

# TIME AND US

DAILY SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

**SATURDAY**

- MAY, 19, 2018
- 03 RAMADHAN
- ISSUE: 117
- VOLUME: 04
- PAGES: 08

WEATHER TEMPERATURE		
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	21.9	11.8
JAMMU	38.2	24.3
LEH	19.2	9.3
KARGIL	21.6	5.6

**SUNSET SATURDAY: 07:29 PM**  
**SUNRISE SUNDAY: 05:27 AM**

**LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR**  
Light rain/Thunder shower. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 23°C & 10°C respectively.

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

STATE | 3

DR MAHESH SHARMA LEADS THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE SCO CULTURAL

INTERSTATE | 5

CONG-JDS LEGISLATORS CAMPING IN HYDERABAD TO BE BACK IN BENGALURU BY

BUSINESS | 7

SEBI PROPOSES UNIFORM PRICING FOR DEBT SECURITIES

SPORTS | 8

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE CAN'T ALWAYS RELY ON VIRAT KOHLI, AB DE VILLIERS:

## Red alert sounded in Srinagar ahead of Modi's visit

Srinagar, May 18, CNS: A multi-tier security setup has been put in place ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu Kashmir on Saturday amid alert sounded in capital city Srinagar and high degree of vigilance at vital installations.

All entry and exit points into Srinagar and Jammu have been sealed by police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) who allowed vehicles to enter the cities only after thorough checking and frisking of the occupants.

Modi who is arriving here tomorrow will tour all the three regions of the state during his visit. He will inaugurate the 330 MW Kishenganga hydroelectric power project in Bandipora district in the Kashmir Valley on Saturday.

He will also lay the foundation of the Zojila tunnel in Drass area of Kargil district. Modi will also attend the 100th birth anniversary of revered Ladakhi spiritual leader, Kushak Bakula, in Leh town.

Modi will also address the convocation of the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) in Jammu on



Sunday before returning to New Delhi.

Security officials told news agency CNS that multi-tier security setup has been put in place. He said the

security setup includes elaborate deployments, area domination, checkpoints and alertness in restive areas and vigilance on vital installations in the region by various security agen-

cies. In wake of call for Lal Chowk Chalo, authorities are likely to impose restrictions in and around Srinagar

Cross Border Firing:

## Pakistan has shown no respect for Ramadhan, says Mehbooba Mufti

Jammu, May 18: Holding Pakistan responsible for the latest border flare up, Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti said the country is showing "no respect" for the holy month of Ramadan.

In a series of tweets on Friday, Mehbooba said: "Continued firing on the border in Jammu is cause of pain & worry. Sad that while our country took the lead in starting peace initiatives with cessation of operations during

See Mehbooba...Pg 02



## BSF jawan, 4 civilians killed in Pak shelling in Jammu

JAMMU: Four civilians and a BSF jawan were killed while 12 others were injured as Pakistan Rangers heavily shelled villages and Border out Posts (BoPs) in Jammu early today, officials said.

This is the third day of shelling and firing by Pakistani troops along the IB in Jammu frontier and comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir tomorrow.

Pakistan Rangers shelled areas in R S Pura, Bishnah and Arnia sectors of Jammu by resorting to heavy mortar shelling and firing since 0100 hours in R S Pura, Bishnah sectors, a senior BSF officer SAID.

BSF troops guarding the borderline retaliated, he said.

The slain jawan was identified as 28-year-old constable Sitaram Upadhyaya of

See Shelling...Pg 02

## THREE MILITANTS KILLED IN NORTH KASHMIR GUNFIGHT

Srinagar, May 18 (GNS): Army on Friday claimed to have killed three militants in a gunfight at Brinjal forest area of Vilgam, Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

An army official told news agency GNS that soldiers of 15 RR intercepted a group of militants believed to be infiltrators at Brinjal forest adjacent to Shahnagar Jat Gali, around 7 kilometres away from Tehsil headquarter Vilgam.

"The group of militants opened fire upon the forces which were retaliated by the troops triggering off a gunfight. The militants fired indiscriminately and in the gunfight that ensued, three infiltrators were gunned down," he said.

See Three...Pg 02

## Prime Minister to Lay Foundation Stone of Zojila Tunnel and Ring Roads in Jammu and Srinagar

New Delhi, May 18: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will attend the commencement of work on Zojila Tunnel on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway at an event in Jivetsal in Leh tomorrow. He will also lay the foundation stone for Srinagar Ring Road and Jammu Ring Road at separate events at Sher-e-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar and at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium in Jammu the same day. Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways,



Shipping, Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gad-

kari will also be present at the events.

The 14 km long Zojila tun-

nel will be India's longest road tunnel and Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, had approved the construction, operation and maintenance of this 2-lane bi-directional tunnel with Parallel Escape (Egress) tunnel between Baltal and Minamarg on the Srinagar-Leh section of NH-1A at a total cost of Rs 6800 crore earlier this year. The construction of this

See Zojila...Pg 02

## CONGRESS HOLDS PROTEST DEMONSTRATION AGAINST BJP-RSS 'MANIPULATION'

Srinagar, May 18, CNS: Strongly condemning the hypocrisy and erosion of democratic institutions on the part of BJP RSS in the country, the J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Friday held protest demonstration in Srinagar emphasizing President of India to recall Karnataka Governor for misusing his constitutional authority by administering oath without appropriate number to B.S. Yeddy Rappa

Describing BJP RSS detrimental to Indian Democracy and as a great threat democratic institutions of the Country, Pradesh Congress Committee urged upon people of country to defeat the divisive policies of BJP RSS, who were making all out efforts to capture power

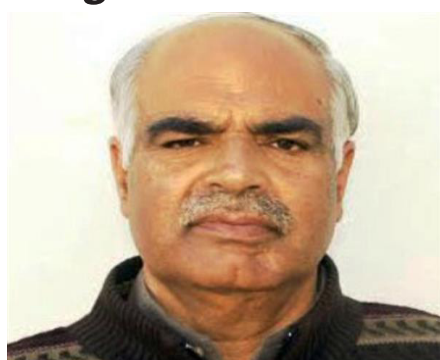
See Congress...Pg 02

BJP reacts to JRL ceasefire remarks

## 'Hurriyat leaders working on directions of Pak to keep "Kashmir pot boiling": Ashok Koul

Srinagar, May 18 (KNS): A day after Joint Resistance leadership (JRL) comprising of Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Muhammad Yasin Malik, rejected Ramadan Ceasefire announcement, by terming it as a cruel joke with the people, the Bhartiya Janta Pary (BJP) Friday accused separatist leaders of sabotaging the peace initiatives, and acting on the directions of Pakistan to keep Kashmir pot boiling.

"The ceasefire announcement was the good gesture from the government. Instead of welcoming it, Hurriyat leaders issued negative statement. Now it is quite clear that these "so called leaders" are taking dictates from Pak-



istan and are happy with killings," BJP's State

See Koul...Pg 02

## BOPEE SCAM: GOVT SUSPENDS JAILED DFO LAKES AND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY Forest minister takes 'strong note'

Srinagar, May 16: (GNS) Government on Friday placed under suspension the Project Officer (DFO) Lakes and Waterways Authority Mohammad Amin Mir who was convicted and sentenced to three years in jail for his involvement in BOPEE scam.

The scam was engineered by former BOPEE chairman Mushtaq Ahmad Peer who has been sentenced to 16 years in jail and fined Rs 1 crore.

"As per the information received from the office of PCCF J&K, Mohammad Amin Mir, I/C Project Officer

See BOPEE...Pg 02

## Return of power projects will make ceasefire move meaningful: PDP

Srinagar, May 18: Vice Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Wakf Board, Nizamuddin Bhat has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the state on 19th has preceded a healthy development in the decision of ceasefire which is creating a new hope for peace, reconciliation and conflict resolution.

In a statement issued here he said, "It is largely believed that the initiative emanated from centre's renewed resolve for positive engagement of stakeholders in peace and the intent to fulfill promises made to the people of the state."

Bhat said PDP-BJP relationship is based on agenda of alliance which is a documented assurance to masses for meeting their demands



and aspirations and there can be no excuse to evade a commitment or delay to cause crisis of confidence.

Bhat said ceasefire decision makes a fresh start towards owing the people for larger

See PDP...Pg 02

## KASHMIR: LACK OF POLITICAL SPACE PUSHES YOUTH TO WALL

Srinagar, May 18 (KNS): Youth is the season of hope, in Kashmir over the past three decades; Youth have bore the worst brunt of violence and bloodshed on account of lingering conflict. Killings, uncertainties, strikes have made youth of Kashmir to be at the receiving end.

Democracy is the buzz word for our political system and Youth are its important constituent. The lack of political space in Kashmir is stated by many experts to be among the prominent reasons of youth being pushed to wall as youth neither find any tangible space in mainstream nor separatist polity. Young people are not given opportunities to prove themselves claiming that they are not

See Kashmir...Pg 02

## Kashmir problem not administrative in nature: Mirwaiz

'Temporary measure can bear no fruit unless Delhi accepts ground realities'

Srinagar, May 18: Hurriyat Conference (M) chairman, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Friday stressed that the problem in Kashmir was not administrative in nature related to roads, inaugurating of tunnels, power projects or jobs, that it can be addressed thus nor was it a law and order issue to be handled by repression but it is a dispute directly linked to the political



future of tens of millions of citizens of Jammu and Kash-

mir and it needs to be resolved as per the will and aspirations

of these people.

Addressing a mammoth gathering at the historic Jamia Masjid on the occasion of first Friday of fasting month of Ramadan, Mirwaiz in a statement issued to KNS, said that "Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi who is coming to Jammu and Kashmir tomorrow, reaches out to the people of India in a novel

See Mirwaiz...Pg 02

## PROTEST IN BUDGAM AGAINST MASSACRE IN PALESTINE

Budgam, May 18, CNS: Anjumna Shari Shian Friday organized a massive protest demonstration against massacre of innocent people of Palestine by Israeli Fascist Forces in Central Kashmir's Budgam.

Hundreds of people participated in the protest demonstration that was led by Anjumna Shari Shian President Aga Syed Hasan Almosvi Alsafvi.

Aga Syed Hasan strongly condemned Israel's open aggression against Palestinian people which has resulted in the death of more than 61 Palestinians and wounding hundreds.

He said that the act of killing innocent people is the worst form of state terrorism to which world cannot ignore. He expressed his heartfelt condolences to the people

See Protest...Pg 02

# POONCH: TRANSFORMER BANK ESTABLISHED WITHIN 24 HOURS OF CM'S ASSURANCE

## Move hailed by people across district

POONCH, MAY 18: With the intervention of Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, the District Administration Poonch has been able to establish first ever transformer bank in the district to facilitate prompt replacement of the damaged transformers in any part of the district.

With 15 transformers provided on the directions of Chief Minister, the bank has been established in Electric Division Poonch store at Potha, Surankote. The move is being widely hailed as the Holy month of Ramadan has set in.

Pertinently, the issue of non-availability of transformer bank and prolonged delay in replacement of damaged transformers was flagged as highly important by District Development Commissioner Mohammad Aijaz Asad during a video conference with Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti.

The Chief Minister immediately issued directions for making available 15 transformers to the administration so as to establish a transformer bank in the district. The transformers were provided within 24 hours after the direction



by the CM. The bank was made operational and 15 transformers were sanctioned for replacing the damaged transformers in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said the administration will further strengthen the bank by arranging more transformers through some Funding mechanism to make the system of replacement of damaged transformers more prompt and robust.

He also inspected the work on receiving station at Potha where 3.15 MVA transformer is being installed. It will

improve power scenario in Surankote town and adjoining villages by augmenting the existing infrastructure.

The DC also discussed with the concerned about electrification of the left out villages especially along LOC. He was informed that all such areas have been surveyed and DPRs are submitted to the government under Saubhagya scheme.

People from all walks of life have hailed the intervention of the Chief Minister for establishment of transformer bank and expressed gratitude to the CM.

# Continue from Front Page

## RED

A security official said that city-centre Lal Chowk will be sealed and it will be out of bounds for general public. The Boulevard road right from Dalgate to SKICC has been sealed and traffic plan has been changed while most of the private vehicles will not be allowed to ply on picturesque Boulevard road on Saturday.

"Intelligence grid has also been activated to gather the information about the activities of inimical elements and the inputs are discussed with other sister agencies" the official said.

## MEHBOOBA

Ramzan, Pakistan has shown no respect whatsoever for this holy month.

In another tweet, Mehbooba said: "Pakistan will have to reciprocate & contribute to efforts for lasting peace. Everyone must realise that violence is a zero-sum game. My deepest condolences to families of victims"

Five persons including a BSF man were killed, while a dozen people were injured after India and Pakistan traded fire with each other in Jammu region along the International Border (IB).

Recently, Union Government had announced a unilateral truce for the holy month of Ramadhan. However, Lashker-e-Taiba and United Jihad Council have rejected it by dubbing it as a "drama" as well as 'half hearted measure'.

## SHELLING

192 Battalion. He was critically injured at Jabowal BoP around 0130 hours and died en route to GMC Hospital in Jammu.

Upadhyay hailed from Giridih in Jharkhand and joined the force in 2011. He is survived by a three-year-old son and a one-year-old daughter, officials said.

An Assistant Sub Inspector of BSF also suffered a splinter injury at Pittal BoP, the officer said adding that he has been admitted to a hospital.

In the heavy Pakistan shelling in R S Pura and Arnia sectors, four civilians including a couple were killed and 12 others injured, Additional District Development Commissioner Arun Manhas said.

SDPO, R S Pura, Sahil Prashur said police is using bullet-proof vehicles to evacuate the injured to the hospital and is reaching out to the people in shelling-hit zones.

In view of the shelling, the administration has activated the shelter set up.

However, there was a lull in the shelling in Kathua and Samba districts.

"There was no firing and shelling from across the border since yesterday in Kathua and Samba districts", the officer said.

Yesterday, a BSF jawan was among two persons injured when Pakistan Rangers opened fire and lobbed mortars at over 15 border outposts (BOPs) and some civilian areas along the International Border in Samba and Kathua districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

On May 15, a 28-year-old BSF jawan was killed as Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire by opening fire on forward posts to help infiltrators cross the International Border in Samba sector. Troops have also foiled four infiltration bids along the IB since May 12.

## THREE

"We are ascertaining their outfit affiliation," the official said, adding the operation is still going on.

## ZOJILA

tunnel will provide all weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh. This route remains snow-bound for a large part of the year, and is ravaged by frequent avalanches. As a result, road connection to places in the Ladakh region stands disrupted for long periods, preventing even essential supplies from reaching people, shutting down businesses, affecting healthcare and education. The tunnel will bring relief to the people of this region by providing all weather connectivity. It will also cut down the time taken to cross the Zojila pass from the present 3.5 hours to just 15 minutes, besides making the drive much safer and convenient.

The construction of the tunnel is expected to bring about all round economic and socio-cultural integration of these regions. In addition to direct jobs generated during construction, it will also lead to massive indirect and spinoff jobs due to acceleration of economic growth. The government is committed to development of manpower skilled for tunnelling jobs in Jammu & Kashmir. The project has strategic and socio-economic importance, and will be an instrument for the development of the economically backward districts in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Zojila tunnel has been planned as a smart tunnel. It will have latest safety features like fully transverse ventilation system, Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS), Tunnel Emergency Lighting, CCTV Monitoring, Variable Message Signs (VMS), Traffic Logging Equipment, Over Height Vehicle Detection, Tunnel Radio System, etc. It will have pedestrian cross passages at every 250 meter and motorable cross passages and lay-bys at every 750 meter. It will have emergency telephones and fire-fighting cabinets at every 125 meter.

The Ring Roads and Srinagar and Jammu are aimed at reducing traffic congestion at these cities and making road travel safer, faster, more convenient and more environment friendly.

The 42.1 Km, 4 lane Srinagar Ring Road will link Galand in West Srinagar to Sumbal. Being built at a cost of Rs 1860 crore, this road will provide a new route from Srinagar to Kargil and Leh, and reduce travel time. There will be a major bridge, three flyovers, 23 tunnels and 2 via-ducts on this route.

The 58.25 km, 4-lane Jammu Ring Road, being built at a cost of Rs 2023.87 crore, will link Jagati (western Jammu) to Raya Morh. There will be 8 large bridges, 6 flyovers, 2 tunnels and 4 via ducts on this route.

## CONGRESS

unconstitutionally by eroding the authority of democratic institutions.

Speaking on the occasion Congress Leaders blamed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for murdering democracy in the country; saying that the PM has crossed all limits of political vendetta against the opponents, as that, PM was doing everything to make use of democratic institutions to crush them.

Congress Leaders described BJP a blot on the face of Indian democracy emphasizing all the Secular Forces of the country to wake up to save Indian democracy, before it is too late, for the fact, the entire Nation is in danger under BJP rule.

The protest demonstrations were led by General Secretary JKPC Surinder Singh Channi,

Prominent among others who participated included Spokesperson Farooq Andrabi, Abdul Gani Khan, Shameema Iqbal, Irfan Naqib, Mohd Sultan Shameema Raina, Sahil Farooq, Nissar Ahmad Muddoon, Maroof Ahmad Wani, Kadfeen Chowdhary, G.A. Guree, Waseem Shalla and others.

## KOUL

General secretary, Ashok Koul told KNS over phone.

The BJP leader said that separatist leaders are playing politics just to run their shops and befool the people. "They love violence that is why they are always in search of something which can help them to play their politics," Koul maintained.

The JRL Thursday termed government of India's Ramadan ceasefire announcement as "a cruel joke with the people" and said the people of Kashmir want a "permanent halt to war."

Ashok Koul further blamed that separatist leaders create uncertainty and sabotage the peace initiatives. "People of Jammu and Kashmir have always suffered because of the machinations of these people," he maintained.

The BJP leader further said, "Whenever situation becomes peaceful in valley they get restless and disturb the peace. "In the last two decades separatists have developed certain vested interests for running their shops by not allowing the situation to return to normalcy," Koul blamed.

It is to mention here that the Joint Resistance leadership (JRL) comprising of Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Muhammad Yasin Malik on Thursday termed government of India's Ramadan ceasefire announcement as "a cruel joke with the people" and said the people of Kashmir want a "permanent halt to war."

The JRL's statement came a days after the Centre asked its forces in Kashmir not to carry out anti-militancy operations during Ramadhan.

The three leaders held a brief meeting at Geelani's Hyderabad residence before commenting on the ceasefire issue. The trio called ceasefire as "operation halt".

"Operation halt is as a cruel joke with the freedom loving people of Kashmir who are engaged in a legitimate movement for the right to self-determination. The people of Kashmir as a peace loving nation believe in permanent peace rather than a relaxation in killing for one month," said a statement issued by the three leaders.

"People want a permanent halt on war thrust upon them by Delhi."

The leaders said that instead of hearing the clear message of the people of Kashmir, India is hell bent on silencing the genuine voice of the people with its military might.

"Delhi is suffering from arrogance of power. It out rightly rejects the UN resolutions, legitimate and peaceful formula of right to self-determination or even the science of dialogue as a means of conflict resolution," the leaders said.

Terming the "operation halt" as a ploy to hoodwink the public opinion on both national and international level, the leaders advised Indian authorities to "shun arrogance and accept Kashmir as a dispute".

"Declaring truce for a month and at the same time refusing to solve Kashmir dispute is mere hypocrisy. It is highly illogical and unfortunate to offer relaxations in killings for one month and then restart it with impunity," the leaders said.

The leaders reiterated its appeal to the freedom loving people of Kashmir to make Lal Chowk chalo call for Saturday a grand success in order to send a clear message to the Indian authorities that the people of Kashmir would never compromise on the demand for their right to self-determination.

"We also appeal people to shut all the business shops and offices on the occasion of Indian prime ministers proposed visit on May 19," the leaders had said.

## BOPEE

(DFO) Lakes and Waterways Authority, has been arrested by Crime Branch. Therefore Mohammad Amin Mir Mohammad Amin Mir, I/C Project Officer (DFO) is placed under suspension with immediate effect," reads an order issued by the Commissioner Secretary to Government Forest Environment & Ecology Department.

Meanwhile, Minister for Forest Environment & Ecology, Rajiv Jasrotia said he has taken serious note as to why the officer was not suspended within the 48 hours after being convicted.

"I have taken very strong note of the case," Jasrotia told GNS.

Earlier on Wednesday, Government also placed under suspension the DFO Marwah Altaf Hussain Shah who was convicted and sentenced to three years in jail for his involvement in BOPEE scam.

## PDP

interest of stability and public good.

He said unfortunately there is cynicism prevailing in the backdrop of flip-flop on conflict resolution over the decades. "This perception needs to be done away with sooner than later. If this happens the present dispensation in New Delhi will make history by restoring people's trust in the system and its potential to accommodate dissent views and also the capacity to resolve pending political and economic issues."

Bhat said since Prime Minister is visiting Kashmir at a positive note, he can make it possible that ceasefire move is shown as an honest and sincere effort to respect sentiments and aspirations of the people. "Prime Minister can also respect his own promises by reassuring the accomplishment of agenda of alliance, in this context he has an opportunity to fulfill a commitment."

Bhat said during his visit he has to inaugurate various Hydel Power Projects in the state, which could be dedicated to state as part of fulfillment of promises on return of State's Hydel Projects by NHPC.

Bhat said this is high time that centre allows the state to avail all the benefits accruing to them out of their own water resources. "Handing over Power Projects to state control will be an apt thing to do at an opportune time," Bhat said, adding this gesture will not only make ceasefire move meaningful but will also raise the Prime Ministers stock in the eyes of the suffering people as a decisive and caring leader.

He also made a demand that those who have been engaged in local hydel projects should not be disengaged in the event of these projects getting commissioned.

## KASHMIR

equipped with experience to participate actively in the governance of the state.

Dynasty politics and its upper hand in mainstream polity of the state is a matter of great concern and a contributing factor in pushing youth to wall, according to ground zero voices.

We at the Kashmir News Bureau (KNB) interacted with diverse polity thoughts to know the exact pulse of the situation with reference to this burning topic.

Rafi Ahmad Mir, a veteran politician and the chief spokesman of J&K People's Democratic Party, While talking to KNB stated - "We are aware about the concerns of less participation of youth in politics. No doubt political parties in the mainstream need to show more magnanimous approach while inducting youth into the polity and party fold but on the other hand youth too need to come forward and be patient while choosing politics as it demands lot of determination. Dynasty politics too as a roadblock to entry of common youth into the political foray have been raised but in all the dimensions and I believe although it is reality still one has to possess merit to be successful in politics."

Rafi Ahmad Mir believes that gradually and steadily ban on student politics should be lifted in the state. He adds "I am myself product of the student politics and have learnt lot through and I am of firm belief that time has come to lift ban on the student politics in our part of the world. With time we should lift ban at student politics in top universities and regulate it in an effective way."

On the other hand of the spectrum, many are of opinion that lack of space in separatists' parties is also pushing youth to wall and making picking gun as the first priority rather than choosing separatist or resistance polity as first preference.

While talking on this issue, Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement Chairman and senior Resistance leader Zafar Akbar Bhat stated - "Youth in Kashmir have been playing important role and giving important and precious sacrifices in the Kashmir struggle. I believe youth need to play a part not in just politics but in all the important walks of life from being journalists, lawyers to scientists. There is always scope for improvement in engaging more youth in a vibrant way in the resistance politics. Youth is important part of our human resource and we cannot afford to lose it at an abnormal pace. Youth need to be taken along in the entire important decision making process and there can be no two ways about this fact."

Zaffer said the resistance movement is not personal property of any particular person or a family but a collective legacy of the people of Kashmir which needs to carry forward. He said those who are presently at the helm of affairs should

indulge the youth representations in their ranks.

Inam un Nabi, a prominent political analyst, while talking to the KNB stated - "The Lack of Political Space is an evident reality in Kashmir and both Mainstream and Pro-Freedom political spectrums need to look into this aspect. Student activism is censored and not allowed to flourish."

The height of alienation is such huge of the youth in the mainstream that even basic needs of youth are neglected and are just seen as use and throw as a result even administration plays like a football with youth. At the time of election they are lured but then use and throw mechanism is followed. Nepotism, dynasty is ruling roost and the common youth are neglected and thus pushed to wall.

On the other hand, in resistance politics too we do not see youth playing much prominent role, although the whole pro-freedom movement is run by youth and they too do not have youth units. We have also not seen any prominent youth leader emerging from Hurriyat Constituent."

Even many voices opine that gun has become first option as resistance polity does not attract youth. Overall due to lack of political space our youth are pushed to wall.

Undoubtedly, the pulse from Mainstream to the separatist political circles and to ground analysts is that on the ground zero of Kashmir due to lack of political space the youth of Kashmir are pushed to wall.

## MIRWAIZ

way by saying his 'Man ki baat,' we the peace loving people of Kashmir want him to also give us this chance to say our "man ki baat" to him peacefully at Lal Chowk Srinagar tomorrow. Our 'man ki baat' is just three words—Resolve Kashmir Dispute."

Mirwaiz said that people of Kashmir want the fulfillment of the promise made by the predecessors of PM Modi not only in Lal Chowk but in the Indian parliament.

Mirwaiz said that temporary measure can bear no fruit unless Delhi accepts the ground realities in Kashmir.

While commenting on the a month long ceasefire announced by the Delhi, Mirwaiz said good will gestures or CBMs cannot be meant for a month alone but have to be long term and meaningful. He said if GoI really means business it must look at real CBMs like demilitarisation and repealing draconian AFSPA, PSA, and DAA. These measures must be followed by the start of a process where in all the three parties to the dispute India, Pakistan and the people of Kashmir come together to hammer out a solution acceptable to all in keeping with the will and aspirations of the key party the people of J&K

Termining May 21, 1990, blackest day of Kashmir history, Mirwaiz said on this day under a deep conspiracy, People of Kashmir lost their beloved leader Shaheed-e-Milat Moulana Muhammad Farooq who would always raise his voice for justice for Kashmiris and fulfilment of their aspirations from the pulpit of Kashmir's Central Masjid and everywhere. He said on the same day more than 60 innocent people were massacred at Hawal. Mirwaiz said just after a few years after this tragedy Kashmir's also lost another leader Shaheed-e-Hurriyat Abdul Gani Lone.

He said while we observe Hafta-e-Shahadat (martyr's week), every Kashmiri must take a pledge to take forward the mission of martyrs.

Mirwaiz said that people of Kashmir continue to offer huge sacrifices since 1931 and in this process leadership too has offered the sacrifice of life.

Mirwaiz strongly condemned the Israeli aggression in Gaza, Palestine where 60 innocent youth were killed. He questioned the criminal silence of the OIC and the heads of Muslim countries across the globe over the genocide of people in Gaza stating that Kashmiris can never remain silent over such brutal killings and will always stand for their Palestinian brethren in their quest for their rights to their land.

Mirwaiz urged people to march towards Lal Chowk on May 19 where a peaceful sit-in will be observed while as leaders and people would hold placards to convey their message. He also urged people to assemble in Eidgah on May 21 for taking a pledge to take forward the mission of martyrs till it is achieved.

After the prayers as per the JRL program a peaceful protest was held against the massacre of Palestinians at the hands of Zionist Israeli forces and in support of the Palestinian demand for their homeland.

## PROTEST

of Palestine in Gaza and stated that people of Kashmir stand with the people of Palestine at this hour of grief and sorrow.

"It was unfortunate that the world bodies who claim to be the champions of human rights have turned a blind eye towards fresh war crimes being committed by Israel. Muslim organizations too are maintaining silence over the brutal massacre of people of Palestine," Aga Syed said.

He said that the criminal silence adopted the world forums and the Muslim organizations over the genocide of Palestinian people has encouraged Israeli soldiers to kill more innocent Palestinian Muslims.

Aga Syed Hasan also paid rich tribute to Mirwaiz Molvi Muhammad Farooq and Abdul Gani Lone. He said Mirwaiz family is the epitome of Kashmir Freedom Struggle who sacrificed everything for sake of it. He said that the political career of Abdul Gani Lone shows how keen he was to have a Kashmir ruled by its own people.

## Dr Mahesh Sharma leads the Indian Delegation to the SCO Cultural Ministers' Meeting in Sanya, China

India participates in the Cultural Ministers' Meet for first time as full time member

New Delhi, May 18: The Minister of State for Culture, Dr Mahesh Sharma led the Indian delegation to the 15th Meeting of the Cultural Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States held in Sanya, Hainan province, on 16th and 17th May, 2018. India participated for the first time at the Meeting of Cultural Ministers of the SCO.

Speaking at the meet, Minister of State for Culture, Dr. Mahesh Sharma said that India has a long history of cultural exchanges with China and other SCO member states. Joining the SCO has provided a new platform, greater space and opportunities for exchanges and cooperation, the Culture Minister added.

Dr. Mahesh Sharma highlighted the role of culture in bringing the people together. It is a binding force in the development of peaceful coexistence for humanity, the Minister

explained. He further added that it will be a win-win situation for China and India - both of which have a rich and diversified culture - to further explore and develop wider cultural exchanges and cooperation that could include tourism, education, science, archaeology, music, drama and even yoga.

Key discussions of the SCO meeting focused on achieving more in-depth and creative multilateral cultural cooperation and promoting regional cultural cooperation and mutual understanding of the people.

All participants agreed that cultural cooperation between SCO member states made remarkable progress in the past year, and reports presented at the meeting about diversified exchanges and cooperation clearly showed that bilateral and multilateral cooperation is growing deeper and wider.

The two-day meeting concluded with the issuance of the 2018-20 Executive Plan. The representatives also joined in a news release welcoming India and Pakistan into the SCO and encouraging more direct contacts and practical exchanges of cultural organizations within SCO member states, as well as joint creation of cultural products and works.

India became full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on 9th June, 2017 during the SCO Heads of State Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan. At this Summit, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi had stated that from the regional and global perspective, Shanghai Cooperation Organization is one of the main pillars of peace and security.

India has been participating in Cultural initiatives undertaken by SCO like nominating World Heritage sites for the SCO-UNESCO exhibition

proposed to be held in Paris in September, 2018 and signing of MoU between SCO and UNESCO.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an eight-member multilateral organization, established on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Pakistan also became the full member of SCO along with India, taking its membership to 8. After the expansion of membership, SCO represents approximately 42% of the world's population, 20% of its GDP and 22% of the landmass.

The main objectives of the SCO are to strengthen relations among member states; promote cooperation in various fields like political affairs, economics, and education, culture, tourism, environment protection etc. and promote regional peace, security, and stability among others.

## Union Home Secretary asks Central and state government officials to be better prepared to minimize losses due to natural disasters

New Delhi, May 18: Union Home Secretary Shri Rajiv Gauba has asked all concerned officials of Central and State governments to be better prepared so as to minimize losses due to natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, earthquakes etc. In his inaugural address at the annual conference of relief commissioners/secretaries, he said we have to build our capacities through better weather forecast, conducting mock drills and improved resource management. Citing figures, he said on an average during the decade from 2005-14, India suffered economic losses of approximately Rs. 60,000 crore per annum due to different kinds of natural disasters of which the maximum damage was caused by floods. Shri Gauba said India is flood prone as bulk of precipitation takes place in a short time but we can reduce our losses through better preparation. Though continued efforts over the last several years have managed to reduce the impact of natural disasters, still there is room for improvement, he added. He hoped that the deliberations at the conference would help in sharing experiences, im-

proving coordination etc. While assuring the States that Home Ministry's assistance would continue, Shri Gauba urged them to build their own capacities and gradually reduce dependence on the Centre. He also emphasised the importance of building capacities at the city and district levels and involving communities. In his address, Shri R. K. Jain, Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), said that the Centre and the States should continue their coordinated efforts to minimise losses due to floods and cyclones. He said, deaths due to heat waves which were about 2200 in the year 2015 scaled down to about 220 in 2017 primarily due to the ground work done on dissemination of information, better awareness etc. Director General, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Shri Sanjay Kumar said last year more than 35 NDRF teams were airlifted for rescue operations in flood-hit areas and they rescued more than 3000 people and evacuated more than one lakh people. He said, twelve battalions of NDRF are stationed all over the country for quick deployment in times of emergency.

## As tribute to its rich history, Srinagar to get separate museum: Naeem Akhtar

Culture Minister dismayed over potential fire hazards at Old Secretariat building housing rare archives

SRINAGAR, MAY 18: Highlighting the significance of Museums as means of cultural exchanges, Minister for Culture, Naeem Akhtar, today said the State Government will carve out a separate museum for the capital city Srinagar as a tribute to the city's rich history.

"The old building (of SPS Museum) is being conserved and we are hopeful that the process of conservation will be finished by the end of this year. Once the work is finished, we will design a separate museum for Srinagar city which will be a tribute to the city's rich cultural and historical



landscape," Akhtar said.

The culture minister made these remarks during a function held at SPS Museum today to commemorate the International Day of Museum.

The function was also attended by senior officers of the museum, enthusiastic school children and art lovers from different corners of the state.

A special exhibition of 'Rare Manuscripts' was held at the SPS museum here to commemorate the day.

"A nation's museum is as rich as its history. In this re-

gard, the SPS Museum is one of the most important museums in the country. It is the repository of Kashmir's history enriched over the last 5000 years starting with the discoveries made at Burzhamah," he said.

The Minister urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly school children, to visit the SPS museum and cherish the company of rare artifacts and manuscripts in order to rediscover the rich history of J&K and reconnect with their roots.

"I particularly ask the school children to come and see the artifacts from Ladakh,

Jammu and Kashmir in order to acquaint themselves with their rich history of cultural exchanges which goes back 5000 years in time," Akhtar said.

Meanwhile, the Minister reviewed the process of preservation of archives kept at Old Secretariat building. Akhtar directed the officials to complete the process at the earliest while ensuring that the rare manuscripts do not suffer any damage. He also expressed displeasure over the potential fire hazards in and around the building and ordered their removal at the earliest.

## Swachh Bharat is a prerequisite for establishing a Swasth Bharat: Vice President

New Delhi, May 18: The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that Swachh Bharat is a prerequisite for establishing a Swasth Bharat. He was addressing the Convocation of Lady Hardinge Medical College, here today. The Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, the Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Smt. Anupriya Patel and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

The Vice President said that the job of faculty members does not end by merely imparting medical knowledge and skills but entails a more onerous responsibility of moulding the young minds into conscientious citizens with uncompromising integrity, high moral and ethical standards. It is said that a person, who plans for a year, sows grains, the one who plans for 10 years, plants fruit-bearing trees, and the one who plans for generations, develops human beings!, he added.

The Vice President said that it is time for all public health experts, healthcare professionals, local bodies and communities to join hands in promoting hygiene and sanitation in a big way to build a Swachh Bharat, a prerequisite for establishing a Swasth Bharat. He further said that lack of adequate medical facilities in the rural areas and the acute shortage of doctors and para-medical personnel across the country is a challenge. We need human resource in the health sector - whether it is a medical college or the paramedical staff, the country needs them in large numbers, he added.

The Vice President said that the Doctors are considered next to God in our country and it is the cardinal responsibility of all those entering the medical profession to uphold the trust and confidence of the patients, who seek treatment from them. He advised the Doctors to maintain the highest standards of ethics and integrity at every stage. I am sure that all the students of the Lady Hardinge Medical College will carry on the legacy of this prestigious institute and contribute towards building a healthy India, he added.

The Vice President said that in the classical Indian thought the doctors are revered as gods Vaidyo Naarayan Harihi. It is the ability to listen, ability to diagnose the problem and the ability to heal that imparts this divine touch to the noble profession you all are engaged in, he added.

## Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir accorded farewell

SRINAGAR, MAY 18: Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir was given full court farewell reference by the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir at Srinagar upon his elevation as Chief Justice of High Court of Meghalaya.

Justice Alok Aradhe, Acting Chief Justice High Court of J&K, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Janak Raj Kotwal, Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice MK Hanjura were also present on the occasion.

Justice Bashir Ahmad Kirmani, Member J&K State Accountability Commission, Chief Secretary B.B Vyas, Special DG VK Singh, Principal Secretary Home R K Goyal, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Rohit Kansil, Secretary Department of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Majid Bhat, Senior Additional Advocate General Bashir Ahmad Dar, Assistant Solicitor General, Registrar General and Officers of the High Court Registry, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Director J&K State Judicial Academy, Judicial Officers posted at headquarter Srinagar, staff members including officers of High Court of J&K were also present on the occasion.

Senior Additional Advocate General Bashir Ahmad Dar, in his farewell address lauded the role of Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir, for his dedication and commitment both on

judicial and administrative side.

He said that Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir has endeared all in the State. He said that Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir was always in tireless search for delivering justice and has number of landmark judgments to his credit which will be of remarkable help and guidance to the young lawyers. The Additional Advocate General also appreciated the services of Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir as Chairman J&K State Legal Services Authority for ensuring access to justice for all particularly the poor and downtrodden. He also highlighted the positive approach and respect of Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir towards the Members of the Bar and the encouragement Justice Mir gave to the young entrants of the Bar.

Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir in his farewell address thanked one and all including Judges of High Court of J&K, Officers of the Registry and Judicial Officers of the State for their undaunted commitment towards judicial and administrative work and the support extended to His Lordship during his tenure. He said that no Judge can dispense real justice without the cooperation from the Bar and the J&K High Court is full of young and energetic lawyers. He said that he is overwhelmed by the warmth and affection shown to him by one and all.

## Civil service aspirants to get free coaching at Hajj House soon: Zulfkar



SRINAGAR, MAY 18: Minister for School Education, Haj and Auqaf and Tribal Affairs, Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali, today announced that Government is planning to use Haj House Bemina as a coaching centre for civil service aspirants from the State.

"Usually the aspirants from the State travel to Delhi or to other states to receive the coaching. The whole affair of coaching, boarding, lodging and other expenses make it difficult and almost impossible for aspirants coming from humble financial background to receive the coaching," the Minister said.

He said Haj House is usually used for not more than 15 days during the annual Haj period and afterwards it remains vacant. However, if the same could be used to provide quality coaching facility to civil service aspirants coming from weaker sections of society it in itself would be a noble cause.

Zulfkar said that to ensure the House becomes the centre of excellence, Government intends to collaborate with a Delhi based coaching centre, which has delivered the results in terms of qualifying the competitive exams in the past.

"We will try to get some of their faculty, their curriculum, their teaching methodology so that the desired results are achieved," he added.

Meanwhile, the Minister asked the SMC Commissioner Reyaz Ahmad Wani to ensure that effective steps for cleanliness in and around the Haj House are maintained.

Whereas, the Managing Director JK SRTC Mir Afroz was directed to ensure that the Haj pilgrims are provided with comfortable vehicles so that they do not face any kind of inconvenience in reaching the airport for the holy pilgrimage.

## Improving economic status of farmers govt's top priority: Bandh

Minister reviews performance of Agri dept

JAMMU, MAY 18: Minister for Agriculture, Mohammad Khalil Bandh today said that bringing improvement in the economic status of farmers is the top agenda of the present government. "Department of Agriculture needs to work with full dedication to achieve the set targets as agriculture and horticulture sectors are the backbone of the economy of the state" he said while taking a detailed review of performance of the department here today.

He called upon the officers and field functionaries to work with dedication, honesty and

sincerity to create awareness regarding various technological interventions and farmers welfare schemes to produce tangible results in the fields in the shape of increase in production and income of farmers.

The Agriculture Minister also reviewed implementation of various farmers' welfare schemes and preparedness of the department for ensuring Kharif 2018 crop season.

Commissioner/Secretary to Government Agriculture Production Department Mehraj-ud-din Khan, Director Agriculture Jammu, Hari

Krishan Razdan, Rakesh Khajuria, Managing Director, J & K Agro Industries Dev Corporation, Bulesh Zutshi, Joint Director SLUB, K. S. Sambyal, Joint Director of Agriculture (Inputs), R. L. Bhagat, Joint Director of Agriculture (Extension), Sunil Koul, Deputy Director of Agriculture (Trainings), Chief Agriculture Officers, Sectoral Heads and other Senior Officers of Agriculture & Command Area Development Department were present on the occasion.

The Minister stressed upon all the officers to adhere

to the guidelines of the respective CSS and State Sector Schemes and said that he will personally monitor on-going programmes in all the districts soon. He further said that the present coalition Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti is determined to give thrust to the Agriculture in the state and will make intensive efforts for improving the plight of farmers and farming community in the state.

The Minister also reviewed the supply and stock position of various inputs

including seeds and fertilizers for the current Kharif Crop Season along with progress and achievements during Rabi 2017-18, Prime Ministers Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Prime Ministers Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Soil Health Card Scheme (SCHS) and National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) were also reviewed. Later, the Agriculture

Minister along with Vice-Chairman J & K Agro-Industries and team of senior officers inspected various sections located at Agriculture Complex Talab-Tillo, Jammu including Naturally Ventilated Green House Structures for Cultivation of Vegetables, Floriculture Nursery, Seed Testing Laboratory, Pesticide Testing Laboratory and Soil Testing Laboratory. The minister also inaugurated the Working Shed-cum-Storage Room and inspected Vermi-compost Units constructed under Centre of Excellence for Vegetables.

## ARMY RECRUITMENT RALLY AT SONARWANI, BANDIPORA

Srinagar, May 18: An Army Recruitment Rally is being organised at Sonarwani, Bandipora from 16 May 2018 to 23 May 2018 covering the districts of Bandipora, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Srinagar, Budgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Anantnag and Kulgam. A total no of 8946 candidates have registered for screening.

Brig Jagdeep Dahiya, Deputy Director General Recruiting (DDG), (Punjab and J&K), informed that the candidates are being screened for their physical fitness, medical examination and documentation. Successful candidates will then undergo written test on 29 Jul 2018 at Sonarwani, Bandipora. Candidates selected will then be inducted into various arms and services of the Army. This will go a long way in meeting the aspirations of youth of the area who wish to join the Army and serve the Nation.

The rally is being organised by Headquarter Recruiting Zone (Punjab and J&K). There would be similar rallies to give greater opportunity to all aspirants of J&K state. A total of five rallies are being conducted in J&K out of which, two, for the first time are being conducted for border areas i.e. Tangdhar and Gurez. The huge turnout for recruitment reflects the interest shown by the youth for a career in the Army. The DDG expressed satisfaction and deep gratitude to local Army and civil authorities for overwhelming support and co-operation in the smooth and efficient conduct of the Recruitment Rally which is being attended by very large number of candidates.

## DIPR condoles with Wajahat Hussain

SRINAGAR, MAY 18: Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) has expressed grief and heartfelt condolence over the demise of cameraman Wajahat Hussain.

A condolence meeting, chaired by Director Information Muneer-ul-Islam, was convened here today which was attended by all the officers and officials of the Directorate.

The meeting, while expressing sympathies with Wajahat Hussain, prayed for peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

## Time and Us

Editorial  
SRINAGAR  
J&K

### Rupee rout: on the Indian currency's slide

India's macroeconomic threats lie exposed as it grapples with the rupee's slide. The currency sunk to a closing low of 68.07 against the U.S. dollar on Tuesday, its lowest level in 16 months, before recovering slightly the next day. The rupee, already one of the worst performing Asian currencies, has now weakened 6.2% in 2018. The rise in crude oil prices through this year, amidst rising geopolitical tensions in West Asia and dwindling global supply, have obviously hurt the rupee and the trade balance. Meanwhile, despite a depreciating currency, India's merchandise exports are stumbling instead of gaining from the opportunity. April clocked a sharp decline in exports from employment-intensive sectors such as readymade garments and gems and jewellery, according to official data. The trade deficit has consequently widened to \$13.7 billion in April, compared to \$13.25 billion in the same month in 2017. The value of oil and petroleum product imports increased by 41.5% from last year to hit \$10.4 billion. U.S. sanctions following Washington's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and a June 22 meeting of OPEC should drive oil price trends hereon. Oil prices apart, the tightening of U.S. monetary policy has almost always spelled trouble for emerging market economies hooked to Western capital inflows. This time it is no different; capital outflows are scuppering the currencies of many emerging market economies.

As the U.S. Federal Reserve has come to adopt a more hawkish stance, investors in search of higher risk-adjusted yields have started to pull money out of emerging markets. Yields on emerging market bonds have risen as investors sold them off aggressively. The yield on the 10-year bond issued by the Indian government has risen to more than 7.8%, from 7.1% in early April. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pulled out 15,500 crore from India's capital markets in April, which is the highest monthly outflow since December 2016. Not surprisingly, about two-thirds of the outflow was attributed to the bond market. The current headwinds from the reversal of capital flows were only to be expected. India is better placed than countries such as Argentina or Turkey. But that's no reason to be complacent as external account risks can get out of hand very quickly. A hike in the RBI's benchmark interest rates could stem the capital exodus, but with core inflation picking up and the government keen on a rate cut as a growth catalyst, the RBI has an unenviable dilemma on its hands. Policymakers, blessed with relatively benign external economic conditions after the taper tantrum of 2013, will have to find means to spur exports — whether by facilitating swifter GST refunds or taking on tariff and non-tariff barriers from the developed world. Efforts to diversify India's energy basket also need greater stress.

# A 'PILGRIMAGE' TO NEPAL

► Rakesh Sood

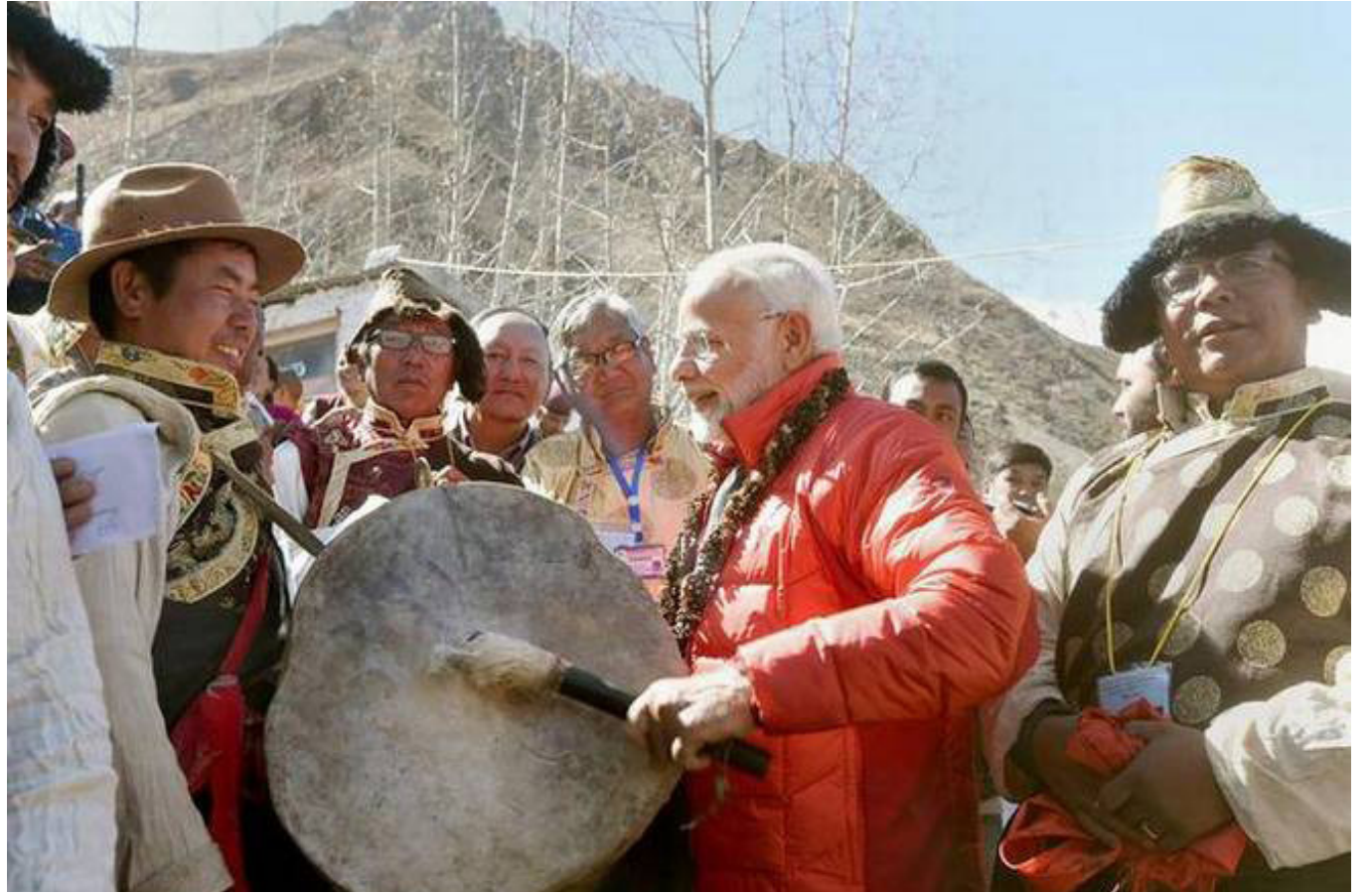
Last week, Narendra Modi visited Nepal, his third since he became Prime Minister in 2014. Each of the visits has been markedly different, in terms of both atmospheres and outcomes. This is due to the political backdrop against which it took place, reflecting the evolving Nepali domestic political transition from a centralised monarchy to a federal republic and the complex nature of India-Nepal relations. Nepali Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli was in Delhi from April 6-8. Mr. Modi's return visit coming within a month (May 11-12) was not just good neighbourliness but more a realisation that the relationship had deteriorated in recent years and there was an urgent need to arrest the slide.

Nepal's importance After coming to power, Nepal was among Mr. Modi's first destinations abroad (August, 2014), in keeping with his 'neighbourhood first' policy. A bilateral visit to Nepal was long overdue, the last one being in 1997. Part of the reason was Nepal's ongoing political transition — a Maoist insurgency in Nepal which lasted from the mid-1990s till 2005, a delicate peace process which was mid-wifed by India and a new constitution-drafting exercise that began in 2008. Meanwhile, every Nepali Prime Minister had visited India, some more than once, leading Nepali commentators to conclude that Nepal did not rank high in Delhi's foreign policy priorities. Mr. Modi's visit was a successful exercise in correcting this perception.

He addressed the Constituent Assembly, the only foreign leader to have done so, touching all the thorny issues in the relationship and hitting the right notes. He spoke about respecting Nepali sovereignty, reiterated readiness to revise the 1950 Friendship Treaty in line with Nepali wishes, offered encouragement for the constitution-drafting process while wisely refraining from any suggestions, offered generous terms for power purchase and announced a billion-dollar line of credit on generous terms. Along joint statement was issued, highlighting (HIT — Highways, Information ways and Transmission ways) connectivity projects with clear timelines. Political parties and civil society were unanimous in concluding that a new chapter in India-Nepal relations was being opened.

Less than four months later, Mr. Modi was back in Nepal, this time for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit. In the run-up to the visit, he had indicated an interest in visiting Janakpur, Lumbini and Muktinath. The Nepali authorities were lukewarm. Somewhat disappointed, the Indian side agreed to limit the visit only to Kathmandu. The reasons cited by Nepali authorities were security and logistical difficulties. The real reason was that the deadline for finalising the constitution was less than two months away and the political climate was heating up. Public gatherings in Janakpur and Lumbini (both are close to the India-Nepal border) were bound to attract large crowds from both countries and Mr. Modi's oratory could have unwelcome political reverberations.

During his visit when he spoke about the



need for the spirit of consensus to guide the constitution-drafting so that it could become an instrument to fulfil the aspirations of all Nepali citizens, it was criticised as gratuitous advice and even described by some as interference in Nepal's internal affairs. The August honeymoon was over.

The problem lies in the fractured politics of Nepal. Traditionally, hill elites (Bahuns and Chhetris) who constitute 29% of the population have ruled Nepal. This is as true today as during the monarchy for the leadership of the three main political parties — Nepali Congress (NC), United Marxist-Leninist (UML) and the Maoists — is drawn from the same elites. The Madhesis constitute 35% but have traditionally been marginalised, live in the Terai areas bordering India and share close ties (roti-beti ka rishta) with their kin across the border. This is why Mr. Modi's remarks in November 2014 generated criticism.

Nationalism, anti-Indianism Relations with India often become an issue in Nepal's domestic politics as politicians seek to don the mantle of Nepali nationalism which invariably carries within it a grain of anti-Indianism. During the monarchy, the King would emerge as a staunch nationalist when he wanted to crack down on pro-democratic forces and the NC would be painted in pro-Indian colours. The monarchy has given way to a republic but old habits die hard. India's desire to play favourites also contributes to it, particularly when different elements in India convey different messages.

Following the 2013 election, an NC-UML coalition emerged with NC leader Sushil Koirala becoming Prime Minister on the understanding that he would hand over the reins to Mr. Oli, the UML leader, after the constitution was adopted. Mr. Oli was understandably impatient and finally the con-

stitution was promulgated in September 2015 even as the Terai was erupting in protests. Having belatedly realised the implications, India cautioned against haste but this was seen in Kathmandu as blatant encouragement for the growing Madhesi agitation which claimed 45 lives.

Life in the Terai came to a standstill. Mr. Oli blamed India for imposing an economic blockade which was causing acute shortages of essentials such as petrol, diesel, liquefied petroleum gas and medical supplies. India blamed the deteriorating security environment which made the transporters reluctant to cross over and advised Mr. Oli to address Madhesi concerns. Relations took a nosedive. Eventually, a constitutional amendment was adopted and the movement of goods across the border returned to normal. But trust had been breached. In addition, the blockade had unleashed a wave of resentment against India.

A new beginning In 2017, the first elections under the new constitution were held for the national parliament, the seven newly created provincial assemblies and the local bodies (town municipalities and village council). Riding the nationalist wave and projecting himself as the only leader who had stood up to India, Mr. Oli again emerged as Prime Minister, but stronger than before as UML also scored impressive victories in the provincial and local body elections.

Mr. Modi realised that the political landscape was shifting. China was now keen to expand its presence in the region with ambitious projects. Following a couple of phone calls and an invitation personally conveyed by Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj, Mr. Oli made India his first foreign destination and Mr. Modi has reciprocated with a quick return visit. Janakpur and Muktinath were included in the itinerary and a confident Mr. Oli received Mr. Modi in Janakpur.

The visit was high on symbolism, less so on substance. Mr. Modi described it as a visit by the 'Prime Pilgrim'. With prayers offered in Janaki Mandir, Muktinath and Pashupatinath, the focus was on religious and cultural commonalities. A bus service between Janakpur and Ayodhya was inaugurated.

The joint statement is short. Only one of the earlier commitments, the 900 MW Arun III hydel project, has progressed and both Prime Ministers jointly laid its foundation stone. Of the four planned Integrated Check Posts, one is now functional after over a decade.

The 2018 statement prioritises cooperation in agriculture, inland water-ways, a survey for a railway line from Raxaul to Kathmandu and increasing air connectivity. The 2014 announcements included a railway services agreement, additional air links connecting Lucknow, Pokhara and Nepalgunj in six months, setting up of the Pancheshwar Development Authority to complete the detailed project report in a year, concluding a MoU for the Nepal Police Academy, pledge of \$1 billion (increased by another \$1 billion after the 2015 earthquake) and creating a Buddhist circuit connecting Lumbini with Sarnath and Bodhi Gaya. Most of these have remained announcements. With China stepping up its game in Nepal, this is no longer a tenable situation.

A pilgrimage is part expiation and part a new beginning. The first may have been achieved but a new beginning based on the principles of "equality, mutual trust, respect and mutual benefit", phrases that Mr. Oli now insists on including in every joint statement, will require time, avoiding mixed messaging and a sustained effort by India in ensuring implementation of long-pending economic cooperation projects.

(Courtesy: The Hindu)

## INDIA MUST REVISE ITS NUCLEAR POLICY AND KEEP ITS STRATEGY OPAQUE

► Bharat Karnad

The Shakti series of underground tests 20 years ago were the last, stifled, hurrah of the Indian nuclear weapons programme. Stifled because the thermonuclear device tested on May 11, 1998 was a dud, and the last hurrah because the weapons unit at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, thereafter, went into eclipse, its best and brightest abandoning it. After all, what scientific and technological challenge is there when there are no advanced fission, fusion and tailored-yield armaments to design and develop? Worse, official Indian thinking on deterrence is contradictory. Mired in minimalism, it has relied on threats of "massive retaliation". This mandates responding with a large number of nuclear bombs to dissuade Pakistan from nuclear "first use" and, therefore, an extensive nuclear armoury of our own. So, the nuclear deterrent cannot be "minimum".

The confused nuclear milieu has been obtained by the Indian government un-

der three prime ministers — Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi. With the 'no testing' precondition of the 2008 nuclear deal with the United States in mind, it has decided that, the country's strategic arsenal is perfectly adequate now and in the future with just the 20 kiloton (KT) weapon/warhead, the only tested and proven weapon in the inventory. Also, under American pressure, the Indian government has put the brakes on the 12,000km-range intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) project and the testing of the indigenous MIRV (multiple independently-targetable re-entry vehicles) technology to launch several warheads from a single missile that's been available for the last 15 years.

In this period, countries who prize their strategic security accelerated their capability build-up. North Korea shrugged off US pressure, answered American bullying with brinkmanship of its own, successfully tested a two-stage 250-350 KT hydrogen bomb, for good measure acquired the Hwasong ICBMs able to hit US cities, and silenced US President



Donald Trump. Nearer home, Pakistan, ahead of India with 130 nuclear weapons/warheads and counting, boasts of the most rapidly growing nuclear arsenal. It has four 50MW weapon-grade plutonium (WgPu) producing reactors operating in Khushab. Meanwhile, India has yet to build the second 100MW Dhruba WgPu reactor sanctioned in the mid-

1990s. North Korea and Pakistan are where they are courtesy the active "rogue nuclear triad" run by China which guarantees that Islamabad too will brandish thermonuclear weapons of Chinese provenance.

Delhi eschews anything similarly disruptive (like nuclear missile-arming Vietnam) because our leaders are more

intent on polishing the country's reputation as a "responsible power" and winning plaudits from the US for showing "restraint" than in advancing national interest. So, the country's strategic options end up being hostage to the interests of foreign powers. India's do-nothing policy has eroded its relative security, and its stature in Asia and the world as a strategically autonomous and independent-minded country.

India can recover its strategic policy freedom by taking several steps. It should fast forward the second Dhruba military reactor and ICBM development, and test-fire the MIRV-ed Agni-5s. In lieu of nuclear testing, which Indian prime ministers have not resumed, two things need to be done to configure and laboratory-test sophisticated thermonuclear weapons designs. The laser inertial confinement fusion facility at the Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore, needs to be refurbished on a war-footing, and a dual-axis radiographic hydrodynamic test facility constructed.

As regards the software of hard nuclear power, the nuclear doctrine has

to be revised — something promised in the BJP's 2014 election manifesto. Without much ado, the newly-founded Defence Planning Committee should rework the doctrine to stress flexible response, with ambiguity enhanced by publicising the fact of doctrinal revision and the jettisoning of the "no first use" principle, but nothing else. India will thus join the rest of the nuclear weapons crowd in keeping every aspect of its nuclear policy, doctrine and strategy opaque. There are good reasons why, other than in India, there's no enthusiasm for nuclear "transparency".

In keeping, moreover, with the passive-defensive mindset of the government and expressly to throttle aggression by a militarily superior China, technologically simple, easy-to-produce, atomic demolition munitions have to be quickly developed for placement in the Himalayan passes that the Chinese Liberation Army is likely to use, backed by forward-deployed canisterised Agni-5 missiles for launch on warning. The onus for India's nuclear first use will thus rest entirely with China.

(Courtesy: HT)

## Cong-JDS legislators camping in Hyderabad to be back in Bengaluru by Saturday

The newly-elected legislators of the Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) from Karnataka, who have been camping at different locations in Hyderabad since Friday morning, are expected to return to Bengaluru late in the night or early Saturday to take part in the floor-test for the BS Yeddyurappa government in the state assembly.

The legislators, who arrived in Hyderabad from Bengaluru in three buses belonging to SRS Travels and Orange Travels, are likely to take special flights to Bengaluru.

JD(S) legislator GT Deve Gowda said while speaking to reporters that all the MLAs of his party and the Congress were united and would not succumb to any pressures from the BJP.

"Let them offer Rs 100 crore or Rs 200 crore each. But we are all united. None of us is ready to take the bait. We are leaving for Bengaluru today evening or tomorrow morning," he said.

The Congress and the JD(S) decided to move their legislators from out of Karnataka fearing poaching by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after Yeddyurappa was given 15 days' time by governor Valubhai Vala to



prove his majority on the floor of the assembly. Yeddyurappa was sworn-in as the chief minister of Karnataka on Thursday.

They reached the Telangana capital by road after the JD(S) alleged on Thursday night chartered flights that were to fly them from Bengaluru to Kerala's Kochi were denied permission by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, which denied the charge, at the last minute.

The legislators were brought to two hotels in the upscale Banjara Hills

and Madhapur areas of the Telangana capital. Telangana PCC chief Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy ensured that the Congress MLAs were accommodated in Taj Krishna Hotel and JD(S) MLAs in Novotel Hotel.

"We have used six buses while MLAs were occupying only three. Remaining are decoys," a senior Telangana Congress leader acting a host said.

Arrangements were also made to shift them to a luxury resort at Gandipet on the city's outskirts but the plan

was changed after the Supreme Court's directive to the BJP government to undergo the floor test on Saturday itself. Former Karnataka energy minister DK Shivakumar denied reports that some Congress MLAs were missing during the transit.

"We are all united and ready to face the music. The two MLAs you are talking about are in touch with us. One is sick and couldn't travel," he said.

He added that though the aviation authorities had not allowed them to take a chartered flight to move the party MLAs to a safer place on Thursday, the party had succeeded in keeping the flock together.

The BJP emerged as the largest party in the counting of votes for Karnataka elections on Tuesday, getting 104 seats. It was followed by the Congress with 78, JD(S) with 37 and three seats went to others in the 224-member assembly where elections were held for 222 seats.

The majority mark is 112 seats and the post-poll alliance of the Congress-JD(S) combine, which claims to have 117 MLAs, has alleged foul play in the government inviting BJP to form the government.

## Newly appointed Karnataka pro-tem speaker KG Bopaiah helped Yeddyurappa in past trust vote



Governor Vajubhai Vala on Friday appointed KG Bopaiah as the pro-tem speaker of the Karnataka Assembly for administering oath to newly elected MLAs and conducting the Supreme Court-ordered floor test tomorrow, a decision denounced by the Congress.

Bopaiah, an old RSS hand, was administered the oath as pro-tem speaker by Vala.

Bopaiah was the speaker of the Assembly between 2009 and 2013. Considered close to Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa, he had disqualified 11 disgruntled BJP and five independent MLAs ahead of a trust vote to help the Yeddyurappa government in 2011.

His decision was upheld by the Karnataka High Court but overturned by the Supreme Court, which said Bopaiah had acted in haste.

"Shocking decision by the Honble Governor.. Constitutional Convention says the senior-most, in this case RV Deshpande should've been named. Also Supreme Court had passed structures (sic) against the conduct of KG Bopiah as Speaker. Sad to see Vajubhai Valaji behaving like an agent of BJP," senior Congress leader Dinesh Gundu Rao said reacting sharply to Bopaiah's appointment.

Usually the senior-most member of the Assembly is appointed the pro-tem speaker to administer oath to the newly elected MLAs. RV Deshpande of the Congress party is the senior-most in the new House.

## Supreme Court approves Centre's draft scheme for Cauvery water distribution

The Supreme Court on Friday approved the Centre's draft Cauvery Management Scheme for smooth distribution of water among four southern riparian states.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra rejected the suggestions of Karnataka and Kerala governments over the scheme, terming them as devoid of merits.

The bench, also comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud, said the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's award, which was modified by the apex court, has to be taken to the logical conclusion by the Cauvery Management Scheme.

It also dismissed Tamil Nadu's plea seeking initiation of contempt against the Centre for non-finalisation of Cauvery scheme.

Karnataka, which is facing political tug of war between



BJP and Congress-JD(S) over government formation, had earlier made a failed bid to temporarily stall the finalisation of draft Cauvery management scheme.

The top court had made it clear that it would see that the draft scheme is "in consonance with its judgement only".

Earlier, the bench had red-flagged the provision empowering the Centre to issue the

directions, saying "this part (power of Centre to issue directions) of the scheme is not in consonance with the judgement. We make it clear to you".

The observation was made after the Centre had submitted the draft Cauvery management scheme in the court for its approval.

The apex court, in its verdict delivered on February 16, had asked the Centre to frame the Cauvery manage-

ment scheme, including creation of the Cauvery Management Board, for release of water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry. The scheme, once finalised, would deal with the issue of water share of the four states in different circumstances like normal and deficient water years in the Cauvery river basin.

The top court had modified the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) award of 2007 and made it clear that it will not be extending time for this on any ground.

It had raised the 270 tmcft share of Cauvery water for Karnataka by 14.75 tmcft and reduced Tamil Nadu's share, while compensating it by allowing extraction of 10 tmcft groundwater from the river basin, saying the issue of drinking water has to be placed on a "higher pedestal".

## Congress and RJD meet governors, want Karnataka model in Goa, Manipur and Bihar

The Congress on Friday asked the governors of Goa and Manipur to allow it to form governments in the two states, citing the example of Karnataka where BJP leader BS Yeddyurappa was invited to take over as chief minister because he heads the largest party in the assembly after elections. In Bihar, the Rashtriya Janata Dal met the governor and staked claim to govern the state.

Congress legislative party leader Chandrakant Kavlekar gave Goa Governor Mridula Sinha a letter seeking an invitation to the party to prove its majority in the House. Sixteen Congress legislators met the governor—one party lawmaker is travelling abroad and another is hospitalised.

"We requested the governor to follow the precedent of Karnataka and undo the mistake she had committed on March 12, 2017 when she



invited the minority party (BJP) to form the government," Kavlekar was quoted by PTI as saying. "We have given a time of seven days to revert to us on our request."

"We have all the required numbers with us to form the government in the state. We can prove our numbers on the floor of the House. The magic figure of 21 is there with Congress... even without poaching into BJP camp," said Goa Pradesh Congress Committee chief Girish Chodankar.

The Congress won 17 seats in the 40-member Goa assembly and emerged as the largest party in Goa elections in March 2017, falling short of the majority figure by four seats. The BJP, which got 14 seats, formed the government in alliance with the Goa Forward Party and the Maharashtra Gomantak Party (MGP), which had won three seats each. Three Independent MLAs supported the BJP too.

The Congress now has 16

members in the Goa Assembly as one of its legislators, Vishwajeet Rane, joined the BJP last year. Rane later won the Valpoi Assembly by-election as a BJP candidate.

A Congress delegation met Manipur's acting governor Jagdish Mukhi and staked claim to form government in state. In March 2017, a BJP-led coalition was to form Manipur's government and not the Congress, which was the single-largest party.

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav and Congress leaders met Governor Satyapal Malik in Patna to stake claim to govern the state. The RJD fought the elections in alliance with Janata Dal (United) or JD(U) and the Congress, emerging as the single largest party. In July 2017, JD (U) leader Nitish Kumar broke the alliance and tied up with the BJP to continue as chief minister.

## Justice Chelameswar hailed for 'upholding democracy' on his last day in Supreme Court

Supreme Court judge justice Jasti Chelameswar, who is retiring on Friday, shared a bench with Chief Justice Dipak Misra on his last working day and lawyers praised him saying he did a "great job in upholding democracy".

As the bench was about to rise for the day, Justice Chelameswar won the praise of lawyers. Senior advocate Rajiv Dutta thanked him saying he "upheld the ideals of democracy" during his stint as judge in the apex court.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan also thanked Justice Chelameswar for his service in judiciary saying he "did a great job in upholding democracy". "The Bar will always remember him," he added.

Advocate Gopal Shankar Narayan thanked Justice Chelameswar for his grace, particularly towards junior members of the bar and said junior lawyers will always remember him, as Justice Chelameswar rose for the day, folded both his hands and said: "It's my only response".

It is a custom and practice of the Supreme Court that on his last working day, a retiring judge shares bench with the Chief Justice in Courtroom number one.

The bench comprising Chief Justice Misra, Justice Chelameswar and Justice DY Chandrachud on Friday sat for approximately 15 minutes, as only 11 matters were listed before the bench and out of which 10 were transfer petitions related



to matrimonial disputes.

During the course of the hearing of cases, the court was full with lawyers, but Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President, Vice

President were not present there.

Justice Chelameswar had turned down the SCBA's request to participate in a farewell function it wanted to arrange for him, saying

he wanted his retirement to be a "private affair".

The 65-year-old judge – is one of the four top court judges who held the unprecedented press conference in January saying "all was not well" on the administrative side of the Supreme Court.

Justice Chelameswar will retire on June 22 but his last working day was on Friday, since the court goes on summer vacation after that.

On Thursday, on the eve of his last working day as Justice Chelameswar was sitting in courtroom No 2, senior advocate and former Union law minister Shanti Bhushan and senior advocate Dushyant Dave praised his "courage, judicial approach and uprightness".

## Yeddyurappa faces Supreme Court test, letter to governor may decide fate

The resolution of Karnataka's political drama may well rest on a letter the state's newly sworn-in chief minister, BS Yeddyurappa, sent to governor Vajubhai Vala while staking claim to form the government.

During the extraordinary midnight hearing in the Supreme Court on Thursday, the main argument of Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) petitioners, challenging Vala's decision to invite Yeddyurappa to take oath, was that while the BJP was the single largest party in the state assembly, it did not have majority support.

"Calling a person who has support of 104 MLAs as opposed to Congress-JDS alliance of 116 MLAs and then giving the person 15 days is adding insult to injury by the governor," argued senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi.

He suggested that the governor may have been misled by Yeddyurappa's letter, claiming to have the support of 111 legislators.

"BJP cannot go from 104 to 111 unless there is defection - and that is prohibited," added Singhvi.

But did the letter say the BJP had 111 MLAs, he was asked.

Singhvi admitted he did not have the letter. The three-judge bench that heard the matter expressed surprise.

"We do not know what kind of majority Yeddyurappa has claimed. Unless we see that letter of support, we cannot speculate," said Justice SA Bobde, one of the three judges on the bench.

Lawyers representing the BJP did not volunteer information on the letter in court.

The court refused to stay Yeddyurappa's swearing in on Thursday but asked for the letter he wrote to the governor to be produced on Friday. "After hearing the parties, we are of the opinion that it is necessary to peruse the letters dated 15th May, 2018 and 16th May, 2018 submitted by the respondent No.3 to the Governor which find a mention in the communication dated 16th May, 2018 of the Hon'ble Governor. We request the learned Attorney General and/or respondent No.3 to produce these letters on the next date of hearing."

The office of the governor and the state BJP unit refused to share a copy of the letter from Yeddyurappa.

## Siddaramaiah's arrogance brought Congress down: Outgoing Karnataka assembly speaker

He is one of the tallest Lingayat leaders of the Congress and the speaker of the outgoing assembly. But Krishnappa Bheemappa Koliwad was humbled this week after joining a long list of sitting Congress MLAs to lose the election. The 73-year-old Koliwad lost his traditional Ranibennur seat to R Shankar, the only candidate to win from his Karnataka Pragnyavantha Janatha Party. In an interview with Venkatesha Babu, he blamed former chief minister

Siddaramaiah for the party's debacle. Edited excerpts:

Why are you angry with Siddaramaiah?

It is Siddaramaiah's attitude and arrogance that has put the Congress party in its current predicament in Karnataka. His rank casteism, favouring members of his own community (Kurubas or traditional shepherds), and, more importantly, rewarding only 'yes men' has hurt the party. He has given 15-20 tickets to his community members.

What was the need to give a ticket to Revanna (transport minister in the former cabinet and a fellow Kuruba) when he was already an MLC (member of legislative council)?

The CM's attitude towards others (hinting at Vokkaligas and Lingayats) made them turn against the party. Did dividing Lingayats help the Congress party anyway? I kept telling them not to do it (grant Lingayats a separate minority religion status), but he would only listen to his 'yes

men'. So did the Congress government fail to deliver?

No, no... I think we had good programmes and policies, our work was good but one man's dictatorship and arrogance has brought us down.

Are you saying all this because you lost the election? My one seat doesn't matter. I have won five elections and lost five elections. I won an election in 1972 when he (Siddaramaiah) was not even in politics. He is a baccha (child) in front of me. He was

the one who, unable to take the heat, ran from his constituency (Chamundeshwari) to contest from another (Badami). His attitude resulted in a defeat (in Chamundeshwari) and he barely won in (Badami). He tried to prevent me from getting the ticket. I reached out to Rahul (Gandhi, Congress president) and got it.

Are you planning to quit the party? Why should I? Congress is not anybody's personal property. I have been a loyal

members since 1969 and helped build the party in the state. I am not a party hopper like him. (Siddaramaiah was in the Janata Dal - Secular till 2005). My only appeal to the Congress president is 'please don't make him (Siddaramaiah) the state unit president or Congress legislature party leader.' He will destroy the party in the state. He has no intention of making (Janata Dal (Secular) leader HD) Kumaraswamy the CM. I agree that to stop communal forces.

# Ayurveda tips for complete health, experts say these 10 help build immunity

Ayurveda seems to have taken a backseat in the hustle bustle of modern life, with material comforts becoming the norm while we ignore the various gifts that nature has to offer to us on an everyday basis.

Instead of being in harmony with nature, we have adopted artificial practices that disturb the equilibrium of mind and body. We can't sleep, concentrate or relax. The imbalance in our lives manifests in addiction, disease and eventually – an early death.

Living naturally in sync with the ayurvedic principles can do away with the requirement for expensive medical treatment or needless suffering from debilitating diseases. Here are 10 very simple tips to prepare you for the journey to good health.

Connect with nature: You need to spend more time outdoors, preferably in parks and gardens, and not be confined to the four walls of your house. The fresh air and green environs prepare one's body and mind for everyday life and work by naturally recharging our cells.

Take a moment to breathe: The air we breathe gives us prana energy, and this energy goes down when we take short breaths. "Breathing exercises or pranayama, which are part of an ayurvedic lifestyle regimen, revitalise your body. Pranayama drives the energy of the air (prana) throughout your body, restoring it and preserving its vitality," says Dr Partap Chauhan, director, Jiva Ayurveda, Delhi.

Get stronger with yoga: Simple yoga postures (hatha yoga) included in the ayurvedic lifestyle regimen make your body strong, supple and healthy. Your body becomes more agile and flexible, so you can do your best in all situations at work and in life.

Wake up before the sun: Most diseases today are lifestyle-related, which can be easily avoided by steering clear of the frequent lifestyle mistakes we make. "The simplest way to lead a healthy life is to follow the ayurvedic dincharya. This routine involves waking up two hours before sunrise, eating at the right time, sleeping on time, performing light



exercises and practising yoga daily," explains Dr Keshav, a senior ayurveda physician based out of Delhi.

Clean your sense organs: According to ayurveda, the gyaanendriya (sense organs) should be kept clean. But what is the correct way of doing this? "Every morning, wash your eyes well. Once in a while, you can use rose water or triphala-soaked water to wash your eyes. As

the coating that forms on the tongue is a sign of ama, make sure you scrape it daily. Brush your teeth, gargle with lukewarm water and put a few drops of oil in each nostril every morning. This will clear your senses and prepare you for the day ahead," explains Dr Keshav.

Eat healthy: Ayurveda says you may never need medicines if you eat healthy. The secret to eating healthy is to eat in

accordance with your body type and have a sattvic diet. How should one do this? "It is easy. Choose seasonal fruits and vegetables for your diet; eat freshly prepared, easy to digest foods. Fast food slows you down, so you should avoid it," says Dr Partap.

Be sattvic: To attain sattva (purity and positivity), avoiding non-vegetarian food items, onion and garlic is just not enough. "The things you read, the music you choose to listen to, the images and videos you watch – everything influences your gunas. If you watch and listen to sattvic information, your sattva guna will increase. Similarly, if you are surrounded by tamasic (darkness and negativity) things all day, your tamasic guna will increase. How you behave with people around you should also be sattvic," says Dr Keshav.

Keep your digestion strong: According to Dr Partap, nutritious food gets converted to rasa which – in turn – becomes dhatus and then ojas (the purest essence of the dhatus form) thereby strengthening the immune system. How-

ever, in order to form ojas you need good metabolism and a strong digestive system.

Proper use of intelligence: Man has a rare gift of the intellect. Unfortunately, most of us don't use it. "We know smoking is bad for the lungs, we know that fast food is not good, and we also know that missing out on breakfast is unhealthy. Yet we do all these things! We misuse our intellect, and this is known as pragyaparadh," says Dr Keshav.

Balanced ahaar, nidra and brahamacharya: Balance in your ahaar (diet), nidra (sleep) and brahamacharya (sensory gratification) is very important. Sattvic food is good, but if you over-eat sattvic food, it will still cause indigestion or some other disease. The secret to health and happiness is choosing good things and maintaining the right balance.

You do not need to devote time specifically for the ayurvedic lifestyle regimen in your busy schedule. Start by integrating small and easy aspects, and it will soon become part of your daily life.

## THIS ANTI-CLOT DRUG COULD REDUCE STROKE RISK TOO

A drug to treat bleeding may benefit some stroke patients as well, according to a study. The research, led by experts at The University of Nottingham, found that giving tranexamic acid (TXA) to people who had experienced intracerebral haemorrhage reduced the number of deaths in the early days following the stroke.

It also found that both the amount of bleeding in the brain and number of associated serious complications were lower in the patients who had received the TXA treatment.

However, the trial found no difference in the number of people who were left disabled or had died at three months after their stroke (the study's primary outcome). The researchers believe further study is needed on larger groups of patients to enable them to fully understand the potential benefits. Nikola Sprigg, who led the trial, said, "Tranexamic acid is cheap and widely available so has the potential for reducing death and disability across the world."

"While we failed to show significant benefits three months after stroke, the reduction in early deaths, amount of bleeding on the brain and serious complications are signs that this drug may be of benefit in the future. More trials are needed, particularly focusing on giving treatment as soon as possible after the start of bleeding in this emergency condition." TICH-2 cements the position of the NIHR and the UK as key players in the world of stroke research. A study of this scale would simply not have been possible without support of the NIHR infrastructure. Alongside the large stroke centres, the contribution made by the network of smaller sites across the UK has been crucial to the success of TICH-2.

15 per cent of all strokes -- affecting around 22,000 people every year -- are caused by haemorrhagic stroke when a blood vessel in the brain bursts, leading to permanent damage. While all people with acute stroke benefit from treatment on a stroke unit, there is currently no specific treatment for haemorrhagic stroke and unfortunately many people affected will die within a few days. Those who do survive are often left with debilitating disabilities including paralysis and an inability to speak.

The five-year TICH-2 trial recruited more than 2,000 patients from 124 hospitals in 12 countries between 2013 and 2017. They were randomly sorted into two patient groups - one received TXA within eight hours of their stroke and another was given a saline placebo. In the UK, more than 80 hospitals took part in the study with support from the NIHR clinical research network. CT scans of the patients' brains were performed 24 hours after their stroke and their progress was monitored and measured at day two and day seven after their stroke. The final follow up was performed at 90 days. The study revealed that TXA did not improve the outcome for patients after 90 days as there was no significant difference in the number of patients who had subsequently died or had been left with disabilities between the TXA and placebo groups at three months.

## Different ways in which the struggles of pediatric asthma can be overcome

Understanding how to care for those with pediatric asthma has improved over the last few decades, but there still seems a long way to go.

Researchers from the Children's National Health System went into detail regarding different methods to ensure that young asthmatic patients are kept out of the hospitals.

"We know how to effectively treat pediatric asthma," said Kavita Parikh, MD, pediatric hospitalist at Children's National Health System. "There's been a huge investment in terms of quality improvements that are reflected in how many papers there are about this topic in the litera-

ture."

Parikh also said that quality-improvement papers need to focus on inpatient discharge, which is a vulnerable time for patients. Around 40% children who are admitted to the hospital for asthma-related concerns return to the emergency department within a year.

In another recent study, Dr. Alexander Hogan, University of Connecticut, certain habits need to be inculcated for kids who have asthma:

- Using the controller medication inhaler twice every day with a spacer (a clear mask tool for easier paediatric application).
- For improving adherence,



keeping the child's inhaler near the toothbrush to serve as a reminder to use it morning and night.

- Be aware of symptoms

such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, shortness of breath and coughing.

"It's clear that we need to do better at keeping kids with

asthma out of the hospital. The point at which they're being discharged might be an effective time to intervene," Parikh added.

To determine which methods are the best, Parikh and her colleagues did a thorough review of studies regarding quality improvements after the patient is discharged. Their search involved 30 articles.

When Parikh and colleagues went over the effects of each type of intervention regarding hospital readmission, this was what they found: No single intervention category seemed to have any effect.

Only multimodal interventions that included a combination of various categories were

effective in cutting down on the risk of readmission between 30 days and one year after the initial discharge.

"It's indicative of what we have personally seen in quality-improvement efforts here at Children's National," Parikh said. "With a complex condition like asthma, it's difficult for a single change in how this disease is managed to make a big difference. We need complex and multimodal programs to improve pediatric asthma outcomes, particularly when there's a transfer of care like when patients are discharged and return home." The findings from the study are published in the journal Pediatrics.

## World Hypertension Day: Causes, symptoms, cure for this lifestyle disease

World Hypertension Day (WHD), celebrated every May 17 since 2005, aims to create awareness on hypertension and encourage people to take preventive measures against the lifestyle disease.

One out of every eight people in India suffer from high blood pressure, a recent study by a Union health ministry preventive health programme that screened 22.5 million adults across 100 districts in India in 2017 has found.

From 2013 to 2018, the theme of the WHD has been 'Know Your Numbers' – which means knowing what your blood pressure is, thereby spreading awareness on abnormally high blood pressure and arterial blood pressure.

Symptoms

Hypertensive crisis happens when there is a sudden increase in blood pressure, potentially causing organ damage. For example, one risks heart failure, kidney failure or stroke when the blood pressure gets very high. Symptoms of

hypertensive crisis can be breathlessness, chest pain, changes in consciousness, repeated vomiting, severe headache and convulsions. In such situations, emergency medical attention – including early control of blood pressure – is mandatory to avoid fatalities.

A person can fall prey either to primary or secondary hypertension. While primary hypertension is without an obvious cause (mostly lifestyle-related), secondary hypertension happens due to an underlying factor like kidney disease or hormone disease.

"The most common cause of hypertension is excess salt intake in the diet. Many genetic factors also make a person prone to high blood pressure. Sedentary lifestyle, smoking and alcohol use are other common causes. Hypertension in very young people could be due to disease of the arteries or hormone disorders. Chronic use of analgesics can also gradually increase blood pressure," says Dr

Vivek K Nambiar, head of division of stroke, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi.

While hypertension can pose a significant risk of heart disease and stroke, it can be controlled. High stress levels, obesity, sedentary lifestyle and poor dietary habits are some of the main reasons for hypertension in young people.

How can it be prevented, then? "Taking at least 10,000 steps a day, ensuring weight-loss and maintaining a healthy diet go a long way in preventing hypertension. Along with this, practice at least five minutes of mindfulness after waking up each morning to reduce blood pressure and stress," says Dr Charit Bhograj, consultant cardiologist, Vikram Hospital, Bengaluru. "In cases you are a young hypertensive, go for a thorough medical check-up to ensure that there are no secondary or more sinister causes of hypertension."

## Couple's spat is not good for your diabetes, tension and stress worsens it

Having a fight with a spouse may not only hurt feelings, but also worsen symptoms of chronic conditions like arthritis or diabetes, a study has found. Researchers from Pennsylvania State University in the US found that in two groups of older individuals - one group with arthritis and one with diabetes - the patients who felt more tension with their spouse also reported worse symptoms on those days. The findings - published in the journal *Annals of Behavioral Medicine* - could potentially help create interventions targeted at helping couples with chronic diseases. "It was exciting that we were able to see this association in two different data

sets - two groups of people with two different diseases," said Lynn Martire, professor at Penn State.

"The findings gave us insight into how marriage might affect health, which is important for people dealing with chronic conditions like arthritis or diabetes," Martire. It is important to learn more about how and why symptoms of chronic disease worsen, researchers said. People with osteoarthritis in their knees who experience greater pain become disabled quicker, and people with diabetes that isn't controlled have a greater risk for developing complications.

While previous research has shown a connection between satisfying marriages



and better health, both physically and psychologically, there has been a lack of research into how day-to-day experiences impact those with chronic illness. "We study chronic illnesses, which usually involve daily symptoms or fluctuations in symptoms.

Other studies have looked at the quality of someone's marriage right now," Martire said.

"However, we wanted to drill down and examine how positive or negative interactions with your spouse affect your health from day to day," she said. Data from two groups

of participants were used for the study. One group was comprised of 145 patients with osteoarthritis in the knee and their spouses. The other included 129 patients with type 2 diabetes and their spouses.

Participants in both groups kept daily diaries about their mood, how severe their symptoms were, and whether their interactions with their spouse were positive or negative. The participants in the arthritis and diabetes groups kept their diaries for 22 and 24 days, respectively.

The researchers found that within both groups of participants, patients were in a worse mood on days when they felt more tension than usual with their spouse, which

in turn led to greater pain or severity of symptoms. They also found that within the group with arthritis, the severity of the patient's pain also had an effect on tensions with their spouse the following day.

When they had greater pain, they were in a worse mood and had greater tension with their partner the next day. "This almost starts to suggest a cycle where your marital interactions are more tense, you feel like your symptoms are more severe, and the next day you have more marital tension again," Martire said. "We didn't find this effect in the participants with diabetes, which may just be due to differences in the two diseases," she said.

## EXERCISE MAY NOT HELP COMBAT MENTAL DECLINE IN DEMENTIA PATIENTS

A new research suggests that moderate to high-intensity exercise does not slow cognitive decline in people with dementia. Although the exercise programme improved physical fitness, it cannot be recommended as a treatment option for cognitive impairment in dementia, say the researchers. Nearly 47.5 million people worldwide have dementia and the view that exercise might slow cognitive decline has gained widespread popularity. But recent reviews of trials of exercise training in people with dementia have shown conflicting results. To try and resolve this uncertainty, a team of UK researchers decided to estimate the effect of a moderate to high intensity aerobic and strength exercise training programme on cognitive impairment and other outcomes in people with dementia.

The trial involved 494 people with mild to moderate dementia (average age 77 years) living in the community across 15 regions of England. General health and fitness were assessed at the start of the study and participants were randomly assigned to either a supervised exercise and support programme (329 patients) or to usual care (165 patients).

The programme consisted of 60-90 minute group sessions in a gym twice a week for four months, plus home exercises for one additional hour each week with ongoing support. The main (primary) outcome was an Alzheimer's disease assessment score (ADAS-cog) at 12 months. Other (secondary) outcomes included activities of daily living, number of falls, and quality of life. Compliance with exercise was good and participants were assessed again at six and 12 months. After taking account of potentially influential factors, the researchers found that cognitive impairment declined over the 12-month follow-up in both groups.

The exercise group showed improved physical fitness in the short term, but higher ADAS-cog scores at 12 months (25.2 v 23.8) compared with the usual care group, indicating worse cognitive impairment. However, the average difference was small and clinical relevance was uncertain. No differences were found in secondary outcomes, including a number of falls and quality of life, or after further analyses to test the strength of the results.

The researchers pointed to some trial limitations. For example, participants and carers knew which group they were in, and the period of structured exercise may have been too short to produce positive benefits. "This trial suggests that people with mild to moderate dementia can engage and comply with moderate to high intensity aerobic and strengthening exercise and improve physical fitness," said the authors.

# Sebi proposes uniform pricing for debt securities

New Delhi: To deepen the bond markets, regulator Sebi has proposed a uniform methodology to determine pricing of non-traded and thinly traded non-convertible debt securities.

The requirement of such a framework also assumes significance as large number of such investors belong to categories such as mutual funds, insurance companies and pension funds, which have a mandate of daily net asset value (NAV) with an exit facility at any point of time for their investors.

This requires a reliable and accurate price of the outstanding securities on a daily basis.

As per Sebi, the current practice of pricing of corporate bonds varies for different classes of regulated entities and this impacts trading in the secondary market.

Accordingly, it has been recommended that a uniform pricing methodology be evolved, which provides prices on a daily basis and may be followed by all the regulated entities for valuing their corporate bond portfolio.

"Availability of such a uniform pricing framework, will ultimately lead to improvement in liquidity in the secondary market and thus will help in deepening the bond markets," the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a 15-page consultation paper issued yesterday.

The regulator has sought public



comments on the proposal till June 18 and final regulation will be put in place after taking into consideration views of all the stakeholders.

The proposal has been drafted after consulting with representatives of various market participants and industry bodies such as Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) and Fixed Income Money Markets and Derivatives Association (FIMMDA).

Besides, a stock of the current set of pricing methodologies was taken and as identified in HR Khan committee report, there are primarily two different methodologies, one administered by FIMMDA and the other by credit rating agencies.

Under the proposal, Sebi has focussed on issues like pricing agency, details of the methodology for undertaking pricing activity for bonds, ap-

proach of construction of spread matrix, governance framework and dissemination of the pricing related information.

Sebi said a single reference price would not be achieved by prescribing a principle or methodology, however it will generate daily closing prices which would be derived by following a consistent methodology for all the bonds in the market and would thus be more suitable and timely.

"The proposed methodology has been framed keeping in mind the fact that pricing illiquid debt securities is as much an art as science, hence making the process completely objective may neither be possible nor is desirable. Further, the idea is of providing uniformity to the process, while not taking away the judgement of a pricing agency," Sebi noted.

The regulator has proposed to define exceptional events, that may lead to significant change in the yield of the debt securities.

Monetary policy, Union budget, government borrowing or auctions days and material statements on sovereign rating has been suggested as exceptional events.

It suggested that pricing agency would be a corporate entity which undertakes the daily pricing activities and is regulated by either Sebi or RBI and has minimum net worth of Rs 10 crore; will not price a bond, which it has issued itself; has not less than two employees, each with at least five years of relevant working experience in areas related to bond trading or bond pricing.

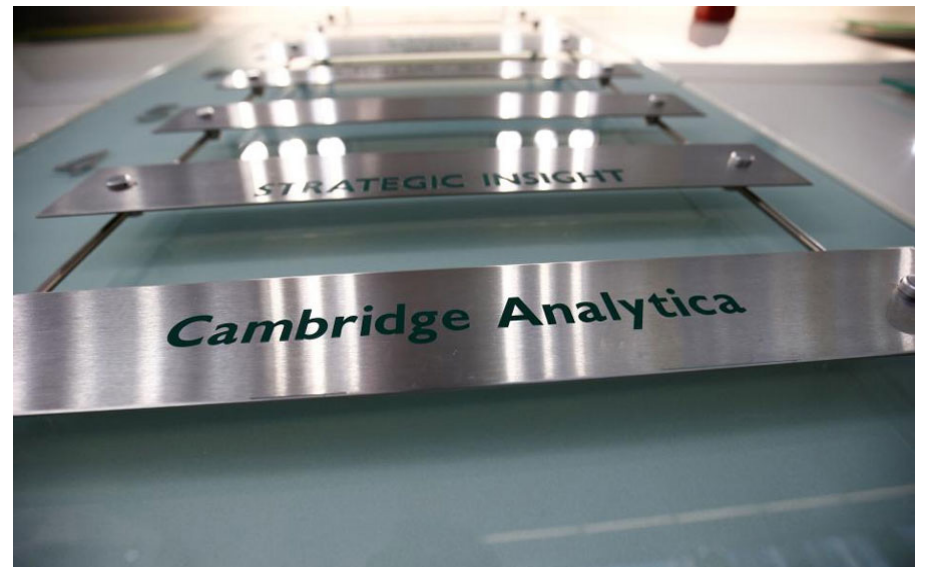
The agency should also maintain complete records of its operations related to bond pricing including audit trail of the process and activity for at least seven years.

Trade should mean all trades in securities valuing at least Rs 5 crore and all primary issuances of securities worth Rs 25 crore or more.

According to Sebi, the pricing provided by the different pricing agencies should be made available by them, on a daily basis, on their website for public at large.

However, to ensure that the commercial interest of the pricing agencies is preserved, such pricing data should be made available to public at large after a delay of one day.

# Cambridge Analytica files for Chapter 7 bankruptcy



Cambridge Analytica, the political consultancy at the centre of Facebook Inc's privacy scandal, filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in the United States late on Thursday.

This past March allegations surfaced that Cambridge Analytica, hired by President Donald Trump's 2016 U.S. election campaign, improperly used data of 87 million Facebook users beginning in 2014.

Cambridge Analytica and its British parent SCL Elections Ltd said earlier this month that they would shut down immediately and begin bankruptcy proceedings after suffering a sharp drop in business.

The petition to file bankruptcy was submitted at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Southern District of New York and was signed on behalf of Cambridge Analytica's board by Rebekah and Jennifer Mercer, daughters of billionaire Robert Mercer. The Mercer family was one of Trump's biggest donors.

Cambridge Analytica LLC listed assets in

the range of \$100,001 to \$500,000 and liabilities in the range of \$1 million to \$10 million.

London-based Cambridge Analytica was created in 2013 initially with a focus on U.S. elections, with \$15 million in backing from Mercer and a name chosen by former Trump White House adviser Steve Bannon, according to a report by the New York Times.

Facebook has faced multiple investigations in the United States and Europe over its handling of personal data of users, hurting shares of the Mark Zuckerberg-led company.

Zuckerberg has appeared before U.S. congressional committees to testify on data privacy and will meet leaders of the European Parliament soon.

Facebook said on Monday it has suspended around 200 apps in the first stage of its review into apps that had access to large quantities of user data before the company restricted data access.

# Petrol price hiked by 98 paise, diesel by Rs 1.15 per litre in last 5 days

New Delhi: Petrol prices have been hiked by 98 paise and diesel by Rs 1.15 per litre in last 5 days, after a 19-day pre-Karnataka poll hiatus.

Petrol price was hiked by 17 paise a litre and diesel by 21 paise as PSU oil firms began passing on the spike witnessed in international rates to consumers on May 14. This spiral in prices of transport fuels comes amid continuous gains in crude oil prices globally which have gone past the USD 80 per barrel mark.

Petrol price in Delhi was hiked to Rs 75.61 per litre while diesel rates were increased to Rs 67.08 a litre, according to a price notification issued by state-owned oil marketing



companies on Friday.

Oil PSUs, who had kept rates unchanged for nearly three weeks before Karnataka went to polls despite input cost spiking, reverted to daily revision in prices no sooner had the state voted to

elect a new government on Saturday.

State-owned oil marketing companies are estimated to have lost about Rs 500 crore as they absorbed higher cost resulting from the spike in international oil rates and fall

in rupee against the US dollar.

Oil PSUs, which have been since June last year revising auto fuel prices on a daily basis to reflect changes in the cost, have kept pump rates static since April 24, an analysis of daily price notification issued by oil companies showed.

Oil PSUs have refused to acknowledge if the freeze followed a government diktat so as to help ruling BJP in Karnataka.

Indian Oil Corp (IOC) Chairman Sanjiv Singh last week said that state-owned firms were "temporarily moderating" prices to avoid sharp spikes and panic among consumers.

# Inflation to average around 5.1% this fiscal: Report

New Delhi: Inflation is set to rise further towards the second half of the fiscal, and could average 5.1 percent this financial year compared to 3.6 percent last year, says an HSBC report.

According to the global financial services major, the factors that are likely to impact inflation going forward include higher oil prices, a weaker rupee, higher MSPs and more currency in circulation.

Given global factors like rise in oil prices, Fed rate hikes and likely fall in USD liquidity, will impact India's macro economy, while domestic factors like higher agriculture Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) threaten to raise inflation.



"We believe it could average 5.1 percent in 2018-19, compared to 3.6 percent last year," HSBC said in a research note. The report further noted that "with appropriate action now, it is likely to inch lower in 2019-20, and even fall back towards the RBI's 4 percent target by the second half of 2019-20".

Reversing the declining

On RBI's policy stance, the report said, the RBI has enough reasons to raise rates by 50 bps in this cycle.

"We are now pencilling in two back-to-back 25 bps rate hikes at the August and October 2018 meetings, respectively," it said.

A further hike in 2019 will depend on the national election outcome, and health of India's banking sector, and strength of world growth, US dollar, US rates and oil prices, the report said.

In its first bi-monthly monetary policy for 2018-19, RBI left repo rate unchanged at 6 percent. The MPC maintained status quo for the fourth consecutive time since August last year.

trend of three months, retail inflation inched up to 4.58 percent in April and may prompt the Reserve Bank to harden stance at the monetary policy review next month.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation too rose to 3.18 percent in April, mainly on account of spike in fuel prices, as per inflation data released by the government.

# Government may increase taxes on crude derivatives by Rs 3-5: Sources

New Delhi: At the time, when petrol and diesel prices are at record highs, the government is planning to increase the taxes on crude derivatives. Sources close to the development informed Zee Business that the government is likely to increase the taxes on crude derivatives by Rs 3 to Rs 5 per litre. This hike will be announced within a week.

The sources informed that petrol, diesel, gas and cylinders will be kept out from the hike.

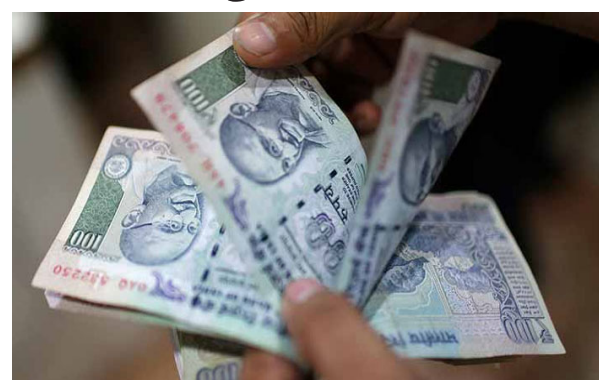
Crude derivatives are a by-product of the crude oil and it comes out when it is refined. There more than 76 by-products of the crude and

they include products like monomer, polymer, polyester and wax among others.

The levy on crude derivatives is being increased with an aim to maintain the fiscal deficit target of the year and fill the losses of oil marketing companies (OMCs) due to reduced margins on the sale of petrol and diesel.

Problem that led to the decision?

The oil ministry has asked the finance ministry to fill the losses being incurred by the state-owned OMCs, like Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL), on the sale



of petrol and diesel.

Any reduction in the taxes on petrol and diesel will result in a revenue loss to the government. For instance, reduction of a rupee will result in a revenue loss of Rs 13,000

crore. This means the government will not be able to meet its fiscal deficit target of the year like the previous fiscal year, which was increased from 3 percent to 3.2 percent.

However, increase in the taxes on crude derivatives will help it to maintain the fiscal deficit and fill the losses of the OMCs.

If seen from today's perspective when petrol is being sold at Rs 75.61 a litre in Delhi, the OMCs are incurring a loss of Rs 4.60. Similarly, in case of diesel, the OMCs are having a loss of Rs 3.60 per litre when it is being sold at Rs 67.08 a litre.

Fruit of the decision

The government wants to adjust the revenue losses of the OMCs by increasing the taxes on these by-products. Undoubtedly, the decision, if implemented, will help the

government in reducing the burden on common man, who is facing the heat of increasing prices of the petrol and diesel. But it will increase the burden on companies that import these by-products for manufacturing their products.

The maximum burden of the decision will be felt by paint companies whose 60 percent raw materials are derived from the crude-derivatives. An analysis suggests that Asian Paints quarters profit margin will go down by Rs 100 crore, in the last quarter it saw a profit of Rs 480 crore. Similarly, Berger paint's profit margin may be halved.

# Tata Steel Q4 net profit at Rs 14,688 crore

Mumbai: Tata Steel has reported consolidated net profit of Rs 14,688.02 crore for the fourth quarter ended March, driven by an "exceptional" gain of Rs 11,376 crore.

It had clocked a net loss of Rs 1,168.02 crore in the same quarter last year.

"The exceptional gain was Rs 11,376 crore, which includes a non-cash gain of Rs 14077 crore on account of restructuring of UK pension scheme in the March quarter," the company said in a release.

The total income of the company increased to Rs 36,407.19 crore in the quarter, against Rs 35,457.06 crore in the year-ago period.

The total expenses stood at Rs 32,626.42 crore, compared with Rs 31,132.02 crore.

For financial year 2017-18, the steel maker reported a net profit of Rs 17,763 crore, against a loss of Rs 4,169 crore in the previous fiscal.

T V Narendran, chief executive officer and managing director, Tata Steel, attributed the robust performance in FY18 on strong execution strategy, supported by favourable global demand-supply balance.

"During the year, our Indian operations delivered volume growth better than the market on the back of the ramp-up at our Kalinganagar plant and the strength of our marketing network and brand equity," he said.

Narendran said growth was broad-based across marketing segments and added that Tata Steel Europe had a good quarter despite currency headwinds.

"The UK pension scheme restructuring process has also been completed. The 50:50 JV discussion with ThyssenKrupp is progressing well and we are committed towards building a strong European portfolio," he said.

He added that the company continues to execute its strategy of expanding footprint in India.

"Kalinganagar Phase 2 expansion is progressing well, which will take our capacity from 13 million tonnes (mt) to 18 mt of crude steel. I am also happy to share that NCLT has given its approval on our resolution plan for Bhushan Steel. We have also received CCI approval for this," he said.

# FPI inflows at \$2.2 bn in March quarter on promising economic numbers

New Delhi: Continuing their buying spree in the March quarter, foreign investors pumped in USD 2.2 billion in the Indian equity market on hopes of better corporate earnings, promising economic data and buoyant global markets.

The net inflow by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) was USD 2.6 billion during Octo-

ber-December quarter, as per Morningstar Investment Adviser India.

On month-on-month basis, FPIs were net buyers in January and March -- USD 2.16 billion and USD 1.79 billion respectively. They had however sold equities worth USD 1.77 billion in February.

Despite net inflows, decline in markets dented the value

of FPI investments in equities as it ended the January-March quarter this year at USD 414 billion from USD 442 billion registered in the preceding three months.

However, FPIs' contribution to the equity market capitalisation remained unchanged from the previous quarter at 19 percent.

Overall, FPIs started the

quarter with a positive outlook on Indian markets.

According to Himanshu Srivastava, senior analyst manager research, at Morningstar, markets were performing well globally and this led to a buildup of positive sentiments and an increase in investors' risk appetite. This resulted in huge net inflows from overseas investors into

emerging markets like India.

On the domestic front, better economic numbers and positive third-quarter results for many companies in fiscal year 2017-18 drew FPI attention. Additionally, IMF's projection that India would retain the fastest-growing economy tag in 2018-19 also worked in its favour, he added. However, February proved

to be a damper, as a series of weak domestic and global cues led FPIs to pull their investments from the Indian markets.

With respect to homefront, factors like the introduction of long-term capital gains tax in equity investments announced in the Union Budget 2018, and the unearthing of a scam involving Punjab National Bank adversely.

## Royal Challengers Bangalore can't always rely on Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers: Moeen Ali

Though AB de Villiers was adjudged Man-of-the-Match in Royal Challengers Bangalore's 14-run win over IPL 2018 table-toppers Sunrisers Hyderabad, it was Moeen Ali who provided the impetus to help his team put up a big score at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Thursday.

Ali said that it was important that other players also contribute as they can't always rely on captain Virat Kohli and de Villiers to pull them through.

"It is obviously very important (to contribute). It is a massive momentum kind of game. We have to contribute to go further and potentially get through (to the playoffs). You can't always rely on two guys, two amazing players who will do their bit but we have to sort of chip in and win games for the team as well," said the 30-year-old.

The left-handed batsman smashed a 34-ball 65 which included two bound-



aries and six sixes, guiding RCB to 218/6. He also shared a 105-run stand with de Villiers which eventually laid the platform for the big total.

"It was good. I feel like I have been playing well in the nets and practice. I wasn't in great form coming here.

It was nice to go out and express myself in the last game here, for the fans and team, for my own and team's confidence in me as well so that we can keep going forward," said Ali.

This was the England all-rounder's only fourth game of the tournament

in which he scored his maiden Indian Premier League half-century.

"It is great to be in the team and winning and when you win you always stick with the same formula and we are doing it now for the last three games and hopefully we can keep doing that."

Ali also credited batting coach Gary Kirsten and batting talent development coach Trent Woodhill, saying that what he learns here will also help him improve as an England ODI player.

"Gary and Trent Woodhill... I have worked the most with them on my batting. I am trying to hit the ball and be consistent in hitting boundaries. They have really opened my game and I feel going further for England, it will help me become a better ODI player and improve my game," concluded the all-rounder.

## Steve Smith could make cricket return in Canada T20 tournament: report

Tainted former Australian cricket team skipper Steve Smith could return to playing cricket as early as next month in a T20 tournament in Toronto.

According to a report on cricket.com.au, Smith might feature in the Global T20 Canada tournament which will run from June 28 to July 16. It's a six-team tournament and Smith, who was handed a one-year ban by Cricket Australia after being found guilty in a ball tampering scandal in South Africa earlier this year, might make a move. There will be a minimum of four Canadians in each squad, so there's plenty of room for foreign recruits. The six competing teams of the tournament, sanctioned by the International Cricket Council earlier in February, are Caribbean All-Stars, Toronto Nationals, Montreal Tigers, Ottawa Royals, Vancouver Knights and Winnipeg Hawks.

Smith, who's still the No 1 batsman in the Test format, has played 155 T20s so far and has over 3000 runs in his kitty at an average



of 30.03 and a strike rate of 125.36. He was due to lead Rajasthan Royals in the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League but with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) following the sanctions imposed on the trio of Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft, he missed out on the T20 league.

It's a welcome move for Smith given Warner will start his road to redemption with Sydney's Randwick Petersham whose club president had clarified that the southpaw would play at least three of the first four matches for the side.

## ALLAN BORDER BACKS GLENN MAXWELL FOR AUSTRALIA TEST SPOT



Former Australian cricket team skipper Allan Border has stated that he feels all-rounder Glenn Maxwell deserves a chance in the Test squad of the Baggy Greens, especially now that the senior side is not in the best of shape.

Despite thrashing arch-rivals England 4-0 in the five-match Ashes series earlier this year, the Australians surrendered 3-1 in front of South Africa away from home in their last Test series with the ball-tampering scandal taking a hit on the team's morale. Australia led the four-match series 1-0 before losing the next three Tests.

Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft were handed bans for their involvement in the ball-tampering incident during the series.

"It's a compelling argument to have him somewhere in your Test side. Fingers crossed he starts the season with a bang and throws his name into the ring," Border told SEN radio. "I definitely think the selectors have eyes on him for sure because of what he brings to the table: great in the field, dynamic batting and the off-spin bowling."

Although Maxwell has 81 one-day internationals and another 43 T20Is under his belt, he's featured in just seven Tests so far despite debuting for the national side back in 2012. He's yet to feature in a Test playing XI in Australia with all of his seven appearances in the sub-continent. Last year, he even brought up his maiden Test hundred in Ranchi but failed to impress in his two Tests in Bangladesh.

Border, however, was of the opinion that the 29-year-old still has it in him to go the distance in the longest format of the game and as a proven cricketer of the limited-over game, Maxwell should get a nod. "He has got talent to burn," Border said. "We've seen glimpses of it in the Test match arena. We see it in the short format of the game, but he can easily play Test cricket. He is just getting his head around playing within certain limitations which is hard for 'Maxy' because he has a shot for every ball. It's just getting your head around what's required to be successful at Test cricket."

Maxwell has had a fantastic domestic season last year where he notched up 707 runs for Victoria at an average of 50.50 and a strike rate of 70.34. He had three centuries and a half-century to his name, including a cracking 278 against New South Wales.

## Manish Pandey rues Sunrisers Hyderabad's bowling display vs Royal Challengers Bangalore

Captain Kane Williamson and Manish Pandey took Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) to the gates of victory but eventually fell short by 14 runs, losing to Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) who kept themselves alive in IPL 2018 here on Thursday.

Though he did not single out any bowler, Pandey felt that they gave away about 20 runs extra which proved to be the difference between the two sides at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

"Overall 215-220 was a lot on this wicket. We gave away about 70 runs in the last five overs. Colin de Grandhomme played well, Sarfraz Khan got quick runs... we should have given them only

190-200, that's what our plan was but such games do happen. It was a nice wicket but we should work as a bowling team together," said Pandey.

Pacer Basil Thampi, who replaced Bhuvneshwar Kumar, had a day which he would like to soon forget as he ended up with the most expensive figures in IPL 2018. In the four overs he bowled, Thampi got smashed for 70 runs. Playing only his fourth game this season and the first since April 29, he could only muster two dot deliveries as he was hit for five fours and six sixes.

Needing 20 off the last over with eight wickets in hand and two in-form batsmen at the crease, SRH could only manage five in the last six



deliveries.

"Twenty runs. Kane was on strike, first ball when a wicket goes sometimes it is difficult to come up from there. Mohammed Siraj bowled really well to get those yorkers right on the spot. Probably if I would have connected a couple, we would have come

closer but they bowled better in the last five overs than us. That was the difference," said the 28-year-old.

Nevertheless, Pandey played a good hand, scoring an unbeaten 62 off 38 deliveries which included seven fours and two sixes.

"Yes definitely (it was a

good knock). Me and everybody had been waiting for this. Special knock I thought. Bangalore is pretty close to me, this was one of the chances where I thought that if I get to bat with balls in hand... I was preparing myself play accordingly and opened up," said the Karnataka batsman.

"It was quite okay for me till now, not as much as what I expected but it is high time. We have qualified but waiting for the right time and even if I peak now trying to win games for my team I will be really happy by the end of the season."

Pandey also lauded Williamson for his batting as well as leadership qualities. Along with being one of the only two

batsmen to score 600 runs in IPL 2018, the Williamson-led outfit became the first team to qualify for the playoffs.

"(He has done) very well. He has got about 600 runs this IPL already. He has been batting really well. Captaincy... he has been using the bowlers really well. He is understanding the culture of the team and how to bring in our main spinners like Rashid Khan and Shakib Al Hasan. They have been taking wickets for us and are real assets. To control the game from there and the way the bowlers are responding, he has been fantastic till now and we hope he continues (in the same manner) till the end," concluded Pandey.

## AB de Villiers reveals story behind proposal to wife Danielle at Taj Mahal

South African cricketer AB de Villiers has revealed that the idea to propose his wife for marriage at the Taj Mahal was such an elaborate plan that he had to lie to his wife Danielle de Villiers while asking photographers and videographers to follow them as security guards to the mausoleum.

"About a couple of months leading up to the IPL, I was obviously planning, got the ring and all that, and I decided to do it there. And once I got to the IPL, I got 'security guards', who were actually photographing and videographers to film the whole thing," de Villiers said in an interaction on web series What the Duck Season 3. "But I told Danielle that I have to travel with security guards, so that's why they got to go with us. And it ended up to be a great surprise and I got it all on camera."

The Mr. 360 degrees of cricket tied the knot with his wife in 2013 and welcomed their second child last year. "That was a very special time in my life. I sur-



prised Danielle completely. She didn't know a thing about it. And I could not have done it at a more special place than that," he said. "I remember what Virat told me when I got back. He's like 'you're raising the bar way too high for us'. But I think he did a pretty good job now with Anushka (Sharma)."

South African legend Jonty Rhodes, who was also part of the interaction, lauded De Villiers's decision to try and keep his wife in the dark while designing

the engagement ring. "I thought reverse sweeping Dale Steyn for a six was very brave but designing your future wife's ring, that's very, very brave," Rhodes quipped, to which De Villiers stated: "Maybe she's not honest with me but she says she likes it. Maybe she's hiding it."

De Villiers, who slammed a trademark 39-ball 69 against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Thursday to help his side post a 14-run win and keep their play-off chances alive, also recalled how Rhodes was a childhood hero for his lot back in his school days. "I still have grass prints on my knees from trying that dive from 1992 against Pakistan. Growing up, I was just eight-years-old and the 'in-thing' in school was to imitate that run-out so I did it plenty of times. I always wanted to be like him, and I had a green Jonty cap with Jonty written in yellow on it. I bought it at the first Test that I ever watched live at the Supersport Park. He is a good man as well, not only a good teacher," de Villiers added.

## BCCI secretary Amitabh Chaudhary furious after Kevin Pietersen picked for Pataudi Lecture

BCCI acting secretary Amitabh Chaudhary on Friday fired a fresh salvo after Kevin Pietersen was picked to deliver the Annual MAK Pataudi Memorial Lecture during its Awards function in Bengaluru on June 12.

While Chaudhary had earlier expressed his strong reservations at the panel that was shortlisted (Kumar Sangakkara, Nasser Hussain, Sourav Ganguly and Kevin Pietersen), he is livid with GM (Cricket Operations) Saba Karim for ignoring the names of Indian stalwarts of yesteryears.

Chaudhary had suggested the names of Erapalli Prasanna, Abbas Ali Baig, Nari Contractor -- all of whom have played alongside Tiger.

The acting secretary in an email (in possession of PTI) took a sarcastic dig at former India stumper Karim after the latter in an email said that "he was happy to announce that Kevin Pietersen has agreed and confirmed to deliver the MAK Pataudi Memorial Lecture."

"GM (Cricket Operations) expression of happiness on it had left me wondering on whether the Memorial Lecture was indeed MAK Pataudi Memorial Lecture or Sir Len Hutton Lecture or for that matter Sir Frank Woolley Memorial lecture," Chaudhary wrote with reference to former England legends. The former Jharkhand top cop expressed his dismay that Karim didn't follow-up on his suggestions and didn't communicate on the subject.

He had five specific questions for Karim, 1) How was the list of four arrived at without advertising to conversations on very subject on May 8 in Bengaluru? 2) Why 75 per cent of the names were that of foreigners? 3) Relevance (of Pietersen) delivering the lecture was not explained? 4) Why was Sangakkara's unavailability not recorded when COA chief Vinod Rai had said that he was open to other names? 5) On basis of which authorization was jump made to Pietersen's name without seeking authorization to do so? The acting secretary accused Karim of not disclosing his suggestions with the CoA and making decision in an unilateral manner.

Referring to Karim's earlier mail when the panel of four was shortlisted, he wrote: "Significantly, the prose inexplicably left out the discussions held at Bangalore on the subject two days earlier. It is obvious from the context that the CoA learnt of it first only with the proposal email on the 10th (May)." While concluding, Chaudhary has asked for a "rectification" as significance of the Lecture is being derailed. "Unable to stomach the ease with which the significance of the Lecture was being derailed, as also the fact that GM (Cricket Operations) had solicited our views in his email, I wrote an earnest email to attempt rectification, if possible."

## 'Spiderman' AB de Villiers defies gravity with stunning IPL catch for RCB

AB de Villiers seems to make it a habit of being spectacular in whatever he does on a cricket field and the talismanic South African's gravity-defying catch in Thursday's Indian Premier League (IPL) match only added to his legend.

The Sunrisers Hyderabad's chase was into its eighth over when their English opener Alex Hales launched spinner Moeen Ali into the night sky at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium for what looked like his fourth six.

Patrolling the deep mid-wicket boundary, de Villiers, however, believed and proved

otherwise.

Known for his superb athleticism, the South Africa leapt high and instinctively stretched out his right hand to pluck the ball swirling away from him.

And his job was not done yet.

When he landed, the Royal Challengers Bangalore fielder also had to ensure the momentum did not take him across the rope, which would have ruined a moment of breathtaking fielding brilliance.

"That was Spiderman stuff, you don't do that as normal human beings," Bangalore



captain Virat Kohli gushed at the presentation ceremony.

"I thought it was going for a six and then he pulls it out... He can do freakish things. I'm used to it now.

"His shots still leave me

in awe, I'm pretty used to his fielding. That was fun to watch," the India captain added.

Famed for his 360-degree batting and an uncanny ability to conjure up shots that

amuse the fans and bemuse the opposition, de Villiers made a breezy 69 in Bangalore's 14-run win against the table-toppers to keep his team in the IPL playoff race.

Compatriot and former South Africa batsman Jonty Rhodes called the catch "insane", high praise coming from the fielding great, but AB de Villiers was his modest self when describing the moment.

"I made it look better than it was," the 34-year-old said after being adjudged man-of-the-match.

"I got in a bad position. The ball had a little bit curve on it. The minute I took the

jump, I realised it was a little bit outside of my body... Luckily it stuck." Former India Test bowler RP Singh tweeted a photograph of de Villiers, with a flowing red cape, taking the 'superman' catch.

Led by New Zealand captain Kane Williamson, Hyderabad have already made the playoffs as have Chennai Super Kings.

With only five group matches to go, Kolkata Knight Riders, Mumbai Indians, Rajasthan Royals, Kings XI Punjab and Bangalore are vying for the remaining two playoff slots in the eight-team league.