

TIME AND US

DAILY

SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

TUESDAY

- DECEMBER, 05, 2017
- 16 RABI-AL-AWAL 1439 AH
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- PAGES: 08

WEATHER TEMPERATURE		
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	13.5	-3.7
JAMMU	23.0	8.7
LEH	7.6	-12.0
KARGIL	N/A	N/A

SUNSET TUESDAY: 05:22 PM
SUNRISE WEDNESDAY: 07:23 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR
Generally Cloudy sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 14°C & -4°C respectively.

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

STATE | 3

INTERSTATE | 5

BUSINESS | 7

SPORTS | 8

ALTAF BUKHARI INAUGURATES JOB FAIR AT KASHMIR HAAT

PRADYUMAN MURDER SC JUDGE RECUSES FROM HEARING SCHOOL SAFETY GUIDELINES

RESERVE BANK WILL HOLD FIRE, FUTURE ACTION DEPENDS ON FLOW OF DATA

UNITED STUN ARSENAL TO KEEP HEAT ON CITY

Mehbooba takes her grievances redressal camp to Ganderbal, listens to people's demands

Announces Rs Two cr for Pandach-Beehama road widening, Rs. 50 lacs for de silting irrigation canals, Rs. 22 lacs for procuring digital X-ray at Kangan hospital, Rs. 20 lacs for developing GdbI stadium, directs early completion of water supply schemes

GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 04: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti convened a day long grievances redressal camp here today. During the day long camp, the Chief Minister listened to scores of deputations and hundreds of people who apprised her of their developmental needs and sought their redressal.

Legislators and ex legislators of the district were present on the occasion.

The deputations in general thanked the Chief Minister for initiating work on the New Ganderbal Project and bringing Government infrastructure at their doorstep to know their developmental needs and addressing them on spot.

Deputations from areas like Kangan, Gund, Wusan, Chinad, Chatergul, Lar, Watlar, Wakura, Gagangeer, Tulmulla, Sonamarg, Gutlibag and other areas met the Chief Minister



and sought redressal of their grievances. The demands put forth by the deputations during the day long public outreach programme today included strengthening and upgradation of road networks in the district, improvement in health facilities, besides improving educational infrastructure, stabilization of irrigation canals in the district. They also demanded en-

gagement of local youth in the mega infrastructure development projects in the district.

The Chief Minister announced release of Rs Two crore for the early completion of widening of Beehama-Pandach road and Rs 20 lacs for developing and renovating of local sports field. She also announced release of Rs 50 lacs for undertaking de silting

of various irrigation canals in the district and Rs. Five lacs for beautification and improvement of the shrine of Hazrat Rahim sahib at Safapora. Several deputations from Kangan area demanded office space for SDM, strengthening of local hospital, replacement of fire tender at local fire station, strengthening of power

See Mehbooba...Pg 02

Gunfight rages after militants attack Road Opening Party in South Kashmir

Qazigund, Dec 4: A gunfight raged in South Kashmir after militants attacked a Road Opening Party on Srinagar Jammu highway on Monday.

Reports said that a group of militants targeted a Road Opening Party between Bonigam and Bhadrugund on Srinagar Jammu highway in Qazigund area.

Srinagar based Defense spokesperson Colonel Rajesh Kalia said that a soldier was injured in the attack who is undergoing treatment.

Reports said that shortly after the attack,

Government Forces cordoned off the area while militants entered into a building that was cornered by Forces.

Witnesses said that heavy exchange of firing was going on between the trapped militants and the Government Forces. An official said that two to three militants are believed to be trapped inside the building.

Local youth according to reports clashed with Forces near encounter site. Government Forces fired tear-smoke shells and pellets to disperse them.

See Gunfight...Pg 02

'MASSIVE CRACKDOWN AGAINST POWER THEFT'

PDD, Police plans night raids in Srinagar city, other areas

Srinagar, Dec 04 (KNS): Power development department Kashmir, with the help of Jammu and Kashmir Police is planning to launch "massive" drive against power theft across the Srinagar city and other areas of valley.

One of the top officials of the Power development department told KNS on Monday that the raids which have already been started, will be carried out over the next few weeks in posh colonies in city including other areas of the valley. "In the very first few days of the drive, power theft has been unearthed even in the posh colonies of Srinagar."

See Massive...Pg 02

ACCIDENTAL FIRE LEAVES TWO COPS WOUNDED INSIDE POLICE STATION

Kulgam, Dec 4: Two policemen sustained injuries when the service rifle of a constable went off accidentally inside Police Station Kulgam in South Kashmir on Monday morning.

Reports said that the service rifle of a Sentry went off accidentally in a Guard Post

See Fire...Pg 02

MUSHROOM GROWTH OF PHARMA AGENCIES A WORRY FOR GOVT

Mulling to form Special Taskforce to curb drug menace

Srinagar, Dec 04: With government failed to implement the much hyped drug policy, it is all set to use other yard sticks to control the increasing drug addiction cases.

Sources said a new policy is likely to be framed to tighten noose around the increasing numbers of pharmaceutical agencies that have come up in the state in last few years.

The government is mulling to constitute Special Task Force teams and utilize the services of panchayat representatives to closely monitor the working of these pharmaceutical agencies.

See Growth...Pg 02

NC pays tributes to Sher-e-Kashmir on his 112th Birth Anniversary

Sher-e-Kashmir's life a story of selfless leadership: Dr. Farooq

Srinagar, Dec 04: National Conference on Monday paid glowing tributes to Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on his 112th Birth Anniversary being observed on Tuesday. National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Working President Omar Abdullah and senior party leaders, functionaries and legislators highlighted Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's legacy of sacrifices and statesmanship while pledging to

fulfil his mission of restoring the political rights and honour of the State and its people.

Commemorative functions will be held across the State with major functions organized at Qaid Mazaar at Naseem Bagh in Srinagar and at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan in Jammu. National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Working President Omar Abdullah will offer Fateha at Qaid Mazaar at Naseem Bagh in Srinagar on



Tuesday morning in presence of Party Leaders, workers and activists.

NC President Dr. Farooq Abdullah, while paying glowing tributes to Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad

Abdullah on his 112th Birth Anniversary said Sher-e-Kashmir's struggles and sacrifices for the dignity of this State and its people need to be emulated to take the State out of the throes of divisive politics and sinister plans of political disempowerment. "Sher-e-Kashmir's life was a valiant story of selfless leadership. He fought for the political rights and dignity of his people till his last

See Farooq...Pg 02

DOCTORS TO GO FOR STRIKE IF ACTION NOT TAKEN AGAINST SDM ZAINAPORA: DAK

Black Day observed across state

Srinagar, Dec 04: Doctors and Paramedics across the state today hold protests by wearing black badges around their arms against the misbehavior of SDM Zainapora with a Consultant Surgeon on Saturday at CHC Zainapora, Shopian. The call for protests was given by President Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) Dr Suhail Naik and was supported by J&K Doctors Coordination Committee, JKDCC, which is an amalgam of various doctors associations across the state JKDCC is an amalgam of Doctors association Kashmir/Jammu, Society of Consultant Doctors (SCD), Resident Doctors Association Jammu/Kashmir, Society of Dental Surgeons J&K (SDSJJK), Chenab Valley

See DAK...Pg 02

DGP seeks help of people, civil society members, groups in eradicating drug menace

Inaugurates seven administrative, residential blocks at Parnote

Jammu, Dec 04: Director General of Police (DGP) Dr SP Vaid today visited Ramban where he inaugurated seven newly constructed blocks. Interacted with civil society members and addressed Police personnel.

During his interaction with civil society and address to the Police personnel the DGP Dr Vaid said that all the civil society groups such as doctors, teachers, lawyers, students have to continue their help in eradicating the menace of drugs from the state. He impressed upon the Police personnel to make dossiers of the drug peddlers and get them booked under Public Safety Act (PSA). He assured the civil society members that suitable rewards



will be given to the people who inform the Police regarding the drug peddling in their areas and their names will be kept

See DGP...Pg 02

JRL ASK HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES TO TAKE NOTICE OF JAILED PHYSICALLY-ABLED TANVEER

Srinagar, Dec 4: Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) on Monday wrote a letter to International human rights organizations seeking their intervention into release of specially-abled Tanveer Ahmad from jail.

In a statement issued today, JRL comprising chairman of both the faction of Huriyat-Syed Ali Geelani and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Muhammad Yasin Malik, said: "To camouflage its shameless acts, Police is trying to frame a specially-abled person in acts which are not even possible for a healthy person."

They said that the international human rights bodies should take a serious note of these "gruesome human

See JRL...Pg 02

Allotment of NEET centers in Valley result of CM'S earnest efforts: PDP

'Mehbooba striving to end youth woes, make latest facilities available for JK's Young Generation'

Srinagar, Dec 04: Terming the allotment of the NEET centers in Srinagar and Baramulla an earnest effort by the government to end hardships faced by the aspirants, ruling Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) on Monday hailed the decision.

The party says the allotment of the two examination centers in Kashmir Division for medical graduates appearing in the National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to post-graduate courses is being viewed all across as a major relief for the aspirants who earlier had to witness severe hardships



to appear in the test outside Valley. "Such a vital development is a result

See PDP...Pg 02

GUNMEN LOOTS CASH FROM BANK BRANCH IN SOUTH KASHMIR

Tral, Dec 4: Unidentified gunmen Monday ransacked Noorpora Branch of Jammu Kashmir Bank in Tral town of South Kashmir's Pulwama district and reportedly looted over one lakh cash.

Reports said that a couple of armed men barged into the Branch and they not only intimidated the employees but also decamped with cash.

A Bank employees said that Rs 1.54 lakh were looted

See Loots...Pg 02

Omar conducts tour and review of Beerwah

Visits SK Pora Receiving Station, holds workers' meeting at Hardamalpora

Beerwah, Dec 04: National Conference Working President and MLA Beerwah Omar Abdullah on Monday while conducting an extensive review of public demands and developmental works in Beerwah Constituency, visited the newly completed Power Receiving Station at S.K. Pora and sought an assurance that the receiving station would start functioning from Friday this week - providing relief



to nearly twenty villages and eighteen hundred families in the area. The NC Working

President after inspecting the Receiving Station and

See Omar...Pg 02

BJP giving contradictory statements on Kashmir dialogue: Tarigami

'Party needs to clarify what for Sharma was appointed'

Jammu, Dec 04: CPI (M) leader and MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami asked the BJP-led Government in Delhi to clear its stand on dialogue process in Kashmir saying that the party has been giving contradictory statements over the issue.

While reacting to a statement of Dr. Farooq Abdullah, BJP state unit said that violence and dialogue can't go together. While violence can-



not be condoned, the fact remains that the root cause of the on-going violence in the state has to be identified and underlined.

In a statement issued to KNS, he said recently New Delhi appointed Dineshwar Sharma as its 'special representative' for Kashmir. The party needs to clarify what for Sharma was appointed and what is his mandate?

Though there can be several contributory factors responsible for the present unfortunate situation, but the crucial reason remains

See Tarigami...Pg 02

POLICE ARRESTS MAN FOR FIRING UPON HIS NEIGHBOUR WITH 12 BORE GUN

Pattan, Dec 4: Police on Monday arrested a man after he allegedly fired upon his neighbor using 12 bore gun in Gund Ibrahim Pattan area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Reports said that an 18 year old youth was injured when he entered into a heated argument with his neighbour who took out his 12 bore

See Police...Pg 02

Continue from Front Page.....

MEHBOOBA

distribution in Cherawan village, macadamisation of roads in the area, playground at Ganewan and improvement of Haknar road.

The Chief Minister announced Rs. 22 lacs for procurement of digital X-ray at the Kangan hospital and Rs. 10 lacs for developing playground in the area. She also announced release of Rs. 10 lacs for repairs and renovation of SDM office Kangan and procurement of a new vehicle for the Kangan fire station.

A deputation from Sonamarg demanded opening up of a Post Office and construction of bridges over Nilgrath nallah and at Sarbal.

A deputation of wicker willow traders demanded adequate land availability for growing Wicker saplings and incentives to the trade.

The Chief Minister listened to the demands of the deputations throughout the day and it continued till late in the night. In many of the cases Mehbooba Mufti gave on spot directions for the redressal of the grievances which was hailed by the deputations.

Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rohit Kansal; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Baseer Ahmad Khan; senior officers from the Chief Minister's Secretariat and Planning Department; heads of several Departments; Chiefs of many Engineering wings; DIG, CKR, Ghulam Hassan; Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, Piyush Singla; SSP, Fayaz Ahmad Lone and officers of District administration were present on the occasion.

The public outreach programmes launched by the Chief Minister have evoked an interesting response from the public who come up with their problems for an on the spot redressal.

So far Mehbooba Mufti has conducted such programmes at Pulwama, Anantnag, Kuglam, Kupwara, Bandipora, Budgam and Baramulla in Kashmir Valley and Ramban, Samba and Kathua districts in Jammu province during which hundreds of people apprised her about their problems and difficulties.

GUNFIGHT

Due to gunfight, authorities suspended traffic on Jammu-Srinagar highway while train service to Banihal was also stopped.

Locals said that they heard massive blasts during evening hours and it seemed the building in which militant are present have been razed to ground.

Defense Spokesperson said the operation against militants is going on and so far they haven't recovered dead body of any militant.

POWER

the official maintained.

He said that some of the areas where the raids have recently been conducted include Rajbagh, Jawahar Nagar, Bemina, Hyderpora, Peerbagh, Humhama.

The official said that due to apprehensions that our men may come under attack while conducting raids, teams are being accompanied by the police. The police will register FIRs against power thieves," he said.

The top official said that the cases of power theft increase during the winter months, which leads to severe over-loading of the distribution system at places, resulting in power cuts.

There have been severe power cuts for the last few weeks and the phenomenon grows with each passing day.

The increase in power curtailment both in metered and non-metered areas of the Valley has evoked strong public outrage.

"If people use electricity judiciously and pay as per the consumption then there won't be power cuts. We are trying to adhere to the curtailment schedule as approved by the government," an official of the PDD, said.

The official said the department had taken other several measures to stop the misuse of electricity in the Valley. "We have formed various teams who are conducting inspections even in the rural areas to stop power pilferage," he said.

Last year, the State Vigilance Commission had asked the PDD to register FIRs in all cases of electricity theft or illegal power connections that come to the fore and monitor the progress of investigation and trial thereof.

Senior PDD official said there was already a provision in the State Electricity Act for strict action against a consumer who resorts to power theft. "But there is only lack of implementation of the Act in the state. The power theft increase during winters even though fine had been imposed against such people in the past. So it has been decided to file cases against those who often resort to power thefts," the official added.

While people have been complaining that the PDD was not adhering power curtailment schedule.

"Ours is a non-metered area and there are around 14 hour power cuts in a day," Mohammad Aslam, a resident of Padshahbagh said.

Similar complaints are also pouring in from metered areas where there are abrupt power cuts around eight hours in a day. "We witness frequent power cuts from the last one month. We are bound to get 24 hour electricity supply as per the rules but the PDD often resorts to power cuts of around eight-hours in a day," Mohammad Ayoub, a resident of Lal-bazaar said.

People said when meters were installed in their areas, the department had promised round-the-clock supply.

Instead improving the power supply position, the PDD authorities are blaming the people for the abrupt power cuts saying they were not using the electricity judiciously.

FIRE

resulting in the injuries of two cops.

A police official while confirming the incident identified the injured cops as Fayaz Ahmed and Zahoor Abas.

Reports said that both the injured cops were taken to Sub District Hospital Kulgam where Doctors referred them to Srinagar hospital for advanced treatment.

A police official said that they are investigating the matter. Meanwhile, top police officials including DIG South Kashmir SP Pani visited the police station to take stock of the situation.

GROWTH

Sources in the health ministry said the government has formulated a proposal to monitor the working of the pharmaceutical agencies.

"The health ministry is going to form a team of the experts

comprising of Doctors, Professors, Clinical scientists and civil society members to check the functioning and working nature of the pharmaceutical companies that have come up in J&K over the years. The government is also going to stop the increasing number of agencies," they said.

Besides this, the government is mulling to form a Special Taskforce in communities and villages to eradicate the menace.

"The meeting was recently held where it was proposed that the services of village heads, panchayat heads should also be utilized for framing the Mohalla committees and other forces to identify such elements who are involved in drug distribution," sources confirmed.

"There is a dire need to address the issue at ground level. It is a social and moral issue and everybody is involved in it," said a doctor.

The government is likely to take this move in the backdrop of the easy availability of the drugs like Corex, Alprax and Rexcop, which are easily available not only in cities and towns but in the villages also. The doctors and other officials associated with the medical fraternity said the mushrooming growth of pharmaceutical agencies all across the valley is also a reason of increasing drug addiction cases as these drugs are easily available to the youth.

"The mushrooming growth of pharmaceutical agencies is one of the reasons behind this. There are not following any ISO standards. They even don't maintain efficiency and efficacy. There must be an ethical code of conduct. Blacksheeps are in every profession who want to earn money through illegal means," said a medical superintendent of a tertiary care hospital.

He said more and more youth are getting addicted to drugs even in villages as well. "The easy access to these drugs," he said.

Most of the doctors said the drug policy would have helped a lot in curbing the drug addiction and also would have brought accountability and transparency in the system, but unfortunately, the policy is yet to be implemented.

The J&K government had said the new drug policy in the state would be implemented in March 2013, but the policy before implementation faced roadblocks as the stakeholders had threatened of "massive agitation".

FAROOQ

breath. He chose prison over power for his people and it is this sense of sacrifice and courage that needs to be instilled in our youth for the future of our State. Sher-e-Kashmir's call for inclusiveness and secularism needs to be heard in every town and village of the State today - at a time when political forces are trying their best to divide the people of the State on the basis of region and religion", Dr. Farooq Abdullah said.

In his message, NC Working President Omar Abdullah said "Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah's legacy denotes the State's high traits of pluralistic ethos and inclusiveness. He nurtured and strengthened this characteristic and cemented the bonds of love between various sections of the society and different regions of the State," Omar said, adding that "His ultimate goal was the political and economic empowerment of the common man and the equitable development of the State. His vision of Naya Kashmir encompassed holistic and comprehensive development of all sections and all regions of the State without any favour or discrimination."

Senior NC Leaders including NC General Secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar, NC Additional General Secretary Dr. Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, NC Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani, Party Leaders Abdul Rahim Rather, Chaudhary Mohammad Ramzan, Mohammad Akbar Lone, Mian Altaf, Mohammad Shafi Uri, Chief Spokesperson Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, Sakina Itoo, Mubarak Gul, Mir Saifullah, Sharif-ud-din Shariq, G. N. Ratanpuri, Shameema Firdous, Peer Mohammad Afaq, Irfan Ahmed Shah, Mohammad Sayeed Akhoun, Political Secretary to Working President Tanvir Sadiq, State Spokesperson Junaid Mattu, Provincial Secretary Advocate Showkat Ahmed Mir, Provincial President YNC Salman Ali Sagar besides party legislators and senior officer bearers have paid glowing tributes to Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on his 112th Birth Anniversary.

DAK

Doctors Association, NHM Doctors Association & Private Practitioners Association.

President Doctors Association Kashmir, Dr Suhail Naik while condemning the ill treatment of the doctor by the SDM, has sought action against the SDM concerned and threatened that if no action is taken against the erring official, doctors across state will be forced to go for a pen down strike on Wednesday followed by intensified agitation programme whose onus will lie on the Government exclusively.

Meanwhile Convener JKDC Dr M Yousuf Tak has supported the stand of DAK and stressed the authorities to take immediate action in the matter failing which the health personnel has no choice but to launch a state wide agitation.

It is pertinent to mention here that a video showing SDM Zainapora misbehaving with doctor went viral across social media yesterday which was condemned widely.

DAK also appreciates paramedical associations which supported the cause. Pertinently DAK has shot memorandum to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Health Minister, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Director Health Services, Kashmir, DDC Shopian for intervening in this grave matter so that morale of medical professionals is not dented.

DGP

confidential.

The DGP who was accompanied by IGP Jammu Dr S D Singh Jamwal and DIG Doda Kishtwar Ramban range Sh Basant Rath, in his address, lauded the role of Police personnel and SPOs in maintaining peace and order in the district. Hailing efforts of SPOs and Police personnel who have worked for making erstwhile Doda district terrorism free, Director General of Police J&K directed officers of Jammu Zone to review the cases of SPOs for absorption and promised that the cases will be considered on priority at PHQ level.

Dr Vaid, said that mechanism have been laid for the transparency in recruitment, transfers, procurement and payments by adopting Transparent Recruitment Process (TRP), transfer policy, e-tendering and e-payments. He said that every case is decided on merits and initiatives are taken to ensure transparency in all administrative matters.

Interacting with the civil society members, DGP assured them that Police will provide all possible help in redressing

the grievances of their respective areas of the people. He thanked the people of Ramban for maintaining communal harmony in the district. DGP further stated that it is his endeavour to reach the people of far off districts. In his welcome address SSP Ramban Sh Mohan Lal highlighted the work and achievements of his district on different fronts. He hailed the DGP for taking number of welfare measures and initiatives.

Earlier DGP got a warm reception from the members of different communities from different areas of the district.

Later, on DGP Dr Vaid inaugurated seven newly constructed administrative and residential blocks for the Police personnel at Parnote, Ramban. The DGP met the Quick Response Team volunteers engaged for the assistance of accident victims on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway. Hailing their efforts and this initiative of the Ramban Police, the DGP announced the reward of Rupees Thirty Thousand for the volunteers.

JRL

rights violations."

JRL has written to International Red Cross committee, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and United Nation Human Rights Commission seeking their "intervention into the matter of specially-abled Tanveer Ahmad War, son of Muhammad Shaban War of old town Baramulla who is serving his second consecutive Public Safety Act in Kot-balwal jail Jammu."

"A 35-year-old man Tanveer Ahmad Waar S/O Muhammad Shaban Waar R/O old town Baramulla is disabled due to polio and from his childhood has not been able to walk on his feet. Besides this permanent disability, he is suffering from many diseases and has to live on medicines," they said in the letter.

"This specially-abled person was arrested by Baramulla police on 21st September 2017. He was ruthlessly beaten, tortured and humiliated at various police stations and was slapped with arbitrary Public safety act (PSA), and sent to Kupwara sub-jail."

Tanveer Ahmad challenged the safety act in Kashmir high court and the court quashed his PSA and ordered his release, they said.

"Instead of releasing him on court orders, police and civil administration slapped another PSA on him and immediately shifted him to Kot-balwal Jail in Jammu. Recently he has been shifted to Srinagar central jail for appearing in an examination and it is here we came across to his story."

"After his story was published in local dailies, on 3rd of December 2017, police came out with a rebuttal and accused this handicapped person of being main culprit for disturbing law and order in Baramulla district of Kashmir. Police in its rebuttal has said that "the accused was involved in 2016 mass uprising in old town Baramulla. They say that he decorated his tricycle with flags and provoked mobs. With the help of his gang, he high-jacked four trucks that were carrying stones and got them unloaded on Baramulla roads to prevent the police from chasing the miscreants." The police statement claimed that in 2008, Hurriyat leader Sheikh Aziz wanted to return but "Tanveer yelled at him and provoked him to proceed toward LoC."

They said it is ironical that the state authorities find a physically challenged prisoner too dangerous to be freed, although the courts repeatedly quashed his detention under Public Safety Act.

"Crippled due to polio since childhood, this 35-year-old young man from Baramulla is incarcerated for various charges such as hoisting flags atop a mobile phone tower, high-jacking truckloads of stones, "leading violent mobs" and also "provoking a slain resistance leader" to march towards the Line of Control in 2008, but no one is asking police and civil administration that how can a crippled man climb up a high tower and highjack trucks and force people to march towards LoC. As a matter of fact in 2008, Sheikh Abdul Aziz was leading thousands of people towards LoC and one is failing to understand that how a crippled person, riding on his tricycle can force thousands of people to continue with their march, as claimed by police."

"It is now an open secret that the ruling regime has given its police a free hand to frame anyone they like, on concocted charges. In Baramulla district only, hundreds of young and old have been framed under false and fictitious charges and slapped with repeated public safety acts (PSA) and many of them are languishing in different jails till now."

"It is our humble submission to your kind-self to take notice of this matter. We are hopeful that your intervention can bring about a positive change in the life of specially-abled Tanveer Ahmad Waar and his ill-fated days may come to an end. Please take up this issue at the earliest and intervene to save this young man from the wrath of oppressive authorities."

PDP

of the earnest efforts of the chief minister Mehbooba Mufti who on time raised the issue with the union health ministry and succeeded in getting the centers allotted for Kashmiri student in Srinagar and Baramulla," PDP's Srinagar district president and MLC Mohammad Khurshid Alam said in a statement.

He added that the chief minister is taking keen interest in ending the woes of the student community in the state and has been striving since assuming office to make all requisite facilities available for them. "The aspirants earlier appearing for the NEET had to move outside the Valley and stay there for days, causing immense hardships to them and to their families. The allotment of NEET centers in Valley is a major relief for the aspirants," the PDP leader said.

Alam maintained further that the education scenario is witnessing new heights in the state and thanks to the efforts of the chief minister that the youth are scanning the new horizons with eager hope and their achievements would be second to none in the country. "We would like to wish the aspirants of NEET good luck and hope that they would come out with flying colors," PDP leader said.

LOOTS

by gunmen.

"Before leaving the Branch, they fired a volley of shots in air creating fear psychosis among bank employees and customers.

Police arrived on spot after the incident and started in-

vestigation.

An official said that a manhunt has been launched to nab the gunmen.

OMAR

interacting with locals there also visited Hardamalpora and held a workers' meeting at Hardamalpora.

Work on the S.K. Pora Receiving Station was initiated in 2010 under the tenure of the previous National Conference Government in the State and Omar Abdullah inquired about the reasons for the prolonged delay in the completion of this vital project in the area in the last three years. On this occasion, Omar Abdullah also sought an assurance from the Department that the Receiving Station would be commissioned and would start functioning no later than Friday of this week.

Expressing concern over the dismal power scenario in Beerwah and most of the Valley in general, Omar Abdullah said the Administration was duty-bound to ensure people are not subjected to such hardships and misery in biting cold and the harsh winter climate. He also reviewed various distribution infrastructure additions and improvements that were made in the power infrastructure in Beerwah through the MLA's Constituency Development Fund and passed instructions that every necessary measures should be undertaken to alleviate the issues being faced by the people.

After visiting the receiving station at S.K. Pora, Omar Abdullah interacted with locals in the area and took a note of suggestions and issues raised by them about various public works. He passed on instructions to the relevant departments to undertake redressal of these issues at the earliest.

The National Conference Working President also visited Hardamalpora area of the constituency where he held a workers' meeting. Exhorting the party workers to dedicate their time and efforts to working with the people to improve public infrastructure and the delivery of essential services, Omar Abdullah said he would continue to leave no stone unturned to work towards bettering the lives of the people and would continue to fight for their fair share of developmental funds.

The NC Working President was accompanied by his Political Secretary Tanvir Sadiq and Constituency Incharge Professor Abdul Majeed Mattoo besides various party functionaries including Block Presidents and concerned Halqa Presidents of the party.

TARIGAMI

the deepening massive alienation of the people. How to address this massive discontentment should be primary concern of any responsible government. The experience teaches us that credible process of dialogue is the only option for settling the issues. Of course, restoration of peace is the utmost priority but how to achieve this laudable objective remains a big challenge. Bullet for bullet policy has proved counter-productive. Only institutionalized and result-oriented process of serious talks can help the people to live in peace.

The failure to follow-up on the talks held earlier has not created the conditions for a worthwhile dialogue and discussion which could have opened up opportunities for restoration of peace and resolution of the issues.

The path chosen by the BJP government is bound to harm the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and is fraught with serious consequences for the country. What is required to be done is to take steps which can rebuild shattered confidence of the people? The environment of trust and confidence only can strengthen the process of peace and normalcy.

POLICE

gun and allegedly fired upon him.

A police official said that there was a scuffle between two persons Waheed Dar and Fayaz Dar during which the later used his 12 bore rifle and fired upon Waheed Dar (18).

Waheed was shifted to Sub District Hospital Pattan where from Doctors referred him to SKIMS for advanced treatment. "We have registered a case and investigation has been taken up," the official said adding that the accused has been arrested.

GOVT DISMISSES INVENTED, MISLEADING NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, DECEMBER 04: The State Government today made it clear that no communication has, of late, gone to the Assembly Secretariat from the office of the Finance Minister regarding taking up questions pertaining to J&K Bank business in the House.

Responding to a news report published in today's edition of Daily Excelsior captioned "Drabu stirs row, wants J&K Bank out of the purview of discussions", a Finance Department spokesman said that the communication referred to in the news report dates back to March 2015 and it was at that point in time only a reiteration of the stated position of the successive state government's regarding questions of the Legislators pertaining to the business of the J&K Bank. He said it was widely reported and discussed in the media at that point in time.

The spokesman said the newspaper has now dug-up an old and routine communication and tried to play up and sensationalize the same in today's edition as a lead story, to create an impression as if the Finance Minister has shot off a fresh letter to the Speaker, Legislative Assembly regarding the issue of discussion on JK Bank business in the House.

"The news report is not only superannuated, but also grossly overstated and completely misleading," the spokesman said and added that by inventing, twisting and fabricating the facts, the newspaper has only put its own hard-earned credibility at the stake.

Zulfkar calls on Odisha CM

Discusses wide-ranging issues, strengthening ties between two states

BHUBANESWAR, DECEMBER 4: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs & Tribal Affairs, Ch. Zulfkar Ali, who is on 3-day study tour to Odisha, today called on Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik and held wide ranging discussions on the issues relating to the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir.

The main focus of discussion between the two leaders was strengthening the ties between two states through socio-economic and cultural exchanges, partnership in important sectors which are beneficial for the two States. The issues relating to food, consumer affairs and public distribution system and welfare of tribal communities were also discussed prominently during the meeting.

During the course of interaction, Ch. Zulfkar said that it is his endeavour to study the functioning of the public distribution system in various States which will help in fine-tuning the system in Jammu and Kashmir in most efficient and transparent way. He further maintained that the knowledge gained from various States, especially about the electronic public distribution system and implementation of tribal schemes shall go a long way in ensuring transparency and streamlining things at the grass root level in Jammu and Kashmir for the welfare of the people of the State.

The Chief Minister acquainted the Minister about the success story of e-PDS and effective implementation of various tribal schemes in Odisha. He maintained that the Department of Food and Consumer Welfare deals with formulation and implementation



of policy relating to the procurement, storage and distribution of food grains, besides dealt implementation of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). He said that the Department deals with composite affairs with status of Secretariat as well as Directorate. He added that Commissioner-cum-Secretary also functions as the Director/Controller of Supplies and similarly the Director, Consumer Affairs is the ex-officio Special Secretary of this Department. The Directorate of Legal Metrology functions under the administrative control of this Department headed by the Controller, Legal Metrology who also functions as Director, Consumer Affairs-Cum-Ex-Officio Special Secretary of this Department. The Chief Minister also threw light on other activities of the department like Market Intelligence and Quality Control Cell.

Regarding the Consumer redressal

mechanism, the Chief Minister said that there is one State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and 31 District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forums to dispose the cases under the Consumer Protection Act. He added that there is one State Public Sector Undertaking namely Orissa State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd working under the administrative control of this Department. The e-Despatch has brought revolution in the state and online mechanism has been working very efficiently and proving fruitful for the consumers. The pilferages have been stopped and transparency has returned in the Department with the implementation of e-PDS, he added.

About the functioning of Tribal welfare Department, the Chief Minister briefed that they are implementing Odisha Tribal Empowerment & Livelihoods Programme aimed at to

empower the tribal community & enable them to enhance food security, increase their income & improving overall quality of life, establish & strengthen the institutional mechanism for participatory planning & implementation of different activities by villagers for ensuring sustainable growth.

The Chief Minister discussed schemes of compensations to tribal community, boarding facilities for students belonging to ST, scholarships to ST from primary to Ph.D level, educational amenities to ST students like note books, reading & writing materials, uniforms, cash compensation to 'next of kin' in case of death of Boarder students, monetary relief to SC victims of atrocities, legal aid to STs for establishing their right, title, interest and possession over the disputed land and also for cases under PCR Act.

He also discussed insurance scheme for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups through Janshree Bima Yojana of LIC, Minimum Support Price (MSP) to STs as primary gatherers for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and reservation in Posts & Services as per provisions.

The Minister appreciated the Odisha Government for successful implementation of e-PDS and Tribal welfare schemes and said that J&K State will replicate best practices. He said that Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Mehbooba Mufti is concerned to develop the state and she has contributed a lot in bringing transparency and accountability in the system.

Declare Gurez as organic valley: Nazir Gurezi



SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 04: Deputy Speaker, Nazir Ahmad Gurezi today stressed that Gurez should be declared as an organic valley, free from all fertilizers. Chairing a high-level meeting on the activities of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in Gurez valley, the Deputy Speaker said the valley has the potential of producing organic products. "Topographically, Gurez has different weather

conditions and the people living there are rich in producing the organic fertilisers by their own which can revolutionize the market by producing the organic farming like potatoes, maize, peas," he said.

He also directed the officials for early completion of separate KVK in Gurez valley which was earlier sanctioned by the Government of India. The Deputy Speaker was

informed by the VCSKAUST that very soon off-season pea cultivation will be started in Gurez which can then feed the rest of the country apart from the Kashmir Valley.

"Scientists have been already sent to Gurez, where we will soon have an apple, apricot and walnut villages. Also, a Hi-tech green poly house will be given to Gurez," said VC SKAUST.

JKAACL organizes 'Mehfil-e-Naat'

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 04: The Jammu Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) today organized 'Mehfil-e-Naat', where prominent naat khwans of Valley recited naats of world-renowned poets.



The function was presided over by Justice (Retd) Bashir Ahmed Kirmani.

Speaking on the occasion, Kirmani said it is important to understand the Islamic

teachings in the proper perspective.

Farah Nazir, Tawqfeeq Ahmed, Amreen Riyaz, Mehwish, Aijaz Bushan, Abid Hameed were the naat khwans who recited their naats in the function.

Govt committed for overall dev of Kargil: Haji Anayat

Adopts Kako Shilikchey area for dev under CDF, other schemes

KARGIL, DECEMBER 4:- Chairman Legislative Council Haji Anayat Ali today adopted Kako Shilikchey area of Kargil town and assured people for its all-round development under his CDF and other schemes.

Interacting with people of the area, the Chairman said that ensuring sustained development of Kargil town is among top priorities of the Government, and a number of projects for the development of the town have been initiated while others are being conceptualized. He added a mechanism to monitor the status of developmental initia-

tives undertaken by the Government has been put in place to ensure completion within the stipulated period of time.

The Chairman said that all efforts are being made by the present regime to deal with challenges on account of civic infrastructure, housing congestion, heavy traffic, solid waste management and other civic issues. He said that focus is being laid to ensure creation of civic amenities so as to ensure that Kargil town is in a position to avail facilities at par with the other towns and cities in the state.

On the demand of the people of the area, Haji Anayat

at Ali gave on spot directions to the officers of Municipal Committee Kargil to take immediate steps for shifting of Municipal Committee Toll Post near Shilikchey Spring to an alternate location so that the cleanliness of the spring is maintained besides the locals do not face any inconvenience.

The Chairman also assured the locals that the Police Check Post in the area as committed by him earlier would be shifted to a different location in due course of time. He directed the SSP Kargil to initiate necessary modalities in this regard.

Haji Anayat also directed the concerned officers to lay concrete footpaths in the area on modern patterns besides announcing to provide dustbins to every household in the area out of his own expenses.

SSP Kargil Tsering Gyalpo, Executive Officer MC Kargil Abdul Gaffar Zargar besides other concerned officers accompanied the Chairman. Meanwhile, the local people while welcoming the Chairman thanked him for adopting their area and appreciated him for personally visiting them to take the first-hand appraisal of their issues and grievances.

DDC Kup reviews implementation of CMs directions

Passes timely completion instructions of on-going dev works

KUPWARA, DECEMBER 4: The District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kupwara Khalid Jahangir today convened a joint meeting of officers of district administration to review the progress in implementation of directions passed by the State Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti.

The District Development Commissioner passed instructions to the implementing and executing agencies for timely completion of on-going developmental activities, besides for ensuring the implementations of all the directions issued by the CM during an Awami Darbar.

The DDC directed the



revenue authorities to resolve the land issues for resuming the execution works on different developmental activities in the district, while the CMO was asked to make available all basic facilities in the health institutions (SDH Langate) and implement all direction given by the visiting CM. The irrigation, Flood control, PHE, (Mechanical and civil) and rural development agencies were directed to complete all the works at

ongoing developmental activities at an earliest, besides submission of DPRs, estimates and financial requirements be insured within next three days. The deputy director sports have been asked to start the execution of under construction sports fields, stadiums under his jurisdiction be completed within stipulated time frame decided during the meeting.

The DDC also reviewed status of DPRs estimates,

financial status of upgradation, repairs, renovation, fencing works around famous shrines, accommodation for PHE night chowkidars, protection bunds to different government assets, repairs and renovation of different link roads, completion of DPRs under cluster model villages approved by GOI under BAPD DPR 2017-18 were also discussed thread barely during the proceedings of the meeting. The Chief Planning Officer and other officials of planning section were also present in the meeting with relevant records obtained from executing agencies for discussion during the meeting.

Altaf Bukhari inaugurates job fair at Kashmir Haat

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 04: Minister for Education, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari today inaugurated a daylong job fair under National Career program (NCP) here at Kashmir Haat.

Organized under the aegis of Union Ministry of Labor and Employment and Department of Labor and Employment Government of J&K, the Minister said the main purpose of the fair is to create a platform for employers and prospective job seekers besides providing career counselling to the unemployed youth of Srinagar.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Director School Education Kashmir G N Itoo, Joint Director Employment, Akramullah Tak were present on the occasion.

Altaf Bukhari appreciating the initiative of Labor and Employment Department said that organizing such



fairs is a "concrete step to provide prospective job seekers a chance to find suitable jobs."

He laid stress on entrepreneurship and self help groups saying that there are many business ideas that can be given shape and would turn out to be successful business ventures.

The Minister said people earn money on the commission basis by simply launching web portals therein providing home deliveries of various products.

He said we are currently facing a

bigger challenge of unemployment in the state and government alone cannot overcome it, adding it cannot provide employment to all unemployed in the state. He said the youth have to come forward and take responsibility by giving wings to their business ideas and turn them into reality.

Bukhari made public that the education department will be advertising 2500 posts through Service Selection Board (SSB) before March 2018. The Minister directed Labor and Employment department to come

up with a database for online registration to streamline recommendation of unemployed youth to various organizations and impart training to them for screening test against vacancies in various government departments.

He assured the unemployed educated youth that their concern would be taken into consideration in the next fair that will be organized three months later.

The companies that participated in the fair included State Bank of India, Life Insurance Corporation, Khadi and Village Board Industries, Rومان Technologies, NSDC Udaan, and besides scores of other companies.

The fair was attended by hundreds of job aspirants of the state who on the occasion registered themselves with various companies for various jobs.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah meets Governor

Demands clean Panchayat elections

JAMMU, DECEMBER 4: Dr. Farooq Abdullah, M.P. and President of National Conference, met Governor N.N. Vohra at the Raj Bhavan here today, and informed that his party was looking forward to the forthcoming Panchayat elections, which were long overdue.

The former Chief Minister complained that the indirect election of the Sarpanch shall vitiate the essence of the Panchayati Raj institutional framework. He also demanded that full details of the delimitation of Panchayats recently done by the State Government should be placed in the public domain. He stressed the need for all the candidates being provided effective security and the sanctity of Gram Sabhas being strictly maintained till the elections were concluded.

Dr. Abdullah expressed serious concern and warned about the lack of required action to prevent the rapid pace at which drug smuggling and trafficking were spreading in the State. He also complained about the virtual stoppage of registration of residents under



the Aadhar Card scheme and complained that those who are without such identity cards are facing serious problems in carrying out their day to day businesses.

Dr. Abdullah informed Governor about his recent tours to difficult areas in the Valley, including Machhil, Keran and Tithwal, and complained about the very poor condition of roads, unsatisfactory health facilities and delays in the implementation of important development works. Governor and Dr. Abdullah also discussed several issues relating to the restoration of normalcy in the State.

Lal Singh emphasizes on preservation of local arts, culture

Pays rich tributes to V R Khajuria on 85th birth anniversary

JAMMU, DECEMBER 04: Minister for Forest, Environment and Ecology, Choudhary Lal Singh today called for making dedicated efforts for promotion of creative arts and preservation of cultural heritage of the state.

The Minister was speaking at a function organized by Viraj Kala Kendra, a Non-Governmental Organisation

at Gandhi Nagar on the 85th birth anniversary of renowned sculptor Vidya Rattan Khajuria, here today. MLC Zafar Iqbal Manhas, Chief Conservator of Forests Farooq Gillani, President Viraj Kala Kendra Rita Jitendra besides prominent citizens and students of various schools were present on the occasion.

Choudhary Lal Singh said

that it is the duty of every citizen to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture adding that this culture is the identity of the state and its people.

The Minister asked the budding artists to analyze artworks from the past and take inspiration from them. He said artwork holds evidence to life in the past and by look-

ing at it, one can learn about his cultural history and heritage. Choudhary Lal Singh said that work of an artist must reflect life as arts play a vital role in presenting historical and cultural view point through their models. "Studying art from the past helps us understand the evolution of the society," he added.

The Minister said that the

government had initiated proactive measures to safeguard and protect cultural diversity of the state and urged the artists to contribute through their art in this noble cause. Applauding Viraj Kala Kendra for its initiative to edify students about art, culture and heritage of the State, Choudhary Lal Singh said that the management.

MLA Kulgam meets Governor

JAMMU, DECEMBER 4: Sh. M.Y. Tarigami, MLA Kulgam, met Governor N.N. Vohra at the Raj Bhavan, here today.



Sh. Tarigami discussed with the Governor issues relating to the inadequacies, particularly during the winter, which created serious difficulties for the people, especially those living in the rural areas. Sh. Tarigami also

discussed with the Governor the consequences of continuing delays in the implementation of development programmes and the difficulties faced by the people from the functioning of the Health and Education departments.

Time and Us

Editorial
SRINAGAR
& K

ACCIDENT-PRONE

The most effective measure to keep roads safe is enforcement of rules with zero tolerance to violations. But as anyone who uses India's roads knows only too well, that is not an administrative priority. Even the periodic directions of the Supreme Court in a public interest case, Dr. S. Rajasekaran v. Union of India, have not produced any dramatic change in the official attitude. In spite of the court setting up the Committee on Road Safety and appointing an amicus curiae to help implement its recommendations, it is mostly business as usual for the police in enforcing road rules, for engineers tasked with forming roads and pavements, and transport officials in charge of licensing. The death of 1,50,785 people in accidents in 2016, which represents a 3.2% rise over the previous year, indicates the scale of the challenge. Fortunately, the orders of the court now provide actionable points with deadlines for implementation. Governments should be called to account on these, and civil society must ensure that they act without compromise. The most important among these is the Road Safety Action Plan that each State and Union Territory must announce by March 2018, and roll out after giving due publicity. But police forces and transport bureaucracies need not wait for formalisation of the plan, and should start enforcing rules relating to lane-based driving, using CCTV cameras to penalise offenders, and conducting safety audits along with experts.

The absence of a scientific approach to accident investigation in India remains a major factor in fixing responsibility. This was pointed out by the Sundar Committee of the Ministry of Road Transport in 2007, but other than a failed attempt at creating a National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board, no real effort has been made at reform. The orders of the Supreme Court provide a road map, and the direction to States to form a District Road Safety Committee headed by the Collector before January 31, 2018 should ensure that someone is accountable when citizens file complaints on hazardous conditions. It bears pointing out that the court-appointed Committee on Road Safety has written to States on the need to prosecute every case of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, seeking imprisonment and fine, and to treat driving on the wrong side of the carriageway as an offence under Section 279 of the Indian Penal Code, which can lead to imprisonment, and not merely under the Motor Vehicles Act. Stringent penalties have a lower chance of being imposed, compared to fines that are proportionate to the offence. Yet, even the existing minor penalties are not being imposed, and road conditions remain hazardous due to poor engineering. This is proof of the apathy of the system. It's time to shake the system out of its indifference.

Stifling dissent

The arrest of a cartoonist and the detention and torture of an anti-nuclear activist without a warrant are only the latest instances of the Tamil Nadu government's low level of tolerance of dissent in any form. By ILANGO VAN RAJASEKARAN

THE recent arrest of the Chennai-based cartoonist G. Bala and the illegal detention of the Tirunelveli-based lawyer-activist Semmani alias Rajarathinam by the Tirunelveli police highlighted, in different ways, the State government's intolerance to voices of dissent, however feeble they might be.

While the cartoonist was arrested for a caricature on the suicide of a family of four on the premises of the Tirunelveli Collectorate on October 23 after they were harassed by a moneylender for their inability to repay a usurious loan, Semmani's detention, activists claimed, was a case of sheer police high-handedness. The police are apparently chagrined that he has been assisting activists and fisherfolk protesting against the Kudankulam nuclear power project in the hundreds of cases that have been slapped against them.

The 36-year-old freelance cartoonist's arrest, however, has revived the debate on Article 19 of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech and expression but with "reasonable restrictions". On the basis of a letter from the Tirunelveli District Collector, Sandeep Nanduri, who found the caricature that was posted on the cartoonist's Facebook page "offensive, derogatory and demeaning", the Tirunelveli District Crime Branch filed a first information report (FIR) on November 1 against Bala under Section 501 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 67 of the Information Technology (IT) Act.

A posse of police personnel, led by a woman inspector, arrived at Bala's house in Chennai in the wee hours of November 5, forced him into a police van after seizing his mobile phone and laptop computer and drove him to Tirunelveli. The police did not allow the cartoonist to call anyone. "It is a clear violation of the guidelines on arrest that the Supreme Court has laid down in the D.K. Basu case, now known as the 'Ten Commandments' for law enforcing agencies," said S. Vanchinathan, the lawyer for the cartoonist.

Human rights activists claimed that the police did not produce him before a magistrate, as mandated by law. Instead, they detained him at a Tirunelveli police station for hours. "When the magistrate enlarged him on bail on two sureties, the police opposed the bail and tried to detain him inside the court hall itself. It prompted the magistrate to intervene and ensure his release," Vanchinathan told Frontline. Bala has been maintaining that he had no intention, malicious or otherwise, to defame anyone. "It [the caricature] was drawn in raw anger to expose a system that had failed to save innocent children from death due to the usury menace," he said.

The FIR, registered at 6 p.m. on November 1 and a copy of which is available with Frontline, says that the complainant, in a



letter to the police, expressed a wish to lodge a complaint against Bala. It states: "In the cartoon he depicts the burning body of a baby which is watched by 3 persons without clothes and who are marked as 1) Nellai [Tirunelveli] Police Commissioner, 2) Nellai Collector and 3) CM. The three persons are depicted as naked and wearing currency notes which are used to cover their private parts." The FIR further says that the cartoon depicted the Chief Minister in a "highly derogatory and belittling way" and concludes that "it is defamatory". A criminal case was registered and the FIR, along with the petition, was sent to Judicial Magistrate No.1, Tirunelveli, after 6 p.m., the police claim.

The other "aggrieved persons" in this incident—the Tirunelveli Police Commissioner and the Chief Minister—have chosen to stay out of the case. The police, Vanchinathan claimed, transgressed their legally mandated jurisdiction. Section 501 of the IPC, one of the provisions invoked against Bala, notes: "Whoever prints or engraves any matter, knowing or having good reason to believe that such matter is defamatory of any person, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both." It is a non-cognisable offence and hence bailable and should be tried in a Sessions Court.

If an offence is a cognisable one, the police has the authority to arrest the accused without a warrant and to start an investigation with or without the permission of a court. But in non-cognisable offences, the police do not have the power to arrest the accused without a warrant from the jurisdictional magistrate or undertake an investigation without a court order. "After filing an FIR, Bala was arrested without the prior knowledge of the jurisdictional court," Vanchinathan said.

He quoted Section 199 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), which lays down

the procedure for prosecution in a defamation case. It says: "Nothing shall affect the right of the person against whom the offence is alleged to have been committed, to make a complaint in respect of that offence before a Magistrate having jurisdiction or the power of such Magistrate to take cognisance of the offence..." It allows public servants to file a complaint in a Sessions Court through a public prosecutor for alleged defamatory comments. Thus the complaint filed against Bala, Vanchinathan insisted, was not bona fide.

Section 155 of the CrPC stipulates that no police officer shall investigate a non-cognisable offence without an order from a competent magistrate. Under this section, a non-cognisable offence should be recorded in the Special Register and such a report is known as "NCR" (Non-cognisable Offence Report) and is not an FIR. On receipt of an NCR, the officer-in-charge of the police station should direct the informant to report to the magistrate because the police cannot make an arrest without a warrant from the magistrate.

On November 15, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court stayed the investigation proceedings on the FIR for four weeks. Justice S.S. Sundar, after hearing a petition from Bala which sought to quash the FIR, also instructed the State to file a counter-statement. Vanchinathan, who argued for the petitioner, said: "The court's attention was also drawn to the 2008 case against the eminent artist M.F. Husain in which the painter faced a bunch of criminal proceedings for some of his paintings, which were dubbed as obscene. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, the then Delhi High Court judge, quashed the 'summons and warrants' against the artist, saying that the paintings were to be seen as just pieces of art."

Experts in law maintain that though the police tagged Section 67 of the IT Act, 2000, along with Section 501 of the IPC against the cartoonist, it still did not warrant his arrest.

"It is not clear how these two provisions are applicable to the cartoon he drew," Justice K. Chandru, a retired judge of the Madras High Court, said in an interview.

Section 67 of the IT Act says: "Whoever publishes or transmits or causes to be published or transmitted in the electronic form, any material which is lascivious or appeals to the prurient interest or if its effect is such as to tend to deprave and corrupt persons who are likely, having regard to all relevant circumstances, to read, see or hear the matter contained or embodied in it, shall be punished on first conviction with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years and with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees." Section 77 (B) of the same Act, however, points out that offences with three-year imprisonment are bailable (inserted vide Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008).

Justice Chandru recalled Abu Abraham's cartoon in The Indian Express during the Emergency in 1975 depicting President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed signing ordinances sitting in his bathtub, portraying him as a rubber stamp of the government. He said the decision about whether a cartoon or a publication violated constitutional limits must be made by the courts and not by the police or bureaucrats.

In the case of Semmani, 46, a police team forced its way into his house at Marankulam village in Tirunelveli in the early hours of November 4 and took him to an undisclosed location after threatening his family members with dire consequences. He was allegedly stripped, abused and beaten, and footwear was shoved into his mouth while he was being shifted from police station to police station in order to avoid his lawyer-colleagues who were searching for him frantically. He was taken to the Radhapuram police station and later shifted to Uvari, where he was illegally kept in custody until late night the next day.

Apprehending a threat to his life, Semmani's sister approached the magistrate at Valliyur, who appointed a lawyer as the court's Warrant Commissioner to trace and rescue him from illegal custody. "I was almost unconscious when the Warrant Commissioner came to the Uvari police station along with lawyers. After I appeared before the magistrate, I was admitted to the Palayamkottai government hospital at about 1 a.m. on November 6," he told Frontline over phone from the trauma care department, where he was undergoing treatment.

He said that he was beaten by the police and that he suffered a fracture in his left leg and injuries all over the body. The nail of his right big toe was pulled out. "I am a wreck today," he said. The irony is that no case was registered against him until November 13 in any police station in the district.

Turning the corner

▶ Ajit Ranade

There was a collective sigh of relief when the second quarter GDP data were released officially by the Central Statistics Office (CSO). The government folks were relieved that a declining trend of four consecutive quarters of growth had finally been reversed.

The forecasters and economists were relieved that the announced data had mostly conformed to their expectations. Industry and business people were now hopeful that this was the first instance of a sustained upward trajectory of growth. GDP growth came at 6.3% for the quarter ending September, higher than 5.7% in the previous quarter, but still lower than 7.5% a year ago. The Finance Minister said that the effects of the demonetisation and initial rollout of the goods and services tax (GST) were behind us. (In saying so, he implicitly endorsed the view that indeed demonetisation and the GST rollout had been negative for the GDP, at least in the short run. But this is not the occasion for such minor nitpicking!)

All these responses of being assured that we had turned a corner are justified if we see some of the positive details from the GDP data. For instance, industrial growth accelerated from 1.6% during the June quarter to 5.8% in this September quarter. Its subcomponent,

manufacturing, too grew faster at 7% compared to only 1.2% during the previous quarter. This data is a bit puzzling since it seems inconsistent with the data on the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), whose growth is only 2.2% during this quarter. The services component of trade, hotels, transport and communications also grew smartly at 10.5% for the half year, as compared to 8.3% a year ago. So much for the good news.

Industrial revival is an absolute must for sustained growth in employment and output. It should also be accompanied by an increase in private sector investment, which is still lacklustre. The portion of GDP growth coming from fixed capital formation (which stands for investment activity) declined from 27.5% in the first quarter to 26.4% now. This has to be closely watched, and needs high policy priority. All the improvements in the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) ranking are meaningless unless we see substantial pick-up in private sector investment. More about this later.

There was one more silver lining in the data. The CSO says that GST collections data are provisional, and could be an underestimate. To that extent an upward revision of the GDP data is possible in the future.

So if the GDP trend is satisfactory, why did the stock market react so nega-

tively? It is of course hazardous to impute motives to the stock market index movements, since there are multiple influences, both domestic and global. Several caveats are in order. The stock market has been scaling new peaks, even though GDP growth had been declining. The stock market is always a forward-looking entity, a harbinger of things to come. Whereas the GDP data released by the government describe what happened two or three months ago. The stock market is swayed by a relatively small minority of deep-pocket investors (and increasingly algorithms and bots), so its reaction is not representative of what's happening to the broad-based economy. Even so, despite these caveats, it's useful to pay heed.

The market was spooked by the data on fiscal deficit. At this stage of the fiscal year, the deficit is running at 96.1% of the annual target. Last year at this stage it was only at 79.3%. The revenue expenditure component (roughly salaries, pensions, interest payments, etc), which is not the productive spending on items like infrastructure, is growing at twice the rate as budgeted (10% against 5%). The higher deficit would have been acceptable had it been on account of higher capital spending, not higher revenue spending. The government can either cut further into capital spending (which



tends to be discretionary, or can be postponed to the next budget year) or it can increase its market borrowing to tide over this year. Either way it is not good news for the markets. That's because the former implies lower economic growth, and the latter implies higher interest rates. This could be the main reason for the markets crashing. Indeed, a fiscal slippage right after an upgrade by international rating agency Moody's does not sound auspicious. Rating agencies tend to be fiscal fundamentalists, focussing disproportionately on fiscal deficits. They in turn influence bond investors, who might suddenly stop pouring dollars into India's bond and stock markets. But markets are notoriously fickle. They might very well be more jubilant if the government exceeds its privatisation target this year.

Moving away from sentiments of Dalal Street, it is important to focus on the weaker components, which should

become policy focus area. As said above, private sector investment is still anaemic. It is constrained by low capacity utilisation, deleveraging of balance sheets (as companies are reducing loan burdens), insolvency resolutions and large influx of imports, especially manufactured goods. Second, consumption spending has started losing steam. Its growth went down a notch from the last two quarters.

Nearly two-thirds of India's GDP is consumption spending, and remains the key to sustaining the growth momentum. Its slowing means that purchasing power both in rural and urban areas is under pressure. Mounting inflation rates are not helping. The situation on job creation is still bleak. Large job creating sectors like construction, agriculture, textiles, leather and tourism need to exhibit more vim.

Finally, among the biggest worries are India's exports. The world at large

is experiencing one of its strongest growth phases. Indeed, the International Monetary Fund has revised its growth projections upwards for most countries. In such a scenario, India's sluggish exports should be flourishing. The exporting sector's fortunes are closely linked with the manufacturing sector. Exports create jobs, especially in small and medium enterprises. Why can't India's small enterprises sell on global portals like Alibaba and Amazon? What are the hurdles? Is the GST framework (with delayed refunds) inhibiting the growth of exports? What are the policy and other bottlenecks? These are the issues that we need to grapple with to sustain an upward growth path.

We need to acknowledge that unlike last year, this year the government has less fiscal room to pump prime growth. Oil prices have gone up in the past few months, taking away the fiscal dividend. GST, Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, Insolvency Code are all great reforms for the medium to long term. But the next few quarters call for sustaining consumption, inviting private investment, energising agriculture, and giving a big fillip to exports. We have our work cut out.

Ajit Ranade is an economist

Pradyuman murder SC judge recuses from hearing school safety guidelines

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court judge Justice A M Khanwilkar recused himself from hearing the framing of safety and security guidelines for schools in connection with Ryan International School murder case. The matter would now be heard by a different bench of the apex court.

"The plea was listed before before the Supreme Court but Justice A M Khanwilkar recused from the matter, stating no reason for doing so. It may go to another constitutional bench," said Sushil Tekriwal, lawyer of Varun Thakur, father of Pradyuman. Pradyuman, who was killed on September 8 inside the school, Thakur had moved the Supreme Court seeking formation of guidelines for schools on the safety and security of school children across the country. Earlier on September 26, Gurugram District Magistrate Vinay Pratap Singh issued guidelines for schools to be followed inside the school premises. Singh stated that the order under section 144 Cr. P.C. is mandatory for all schools to follow. The schools have been asked to form



safety committee as per directions along with two representatives of parents, issue valid fire safety certificate and ensure that all fire

safety equipment is in working condition. He also asked the schools to ensure that there are separate toilets for non-teaching staff. The schools

have also been asked to install sufficient number of CCTV cameras at appropriate places in their premises and to put female attendants at

toilets of small children. The District Magistrates also asked to ensure that there are ramps and special toilets for children with special need, install CCTV cameras,

GPS in school buses. Deployment of female attendants at all buses and to ensure that Police verification for all non-teaching staff is done are major points of the guideline issued. The District Magistrates has also warned that strict action will be taken against the schools who fail to comply with the directions if not they will be punishable under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The seven-year-old Pradyuman was found in a pool of blood with his throat slit inside the school,

sparking a public outcry following which the Gurugram Police arrested bus conductor Ashok, accusing him of killing the seven-year-old student. But the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is now probing the matter, gave him a clean chit and held a class 11 student responsible for the murder.

This Samajwadi 'Chaiwala' Defeated BJP Candidate in UP Civic Polls



LUCKNOW: While we are all very familiar to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'chaiwala' stories, this other 'chaiwala', a 21-year-old from Chitrakoot, who defeated a BJP candidate in the civic elections, is set to write his own story. Meet Anuj Nigam, who used to sell tea before winning the Municipal Councillor Elections from ward number 21. Anuj contested the Nagar Palika Parishad Member election on a Samajwadi Party ticket and defeated 10-time winner Ajay Kumar, a BJP candidate.

Son of advocate Pradeep Nigam, Anuj bagged 326 votes and defeated Ajay Kumar, who could manage 286 votes. Two of Anuj's brother are engineering students. Speaking to Network18, Anuj asked "if a 'chaiwala' can become the Prime Minister, why not a municipal councillor". "If Modi Ji can become the PM after selling tea, can't I become a councillor? I went to each and every house in my ward without any rally or road show. I went quietly and simply appealed to the people to vote for me. Just three or four days before the elections, my family too started canvassing for me," said an overwhelmed Anuj.

"My tea stall has a lot of role to play in my victory as a lot of people come to my shop and it helps me establish good relations with the people around me. I was lucky to get a ticket from the Samajwadi Party and I will always remain loyal to them. I will definitely try to contest the Nagar Palika Parishad President elections if everything goes well," added Anuj.

While Anuj had a victorious run at the elections, the Samajwadi Party couldn't match up to his performance in last week's municipal body elections in Uttar Pradesh. The party failed to win a single mayor seat. However, the Samajwadi Party managed to get 202 Municipal Councillor seats, 45 Nagar Palika president seats, 477 Nagar Palika Parishad Member seats, 83 Nagar Panchayat President seats and 453 Nagar Panchayat Member seats.

Goa shack-owners ask state for rethink on spots on the beach

NEW DELHI: The unprecedented high tides due to cyclone Ockhi that flooded hundreds of beach shacks in Goa has given rise to a demand from the tourism industry for a re-think by the state authorities on the places for allocation of the beach shacks along the coast. The shack owners say that they had asked the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) to allocate the shack much above the high tide line, but citing environmental concerns, they were allotted spots right next to the water.

President of Shack Owners' Welfare Society Cruz Cardozo said that Monday night could be a trying time as the state will witness the highest tide coupled with full moon along with the affect of cyclone Ockhi.

"The shack owners had specifically requested the GCZMA not to allot the shacks near the high tide line but a



little upwards. But fearing the destruction of sand dunes, the authorities allotted us structures right next to the water," Cardozo said. This despite, he said, the owners specifically mentioning that they would not harm the sand dunes since the structures are elevated on a platform.

"Had the shacks been little upwards, the devastation caused could have been avoided to a great extent. Almost 80 percent of the shacks have been affected by the tide," he said. He said that the owners would make a representation to the government after assessing the losses. The beaches of Mobar, Majorda, Caveolssim, Benaulim in South Goa and Arambol, Morjim, Baga, Calangute in North are worst affected, he said. The state's premier trade body - Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) - has also echoed the views of the shack owners.

"There is need to rethink on the allocation of the shacks. It should be based on scientific advice," TTAG President Savio Messiah said. He said that the allocation should "not be uniform" but on "case-to-case basis with the help of scientific data on the water level". He however ruled out that the current situation on the beaches would adversely affect the tourism trade. "There will not be an impact on the tourism as such but the tourists running away from the shacks as water rises unexpectedly portrays a wrong picture," Messiah said. In a statement, state tourism minister Manohar Ajaonkar said that chief minister Manohar Parrikar has agreed to depute a competent government authority to assess the damage caused to shack and other properties due to the storm. State tourism director Meeno D'Souza said that since it was a natural disaster, the state government would assess the damage caused.

Cyclone Ockhi 'Won't lose hope' in finding survivors, says Sitharaman



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Amid the havoc caused by cyclone Ockhi, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said that she will not lose hope and will leave no stone unturned in finding the fishermen stranded in the sea. "I will not lose hope even for a minute, because if the boats, which went out 15 days back, can come back with the fishermen alive, then we will make every attempt to bring everyone back," Sitharaman told reporters here. The Defence Minister further informed that 11 fishermen are also accompanying the Navy in the search operations. "Fishermen were asking if they could join the search operations, and I agreed. Now 11 of them are already in search helicopters,

so with the cooperation of fishermen, we will continue our search and rescue teams," she said. Giving a rundown of the operation carried out by the Indian Navy, the Defence Minister said that she is duly updated every hour by the officers in the navy and the coast guard about the whereabouts of those found. "I have spoken to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra to ensure that those boats, which have reached there, be given safe care and share of food, clothing and everything.

PM Modi congratulates Congress on 'Aurangzeb Raj'

DHARAMPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday took another jibe at the 'dynastic politics' of the Congress Party by dubbing the party's Vice-President Rahul Gandhi's expected 'elevation' as an 'Aurangzeb Raj'.

"I congratulate the Congress on their Aurangzeb Raj. For us, the well being of the people matters and 125 crore Indians are our high command," the Prime Minister said addressing a rally here.

In his comparison of Gandhi family with the Mughal rule, Prime Minister Modi also stated, "Mani Shankar Aiyar asked 'did elections happen during Mughal rule? After Jehangir, Shah Jahan came, was any election held? After Shah Jahan, it was understood Aurangzeb will be the leader' So Congress accepts it's a family party? We don't want this Aurangzeb rule."

"The jibe comes following the nomination by Rahul Gandhi for the Congress' presidential election earlier in the day. The post is currently held by Rahul's mother Sonia Gandhi who has been at the helm since 1998. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has, time and again, attacked the Congress Party, accusing it of indulging in dynasty politics and feudalism, but the accusation came full force, when Maharashtra Congress Secretary Shehzad Poonawalla called out the process of electing party president as "rigged"



and said he had information that the delegates, who were going to vote for the election, were fixed. The Prime Minister also accused the Congress Party of defaming the BJP by propagating it is against Muslims.

"Disinformation like BJP does this and that against Muslims has been spread. This family party made it their main agenda to spread disinformation about BJP. But Gujarat people are not so naive, they have now become sensitive and aware to disinformation," he said. Prime Minister Modi added to the

accusation, alleging that the Congress Party has been indulging in divisive politics in a bid to win the upcoming Gujarat assembly elections. "Earlier, Congress would go out of the way to show their secularism but now we are all seeing what they are doing in this election, where they are going. Unfortunately for them Muslims know their real nature," Modi said, adding that Congress has always defamed Gujarat, and that it can neither tolerate nor accept leaders from the state. The two-phase Gujarat polls will be held on December 9 and 14.

INDIA ALLOWS 1,300 BUDDHISTS FROM MYANMAR'S RAKHINE STATE TO ENTER MIZORAM

AIZWAL: In a contradiction of its own policy, the Indian government has allowed over 1,300 tribal Buddhist refugees from Myanmar's Rakhine region to enter Mizoram. The refugees left their homeland because of the ongoing war between the Myanmar Army and the Arakan Army, made up of Buddhist insurgents. This comes nearly a month after the Union Home Ministry had directed the northeastern states to take strict measures to prevent Rohingyas -- who are Muslims -- from entering Indian territory despite persecution by the Myanmar regime. The new group of refugees, belonging to the Chin and few other communities of Myanmar, have come to four villages in Lawngtlai district. According to sources in the Mizoram government, the administration is struggling hard to bring down the rising tensions among the refugees and the residents of Laitlang, Dumzautlang, Hmawngbuchhuah and Zochachhuah villages. According to the state administration, the refugees are being taken care of on humanitarian grounds as all of them came to escape clashes back home. "It's been some six days since these refugees have arrived on Mizoram territory. They



currently are in four villages of the Lawngtlai district and are put up at shelter homes, Buddhist homes, temples and many other places," T. Arun, Deputy Commissioner of Lawngtlai, told IANS over the phone.

He emphasised that the security threat in such a situation cannot be denied. "We basically have two rules -- one relating to national security and other related to humanitarian assistance.

Under the humanitarian rules we are providing food as we do not want any starvation deaths. We also have to guard against the out-

break of diseases," said Arun. Additional police, health workers and doctors have also been deployed not just to keep a vigil on the new arrivals but also to keep a check on their health condition.

"The problem is that the population of each of the villages is just 200-400. The arrival of such a large number of people is a matter of serious concern," said Arun. Mizoram's police chief emphasised that though they won't immediately term the arrival of the refugees a security threat, they are waiting for the situation in Myanmar to normalise so that they could

be sent back. "We won't call it a security threat at this juncture. They were allowed into Indian territory due to the ongoing fighting in Myanmar. We are taking care of it and police forces are there. However, we are making sure there won't be any problem for the villagers due to the refugees.

They have been confined to the four villages," Director General of Police Thianghlina Pachuau told IANS over the phone. The current crisis in Myanmar comes nearly two months after the Myanmar Army had launched operations against the Rohingyas in Rakhine province. While the conflict led to more than 600,000 Rohingyas fleeing to Bangladesh, the United Nations Human Rights Commission called the strike by the Myanmar Army "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing".

The Indian government has taken measures, including asking the states in the region to seal their borders with Myanmar, to prevent Rohingyas refugees from entering the country. Myanmar,

the only Southeast Asian country which shares a 1,600-mile-long border with India, serves as its gateway to the other member-states of the Association of Southeast

Asian Nations. Four northeastern states -- Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Manipur (398 km), Nagaland (215 km) and Mizoram (510 km) -- have an unfenced border with Myanmar. Experts on Indo-Myanmar relations see the current influx as a temporary matter that is different from the Rohingyas issue.

"This is an issue that has emerged in the last few months.

The arrival of Buddhist refugees is certainly a matter of concern as it affects people on the Indian side as well. However, this is different from Rohingyas," Khriezo Yhome, senior Research fellow at Observer Research Foundation and an expert on Indo-Myanmar affairs, told IANS.

According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees there are around 21,500 Rohingyas refugees and asylum seekers in India. The central government, though, has sent a clear message that it would not be willing to accept them "because,

of security concerns". The Supreme Court on October 13 asked the Centre to strike a balance between national security, economic interests and humanitarian considerations with regard to Rohingyas women, children, old, sick and in firm.

ARDSI, Mumbai Chapter; ALKEM organise 'Awarathon' for Alzheimer's patients

MUMBAI : To spread awareness, Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Society of India (ARDSI), Mumbai Chapter organised "Awarathon Mumbai 2017" on Sunday at Worli Sea face,

which saw participation from all strata of society, medical practitioners, caregiver, corporate people, NGO, volunteers.

Currently, more than 41 lakh Indians suffer from dementia, the most common being Alzheimer's Disease, which causes gradual decrease in ability,

to remember and think clearly eventually affecting a person's daily functioning. This 3-km Awarathon was organised to create more public awareness.

"This overwhelming response of participants to our Awarathon just shows that we are a sensitive society concerned about elders and senior citizens.

ARDSI Mumbai Chapter, is striving to make our city of Mumbai a 'dementia-friendly city', with more awareness. We have received



encouragement from Corporates and philanthropists to be a part of it. This event was possible only

with the encouragement and support of Alkem Laboratories Limited, Police and Traffic Departments,

BMC and of course all walkers present," said the Secretary of the ARDSI Mumbai Chapter. This event

was supported by Alkem Laboratories Ltd, which runs a large social media community 'Dementia and Alzheimer's Community of India' and has launched an awareness video that is currently catching a lot of eyeballs.

An official of Alkem Laboratories Ltd. said, "We are happy to partner with ARDSI,

Mumbai Chapter and supporting their initiatives for this social cause as there is a real need to spread awareness and increase screening of Dementia,

Due to social stigma, lack of awareness and that people often confuse forgetfulness associated as part of normal aging.

Our social media initiative is a step ahead to spread awareness so that people can recognise symptoms early and avail of services of specialised,

Dementia DayCare Centre to help families lessen the onus of caring in their daily lives.

Their counselling and support sessions help tremendously.

'Patients should write their own medical records'



WASHINGTON : A team of researchers has suggested that encouraging patients to write their own medical records might help them feel more involved with their care and improve relationships with their doctors.

According to doctors from the University Of California - Los Angeles Health Sciences and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, the patients can benefit if they are invited to co-produce medical notes, called "OurNotes," with their doctors, rather than merely reading them.

"OurNotes" has a potential to improve relationships with doctors, and cut documentation demands on clinicians. This initiative allows doctors to share visit notes with patients, who may then contribute to their own medical records via OurNotes -- adding material such as symptoms or medical issues they experienced since their last visit, along with goals for upcoming visits.

Lead author Dr John Mafi from the UCLA said if executed thoughtfully, OurNotes has the potential to reduce documentation demands on clinicians, while having both the patient and clinician focusing on what's most important to the patient. "Piloting OurNotes will start at four centers in 2018," he added. The team conducted in-depth telephone interviews with 29 health care experts.

There were 11 primary care physicians, two specialist physicians, three nurse practitioners, four health information technology professionals, eight patient advocates and one policy expert.

The results suggested the participants overall believed that OurNotes could promote patient engagement, improve patient-centered care and patient-provider,

collaboration and possibly take some of the documentation burden off busy providers. The research is published in the Annals of Internal Medicine journal.

Fruit juice in breakfast can increase risk of Type 2 diabetes

LONDON : In a recent research, a group of scientists have found that drinking fruit juice can increase the risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Fruit juice lacks fibre and contains high sugar. It may increase the risk, the researcher claimed. According to Express.co.uk, diabetes patients should not replace high-sugar beverages with fruit juice, in an attempt to cater toward their condition.

The scientists said, "Intake of fruit juices was positively associated with incidence of type 2 diabetes. The rapid delivery of a large sugar load, without many other components that are a part of whole fruits, may be an important mechanism by which fruit juices could contribute to the development of diabetes."

But eating whole fruit and leafy green vegetables reduce the risk of developing the condition. This is because they have a low energy density, and are rich in fibre and micro-nutrients. The researchers said it was a good idea to drink only one small glass of fruit juice a day.

Fruit juice has most of its fibre removed when being manufactured, which makes it easy to drink large quantities in one sitting. The scientists said, "We know that too much of our sugar intake is coming from juices and smoothies, so it makes sense to cut down. The good news is that we are not eating enough fruit, so this is something you can eat more of." Symptoms of the condition include having an unquenchable thirst, feeling,

very tired, unexplained weight loss, and blurred vision. It may be possible to control the condition by making lifestyle changes. That includes losing weight, exercising more often, and eating a healthy, balanced diet.

Here're some essential vitamins to beat winter cold and flu

LONDON : As the winter season draws in, it officially marks the start of trying to boost your immune system. Cold and flu are spread by coughs and sneezes, and is especially common in the winter months. But, adding these supplements to daily routine could support the immune system when one needs it the most, reports Express.co.uk. The body does its best to deal with these invaders with a complex process that relies on a number of factors.

In addition to known immune boosters, such as getting enough physical activity and eating a healthy diet, there are only a few supplements on the shelves that may help boost immunity. According to a dietician,

Vitamins A, B12, C, D, zinc and selenium could help to prevent cold and flu this winter. Public Health England advised everybody to take daily vitamin D supplements during autumn and winter, as sunlight hours - the biggest natural source of the vitamin - gets reduced during the seasons.

Dietitian Dr Carrie Ruxton from the Health and Food Supplements Information Service said, "Winter brings particular challenges, including more colds and flu, low mood and dry skin. As days get shorter and the weather gets colder, it is also all too easy to reach for comfort foods." Adding, "Dietary supplements therefore provide a useful top up when you're struggling to get the necessary variety in your diet."

Vitamin A helps in strengthening cells on the outer layer of skin - the body's first defence against harmful bacteria and viruses, but it also helps cells in the linings of the body's hollow structures, including the nose, throat, stomach and gut.

A vitamin D deficiency, meanwhile, increased the risk of auto-immune diseases.

Zinc and selenium helped the body fight infection, and maintained the body's defence system, she added. As with most things that help reduce the risk of infection, chronic disease and early death, it's not one thing that provides the "miracle cure," it's a variety of good lifestyle choices that make the difference.

Diabetes reason behind rise in cancer cases worldwide Study

LONDON According to recent study, a team of researchers have found that cancers related to metabolic diseases, especially diabetes and obesity, have an increasingly high incidence, according to Express.co.uk

As per the team's data, 5.6 percent of all cancer cases throughout the world in 2012 were linked to pre-existing diabetes and a high body mass index (BMI), which is defined as over 25 kilograms per square meter. Of this total, 3.9 percent of cases were attributable to diabetes - almost twice as many cases as were related to a high BMI.

Dr Jonathan Pearson-Stuttard, lead author of the study, said, "While obesity has been associated with cancer for some time, the link between diabetes and cancer has only been established quite recently. Our study shows that diabetes - either on its own or combined with being overweight - is responsible for hundreds of thousands of cancer cases each year across the world." A surge in both conditions over the last four decades has made the tally significantly worse, the study showed. The global increase in diabetes between 1980 and 2002 accounted for a quarter of the 800,000 cases, while the obesity epidemic over the same period resulted in an additional 30 percent of cases.

On current trends, the share of cancers attributable to the two conditions will increase by 30 percent for women and 20 percent for men in less than 20 years, the scientists warned. Pearson-Stuttard noted, "In the past,



smoking was by far the major risk factor for cancer, but now healthcare professionals should also be aware that patients who have diabetes or are overweight also have an increased risk." For men, obesity and diabetes accounted for more than 40 percent of liver cancers, while for women they were responsible for a third of uterine cancers, and nearly as many cases of breast cancer. The new study took into account the increase in the incidence of 18 types of cancer related to diabetes and high BMI in 175 countries between 1980 and 2002. The researchers explain that an increase in diabetes diagnoses be-

tween 1980 and 2002 caused a 26.1 percent increase in related cancers in 2012. "These projections are particularly alarming. When considering the high and increasing cost of cancer and metabolic diseases, and highlight the need to improve control measures, and increase awareness of the link between cancer, diabetes, and high BMI

," noted Pearson-Stuttard. The best solution, according to the researchers, is to make a sustained effort to prevent the rise of metabolic diseases, in order to reduce the future risk of cancer. The study was published in journal The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology.

STRESSED BABIES MAY NOT SHOW THEY ARE IN PAIN STUDY



WASHINGTON : A study has recently suggested that doctors and nurses may not be able to reliably tell whether babies being treated in hospital are in pain merely by observing how they behave. In stressed newborn babies, behaviour alone is not a reliable way of assessing pain, according to new UCL and UCLH research. According to University College London researchers, the hospitalised newborns, who are already stressed by their environ-

ment have a much larger pain response in their brain following a routine clinical skin lance than non-stressed babies. This disconnect between the behaviour of newborn babies under stress and their brain activity in response to pain has not been shown before and suggests that stress is an important factor in influencing how babies perceive and react to pain. Lead author Dr Laura Jones said, "We know that repeated painful and stressful exper-

iences in early life can negatively impact on the development of the central nervous system and our results suggest that controlling the stress levels of hospitalised infants may not only reduce their pain but also contribute to their healthy development." The team simultaneously measured the behaviour and brain activity of 56 newborn babies before and after a clinically necessary heel prick in their first days of life, while also monitoring their stress. In the babies with the lowest stress levels, brain activity and behaviour were associated with each other in that greater brain activity corresponded to a longer period of crying and/or grimacing. In the babies with the highest stress levels this association was broken: greater brain activity was not necessarily matched by a more marked behavioural response. "Behaviour such as crying or facial responses is widely used as a measurement of baby's pain experience. Pain scores used for babies are based on these observations, because babies can't speak. While these methods are very useful, our findings suggest that they may not be appropriate for babies who are already stressed. We need to explore better ways to monitor pain, reduce stress and tailor our interventions accordingly," added co-author, Dr Judith Meeck (University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust).

Eating nuts can keep heart disease at bay

LONDON : Who knew "pass the peanut" would actually be good for your heart. A recent research has found that eating handful of nuts could cut the risk of coronary heart disease by nearly 30 percent, while also reducing the risk of cancer by 15 percent. The scientists found that all kinds of tree nuts would help to reduce the risk of getting the conditions. The nut list include walnuts, almonds, hazelnuts, cashews, pistachios and pecans. Meanwhile, peanuts were found to be helpful in preventing strokes.

Dagfinn Aune, co-author of the study, said, "Nuts and peanuts are high in fibre, magnesium, and polyunsaturated fats - nutrients that are beneficial for cutting cardiovascular disease risk and which can reduce cholesterol levels. Some nuts, particularly walnuts and pecan nuts are also high in antioxidants, which can fight oxidative stress and possibly reduce cancer risk." Adding, "Even though nuts are quite high in fat, they are also high in fibre and protein, and there is some evidence that suggests nuts might actually reduce your risk of obesity over time."

The researchers compiled data from 29 previously published studies, to find the healthy benefits of nuts. Up to 8,19,000 people were analysed, comprising 12,000 cases of heart disease, 9,000 strokes, 18,000 cases of cardiovascular disease and cancer, and 85,000 deaths. They found that just 20g of nuts - the equivalent to a handful - was enough to slash the risk of dying from a number of fatal conditions. But eating more than 20g a day didn't have any more benefits than simply eating the one handful.

Fish oil may be helpful for older people to protect eye sight

LONDON : According to a recent research, eating plenty of salmon, sardines and mackerel may protect older people against loss of sight. A chemical found in fish oil boosts the daily survival of cells critical to eyesight protecting against age-related vision loss. The discovery could lead to new treatments for a host of degenerative diseases of the retina - based on harnessing its power, reports Express.co.uk. Results reveal the omega-3 fatty acid DHA, which is abundant in oily fish, 'preconditions' different types of retinal cells to be able to withstand 'stress', such as their blood supply being cut off.

In laboratory tests, human eye cells exposed to constant light withstand damage if they are supplemented with such oils. Neuroscientist Professor Nicolas Bazan, of Louisiana State University, said, "Our findings support the proposed concept that DHA and docosanoids,

molecules made in the brain at the onset of injury or disease, are responsible for activating sustained cellular mechanisms that elicit long term preconditioning protection." Although fish oil also contains omega-6 AA, which is inflammatory and could therefore cause damage, omega-3 DHA is thought to alter the former oil's action. In laboratory experiments the researchers exposed human retinal cells, as well as those of living rats, to constant light. Prior omega-3 DHA supplementation.

Reserve Bank will hold fire, future action depends on flow of data

NEW DELHI: Globally, most bank analysts and bond dealers love to play the "he loves me, he loves me not" (originally efeuiller la marguerite in French) game in the run-up to the respective central bank's policy forming body's meetings. The rules of the game are simple—one alternately speaks the phrases "he (or she) loves me," and "he loves me not," while picking one petal off a flower (usually an oxeye daisy), for each phrase. The phrase spoken on picking off the last petals supposedly represents the truth. Replace the "he loves me/he loves me now" phrase with "RBI will hike the rate/RBI won't hike the rate" (or cut the rate, as the context may be), and you know what I mean.

This time, nobody in India is playing the game. It's for sure that the six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Indian central bank will refrain from taking any rate action at its two-day meeting on 5-6 December (one caveat though, the decision may not be unanimous—at least one member of the MPC may root for a hike and another will counter-balance that). At the last MPC meeting in October, the Reserve Bank of India kept its policy rate unchanged at 6% and the stance of the monetary policy neutral, but it raised the inflation projec-

tion for the second half of fiscal year 2018 marginally from 4.0-4.5% to 4.2%-4.6%.

The central bank also brought down its projection of the real gross value added (GVA) growth for 2018 by 70 basis points—from 7.3% to 6.7% with risks "evenly balanced". One basis point is a hundredth of a percentage point.

A sudden slump in economic growth in the June quarter to a three-year low of 5.7% (from 6.1% in the March quarter) made many apprehensive that if the economic growth slumps further, the RBI may be left with the task of heavy-lifting the economy by making money less expensive. The 30 November announcement that the economy grew at 6.3% in the July-September quarter, halting a five-quarter slide, has put to rest the apprehensions.

On the contrary, the lift in growth and the likely gush of credit flow to the industrial sector following the big-bang Rs2.1 trillion recapitalization plan for public sector banks have made a few see the rate hiking cycle at a sniffing distance. Morgan Stanley has pencilled the first rate hike by mid-2019; Goldman Sachs expects RBI to raise its key rate aggressively thrice by the end of fiscal year 2018. Frankly, between October and now, nothing has hap-



pened that can provoke the RBI to take any rate action this week. Globally, oil price continues to remain at an elevated level and a hike by the US Federal Reserve later this month is almost given.

On the domestic front, October's retail inflation rose to a seven-month high of 3.58%, year-on-year, from 3.3% in September, modestly higher than consensus market expectations.

The upward pressure came from food (mainly vegetables) and fuel even as the one-off impact from housing rent allowance and changes in goods-and-services tax (GST) also had their impact on

the figure. The core retail inflation (ex-food and beverage, and fuel) remained unchanged at 4.6% year-on-year but the price pressures are likely to build in coming months with the effects of rising oil prices in play. Most expect the retail inflation to inch up towards 4% in November, along with rising core inflation; for the rest of fiscal year 2018, it may remain a tad above 4%. The threat of a fiscal slippage also looms large, with the fiscal deficit at the end of October hitting 96.1% of the full-year budget estimate on account of lower revenue collection and higher expenditure. These won't have any bearing on

policy-making. What about the Rs2.11 trillion recapitalization plan for public sector banks and Moody's Investors Service raising India's sovereign rating from the lowest investment grade of

Baa3 to Baa2—the first time in 14 years? Neither of them influences the interest rate policy. Of course, the upgrade would have helped the bond market had India chosen to raise the limit of foreign investments in bonds. Rising bond yields seems to be a worry for the banking regulator.

After a brief bounce-back following the cancellation of a Rs10,000 crore bond sale by RBI

under its open market operations or OMO in the wake of Moody's upgrade of India rating, the 10-year paper yield has been hovering around 7.06%, 36 basis points higher from the first week of October when the last policy review took place. At the shorter end, yield on 90-day certificate of deposits has risen 15 basis points, and that of one-year treasury bills by 10 basis points. The central government has completed 82% of its annual gross borrowing programme (Rs4.76 trillion for the year), even as state governments have raised Rs2.32 trillion.

After draining Rs90,000 crore through OMOs (Rs30,000 crore since the October policy), the RBI cancelled Rs10,000 crore of OMOs in November because of its concerns over liquidity and "current market conditions". The latter is turning out to be a tricky issue. The RBI has even started calling the market participants,

something it doesn't do often, to understand why they are selling bonds (selling puts pressure on bond yield). Since the October MPC meeting, the liquidity in the banking system has tightened—from around Rs1 trillion daily in October to around Rs25,000 crore now on a combination of factors—the rise in the currency in demand and the outflow of tax. The RBI

bought back bonds worth Rs27,767 crore and released that much money last week to ease the pressure on liquidity. More money will flow to the system once the government starts spending.

Anyway, shortage of daily liquidity may not be a big headache for the RBI, as Rs1 trillion worth of MSS (monetary stabilization scheme) bonds are due for redemption in March. So,

what can RBI do at this juncture? I would like to believe that the MPC will hold fire in December and continue with its neutral stance for the rest of fiscal year 2018, barring a dramatic rise in fiscal deficit, which is unlikely. It also may not tinker with its projection for inflation as well as GDP in its December meeting. By Wednesday afternoon, once the policy is made public, the debate will be more on its tone—is it more hawkish or less dovish.

For the market, an uneventful policy with the RBI's commitment to act in future, depending on the flow of data,

will be a big relief. Tamal Bandyopadhyay, consulting editor at Mint, is adviser to Bandhan Bank. His latest book,

From Lehman to Demonetization: A Decade of Disruptions, Reforms and False Promises, will be released on 6 December.

Sonalika Tractors aims global expansion eyes 20 pct growth

NEW DELHI: India's second largest tractor brand exporter Sonalika ITL has recorded a 17 percent growth in international market in November 2017. The company exported 1215 units of tractors, compared to 1042 units last year in the same month. The company is expecting 15 to 20 percent annual growth next year as well. Sonalika, the youngest tractor brand with a strong belief in Make in India has built World's largest integrated tractor manufacturing unit offering customized tractors to suit diverse farming needs. The company has a tie-up with Yanmar and has expanded its footprint to another 10 new countries in the year 2017. With this, Sonalika has expanded to 90 countries across the globe. By 2018, the company plans,

to enter 5 new markets. The export range will be equipped with engines complying with future emission standards. "Our strategy has been to focus across HP segments and our tractors have become the preferred choice of progressive farmers not just in India but globally. To further strengthen our presence in Europe and US market, we have recently unveiled Solis 30 HST (Hydrostatic Transmission) in Agritechnica - Hanover Germany in Nov'17. Solis a well-recognized brand from ITL in Europe was very much appreciated in the exhibition for Solis 30 HST along with Solis 22, Solis 28 and other tractors with next generation tractor platform.

CITIZENS HESITANT TO LINK AADHAAR DETAILS WITH E-COMMERCE, DIGITAL WALLETS

NEW DELHI: In the wake of recent reports on Aadhaar data breach by various sources, results from a survey revealed that a majority of the respondents were uncomfortable in using their Aadhaar accounts to access e-commerce accounts or digital wallets. In the recent past, the government has laid a lot of emphasis on consumers to link their Aadhaar with all important documents like PAN, bank account, mobile number, insurance policies and so on. There have also been reports that some e-commerce sites have been asking consumers to link their website accounts with,

Aadhaar when they are trying to track a lost package. Many other internet-based businesses like payment wallets have also mandated Aadhaar for the consumers to avail their services. Internet-based companies like AirBnb, Uber and Ola have also been asking the user to upload a copy of their Aadhaar while registering on the site as a safety measure, so that

their true identity could be ascertained. In this regard, a survey was conducted by LocalCircles on around 20,000 people, broadly on the subject of using Aadhaar details on the aforementioned platforms. The first poll asked if the citizens would feel comfortable in linking their Aadhaar with their e-commerce site accounts. 61 percent said they would not be comfortable while 30 percent said they were fine with it. When asked if they would be comfortable in linking Aadhaar with their payment wallet accounts, 49 percent refused, while 33 percent agreed, and 18 percent were neutral. A related poll asked citizens if there should be a financial penalty for banks, telecom providers or any other organisations that compromise their Aadhaar, bank or call/data transaction details, to which 94 percent replied in an affirmative. They said that in case of data leakage, the respective bank or telecom operator should be severely penalised to ensure that they



keep the data security measure to the optimum levels. Recently, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) while responding to some media reports which alleged that "210 Government

sites made Aadhaar info public" assured that the Aadhaar, data was fully safe and secure, and there has never been a breach or data leak at the UIDAI. The UIDAI in a notification said the

data on these mentioned websites was placed in a public domain as a measure of proactive disclosure under Right to Information (RTI) Act by government and institutional websites.

NEC, DENSO collaborate to develop in-vehicle information, communications equipment

KARIYA: DENSO Corporation and NEC Platforms, Ltd., a subsidiary of NEC Corporation established a joint venture, DENSO NEXT CO., LTD., which will develop in-vehicle information and communications equipment critical for fostering a truly connected environment inside vehicles. The company, which will be developing a range of products such as instrument clusters, head-up displays, and on-board communication equipment, has begun operations on December 1, 2017. The recent cockpit innovation and advancement of connected technologies have made communication between products in the cabin more complicated, rapidly increasing the need to develop in-vehicle products



more efficiently. will harness DENSO's advanced automotive engineering and manufacturing capabilities, and NEC Group's advanced technologies

and track record in the information and communications technology (ICT) business to quickly design and bring to market advanced in-vehicle equipment. will be located on the premises of NEC's Tamagawa Plant in Kawasaki, Kanagawa, Japan. The innovations developed by DENSO and NEC Platforms engineers will enable DENSO to more efficiently produce existing information and communications equipment, and to create new products in line with vehicle cockpit advancements. combines DENSO's deep experience with automotive components and NEC and NEC Platforms' expertise in IT and network technologies and experience in developing automotive components.

Shine launches online career skills and courses marketplace

NEW DELHI: Shine.com, an online job portal announced the launch of www.shinelearning.com, a professional courses and certifications marketplace for working professionals. Shine Learning uses data (both recruiters' and candidates') to map demands of various skill sets across industries, predict emerging skill shortage areas and provide courses basis that. It then uses an algorithm that not only forecasts emerging skill sets but also recommends courses to candidates after analysing their resumes and application history. Shine,

Learning.com aims at equipping the working professionals with skills that would enable them to be ready for the future job opportunities and stay relevant. The platform offers industry and government recognised certifications, course recommendations, unbiased user reviews and a variety of over 500 courses

from leading vendors across the globe. "Innovation is what will give us a competitive edge in today's dynamic market. The objective was to prepare India for the future. Today's working professionals are exposed to a plethora of opportunities, however, there is a vacuum at both employee and recruiter ends in terms of required skillset. With Shine Learning our focus was to tap into the growing e-learning category as the industry displays huge growth prospects," said Zairus Master, CEO, Shine.com. Shine Learning focuses on upgrading skill sets, enabling candidates to build a career in the longer run. The portal, integrates predictive analysis and data science to provide most in-demand up-skilling courses which cater to different industries and increases employability. To provide courses and industry-recognised certifications to its users.

Stem cell startup Advancells registers 120 pct growth

NEW DELHI: Noida-based stem cell startup Advancells reported that it has successfully achieved growth by 120 percent from the last year in the field of stem cell therapies, and aims to expand across over 100 hospitals with a similar amount of doctors in the next two years. The startup, which provides natural cure for many ailments with safe and effective treatments, was established in 2013 by Vipul Jain, a serial entrepreneur. Since its inception, Advancells' team has witnessed three-fold growth. "The idea behind establishing Advancells was to provide customized protocol for 360 degree management of diseases and conditions with regenerative medicine as a solution. We have also associated with "Champions of Change - Transforming India through G2B partnership" initiative of the Modi government.

Taxmann rolls out upgraded GST tariff books, Rate Reckoner

NEW DELHI: Taxmann Publications announced the release of the 6th edition of Goods and Services Tax (GST) tariff with Rate Reckoner. This publication provides HSN-Wise GST rates of goods and services, and incorporates all changes made by the GST Council in its 23rd meeting, which were notified on November 14. The book is supplemented by commodity-wise rate reckoner to help the readers to quickly get the GST rate on any commodity. This abridged version of the tariff is for those who are not well versed with GST Tariffs. Taxmann also launched a GST Rate Finder Tool on its website, whereby users can quickly find an authentic and updated GST tariff for any commodity or service. This tool always shows the amended

GST Tariff With Rate Reckoner

Incorporating Notifications Issued on 14-11-2017

Price : ₹ 1995 (for a set of Two Volumes) (with GST Rate Reckoner)

GST tariff. GST tariff database is also available on Taxmann.com Android and iOS app. With frequent changes in the GST rates, comprehending the bare notifications had become very

challenging work for the companies, practitioners and individuals. That is why we have launched the sixth edition of the book GST Tariff in II volumes. These books provide the updated HSN and Service Code wise GST rates of goods and services," said Rakesh Bhargava, Director, Taxmann. "Supplementing the GST Tariff Books, the GST Tariff and Rate Finder on taxmann.com allows one to perform a detailed research on the Tariffs. Additionally, it also offers options whereby the users can add the updated tariff in their personal library, print and share it," he added. GST Tariff is a part of www.taxmann.com where users get an updated database and amended list of Central, State and Inter-State GST Tariff as notified by the department.

United stun Arsenal to keep heat on City

LONDON: Manchester United held on with 10 men after Paul Pogba's late dismissal to beat Arsenal 3-1 in a breathless encounter at the Emirates Stadium on a day when Liverpool and Chelsea also kept up the heat on Premier League leaders Manchester City but Tottenham Hotspur slipped further off the pace with a costly draw at Watford.

With Pep Guardiola's pacesetters not in action until Sunday, second-placed United closed the gap at the top to five points with a thrilling display that belied,

manager Jose Mourinho's reputation as overly defensive away from home. While goals from Antonio Valencia and Jesse Lingard inside 11 minutes, and a further second-half strike from Lingard, showed United at their best, Pogba's crude 'studs-up' lunge at Hector Bellerin revealed another side in the 75th minute.

The Frenchman deservedly received a straight red card and will miss three games, including next week's derby against City. Until Pogba's dismissal, everything had looked perfect for United, for whom David De Gea was outstanding and was beaten only by Alexandre Lacazette just after the interval. "What I saw today was the best goalkeeper in the world,"

said Mourinho, who said he "did not know" what to make of Pogba's dismissal and would leave it to the television pundits to decide.



Liverpool took advantage of Arsenal's first home Premier League defeat in 13 games to move fourth after thumping Brighton & Hove Albion 5-1. Jurgen Klopp's side have now scored 15 goals in four away games in all competitions. The German made even more changes than his team scored goals, leaving out six of the side who beat Stoke City 3-0 in midweek.

Liverpool were not weakened and after stand-in centre half Emre Can put them ahead with a bullet header, Roberto Firmino hit a dou-

ble, Philippe Coutinho scored from a freekick and Brighton's Lewis Dunk headed into his own net. With the visitors three up, Glenn Murray's 51st-minute penalty was not enough to spark Liverpool's usual defensive jitters.

Earlier, Chelsea came from behind to sweep past Newcastle United 3-1 at Stamford Bridge for a sixth win in their last seven league games and closed the gap on City to eight points. It is four matches without a win for Tottenham, who are also facing defensive problems after Da-

vinson Sanchez's straight red card in the 1-1 draw at Watford. The Colombia defender was sent off in the 52nd minute for clattering Watford forward Richarlison,

with a forearm to the face. Sanchez faces a three-match ban and Spurs are already without fellow center back Toby Alderweireld for the next month.

Christian Kabasele headed Watford into the lead in the 13th minute, and Son Heung-min equalised for Tottenham in the 25th. Sixth-placed Spurs are now four points behind

Liverpool and 15 adrift of leaders City. Sam Allardyce and Alan Pardew both looked to deliver the new manager bounce in their first match in charge for their clubs but only Everton collected three points in a routine 2-0 win over Huddersfield.

Town. Gylfi Sigurdsson and Dominic Calvert-Lewin scored second-half goals to give Allardyce a winning start two days after he signed an 18-month,

contract at Everton. But the performance was short on quality and the 63-year-old will have work to do before next Sunday's derby visit to free-scoring Liverpool. Pardew's first match in charge of West Bromwich Albion ended in a 0-0 home draw with Crystal Palace,

who were replaced at the foot of the Premier League by Swansea City, 2-1 losers at Stoke City. The visitors went ahead through,

Wilfried Bony's first goal for them in nearly two years before Xherdan Shaqiri and Mame Biram Diouf turned the game to increase the pressure on Swansea manager Paul Clement after his side's 10th league defeat of the season.

Demarai Gray got on the end of Riyad Mahrez's cross to give Leicester City a 1-0 win over,

Burnley that continued the Foxes' bright start under Claude Puel. Burnley's bad day was made worse by an injury to Robbie Brady, who was taken off on a stretcher before the break.

CA expects BCCI to agree to Adelaide day-night Test

ADELAIDE: Cricket Australia (CA) is confident that India will agree to play a day-night Test match in Adelaide next year, chief executive James Sutherland said on Sunday. India have been reluctant to embrace the playing of the longest format of the game under lights and are the only major cricketing nation yet to participate in a pink-ball Test. Virat Kohli's team are scheduled for a four-Test series against Australia late next year, with Melbourne, Sydney, Perth and Adelaide expected to be the host venues.

Adelaide is this week hosting a day-night Test for the third year in a row with Australia playing England in front of record crowds for cricket at the ground. Sutherland said he was confident India's governing body, the Board of Cricket Control India (BCCI),

would agree to make it a fourth straight year for pink-ball cricket at the picturesque venue.

"I would anticipate there's not going to be too much problem there," Sutherland said in an interview with ABC Radio.

"As we've discussed at ICC [International Cricket Council] level, it's very much in the hands of the home country to make judgments on what they think is best. "Certainly it's pretty well telegraphed that from our perspective we'd be playing at least one day-night Test match every summer.

"As well as four Tests against India, Australia will also host two Tests against Sri Lanka next season. "Certainly India, we would expect to draw a bigger crowd," Sutherland added. "It's not all about that,

it's also about how it fits and there are considerations, like weather in different parts of the country at different times of the year. "They're all the things, we need to balance and make a call on over the course of the next few weeks before announcing that final schedule.

BRATHWAITE, HETMYER LEAD WEST INDIES FIGHTBACK

WELLINGTON: Kraigg Brathwaite and Shimron Hetmyer scored half-centuries as the West Indies rallied resolutely from a heavy first-innings deficit to reach 214-2 at stumps on the third day of the first Test against New Zealand. The tourists began their second innings 386 runs behind New Zealand, who declared their first innings at 520-9, and finished in a better position but still 172 runs behind. Brathwaite batted in a gathering gloom through the last two sessions to reach 79 not out by stumps at the Basin Reserve,

putting on 72 for the first wicket with Keiran Powell (40) and 94 for the second with Hetmyer, who made 66. He added a further 48 with Shai Hope (21 not out) in an unbroken stand for the third wicket as the light faded. The New Zealand bowlers struggled on Sunday on an easing pitch at the Basin Reserve. Neil Wagner, who took a career-best 7-39 in the first innings, had 0-89 from 15 overs at stumps in a sign of how the tables have turned.

Earlier, Tom Blundell endured an anxious passage through the 90s before becoming the 11th player from New Zealand and their first wicket-keeper to score a century on Test debut. Blundell resumed his first Test innings on 57 Sunday in a last-wicket partnership with Trent Boult which eventually yielded 78 runs, and he was 107 not out when captain Kane Williamson, the last Kiwi to score a century on debut declared New Zealand's innings. Wellington wicket-keeper Blundell achieved his maiden century on his home ground and in the shadow of his old school, Wellington College which is just across the road from the Basin Reserve.

Azhar returns with ton, Waqas grabs nine wickets

KARACHI: While star Pakistan batsman Azhar Ali marked his return to competitive action with a fine century on Sunday, bowlers were generally on top at the start of the Super Eight round in the Quaid-i-Azam Trophy National Cricket Championship. Despite Azhar's heroics and that of his fellow centurion Khurram Shehzad, unheralded paceman Waqas Maqsood stole day one's limelight with a career-best haul of nine wickets. Waqas, the 30-year-old left-arter from Faisalabad, gave reigning champions Wapda early ascendancy by taking 9-32 in 16.3 overs as Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) mustered 95 all out after being put into by Salman Butt in the Group-I fixture at the SBP Sports Complex.

Waqas, playing his 49th first-class game and sharing the new ball with ex-Pakistan seamer Mohammad Asif, improved upon his previous best return of 7-40 for his native Faisalabad against Abbottabad at Swabi in January 2013. Former Pakistan under-19 representative Jaahid Ali was the only KRL batsman to hang around long enough to score a 98-ball 40 in 137 minutes. KRL, however, then struck back quickly to reduce Wapda to 27-6 as Sadaf Hussain (4-33) and Ahmed Bashir (2-23) rip apart the top order batting. But Amir Sajjad (18



and Khalid Usman (41) dug in to put on 69 in their unbroken partnership to put Wapda in front at 96-6 when stumps were drawn for the day. The other Group-I match provided lots of spills and thrills as Lahore Whites faced Lahore Blues — the only regional teams to make the Super Eight phase — at the UBL Sports Complex where 14 wickets fell. After losing the toss, Lahore Whites were blown

away in 47.2 overs for 141 in their first innings. At one point they were down in the mire at 80-6 but opener Rizwan Hussain scored 42 and tailender Mohammad Irfan 41 to give them some respectability. Former Pakistan paceman Aizaz Cheema (4-43) and Bilawal Iqbal (4-42) shared the bowling honours. Lahore Blues began shakily as they slumped to 56-4. However, opener

Tayyab Tahir (71 off 10 balls, 10 boundaries) and skipper Saad Nasim (54 off 45, seven fours and one six) came the rescue in an unfinished stand of 94 as Lahore Blues reached 150-4 at stumps. Seamer Umaid Asif, who dismissed Haris Nazar and Raza Ali Dar for ducks, has so far claimed three wickets for 54 runs. In sharp contrast to the Group-I action, Group-II was largely domi-

nated by batsmen, particularly the big match at the NBP Sports Complex where Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) were in control at 294-2 to nullify Habib Bank Limited (HBL) skipper Ahmed Shehzad's decision to bowl first at the toss. Azhar — who seems to have now recovered from a knee problem — registered his 33rd first-class century in his first match for almost two months by stroking 118 from 229 deliveries while opening the innings. Skipper Mohammad Hafeez, who led Lahore Blues to National T20 Cup title last Thursday, hit seven fours in scoring a 46-ball 37 in the first-wicket stand of 57 with Azhar before being trapped by his ex-Pakistan team-mate Umar Gul. Azhar, who decorated his 350-minute knock with 12 boundaries, and Khurram made the HBL bowlers toil as they put together a commanding partnership of 221 in 273 minutes before the Pakistan opener was caught by Imam-ul-Haq off Aamud Butt in the evening session. Khurram, the 35-year-old right-hander from Faisalabad, also reached three figures — his 11th in 98 matches — before finishing the day on an undefeated 113 (225 balls, eight fours and four sixes). Partnering him was Test batsman Asad Shafiq on six when play was curtailed by fading light at 5:21pm.

Players vomiting after fielding in smoggy Delhi Sri Lankan coach

new delhi: Pollution stopped play Sunday in the third Test between India and Sri Lanka, and visiting coach Nic Pothas said the smog was so extreme that his players — who took the extraordinary step of wearing face masks — were "coming off the field and vomiting".

Concentrations of the smallest and most harmful airborne pollutants in Delhi, one of the world's most polluted capitals, hit 384 — 15 times the World Health Organisation maximum — before returning to levels considered just "unhealthy", the US embassy website showed. Play was halted for around 20 minutes at the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium as Sri Lankan fielders complained of health troubles and the umpires consulted the match referee and team doctors. Play resumed but Sri Lanka protested twice more,

with the visitors soon short on fielders as pacers Lahiru Gamage and Suranga Lakmal returned to the pavilion. Indian skipper Virat Kohli declared his first innings on 536 for seven to get the visiting fielders off the ground



after the third stoppage. India's powerful cricket board was less than impressed, accusing the visitors of making a fuss, and vowed to write to its Sri Lankan counterpart about the incident. But Pothas said his men were physically sick amid the "ex-

tremely high" pollution levels choking the ground. "We had players coming off the field and vomiting," he told reporters after the match. "There were oxygen cylinders in the change room. It's not normal for players to suffer in that way while playing the

game." Pothas said Lakmal was "continuously vomiting" in the changing room, where the team doctors and the match referee had gathered to assess the situation. "I think it's the first time that everybody has come across that situation," he added. "There

aren't too many rules regarding pollution. What we are going to do tomorrow is in the hands of the match referee. They will have meetings tonight to put in some sort of a precedent if it happens like this tomorrow." Play is routinely suspended due to poor weather, low visibility, lightning or rain, but a stoppage as a result of pollution is almost unheard of. "It is definitely a first of its kind," said one commentator on the official television broadcast.

Indian sports commentator Ayaz Memon said the dramatic scenes sent an "unedifying message about Delhi's pollution" and urged authorities to combat the scourge. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) accused the visiting side of making a "big fuss". "If 20,000 people in the stands did not have problem and the Indian team did not face any issue, I wonder why Sri Lankan team made a big fuss?" said CK Khanna, acting BCCI president. Many Indian fans echoed similar frustrations online, accusing the touring side of being melodramatic. The islanders were booed

by Indian fans as their opening batsmen walked to the crease after Kohli's declaration. But earlier in the day Indian bowler Kuldeep Yadav was also seen sporting a mask as he brought drinks to teammates on the field. But the day belonged to Kohli, who recorded his second successive 200-plus score to pulverise the Sri Lankan attack after India started the day on 371-4. He surpassed West Indies great Brian Lara to become the first international captain to register six double centuries. Lara had five. Kohli, who started the day on 156 and batted over seven hours, combined with overnight partner Rohit Sharma, who scored 65, to put on 135 for the fifth wicket. The skipper, who made 213 in India's thrashing of Sri Lanka in the second Test, pulled Lakmal for a couple to reach his milestone, raising his bat to acknowledge a raucous home crowd. The Delhi-born star was finally trapped lbw off left-arm wrist spinner Lakshan Sandakan, who claimed four wickets in the innings. "Virat batted close to two days, he didn't

need a mask! We are focused on what we need to do. The conditions are the same for both teams," said India's bowling coach Bharat Arun. "I don't think we were too worried about pollution. The BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) schedules these matches and our job is to get the best out of our team. Focus is more on that," he added. Sri Lanka were 131 for three at stumps, trailing the hosts by 405 runs. Angelo Mathews, on 57, and skipper Dinesh Chandimal, on 25, were batting when bad light stopped play for the day. Mathews, who returned to form with a fighting half-century,

and Chandimal steadied the Sri Lankan innings with an unbeaten 56-run stand after pace spearhead Mohammed Shamistruck with the very first ball to dismiss left-hander Dimuth Karunaratne. Lanky pacer Ishant Sharma then trapped Dhananjaya de Silva lbw for one as the visitors took tea on 18-2. Dilruwan Perera, who scored 42 after opening the batting in place of injured opener Sadeera Samarawickrama, then staged a gritty 61-run partnership with Mathews.