, said Geelani saying instead people are nourishing their sacred mission with blood and following genuine struggle for right to self-determination," Geelani added.

Asking people to remain cautious about the conspiracies being hatched by these Delhi groomed henchmen, Geelani said that "since our genuine voices are being acknowledged and our right to self-determination is being credited by international community, hence they feel desperate, irritated and nervous."

Haling people for their dedication and sense of sacrifice, pro-freedom leader said that people are determined and won't succumb to pressure tactics and will pursue their mission till the right of self-determination is achieved.

ELECTIONS

and the last date of withdrawal of nominations will be November 23. Election in case of contest will be held on November 26 at 11 AM at Kashmir College of Education for Women Noorbagh Sopor.

It is worth mentioning here that Mr Rather who is the President of District Bar Association Baramulla was nominated as Election Officer on November 5 while as Prof M A Charoo former Chairman J & K Board of School Education (BOSE) was nominated as Observer. The term of the office bearers of AMK had come to an end in June this year but was extended till December in view of certain exigencies.

Asia Naqash pays surprise visit to G B Pant hospital



RINAGAR, NOVEMBER 12: Minister of State for Health and Medical Education, Asia Naqash late yesterday evening paid a surprise visit to the GP Pant Pediatric Hospital Sonawar to inspect the functioning of the institute, besides taking stock of the services being made available to the patients there. The Minister during her visit inspected various wards of the hospital and interacted with the patients and their attendants besides enquiring about the medicare facilities being provided by the hospital authorities to them. She highlighted the importance of better maternity care and said that Asha and Anganwari workers are playing an important role in creating awareness among the people about the healthcare facilities available under different government-run schemes including NRHM.

She stressed for regular cleanliness of the wards and corridors besides maintaining proper sanitation at the hospital. The Minister asked the hospital authorities to equip the centre with latest diagnostic facilities and other equipment to ensure availability of all medicare facilities to the patients within the health institute.

Veeri inaugurates 12 km Bijbehara-Anantnag stretch of Srinagar-Qazigund highway project

Reviews progress, asks for completion by year-end

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 12: Terming road connectivity as pivotal for development, Minister for Revenue, Disaster Management, Relief Rehabilitation & Reconstruction, Abdul Rehman Veeri today inaugurated 12km Bijbehara-Anantnag stretch of the prestigious four-lane Srinagar-Qazigund highway project.

The Minister was accompanied by SE R&B Anantnag, ADC Anantnag, representatives of Ramkay and National Highway Authority of India. Veeri asserted that better road connectivity is pivotal for bringing speedy socio-economic transformation in the State besides boosting activities of other sectors and State's



overall development.

With the inauguration of Bijbehara-Anantnag stretch, the vehicles will cover around 2 km less distance to reach Anantnag and will also minimize the traffic jams in the Bijbehara town.

The four-lane highway comprises of five sections—Qazigund Bypass, Bijbehara Bypass Awantipora Bypass, Pampore Bypass and widening of existing Highway. Earlier in the month of October, Pampore bypass stretch was thrown open for the public.

On the occasion, the Minister stressed on better coordination and teamwork of different Departments for speedy and better quality work under different Government schemes. He said that Government was abreast of the developmental needs and a comprehensive plan has been devised to mitigate people's problem

stressed on better coordination and teamwork of different Departments for speedy and better quality work under different Government schemes.

He said that Government was abreast of the developmental needs and a comprehensive plan has been devised to mitigate people's problem

in a phased manner.

The Minister also set the deadline for completion of the project by December end this year. He sought a detailed report on the ongoing work on the Srinagar-Banihal stretch and was informed that work is in full swing and December deadline will be met.

He stressed on the officials to press more men and machinery for the ambitious project which will uplift the economic profile of the Kashmir. On the occasion, Veeri also said that with the completion of the project, connectivity within the State and outside will boost trade and mobility of the people and usher in overall development of the State.

Zulfkar, Ganga launch new system in Samba Zulfkar for installing PoS machines in every ration depot

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12 - Terming it as the biggest reform in bringing transparency in Public Distribution System, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs and Tribal Affairs Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali today said the government will install Point of Sale (POS) machines in all fair price shops and ration depots across the state.

The Minister said this after launching a POS machine at Government Sale Depot, Vijaypur in the presence of Minister for Industries and Commerce Chander Prakash Ganga.

The Ministers also started the functioning of POS machines at Fair Price Shop, Bari Brahmana and Government Sale Depot, Samba. Speaking on the occasion, Zulfkar Ali informed that these machines are connected to a server that uploads every transaction on the portal and can be monitored in any part of the country anytime. These Aadhar linked POS machines also display price, scale and credentials of the consumer which leaves no space for any malpractice in the system, he added.



Stressing that the government has taken a giant leap in introducing digitization in its functioning, the Minister said the government is mulling to introduce smart cards for the distribution of ration among the consumers which will go down in history as the revolutionary step in making the system transparent and accountable. Meanwhile, Minister for Industries and Commerce Chander Prakash Ganga said the government

has left no stone unturned in realizing PM Narendra Modi's dream of making, 'Digital India'. The installation of POS machines will definitely keep a check on the black marketing and the customers will get their due right, he added.

He further said that the hike in commission of ration dealers has reduced pilferage of ration and this step has also given better livelihood to the dealers.

Later, the Minister visited under-construction building of Gujjar-Bhakerwal Boys hostel in Samba being constructed by Tribal Affairs Department at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.25 crore. The Minister was informed that Rs. 2 crore have been released for construction of the hostel which would house 100 Gujjar-Bhakerwal students hailing from different parts of Samba. The Minister directed for completion of the project within the fixed timeline and asked for fortnightly progress report of the project. He stressed on introducing biometric system of taking attendance of the students after the hostel starts functioning. Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs R.A Inqalabi, Controller, Legal Metrology R.K Katoch, Director, Tribal Affairs Department Mohd. Rafi, Secretary, Gujjar-Bhakerwal Advisory Board Mukhtar Ahmed, ADC Samba Tilak Raj Shastri, Joint Director, FCS&CA Mansoor Aslam, Joint Controller, Legal Metrology V.S Sambhal and other officers of the department were present on the occasion.

DDC Ganderbal holds public durbar at Gund



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 12: In order to resolve people's grievance at their doorsteps, District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Dr. Piyush Singla today held a public Darbar at Gund Tehsil under 'Aap Ki Sarkar Aap Ki Dwar' initiative. The Darbar was attended by SSP Ganderbal, Fayaz Ahmad Lone, Additional District Development Commissioner, N.A Baba, S.D.M Kangan, CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, CPO Ganderbal, Exens of R&B, I&FC and PDD, District Horticulture Officer, ARTO, DSWO, DFO Sindh and other concerned. During the grievance redressal camp, locals raised issues related to road connectivity, restoration, renovation and regulation of water supply pipes, power supply, healthcare, transportation facilities, irrigation facilities, winter stocking of food grains in snowbound areas, land acquisition issues, land compensation issues, demand for employment as non-skilled workers by locals in Z-Morh Tunnel Project and other civic amenities. On the occasion, the DDC gave the deputations a patient hearing and assured them that all of their genuine demands would be redressed in a time-bound manner. While assuring a

playground for Gund Tehsil, the DDC called for identification of the land for this purpose. The DDC stressed upon the officers to ensure all the basic facilities are provided to the people of Gund Tehsil. He said that District administration is committed to providing every facility to the people of the district. He said that Government has launched various schemes and programmes for the people and they should come forward and avail the benefits of the developmental programme and schemes. Responding to the power supply complaints, the DDC apprised people that Rs 70 lakh for improvement of HT< at critical spots already identified in Kangan Constituency has been released. This shall be in addition to the routine schemes which are carried by PDD like transmission and distribution, replacement of barbed wires.

People were also assured about the shifting of HT and LT lines which hover as a major threat to school buildings and the students. Further Executive Engineer PDD appraised the darbar that during last six months 125 poles and 25 kilometres of ACSR conductor has been replaced at the required locations for an overall improvement of LT/HT network.

Flags off cycle rally under "Saksham Cyclothon-2017"

Ajay Nanda for energy conservation to secure nation's future:

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: Minister of State for Finance, Planning Ajay Kumar Nanda flagged off a cycle rally organized by the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) as part of nationwide awareness programme "Saksham Cyclothon-2017" from Regional Office, HPCL here this morning.

The rally was aimed at creating awareness among the masses towards judicious utilization and conservation of petroleum products including the fuel, oil and gas during their day to day life.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that recently the Prime Minister in the most popular public reach programme "Man-ki-Baat" stressed on the general masses to conserve Fuel for the coming generations. He said as a part of the activities being organized across the country the Cycle Race will have positive impact on the people of the State also.

Underlining the need for launching a vigorous campaign to aware people about the importance of conservation of petroleum products, the Minister said that it will surely make the future of country secure. He said those youngsters' especially driving heavy/light vehicles and two/three wheelers will have to play a pivotal role in conserving and preserving fuel.

V Pre-Senior Regional Manager, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), Jammu, Aijaz Ahmad Kachroo, threw light on the need and importance of conservation of fuel. He said various events aimed at creating mass awareness about conservation of petroleum products are being organized in the State.

On the occasion, a Natak on the theme of 'Conservation of Fuel' depicting valuable message was presented by the local artists.

Among others, Senior Manager Marketing HPCL Sunil Kumar Dogra, Sales Manager Hamid Bulbul, senior officers of the Corporation, cyclists and large number of people were present on the occasion.

Kohli convenes public grievances redress camps at Bodhal, Gundi Asks for formulation of DPRs envisaging basic amenities to uncovered areas

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 12: Minister for Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries, Abdul Gani Kohli today convened public grievances redress camps in Bodhal and Gundi villages in Kalakote constituency and took stock of people's issues there.

During the camp, which was attended by a large number of people of these villages and adjoining areas, projected several issues related to development of their respective areas besides lack of proper basic amenities.

The Minister assured the people that all issues projected by them

would be given due consideration for an early redressal. He issued on the spot directions to the district administration to look into all these matters and initiate necessary action for resolving the same.

The Minister asked the administration to further gear up their field functionaries and ensure that all the development programmes being executed in these areas are effectively monitored for quality and timely completion. He made a special mention of ongoing developmental works in Kalakote constituency asking the officers to accelerate the pace of progress on these



works for timely completion. He also asked them to ensure judicious utilization of earmarked funds so that the purpose behind launching development schemes is not marred.

Expressing concern over lack of proper basic services in the constituency, the Minister asked the

officers for a fresh survey of such areas and habitations so that the actual requirements are identified and thus provided to the people. In this regard, he asked for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for new projects for submission to the concerned authorities.

The Minister said that the Government is committed to provide enhanced facilities of road connectivity, health, education, power and adequate drinking water to all the areas of the State especially far flung and remote areas.

He said without connectivity the development is not possible adding that the instructions have already been given to the concerned to frame DPRs of those areas and habitations who have not been covered under road connectivity so far. Senior Officers of district administration and prominent citizens of the area were present on the occasion.

Govt focused on expanding enhanced basic amenities across JK: Lal Singh

Visits various villages of Basohli, takes stock of development works

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment Choudhary Lal Singh today conducted extensive tour of Lower Praya, Batara Ghagore, Plahi, Plakh, Gha, Rehan and adjoining villages of Basohli constituency and took stock of ongoing development works besides assessing public grievances. During the tour, the Minister kick started various development works being executed with an estimated cost of Rs. 25 lakh by Rural Development Department.

Director Social Forestry Ashwani Gupta, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sanjay Gupta, Assistant Commissioner Rural Development Department, Rajiv Khajuria besides other senior officers of RDD, PDD and R&B



accompanied the Minister.

Addressing on the occasion, the Minister said that Government's first and foremost priority is to make provision of better basic amenities in every nook and corner of the state and areas like Basohli are receiving

focused attention on this account. He said there is no constraint of funds under PHE, RDD, R&B, PDD, Education and Health sectors. Lal Singh also visited the sites of ongoing developing works in interiors of Basohli constituency where some deputations met him and projected their issues seeking an early redressal of the same.

The Minister resolved several issues on the spot and asked the officers to look into other matters for an early redressal. Lal Singh said that road connectivity to the far-off areas of the Basohli constituency under PMGSY is the top priority of the present government adding that

this facility would provide inter-district and intra region trade and improving the socio-economic condition of the weaker sections of the society of the State. The Minister said that several flagship programmes have been launched by the State and Centre Governments in the State but need is to ensure their proper implementation on ground. He said administration has been directed to meet the fixed targets in a time bound manner and utilize the earmarked funds for current fiscal in full. Referring to the development of Basohli constituency, the Minister said work on various developmental projects is in full swing. He said with the completion of these projects is definitely going to change socio-economic condition of the people of the area "he added.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated Sanitary Complex at Saman in Basohli town.

DAILY Editorial
Time and Us SRINAGAR J&K

DOWN BUT NOT OUT

After 39 consecutive successful launches, the Indian Space Research Organisation had almost made it appear that launching satellites was indeed child's play when it used its workhorse rocket, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle. But the PSLV, which has been placing satellites in their respective orbits for the past 24 years, faced a setback on August 31. The PSLV-C39 rocket carrying the eighth satellite of the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) had a normal lift-off and flight events but ended in an unsuccessful mission. The heat-shield failed to separate, resulting in the satellite separation occurring within the shield. This is just the second instance when the PSLV has had an unsuccessful mission in all of its 41 launches; the first setback was back in 1993. Over the years, the PSLV has played a pivotal role in ISRO's programme, and this February it set a world record by launching 104 satellites in one go. With such an enviable track record, the failure of the mission this time almost comes as a surprise. This is especially so as the lift-off and the stage separation of the first and second stages, which are the most challenging parts of the mission, went off smoothly. In comparison, the heat-shield separation is a relatively minor operation which takes place once the rocket crosses an altitude of 100-110 km, and the temperature in the absence of the heat-shield will no longer damage the satellite. The failed mission serves as a reminder that utmost care and scrutiny are required before every single launch. While scientists are working to identify the cause of the anomaly in the heat-shield separation event, the failed mission should have no impact on future launches involving the vehicle.

The failure of the mission is particularly disheartening as the IRNSS-1H satellite was jointly assembled and tested by ISRO and a Bengaluru-based private company, the first time a single private company, rather than a consortium, was involved in building a satellite. The satellite was in no way to blame for the failure of the mission. The space organisation has thrown open its doors to private companies to build as many as 18 spacecraft a year beginning mid or end-2018. The IRNSS-1H satellite was launched as a replacement for the IRNSS-1A satellite, which became inoperational in terms of surveillance following the failure of all three atomic clocks. As only six of the seven satellites are operational, there are gaps in the navigation data sent by the IRNSS. With the failure of this mission, India will have to wait for some more time before the next mission to send a replacement for the IRNSS-1A satellite is ready. The IRNSS was created so that the country would not need to rely on American-based GPS data — the encrypted, accurate positioning and navigation information provided by the system will make Indian military operations self-reliant.

Cindrella in Rape City !!

► Dr Richa Sharma

Life of a girl child is no less than of a fighter who has to survive for her existence and survival. Especially in the third world and developing countries.

It all starts with a hope to have a bread earner and family support prospective parents expect. All hopes lie on the birth of a male child which get tarnished after the birth of a girl child. We live in a hi tech society. But still that discrimination is seen irrespective of how much educated the people are. Parents may extend full support to a girl child and she may be grown up like a boy but the moment we have to face the society, there is evident discrimination. So mind sets of people cannot be changed howsoever developed we may be. Irrespective of caste, creed, colour, rank, education and status of a female, there is a tendency for the males around her always to look down upon her. We may conduct big seminars, write fancy articles and make female oriented movies but still difference is always so evident but we are so used to it at subconscious level that we generally ignore, accept it and move along and learn to live it. Even if you are employer buyt if you are a female, your male employees, subordinates and colleagues will never be that much cooperative or understanding or on terms as they will be with a male Boss. Why so- simple because of the mental make up is like that. Purpose of this article is to present the various stages a girl has to go through the day she is born as to how she is considered as a burden both by the family and the society even if they havnt done anything in making her up except bringing her in world. So much hue and cry about save the girl child but where is the safety. Save the girl but what about the various traumas she may go through. It has been compared in some books that female is like a creeper who needs support of males at each stage of her life.

When she is born, she needs father as support. In adolescence she needs brother as support and safety. In adult age she needs husband. And in old age she needs son. Such is the status actually which is a reality which we all want to ignore. Why she needs protection, why there is a concern on getting late at night, whom she fears actually and why she fears.

So many questions arise in our mind daily. Answer is God has made her weak as compared to males physically at least. What scares her is the modesty she has to stake which definitely no human even males would like to lose. Cause is of course not some wild animal but some wild males in and around our society whom a female scared of actually.

This psychological mentality of males is actually responsible for rising crime in world. Newspaper is full of such shameful news which doubt such people even being humans. Situations are more worse in developing and third world countries but developed nations are no safe. Where is the end and how to check is the need of hour to make world a better place to live in.

Our this story will help solve such issues and throws light on how a girl of some small town struggles through her life to be an achiever against all odds. This is the story of rather every girl of a middle class family.

No doubt Government along with many NGOs are taking day in and out many initiatives to save and educate girl child. Still all starts with the psyche of the society which needs to be changed. I think for that we need only to educate our girls

but we need to educate our sons also. We have to give them lessons of the deep roots and the rich culture we Indians have and how much respect we had for females in our nation.

Female is Jagat Janani- so how can a life generator itself not safe. So all starts and ends with awareness supported with government policies with implementation-

1. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save girl child, educate girl child) is a Government of India scheme that aims to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services meant for women.

The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme was introduced in October, 2014 to address the issue of declining child sex ratio (CSR). This is implemented through a national campaign and



focused multi-sector action in 100 selected districts with low CSR, covering all States and UTs. It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the programme on 22 January 2015 from Panipat, Haryana.

In August 2016, Olympics 2016 bronze medalist Sakshi Malik was made brand ambassador of the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' initiative in Haryana.

2. PCPNDT Act- In view of rise in Female foeticide in India, PCPNDT act came into picture

Sex-selective abortion or female foeticide has led to a sharp drop in the ratio of girls born in contrast to boy infants in some states in India. Ultrasound technology has made it possible for pregnant women and their families to learn the gender of a foetus early in a pregnancy. Discrimination against girl infants, for several reasons, has combined with the technology to result in a rise in abortions of foetuses identified as female during ultrasonic testing.

3. Female oriented films- like Dangal, Mary Kom. Such kind of movies are not only making people aware as how to encourage and support females but also helping to decrease discrimination

4. Legendary female politicians- Many with endless list like Mrs Indra Gandhi, Ms Jayalalitha and many more

5. Strict Dowry Laws- are the need of hour.

The dowry system in India is often blamed; the expectation that a large dowry must be provided for daughters in order for them to marry is frequently cited as a major cause for the problem. Pressure for parents to provide large dowries for their daughters is most intense in prosperous states where high standards of living, and modern consumerism, are more prevalent in Indian society.

In short things can be changed only if the system is made alive again and all guilty should be punished there and then only women will feel safe.

High Court verdict and JKCA

► Shahid Parvez

Once again JKCA has hogged the lime light but as usual for the wrong reasons. Never before in its chequered history JKCA has sunk to such abominable depths. BCCI for the first time ever had to intervene to implement a stay order issued by the Hon'ble High Court and the u/23 age group match against Goa had to be stopped after only ten overs were bowled.

This deliberate omission on the part of office bearers not only brought huge embarrassment, it also left the future of many young cricketers in lurch. The whole issue snowballed when a talented young cricketer who had performed very well in U/19 national tournament, was deliberately and systematically omitted from the team for two consecutive years. What was more treacherous was that one of the two Kashmir based selectors of u/23 age group had his own son picked for the same team. Whatever happened to the conflict of interest clause? Everybody knows that the u/23 camp was held for two weeks and this particular selector could be seen day in and day out managing the camp as the other selector was undergoing NIS training outside the state. Why was the situation allowed to deteriorate to such a level only the office bearers can explain. The same controversy erupted during the u/19 selection when one of the boys who did not figure

in the list of Kashmir probables found his name in the final sixteen.

Ranji trophy selection was no better as the team was announced only a couple of days ahead of the first match, with suspense hovering over the issue of captaincy. The team was selected by only two Kashmir based selectors as Jammu selectors were absent. The office bearers were eager to succumb to the unwarranted pressure tactics of the coach, but for the future in media and social network. One wonders with all the senior wise men sitting in JKCA hqtrs. how could a coach dare to impose his whims on the team. Perhaps there is more to it than meets the eyes. Ranji team in its first outing against Rajasthan performed creditably well albeit minus coach. Ever since the coach has chosen to join the team, their performance has dipped substantially, losing all the matches played so far. One fails to understand such a sharp decline in the team performance or is there another controversy brewing up. It is quite evident that team confidence is at its lowest ebb with players pulling in different directions.

BCCI had well in advance made it very clear that all the expenses for the different age group matches would be borne by it. Why then were the teams selected at the very last minute?? Last minute selections are usually done to accommodate blue eyed influential players and JKCA being notorious for its



lack of accountability syndrome. At a time when fair selection and top class management has become a feature of the other cricket teams across the country, JKCA thrives on incompetence, inconsistency, mismanagement and sadly these factors seem to have trickle down to team also. JKCA is a body consisting of 25 affiliated clubs having 50 votes. Besides there are 14 votes coming from various Govt. institutions. These 14 officials who would vote enblock under the obvious influence, ensured that the body remained intrinsically divided. No other state association has such a high percentage of official votes across the country. These affiliated clubs ensured

that no new club got affiliation despite performing brilliantly in domestic tournaments. The very thought of granting new affiliations would be thwarted collectively as their unquestionable and un-accounted clout would be threatened. Another aspect of this unbridled power was to actually controlling the game in the state as Gods, doing what so ever pleased them. Non adherence to the principles of delegation of responsibility coupled with un accountability were some of the manifestations of this absolute control. Three years back in a coup of sorts one faction of association took control. Amidst a lot of jubilation, fanfare and promises, new

President along with new set of office bearers took office. Numerous meetings were held, plans made, but the euphoria so created and the balloon of expectancy deflated within days of its formation. Even worse the new formation encouraged and engineered disputes within the clubs. Legal battles and club disputes took centre stage and cricket and cricketers were forgotten to the extent that not a single tournament could be organised in these years. Science college hostel ground where Ranji matches and other age group matches used to be organised was reduced to an ordinary unkempt play ground to the extent that not a single national match

has been held here for years now depriving the players their home advantage.

Lodha commission recommendations have been a God send opportunity for the beleaguered cricketers of the state who have been at the receiving end for five decades now. JKCA had submitted an affidavit in the Hon'ble Supreme court to abide by the recommendations. Though some office bearers were made to demit office yet they continue to remain an integral part of the setup. Lodha recommendations had laid down certain parameters for the selectors and other functionaries. Despite the undertaking these parameters have been wilfully and deliberately flouted.

The recent judgement by the Hon'ble High court, wherein administrators have been appointed to implement Lodha reforms settle club disputes and hold fresh elections is a giant stride in the right direction. Genuine cricketers are waiting with bated breath for their arrival so that the deliberately and wilfully created disputes within the clubs are settled once for all. This shall pave the way for genuine cricketers with fresh ideas and zeal to perform and with the genuine guidance of worthy seniors to turn a new chapter. This certainly would be a tough task but given the selfless contribution of all concerned and firm resolve, it is certainly possible.

(The author is former captain of J&K Ranji team)

Three Union ministers present case on 'ease of living' before PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Three ministers made a presentation on 'ease of living' before Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his council of ministers, explaining how the quality of life of the people in the country has improved in the last few years.

The presentation was made by Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Anant Hegde and Hardeep Puri, the ministers of state for Agriculture, Skill Development and Urban Development, respectively, on Friday, sources privy

to the proceedings said. Modi had recently said ease of doing business also leads to ease of life. "Is ranking ko bhale ease of doing business kehte hain lekin main maanta hun ki yeh ease of doing business kesaath hi ease of living ki bhi ranking hai. (This ranking may be called ease of doing business, but I believe that along with ease of doing business, this is also ranking for ease of living life)," Modi had said after India's ranking in 'ease of doing business' improved



recently. The three ministers were inducted in the September 3 rejig of the Union council of ministers, which met for the first time since the reshuffle. A meeting of the Cabinet preceded that of the council of ministers, where the presentation was made. Besides this, a presentation was also made by a PMO official on using social media to reach out to the people and spread information about various public welfare initiatives of the government.

BSF, Pakistan Rangers to resume Commandant-level talks

NEW DELHI: The border guarding forces of India and Pakistan have decided to resume Commandant-level talks along the International Border (IB) to resolve local issues. The Border Security Force (BSF) and the Pakistan Rangers have decided to initiate dialogue at the local level, a practice that was suspended one-and-a-half years ago. Director General of BSF K.K. Sharma said on Friday that both the forces agreed to the proposal and the meetings would be held at regular intervals after a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart.

A 19-member delegation of Pakistan Rangers, led by Major General Muhammad Saeed, Director General, Sindh Rangers, concluded a three-day visit in Delhi on Friday. They had come to attend the 44th biannual Director General-level talks.

Rahul Gandhi has come of age, says Nayantara Sehgal

CHANDIGARH: "Rahul is at the right place, at the right time. And if he says he is ready to lead the Congress, he must be."

That was the irrepressible Nayantara Sehgal on Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi. Ageless in black, the 90-year-old appeared to see hope in her grand-nephew and his belief that he was finally ready for a bigger role.

"He's been making strong statements about government policies. If he thinks he has it in him to lead, he has it in him. It's all about your confidence in yourself," Sehgal said, adding Rahul was not in touch with her, but Sonia Gandhi was.

A well-known writer, Sehgal is the second of the three daughters of Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, the sister of first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Unlike many, Sehgal, who's been outspoken in her criticism of the Narendra Modi Government's Hindutva agenda, does not think the opposition lacks an able leader. "The opposition has many leaders, there is a very young man called Kanhaiya Kumar who is spreading his message among the many campuses, I call that leadership. There is Akhilesh Yadav in UP," she trailed on.

Sehgal, who was happy to see a large number of schoolchildren at the inaugural function of the Chandigarh Literary Festival, said her advice to youngsters would be to reject intolerance. "Reject a Hindu rashtra. Reject the people who are destroying our secular fabric. Keep art and literature alive. Focus on science, for the present dispensation is treating myth as science."

The prolific writer has set up an online writers' forum to counter intolerance. Speaking about the role of the media, she said while electronic channels had lost their voice to corporate interests, "much of the print me-



dia is still maintaining its integrity."

Asked about the charge that right-wing resurgence was a reaction to the appeasement of minorities since Partition, she said, "It's rubbish. We are a secular, democratic republic. This Hindu ideology is destroying modern India, it is taking us back to the middle ages."

Sehgal was quick to clarify that she is a practising Hindu. "I was born a Hindu, I am a real Hindu, that is why I reject Hindutva," she declared, adding, "My religion is important to me. I draw sustenance from it. It is central to my life and thought. Sanatan Dharma teaches that the world is our family." The novelist, who was here to discuss her book, 'When the Moon Shines by the Day', said she has already begun work on a new novel that will hit the shelves next month. "It is a work of fiction set in the present times."

Interestingly, in 1969, Sehgal wrote a novel set in Chandigarh, titled 'Storm in Chandigarh'. She said it was during the days she used to visit the city with her husband to build their house in Sector 5. And no, she doesn't think the city is getting worse with age. "I've heard from people living here that they are seeing changes that shouldn't be taking place, but there has been no change in the area I live in."

Link incentives to states with social sector performance: EAC

NEW DELHI: The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC) has said the 15th finance commission should link incentives to states with their outcomes in sectors like health and education.

The EAC, headed by Bibek Debroy, member of the Federal think tank NITI Aayog, met for the second time on Friday since its creation in September amid an economic slowdown and concerns over "jobless growth".

"The Council is also evolving the design of a new economy tracking monitor, linking economic growth indicators with social indicators for last mile connectivity," a release issued by the council after the meeting



said. The council said it took stock of the prevailing economic situation and spelt out "a clear road map" for step-

ping up skill development, job creation and enhanced resource investment in the social sector - including for

health and education and boosting infrastructure financing.

"It formulated far-reaching recommendations to guide the evolving framework for the fifteenth finance commission, including the incentivisation of states for achieving health, education and social inclusion outcomes," the release said.

Debroy stressed on giving the "highest priority" to infrastructure financing with new mechanisms for risk coverage. He made a presentation on the subject. The meeting also saw presentations from secretary, skill development, KP Krishnan who highlighted initiatives to reach out to youth and women.

Facebook post on dengue earns Bengal doctor suspension from government hospital

NEW DELHI: Dengue kills. It also earns suspension for doctors, as Arunachal Dutta Choudhury, an employee of the West Bengal Health Service found to his horror.

On November 10, the doctor who is about 62 and working at the district hospital in North 24 Parganas was handed a suspension order for a purported Facebook post that described the adverse condition in his hospital that is facing a wave of patients over the past few weeks.

Written in Bengali, Dutta Choudhury's post in October detailed the helpless condition of the doctors. "When the number of patients I was treating was about 100, I knew we were working in warlike conditions, but after it approached 500, I realised it was impossible to wage war," he wrote. He also

wrote that it was impossible to treat the patients not only due to their sheer number, but also on account of the conditions in the hospital. He alleged it is impossible to locate any patient as he might be lost in a crowd of hundreds who occupy every inch of the hospital building -- ward, balcony, passages and alleys. "Even if one can be located, it is difficult to reach him as one has to step on other patients lying just about everywhere," Dutta Choudhury wrote. Most government doctors say in private that Dutta Choudhury's description was hardly an exaggeration. "It is unfortunate that I was suspended. I could have retired at 60, but the state government extended the age of retirement of doctors and I had to work," Dutta Choudhury told the media. MoS health, Chandrima Bhattacharya did not take calls. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee holds the health portfolio. Sources told HT he was suspended for not writing unverified information.

In April 2012, Jadavpur University chemistry professor Ambikesh Mahapatra and a neighbour of his were arrested by the police for emailing a spoof. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee later alleged that the spoof, in which she and former railway minister (and Trinamool Congress heavyweight)

Mukul were seen, conveyed a message that they would be killed. On October 30, Mamata Banerjee claimed only 13 persons have died of dengue in Bengal. Only a week before that chief secretary Malay De told the media that dengue killed 34 in the state. Dengue has become a politically sensitive topic in Bengal with all the opposition parties -- CPI(M), Congress and BJP -- hitting the streets accusing the Mamata Banerjee government of inefficiency and inaction to tackle the menace. Bengal Congress has filed a few public interest litigations in Calcutta high court too.

The opposition has also accused the government of gagging the doctors by asking them not to write dengue as the cause of death.

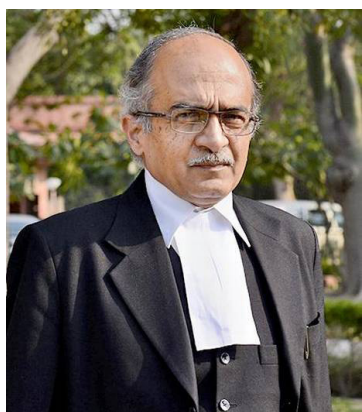
"It is an instance of the anarchy prevailing in Bengal. If one speaks the truth, this is what he will face," remarked BJP state general secretary Sayantan Basu.

He also recalled how, in end My 2011, the health department suspended neurosurgeon Dr S P Gorai of Bangur Institute of Neurology, who complained of the crowds in the institute accompanying chief minister Mamata Banerjee, who visited the hospital just about a week after assuming power.

Angry Bhushan storms out of court after spat with CJI

NEW DELHI: "You are the lords and masters of the country. You can pass any orders," shouted an enraged advocate Prashant Bhushan to a five-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra.

In a high-voltage hearing, Mr. Bhushan and advocate Kamini Jaiswal found themselves outnumbered by lawyers urging the Bench to initiate contempt of court proceedings against them and senior advocate Dushyant Dave. The scheduling of the Constitution Bench hearing itself had caught many by surprise. It concerned a corruption case being investigated by the CBI. The FIR alleges that a conspiracy was hatched to bribe Supreme Court judges to influence the outcome of a medical college case. The case in question was heard and decided by Chief Justice Misra.



During the hearing, Chief Justice Misra challenged Mr. Bhushan to read from the FIR the part which directly mentioned his involvement. When Mr. Bhushan read out a paragraph, Chief Justice Misra observed: "Mr. Bhushan, I am really sorry but now

you are liable for contempt. But you are not worthy of even contempt."

Justice Arun Mishra asked Mr. Bhushan to take back his words against the CJI. Lawyers present in the courtroom, some by the Chief Justice's invitation and others on their own, took turns to criticise Mr. Bhushan and urge the Bench to initiate contempt proceedings. Mr. Bhushan, in his turn, loudly questioned the "propriety" of the hearing and repeatedly asked for an opportunity to make his submissions as petitioner.

At one point, Chief Justice Misra addressed him, saying "you made wild allegations against me. You can afford to lose your temper, but we cannot lose our temper. That is the beauty of this system."

Finally, Mr. Bhushan, who was constantly interrupted, lost his cool.

He shouted at the court, pointing his finger at the Bench, saying "if you want to pass orders without hearing me, please pass whatever order you want". He then stormed out of the courtroom. Security personnel and his colleagues escorted him through the crowded courtroom, amid loud protests from some lawyers.

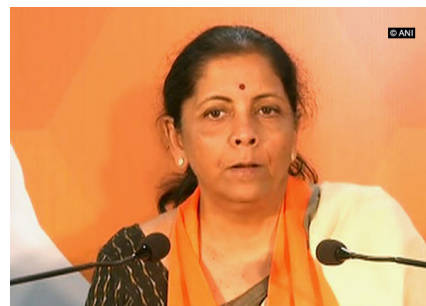
"He (Mr. Bhushan) was not allowed to make his submissions while all and sundry in this courtroom were given a chance," Ms. Jaiswal told the Bench.

Later Mr. Bhushan tweeted: "Extraordinary proceedings in SC today in a case seeking SIT investigation in medical college bribery case involving the CBI! CJI presided over a hand picked bench to override yesterday's order referring this case to top 5 judges; This despite having a direct conflict of interest."

Congress did nothing for Gujarat when it ruled country: Sitharaman

AHMEDABAD: Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday attacked the Congress party for not doing anything for the poll-bound Gujarat when it was ruling the country. "The Congress party, which was earlier at the Center, never thought of or worked for Gujarat. They did not do anything for river Narmada," the Defence Minister said, while addressing a press conference here. She also said the development of river Narmada was done only when the Congress was not in the power.

"Development of river Narmada was done only when the Congress was not in the power. The development was done during the government of Morarji Desai, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and now Prime Minister Narendra Modi," she added. Addressing a rally at Gujarat's Devgadhi Baria on October 11, Congress



vice president Rahul Gandhi launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Modi and the Vijay Rupani-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Gujarat and alleged that the water of the River Narmada is being given to the country's top ten industrialists.

The assembly election in the state will be held in two phases on December 9 and 14.

Act against those threatening Muslim Yoga teacher: Politicians

NEW DELHI: Cutting across party lines, politicians on Saturday called for action to be taken against those issuing death threats to a Muslim Yoga teacher in Jharkhand.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Nupur Sharma said, "It is absolutely unfortunate. Women are targeted adversely for singing song, acting in movie and now for teaching Yoga. This is a free country. Women have been guaranteed equal rights under the constitution of India. I see no reason why any religious cleric should come out and either issue fatwas and in this case and



in this case give her death threats."

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena leader Manisha Kayand told ANI, "I think this mat-

ter is very serious and the home ministry needs to arrest the person concerned. She is performing her duties and it is the government's directive also to teach Yoga in schools." Muslim Yoga teacher, Rafia Naaz, has been receiving death threats for teaching yoga.

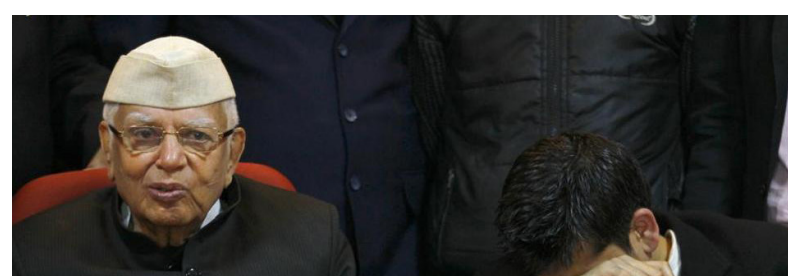
Muslim clerics have reportedly issued a fatwa against her.

Naaz said that she has been receiving these for last three years. She added that stones were also thrown at her house.

Naaz is a resident of Doranda in Ranchi, and has been performing yoga since the age of four. She has won many accolades and awards in this field.

ND Tiwari's condition stable, but not out of the woods yet: Doctors

NEW DELHI: The condition of Congress leader Narayan Dutt Tiwari has stabilised, although he is not completely out of danger yet, doctors treating him at a private hospital in New Delhi have said. The 92-year-old politician - who has been the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh as well as Uttarakhand - was admitted to the Max Super Specialty Hospital after he suffered a stroke on September 20. "Tiwari's condition remains the same. He is still in the intensive care unit (ICU)," said a hospital official on the condition of anonymity. A statement from the hospital said Tiwari was being closely monitored by a team of senior specialists from the neurology and cardiology departments.



The politician had been in the ICU until October 12, and was later moved to a private ward after his health improved. However, he was again admitted to the ICU on October 26. A week later, he was placed on life-support. Doctors said he also suffered a paralytic attack on the right side of his body. Reports said that though Tiwari had stopped acknowledging people after

being moved to the ICU, he responded to ragas sung by his wife and son. The politician is fond of classical music.

Tiwari had served as the minister for external affairs in Rajiv Gandhi's cabinet, and then as the governor of Andhra Pradesh. He is the only Indian to have served as the chief minister of two states.



NEW ANTIBIOTIC GEL MAY CURE EAR INFECTIONS IN CHILDREN

A single dose of a bioengineered gel, developed by US researchers, could deliver a full course of antibiotic therapy for a common childhood ear infection, a preclinical study has found. Middle-ear infection, or otitis media, is an ear infection that is usually caused by bacteria or viruses. Common symptoms include ear pain and fever and in some cases, it may also cause drainage of fluid from the ear or hearing loss. Although most ear infections go

away on their own, some require antibiotics. As high doses of oral antibiotics are needed to get to the ear, side effects like diarrhea, rashes and oral thrush are common. "With oral antibiotics, you have to treat the entire body repeatedly just to get to the middle ear," said Rong Yang, Ph.D., a chemical engineer at Boston Children's Hospital in Massachusetts, US. However, "with the gel, a paediatrician can administer the entire antibiotic course all at once, and only where it's needed," Yang said.

Squirted into the ear canal, the gel quickly hardens and stays in place, gradually dispensing antibiotics across the eardrum into the middle ear. "Our technology gets things across the eardrum that don't usually get across in sufficient quantity to be therapeutic," added Daniel Kohane from Boston Children's Hospital.

Previously, the eardrum (also called the tympanic membrane) was an impenetrable barrier, but the bioengineered gel gets drugs past it with the help of chemical permeation enhancers (CPEs). The CPEs insert themselves into the membrane, opening up molecular pores that allow the antibiotics to seep through to the eardrum's outermost layer. "Transtympanic delivery of antibiotics to the middle ear has the po-

tential to enable children to benefit from the rapid antibacterial activity of antimicrobial agents without systemic exposure and could reduce emergence of resistant microbes," noted Stephen Pelton, paediatrician at Boston Medical Center. The findings, published by the journal Science Translational Medicine, have led to better, easier and potentially safer treatment for middle ear infections, the researchers concluded.



Unable to quit smoking? Go talk to a nurse!

Many smokers who want to quit the habit often complain of their inability to do so. They say they want to quit, but their habit is so deep-rooted, that they find it hard to give up.

Of course, there are many ways in which can aid you in kicking the habit like, nicotine patches, chewing gums, inhalers, sprays, replacement therapies, et al, but they don't always work.

However, a study has an interesting suggestion for those who want to kick the butt – a conversation with a trained nurse!

Yes, it may sound strange, but that's what the researchers found helpful, when they looked at the quit rates of 1,528 patients, who were discharged from the hospital after six months.

The research shows that self-reported quit rates increased when nurses and other staff members were trained to coach patients on how to stop smoking.

"Hospitalisation is the perfect time to help people quit. They are more motivated and nurses can explain how smoking harms their health, including slowing healing," said Sonia Duffy, Professor at The Ohio State University in the study published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

According to the study, many smokers, even those who plan to quit, start smoking the minute they leave the hospital. Getting them started with a quitting plan while they are admitted to hospitals boosts their chances of success.

"I hope hospital administrators will look beyond telephone quit lines to help people. Nurses have the greatest access to patients, they have relationships with patients and they can relate the benefits of quitting to the patient's medical condition," Duffy added.

(With IANS inputs)



IT'S YOUR LIFESTYLE OR YOUR LIVER

It is not just chronic alcoholism but sedentary lifestyle and junk eating habit that is leading to increased incidents of liver diseases. Earlier, alcoholism was the main cause of liver disease, now doctors say that just like in the West, even in Kerala, obesity and lifestyle diseases are equal contributors to liver diseases.

Of the 491 patients who underwent liver transplant at Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS) between 2007 and 2016, 30% had absolutely no history of alcohol consumption. They were either obese or had lifestyle diseases like diabetes or hypertension. Another 30% were chronic alcoholics; 20% had acute liver failure due to hepatitis drug side effects. In some cases, people had consumed rat poison to commit suicide and 20% were children who developed complications due to genetic factors.

"Over the past few years, we have seen a significant increase in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). Developing countries in South Asia, like India, have one of the highest incidence of fatty liver disease and related cirrhosis. This is mainly due to the lack of exercise, eating more saturated fat and total fat over 30% of daily diet, consuming more refined sugars and having less fibre diet, coexisting metabolic syndrome as a result of type-II diabetes or raised cholesterol and lipids, abdominal obesity," said Dr Solomon Kuruvilla P John, multi organ transplant surgeon, PVS Memorial hospital. Of the 250-odd liver transplants he has done, almost

30-40% were suffering from non-alcoholic cirrhosis.

Doctors said that NAFLD is turning out to be a problem here that needs to be addressed. The problem is that by the time the patients are referred for a transplant, they would have often developed multiple complications. It will be too late by then. "In the West, non-alcoholic liver diseases has overtaken alcoholic liver disease now. In Kerala, it is now almost at par," said Dr S Sudhindran, chief transplant surgeon, AIMS. "The problem is that there is no effective medicine to treat non-alcoholic cirrhosis and so exercise and lifestyle changes are important to prevent disease progression," said liver transplant expert at KIMS, Thiruvananthapuram, Dr B Venugopal.

Of the 491 patients who underwent liver transplant, 153 died, with a majority dying within the first three months due to infection or chronic rejection. Some died of heart attack, others developed cancer after transplant. "However, 60-70% of the patients, who would have otherwise died within a year, lead a normal life," added Dr Sudhindran.

Gastroenterologist Dr Philip Augustine said the overweight population is increasing in Kerala. "Almost 80% people above the age of 30 will have fatty liver problem. But only those will fatty liver disease needs to be treated if there are changes in the liver function," he said.

Hypertension is controlled by a Rice-Grain Sized Carotid, finds study

Hypertension or blood pressure is one of the major health issues of present generation. High Blood Pressure is hoisted weight of the blood in the veins and drives people towards severe infirmity. Accept or not – high blood pressure is one of the topmost influencers of the overall health of a person and one of the best indicators of the potential risks if wellness. While usually high blood pressure doesn't have any certain and noticeable symptoms, left untreated it can harm veins and the organs including the heart, kidneys, eyes, and brain.

Previously, several studies are conducted for defining the symptoms and causes of Hypertension. The outcomes each time were used to be surprising and this time, the report is no different. According to a recently held medical study on high blood pressure, the blood pressure level in the body has controlled a little organ which is sized as the grain of the rice and it is called the carotid body. As said by the study, the carotid body is situated between major arteries that nourish the brain with blood. A group of medical researchers at the University of Bristol have found that the carotid bodies seem to be a primary reason for high blood pressure, which hampers the functionality of heart and renal and causes kidney failure and heart strokes. The World Health Organization (WHO) also has recognized hypertension as the most crucial risk the human health which in another way can cause sudden death of the patient.



The leader of the study was Prof. Julian Paton from the University of Bristol and Dr. Angus

Nightingale at the Bristol Heart Institute, who found that eradicating one carotid body from the patients suffering from the issues of high blood pressure, caused an instant and continued plunge in their blood pressure level.

The carotid body which is reported to be the major cause of high blood pressure is a tiny cluster of chemoreceptors and supports the veins sited near the fork (bifurcation) of the carotid conduit that nourishes the cerebrum with the stream of blood. The carotid bodies identify the

levels of oxygen in the blood and when this falls they raise the caution of a potential crisis by motioning to the brain to expand breathing and blood pressure.

According to Angus Nightingale, a researcher at the University of Bristol, "The falls in blood pressure we have seen are impressive – more than you would see with pharmacological medication – and demonstrate the exciting potential there now is for targeting the carotid body to treat hypertension."

The reports of this clinical trial also stated that the carotid bodies play the key role in raising the carotid body activity among patients, and these patients face difficulties in inhaling and produced inflated breathing responses when the oxygen level was lesser in their blood.

However, the researchers also have cleared that, this new surgical way to deal with hypertension was effective, but it would not be beneficial for long-term treatment and healing. It requires discovering a medication that hoses down an overactive carotid body and resets the blood pressure to a standard level.

Will not pursue Islamic banking in India, says RBI

NEW DELHI: In a major move, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided not to pursue a proposal for introduction of Islamic banking in the country.

Replying to an RTI query, the central bank said the decision was taken after considering "the wider and equal opportunities" available to all citizens to access banking and financial services.

Islamic or Sharia banking is a finance system based on the principles of not charging interest, which is prohibited under Islam.

The issue of introduction of Islamic banking in India was examined by the RBI and the government of India, it said.

"Taking into account, the wider and equal opportunities available to all citizens to access banking and financial services, it has been decided not to pursue the proposal further," the central bank said in



its reply to the RTI application filed by this PTI correspondent.

The RBI was asked to provide details of steps being taken for the introduction of Islamic or 'interest-free' banking in India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on August 28, 2014 launched Jan Dhan Yojana, a national mission to bring about comprehensive financial inclusion of all the households

in the country.

In late 2008, a committee on Financial Sector Reforms, headed by former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan, had stressed on the need for a closer look at the issue of interest-free banking in the country.

"Certain faiths prohibit the use of financial instruments that pay interest. The non-availability of interest-free banking products re-

sults in some Indians, including those in the economically disadvantaged strata of society, not being able to access banking products and services due to reasons of faith," the committee had said.

Later, on the instruction of the central government, an inter-departmental group (IDG) set up in the RBI examined the legal, technical and regulatory issues for gradual introduction of interest free banking in India and has submitted its report to the government.

The RBI had in February last year sent a copy of the IDG report to the finance ministry and recommended an "Islamic window" in conventional banks for gradual introduction of Sharia-compliant banking.

"In our considered opinion, given the complexities of Islamic finance and various regulatory and supervisory challenges involved in

the matter and also due to the fact that Indian banks have no experience in this field, Islamic banking may be introduced in India in a gradual manner.

"Initially, a few simple products which are similar to conventional banking products may be considered for introduction through Islamic window of the conventional banks after necessary notification by the government," it had said in a letter to the ministry.

The letter further reads: "It is also our understanding that interest free banking for financial inclusion will require a proper process of the product being certified as Sharia compliant will be required both on the asset and liability side and the funds received under the interest free banking could not be mingled with other funds and therefore, this banking will have to be conducted under a separate window."

Britannia Industries net profit up around 12% in Q2



MUMBAI: Biscuit maker Britannia Industries on Saturday reported close to a 12% increase in its consolidated net profit at Rs 261.03 crore during the quarter ended on September 30, 2017, as compared to Rs 234.05 crore in the year-ago period.

On a comparable basis, its consolidated revenue for the quarter stood at Rs 2,536.53 crore, up by 7.42% from Rs 2,361.15 crore in the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal.

One of the country's leading food companies, it also reported that its profit from operations for the quarter grew by 11% to Rs 344 crore. Sequentially, top-line, on a comparable basis, and net profit grew 14% and 21% respectively. Commenting on the performance company's managing director Varun Berry said: "It has been a good quarter in the face of Goods and Services Tax (GST) transition. Trade channels have normalised post GST and we are witnessing improved consumer off-take. Mid single digit volume growths on the back of investment in brands and widening our distribution network through focus on direct reach, rural market and weak states." He also said its international business grew in spite of pressure on account of deteriorating geopolitical situation and currency fluctuations in geographies like Middle East and Africa.

According to him, the prices of key raw material have been stable in the second quarter of the current fiscal. Its accelerated cost efficiency programme and endeavour to leverage fixed costs have helped the company to improve its profitability, he said.

The biscuit maker is setting up a large integrated food park at Ranjangaon in Maharashtra with an Rs 1,000 crore investment over the next three years to manufacture biscuits, cake, rusk and croissant.

"This is also an ideal site for setting up a dairy plant as it is located in the milk belt," the company said, adding that it is also setting up a greenfield plant in Guwahati in Assam to service the region. The good company is building up a dedicated facility at Mundra in Gujarat for servicing export markets from India and operations in Nepal for local servicing, it added.

Data usage on BSNL network in naxal areas hits 400 GB a day

NEW DELHI: The naxal-hit areas across nine states brought under mobile coverage in 2016 have recorded consumption of 400 GB of data per day on 2G network of the sole service provider BSNL, as per a joint statement of the state-owned firm and network vendor VNL.

"According to India's state-owned telecom operator BSNL and Indian telecom gear manufacturer VNL that set up telecom network in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) impacted areas, data usage has surged to an all-time high of more than 400 Gigabytes per day, thereby ushering in development and prosperity," a joint network by BSNL and Vihaan Network Limited today said.

The Cabinet in June 2013 approved setting up mobile towers in nine states affected by the naxal violence to improve communication as none of the telecom operators ventured in to these regions.

The project was again sent for approval of the Cabinet due to change in cost structure and was cleared in August 2014.

The government identified areas in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh for the project and assigned the task to the state-run firm.

BSNL received bids from only two domestic telecom gear makers- Vihaan Networks Limited and Himachal Futuristic Communications BSE-1.21% Limited for the project.

Both the vendors jointly installed 2,199 solar powered mobile towers in the naxal affected areas four months before the deadline of December 2016.

"We always believed that Indian companies have great potential and if given little support, they can become world players. As per Government of India's initiatives, BSNL will continue to provide services in most difficult areas with the help of such Indian companies," BSNL Chairman and Managing Director Anupam Shrivastava said.

The statement claimed it to be the "world's largest green mobile network" which provides voice and data to more than 20,000 villages in LWE areas.

"Data usage is not just taking off in urban centres, but it is fast powering change in the hinterland. Even tribal areas, which did not have access to even voice connectivity until recently, are now consuming data for banking and other applications. We are proud that we could contribute to this noble venture," VNL's Founder Chairman Rajiv Mehrotra said.

India very important for Alibaba, says CEO of Chinese e-commerce giant

SHANGHAI: India is a "very important" market to the Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba in its global strategy, the Chief Executive Officer of the company said here on Saturday.

"Globalisation is one of our key strategies for Alibaba. As part of this strategy, India is a very important topic. India is a very important market for us to look at," Daniel Zhang, the CEO of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, told media on the sidelines of the company's 11.11 Global Shopping Festival.

"Before entering any new market, we ask ourselves how we can help the local market. For a market like India, the key aspect of our strategy is to help the local enterprises grow," Zhang added. The company, which had invested in Indian digital payment platform and e-commerce brand Paytm to become the largest stakeholder in it, is "happy" to see digital payments growing in India, the CEO said.

"We have invested in Paytm. We are very happy to see digital payment becoming so popular in India. This is one



of the best examples to demonstrate how we want to help the local markets grow," Zhang said.

For Alibaba, it was not about going to a new market for doing business but about sharing the company's experience with the local people, the 45-year-old CEO added. Zhang, who was earlier the CEO of Taobao, an online shopping portal owned by the Alibaba Group, was appointed the CEO of the Alibaba Group in 2015. Founded in 1999 by Chinese teacher-turned-entrepreneur Jack

Ma as a platform to connect Chinese manufacturers with the world, Alibaba soon rose to become the largest e-commerce platform in the world.

Headquartered in Hangzhou, about 180km south of Shanghai, Alibaba is among the top 10 biggest companies of the world.

The platform has over 500 million monthly active users across its platforms. Alibaba also offers electronic payment services, shopping portals and cloud computing services.

Singles' Day: Alibaba sales hit record \$18 billion as China goes on shopping binge

SHANGHAI: Alibaba, the Chinese e-commerce giant, said its Singles' Day sales surged past last year's total just after midday Saturday, hitting a record \$18 billion, pointing to a likely giant haul for the world's biggest shopping event.

Once a celebration for China's lonely hearts, Singles' Day has become an annual 24-hour extravaganza that exceeds the combined sales for Black Friday and Cyber Monday in the United States, and acts as a barometer for China's consumers. After a star-studded event in Shanghai late Friday to ring in the event, which is held each year on Nov. 11, the volume of goods sold on Alibaba's platforms raced past a billion dollars in two minutes and hit \$10 billion in just over an hour.

The company's tills are set to shut at midnight Saturday.

At just past the halfway mark, the gross merchandise value swept past last year's dollar total of \$17.7 billion. Shortly afterwards, sales surpassed 120.7 billion yuan, the total in 2016 in the local currency, which has appreciated against the dollar in the past year.

The event gets shoppers around China scouting for bargains and loading up their online shopping carts, while delivery men - and robots - are braced for an estimated 1.5 billion parcels expected over the next six days.

This is a big event for China, for the Chinese economy," Joseph Tsai, Ali Baba's co-founder and vice chairman, said ahead of the sales bo-

nanza. "On Singles' Day, shopping is a sport, it's entertainment."

Tsai said rising disposable incomes of China's "over 300 million middle-class consumers" was helping drive the company's online sales - and would continue. "This powerful group is propelling the consumption of China," he said.

Analysts and investors will closely watch the headline sales number, which last year rose by nearly a third at the eighth iteration of the event - though that was slower than the 60 percent increase logged in 2015.

At Alibaba's Friday night gala, the company's co-founder and chairman, Jack Ma, hosted guests including the actress Nicole Kidman, singer Pharrell Williams and Chinese

musicians and film stars such as Zhang Ziyi and Fan Bingbing.

The excitement around the shopping blitz, however, masks the challenges facing China's online retailers such as Alibaba and JD.com Inc, which are having to spend more to compete for shoppers in a broader economy where growth is slowing.

"A lot of the lower hanging fruit has been picked and there's increased competition for a share of consumer spending," said Matthew Crabbe, Asia Pacific research director at Mintel.

He estimated Alibaba's Singles' Day sales growth would likely slow to around 20 percent. Online retailers were being forced to push offline as well as overseas to attract new shoppers, and the overall on-

line retail market was close to "saturation".

"They're having to spill over out of the purely online realm into the wider consumer market," Crabbe said.

This has sparked deals to buy bricks-and-mortar stores in China, and overseas tie-ups especially in Southeast Asia. Technology, too, has been key, with virtual reality dressing rooms and live fashion shows to attract shoppers.

Alibaba also said it had turned 100,000 physical shops around China into "smart stores" for this year's event. Goods people at the stores had perused, but then bought and paid for on Alibaba's platforms would help add towards the gross merchandise value total.

AirAsia India offers base fare at Rs 99 for domestic travel

MUMBAI: The Malaysian Budget carrier AirAsia on Sunday announced a discount sale, offering passengers one-way base fare at Rs 99 for a domestic journey across its Indian JV airline network and Rs 444 for international flights under a limited period offer.

However, the travel period under the offer, for which the bookings commence on Sunday night, will be between May next year and January 2019, as per an airline statement on Sunday.

"Enjoy (base) fares from as low as Rs 99 to domestic destinations and (base) fares of Rs 444 for international destinations," the airline said.

In addition, for the customers planning an international trip to Johor Bahr from Kolkata; AirAsia Berhad will be offering zero

base for seats in this segment, it said adding guests will only need to pay taxes for their flight.

Significantly, a major chunk of the air fares comprises fuel surcharge, airport fee, taxes and other charges.

"With base fares from as low as Rs 99 for travel next year, you can make use of this promo... We hope the partnerships that we have got into for this promotion will enable you to plan your holiday better," AirAsia India managing director and chief executive officer Amar Abrol was quoted as saying in the release.

AirAsia India is a 51:49 joint venture between Tata Sons and AirAsia. The tickets under the sale offer will remain open for bookings from 2130 hours today to November 19, through the airline's web-



site and mobile app only, AirAsia India said.

The discounted ticket sale of-fers covers domestic destinations

operated by AirAsia India such Bengaluru, Kochi, Hyderabad,

Ranchi, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, New Delhi, Goa, among others, it

said. The international destinations the sale offer is for flights to Kuala Lumpur from Tiruchirappalli, Kochi, Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur and to Bali from Mumbai and Kolkata, Bangkok from Jaipur, Kolkata, Kochi, Chennai and Bengaluru, the statement said.

Besides, the offer can also be availed for flights connected by AirAsia Berhad, AirAsia X Berhad, Indonesia AirAsia X, Indonesia AirAsia and Thai AirAsia, according to the statement.

Under the year end sale scheme, AirAsia has also tied up with mobile wallet major MobiKwik, which will offer up to Rs 1,000 discount on flight bookings, as well as Trebo hotels, which will offer a flat 25% discount to AirAsia travellers availing sale offer tickets, the airline said.

Supreme Court seeks review of All India Football Federation's constitution

The Supreme Court appointed former India football captain Bhaskar Ganguly as Ombudsman alongside SY Quraishi, former chief election commissioner, to "formulate the constitution" of the All India Football Federation.

Ganguly, who led India at the 1982 Asian Games, has not been keeping well and is said to be suffering from a nerve disorder. He was also a petitioner in a plea against the AIFF filed in the top court last year.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud, which is also hearing the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) plea against the Lodha Committee reforms, said the constitution will be "in consonance with the National Sports Code and the model guidelines for the conduct of its (AIFF) business, constitution of the executive committee and elections thereto, whilst ensuring that the status and membership (of the AIFF) is not undermined in any manner in the international body (FIFA)."

This will come as temporary relief for AIFF as following a Delhi High Court order, which appointed an administrator for AIFF taking away the powers from president Praful Patel, a FIFA ban seemed imminent. "We place on record the stand taken by the AIFF before us that the present elected body is committed to extend its full cooperation to the committee of administrators (Ombudsmen) for formulation of the proposed constitution which will be compliant with all respects and ensure transparency, accountability and observance of democratic values in the conduct of business of the federation," the Supreme Court order added.

apex court also said the draft constitution should be ready within two months and placed before the court in a sealed envelope. The overall process may take longer as AIFF sources said it would take at least three months to change the constitution and another one-and-a-half months to conduct elections.

Last year, Ganguly and former India skipper Manoranjan Bhattacharya had filed a PIL in the Supreme Court requesting the setting up of a committee to oversee the condition of the AIFF administration and development of football in India.

The PIL alleged the AIFF had "grossly mismanaged and arbitrarily administered the sport of football in the country, resulting in violations of the rights of players, domestic clubs and the football-watching public in India."

Ashes 2017/18: England coach Trevor Bayliss concerned by batting collapses

MELBOURNE: England coach Trevor Bayliss is concerned by his batsmen's tendency to collapse and says starts will need to be converted into centuries if the touring side are to win the Ashes series against Australia. England's batsmen are yet to score a hundred in their first two warm-up games since arriving in Australia but cruised to a 192-run win over a weak Cricket Australia XI in a tour match in Adelaide.

Yet in a worrying sign for England, the match also witnessed the Ashes holders lose four wickets for three runs and seven wickets for 47 during the second innings.

"Sixties aren't enough," Bayliss said on Sunday. "We need 160s."

"Batting collapses have been a concern for us for a little while. We have games like that, where we lose wickets like that, and it is a concern."

"The batsmen realise they have got to do better and they are working hard to do that."

England's batsmen will have another opportunity to get some big



runs under their belt in the final warm-up match against a Cricket Australia XI in Townsville, in far northern Queensland state, from Wednesday before the first test in

Brisbane's Gabba from Nov. 23. "By all accounts the wicket in Townsville is a pretty good one. It's quite flat," Australian Bayliss said. "Hopefully that will help our batters

make some big scores. Not just spend time in the middle, but make 100s. That's definitely what we will need throughout this test series.

"It would be great if we could

have some hundreds, that's for sure. Obviously once the test series comes around, the intensity of that competition, hopefully that really kicks our batters into gear."

Former captain Alastair Cook's lean tour has continued with scores of 15 and 32 in Adelaide after a duck in Perth in the first warm-up match.

"I don't have too many concerns about Cooky at the top of the order. It's probably fair to say he always looks a bit rusty. He'd be the first to admit that," the 54-year-old said.

"He would like to be scoring a few more runs, but he's played almost 150 Tests, I'm sure he's been through this before. He's hitting plenty in the middle of the bat in the nets."

Bayliss was encouraged by the form showed by England's bowlers in the four-day game and said he expected paceman Jake Ball, who suffered an ankle ligament strain during the Adelaide match, to be available for selection in the opening test. "He should be fine in seven to 10 days," Bayliss said.

Shane Warne calls for 'bold and aggressive' Glenn Maxwell selection in Ashes

SYDNEY: Shane Warne has called on the Australian cricket team management to show "boldness and aggression" by selecting Glenn Maxwell at number six as they seek to regain the Ashes.

Maxwell is facing a fight to make the side when the series begins at the Gabba later this month, with Australia legend Warne conceding uncertainty around the hosts' selection is rife.

Hilton Cartwright is widely tipped to take the spot at six, but Warne feels that would be a "conservative" choice and he hopes Maxwell will get the nod.

"The solution to this state of uncertainty is boldness and aggression," ex-spinner Warne wrote in his Herald Sun column.

"Maxi' wants to be known as consistent



and not the X factor, but I believe being the X factor is his way forward.

"All teams need matchwinners and make no mistake, Maxi is one of those. Yes we will shake our heads and roll our eyes occasionally, but we have to accept the odd horror and enjoy his best when it comes off."

"He makes things happen in all facets of the game but needs encouragement from the leaders to express himself."

"The big occasions bring out the best in this type of player and the selectors have to show faith in his talent. I hope he gets the nod over Cartwright."

"We have to junk this notion of horses for courses, that Maxwell is just a subcontinental consideration, and a vote of confidence now could be repaid big time."

Indian women's cricket team awarded Team of the Year in Mumbai event

MUMBAI: The Indian women's cricket team won the Team of the Year Award at the inaugural edition of Indian Sports Honours, a set of awards meant to recognise the contributions of various sportspersons in the country.

The team's captain Mithali Raj also bagged the Indian Sportswoman of the Year (Team Sports) award at the ceremony held in Mumbai on Saturday. The Indian players were bestowed the honour on the back of their superb performances at the ICC Women's World Cup in England. The women may have lost out to the hosts by just nine runs in the final, but their gritty outings certainly exceeded expectations and won the hearts of millions across the nation.

With almost all nominated outfits, namely -- Indian junior hockey team, Indian men's cricket team, Indian men's hockey team, Indian kabaddi teams and



the women's hockey team having performed well all year round, it would have been a tough choice.

The Indian men's cricket team has won almost all their games this past year, but being eclipsed by the women

is surely a good sign of progress.

The Indian women's team had overcome the women's teams from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia in straight wins on their way to the final.

Sushil Kumar makes comeback, Yogeshwar Dutt not to take part in national wrestling

NEW DELHI: Two-time Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar is all set to make a comeback to the mat after three long years, but Yogeshwar Dutt will continue his absence from competitive fold when the National Wrestling Championship starts in Indore from November 15. Sushil, who was having a training stint in Tbilisi, Georgia, rushed back to the country to take part in the selection trial against Dinesh in the 74kg category. Another wrestler in 74kg, Praveen Rana, did not turn up for the trials.

Sushil hardly had to break a sweat as Dinesh, the national junior champion, gave him a walk over.

"I am currently in my best shape mentally and physically and have started enjoying wrestling on competitive level," Sushil, who will be representing Railways in the upcoming



championship, said.

Meanwhile, London Olympics bronze medallist Yogeshwar confirmed that he would not be competing in the nationals. "No, I will not be competing at the Nationals," Yogeshwar told PTI. The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) confirmed that other big names like Rio Olymp-

pics bronze winner Sakshi Malik, the Phogat sisters -- Geeta and Vinesh -- are expected to vie for top honours. But Babita Kumari would not be a part of the tournament owing to an injury. The 34-year-old Sushil was last seen in action at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games where he finished with a gold.

Ganguly urges MS Dhoni to change batting approach for T20s

KOLKATA: Sourav Ganguly today advised the under-fire World Cup winning skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni to approach the Twenty20 Internationals "differently".

A few former India cricketers, including Ajit Agarkar and VVS Laxman, recently raised questions about Dhoni's T20 future, creating a storm in the country's cricketing circles.

"His record in T20I is not that good compared to ODIs. Hope Kohli and team management will speak to him separately. He has immense ability. If he approaches T20Is differently, then he will be successful," said Ganguly. Chasing 197 in second T20 versus New Zealand in Rajkot, the Indian cricket team were struggling at 97 for four when Dhoni joined skipper Virat Kohli and found it difficult to get it going. Eventually India lost the match. Sourav Ganguly however feels Dhoni has a lot of cricket left in him, especially in the ODIs.

"Definitely not for One-dayers. I

think he should keep playing One-day cricket, but he has to play differently in T20Is. He has to play T20Is freely. It depends on the selectors and how they would like to play him," Ganguly said here on the sidelines of a TV shoot. Ganguly expressed surprise at India opting to rest all-rounder Hardik Pandya for the upcoming Test series. "I'm surprised. I don't know if he's injured. He has played only three Tests... This is the age to play. I don't know the exact reason. Hope he's fit." India won't play with three spinners, definitely not at the Eden Gardens as the pitch here is different. They will play with two spinners and now since they don't have Hardik Pandya they may have



a different combination for the all-rounders slot." Ganguly hoped Sri Lanka would give India fight after their confidence-boosting 2-0 win over Pakistan in the Test series last month. "Of course India are the favourites. They are a much better side

than Sri Lanka. Recently they won in Sri Lanka across all formats.

"I hope it won't be a one-sided series. The recent (limited overs) series against New Zealand was competitive. Hope Sri Lanka will play well," he said.

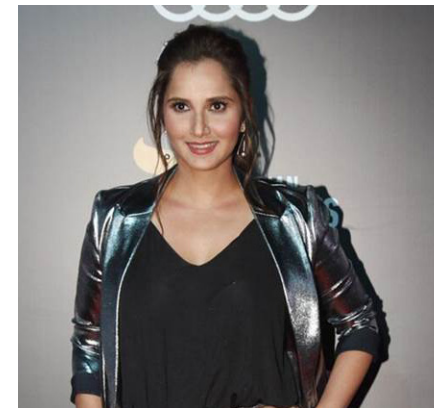
Sania Mirza suffering from knee injury, Indian tennis star contemplating surgery

MUMBAI: Sania Mirza has said that she is suffering from a knee injury and would soon take a call on whether a surgery is needed or not.

"It was tough year with partners getting injured, but I have a bit of a knee injury now. I have been off for about a month. I have couple of weeks to rest, just trying to get used to, I have to see if I need to have a surgery or not. (I have) a little bit of problem," Sania said on the sidelines of the Indian Sports Honours. She added, "But all in all I still finished close to top 10, so I am happy with the year." The tennis star was speaking on the red carpet of the Indian Sports Honours.

Sania, the country's finest woman doubles player, who began the year with the number one ranking, closed it at number 9.

Meanwhile, India's non-playing Davis Cup captain Mahesh Bhupathi has said that it was just a matter of time for young Ramkumar Ramanathan to break into the top 100. "Yuki (Bhambri) has been injured, but he will get back. Ram (Ramkumar Ramanathan) has his breakthrough season, next two



years are big for him.

"He is much younger, so we will give him some time. He is found a good coach and he is comfortable with Emilio Sanchez, so he is doing the right thing, so now it is just the matter of breaking into the top 100, Bhupathi told reporters.

The 23-year-old Chennai-born Ramanathan is currently ranked 148 in the ATP men's singles standings.