

TIME AND US

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SUNDAY

● DECEMBER, 03, 2017
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WEATHER TEMPERATURE

STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	13.8	-1.5
JAMMU	23.2	9.9
LEH	7.4	-8.7
KARGIL	7.4	-7.6

SUNSET SUNDAY: 05:22 PM
SUNRISE TUESDAY: 07:22 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR
Generally Cloudy sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 14°C & -3°C respectively.

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

STATE | 3

BALI LAYS FOUNDATION OF RS. 8.46 CR ADDITIONAL BLOCK AT AYURVEDIC HOSPITAL

INTERSTATE | 5

MANMOHAN SINGH TERMS NOV. 8 AS 'BLACK DAY' FOR ECONOMY, DEMOCRACY

BUSINESS | 7

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO TAKE YOUR BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL

SPORTS | 8

MS DHONI TRIES HAND AT THIS ADVENTURE SPORT IN HIS TIME AWAY FROM CRICKET

Army has various options available: Rawat on cross-LoC operations

Pune: Army Chief General Bipin Rawat today said the Indian Army had various retaliatory options at its disposal as far as carrying out operations on the lines of the 2016 surgical strike was concerned.

He was speaking at the launch of a book, "Securing India the Modi Way", written by journalist and security analyst Nitin Gokhale in Pune.

When Gokhale asked Rawat during a conversation whether the Army was still capable of carrying out operations such as the 2015 Myanmar operation and "surgical strikes in Pakistan-administered Kashmir" (PaK) in 2016, Rawat said various options were available.

"There are various means of carrying out operations across the Line of Control (LoC). We do not repeat the same operation in the same manner because there is no surprise. If we have to maintain surprises, we have to plan for something new and



it is always better to keep the other side guessing," the Army chief said. HesharedtheaccountoftheMyanmar operation in detail and said it

was needed to send a clear message across the border after 18 Indian soldiers were killed in an ambush in Manipur.

Rawat also spoke about the cadre review of the junior commissioned officers (JCOs).

It had now been approved and would be implemented from January 1, 2018, he said.

"It is very tough to get promotions in the Army. Only 0.18 per cent people rise to the Two Star rank. For the junior commissioned officers and other ranks, the pyramid is even steeper.

"The cadre review of the junior commissioned officers was pending with the government for over 10 years. It has now been approved and will be implemented from January 1, 2018. This includes 1.4 lakh promotions of JCOs, with 457 new subedar-major vacancies," said Rawat.

The Army chief also noted that the development of the Army infrastructure along the northern borders was going on at a rapid pace.

▶ See **Rawat**...Pg 02

Mehbooba Mufti elected PDP President for 6th consecutive term

Jammu, Dec 02: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti was today unanimously elected as the President of Peoples Democratic Party for the consecutive sixth term.

Returning Officer for the elections, Abdur Rehman Veeri announced this after the name of Mehbooba Mufti was proposed by Dr. Hasseb Drabu and it was seconded by Mr. Trilock Singh Bajwa.

In her speech of acceptance after getting unanimously elected, Mehbooba Mufti thanked the members of the electoral college for reposing trust in her leadership. She assured the



members of the electoral college to ▶ See **Mehbooba**...Pg 02

DRAFT LAW TO END TRIPLE TALAQ READY; MUSLIM LEADERS SAY NOT CONSULTED

NEW DELHI: The Government move to bring in a legislation in the winter session of Parliament providing for three years of jail term for those giving instant triple talaq has evoked objections from some Muslim leaders.

Veteran civil servant Dr Syed Zafar Mehmud, who was also OSD to the Sachar Committee set up to report on the social, economic and educational backwardness of Muslims, said it would have been better if the Government had consulted a cross section of community leaders in the drafting of the law.

Dr SQR Ilyas, a member of the Muslim Personal Law ▶ See **Draft**...Pg 02

PAKISTAN CLAIMS BACKDOOR DIPLOMACY WITH INDIA TO RESOLVE ISSUES

Srinagar: Pakistan has been conducting backdoor diplomacy with the arch-rival India in a bid to resolve the issues and release tensions through talks, claimed Pakistan National Security Advisor.

According to a report in Pakistan Today, General ▶ See **Issues**...Pg 02

Missing Assault Rifle: DUO ARRESTED DURING NOCTURNAL RAID IN SOUTH KASHMIR

Pulwama, Dec 2: Day's after an assault rifle of a slain militant was allegedly taken away by a youth after the culmination of gunfight at Futlipora Pakharpora, Government Forces arrested two boys during nocturnal raids from Karimabad village of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Reliable sources said that both the youth have been picked up for questioning.

Sources informed CNS that government forces have identified the youth who disappeared after taking away assault rifle of the slain militant. He hails from Karimabad ▶ See **Duo**...Pg 02

Claims of normalcy in Kashmir contrary to ground situation: Farooq Abdullah

Budgam, Dec 2: National Conference President and Member of Parliament Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Saturday said claims of normalcy in the Valley made by the Central and the State Governments were contrary to the ground situation in Kashmir and the growing sense of alienation especially among the youth.

Addressing a public meeting at Hardpanzoo area of Khan Sahib Constituency in Budgam District, the National Conference President



yet again impressed on both initiate dialogue on all outstanding issues especially that

of Kashmir in a sincere effort to usher the sub-continent into a corrective era of stability, mutual cooperation and harmony.

"Those claiming things have improved in Kashmir after the mayhem, bloodshed and misery of 2016 are contradicting the reality on the ground in an effort to escape their own culpability and responsibility," he said, according to a statement.

"The fact remains that our ▶ See **Farooq**...Pg 02

PHYSICAL ASSAULT ON FORESTER INHUMAN, UNACCEPTABLE: EJAC Demands action against 'arrogant officer'

Srinagar, Dec 02: Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) Saturday held an emergency meeting at its Provincial office Gandhi Nagar Jammu under the leadership of its president, Ab. Qayoom Wani.

According to the statement issued to KNS, in the meeting, physical assault on forester Bashir Ahmad by DFO Baramulla Waseem Farooq was threadbare discussed.

Wani termed the incident inhuman and said "this kind of action by the senior officer speaks volumes of his power arrogance."

He said that all the government employees from class ▶ See **EJAC**...Pg 02

Chief Secretary discusses key land issues with Union Defense Ministry officers

SRINAGAR, DEC 02: J&K Chief Secretary, Mr B B Vyas met the senior officers of the Union Defense Ministry, Defense Estates and the Army here today to discuss the land issues flagged by the civil administration during his extensive visit to various districts recently.

The Chief Secretary called for resolving all the outstanding land related issues in a time bound manner taking into consideration both the strategic imperatives of the army, and the requirements of Civilian Administration and the local population in the respective districts.

The Chief Secretary specifically referred to the land issues at Khumbathang & Khurbathang in Kargil, Tattoo Ground in Srinagar,



High Ground in Anantnag and some areas in Leh, which are needed by the civilian administration for raising public infrastructure.

▶ See **Secretary**...Pg 02

CLASHES ERUPT IN TRICHAL AFTER SEARCH OPERATION

Pulwama, Dec 2: Clashes erupted in Trichal village of South Kashmir's Pulwama district after local youth pelted stones on army vehicles returning back from a search operation towards their base camp.

Earlier, 55 Rashtriya Rifles of Indian Army, 183 Battalion of Para-military Central Reserve Police Force and Special Operation Group of Jammu and Kashmir Police had launched a search operation in twin villages of Naira and Tahab.

The Forces had cordoned off these villages after receiving information about the presence of militants in these hamlets.

▶ See **Clashes**...Pg 02

Rana lauds private sector for spread of education

DHOKE WAZIRAN NAGROTA, DECEMBER 02- Provincial President National Conference and MLA Nagrota Mr Devender Singh Rana on Saturday said sky is the limit for young students to excel in the fields of academics and extra-curricular activities, adding that this can be achieved by enhanced interpersonal relationship between teachers, students and parents.

"Such a crucial teacher-parent synergy is more required at the basic schooling level, which is an important component of learning process", Mr Rana said at the Annual Day Function of St. Joseph's Convent High School, Dhoke Waziran in Nagrota Assembly Con-



stituency. Mr Rana urged parents, who were ▶ See **Rana**...Pg 02

TWO ANGANWADI CENTERS CLOSED SINCE ONE YEAR IN URI

Uri, Dec 2: Two Anganwadi centers are closed in Machikrand village of border town Uri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district since last one year taking a heavy toll on mother and children care.

The centers are located at ward number 2 and 4 of the village.

Locals told news agency CNS that the women and children community have been suffering a lot since the closure of these anganwadi centers.

"We have failed to understand who closed these centers from last one year without any official order. But they are open for the owners of houses where the centers are located," he said.

"Though Anganwadi centers provide basic health care but these centers lack every basic facility thus pushing the ▶ See **Uri**...Pg 02

Implementation of PSA on differently-able person mental bankruptcy of rulers: Malik

Says he is not able to walk even two steps

Srinagar, Dec 02: Chairman of Jammu Kashmir liberation front (JKLF) Muhammad Yasin Malik today said that execution of arbitrary laws like PSA on a differently-able person, a glaring example of 'mental bankruptcy' of the rulers.

"How can a man who is not able to walk two steps on his feet be implicated in stone pelting cases and sent to jail on PSA," Malik said in a state-

ment issued to KNS.

Terming repeated execution of Public Safety Act (PSA) on Tanveer Ahmad Waar, son of Muhammad Shaban Waar of old town Baramullah as 'brazen act of hardheartedness' of the rulers, their police and civil administration, Malik said that on Nov 27, 2017, he himself was arrested and shifted to central jail Srinagar.

"In jail he saw a different-



ly-able person walking on sticks and thought that he may be in jail for some civil case. He was informed by other inmates that the person was

not in jail for some domestic or civil case but for being involved with the resistance movement," Malik said.

He said that after this he met this person who revealed a horrific tale of torture and apathy he had to go through at the hands of police and other forces from last one year or so. "This differently-able person told me that he is by birth a handicapped person ▶ See **Malik**...Pg 02

Assault on Forester: EMPLOYEES STAGE PROTEST DEMANDING ACTION AGAINST ACCUSED DFO

Baramulla, Dec 2: Forest Employees in North Kashmir's Baramulla district Saturday staged a protest against the manhandling of a Forester by Divisional Forest Officer in the Division.

The employees raised slogans against DFO and demanded stern action against him for assaulting Forester Bashir Ahmed.

"It is shameful that employees are being assaulted by their seniors. We will hit on roads if action against accused DFO Waseem Farooq is not initiated," the protesters who had assembled in DFO Office Baramulla told news

▶ See **Employees**...Pg 02

PRIYA SETHI ATTENDS 2-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE AT GDC UDHAMPUR

UDHAMPUR, DECEMBER-02:- The Two Days National Conference organized by English Department, Government Degree College, Udhampur on the theme "Routing the Rootless Exploring the Literatures of the Indigenous Cultures" concluded here today.

Minister of State for Education and Technical Education and Tourism, Priya Sethi was the chief guest on the valedictory function whereas Member Legislative Assembly (MLA), Udhampur, Pawan Kumar Gupta was the guest of honour on the occasion.

The function commenced with lighting the lamp by the chief guest which was followed by Saraswati Vandana presented by the College students.

While addressing the Conference, Priya Sethi said despite diverse cultures across the globe, the humanity share common challenges related to the protection of their rights. She said government is committed to protect the rights of the people and improve



the lifestyle of the people.

She said that the state is bestowed with immense natural beauty and an array of diverse cultures which needs to be promoted as well as conserved. She commended the college administration to organize such type of conference and congratulated the

participants besides wished them good luck for their bright future.

While speaking on the occasion, MLA, Udhampur Pawan Kumar Gupta, complimented the College, Administration to take an initiative for organizing this National level events and also congratulates the

Scholars, Academicians and participants who participated in two day National Conference.

A colourful cultural programme was also presented by the Students of the college on the occasion, with an aim to hammer the dedication, sincerity and duties of citizens, besides folk song & Dogri dance which represents the local culture and unity in diversity. Later, the chief guest distributed mementoes among the participants who participated in the National Conference.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Udhampur Arvind Sharma, Chief Education Officer, J.R Bhardwaj ASP, Faisal Qureshi, Prof, Pankaj Sharma, organizing secretaries, Dr. Rimpay Bawa, Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, Convenor, Kamaldeep Kaur, Prof, Anuradha Kalsi and district officers of various departments, Principals of different colleges, staff members and students of the host college were present on the occasion.

CEO VISITS SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE

Inspects major development works, facilities for pilgrims

KATRA, DECEMBER 2 – On the directions of Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Mr. Umang Narula, Principal Secretary to the Governor who took over as CEO of the Shrine Board on 30th November inspected the ongoing major development works and facilities for the pilgrims which are being put in place along the tracks and in the Bhawan area.

In the Bhawan area, CEO reviewed the to-date progress on the construction of Passenger Ropeway between Bhawan and Bhairon Temple, Material Ropeway between Siar Dabri and Bhawan and the Slope Stabilisation Project. He issued instructions to Dr. M. K. Kumar and Mr. Anshul Garg, Additional CEOs, and other concerned officers and engineers of the Board, to ensure completion of these important projects within the fixed timelines, to further enhance the facilities for the pilgrims. Referring to the New Year rush of pilgrims which is witnessed every year from 20th December onwards, CEO directed all the officers to ensure that all the required arrangements are put in place well in time for facilitating the expected rush of pilgrims.

CEO also inspected various construction works including landscape development activities on the upcoming Tarakote Marg. He took stock of the progress on the construction of shelter sheds and the hill slope stabilisation work for ensuring the safety of pilgrims against landslides and shooting stones as well as installation of wire mesh fencing. He also reviewed the arrangements being put in place in regard to bhajanayalas, view points, medical units, water points, toilet blocks, power supply, sanitation and cleanliness, etc.

Earlier, Mr. Narula, visited the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji and paid obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum.

Mr. Anshul Garg, Additional CEO; Mr. Jagdish Singh, SDM Bhawan; Mr. M. M. Gupta, Chief Engineer; and other concerned officers and engineers of the Board accompanied CEO on his inspections.

Later, at Katra, the CEO at a meeting with the Additional CEOs, Dy. CEOs and other officers of the Board, took first hand appraisal of the various ongoing works and facilities for the pilgrims. He underscored the need for ensuring best possible facilities.

Continue from Front Page.....

RAWAT

Talking about veterans, he said no army could be successful if it did not care for its veterans.

"We will always ensure that anybody who has been a part of the uniform will remain a part of the uniform till his grave," he said.

MEHBOOBA

carry forward the Party's Basic Declaration with renewed enthusiasm and vigour.

Mehbooba Mufti, it may be recalled, has been a dominant force in J&K politics over the past 20 years or so and was first time elected as the Part President in 2003. Being a grassroots political activist, much of the credit for building PDP as a strong regional political force, goes to her

Mehbooba Mufti is so entrenched in local culture that the power hasn't changed her. She is known for her compassion, courteousness and respect for her colleagues and common people.

Senior Party leader and Member Parliament, Muzaffar Hussain Baig also spoke on the occasion and asked the members of the party to strengthen the hands of the party President.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Party Vice President, Muhammad Sartaj Madni, Nizamuddin Bhat, senior leaders Syed Basharat Bukhari, Choudhary Zulfkar, Rafi Ahmad Mir and Saifuddin Bhat.

DRAFT

Board said the Government had violated the existing tradition of consulting Muslim Ulemas while drafting a personal law.

About three months back, the Supreme Court had declared the practice of triple talaq in one go as illegal and against the tenets of Islam, following which the Centre had set up a group of ministers to draft a law to give effect to the apex court's order.

The contours of the Bill were finalised after the discussion by the Group of Minister which included Home Minister Rajnath Singh, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

Under the proposed law giving instant talaq will be a non-bailable and cognisable offence and it can attract a jail term of three years and fine.

It will allow a woman who has been given instant triple talaq to move court to seek "subsistence allowance" for herself and dependent children, as well as custody of minor children.

The law Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) applies to instant triple talaq in "oral, written, electronic or any other form". Any declaration of talaq-e-biddat by a Muslim man shall be "illegal and void", says the draft law.

Dr Mehud said though he was totally against the practice of triple talaq, which was absolutely unislamic, but he was against the government going for changes in the law without consultation with the community.

"There are so many practices in the Hindu community which are against tenets of democracy and human rights, which should also be addressed by the Government," he said. Dr Iyas said so far only three major laws relating to Muslims had been passed?

The Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act 1939 and The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) 1986, in the drafting of all of which, the Muslim community was involved all through.

ISSUES

(ret'd.) Nasir Janjua revealed this during a media interaction in Lahore.

Janjua said India has to eventually come on the table for talks to protect its own interests. "Pakistan is ready to hold talks with India on Kashmir and other basic issues," the report quoted Janjua as saying.

He also said that India had committed "unprecedented human rights violations" in Kashmir Valley.

DUO

Pulwama.

On Friday, government forces had launched search operations in multiple villages to nab the suspected youth. Reports said that during the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, government forces raided two houses and detained two youth. Local sources identified the duo as Shabir Ahmed Mir and Mudashir Shafi Bhat, both residents of Karimabad Pulwama.

A police official on condition of anonymity said that duo has been detained for questioning.

FAROOQ

youth today are more isolated and alienated than ever before and feel hopeless and dismayed. We have left our youth disillusioned and disenchanted from the system as successive initiatives that were announced were left halfway. The lack of political will to engage with the aspirations of the people of Kashmir with a sense of seriousness and honesty has created an enormous trust deficit that has been further increased by recent betrayals and U-turns", Dr. Farooq Abdullah said while speaking at Khan Sahib in Budgam District.

The National Conference President said both India and Pakistan are Nuclear Powers and should acknowledge the fact that a Nuclear War is out of the question and hence engagement and innovative conflict resolution is the only option.

"Both countries have nuclear capabilities and arsenals. Those advocating violence and war are living in a fool's paradise and their rhetoric is aimed at their own local constituencies. There is no other alternative but to talk and take into account the practical limitations of both sides.

"Conflicts are resolved with innovation and imagination, not by shrill slogans and stentorian and moralistic press statements. This conflict has inflicted enormous human, economic and political costs on the people of Kashmir and they deserve a resolution now – not ten years later, not fifty years later and not hundred years later – but now. We cannot sacrifice the dreams and aspirations of another generation in Kashmir."

"The time has come for both India and Pakistan to understand that they owe it to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to resolve this issue as per their sentiment once for all. We have bled enough", Dr. Farooq Abdullah added.

Expressing disappointment over the state of misgovernance in the State, Dr. Farooq Abdullah lashed out at the State Government for ignoring basic infrastructural requirements and said people across the length and breadth of the State were suffering due to a Government that had decided not to govern but spend all its resources and time on photo-opportunities and theatrics.

"The state of chaos and confusion in the Administration is shocking and unprecedented. Even basic needs of the people cannot be fulfilled. Roads are in shambles and our health and education infrastructure has been neglected in the past three years. Our primary health centers are defunct and people have been left to fend for themselves – especially in far off areas with poor connectivity and accessibility. The electricity scenario is dismal and people are being subjected to unimaginable hardships especially in view of the harsh climate. Corruption has become an acceptable norm and the people are suffering. It is a sad state of affairs", the National Conference President said.

EJAC

IV to Chief Secretary are governed by CSR and nobody is above law. "Any action taken by any officer against his junior beyond CSR is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated at any cost," he said.

Wani said that employees are not bonded labours, they deserve respect and love from seniors for the smooth functioning of institutions to come up to the expectations of common people.

Wani urged upon the forest minister, Chief Secretary, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Chief Conservator Forest and Deputy Commissioner Baramulla to take strong note of the incident and demanded that action should be initiated against the officer involved in the incident at an earliest.

"We are not against the senior officers, we love, respect and represent them also when they need our help and we supported them in difficult times. History is witness when ever our seniors are humiliated by their higher ups and politicians we strongly protested for their honour and dignity but it does not mean that any officer will take his employees as bonded labours and will become a patient of power arrogance," Wani said.

Wani said that such type of arrogance will be dealt with iron hands by employees of Jammu and Kashmir under the banner of EJAC.

He said that "we are in close contact with the non gazetted forest officers association, social forestry employees association and EJAC leaders and today's protest at DFO office Baramulla against this incident is timely reaction against the incident."

He said that EJAC will fully support any move taken by

non gazetted forest officer's association lead by its president Mir Nazeer.

Wani also urged upon Chief Minister for her personal intervention and demanded strong action against the officer so that such type of incidents may not occur in future.

EJAC leaders Amrik Singh, Ganesh Khajuria, Syed Wajahat Hussain, Peer Nisar, Jagdish Sharma, Darshan Sharma, Paranjit Singh, Rajinder Gupta, Krishan Singh, Jamaia Ali Aga, Vinod Sharma, Deedar Singh, Yograj, Kuldeep, Lal Singh, Surinder Kumar, Shair Mohd, Vijay Kumar and others were present in the meeting.

SECRETARY

Mr Vyas also raised with the Defense Ministry officers the issue of revision of rent on the land under use of the Army in the State. He also discussed the issue of enhancement of rates of compensation to population affected by firing ranges in various parts of the State as the livelihood of many in the villages depends on the income from such pieces of land.

He also requested for extension of the facility for airlifting of civilians by Air Force (including casualties like accidental cases, blast cases and suffering from terminal ailments) from the far flung areas which get cut off from mainland during winters due to snowfall and other natural vagaries.

The officers of the Defense Ministry have assured the Chief Secretary that all these issues would be looked into with a sense of urgency.

Principal Secretary Home, R K Goyal, Principal Resident Commissioner, J&K Govt, Mr R K Gupta, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rohit Kansal and other senior officers of the J&K Government.

CLASHES

Sources said that the operation was called off after no contact with militants was established.

As the Government Forces retreated and reached Trichal Village, scores of youth blocked their way and pelted stones on them. The Forces responded with tear-smoke shells.

A police official said that the situation was brought under control and the youth were chased away.

The clashes disrupted life in the village while shopkeepers lowered their shutters.

RANA

present in large numbers at the function, to have frequent interaction with teachers so as to monitor the development of their children on regular basis. He hoped the management will maintain best academic standards and shape the destiny of children as per needs of the fast changing world where competition has assumed central stage in every sphere of activity. He exhorted the management to take extra care of students coming from the lower strata of society, as part of their social responsibility.

The Provincial President lauded the role of private schools in the spread of education and exuded confidence that their efforts would help achieve higher level of literacy in the rural areas of the state.

Complimenting students, especially those who participated in various activities, Mr Rana said that Annual Day Function is a special occasion for parents and their wards. He advised students to concentrate on sports alongside academics as it is necessary for sharpening their capabilities.

The Provincial President expressed happiness over growing consciousness among parents in being part of the activities of their children and said this spirit will help in creating congenial atmosphere for youngsters to grow as responsible citizens. He exhorted parents to help their ward set goals for them, as per their aptitude, and ensure that they pursue it with a sense of commitment. He also stressed the need for inculcating moral values to students, keeping in view the glorious traditions. "This is necessary for satiating mental and spiritual thirst, especially in view of tremendous strains of this materialistic age", he maintained.

Speaking on the occasion, Sr. Usha Thomas, Principal, St. Joseph's Convent High School said this institution was established 2003 to impart value based education to the children of the town and nearby villages.

"At present we are catering to the needs of 440 students among them 40% are from the families of Kashmiri Pandit Migrant town of Jagti, Nagrota", she said, adding that apart from providing 50% concession to Christians in all the fee heads, the students from underprivileged and downtrodden families from different faiths and economic background avail various services.

The Principal said the Josephite Family with the help of its committed and dedicated management, staff, coworkers and well wishers has been instrumental in the all round

development of its students who outstand in all the walks of their life as they graduate from this prestigious institution.

Besides students, faculty members, parents, prominent citizens, Rev. Ivan Pereira: Bishop of Jammu-Srinagar, President of Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar Education Society was the Guest of Honour at the Annual Day Function. Besides, Rev. Fr. Jose Vadakkal: Vicar General, Vice President of Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar Education Society, Rev. Fr. Varkey, Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar, Rev. Fr. Antony Peppin, Chairman, Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar Education Board, Sr. Jacinta, Vice Principal of the School and Mr. Raman Wazir, former Sarpanch were present on the occasion.

URI

mother and child care to face the inconvenience," said a local.

According to locals, the food stock that is being send by the concerned department for the school children health care is not utilized on them.

"All the stock is used by the owners family at whose residence the centers are located," he said adding "one centre is located in Sarpanch's house"

"The owners continue to relish free of cost ration while the students are asked from last one year that the centers are closed and there is no food stock send by the department for them," he added.

District Programme Officer ICDS Baramulla, Aashiq Hussain said that he will take a strong action against this management.

"Ask them to submit a written complaint in my office, I will definitely act," the officer said.

MALIK

as polio had damaged his legs in early childhood. From that time he has not been able to walk even two steps on his foot. He was taken into custody by police on 21st September 2016 on the charges of pelting stones on occupational forces and oppressive police and despite being handicapped he was tortured severely in police custody. After about two months of illegal confinement, he was slapped with PSA and sent to jail," Malik said.

Malik said that Tanveer challenged PSA in high-court and court quashed his PSA and ordered his release. "He was hoping to be released by police on court orders but suddenly was served with another PSA order and shifted to Kotbalwal jail from where he has now been shifted to central jail Srinagar and is languishing there," he said.

Malik after hearing this tale of torture said that no sane person can accept this kind of apathy and shamelessness but the rulers and their police have stooped so low that they neither are able to see any differently-able person nor feel any shame while sending an ailing person to jail even from a hospital bed.

JKLF chief said that a person who has never walked two steps on his feet and is handicapped by birth is being kept in jail for stone pelting. "We want to ask shameless rulers and their oppressive police and civil administration that how a person who moves with the help of sticks only can throw stones on occupational forces and oppressive police," he said.

Appealing international committee of Red Cross (ICRC), amnesty international, Asia watch and other international human rights organizations to take note of these gruesome acts of human rights abuses, Malik said that in Kashmir young and old including differently-able people are being arrested and sent to jails on arbitrary laws like PSA and it is the responsibility of these organizations to take note of these atrocities and take steps to save innocent people from the wrath of Indian oppression.

EMPLOYEES

agency CNS.

Senior officers rushed to spot and assured the protesting employees probe and subsequent action into the incident.

Meanwhile, Employees Joint Action Committee headed by Abdul Qayoom Wani issued a statement from Jammu urging upon the authorities at the helm of affairs to take cognizance of the incident and initiate action against the accused DFO.

The employees held a meeting at Gandhi Nagar Jammu that was presided by Wani.

While seeking intervention of Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, Abdul Qayoom Wani urged upon Forest Minister and Deputy Commissioner Baramulla to take action against accused DFO under law.

Bali lays foundation of Rs. 8.46 cr additional block at Ayurvedic Hospital

Says Govt keen to promote AYUSH sector as patient flow increased manifold

JAMMU, DECEMBER 02—Giving further boost to the up-gradation of infrastructural facilities in the AYUSH sector, Minister for Health & Medical Education, Bali Bhagat has laid foundation stone of Rs.8.46 crore additional block in the premises of Ayurvedic Hospital here today.

The proposed project, consisting of five-storey building (including stilted floor, upper ground floor plus three floors) with total plinth area of 17,360 sq. ft will be constructed in two phases. Under first phase, two floors will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.89 crore and under second phase which will comprise three floors will cost Rs. 4.57 crore. For taking up of first phase, an amount of Rs. 1.45 crore has been released to the Department of Roads and Buildings, which is the executing agency for the project.

Local MLA, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary (Tech), Health & Medical Education and Director Indian System of Medicines (ISM), Dr. Abdul Kabir Dar, prominent personalities, besides doctors of ISM and BAMS students were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that it is serious endeavor of the Government to promote AYUSH sector, which has a great potential and demand in Jammu and Kashmir. He said over the past two



decades, the AYUSH has become very popular and patient flow increased manifold. The AYUSH being an ancient and traditional diagnostic system in India has its own importance and more and more people are reiterating their faith in this system which is quite safe and without any side effect. In Jammu and Kashmir, the facility of AYUSH consultation and treatment is available in every Allopathic Hospitals, Government Medical Colleges, besides its own network in almost every block of the state. The services in the rural health institutions are mostly run by the AYUSH doctors, said Bali Bhagat.

Referring to the beginning of Ayurvedic College in Jammu from the current academic year, the Min-

ister said that in view of the growing demand and popularity of AYUSH, the Government was able to revive the Ayurvedic College in Jammu, which was abandoned almost four decades back by the then Government. With the earnest efforts of present State Government and Union Ministry of AYUSH, the first batch of 50 students has started its academic activities from the AYUSH hospital Jammu for the time being. The state-of-the-art college building at Akhnoor is at the final stage and from next academic year the activities will be shifted there. With the functioning of Ayurvedic College in Jammu, there will be great push to this vital sector and reach of the people will further enhance to this traditional treatment system, said

the Minister.

While taking brief on the architectural features of the proposed building from the engineers, the Minister stressed the need for meeting the basic needs of patients like ramps, comfortable wards with the sufficient natural light, washrooms, and toilets with provisions of both English and Indian seats. He directed the Director ISM, Dr. Abdul Kabir to get the existing design modified appropriately and ensure proper coordination with the executing agency for speedy completion of the project. He also directed for submitting DPR for the canteen and parking place in the premises.

The Minister also had a round of some units of the hospital and enquired about the facilities available there. He called upon the doctors and paramedics to serve the patients with utmost dedication and missionary spirit. He also directed to maintain punctuality and proper sanitation in and around the hospital.

MLA Rajesh Gupta thanked the Minister for paying focused attention to upgrade the services in the AYUSH Hospital and creating additional accommodation which was mandatory in view of the increased workload. He announced funds for purchase of an Ultra Sound machine for the Ayurvedic Hospital from his Constituency Funds.

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

KATHUA, DECEMBER 02—Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment, Choudhary Lal Singh on Saturday said that focus of the Government is to enhance basic amenities like drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, road connectivity and education and in this regard Government has prepared a comprehensive plan to meet the development related issues of the general masses.

Ministers said this while addressing a large gathering at Baira village of Basholi after inaugurating the upgradation work of Kardoh-Basholi morh road, here today.

Chief Conservator of Forests Farooq Gilani, Director SFRI BM Sharma, Managing Director SFC Suresh Gupta, Director Environment and Remote Sensing OP Sharma, Regional Director PCB Ch Showkat Ali, Regional Director Wildlife Sinthil Kumar besides senior officers of PHE, R&B, PDD and RDD accompanied the Minister.

The Minister said that government's priority is to make availability of basic amenities in every nook and corner of the state. He said he is committed to provide all updated basic facilities to the Basohli villages and said there is no constraint of funds under PHE, RDD, R&B, PDD, Education and Health sectors.

Choudhary Lal Singh also visited the sites of ongoing developing works in interiors of Basholi constituency where various deputations of Sabar, Baira and Kuya villages met him and projected their development related issues particularly adequate supply of drink-



ing water and seeking an early redressal of the same.

The Minister resolved several issues on the spot and asked the PHE officers to lay water supply pipes and install hand pumps in the water scarcity areas

Choudhary Lal Singh said that road connectivity to the far-off areas of the Basholi constituency under PMGSY is the top priority of the present Government adding that this facility would provide inter-district and intra regional trade thus improving the socio-economic condition of the weaker sections of the society.

The Minister said that several flagship programmes have been launched by the State and Central Governments to upgrade the living status of the Basohli constituency people. He said district administration has been directed to meet the fixed targets in a time bound manner and utilize the earmarked funds for current fiscal in full.

Responding to the locals demand, the Minister asked the DFO Kathua to plant saplings along the roadside near army cantonment near Basholi morh.

Sham Choudhary, Nanda lays foundation of dug well at Reasi

Chairs public grievance redressal camp at Chowki Choura

JAMMU, DECEMBER 02: Reiterating the commitment of Government for providing pure drinking water to the people of state, Minister for PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control Sham Lal Choudhary said that the government has formulated a comprehensive plan for taking up new and improvement of existing Water Supply Schemes to augment the water supply to meet the requirements.

The Minister said this after laying the foundation of dug well of Water Supply Scheme (WSS) at Laiter village of Reasi District today. Minister of State for Finance and Planning Ajay Nanda was also present on the occasion.

The project will be completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.15 crore and with the completion of this project about 3000 souls of dozens of villages of the area will get benefitted. The project will augment the capacity of exist-



ing WSS Laiter.

The Minister said that the present government has formulated a plan for revival defunct tube wells so that adequate potable water is provided to the people. On the occasion, on public demand, the minister announced installation of 10 hand pumps in the area besides check dam would also be constructed to harness the available water resources in the area.

Complementing the people, the Minister of State (Mos)

for Finance and Planning Ajay Nanda said that the construction of dug well and WSS was the long pending demand of the locals. He said that work on two ongoing schemes in the area is nearing completion and more schemes would be taken in future.

Later, the Ministers attended fifth Ati Vishnu Maha Yagya at Pouni being performed at Pouni by Sant Shri Balak Yogeshwar Dass ji for the peace of the souls of Martyred soldiers of the country.

Earlier, the Minister chaired public redressal camp held at SDM office Chowki Choura in which scores of individuals and deputations thronged from Chowki Choura, lower Choura, Rameen Makhan, Ghar, Dannu, Silout, Jhang and adjoining villages participated. They projected their demands particularly related to provision of potable water.

The Minister also directed the concerned engineers to complete the work on the ongoing PHE projects in the area so that the requirement of safe drinking water is metted out. He also asked to formulate plan for construction of check dams to tap the available water resources in the area.

Among others, Chief Engineers PHE and Irrigation and Flood Control, SDM Chowki Choura, besides concerned engineers attended the camp.

Ansari appeals youth to put their mind in positive way: Ansari

Inaugurates senior students Speedball championship

JAMMU, DECEMBER 02: Minister for Information Technology, Technical Education Youth Services and Sports, Imran Raza Ansari today urged youth to put their minds in constructive way which will help them to put their own ideas and potential into reality.

The Minister said this while inaugurating Senior Students Speedball Championship at Indoor stadium here today in which large number of people participated including sports aspirants, children from different schools and parents. The Speedball Championship is being organised by the J&K Speedball Association in which 1500 students and players from 10 districts participated.

The Minister was accompanied by Joint Secretary Sports Jammu, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Member JK Sports Council, Ranjit Kalra, Chairman Speedball Association, S P Langer and other senior



members of the association.

While addressing the gathering, Minister said that the participation of youngsters in the sports activities will provide them the opportunity for holistic benefits and makes them as a role model for other people of the society.

The Minister added that parents are urged to motivate their children to take part in sports activities.

"We need to work collectively to weed out the deceitful, wicked and unscrupulous people who are hell bent to divide the people of state",

Ansari said. The Minister also directed the concerned officers to find out more modalities for the promotion of Speedball Sport in the state, so that aspirants from all the regions of the state can come at a single platform, which will be helpful to inculcate integrity, love, peace and brotherhood among the young minds of the state.

Ansari commended the efforts of the sports department for organising and making such events possible for sports loving aspirants of the state. He reiterates that government is committed in providing the sports infrastructure to the young sportsmen. Later, the Minister also felicitated the winning players of the competition who had already participated in previous championships. Besides, the Minister also honoured the players who represented India at 29th world championship at Egypt in October 2017.

Div Com reviews implementation of CM's directions in Anantnag

ANANTNAG, DECEMBER 02: The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Baseer Ahmad Khan today reviewed the progress in implementing the directions passed by the Chief Minister during the Public Darbar held on November 11 at Dak Bunglow Anantnag.

District Development Commissioner Anantnag, Mohammad Younis Malik apprised the Divisional Commissioner about the action taken on the CM's directions. He informed that 319 directions were passed in the public darbar and 16 directions have been implemented, so far. Rest, all the Departments are working on the directions for their early completion.

He said that Rs 4.90 crore have been released for completion of different works and DPR formation and estimation work is being done in rest of the works and projects.

While reviewing the progress on the repairing and renovation works on different Ziyarats, the Div Com directed the Tourism Department to finalise the DPRs at an earliest and start the works within one month.

The concerned Exens of PHE informed the Div Com that some material for up-gradation of Water Supply Schemes have been procured while as requisite tenders have been placed for the supply of material. In respect of new schemes, the formulation of DPRs is underway. He

directed them to ensure the completion of the works on war-footing.

He was also told that exploration work on different spots is going on for borewells and all of them shall be ready by February 2018.

The estimation work and DPR formulation of sports fields at different parts of the district are underway and the work execution shall be started within a month, apprised the officers of Youth Services & Sports Department and J&K Sports Council.

Exen R&B Dooru Division informed that DPR formulation of Anantnag-Dooru-Verinag (ADV) road is underway and would take time as it involves the acquisition of proprietary land and structures. Meanwhile, the chair directed the SE R&B to explore the feasibility of connecting ADV road with the national highway.

The representative of Directorate Health Services informed the meeting that feasibility regarding renovation, strengthening and upgradation of some PHCs is being verified while as some PHCs have been upgraded which required the strengthening in terms of staffing.

Regarding the construction of tourist hut at Lower Munda, the DDC was directed to identify the land for the purpose. Besides, the ADC was directed to visit Badermuna and explore the connectivity of the village with the railway



station. In addition, the ACR was also directed to visit Shankerpora and get the land identified for the establishment of fruit mandi.

The SE PDD informed the meeting that 2 transformers of 100 MVA capacities for Devsar constituency have been acquired while as another one has been tendered out. He said that necessary tendering has been done for upgradation of transmission and distribution network in the district.

Regarding the augmentation of receiving station Dandipora, it was given

out that the project has been taken up under DDUGJY and Kokernag receiving station has been taken up under IPDS while as Hiller receiving station has been tendered out.

I&FC Department apprised that tendering process has been completed regarding plugging in vulnerable spots on Brengi Nallah and at Mirgund. Regarding the desilting of various canals, the concerned Exen informed that tendering for desilting of various water bodies has been done. He further informed that a DPR worth Rs 35 crore under

PMKSY has been prepared for construction of Right Brengi canal.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the Exen I&FC to ensure the early completion of beautification of Jhelum banks at Bijbehara. He assured that the requisite funds shall be kept available. Meanwhile, the Director Education said that a total of 25 educational institutions shall be upgraded.

With regard to shifting of Achabal Adda to Ashajipora, the EO MC Anantnag was directed to expedite the work on the already identified land. Further, it was given out that 58 Kanals of land has been identified for bus stand Achabal for which the requisite DPR has been prepared.

Regarding the establishment of Mini Office at Kokernag, the SDM concerned has identified 12 Kanals of land. Meanwhile, the proposal along with the feasibility report for creation of Medical Block Kokernag has been submitted to higher authorities. Besides, the feasibility survey for creation of ICDS Breng,

PHE/PDD/Irrigation divisions at Kokernag, PHE and PDD divisions Dooru is underway.

The representative of J&K Bank informed the chair that survey is underway for establishment of bank branches at Badasgam, Thajiwara, Y.K Pora and Wullerhama is underway and bank branches shall be established as per the feasibility within a month.

The officers apprised the Div Com about the status of implementation of the directions passed by the Chief Minister and assured of timely completion of the projects and directions.

The Divisional Commissioner sought sector-wise feedback from the concerned officers and fixed target dates for completion of the CM's directions. Meanwhile, he directed the DDC to constitute inter-Departmental Committee to monitor the implementation of different projects which have been approved in the public darbar. In this regard, he sought fortnightly reporting on a regular basis.

The meeting was attended by Director School Education, Director FCS&CA, Director Floriculture, Director Colleges, Chief Engineers of PMGSY, I&FC, ASP, ADC, divisional and district officers of R&B, PHE, PDD, PMGSY, Education, Tourism, Health, Revenue, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep husbandry, Fisheries, Social Welfare and other concerned.

DAILY Editorial
Time and US
SRINAGAR J&K

A NEUTRAL INTERNET

The struggle to keep the Internet freely accessible to all got a welcome shot in the arm on Tuesday. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) finally came out with clear guidelines in favour of Net neutrality that are consistent with its earlier stand on Facebook's Free Basics proposal. After consultation papers issued in May 2016 and this January, the regulator reiterated that there cannot be discriminatory treatment of websites on the Internet by service providers. In particular, TRAI warned providers against the practice of blocking certain websites and tinkering with content speeds. This, in a nutshell, means that service providers such as telecom companies cannot stand in the way of a consumer's access to content that would otherwise be provided to her without any undue hindrance. They cannot, for instance, charge consumers for access to certain content, or receive payment from websites promising greater promotion of their product over the rest. Quite notably, TRAI's decision comes in the wake of international focus on the U.S. Federal Communications Commission's decision to scrap regulations on service providers imposed during the Obama administration. While battling for the right to an open Internet, however, TRAI has been careful to allow some exceptions that allow companies to discriminate between content if it helps them regulate the flow of traffic or offer "specialised services".

While TRAI's new guidelines will help the cause of building the Internet as a public platform with open access to all, the concerns of service providers should not be dismissed altogether. The Internet has spread all over the world, so widely that many believe it is now an essential good. But the infrastructure that serves as the backbone of the Internet has not come without huge investments by private service providers. So any regulation that severely restricts the ability of companies to earn sufficient returns on investment will only come at the cost of the welfare of the public. In this connection, TRAI has been open to adopting a nuanced view that differentiates between various forms of content instead of imposing a blanket ban on all forms of price differentiation. The new policy, for instance, will still allow companies to justify the costs incurred in providing niche content to consumers. At the same time, TRAI's measured response is likely to effectively address the problem of anti-competitive practices adopted by certain providers. Interestingly, it has left it, with important caveats, to the government to decide on services that count as "specialised" and deserve exceptional treatment by regulators. To this end, a proper mechanism needs to be instituted to make sure that the exceptions are not used as loopholes by the big Internet players. Policymakers will also need to think hard about creating an appropriate legal framework to prevent the capture of regulation by special interests.

India and US must leverage Defence Technology and Trade Initiative for mutual benefit

YET, RHETORICAL RECOGNITION OF THESE REALITIES ISN'T ENOUGH TO PROMPT EFFECTIVE ACTION. A CONVERGENCE OF NATIONAL INTERESTS MUST BE MATCHED BY A CONVERGENCE OF ORGANISATIONAL AND PERSONAL INTERESTS. IN OTHER WORDS, A ROBUST PARTNERSHIP WILL ONLY EMERGE ONCE INDIANS AND AMERICANS ARE BROUGHT TOGETHER IN PRACTICAL PURSUITS THAT SERVE COMMON GOALS.



There is a real possibility that the end of America's "unipolar moment" in Asia will be followed not by an enduring multipolar environment where India has room to thrive, but rather by Chinese regional hegemony. The only realistic bulwark against this outcome is a robust partnership between India and the United States. And even that is a necessary, but insufficient condition for a free and "rules based security architecture in the Indo-Pacific" — to use the recent phraseology of American diplomats.

This reality goes a long way to explaining why there is no shortage of pronouncements attesting to the strategic convergence, common values, and deepening friendship between America and India. Embracing India is one of the few positions that draws not only wide bipartisan support in Washington DC, but unites disparate factions within the Democratic and Republican parties. There is also increasing recognition in New Delhi that India needs foreign partners to manage the risks associated with China's ascendancy. And the United States is still the most capable military and economic force on the planet.

Yet, rhetorical recognition of these realities isn't enough to prompt effective action. A convergence of national interests must be matched by a convergence of organisational and personal interests. In other words, a robust partnership will only emerge once Indians and Americans are brought together in practical pursuits that serve common goals.

In 2012 the US and Indian governments launched an effort that became known as the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) that has been the focal point of government to government efforts to increase defence collaboration. Yet while successful in significant respects, DTTI has failed to produce major

industrial collaboration. And the reason is simple: It didn't bring the right people together.

It's time to reset DTTI in a manner that facilitates match making in the defence sector.

There are plenty of matches to be made. The Modi administration wants to create new jobs in India, while President Trump is keenly focused on increasing American exports. This makes joint US-India manufacturing, co-production, and co-development a common goal.

American national security leaders look at the growing capability gap between the Chinese military and the militaries of neighbouring states and fear a provocative and destabilising imbalance of power. India's military services — by their leadership's own admission — see gaps in India's military capabilities. This makes the provision of advanced American weapons systems to India a common goal, particularly now that the United States is offering unprecedented lethal technologies.

The BJP, India's military services, and India's major business conglomerates find common cause in increasing India's private sector participation in the defence industry. American companies similarly see huge opportunities for private partnerships when they look at India's defence market, labour supply, and engineering expertise and consider the benefits of linking Indian companies to global supply chains.

These are all good matches. The DTTI should now focus on the mechanics of making these matches stick.

To do so, the DTTI dialogues should include participation by Indian officials who represent the interests of India's military services as well as the Modi government's initiative to increase private sector participation in defence production. This would include the Indian

secretary of defence and secretary of defence industrial policy and promotion.

Second, the Indian government should use the DTTI to formally communicate to both the US government and American industry the defence capabilities the ministry of defence seeks to acquire and its timeline for doing so. This will allow American industry to identify opportunities for co-production and co-development that are profitable and therefore economically viable. In concert the US government could then develop policies and security procedures that allow for maximum allowable technology release to India.

Third, the DTTI agenda should be set to correspond with India's "strategic partnership" acquisition procedures. The US government's Technology Security and Foreign Disclosure process for global foreign military sales and direct commercial sales is not tailored to India's unique acquisition procedures. The DTTI dialogues can fill this gap between the two different bureaucratic systems, which was the original purpose of DTTI when it was first created.

The next major opportunity for outcome driven US-India defence engagement is the "2+2" when the U.S. secretary of defence and secretary of state meet together with India's minister of defence and minister of external affairs. These officials are positioned to drive practical and pragmatic collaboration, but it will only go as far as common interests allow. It's essential that the right people from both the private and public sectors be present.

Benjamin Schwartz is senior director for defence and aerospace at the US-India Business Council, and formerly served as India director in the office of the secretary of defence.

To call demonetisation a political success is not accurate

▶ Praveen Chakravarty

On December 30, 2014, there was a sudden announcement to 'withdraw' India's 'high-value' cricketer, MS Dhoni, from circulation immediately. It shocked all Indian cricket fans. Dhoni was India's captain and the most experienced player in the team. The 'regulator', Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), was caught unawares and left to deal with the ramifications of this decision. There was uncertainty and trepidation for the future of Indian cricket. Only, Dhoni decided to 'demonetise' himself; this was not coercion. In the two years since the 'Dhoni demonetisation', India has won 20 of the 29 Test matches it has played, one of its most successful runs in its cricketing history. Dhoni 'withdrew himself from circulation' suddenly and India won most of the Test matches played immediately after. Does this mean that the sudden 'demonetisation' of Dhoni was a cricketing success? If this sounds bizarre, then so is the narrative that India's sudden demonetisation of high-value currency was a political success.

This notion that demonetisation is

an economic failure but a political success is a deeply flawed one. The popular wisdom is that because Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won several state elections immediately after demonetisation, it is a political success. In India's notorious first-past-the-post system, winning an election does not necessarily reflect increased popular support. If demonetisation was indeed a very popular move and earned plaudits among voters as claimed, then this should have reflected in the vote shares for the BJP in elections held immediately after demonetisation. In other words, more people should have supported the BJP after demonetisation than before. Is this true?

There were 578 assembly constituencies across 18 states where voters had a chance to exercise their support for the BJP after demonetisation on November 8, 2016. These include state elections and by-elections to both state assemblies and the Lok Sabha. These exact same 578 constituencies also had a BJP candidate in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. Nearly 100 million Indians voted in these 578 constituencies in elections held after demonetisation. Forty-three per cent of them voted for the BJP in the 2014



elections. After demonetisation, 41% voted for the BJP. In other words, when exactly the same set of voters was given a chance to choose the BJP, fewer voters chose the BJP after demonetisation than before. To be sure, the difference is insignificant and cannot be attributed to demonetisation alone. But clearly this does not support the narrative that de-

monetisation was a hugely popular move among voters and spurred them to support the BJP in larger numbers. Even in terms of seats won, the BJP won 452 of these 578 constituencies before demonetisation; after, it won 408. If fewer voters chose the BJP after demonetisation than before, how can it be deemed a political success? At best, one could ar-

gue that demonetisation did no harm to the BJP and did not pull down its support significantly. But surely it is incorrect to argue that it propelled the BJP to electoral victory.

The argument that demonetisation is a political success for the BJP is not very different from the argument that Dhoni's sudden retirement was a crick-

eting success. This argument presupposes that the BJP would not have won these elections otherwise and demonetisation was instrumental in their victory. Any counterfactual proposition is difficult to prove, but if the scale and quality of the BJP victory in the 2014 elections is any indicator, then it is clear that it did not need a risky experiment such as demonetisation for it to win the elections that it did. It is evident that demonetisation was not a big negative to pull down the BJP's support base but that is not the same as saying that it helped the BJP win elections and hence it is a political success.

Too often, pundits come up with big narratives to explain electoral outcomes based on a simplistic win-loss headline. This runs the risk of drawing the wrong conclusions and leading to false policy choices. Surely, the lesson from demonetisation for political parties cannot be that risky, audacious and ill-thought economic policies are good political strategies. To call demonetisation a political success is inaccurate.

Praveen Chakravarty is a political economist and senior fellow, IDFC Institute

Manmohan Singh terms Nov. 8 as 'black day' for economy, democracy

SURAT: Senior Congress leader Manmohan Singh on Saturday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi over demonetisation and termed November 8, 2016, as "black day" for economy and democracy.

Addressing the media here, the former prime minister also expressed grief over the deaths of people who lost their lives while standing in queues outside banks in the days after the demonetisation of high-value currency notes. "I say with immense pain and a sense of deep responsibility that the November 8 was a black day for our economy and democracy. I invoke memories of more than 100 people who lost their lives while standing in queues as a result of demonetisation," he added.

Earlier in the day, Union Minister



Arun Jaitley launched a scathing attack at the former prime minister alleging that previous government under Manmohan Singh was the "most corrupt".

"The 10 years of governance before Prime Minister Modi's government was the most corrupt government we have ever seen. It was a leaderless government. It was said that the then prime minister was a prime minister in office, but not in power," he added.

With the Gujarat assembly elections date inching closer, the Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have left no stone unturned in bringing one another down.

The two-phase Gujarat elections will take place on December 9 and 14, while the results will be declared on December 18.

Owaisi opposes triple talaq bill, calls for Muslim unity to protect 'shariat'

HYDERABAD: Strongly opposing the proposed legislation on triple talaq, MIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Saturday called for unity among Indian Muslims to protect the 'shariat'.

Stating that the Supreme Court verdict on the issue is confusing and nobody can say if uttering talaq thrice in one sitting annuls marriage or it is considered only one talaq, he wondered how the government can bring a bill in the Parliament.

The Member of Parliament asked the Narendra Modi government if it would provide financial aid to women if their husbands were sent to jail for three years.

Addressing a public meeting at MIM headquarters Darussalam on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabbi, he warned that the legislation could lead to a new problem of husbands abandoning their wives.

He criticised Modi for speaking about the rights of Muslim women but ignoring the "Hindu sisters". Claiming that "20 lakh Hindu women are abandoned by their husbands", Owaisi asked Modi if he would come to their rescue as well.

He said the Sangh Pariwar shows sympathy for Muslim women but was not allowing a film to be released.

"When you can't allow a film ('Padmavati') to be released, how can you interfere in my shariat," Owaisi asked.

The MIM President said Muslims should learn a lesson from Rajputs who despite being less in numbers came together to stop the release of the film.

"If Muslims can unite to strengthen the country and to save shariat, we can definitely do something," he added.

The MP said the community should also learn lessons from Patels, Gujjars, Jats and Marathas who came together to fight for their rights and for reservation.

On Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's statement that the Taj Mahal is not part of Indian culture, and BJP describing the monument as symbol of slavery, Owaisi asked why Modi hosted a dinner in Falaknuma Palace here for



US President Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump and others.

"You have to see the symbols of our forefathers," he remarked while also referring to the other dinner hosted at Golconda Fort for delegates of Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) this week.

Referring to the Gujarat elections, the MIM chief said the leaders of both BJP and Congress were vying with each other in visiting temples and every leader claiming himself to be a "bigger Hindu than the other".

He alleged that both the parties were competing with each other in offering reservation for various communities but were united in opposing quota for Muslims. He described both the parties as "hypocrites".

On former US President Barack Obama stressing the need to nurture and cherish Indian Muslims, Owaisi said it was news for media only because a former US President has stated it.

"Our party has been saying the same for over 60 years. We have been saying that we love this country, we have faith in its Constitution and the country can strengthen if Muslims get their constitutional rights," he said.

Targeting the Congress party, he said it blamed the MIM for dividing votes in various states to hide its failure to defeat Modi. He recalled that his party had contested only 28 seats out of 400 in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

"In the civic polls in UP, we won 32 seats but Congress got only 19 seats and could not win a single seat in Amethi," he added.

AP Govt passes resolution to include Boyas, Valmikis in ST list



AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh government passed a resolution to include Boyas, Valmikis and related sub sects of Andhra Pradesh in Scheduled Tribes (STs).

The government has put forth the matter before the central government to include Valmikis and Boyas in STs and provide them reservation accordingly. Currently they are in the Backward Class-A (BC-A) list.

In, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Haryana and other states, the Valmiki-Boya community is already in the ST list. The Boya-Valmiki community, who forms a major vote bank, has welcomed the move to fulfill their long-pending demand.

This decision may give ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) an edge ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections.

On November 12, Leader of Opposition Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy promised to include the Boya/Valmiki community in the Scheduled Tribes list if his YSR Congress Party gained power in 2019.

However, the move is opposed by the Tribes including Chenchus, Yanadis, Erukakas and Sugalis, as they are not ready to share the ST reservation with Boya-Valmiki community. They say that Valmiki Boya community was already enjoying BC status, as they do not belong to tribal community. They alleged that the state government was trying to grant ST status to Boyas only to gain political mileage.

The tenure of current Assembly will be completed on June 14, 2019. The state has 175 seats, and, currently, the ruling TDP has clear cut majority with 102 seats, and the main opposition Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRC) has 67 seats.

UP civic polls: SP corners BJP over alleged EVM tampering

KOLKATA: Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan on Saturday cornered the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), alleging the latter used unfair means to win the Uttar Pradesh civic polls.

In response to Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati's allegations about tampering of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) in the polls, Khan told reporters, "There was no tampering but setting. The BJP won wherever EVMs were used and SP won wherever ballot papers were used."

Khan also quipped that the BJP was "completely wiped out" while SP "won the whole zilla" wherever EVMs weren't used.

Earlier in the day, Mayawati accused the BJP of tampering with the EVMs in the Uttar Pradesh civic body polls, "as they did

back in 2014."

"Even in these civic body elections, they tampered the electoral process; otherwise our mayors would have won. Overall they were unable to make us lose, as the BSP came second in position," she added.

Meanwhile, BJP's senior leader and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley brushed off the allegations, saying the Opposition leaders were "making excuses for their defeat."

"The results haven't been out yet and they have already started making excuses for their defeat," Jaitley said at a press conference in Surat. In the Uttar Pradesh Civil polls yesterday, the BJP won in 14 out of 16 municipal corporations. The BSP trailed second winning two seats, while the SP came in second in the municipal councils and nagar panchayats.

UP civic polls: BJP tampered with EVMs, alleges Mayawati

LUCKNOW: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Saturday alleged the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) tampered with the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in the Uttar Pradesh civil body polls. "The BJP has tampered with the EVMs in the assembly elections of 2017, as they did back in 2014. Even in these civil body elections, they tampered the electoral process, otherwise our mayors would have won. Overall they were unable to make us lose, as the BSP came second in position," Mayawati, who visited here to pay a tribute to Buddhist monk Pragyaaji, said. Mayawati further said it was not just the Dalits, but other communities like the Backward Classes and the Muslims also supported them in the polls.

"We are taking with us people from all communities because BSP believes



in 'Sarvan hitae, Sarvan Sukhaye' (everybody's interest and everybody's happiness). When we won in Uttar Pradesh, we ran our government on this slogan. What is good for us is that along with Dalits, the upper class, and the Backward Classes and the minority sections," she added. She further challenged the BJP

to remove the EVMs and start using ballot papers. "I challenge the BJP today. If they are honest and believe in the Constitution, then they should remove the EVMs and start using ballot papers. If they claim that the nation is with them, they should keep aside the EVMs and put up ballot papers. If they hold elections with ballot papers, they will not win," she said. The BJP secured a massive victory in the civic polls in Uttar Pradesh on Friday. The BSP won the mayoral posts in Aligarh and Meerut. Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party failed to win a single mayoral seat.

Cyclone Ockhi: Missing 6 boats, 73 fishermen brought back



CHENNAI: Six boats and 73 fishermen that went missing in the sea during the cyclonic storm, Ockhi, have been brought back due to the ongoing search operations, the Fisheries Minister of Tamil Nadu, D Jayakumar, informed on Saturday.

"After concentrated efforts taken with the help of the Union Government and massive search operations carried out by INS ships, we have brought back six boats and 73 fishermen," Jayakumar told reporters, and added the search operations were underway to recover the remaining 33 boats and 95 fishermen.

At the onset of the severe cyclone that jolted the southern part of the country, several naval ships were deployed for rescue operations.

Defence Minister N Sitharaman, on Friday, had confirmed that six warships and two coast guard ships were deployed along with additional air effort.

The move came after cyclone Ockhi lashed the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu and Kerala > Kerala with torrential rainfall and gusty winds.

The India Meteorological Department had already warned of heavy rains, and disruption in sea conditions, when a deep depression over the South-West Bay of Bengal snowballed cyclone 'Ockhi' on Thursday morning. The Met department also advised fishermen along and off the Lakshadweep Islands, and the coasts of South Tamil Nadu and South Kerala > Kerala, to not venture into the sea.

Arunachal leaders demand action post attack on student in Shimla

ITANAGAR: Cutting across party lines, politicians in Arunachal Pradesh have strongly condemned last month's attack on an Arunachal Pradesh college student in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. According to reports, four engineering students -- Lucky Dorje (22), Kin Jog Tinley (25) and Chopel (21) from Bhutan, and Tashi alias Sonu (26) attacked Govin Niji alias Munna, a student pursuing a course in architecture at the A P Goel Shimla University. The attack was so severe, that Niji, a resident of Khatrigo village near Daporijo had to be rushed to the PGIMER, Chandigarh for emergency treatment. He is now recuperating, but still is in critical condition, his parents Mago Niji and Yamen Niji and sister Gona Niji told

this correspondent over telephone. Arunachal Pradesh Education Minister Honchun Ngandam has briefed Chief Minister Pema Khandu about the attack on Niji that took place in Shimla on November 26. The incident evoked strong criticism from all state leaders and their respective parties.

State Home Minister Kumar Waii spoke to the state home secretary and director general of police, and got an FIR lodged. The four engineering students have been arrested. "Our students studying outside should remain careful to protect themselves as they are our state's living assets," Waii said.

Rajya Sabha member Mukut Mithi, Lok Sabha member Ninong Ering, state's opposition leader Takam Pario, former CM Nabam Tuki,

party presidents Tapir Gao (ruling BJP), Takam Sanjoy (Congress) and Kahfa Bengia (PPA) also reacted strongly to the incident. They were all unanimous in their view that such an inhuman attack on a student in a higher educational institution is not expected, and that all possible steps should be taken by the state government to prevent such incidents in the future. Expressing deep concern over repeated acts of racial discrimination, APCC president Takam Sanjoy spoke to Himachal Pradesh PCC president Sukhbinder Singh over telephone and urged him to take all possible steps to ensure the safety and security of all north east people either working or studying in the state. "They fall prey to such atrocities because of their sim-

ilarity and straight forwardness, their inborn qualities, I, therefore, request you to extend all possible help, including medical aid to the victim, so that he can recover and resume his studies," he said. Pointing out that the attack on Niji was against the secular spirit of India, PPA president Bengia called on the Centre to take precautionary steps to integrate the nation and prevent such incidents. Secularism would have no meaning until the entire population of the nation is mentally integrated, he reasoned.

National People's Party president Kakabk Tacho and general secretary Nima Sange said it is high time for mainland Indian to treat Arunachlees with respect and love as they are the sentinels of Indo-China frontier.

Arunachal Pradesh Literary Society president Y D Thongchi pitched decried the attack as unforgivable and advocated that those guilty should be taken to task to send out a louder message to society.

"India is one nation, one people," he added. A visibly upset Gona, who is a traditional fashion designer, helplessly asked: Why was my brother attacked? Is not racial discrimination?

The state's Education Secretary Bidol Tayeng has written a letter to the Himachal Pradesh government and demanded the strictest action possible for the erring students.

The discrimination against north east students is such that about 3.5 lakh people and students have returned back to their native places.

Judiciary must leave governance, law-making to Parliament: Ravi Shankar Prasad

NEW DELHI: Judiciary must leave law-making to Parliament, Union law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said on Friday, calling upon judges to respect the constitutional principle of separation of powers.

Prasad's comments come in the backdrop of the government's criticism of judicial activism, the latest point of friction between the executive and judiciary.

"We are proud of the judiciary and are committed to its independence. If the executive makes a mistake, the judiciary must step in. But my problem is with governance. Governance and policy making must be left to those who are entrusted with the task,"

Prasad said at the 15th Hindustan Times Leadership Summit. The law minister also expressed concern over the time taken by courts to decide cases and the problem of pendency of cases.

"Cases have been languishing for 10 or more years and it is a problem. The government has taken an initiative to address this, and focus is now on disposal of cases... Courts are now working on Saturdays and Sundays too," he said. Prasad also talked about other initiatives of the government which include enforcement of institutional arbitration and changes in the law to make contracts between parties stronger.

Congress says Poonawalla creating distractions at someone's behest

BENGALURU: Congress Karnataka Chief Dinesh Gundu Rao on Saturday slammed party leader Shehzad Poonawalla for terming the process to elect party President "rigged" and said that he was asked by somebody to create distractions.

Speaking to ANI, Rao claimed that the entire party wants Rahul Gandhi to become the Congress President.

"Congress is only party which had polls for president. Even when Sonia Gandhi contested, Jitendra Prasad was opponent. Somebody is asking him (Shehzad Poonawalla) to do it to create distractions. Entire party wants Rahul Gandhi to become president,



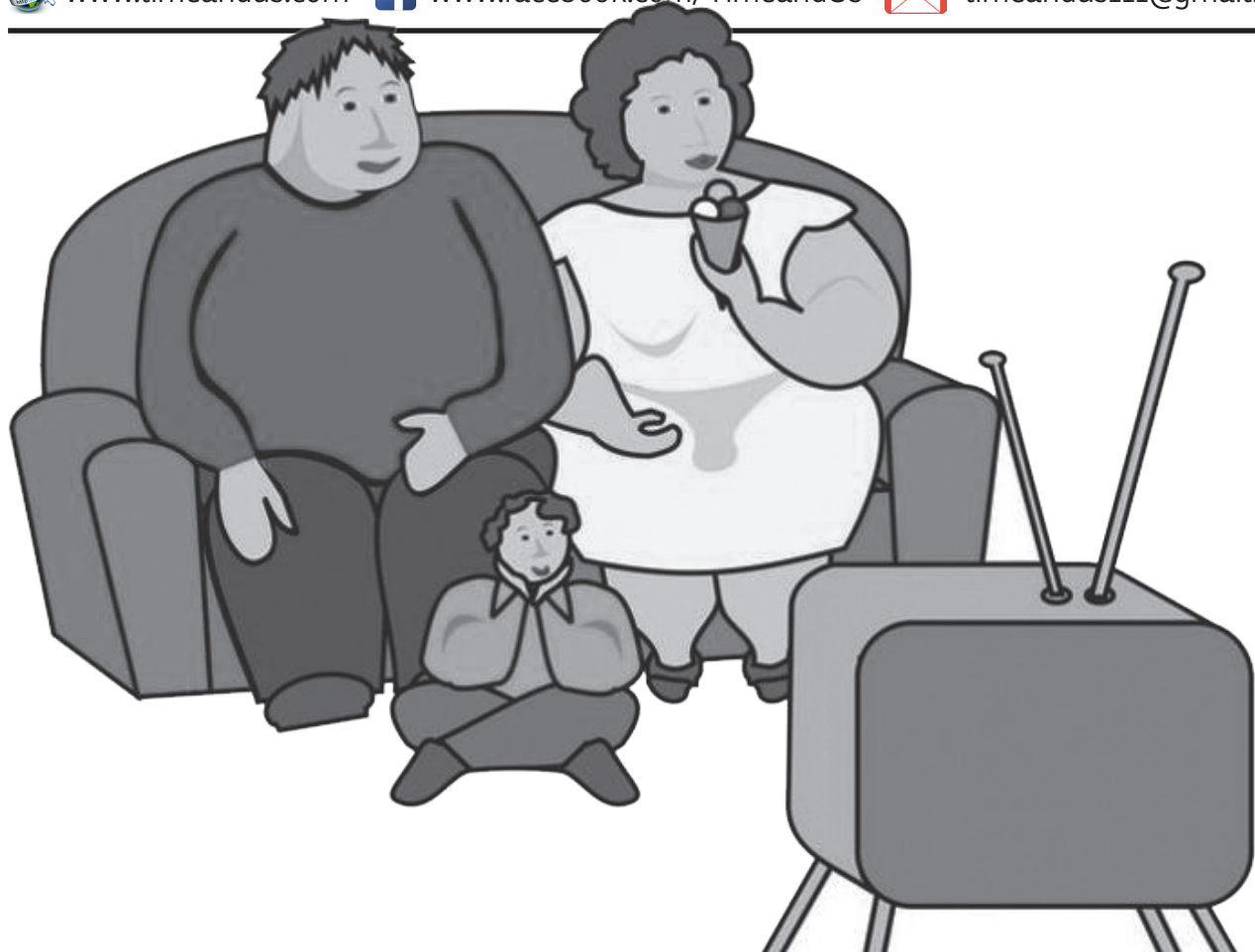
he said. Earlier this week, Maharashtra Congress Secretary Poonawalla said that the process to elect

the party President was stacked in Rahul's favour just because he belongs to the Gandhi family. "Raising an issue

nobody in my party - the Congress will have guts to raise - my conscience will not allow me to stay quiet anymore on Dynasty/sycophancy," he tweeted.

Poonawalla had also told the media earlier that he would want to contest the party President election if it was conducted in a genuine manner.

However, he has been receiving flak from his party members, including accusations of him not being a Congressman. Responding to the same, he categorically stated that he was a "Congressman for life," and alleged that such comments were a result of the party fearing Rahul Gandhi's defeat, "even in a rigged election."



PARENTAL OBESITY MAY AFFECT THE CHILD'S ANALYTICAL, SOCIAL SKILLS

Children of obese fathers are more likely to have difficulty interacting with others, according to a new study which shows that weight of parents may cause developmental delays in kids, affecting their motor skills and problem solving abilities.

Such children were more likely to fail measures of social competence and those born to extremely obese couples also

were more likely to fail tests of problem-solving ability, researchers have found.

Researchers from the US National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), found that children of obese mothers were more likely to fail tests of fine motor skill - the ability to control movement of small muscles, such as those in the fingers and

hands. "The previous US studies in this area have focused on the mothers' pre- and post-pregnancy weight," said Edwina Yeung from NICHD.

"Our study is one of the few that also includes information about fathers, and our results suggest that dad's weight also has significant influence on child development," said Yeung. Researchers reviewed data

collected from more than 5,000 women enrolled in the study roughly four months after giving birth in New York State between 2008 and 2010.

To assess development, parents completed a questionnaire after performing a series of activities with their children.

The test is not used to diagnose specific disabilities, but serves as a screen for potential

problems, so that children can be referred for further testing.

Children in the study were tested at four months of age and retested six more times through age three.

When they enrolled, mothers also provided information on their health and weight - before and after pregnancy - and the weight of their partners. Compared to children of normal

weight mothers, children of obese mothers were nearly 70% more likely to have failed the test indicator on fine motor skill by age three.

Children of obese fathers were 75% more likely to fail the test's personal-social domain - an indicator of how well they were able to relate to and interact with others by age three. Children with two obese par-

ents were nearly three times more likely to fail the test's problem-solving section by age three. It is not known why parental obesity might increase children's risk for developmental delay.

Researchers note that animal studies indicate that obesity during pregnancy may promote inflammation, which could affect the fetal brain. The study appears in the journal Pediatrics.

Stop, don't say cheers yet. Addiction to alcohol exposes you to heart diseases

Next time you are in a pub after office hours, keep this in mind. Alcohol addiction can increase the risk of heart attack, atrial fibrillation and congestive heart failure along with other risk factors like diabetes and high blood pressure, a study has found. The findings showed that alcohol abuse was associated with a two-fold increased risk of atrial fibrillation - irregular, often rapid heart rate causing poor blood flow. There is also a 1.4-fold increased risk of heart attack and a 2.3-fold increased risk of congestive heart failure - a condition in which the heart does not pump blood well. These increased risks were similar in magnitude to other well-recognized modifiable risk factors such as diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity. "We found that even if you have no underlying risk factors, abuse



of alcohol still increases the risk of these heart conditions," said lead researcher Gregory M. Marcus, Director at the University of California, San Francisco.

Completely eradicating alcohol abuse would result in over 73,000 fewer atrial fibrillation cases, 34,000 fewer heart attacks, and 91,000 fewer patients with congestive heart

failure in the US alone, the researchers noted. For the study, the team analysed 14.7 million patients from California aged 21 and older who received ambulatory surgery, emergency or inpatient medical care. Among these 1.8%, or approximately 268,000, were diagnosed with alcohol abuse. "We were somewhat surprised to find those diagnosed with some form of alcohol abuse were at significantly higher risk of a heart attack," Marcus said. "We hope this study will temper the enthusiasm for drinking in excess and will avoid any justification for excessive drinking because people think it will be good for their heart. These data pretty clearly prove the opposite," he stated. The study was published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

Friends, family help patients improve faster. Don't stop them from socialising



Next time any of your loved one is admitted in the hospital, here's something you could do to make them feel better. Leveraging existing relationships with friends and family may be a more effective way to improve patients' health than increasing interactions with physicians or other clinicians, suggests a new study.

In a new study, researchers suggest a five-step ladder to effectively engineering social engagements that promote health and to test their acceptability and effectiveness. "Spouses and friends are more likely to be around patients when they are making decisions that affect their health - like taking a walk versus watching TV, or what to order at a restaurant," said David Asch, professor at the University of Pennsylvania in the US.

"Patients are also more likely to adopt healthy behaviours - like going to the gym - when they can go with a friend," Asch said. "Though people are more heavily influenced by those around them every day than they are by doctors and nurses they interact with only occasionally, these cost-free interactions remain largely untapped when engineering social incentives for health," he said.

Due to these lost opportunities, and the high costs when doctors and nurses keep tabs on their patients, the researchers said it is important to engineer social engagements that enlist the social support patients already have and allow organisations to test their acceptability.

"Concerns about privacy are often the reason doctors and hospitals avoid organising social support," Asch said. "But while privacy is very important to some patients under some circumstances, more often patients would love if their friends and family helped them manage their diabetes, and those friends and family want to help people get their health under control," he said.

"Although we don't normally think of competition or collaboration among patients are part of managing chronic diseases like high blood pressure, heart failure, or diabetes, research shows that behaviour is contagious, and programmes that take advantage of these naturally occurring relationships can be very effective," said Roy Rosin, chief innovation officer at Penn Medicine. The study was published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

SUPERFOODS YOU SHOULD INCLUDE IN YOUR DAILY DIET FOR A HEALTHY 2017

It's that time of year again when we collectively resolve to drop those stubborn 10 pounds, quit smoking and eat healthy. If you want to get ahead on your health-related New Year's resolutions, take notes from market research group Mintel's list of some of the trendiest superfoods of 2016.

Turmeric

It's widely known that turmeric is packed full of health properties like anti-inflammatory benefits. This year, the spice became a superfood ingredient added to foods like flavored almonds, chocolate milk and sports drinks, and was also touted as an aid for recovery following physical activity.

Moringa

A popular beauty product ingredient, the leaves of the moringa plant are chock-full of vitamins, minerals and phytochemicals which are touted as anti-aging ingredients. This year, the plant crossed over into the food world, notably in shakes and smoothies, where it was billed as a beauty food ingredient.

Ancient grains

Ancient grains like quinoa, amaranth, millet and teff became a popular food



staple this year, making their way into both pasta and cereal.

Pulses

Pulses got a major PR boost after the UN declared 2016 the International Year of the Pulse. Like ancient grains, pulses such as chickpeas, navy beans and lentils

will continue to be vaunted in 2017 for being low-fat and high-protein, as well as their high fiber content. Expect lentil chips to become an alternative to kale chips, which have long been a popular healthy alternative to potato chips.

Superseeds

This year, nutrient-dense seeds like sunflower, sesame, hemp and pumpkin seeds were blended to boost their superfood strength, and added to foods like energy bars and soups, claiming to do everything from fight fatigue and help with metabolism.

Follow these tips to take your business international

NEW DELHI: For any business, international expansion is the best way to boost sales and profits, amplify the brand's reach and presence in both domestic and global markets.

But global expansion brings with it several challenges like new markets, laws, consumers, culture, business environment, etc. Hence, no matter how ready you may be as an organisational force, or how successful your product may have been in the home market, there's always some obstacles that may surface when you venture into a foreign market.

So here are five essential points indicated by CEO and co-founder Mettl, Ketan Kapoor that companies must consider before undertaking international expansion: Make your research tangible and tenable

Conduct a detailed market research of the country or geography you plan to venture into.

Analyse the various market segments to identify the potential demand for your product.

A product gap analysis of existing local products can help determine a gap in the market which your product can effectively fill.

Perform a SWOT analysis to determine where you stand in comparison to the competition. This can help the business overcome challenges like pricing and distribution, and eventually, get ahead of the competition.

Analyse the market opportunity and size to help the management prepare a timeline and strategy to achieve targeted sales.

The scaling strategy Developing a business plan with a localised strategy is important to gain a foothold in the local market. Decide on the short-term and long-term strategies. Then set measurable goals, like increasing cost benefit, for instance, to quantify the progress and success of the strategy.

Define the metrics for success. Establish a business model and organisational structure.

Create a top-down annual



budget. Create a market-ready product. Ensure that your product is ready for the market by applying the findings from the product gap analysis. This will help you effectively differentiate your

product from the other offerings in the market.

Assess your product and localise it to meet specific demands of the market. Also, check if your product name and key specifications translate properly into the local language. Review and renew your product's patent or trademark to protect the company's intellectual property. Conduct quality checks and tests on the product to make sure that it meets local standards. Create a local distribution network by working with local logistics providers.

Evaluate government regulations and laws pertaining to the industry and ensure your product complies with them and has all the necessary certifications. Create a bridge team Assemble a provisional team of executives to implement the launch plans.

Bring on board senior executives with domain expertise.

A financial infrastructure must be in place before you launch the product. You can outsource

this function to a local company for better compliance with local laws and regulations.

Hire a stable leadership team before going to market.

Ensure organisational readiness. Local employees can be engaged in a better manner when organisational policies and procedures take into consideration the local culture, language, etc.

Identify an organisational structure best suited for the efficient execution of the business strategy. Create policies and procedures that are compliant to the parent company's policies and meet local requirements.

Offer competitive benefits programs to attract top local talent. Offer employees competitive compensation packages that meet local standards.

Develop an IT infrastructure which is compatible to the home infrastructure.

Establish payroll and human resource functions, another area where outsourcing can help the company.

Paytm Mall emerges as most popular app on Google Play Store

NEW DELHI: Online Shopping has emerged as one of the most popular apps of 2017 on Google Play Store.

Google has announced its Google Play's "Best of 2017" app list, which reveals the most popular apps, games, movies, books, and music on the platform in India. Paytm Mall is the only e-retail app that has made it to Google India's top app list.

The Paytm Mall app is fastest growing online marketplace for all shopping needs. The platform, owned by Paytm E-Commerce Pvt Ltd, works on O2O (Offline-to-Online) model that contributes towards the growth for every stakeholder in the retail ecosystem including shopkeepers and brands.

The platform helps local offline stores grow their business and acquire new customers

by bringing them online on its platform. This enables customers to place their orders conveniently and receive faster deliveries from their trusted neighborhood stores.

Apart from benefitting local retailers, Paytm Mall offers a wide range of shopping choices to its customers by partnering with large brands across categories, including Apple, Samsung, LG, Oppo, Sony, HP, Leno-

vo, JBL, Philips, Puma, Allen Solly, Lee, Pepe, Van Heusen, Woodland, Catwalk, Sketchers, Levi's, Vero Moda, Red Tape, Crocs, and Fossil among others. Paytm Mall delivers to more than 17,000 pincodes across India; and is currently on an expansion mode. The company is committed to bring several offerings and initiatives so that Paytm Mall app continues to be a favorite among Indian shoppers.

Infosys hires Salil S. Parekh as CEO and MD



NEW DELHI: IT major Infosys on Saturday announced appointment of Salil S Parekh as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director effective January 2, 2018.

A master of Engineering degrees holder in Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering from Cornell University, and a Bachelor of Technology degree holder in Aeronautical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Salil S Parekh will replace U B Pravin Rao, who had earlier replaced Vishal Sikka as the interim CEO and Managing Director. "We are delighted to have Salil joining as the CEO and MD of Infosys. He has nearly three decades of global experience in the IT services industry. He has a strong track record of executing business turnarounds and managing very successful acquisitions," said Chairman Infosys' board, Nandan Nilekani in a filing on the Bombay Stock Exchange. He added that the board believes that Salil is the right person to lead Infosys at this transformative time in the industry.

Startups in India that are leading the race in AI in 2017

NEW DELHI: With a lot of development in AI happening around the globe, India is coming up with equally unique perspectives on the field, as their other developed counterparts. Apparently, in India alone the number of start-ups booming in the space touches 200+, with investments flowing from all major investors. Given the age of disruptive technologies, Artificial intelligence can definitely be termed one of the most promising one. It has helped Startups to become more organized. Here are some of the few Startups across sectors from auto to Fintech that have been using AI uniquely

ePayLater Driven by the mantra - cashless convenient credit, ePayLater can primarily be defined as a new age payment solution that comes with a 'Buy now, Pay later' approach. Incorporated on Dec 1, 2015, the

platform uses unique AI and machine learning algorithms that continuously learn from consumers' online presence, social behavior and buying pattern across different shopping merchants. AI not only processes real time data to check credit worth of the consumers but also processes indirect variables that help them eliminate the frauds among the lot. There recent tie up with IRCTC enabling passengers to book tatkal ticket within seconds and pay after 14 days is a proof of brilliant usage of AI.

Happy Loans Incepted in December 2016 in Mumbai, Happy Loans, one of India's most innovative loan facilitators with a vision of offering customers a truly 'happy' banking and loan processing experience uses AI at large. To decide a merchant's credit worth with live data about his

business. AI not only processes real time data to check credit worth of a merchant but also processes indirect variables that affect a business eg: location, nature of business, lean and peak season. The entire modeling is based on a merchant's daily repayment - AI helps to analyze a merchant's periodic repayment and rewards/ punishes his credit worth accordingly. A user can borrow more if he maintains a healthy repayment history. AI helps improve Customer life cycle by personalizing the experience for every individual. Standardising personalization improve business efficiency and loyalty

Truebil An Omni channel platform to buy and sell pre-owned cars, have redefined the car buying process. Recently launched their services in New Delhi and Bangalore. Truebil uses AI in their Truescore algorithm.

AI is used for the price prediction of a used car, by not just taking in the condition of the car but also the geographic and season implications also.

It is fundamentally changing three major blocks of the supply chain: the way people shop, the way that dealerships sell, and the way that lenders finance auto purchases. AI is transforming the automobile sector with the upcoming driver-less cars. Features like automatic braking, alert systems, intelligent cruise controls and collision avoidance systems are some of the lesser features powered by AI.

Genext Students An edu-tech startup who uses AI platform for collecting the traverse data, helps them to access the profiles of the students and tutors. Based on the Tutor matching algorithm, they create a per-

sonalized search pattern which offers guaranteed outcome in terms of a student's current learning outcomes and required guidance and match it with the requirement.

Content, Student and Mentor - all the three major verticals of education are built with AI models using self learning mechanism which creates a niche experience for the parents who can also track their child's progress.

Haptik Haptik is one of the world's largest chatbot platforms, building applications for consumers, publishers, and enterprises. The company has been at the forefront of the paradigm shift from apps to bots, having worked across various chatbot use cases such as commerce, customer service, utility and lead generation. AI is the base of this startup.

Infosys appoints Salil S Parekh as new CEO, managing director

MUMBAI: Infosys, India's No.2 IT services company, named Salil S Parekh as chief executive on Saturday, picking an outsider for the job a second time and handing him the twin challenges of reviving growth and making peace between its founders and board.

Parekh, who will join from consultancy firm Capgemini where he is currently an executive, has been given a 5-year term effective January 2, an Infosys filing to exchanges showed.

UB Pravin Rao who was serving as the interim CEO has been re-designated as chief operating officer from January 2, Infosys said.

"After a comprehensive global search effort, we are pleased to appoint Salil as the CEO & MD," said Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, chairperson of the nomination & remuneration committee at Infosys.

"He was the top choice from a pool of highly qualified candidates. With his strong track record and extensive experience, we believe, we have the right person to lead Infosys." Parekh has Master of Engineering degrees in Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering from Cornell University, and a Bachelor of Technology degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

Former CEO Vishal Sikka announced a sudden exit in August after a protracted public spat with the company's founding executives, led by Narayana Murthy, over strategy and alleged corporate governance lapses.

Sikka, who joined from German software maker SAP SE in 2014, was the first outsider to be appointed CEO of the Bengaluru-headquartered company.

His exit and the prolonged public row led to a reshuffling of the Infosys' board with Nandan Nilekani, a co-founder and former CEO, returning as non-executive chairman.

Nilekani, credited with four-fold growth in Infosys' revenue to \$2 billion during his tenure as CEO, had said at the time that cultural fit would be an important criteria for the top job, making internal candidates "very strong contenders".

Nissan motor sues India over outstanding dues; seeks over \$770 million

NEW DELHI: Japanese automaker Nissan Motor has begun international arbitration against India to seek more than \$770 million in a dispute over unpaid state incentives, according to a person familiar with the matter and documents reviewed by Reuters.

In a legal notice sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year, Nissan sought payment of incentives due from the Tamil Nadu government as part of a 2008 agreement to set up a car manufacturing plant in the southern state.

According to the notice, Nissan said repeated requests to state officials for the payment, due in 2015, were overlooked and even a plea by the company's chairman, Carlos Ghosn, to Modi in March of last year seeking federal assistance did not yield any results.

The notice, sent by Nissan's lawyers in July 2016, was followed by more than a dozen meetings between federal and state officials and Nissan executives, said the person familiar

with the matter, who did not want to be named as it is not public.

The federal officials, from several ministries, assured Nissan the payment would be made, and it should not bring a legal case. But, in August, Nissan gave India an ultimatum to appoint an arbitrator, the person said, adding the first arbitration hearing will be in mid-December.

A Nissan spokesman said the company was "committed to working with the government of India toward a resolution," but did not elaborate. A senior Tamil Nadu state official said the government hoped to resolve the dispute without having to go to international arbitration. "There is no discrepancy with regard to the amount due, and we are trying hard to resolve the issue," the official told Reuters.

Modi's office did not respond to an email seeking comment.

The case, brought against India for alleged violations of its Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Japan, is the latest



in a string of international arbitration proceedings against the country by investors concerned about issues ranging from retrospective taxation to payments disputes.

There are over 20 cases pending against India, among the highest against any single nation.

The dispute between Nissan and the Tamil Nadu government also shows the challenges companies face in India and how local disputes could undermine the Modi government's efforts to attract foreign investment and create new jobs.

GROWING LOSSES

Several automakers, including Ford and Hyundai Motor, have set up production hubs in Tamil Nadu, giving state capital Chennai the nickname; the 'Detroit of South Asia'. In 2008, when Nissan and its global alliance partner, French carmaker Renault, agreed to invest in setting up a car plant in Chennai, the state government promised several incentives including some tax refunds.

Over seven years, Nissan and Renault invested 61 billion rupees

(\$946 million) and set up a plant with annual production capacity of 480,000 vehicles, which entitled them to receive the incentives in 2015, according to the legal notice.

In that notice, Nissan's lawyers said the state government's decision to not pay was "arbitrary", and Nissan has "incurred significant and increasing losses".

Nissan did not specify the business impact in the 8-page notice, but said in 2008 that state incentives were critical to the project's viability and sustainability.

The carmaker, in its notice, is claiming 29 billion rupees in unpaid incentives and 21 billion rupees in damages, plus interest and other costs. Nissan, which has less than a 2 percent share of India's passenger car market, builds and sells the Mira hatchback, Sunny sedan and Terrano sport-utility vehicle. It also sells low-cost cars under its Datsun brand. The company spokesman said Nissan has created more than 40,000 direct and indirect jobs in India.

Tata Motors regains third spot from M&M after 5 years

NEW DELHI: Riding high on the Nexon SUV Tata Motors managed to regain the number three spot in passenger vehicles which it had lost to utility vehicle specialist Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) five years ago.

Sales of all passenger vehicles (cars and utility vehicles) sold by Tata Motors surpassed that of M&M last month as per data revealed

by both the companies.

Tata Motors clocked volumes of 17,157 units during November as against 16,030 units clocked by M&M during the same month. While Tata Motors volumes jumped by 35 percent that of M&M surged by 21 percent.

Tata Motors volume surge was led by the recently launched Nexon compact SUV and the Tiago hatchback, both of which generate more than 60 percent of the total monthly volumes of the company. As per Tata Motors executives Nexon did face a production glitch soon after its launch but that has reportedly been sorted out and the company is going full ahead with production. Five years ago when

M&M dethroned Tata Motors from the third spot Tata Motors shareholders severely criticized the company at its annual general meeting chaired by Ratan Tata. "I have a certain degree of sadness and shame that we let Mahindra overtake us", Tata had said back then.

Guenther Butschek, Managing Director, Tata Motors had promised a return to the third spot in the passenger vehicle space though he did not mention any timeline. Tata Motors was at the fifth spot when Butschek took over the reins. The Mumbai-based company made some rapid strides during the last many months which

sides the launch of new products also includes overhauling of its sales and service network and improve incentivisation of performance of its sales workforce.

Five years ago when M&M dethroned Tata Motors from the third spot Tata Motors shareholders severely criticized the company at its annual general meeting chaired by Ratan Tata. "I have a certain degree of sadness and shame that we let Mahindra overtake us", Tata had said back then.

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Virat Kohli passes landmark 5,000 Test runs as India increase Sri Lanka's agony

NEW DELHI: Indian captain Virat Kohli blasted an unbeaten 156 to pass 5,000 runs in Test cricket as his side made 371-4 on a painful opening day of the third Test for Sri Lanka's bowlers.

Opener Murali Vijay also plundered 155 to increase the agony for the tourists who are one down in the series.

Kohli remained on 156 with Rohit Sharma on six at the end of the day at the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium in New Delhi.

Kohli and Vijay put on 283 for the third wicket after India lost its top two batsmen in the

morning session. Left-arm wrist spinner Lakshan Sandakan hurt the hosts with two late wickets, including Vijay's prized scalp.

Vijay was stumped for 155 though the decision needed approval from the third umpire with the batsman's back foot just on the line.

Ajinkya Rahane's miserable run with the bat continued as he was stumped in a similar fashion to walk off with one run to his name from five deliveries.

Kohli, fresh from a majestic 213 during India's thrashing of Sri Lanka in the second Test in Nagpur, led the batting charge



with his 20th Test century.

The Delhi-born star got a single off Dilruwan Perera after the tea break to register his first Test century on his home ground and the crowd stood up in applause.

Kohli's knock, laced with 16 boundaries, took him past 5,000 Test runs in his 63rd game. He also became the first captain to score successive hundreds in a three-match series.

Vijay seemed inspired by his captain as the right-hand opener smashed his second straight ton of the series following an innings of 128 when he came back

from injury in Nagpur.

Earlier Perera got his 100th Test scalp to send opener Shikhar Dhawan back for 23. Perera became Sri Lanka's fastest bowler to a century of wickets in his 25th match, two less than spin legend Muttiah Muralitharan. Cheteshwar Pujara was the second man out, caught at leg slip for 23 after flicking a sliding delivery from paceman Lahiru Gamage. India lead the series 1-0 and need only a draw for a record-equalling ninth successive Test series triumph. England and Australia are the other sides to have achieved the feat.

MS Dhoni tries hand at this adventure sport in his time away from cricket

MUMBAI: MS Dhoni is enjoying his time off from cricket in quite some style as the former Indian skipper posted a picture of him wearing a skydiving suit on Friday.

At a time when the Virat Kohli-led Indian side is playing a three-match Test series at home against Sri Lanka, Dhoni has the luxury of trying his hand at such things given that he no longer plays the longest format of the game, having stepped down nearly three years back.

Dhoni posted the picture on his official Instagram account and was seen wearing the skydiving gear with a parachute on his back. Prior to this, Dhoni had visited Jammu & Kashmir where he interacted with a few schoolkids and a few young cricketers. The wicket-keeper batsman is an



honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the territorial army and is also part of the parachute regiment. He will, however, join the side soon as he is part of the team's ODI and T20I squad that

will take on Sri Lanka in the respective upcoming series. While there have been calls of axing Dhoni from the shortest format of the game for the country, he has been quite depend-

able in the ODI format. He was recently invited as the chief guest for a game between North and South Kashmir. He also shared his thoughts on India playing Pakistan in the near future, given that such schedules have been put to a hold after the BCCI decided to play against the neighbours owing to constant tension at the border. "The government is the best judge to take a call on India-Pakistan series. Only they can decide whether we play Pakistan in the future or not. When it comes to India-Pakistan cricket, it is not just sports, but becomes much bigger than that. It is not a simple decision, but a diplomatic and a political decision," Dhoni had said. "If the government decides, we will go and play and if they decide against it, we will play some other series."

Shardul Thakur to miss Mumbai's Ranji Trophy quarterfinal clash vs Karnataka

MUMBAI: Injured pacer Shardul Thakur does not feature in Mumbai's Ranji Trophy squad for their quarterfinal match against Karnataka beginning on December 7.

Thakur suffered an injury to his left shoulder while dropping a catch on the opening day of Mumbai's last league game against Tripura which the hosts won by 10 wickets at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

Even Shreyas Iyer, who has been picked in the Indian side for the ODI series against Sri Lanka, has not been included in the squad.

The squad, to be led by Aditya Tare, includes their in-form young batsman Prithvi Shaw and opener Jay Bista.

A senior Mumbai Cricket Association official today told PTI that Thakur has been advised rest and hence was not considered for selection.

Other regulars - Akhil Herwadkar, Siddesh Lad, Surya Kumar Yadav, senior pro Dhawal Kulkarni, medium pacer Akash Parkar



and left-arm spinner Karsh Kothari - have all been named in the squad.

The domestic cricket powerhouse stormed into the quarterfinals after a comprehensive win over Tripura. The 41-time Ranji Trophy champions will lock horns with Karnataka in Nagpur for a place in the semifinals.

Squad: Aditya Tare (Captain), Surya Kumar Yadav (Vice Captain), Dhawal Kulkarni, Siddesh Lad, Jay Bista, Prithvi Shaw, Akhil Herwadkar, Sufiyan Shaikh, Akash Parkar, Karsh Kothari, Sagar Trivedi, Vijay Gohil, Shivam Malhotra, Shivam Dube and Shubham Ranjane.

Ashes 2017-18 still out of Ben Stokes's reach despite return to action

LONDON: England all-rounder Ben Stokes is about to strap on his pads in New Zealand but his chances of playing any role in the Ashes 2017-18 appear to be close to zero. (AD) The player's dash across the globe to take part in his native country's one-day domestic competition fuelled speculation he was preparing for a dramatic England call-up in time for the third Test in Perth.

But developments in England suggested his hopes of returning to bolster the struggling national side were diminishing rapidly as British police revealed a decision was yet to be made over whether he will face charges in a criminal investigation. Police said a decision on whether to charge him over a brawl outside a nightclub had been passed to the Crown Prosecution Service -- the outcome of which may not be known for weeks.

Given Stokes has not been, and may not be, convicted of any criminal offence, England could have taken him to Australia anyway on the grounds his worth to the team would justify the inevitable off-field furor.

But England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) director Andrew Strauss has repeatedly insisted cricket authorities must wait on the English legal system before deciding how to proceed with Stokes.

With the latest developments, England appear to have accepted they will not be seeing their star all-rounder play in the Ashes, even though they desperately need his talismanic presence after losing the first Test 1-0.

"That was what we thought as a group when we set off here," said skipper Joe Root, quoted in Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper. "All of our planning and preparation has been without Ben so how we go about things won't change. I would personally love to have him back. But these things are completely out of our hands and we just have to move on." National selector Angus Fraser said that with all the uncertainty surrounding their star player, England could not afford to bank on the all-rounder turning up in Australia. "If something changes then you react," said the former Test fast bowler, speaking in London. "But I don't think anyone is looking over their shoulder for a plane to come in to land." In order for Stokes, born in New Zealand, to be available for domestic cricket overseas, the ECB had to issue him with a no-objection certificate.

At the same time, the ECB upheld the suspension from England duty they imposed on Stokes following his involvement in the incident in Bristol in the early hours of September 25. But cricket chiefs were reportedly caught by surprise when photographs emerged of him at London's Heathrow airport with his cricket gear, not realising he had planned to fly to New Zealand so soon. England missed both Stokes's batting and pace bowling as well as the spirit of defiance that can lift his team-mates during their thumping 10-wicket defeat in the first Test.

They are now preparing for the second match of the five-Test series, which starts in Adelaide on Saturday. In the meantime, Stokes is getting ready to play for New Zealand provincial side Canterbury on Sunday.

Jose Mourinho wants Pep Guardiola to get same treatment as rivals

MANCHESTER: Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho has hinted he believes Pep Guardiola received preferential treatment in avoiding being sent to the stands on Wednesday. Guardiola, the Manchester City manager, ran onto the pitch to celebrate Raheem Sterling's late winner as his team beat Southampton 2-1 to remain eight points clear of United at the top of the Premier League. He was then seen in animated conversation with Nathan Redmond after the final whistle, appearing to remonstrate with the Southampton winger.

Redmond has since released a statement saying that Guardiola was "only very complimentary and positive" during the exchange, although the Football Association has asked the Spaniard to explain his actions. However, the fact that Guardiola received no punishment at the time for entering the field of play angered Mourinho, who was sent to the stands during his team's 1-0

win at Southampton in September after stepping onto the pitch.

Mourinho did not receive a touchline ban over the incident, but feels that he was punished unfairly.

Asked if he was surprised that Guardiola was not sent to the stands, Mourinho said: "Surprised? No. Not surprised." Pushed to elaborate, Mourinho indicated to journalists that he would get into trouble with the football authorities if he said what he actually thought. He said: "No. No. No. No. You are asking me one question, if I am surprised. I say I am not surprised."

"The second question is nothing. It's another one. I can't answer to the second question."

"You know, if you are my friends, don't ask me the question, because you know I get into trouble, so no."

Mourinho, meanwhile, has defended striker Romelu Lukaku, suggesting that the Belgium international will soon rediscover his scoring form.



Criticism Lukaku scored 11 goals in his first 10 appearances for United after joining from Everton in July, but has scored just once in 11 games for the club since.

Mourinho suggested at the end of October that the striker was receiving unfair criticism from the club's supporters.

He said then that Lukaku should be untouchable because his all-round contribution on the pitch was so

important. The manager has now indicated that he retains full confidence in the forward, who is set to face England in the World Cup in Russia next year after they were drawn in Belgium's group.

"He is going to score soon, no problem. He is going to score soon," he added.

"If it's Saturday, Tuesday, next week, I don't know but he is going to score soon. No problem at all. No problem at all."

"For me the most important thing is teamwork and he is second to none in giving everything he has to the team." Mourinho refused to comment when asked about the possibility of signing Arsenal midfielder Mesut Ozil, who is out of contract at the end of the season, and who has been widely linked with a move to Old Trafford. The United manager, though, is not surprised that Ozil has got so close to the end of his Arsenal contract without agreeing another one.

"That's football," he said. "There are other important players in Europe in other teams that they finish their contracts." Sometimes players decide to go in this direction, which is the right that they have.

"They gamble, because you know, imagine one of these players has a big knee injury, if one of these players has one of these injuries, probably next season, he is without a club. Players have the right to do that and I don't blame the clubs because the clubs, they try."

Cristiano Ronaldo is extraordinary, but Lionel Messi is the best: Jorge Sampaoli

LONDON: Argentina coach Jorge Sampaoli is adamant that Lionel Messi has been "the best player in the world" ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo over the last ten years.

Messi and Ronaldo are the two front-runners for the 2017 Ballon d'Or, with the Real Madrid and Portugal star thought to be the favourite due to his Champions League triumph. Ronaldo will go level on five Ballon d'Or wins with Messi should he collect the gong this year, with his Champions League and Euro 2016 victories helping him to his success last year.

But for Sampaoli, there is no doubt which of them is the better player, with Messi coming out on top despite Ronaldo's obvious "extraordinary" qualities.

Sampaoli told Omnisport: "Cristiano is an extraordinary player, but I think and feel



that in the last 10 years Messi was the best player in the world, but it is my opinion, by statistics, by amount of goals, assists, flair, style, but

it is a particular thought of mine. Sampaoli definitely feels that Messi and Ronaldo are a cut above the rest, however. The former Sevilla coach

added: "There are some players behind them [Messi and Cristiano], such as Neymar or Luis Suarez, also some youngsters such as [Kylian]

Mbappe or [Ousmane] Dembele. They will fight for it in the future. However, while Messi and Cristiano keep playing, the others will just

fight for the third or fourth position."

One criticism often levelled at Messi is the fact he is yet to win a major tournament with Argentina, something some believe removes him from the debate of greatest players ever. But Sampaoli thinks Messi's general achievements speak for themselves as does not believe the Barcelona star needs to have international success to be considered the best. He said: "I think in every time there is a footballer who is considered the best: Pele, Maradona and Messi now."

"But now he has remained ten years in Europe, being the best player in the world, scoring more than 500 goals in this so complicated European football."

"So you don't have to have a World Cup to be the best in the world."