

TIME AND US

DAILY

SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

SUNDAY

- APRIL, 22, 2018
- 06 SHABAN 1439 AH
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WEATHER TEMPERATURE		
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	17.2	4.4
JAMMU	29.2	15.6
LEH	13.7	1.6
KARGIL	n/a	n/a

SUNSET SUNDAY: 07:08 PM
SUNRISE MONDAY: 05:52 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR
Mainly Clear Sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 21°C & 06°C respectively.

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

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'Death for raping children below 12 years of age'

Union cabinet approves Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018

Srinagar, Apr 21: Amid outrage over the Kuthua incident and other rape incidents in various parts of the India, The central government today approved the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018, on death penalty for those convicted of raping children below the age of 12.

Official sources told KNS that the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi met today morning in New Delhi, took serious note of rape of a minor girl in Kuthua and other rape incidents in various parts of the India.

"In view seriousness of the issue, the Cabinet approved an ordinance to be promulgated to provide for stringent punishment for perpetrators of rape particularly of girls below 16 years age and below 12 years of age," sources said.

Death penalty has been provided for rapists of girls below 12 years of age. The ordinance is aimed at effective deterrence against commission of rape and instilling a sense of security among women and especially young girls in the country.

Sources said that among the salient features

▶ See **Death**...Pg 02

Memo for ordinance allowing death penalty to rape accused convicts kept ready for perusal of state cabinet: Haq Khan

'Memo likely to be passed, ordinance to be issued by Guv'

Srinagar, Apr 21:

Hours after the union cabinet passed an ordinance for death penalty to rape accused convicts, the Jammu and Kashmir government prepared a memo for passing a similar ordinance to allow courts to award death penalty to rape accused convicts.

When contacted Law Minister Abdul Haq Khan confirmed to Kashmir News Service (KNS) that a memo has been kept ready for an ordinance which

▶ See **Haq**...Pg 02

Mehbooba welcomes Union Cabinet decision to award death to rape convicts

Reiterates to bring similar laws in the State to put an end to crimes against women

Jammu, Apr 21:

Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti has welcomed the decision of the Union Cabinet to award death penalty to those convicted of raping children up to 12 years of age. This, she said, would go a long way in curbing the level of harassment against women and girl child in the country.

The Union Cabinet had approved the ordinance regarding this earlier in the day.

The Chief Minister also welcomed other

▶ See **Mehbooba**...Pg 02

Cabinet facilitates strengthening of POCSO Act

New Delhi: In the wake of an increase in incidents of rape of minors, the Union Cabinet on Saturday approved a number of measures to strengthen the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

As per government sources, the cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the promulgation of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018, for effective deterrence against commission of rape, thereby instilling a sense of security among women and especially young girls in the country.

Taking cognisance of the recent incidents of rape in various parts of the country, the cabinet approved an ordinance to be promulgated to provide for stringent punishment for perpetrators of rape particularly of girls below 16 years, and death penalty to be awarded to rapists of girls below 12 years of age.

The minimum punishment in case of rape of women has been increased from rigorous imprisonment of 7 to 10 years, extendable to life imprisonment. In case of rape of a girl under 16 years, minimum punishment has been increased from 10 to 20 years, extendable to life imprisonment.

In terms of gangrape, the cabinet stated that the punishment for the gang rape of a girl under 16 years of age will invariably be imprisonment for the rest of the life of the convict.



With regards to rape or gangrape of a girl below the age of 12, the cabinet said the accused would be sent to 20 years imprisonment, imprisonment for life or death.

The cabinet also decided to put in place a number of measures for speedy investigation and trial of rape cases. It has been prescribed that the time limit for investigation of all rape cases has to be mandatorily completed within two months. Furthermore, the time limit for completion of trial of all rape cases has been ascertained as two months.

The cabinet has also provided for a six month time limit for disposal of appeals in rape cases.

Among other provisions of the Ordinance, the cabinet prescribed that there will be no provision for anticipatory bail for a person accused of rape or gang rape of a girl under

▶ See **Cabinet**...Pg 02

YASHWANT SINHA QUILTS BJP, SAYS MODI REGIME UNDERMINING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

Patna: Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former union cabinet minister Yashwant Sinha announced on Saturday that he is quitting politics and party both, as he felt that democratic institutions in the country were being undermined.

Participating in an event in Patna, Bihar, Sinha said, "Today, I am taking 'sanyas' (retirement) from any kind of party politics. Today, I am ending all ties with the BJP."

The former finance and foreign minister of India said firmly that his over two decade long association and relationship with the BJP has ended, as also his 34 year stint as a politician.

He said that now he would be spending the remainder of his life working for the protection of democracy in India.

▶ See **Sinha**...Pg 02

Altaf Bukhari seeks civil society support to avert educational disempowerment

Pleds for ensuring disruption-free academic calendar; Urges students to concentrate on studies

SRINAGAR, APRIL 21: Seeking cooperation from every section of the society to ensure disruption-free academic activities in the Valley, the Minister for Education, Finance and Labour & Employment, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari today urged the students to concentrate on their studies.

Speaking at a joint meeting of the Vice-Chancellors of various Universities, the



Principals of Degree Colleges and Education Department Officers convened here today, the Minister said that a generation of Kashmiri youth can't be kept away from education which has the power to change the destiny of a nation.

Principal Secretary Higher Education, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon and Director Colleges were also present

▶ See **Altaf**...Pg 02

COURT OF PASSENGER TAX REJECTS BAIL PLEA OF TWO ACCUSED IN ATM THEFT CASES

'Charge sheet against accused persons is serious'

Srinagar, Apr 21: A court on Saturday rejected the bail plea of two accused persons who as per the charge sheet are involved in ATM theft cases.

Court of Passenger Tax Judge, Sudhesh Sharma while hearing the bail plea said that "diverting to the facts of the case, charge sheet against the accused persons is a serious and nature of accusation is fiendish and diabolical in nature. Thus, in backdrop of all the facts and circumstances grant of bail at this stage would thwart the course of justice."

Earlier, two accused including Umar Akbar Malik (20), son of Muhammad Akbar Malik of Khasipora Shopian

▶ See **Court**...Pg 02

'Dal, Anchar, Khushallsar lakes deteriorating for want of funds'

PFR forwarded to ERA for ADB loan: Govt

Srinagar, Apr 21: Even though hundreds of crores have been spend so far on conservation and management projects, the condition of Dal, Khushallsar, Anchar lakes here continues to be deteriorating.

People believe that there are various aspects which are responsible for snatching the glory of these water bodies. "It is shocking that the authorities are not interested in keeping lakes safe from pollution. Dal lake which once covered an area of 75 square kilometres has shrunk to 12 square kilometres in the last two decades. It has been said that the lake's depth has also



come down by nearly 12 metres and is a grave

▶ See **Dal**...Pg 02

First meeting of women wing held at Srinagar WOMEN ARE EQUAL STAKEHOLDER IN PEACE, DEVELOPMENT PROCESS: SAFINA BEIG

Srinagar, Apr 21: Observing that women are equal stakeholders in the nation building and peace process, newly appointment women wing president of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) Safina Beig today called upon womenfolk to work assiduously for restoring lasting peace in J&K. She said that peace is imperative for socio-economic growth of every section of the society.

Addressing maiden meeting of Women wing at Srinagar, which was attended by legislators, district president, office bearers and workers, she expressed her gratitude towards party leadership in general and Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti in particular for giving her the responsibility as

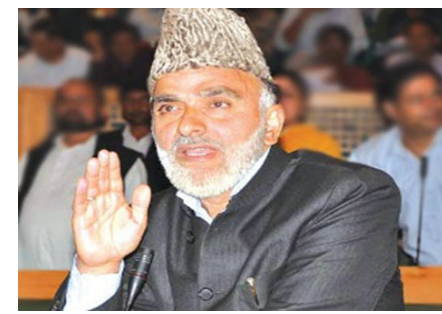
▶ See **Safina**...Pg 02

J&K in ruins under PDP-BJP govt: Sagar

Enact law for capital punishment of rapists of children: Shamima Firdous

Srinagar, Apr 21: National Conference Saturday said with PDP BJP government in power, peace and stability in the state is in ruins while communal polarization is at an all time high.

Addressing NC women's wing party convention at Nawa e Subah, party General Secretary Haji Ali Mohammad Sagar said, "Three and a half year rule of Mehbooba Mufti will be remembered as an era of monumental failures. The state is going through an unprecedented phase of uncertainty, fear and anxiety. While the situation in Kashmir is



deteriorating with every passing day,

▶ See **Sagar**...Pg 02

Reshuffle in BJP part of coalition ministry after April 25 next week: Avinash Rai Khanna

Srinagar, Apr 21: BJP plans to hold a high level meeting to decide the reshuffle in its part of coalition ministry after April 25 next week and induct some party's new faces in the ministry.

BJP National Vice President, Incharge J&K affairs Avinash Rai Khanna told Kashmir News Service (KNS) "a high level meeting will be held after April 25 next

▶ See **BJP**...Pg 02

Rajnath tears into Pak, alleges conspiracy to break India

Dadra Nagar Haveli : In a thinly-veiled reference to Pakistan, Home Minister Rajnath Singh said that the neighbouring country is conspiring to break India apart with the help of terrorism.

Observing that the country continues to pursue terrorism, Singh said that some day, Pakistan would have to concede to the global pressure. Singh also said that Pakistan is making it difficult for India to maintain good relations even though India wants



it. "We always want to maintain good relations with our neighbouring countries. We consider all our neighbours

our relatives. However, one of them doesn't listen. But they will have to listen some day. All international forces are putting pressure on them, international agencies are trying their best to convince them to boycott terrorism," Singh said while addressing a gathering here.

He also lauded the Indian armed forces for successfully keeping the terrorists at bay. "Being our neighbour, they are conspiring to break

▶ See **Rajnath**...Pg 02

JUSTICE TO KATHUA MINOR: City center Lal Chowk observes one-hour shutdown, protests, clashes continue across JK

Srinagar, April 21: Protests and clashes continued at many places across State on Saturday in demand for the justice to minor Kathua girl who was raped and murdered in January.

Reports reaching GNS said that shopkeepers in city center Lal Chowk here downed the shutters on Saturday afternoon and observed one-hour shutdown - from 3 pm to 4 pm - in solidarity with the rape and murder victim.



The markets at Polo View, Lambert Lane, Fairdeal Residency Road, The Bund,

▶ See **City**...Pg 02

40 vehicles challaned, govt vehicle seized in Pulwama

Srinagar, April 21: Continuing its drive against violators, traffic police on Saturday challaned 40 vehicles in Pulwama and seized a government vehicle in the south Kashmir district.

Reports reaching GNS said that a team of traffic police department comprising DySP Traffic for Pulwama-Shopian range Sheikh Mudasar and SO Pulwama SI Abdul Rashid

▶ See **Vehicles**...Pg 02

JKSDM CONDUCTS CLUSTER LEVEL SKILL COMPETITIONS

JAMMU, APRIL 21: The Jammu and Kashmir Skill Development Mission (JKSDM) today started cluster level skill competitions at Jammu and Srinagar under India Skills Competition, J&K-2018 for preparing candidates to represent the country at the World Skills Competition, Russia-2019.

Considered as the Skills Olympics - the World Skills Competition - is held

every alternate year in different countries. At the most recent event, World Skills Competition, 2017 held at Abu Dhabi, there were competitions in 51 skill areas with close to 1,300 youngsters taking part in it and India bagged one silver and a bronze medal along with 11 medals of excellence. The next competition is scheduled to be held at Kazan, Russia in 2019. Mission Director, JKSDM Dr.

Peer G.N. Suhail said, "the idea is to provide opportunities to the youth to showcase their talent and provide them much needed exposure to exhibit their skills at different levels."

JKSDM has received more than 700 applications in different 12 skill categories and today, more than 50 candidates participated in the Bakery, Cooking, Patisserie and Confectionery skill com-

petitions at Institute of Hotel Management, Srinagar and JKSDM, Jammu Office.

Faculty, IHM-Srinagar Mohammad Yaseen Reshi said, "It is a positive sign that youth are taking up skills such as Cooking, Patisserie and Confectionery and it is our responsibility to nurture and guide them to compete at national and international level".

Entrepreneur and Owner Le-Delice French Bakery Mir Saqib said, "In international competitions such as this, the level of competition is tremendous and for that, we have to prepare the candidates beforehand. We should start preparing candidates for the 2021 Skill Competition from today itself so as to take advantage of an early start."

I am preparing for the skills compe-

tion since last one month and I am looking forward to participate in the competition and perform well," said Gaurav, an aspirant. The cluster level competitions for rest of the skill categories would be held on April 24 and 25, 2018 at Jammu and Srinagar. The prestigious institutions such as NIT-Srinagar, IHM -Srinagar, Central University, Jammu, NIELIT, SSMD-Baramulla.

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DEATH

of the ordinance is that the minimum punishment in case of rape of women has been increased from rigorous imprisonment of seven years to 10 years, extendable to life imprisonment.

In case of rape of a girl under 16 years, minimum punishment has been increased from 10 years to 20 years, extendable to imprisonment for rest of life, which shall mean imprisonment till that person's natural life.

The punishment for gangrape of a girl less than 16 years of age will invariably be imprisonment for rest of life of the convict.

The ordinance provides for stringent punishment for rape of a girl under 12 years, minimum 20 years' imprisonment or imprisonment for rest of life or with death.

In case of gangrape of a girl below 12 years, punishment will be imprisonment for rest of life or death sentence.

HAQ

will be placed before the state cabinet to allow courts to award death penalty to rape accused convicts. He said "the memo to be placed before the cabinet is likely to be passed and sent to Governor for his approval. The central government has already passed a similar ordinance to allow courts to award death penalty to rape accused convicts.

It is in place to mention here that just two days back KNS had quoted Law Minister Abdul Haq Khan as saying "the law department is examining the probability of making a law for allowing courts to award death penalty to rape accused convicts. Early Saturday morning the education minister Altaf Bukhari had also promised students an appropriate law for harshest punishment to rape accused convicts and quickest trial of the Kathua rape accused.

As already reported the State cabinet is scheduled to meet on April 24, i.e. Tuesday to take stock of the law and order situation in Kashmir and Jammu in the aftermath of the filing of charge sheet of Kathua minor rape case. Interestingly the students protests since the filing of the charge sheet in Kathua minor rape accused case has collapsed the class work in schools, colleges and universities over the demand for speedy trial of the Kathua rape accused and harshest punishment to the convicts. Acting swiftly the union cabinet passed a resolution to allow courts to award death penalty to rape accused convicts and hours after the union cabinet decision the state government also has prepared a memo for perusal of the cabinet to allow courts to award death penalty to rape accused convicts.

MEHBOOBA

stringent amendments brought in relevant laws by the Union Cabinet to ensure speedy investigation and trial of rape cases and administering deterrent punishments to the convicted.

Mehbooba Mufti called for social mobilization to ensure deterrence to those who indulge in heinous crimes against women besides undertaking general awareness about respecting women and their rights and ensuring girls an environment free from harassment, coercion and crimes against them.

The Chief Minister reiterated her resolve that her Government intends to bring similar laws in the State to put an end to crimes against women.

CABINET

16 years. It has also been provided that the court would have to give a 15-day notice to the Public Prosecutor and representative of the victim before deciding bail applications in the aforementioned category.

?In order to give effect to the legal provisions and to improve the capacity of criminal justice system to deal with rape cases, the cabinet stated that new fast track courts will be set up in consultation with states/UTs and High Courts. It also mandated the creation of new posts of public prosecutors and related infrastructure in consultation with states and union territories.

The cabinet has also provided for special forensic kits for rape cases to all police stations and hospitals, forensic labs in each state and union territory and dedicated manpower for investigation in a time bound manner.

Furthermore, the National Crime Records Bureau has been directed to maintain a national database and profile of sexual offenders. This data will be regularly shared with States/UTs for tracking, monitoring and investigation, including verification of antecedents by police.

The cabinet also stated that the present scheme of One Stop Centres for assistance to rape victims will be extended to all districts in the country.

In the wake of the gang-rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi had expressed her ministry's intention to amend the POCSO to make provision for death penalty in such cases.

Soon after, the Centre submitted its report while responding to a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava, seeking maximum sentence of death penalty to those offenders involved in the rape and brutal murder of children between the age group of 0 to 12.

The Supreme Court's three-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra along with Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud, fixed the matter for further hearing to April 27.

SINHA

He said it was painful for him as a citizen of India to see the ongoing impasse in Parliament and the assault on established institutions of legislation and governance, and completely ruled out the possibility of joining another political party

"I am not an aspirant for any top post, and I am making

it clear here, that I am not at all interested to seek any post," he added.

Sinha currently heads 'Rashtra Manch', an apolitical forum that focuses on highlighting and attempting to resolve important issues affecting the lives of the people of the country.

Sinha said that he was of the view that democracy in India is "under threat".

He said, "The biggest law-enforcing body is in a bad shape. The Parliament has failed to fulfil its responsibility."

He accused Prime Minister Modi of reducing the duration of Parliament to campaign for the upcoming Karnataka polls, and added, "It has never happened in any part of the country."

Indirectly commenting on the ongoing impasse in the Supreme Court, Sinha said, "One of Supreme Court wings has turned rotten to an extent that it is stinking."

ALTAF

at the meeting.

The Minister appealed the students to join their schools and colleges and resume their class work. "We don't want to see the bleak future of Kashmir, where our youth remain uneducated," the Minister said.

Commenting on the government's decision to shut certain schools and colleges in the wake of the protests by students against the horrendous rape and murder of a Kathua girl, Bukhari said the Government is forced to close the educational institutions to ensure safety of the students in view of the frequent protests. "Now the case is in court and we should look up to the judiciary to provide justice and ensure that the guilty are punished," he said.

The Minister said unfortunately education has become the biggest casualty of the prevailing situation in Kashmir and "it is our collective responsibility to think over the terrible consequences of the loss of education of our children." He said he is pained to see students taking to streets instead of focusing on their education. "Ironically, we have come to a time where we are systematically disempowering ourselves, educationally, intellectually, economically and physically," said Bukhari adding that every right-thinking person in Kashmir including those with differing political ideologies shall have to seriously think over the grave issue, before it is too late to recoup the great loss.

The Minister pleaded with all sections of society to keep education out of politics. He said that all the emancipated men and women subscribing to any school of political thought are in favour of continuation of education and "it seems some mysterious elements are hell-bent upon blocking the smooth functioning of the schools to render our children educationally disempowered."

The Minister said while the Kashmir's affluent class has already started shifting their children outside the State for education, it is the middle class and the poor whose children are losing out on education because of the recurrent disruptions. He also requested the parents to convince their wards against protests and not to waste their precious time.

The Minister asked the heads of the educational institution to treat their students as their own children and counsel them for their better future.

Seeking feedback from the heads of educational institutes, the Minister emphasized that it is a moral as well as an ethical duty of educational heads to ensure that they treat students in their respective institutions as their own children.

Emphasizing the need for student counselling, the Minister said as academicians it is important to ensure the safety and better future of students. He said proper counselling could surely help the students towards a better future.

He sought cooperation from teaching community to work overtime to cover the deficit of the valuable time lost due to the prevailing circumstances. He said the teachers need to incorporate new ideas to produce a society that is vibrant, creative and rich in intellect.

COURT

and Adil Ahmad Lone (21), son of Nissar Ahmad Lone of Ranipora Shopian were arrested some 15 day ago for their 'involvement' in six ATM theft cases under FIR number 07/2018 under section 457 and 380 RPC.

The court further stated that on the basis of all the facts and circumstances this is the fittest case where bail should be denied to the accused persons. "Hence accused persons cannot be enlarged on bail. In wake of the discussion, it is crystal clear that application at this stage is premature, as such the bail application of the applicant is dismissed. The bail application is accordingly disposed off," the court ordered.

Earlier, Prosecuting Officer Salim Javid raised the objections in the process of bail on the count that the instant applicant merits rejection on the ground that the offences committed by the accused persons are grave and heinous in nature apart from being non-bailable as such cannot claim as a matter of right.

"The accused persons have committed an offence against the peace and tranquility of the state which has serious ramifications on the life of peace loving citizens and as such any concession or the accused is not in public interest and owing to the common object reflecting from the nature of the offence being at the same time an economic offence also as money of the general public is stored in the ATMs and the money belongs to every common man," the PO added.

DAL

sign of the dangers the lake faces," said one of the social activists.

The study conducted by the University of Kashmir has also found that Dal lake has lost 24.49% of its area during the last 157 years due to unregulated changes in land use and land cover.

Numbers from the Dal Lake's pollution statistics look ominous as the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LWDA) estimates that nearly 80,000 tonnes of silt, 31,000

kg of nitrates and 4,000 kg of phosphates are added annually to the lake. "In the past three decades, the nitrate and phosphate rich water has been responsible for gastrointestinal diseases for people living around the lake," the LAWDA has said.

It would be unfair to say that there have been no efforts to save the Dal Lake. Over Rs. 1,100 crore has been spent on improving the lake's state since the 1980s.

Similarly senior citizens of the Srinagar city told KNS that Khushal Sar Lake is in highly deteriorated condition. "It has been encroached upon at many places with illegal construction and land filling. The lake once stretched from Zoonimar up to the Aali Masjid but now it is considerably reduced. It is connected to the Anchar lake via a small channel. Another smaller lake, known as Gilsar, is connected to the Khushal Sar via a narrow strait, which is spanned by a bridge known as Gil Kadal. The Gilsar lake is in turn connected to the Ni-geen lake via the Nallah Amir Khan. Until the 1970s, the Mar Canal drained into this lake providing navigability up to Ganderbal via the Anchar lake. After the filling up of the Mar Canal, the condition of the lake deteriorated further," Mohammad Afzal Khan an aged person of Aali Masjid told KNS.

Meanwhile the people from Soura said that once the beauty of state's summer capital Srinagar, the Anchar Lake is a picture perfect example of how a world famous water body due to inefficient governance gets destroyed.

"Anchar Lake is located in Soura area of Srinagar city at a distance of 10 kilometers from Srinagar city centre. Some decades back andhar used to be famous tourism and fishing spot. This lake has been the worst hit by growing human encroachments and also official apathy to a large extent as a result it is now more a cesspool," said one of the locals here.

Another local, Hafizullah states, "Anchar Lake is in very bad condition as the lake now has been reduced to marshy land and most of it stands encroached. On the other hand, the menace of pollution and the discharge of untreated effluents besides encroachments have contaminated the lake. The rich and diverse flora and fauna that once grew in the Anchar Lake is extinct and the lake is now infested with weeds. The water here has contaminated due to direct dumping of sewage and waste material in the lake from human settlements. It is high time that authorities save Anchar Lake from catastrophe."

According to some Medical Doctors, water pollution is the worst problem in Kashmir as various chronic diseases of stomach, liver and intestines have been detected among patients. It is because many people of the valley are consuming polluted water to a great extent which is dangerous.

People of several areas both rural and urban districts; face extreme shortage of drinking water. While most of the areas remain without water supply scheme others get water which is far free from being fit enough for drinking purpose.

It is to mention here that the state government had also admitted that the condition of lakes was deteriorating.

The written reply from the government in the legislative assembly has said that in pursuance of the directions of the High Court, Rs 100 crore has been sent as pre-feasibility report (PFR) for Gilsar, Khushallahar and Anchar lakes to Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA) for their prioritization under next ADB loan funding.

SAFINA

women wing president. "I assure my leadership that I will work with dedication and commitment, with my full potential, to come up to the expectations of the party," she said and added its vision of our Chief Minister that women are equal stakeholders in peace and nation building initiatives.

"Women are the worst victim of conflict and turmoil so their participation and role is more important in the process to establish sustainable peace", she observed and exuded confidence that under the dynamic leadership of Mehbooba Mufti lasting peace would be established in this region.

"We have to carry forward Chief Minister's agenda of peace and development across the state", she exhorted party workers, adding, "Being workers of PDP it is our responsibility to frustrate designs of those forces which are hell bent to create disturbance in the State by raking up emotion of the people". She further cautioned that forces inimical to the peace are frustrated due to revolutionary and pro-people steps being initiated by the coalition government headed by Mehbooba Mufti.

Calling upon party workers to spread message of PDP at the grass root level, Safina Beig said that agenda of the party was formulated by accommodating wishes and aspirations of all sections of the society and need of the hour is to educate the people about revolutionary policies of the party. She said that PDP's policies are focused on women in particular as the party has formulated a comprehensive programme for the socio-economic growth of the women of the State.

Safina Beig further announced that constituency wise conventions would be held very soon in all parts of the state in which genuine concerns of the womenfolk would be addressed. She said that genuine grievances of women would be brought to the notice of Chief Minister.

SAGAR

in Jammu the dark clouds of communal hatred are on a rampage."

Among others who addressed the gathering include party Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani, District President Srinagar Peer Afaq Ahmad, ex MLA Irfan Shah.

"In recent history, state of Jammu and Kashmir is going through the darkest phase. All this is happening under the very nose of PDP BJP government who for long seem to have forgotten about the problems and miseries people are going through. There is a complete collapse of the administrative system at place while those who were supposed to get it working are clueless. Clinging shamelessly to chair, it seems, is the only thing they have mastered at," the party General

Secretary said.

Addressing the Convention, MLA Habba Kadal and Provincial President of the NC Women's Wing, Shamima Firdous reiterated the party's resolve in fighting the forces who are communally motivated to divide the state on basis of religion and region. "Today we as a society stand at a precipice were people are looking upto us to save our state from forces hell-bent on destroying the composite culture of our state. What has happened in Rassana is not only criminal but there is a design to sow the seeds of animosity between groups and regions. Until and unless the powers who are at the helm of affairs acknowledge this, justice cannot be delivered," she said.

While condemning the brutal gang rape and murder of an 8 yr old girl in Kathua, Shamima Firdous demanded capital punishment to those who have shamed the entire humanity. "We as a responsible, god fearing society need to take a firm stand on this. Our party President has already asked for bringing in the law to ensure capital punishment to child rapists in the state assembly. We humbly ask this government to expedite the process and call a special session of the assembly for passage of the said bill," the provincial President said.

BJP

week to decide the reshuffle in the BJP part of the coalition ministry and induction of some new faces in the ministry."

When asked to name the new faces likely to be inducted in the ministry, Khanna said "the names will be decided in the meeting only."

In reply to a question on the anti-party activities of two sacked ministers Chowdhary Lal Singh and Chander Prakash Ganga, Khanna said "Chander Prakash Ganga has not taken any rally. As far as the activities of Chowdhary Lal Singh are concerned the issue will be discussed in the meeting and action if needed will be initiated." He assured the people of the state fast track development and said coalition is working well and will last its full term.

Amid speculations in national and local media about the resignations by BJP ministers KNS had quoted Ashok Koul, the state BJP general secretary (Organisation) as saying that no minister has resigned and all ministers are doing their routine work. KNS had also quoted senior BJP leader and minister for health and medical education Bali Bhagat as saying "the rumours about resignations by BJP ministers are spread by media only."

Interestingly the BJP ministers have been attending official functions as ministers and attending their duties at civil secretariat Jammu as usual.

RAJNATH

our country with the help of terrorism. We are proud of our security forces as they are perfectly retaliating to the terror attacks."

The Home Minister was in Dadra Nagar Haveli to inaugurate a number of development projects.

At the event, he also announced that Centre will be presenting a fugitive economic offenders bill before the Parliament, to prevent economic offenders from fleeing abroad.

CITY

Shopping Complex and Regal Chowk observed the shutdown.

Holding banners, the traders shouting pro-Asifa slogans marched from Polo View to Press Enclave.

We demand justice on the fast-track basis for the victim, president Regal Chowk Traders Association Farhan Kitab said. "Justice delayed is justice denied. Let the perpetrators of this heinous crime be brought to book at the earliest."

A group of youth also staged a protest at Press Enclave here demanding capital punishment for culprits. The protestors, under the banner of apex body of NGOs (J&K), carried placards reading 'Justice for minor, punish the culprits'.

Scores of members of Civil Society Sopore accompanied with students held a peaceful protest march at New Colony area of Sopore as a mark of solidarity with the victim.

While expressing serious and deep concern over the brutal rape and murder of Katgua girl in Jammu region, the members of Civil Society Sopore said that our hearts bleed and crave for speedy justice and demand that an exemplary punishment should be awarded to the culprits involved in this heinous crime.

The protesters were shouted slogans "We want Justice" Justice for 8-year-old Kathua girl", they also demanded justice for Kunanpospora rape case and Shopian case.

Meanwhile, students took to streets at many places in Valley including Main Town Sopore, Dangiwachha, Panzan, Chadoora, Soura Buchhpora, Doniwari Kupwara, Shalteng, and Sanat Nagar.

Reports of clashes between students and government forces at Panzan, Chadoora and Sopore, were also reported wherein forces used tear smoke shells to disperse the students.

Similar peaceful protests were also received from other parts including Rajouri, Kishtwar, Poonch and Banihal, of Jammu Kashmir.

VEHICLES

in a drive against traffic violators challaned 40 vehicles including 18 tippers and 22 light motor vehicles in Pulwama town.

A government vehicle bearing registration number JK01A-9695 belonging to SDD Pulwama was also seized.

Both court and compound challan have been served to the violators, and a compound fine of Rs 5400 has been slapped on them. The officials urged the people to follow traffic rules in order to streamline it.

Meanwhile, the general public of the area hailed the move of the traffic department for acting tough against violators particularly the negligent driving of tippers in the area.

Hanjura chairs Rajouri DDB meet; approves Rs 198.94 cr annual plan

RAJOURI, APRIL 21: The District Development Board (DDB) Rajouri which met here under the chairmanship of Minister for Agriculture Production, Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura approved the annual plan of Rs 198.94 Cr for the year 2018-19 after brainstorming discussions and deliberations.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali, Minister for Animal & Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries, Abdul Ghani Kohli, Vice Chairman J&K State Advisory Board for development of Pahari Speaking People, Kuldeep Raj Gupta, Vice Chairman J&K State Advisory Board for development of Gujjars and Bakewals, Gulzar Khatana, Legislators, Ravinder Raina, Qamar Hussain, Vibod Gupta, Surinder Choudhary, Heads of various Departments and other Senior Officers were present in the meeting.

The board embarked on the issue of 587 incomplete buildings under SSA and 114 under RMSA besides repair of schools damaged in cross border firing. It was decided that the concerned heads shall project these incomplete school buildings in State plan and prioritize their completion whereas buildings damaged in cross border firing shall be repaired under SDRF.

Meanwhile DDC was asked to devise mechanism for completion of school buildings in convergence mode under MGNREGA. Decision was also taken for transfer of 3 Ka-



nals land of Animal Husbandry Department at Sunderbani to Health Department for expansion of Sub-District Hospital Sunderbani and alternate land shall be made available to the AHD.

It was also decided that the land belonging to the Police Department shall be transferred to Health Department for setting up of Trauma Hospital to manage accident cases Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch highway.

Responding to the issue of pending payments under MGNREGA, Director Rural Development was directed to devise comprehensive mechanism to ensure timely payments under MGNREGA. The meeting held point wise review of the action taken on decisions of previous

Board meeting. The chairman directed for evolving effective mechanism for the implementation of all the decisions in letter and spirit so that benefits percolate down to the grassroots level. He called upon the heads of departments to personally ensure that board decisions get implemented by removing bottleneck, if any, in implementation of the decisions.

Chairman DDB Rajouri, Hanjura expressed satisfaction over the performance of the district administration in the optimal utilization of the available funds. He exhorted upon the officers to put in more dedicated efforts and work with added zeal to complete all schemes targeted under the annual plan 2018-

19. For issues raised by the legislators, the minister directed the concerned officers to address the issues in time bound manner.

With an aim to ensure proper education to the students belonging to nomadic populace with no school dropouts, the minister impressed upon DDC to submit a detailed proposal for making boarding and lodging facilities for these students.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali, while speaking on the occasion, reiterated the government's commitment for steering the state on developmental path.

He said to address the issues of public in time bound manner and to remove bottlenecks in execution

of projects the government has strengthened the administration at grassroots level by sanctioning 5 more ADC posts in the district.

Kohli, while speaking on the occasion, said the government is fully aware of the issues and problems of the people living in rural areas and necessary measures are apace to mitigate these problems. He said that the development process is being supervised by a transparent and accountable administration provided in the district. He also directed concerned to expedite the construction of Khawas bridge.

Vice Chairmen and Legislators raised important developmental issues vis-a-vis up-gradation of road infrastructure, placement of sufficient staff in education and health institutions and their up-gradation as per the population they cater, provision of ambulances, electrification and road connectivity of left out villages, making available clean drinking water in rural areas besides completion of ongoing schemes under various sectors.

Earlier, DDC Rajouri, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary made detailed presentation on physical and financial achievement of all departments under CAPEX budget 2017-18 and status of decisions taken in previous board meeting. He informed that of Rs 162.26 Cr made available against approved outlay of Rs 205.01 Cr, the district has made expenditure of Rs 153.84 Cr with 94.81% financial achievements.

Deputations from Bhatthindi, Darhal, Bijbehara meet Chief Minister



JAMMU, APRIL 21: Deputations of people from various areas of the State met the Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti here today and brought their problems into her notice.

A deputation of people from Bhatthindi sought augmentation of drinking water facilities in the area. They also demanded upgradation of local High School to a Higher Secondary School and establishment of a health centre in the area.

The deputation also demanded upgradation of Bhatthindi-Sagar Mohalla, Bhatthindi-Panj Peer and Bhatthindi-Bernie roads.

A deputation of members of civil society from Darhal sought strengthening of educational infrastructure in the area. Another deputation from Bijbehara also demanded augmentation of basic facilities in their area.

The Chief Minister listened to the demands of the deputations and assured them to put them for appropriate action at the earliest.

Governor greets people on "Earth Day"

JAMMU, APRIL 21: Governor N.N. Vohra conveyed his greetings on the occasion of Earth Day, an annual event celebrated all across the world on 22nd of April to increase the awareness about environment safety as well as demonstrate the environmental protection measures.

On this occasion Governor urged people from all walks of life to come together for solving serious environmental issues and promoting natural balance and encouraging the people to respect the natural resources of the planet. He observed that it is extremely important to take care of the environmental issues to stay healthy and alive.

Bali lays foundation of Rs 31.60 cr addl 275-bedded block in SMGS Hospital

New space to ease pressure in Gynae, Labour Room substantially

JAMMU, APRIL 21- In order to ease the unprecedented rush of patients, especially in the Gynae Ward and Labour Room in Jammu's prominent hospital SMGS, Minister for Health & Medical Education, Bali Bhagat laid foundation for construction of 275-bedded additional block at the already selected site in the premises of SMGS Hospital here today.

To be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 31.60 crore, the project comprises a multi-story building to accommodate 275 more beds in Gynae ward and Labour Room, parking facility for about 300 vehicles, provision of a modern lab, library and other allied facilities. The proposed accommodation has been designed to make judicious use of available land in the premises of SMGS Hospital for which the site was selected by the Minister in presence of Principal Secretary and other concerned officers of the GMC and SMGS in the month of February during his visit.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that both



GMC and SMGS hospitals are overcrowded with the patients during the past over some years and the need for creating more bedding capacity in both these institutions is badly felt. He said authorities were facing acute shortage of beds in the Labour Room and Gynae wards of SMGS, with the result two to three patients are compelled to share a bed.

Presently there is a provision of only 48 beds in the Labour Room, the patients as well as authorities were facing a peculiar situation on this acute shortage to handle the flow of about 200 maternity cases daily. Keeping the prevailing situation and future needs in mind, the Govern-

ment has decided to construct the new block for accommodating adequate capacity of beds and parking lot for the doctors, staff and attendants in this paramount health institution of Jammu division, said the Minister.

The situation is not different in the emergency of GMC where hundreds of patients are admitted daily with accidents and other serious ailments. There is also acute shortage of beds in the emergency and authorities and patients are facing lot of inconveniences. As an emergency measure, the Chopra Nursing Home will be connected with the emergency block soon and the space will

be utilized optimally for emergency services. The provision of at least 200 more beds will be created in the proposed infrastructure, said the Minister.

Responding to the queries of the media persons, the Minister said that the funds for the project have been secured under State Plan and project will be completed in a shortest possible time. As regards the shortage of doctors, the Minister said that process of selection of doctors has been fast-tracked by the PSC and it is expected that the Department will shortly get around 400 doctors. With their joining the ground situation will definitely improve, said the Minister.

MLA Rajesh Gupta, Principal GMC, Dr. Sunanda Raina, HoDs, Dr. Shashi Gupta, Dr. Indu Koul, Medical Superintendent, SMGS, Dr. R.K. Sangra, Dy Medical Superintendent, Dr. Minakshi Kotwal, Executive Engineer, R&B (GMC), Utter Kumar Sharma and other faculty members of GMC and SMGS were present on the occasion.

Transparency, accountability should be maintained at all levels of governance: Jugal MP reviews progress under SAGY, MPLADS



JAMMU, APRIL 21: Transparency and accountability should be maintained at all levels of governance for visible impact on the ground. This was stated by Member Parliament Jammu-Poonch Constituency, Jugal Kishore Sharma today while chairing a meeting with senior functionaries of various departments to review progress of various development works under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) of village Mathwar and Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) here today.

MLC Vikram Randhawa, Additional District Development Commissioner Jammu Suriya Jabeen, CPO Jammu

G. L. Sharma, ACD Jammu M. Latifi Tasir, BDOs, Engineers of PHE, PDD, Jammu Municipal Corporation and other senior officers of various departments attended the meeting.

Jugal Kishore had a comprehensive review of development works under the scheme with all the departments. He exhorted upon the officers to work with utmost zeal and dedication to ensure effective implementation of SAGY.

He stressed the need for creating awareness among the people about the government schemes which mainly include Saubhagya - Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har

Ghar Yojana, Khelo India Scheme, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Ladli Beti besides others.

Jugal Kishore reviewed the progress of various centrally sponsored schemes like MGNREGA, RMSA, PMGSY, NSAP, NRLM, PMUJ being implemented in village Mathwar. He asked to organize awareness camps at regular interval in Mathwar for maximum enrolment under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana.

The meeting also reviewed the physical and financial achievements under different departments like Rural Development, Health, Education, PWD, PHE and other departments under the scheme.

Later, the Member Parliament reviewed the progress of different departments under MPLADS. He stressed for optimally utilizing the funds for providing better facilities to the people.

Earlier, ADDC Jammu in a power point presentation, apprised the Member Parliament about physical and financial achievements of various departments under SAGY of village Mathwar.

Div Com visits Civil Secretariat

Reviews Durbar Move preparations



SRINAGAR, APRIL 21: Divisional Commissioner Baseer Ahmad Khan today visited Civil Secretariat Srinagar to review the preparations for the upcoming Durbar Move.

The Div Com was accompanied by DDC Srinagar, IGP Kashmir, CE PHE and other officials representing various departments. The Div Com visited various sections of the secretariat building and inquired about the status of renovation works. Div Com also reviewed residential accommodations for move employees besides sanitation and renovation works to be taken up in Government Quarters. He directed the concerned departments to ensure that the renovation and repair work at Civil Secretariat and in all government residential quarters is completed well in time besides facilities like potable water, power, ration etc are made available.

DC Srinagar chairs RTA meeting

Directs for submission of authenticated list of registered sumo stands within 10 days



SRINAGAR, APRIL 21: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah, Saturday chaired a meeting of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Srinagar discussing various matters relating to public transport in the district.

The DC who is the chairman of RTA Srinagar directed for submitting the list of registered sumo stands and the number of sumos registered with them in the district within 10 days.

The DC stressed on diligence while undertaking the verification exercise of registered sumos operating in the district. He stressed that there must be no scope for deceit at all.

Dr. Shah also directed for ensuring that time-plan is strictly adhered to by

public transport operators across the district.

Matters related to operation of new bus services, approval of revised route plans of mini-buses among others were also discussed in the meeting.

The meeting was attended by RTO Kashmir and SSP Traffic City.

Earlier, mini-bus operators of the district called on the DC and apprised him of their concerns including operation of unregistered sumos in the district. Dr. Shah assured them that the district administration is seriously looking to address this issue.

DC B'la visits SSB exam centres, reviews facilities

BARAMULLA, APRIL 21: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr Nasir Ahmad Naqash today visited various Service Selection Board (SSB) examination centers and took stock of facilities put in place for the smooth conduct of the examinations.

On the occasion, DC inquired about the facilities provided by the district administration. He was apprised that 11355 candidates are appearing for different post in 31 centers across the district.

DHS Jammu organizes medical camp at Karanwara, Dy CM supervises



JAMMU, APRIL 21: On the directions of Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Nirmal Singh, Directorate of Health Services Jammu today organised a medical check-up camp at Govt Middle School Karanwara in Kathua district.

Dr Nirmal Singh personally supervised the medical camp and also interacted with the students on the occasion. He said that the government has undertaken a sustained programme for ensuring that the people living in remote and far flung areas are provided with quality services in education, health and other related sectors.

Dr Singh exhorted upon the students to accord top priority to their studies, so that they can make a mark for themselves in different fields of life and bring laurels to their areas and State. He said that youth are the real assets of a country and they should channelize their energies in a constructive ways so that they can be future leaders of the nation. It is worth to mention here that Karanwara is ancestral village of Dr. Nirmal Singh and has studied in this school.

Time and Us

Editorial
SRINAGAR
J&K

Conscience call: On Rohingya crisis

The scale of the humanitarian crisis faced by Rohingya refugees was highlighted this month when Myanmar claimed it had repatriated a family of five. About 700,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh from their homes in Myanmar's Rakhine province since August 2017. Late last year, the two countries had struck an agreement for their return. Bangladesh, however, rejected the claim about the repatriation of the five family members, saying they had not travelled into its territory, so their so-called return did not qualify as repatriation. In fact, in London this week, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina repeated statements by her officials on the repatriation claim, and asked the international community to put more pressure on Myanmar to "take back their own people and ensure their security". Facing persecution at home in Myanmar, Rohingya have for years been fleeing in the most hazardous of ways, and the UN reckons there were already 200,000 refugees in Bangladesh before the mass flight began in August, with most refugees now concentrated in Cox's Bazar. Bangladesh has been at the forefront of seeing to the needs of the refugees, and trying to get Myanmar to create the conditions for their eventual safe return to their homes. Aid workers are working to strengthen their shelters and move the more vulnerable to safer ground before the monsoon rain comes.

The world needs to do a lot more — especially India, as a neighbour that has an estimated 40,000 Rohingya refugees living precariously on its territory, and as a regional power that is failing this time round to keep up its legacy of providing succour to those fleeing persecution. At the heart of the human rights problem that confronts the world is that no one is confident that conditions obtain in Myanmar to receive the refugees. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said last week that "conditions in Myanmar are not yet conducive for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees". It clarified that there needs to be more than physical infrastructure and logistical arrangements for their journey back. It is crucial that there be movement on Rohingya's legal status and citizenship in Myanmar and their identification with Rakhine. Myanmar refuses to recognise the Rohingya, who are mostly Muslim, as a separate ethnic group and denies them citizenship. It just gives them the option of self-identifying themselves as Bengali, which has its own implications for their rights as inhabitants of the country. Officials do not even use the word Rohingya. It has been rightly termed a case of ethnic cleansing. Pressure on Myanmar, which won plaudits for its recent democratic transition, to recognise the rights of a people who trace their ancestry in Rakhine for generations has so far yielded nothing. As Ms. Hasina suggested this week.

Chinese challenge

By ATUL ANEJA

After breaking ranks with the Soviet Union, China became a de facto partner of the United States and remained so for several decades. The breach with Moscow widened in 1972, during the visit of U.S. President Richard Nixon. In the years to come, the geopolitical compulsion of driving a wedge within the communist camp became the touchstone of Washington's approach towards Beijing.

The emergence of Deng Xiaoping following the death in 1976 of Mao Zedong, the founder of the People's Republic of China (PRC), imparted a major, and increasingly prominent, geo-economic dimension to Sino-U.S. ties.

In the decades that followed, China, spurred by Deng's reform and opening up, became the workshop of the world, benefiting hugely from the migration of U.S. and Western capital to its coastal provinces. Guangdong province became exceptionally wealthy, riding on the neighbouring presence of Hong Kong as a world-class financial centre. Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong province, less than two hours by train from Hong Kong, became an international trade and manufacturing hub, benefiting from the wave of globalisation and, later, Beijing's entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

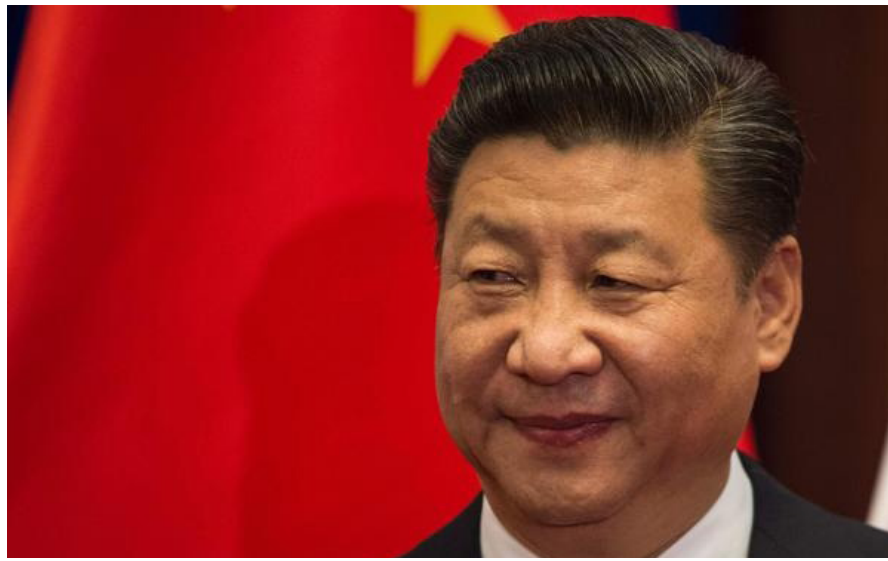
Shenzhen, close to Guangzhou, evolved into a major international hi-tech centre, spawning titans such as Huawei and DJI, the world leader in drones. Outside Guangdong, Shanghai's rise was equally, and visibly, spectacular. But China's emergence as the world's second largest economy, after decades of stratospheric double digit growth, spurred deep anxieties in the U.S., which was unaccustomed, after the Soviet collapse, to the emergence of a competitor.

The world's liberal democracy may have seemed to be the only model to run a country. But then China emerges and becomes a very strange creature, very much different from any single political system in the world; China doesn't fit into the mindset or patterns set by conventional wisdom in the West." Yu Jie, the head of China Foresight at the London School of Economic Ideas, told China Global Television Network (CGTN) in an interview.

Without referring to the U.S. administration under Trump, Xi, at the party Congress, underscored China's proactive support for globalisation and combating climate change. "No country alone can handle all the challenges that mankind faces and no country can retreat into self-isolation," the Chinese President said, listing regional and economic instability, the widening wealth gap, terrorism, major epidemics, cyberspace insecurity and climate change as major challenges facing humankind.

China's doctrinal focus on building a "moderately prosperous society" has multiple indices. It encompasses doubling China's gross domestic product (GDP) from the 2010 level. Consequently, China has to be free of all mass poverty, meaning that 70 million of the country's remaining poorest have to be empowered ahead of that timeline. With industrial pollution choking many of the cities, a moderately prosperous society also has the fundamental improvement of the

environment and the transformation of social and cultural life as its other major dimensions.



now louder than ever before. Trump's "America first" doctrine, to which generating jobs at home is apparently central, has identified China as the visible villain that is hampering the return of prosperity to the U.S.

China's transformation In tune with the arrival of Trump, China itself is undergoing a major transformation. Unlike Deng's "lie-low" approach which was pursued by his successors Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao, President Xi Jinping has been assertive about the realisation of the "Chinese Dream". That "Dream" rides on what are called the two centenary goals.

In a defining address at the 19th Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) held in October, Xi identified 2021 as the year when China will become a "moderately prosperous society". By the middle of the century, China would have become an advanced socialist nation, exercising leadership in nearly all spheres of human endeavour.

In an interview with CGTN, China commentator Robert Lawrence Kuhn observed that Xi's speech recognised the linkage and integration between achieving the goal of a "moderately prosperous society" by 2021—the centenary of the CPC—and the eventual goal of becoming an advanced nation by 2049 when the PRC would celebrate its 100th anniversary. He pointed out that Xi's address revealed that China would keep developing as a "moderately prosperous society" between 2020 and 2035.

But in the second phase between 2035 and 2050, it will evolve "into an advanced nation and will be a global leader in all categories of human importance—economics, governance, science and technology, and culture".

Without referring to the U.S. administration under Trump, Xi, at the party Congress, underscored China's proactive support for globalisation and combating climate change. "No country alone can handle all the challenges that mankind faces and no country can retreat into self-isolation," the Chinese President said, listing regional and economic instability, the widening wealth gap, terrorism, major epidemics, cyberspace insecurity and climate change as major challenges facing humankind.

Three broad themes There appear to be at least three broad themes, which may explain China's decision to empower Xi indefinitely. First, China's transition to one of the most powerful nations

in the world is still very much a work in progress. China's shift from the workshop of the world to a manufacturer of advanced digitally enabled high-end products, leveraging Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT) and Big Data, is yet to reach adolescence. The overheated economy has to be leveraged to prevent a hard landing, even if it means a fairly sharp decline in GDP growth rates.

Besides, Xi's trademark Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to reinforce Beijing's geo-economic and arguably geopolitical heft, just out of the incubator, is encountering teething troubles. It would therefore take years, perhaps decades, for Xi to complete China's economic transition, including railing the BRI, which plans to industrialise Eurasia through massive investments in infrastructure and connectivity.

Xi's half-finished anti-corruption drive may also require continuity in leadership. A new anti-corruption National Supervisory Commission was established during the NPC session. It will hunt corrupt "tigers" and "flies", not only within the CPC but also in the vastly expanding private sector.

The modernisation of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is also at a critical stage. Xi's firm hand would be required for long to weed corruption out of the PLA.

Within China, the CPC's decision to abolish a two-term presidential limit has triggered a lively back and forth. On either side of the aisle, Xi's supporters and detractors are digging into China's far and near history in order to make their case.

A blogger who goes by the name Chan Kai Yee links the decision of the CPC to liberate Xi of a maximum presidential tenure of 10 years to China's time-tested tradition. He argues that Xi's tenure without timelines restores the essence of China's old Yao-Shun system of succession. Under its template, merit and moral integrity alone were the criteria for exercising power. The blogger cites the Chinese classic The Book of History, which claims that more than 4,000 years ago in Yao and Shun times, China's Emperor Yao first tested the calibre of Shun, his eventual successor. Shun was first assigned a high official position. Once he had proved his competence, Yao decided that Shun should succeed him. "Shun was chosen as candidate of succession due to his moral integrity but was finally chosen when he had proved competent in performing the official duties assigned to him by Emperor Yao," says the post. Shun applied the same merit-based principle to choose Yu as his successor for an indefinite tenure.

The decision to consolidate power behind Xi, an individual of proven merit, also echoes the Yao-Shun principle, which was highly praised by Confucius, says the blog. Supporters of the President cite unique considerations, which led the party to empower Xi. They point out that Xi faced the cascading impact of Deng's political reforms, including setting two five-year term limits to the presidential tenure. Deng wanted to flush out diehard loyalists of Mao from the system, as they did not fit into his reform and opening-up plan. One way of getting rid of them was by setting specific time limits to their stay in office.

But the two-term condition also had some unintended consequences. It led to the exit after two terms, in 2003, of Jiang Zemin, Deng's chosen successor. This brought Hu Jintao to the helm. Critics of Hu say that it was under him that problems that Xi was later to confront ballooned.

Prosperity in the 21st century

Pulapre Balakrishnan

Case for bringing the issue of poverty to the centre stage of public policy has recently been made by two of India's prominent economists. In their article, How the data sets stack up (The Hindu, Editorial page, April 4), C. Rangarajan and S. Mahendra Dev suggest that since the publication of Thomas Piketty's Capital in the Twenty-First Century global attention may have got somewhat disproportionately focussed on the issue of inequality, crowding out attention to poverty. They argue that poverty is an important indicator of a country's development on its own.

Levelling up This is an important intervention to have made, for we can see from the histories of different parts of the world that the relationship between the movements in poverty and inequality is not unique. In particular, we find from the Indian experience that there are instances in which a public policy focussed on the reduction of inequality may not result in the elimination of poverty. Essentially, inequality can be reduced by taxing the rich, a form of 'levelling down',

but poverty can be permanently eliminated only by raising the incomes of the poor, a form of 'levelling up'.

Not only has public policy in India paid far too little attention to the latter but also some of the measures adopted to tackle inequality may have exacerbated poverty here. The long-term strategy should be to tackle these two jointly through the equalisation of capabilities. However, in the short-term, public policy must address livelihood opportunities for the poor, the exact implication of which for inequality is not always obvious. The experience of poverty for an individual is not necessarily the same as that of inequality, and poverty reduction often requires particular attention. The article by Professors Rangarajan and Dev serves to remind us of this. The scale of poverty in India remains massive. The Planning Commission had estimated it at 363 million in 2011-12 (Report of the Expert Group to Review the Methodology for Measurement of Poverty, Chair: C. Rangarajan; henceforth 'Planning Commission, 2014'). This is larger than the combined populations of Germany, France, the U.K., Spain and Italy, and amounted to about a third of

the population of India in that year.

To understand the drivers of poverty it is necessary to take a longer view, avoiding exclusive focus on poverty trends after 1991 as this could lead to misleading inference. For instance, Professors Rangarajan and Dev point to an accelerated reduction in poverty in India since 1991, and by implication the role of the reforms in this process. The fact of an acceleration is incontestable but the role in this development of the reforms as we understand them, as opposed to other public policy interventions, needs clarification. To get there we need first to acknowledge that poverty measured by the number of poor begins to decline in the 1980s itself. Official poverty estimates exist for two time points in the 1980s, 1983 and 1987-88. Poverty declined in both these years, 1983 being the first time ever that a decline in the number of poor was registered. The rate of decline in poverty accelerated between 1983 and 1988. But this was not to last, and the next estimate, for the year 1993-94, actually showed a mild increase. (The foregoing analysis is based on poverty estimates using the 'Lakdawala Method'. The analysis that follows is based on

poverty estimates using the 'Tendulkar method'. Data in both cases is from 'Planning Commission, 2014').

Factoring in fluctuations It is important though to see the recorded fluctuations in poverty in perspective. Poverty estimates appear at intervals that are not always uniform, and are influenced by the prevailing prices as consumption expenditure is adjusted for price movements. Despite this we have reason to believe that the recorded rise in poverty in 1993-94 need not be an artefact for the estimated number of poor rises further, though marginally, in 2004-05. It is only the estimate for 2009-10 that shows a decline in the number of poor in India once again. This is followed by a quite spectacular decline over the next two years. To get an idea of the magnitude of the decline, the numbers for 2004-05, 2009-10 and 2011-12 are 407 million, 355 million and 270 million, respectively. So while it is correct to say that poverty had declined rapidly since the reforms, it actually declines only after about one and a half decades from 1991.

Though the extent of poverty reduction over the period 2009-10 to 2011-12

is very high by historical standards, it is not altogether implausible. When we understand this, we are also able to see the potential of the reforms as understood for poverty reduction. The plausibility of the recorded decline in poverty is based on the fact that it comes soon after a period when growth itself in India was fastest ever, the five-year period from 2003-04 onwards. In three of these years growth came close to breaching the double-digit barrier. More crucially, however, the reduction took place when agricultural growth was at its fastest ever. Bipin Deokar and S.L. Shetty have estimated average annual agricultural growth at 4% during 2005-06 to 2013-14 compared to 2.5% for the decade prior to this. A 60% increase in the rate of growth of agriculture sustained for a reasonably long stretch is likely to have impacted poverty significantly. Similarly, the 1980s, when poverty reduction first accelerated, had also been a period of accelerated agricultural growth.

The relative roles of the reforms and agricultural growth in driving poverty-reduction after 1991 are clear from the differential trends of rural and urban poverty. It is only after 2004-05 that we

see for the first time ever a reduction in the number of the urban poor. Till that date this figure has steadily risen while rural poverty had resumed its downward trend after 1993-94 itself. This places the role of the reforms in perspective. The economic reforms had mainly focussed on trade, industry and financial sector reforms. Activity in these sectors is mostly based in urban areas. For well over a decade after 1991 it had not succeeded in reducing the number of urban poor. It is only after the agricultural sector began to grow faster from around the middle of the next one that the number of urban poor begins to decline.

Question of reforms Two processes are likely to have been at play in this. Rural prosperity could have fuelled demand for urban products and, following the significant decline in rural poverty, migration from the villages, swelling the numbers of the urban poor, may have slowed. The role of agricultural growth in reducing poverty is apparent in the fact that between 2004-05 and 2009-10 the number of rural poor declined by 15% while the number of urban poor declined only by 5%.

Chandrababu Naidu breaks fast, says Centre wants to take hold of Andhra

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, who broke his one-day hunger strike on Friday, said that the Centre wants to take the state into their hold.

After ending his fast over 'Centre's non-cooperation with the state', the Chief Minister said, "Centre wants to take hold of Andhra Pradesh, similar to what they did with Tamil Nadu. I will not let that happen. Centre is colluding with the YSRCP, as they are afraid that we will not bow in front of them."

He added, "I will not compromise on state's interests. All kinds of unions and organizations came here and expressed solidarity. This is historic. But, few political parties didn't come, as they have different agenda."

It is notable that today is also Naidu's birthday. Naidu sat on hunger strike at Indira Gandhi Stadium for 12 hours demanding "justice" for the state, including the special category



status (SCS) to Andhra Pradesh.

He is fighting against the Central government for not fulfilling the promises made at the time of state reorganization and for not giving special category status to the state of Andhra Pradesh.

The Chief Minister also made it very clear that struggle is not per-

sonal but between the Center and the state.

Parties like Samara Party, Nava Samaj Party, Lok Satta, Aam Aadmi Party, Revolutionary Socialist Party, and All India Forward Bloc extended their support to Naidu.

Pratyeka Hoda Sadhana Samiti (Association for Special Status) con-

venor Chalasani Srinivas appealed to Naidu to take up indefinite hunger strike in the national capital. He also suggested all the parties in Andhra Pradesh to unite to fight for special status and other promises made by the Centre.

The hunger strike is called 'Dharma Porata Deeksha' or 'Fight for Justice'. The strategy for the hunger strike was finalised by the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Naidu, on Monday.

Naidu has been calling for the special category status to Andhra Pradesh. Asserting his demand, the TDP had quit the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) last month.

The SCS was first accorded in 1969 to Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland. Over the years, eight more states were added to the list - Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura and, finally, in 2010, Uttarakhand.

PM Modi holds talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he had a "wonderful meeting" with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and discussed multiple aspects relating to bilateral cooperation as well as other global issues with her.

Modi met Merkel during a brief stopover in Berlin after wrapping up his visit to the UK where he attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and held a series of bilateral meetings with world leaders.

It was the third and last leg of Modi's three-nation tour to the UK, Sweden and Germany.

"Had a wonderful meeting with Chancellor Angela Merkel. We discussed multiple aspects relating to India-Germany cooperation as well as other global issues," Modi tweeted.

The two leaders discussed ways to further strengthen India-Germany cooperation, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said, adding that Modi's visit "demonstrates India's mutual desire to strengthen the strategic partnership".

"Further cementing a cherished friend-



ship! PM @narendramodi warmly welcomed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the Chancellery ahead of the bilateral meeting," Kumar said in a tweet.

The visit demonstrates the commitment by the two countries to maintain the momentum of high level exchanges, according to Indian officials.

It was the first meeting between the two leaders since Merkel began her fourth term as German chancellor last month.

Modi's meeting with Merkel comes after German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier's trip to India last month, which focused on boosting economic and strategic ties between the two countries.

To accept or not? Venkaiah Naidu to consult legal experts on CJI removal notice

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, who is the Rajya Sabha (RS) chairman, is closely scrutinising the notice submitted by opposition members on Friday for the removal of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra and will take a final call on whether to accept or reject it after consulting legal experts, two senior government officials familiar with the development said on condition of anonymity.

Though no time limit has been prescribed by the rulebook, in previous cases when similar notices were submitted, the time taken by the RS chairman/Lok Sabha speaker to decide varied between three and 13 days, one of the officials said.

"Once a notice is submitted, the RS secretariat does a factual verification of the signatures given by the MPs and submits its report. After that, the RS chairman will consult legal luminaries to decide if prima facie there is ground to admit or reject the motion. In earlier cases, the RS chairman consulted the



CJI but in this case because the motion is against the CJI, he will have to consult a legal luminary," the second official said.

Legal experts said that if the RS chairman decides not to admit the motion, the petitioners may challenge it in court. "It is not a motion admitted under any Rules of the House but is provided for by the statute. So in my opinion, petitioners can challenge the decision on the ground that it is biased," said PDT Achary, a former Lok Sabha secretary general. Another former Rajya Sabha secretary general, Vivek Kumar Agnihotri,

concurred.

"Though there is no precedent, I think it can be challenged by the petitioners if the RS chairman rejects the motion," he said.

In the event of the Vice President deciding to admit the motion, the two government officials quoted above said that a different and more elaborate process will be set in motion.

The RS chairman will constitute a three-member inquiry committee comprising a senior judge of the Supreme Court, a high court judge, and a distinguished jurist to look into the charges

levelled against the CJI.

The committee has to submit its report in three months. "But it can also seek an extension as was done in the case of Calcutta high court judge Soumitra Sen in 2011," Agnihotri said.

One of the officials cited above said, "If the report is in favour of the person against whom allegations have been made, the motion has to be accepted by the House. If, however, the report finds misbehaviour or incapacity against the person, the process of removal starts."

The motion for removal is required to be adopted by each House of Parliament, first by a majority of the total membership of that House and second, a majority of at least two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting. If the motion is adopted by this majority, the motion will be sent to the other House for adoption.

If both Houses adopt the motion, it is sent to the President, who will issue an order for the removal of the judge.

Is wearing a turban integral to Sikh religion, asks Supreme Court

Is wearing a turban integral to Sikh religion, asked the Supreme Court on Friday after a Delhi-based cyclist Jagdeep Singh Puri, challenged a local cycling association's rules that required him to wear a helmet to participate in a competition.

Puri (50) moved the petition with the plea that he cannot wear a helmet because it's mandatory for him to wear a turban as per the Sikh religion.

A bench of justices SA Bobde and LN Rao wondered whether wearing a turban was necessary under the religion or just covering one's head was. They referred to sports persons from the Sikh community who didn't wear turbans while participating in games.

"We have sympathy for the cause. But have you showed us anything that makes it mandatory under Sikh religion to wear a turban only? For example Bishen Singh Bedi played cricket while simply covering his head. He never wore a turban. And what do soldiers do in battles? Don't



they wear helmets? You basically need to define what is a turban?," the bench told Puri's counsel, RS Suri.

The lawyer told the bench that the Central Motor Vehicle Act grants exemption to Sikhs from wearing helmets while driving a two-wheeler. In several foreign countries such as the UK and US, members of other communities, including Sikhs, have been permitted to wear turbans while playing sports in keeping with their religious beliefs.

But, the bench gave example of Milkha Singh. "Great sports persons have never worn

a turban. It seems to us that wearing a turban is not mandatory but covering your head is," the bench said.

Justice Bobde said there was no harm in wearing a helmet if it was for one's safety. "Why don't you wear it? Why do you want to risk your head? Here you are undertaking a cycling competition. You can smash your head and then you will allege the organisers are not following safety standards," the judge said.

Fixing April 23 to hear Puri's petition again, the bench asked Suri to get an authority on turbans. "We want to

know whether it's essential part of your (religious) practice." The court also asked senior advocate CU Singh to assist in the matter.

Puri, a graphic designer by profession, moved the SC after he was disqualified from the Azad Hind Brevet (long distance cycling) organized by Audaux India Randonneurs (AIR), after he refused to wear a helmet since he was wearing a turban. He complained that the rule violated his fundamental right to practise and profess one's own religion guaranteed under Article 25 of the Constitution.

Manmohan, Chidambaram deliberately not involved in CJI removal process: Congress

The Congress on Friday said Manmohan Singh had not been involved in drafting the notice of motion for the removal of Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra because of his stature as a former PM and former finance minister P Chidambaram was kept away because of cases pending against his son Karti. The party dismissed as "absolutely false" reports that the party was divided on the issue.

The Congress was responding to a suggestion that Singh was not enthusiastic about the move and had therefore not signed the notice submitted on Friday to the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu.

"They (such reports) are absolutely false. They are not true. It is not a small issue. It is not instant coffee. It is about Constitution and a matter of institution. We did not want to involve him because he is a former PM," senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal said.

Another senior Congress leader familiar with the development said on condition of anonymity that Chidambaram was "deliberately kept away" because of the INX Media and Aircel-Maxis cases pending against Karti. Asked why other opposition parties had not signed the notice, Sibal said that "there is consensus" among all parties.

Party leaders said there was



initially a divide within the Congress on the issue. One section believed that the motion was necessary in the wake of the comments made by four top Supreme Court judges on

January 12 about the CJI's exercise of power as master of the roster and it would serve as a "deterrent". But another section argued that moving such a motion may portray the Con-

gress as "anti-judiciary" and would yield little since the party did not have the numbers to see it through in any case, said the Congress leader quoted above.

One voice of caution in the party was that of former law minister Salman Khurshid. "Impeachment is too serious a matter to be played with frivolously on the grounds of disagreement with any judgement or point of view of the court," he said. But Khurshid, who is not an MP, was quick to add: "I'm not a party or privy to discussions that took place between different parties and for me to reflect specifically on whether the grounds are justified will be unfair."

Aseemanand says he was 'politically implicated' in blast cases

Swami Aseemanand who was acquitted earlier this week by a special NIA court in Hyderabad in the Mecca Masjid blast case said on Saturday said he had been politically implicated in that case as well as the Ajmer Dargah bombing.

"I was politically implicated in the blast cases," he told reporters after showing up for hearing in another special NIA court in Panchkula in the trial of the Samjhauta blast case where he is also a prime accused.

The Samjhauta blast case is the only pending case against him after his acquittal in Mecca Masjid case this week and the Ajmer Dargah bombing case in March last year.

Reacting for the first time after his acquittal in the Mecca Masjid blast case, Aseemanand said that truth has prevailed in the Hyderabad and Ajmer cases. "I have full faith in judicial system in the ongoing trial (Samjhauta blast) too," he said.

While he kept mum on statement of BJP's West Bengal state president on roping him for to strength the party there, his counsel Manbir Rathi said that he was victim of political terrorism and verdict of two cases - Hyderabad and Ajmer case - proved that truth has won.

"Terrorism has no religion. While it should be condemned by every citizen, it was wrong to implicate people for political purposes," Rathi said.

He said that in Samjhauta blast trial, 213 witnesses have been examined so far and about 30 witnesses are left to be examined. On Saturday, two witnesses, both judicial officers were examined in the hearing. The court fixed the next date of hearing for May 4.

Sixty eight people, including 42 Pakistani passengers, were killed in the firebombing of Samjhauta Express that took place when the bi-weekly train, connecting Delhi and Attari at India-Pakistan border in Punjab, was crossing Panipat on the night of February 18, 2007.

The initial investigation was carried out by the Railway Police and the Haryana Police, but in 2010, the Centre handed over the probe to the NIA, which filed the charge sheet against alleged Hindu extremists Naba Kumar Sarkar alias Swami Aseemanand, Sunil Joshi (now dead), Lokesh Sharma, Sandeep Dange and Ramchandra Kalasangra alias Ramji.

Bengal govt officials to check if TV shows upset communal harmony

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said her government will soon appoint a nodal officer in each district to check, along with the police, whether any TV programme can upset communal harmony.

Speaking at a cable operators' function, which saw representation from broadcasters and multi-system operators (MSO), the chief minister said programmes portraying communal tension or violence can be extremely harmful.

"While I request the broadcasters to refrain from broadcasting such programmes, I also feel the necessity of appointing a nodal officer in

every district, who will maintain a liaison with police and cable operators," Mamata said.

During the communal flare-ups in Basirhat and Baduria in North 24 Parganas district in July last year and Asansol and Raniganj earlier this month, the state government ordered local cable channels to suspend broadcasting news programmes to contain what it alleged was rumours and allegations that stoked passions in communities.

The same strategy was adopted in the hills in north Bengal last year during the Gorkhaland tension.

The West Bengal chief minister also expressed her displeasure over some "neg-



ative" aspects that have become the fodder of most of the TV serials. "These days, television serials mean multiple marriages of a person or conspiring relatives. I request

all to think about this issue," she remarked.

At Friday's programme at Netaji Indoor Stadium, the chief minister also urged broadcasters and MSOs to

share a part of their profit with the cable operators.

"I request the broadcasters to realise lower charges from the MSOs. This will, in turn, help the MSOs to share a part of their profit with the cable operators, who are struggling to make both ends meet," she said to applause from thousands of cable TV operators.

Mamata also announced the formation of a committee chaired by the state law and labour minister Malay Ghatak. The committee will also have representations from cable operators, broadcasters and MSOs.

After a cable operator from South 24 Parganas district

complained about the paltry sum they get from MSOs, the chief minister called MSO officials on the dais and held a small meeting in a corner.

After a few minutes, she announced the formation of the committee.

She also announced some additional dole-outs from the state government. She said cable operators and their families will be included under the state's health insurance scheme.

The chief minister also promised to bring the cable operators under the pension scheme, where they will be entitled to a monthly pension after they reach 60 years of age.

Can rich people buy their way to good health and a longer life?

Money might not buy love, but it can buy better health. And, to live as long as possible, the world's wealthy are willing to pay up. Over the past few decades, the average person's lifespan has risen almost everywhere in the world.

In China, the US and most of Eastern Europe, the average life expectancy at birth has reached the late 70s, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, or OECD. People in Western Europe and Japan, meanwhile, can expect to live into their early 80s.

Most rich people, however, are counting on living even longer — a lot longer, as in two decades more than average. In a new UBS Financial Services survey, 53% of wealthy investors said they expected to live to 100. Hitting triple digits won't be easy, but it's not as outlandish as it used to be. The average Japanese woman now has a life expectancy of 87, OECD data show, compared with 81 years

for men. And many studies have shown that the wealthy have a built-in longevity advantage.

In the US, for example, the richest 1% of American women by income live more than 10 years longer than the poorest 1%, a 2016 study in the Journal of the American Medical Association found. For men, the gap between the richest and poorest Americans is almost 15 years. The rich also seem to know that living to 100 is a pricey prospect, one that requires more spending on health care, better food, exercise and other services that can lengthen life. Also, you have to keep paying for everything that comes from hanging around additional decades.

In the UBS survey, which focused on people with more than \$1 million in investable assets, 91% said they're "making financial changes due to increased life expectancy". Even the wealthy worry about rising health-care costs, the survey suggests.



The rich are more than willing to sacrifice money for extra longevity. Nine of 10 wealthy people agreed that "health is more important than wealth". Asked by UBS how much of their fortune they'd

be willing to give up "to guarantee an extra 10 years of healthy life", the average responses varied by wealth level. Investors who are barely millionaires, with \$1 million to \$2 million in net worth,

were willing to give up a third of their nest egg for an additional decade of life. Investors with more than \$50 million were willing to part with almost half of their fortune.

The world's trend toward longer life has featured an exception in recent years — the US. The life expectancy of Americans has declined for two years in a row, an anomaly that can be blamed in part on the country's opioid abuse crisis. But even before US lifespans started slipping because of drug use, health and longevity statistics significantly lagged those of other wealthy countries in Western Europe and Asia.

Perhaps it's not surprising, then, that rich Americans surveyed by UBS had different attitudes from the wealthy elsewhere in the world — they were more pessimistic about making it to age 100. Just 30% of the American rich expect to hit the century mark. While they were the most worried about rising health-

care costs, they were the least likely to be adjusting their finances for the prospect of living longer.

If rich Americans aren't planning for the extra costs of longevity, they could be making a mistake. Studies show that the wealthy in the US are increasingly insulated from the depressing health trends afflicting most Americans. A 2016 study by University of California at Berkeley professors Emmanuel Saenz and Gabriel Zucman compared the death rates for American men aged 65 to 79 across several decades by wealth. If these men's wealth placed them in the top 1%, their mortality rates in the early 1980s were 12% lower than average. Twenty-five years later, the wealthiest American men's death rates had plunged to 40% below average.

Rising inequality is about more than just a widening gap in wealth and income. The richest Americans are also living much longer, healthier lives than everyone else.

Do you eat according to your blood group? All about the blood type diet

Your blood group holds a lot of information. It can guide you on what your diet should look like. Unlike a lot of other one-size-fits-all diets, the blood type diet is personalised based on your blood group. It was most prominently advocated by Peter J. D'Adamo, a naturopath.

There are four main blood groups — A, B, AB and O — and these are classified depending on the inheritance of genes from one's parents. Dr Anand Mishra, Internal Medicine Specialist, Hiranandani Hospital, Mumbai, points out that each blood type is determined by the presence and absence of antibodies, as well as inherited antigenic substances. Depending on the blood group, these antigens may be present in the form of proteins, carbohydrates, glycoproteins or glycolipids.

A protein called lectin reacts with our blood, and can have varied impact on the body, depending upon our blood group. While these effects are not life threatening, they can trigger a few health issues. The immune system is efficient enough to protect us from the adverse effects of lectins within a specific blood group, but choosing a diet suitable to our blood group can be helpful.

One needs to determine his/her blood group and then can consult a dietician to follow a diet design as per their blood group. Rasika Parab, HOD, Nutrition Therapy, Fortis Hospital, Mumbai, gives you an overview of the blood type diet:

People with this blood group are found to have higher secretions of stomach acids (alkaline phosphatase and lipoprotein apob48). Due to this, they are vulnerable to gastric ulcers and digestive problems. They are also predisposed to thyroid disorders. Following a diet which is mind on spices, rich in antioxidants and probiotics is recommended. The diet should include plenty of fruits, vegetables, milk and milk products and proteins like chicken, eggs and fish.

People belonging to this group are highly susceptible to diabetes and obesity. They have lower levels of stomach acid (hydrochloric acid), which helps in digestion and metabolism of food. It has been seen that people with A-blood group have a sensitive immune system. A good amount of fish, legumes, pulses, fruits and vegetables is advised.

Anything high in fats and carbohydrates should be avoided.

People with this blood group have higher than normal levels of Cortisol (hormone released during stress), which can lead to autoimmune diseases, obesity, diabetes and inflammatory diseases. Less carbohydrates and fat, and high consumption of protein, is recommended. Egg whites and chicken can be included in the diet. Vitamin and mineral boosters such as fruits and veggies becomes an integral part of diet.

This blood group too will have low levels of stomach acids and hence they are prone to digestive issues. The diet should be designed to include tofu, low fat dairy products and lots of fresh fruits and vegetables. Eating small and frequent meals are recommended for this blood group people.

To lose weight the right way, include these 6 superfoods in your diet

The success of your fitness and weight loss goals are totally governed by what you eat. And with the recent rise of lifestyle diseases in India, the saying couldn't ring truer. To stay fit, or even lose weight, you need to ensure your diet has all the healthy foods. Superfoods like kale and chia seeds offer wholesome goodness. Moreover, they are not just high on nutrient value but also on taste. Rajesh Sawhney, Co-founder of Healthie. in and Rajiv Kumar, CEO of Culinate, list 6 healthy ingredients that will do you a lot of good:

Quinoa is a seed that belongs to the spinach/charad family, which is why it is called a pseudo-cereal or pseudo-grain. Quinoa is rich in protein and a lot of other vital nutrients such as magnesium,

dietary fiber and vitamin B. It is also a good source of antioxidants called flavonoids and is a healthy alternative to rice.

Kale is high in fiber, low on calorie and has zero fat. It is one of the most common ingredients in the healthy dishes prepared by restaurants. Apart from being highly nutritious, kale is high in antioxidants and has anti-inflammatory properties. It can be added to pasta, green smoothies or can be simply tossed in a salad.

Chia seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, fiber, antioxidants, iron, and calcium. A 28 gram, or ounce, serving of chia seeds also contains 5.6 grams of protein. Hence, they make it on the menu of most healthy food restaurants. These seeds can



be added to smoothies, oatmeal or yogurt.

Nuts are often counted as good fats and are also rich in fiber and omega-3. Plant sterols are a substance present in nuts that helps in lowering

the cholesterol level in the body. Nuts are a great source of L-arginine, which makes the artery walls more flexible and less prone to blood clots that can block blood flow. You can make a nutty trail mix

and simply munch on nuts in between meals or add them to your stir-fry.

Activated charcoal is a natural ingredient that helps in flushing out toxins from the body. It not only helps in

the detoxification of the body but also helps in digestive cleansing by alleviating problems like gas and bloating. Activated charcoal helps in fighting the signs of ageing too. Health restaurants incorporate activated charcoal in their healthy drinks and also in the breads and buns used for their special sandwiches and burgers.

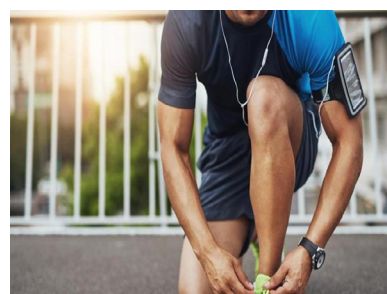
Beetroots contain valuable nutrients that may help lower your blood pressure, fight cancer and inflammation, boost your stamina, and support detoxification. It is an amazing source of iron but is often ignored due to its peculiar taste. Beetroots can be added to salads, smoothies or you could even add beetroot to your chapati dough to get that much-needed iron intake.

Heart attack patients, these exercises will help you live longer

There are many benefits of exercise and it can help prevent diseases. Now, it turns out, it is even more beneficial after a heart attack and it may help stave off death for longer. A study done by Swedish researchers followed 22,000 heart attack survivors aged 18-74, and found that those who boosted their exercise levels after being discharged from the hospital, halved their risk of dying within the first four years. A previous study had shown that daily exercise could lower chances of heart attack for people who have a family history of cardiovascular problems.

"It is well known that physically active people are less likely to have a heart attack and more likely to live longer," said Orjan Ekblom of the Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences. "However, we did not know the impact of exercise on people after a heart attack."

Ekblom led the research presented at a European Society of Cardiology



congress in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The team collected data on heart attack patients in Sweden, and their physical activity levels as reported six to 10 weeks or 12 months after the event. Researchers documented how many exercise sessions of at least 30 minutes the survivors took part in — with zero to one weekly sessions categorised as "inactive", and two to seven sessions as "active". "All types of activities could be included, typically with an intensity corresponding to a brisk walk or more intense," said

Ekblom.

Almost 1,100 of the group of 22,227 died in the four years of the study. The team also measured whether the patients became less or more active over time, or maintained a constant level of activity. Making provisions for other factors such as the patients' age, gender, smoking habits and health, the team then looked at trends.

"Compared to patients who were constantly inactive, the risk of death was 37%, 51%, and 59% lower in patients in the categories of reduced activity, increased activity, or constantly active, respectively," said the press statement. "Reduced activity" referred to patients who exercised initially after their heart attack, but then stopped. "Exercising twice or more a week should be automatically advocated for heart attack patients," said Ekblom. The study yielded no data linking strenuous exercise with heart attack risk, he added.

A dose of art therapy can ease pain and anxiety in cancer patients

Art can heal, and in more ways than one. A new study done by Mayo Clinic-Rochester shows that art therapy at bedside on patients with haematological cancers improved their mood, and reduced pain and anxiety.

The link between art and health has been explored in the past as well. An earlier study done by James Cook University in Australia showed a link between art and mental health. It suggested that mental health disorders like neurosis, schizophrenia and attention deficit disorders could all be predicted based on the kind of art you like, be it pop art or abstract art. And a Japanese paper-cutting art even inspired a new, effective design for bandages.

For the recent study, 21 female and 10 male patients were admitted to the inpatient bone marrow transplant and haematologic services at Mayo Clinic-Rochester. They were invited to participate in a brief bedside visual art intervention (BVAI) where the goal of the session was to teach art techniques for 30 minutes.

A total of 19 female and 2 male patients participated. Significant improvements in positive mood and pain scores, and there was a decrease in negative mood and anxiety. Patients perceived BVAI as overall positive (95%) and wished to participate in future art-based interventions (85%). The findings indicate that art therapy can be used alongside conventional treatments for patients with cancer-related mood symptoms and pain. The study has been published in the journal European Journal of Cancer Care.

Watch IPL, get fit. Nutritionist Rujuta Diwekar has a diet plan for you

We admit it. We absolutely love each and every piece of advice celeb nutritionist Rujuta Diwekar shares. Whether it's her insistence that Indians shouldn't give up on 'evil' foods like rice, ghee and sugar, or her firm belief that eating healthy doesn't mean skipping your favourite dishes. No wonder Bollywood biggies like Kareena Kapoor Khan and Alia Bhatt turn to her for fitness guidance. Now, she has a diet plan designed around IPL 2018.

Earlier this week, Diwekar shared two social media posts on the diet you should stick to while watching cricket. If you settle down to enjoy a good game with popcorn, chips, pizza, some beer or something similar, it's time to stop. Even as your cheer on your favourite team, don't let fitness take the back-seat, she insists.

Diwekar's diet plans and weight loss ideas are rooted in timeless Indian wisdom, and not fads. You'll never catch her recommending quinoa or kale — the current international darlings. Diwekar has always preached the importance of eating local. Time and again, she stresses on the value of consuming what is grown in your region.

WEIGHT LOSS TRICK FOR SUMMER, GO ON A WATERMELON DETOX DIET FOR 5 DAYS

It's summer time and as the temperatures soar, you find yourselves craving for watermelons. But what if you could stick to a diet where you just eat watermelons for a few days? We are talking about the Watermelon Diet which involves a short period of 4-5 days during which people eat nothing but watermelons and then, post the cleanse and after losing some kilos, they can return to their original diet.

Could such a diet actually substitute for your meals, especially during the worst of summer when your appetite hits an all-time low? After all, watermelons are low in calories, can help fight dehydration (thanks to its 90% water con-

tent), is rich in fibre, and can detoxify your body. They are rich in Vitamin A, lycopene, iron and calcium and thus good for your skin and hair, can lower risk of heart disease, boost digestion and prevent inflammation. A previous study had also suggested that watermelon can boost your sex drive.

Nutritionist Raheela Hasan says that such a diet can have short-term benefits but the weight lost will bounce back pretty fast. "Eating watermelons has its benefits but just going on a watermelon diet for 4-5 days is not recommended. It is, at best, a temporary diet. Detoxification of the body is a long-term process. After such a drastic diet, re-



turning to a normal diet will have a yo-yo effect on your body," she says.

Luke Coutinho, holistic nutritionist and founder, Purenutrition.me, seconds that. "I am not a big fan of the

one-ingredient diet," he says, adding, "Our bodies also need fats, proteins and plenty of other vitamins and minerals. How will the body get those in the entire cycle of 4 to 5 days? One cycle of such a diet

may reset your eating habits, but repeatedly doing it might lead to deficiencies."

Over a period of time, such a diet could lead to loss of nutrients, and reduced dietary source of protein, says Hasan.

Instead, she recommends that people stick to having it as a mid-meal fruit (around 15 cubes daily) for optimal benefit.

Watermelon is just one of many fruit diets; in the past there have been diets where people survived on just a slice of orange or drank juice through the day. "Avoid doing just fruits diets. Eating too much of orange or just fruits leads to excess fibre which can also cause digestion problems, abdominal cramps, and diarrhoea," says Hasan.

"In my opinion, the body can be detoxified even while having a balanced nutritious meal. I do not recommend getting into the habit of relying on such diets," says Coutinho.

GoAir, Jet Airways, AirAsia Offer Discount On Flight Tickets On These Routes

NEW DELHI: AirAsia India is offering up to 20 per cent discount on base fares of all domestic flight tickets.

Airlines are showering discounts on domestic and international flight tickets which can be easily availed from respective airline's website/app. GoAir is offering domestic flight tickets starting at an all-inclusive price of Rs. 1,304. While Jet Airways is offering 30 per cent discount on base fare in economy flights flying from India to select destinations in Europe.

AirAsia India is offering up to 20 per cent discount on base fares of all domestic flight tickets. On international front, AirAsia is offering 60 per cent discount offer.

GoAir airline is offering domestic flight tickets starting at an all-inclusive price of Rs. 1,304 under its 'More destinations, Low Fare'



offer. Customers willing to avail GoAir's special offer can book flight tickets till May 2, 2018. Also an additional 10 per cent discount is available on bookings through GoAir app by using the code GOAPP10.

In another offer, the carrier is

offering up to Rs. 2,000 value back on its domestic flight tickets under its 'Summer offer'. GoAir has partnered with ZoomCar, Xoxoday, Paytm and HDFC Bank to give the value back of up to Rs. 2,000 on domestic flight tickets. GoAir is giv-

ing maximum discount of up to Rs. 1,200 or 12 per cent whichever is lower on Zoomcar drive and Rs. 1000 discount on Xoxoday on a minimum purchase of Rs. 2,000. Under this offer, GoAir is offering 5 per cent cashback on payment via Paytm wallet.

Also 10 per cent discount is available on booking through HDFC Bank debit and credit cards.

Jet Airways is offering 30 per cent discount on base fare in economy flights flying from India to select destinations in Europe. In order to avail this new promotional offer, one should

The travel period of Jet Airways' special sale offer for outbound journey starts on October 10, 2018 and ends on December 15, 2018. For inbound journey, the travel period starts from January 15, 2019. In another scheme, Jet Airways is also

offering premiere flight tickets at a starting price of Rs. 6,808 under its 'Book Early, Save More' promotional scheme.

Tickets must be purchased a minimum of 30 days prior to departure in order to avail this scheme. Tickets are valid for 12 months from the date of commencement of journey.

AirAsia India is offering up to 20 per cent discount on base fares of all domestic flight tickets. Bookings for AirAsia India's discount offer are open till April 22, 2018. The travel period of AirAsia India's offer ends on October 31. AirAsia is also offering up to 60 per cent discount on base fares of all international flight tickets.

An additional discount of up to 20 per cent is available on picking a seat during the flight booking on international route.

Cash crunch: Over 85% ATMs functioning, deposits increase in banks



NEW DELHI: More than 85 per cent automated teller machines (ATMs) started dispensing cash across the country on Friday and deposits in banks increased, leading to an improved cash flow situation, a senior finance ministry official said.

"Over 85 per cent ATMs were functional on Friday. Cash deposit back to the system also improved. So, no net reduction in cash position of currency chests," the finance ministry official said.

The share of functional ATMs will hover over 85 per cent for sometime now, another finance ministry official said. The situation has improved from Monday when about 60 per cent ATMs across India were dispensing cash, which went up to around 82 per cent on Thursday.

Low deposit of currency in banks and the high rate of cash withdrawal had worried the government that was seen as one of the reasons that led to a cash crunch in ATMs in states, particularly, Bihar, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, among others. In Bihar, around 75 per cent ATMs of State Bank of India (SBI) were working on Friday morning, against 61 per cent operational ATMs in the state on Thursday, the official said. Over 30 per cent of the ATMs belong to SBI in Bihar — the highest among all other banks.

The RBI had supplied an additional Rs 10 billion to its regional office in Bihar on Thursday for distribution within the state and in Jharkhand in a bid to ease the situation.

The state-level bankers' committee of Telangana, which held a meeting on Thursday attended by all banks and RBI officials, demanded more cash supply in the state though cash withdrawal has shown a decline there. Currency shortage still persists in the system, a banker told Press Trust of India on condition of anonymity. "With allowance of free-of-charge withdrawals from our PoS (Point of Sale) terminals across India, the bank has given an additional option to customers to withdraw cash. We hope the short supply of currency at ATMs will be normalised soon," an SBI official said.

An official of a private sector bank said cash shortage was present in the system, but the bank had requested the RBI for more supplies. Punjab National Bank said cash supply to its ATMs had reached normalcy.

Apple loses \$60 billion on reports of weak smartphone demand in 2018

TAIPEI: Apple lost over \$60 billion in market cap in two days after Taiwan Semiconductor, Apple's biggest supplier, said in an earnings update that second-quarter revenues would be hit by "weak demand from the mobile sector".

Apple shares fell nearly seven percent on Thursday and Friday over reports of a sharper slowdown in smartphone sales this year. Financial Times reported late on Friday. Not just Apple, the news led to several global chipmakers losing market value, including Analogue Devices, Dialog Semiconductor, Qualcomm and Qorvo.

For the first time since 2009, smartphone sales in China fell last year while global sales fell in the fourth quarter of 2017 for the first time since 2004. In another setback for the iPhone maker, its efforts to get LG Display's OLED screens for future iPhone production line "have hit manufacturing issues", the Wall

RECRUITMENT GROWTH EASES TO 3% IN MARCH '18



NEW DELHI: A recent report published by online job portal, Naukri.com, reported a three percent hike in hiring activity in March, down from six percent in the previous month.

As per the Naukri JobSpeak Index, hiring in March was pegged at 2,129, marking a three percent increase from March last year. Furthermore, a quarterly comparison of hiring activity indicated a seven percent rise in Q4 2017-18 compared to the corresponding quarter in the previous fiscal.

The growth in hiring was led by metro cities, with Mumbai and Kolkata registering a growth 11 and 20 percent respectively in Q4 2017-18, compared to the same period last year. The report also highlighted a 32 percent rise in hiring across jobs requiring production and maintenance as a key skill in the fourth quarter.

"The JobSpeak index for March has shown a three percent year-on-year growth driven by significant growth in the non-IT sectors, namely, automobile, construction and engineering. Having said that, there seems to be an air of caution in the IT/ITES sectors and we can expect the market to sustain the momentum gained and move further north in the next few months," said Naukri.com Chief Sales Officer V. Suresh.

Overall, the report highlighted strong hiring activity across several core industries. Hiring across auto and ancillary industry increased by 33 percent in March 2018 as compared to March 2017. Industrial products and heavy machinery industries saw an increase in hiring by 23 percent, BPO and insurance industries by 11 and 6 percent respectively, construction and engineering industry by 20 percent and banking and financial services went up by 5 percent in the aforementioned time period.

On the other hand, the IT-Software industry continued to be sluggish, with hiring registering a 12 percent decline in March.

Positive sentiments cut across experience levels with hiring across senior level (with over 16 years of experience) showed a robust growth of 8 percent, while the mid (4-7 years) and junior levels (0-3 years) grew by 3 and 6 percent respectively in March this year.

JobSpeak Index of March 2018 recorded a 26 percent rise in hiring activity for jobs requiring production/maintenance as a key skill, while hiring activity in sales / business development and site / engineering went up by 13 and 7 percent respectively.

A state-wise comparison noted that Mumbai registered a 4 percent rise in hiring activity, while Kolkata and Delhi/NCR witnessed a rise of 5 and 3 percent respectively. Other cities like Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad were flat in terms of hiring activity.

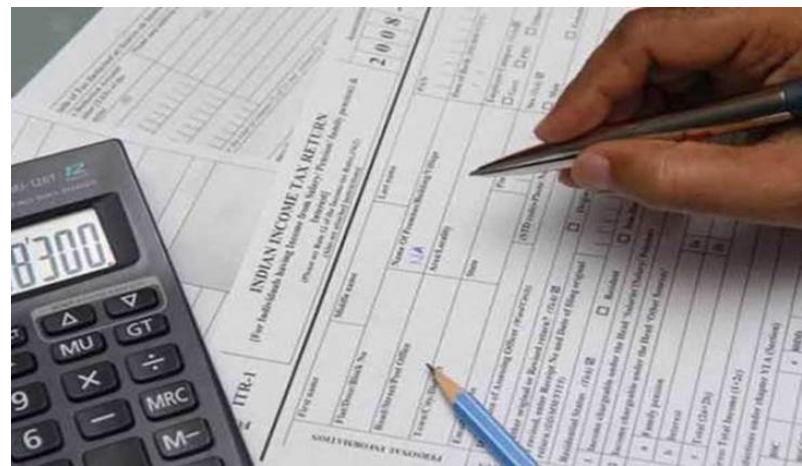
On a related note, the index is calculated based on job listings added to the site month on month. July 2008 has been taken as the base month with a score of 1,000 and the subsequent monthly index is compared with data for this month.

New Income Tax return for salaried class available on IT portal: Here's all you need to know

NEW DELHI: The latest Single Income Tax Return form for Assessment Year 2018-19 used by the salaried class of taxpayers has been activated on the official e-filing portal of the IT department. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) unveiled the forms on April 5. The other ITRs will be available shortly. The tax filing season for salaried class taxpayers has just begun with the CBDT, that frames policy for the department, recently notifying the new ITRs.

Here's all you need to know about the amended ITR for salaried class:

The new ITR forms for the assessment year 2018-19 mandate the salaried class assesses to provide their salary breakup, and businessmen their GST number and turnover. Details such as allowances that are not exempt, value of perquisites, profit in lieu of salary and deductions claimed under section 16 should be mentioned in separate fields. These are available in the Form 16 issued by the employer. The ITR-1 can be filed by an individual having income of up to Rs 50 lakh and who is receiving income from salary, one house property or other interest income. Last year, 30 million taxpayers filed this form, the tax department said in a statement. Informa-



tion regarding cash deposited—subsequent to demonetisation—which was introduced in the ITR forms in AY 2017-18, has been withdrawn from ITR 1 to ITR 7 for the current assessment year as that information pertained to the specific time period of Nov. 9 to Dec. 30, 2016.

The last date for filing the ITR is July 31. The new forms are available on the Income Tax Department website <http://www.incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in/>. The Income Tax Department has cautioned salaried class taxpayers against using illegal means like under-reporting

of income or "inflating" deductions while filing their returns, stating violators will be prosecuted and their employers will be intimidated to take action against them. Also read | I-T warns salaried class against filing wrong ITRs There are seven ITR forms. All of can be filed electronically except for some category of taxpayers. The Central Board of Direct Taxes, that frames policy for the tax department, had said some fields have been "rationalised" in the latest forms and that there is no change in the manner of filing the ITRs as compared to the last year.

PETROL PRICE SKYROCKETS TO A NEW 55-MONTH HIGH, DIESEL PRICE JUMPS TO AN ALL-TIME HIGH

NEW DELHI: Petrol price surged to hit a new 55-month high on Saturday as it touched a high of Rs. 74.21 a litre in New Delhi, while diesel price hit an all-time high of Rs. 65.46 in the national capital. The state-owned oil firms raised petrol rates by 13 paise per litre each in Delhi while the diesel price surged by 15 paise in each state. The last time when petrol price surged past this level was in September 2013, when the fuel would make a consumer poorer by Rs. 76.06



a litre. The petrol price, on Saturday, costs Rs. 74.21 in Delhi, Rs. 76.91 in Kolkata, Rs. 82.06 in Mumbai and Rs. 76.99 in Chennai, as per the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)

website. COMMENTSThe petrol and diesel prices tend to fluctuate on a daily basis since the state-owned oil companies that include Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, in June last year had renounced the 15-year practice of revising rates on the fortnightly basis and adopted a daily prices revision system to reflect changes. The central government has raised excise duty nine times between November 2014 and January 2016 to shore up finances.

CABINET APPROVES ORDINANCE TO SEIZE PROPERTIES OF FUGITIVE ECONOMIC OFFENDERS

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Saturday approved the promulgation of an ordinance that empowers authorities to confiscate property of persons charged with economic offences and have left the country to escape trial.

The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared the Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance, 2018, a senior government official confirmed on condition of anonymity. It will come into effect after the assent of President Ram Nath Kovind, which is likely in a few days, the official said.

"The ordinance is expected to re-establish the rule of law with respect to fugitive economic offenders as they would be forced to return to India to face trial for scheduled offences," the official said. The proposed law, a draft legislation of the Narendra Modi government, aims to impound and sell assets of alleged

fugitives such as Nirav Modi, who is charged in a multi-crore fraud at Punjab National Bank.

It will apply to defaulters who have an outstanding due of Rs 100 crore or more and refuse to return to the country.

It proposes to enable authorities to attach property of these "fugitive economic offenders" and the "proceeds of crime", and place the burden of proof for establishing that an individual is a fugitive economic offender on the director or the person authorised by the director.

The ordinance provides for confiscating assets even without conviction and paying off lenders by selling off the fugitive's properties. Such economic offenders will be tried under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The bill tabled in Lok Sabha on March 12 provided for "measures to deter fugitive economic offenders from evading the



process of law in India by staying outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts, to preserve the sanctity of the rule of law in India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto". The ordinance requires the director to move an ap-

plication before a special court. The application will, among other things, have information about his whereabouts, a list of properties believed to be proceeds of a crime for which confiscation is sought, a list of benami properties, or foreign proper-

ties for which confiscation is sought, and a list of persons having an interest in these properties.

Upon receiving the application, the special court will issue a notice to the individual, requiring him to appear at a specified place within six weeks.

If the person appears at the specified place, the special court will terminate its proceedings under the provisions of the bill. The bill said there have been several instances of economic offenders fleeing the jurisdiction of Indian courts anticipating the commencement of criminal proceedings or sometimes during the pendency of such proceedings. Appeals against the orders of the special court will lie before the High Court. The bill was introduced in Lok Sabha in the budget session, but with the second leg of the session lost to disruptions, it could not be passed.

Watson, the quiet marauder

On Thursday Chris Gayle, in the same breath, both demanded and commanded respect after becoming the first centurion in IPL 2018. A day later, Shane Watson, another middle-aged cricketer, reminded us that experience remains a vital asset in a format made for the young, becoming the first player in the tournament's history to score a ton for and against a team he represents.

Otherwise Gayle and Watson are chalk and cheese. Gayle calculates his assault, runs only when pushed to. Watson is a contrast: a busybody, he will muscle a few big hits, but otherwise uses his powerful wrists and precise placements to gain momentum.

With Gayle bowlers always have this nagging fear of being bludgeoned. Watson meanwhile stays in his pen without barking too much. And yet he can bite. A big man, Watson, like Gayle, hits the ball hard. Unlike Gayle, who likes to stay quiet as far as possible in the first half of the innings, Watson likes to clear the infield and stay deep in the crease to cut and glide the ball to the ropes.

In their previous three matches, Super Kings had chased. They had taken the chase to the virtually the last ball in all those three games. Dwayne Bravo, Sam Billings and MS Dhoni had put Super Kings in a winning position. The top order most often provided decent starts, but not-



ing like today.

He was given a reprieve in the very first over by Rahul Tripathi, who dropped a simple catch at first slip. Watson never looked back. Unlike the previous matches, there was a conscious change of plan in the way Watson attacked today - he did not slog, but took advantage of the ample loose balls dished out by Royals' bowlers in the first half of the innings. Barring the death overs, where he was largely kept off strike by Dwayne Bravo, Watson did not slow down at any stage during the innings.

Another significant difference between Watson and Gayle was the dot balls. Today Watson played only 13 dots out of the 57 deliveries he faced

as opposed to Gayle's 21 out of 63 on Thursday. Obviously, there are few batsmen who come close to Gayle in taking rapid strides to make up for the initial lull. But if Gayle is brute force, Watson carves out strokes with both power and subtlety.

Overall, in terms of Smart Runs - part of ESPNcricinfo's new metric to make sense of numbers in the shortest format - Watson's runs today were worth 31 more than his actual score. While Watson's 106 came off 57 deliveries at a strike rate of 185.96, the other Super Kings' batsmen scored at strike rate of 143.

Watson's desire to excel has always been there. Fitness issues, perhaps, did not allow him to become someone

like Jacques Kallis. But his commitment to the task has always been unwavering. He was modest enough to admit he was lucky to play in the IPL again and bat at his "favourite" position - as opener. He said he had been "dreaming of days" like Friday over the last couple of years.

He also acknowledged the role of good form coming into this IPL; Watson was the fifth-highest run-getter in the Pakistan Super League [PSL] season that finished late last month. "This is as good as I have batted over the last three or four months, from the Big Bash [League in Australia], the PSL and now here," Watson said after the game. "The previous couple of years, I certainly wasn't batting well for a few different reasons I was working on. But I just was not at my absolute best at Royal Challengers Bangalore. The pleasing thing is to be able to score runs. Of course a hundred is a real bonus."

On Friday, the Pune ground was awash with No. 7 yellow jerseys, homage to Super Kings' captain MS Dhoni. Two days ago Mohali was full of Gayle fans. Watson, despite playing an innings like Friday's on several occasions, has never been known for the miracles and spectacle that the likes of Dhoni and Gayle have built their legends on. Still, Watson is strong enough to match them on field, with less show, in his own style.

IPL 2018: Batsmen better against yorkers, says Heath Streak

Heath Streak said if yorkers, as cricket was used to seeing, have become few and far between in T20 it is because most batsmen in the shortest format are such good strikers of the ball.

"Not only is there the possibility of the bowler becoming predictable but also there is the risk of an attempted yorker being a half-volley or a low full toss. With most batsmen being such good ball strikers of the ball, it could go to the boundary. Also, now players will use the ramp shot even if there is a fine-leg. They can even go for the reverse ramp and that too has challenged the bowlers," said Zimbabwe's best all-rounder who was also their captain and coach. Streak, 44, is the bowling coach of Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR).

Hence bowlers tend to try the wide yorker, said Streak here on Friday ahead of KKR's game against Kings XI Punjab on Saturday. "There are not many players who can consistently hit sixes on the off-side," he said.

The other thing that has come in the way of bowlers attempting sand-shoe crushers is variations of slower deliveries, said Streak.

"I think the effectiveness of variation balls has also come into it. They have become the flavour of the tournament and people are developing different varieties of the slower



ball, not just the good old off-cutter and one off the back of the hand. We've seen the knuckle ball, (Dwayne) Bravo's ball..." he said.

Bravo, who plays for Chennai Super Kings, is known to bowl one with a quick arm action and get it to dip.

Accepting that it is tough for pacers on good wickets, Streak also said KKR's fast bowlers will get better as the tournament progresses. Tom Curran, Andre Russell and Mitchell Johnson are all maybe low on match practice, he said.

Shivam Mavi has had "an outstanding" start for someone who was playing under-19 cricket earlier this year and he too would get better over the next two seasons, Streak said. Like the Shubman Gill, the other India under-19 World Cup winner in the squad, Mavi is straight out of the Virat Kohli book of fielding and that has helped KKR this season, he said.

'Sehwag saved IPL by picking me' - Gayle

Chris Gayle is thankful to Virender Sehwag for "saving" the IPL. After becoming the first centurion this season, Gayle gave credit to Sehwag, the Kings XI Punjab team director, for buying him at the very last minute at the auction in February, after the Jamaican had gone unsold twice. Gayle has now repaid that favour by helping Kings XI win their last two matches, in the process bagging two Man-of-the-Match awards. Having hit 63 against Chennai Super Kings on Sunday, Gayle went one better on Thursday, whipping the best bowling unit in the tournament to register his 21st T20 century.

Perched comfortably at the top with the most T20 runs to go with his record 21 hundreds, Gayle made it clear he had no point to prove to anybody. He also pointed out he was not hurt at not being picked the first two times his name was called during the auction. "I'm always determined," Gayle said at the post-match presentation. "A lot of people might say that Chris has a lot to prove [as he] didn't get selected or didn't get picked earlier in the auction. But I can say: Virender Sehwag, you saved IPL by picking me."

Gayle was happy that Kings XI and Sehwag understood his value as an impact player, but he hopes to outdo Sehwag's expectations. "This is a brilliant start. Man-of-the-match, back-to-back. Viru said in an interview if Chris Gayle can win in two games, he thinks he's got his money's worth. I'd like to have another word with Viru."

Gayle revealed that Sehwag's only serious suggestion to him was to work on his fitness and spend time working with a yoga instructor and a masseur. Otherwise, Sehwag only asked Gayle and the other batsmen to play with freedom. Hence Gayle is not surprised that Kings XI have the first centurion of the tournament and the batsman to hit the fastest 50 in IPL - KL Rahul, who achieved the landmark in 14 balls. "From the first game he [Sehwag] said: 'just go there and express yourself.' Within the team, we try to look at three things: entertainment, freedom and everybody should actually be outgoing. We are all proper batters to [be able to] go there and express ourselves. Rahul in the first game, fastest 50 in the IPL."

Having played in the IPL for such a long time, for different franchises, Gayle said he was well aware of the various conditions and the opposition bowlers and their plans, which made things easy for him on his day. Little wonder the slow and steady approach in the first half of Kings XI innings did not bother Gayle.

Talking Points: When will Royals play Rahul Tripathi in the Powerplay?

Rahul Tripathi burst on the scene last year as a swash-buckling opener who danced down at the quicks and used their pace to his advantage. He was given a precise role: go all out at the top and don't bother too much about playing long innings. In only five of his 12 innings last season did Tripathi last past the Powerplay. His strike rate was 158 in the Powerplay, 123 in the middle overs and 111 at the death. It was clear he was best utilised at the top, something surely his then Royal Pune Supergiant team-mate and current Rajasthan Royals captain Ajinkya Rahane is aware of?

Rahane, though, also has a problem unique to Royals. Rahane himself loves to bat at the top, while Royals also have Sanju Samson whom

they want to give as many balls to face as possible, and D'Arcy Short who has a big affinity for pace on the ball. Even if Royals asked Tripathi to make a sacrifice for the team's sake, you would have thought that after four games, and especially when they were dropping Short, they would move this high-impact player to the station where he makes maximum impact.

Rahul Tripathi has not faced a single ball in the Powerplay this season ESPNcricinfo Ltd

You had another think coming. Just when you thought Tripathi was going back to his usual position, Rahane walked out with Heinrich Klaasen, opening only for the fifth time in his 50-match T20 career, with a reputation for being a big hitter at the death and in the middle overs. Not only



did Klaasen fail, Tripathi, batting at No. 6, was stuck in the phase where his strike rate is the worst.

Solos required, solos delivered

Chennai Super Kings are aware they don't have the most balanced squad. They know they won't be worth a plus-one in the field. They are one of the weaker bowling units in this competition. They know

in Pune. Sam Billings has provided the surprise solo to win the game against Kolkata Knight Riders. Now if they can put Suresh Raina down for two and a couple of repeat shows here and there, Super Kings have a good shout at the playoffs.

Stokes tries to do a Kohli then pulls out

When Virat Kohli scored his first 40 runs at a strike rate of 111 in a chase of 214 the other night, there was frustration around at his apparent lack of intent to score boundaries. It turned out Kohli wanted to bat through the innings and limit the net-run-rate damage because with big wickets gone at the other end, the win was an extremely long shot. On Friday night in Pune, for a long time it seemed Ben Stokes was playing a similar

role. He wasn't particularly struggling against Super Kings in the chase of 205 but he didn't quite push on either. By the time Imran Tahir came on for the 14th over of the innings, Stokes had scored 38 off 33 balls. This is a damaging innings in a one-off T20 but the net run rate assumes importance in these leagues. Four of the 10 previous sets of playoff qualifiers have been decided on net-run-rate. Then again, Stokes pulled the trigger early. Kohli went through with the plan of batting through the innings. Stokes hit Tahir for one six, and tried to follow it up with another, holding out. The rest collapsed, and Royals lost by 64. Kohli's Royal Challengers Bangalore, by contrast, lost by 46. Will these margins prove decisive in the final equation?

Warne slams Cricket Australia's 'greed'

Former Australia spinner Shane Warne has criticised Cricket Australia, saying that "greed" is the main reason behind the board's decision to expand the Big Bash League next summer.

An extended BBL - with an increase in fixtures from 35 to 43 - is set to stretch into mid-February next year, with games played at four new venues. It has been reported that an expanded BBL, with more focus on the finals, would offer more value to broadcasters. Earlier this month, Channel Seven and Fox Sports clinched the broadcast rights to Australia

lian cricket for the next six years, in a deal worth AUD 1.2 billion with CA.

Warne took to Twitter on Saturday to express his displeasure, saying expanding the BBL would "dilute a wonderful product".

"Australian Cricket should be an equal partnership between the players & the board, then everyone would be on the same page, sure they won't always agree - but if both parties attitude is what's best for Australian Cricket & not themselves, then Cricket & the fans would be happy," he tweeted.

The Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA), which was involved in a protracted pay dispute with the CA over last season, had also voiced concerns against the expanded season, saying such changes needed to find the right balance to keep all stakeholders happy.

CA CEO James Sutherland meanwhile had told ESPNcricinfo that more fixtures had been added not with the intention of expanding the tournament, but to find the "right balance" and build up to the tournament's climax properly.

Royals fall flat after Watson century

For the 1000-odd Chennai Super Kings fans who endured the 26-hour train journey to Pune, this was a night to remember. For Rahul Tripathi, a Pune boy who plays his domestic cricket for Maharashtra at the MCA Stadium, this was a night to forget. He put down a regulation catch at slip to reprieve Shane Watson in the first over of the match and watched him smack the season's second century, off 51 balls, against his former side, with whom he masterminded a fairytale a decade ago.

Watson and Suresh Raina, who replaced M V Vijay, joined forces in the fifth over. When they were separated courtesy an outstanding catch by K Gowtham at deep mid-wicket, they had put on 81 off just 44 deliveries, with CSK in line to score 240. Some fine end-overs bowling by leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal and Ben Laughlin restricted them to 204, but that was hardly any consolation for Rajasthan Royals, who never got going in the chase and were bowled out for 140 in 18.3 overs.

They said he was a spent force. His previous season with Royal Challengers Bangalore was a disaster by any stretch of imagination, just like it was for Thursday's centurion Chris Gayle. While Gayle came into the tournament in patchy form, Watson was the fifth-highest run-getter (319 runs in 10 matches at a strike rate of 135.16) in the PSL season that finished late last month.

Watson announced himself inside the first six overs. This made the generally effervescent Raina look subdued in comparison. But that was only until he launched Ben Stokes for four successive fours in the sixth over to move CSK to 69 for 1, their highest Powerplay score this season. That was the start of a giant yellow party that continued until the end of the match. In two of the first three matches, Watson had got off to starts but fell trying to muscle the ball. Here, there was a calculated effort to bide his time, but that wasn't at the cost of scoring quickly.

'Arsene Wenger was football's supreme artist'

After 22 years at the helm of one of the great clubs in world football, Arsene Wenger will step down as Arsenal's manager at the end of the ongoing season. In a sport that is famous for its lack of patience with managers, Wenger's longevity may never be surpassed. Just one other manager in the top four levels of English football has held his job for more than a decade: most are lucky to make it through three seasons. In a statement posted, with little warning or fanfare, on the club's website, Wenger said that he felt this was the right time to leave the job.

Few fans of the North London club will disagree with this assessment. There had been rising clamour for the Frenchman's exit over the last two seasons. As the other top teams in English football powered ahead in their efforts to win trophies at, quite literally, any cost, Wenger's Arsenal faced accusations of a somewhat splendid stagnation -- putting in an exhilarating performance one weekend, followed by bewildering capitulation the next. Increasingly the term 'Wengerball', which once meant mesmeric, expressive, fluid football, had turned into a synonym for a



certain naivete -- art without the artifice.

The team's position in the league table confirms this scepticism. After 20 straight years of qualification for the Champions League, last season Arsenal finished outside

the top four for the first time in Wenger's reign. This season, again, they could finish as low as seventh place, behind tiny Burnley. Nothing to scoff at in the larger scheme of the Premier League.

But under Wenger's expert

tutelage, Arsenal turned into one of the wealthiest clubs in world, let alone English, football. The team was 6th in the 2018 edition of the Deloitte Football Money League, with annual revenues of 487.6 million euros, ahead of clubs such as Paris St. Germain, Chelsea and Liverpool. It has the resources to compete with any club in any league, and indeed in recent years Wenger has broken the club transfer record several times. However even as it built formidable reserves and infrastructure, the club developed a reputation for being excessively cautious with recruitment -- in many

ways, Arsenal seemed to become the least successful super-club in the world. Wenger no doubt craved trophies, but not at the cost of his beautiful, sustainable football.

Thus many fans will welcome his departure.

But few will celebrate it. For the first decade or so of his reign at Arsenal, Wenger transformed everything about the way Arsenal and England played football. Arsenal players, especially of an older vintage, frequently testify to the transformative effect Wenger's arrival had on their approach to the game.