

TIME AND US

DAILY

SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

SATURDAY

- DECEMBER, 02, 2017
- 13 RABI-AL-AWAL 1439 AH
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WEATHER TEMPERATURE		
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	14.2	-2.9
JAMMU	22.9	8.4
LEH	9.6	-4.2
KARGIL	7.3	-1.8

SUNSET SATURDAY: 05:23 PM
SUNRISE SUNDAY: 07:21 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR
 Generally Cloudy sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 15°C & -3°C respectively.

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

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WILL BE JOINING MULTAN SULTANS FOR MATCHES IN PAKISTAN, SAYS TOM MOODY

Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) celebrated with religious fervor

Srinagar, Dec 1: Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), was celebrated across the state with religious fervor on Friday.

Thousands of devotees thronged the Hazratbal shrine in Kashmir capital Srinagar housing the relic of the Prophet of Islam (SAW) to have a glimpse of the holy relic.

Thousands of devotees had participated in nightlong prayers preceding night.

The emotional devotees raised their hands in prayers reciting Quranic verses while having glimpse of the holy relic. Various religious and social organizations organized Seerat programmes and Milad processions were taken out at many places where speakers highlighted various aspects of the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).



Milad processions were taken out from Habba Kadal, Barbar Shah, Bemina, Nowgam, Dalgate, Chanapora, Soibug and other localities of Srinagar. Special congregational prayers

were organized at Jenab Sahab Soutara, Asar-e-Sharif Shahri Kalashpora, Lal Bazar, Khanqah-e-Maula, Ziarat Hazrat Dastgeer Sahab (RA), Syed Yaqoob Sahab (RA) Sonwar, Kha-

waja Naqshband Sahab (RA) and Ziarat Makhdoom Sahib (RA).

Special prayers were held at Masjids and shrines in Anantnag (Islamabad) mainly at Jamia Masjid Reshi Sahab, Khiram Sirhama, Kaba Marg, Dooru and Seer Hamdan.

Mirwaiz South Kashmir and Chairman of Ummat-e-Islami, Qazi Yasir, led a procession in which thousands of devotees participated.

Milad procession was also led by Anjuamn Shari Shian president Aga Syed Hasan Almosvi Alsafvi in Srinagar. The procession culminated peacefully at Botakadal Srinagar.

Thousands of devotees thronged Khiram-Hazratbal Shrine in Anantnag district which houses the relics of the Prophet of Islam (SAW).

Similar processions were reported from Bandipora, Pulwama, > See **Eid**...Pg 02

HC asks Omar to participate in maintenance case without delay

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court today directed former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to participate "without any delay" in the maintenance proceedings involving his estranged wife in a family court here.

Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal said Omar should address the arguments in the matter before the family court on December 12 and "would not seek any adjournment and without any delay".

The court passed the order on Omar's plea



challenging the maintenance proceedings > See **Omar**...Pg 02

YOUTH FINDS ASSAULT RIFLE OF SLAIN MILITANT FROM DEBRIS, DISAPPEARS

Pulwama, Dec 1: A local youth from South Kashmir's Pulwama district has reportedly taken possession of the assault rifle of one of the slain militants killed in Central Kashmir encounter today.

Four militants were killed yesterday in a fierce gun battle in Budgam district.

Top sources said that after the culmination of gunfight > See **Youth**...Pg 02

POLICE ARRESTS 'HARDCORE' LASHKAR WORKER

Handwara: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested a "hardcore" over ground worker (OGW) of the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militant outfit.

An official said that Affaq Ahmad Bhat alias Abu Huraira, a resident of Panditpura, was arrested by Handwara police after it > See **Police**...Pg 02

AMNESTY TO STONE PELTERS REFLECTION OF CM'S INVINCIBLE DETERMINATION FOR PEACE: PDP

Terms decision historic, sigh of relief for released youth, their families

Srinagar, Dec 01: The ruling Peoples' Democratic Party on Friday termed the chief minister Mehbooba Mufti's decision to withdraw the cases of stone pelting youth a reflection of government's invincible determination to get the state out of crises and bring in the long lasting peace.

The PDP in a statement issued to KNS says the withdrawal of cases of more than four thousand youth in Valley has once again vindicated that the party has always stood for the conduction of result-oriented dialogue and > See **PDP**...Pg 02

Withdrawal of cases against youth another bold decision towards reconciliation: Madani

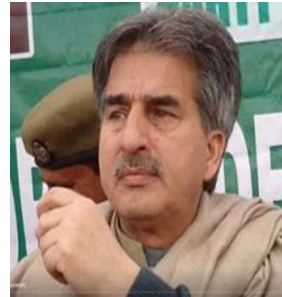
'PDP will come up to expectations of people, will be vindicated'

Jammu, Dec 01: Following continuing reach out at grass root the decision of withdrawal of cases arising out of 2016 unrest against thousands of youth is another significant measure to restore peace in the state and initiate purposeful engagement for a promising future.

Addressing senior party workers at Jammus senior Vice President of Peoples Democratic Party Sartaj Madni

according to the statement issued to KNS said Chief Minister's ardent desire to see Jammu and Kashmir out of prolonged uncertainty is becoming more manifest now than the adverse propaganda unleashed by her adversaries

He said that a spell of unease was stressful for Government and highly painful for Mehbooba. The situation that erupted in 2016 also marred



the discourse of reconciliation 'dialogue and development. Unfortunately, many from the

opposition rushed to conclusions and started questioning Party's integrity. However, the flimsy and false propaganda is now melting under the sincere and people-friendly measures being taken one after another. The untruth will soon be nailed down through sustainable positive discourse. PDP will come up to expectations of people and will be vindicated, he added. > See **Madani**...Pg 02

DEADLOCK CONTINUES AS EPF EMPLOYEES STRIKE ENTERS 12TH DAY

Srinagar, Dec 1: Provident Fund subscribers are facing tough time in getting their PF claims settled as the strike called by employees of Provident Fund Organisation enters 12th day on Friday.

The employees of JKEPFO are on indefinite strike from Nov 21 last month against what they termed the 'callous treatment' of the authorities for not fulfilling the genuine demands of the employees of the organisation.

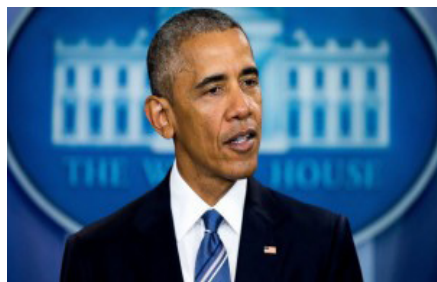
"There are various posts lying vacant in our organisation since 2014. Our demand is to get those posts filled immediately as due to this the employees are suffering badly and compelled to raise the voice against the discrimination which is a wall between the future of the employees," Nusrat Fatima, Vice-President, J&K Employees Provident Fund Staff Welfare Association told news agency CNS. > See **Deadlock**...Pg 02

No evidence that Pak Govt was aware of Laden's presence in Pak: Obama

NEW DELHI: The US had no evidence that Islamabad was aware of 9/11 attacks mastermind Osama bin Laden's presence in Pakistan, former American president Barack Obama today said.

When terror struck Mumbai in November 2008, "the US was as obsessed as India" to dismantle the terror network and the US intelligence personnel were deployed to help the Indian Government, he said at the HT Leadership Summit here.

On asked about terror emanating from Pakistan, Obama said, "What is true, and an understandable source of frustration is the view, that sometimes there are connections



between explicit terrorist organisations based in Pakistan and elements that are connected to various more official entities inside Pakistan." > See **Obama**...Pg 02

HIGH COURT STAYS ORDER AGAINST DIRECTOR ULB AND MC PATTAN

Baramulla, Dec 1: Jammu Kashmir High Court has stayed the order passed by Special Mobile Magistrate electricity (Sub Judge Pattan) against the Municipal Committee Pattan and Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir and has sought detailed comprehensive report from Additional Advocate General Home.

Electricity Magistrate in his order passed on November 14 had directed Director Urban Local Bodies to deposit Rs 2,78,748 in the court and had ordered that till realization of the amount all the accounts/transactions pertaining to the Municipal Committee Pattan shall be seized, not only that but Magistrate had proceeded further to direct SHO Police station Pattan to Produce Administrator of Municipal Committee Pattan and submit the > See **Court**...Pg 02

Regional Autonomy the way forward: Rana

Exhorts workers to remain vigilant against reactionary forces

Jammu Dec 01: National Conference Provincial President Devender Singh Rana on Friday termed regional autonomy as an ideal proposition for a distinct state like Jammu and Kashmir, saying this will immensely help in assuaging urges and aspirations of the people and involving them in decision making optimally.

"Such a mechanism though in the format of Single Line Administration, introduced by Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah in late 70s, had worked well and given the efficacy of decentralization of powers the regional councils under the overall superin-



tendence of the State could help reducing a sense of alienation in different segments > See **Rana**...Pg 02

Our Prophet (SAW) is our pride: Malik

Expresses grief over demise of Sheikh Abdul Kabeer

Srinagar, Dec 01: Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman, Muhammad Yasin Malik on Friday said that "our Prophet (SAW) is our pride and by following the scared footsteps of great prophet Muhammad (SAW) can only Muslims prosper and triumph."

In a statement issued to KNS, Malik as per the spokesman visited the famous shrine of Batamaloo sahib and addressed a mammoth gathering there.

In his address, Malik said that today whole world is celebrating the birthday of beloved prophet, the last > See **Malik**...Pg 02

Road network in Chenab valley set for major overhaul by 2019: Naeem Akhtar

Asks PWD to take action against contractors who miss deadlines

Bhaderwah, Dec 01: Minister for Public Works, Naeem Akhtar said the government is working under a comprehensive road upgradation plan to macadamize every road in Chenab valley by the end of 2019. The Minister said this while addressing a series of public meetings during his day-long visit to Bhaderwah. Stressing that the roads



are pre-requisite for development of any area, the Minister said the government will spend more than Rs 500 crore

for connecting far-flung areas in the district with all-weather road connectivity.

Taking cognizance of the complaints raised by the people regarding works left unattended for years together, the Minister directed the department to take strict action against those contractors who don't meet the timelines > See **Naeem**...Pg 02

Clashes erupt in South Kashmir during Milad procession

Srinagar, Dec 1: Clashes erupted in South Kashmir's Anantnag district after youth part of Milad procession pelted stones on Government Forces after Friday congregational prayers.

Reports said that a Milad procession was taken out from Eidgah in the district that was led by Mirwaiz South Kashmir Qazi Yasir.

Eyewitnesses said that as the procession passed through Achabal Ada, a large number of youth pelted stones on the deployed forces, who retaliated with tear-smoke shelling.

The clashes continued for hours while a couple of > See **Clashes**...Pg 02

DDC CHAIRS MEETING FOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Stresses for Quality in Research

RAJOURI, DECEMBER 01: District Development Commissioner Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary on Friday chaired a meeting of Nodal Officers and Media Personnel for Media Fellowship in Development Administration 2017-18 here at Dak Bungalow Rajouri.

While speaking on the occasion, he

impressed upon the media persons, selected for Media Fellowship, to do an in-depth and rigorous research of various welfare/development schemes under implementation in their assigned sectors.

He asserted that the researchers should take up an objective and critical analysis of these schemes and highlight

the critical gaps in their conception and implementation while giving due space to their positive contributions and success stories. He also emphasized that the research fellows should come up with realistic, creative and effective suggestions/recommendations based upon their field studies, interactions with

beneficiaries, resource persons and other stakeholders. Dr. Shahid also said the administration has appointed a nodal officer for each sector of fellowship to facilitate collection of relevant data, easy flow of information, improved co-ordination and provision of logistics for field visits for successful completion of

fellowship. Earlier, District Information Officer Mohammad Shafait in his presentation briefed the officers about the Fellowship Programme.

The meeting was attended by Regional Director Land Records and Survey Shoket Hussain Kazmi, Addl. DDC AS Chib, CMO Suresh Gupta, Chief

Agriculture Officer Mohd Younus, AD FCS & CAS Javid Iqbal, Dy. Registrar Cooperatives Waqar Talib, AORDA Li-aqat Choudhary and TSWO Naseer Ahmad. Among media persons who participated in the meeting included Arif Qureshi, Gagan Kohli, Umar Arshad Malik, Sushil Dutta, Tazim Malik.

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EID

Shopian, Tangmarg, Beerwah, Kangan, Sumbal, Hajin and other places.

In Budgam, prayers were held throughout the day at Ziyarat of Hazrat Syed Hussain Simnani (RA) and Charar-e-Sharif.

Pro-Islam slogans reverberated the rally attended by hundreds of devotees in Duderhama Gandarbal.

In Baramulla, Eid Milad was celebrated with huge enthusiasm with thousands of people participating in processions.

In Kishtwar, Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) was celebrated with religious zeal and fervour. Several processions were taken out in the town.

Thousands of people took out Milad procession from Jamia Masjid Baderwah. The procession passed through various streets of Baderwah town.

At Satingal Baderwah, a procession was taken out by hundreds of Muslims which culminated at Jamia Masjid Satingal.

Similar programmes were also held at Ramban, Batote, Gool, Sangaldaan, Gandoh, Doda, Assar, Bhalla and other parts of Chenab valley. Reports said that huge gatherings of people participated in the religious processions in their respective areas.

OMAR

involving his estranged wife Payal Abdullah.

It had earlier reserved its order on Omar's plea which had claimed that the petition moved by Payal and their two sons seeking maintenance from him, was not maintainable.

Payal's counsel had vehemently opposed Omar's plea and said the National Conference leader's wife has been deserted for over a year and "left to beg to pay the fees" of their two sons.

Omar's lawyer had argued before the high court that Payal had her own business and a house in the national capital and therefore she has to first establish that she cannot maintain herself to be entitled for the relief.

The lawyer had also contended that their two sons were adults now and therefore, they too cannot seek maintenance. In his plea, Omar had sought directions to the family court here to first decide the maintainability of Payal's plea before it decided on the issue of interim maintenance.

He has also challenged the family court's September 9, 2016 order issuing summons to him in the maintenance case. The next date of hearing before the family court is December 12, the lawyers had told the high court.

On August 30 last year, a trial court had dismissed Omar's plea seeking divorce from Payal, saying he had failed to prove irretrievable breakdown of their marriage.

His appeal in the high court against the trial court decision is still pending.

YOUTH

at Futlipora village in Pakharpora Budgam, when a combing operation was launched, large number of youth mostly from adjoining areas of district Pulwama pelted stones on the Government Forces. If top sources are to be believed, shortly after Government Forces retreated from the encounter site, large number of people visited the site while one of the youth found an AK 47 rifle of the slain militant from the debris. Sources added that the youth is the son of late police constable who after finding the weapon, fled from the scene. "In a bid to nab the youth along with the assault rifle, government forces launched a search operation in different villages of Pulwama district including Karimabad, Wahibugh, Frisipora, Chewa and other villages, however the suspected youth was not tracked and nabbed," said a top source.

A police official feigned ignorance about the incident saying he has no knowledge about it.

POLICE

acted on "specific information".

Bhat, he said, was involved in providing logistic support to militant Abu Maaz of the LeT.

"Handwara police has also busted two hideouts maintained by the said OGW Affaq," said the official.

"Huge cache of ammunition including 01 pistol, 02 Pistol Magazines, 11 pistol rounds, 02 wireless sets, 01 Ysms set, 04 mobile sets, 01 UBGL thrower, 01 UBGL Grenade, 02 AK magazines, 105 AK rounds, 02 compass, 01 Binocular, 01 Wire cutter, 05 Battery chargers, 48 Batteries, First Aid (Made in Pakistan), medicines/Cotton Bandage, 02 Cooking Flames, 01 Perfume, 02 Maps, 01 Jacket, 02 Bags and Cosmetics etc were recovered from the hideouts."

PDP

reconciliation. "The PDP government since its inception has been striving to build a prosperous, democratic and progressive state with strong political and social institutions which will ensure justice and fullness of life to every person of Jammu and Kashmir." PDP's Srinagar district president and upper house member Mohammad Khurshid Alam said.

Terming the decision historic and vital for the sustainability of peace in Valley, Alam said it will provide the released youth new opportunities to build their future and lead a normal life. "The fact is that the chief minister has succeeded in according these youth a peaceful living and that they would no longer to be coerced to move from pillar to post for securing their future," Alam said.

He maintained further that the families of the youth earlier had to spend tough time in courts and that they used to get exposed to the traumatized situations. "It is a big sigh of relief for the released youth as well as for their families and we hope that such an endeavour would help in rebuilding their lives and successful careers ahead."

The PDP leader added that the chief minister needs no eulogy from anyone for her courage under fire and for her modesty in victory. "The hectic efforts of the chief minister to give amnesty to the first time stone pelters have shown the people once again her enduring fortitude and invincible determination to bring back peace and tranquillity in the state."

Alam said the decision will help the state government's endeavours to strengthen the institutes of justice and fair-play and it has scored a great victory for democracy.

MADANI

Madani said youth of the state have an ownership and PDP has always seen this vital component of society as the potential force to anchor the prosperous future for the state. PDP wishes that they do not become victims of vicious circumstances and lose their potential in wilderness. That is why Mehbooba is keen to offer adequate space to them and wants them to be the partners of growth than tools for disruption. He pointed out that Withdrawal of cases against youth 'mostly involved in stone-pelting is part of this notion and commitment and should be seen as strength of conviction than any appeasement.

Madani put the whole exercise in a perspective and said before taking over as CM, Mehbooba took three months to seek further assurances from Union Government and BJP on typically sensitive issues facing Jammu and Kashmir state. Even in deepest crisis she pursued her goal to bring stability followed by measures towards resolution of these issues. She did not confine herself to get economic assistance and project development as answer to public dissatisfaction and unrest. It is her vision and priority to have political issues involving sentiment and societal uniqueness, resolved amicably. She is persistent in her ambition to fulfill all her commitments.

Madani said people have started appreciating the value of a confident coalition engaged in steady exercise to create more conducive atmosphere for fair-play, justice and reconciliation through dialogue. Agenda of Alliance forms the basis in this direction and four-point formula envisaged therein will culminate into a healthy change sooner than later. He said Centre's recent move to create an institution of Dialogue by appointing Dineshwar Sharma as an authorized representative is yielding results. Kashmir situation has come in proper focus and relief reduced decision making has become easier. The process will expand further with support as against unfounded cynicism, he said. He made an appeal to all to cooperate and strengthen moves towards peace so that a time arrives where India and Pakistan also will realize the value of friendship and mutual understanding and the entire sub-continent will usher into a sustainable era of peace and development. We have a joint stake, he said.

DEADLOCK

"Our last DPC was conducted in Mar 2017 in which only two employees were promoted," she said.

On November 24, a delegation of JKPEFO under the chairmanship of Nusrat Fatima, Vice-President of the union also met Commissioner Secretary Labour and Employment at Banquet Hall. "We served a representation to him in which we have also mentioned that our DPC was conducted in Mar 2017. Our demand is that the posts lying vacant in the organisation should get fulfilled at an earliest, the employees said.

OBAMA

Answering a question whether the Pakistani Government was aware of Osama hiding in Abbottabad, Obama said, "We had no evidence that Pakistani government was aware of Osama bin Laden's presence there but that is something obviously we looked at. I will leave it you to characterise beyond what I just said."

Laden was killed by US Navy Seal forces in May 2011 in a surprise raid at Abbottabad, where he was found to be living discreetly with his family and close aides.

On whether he was disappointed over the little progress that has taken place between India and US nuclear power giants GE and Westinghouse Co to build atomic reactors in India, Obama said his role was to give an opportunity for the American companies.

"My job was not to guarantee that the deal goes through. The goal from my perspective was to India, which had a significant nuclear infrastructure, remarkable scientists, and need for energy... We recognised the reality and put the nuclear issue on a stable footing so that it was not an impediment to the strong bilateral relations," he said.

According to the Indo-US nuclear cooperation agreement signed in 2008, the two US companies are to build six atomic reactors each in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. Currently, negotiations are on between Westinghouse to build six reactors of 1208 MW each at Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh.

Obama also said the US worked "very hard" to get India into the 48-member Nuclear Suppliers Group.

"We did not get cooperation from every country," he said, without naming any country. When asked whether he blames China for it, Obama said, "In international affairs, it is hard to distinguish between motives of any given country. I wouldn't hazard to say in a definitive way that China's objections were based on its views of competition."

India's quest to gain a place in the elite NSG club has, on several occasions, met with opposition from China.

COURT

compliance report for registration of case against them. Sub Judge Pattan as Special Mobile Magistrate electricity had also directed Police to register FIR against the Executive Officer Municipal Committee Pattan.

Accordingly in the case of Director Urban local bodies Kashmir vs State, single bench of Justice Ali Muhamamd Magray stayed the order as well as the proceedings of the case before the trial court till further orders.

Court also Directed Additional Advocate General to file detailed and comprehensive status report regarding the registration of the case at Police Station Pattan via order dated 14 November 2017.

Director Urban Local Bodies was represented by Advocate Mehrajuddin Bhat and Respondents were represented by Advocate BA Dar and Advocate RA Khan.

Case has been listed for further proceedings on 18 December this month.

RANA

of people", the Provincial President said at a meeting of senior office bearers of the party at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan this morning.

He said the spirit behind the move was to garner larger involvement of the people in decision making at grass roots level and empowering them to fix priorities for developmental projects as per local needs.

Rana said devolution of powers to elected autonomous regional administrative set ups could offset the perceived sense of alienation, imbalances and discrimination among different regions and their sub-regions particularly in view of the serious attempts by divisive political elements to sow the seeds of polarization and create iron cast compartments on the basis of region and religion.

Elaborating the concept of devolution of powers, the Provincial President said road map in this regard is provided in the document formulated by top party leaders in late 90s with an avowed objective development and political empowerment of various regions and sub-regions. "The purpose is not to weaken the authority of the state but to encourage a spirit of federalism, with each region getting equal opportunities of progress and equitable development", he said.

He said the mechanism will go a long way in strengthening the bonds of unity and amity between people silencing the voices of trifurcation by chronic divisive forces. He said for unity of the state and maintaining its singular character, bold decisions are required to be taken for financial empowerment of each region under the superintendence of the state.

"Developmental objectives are not only to be achieved but a feeling is needed to be infused among the people that they are not being discriminated on the basis of region", he said and referred to the desire expressed by both the party President Dr Farooq Abdullah and the working President Omar Abdullah recently.

Rana exhorted the workers to remain vigilant against the reactionary forces who were hatching conspiracies to create wedge between various segments of society on the basis of region and religion. He said National Conference alone can hope that earnest steps would be taken in this regard. "The best way of isolating such forces would be to strengthen the bonds of amity and brotherhood as per cherished ideals of National Conference", he maintained.

Speaking on the occasion, former minister and Sr State Vice President Mr Surjeet Singh Slathia expressed grave concern over regional and religious polarization, saying the PDP-BJP coalition partners were encouraging this to divert the attention from its failures.

Slathia hoped that the people would not get swayed by the exploitative politics of the divisive forces and said any deviation from the chosen path of harmony and amity would be like playing into the hands of those who want to spilt the society for their vested political interests.

Former legislators and senior party functionaries Mr Rattan Lal Gupta, Th. Kashmir Singh, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Qazi Jalal Ud-Din, Babu Rampal, Brij Mohan Sharma, Bimla Luthra, Deepender Kour, Surinder Singh Bunty also spoke on the occasion.

Prominent among those present in the meeting included Jugal Mahajan, S. Gurdeep Singh Sasan, Anil Dar, Dharamveer Singh Jamwal, Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik, Romesh Motton, Mohinder Gupta, Mohinder Singh, S S Bunty, KD Singh, Vijay Lochan, Abdul Gani Teli, Dilshad Begum, Reeta Gupta, Sarika Singh, Manveer Kour, Ashok Dogra, Waris Gill, Subash Chander Sharma, Sandeep Singh, Sanjay Gupta, S. Sucha Singh, Iftkhair Choudhary, Som Raj Taroch, H.D Quershi, Pinki Bhat, S. Tejinder Singh, Nitish Gowsami and others.

MALIK

messenger of Allah almighty Muhammad Sallah o Alaihi-Wasalam with religious fervor. "What we need to do on this occasion is to remember, recall and follow the scared teachings of the benefactor of humanity (Mohsen e Insaniyat) SAW," he said. He said that "our prophet (SAW) is our pride and the only way humanity can prosper and triumph is by following this greatest human in letter and spirit."

JKLF chairman said that "our prophet SAW taught us to adhere to oneness of God (Tawheed), follow his Sunnah, to be kind to every human and to remain united. If we stick to great teachings of our beloved prophet and refrain from dividing ourselves in creeds (Maslak) and casts, no power on earth can ever defeat us, asserted JKLF chairman."

Malik said that Islam teaches to distinguish between right and wrong, oppressors and the oppressed and to always remain at the side of truth; this is why we should always remain with the resistance movement of the oppressed.

"Our saints like Batamalooh sahib (RaH) have taught us humility and hard work and best way to respect these great souls is to recall their services for Islam and humanity," he said while addressing a gathering at Ziyarat-I-Batamalooh sahib. Hailing the struggle and sacrifices of the people of Batamalooh, Malik said that this area has always served as the hub of resistance and a nursery for new generations of resistance lovers. "This is the area which gave birth to greatest resistance leaders like Shaheed Sheikh Abdul Hameed who pioneered a historical revolution in 1990," he said.

While recalling the struggle and sacrifices of Shaheed I Hurriyat Sheikh Abdul Hameed whose father Haji Sheikh

Abdul Kabeer passed away last evening, JKLF chairman said that the departure of Sheikh Abdul Kabeer is actually a personal loss to him as he was the father of his great friend Shaheed Sheikh Abdul Hameed's father.

He said that as one of the pioneers of Kashmiri freedom struggle, Shaheed Sheikh Abdul Hameed and his whole family led by Sheikh Abdul Kabeer, rendered valuable sacrifices for the freedom of Jammu Kashmir. "As a father the deceased had to endeavor the loss of his eldest son, remain in jails and torture centers and at times tolerate the incarceration of his wife and other children too. But all these hardships and oppressive measures failed to subdue him and he continued with his humble social work, benevolence and patronage to needy people," he said.

Malik said that today when this fatherly person has left for heavenly abode, we all pray for his soul and also pray for the Sabr I Jamil to his bereaved family. It is worth to mention that JKLF chairman along with whole JKLF leadership participated in the funeral prayers of the deceased. The congregational prayers (Chaharum) will be held on 3rd December 2017, at his ancestral graveyard Sideeqabad Batamalooh AT 10:30 AM.

Malik after receiving the news of the demise of Sheikh Abdul Kabeer, along with many senior leaders of JKLF, reached Batamalooh and participated in the funeral prayers and burial of Sheikh Abdul Kabeer.

He breathed his last yesterday evening after a brief illness. Despite late in night and severe cold, thousands of people including JKLF chairman and many other resistance leaders attended his funeral prayers and laid him to rest at his ancestral graveyard.

AKHTAR

of projects.

The Minister was informed that the department has targeted to macadamize a road length of 220 km, besides construction of 12 bridges in Doda in the current financial year. "The government has completed the long stalled prestigious projects including Batote-Kishtwar road, Ganpat Bridge and Baderwah-Chamba road," the Minister said, adding that more than 140 road projects would be completed in the district under PMGSY and other programmes in the next two years.

The Minister also laid the foundation stone of link road from Ghati Ghurakha to Himote via Lalha to be constructed at the cost of Rs. 3 crore. He also laid the foundation for widening and upgradation of road from Pul Doda to Beoli via Doda under CRF at the cost of Rs. 5 crore. Minister of State for Public Works, Sunil Sharma was also present on the occasion.

MLA Baderwah Daleep Parihar, MLC Firdous Tak, Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B) Sudheer Shah, Chief Engineer, PMGSY S.P Manhas, Deputy Commissioner, Doda Bhawani Rakwal, Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation Syed Nayeem Ahmad, Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Doda Niaz Bandy, engineers of PWD (R&B), PMGSY and senior officers of district administration accompanied the Minister during the tour.

On his way to Baderwah, the Minister interacted with the locals at Puranoo, Baru and Malothi where the villagers demanded construction of roads from Bhalla to Tron, Puranoo to Masri, Malnai to Chakrabarathi and Puranoo Sarothi Bridge, improvement in drainage system, upgradation of Middle School and PHC in Puranoo.

In Malothi, the people demanded construction of roads from Malothi to Thalsra and Bhalla to Dugli, besides provision for Academic Block, playground and additional classrooms in Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Malothi and establishment of Community Centre in the area.

During a public grievances redress camp in Panjgrain, the locals sought establishment of Degree College and Dispensary in Panjgrain, provision for employment opportunities to local youth in road projects and construction of roads from Panjgrain to Chanti, circular road at Malothi, Malothi to Panjgrain, Malothi to Chilli and link road from Kehlote Khanpura to Chalie Jagote.

While addressing the gathering, the Minister said the work on minor road and link roads will be started after the completion of major road projects in the district which cater to large chunk of population.

"Every village in Doda will be connected to the District Headquarters with high-quality roads in next two years," the Minister said, adding that the work on circular road in Malothi, Biru Basti to Dogli and Bhalla to Tesna will be started in January next year. In Khellani, the locals sought upgradation of Govt. Middle School, promotion of rural sports, construction of stadium and establishment of Receiving Station in the area while as in Katyara, the people demanded construction of roads from Katyara to Sarachi Dhanu and Bheja to Thanala. Later, the Minister also convened a public meeting in Baderwah in which the locals apprised the Minister about various problems being faced by them related to road connectivity, healthcare, education, power supply and sanitation. While addressing the gathering, the Minister informed that the road projects in Baderwah remain delayed due to shortage of hot mix plants in the district. He further informed the Govt. Medical College in Doda will be completed in next two years and the road from Baderwah to Jai would be connected to Gandoh.

CLASHES

protesters suffered injuries.

Meanwhile, youth during a Milad procession in South Kashmir's Pulwama district displayed banners carrying photographs of militants and shouted slogans in favour of militant commander Zakir Musa.

Witnesses said that police didn't intervene while the procession culminated peacefully.

Need to develop agro-based entrepreneurship to attract youth towards agriculture: Jitendra Singh

KATHUA, DECEMBER 01:- A day long awareness campaign on Centrally Sponsored Schemes for agriculture was organized by Directorate of Field Publicity, Ministry Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, here today at Government Degree collage for Boys Kathua.

The campaign was aimed at spreading awareness among farmers of the area about various Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna, Soil Health Card, Kissan Credit Card, Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojna etc so that farmers are able to avail benefit of these schemes to double their income by the year 2022.

Union Minister of State in PMO and for Development of North Eastern region Dr. Jitendra Singh who was Chief guest on the occasion said that the adequate technical initiatives taken in the Agriculture sector would ensure increase the productivity and augment the economic profile of the farming community as envisaged by the Prime Minister Narinder Modi.

Calling for a need to bring new prospective in the Agriculture Sector by promoting Agro based Entrepreneurship, Dr Jatinder Singh said the focus of Government is to reach the last man who is the weakest link in the chain to make

the country developed. He emphasized the need to build capacity and create jobs for the youth in the agriculture and allied sectors. He further added that similar initiatives have already been taken under his leadership in North East.

Minister for public Health Engineering (PHE) Irrigation and Flood Control, Sham Lal Choudhary who was Guest of Honour on the occasion, appreciated the efforts of Directorate of Field Publicity for organising the program. He said DFP is meant for spreading awareness among people living in far-flung areas of the country. He urged the gathering to spread the information in their locality about various centrally sponsored schemes highlighted during the special outreach programme organized by Directorate of Field Publicity.

He added that people cannot avail benefits of various schemes unless they know about it and unless local masses come forward to spread awareness about these schemes, the schemes are not going to reach to the common masses.

MLA Kathua, Rajiv Jasrotia in his address said that farming community should take advantage of the Modern technology in order to make the farming and related practices simpler and increase their productivity. He said that government has also undertaken the initiatives to introduce newer techniques in the



agriculture sector which would ensure that the agriculture produce gets increased and thereby resulting in uplift of the

economic activities of the farming community.

MLA Hiranagar, Kuldeep Raj also

spoke on the occasion and said that unless the schemes and initiatives taken by the Government of India reached common rural masses, they cannot be benefited and the objective of doubling their income will remain unfulfilled.

He added that farmer can get more produce from less land only if they are educated and aware about new techniques and available schemes.

Director General Directorate of Field Publicity, R.P Saroj in his address said that Government of India has launched 72 schemes for the benefit of the local masses and it is the duty of Directorate of Field Publicity to spread awareness about all these schemes among local masses through two way (Interpersonal) communications. He said that people should know how to avail the benefit of these schemes and to whom they need to approach for availing these benefits. He said the directorate through its programmes tries to bring different concerned departments under one umbrella for the convenience of local masses

Deputy Director, DFP, J&K, Neha Jalali in her address gave brief introduction of DFP and made people aware about the working of DFP and its aims & objectives of organizing such awareness programmes. She in her address said that DFP & K is organizing such programmes in far flung and remote areas throughout

the state and enlightened the gathering that during the months of November-December 2017, Directorate of Field Publicity will organize similar Special Outreach Awareness Campaigns at Samba also.

In today's programme Resource persons from various concerned departments gave expert lecture related to various schemes of their respective Departments. The departments that participated in today's programme were Agriculture Department Kathua, Sericulture Department Kathua, Floriculture Department Kathua, Horticulture Department Kathua, Apiculture Department Kathua and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (SKAUST) Kathua, J&K Gramine Bank Kathua, Rural development Department Kathua, District Information centre Kathua, DoorDarshan Kathua, All India Radio Kathua and Jammu and District Administration Kathua.

First-hand information through publicity material and pamphlets about the formalities for availing benefits of various schemes was also provided to the visitors on stalls setup by the said departments.

Song and Drama Division mesmerized the audience with their melodious theme based and folk songs and the programme ended with singing of National Anthem.

Dy CM seeks people's cooperation for achieving cent percent electrification

KATHUA, DECEMBER 01:- Deputy Chief Minister, Dr. Nirmal Singh said that Power is one of the essential commodities for economic growth, development and livelihood of the people and the government aims to provide round the clock electricity to each and every household.

The DyCM said this while inaugurating 6.3 MVA Transformer costing Rs. 48 Lakhs at Mahanpur of Tehsil Basohli.

He said the transformer will help in resolving various power related issues of the people and said that the newly installed transformer along with the new 11 KV VCB panel will benefit 18 Panchayats and 30,000 souls. He said 152 transformers of the area will get augmented.

"The high expectations on Power for its continuous availability has increased the demand year after year whereas the supply is not matching the pace of the demand due to which there is a gap which needs to be plugged by eliminating power theft and promoting judicious use of power," Nirmal Singh added.

On the occasion, Dr. Singh highlighted the Central Government's flagship programmes like DDUGJY and



Saubhagya for providing 24x7 reliable power to the people living in remote locations

He said the Central as well as State Government has implemented several schemes viz. Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana 'Saubhagya' and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) to electrify the un-electrified homes.

He further stated that for augmenting PDD infra at Bani, Basohli and Billawar Rs. 18 Crores have been earmarked for strengthening sub-transmission & distribution infrastructure including metering at all levels.

Dr. Singh also listened to the demands put forth by the residents which mainly com-

prises of SDM office at Mahanpur, provision for renewal of Gun License, inclusion of Science subjects in Mahanpur Degree College, Separate electricity feeder for PHE and Municipality for Mahanpur besides revamping the PHE, PDD and PWD (R&B) infra.

On the spot directions were issued by the DyCM to resolve these public issues on priority and assured the public that the State dispensation is adopting zero tolerance towards corruption and special thrust is given to promote tourism as well as establishing industries to generate employment.

Providing immediate relief to the people of village Dhar Dugnu who demanded electrification of their hamlet,

DyCM immediately directed the Chief Engineer to install electric poles and wire for early electrification of this hamlet.

MLA Bani, Jeevan Lal also highlighted various welfare schemes of Central as well as State Government and urged the locals to take maximum benefit from these schemes by registering themselves with the concerned agencies at the earliest. He also asked the residents to come forward for metering to get un-interrupted power supply.

Chief Engineer PDD, Ashwini Gupta; SE, Sandeep Seth, Engineers, SDPO Basohli, Tehsildars, BDOs and prominent citizens were present on the occasion.

Samoon inaugurates 2-Day National Conference at GDC Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, DECEMBER 01:- Department of English, Government Degree College, Udhampur organized two days National Conference on the topic "Routing the Rootless Exploring the Literatures of the Indigenous Cultures"

Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon was the chief guest, while Dr. B.L Gupta, Controller Examination, BOPEE was the guest of honour on the occasion.

While addressing the conference Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon appreciated the efforts of College administration for organizing this event and said that the conference shall come up with insightful suggestions that will go a long way in shaping the future strategies to be adopted for



strengthening the Social, Economic, and Educational powers of the Marginalized. He underscored the importance of organizing such events and exhorted upon other departments also to come up with such initiatives. He said that Indian culture is a beautiful amalgamation of several cultures and we should preserve our culture and literatures, for new generations. He asked the College authority to organize Na-

tional level Conference in Urdu department in near future also.

Later, the chief guest released a book "Routing the Rootless Exploring the Literatures of the Indigenous Cultures".

Earlier, Principal of the College, Dr. S.K Magotra presented the welcome address and informed that about 100 participants from within and outside of the state are participating in the conference.

About 168 papers will be presented in the two-day National Conference in parallel sessions at three venues of GDC, Udhampur. He further said that the main aim is to organize this event is to create awareness among the students to preserve our culture.

Among others, Prof. Kamal Kishore, Prof. B.D. Sehgal, Prof. Anil Khajuria, Dr. Ankush Bharti Prof. Attri, Prof. Dogra, Prof. Vaid Kumar, Prof. Rakesh Kotwal, Prof. Tania Akhtar, Coordinator; Prof. Kamaldeep Kaur, Organising Secretary; Prof. Shubhra Jamwal, Organising Secretary; Dr. Ankush Bharti, Prof. Sanjay Kumar; Prof. Ambika; Prof. Vijay; Prof. Showkat, Prof. Muziffar, students and teaching staff were present on the occasion.

Awareness Camp organizes at DH Ramban

RAMBAN, DECEMBER 01:- To mark the World AIDS day an awareness programme regarding prevention and treatment of HIV was held at District Hospital Ramban, today.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Ramban Dr. Saif-Ud-Din Khan was the chief guest on the occasion. Medical Superintendent Ramban D V Singh besides other medical, para-medical and ASHA

workers were present during the function.

Speaking on the occasion Dr Saif-Ud-Din Khan sought support from religious organizations, NGOs, intellectuals and educational institutions to help create awareness among the general masses for prevention of AIDS.

CMO Ramban said that the Government has launched a massive aware-

ness campaign to generate awareness for prevention of AIDS and stressed on synergised efforts of all stakeholders to prevent this disease.

Besides this other participants who spoke included MS Ramban Dr. Dharam Veer Singh, Pathologist Dr. Parvaiz, Dr. Narinder Consultant and Pediatrician.

Similar programmes were also organised at block levels.

Bali for joint fight against HIV/AIDS; Urges social, religious groups to contribute in noble cause

'Says AIDS biggest challenge before world community, needs serous efforts to curb it'

JAMMU, DECEMBER 01 - Minister for Health & Medical Education, Bali Bhagat has called for a joint fight against the AIDS which is the biggest challenge before the world. He said numerous efforts are being made at the global level to save the people from the deadly virus of HIV, but still positive results are not coming to fore.

Speaking at a function at Super Speciality Hospital (SSH) being organized by the J&K AIDS Control Society in association with the SSH to commemorate the World AIDS Day here today, the Minister said that this biggest challenge cannot be fought by the Government alone, but it requires dedicated efforts of the entire society, especially the religious, social organizations. They should come forward voluntarily to play their role in curbing the menace of AIDS

from the society.

He said the basic and major reason for HIV/AIDS is drug addiction which is spreading like wild fire in the society and there is great need to deal with this another big challenge that is galloping the younger generation. He suggested setup Mohalla Committees to keep a close vigil on the activities of the local youth and using their influence on the youth, who are indulging in such activities with the help of their parents and teachers to save their lives and future. Such youth can be motivated and counseled to keep away from these activities, besides the Counseling and De-addiction Centers established by the J&K AIDS Society in the GMCs can extend their help to such youths.

He announced to set up Counseling & De-addiction Centres in every District Hospital to help the



HIV positive cases and creating awareness among the youth to prevent further spread of AIDS. Presently the AIDS Society is providing free treatment facilities like lab tests and medicines to the HIV patients and contemplating measures to rehabilitate them appropriately and providing them basic support for their dignified living.

He appreciated the functioning of the AIDS Control Society and said that this organization has a complete road map and its performance is laudable. He further asked the functionaries of the Society to rededicate and make missionary efforts in mitigating the problems of the AIDS victims and enhance their efforts in the vulnerable ar-

ea in creating mass awareness about this dreaded disease and its preventive measures. He also called upon the credible NGOs to come forward and contribute in this noble cause in association with the AIDS Control Society.

On the occasion, Project Director, J&K AIDS Control Society, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Rather gave resume of the activities of the Society and preventive measures initiated to keep a further check on such cases. Highlighting the importance of the day, he apprised that this year's theme and slogan is "Right to Health and My Health, My Right". He said everyone has a right to health including those living with AIDS. He informed that J&K is a low prevalence State with only 0.05% AIDS cases, whose number was 5376 by September, 2017. Presently 2280 patients are availing treatment from Society's

ART Centres. He further informed that the AIDS Society is implementing the programmes of NACO, under which 36 Integrated Counseling & Testing Centres, 69 Facility Integrated Counseling and Testing Centres & 6 Sexually Transmitted Infection Clinics have been established across the State. The NACO supported Blood Banks are functional at regional and district hospitals. The number of voluntary blood donation has also increased to more than 80 per cent. The ART Centres are also functional at GMC, Jammu, SKIMS, Srinagar, Kathua, Udhampur, Rajouri and Leh to facilitate the HIV positive patients and providing counseling to youth.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated the voluntary blood donation camp which was jointly organized by the AIDS Control Society and Sant Nirankari Charitable Foun-

dation. More than 50 units of blood were donated by the volunteers on the occasion.

He also interacted with the volunteers, AIDS victims, students of para-medical schools, NCC cadets, who specially participated in the programme and displayed their skills through different mediums of arts like slogan writing, poster making, rangoli making, skits and cultural items to convey message on the causes of HIV and its prevention. Minister and other audience appreciated the wonderful art work and also gave mementoes to the best adjudged participants. Prominent among those present on the occasion included, Secretary Technical, Health & Medical Education, Dr. Abdul Kabir, Director Family Welfare, Dr. Sameer Mattoo, Registrar Academic, Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Director Health Services.

Time and Us Editorial SRINAGAR J&K

WHY IT WILL NOT BE EASY FOR PRINCE

Saudi Arabia isn't the first country that comes to mind when there's talk of radical social and political change. Nor the second or even the tenth. A combination of a monarchy legitimised by an orthodox clergy and funded by the world's largest reserve of accessible oil and gas has usually mitigated any desire for change. Little wonder then, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's aggressive push to upend the Wahhabi appellation surprised everyone. His plans to list Aramco, the trillion-dollar State-owned oil company, and encourage local entrepreneurship and employment were unremarkable. Then came his announcement that women would be allowed to drive cars, a move that raised eyebrows. Now comes what is effectively a purge of the Saudi ruling establishment -- the arrest of 10 princes of the blood including billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, four ministers, and dozens of former senior officials. To be sure, this could be the heir to the throne consolidating his position, but it could also be a sign that the crown prince wishes to remodel Saudi Arabia into a nation that is more modern and more moderate.

India has benefited to some degree from the crown prince's reform attempts. Riyadh has diluted its long-standing strategic relationship with Pakistan. It has also become much more helpful in providing intelligence about Islamic terrorists to New Delhi. And it has also expressed its interest in developing a larger economic footprint in India's energy sector. If Crown Prince Salman takes his reforms to their logical conclusion, it might mean the end of the largest source of funding for the most extreme strands of the religion.

This is all good, but the Narendra Modi government will be rightly wary. A country with weak political institutions such as Saudi Arabia is notoriously difficult to reform. The prince's strategy seems to be centralise power with himself rather than seek a consensus among the various players. That he replaced the head of the National Guard, a force loyal to the ruling family, was a reminder that some sort of political backlash, potentially violent, cannot be ruled out. His anti-corruption campaign, promise of a more open society and, most dangerously, an aggressive military posture in fighting perceived signs of Iranian influence in Yemen and elsewhere seem to be the base on which he hopes to rally popular support in favour of his agenda. It is almost impossible to tell in a country that remains quite opaque as to whether this will work.

A spanner in the works

HIT HARD BY DEMONETISATION AND GST, MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN VADODARA AND SURAT, THE INDUSTRIAL HUBS OF GUJARAT, ARE STRIVING TO MAKE A COMEBACK. BY ANUPAMA KATAKAM

IN OCTOBER this year, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced that the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) would set up 16 additional industrial estates to attract Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Rupani said the government planned to invest Rs.19,650 crore in the hope of encouraging enterprise as well as generating large-scale employment.

With 202 industrial estates, Gujarat has been at the forefront of encouraging small to medium businesses. After the demonetisation debacle, which affected this sector severely, the State has gone into overdrive to prop up an area that has been a significant contributor not just to the State exchequer but to the country. The announcement came a few months after the government gave away Rs.730 crore as incentives to 16,000 MSME units wanting to expand or set up new units in the State. "These companies play a significant role in our economy and in employment, we have to assist in their growth," Rupani said at a public event.

Are these announcements part of wooing the large base of businessmen and traders in Gujarat in an election year? The 3,76,357 registered MSMEs in Gujarat are critical to the State's growth. According to the Gujarat Industries Commissionerate, the MSMEs employ close to 26 lakh people.

In the initial weeks of demonetisation, the MSMEs were obviously hit hard, largely because of their dependence on cash. Gujarat, with its vast number of enterprises, secondary businesses and trading hubs such as Surat for textiles and Bhavnagar for diamonds, was initially gripped by paralysis. But no sooner had they recovered from it than GST was slapped on them.

Frontline spoke to several businessmen and traders in Vadodara and Surat about the initial impact of demonetisation as well as the situation a year since. Businessmen in Vadodara said it had been a rough year. However, they hope the slew of measures announced by the State government will help them tide over the rough patch.

"We did operate a considerable amount in cash, so post-demonetisation, the lack of liquidity in the system affected us. That took a toll on revenues as no one had money to purchase and the supply chain that worked on cash was affected. Just as that was settling, GST hit us, and putting that process in place set us back again," says Nilesh Shah, who runs a steel-cutting tool unit at the Makarpura GIDC in Vadodara. He says his business has come down by 30 per cent following the introduction of the two economic policies.

"What has this all been for? Why did we have to go through all that pain when things are back to where they were? The money is back in the system and we have gone back to dealing in cash again. Demonetisation seems like a terrible nightmare," says Shah.

With demonetisation, MSMEs were unsure of getting the payments due to them



from customers in time. That meant less production and further slowdown for the people who provide them with raw materials, and shortage of supply, leading to inflation on what is available, says an analyst.

"Between demonetisation and GST our order book has gone down by 15 to 20 per cent. You will notice that there is hardly any activity in the area. We could hear the noise till quite late at night. Some factories would work two shifts. It's very quiet now after 6 p.m.," says Ahmed Memon, who runs a small machine tool industry. "There is a reduction in work and we do not need so much labour. As a result, people have lost jobs or get reduced daily wages."

Memon's words are not far from the truth. It is eerily quiet while walking around the Makarpura GIDC estate. The shutters of most factories are open, but there are fewer workers.

Once a significant princely state, Vadodara, also known as Baroda, developed into a major industrial hub with chemical, oil, engineering, plastics and pharmaceutical companies. Thanks to these large industries, the ancillary sector too evolved and thrived. GIDC estates mushroomed as the State recognised the value of these companies. There are now 13 GIDCs in Vadodara district alone.

"Our businesses run on small margins, a large part on cash and in many ways using traditional methods of entrepreneurship. Demonetisation and GST forced us to change this and modernise," says Memon. "However, it is a capitalist approach and a pro-big industry move. They need to realise that in India we are the backbone, we grease the economy and generate employment."

Several economists have pointed out that the post-demonetisation reforms in MSMEs will apparently make companies comply with tax obligations, become more transparent and reduce unaccounted transactions. This would, in turn, help scale up operations and lessen corruption, leading to an overall improvement in the economy.

But there is a flip side to it. Take, for instance, a paper box-making company supplying packaging requirements of FMCG (fast-moving consumer goods) companies. The scrap that the company buys to make cardboard is paid in cash and often unaccounted. The final product that big companies buy too is paid out in cash. This helps the small businessman to distribute wages to daily wagers and others who work for him. "The fundamental mistake they made was to treat all cash as black money. Not all cash is black," says Memon. "The worst for us was the drying up of cash and accounting for it. But within eight to ten months it has settled. So why was it done is the main question."

Memon gives an example of a situation which explains the problems of an MSME. An acquaintance of his bought for Rs.3 crore a machine that makes cardboard boxes. However, he needs to buy scrap paper to make cardboard. The scrap dealer wants only cash. Even if he had an account, he would not take a cheque as that money would need to be accounted for. But the MSME has GST to contend with. The machine is lying unused and the businessman is in debt.

Minimum wages for unskilled labour at a GIDC estate is Rs.380 a day and they work for 26 days a month. For skilled labour it

starts at Rs.500. It is a substantial amount, says Abhay Khatri, a mechanic in a small tool-making factory. "Many unskilled workers lost jobs and went back to their villages soon after notebandi [demonetisation]. Some had to reduce jobwork, but I think we are okay now. Because of lack of cash we had problems shopping for day-to-day goods, but even that has settled."

The lack of cash and reduction in purchasing power was probably what hit the small-scale industry the most, says Memon.

Among Gujarat's several industrial hubs, Surat is the biggest in terms of MSMEs and small traders. As Asia's largest market for man-made fabric, the city is an economic powerhouse. Textiles and diamonds are its largest businesses. The textile trade has several industrial processes at different stages. For instance, weaving grey fabric, dyeing, printing and embroidery are part of the process that involves thousands of workshops. According to the Federation of Surat Textile Traders Association (FOSTTA), the livelihoods of almost 25 lakh people are dependent on Surat's textile trade.

"When demonetisation hit, the first thing people did was to deposit cash and spend the surplus. Initially, traders saw very good business as women were trying to offload cash. Then it dried up. Last Deepavali we witnessed a drop of 50 per cent in sales," says Champalal Bothra, FOSTTA president. "No one wanted to spend. It has improved, but then we got hit with GST."

"Looms that would operate for 24 hours have reduced to eight hours. Our production, which was at 4 crore metres a day, has come down to 1.5 crore metres. Close to 89,000 looms were sold in the past year. Lakhs of workers have returned to their villages. The situation is quite dire," says Bothra. "People's spending power has come down, the demand has come down, and Chinese imports are affecting us now," he says.

Diamonds, textiles and dyeing are the worst affected, says Arun Mehta, vice president of the Gujarat branch of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions. "It is not a good situation as labour is leaving in thousands. Many small diamond units have shut down as there is no demand in the market."

"More than demonetisation, it was GST that hurt us. They announce these things without having a process in place. In demonetisation, there was no cash available and in GST, few tax people even know what to do," says Nitin Kungwani, a trader in Surat's Millennium market. "We have had a 30 per cent drop in sales this year. But we are hopeful that after the Assembly elections, business will pick up and the government will find ways to revive us."

Vivek Deswani was in Surat to take a consignment of sarees to Pithampur in Madhya Pradesh. He says before demonetisation he would come to Surat every 20 days. His last trip was three months ago. "People are not buying."

Return of the equity cult: Is it here to stay?

► **Udayan Mukherjee**

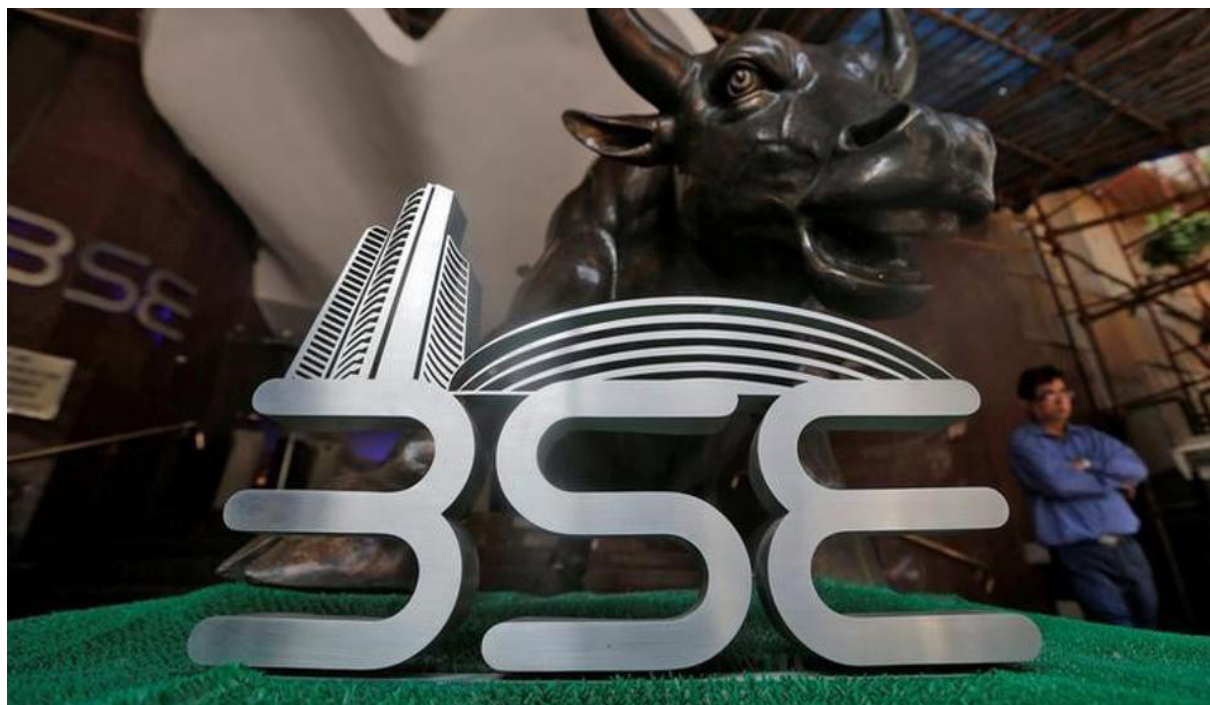
Indian households have never been big fans of the stock market. In a few states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Kerala, there may be a widespread culture of buying stocks but outside of that, the average Indian household has generally eyed stock investing with suspicion and mistrust. A pitifully low 4% of aggregate Indian household savings is in equities. But that may be changing.

The darkest hour for equities was around the global financial crisis of 2008. Many stock portfolios plunged 50-70%, investors sold in panic and the foundation of equity, as an asset class, was shaken to the core. Indian investors lost their faith, pulling out 1.7 lakh crores out of the stock market between 2010 and 2015. But as they say in the stock market, the darkest hour is just before dawn.

Over the last two years, the tide has been turning. Indian savers are warming up to equities again and this time it looks like the real thing, not just a passing infatuation. Wisely, this time, most investors seem to have chosen expertise

over excitement — entrusting professional mutual fund managers with their savings rather than taking wild punts based on stock tips. The corpus of equity mutual funds has doubled, from 4.3 lakh crores in September 2015 to 8.6 lakh crores today. What is equally important is that investors have decided to make equity investing a regular habit, not a one time leap of faith. Systematic Investment Plan or SIP has emerged as the favoured mode of deployment. At last count, there were 1.7 crore active SIP accounts with equity mutual funds, with close to nine lakh accounts being added every month. The average ticket size may be only around 3500 rupees a month, yet it is not the amount which is important, but the habit.

Many factors are driving this change. The steady up-move in the Indian stock market over the last three years has created a pull of its own. More crucially, other asset classes which were the mainstay of Indian household investors, are losing their sheen. Indian savers are risk averse, as seen in the disproportionately large share of their savings that lie in bank deposits. A new generation of



savers is beginning to realise that returns from bank fixed deposits do not create wealth. A one year bank fixed deposit today yields 6.5% - a post tax return of 4.25% - that barely beats our long term

inflation rate of 4%, let alone making us rich in the long run.

The other asset that Indians have traditionally loved is gold. This too is losing its glitter. The annualised return

on gold over the last three years is only 3.5%. While gold, for reasons of security and emotion, can never fade away completely from the portfolio of Indian households, savers are switching to fi-

nancial assets for better returns. The sustained lull in the real estate market has turned investors away from investing in property. Real estate was never the most liquid of investments, now even returns have plateaued.

Equity is moving in, to fill these gaps. While the resurgence of interest over the last two years has been impressive, this may be the tip of the iceberg. Investment bank Morgan Stanley expects a staggering 500 billion dollars of savings to flow into Indian equities over the next decade. While this may truly be the dawn of a new era for stocks, it will not be without challenges. Volatility in the stock market is at all time lows today but it will not be, forever. Along the way, the patience of new investors will be put to test by violent corrections — an intrinsic aspect of markets. At such times, Indian savers will have to display the maturity that is the mark of true long term investors. We can then be sure that the cult of equity investing is truly here to stay.

Udayan Mukherjee in consulting editor, CNBC TV18 The views expressed are personal

'Development has triumphed': PM Modi on UP civic polls

NEW DELHI: As the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) heads for a massive win in the Uttar Pradesh civic polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that "development has triumphed once again in the country."

The Prime Minister took to Twitter to congratulate the state Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and thank the people of the state.

"Development has triumphed once again in the country. Thank people of the state for this grand victory. Many congratulations to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and all party workers. This win motivates us to work even harder for people's betterment," Prime Minister Modi wrote.

As per the latest counting updates, the BJP is leading in 14 of the 16 mayoral seats in the state. In the remaining two places, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is leading.

The Congress got biggest electoral jolt after the BJP won the Amethi Nagar Panchayat by over a 1,000 votes. Amethi is Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi's Lok Sabha constituency, and has long been a bastion



ANI

of the Gandhi family.

The BJP's Chandrama Devi won the Amethi Nagar Panchayat by 1035 votes. The BJP candidates have won Agra, Ghaziabad and Kanpur mayoral seats. Kanpur BJP's Pramila Pandey has become second woman mayor. Vinod Agarwal of the BJP has won the mayor seat of Moradabad. The BJP leads in 57 wards of the

98 wards getting counted in Lucknow.

Results come as a setback to the Samajwadi Party as the BSP has denied their vote base in urban areas.

The BJP has also won the prestigious Ayodhya-Faizabad seat. The BJP candidate defeated Samajwadi Party's Bindu by around 4600 votes. Ayodhya had been elevated to Nagar Nigam along with Mathura by the

ruling BJP in the state.

However, some surprising results have also shaken the has lost all the six seats of chairmen of Nagar Panchayats in the home turf of Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Maurya's bastion. Independent Rajendra Kumar Singh won the Sirathu Nagar Panchayat seat while SP's Urmila Devi emerged victorious in Karari Nagar. In Majhanpur, BSP's Mehtab Alam won. At Chail, Sarai Akil and Ajuha, independent candidate Shivmani Kesarwani, Congress's Rohit Aazad and Independent Anil Kumar bagged the top posts, respectively. Adityanath's hometown Gorakhpur too had a bad news for the BJP as its corporator candidate has lost in the ward where Adityanath had voted. In Mathura, the BJP candidate Meera Agarwal won from ward number 56 through lottery system as she and the Congress candidate 874 votes each. Counting of votes of all 652 Urban Local Bodies is being held at 334 centers in Uttar Pradesh and full results are expected by evening. Polling was held in three phases on November 22, 26 and 29.

Terror funding case: Court reserves order on Aslam Wani's bail



NEW DELHI: A Delhi Court on Friday reserved the order for December 4 on bail plea of alleged hawala dealer Mohd Aslam Wani in connection with a decade-old money laundering case for alleged terror funding.

On November 27, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) sought more time to file its reply on the bail plea of Mohammad Aslam Wani.

Wani is a close aide of Kashmiri separatist Shabir Shah, who has been arrested in terror funding cases.

Earlier, Wani moved the Patiala House Court after the apex court set aside all orders by which bail to an accused was

denied due to stringent bail condition in money laundering cases and directed that such cases be remanded back to the respective courts to be heard on merits.

Wani was arrested on August 6. The ED had, on September 23, told the court that Shah admitted to receiving funds from Pakistan's terror outfits to spread terror in Jammu and Kashmir and others parts of the country.

The chargesheet filed by the ED stated that the separatist had admitted of talking to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Hafiz Saeed on phone on the issue of Kashmir and had last spoke to him in January this year.

Delhi: Newborn, declared dead by hospital, found alive later

NEW DELHI: A newborn, who was declared dead along with his still-born twin by Delhi's Max hospital, was about to be buried when his family found him alive. After this, both the mother and newborn were admitted to another hospital.

Delhi Police Spokesperson Deependra Pathak told ANI that the police were taking into account all details of the situation, and were also consulting legal experts.

"It is a very shocking incident, and shows height of negligence. We have started immediate inquiry and investigation in this case. We are also consulting legal experts," Pathak said.

The Delhi Police will take further action if a case of negligence surfaces.

"Under the court's direction, we will also consult Delhi Medical Council or



Indian Medical council, and convey to them details of all circumstances.

Then, we'll take legal action if a case of negligence surfaces," Pathak said, adding that the police will also look if there are more cases of criminal negligence in the hospital.

Meanwhile, Union Health Minister JP Nadda has spoken to Health Secretary in this connection.

Smriti Irani confident of BJP's win in Gujarat post UP civic polls

Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani on Friday expressed her confidence in the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) win in the upcoming Gujarat assembly elections, contending that the results of Uttar Pradesh civic polls were a proof of the "unpopular leadership" of the Congress Party. Irrespective of what the Congress Party is trying to mount, the results in Uttar Pradesh where Congress is wiped out yet again is indication of how unpopular their leadership is," Irani told reporters here.

The Union Minister was alluding to the Uttar Pradesh civic polls. The counting is underway today, and the BJP is leading with a great margin.

Irani said that the "low shots" taken by the Congress Party were go-



ing to adversely affect its chances in the Gujarat polls. "Rahul Gandhi and his party called Modiji 'Maut ka Sa-

dagar', called Gujaratis 'gadhe' (donkey), and now if they are calling him a 'Dalal', then they will face the re-

percussions in the upcoming elections," she said, adding, "The desperation of Congress Party is very evident in the derogatory statements they make."

Taking a jibe at Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi who has been continually critical of development under the BJP government, Irani said, "I don't think the public comes to listen to facts from Rahul Gandhi. Both the public and journalists know that when it comes to facts, Rahul Gandhi is on the weaker side."

Irani also quipped that people of Gujarat knew Gandhi's "temple-hopping" is motivated by intentions of accruing votes.

Rahul Gandhi has been visiting various temples, apart from conducting campaign rallies in Gujarat.

Civic poll results, an eye-opener for everyone: UP CM

LUCKNOW: The results of the Uttar Pradesh civic polls are an eye opener for everyone, according to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday. His statement comes after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was poised to shine in the civic polls after the initial results and trends.

Addressing a press conference here, Adityanath said, "This election is to make us responsible. This poll is an eye opener for everyone, including those who were linking UP civic polls with Gujarat Assembly polls." As per the latest counting updates, the BJP is leading in 14 of the 16 mayoral seats in the state. In the remaining two places, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is leading.

The Congress got biggest electoral jolt after the BJP won the Amethi Nagar Panchayat by over a 1,000 votes.

Amethi is Congress Vice Presi-



dent Rahul Gandhi's Lok Sabha constituency, and has long been a bastion of the Gandhi family.

The BJP's Chandrama Devi won

the Amethi Nagar Panchayat by 1035 votes. The BJP candidates have won Agra, Ghaziabad and Kanpur mayoral seats. Kanpur BJP's Pramila

Pandey has become second woman mayor. Vinod Agarwal of the BJP has won the mayor seat of Moradabad. The BJP leads in 57 wards of the 98 wards getting counted in Lucknow. Results come as a jolt for the Samajwadi Party as the BSP has denied their vote base in urban areas. The BJP has also won the prestigious Ayodhya-Faizabad seat. The BJP candidate defeated Samajwadi Party's Bindu by around 4600 votes. Ayodhya had been elevated to Nagar Nigam along with Mathura by the ruling BJP in the state.

However, some surprising results have also shaken the has lost all the six seats of chairmen of Nagar Panchayats in the home turf of Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Maurya's bastion.

Independent Rajendra Kumar Singh won the Sirathu Nagar Panchayat seat while SP's Urmila

Devi emerged victorious in Karari Nagar. In Majhanpur, BSP's Mehtab Alam won. At Chail, Sarai Akil and Ajuha, independent candidate Shivmani Kesarwani, Congress's Rohit Aazad and Independent Anil Kumar bagged the top posts, respectively.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's home town Gorakhpur too had a bad news for the BJP as its corporator candidate has lost in the ward where Adityanath had voted.

In Mathura, the BJP candidate Meera Agarwal won from ward number 56 through lottery system as she and the Congress candidate 874 votes each.

Counting of votes of all 652 Urban Local Bodies is being held at 334 centers in Uttar Pradesh and full results are expected by evening. Polling was held in three phases on November 22, 26 and 29.

BJP poised to shine in UP civic polls, Congress loses Amethi

LUCKNOW: The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is poised to shine in the Uttar Pradesh Civic Polls. As per the latest counting updates, the BJP is leading in 14 of the 16 mayoral seats in the state. In the remaining two places, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is leading.

The Congress got biggest electoral jolt after the BJP won the Amethi Nagar Panchayat by over a 1,000 votes. Amethi is Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi's Lok Sabha constituency, and has long been a bastion of the Gandhi family.

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The BJP candidates have won Agra, Ghaziabad and Kanpur mayoral seats. Kanpur BJP's Pramila Pandey has become second woman mayor. Vinod Agarwal of the BJP has won the mayor seat of Moradabad. The BJP leads in 57 wards of the 98 wards getting counted in Lucknow.

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SC notice to Centre, EC over plea to bar convicts from forming parties

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday issued a notice to the Centre and the Election Commission of India (ECI) on a plea seeking a ban on the convicted persons from forming a political party and becoming the office bearers of a political party.

A three-judge bench of the Apex Court, headed by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and also comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud, issued the notice after hearing a petition filed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Ashwini Upadhyay. The demand to decriminalize politics is not new in India.

On July 10, 2013, the Supreme Court struck down a provision in the electoral law that protects a convicted lawmaker from disqualification on the ground of pendency of appeal in higher courts and ruled that Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) convicted for two years or more cannot contest polls. "The only question is about the vires of section 8(4) of the Representation of the People Act (RPA) and we hold that it is ultra vires and that the disqualification takes place from the date of conviction," a bench of justices A K Patnaik and S J Mukhopadhyaya had ruled. Under Sec 8(3) of the RPA, a person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years shall be disqualified for that and a further six years after release. In April, the Centre opposed in the Supreme Court a demand to bar convicted politicians for life from contesting polls.

Shehzad Poonawalla blames 'dynasty politics' for Congress' loss in polls

NEW DELHI: In the wake of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) lead in the Uttar Pradesh civic polls, Maharashtra Congress Secretary Shehzad Poonawalla on Friday claimed that the losses incurred on the Congress party are due to their "dynasty politics". "The trends of polls show that the people do not want to hold the hands of the dynasty. It is a fact that the present UP government has not been doing too well. However, parties that do not accept dynasty as their principle are doing better than the rest. The loss in elections is due to dynasty politics," Shehzad told ANI. Continuing his criticism of the grand old party, Poonawalla alleged that the organisation did not value merit as much as family relations or a "sycophant of the dynasty." He also claimed that if the Congress got rid of dynasty politics, there would be a 30 percent surge in the number of seats won by them.



Poonawalla also opined that rather than blaming any other factors, the Congress must accept defeat on grounds of their leadership not being strong enough.

"The Congress leadership should not blame EVM or any other factor, but review their leadership, as this is what victory or defeat should be based on. Congress minus dynasty will get 30 percent more votes. Even in the upcoming polls in Gujarat, Congress will get 150 seats if they

end dynasty politics," he said.

Earlier this week, Poonawalla had claimed that the poll process to choose the Congress president was skewed in Rahul's favour just because he belongs to the Gandhi family.

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

Poonawalla had also told the media earlier that he would want to contest the party president election if it was conducted in a genuine manner. However, he has been receiving flak from his party members, including accusations of him not being a Congressman.

Responding to the same, he categorically stated that he was a "Congressman for life," and alleged that such comments were a result of the party fearing Rahul Gandhi's defeat, "even in a rigged election."

'Lets Talk' campaign kicks-off on World AIDS Day

In the early 1980s, when the Time magazine blared, 'No one is safe from AIDS' > AIDS, the concern about arguably one of the most dreaded diseases of the humankind - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) > AIDS - shifted to homosexuality.

It was later that a major study found that LGBTQ (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer) adults were at a similar risk of attracting the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV) infection as much as the heterosexuals.

Contrary to the pre-Internet era, where a new disease had apparently ravaged the gay community - it had many names, the symptoms were visible and immediately recognisable - the number of times there have been talks about the prevention of AIDS > AIDS in the recent times, especially keeping the LGBTQ community, is very less.

To this end, a movement called 'Let's Talk' aiming to revive communication about sex and related issues, has taken a shape.

The main focus of the programme revolves around the gist of most of his writings and commentaries - LGBTQ issues.

But more than involving the gay rights, 'Let's Talk' deals with 'men having sex with men', as Sharif D

Rangnekar, one of the founder members of the campaign, tells ANI, "There was some research done on the behavioural patterns of men having sex with men. When we say this, it does not necessarily mean 'gay'. It could mean 'bisexual' as well. And there are a lot of men, who do not identify with any specific sexuality. So, it does not mean 'homosexual' or 'gay people' as such."

"The research showed there was a huge drop in condom usage. Some reports suggested that it was down to just 30-40 per cent. That is kind of scary because that means that a lot of people are having unsafe sex. Let us also assume that there are some who may be having on and off," he continues.

Rangnekar and his team have started with a webpage that facilitates the "talking" of the 'Let's Talk' campaign. The social media pages have acquired many followers within a short span of time.

They have put four videos - one by former Mr Gay World India Anwesh Sahoo, the second one by Rangnekar himself, the third by Shivraj Prasad, the communication and the project lead; and the last by Parmesh Sahani, who heads the Culture Lab of Godrej.

Rangnekar explains the campaign is set to be six-seven months-long

and that they will look at more funding later.

"We will also be directing them to institutes and organisations where they can get free medication," he adds.

The former journalist further says that they are not trying to get into the funding space and that they will look into generating awareness about possible threats and their solutions.

"What we felt is there has been no discussion, no conversation on HIV for a very long time. So, we thought to get that going. Get conversations going. Get people to talk about it. And, once they start talking about it, there will be a little more comfort. And then you move towards taking actions on issues that are prevalent in our behavioural patterns and circumstances that lead to transmission. Sometimes, it is a sex worker.

The sex worker might pay extra but he doesn't know the risk could be," Rangnekar elaborates on the campaign.

He adds, "We will also talk to various other companies who might join us in a few months. I can't name them, but one of the largest players from India who have done a lot work on HIV-AIDS > AIDS, they have also said yes. Because, firstly this is a unique campaign and secondly it has been founded by the Elton John AIDS > AIDS foundation. That is how we are kicking off."

There have been campaigns in the past, by the government and one of the biggest one can remember goes back to over 10 years ago which Shabana Azmi led.

But 'Let's Talk' falls in a different league, as Rangnekar explains, "What we are trying to do is largely an online campaign because everyone is on their smartphones."

Everyone is meeting people over phones. People are going to parties and other locations for dating, for meeting up, or for hooking up -

It is all happening through the digital space. So, we are trying to reach them there. We have Facebook, Youtube, Instagram and we have the website, and these are the main

areas. A pertinent question that arises amidst all this is the debatable effectiveness of the campaign, especially in a society like India, where sex is still a taboo. But Rangnekar is sure of hitting the fish's eye. "If it had been just an ad campaign, it would have been a noisy one and that would have been too public for people who want to remain unknown. If it had been the consumer, it wouldn't have mattered to me if I am gay. But, I am a part of a very small percentage. This campaign will reach where it's exactly needed," he concludes. 'Let's Talk' is set to be launched on December 1 - World AIDS > AIDS Day.



All you need is this 10-minute treatment to pay good riddance to back pain

If you are suffering from severe back pain and have tried medications, exercises or therapies, but nothing seems to work, here's good news for you!

A group of scientists have found a state-of-the-art treatment which cures back pain in more than 80 per cent of sufferers with no side effects. According to Express.co.uk, the procedure takes as little as 10 minutes and is painless. In tests, the majority of patients were pain-free after receiving the "image-guided pulsed radio frequency treatment" for their lower back pain and sciatica.

Study's lead investigator Dr Alessandro Napoli, a radiologist at Sapienza University in Italy, said, "The nerve root is a sensitive structure that when pinched becomes inflamed and causes pain."

The body reacts with muscle constriction, which decreases the distance between vertebrae and a vicious cycle is created."

Tests of the treatment were carried out on 80 patients experiencing at least three months of lower back pain due to a herniated disk that had not responded to treatments including exercise and medication. The participants underwent the minimally invasive procedure in which, with the help of CT imaging, a needle was guided to the location of a bulging disc and nerve root.

A probe was then inserted through the needle tip delivering pulsed radio frequency energy to the area over a 10 minute period.

Dr Napoli noted, "The results have been extraordinary. Patients have been relieved of pain and resumed their normal activities within a day."

Of the 80 patients treated, 81 percent were pain-free one year after a single 10-minute treatment session. Six patients required a second pulsed radio frequency session. Ninety per cent of the patients were able to avoid surgical treatment.

Dr Napoli concluded by saying, "Following this treatment, inflammation and pain go away."



Fake And Shoddy Drugs A Growing Problem, WHO Says

The report is based on 100 peer-reviewed surveys on medicine quality from 2007 to 2016 across 88 countries. In 2011, 200 people in Pakistan died after ingesting a contaminated heart medicine. In 2014 and 2015, over a thousand people were hospitalized in the Democratic Republic of Congo because of a fake drug that contained an antipsychotic. This get-rich-quick scheme has lined the pockets of numerous unscrupulous persons. Kristina Aciri, an economist with Colorado College who has studied the problem of counterfeit medications since 2000, said, "It most certainly is, and it's also probably one of the oldest ones. There are episodes of counterfeiting that go back to the second century. There is tremendous profit in this." A whopping 42% of the reports of suspicious medicines came from Africa, and 21% each from Europe and the Americas, although these don't necessarily pinpoint the location of the problem. Aciri said, "Just because you have more reports from a certain country doesn't mean the problem is worse there."

Fruit juice in breakfast can increase risk of Type 2 diabetes

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 micronutrients."

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.



Steroid injections may put arthritis patients at risk for bone disorder



According to a recent study, those steroid injections may be putting hip arthritis patients' bones at risk. Receiving an injection of a steroid and anesthetic is a common treatment for patients who are experiencing pain and inflammation in a joint, such as the hip, knee or shoulder.

Study author Connie Y Chang from Harvard Medical School in Boston said that changes due to osteoarthritis, such as narrowing in the space between joints and the development of bony proliferations, typically develop slowly over time.

When reading follow-up radiographs of patients who had received the hip injections, the team noticed changes had developed rapidly in some of them.

Chang noted that patients receiving hip injections have symptoms of hip pain severe enough to require the injection and may be

prone to faster progression of bony changes compared to the control groups. To determine whether arthritis worsened in patients following a hip steroid/anesthetic injection, the team analysed 102 patients with age ranging from 19-92, including 62 women, who received X-ray images of the treated hip at the time of the injection and during a follow-up three to nine months later.

Two musculoskeletal radiologists independently reviewed the X-ray images of the patients who received the injections and those of two control groups matched to demographics and follow-up imaging duration.

They observed bone collapse in the head of the femur bone, located at the top of the femur at the articulation with the pelvic bone, in 15-17% of hip injection patients, versus four percent of hip control patients and two percent of shoulder control patients.

Injectable gel could help regrow heart muscles after heart attack

According to a new research, a group of scientists have found an injectable gel that slowly releases short gene sequences known as microRNAs into the heart muscle.

In mammals, including humans, the cells that contract the heart muscle and enable it to beat do not regenerate after injury.

After a heart attack, there is a dramatic loss of these heart muscle cells and those that survive cannot effectively replicate.

With fewer of these contractile cells, known as cardiomyocytes, the heart pumps less blood with each beat, leading to the increased mortality associated with heart disease. The researchers used mouse models to demonstrate a new approach to restart replication in existing cardiomyocytes.

Though the reasons cardiomyocytes don't regenerate aren't fully understood, the researchers used microRNAs that target signaling pathways related to cell proliferation, and were able to inhibit some of the inherent "stop" signals that keep cardiomyocytes from replicating. With more heart cells dividing and reproducing, mice treated with this gel after heart attack showed improved recovery in key clinically relevant categories.

Talking about the study, Morrissey said, "Biologic drugs turn over very fast. The microRNAs that we used last less than eight hours in the bloodstream, so having a high local concentration has strong advantages."

Their short lifespan means that if patients were treated systemically, they would need to be injected frequently with large doses to ensure that a sufficient amount of microRNAs reaches their target in the heart.

And because these microRNAs are designed to promote cell proliferation, there would be a risk of tumor-producing, off-target effects. The Morrissey lab studies signaling pathways involved in heart and lung

development and regeneration, while the Burdick lab has experience in designing biocompatible materials for drug delivery.

Burdick noted, "We want to design the right material for a specific drug and application. The most important traits of this gel are that it's shear-thinning and self-healing. Shear-thinning means it has bonds that can be broken under mechanical stress, making it more fluid and allowing it to flow through a syringe or catheter. Self-healing means that when that stress is removed, the gel's bonds re-form, allowing it to stay in place within the heart muscle."

While encapsulated, the microRNAs are also protected from degradation, maximizing the time period that they can be effective without the risk of them invading off-target cells. To test their gel, the researchers used three types of mouse models.

The first group was normal, healthy mice. Within a few days after injecting the gel, their heart tissue showed increased biomarkers of cardiomyocyte proliferation.

The second group was "Confetti mice," so called because they are genetically engineered such that they have individual cardiomyocytes that randomly express one of four different fluorescent proteins.

These fluorescent labels allowed the researchers to see that individual cardiomyocytes were indeed dividing in response to the microRNA-gel treatment.

After inducing heart attacks in the mice and introducing the microRNA-gel, the researchers could see that single red, yellow or green cardiomyocytes had become clusters, ranging from two to eight cells of the same color. The third group was mice in which heart attacks were also induced so that clinically relevant outcomes of the treatment could be studied.

Avoid red meat, dairy products in winter

Dry fruits, nuts, tulsi, ginger, leafy vegetables in your meals in winter is good, but avoid red meat and control the intake of milk products, suggest experts.

Bhavishya Wadhwan, Founder at 98FIT and Neha Ranglani Nutritionist and lifestyle educator, have listed food habits not advisable for the cold season:

* Dairy products: Although milk is known as a complete food, but in winter it is better to reduce its intake. Milk causes phlegm and can thicken the phlegm already present.

This makes you more uncomfortable and increases the irritation in the throat.

* Hot or cold drinks: Everybody loves hot coffee, hot tea, or hot chocolate in winters. But we need to keep in mind the amount of fat and caffeine they contain.

These drinks dehydrate your body, which leads to much thicker mucus.

So, it is best to avoid caffeine and opt for water or herbal fusions instead.

* Red meat: Meat and eggs are known to be the best source of protein. High protein can cause a build-up of mucus in your throat.

Processed meat and high fat meat can cause problem, while fish and poultry are relatively safer. But you must choose organic meat instead of processed.

* Fried food: Deep fried food is a source of trans-fat and adds up to your total calorie consumption without giving you any actual food value. Fried food also run the risk of making your stomach upset.

* Non seasonal fruits: Whenever a particular fruit is available on off-season, don't consume them as they are not fresh.

This is because it may lead to illness and health issues.

Intake of more citrus fruits during winter season will boost up our body metabolism.

* Sugar: Cold weather and hot chocolate go hand in hand, but many doctors believe that too much sugar can weaken your immune system. One study found subjects who had just consumed a lot of sugar weren't able to fight off bacteria as compared to those who had mostly water.

* Alcohol: During winter, we naturally tend to drink less water and due to the dry weather, the chance of being dehydrated is high.

Alcohol can be a good option to warm up your body but alcohol dehydrates the body extensively which can be most damaging during winter.

Moreover, alcohol increases your body temperature quickly which adds to the chance of getting cold during winter.

Nuvoco wins FICCI CSR Jury Award for women empowerment

NEW DELHI: Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd. (formerly Lafarge India Limited) one of the leading building materials manufacturers bagged the FICCI CSR Special Jury Commendation Award for the year 2016 - 17 in the women empowerment category at the 16th edition of FICCI CSR Award ceremony held at New Delhi.

They were awarded for their project 'Samridhi', which has brought about economic empowerment of women in the community by engaging them in sustainable sources of livelihood.

The project has been implemented in Ganga-Jalghati block of Bankura District (West Bengal). The project supports 120 women across five villages namely Barbaid, Deuli, Latiyaboni, Machhanda, and Nidhirampur. Through this initiative, Nuvoco aims to make women an equal contributory member of the family.

Project Samridhi has managed to change numerous households by empowering the women through financial independence leading to stronger voice in domestic decision making. Additionally improving the overall quality of life through better access to education, nutrition intake and asset creation. The project was started as a pilot in 2014 -15 with just ten households from small and marginal families in two villages. Gradually reviving and reinstating the Self Help Groups (SHG's) started by adding more technical know-how for promoting mushroom cultivation on a larger scale. This activity has added nearly 40 percent increase in overall income of these households giving the



women of the villages an equal footing with their male counterparts.

A self-sustaining business plan has also been set up for the same where the mushrooms cultivated, are marketed by the villagers.

"We are humbled by this recognition of our efforts towards creating a better tomorrow for women and bringing them at par socially as well as economically with their male counterparts. As a socially responsible corporate, we have embarked upon many social engagement programs with an aim to make a difference in the lives of the people and communities we operate in. We are particularly proud of the relentless efforts

being put in by our team members in this journey towards achieving excellence. Together we aim to bring up the marginalised communities and help them with a sustainable and reliable source of income, so that they are independent," said Ujjwal Bhatia, Country CEO Nuvoco.

Some of the nominees in this category were, Apollo Tyres Ltd., Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited and Aditya Aluminum Hindalco Industries Limited. As part of the judging criterion, companies were assessed on issues taken up, target population, scale, location, reliability, sustainability, innovation, scalability, participation/involvement, finances and impact.

'Regulatory norms may pose credit challenge for Indian airports'

NEW DELHI: India's major airports are witnessing a strong rise in passenger traffic but the new and evolving regulatory regime for airports may pose a credit challenge, Moody's Investors Service said in a recent report.

"The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) has approved tariffs for most airports only for the first five-year regulatory period. Additionally, the terms and conditions stated in concession agreements have been different from those stipulated under the regulatory act on certain key issues, leading to frequent misunderstandings," the rating agency said in a report.

Moody's conclusions are contained in its recently released report, "Airports -- India, Traffic growth credit positive, but regulatory environment a challenge".

"The two years of growth in domestic air traffic has made India the third largest domestic aviation market after the US and China, and the main drivers of passenger volume growth include a rising middle class, lower air ticket prices and improving regional connectivity," the report said quoting Abhishek Tyagi, Moody's Vice President and Senior Analyst. Tyagi added that air traffic growth is expected to be moderate but still remain healthy at 8%-10% annually over the next two years as compared with much lower



growth in other countries in the region

Moody's expects large airports in India to bring forward plans to expand capacity to meet growing demand, but the scale and complexity of expansion projects may affect the airports' capacity to manage unexpected challenges, such as a sharp cut in tariffs.

"This situation would reduce revenues and cash flow, and limit the airports' flexibility to defer spending once any expansion work commences," Moody's said.

The Indian government in a bid to boost regional tourism and economic growth launched the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016 plan (NCAP 2016).

The policy will accelerate the growth of an integrated aviation system and includes a regional program called UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik), which involves connecting unserved and under-served airports.

Sensex plummets 316 points to 32,832.94, Nifty at 10,121.80

NEW DELHI: December series first Friday witnessed a steep slump in the afternoon trade as the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) Sensex fell down 316.41 points to 32,832.94 and National Stock Exchange (NSE) Nifty 50 fell 104.70 points to 10,121.80.



The sharp fall in the index was attributed largely to widening fiscal deficit, and rising crude oil prices, along with major events in the pipeline such as the monetary policy by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the upcoming assembly elections in Gujarat, as reported by the Moneycontrol.

Shares of Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharti Infratel, M&M and Ambuja Cements ended slightly higher while those of Tata Power, Reliance Industries, Infosys, and Tata Motors were down by one to three percent. Meanwhile, India's GDP growth has recovered to 6.3 percent in the second quarter from a three-year low of 5.7 percent in first quarter, as per the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI).

JUGNOO ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF CABS IN CHANDIGARH

NEW DELHI: Jugnoo, India's leading hyperlocal startup and auto-aggregator announced the launch of taxi cabs in Chandigarh, providing a suitable and accessible mode of commuting for the people of tricity. The company launched the services with competing pricing model, providing a special discount of 25 percent on the first ride to its customers. Jugnoo is also planning on enrolling 500 cabs to the system by one week.

Jugnoo has established itself as an auto rickshaw aggregator and is a one-stop destination for all hyperlocal needs of people. It offers diverse services like passenger rides, B2B and B2C deliveries including groceries, fruits and vegetables, restaurant food, medicines etc.

The launch of cabs in tri-city is the next step in transport and aggregation sector. While other cab hailing apps



in the city has led to the problem of surge pricing in fare, Jugnoo built its model without that, becoming a resur for residents in the city.

Also, the advantage factor lies with both driver partners and commuters, where they would be beneficial from the services.

"We constantly work towards developing convenient business models for people; be it commuting or any

other hyper-local needs. While both drivers and commuters have been facing a lot of problems when it comes to cab hailing, our motto is to provide affordable rides and make sure that drivers don't work on low cost, bearing losses," said CEO and founder Jugnoo, Samar Singla.

"Jugnoo is planning to decentralize the ride-sharing models," added Singla. (ANI-NewsVoir)

FICCI organises workshop on ATA Carnet

VADODARA: Bharat Prakash, Additional Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad and P.S. Pruthi, Former Member, Customs Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) interacted with the participants of the workshop on ATA Carnet and responded to several queries while clarifying doubts on the operational aspects of ATA Carnet.

The workshop was organised by FICCI in association with Federation of Gujarat Industries (FGI), Vadodara Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) supported by Exim Club Vadodara highlighted the importance of the ATA Carnet instrument for the business community.

The workshop drew participation from industry experts, representation from export promotion councils, freight forwarding companies, customs house agents, fair and exhibition organisers.

This event provided exporters and business experts with a unique opportunity to share their mutually beneficial knowledge and experiences.

The industry discussed issues involved with respect to temporary imports of goods and drew benefit from the deliberations of the sessions.

ATA Carnet is a temporary admission document, which simplifies the customs procedures and clearances in a foreign country.

Without paying duty or a bank guarantee for temporary import into that country.

Like a passport for goods, ATA Carnet allows for the goods for which it was issued to enter any of the participating countries for up to one year.

An ATA Carnet holder can avoid customs declaration and can do away with security deposit or guarantee in the country of temporary importation. In India, FICCI is the sole National Guarantor for ATA Carnets.

ATA Carnet covers several areas for use including trade fairs, shows, exhibitions, meetings etc. for temporary export into a country, which is a signatory to the conventions governing ATA Carnets. Goods must be re-exported out of every country and re-imported into India within a year.

At present 77 countries recognise ATA Carnet, including Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Spain, UAE, UK and USA.

The government is actively considering expanding the scope of ATA Carnet System.

At present, India is a signatory to convention on Exhibition and fairs only. Recently the GST Council has given its recommendations for the expansion of scope of ATA Carnet System to cover professional equipment meant for testing/demonstration, media coverage, sporting events or similar ones a big move by the Government to support 'Ease of doing business - Make in India' initiative.

Aasaanjobs continues expansion; launches new solar vertical



NEW DELHI: AasaanJobs has announced launch of new solar vertical to cater to a rising demand of growing requirements for personnel, while expanding the platform's broad bouquet of available employment opportunities. Leading job platforms, AasaanJobs intends to fulfill their burgeoning demand for skilled Hardware Installation Engineers, Technicians, and Business Development professionals.

AasaanJobs has witnessed a 111 percent increase in the number of employers for installation engineers, a 159 percent growth in

the number of employers looking for technicians, and a 54 percent increase in the number of employers looking for Business Development professionals between 31st March and 31st September, 2017. AasaanJobs' new vertical will cater to these and any other requirements for personnel that the solar power industry might throw up, as the sector labors to meet the Indian government's target of generating a 100GW of power through solar-based technologies by 2022.

"With India's ambitious target for solar power generation, the Indian solar market is expected to grow by 90 percent by 2018. With such growth, there will be numerous job opportunities and requirements, which we intend to fill with our end-to-end recruitment service," said CEO AasaanJobs, Dinesh Goel.

AasaanJobs currently has nearly 4000 jobs in the solar power sector live on its platform. With the large number of employers and the quick pace of their growth in registering on AasaanJobs, that number is expected to rise substantially in the coming months.

CBDT, Netherlands sign two APAs pertaining to electronics, technology sectors



NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has entered into two bilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) during the month of November, 2017; the first ever Bilateral APAs with The Netherlands; pertaining to the electronics and technology sectors of the economy.

With the signing of these agreements, the total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT stands at 186, including 171 uni-

lateral APAs and 15 bilateral APAs. The international transactions covered in these agreements include distribution, provision of marketing support services, provision of business support services, and so on. The APA provisions were introduced in the Income-tax Act in 2012 and the "Rollback" provisions were introduced in 2014. The APA Scheme endeavours to provide certainty to taxpayers in the domain of transfer pricing by specifying the methods of pricing and setting the prices of international transactions in advance. The progress of the APA Scheme strengthens the government's resolve of fostering a non-adversarial tax regime. The Indian APA programme has been appreciated nationally and internationally for being able to address complex transfer pricing issues in a fair and transparent manner.

Indian travelers spend 22 pct extra on last-minute flight bookings

NEW DELHI: Some 14 percent of Indian travellers paid an average of 22 percent more on flight tickets by booking less than a week before travel to the most sought-after destinations in 2017, as revealed by KAYAK (KAYAK.co.in), the global travel search engine. New analysis by KAYAK also shows that Indian travellers risk paying up to 33 percent more than the average cost for flights to their top destinations in 2018 by waiting until the last minute to book. Flights for Bangkok, Dubai,

and Bali, the top three destinations for Indian travellers on KAYAK, cost on average 18 percent, 22 percent and 33 percent more, respectively, in the final week before travel. In fact, last-minute bookings for each of the top ten most-searched destinations incurred travellers at least 10 percent higher costs, with Singapore at 13 percent representing the smallest increase on average flight costs during the last week. "With disposable incomes rising, there are more and more

Indian travellers venturing overseas on holiday. In 2017, we have seen a significant percentage of Indian travellers making last minute bookings at

higher than average flight prices. In order to save on flights, planning ahead is a simple way for travellers to save money so they can put it to use in their final destination, rather than on an airplane ticket," said country manager India of KAYAK, Abhijit Mishra.

Amongst the most-searched destinations by Indian travellers in 2018 are:

KAYAK also reveals that there has been a decline in average flight prices for top destinations, year-

on-year, owing to falling jet fuel prices and operational costs.

"We at KAYAK have developed tools such as Price Alert and Price Forecast in order to help Indian travellers monitor flight prices and decide whether to 'book now' or 'wait' for a better price. With these travel tools, we hope to help our users plan their trips confidently and avoid costly last-minute price hikes," added Mishra. KAYAK provides a one-stop seamless travel experience, from planning all the way through to itinerary management. As well as Price Alert and Price Forecast, travellers may also make use of KAYAK's Trips feature, an all in one travel organiser that helps them to manage their itinerary. Collecting reservations and booking information and displaying it in an easy to read format no matter where each booking was made.



higher than average flight prices. In order to save on flights, planning ahead is a simple way for travellers

Will be joining Multan Sultans for matches in Pakistan, says Tom Moody

SYDNEY: Former Australian cricketer and Multan Sultans Head Coach Tom Moody has said that he would come to Pakistan if his team reaches the final stages of Pakistan Super League's (PSL) third edition.

"Yes, I'll be joining the team for the games in Pakistan," he said while talking to Dawn News. "Hopefully we will qualify for the finals and get the opportunity to play at both venues — Karachi and Lahore."

When asked whether Pakistani

fans will get to see international stars in action in Pakistan, he said: "I think the trust level of the players to travel to Pakistan is going to improve over time. More and more players are getting comfortable with the idea [of playing in Pakistan] and I think it will only increase over time."

"The draft had a lot of high-quality players, not only local but also international, so all the teams had access to some star quality players," said Moody, who coach-



es the Sunrisers Hyderabad in Indian Premier League (IPL) and Rangpur Riders in Bangladesh Premier League.

Hopeful that his team will reach the finals, Moody said:

"I think we have a competitive side that has got a good balance between experienced international players and some exciting young talent, so I think we will be competitive throughout the tournament." "I think the team that manages to adjust and gets

its balance early on in the tournament will obviously find themselves ahead at the end of the tournament," said Moody.

On working for Sultans with the legendary Wasim Akram, he added: "I am obviously very excited about reuniting with Wasim Akram. We have been friends for a really long time and to have his experience with the group is going to be invaluable." The third edition of PSL is set to begin in February 2018.

Ben Stokes 'no Don Bradman', jokes New Zealand all-rounder Jimmy Neesham

LONDON: Suspended England all-rounder Ben Stokes will make an unlikely debut at New Zealand's tiny Rangiora Recreation Ground this weekend, and his opponents insist they will not be overawed.

"He's just another player at the end of the day. It's not like Don Bradman is walking out to bat," deadpanned Otago's Jimmy Neesham ahead of the much anticipated fixture.

Stokes will appear for Canterbury in New Zealand's one-day domestic competition after dashing halfway around the globe in search of a game of cricket.

He was unable to join his England teammates for the Ashes in Australia after being barred from international cricket over an alleged fight outside a Bristol nightclub.

Needing to stay match-fit in case a police investigation clears the way for a last-minute Ashes call-up, Stokes decided to take the road to Rangiora.

The 26-year-old is used to being England's main man, but Otago coach Rob Walter backed his players against one of the best all-round talents currently in the game.

"It's about being smart and bowling our best balls to him like we would to any other batter," Walter told Fairfax New Zealand.

"He can also get out. It's not as if he's never got out in his life. We've got just as much chance of getting him out."

While Stokes' trip from Britain to New Zealand may have brought him physically



closer to the Ashes series, his chances of participating seem as remote as ever.

British police have passed his case to prosecutors for "charging advice", a process that could take weeks as Test cricket's most storied contest continues apace in Australia.

The second Test will be underway in Adelaide when Stokes takes guard in Rangiora, and a worst-case scenario for England would see the Ashes lost in Perth two weeks later.

England selector Angus Fraser indicated the tourists, already down 1-0 in the five-Test series, have to deal with the situation in front of them, not wait for Stokes to arrive and save the day.

"If something changes then you react," he said in London.

"But I don't think anyone is looking over their shoulder for a plane to come in to land."

Sourav Ganguly says 'put his foot down' for Anil Kumble's selection for Australia

MUMBAI: Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Thursday admitted that it was he who had compelled the selectors to opt for Anil Kumble during their tour Down Under in 2003-04 despite them planning to drop the leg-spinner ahead of the series.

Ganguly, who was in town for a promotional event, said: "I will give you the example of Anil Kumble, who was probably the biggest match-winner India has ever produced in the last 20-25 years. I remember attending a selection meeting before the tour of Australia in 2003. I was the captain of the side and I knew selectors were not very keen on having Anil in that tour."

Arguably one of the greatest Indian captains, Ganguly had led India to the 2003 World Cup final a couple of months prior to the tour. He was also known to have clear-cut roles for his teammates and thus put his foot down when it came to picking Kumble for the tour. "As I entered the selection meeting, I could sense the selec-



tors had made up their mind to leave Anil Kumble out. I kept on requesting and insisting that he is such a match winner, he is done so much good for Indian cricket. He must be in Australia and the selectors just didn't agree," Ganguly said. Kumble, who also went on to coach India and helped the side reach the final of the Champions Trophy earlier this year, has 619 wickets to his name in 132 Tests besides another 337 ODI wickets in 271 match-

es. "The selectors wanted to pick a left-hand spinner because Australians don't play left-hand spin well, and this went on for a good couple of hours. It was getting late and John Wright came up to me and said Sourav let's finish this and go with what they said and I am sure we will do well," he said.

However, Ganguly didn't change his stand and wanted to back the leggie who was going through a rough patch at the time of the selection meet-

ing. While the selectors eventually agreed to the captain's call, it wasn't without being warned of his own place in the side. "I told John if you leave Anil, he may not play for India again. I said I am not going to sign the selection sheet till Anil is in the side," he added. "The selectors got fed up with me and said if I don't play well, if the team does not play well and if Kumble does not play well, I will be the first person to go before anyone goes. I said fine, I am ready to take that risk and we will see what happens," he added. Anil had an outstanding series, an outstanding year as well. He went on to pick 80 wickets that year, which was the most by any spinner in a calendar year in history of Test cricket," Ganguly said. India had drawn the four-match series 1-1 and had taken the lead by winning the second Test at Adelaide. Kumble not only had a fantastic series, he also emerged as the highest wicket-taker in the series, grabbing 24 wickets in three matches at an average of 29.58.

Barry Middleton, the motivator of England hockey team

BHUBANESWAR: For England's great midfielder Barry Middleton, every match is as exciting as was his first one. And he wants to continue in the same way when he is on the verge of becoming the first player of Britain to complete 400th international appearances, which will happen at the Hockey World League Final in Bhubaneswar. The 33-year-old, who has played 397 matches for England, accepts that unlocking rival defences as well as scoring goals keep him entertained, and that

he would try and continue his passion here for the world's seventh ranked side in the 10-day event.

"For me records don't matter a lot. I am here to play hockey and score goals for my country so that we can improve our ranking in the world," an attacking player, Middleton told Hindustan Times before his team's training at the Kalinga Stadium on Thursday.

While accepting that England is going through a transitional phase, Middleton felt optimistic about their chances

of success here.

"Our performance at London was impressive as we finished third after losing to eventual winners the Netherlands in a hard-fought semi-final. But here it's a new game as well as a new opportunity for us to redeem confidence."

However, playing alongside youngsters is altogether a different experience for him. With 11 of the 18-member squad being aged 25 or younger, Middleton happens to be the role model and most times keeps motivating them.

Marat Safin baffled by how Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal are still winning



LONDON: Marat Safin has questioned the strength of the next generation in men's tennis after Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal dominated the 2017 ATP Tour.

After struggling with injuries last year, Federer and Nadal have enjoyed a resurgence over the past 12 months — sharing the four grand slams between them.

Federer finished 2017 with 52 wins from 57 matches, while Nadal ends the year as world number one for the first time since 2013.

Nadal — who won the French and US Opens — racked up an impressive 67 victories, before knee problems hampered his progress at the ATP Finals. While the tennis world — including Safin — marvelled at their return, the two-time grand slam champion questioned why the Tour's younger players were not providing more of a challenge.

Speaking ahead of the Champions Tennis at the Royal Albert Hall, Safin said: "How is it possible that they [Federer and Nadal] are still winning? Still crushing everybody and chopping everybody off? They are superstars, but what is wrong with the juniors? They need to start to bite!"

One player that has impressed Safin is world number four Alexander Zverev, though, and he believes the 20-year-old can compete in 2018. Safin added: "For me Zverev [has done well], Zverev plus his good coach [Juan Carlos] Ferrero, he did good work with him, he got to three in the world so he can manage. Let's see." The rest of them, we will wait for next year."

Ashes: James Anderson is one of the biggest sledgers in cricket, says Steve Smith



ADELAIDE: Australia captain Steve Smith described England's James Anderson as "one of the biggest sledgers in the game" on Friday as the heat rose off-field at the Adelaide Oval on the eve of the second test.

England have made clear that their dissatisfaction over comments aimed at Jonny Bairstow during their second innings in the 10-wicket defeat in the first test in Brisbane last week that gave the hosts a 1-0 lead in the five-match series. Anderson compared the antics of the Australians to bullying in a column in a British newspaper but an amused Smith told reporters that when it came to doling out insults in the middle, the England paceman was among the worst offenders. "I read the article, and it's interesting coming from Jimmy, calling us bullies and big sledgers," Smith told reporters. "I think he's one of the biggest sledgers in the game, to be perfectly honest with you. To me in particular, I remember back in 2010 when I first started and wasn't any good, he was pretty happy to get stuck into me then. Pretty interesting coming from Jimmy." Anderson took 24 wickets when England retained the Ashes 3-1 in Australia in 2010-11, while Smith managed a high score of 54 not out in three tests over the series. In Brisbane last week, though, Anderson managed two wickets at the cost of 77 runs while Smith put together a match-turning innings of 141 not out. Anderson, who also complained to the umpire about Australian short bowling at England tail-enders in Brisbane, said the sledging from the home team had been "infuriating". "A bully waits until they are in the ascendancy to pounce on people. That is what Australian teams do," he wrote in a column in the Daily Telegraph. "They are quiet when they are not on top which was the case for the first three days of the Brisbane test and then on day four they came alive. It is down to us to cope with that and deal with it." Australia have long held a reputation for verbal aggression on the cricket pitch but Smith said he thought the Brisbane match had been played in the right spirit. There's a line there that we're not to cross and I thought we played in good spirits," he said. "I think the umpires and the match referees are there to determine that. From my point of view it's about playing good, hard cricket and I think we did that at the Gabba and I think we'll continue to do that throughout the series."

Why Neil Wagner 'felt horrible' after seven-wicket haul against West Indies

WELLINGTON: Neil Wagner rated his career best seven-wicket haul a "horrible" performance as New Zealand seized the honours on day one of the first Test against the West Indies in Wellington on Friday.

The South African-born left-arm, a fiery short-ball specialist, claimed seven for 39 and was twice on a hat-trick as he bettered his previous best of six for 41 against Zimbabwe last year.

But it was an innings-destroying performance that Wagner did not see coming after the West Indies, sent into bat, comfortably reached 59 without loss.

"It was a bit of a bizarre day to be honest. I sort of got a bit worried at one stage, they were looking quite comfortable," he said.

"The pitch was not doing as much as we expected and I felt horrible to be honest. At the start I just felt like I didn't have a great rhythm."

"I think I've bowled a lot better on other days and not get a wicket

and then you get days like this and you end up getting a seven-for ... things don't really tick but wickets just keep falling and it's a just bizarre thing." When New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson won the toss he hesitated in making the West Indies into bat on a green wicket.

Despite the conditions, openers Kieran Powell and Kraigg Brathwaite safely progressed to 59 before Wagner engineered a collapse that saw all 10 wickets fall in 22 overs for only 75 runs.

By digging the ball in short and angling it towards the rib cage he had his first success in his third over when Brathwaite went for 24.

On either side of the lunch adjournment he ripped through the West Indies' new generation of specialist batsmen with three wickets in four balls.

Shimron Hetmyer (13) went on in the last ball before lunch, rising star Shai Hope fell on Wagner's second ball after play resumed and



debutant Sunil Ambris stepped back on his stumps with the first ball he faced in Test cricket.

Wagner also removed Roston Chase (five) and Jason Holder with successive balls, with Holder falling

to a perfectly placed yorker, and wrapped up the innings with the dismissal of Shannon Gabriel (10).

Shane Dowrich was run out for 18 while Trent Boult took the wicket of Powell (42) and Miguel Cum-

mins (one). Tom Latham was the first New Zealand wicket to fall for 37 and Williamson went cheaply for one before Raval and Taylor cautiously added 17 in 8.3 overs through to stumps