

TIME AND US

DAILY

SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

THURSDAY

● DECEMBER, 14, 2017
● 25 RABI-AL-AWAL 1439 AH
● ISSUE: 293
● VOLUME: 03
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WEATHER TEMPERATURE		
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	4.2	-0.7
JAMMU	18.1	8.8
LEH	3.7	-6.5
KARGIL	0.8	-5.8

SUNSET WEDNESDAY: 05:24 PM
SUNRISE THURSDAY: 07:30 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR
Generally Cloudy sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 05°C & -1°C respectively.

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

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BASMATI MANDIS TO BE SET UP ACROSS JK: HANJURA

CENTRE URGES FILM-MAKERS TO COMPLY WITH SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE

KARNATAKA'S HUBBALLI CITY GETS NEW AIRPORT TERMINAL

ROHIT SHARMA'S THIRD DOUBLE CENTURY POWERS INDIA TO 392/4 VS SRI LANKA IN

Mehbooba Mufti Decision on Daily Wagers Generates Positive Pulse

Srinagar, Dec 13: In an optimistic development for the casual labourers and daily wagers in the Jammu and Kashmir State the government will regularize 60,000 daily wagers and casual labourers, stated Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti said on Wednesday.

"Our govt will be regularizing 60,000 daily wagers & casual labourers working in various departments in J&K to provide sustainable liveli-

hoods to those who need it the most," tweeted Mufti.

Daily wagers have been facing multiple burning problems in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Most are paid a meagre sum of Rs 150 to Rs 200 a day.

Lack of concrete policy on daily wagers, no regularization policy, huge delay in payment of salaries has defined the plight of daily wagers. Daily Wager issue is a serious issue that has



been surfacing as a very big issue for the state and lead to frequent protests and unpleasant situations the expert

voices had also stated that it is high time that the recent path laid out by the State Finance Minister Haseeb Drabu and vision defined on Daily wage issue would be implemented in letter and spirit.

Latif Ahmad Kanth, a casual labourer stated - "We welcome the decision of Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti as she has tweeted that 60000 casual labourers and daily wagers

▶ See **Mehbooba...**Pg 02

Light snowfall; rain likely in next 24 hours: Dir MeT

Says no forecast of heavy snowfall in plains

Srinagar, Dec 13: There is no forecast of heavy snowfall in plains while moderate to heavy snowfall is likely in upper mountainous regions, according to Meteorological Department (MeT).

Talking to KNS, Director MeT, Sonam Lotus said there will be rains with light spells of snowfall in the Valley's plains in the next

24 hours. However, afterwards the weather will remain dry. "It will be cloudy, but the weather will be dry," he told KNS.

However, Lotus said in mountainous regions there are still chances of heavy snowfall, while in plains, it will rain and there can be spells of light snow which will melt soon after falling.

'Srinagar-Jammu highway likely to be reopened tomorrow': IGP Traffic

Travelers advised not to undertake any journey without contacting control rooms

Srinagar, Dec 13: The Srinagar-Jammu National highway, connecting the Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country, after remaining closed for three days is likely to be reopened tomorrow.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Traffic, Jagjit Singh told KNS over phone that the Srinagar-Jammu national highway is likely to be opened tomorrow. However he informed that the authorities will first clear stranded vehicles, including goods carrier and passenger buses.

▶ See **IGP...**Pg 02



GOVERNOR SUMMONS JOINT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE

Srinagar, Dec 13: Governor N. N. Vohra, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him under sub-section (1) of Section 53 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, has summoned the State Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council to meet at Jammu on Tuesday, the 2nd January 2018, at 11:00 a.m.

The Governor has called upon the Members of the J&K Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council to assemble together in the Central Hall of the Legislature Building in the New Secretariat premises Jammu, on Tuesday, the 2nd day of January, 2018, at 11:00 A.M to hear his Address to both the Houses of the Legislature under the provision of Section 55(1) of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir.

After the said Address, each House of the Legislature will meet as a separate body at the time to be specified by the respective Presiding

▶ See **Governor...**Pg 02

With deputation, extension periods over 40 MVD inspectors reluctant to join their parent departments

Process started, 23 inspectors repatriated: MD SRTC

Srinagar, Dec 13: The Motor vehicles department (MVD) has turned out to be a goldmine for some 40 motor vehicle inspectors who are working in the department for several years despite the fact that they don't qualify for the plum post.

Sources said their deputation period and extensions have expired years ago, but they continue to remain posted on the plum posts.

However, as per norms the deputation

period should not extend beyond two years, but in the Motor vehicles department the norms "hardly matter" when it comes to "greasing palms of each other".

Official sources told KNS that these inspectors are on deputation to the MVD from various other departments like SRTC, PWD and Mechanical Engineering and their deputation period as well as the extensions have expired years ago, but they are reluctant to join back

their parent departments.

"These MV inspectors are making lakhs worth lakhs per month. They will never prefer to join back their parent departments. They issue licenses. For every license they charge Rs 5000 (light vehicles) to Rs 30000 for heavy and commercial vehicles," sources said.

As per the norms these MC inspectors can't issue a license unless they are themselves acquiring commercial licenses.

▶ See **SRTC...**Pg 02

Private tuition by teachers: Govt issues clarification

Srinagar, Dec 13: The Government today refuted reports published by a section of the media on the issue of undertaking private tuition in coaching centres by Government Teachers.

In a press statement issued today, an Education Department spokesman clarified that the School Education Department vide Circular instructions issued under endorsement No: Edu/L/J/Misc/131/2017, dated 25.09.2017, has ordered that

no teaching faculty shall undertake any activity/ assignment, including teaching in private coaching centres, unless he/ she obtains prior permission of the competent authority. This, the spokesman added, has been misinterpreted by a section of the media, leading to confusion amongst masses, especially the teaching fraternity. "While there is no ban imposed on undertaking private tuitions in coaching centres, the Government Teachers are bound

to obtain prior permission from the competent authority before undertaking such assignments in coaching centres," he stated, adding that strict action shall be taken against those teachers who flout Circular instructions issued by the Department.

The spokesman added that the State Government is committed to improve the quality of education for giving a level-playing field to the students in State-run Schools,

▶ See **Private...**Pg 02

Pak must alter relationship with terror groups: Tillerson

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's political leadership would lose control over the country if it does not begin the process of changing its relationship with the Haqqani Network and other terror groups having safe havens there, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has warned.

Tillerson's remarks came amid Trump administration's repeated calls to Pakistan to do more against terrorist outfits.

"We want to work with Pakistan to stamp out terror-



ism within their boundaries as well, but Pakistan has to begin the process of changing its relationship with the

Haqqani Network and with others," Tillerson told a Washington audience.

▶ See **Tillerson...**Pg 02

15 YEARS AFTER ED SUMMONS GEELANI IN ALLEGED MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

Srinagar, Dec 13: Enforcement Directorate has reportedly issued a notice to senior separatist leader Syed Ali Geelani in an alleged money laundering case.

Sources said that Geelani has been asked to appear before Enforcement Directorate in person.

The case according to sources dates back to year 2002.

▶ See **Geelani...**Pg 02

Jammu and Kashmir govt looting money meant for minorities: BJP leader

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir BJP spokesman Virender Gupta today accused the state government of "looting the money" provided by the Centre for the religious and linguistic minorities of the state.

Countering the Jammu and Kashmir government's stand in the Supreme Court on setting up a minorities commission in the state, he also alleged the policy followed by the Mehbooba Mufti-led government amounted to "cheating the nation".

The BJP is a coalition partner of the PDP in the Jammu and Kashmir government.

The Jammu and Kashmir government, in an affidavit submitted in the apex court, had claimed that as per the National Commission



for Minorities Act, 1992, it was not bound to constitute a state-level minorities commission.

"The policy followed by the state

▶ See **BJP...**Pg 02

ADHAAR LINKAGE HOUNDS VALLEY CELLPHONE USERS

Tele-companies threaten disconnection, masses in a fix

Srinagar, Dec 13: The cellular subscribers in Jammu and Kashmir are being haunted by the telecom companies and this time in the name of Aadhaar card. The operators here in Jammu and Kashmir are these days busy bombarding their consumers with messages to link their SIM cards with Aadhaar and even issuing open threats of a disconnection in services.

▶ See **Adhaar...**Pg 02

ICOMOS's 19th General Assembly opens at New Delhi Heritage a binding force for communities, cultures: Dr Drabu

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13: J&K Minister for Finance, Culture, Labour & Employment Dr Haseeb A Drabu said that cultural heritage plays a vital role in our life and keeps us attached with our tradition and beliefs. It is the prime duty of any civilized society to protect and preserve its cultural heritage. Without cultural, historical artefacts, civilization had no memory and no mechanism to learn from its successes and failures, he said.

Dr Drabu said this while addressing the dignitaries during the inauguration of the Exhibition, Cultural Heritage Practice in In-



dia and release of the Monograph HRIDAY Reflections, at the 19th General Assembly and Scientific Symposium ICOMOS (Heritage

▶ See **Drabu...**Pg 02

R-APDRP SET TO MISS ONE MORE DEADLINE IN JK

Mere 20 per cent work completed in State's twin capitals

Srinagar, Dec 13: The Power Development Department is once again all set to miss one more deadline for the implementation of much hyped Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (R-APDRP) in Jammu and Srinagar.

Sources within the PDD divulged that not even 20 percent of the project has been implemented on ground in the twin capitals- Jammu and Srinagar in the state.

With power paucity touching heights in the state amid the winter months, the PDD's non-serious approach is once again going to haunt the people. The R-APDRP that

▶ See **APDRP...**Pg 02

JRL reiterates 'Islamabad Chaloo' on Dec 15

Geelani, Mirwaiz, Malik to address the rally

Srinagar, Dec 13: If Indian rulers and their stooges really believe in democracy they should shun their policies of coercion and allowing resistance camp to hold peaceful rallies. JRL Public Jalsa on 15th December at Lalchowk Islamabad is a litmus test for the claimants of democracy.

This was stated by JRL leaders Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Mirwaiz Muhammad Umer Farooq and Muhammad Yasin Malik in a joint press today.

Reiterating the call for a peaceful public Jalsa at Lal



Chowk Islamabad on 15th December 2017, JRL leaders said that though Indian state and its abettors in Jammu Kashmir have put almost all

the leadership either in jails or under house arrest, but despite these oppressive tactics and use of police and military might, JRL will try

its best to hold peaceful Public Jalsa on the day at the venue already announced.

JRL leaders said that forcing silence of a graveyard by using military might and designating it as peace can only be termed as foolishness and if Indian rulers and their abettors really believe in democracy and freedom of speech, they should stop their oppressive tactics and allow JRL to hold this peaceful Jalsa.

JRL leaders said a fascist

▶ See **JRL...**Pg 02

SACKED GOVT EMPLOYEES DEMAND AMNESTY ON THE PATTERN OF STONE-PELTERS

Srinagar, Dec 13: Days after Mehbooba Mufti led Jammu Kashmir Government awarded general amnesty to first time stone-throwers, the government employees sacked during 2016 summer agitation for allegedly participating in protests Wednesday demanded that they should also be awarded general amnesty and be reinstated.

Last year State Government had sacked a dozen employees who were accused by the J&K police's intelligence wing—the Criminal Investigation Department—of spearheading or participating in protests during the pro-freedom uprising in Kashmir.

The administrative heads of several departments had

▶ See **Sacked...**Pg 02

LAL SINGH ADVOCATES COLLECTIVE APPROACH TOWARDS PRESERVATION OF JK'S GREEN WEALTH

Reviews functioning of Forests, Wildlife Wings

JAMMU, DECEMBER 13—Minister for Forests, Environment and Ecology, Choudhary Lal Singh today called for collective approach towards conservation and promotion of State's green wealth.

The Minister was speaking at a meeting of officers of Forests and Wildlife wings while reviewing the progress on various ongoing development works, here at Manda Amphalla today.

"Jammu and Kashmir is blessed with abundant natural affluence and resources and it becomes our moral responsibility to contribute collectively towards its preservation", the Minister maintained

while emphasizing the need of raising awareness about the need and importance of saving forests for the posterity.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Ravi Kesar, Chief Wildlife Warden Manoj Panth, Chief Conservator of Forests Farooq Geelani, Director Environment and Remote Sensing O P Sharma, Director SFRI B M Sharma, Regional Director Wildlife Dr. V S Sinthil Kumar besides other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The Minister asked the officers to gear up their men and machinery for timely completion of the ongoing develop-



Development works being executed by the

Forests and Wildlife Wings. He said that Government has earmarked Rs. 62 lakh for construction of two reservoirs at Jambu Zoo with a storage capacity of 3 lakh gallon water.

Choudhary Lal Singh asked the Wildlife department to float the tenders for construction of water storage reservoirs, Bore well, two leopard enclosures, two tiger enclosures, two peasantry, blacktopping of 4 kilometer approach

road, artificial water fall, nature interpretation centre, development of parking area, Cafeteria, view points, internal road links to Jambu Zoo etc at the earliest. He also directed them to call tenders for purchase of 6 battery cars for Jambu Zoo and 50 cycles besides 4 battery cars for Jastrota Fort.

Calling for need based development and quality works, the Minister stressed on judicious utilization of allocated funds for various developmental works. He said the officers will be made accountable for implementation of all the programs and schemes in their respective jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, Lal Singh directed the officers to put in sincere efforts in developing all the established nurseries across the Jammu region by planting two crore different saplings under the plantation drive to be held in rainy season next year.

Choudhary Lal Singh directed the officers to immediately start the fencing work on the forest land around the Jambu Zoo. He directed to plant saplings of fruit plants, mulberry, Sisso, Tun, Amla, Guava, Jamun and ornamental etc in and around the Zoo.

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MEHBOOBA

would be regularized to provide us sustainable livelihood. This is a historic and positive decision and deserves all the appreciation. We hope the revised payments made to us after regularization would be according to the needs of the present times."

According to the estimates, there are at present 61000 daily wagers engaged in different government departments. Most of them have served the departments for many decades.

With the daily wage issue cause of street anger and rage since decades, this latest government decision to regularize them has for sure generated a positive pulse.

GOVERNOR

Officers. The Governor approved the State Government's proposal in regard to this matter today.

SRTC

The SRO also reads that the MV inspectors should be degree holders and should be having licenses, but none of these inspectors have a license.

The high court order in 2012 also reads that the MV inspectors whose deputation period has expired should join their parent departments, but not a single such inspector has followed the court orders.

Managing Director of MVD, Mir Afroz told KNS that the government has already started the process to repatriate the inspectors. "14 Inspectors were repatriated earlier while on December 13 (Today) nine more have been repatriated," he said.

He further said that the rest of the inspectors have been repatriated to SRTC.

IGP

It is to mention here that the 300-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway remained closed for the third consecutive day Wednesday, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded on the road.

The IGP further told KNS that the continuous rain and snow resulted in landslides at different points on the highway, leading to the stoppage of the vehicular traffic.

Sources said that despite an alert having been sounded by the state administration, hundreds of vehicles, including light motor vehicles were stuck on the national highway.

Sources said that the stretch from Banihal to Ramban is the worst-affected portion as major landslides were reported at Panthal, Chamalwas, Magerkor, Marog and Ramsoo. Some small landslides were also reported on the Udhampur-Chenani road.

Jagjit Singh further said that the snow clearance operation in Banihal and landslide debris removal elsewhere has started. However, travellers are advised not to undertake any journey without contacting our control rooms in Jammu and Srinagar.

Sources said that the issue of closing of Highway including other major roads was brought to the knowledge of Chief Minister, who took stock of the measures taken to restore the vehicular movement on Srinagar-Jammu, other national highways and interior roads, which were blocked due to heavy snowfall.

Sources said the Chief Minister has also reviewed stock and supply position of essential commodities and restoration of essential public service in the snowbound areas of the state.

Sources told KNS that CM took stock of the preparedness of the state administration in case of further snowing and asked the authorities concerned to be vigilant and pro-active to meet any eventuality.

Officers and engineers in their respective jurisdiction should be more responsive to the needs of the people, she has said

Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir Basheer Khan has issued an advisory asking people not to undertake the journey till it is completely restored for traffic.

Meanwhile sources said that scores of valley-bound passengers were stranded in Jammu. They have been complaining of running out of money as hotels and restaurants have been charging exorbitant rates.

The historic Mughal Road which serves as an alternative surface link between the Kashmir Valley and the Jammu region was also closed on Tuesday following heavy snowfall in the Pir Ki Gali stretch.

PRIVATE

for which it has taken several path-breaking steps including time-bound teacher trainings, strict adherence to learning outcomes, improvement in infrastructure and reducing gender gaps through flagship programmes like SSA, RMSA and MDM Schemes.

TILLERSON

In his remarks on 'Meeting the Foreign Policy Challenges of 2017 and Beyond' organised by the 2017 Atlantic Council-Korea Foundation Forum, Tillerson said that Pakistan's relationship with the Haqqani Network needs to be altered.

"I understand that this is a relationship that has emerged probably for, in their view, good reasons a decade ago, but

now that relationship has to be altered because if they're not careful, Pakistan is going to lose control of their own country," he warned.

He said the US was willing to share information with them to be successful.

"But we cannot continue with the status quo, where terrorist organisations are allowed to find safe haven inside of Pakistan," the top American diplomat warned. Notably despite repeated warning from the Trump Administration there is not much impact on Pakistan's attitude towards terrorist groups.

It has been more than two weeks now that the White House issued a stern warning to Pakistan and asked Islamabad to re-arrest Hafiz Saeed, the 2008 Mumbai attack mastermind. Tillerson made no reference to this in his speech.

The US and Pakistan have had a long history of good relations, but that relationship has really deteriorated over the past decade, he conceded.

"So now we're engaged with Pakistan in a conversation to ensure our expectations of them are clear, that our concern is really about Pakistan's stability," he said.

"Pakistan has allowed so many terrorist organisations to find safe haven within its territories, and these organisations are growing in size and influence, that at some point I have said to the leadership of Pakistan, you may be the target, and they turn their attention from Kabul and decide they like Islamabad as a target better," Tillerson said.

The global effort to defeat the Islamic State and the global effort to defeat terrorism is one of President Donald Trump's top priorities, he said.

"The President made a decision and announced the policy that we would remain in Afghanistan, we would remain engaged in the fight to defeat the Taliban, and that the time and effort would be conditions-based. He said it's not a blank check," Tillerson said.

Separately during a townhall, Tillerson said he does not enjoy dealing with Pakistan.

"Dealing with Pakistan - I don't enjoy that," Tillerson said in response to a specific query during the town hall with the State Department employees here.

His remark, without any further explanation, was in response to a question posed by a State Department employee who asked: "Is it fair to ask and say do you enjoy your job as Secretary of State?"

"...Pakistan is still an important and valued partner of the United States. Over the last decade, the relationship has drifted, and we've got to bring this relationship back to one of common interest," Tillerson said.

Today that's just not the case, he told his State Department colleagues.

"So we're engaged in very frank discussions with Pakistan over the concerns we have about their own stability and their future, and the threat they're under by allowing terrorist organisations to operate in their territory," Tillerson said.

The top US diplomat said the two countries should find ways as to how they could work together to bring stability and peace to the whole region.

"We've got a great team working in that region as well. A lot of work left to do," Tillerson said.

GEELANI

Pertinently, in June 2002, USD 10,000 was allegedly found during searches by the Income Tax department at Geelani's residence in Hyderpora.

Last month, the ED had framed money laundering charges against another separatist leader Shabir Shah and alleged hawala dealer Mohammad Aslam Wani in a 2005 case of alleged funding.

BJP

government amounts to cheating the nation and looting money from Government of India, meant for the religious and linguistic minorities of the state," Gupta said.

He added that Muslims accounted for about 68 per cent of Jammu and Kashmir's population and thus, they could not avail of the benefits meant for the minority community.

The Centre needed to issue clear-cut instructions to the state as regards providing the benefits to the "actual" minorities under its schemes and also, the prime minister's 12-point programme, Gupta said.

He said the government's plea that it would consider the need and feasibility of setting up a state minority commission after a study of the social and educational backwardness of the minorities across various regions of Jammu and Kashmir was an "attempt to sidetrack" the issue.

ADHAAR

The subscribers of state run BSNL, Vodafone and Airtel have been receiving frequent SMS alerts and tele-calls from mobile operators and their field associates, asking them to link their numbers with Aadhaar. Substantiating their claims the Telecom companies cite a directive issued from the Department of Telecom to re-verify all existing connections with Aadhaar by February 6, 2018. However, even when there are four months left for linking of the adhaar with deliberations still going on whether to make the exercise a mandatory process, the mobile operators haunt one and all to link their respective numbers with adhaar or face disconnection.

"This is torture. That too when the government hasn't made a final decision in this regard. Where would we go for such cumbersome process? The centers are already overcrowded and people told to leave everything aside and link their respective numbers with adhaar. This is weird," says a Jammu based subscriber.

There is resentment to this in Kashmir Valley. The people in valley too are being told to link their numbers with adhaar to avoid disconnection.

However, the greater resentment is coming from the people living in the far-flung and in accessible areas of the state. They are accusing the operators of pushing the people to the wall and putting them in peculiar situation. "How could we reach to the main cities to get our adhaar numbers linked with our mobile phone numbers. There is no address of the centers where such processes can be undertaken. We seriously have no idea about where to go and what to do," says Abid Ahmad, a north Kashmir resident.

People are also up in arms against the manner in which private telecom companies are seeking this Aadhaar linkage. Some operators have in straight terms told customers that their numbers would be disconnected if the verification is not "immediately completed". This when even the DoT circular gives time until next February. So why these empty threats?, users ask.

DRABU

and Democracy), at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

While speaking on the occasion, the Finance Minister said that cultural heritage needs to be passed to the future generations and people must realize its importance. He said that people should come forward for their contribution in promoting heritage awareness and love for historical structures among all.

"Cultural heritage has historical, social, aesthetical and scientific significance thus it is very important to understand and determine its significances for the purpose of its preservation and protection", the Minister said.

He said that it is necessary to improve awareness of cultural heritage and the ethics of its care in study curriculum and to identify the tools that can be developed to help the communities to better understand and conserve their heritage.

"The best way to preserve our cultural heritage, whatever it may be, is to share it with others. It is our responsibility to keep world history intact for the coming generations so that they have the same opportunities to learn about the past and their own roots as we have", the Minister said.

Dr Drabu said that keeping in mind the present challenging times, conservation of heritage buildings provides a sense of uniqueness and permanence in a fast-changing world for future generations. It plays a critical role in defining the landmark within the heritage area besides, generates revenue and supports the tourism industry.

He said that ICOMOS has remained front runner in promoting the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of monuments, built ensembles and sites with its key role to develop common doctrines in the evolution and circulation of ideas and in raising awareness about issues related to heritage conservation.

The Finance Minister said that it's an exceptional event to meet hundreds of heritage professionals given the diversity of their skills whether archaeologists, architects, urban planners, engineers curators, building conservation professionals, art historians etc. ICOMOS provides great opportunity for heritage professionals and enthusiasts to come together on a common platform to deliberate on various aspects of heritage, conservation and management and also to get a chance to interact with experts and comprehend the emerging issues and case studies, the Finance minister added.

The Minister desired to organise such events in Jammu and Kashmir for promotion of its cultural ethnicity so as to increase the sense of preservation of cultural identity and paving the path for creative entrepreneurs and rejuvenation of the intangible cultural heritage of the state.

ICOMOS India has organized 19th General Assembly from 11th to 15th December 2017 with a mission to promote and enhance professionalism in conservation, management planning and development of India's diverse heritage. More than 1500 delegates from around the world are participating in the events in this Assembly of ICOMOS.

Among others, Member Parliament Pinaki Misra who is also the Chairperson of Parliamentary Standing Committee of Urban Development, GOI, Director General Archaeological Survey of India Usha Sharma, President ICOMOS Gustavo Aroaz and ICOMOS India Rohit Jigyasu, foreign delegates and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

APDRP

was aimed at curtailing the T&D losses in JK due to which the state is incurring losses of hundreds of crores of rupees, this centrally sponsored scheme has emerged as one more flop show by the state authorities.

PDD insiders divulge that there hasn't been much forward movement witnessed vis-a-vis the covering the twin capitals under this scheme.

The dilatory mode of functioning is being held respon-

sible for making such a vital power reform scheme a flop show in JK.

Pertinently, the project was aimed to curtail T&D losses in the state and ensure round the clock electricity to state households. For the first phase of the project, the Central government had sanctioned Rs.151.99 crores under R-APDRP while an amount of Rs.1665.27 crores had been approved for the second phase of this vital project.

The second phase was supposed to cover two main cities including Jammu and Srinagar for which the funds estimated at the cost of Rs. 52.89 crores have been approved. These schemes were proposed to be taken up under National Electricity Fund for which Rural Electrification Corporation is the nodal agency. Under this scheme 30 towns have been identified as project areas in J&K state with population of above 10,000 as per 2001 census. For this purpose, the government had already taken a pilot exercise and some 30 towns have been identified as project areas in J&K, another 283 towns with population of over 4000 have also been identified that will be covered in the second phase. Phase -1 of 283 towns is to cost Rs. 171.61 crores and phase-2 will cost Rs. 1073.33 crores. These projects were proposed to be taken up under Phase-II of R-APDRP through a special dispensation which could not materialize.

Meanwhile, neither the power minister nor Commissioner Secretary Power received the repeated calls for comments.

JRL

government in power, inspired by Joseph Gobbles' malicious propaganda techniques or Harold Lasswell's "magic bullet theory" by trying to paint the brutal pacification of Kashmir as peace and return of normalcy. If Indian rulers assume that oppression unleashed by their army and forces has crushed resistance in Kashmir, then they should find some courage to lift ban on political activities of the resistance camp and allow such programs.

Leaders said that any rational person would find talk of normalcy and peace in occupied territory as laughable especially when Kashmir is witnessing an increasing build up in oppression, particularly in southern districts of Kashmir valley and when surveillance state pervades every nook and corner of Kashmir, the discourse of normalcy and peace can only be promoted by the colonial forces and their proxies in Kashmir.

Placing Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Mirwaiz Muhammad Umer Farooq under house arrest and putting Muhammad Yasin Malik along with many others in Srinagar Central jail is in fact a testimony of the fact that India and its abettors possess no courage to compete with Resistance leadership in political field. India and its stooges only know to suppress people's voices under the pretext of so-called democracy and normalcy which is highly condemnable.

JRL leaders said that Public rally on 15th December 2017, at Lal Chowk Islamabad has been called to demonstrate before the whole world what people of Kashmir stand for. This Jalsa will highlight the miseries and hardships faced by the people of Kashmir at the hands of oppressive forces, it will also highlight the reign of terror unleashed by Indian occupational forces and it will also be a show of solidarity with the people of south Kashmir where Indian army, forces and police have let loose an ugly phase of horror.

Leaders said that Indian leaders falsely presume to have defeated indigenous Kashmiri resistance by military oppression, NIA and ED terrorism. We challenge them to find some courage and allow peaceful activities of resistance camp in Kashmir so that the reality of their assumptions is established beyond doubt.

Leaders said that suppressing a peoples struggle by oppressive measures is not possible and Indian leadership should also realize the fact that it can never suppress or defeat Kashmiri resistance by military means.

SACKED

issued termination orders to several employees for "not only questioning the sovereignty and integrity of India but also violating the rules governing conduct of employees in the State."

The sacked employees who protested here in Press Enclave Srinagar told news agency CNS that they also deserve a chance as their families have been suffering after their termination from the services.

The protesting sacked employees included Abdul Rashid Bhat (Fire and Emergency Service Department), Ghulam Mohiuddin Sheik and Tahir Hussain Mir (Education Department), Muhammad Ramzan Naik (PHE Mechanical), Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan (Revenue Department), Mehmoood-ul-Hasan (Forest Department), Bilal Ahmed (CAPD Department) and Ghulam Muhammad Mir (Agriculture Department).

"We request Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti to take note of our sufferings and revoke the termination orders. We deserve a chance and are hopeful that State Government will consider our case on humanitarian grounds," they said.

The protesting sacked employees said that they were targeted for the fault of their none. "The irony is that termination orders were issued without any departmental inquiry. It was a hasty decision that affected dozens of families," they said and sought Chief Ministers intervention.

Basmati Mandis to be set up across JK: Hanjura

Inaugurates 7th annual buyer-seller meet for Basmati rice

JAMMU, DECEMBER 13: Minister for Agriculture, Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura, today said that the Government is working on a comprehensive plan to open up Basmati Mandis across the state to give better marketing facilities to farmers.

The Minister was addressing the farmers and growers after inaugurating 7th annual buyer-seller meet for traditional aromatic Basmati rice at SKUAST (J).

Vice Chairman Jammu and Kashmir State Board for Development of Kisans, Daljit Singh Chib, MLA R.S. Pora Dr Gagan Bhagat, Vice Chancellor SKUAST (J) P.K. Sharma, Secretary Agriculture Production Department Showkat Ahmad Beig, Former Member Parliament Tirkol Singh Bajwa, Director Agriculture Jammu, H.K. Razdan, Agriculture scientists, farmers and exporters of Basmati rice were present on the occasion.

The Minister, while highlighting the government's initiatives in the agriculture sector, said that the department will soon set up Basmati Mandies at several places where the buyers and sellers will hold direct transactions to save the farmers from exploitation at the hands of middleman. He said that it will immensely help the Basmati growers get better and viable marketing support for their



production. Hanjura said that the department is also making efforts to make R.S Pora Basmati Mandi operational to help the local farmers sell the Basmati at their door steps.

Highlighting the importance of the Buyer-Seller Meet, the Minister said that such platforms provide transparent mechanism for fixation of price for a commodity in which labour, talent and wisdom of the grower as well as the trader is optimally compensated and farmers get their due share in the money spent by consumer.

The Minister further said that this Meet will provide an effective platform to growers to display their samples

for correct evaluation by the experts and fixation of appropriate value of the produce on basis of comparative and competitive quality.

The Minister said that Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) with its focus on adoption of micro-irrigation project (Har Khet Ko Pani) and end-to-end irrigation solutions will help local farmers by providing them round the year irrigation facilities which will help increase their annual yield. He also announced that Fasal Bima Yojana will be launched in the State soon.

Hanjura asked to join hands in providing more avenues to agri-

entrepreneurs and youth of the State to bring economic resurgence and prosperity to farming families and the State as a whole.

Responding to the demands put forth by the farmers and growers, the Minister said that Government is aware of the problems of farming community and efforts are being made to find early resolutions. He assured the farmers of timely supply of hybrid quality of seeds and fertilizers at their door steps.

Vice Chairman, J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisan, Daljit Singh Chib, speaking on the occasion highlighted the policies and programmes of the present Government and appealed the farmers to come forward and take advantage of welfare schemes launched by the Centre and State Governments. He called for organizing of exhibitions to give boost to marketing of local species.

The Minister along with other dignitaries inspected the stalls of items exhibited by various farmers and organizations.

Farmer associations, societies, groups, farmer producer companies (FPCs) and respective mill owners, wholesale traders and exporters from within and outside the State participated in the meet.

Bukhari for judicious utilization of resources in horticulture sector



JAMMU, DECEMBER 13: - Minister for Horticulture, Syed Basharat Bukhari today directed the officers to ensure that the funds earmarked for the horticulture and the schemes meant for the this vital sector are properly utilized and implemented so that the benefit of these percolates to the targeted areas resulting in the increase of horticulture produce besides economic emancipation of the people related with it.

The minister was addressing officers during a review meeting convened to discuss utilization of funds during the current financial year.

Vice Chairman, State Horticulture Board, Abdul Salam Reshi, Secretary Horticulture Department, Manzoor Ahmad Lone, and other Senior Officers of the Department were also present

The meeting was also attended by the Director Horticulture Kashmir, through video

conference who is the Mission Director for MIDH as well.

Minister stressed that the funds released so far by the Planning Department or by the Govt. of India under different schemes should be utilized judiciously and strict instructions already stand issued that there shall be no lapse of funds. All genuine payments pending if any must be cleared immediately as per norms, he added.

Basharat Bukhari also had an interaction with traders related to Horticulture Sector through video conferencing. They put forth their views and the problems faced by them.

Minister while directing Director Horticulture Kashmir to examine the issues of horticulturists immediately so that they may not feel any inconvenience. He said that we have to ensure that they do not face any hardships as the sector is one of the mainstays of the state's economy.

Local hospitality overwhelms South Indian tour operators

Tourism deptt to hold road show in Bangalore, Chennai this month

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 13: To tap the South Indian market, the department of tourism Kashmir organized a FAM tour for the travel agents from Chennai and Bangalore who visited Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Yusmarg and Srinagar city.

The travel agents were all in praise for the hospitality they experienced during their travel here. They were also mesmerized by the beautiful landscape, unique culture, distinct art and craft of the Kashmir Valley.

The travel agents also visited budget, high-end properties and the Valley's main USP, houseboats.

Ravi, who runs one of the leading tour companies - Arjun Tour and Travels - in Bangalore, said he would send more groups to Kashmir after realizing the tourist-friendly attitude of the locals.

"I have been sending group to Kashmir for over a decade but never visited here. Due to the FAM tour, I got an opportunity to visit this place. Trust me, from the day I landed here, it has been a wonderful experience. I had never imagined Kashmir is so beautiful and people are welcoming tourists with open hearts," said Ravi who arrived in Srinagar on December 8, 2017.

Ravi, who also heads Karnataka Tourism Forum, said Kashmir can be an excellent choice for corporate tourism.

"I visited Gulmarg and hotel accommodations like Khyber. I think big corporate houses can be roped in for conferences in Kashmir. They will not only have best conferences here but also memorable journey in this beautiful land," said Ravi who is mostly doing corporate tourism.

Another travel agent Shri-



haran Balan, Director of Madura Travel Services (P) Ltd in Chennai, minced no bones to shower praise on Kashmir's hospitality, conferencing facilities and beautiful landscape.

Balan has also been selling Kashmir packages to his clients for 30 years. He, however, had grown apprehensive of late about sending them to Kashmir due to negative media publicity.

After his visit to Kashmir, Balan plans to send more groups to Valley and also extend their stays here.

"I think only in Pahalgam, I can sell the package to my clients for three days. This visit proved fruitful. We had been selling very similar all these years but now we came to know many things like newly developed Pahalgam Club, Pahalgam Golf Course and other products which we can sell now. There are so many other destinations which have not been sold so far. Back home, I will defiantly try to sell more days for my clients when they plan their vacations to Kashmir," he said.

His apprehensions of safety also proved wrong when met and interacted with locals here.

"I came here with lot of apprehensions but after com-

pleting my tour I realized only media is spoiling Kashmir's image. More than safety, it is the love people here have for tourists. I visited a shop to buy saffron. The shopkeeper was not only courteous but also offered Kehwa and insisted on having lunch. We will never see such warm people from any other place," says Balan.

Balan plans to send more tourists here than he was sending earlier.

"If we have such a warm people here, why should we send our clients to places or other countries? Kashmir is a perfect holiday destination."

Arvind of Crismon Holidays in Bangalore sends almost 5 to 6 groups to Kashmir and Ladakh every month.

He had to convince his clients about their safety in Kashmir.

"Now, I will show them my own travel pictures and videos which will convince them further. I think media is portraying Kashmir badly. We didn't find any difficulty here," he said.

Travel agents appreciated the department of tourism for the FAM trip which, they said, has helped them get the clear picture of this place.

Director Tourism Kashmir Mahmood A Shah also inter-

acted with the tour operators and assured them that the department would visit Bangalore and Chennai for more confidence building measures.

He said negative media publicity has affected tourist flow to Kashmir which needs to be countered by FAM tours.

"We are organizing FAM tours for the leading travel agents who sell large number of groups to Kashmir. We show them around and they interact with the people. They get to know Kashmir and that people here are eagerly waiting to host them and provide them best services," said Director Tourism Kashmir.

"Local travel agents also interact with these visiting tour operators and get business opportunities."

This year, there has been an increased tourist flow from South India to Kashmir which the department wants to tap for winter months and next year's summer season.

The department is planning aggressive marketing campaigns including road shows and seminars in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka this month.

Deputy Directors Peerzada Zahoor, Riyaz Beigh also interacted with travel agents and informed them about the products J&K has to offer.

Dorjay chairs DDB Reasi review meeting

Minister calls for expanding education, healthcare outreach

REASI, DECEMBER 13: Minister for Cooperatives and Ladakh Affairs Chering Dorjay today reviewed implementation of decisions of District Development Board and evaluated physical and financial progress achieved under core sectors at DDB review meeting, here today.

Speaking at the meeting, he stressed on the need for laying major thrust on strengthening and expanding outreach of education and health services. He said if people are educated, they can access and avail the development schemes and also understand the programmes and policies of the government.

The chairman also stressed on promotion of tourism sector in the district to generate employment opportunities for unemployed youth.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Finance and Planning Ajay Nanda, Vice Chairman for the development of OBCs Rashpal Verma, Vice Chairman Bushan Lal Dogra, MP Shamsheer Singh Manhas, MLA Gool-Arnas Aijaz Ahmed Khan, MLA Gulabgarh, Mumtaz Ahmad Khan, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Reasi Prasanna Ramaswamy G, SSP Tahir Bhat, HoDs and other senior officers of line departments.

District Development Commissioner (DDC) presented a detailed resume of financial and physical achievements under various development schemes and components of capex budget. He informed that against the allocation of Rs 73.30 crore, the district expended Rs 51 crore thus recording 70% expenditure.

Responding to the issues raised in the meeting regarding the agencies executing various projects, the chairman took strong note of complaints about the indiscriminate dumping of excavated material. In this regard revenue department was directed to



identify safe locations to avoid damage to natural resources like water bodies besides roads, power infrastructure and the like.

The Chairman asked OC GREFF to complete the widening and improvement of Reasi-Mahore road in stipulated timeframe and directed the district administration to regulate the diversion of traffic to avoid hampering of the work. The board also directed for upgrading of road from Rud bridge to Narloo bridge.

Instructions were also issued for identification of the site for establishment of Bitumen plant in Arnas and Mahore areas to take up the blacktopping of the roads in the hilly belts without any delay. The chairman stressed on completion of all bridges taken up in convergence mode by NHPC and RDD in the district.

The chairman also asked collector land acquisition to start assessment of damages to land, structures and canals due to construction of railways in Judda, Kouri, Khanikote, Dugga and Sawalkote so that compensation is paid to affected people. He also asked the officers to promote sports activities in the district for overall development of the youth.

In response to the issue raised by MLAs, it was decided to involve the local legislators in the process of constitution of Self Help Groups (SHG) to mobilize maximum number of people for micro financial activities. The RDD was asked to upload MIS data on priority, while PO, ICDS was asked to ensure the construction of Angan-

wadi center buildings with the assistance of RDD under convergence mode.

The chairman stressed for development of Ghora Gali in Sildhar, Chanena Devta, Floriculture Park near Zorawar Singh Haveli at Vijaypur, park at Kalika temple and other tourist sites in the district.

Meanwhile, it was informed by the director tourism that the work at Bhim Fort has been completed and tourist facilities are being developed at Siard Baba shrine, while the department has also drawn a plan to establish a tourist grid in the district with various attractions, including water sports.

The chairman expressed satisfaction over implementation of DDB decision for development of Kund-Kanyari as orange village. He emphasized on fast tracking of the development of old hospital building to house Mother and Child care center, clearing liabilities of SDRF besides filling up posts of specialized doctors in district hospital and posting of Medical Officer at PHC Ransoo.

The Chairman also laid stress on gearing up development of floriculture park at Chinkah, construction of skill development institute by Shrine Board Katra, development of Tuli-Bana-Chana as cluster tribal model village, transfer of land under the possession of Sheep Husbandry department for allied development purposes. The R&B agreed to start work of school building at Khanikote.

The Chairman directed for timely stocking of ration in far flung areas of Mahore and Chasana during winter season.

The DC was asked to submit a proposal for construction of SC hostel in the district to provide accommodation to the rural students of the community studying in the town.

Minister of State Ajay Nanda said that the Government has achieved maximum progress in respect of roads and other development projects which were pending in the state. He said in the current season blacktopping of maximum roads of district has been completed. He said the departments are working with full dedication to implement schemes on the ground level.

MP Shamsheer Singh Manhas, while referring to the DISHA meetings being held in the district on regular basis, said the focus of government is to upgrade health infrastructure, education scenario, tribal areas, water facilities and other prioritized sectors. He asked officers to extend full support in the development of Kanthan as model village under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana.

Meanwhile, legislatures raised the issues of construction of stadiums at Reasi, Dharmari and Mahore, construction of PMGSY Road projects, schools and hospital buildings, bridges, adequate staff in health and educational institutions, payment of pending compensation to owners of the land used for roads, construction of bridges, covering all hamlets under Power and water supply schemes in Reasi, Katra, Mahore, Shidole, Dharmari, Thuroo, Thakrakote, Judda, Bhomag, Shajroo, Chasana, Gari, Arnas, Thilloo, Sildhar and other villages.

Dy CM for expeditious formulation, execution of hydropower projects

JAMMU, DECEMBER 13: Deputy Chief Minister, Dr. Nirmal Singh, today exhorted upon the officers for speedy formulation and expeditious execution of hydro power projects in the state.

The Deputy CM, while addressing officers during a meeting convened here to discuss and work out strategies for development and implementation of hydro

power projects, asked the concerned to optimally utilize the available power generation resources and potential in the state. Principal Secretary Finance Navin Choudhary, Commissioner Secretary PDD, Hridesh Kumar, Managing Director JKSPDC Shah Faesal and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

Dr Singh directed the officers for



ensuring that the pace of work on the ongoing power projects is speeded up

at all levels saying that the same will go a long way in ensuring that proper aug-

mentation of electric supply is ensued in the state, which does face shortage during lean periods.

While referring to the Prime Ministers package, the Deputy Chief Minister said that a special component has already been earmarked for new power projects and now the onus lies on us to ensure that the funds are utilized in full by un-

dertaking new ventures, which besides generating power would also ensure that employment generation of the areas in which they are being implemented also gets a boost.

The meeting also discussed the issue of expediting hydro power projects in the state and also came up with various suggestions and measures regarding the same.

Time and Us

DAILY Editorial
SRINAGAR J&K

STARTING OVER: ON RAHUL'S ELEVATION

Rahul Gandhi spent so many years stepping up to become president of the Congress party that once he was elected unopposed, the biggest surprise remained the timing: in the middle of an Assembly election campaign in Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home turf. Indeed, after the devastating blow to the Congress in the 2014 Lok Sabha election, and other electoral reverses since then, it was a bold decision — a signal that he is in for the long haul and that he is going to be undeterred by an election result that pundits, at least in the early days, had all but given to the Bharatiya Janata Party. No matter which way the result goes on December 18, Mr. Gandhi has made it clear that the responsibility of the party's success rests on his shoulders and that there is no one but himself to blame for any missteps. That he would take over as president was clear since his mother Sonia Gandhi's gradual retreat, but with a mere 18 months to go before the next general election, Mr. Gandhi doesn't have the luxury of a great deal of time in reversing the party's political fortunes. Given the personality cult that attaches itself to the Gandhis in the party, with every appointment and gesture read to see who's in and who's out, Mr. Gandhi will send the first signal about his leadership qualities by the speed and professionalism with which he constitutes his A-team. His swiftness in suspending family loyalist Mani Shankar Aiyar was an early indication of decisiveness and drawing a red line for party members.

Leadership is vital for the Congress to address its three big challenges: reviving the party organisation; firming up alliances; and formulating a cohesive programme as the main opposition party that is looking for another chance to govern India. Historically, once the Congress is edged out of a two-party contest in a State, its local organisation tends to fray. With the party ruling in half-a-dozen States and running at third or lower place in big States such as Uttar Pradesh and smaller terrains like Delhi, the challenge is obvious. Alliance-formation has remained reactive since 2014 and Mr. Gandhi will have to forge decisions on pacts with regional parties, somewhat similar to what Ms. Gandhi did painstakingly before the 2004 election. A transitional moment such as the leadership change also gives the Congress an opportunity to bring its offshoots, such as the Trinamool Congress, into an understanding. All of this will be easier achieved if the Congress can articulate its outlook and agenda. It needs to spell out where it stands on the economy, social inclusion, minority rights, foreign policy, welfare. Simply reacting to the Modi government or being un-Modi will not suffice.

Celebration or reflection?

By ROMI KHOSLA

Looking back through the century that has elapsed is not going to be easy. Should we celebrate or commemorate the October Revolution? After all, the Soviet Union no longer exists and celebrations may not be quite appropriate. On the other hand, commemoration could help us remember and reflect on events that shook the whole world and revisit the powerful ideas that ignited them. Frankly speaking, there has been no other great idea that we can push forward today to end our vicious cycle of poverty. We could always open our hearts and minds once more to history and choose vanguardism to change society, the arts and indeed all creative fields as being the right thing for our present era, which is otherwise bereft of great transformational ideas.

But before we do that, we will have to deal with the problem of which layer of history can be relied on to guide us. What did Leo Tolstoy mean when he wrote in War and Peace, "Historians are like deaf people who go on answering questions that no one has asked them"? Will history ever give us the right answers? Our reflections about the revolution are complicated by the plethora of documents about it that keep appearing in the public domain. Much of that new material keeps revealing hidden aspects about events that took place in the years preceding the revolution and those immediately following it.

I had always assumed that history was reliable. As a student of architecture, I was fed on a diet of history about the October Revolution that linked the avant-garde to the revolution. I had simply accepted it. The questions are only now beginning to arise after so many decades of trying to understand the full meaning of the revolution. In my case, the turning point came when I became familiar with the disquieting work of Kalpana Sahni, who spent many years in the Soviet Union. She showed me how much of the history taught to her in the Soviet Union had been continually falsified. My education had been in a different place. I was familiar with the good days of the revolutionary avant-garde and the bad days of Joseph Stalin. During those student days, the course dealing with Soviet history had moved like a locomotive through my life. It dealt mostly with the triumphal architectural ideas in the first two decades of the revolution. We never paused for a better understanding of the complex causalities of that history. We never questioned whether the advance guards in the world of art, its avant-gardist protagonists, were Ukrainian, Georgian, Polish, Lithuanian or Armenian or whether they were Jewish or Christian. Our history course had subsumed them all into an ideal larger identity of Soviet citizenship. It was almost as if the history of social transformation had really begun in 1917. The wholeness of Soviet architectural history was ignored in favour of the first period that dealt with Soviet avant-garde architecture, a favoured period in the Western narrative of the Soviet Union and a convenient stick to beat Stalinism and Communism with. The remaining two periods, the Stalinist neoclassic period of the 1930s-50s and the concluding post-Stalinist modernism of the 1950s, were glossed over. Our prime source mate-

rial for the first period came from the work of Anatole Kopp and Reyner Banham. Subsequently, I travelled to Moscow and tried with great difficulty to locate the few buildings that had been built before the onslaught of social realism. Soviet architecture had remained a dream. There was no money to build such impossible monuments like Tatlin's Monument to the Third International, designed of glass and iron, to be more than twice the height of the Empire State Building. Questions had begun to arise within me about the role of the Constructivists who had more theatrical designs to their credit than built works.

As a student I had therefore assumed that 1917 was the watershed year between the classical era and the modern era in Soviet art and architecture. Kopp had been brought up in an upper-class Jewish family in Russia which fled to France when the Bolsheviks came to power. Yet he joined the French Communist Party and began writing about the need to introduce modernism in contemporary French architecture. For him, France had to learn from the avant-garde architecture of the Soviets. He pointed out that "in the years that followed the revolution, Soviet architecture was dominated by what was called the modern style". His authoritative book *Town and Revolution: Soviet Architecture and City Planning, 1917-1935*, published in 1967, explained how the burst of avant-garde creative work was let loose by these political upheavals. He focussed on the year 1917 as the starting point of his proposition. Kopp's work was undoubtedly unique. Very little information had been available in the West on the impact of the early years of the revolution on the fine arts and architecture. His book was profusely illustrated and highlighted the theoretical and built work that emerged in the decade before the 1930s. It was, in every sense, the first window that Western scholars of architecture got to look through into the Soviet Union. However, Kopp's book was more propagandist than scholarly. It was not until I had already left the West and returned to India that Vivan Sundaram introduced me to the work of Camilla Gray. In contrast to Kopp's work, this was a deeply researched scholarly work about the avant-garde and the Russian experiment in art. In it she revealed that the avant-garde movement amongst Russian painters had begun long before the revolution and as early as the 1860s. I began peeling away the history of my student days.

After reading her book *The Russian Experiment in Art, 1863-1922*, my earlier understanding about the origins of the avant-garde movement in the history of European and Russian art changed completely. Indeed, one began to question any links between pushing the borders of what is acceptable in art and the radical political world view of the Left. Is it possible that art and history stand on opposite ends? The strong links that I had assumed between them had, in reality, always remained extremely tenuous. The parties of the Left have great affinity towards an avant-garde art that is seen to be an agent of change and an instrument of propaganda. If, however, such art is unorthodox and experimental, daring or radical and relatively devoid of political content and engages with internal expressions of experience, that same Left regards it with suspicion and distrust. The

unorthodox expressions and methods of the modern movement of art in Russia preceded the revolution by almost half a century. It was neither a product of the revolution nor its baby. During the early years of the October Revolution, the Soviet state had allowed the pre-revolutionary avant-garde practitioners freedom and patronage. For a short while, the revolution had allowed them a unique freedom to undertake formal and social experiments. They were lucky that this freedom was guarded and managed by Anatoly Lunacharsky as long as he was in his official position as The Peoples' Commissariat of Culture and Education. But their luck ran out when he resigned in 1921 and all that freedom of expression that he had defended as the Commissariat came to an end. He, too, was vilified later during the purge of 1936-38 when his name was erased from the Communist Party's history and his memoirs were banned.

The pre-revolutionary avant-garde painters had been encouraged, in the 1870s, by the railway tycoon Savva Mamontov, who had an estate where a handful of non-conforming artists regularly met, determined to challenge the hegemony of the Academy of Arts in Petersburg. Predictably, during these formative years of the modern movement, four decades prior to the revolution, the official Petersburg Academy favoured patronising works that demonstrated clear links between Russian art and European traditions to ensure continuity with the direction that Peter the Great (1672-1725) had already charted for Russia. The artists who met at the estate of Mamontov and challenged such notions of acceptable art formed themselves into a collective and called themselves "The Wanderers". Subsequent followers of avant-garde movements in the visual arts, music, poetry and architecture formed groups and forged collective identities before and after the revolution around manifestos and named themselves with varying identities: Arts of the World, Futurists, Suprematists, Constructivists and Productivists.

Their engagement with the revolution remains unexplored. Commemorating the revolution raises the problem of understanding the relationship between political revolution and the creative arts. The historical question of whether the revolution did anything positive for the avant-garde remains unanswered and under-discussed. The Russian avant-garde movement was stopped very early in its tracks by the hegemony of Soviet state patronage, which preferred Stalin's neoclassical Social Realism style in the visual arts and architecture. The pioneers of the avant-garde movement were vilified and left to live in penury, sent into exile or incarcerated in prison camps. Some were simply executed. Vsevolod Meyerhold was arrested and killed; Vladimir Mayakovsky committed suicide; Kazimir Malevich was hounded, arrested and died soon after; Wassily Kandinsky, Naum Gabo and Pevsner migrated to the West.

With more and more documents appearing in Russia, commemorating the revolution today gives us yet another chance to peel the layers of history once more and discuss the contents of the diaries and innermost thoughts and hidden texts of some of these avant-garde practitioners, texts that have lain hidden but

have now begun to appear in the public domain. Kazimir Malevich's diaries, papers and essays are now in the public domain as are a number of books by emigre painters and writers. The aftermath of the revolution led to reigns of terror on many creative practitioners, and their work was either confiscated or destroyed by the state or voluntarily by the artists themselves. Fortunately, some of their families had the courage to preserve their work by hiding it. What survives is now becoming available to the public after the collapse of the Soviet Union and reveals how internal discussions amongst the practitioners of avant-garde art during the revolution were never resolved sufficiently to come to terms with the philosophical issues posed by the revolution. For instance, within the Russian avant-garde, there were two distinct groups that articulated different views on the relationship between art and revolution. Malevich, Kandinsky and Pevsner, amongst others, believed that art was essentially spiritual in its concerns and ought to be primarily concerned with reflecting on higher levels of visions about the world and human beings in general. Opposed to them were Vladimir Tatlin and Alexander Rodchenko, who propounded the questions relating to the necessity of art in a communist society and that art ought to be productive art and not enshrined in a cocoon for its own sake. They believed that social living needed technical resolution and machines to release society to devote their time to art.

Camilla Gray went to the Soviet Union in the 1960s to learn ballet and there she married Oleg Prokoviev, son of the composer Sergei Prokoviev. This provided her with rare opportunities to access much of the hidden personal documents, photographs and records that had been secreted away from the Soviet authorities in the early days of the revolution. With her research and network of contacts with the families of the artists, she was able to piece together the events and happenings of the avant-garde movement in Russia during the 1920s, and we owe much of what we know about it to her work. The book was smuggled into the Soviet Union and came as a bombshell for a new generation of Russians who had been denied any knowledge of the avant-garde movement in the early years of the revolution. It was a period of Soviet art history that had been hidden, falsified and suppressed. Few were aware that Paris had been the nerve centre of avant-garde ideas in the first two decades of the last century. Artists, music composers, architects, sculptors and writers and poets from Russia as well as other parts of Europe naturally gravitated towards that city. It took five decades for this to become widely known when in 1979, the Pompidou Centre hosted a large exhibition titled "Paris-Moscow 1900-1930". Two years later, this exhibition was shown in Moscow. For the first time ordinary citizens of the Soviet Union became aware of the extraordinary ideas and images that had been produced in the early years of their revolution by a generation of avant-garde artists whose names they had never heard. It was almost as if an entire layer had been peeled off their official history to reveal another truth. And yet there were still other layers of that movement that were to be peeled off later.

Human rights and Indian values

Pulapre Balakrishnan

Adri, Alwar and Rajasamand are names that must ring a bell for every aware Indian. In a little more than a year these have been sites where a fellow citizen has been brutally murdered by another Indian. They should be a source of deep shame to us as these were not random events. In every case the victim was a Muslim from the poorest sections of our country. Mohammad Akhlaq, Pehlu Khan and Afrazul Khan were murdered for the identity assigned to them and the alleged guilt that is thereby claimed to cling to them.

Acts of hate
Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi was quick to respond to the murder of Afrazul Khan stating that it should not be seen as religiously motivated but as a criminal act. Not only is this difficult to sustain given the explanation by Afrazul Khan's assailant that he was only seeking revenge for "cross-community" marital relationships but it also ignores a pattern in the three killings in question. In all cases the murders have been justified in the name of injuring the sensibilities of Hindus. They are, for all to see, unmistakably acts of hate committed against a member of a religious minority.

Four days after the killing of Afrazul Khan on December 6, India celebrated

Human Rights Day. December 10 is the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the UN General Assembly. As an early supporter of the UN movement and a constant participant in its deliberations, India has, in international fora, constantly endorsed the charter of rights that the declaration unfurled.

On December 10, at an official ceremony at Delhi's Vigyan Bhavan Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu said two noteworthy things. He first affirmed India's commitment to human rights emphasising the duty of governments to ensure them to individuals. Second, he observed that human rights existed in India not due to some constitutional morality but because of the DNA of Indian civilisation. To clarify what he meant he chanted from the Upanishad "Sarve Janaha Sukhino Bhavantu", loosely translated as "May all be happy".

The Vice-President was obviously referring to the many assurances of the freedom of thought and expression and the right to life and liberty in the Constitution, suggesting that their provenance lies in the immemorial history of the country's civilisation. While there may be a grain of truth in this observation it doesn't count for much when it comes to repeated violation of human rights in India, of which the murders of Mohammad Akhlaq, Pehlu Khan and Afrazul Khan are instances.

Role of government

In the light of these violations, it may have been more helpful if the Vice-President had said that the constitutional provisions are inadequate by themselves and the role of government is fundamental in advancing them. In fact, it is precisely because we cannot rely on civilisational values that may or may not be enshrined in the constitution to deliver us rights that we adopt democracy as the form of government.

Historically, votaries of civilisational values have struggled to break free of cultural prejudices and accord similar status to other civilisations. Not very long ago, colonialism had been justified on civilisational terms, with the very term "civilised" being used to differentiate the West from the indigenous populations of the lands colonised by Europe. It is perhaps this that led Gandhi to respond to the query of what he thought of Western civilisation by saying, "I think it would be a good idea." Gandhi is unlikely to have been any softer on champions of the superiority of eastern civilisations.

Civilisational hubris abounds in claims of "the inclusivity of Hinduism" or "the egalitarianism of Islam". Whatever be the exhortations in the texts that underlie these religions, the history of caste and gender inequality in India and Islamic societies, respectively, show them to have been neither inclusive nor egal-



itarian. It is clear that civilisational values, in our case Indian, are far from sufficient to deliver us the rights that we seek to make our own.

Though the UN's declaration of human rights is expansive, in his speech the Vice-President took it further to include social and economic rights. It is clear that Indian civilisation has not had much success in ensuring their delivery. If any progress has at all been made in the desired direction, it has been after the adoption of a democratic form of governance; an arrangement that is distinctly non-Indian in its origins. In terms of human development, 21st century India is radically different from what it was in the 20th century. That economic inequality has steadily risen and ecological stress is written all over the country cannot take away from the fact that there has been progress of a form that has collapsed social distance. The rise to the prime ministership of

India of Mr. Narendra Modi is the best testament to this. There is social churning in India, with some of it having come through affirmative action and some of it through economic transformation in which the more recent liberalisation of the economy has had some role.

However, as India has managed to shed some of the centuries old practices that maintained social distance due to caste and economic differentiation, newer axes of power have emerged. We have begun to see an unimaginable rise of violence against women and Muslims. Hardening patriarchy and Hindu chauvinism are India's unanticipated demons. These have taken us by surprise, and as a society we appear to be incapable of handling them.

Ways to tackle intolerance

Our task of ensuring human rights in India is, however, made no more easy after rejecting the potential of civilisational values and of the instrumentality of economic growth combined with constitutional morality in achieving such a state. While "constitutional morality", a term used by Ambedkar to appropriately reject any role for "societal morality" in the Republic, is of course a useful guide to the courts when it comes to adjudicating between individuals, it is by itself helpless in preventing acts of violence. The efficacy of constitutional provisions is entirely dependent on the government machinery entrusted to our

elected representatives. An effective protection of individuals, in this case women and minorities, from acts of violence requires the power of the state to weigh in on their side. In too many cases of violence against women, Muslims and Dalits, the Indian state is distinguished by its absence.

In a recent paper Canada-based economist Mukesh Eswaran demonstrated that it is possible to understand "9/11" and home-grown terrorism in western Europe as a response to the historical wrongs inflicted on Muslim societies by Western powers, notably the invasion of Iraq. This is a useful corrective to the collective gasp of incredulity let out by Western elites when addressing the violence unleashed against them by Islamic groups. Transferring Eswaran's reasoning to the Indian context, one might argue that India should contain violence against its Muslims to ensure the safety of Hindus. But such crass instrumentalism would be unworthy of a great civilisation. We want to ensure the flourishing of all the peoples of India not out of self-preservation but because we want to be civilised. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, anyone?

Pulapre Balakrishnan teaches economics at Ashoka University, Sonapat, Haryana and the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, Kerala

Centre urges film-makers to comply with Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act

NEW DELHI: Minister of Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi on Wednesday wrote to leading film production houses of Bollywood, urging them to comply with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act to provide a safe, secure and inclusive work environment for women.

Through this effort, Ministry of WCD will extend outreach and implementation of the Act to yet another section.

The WCD Minister has personally written to Aditya Chopra, Karan Johar, Anurag Kashyap, Bhushan Kumar, Ekta Kapoor, Vinod Chopra, Mahesh Bhatt, Shahrukh Khan, Sooraj Barjatya Bhavana, Ritesh Sidhwani, Farhan Akhtar, Anil Dhruvhai Ambani, Ajit Andhare, Sajid Nadiadwala, Vijay Singh, NP Singh, Aamir Khan, Shobu Yarlagadda, Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, Ashutosh Gowariker, Manish Munda, Pritish Nandy, Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Subhash Ghai.

Gandhi said that as leaders of



their organisations, they are ethically and legally accountable for the safety of not only their direct employees, but of all outsourced and temporary staffs as well. On November 7, Gandhi had launched an on-

line complaint management system titled Sexual Harassment electronic-Box (SHe-Box) for registering complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace. The complaint management system has been developed to ensure the effective implementation of the SH Act, 2013.

This portal is an initiative to provide a platform to working women to file complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace under the SH Act.

Those who had already filed a written complaint with the concerned ICC constituted under the SH Act are also eligible to file their complaint through this portal.

Last month, Gandhi had tweeted, thanking Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, for considering Ministry WCD's request to amend relevant rules under the Companies Act, 2013, for women's safety.

The amendment would ensure that the Board of Directors of all companies duly report on the constitution of ICC under the Act.

Gujarat polls: Liquor worth crores seized in dry state

GUJARAT: Country made liquor worth Rs 30.6 lakhs and Indian-made foreign liquor worth Rs 23.50 crores have been seized in poll bound Gujarat between October 25 to December 12.

It is to be noted that Gujarat is a dry state where Assembly elections are being held.

Other items like vehicles worth Rs 29.16 crores have also been seized and at least 26,913 people have been arrested till now.

The first phase of polling was held on December 9 in Gujarat, while the second and final phase is scheduled for December 14. The counting of votes will be taken up on December 18.

Gujarat polls: EC to examine if Rahul's interview violates rule

GANDHINAGAR:

The Gujarat Election Commission has received a complaint regarding the telecast of Congress president-elect Rahul Gandhi's interview to a TV channel, the state Chief Electoral Officer, BBSwain said on Wednesday. "We have got a complaint regarding telecast of an interview. We have collected the DVDs. We will be doing a due examination and look into whether it has violated Rules 126 Representation of the People Act or not," Swain said at a press conference in Gandhinagar. Earlier in the day, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Piyush Goyal pointed out that Gandhi had given interview to a local TV channel in Gujarat, an act not permitted during the last 48 hours of campaigning.



"I am sure the Election Commission will take cognizance of this and take an action," Goyal added. Gandhi gave his first interview as Congress president-elect to a local TV channel in Gujarat today, a day prior to the second phase of Gujarat Assembly election.

When will Congress free itself from corruption, asks Piyush Goyal



NEW DELHI: Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday questioned when the Congress would free itself from corruption. Addressing a press conference here, Goyal made these remarks after a court here found former Jharkhand Chief Minister Madhu Koda guilty in coal block allocation scam.

"The way Prime Minister Narendra Modi led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government has taken action against terrorism it has given a message that India doesn't tolerate terrorism. On the other hand, the tough measures against corruption have given a warning to the corrupt and paved the way for the country to move on the path of honesty," Goyal said. He said on the other hand one after another misdeeds of the Congress are coming to fore.

"Today, a court has found former Jharkhand Chief Minister Madhu Koda guilty in coal block allocation scam, whose government was supported by the Congress. This once again proves that how then Congress led Union government and the state governments with the support of Congress were functioning. We all know that Madhu Koda was an independent MLA and how Congress leader Ahmed Patel had helped him to become the Chief Minister. Koda government was being run from Delhi by the Congress leaders," Goyal said.

He demanded an answer from the Congress over it. Goyal also pointed out arrest of a former Congress MLA from Delhi to corner the opposition party.

"A former three-time Congress MLA Rajesh Jain from Delhi, who was arrested last month, routed and laundered huge amount of black money post demonetisation. Jain had close relations with many senior Congress leaders and it shows why the Congress opposed demonetisation," Goyal said.

He demanded the people of country would like to know when Congress and its leaders free them from corruption and black money.

Delhi Court sends businessman to ED custody in money laundering case

NEW DELHI: A Delhi Court on Wednesday sent Mumbai based businessman Bimal Ramgopal Agarwal to the custody of Enforcement Directorate (ED) till December 21 in a money laundering case into cricket betting scandal.

The allegation against Agarwal states that he and his associates managed to collect Rs 2.75 crores from Manoj Jain and Rs 50 lakh from Surendra Kalra for providing protection in the ED case.

He had deposited more than Rs 80 lakh in the account of his controlled companies between July 28, 2015 and



September 22, 2015.

The Investigating Officer is directed to medically examine the accused

after the interval of every 48 hours and the guidelines laid by the Apex Court are to be followed in a strict sense.

PM Modi to commission naval submarine INS Kalvari tomorrow



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Thursday dedicate to the nation, the naval submarine INS Kalvari, the first of six Scorpene-class submarines in Mumbai.

The INS Kalvari is a diesel-electric attack submarine that has been built for the Indian Navy by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited.

It is the first of six such submarines that will be inducted into the Indian Navy, which represents a significant success for the "Make in India" initiative.

The project has been undertaken with French collaboration.

The Prime Minister will dedicate the submarine at the Naval Dockyard, in the presence of the Defence Minister, important dignitaries of the Maharashtra Government and senior Naval Officers.

He will address the gathering and undertake a visit of the submarine.

Phone tapping row: Delhi HC disposes of Mukul Roy's plea

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday disposed of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Mukul Roy's plea seeking investigation into his phones being allegedly tapped by the police.

The order was passed by Justice Vibhu Bakhru. The court's direction came after the West Bengal Director General of Police and Kolkata Police Commissioner gave an affidavit that none of his phones are on "interception" and denied the allegation. It also gave liberty to the Petitioner that he can approach the court again if he gets any evidence in this matter. Earlier on November 20, the court had issued notices to the Centre and the West Bengal Government over the issue.

It also gave the Centre, state government and Roy's telecom service providers - MTNL and Vodafone - to reply on the same till December 7. Roy, who left the Trinamool Congress (TMC) party for the BJP, has filed a plea in the Delhi High Court and said his phone conversations were being tapped by the West Bengal Government. During the hearing, the lawyers for the Centre and the West Bengal government had opposed the petition on the basis of jurisdiction. Roy resigned from TMC on September 25. Later, he was suspended from the party for six years for anti-party activities. He also resigned from Rajya Sabha membership on October 11, 2017 and joined the BJP on November 3.

CBI takes over Chhattisgarh 'fake' sex CD case probe, 2 FIRs registered

NEW DELHI: The probe into the alleged distribution of a "fake" sex CD involving Chhattisgarh minister Rajesh Moonat has been taken over by the CBI at the request of the BJP government in the state and two FIRs have been registered, officials said here on Wednesday.

The first case registered by the agency is against state Congress president Bhupesh Baghel and senior journalist Vinod Verma based on

allegations levelled by Moonat following which the Chhattisgarh Police had filed an FIR, they said.

The second case deals with a state police FIR against unidentified persons lodged on a complaint by BJP leader Prakash Bajaj alleging that a ransom call was made to him saying if demand was not met the "obscene CD" of his masters would be distributed, according to them. The sources said the agency has

re-registered has both the state police FIRs as its cases.

Chhattisgarh Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Moonat had lodged complaints against scribe Verma, who was arrested from Ghaziabad in October, and Baghel for allegedly tarnishing his image through the CD. Verma and Baghel have denied the allegations.

The Chhattisgarh government had recommended a probe by the

Central Bureau of Investigation into the matter on October 28.

State Revenue Minister Prakash Pandey had said that the matter seemed to be a "political and criminal conspiracy" and, therefore, it was felt that the CBI should probe it. The alleged video sparked a political row in the state with the Congress and the BJP trading charges over it. The matter came to light when Verma was arrested by the Chhat-

tisgarh Police from his Ghaziabad residence for suspected blackmail and extortion related to the CD.

As Verma was being escorted by the police, he had claimed that the state government was not happy with him as it suspected that he had a "sex CD of Chhattisgarh PWD Minister Rajesh Moonat" and suggested he was being framed. Moonat had called it "fake" and an attempt at character assassination.

PM Narendra Modi: Bad loans to banks by UPA a scam bigger than 2G, CWG, coal block scandals

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a scathing attack on the previous Congress-led UPA regime, saying that banks were pressured to give loans worth thousands of crores of rupees to select industrialists in a scam bigger than 2G, coal and Commonwealth Games scandals.

Speaking at the 90th AGM of industry association Ficci, Modi said the non performing asset (NPA) or bad loans problem is a "liability" handed over by "economists" in the previous regime.

Hard-selling his government's pro-poor policies, he listed out initiatives like free cooking gas connections to women, bank accounts to every household, loans to the youth and affordable housing, taken since 2014.

Modi said loans extended to

select industrialists by pressuring banks was a loot of public money.

Calling it a "scam", he said this was bigger than the Commonwealth Games, 2G telecom spectrum allocation and coal block allocation scams. Modi said his government is formulating policies keeping in mind the need of businesses, abolishing archaic and obsolete laws.

Industry, he said, had been long demanding Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the BJP-led government implemented it and introduced measures like anti-profiteering to see that industry passes on the benefit of lower taxes to the people.

More than 30 crore poor have got bank accounts under the Jan Dhan Yojana, Modi said, adding that a study has found that inflation had come down in rural areas



where such accounts have been opened. He said 87 important reforms in sectors including in defence, financial sector and food processing have been taken up in the last three years.

The government has attempted to frame policies keeping in mind the aspirations and needs of the people, he said.

More than 3 crore women have been given free cooking gas LPG connection. After this, fuel inflation has dropped in rural areas, he said. "We are trying to solve problems of poor after identifying their problems", he said.

Under the Mudra scheme, over Rs 4 lakh crore guarantee-less loans have been given to about 9.75 lakh youth for business, leading to 3 crore new entrepreneurs being created since launch, he said.

Pillion riders on motorcycle more vulnerable to traumatic brain injuries, says study

A study conducted in the US suggests that motorcycle passengers are more likely to suffer from traumatic brain injuries in crashes as they are less likely to wear helmets. Researchers studied almost 80,000 motorcycle drivers and nearly 6,000 passengers who were involved in crashes between 2007 and 2010. Two-thirds of the drivers were wearing helmets, compared to only 57.5 percent of the passengers.

Traumatic brain injuries were the most common type of injury for drivers and passengers, the study found. But passengers experienced this more often, in 40 percent of cases, compared with 36 percent of cases for drivers, the researchers report in JAMA Surgery. Even when they wear helmets,

passengers are still more at risk than drivers. The rate of traumatic brain injury was 36 percent among helmeted passengers, compared to 31 percent among helmeted drivers.

"We believe that in certain accidents, the passenger is more likely to be ejected from the motorcycle," said Dr. Tyler Evans of the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis.

"This is likely to increase the risk for serious head injury despite helmet use, given that being ejected from the motorcycle at a high rate of speed may be too severe of an impact for the helmet to be as protective," Evans said by email.

Drivers might have lower risk for these injuries because they sit behind a protective windshield



and have a firm grip on the steering column, while the passenger often sits at a higher position behind the driver with little to hold on to, Evans added.

"Being directly above the back wheel, one can hypothesize that passengers are more prone to being ejected from the motorcycle, likely adding to the potential for serious head and neck injuries," Evans said.

"The drivers have the benefit of being more aware of what is in front of them and have a higher chance of bracing themselves and creating a tighter grip on the motorcycle, while the passenger often may not have the same reaction time given they are not controlling the motorcycle."

Alcohol also played a role, the

study found.

Fewer than half of passengers and drivers under the influence of alcohol wore helmets: 42 percent and 49 percent, respectively.

Passengers had higher traumatic brain injury rates even after researchers accounted for alcohol use, drug use, age and sex.

The study wasn't a controlled experiment designed to prove whether or how helmet use or where someone sits on a motorcycle influences their odds of injuries.

Even so, the results offer fresh evidence of how helmets can help protect not just drivers, but also passengers, when there's a motorcycle crash, said Jacob Sunshine, a researcher at the University of Washington in Seattle who wasn't involved in the study.

Physical attractiveness or intelligence: What qualities do women look for in a man

Some women may claim that chiselled abs and giant biceps are not what they are seeking in a man. But a scientific study suggests that if your female partner tells you this, she is probably just being kind. The study, on the subject of male bodily attractiveness, has found that the most Herculean bodies were universally the most appealing, at least according to the 160 women doing the rating. Previous studies, too, have backed this finding.

"We weren't surprised that women found physically strong men attractive ... what did surprise us was just how powerful the effect was," said Aaron Sell, a senior lecturer at Griffith University, Queensland, Australia, who led the work. "Our data couldn't find even a single woman that preferred weaker or feminine male bodies." The findings runs counter to a



theory that has been gaining traction in the field of male attractiveness research, that there exists a "sweet spot" for brawn, and that beyond a certain threshold too much strength becomes unappealing. This view is wrong, the team behind the latest study claim. Aaron Lukaszewski, an evolutionary psychologist at California State University, said:

"The theory is that there would have been benefits ancestrally, in terms of the ability to acquire resources, protecting offspring, hunting and so on. But at a certain point, mating with highly dominant men, they can exert all this aggressive coercive control and there might be costs." The paper, published in the Royal Society journal Proceedings

B, highlights the potential downside that physically formidable men might be "better able to invest resources in a family [but] less willing to do so than weaker men of poorer quality". However, the empirical evidence suggests that if there are downsides to being muscular, this fact is not reflected in female preferences. Lukaszewski said the field appears to have been misled by studies which used line drawings of the male body, rather than photographs. "Most of the studies have been done using line drawings, which have shown hulk-like freaks of nature, that are at the borderline of looking like a human," he said. In the latest study, 160 women were shown photographs of male bodies, with the head blanked out and asked to rate them for attractiveness. One set of photographs showed male university students and a second set showed men re-

cruited from a gym, who worked out between three to five times each week. The men were also given a strength test. The strength of a man was by far the strongest predictor of whether he was rated as attractive — it explained 70% of the difference in scores. Being tall gave men a small boost of a few percentage points, while being overweight incurred a few negative points. "Our results suggest that even if you're a bit overweight, looking strong can buffer that. Basically, being a strong, fat guy is OK, which I think would bring comfort to many." The team said they now intend to turn their gaze to the question of why the results differ to studies on facial attractiveness where women have shown a preference for feminine male faces. "It looks like the face is being analysed differently by women, and we're not sure why yet," said Sell.

Blood test to diagnose two cancer types is here

Scientists have developed a blood test using infrared spectroscopy that may diagnose two types of cancer, lymphoma and melanoma. The findings, published in the journal Scientific Reports, suggest infrared spectroscopy can detect biochemical changes induced by non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a solid tumorous condition of the immune system, and subcutaneous melanoma, a deadly form of skin cancer. The technique has diagnostic potential as a screening technique for these cancers, according to researchers, including those from Georgia State University in the US.

They used mid-infrared spectroscopy to analyse blood serum derived from experimental mice and differentiate mice with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and subcutaneous melanoma from healthy mice and also between these two tumorous conditions.

The mid-infrared spectral region of the electromagnetic spectrum is frequently used to characterise biological samples at the molecular level.

Studies have found the incidence rates of cutaneous melanoma have increased in many regions and populations over the last decade, specifically three to seven per cent per year among fair-skinned populations, researchers said.

The available diagnostic regimen for both cancers, which includes tissue examination and biopsy, is time-consuming, invasive and costly, resulting in small compliance rates of eligible populations for cancer prescreening.

Developing a rapid and reliable prescreening strategy for melanoma and lymphoma is critical because early diagnosis and treatment of these malignancies improve the patients' chances of survival.

Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy in Attenuated Total Reflection (ATR) sampling mode provides high-quality results with better reproducibility compared to other vibrational spectroscopy.

It has attracted scientists' attention for its rapid and reliable detection of various health conditions using body fluid samples. "Our final goal is to say we can use this infrared technique to identify various diseases," said Unil Perera, Professor at Georgia State.

"This study shows infrared spectroscopy can identify cancer. Right now, when you go to the doctor, they do blood tests for sugar and several other things, but not for serious diseases like cancer and colitis. If you are a healthy person, there is a range that is normal.

The researchers used mice with lymphoma and melanoma cancers. Blood serum droplets extracted from cancerous mice and control mice were placed on an ATR crystal of the FTIR instrument.

Incident infrared beams were absorbed and reflected by the serum, creating a wave that was recorded and used to produce an absorbance curve with peaks that identified the presence of certain biomarkers in the sample.

Brain mechanism behind depression identified



Researchers have managed to identify the brain mechanism behind depression and its associated conditions.

This happens because of alterations in the activity and connectivity of brain systems underlying reward and memory, suggests the research.

The findings provide clues as to which regions of the brain could be at the root of symptoms, such as reduced happiness and pleasure, or negative memories, in depression. For the study, the researchers used a new approach to measure the influence of one brain region on another, referred to as effective connectivity, in depression.

The approach goes beyond the limitations of previous brain imaging studies, which show if -- but not how -- activity of different brain regions is related.

"The new method allows the effect of one brain region on another to be measured in depression, in order to discover more about which brain systems make causal contributions to depression," said one of the researchers Edmund Rolls, Professor at University of Warwick in England.

The researchers compared 336 people with major depressive disorder to 350 healthy controls.

Brain regions involved in reward and subjective pleasure received less drive (or reduced effective connectivity) in patients, which may contribute to the decreased feeling of happiness in depression, the study showed.

In addition, brain regions involved in punishment and responses when a reward is not received had increased activity, providing evidence for the source of sadness that occurs in the disorder.

Memory-related areas of the brain had increased activity and connectivity in people with depression, which the authors suggest may be related to heightened memory processing, possibly of unpleasant memories, in depression.

(With Agency inputs)

"These findings are part of a concerted approach to better understand the brain mechanisms related to depression, and thereby to lead to new ways of understanding and treating depression," Rolls said.

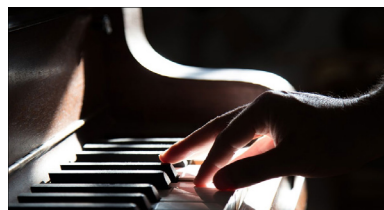
Amputees may be able to play piano, drums with this ultrasonic sensor

A musician who lost part of his right arm five years ago is now able to play musical instruments like the piano and drums with ease, thanks to bionic hand with prosthetic fingers developed by US researchers.

Jason Barnes lost his arm in 2012, was using prosthesis attached to his muscles and controlled by electromyogram (EMG) sensors for his daily works. Though they can detect a muscle movement, but the signal is too noisy to infer which finger the person wants to move.

Researchers from the Georgia Institute of Technology have created an ultrasonic sensor that combines ultrasound signals and machine learning, allows amputees to control each of their prosthetic fingers individually.

"Our prosthetic arm is powered by ultrasound signals. By using this new



technology, the arm can detect which fingers an amputee wants to move, even if they don't have fingers," lead author Gil Weinberg, Professor, at the varsity, said in a statement.

The new device attaches an ultrasonic probe to the arm, which can help doctors watch how muscles move.

When Barnes tries to move his amputated ring finger, the muscle movements differ from those seen when he tries to move any other digit.

The team fed each unique movement

into an algorithm that can quickly determine which finger Barnes wants to move. The ultrasound signals and machine learning could detect continuous and simultaneous movements of each finger, as well as how much force he intends to use, the researchers said.

"It's completely mind-blowing. This new arm allows me to do whatever grip I want, on the fly, without changing modes or pressing a button," Barnes said.

"If this type of arm can work on music, something as subtle and expressive as playing the piano, this technology can also be used for many other types of fine motor activities such as bathing, grooming and feeding," Weinberg said.

"I also envision able-bodied persons being able to remotely control robotic arms and hands by simply moving their fingers," he noted.

Less meat consumption, exercise may cause mental distress in youngsters

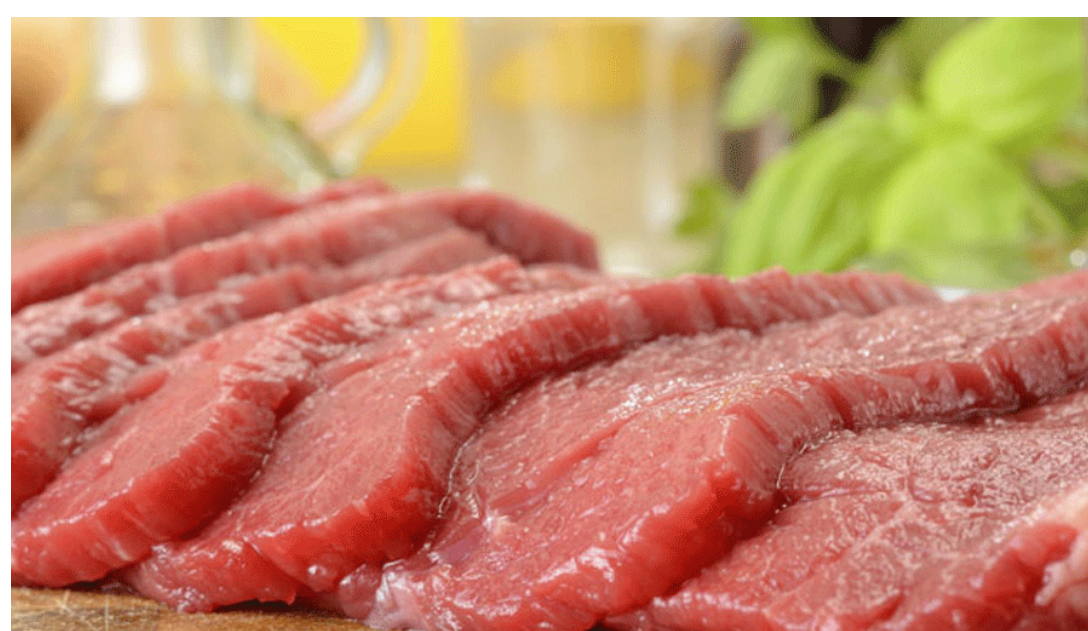
Excess of everything is bad and so can lack of anything be. Lack of essential proteins like meat can put youngsters at risk of mental distress, says a study.

The study suggests that young adults who eat meat less than three times a week and exercise less may be at an increased risk of mental distress.

However, the mental health of a mature adult (aged over 30 years) seems to be more sensitive to regular consumption of coffee and carbohydrates.

Researchers found that mood in young adults (18-29) seems to be dependent on food that increases availability of neurotransmitter precursors and concentrations in the brain (meat).

"Young adult mood appears to be sensitive to build-up of brain chemicals," said Lina Begdache, from the Binghamton University in the US. "Regular consumption of meat leads to build-up of two brain chemicals (serotonin and



dopamine) known to promote mood. Regular exercise leads to build-up of these and other neurotransmitters as well," Begdache said. "In other words, young adults

who ate meat (red or white) less than three times a week and exercised less than three times a week showed a significant mental distress," she said. However,

mood in mature adults may be more reliant on food that increases availability of antioxidants (fruits) and abstinence of food that inappropriately acti-

vates the sympathetic nervous system (coffee, high glycemic index and skipping breakfast). The findings were published in the journal Nutritional Neuroscience. "Mature adult mood seems to be more sensitive to regular consumption of sources of antioxidants and abstinence of food that inappropriately activates the innate fight-or-flight response (commonly known as the stress response)," Begdache added. "With ageing, there is an increase in free radical formation (oxidants), so our need for antioxidants increases.

Free radicals cause disturbances in the brain, which increases the risk for mental distress," she said.

"Also, our ability to regulate stress decreases, so if we consume food that activates the stress response (such as coffee and too much carbohydrates), we are more likely to experience mental distress," she added.

Karnataka's Hubballi city gets new airport terminal

HUBBALLI: Union Civil Aviation Minister P. Ashok Gajapati Raju recently inaugurated an upgraded airport terminal at Hubballi in North Karnataka.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha and senior Airports Authority of India officials were also present on the occasion.

A new flight from Bengaluru to Mumbai via Hubballi was also flagged off. This flight will operate thrice a week. Mr. Gajapati Raju appealed to the Karnataka Governments to jointly work with the Centre to realise the dream of providing robust aviation in states. He said, "I am sure that aviation has a bright future and if we all work together and keep taxation in limit because those states which have brought down the taxation within reasonable parameters have seen aviation activity boost."

Sinha said, "The Honorable Prime Minister of India has a dream of seeing everyone fly and connect, and we are doing our best to fulfill this dream." Hubballi Airport is a centrally air-conditioned building and with an area of 3,600 square metres, it has a capacity to handle 300 peak hour passengers at a time.

It has all essential passenger friendly amenities and conveniences like check-in counters, baggage conveyors, elevator, public address system, firefighting and fire alarm system, HVAC, flight information display system (FIDS), CCTV, baggage scanners and car parking etc.



In view of the government's initiative of Green India, the new terminal has green features like a standing seam double insulated roofing system, provision of sky light system for energy savings and many others.

Sudhir Raheja, Member (Planning), Airports Authority of India, said, "Primarily it's a big state of North Karnataka and we have initially started with a small terminal building that can handle 300 passengers at a time, 150 arrivals and 150 departures. But, considering the response that Hubli got in the second round of bidding in RCS-UDAN Scheme, it will get connected to Chennai, Hyderabad, Goa, Pune, Sholapur, Kolhapur, Kannur, Tirupathi and Delhi."

"So, we hope to expand the building, considering the response that Hubli has received in the second round of bidding in the RCS.

This area right now is of 3600 square meter, perhaps we may have to add it further and go upto 10,000 square meter in the long run, because I am sure this airport will develop very fast, we will get a lot of connectivity from Hubli," he added. India has taken giant strides in domestic civil aviation with growth rate of 21.5 per cent per annum for last two years and is only behind US and China in the race.

Regional connectivity Scheme-UDAN has added a staggering number of 30 airports in just one year.

Bajaj Finserv lowers home loan interest rates to 8.35 percent

PUNE: With the year-end approaching, Bajaj Finserv is offering another chance to its customers to own their dream home. Home buyers can now avail home loans at a lower interest rate of 8.35 percent.

Through its lending arm Bajaj Finance Limited, Bajaj Finserv is further extending this exciting proposition to customers seeking the transfer their existing home loan balance. This limited period offer is applicable for all new and existing customers opting for loan value of Rs. 30 lacs and above and is open till December 18, 2017.

What makes the offer more attractive is that customers availing home loan balance transfer are also eligible for a top up loan up to Rs. 50 lacs. The top-up amount can be used for various purposes like new home decor and improvement, wedding or holiday expenses, or second home investment through a very simple process.

Customers seeking home loan balance transfer of Rs. 30 lacs and above without top-up loan, can avail the loan at a special interest rate of 8.40 percent.

Home loans from Bajaj Finserv are bundled with added benefits like instant approval, 3 EMI Holiday, speedy disbursal and much more.

Applying for Home Loan with Bajaj Finserv is an easy and convenient process wherein the customer can check their eligibility online and calculate their EMI through the home loan EMI calculator with the flexibility of choosing their tenor.

Customers availing home loan from Bajaj Finserv can avail a 3 EMI holiday which allows the customer to start repaying the loan 3 months post the disbursal. In this period customers can divert the funds towards setting up their home and plan their finances better.

On fulfilment of the eligibility criteria, the loan is approved within five minutes and a representative gets in touch with the customer immediately. Applicants can apply for a home loan with minimum and basic documents like identity proof, address proof, income details and bank statement. Bajaj Finserv offers a doorstep service for collecting the customer's documents as per time convenient to customer.

PVR eyes to add 16 more 4DX screens by 2019

NEWDELHI: PVR Cinemas has inked a deal with CJ 4DPLEX that will enable it to add 16 more 4DX screens at its cinemas, taking the total to an impressive 21 4DX auditoriums in India



by the end of 2019. This strategic deal with CJ 4DPLEX, an innovative cinema technology will help PVR Cinemas to retain its position in Indian market with 21 4DX theatres and become the major provider of 4DX experience in the country. "We believe that the best movie viewing formats such as 4DX should reach the maximum number of people around the world. With more global technologies on the rise, the expectations of audiences are increasing as they look for a more enhanced, immersive and experiential cinema," Gautam Dutta, CEO, PVR Ltd, said highlighting that PVR aims to fulfill this expectation by aligning itself with the world leaders in motion picture technology.

The announcement was made at the CineAsia trade show being held at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre from December 11-14, 2017.

PVR and CJ 4DPLEX initially announced their partnership at CinemaCon in 2015.

The deal marks an extended association between the two leading players as PVR cinemas previously have three 4DX screens operational in the country at Noida, Mumbai and Bengaluru and furthermore, plans to add two more screens soon. Both the partners now plan new roll-out for 4DX at PVR Cinemas theaters in Delhi, Gurgaon, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Pune and others. "Following the last year's announcement, we are extremely pleased to announce our further expansion with PVR Cinemas at this CineAsia. It is a definitely meaningful event for us that the largest cinema exhibitor in India recognized 4DX as the pioneer of the innovative cinema technologies and decided to expand our network for two years in a row," Byung Hwan Choi, CEO of CJ 4DPLEX said.

RBI imposes Rs. 30 mn penalty on IndusInd Bank

NEWDELHI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs. 30 million on IndusInd Bank for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms and contravention of regulatory restrictions pertaining to non-fund based (NFB) facilities. The statutory inspection of the bank with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2016 revealed violations of various regulations issued by RBI in the assessment of Non-performing Assets (NPAs) and extension of NFB facilities.

Based on the inspection report and other relevant documents, a notice was issued to the bank advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI. After considering the bank's reply and other furnished information, RBI came to the conclusion that the charges of non-compliance with RBI directions/guidelines were substantiated and warranted imposition of monetary penalty.

"This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of Section 47A(1) (c) read with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, taking into account failure of the bank to adhere to certain directions/guidelines issued by RBI," RBI said in an official release.

OBOPAY Secures a Pre-paid Instrument License from RBI

NEWDELHI: OBOPAY, the global mobile payment solutions company, recently announced that the company has secured license for Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) from the Reserve Bank of India to operate a semi-closed loop wallet in the country.

The company will also be using the license in propelling the business in its B2B operations by co-branding the prepaid instrument with a partner brand. Using the PPI license, OBOPAY will solve various payment related problems for their partner clients - bringing efficiency and transparency to the payments process, improving reporting, and reducing turnaround times for funds transfers.

Commenting on the development, Shailendra Naidu, CEO, OBOPAY, said, "The PPI license combined with our technology expertise can be leveraged by organizations like financial institutions, or even independents who want to launch a mobile wallet. We are exploring partnerships with companies in sectors including SME lending, government subsidy disbursement, health and insurance payments, travel wallets, employee benefits, distribution and supply chain payments, shopping, toll plazas and education among others."

He further mentioned, "In the future, we will also be integrating our platform with UPI as per the RBI's latest interoperability guidelines. Customers on the OBOPAY platform will soon be able to transact with a variety of other platforms: other mobile wallets, UPI, banks etc." The PPI license can be implemented in a variety of industry segments. The license will enable the customers to do everything a prepaid payment instrument does: P2P, cash-in, bill payments, mobile recharge, and shopping.

Pantera Capital invests in Indian cryptocurrency trading exchange Koinex

NEW DELHI: In a major development, Koinex, India's first multi-cryptocurrency exchange and trading platform has received funding from global investment firms, Pantera Capital and Beenext Pte. Ltd.

Koinex plans to channel the capital infusion towards scaling its technology infrastructure, further enhancing the product, and expanding the team over subsequent quarters.

Speaking on the investment, Rahul Raj, Co-founder and CEO, Koinex said that the global markets have crossed the tipping point for Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, which have transitioned from being a rising trend to a full-fledged technological and financial phenomenon.

The Pre-Series A round of funding was led by Dirk van Quaquebeke,

Managing Partner - Beenext Pte. Ltd. and Daniel Morehead, Founder and CEO, Pantera Capital.

"With funding and mentorship from names as prestigious as Pantera Capital and Beenext, we are excited to scale our secure and compliant technology, and build an advanced financial ecosystem for investors to work with, while making buying, storing, and trading of digital assets as seamless as possible," Rahul Raj further added. Pantera Capital is the world's first investment firm to launch funds focused exclusively on bitcoin, tokens, and other digital currencies, making its maiden investment in the Indian cryptocurrency domain with Koinex a massive shot in the arm for the platform.

"Pantera Capital is staunchly

committed to investing in local cryptocurrency exchanges across the globe, because any regional market thrives on local leadership," Daniel Morehead, Founder and CEO - Pantera Capital said.

Launched in August 2017, Koinex facilitates real-time trading of multiple cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple, Bitcoin Cash and Litecoin on a single web platform, based on a peer-to-peer exchange model.

"Since India is a tremendous market because of its size and large remittance corridor, we believe Koinex is extremely well positioned to be a pioneering force in the cryptocurrency space in the country," Dirk van Quaquebeke, Managing Partner - Beenext Pte. Ltd said.

BuildSupply receives Pre-Series A Financing led by Gree Ventures

MUMBAI: PropertyTech start-up BuildSupply has announced that they have raised an undisclosed amount for its Pre-Series A financing round led by Gree Ventures, a Japanese Tech Venture fund.

BuildSupply is an advanced ERP system for the Real Estate and Construction industry, which aims to bring about standardization and transparency in the Real Estate Development and Construction processes.

"Real Estate and Construction is one of the largest industries in India with a tremendous multiplier effect. Our product allows for companies to create tremendous scale and operational efficiency. It can help create cost savings of 8-10% in a single project" Sameer Nayar, Founder of BuildSupply said. The company was founded by Sameer Nayar (ex-Head of Credit Suisse Real Estate, Asia-Pac), Nipun Yadavinder and Sarit Sethi and

the team began their journey in April, 2016 and launched the product earlier this year.

The recent investment round will enable BuildSupply to expand their product and tech team and establish a base across all major metros. It is an easy to adopt, functional solution and has been used by leading companies like Godrej Properties Limited, SARE Homes and Nelson India.

"While India is on a solid path

to be the largest construction market globally, internally the real estate developers, both private and public, face tough challenges in cost estimation, transparent procurement, and vendor management. BuildSupply's solution is coming at an opportune time, leveraging on the GST and RERA frameworks, to solve these key challenges for the industry," Nikhil Kapur, Senior Investment Manager at Gree said.

PropTech as a sector has at-

tracted tremendous interest in the US in the past few years. I expect investments in this sector to increase dramatically in India as well. I have known and worked with Sameer for a long time and am very confident of his abilities to solve some of the most intractable problems for this industry, Sonny Kalsi, Founder at GreenOak Real Estate and Member of the Board of Directors at Oberoi Realty said.



Joe Root urges England to stand up and put things right

LONDON: Joe Root said England cricket team must "stand up" amid its off-field woes heading into Thursday's crucial third Ashes Test in Perth.

England's tour of Australia has been largely forgettable on the eve of their must-win clash at the WACA, Root's men trailing 2-0 and dealing with incidents involving wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow and Ben Duckett.

After Bairstow made headlines for his 'headbutt' greeting to Australia opener Cameron Bancroft which took place prior to the Ashes in Perth, England Lions batsman Duckett was suspended for pouring a beer over the head of veteran paceman James Anderson in a bar before a warm-up match against a Cricket Australia XI.

England have also been dealing with uncertainty over the participation of star all-rounder Ben Stokes, who is awaiting the outcome of police and England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) investigations after he was suspended on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm in a disorder that took place in Bristol in September.

And Root, 26, urged the Ashes holders to put things right in their bid to retain the urn on Aussie soil.

"It's been frustrating... very frustrating," Root said. "In the obvious circumstances and position we're in, guys have made silly mistakes that of course are going to get blown out of proportion."

"[But] we've probably got one of the biggest games of our lives coming up on Thursday... [and] we have to get it right."

"It's time to stand up. These are the games that, when you get them right, really hit home with people."

"That's what people want to see - in the face of adversity, people stand up and really put in those big performances and prove why they have been selected to play for England."

"I understand that a few people feel let down. We still believe we can win the series, but we now need to prove that to everyone else."

Root added: "It's not a fair reflection on this group of players. They are good blokes, good people, but incidents like that let us down and lead people to believe otherwise."

"I'm fed up of talking about stuff that's not cricket," he continued. "I can completely see how captaincy can take its toll."

"I feel like I've learned a large amount. From that you gain knowledge and hopefully that will stand me in good stead moving forward."



Rohit Sharma's third double century powers India to 392/4 vs Sri Lanka in Mohali

MOHALI: Rohit Sharma swatted his third ODI double century in the second match of the three-match series against Sri Lanka at the Punjab Cricket Stadium in Mohali to help India post massive total of 392/4. Rohit remained unbeaten on 208 which came off 153 deliveries and included 13 hits to the fence and 12 sixes. His stay at the wicket was for 212 minutes. The Mumbai batsman clobbered the Sri Lankan bowlers who had wrecked the strong India batting line-up in Dharamsala in the first

ODI. The spectators at the Mohali Stadium were catered by Rohit's big hitting. The opener returned to form with this fine double hundred. He had scored two runs in Dharamsala. The total of 392 runs out to be the highest scored at the PCA Stadium. Rohit was involved in 115-run stand for the opening wicket with Shikhar Dhawan and second-wicket partnership of 213 runs with Shreyas Iyer. Rohit played a sheet anchor's role in setting up such a huge total. The Sri Lanka never looked a side which is 1-0

up in the series as its bowlers bowled a wayward line throughout the innings. For Sri Lanka, Nuwan Pradeep was the most expensive bowler, who gave away 106 runs in his quota of 10 overs. Rohit's (209) first double century came against Australia in Bengaluru back in 2013 while the second (264) came against Sri Lanka at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata in 2014.

With this knock, Rohit surpassed Virat Kohli's knock of 154 scored against New Zealand in 2016, to score the highest individual score. India's highest total (321) at the Mohali ground came against Pakistan in 2007.

Earlier, opener Shikhar Dhawan 68 runs while Shreyas Iyer contributed 88 runs. Dhawan returned to form with the knock while Mumbai's Iyer hit his first ODI half century. MS Dhoni, who had scored 65 runs in Dharamsala was out for 7 in Mohali. Hardik Pandya scored seven. Sri Lanka captain Thisara Perera gave away 80 runs in eight overs and bagged three wickets.

Neil Wagner an artist at work, says New Zealand coach Mike Hesson

HAMILTON: New Zealand coach Mike Hesson heaped special praise Wednesday on Neil Wagner, who's bouncing barrage wreaked havoc in the West Indies ranks to set up a Test series sweep.

Wagner took 14 wickets at 18.28 in the two Tests as he tormented the West Indies with his short deliveries angling into the body.

"No matter where in the world he bowls he can create some indecision. It's quite a unique skill. It's very hard to prepare for," Hesson said.

Wagner took nine wickets in New Zealand's innings win in the first Test at Wellington, including a career best seven for 39 in the West Indies first knock.

He bagged another five in the second Test at Hamilton, which wound up on day four on Tuesday with New Zealand winning by 240 runs.

Once new-ball pair Trent Boult and Tim Southee accounted for the top order on the final day of the second Test, Wagner worked over the middle.

In a 10-ball burst he took out Shai Hope and Shane Dowrich and ended Sunil Ambris' tour with a broken arm. When Roston Chase tried to rebuild the innings and reached 64, Wagner came back to remove the stubborn batsman.

"He bowls a lot of balls between the chest and throat," Hesson said. "A lot of guys can stand up and play it but if you stand up and play it and it bounces a little bit more you get drawn into playing a ball that perhaps you shouldn't."

"That's a skill that not many people around the world have. Some guys can do it for maybe a couple of overs... For Neil, it's probably a more natural length than others and he can sustain it for 7-8-9-10 over spells." New Zealand now move onto a series of limited overs matches and do not play another Test until England arrive in March.

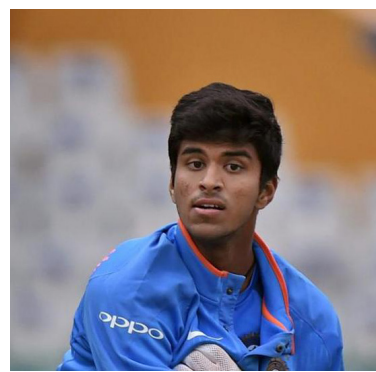


Washington Sundar gets his dream debut vs Sri Lanka in Mohali ODI

MOHALI: Washington Sundar started as a batsman before discovering his talent as a bowler. The off-spinner first came into focus with his stint with Rising Pune Supergiants after being fast-tracked to Tamil Nadu Ranji squad.

From replacing an injured Kedar Jadhav to being drafted into the Indian cricket team for the second ODI side in place of Kuldeep Yadav, it has been eventful week for the Tamil Nadu youngster. On Wednesday, with

India looking for batting depth in overcast condition in Mohali vs the Sri Lankan cricket team, the 18-year-old all-rounder was given his maiden ODI cap from coach Ravi Shastri. He became the seventh youngest Indian to make his ODI debut. With this he joined the illustrious list of players like Sachin Tendulkar, who made his debut at the age of 16 years and 238 days, Maninder Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Parthiv Patel, Laxmi Rattan Shukla and Chetan Sharma.



Sundar was recently in news for having failed the Yo-Yo test but he said that is what inspired him to work harder. On the eve of the match Sundar felt he is ready both mentally and physically to take on the rigours of the international cricket.

"I am ready to bowl 10 overs of my off-spin and also contribute with the bat no matter what position the team is in," Sundar said, on the eve of the match.

Sundar said that failing the fitness test inspired him to get back to the drawing board and his hard work has paid off.

"I went back and prepared a lot. I trained harder in all the aspects, which I thought were lagging. I started bowling more and spent extra time on my batting. I also worked on fitness as it has become a very important aspect of this Indian team," said Sundar, who after his debut last year has played 12 first-class matches for Tamil Nadu.

Alex Hales to return to action in T10 Cricket League in Sharjah

LONDON: England opener Alex Hales, who has been cleared of any wrongdoing in the Bristol incident, is all set to return to action with this week's inaugural T10 League in the United Arab Emirates.

The 28-year-old had been present in Bristol Mbaro's nightclub, where team vice-captain Ben Stokes was arrested after a wild street brawl, which allegedly inflicted bodily harm on a man.

The pair was suspended indefinitely by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) pending the outcome of a police investigation into the matter.

As a result, Hales and Stokes missed the final two ODIs of the five-match series against West Indies, with Stokes subsequently also being withdrawn from England's Ashes squad.

Earlier this month, Stokes returned to competitive cricket after New Zealand's domestic side Canterbury signed the all-rounder as their overseas player.

Meanwhile, Hales was informed last week that he was no longer under police investigation and has now been granted a no-objection certificate (NoC) by the ECB to play for Maratha Arabians in the T10 League.

"I was disappointed not to be out there on the [Ashes] trip. But if I was out there, obviously I wouldn't be here. When one door closes, another one opens," ESPNcricinfo quoted Hales as saying.

Reflecting on the league, the opening batsman believes the format will suit his hard-hitting game, however, admitting that the pressure to keep the scoreboard ticking will be intense.

"Being tall with long arms helps me get under the ball, so I've got some things in my favour. But there will be more pressure because you haven't got as long to get in as you usually would," he said.

ADGP ARMED J&K FELICITATES J&K POLICE WATER SPORTS TEAM

JKP WATER SPORTS TEAM WON 3 GOLD, 1 SILVER AND 2 BRONZE MEDAL IN 17TH ALL INDIA POLICE WATER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP HELD AT BHOPAL (M.P)

JAMMU: ADGP Armed J&K Shri A.K Choudhary, IPS today felicitated J&K Police Water Sports team at Armed Police Headquarters J&K for winning 3 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze Medal in 17th All India Police Water Sports Championship held at Upper Lake Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh State w.e.f December 5 to December 9, 2017.

Among the medal winners, Constable Adil Mohi-ud-Din No.478/IRP-6th Bn. won 1 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze medal in C-1 200 mtrs event, C-1 500 mtrs event and C-1 1000 mtrs event respectively. In K-2 200 mtrs event HC Zahoor Ahmad No.49/IRP-6th Bn. and HC Parveiz Ahmad No.46/IRP-6th Bn. won Gold Medal. In K-4 200 mtrs event, HC Zahoor Ahmad, HC Parveiz Ahmad, Ct. Asin Hussain No.486/IRP-6th Bn. and Foll.

Sajad Ahmad No.F-14/Leh won Gold medal. In C-2 500 mtrs event Ct. Adil Mohi-ud-Din and Foll. Altaf Ahmad won Bronze medal.

It is pertinent to mention



Players of J&K Police Water Sports Team posing for a group photograph with Shri A.K Choudhary IPS ADGP Armed J&K and his Staff Officer M.Y Kichloo SSP at APHQ Conference Hall Jammu on December 13, 2017.

here that J&K Police Water Sports team secured third position in 17th All India Police Water Sports Championship in which 25 teams of different State Police and Central para military forces including ITBP, BSF, CRP and SSB participated. BSF team Stood overall, winner whereas CRPF team secured 2nd Position in the Championship.

While interacting with the players of the team, the ADGP Armed while congratulating the whole team, advised the winners of Silver and Bronze medals and other participants to work hard and prove their mettle in the next Championship with flying colours.

The ADGP also emphasized for regular practice and constant coaching to the team to make it more proficient in future. Mohd Yaseen Kichloo, SSP Staff Officer to ADGP Armed J&K and Majid Mehboob DySP Sports APHQ J&K who were also present on the occasion congratulated the players of J&K Police Water Sports team who excelled in the Championship.