

TIME AND US

DAILY

SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

SUNDAY

- MAY, 06, 2018
- 19 SHABAN 1439 AH
- ISSUE: 107
- VOLUME: 04
- PAGES: 08

STATION	WEATHER TEMPERATURE	
	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
SRINAGAR	22.8	10.3
JAMMU	35.5	23.2
LEH	18.3	7.6
KARGIL	19.6	5.2

SUNSET SUNDAY: 07:19 PM
SUNRISE MONDAY: 05:37 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR
Light Rains/Thunder Showers. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 22°C & 09°C respectively.

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

STATE | 3

INTERSTATE | 5

BUSINESS | 7

SPORTS | 8

ACHIEVE SET TARGETS UNDER GRAM SWARAJ ABHIYAN: DR. JITENDER TO OFFICERS

IN KARNATAKA ELECTION RALLY, PM MODI TAKES A PPP JIBE AT CONGRESS

AIR INDIA LOSSES SET TO TOP RS 13 CRORE IF GOVT'S SHARE SALE FAILS TO TAKE OFF: CAPA

MS DHONI SWINGING IT LIKE OLD, SCRIPTING RESURGENCE STORY OF IPL 2018

Three militants killed in Srinagar encounter

Police vehicle crushes youth to death

▶ CNS

Srinagar, May 5: Three militants were killed in Chattabal encounter in Kashmir capital Srinagar. Police said that one of the militants was a local who hails from Fathekadal area of Srinagar city.

As per locals combined forces cordoned off Chattabal area on Friday night and till afternoon hours of Saturday they killed three militants.

When encounter was underway, youth clashed with police and during the clashes, a youth was crushed by a police vehicle. As the video of the incident went viral, police said that an FIR has been lodged at police station Safakadal and the vehicle driver involved will be identified and a action will be taken.

Among the three militants killed in the encounter is one who hails from old Srinagar city whom police identified as Fayaz Hamal while rest of the two militants are believed to be foreigners.



A police official said that of the three militants one has been identified as Fayaz Ahmed Hamal a local militant from Srinagar.

"Before formally joining the outfit in April of 2017 Fayaz was operating as an active accomplice of the terror network. He was previously

involved in case FIR no 83/2017 u/s 392 RPC, 7/25 IA Act, 30 Police Act of police station MR Gunj Srinagar."

"The identities of other two militants are yet to be ascertained." "Moreover following recoveries were made from the encounter

▶ See **Three**...Pg 02

UJC PAYS TRIBUTE TO SLAIN MILITANTS AND CIVILIAN

▶ CNS

Srinagar, May 5: While paying rich tribute to three militants and a civilian killed in Kashmir capital Srinagar on Saturday, conglomerate of militant outfits United Jihad Council has said that their sacred blood will not go waste.

Three militants were killed in Chattabal Srinagar encounter while a civilian was crushed to death by a Forces vehicle during post encounter clashes.

"The martyrs of Chattabal have proved that Kashmiri nation prefers death over subjugation. Militants

▶ See **UJC**...Pg 02

DEATH OF YOUTH: 'Will definitely take action, Says IGP

▶ CNS

Srinagar, May 5: Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone Mr SP Pani Saturday said that they will definitely take action against the vehicle driver who run over a protesters in Srinagar during

clashes. "We have taken cognizance of the video. We are ascertaining the facts and investigating the matter and action will follow," he told news agency CNS.

When asked is it a CRPF or police vehicle, Inspector

General of Police said: "It looks like police vehicle, but we will take action."

Pertinently, in a shocking video that has gone viral on social media and has sent shock waves among people of Kashmir, a local

▶ See **IGP**...Pg 02

Mehbooba condemns civilian killings, asks all shades of opinion to rise to the occasion

Directs Police to take legal cognizance of death of youth by Police vehicle at Noorbagh

Srinagar, May 5: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti has strongly condemned the killing of three civilians during the past 24 hours in various parts of the Kashmir Valley.

In a statement, the Chief Minister said she has often said that with the killing of

civilians nobody's interests are served but we are plunging the State into uncertainty and chaos. "Whose interests are we serving by killing these civilians but plunging our society into chaos and uncertainty", she said in her statement.

▶ See **Killings**...Pg 02

KASHMIR UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR GOES MISSING, PROTESTS ROCK VARSITY

▶ KNS

Srinagar, May 05: Protests were held at the University of Kashmir on Saturday after a contractual assistant professor appointed in sociology department of the varsity went missing. As a matter of fact, the assistant professor is from Ganderbal district and has been identified as Muhammad Rafiq Bhat.

Pertinently, his family members reported to the university's chief proctor that he is missing since yesterday.

The vice-chancellor has written to the Director General of Police, requesting him that all efforts be made to trace the whereabouts of the said contractual lecturer, said a varsity spokesman, in a statement.

▶ See **University**...Pg 02

Education, peace, compassion fundamental components of Islam's message: CM Mehbooba

Srinagar, May 05: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti has asked religious scholars and ulema to educate people about the true spirit of Islam which encompasses peace, seeking knowledge, compassion and piety. She said the worried aspect that the most poor and disadvantaged section of society becomes the ultimate victim of situational turbulences needs to be pondered over and solution found.

Interacting with a delegation of religious scholars and



ulemahere today, the Chief Minister said the critical need of the hour is to spread the universal message of Islam among masses and also clear the misgivings among other communities. "This is a chal-

lenge but", she said, "given the influence and respect you command I hope you would rise to the occasion and discharge the obligations ordained upon you", she told the ulema and scholars.

The Chief Minister regretted the observation that it is the lowest strata of society, poor and underprivileged which bear the brunt of situational uncertainties. This

▶ See **Mehbooba**...Pg 02

JKPCC EXPRESS CONCERN OVER THE KILLINGS OF CIVILIANS IN KASHMIR

▶ PTK

SRINAGAR, MAY 05: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) senior leaders and legislators including MLA Sopore and party Vice President, Haji Rasheed Dar, MLA Bandipora, Usman Majeed, MLA Devsar Mohammad Amin Bhat and Vice President and MLC G N Monga have issued following joint statement to the press.

The unabated killing of civilians in Kashmir valley is unfortunate and it should stop immediately. Security forces must exercise restraint while dealing with situation. The government also needs to explain as who are these 'unidentified gunmen' who have killed several civilians

▶ See **JKPCC**...Pg 02

Five deaths in Kashmir from evening to morning

▶ CNS

Srinagar, May 5: Eight persons including a cop in restive Pulwama district of South Kashmir.

Suspected militants shot dead a cop in restive Pulwama district of South Kashmir. Reports said that gunmen emerged near fuel station at Rohmu village of the district early morning and fired upon a Special Police Officer (SPO) of Jammu and Kashmir police.

A police official while confirming the in-

cident said SPO, Showkat Ahmad Dar, son of Muhammad Ahsan Dar was immediately shifted to hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. A police official said that a search and operation was launched shortly after the incident, however, no arrests were made.

Meanwhile, suspected militants abducted two persons in Hajin area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district in the middle of the night and later on left their dead bodies near a mosque.

▶ See **Deaths**...Pg 02

'J&K HOSPITALS AILING FOR DEFICIENCY OF STAFF'

Health department says 'awaits Finance depts nod to create posts of doctors, other staff'

Srinagar, May 05: With health institutions in the state facing a severe shortage of manpower, the health department Saturday said that it was waiting for Finance departments nod to create new posts of doctors and paramedics to overcome shortage of staff in hospitals.

Sources told KNS that Health Department had given nod for creation of new posts for doctors and paramedics in Jammu and Kashmir last year. "We had sent file for creation of new posts to Chief Minister's office for approval. The same was forwarded to finance department for final approval, however till date we have not received

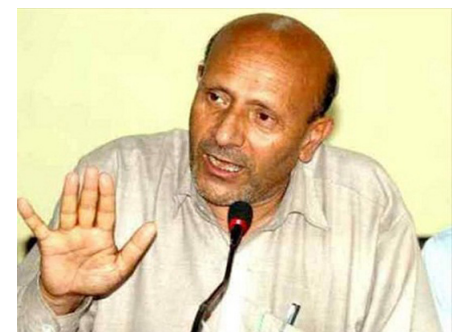
▶ See **Staff**...Pg 02

Double face of J&K police exposed: Er. Rasheed

▶ PTK

SRINAGAR, MAY 05: AIP Supremo and MLA Langate Er. Rasheed has said that two separate incidents in Jammu & Srinagar have exposed the ugly communal and biased face of J&K Police who often find excuses to kill innocents in Kashmir and give VVIP treatment to supporters of rapists, murderers and communal in Jammu.

In a statement issued to PTK, today Er. Rasheed said "While the goons of Hindu Ekta Manch were free to stop the cavalcade of PHE Minister Sham Chowdhary and pelted stones at police and Minister's cavalcade at Kootah



Mode in Kuthua, an innocent unarmed 18 year old youth Aadil Ahmad was crushed

▶ See **Rasheed**...Pg 02

PDP FACILITATING RSS RULE IN THE STATE: SHAHEEN

NC opens new office in Banihal

▶ KNS

Banihal, May 05: Hitting out at PDP for facilitating direct RSS rule in Jammu and Kashmir, NC leader & district President Ramban Sajjad Shaheen said that "There is every apprehension of the BJP-lead government (centre) conspiring to trample the special identity of the state," Shaheen said while addressing party functionaries and prominent party workers during the inauguration of party's new office at Old bus stand Banihal.

"The ruling People's Democratic Party was created to "destroy" National Conference soon after the passage of the autonomy resolution in the J&K Assembly, Shaheen

▶ See **Shaheen**...Pg 02

Enforced Disappearance: The painful story of Downtown's Rah Family

▶ Rameez Makhdoomi

Srinagar, May 05: With disappearances being the burning issue in Kashmir since decades, the pain of never knowing the whereabouts of near and dear ones is the worst. A family in Downtown Srinagar bears testimony to this worst form of suppression unleashed.

The families of brothers in their thirties Muhammad Shafi Rah and Mushtaq Ahmad



Rah of Maharj Ganj Srinagar, who were doing leather business in South Asian country Nepal bear testimony to this painful saga. Pertinently, the

two brothers shifted to Kathmandu, Nepal in 1995 from Srinagar to earn a living. But fate wrecked miseries on them. On September 5, 2000 the

two brothers were arrested by a joint team of police from Nepal and New Delhi never to be seen again. According to their families, they were enforced to disappearance in custody.

Abdul Ahad Rah, the ailing 78-year-old father of Shafi and Mushtaq in sad tone narrates his doleful story - "These 18 years have been total nightmare for our family. I have run from pillar to post with

▶ See **Painful**...Pg 02

ANGRY MOB PELTS STONES AT BJP MINISTER'S VEHICLE IN KATHUA

▶ Agencies

Jammu: An irate mob on Saturday stopped the vehicle of BJP minister Sham Lal Chaudhary as they pressed for a CBI probe into the Kathua rape-murder incident.

The public health engineering minister was on his way to attend a board meeting when the slogan-shouting crowd gheraoed his car at Kootah Morh in Hiranagar area, officials said.

The group also pelted stones at the minister's vehicle, but the police swiftly cleared the crowd, they said.

The crime branch has arrested eight persons, including a juvenile, for allegedly raping and murdering an

▶ See **Angry**...Pg 02

SHAM CHOUDHARY CHAIRS DDB KATHUA MEET

Approves Rs 164.58 cr annual plan for district

KATHUA MAY 05: District Development Board (DDB) Kathua which met here today under the Chairmanship of Minister for PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control Sham Lal Choudhary approved Rs.164.58 Crore district annual plan for the year 2018-19.

Vice Chairman OBC Welfare Board Rashpaul Verma, MLA Hiranagar Kuldeep Raj, MLA Bani Jeevan Lal, District Development Commissioner Rohit Khajuria, SSP Shridhar Patil besides heads of various departments were present at the meeting.

At the outset the Minister (Chairperson DDB) took comprehensive review of the achievements registered under last year district plan.

He directed the administration to ensure judicious utilization of funds earmarked for different schemes. "All the departments should work in close coordination and synergy so that the

bottlenecks, if any, can be removed and the schemes are implemented within the shortest possible time" the Minister said.

The chairman directed the PHE and PDD departments to work out a proper mechanism for ensuring adequate supply of drinking water across the length and breadth of the district. He also asked the twin departments to take measures to resolve the issue of flow voltage at the PHE installations for smooth supply of water.

He also exhorted upon the officers to consult the concerned MLAs while planning the development projects/schemes of their respective departments. He asked the departments to select the land for development project free from any encumbrance. He further urged for taking along all the stakeholders to make Kathua ODF before the set deadline.

Sham Choudhary also stressed on

creating adequate sports infrastructure at every educational institution to enable the students to excel in games which is imperative for their overall personality development and promote positive energy in them. "With developmental spending earmarked for this year, there is an urgent need to build capacities to spend the funds. The issue is not of availability of resources but the capacity to spend the money allocated to us in entirety," he said. Sham Choudhary stressed on the improvement of PHE and Irrigation facilities in the Kathua district, particularly in Kandi, hilly and water stressed areas.

He directed concerned engineers to conceive WSS and irrigation projects in the district in consultation with public and their representatives. He further directed the officers to fix targets as per the proposed outlay in the Annual Plan to achieve the targets in full, adding that

area specific planning and implementation of schemes is vital for development.

Asking the officers to put in extra and dedicated efforts to ensure the targets are achieved within fixed time frame, the chairman said that adequate funds under PHE, PWD, PDD, Education, Health, RD and other sectors have already been provided for the overall development of the district.

Earlier, the legislators highlighted various issues for achieving comprehensive development and beautification of Kathua district.

Legislator Bani, Jeevan Lal flagged the issue expediting the up grading of power infrastructure in the remote areas of his constituency and making available buffer stock of transformers for immediate repair/replacement of worn out transformers.

He further sought the revision of carriage rates for PDS foodgrains, open-

ing of more fair price shops, issuance of new ration cards and clearance of left out widows/old age/ handicap pension cases, construction of additional classrooms in the schools, sanction of PCHCs in uncovered areas, construction of foot bridges, adequate doctors and teachers in hospitals and schools, clearance of MGNREGA liability, holding of PMAY and awareness camps for promoting central and state sponsored welfare schemes in far off places.

Legislator Hiranagar, Kuldeep Raj called for engaging NGOs for the construction of IHHLs for poor and also emphasized on accommodating the left out beneficiaries. He further called for construction of mini secretariat complex and 100 bedded hospital at Hiranagar, installation of hand pumps, provision for stand by PHE machinery, completion of pending water supply schemes, construction of new receiving stations pro-

motion of border tourism besides proper sewerage and sanitation in Hiranagar town. Vice Chairman OBC Welfare Board, Rashpaul Verma urged for the construction of OBC hostel in the district. PHE pipes for un-covered areas, transformer for agriculture purpose, up-gradation and construction of boundary wall of schools nearing border.

The Chairman assured that issues raised by the local representatives will be addressed on priority.

Earlier, the DDB gave a detailed resume of the achievements under last year plan through a power point presentation. He said that against the availability of Rs 169.09 Crore, Rs. 101.23 Crore was spent on various development works there by registering 93.46 % expenditure during the financial year 2017-18. Financial achievements under capex budget 2017-18 of various departments were also thoroughly discussed.

Continue from Front Page

THREE

site including but not limited to AK 47 rifles, magazines, UBGL, UBGL Grenades, Grenades, Wire cutter, Medical Kit and matrix sheets were recovered."

"On the basis of materials recovered it is assessed that this group was intending to carry out some major terror attack which was foiled."

"Separately the incident that took place at Noorbagh this morning, in which one person namely Adil Ahmad Yadoo died in a road traffic accident. In this regard a case has been registered at PS Safakadal under relevant sections of law and proceedings have been initiated against the police vehicle/driver which was involved in the accident."

"Also the SPO injured in the terror attack in Pulwama continues to be critical and being treated at the hospital."

UJC

are asset to nation who risk their lives for sake of freedom," UJC Chief Syed Salahuddin said in a statement to news agency CNS.

He said the more India will use force to crush the ongoing free Kashmir movement, the more people will yearn for freedom. It was better for India to know about ground reality and resolve the issue as per the aspirations of people of Kashmir.

Syed Salahuddin paid rich tribute to Chatabal militants and civilian Adil Ahmed and said that their sacrifices will show colour one day.

He condemned Jail authorities for mistreating the political prisoners including Shabir Ahmed Shah, Asiya Andrabi, Masarat Aalam, Pir Saifullah, Ayaz Akbar and others. "These prisoners are being deprived of medical attention and under a well planned conspiracy their lives are being put at risk," he said and particularly mentioned the name of Shabir Ahmed Shah who according to him is being deprived of medical treatment despite being serious in the jail.

He appealed international human rights organizations particularly Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch to take notice of the deteriorating health of Kashmiri political prisoners inside Indian jails and play a role to ensure their safety.

IGP

protester Adil Ahmed Khanday Son of Ghulam Ahmed, a resident of Ghazi Mohalla Safakadal can be seen run over by a Forces armoured vehicle.

Police had claimed that Adil Ahmed Yadoo died in a road traffic accident. "One person identified as Adil Ahmed Yadoo was brought to SMHS Hospital whom doctors declared brought dead. Medical bulletin suggest that the person died due to crush injury in a road traffic accident at Noorbagh," Kashmir Zone Police tweeted and asked citizens not to pay heed to rumours.

However, few hours after the incident, a video went viral which is being posted and shared by netizens on social media extensively.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq also uploaded the video on his Twitter handle with a hashtag Adil Murdered. "How a murder was committed by the forces today and then brazenly denied ! Is there no sense of humanity left in India? #AdilMurdered" Mirwaiz tweeted.

KILLINGS

The need of the hour, the Chief Minister reiterated, is to get Jammu & Kashmir out of the vortex of violence for which she asked all shades of opinion to rise to the occasion.

It may be mentioned her that two civilians at Hajin and one at Sopore were killed by unknown gunmen during the past 24 hours.

The Chief Minister has conveyed her sympathies with the bereaved families and prayed for peace to the departed souls.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister taking strong note of the death of a youth at Noorbagh, Srinagar by a Police vehicle today has directed the Police to take legal cognizance of the incident and punish the guilty found involved in the incident.

UNIVERSITY

"The offices of the Hon'ble Chancellor as well as the Hon'ble Pro-Chancellor have also been apprised about the matter," he said. The spokesman said the vice chancellor personally met the protesting students and assured them that all efforts would be made to trace the missing lecturer.

"The university is in touch with the local police. Students are requested to maintain calm and cooperate," he said.

CM

leads many to go for begging or sell their assets to sustain a living, she said while asking the ulema to explain to people this situation which inflicts more pain and injury to the social health of our system.

Terming peace, education and compassion as fundamen-

tal components of the Islam's message, Mehbooba Mufti asked the scholars to think as to what the societal chaos and educational deprivation have brought to the Muslim societies world over and draw lessons from that.

On the role of education in elevating a society, Mehbooba Mufti said Islam has amply laid stress on attaining knowledge as knowledge is a great social leveler. She said the success of 57 Muslim candidates this year in the civil services examination in the world while appealing the ulema to highlight the importance of seeking education in their discourses.

On the recent incident of stone pelting at a school bus, the Chief Minister said it was satisfying to note that every section of society in the State condemned the incident unequivocally. But, she said, the question remained as whom these people were representing. "Obviously, not the people of Kashmir for whom the future lies in education and not in illiteracy", she added.

JKPCC

in the Valley in recent times.

The current volatile situation in Kashmir is the reason of the Centre having a non-existent policy for Kashmir and it is the opportunistic alliance between BJP and PDP which has pushed the state into a quagmire. The silence being maintained by Centre over the volatile situation in Kashmir is criminal as they lack any concrete policy.

The present situation is reminiscent of 1990's. The Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP-BJP government in the state has failed on all fronts. The killings of civilians indicate that this government has failed in its constitutional duties to safeguard the lives of citizens. Besides, the hostile approach of Centre has badly damaged the socio-political scenario in the State.

The initiatives taken in Kashmir during the United Progressive Alliance's 10-year rule have been reversed and washed away by the incumbent government due to which the situation in the state has turned serious. In 2010 when UPA government was ruling at the Center, it took several initiatives to calm down the situation in Kashmir. Then Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singhji, UPA chairperson Madam Sonia Gandhi and AICC President Rahul Gandhi were always concerned about the Kashmir situation. However, present government is least bothered about Kashmir situation.

When UPA was in power, whatever Dr Manmohan Singhji Madam Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi promised, it was delivered. BJP-led NDA government presents the achievements of previous UPA regime in a new packaging and claiming these as their own.

We express our heartfelt condolences with the families of the victims and appeal the youth to stop confronting security forces, as disturbances will not serve any purpose.

DEATHS

Divulging information about the incident, a police official said that in the intervening night of 4/5 May 2018, militants barged into the houses of Ghulam Hassan Dar (45) alias Hassan Rassa and Bashir Ahmad Dar (26), a Sumo driver by profession, both resided at Gulshan Mohalla, Shahgund Hajin. Militants abducted both of them.

"At about 3:30 am on Saturday, militants shot both of them dead. The dead bodies were found by the locals near a mosque at Raheem Dar Mohalla, Shahgund, Hajin. Ghulam Hassan was the uncle of Bashir Ahmed."

"Preliminary investigation suggests the involvement of militant outfit LeT in the incident, official said adding that a case into the incident is registered, and investigations taken up.

Meanwhile, a civilian was killed after being allegedly run over by a Forces vehicle at Safakadal area of Srinagar city. CRPF however, denied the reports that the deceased youth was run over by their vehicle. A video of that incident has gone viral, prompting IGP Kashmir to say that action will follow against involved vehicle.

Reports said that clashes erupted in Safakadal after the encounter between militants and government forces raged in Chattabal area of Srinagar city. Three militants were killed in that encounter.

The deceased youth has been identified as Adil Ahmed Yadoo. Reports said that massive clashes are underway near encounter site and adjacent areas of Srinagar city.

Giving details about the death of the civilian, a police official said: "one person identified as Adil Ahmed Yadoo was brought to SMHS Hospital whom doctors declared brought dead. Medical bulletin suggest that the person died due to crush injury in a road traffic accident at Noorbagh," he said and asked citizens not to pay heed to rumours.

Pertinently, suspected militants yesternight shot dead a man Muhammad Ashraf Mir while his wife Saima was also injured at Mirmohalla Harwan Sopore.

STAFF

any clearance in this regard," one of the top officials of

the health department wished not to be named told KNS.

He said once the department receives the file the notification will be issued accordingly and recruitment agencies will make the selection process.

It is to mention here that the government in the recent Assembly session had said that as many as 1173 posts of doctors are vacant in the medical education department against the sanctioned strength of 2477. "In health department and Indian System of Medicine, there are 1422 vacancies. Against the sanctioned strength of 5653 doctors, 4231 posts have been filled so far in the department," the details had revealed.

Official sources told KNS that the doctor patient ratio in J&K is 1:2104 as against the recommendations of World Health Organization (WHO) of 1:1000, which is grossly insufficient.

"The Health department over the years has seen less recruitment of doctors thereby letting patients suffer. The doctors are also unwilling to serve in remote areas and instead prefer to serve in urban areas and many give up their jobs to move outside the state," an official said.

The Health and Medical Education Department recently directed officers that they should ensure that the places where two or more persons have been posted against one sanctioned post, "the one who have a longer stay should be transferred out only if he/she has completed a minimum tenure of two years there".

"All such doctors-paramedics hospitals staff except for those appointed under RBA/ALC categories and serving in such areas who have completed more than five years of tenure in a health institution, shall be shifted and action shall be taken under rules," a recent circular of the government said.

Meanwhile sources said that government was also going for a major reshuffle to strengthen the understaffed health care centres in far-flung areas in J&K.

"Those doctors who have served in cities only will be sent to rural areas to strengthen the understaffed hospitals in rural areas. Every doctor has to serve now some time in rural area," one of the officials in the health department said.

The official said there was a shortage of over 1500 doctors in rural areas of the state. "There is a sanctioned strength nearly 1500 doctors for valley hospitals run by the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir (DHSK) but only 900 doctors are available for duty while rest are either absent or deputed on choice postings in Medical Colleges and other departments,"

Sources said that for National Rural Health Mission, posts for 100 doctors and 500 para-medics have been created for the last few years.

Minister of State for Health and Medical Education, Aesia Naqash, had admitted that there was shortage of staff in the hospitals and the measures are being taken to overcome understaffed healthcare centres of the state. "We are committed to work for the betterment of the healthcare system," she had said.

She had confirmed that file of creation of new posts was submitted to CM's office for final approval. "The file was submitted to Chief Minister's office and I believe that after nod from CM's office the file is now with the finance department for final approval," the minister had said.

RASHEED

to death by a Vehicle of J&K Police at Cement bridge In Srinagar. The civil and police administration in Jammu owe an answer to every citizen of the state that if the case is sub-judice, why are the criminals of Hindu Ekta Manch along with the families of culprits involved in Asifa's rape and murder allowed to have a continuous sit-in and hunger strike and then given liberty to create law and order issues on daily basis.

It is obvious that even intercepting the minister and throwing stones seems part of a strategy to pressurize for a CBI inquiry. State police Chief must answer if his forces have been feeling proud and honor in using pellets and bullets on alleged stone pelters in Kashmir, why couldn't the same police do anything when Minister was today hunkered and attacked". Er. Rasheed asked DGP to answer why and how the innocent youth was crushed to death as is evident from the video footage from the site of the incident.

He said "Mehbooba Mufti must wake up and arrest immediately the cops and the driver who murdered Adil Ahmad today and sack all those related to the incident". He added however there is very little possibility that she will dare to challenge the version of police officials and one has every reason to believe that the communal face of J&K police stands exposed yet again, as the local cops hailing from majority community are forced to do shameful atrocities including murders.

SHAHEEN

said. "About this ink-pot party (PDP), it is necessary to think where from it took the birth. The National Conference got the autonomy resolution passed in the Assembly and within

months this new party came to the fore. The aim was to destroy National Conference but Allah saved us; otherwise they didn't leave anything to see through the plan," Shaheen said.

Asserting that, like in the past the enemies of the state are hatching conspiracies to "create more and more divisions among people in Jammu and Kashmir and create leaders in every Mohalla to divide the united voice of Kashmiris."

"We are being divided in the name of regions, religions, sects and groups. Today we are seeing it," he said.

Referring to the challenge to Article 35-A, which empowers state legislature to define permanent residents of J&K, in the Supreme Court, Shaheen said: "Today we are facing a threat to our identity," he said.

Shaheen asked his party workers to start preparations for the next Assembly elections and strengthen the party at grassroots. "If we emerge as the single largest party, then only we can work in a better way," he said.

Several prominent political workers from Congress, PDP & BJP including Congress Block Secretary Mohd Iqbal Ganai joined NC and resolved to strengthen the party & the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah.

Sr district vice president Mirwaiz Atta Mohd Katoch, district vice presidents Mohd Afzal Wani, Saif ud Din Dar, Bahar Ahmed Naik, Mohd Afzal Khan, Haji GM Beigh, Tehsil president Gh Hassan Naik, block presidents Haji Abdul Ahad Shan, Mohd Khalil Sohil, Riyaz Ahmed Mir, Nisar Ahmed Sohil, Gulam Rasool Deng, Mohd Ashraf Naik besides prominent youth functionaries Adv Mujtaba Itoo, Tariq Ahmed Dar, Adv Ufaya Giri, Sheikh Mukhtiar Ahmed, Manzoor Ahmed, Abdul Sheikh, Rais Ahmed Mir, Mashkoor Drabu and others also spoke in the meeting.

PAINFUL

no success in finding my disappeared sons, I was told they were lodged in Jodhpur jail but when I went there I was not allowed to meet them and then told they were not there. We have never been concrete clue by the authorities what has happened to them despite knocking every door. From Judiciary to human rights organizations and to meeting politicians nothing has bore fruits for us as we have been just witness to the fake assurances. We still have a hope that one day they will return and I appeal to human hearts help us in our fight of justice."

As a matter of fact, Kathmandu Post, which is the largest selling newspaper in Nepal, published the news about the arrest of Kashmiris in Nepal in 2000. The news item mentioned the names of Mushtaq and Shafi among the 27 arrested.

The mother of these disappeared brothers 75 year old grief stuck Khadijah Rah states - "These 18 years have inflicted eighteen million stabs on our heart and made both of us afflicted with great pain and scores of diseases. We talk about them till late midnight and break into tears everyday. I am living for a day when they will return and I will give them motherly love as I don't know what has happened to them. It has been catastrophic time for us as not many have cooperated with us and our family has just got lip service. I appeal to Government of India to disclose location of my sons and come clear on the issue."

With moist eyes and broken heart the downtrodden parents have an appeal for the ruling regime, Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and Human Rights Activists to take some serious measures to trace out their sons.

With moist eyes and broken heart the downtrodden parents have an appeal for the ruling regime, Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and Human Rights Activists to take some serious measures to trace out their sons.

ANGRY

8-year-old girl from a nomadic community at Kathua recently.

Meanwhile, JK BJP in-charge (IT and social media) Jai Dev Rajwal came out in support of a 'factual' report submitted by five women to the Centre over the Kathua incident.

The group of five women had submitted the report to Union home minister Rajnath Singh and minister of state for personnel Jitendra Singh, and demanded a CBI probe into the incident.

The report claimed that the chargesheet filed by the Jammu and Kashmir crime branch in the case had discrepancies and the investigation was "botched-up".

Rajwal also defended posting of the report on party website.

"Loading the video (of the report) on the BJP official website is not an endorsement of their findings. It was already in public domain and since the people of Jammu are interested, we uploaded the video," he said.

"The stand of the party is well known in this case. The case is before the court and whatever the outcome, the BJP will respect the order which will be final," Rajwal added.

Hanjura tours Char-i-Shareef Training prog for poll officials held at Kargil

BUDGAM, MAY 5: Minister for Revenue, Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura today visited Char-i-Shareef constituency in Budgam and took stock of various developmental works, including Rs. 13.85 crore Hanjura-Branwar road project.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Mohammad Harun Malik, Superintendent Engineer R&B, SE Hydraulics, SE PMGSY, SDM Chadoora, ACR Budgam and other senior officers of various departments.

During his visit, Minister also

inspected ongoing work of 13 kilometer long Nigoo-Jabbar road project. The project is being constructed by CRF and NABARD at an estimated cost of 14 crore and Rs. 3 crore respectively.

The Minister directed Deputy Commissioner to take up the issue of construction of two kilometer Branwar-Yousmarg road project with the Forest department to start work on it at the earliest.

He also directed R&B department to take up the up gradation and macadamization of Nowhar-Buzgo-Lash-

karan road project at the earliest.

Taking stock of the road projects, Minister directed concerned to ensure the proper boulder-filling of protection walls constructed alongside the road.

Besides, the Minister directed the concerned to release 50 percent compensation to the landlords losing their houses to the Hanjura-Branwar road up gradation project on priority.

He also stressed on the timely laying of water pipes and quick repairing of these to ensure no water supply is affected to the locals.

He directed concerned agencies

to expedite and work in coordination to complete the work in stipulated time.

During the visit, the Minister gave a patient hearing to the grievances of several deputations who met him at Hanjura, Dad Ompora, Surasyar, Nowhar, Branwar, Nigoo and Jabad and promised them that all their genuine demand would be addressed at the earliest.

The Minister instructed the authorities to make the estimation of various developmental works as demanded by the public.

KARGIL MAY 5, 2018:- Under the directions of the Chief Electoral Officer Jammu and Kashmir, a training programme for poll officials regarding Electoral Roll Management System (ERMS) was held here at National Informatics Center.

The training aimed to familiarize electoral registration officers (EROs), assistant electoral registration officers (AEROs) and Data Entry Operators on various aspects of electoral roll revision and other related aspects.

Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC Kargil Vikas Kundal inaugurated the training programme. The DC said that it would widen the perspective of the concerned in dealing

with the matters pertaining to the election process.

He urged upon the concerned officers and officials that they must attend these programs to further sharpen their skills in dealing with the election mechanism.

Meanwhile, the master trainers apprised the officers about the Constitutional and legal provisions of elections, NVSP, ERONET Version 2, the process of filling forms in ERONET and other related aspects.

Deputy District Election Officer Kargil Nargis Banoo, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Data Entry Operators of ERMS and other concerned officials attended the training programme.

Prof Mattoo reviews Mela Kheer Bhawani arrangements

GANDERBAL, MAY 05: Advisor to Chief Minister, Prof. Amitabh Mattoo, today visited the historic Kheer Bhawani shrine here to oversee the arrangements being put in place for the smooth conduct of the annual Mela.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Dr. Piyush Singla and District officers from various departments.

During the visit, Prof. Mattoo took stock of construction of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and directed the concerned to ensure the completion of the STP by the end of this month. He said that the STP is pivotal for maintaining fragile ecological set up of the area.

Reviewing the accommodation facilities for devotees, the Advisor asked the Executive Engineer R&B for



construction of for pre-fabricated rooms. He also asked for the provision of lavatory blocks beside prayer hall.

While directing the officers to ensure that the devotees coming to pay their obeisance are provided with the requisite facilities, the Advisor said that a fool-proof mechanism should be put in

Achieve set targets under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan: Dr. Jitender to officers

RAMBAN, MAY 5: Union Minister of State in PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh today attended the Ajeevka aur Kaushal Vikas Divas Programme organized to mark the end of Gram Swaraj Abhiyan here at Sanasar.

At the outset, union Minister dedicated to local people an ambulance sanctioned by MLA, Ramban Neelam Langleh out of his CDF for New Type PHC Sanasar and also flagged off a students' rally taken out to attract enrollment of children in the schools.

MLA, Ramban, Neelam Langleh, DDC Ramban Tariq Hussain Ganai and officers of the district administration accompanied the union Minister. Addressed a public function organized to mark the end of twenty one day Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, lauded the dedication, commitment and hard work of the PM, Narinder Modi in addressing



the social concern of the people especially the Poor. He informed that as many as 20,000 such villages were selected across the country under the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan to uplift their economy and bring a revolutionary change in the life of locals.

He further said that development is a continuous process and the effect of such major projects can be made visible in due course of time. He urged the youth to participate in building the nation stronger as youth represent the country and country always belong to young people who have right to decide everything.

He expressed his satisfaction over achievement of targets in Ramban district set under the campaign.

Later, he presided District Officers' meeting to review the implementation of Gram Swaraj Abhiyan and other state as well as centrally sponsored schemes.

DIPR anguished over Suram Singh's demise, Secy Information expresses grief

JAMMU, MAY 05: Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) has expressed deep anguish and shock over the tragic death of Suram Singh, who was working as a Cameraman in the Department.

Suram Singh died in a road accident near Gangyal here while he was on official duty with the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr Kavinder Gupta.

Suram Singh is survived by two children and wife.

Another employee of DIPR Gaurav Gupta who was also travelling in the same vehicle had a narrow escape.

The employees of DIPR have expressed anguish over the demise of their colleague, who was known for his nobleness, decent manners and dedication to his duties.

Separate condolence meetings were held at the Directorate of Information and the offices of the Joint Director Information Jammu/Kashmir to condole the demise of Suram Singh.

The meetings were presided over by the Director Information, Muneer-ul-Islam, Joint Director Information Jammu, Naresh Kumar and Joint Director Information Kashmir, Saajid Yehaya Naqash. All the officers and employees of the Department including Deputy Directors, Sheikh Zahoor, Atul Gupta, Avleen Kour and Rakesh Dubey, Chief Photo Officer, Mohammad Yasin and Photo Officer Javid Ahmad also attended the condolence meeting.

The meetings while expressing solidarity with the bereaved family, prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul. Special prayers were offered for the early recovery of the injured.

On hearing about the demise of Suram Singh, the Director Information, Muneer-ul-Islam immediately arrived in Jammu to join the funeral of the deceased and offer personal condolences to the bereaved family.

Secretary to the Government, Information Department, Mr Sarmad Hafeez while expressing shock and grief over the tragic demise of Suram Singh has expressed solidarity with the bereaved family. He prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

Meanwhile, the Information Department Employees Welfare Union has also condoled the demise of their colleague Suram Singh.

Manyal stresses on effective implementation of Govt schemes

Samba, May 05: Minister for Health and Medical Education Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal today stressed on effective and transplant implementation of government schemes for realizing desired results on the ground.

Speaking at a valedictory function organized on the conclusion of Gram Swaraj Abhiyan campaign here at Vijaypur, the Minister asked the concerned government functionaries to put in extra efforts to ensure that the benefits of development and welfare schemes percolate down to the grass roots level.

Member Parliament, Jugal Kishore Sharma and MLA Vijaypur, Chander Parkash Ganga were also present on the occasion.

To achieve discernible results, the Minister stressed on close co-operation and coordination among all the departments. The goal should be to ensure that the benefits of the schemes shall reach to maximum number of people, he said and appreciated district administration Samba for organising the campaign for spreading awareness about the schemes among the masses.

MP Jugal Kishore said that Gram Swaraj Abhiyan was launched countrywide to rope in people for availing the benefits of string of schemes for promoting employment, financial inclusion and social security. He urged the people to get maximum benefits of schemes like SBM, SOUBHAGYA, UJWALA, LADLI BETI, AYUSHMAN BHARAT. He also asked the concerned departments to raise more awareness of the welfare schemes for the benefit of general public.

MLA Vijaypur, Chander Parkash Ganga said that the Government is committed to extend the benefits of different schemes to targeted public at their doorstep. He also appreciated the efforts of district administration Samba for their hard work.

DDC Samba, S Rajinder Singh Tara briefed about various activities conducted during Gram Swaraj Abhiyan. He said that 13 villages of Samba District were selected for Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.

On this occasion people also took a pledge for promoting swachta mission.

CS reviews progress of dev projects in Anantnag, Pulwama

SRINAGAR, MAY 05: Chief Secretary B B Vyas along with Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Baseer Ahmad today took stock of various ongoing developmental projects in Anantnag and Pulwama districts.

At Anantnag, the Chief Secretary visited the construction site of recreational park being constructed by Department of Floriculture at Halmulla Sangam at an estimated cost of Rs 5.09 crore.

The park being developed along the Srinagar-Jammu national highway shall provide an opportunity to the tourists to take a view of the river Jhelum and also create employment opportunities for the locals.

The Chief Secretary directed Floriculture for establishing a cricket bat willow unit in the park for the attraction of tourists.

He also visited trauma Hospital Bijbehara being constructed by JK PCC at an estimated cost of Rs 11 crore. It was said that the hospital upon its completion shall have 15 beds each for male and female patients, besides having the facility of USG, ECG, diagnostic laboratory, x-ray, CT scan, operation theatres, pre-anaesthesia room and sterilization room.

Vyas also visited Padshah-i-Bagh, Bijbehara where 133-metre suspension footbridge will be constructed by R&B Department and shopping arcade (Shahi-Jahan Cafeteria) which is in its final stages of completion.

Further, he inspected work 62 KLD



Sewerage Treatment Plant being constructed under AMRUT Scheme at Urnallah. The plant is being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.3.30 crore and will be completed by July 2018.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned executing agencies to complete the construction work within the stipulated time.

Later, Chief Secretary made an extensive tour to Awantipora where the prestigious AIIMS project is coming up on 1772 kanals of land.

On the occasion, he took extensive stock of the acquired land for AIIMS and the construction of approach road from main town Awantipora to Islamic university and AIIMS.

He also reviewed the status of handing over of land to the Central Public Works Department, provision of water supply, electricity supply, connecting roads and fencing.

He also held an interaction with the locals whose land and property has been acquired for construction of the prestigious AIIMS project. The landowners urged the CS that an adequate compensation should be paid to the persons whose land and property has been acquired for the project. They also demanded reservation in various jobs in the said institution.

Chief Secretary assured the deputations that all of their genuine demands will be looked into and directed the authorities to go for proper assessment of all the structures coming under the ambit of the project.

Earlier, Chief Secretary visited the semi-ring road Khadremoh which will connect Pulwama with Budgam via Khanda.

DDC Anantnag, DDC Pulwama, SSP Anantnag, ADDC Anantnag, Pulwama and senior officers from both the district administrations accompanied the Chief Secretary.

BOPEE to conduct physical counseling for PG in medical specialties

SRINAGAR, MAY 05: The J&K Board for Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE) has decided to conduct physical round of counselling on 7 May 2018 at BOPEE office Srinagar/Jammu for upgradation/allotment of Postgraduate seats including MD, MS and PG Diploma in various medical specialties for the candidates who have qualified NEET.

According to Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Bukhari, Chairman BOPEE, the decision has been taken in view of the disruption of Internet services in Srinagar.

He said the eligible and willing candidates should report at BOPEE office Srinagar/Jammu at 9.00 am on 7th May 2018 for registration and subsequent counselling.

He said the Board has also rescheduled other rounds of counselling and the joining time, and the candidates may check the same from BOPEE website.

MLA Kokernag lays foundation stone of coffee house at Hill Park

ANANTNAG, MAY 5: MLA Kokernag Abdul Rahim Rather today laid foundation stone of a Coffee House at Hill Park near Botanical Garden Kokernag.

Chief Executive Officer Kokernag Development Authority (CEO KDA) was also present in the function.

Speaking on the occasion the MLA said that government is very keen in developing Kokernag as one of the leading tourist destinations of the valley for which development of infrastructure is being prioritised.

He further added that additional 650 kanals of land are being developed near Botanical Garden to have more space available for the tourists. The MLA said that destinations like MarganTop, Sinthan Top, Daksum and Kokernag as a whole have a great potential to be developed as the world tourist resorts, which will create various job opportunities for the locals.

He also said that in near future night stay facilities for the tourists would also be made available so that flow of tourists will increase.

Later the MLA convened a meeting of the officers and reviewed development in various sectors of Kokernag constituency.

He stressed upon the officers to work with honesty and dedication and complete the construction of the ongoing works within the stipulated time period.

The meeting was attended by CEO KDA, BDOs of Block Sagam, Larnu and Kokernag, Executive Officer Municipal Committee Kokernag, SDPO Kokernag, and SHO Kokernag.

Sunil, Shakti visit Bheaderwah

Assures holistic development of Chenab valley

BHADERWAH MAY 05: Sunil Kumar Sharma and Shakti Raj Parihar today paid their maiden visit to Bheaderwah after their elevation as cabinet Minister and Minister of state, respectively.

Accompanied by MLA Bheaderwah Daleep Singh Parihar, the Ministers addressed a large gathering after the local people accorded them a warm welcome and termed their elevation as a welcome step and hoped the change would bring a significant development of Chenab valley besides welfare of downtrodden sections of the area.

In his address, Sunil Kumar Sharma said that major-



ity of population of Chenab region lives in rural areas and assured that the government will work round the clock to provide all the basic amenities to the people at their doorsteps.

"The government intends to fully tap the huge potential of hydro power generation in the Chenab region and concrete efforts are being made to harness the same" he added and listed various projects being executed in the region.

He said the execution of new hydro power projects on river Chenab would generate employment opportunities for the local youth and on their completion resolve the problem of power shortage. He assured to upgrade power infrastructure to improve the power scenario across all the districts of the region.

Minister of state, Shakti Raj Parihar assured to work for all round development and promotion of tourism in Chenab region in general and Bheaderwah in particular adding that the place has a potential to emerge as a major tourist destination of Jammu region.

Parihar further said with his elevation as minister he has been given a huge responsibility and that he will do his best to come up to expectations of people.

He said that all the major tourist destinations of Bheaderwah shall be connected with roads and provided adequate infrastructure required to attract tourist from across the country. Terming Education as a key to development of the society, he urged the youth to strive for quality education and work with zeal to contribute towards country's growth and make it corruption free.

MLA Bheaderwah Daleep Parihar also spoke on the occasion and reiterated his commitment to serve the people.

Counting numerous achievements made by the present govt., he informed that the work on proposed Chattragalla tunnel on Bheaderwah-Basholi would be started shortly and will be finished in a time bound manner.

The Ministers appealed the people to maintain peace and brotherhood to pave way for the significant development of the region.

Later the Ministers inspected ongoing works in the main town and its peripher-

Time and Us

Editorial
SRINAGAR
& J&K

Poll position: on the delay in drafting the Cauvery scheme

The Centre's excuse for being unable to submit a draft scheme on the Cauvery issue is so poor that it will convince nobody. That it was extremely reluctant to take a decision which could have electoral repercussions in Karnataka, which goes to the polls on May 12, is well known. But the Attorney General's explanation that the draft scheme could not be readied because the Prime Minister and other ministers were busy "travelling" in Karnataka is laughable. While the world of politics is sometimes ruled more by expediency than law, the Centre has cut a sorry figure by admitting in court that its leaders are too preoccupied with an election campaign to fulfil a court directive — one over which it could be punished for contempt. That the Attorney General asked for the contempt petition to be taken up a day after the Karnataka election gives the game away. There are several reasons why the Centre's stand is legally untenable and morally wrong. First and foremost, the framing of a scheme to implement a river water tribunal's award is the Centre's statutory obligation, and it is not open to the government to weigh its political or electoral implications in the face of such a deadline. Besides, the plea that the Prime Minister and the Union Minister concerned were unavailable is questionable — a day before the submission was made, the Cabinet had met and announced important decisions.

In its verdict on February 16, 2018, the apex court granted six weeks' time to the Centre for framing the scheme. It added for good measure that no extension of time would be granted on any ground. Yet, on the eve of the expiry of the deadline, the Union government chose to file an application seeking three more months. Tamil Nadu filed a contempt petition. In its application for more time, the Centre had mentioned that it had convened a meeting of representatives of the four States and had also cited the differences of opinion among the States over the composition of the proposed mechanism. There was at least a ring of truth to this, given that consulting the parties over the composition of the scheme was necessary to frame it. Even then, the Supreme Court was unimpressed; it had asked the Centre to prove its bona fides by submitting a draft scheme on May 3. That it not only failed to do so, but also chose to cite the Prime Minister's preoccupation with the campaign is bound to raise questions about its commitment to impartial governance and its disdain for judicial orders. The Centre's attitude suggests that it hopes to persuade the court that a degree of political expediency in the light of the election is normal and acceptable. Clearly, it is not as keen on proving its own bona fides as it is on improving its prospects in Karnataka.

NO COUNTRY FOR WOMEN

By ANUPAMA KATAKAM

POONA MOBILE (name changed), 15, had to drop out of school because of the incessant harassment she faced while returning home. Poona, who lives in a Mumbai slum, was just a year short of writing her 10th standard examinations. But her parents, fearing for her safety, decided that she should stay within the safe confines of her home and nearby lanes until the issue was resolved.

Public harassment of girls and women and violence against them is a widespread problem. It is well documented that women across the globe fear and experience all manner of sexual violence in public spaces. From lewd and verbally abusive remarks, touching and groping to rape, there are innumerable instances even in some of the safest cities. Such harassment has far-reaching consequences. It can curtail a girl's (or woman's) freedom of movement, leading to inability to study, work and participate in the community and in recreational activities, women's rights activists said. "The enormity of the problem has to be understood, and the issue has to be addressed on a mature and massive scale," said Medhavinee Namjoshi from Vacha, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that works with adolescent girls.

A survey conducted across four countries by Action Aid UK this year has some shocking data on India. It says four in five women in India experience some form of sexual harassment or violence. Respondents in the 18-24 and 25-34 age groups have emerged as the most vulnerable: 92 per cent and 87 per cent of them, respectively, have said that they feel at risk in their cities. Additionally, 84 per cent of women between 25 and 34 experience some manner of public harassment. Seventy-nine per cent of the women surveyed in the age group of 18 to 55 say they have been publicly harassed.

The survey reached out to 502 women living in cities across India. "The fact that women wanted to speak out and were willing to go on record to say they had experienced sexual harassment and even violence in public spaces is a good sign. The numbers are not registered cases, but direct responses," said Sehjo Singh, director, programmes and policy, ActionAid India. "A girl's or woman's movements are seriously hampered by unsafe public areas. This can have an effect on many aspects, including the main one of earning an income." Sehjo Singh said that it required a collaborative effort between the state and volunteer agencies to ensure safer spaces. "The system and processes have to reform for us to see improvement," she said.

The survey was set in two categories: location of harassment and type of harassment. Public transport was the most unsafe of public spaces, said close to 65 per cent of the respondents. Among working women (18-24 and 25-35), 67 per cent and 70 per cent said this. The next most unsafe thing was returning home from work after dark: 58 per cent of the respondents said they had had experiences. Fifty-eight per cent said they had been harassed while walking on streets. In this category, 74 per cent in the 18-24 age group had experienced abuse. Approximately 40 per cent of the respondents felt unsafe and had experienced harassment in parks and other public spaces for leisure activities. About 30 per cent of the student categories polled said they dealt with harassment on university campuses; 42 per cent said they had to tackle harassment on the way to schools and colleges and back.

The north of the country is the least safe



for women in the overall figures. The average shows a staggering 74 per cent of women in the north having experienced harassment. At 67 per cent, the south is not far behind. Seventy per cent of the women in the north were harassed on the street, says the study. In the north-eastern region, 63 per cent of the respondents said they faced harassment while returning home after dark.

Staring seems to be the most common form of harassment. Sixty-two per cent of the respondents had experienced it. It may be a relatively mild form of abuse, yet it is uncomfortable and should not be dismissed. Being followed came in second at 53 per cent. Insults—name-calling and wolf-whistling polled 43 per cent and 44 per cent respectively. Sexual comments polled 38 per cent, groping 38 per cent, and indecent exposure 34 per cent. The north recorded the highest percentages in all categories.

A public problem Clearly the numbers indicate that it is a situation across cities and that the state needs to address the problem. Mumbai and Chennai have been listed among the safest cities in India. A Quality of Living survey conducted by a private consultancy firm released in February 2016 rates Chennai as the number one among Indian cities. Mumbai has held the "safest city" position for decades but is now grappling with the problem of women's safety. Frontline spoke to members of citizens' groups, activists, urban planners and government officials to understand the issue and how it is being addressed. All of them said that women feared public transport and the prospect of being out after dark. Unless this is dealt with, along with widespread awareness campaigns, Mumbai will lose its safe city tag.

Snehal Velkar, programme coordinator for the Youth for Change and Safe City projects of Akshara, an NGO in Mumbai, said: "When we interviewed 5,000 women in Mumbai as part of a study on women and public safety in 2011, 95 per cent of them said they had experienced staring, pushing, lewd comments and groping in public transport. The problem is that most of the time the woman ignores it and so it is not addressed."

She added: "Of the women we interviewed, 46 per cent said they experienced harassment on buses. We never thought in Mumbai we would hear this." She said that Akshara had approached Mumbai's bus transport service, BEST. "BEST was extremely interested in helping and even passed an order saying that bus conductors could intervene if a woman

complained. Additionally, they have instituted a gender module within their training programmes. These small moves appear to have helped. However, the larger issue comes down to the police backing up the complaint. This is where it fails. Nobody wants to go through the lengthy process of dealing with the law," Snehal Velkar said. Akshara has also conducted safe city audits in the past two years.

Snehal Velkar said that since public transport was a critical area of concern, Akshara decided to look at Mumbai's famed local railway network. In a study conducted in 2015, Akshara created a database of 522 women and interviewed them extensively on their travelling experiences; 347 were regular commuters, while 175 said that they were occasional commuters. Here are the results: staring, 56.13 per cent; commenting, 51.34 per cent; unwanted touch, 60.92 per cent. Some women also named more serious forms of sexual harassment: stalking, 29.69 per cent; flashing, 14.37 per cent; pinching, 20.50 per cent; and groping, 15.52 per cent.

The Akshara report says that the percentage of women who preferred to ignore the harassment was quite high at 41.15 per cent. "It sadly reflects how women have become immune to the harassment meted against them in public places. Many women would also hesitate to take action against the harasser for fear that their actions might provoke even more harassment," the report says.

It emerged from the study that the way in which railway stations were designed with their tapering stairs, narrow and cramped bridges and congested platforms contributed to the insecurity and discomfort among women, Snehal Velkar said. Additionally, public toilets are badly lit and located. Skywalks have entire sections that are dark. "Our city planners need to realise the fact that infrastructure plays an important part in women's safety," she said. "They need to view planning from a woman's perspective now."

Nearly everyone involved with the problem agrees that the city's infrastructure is crucial in ensuring safety. Thankfully, the Revised Draft Development Plan (DP) 2034 has an entire chapter dedicated to provisions for women in public spaces. Concepts such as housing for single working women, homeless shelters, adhar kendras, skill centres and care centres for children are part of the plans. They may seem too ambitious given the city's real estate problems, but activists are happy that there is some thinking going on. Better and more toilets, women-exclusive

hawker areas and special timings for women sellers in local markets are also in the DP.

A different approach "I think the issue of harassment in public spaces has registered with the state, but I don't really think the enormity has sunk in," said Sameera Khan, one of the authors of Why Loiter, a book on women and their negotiations of public spaces in India's urban centres. "Even though we talk of smart cities and say women's needs are in infrastructure plans, it's lip service. To begin with the approach and basic attitude is skewed," she said.

Sameera Khan pointed out that much of the public spaces in Mumbai was being privatised. Also, removing hawkers or throwing out pavement-dwellers does not solve anything. Law

enforcement agencies advise young women to stay at home after dark, but this approach does not produce solutions. "We have to understand that public spaces are part of exhibiting our citizenry. Everyone in spite of class has to have a vested interest in their public space and therefore has to be included in the city's planning. Unless you allow people to build a relationship with their space, they will not notice it and that will make it worse. For instance, if there is a park nearby, it won't serve any purpose if you put a gate and lock it up. If you include people, and especially women, they become vigilantes and this will immediately improve the neighbourhood."

Most women today strategise their lives and plan their commute and daily schedule, largely from a felt need to be safe, Sameera Khan said. "It would be liberating to be able to go freely and do what they want when they want. This is what we need to achieve."

Change in perceptions Harish Sadani, who works with young men on gender issues through the organisation Men Against Violence and Abuse (MAVA), said the absence of gender and sexual education for young people is among the most important factors that have created the present situation. Unless men change their attitude towards women, there will be little change, he said. MAVA works closely with college students and helps both men and women work towards gender equality.

Sadani added that women were now much more empowered than before, and many women had often told him that women's problems should be explained to boys. Only that form of sensitisation will help improve the situation. "If we teach our boys the proper facts with sensitivity, it will go a long way in protecting girls and preventing harassment," said Sadani, pointing out that boys often get their sex education from pornography.

He said one of MAVA's projects in collaboration with UNICEF was to work with eighth and ninth standard boys in 100 schools in Chandrapur, one of Maharashtra's poorest districts.

"We conduct simple sessions on love, infatuation, attraction, the need to respect a girl's lack of interest, and so on. These programmes, if done across class and income levels, will see a change in attitude and in turn an improvement in this bleak scenario," said Sadani.

(Courtsy: The Hindu)

A POST-COLONIAL RECKONING: ON THE WINDRUSH SCANDAL

by Vidya Ram

On Wednesday, the anger and emotion felt by some MPs during an intense debate in the House of Commons on the Windrush scandal enveloping the British government was palpable. "What we are not talking about so much is race," said Shabana Mahmood, an opposition Labour MP for Birmingham, who sought to drive home the impact Britain's tough immigration regime had on its diverse population. "Try making an application, as a British national, to the Home Office with a name that is demonstrably South Asian in origin. I promise that the protection of a British passport will not help one little bit. People will have visited upon them casual humiliation upon humiliation. The system will treat them as if they were dirt on the bottom of its shoe, and that is not good enough."

David Lammy, a black Labour MP pointed to the painful legacy of empire and slavery: "I remind the House that I am here because you were there. I say 'you' metaphorically. The Windrush generation are here because of slavery.

The Windrush story is the story of British empire."

The British government's hopes of containing the scandal over the treatment of Caribbean and other Commonwealth nationals has failed miserably. To recap: the Windrush generation were migrants from the Commonwealth Caribbean who came to Britain before 1973 (1971 legislation no longer gave them automatic settlement after that date). Along with others from the Commonwealth, they and their families were encouraged to Britain to help meet acute labour shortages, whether in the National Health Service (NHS) or beyond. During Wednesday's debate, one of the MPs reminded his colleagues why Brixton, a trendy part of south London, had become a hub for Caribbean migrants: "They settled in Brixton to be near the job centre because they wanted to work." Toughening of immigration rules has led to them being penalised and wrongly treated as undocumented illegal immigrants. Shocking stories of families being separated, unable to return to Britain from holidays abroad, denials of life-saving treatment have abounded

in recent weeks. While the stories have mostly centred on those from the Caribbean, there are fears that migrants from across the Commonwealth will inevitably have been impacted. "The scandal also includes those who came from many other Commonwealth countries, including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and countries in West Africa," said Diane Abbott, Labour's spokesperson on home affairs.

The government — while apologising for the treatment of the Windrush generation and promising acting including compensation — has attempted to treat it as an aberration that had no link with its wider immigration policies. It has tried to make the case that its obsession with cutting migration targets and dealing with illegal migration had nothing whatsoever to do with what had happened. "Measures over many years to tackle illegal immigration are of course a good thing, and we stand by those measures," insisted Britain's new (and first ever ethnic minority) Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, who took over earlier this week, as the government sought to contain the crisis. While pointing out that it could easily have been one of his

family members who had come from Pakistan to have been impacted, Mr. Javid said it had nothing to do with the pursuit of a "compliant environment" to tackle illegal immigration.

Yet these efforts to separate have proved fruitless amid further revelations around the treatment of people legally in Britain or attempting to get to its shores. Last week it emerged that at least a hundred, and potentially more, Indian doctors who had been recruited by NHS trusts up and down the country to fill sorely needed positions, mostly in emergency medicine, had been unable to take up their positions because of visa issues. The Evening Standard, edited by former Treasury head George Osborne, revealed that Prime Minister Theresa May herself had rejected calls for an easing of the visa rules for non-EU doctors.

A separate row is brewing over the treatment of foreign students.

For many years now the British government has been attempting to deport foreign students (and others) based on allegations that they had committed fraud to obtain the English-language qualifications to stay in the U.K. After

a 2014 BBC investigation found evidence of fraud at one testing centre, thousands who had gained their qualification via that route at different test centres were accused of fraud, despite what one judge described as "multiple shortcomings and frailties" of the state's evidence and the "plausible and truthful" statements of students.

Sanam Arora, the chair of the National Indian Students and Alumni Union U.K., which has been campaigning on behalf of students who have faced accusations of fraud believes a "significant population" from India has been impacted. "Our strong suspicion is that thousands could have been wrongly deported or facing difficulties." She notes that the government's "deport first, appeal later" strategy, which came into effect around the time students began to face these difficulties, meant there was little recourse open to the students. While she recognises the ambitions of Britain to curb illegal migration, she notes that that the burden of proof — and blame — was swiftly placed on the shoulders of the students rather than the Home Office-approved system that had allowed

the fraud to happen. The same applied to past attempts to cull "bogus colleges", she notes, where rather than treating students as the victims, they were treated by the government and British media as "bogus students". "The policies of this government are lacking in empathy and concern for the welfare of students," she says.

Separately, a burgeoning group of South Asians are campaigning against what they believe is a misuse of a clause in legislation to prevent the settlement of criminals. The clause is being used to deny IT professionals, doctors and others long resident in the U.K. the indefinite leave to remain because of minor errors in their tax returns. Hundreds are believed to be impacted.

"I feel vindicated in many ways," says Lord Karan Bilimoria, a crossbench peer who has been campaigning against the toughening immigration regime, particularly as it pertains to students, for many years now. "I certainly believe that since 2010 the government's immigration policy has got it very wrong. The word hostile is being used and the atmosphere is blatantly hostile."

(Courtsy: The Hindu)

In Karnataka election rally, PM Modi takes a PPP jibe at Congress

Karnataka: After the Karnataka elections, the Indian National Congress will become the PPP Congress because it will be reduced to Punjab, Puducherry --- where the party is in power --- and 'parivar (family)', Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday.

In the southern state for election campaigning, Modi mounted yet another scathing attack, alleging that the Siddaramaiah government in the state had become a "corruption tank" for the Congress with a pipeline connected to Delhi, "where the money reaches directly".



"After May 15 (when poll results will be declared), Indian National Congress will be reduced to PPP Congress--- P for Punjab, P for Puducherry, and P for Parivar (family)," Modi told an election rally in Gadag, referring to a string of election losses it faced recently and the Nehru-Gandhi family.

He also accused the Congress of "auctioning" party tickets and posts, and recalled how a series of scams rocked the erstwhile UPA government. "After the helicopter scam, coal scam, CWG scam and many others,

the Congress has now started a tender system... there is tender for ticket distribution, for selecting leaders, for choosing even the chief minister.

"Their leaders in Karnataka have been told by those above them that the person who promises to send the highest amount of money to Delhi every month will become the chief minister," he alleged.

Modi said to fill the "corruption tank", the Congress has created a network of extortion mafia, and it is worried what will happen to that.

Chief minister Siddaramaiah was once again in Modi's line of fire, with the Prime Minister calling his government "seedha rupaiah sarkar" (government that takes bribe).

"Money is bad," he noted, recalling what saint poet Shishunala Sharifa once said. But for Karnataka's Congress government, it is "Baap bada na bhaiya, sab se bada rupaiya (when it comes to money not even your relations are important)".

Speaking about the contentious Mahadayi river issue over which Goa

and Karnataka are locked in a protracted dispute, Modi said former Congress president Sonia Gandhi had said during the Goa assembly elections in 2007 that her party was "committed" to not allowing Karnataka its share of water.

"Now that they are out of power in Goa, they are instigating people of Karnataka on the Mahadayi issue... their job (atkana, latkana, bhatkana) to block, leave things hanging, and mislead people. Instead of finding a solution to Mahadayi dispute, Congress government sent it to a tribunal," he said.

Earlier addressing an election rally in Tumakuru, Modi alleged that the Congress and the JD(S) had entered into a "secret" pact for the Karnataka polls.

"If anyone is protecting the Congress, it is the JD(S)... Congress and JD(S) have a secret understanding... an understanding behind the curtains," he said.

Modi also said the Congress, which ruled the country for decades, with "one family" in power for most part, neglected the poor and farmers.

Home delivery of national awards for those who skipped I&B ministry event

New Delhi: The ministry of information and broadcasting (I&B) will send by post the national awards to those recipients who refused to receive them at a ceremony in New Delhi on Thursday as they were not being presented by President Ram Nath Kovind, in a "break in tradition".

An official aware of the developments on Friday said the ministry will send by post the medals and citations to these recipients.

"Even in the past when awardees failed to turn up for whatever reason, the awards were sent home," the official said.

On Thursday, nearly 60 winners of the 65th National Film Awards did not show up at the ceremony at Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi, to register their disappointment as they were not being given by the President.

The film awards are traditionally presented by the President, but this year, barring 11 awards that were given out by President Kovind, the remaining were presented by the I&B minister Smriti Irani and minister of state Rajyavardhan Rathore.

A day before the awards were presented, as many as 70 awardees wrote in protest that they were disappointed at not receiving the



award from the President and had reportedly chosen to stay away from the ceremony. They said while they were not boycotting the ceremony, they were disappointed by the break in tradition.

These awardees also complained that though the I&B officials were aware of the change in schedule and were informed that the President will not stay more than an hour at the ceremony, they were kept in the dark.

Ministry officials on Friday did not respond to queries on why the recipients were not informed about the change in convention earlier, but on Thursday, an official said "some disgruntled elements and trouble makers would have still created problem", had they been informed earlier.

Journalist's murder: Khatta Singh tells CBI court about dera chief's involvement

Khatta Singh, former driver of rape convict Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim, told Panchkula CBI court on Saturday that Ram Rahim had ordered his men to eliminate Sirsa-based local journalist Ram Chandra Chatrapati in his presence.

Narrating the sequence of events, he said Ram Rahim reached dera headquarters in Sirsa from a satsang in Jalandhar on October 23, 2002. His followers Nirmal, Kuldeep and dera manager Krishan Kumar showed him an article published in Chatrapati's newspaper about sexual exploitation of sadhavis inside the dera.

According to Khatta Singh, the dera chief got furious and asked them to kill the journalist, who was then shot dead the next day on October 24. The journalist died a few days later.

As per the CBI chargesheet shots were fired by Nirmal and Kuldeep, while the gun was provided by Krishan Kumar. Dera chief is accused of being the main conspirator in the case.

Next hearing on May 8 CBI special prosecutor



HPS Verma said Singh's testimony was completed on Saturday and that he has been called again on May 8 for his testimony in the murder case of former dera follower Ranjit Singh, in which the dera chief is also the prime accused.

Ranjit Singh was brother of the sadhvi who was raped by Ram Rahim. The dera chief was convicted for raping the sadhvi and imprisoned for 20 years in jail last year. Ranjit was allegedly killed for going against the dera chief after he got wind of the rape. Ram Rahim's lawyer is likely to cross-examine Khatta Singh on May 8.

How Khatta was recalled as witness Khatta Singh was among

CBI's most important witnesses after the dera chief and his men were booked for allegedly killing Ranjit Singh and Chatrapati in 2002. He turned hostile and favoured the dera chief in his statement during the trial in the CBI court.

Days after Ram Rahim's conviction in a rape case, he suddenly resurfaced, pleading before the CBI court that he had earlier turned hostile due to "threat from Ram Rahim and his goons".

He was recalled as witness, after his plea for fresh testimony was allowed by the Punjab and Haryana High court on April 23.

No relief for dera chief in SC

Ram Rahim got a setback on Friday as the Supreme Court dismissed his plea against recalling Khatta Singh as witness. This paved the way for recording of Khatta Singh's statement in the CBI court in Panchkula.

No pressure now: Khatta Singh Khatta Singh told media present outside the court complex that he had no pressure on him now and he wanted to speak the truth. He said he has apologised in the court for turning hostile during his testimony in 2012.

Khatta Singh has also been roped in by the CBI in the case involving castration of followers, in which the dera chief is the prime accused. The CBI has recently filed a chargesheet in the case.

Khatta Singh gets security During the testimony, Khatta Singh told the CBI court that he had seen suspicious elements near his house in Kharar the previous night. Owing to this, the court has directed Panchkula commissioner and Mahali SSP to provide him adequate security till his deposition in the court.

President Kovind unhappy with I&B ministry's handling of National Film Awards

New Delhi: The Rashtrapati Bhavan (RB) has conveyed to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) its unhappiness at the manner in which the office of the President was dragged into a controversy over the National Awards due to what it sees as mismanagement on the part of the ministry of information and broadcasting (MIB), two senior government officials familiar with the development said.

Around 50 award winners skipped the ceremony on Thursday stating they were "disappointed" and "dejected" that President Ram Nath Kovind would hand over only 11 honours and that this was conveyed to the awardees only a day before the event. An MIB official said on Thursday that a "few disgruntled elements" were responsible for the controversy. One of the officials cited in the first instance expressed surprise at the controversy because Rashtrapati Bhavan had already informed MIB weeks in advance about the President presenting only 11 awards. The official also expressed dismay at the furore on social media over the President presenting only 11 awards. "It's a breach of



faith by MIB. The impression created that it was a last minute decision taken by the office of the President is wrong and has demeaned the institution. The turn of events has distressed the President and it has been communicated to the PMO."

The PMO didn't respond to a message seeking comment. The second official cited in the first instance said discussions between MIB and the President's office on the award function started way back in March. "By early April the ministry was informed that the President would be available for only an hour at the function. The ministry

was also told to finalise the list of awardees that they wanted the President to honour during the one hour," the official said.

On May 1, I&B secretary NK Sinha came to President's Office and met the secretary to the President, Sanjay Kothari, to finalise the schedule. He was also carrying a list of 11 awardees finalised by the ministry, the first official said. "After discussing the final schedule for the May 3 function, both the secretaries went to brief President Kovind. It's not that the ministry was not in the know," the official added.

MIB officials did not respond to a specific query on why the fact that the President would present only 11 awards wasn't communicated to the awardees. They also didn't respond to a query on whether the I&B minister had reached out to President Kovind after the controversy.

A Rashtrapati Bhavan spokesperson had told HT on Wednesday that it has been the practice ever since President Kovind took over that, except for Republic Day or very important meetings, he spends only up to an hour at all functions. In keeping with this, he had allotted one hour for the national awards ceremony.

Srinivas Kuchibhotla's family says life sentence for Kansas killer will not bring him back

Hyderabad: At the Hyderabad home of IT engineer Srinivas Kuchibhotla, his parents have refused to talk about his killer being sentenced to life in prison by a court in the US. A close relative said the verdict makes little difference to K Madhusudhana Sastry (71) and Parvatha Vardhini (65).

"Whether the accused is jailed for life or awarded death sentence is immaterial to them in India. Even after more than a year, his parents are yet to recover from the shock. In fact, they had forgiven him and forgotten about him," said Venumadhav Gajula, Srinivas's brother-in-law.

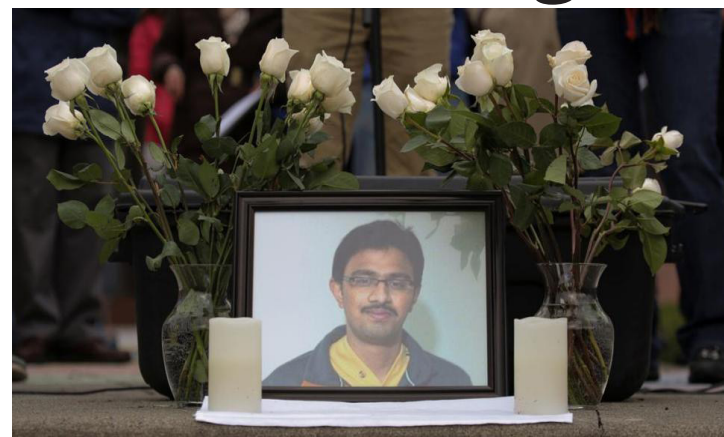
Srinivas Kuchibhotla, an aviation systems engineer at GPS manufac-

turer, Garmin, was shot dead by a US navy veteran Adam Purinton at a bar in Kansas on February 22, 2017.

After Kuchibhotla's death, his parents have been maintaining a very low profile and hardly mingling with others. They are staying with their eldest son K T Sastry at their modest home located at Bachupalli on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

Kuchibhotla was the second of Madhusudhana Sastry's three sons. Youngest son K Sai Kiran is also working in US.

On Friday, a federal judge in Kansas sentenced Purinton (52) to nearly 78 years in prison for killing Kuchibhotla in a racially motivated hate crime.



Welcoming the court ruling, Kuchibhotla's wife, Sunayana Dumala said, "Today's sentencing in the murder of my husband will not bring

back my Srinu, but it sends a strong message that hate is never acceptable." She also expressed her gratitude to "the district attorney's office and the Olathe police for their efforts to bring this man to justice".

Personally, Gajula felt that justice was done to Kuchibhotla's wife Sunayana, within the limitations of the American laws.

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation has done a pretty nice job and we thought the accused, Adam W Purinton, would be given death sentence. We do not know what the American laws are and so, we feel he got the right punishment," he said.

"In any case, we too feel it was not proper to award death sentence to the accused, who had committed the crime in a fit of rage. Why should his family suffer with his death?" Gajula asked.

It's duty of judges to show respect to members of the Bar, says CJI Dipak Misra

New Delhi: Amid the ongoing crisis in the apex court, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra on Friday said "the Supreme Court is one".

Speaking at a function to bid farewell to justice RK Agrawal, the CJI said, "As has been told, the Supreme Court is one. The Bar fosters us, nurtures us and on every occasion, I have told the young members of the Bar, be the guiding angels." "Whatever your status is, whatever your stature is; it is the duty of the judges to show respect to the members of the Bar despite their age or status. I personally and individually feel so and do so," he said at the function organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA).

With justice Agrawal's retirement, the vacancy in the Supreme Court once again rises to seven. At present, there are 24 judges as against the sanctioned strength of 31.

During his address, justice Agrawal also called for unity between the Bar and Bench. Though he did not refer to the present crisis, SCBA president Vikas Singh read out from the judge's speech delivered at the Madras high court when he was elevated to the top court. Singh said the words spoken by justice Agrawal then were relevant now.

The judge had given the speech in the background of fights between the police and lawyers and the justice Karnan episode. He had then said: "Friends, we will come and go, but the institution shall remain. We should not do anything to damage its name. As you are aware, it takes years to build a reputation and only a moment to destroy it. We have to be very careful in our conduct. The danger is from within, and not from outside. We have to be very careful in our acts." Praising justice Agrawal, the CJI called him the pride of the Supreme Court. A three-judge bench headed by justice Agrawal had rejected a public interest litigation (PIL) last year asking for a court-monitored, independent probe into the alleged medical admission scam in which the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

BJD MP Baijayant Panda booked on charge of filing incorrect poll affidavit

Kendrapara : Odisha police on Friday registered a criminal case against suspended Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Baijayant Panda on the charge of filing incorrect affidavit for the 2014 general election, following a direction from a court.

Panda represents Kendrapara Lok Sabha constituency and was suspended by

BJD in January for alleged anti-party activities. A case was registered against Panda under IPC sections 419 (cheating by personation), 420 (cheating) and section 125-A of the Representation of People Act following directions by the Kendrapara sub-divisional magistrate court yesterday, sub-divisional police officer



Rajib Lochan Panda said. Investigation has been launched with the registration of the case, police said adding

that it will verify the MP's poll affidavit documents. Panda may be quizzed in connection with the case, the SDPO added.

The SDJM court acting on a petition by Dilip Das, a resident of Thakurhaat, had issued directions to the police to register a criminal case against the

sitting Lok Sabha MP and file a compliance report to the court by July 25.

The petition stated that Panda was officiating as vice-chairman of Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys (IMFA), the corporate house owned by his family, and was drawing salary in crores of rupees. But in the election affidavit, he had wilfully covered the facts

which went against the spirit of Representation of People Act. Besides, he perpetrated fraud and unfair practice by suppressing facts in his poll affidavit, the petitioner alleged.

Panda was not immediately available for comment but his office in a statement said that the law will take its course.

SURGERY, ANAESTHESIA MAY AFFECT MEMORY

Turns out, surgery and anaesthesia can slightly affect memory of patients. According to a new study, patients may score slightly lower on certain memory tests after having surgery and anaesthesia. In the study of 312 participants who had surgery and 652 participants who had not (with an average age in the 50s), surgery between tests was associated with a decline in immediate memory by one point out of a possible maximum test score of 30 points.

Memory became abnormal in 77 out of 670 participants with initially normal memory comprising 18 percent of those who had had surgery compared with 10 percent of those who had not. No differences in other measures of memory and executive function were observed between participants having and not having surgery.

Reduced immediate memory scores at the second visit were significantly associated with the number of operations in the preceding nine years. Working memory decline was associated with longer cumulative operations.

Dr Kirk Hogan, the senior author said, "The cognitive changes we report are highly statistically significant in view of the internal normative standards we employ, and the large sample size of the control, or non-surgery, population. But the cognitive changes after surgery are small-most probably asymptomatic and beneath a person's awareness".

"The results await confirmation both in follow-up investigations in our own population sample after more surgeries in ageing participants, and by other investigators with other population samples", Dr Hogan further explained. Dr Hogan noted that it is too early to recommend any changes in clinical practice regarding prevention, diagnosis, management, and prognosis of cognitive changes after surgery. The findings from the study are published in the journal *Anaesthesia*.



This enzyme treats celiac disease

A new enzyme has been discovered that can trigger the treatment of celiac disease. Researchers at the Stanford University have discovered how a disease-associated protein gets inactivated, opening the door to possible new treatments for the disease. Celiac disease is an autoimmune disorder that affects by some estimates nearly 1 in 100 people. Celiac disease symptoms are triggered by gluten, a protein found in wheat and related plants, but gluten doesn't act alone to cause the digestive symptoms that patients suffer. Rather, gluten induces an overactive immune response when it's modified by the enzyme transglutaminase 2, or TG2, in the small intestine. The new research

identified the enzyme that turns off TG2, potentially paving the way for new treatments for celiac disease. "Currently, therapies to treat people with celiac disease are lacking. The best approach right now is just a strict adherence to a lifelong gluten-free diet," said Michael Yi, the lead researcher. "Perhaps the reason behind this is our relatively poor understanding of TG2." The biochemistry of how TG2 interacts with gluten and induces an immune response has been well studied, but more basic mysteries remain, for example how TG2 behaves in people without celiac disease.

Chaitan Khosla, who oversaw the new study, had conducted several studies showing that TG2 can be active or

inactive, depending on the forming or breaking of a specific chemical bond, called a disulfide bond, between two amino acids in the enzyme. "Even though there's a lot of TG2 protein in the small intestine, it's all inactive," Khosla said. "When it became clear that even though the protein was abundant, its activity was nonexistent in a healthy organ, the question became 'What turns the protein on, and then what turns the protein off?'"

In the new paper, the researchers performed experiments in cell cultures and found an enzyme that re-forms this bond, inactivating TG2. This enzyme, ERp57, is mainly known for helping fold proteins inside the cell. When

it turns off TG2, it does so outside of cells, raising more questions about its functions in healthy people. "Nobody really understands how (Erp57) gets outside the cell," Khosla said. "The general thinking is that it's exported from the cell in small quantities; this particular observation suggests that it actually does have a biological role outside the cell."

TG2 is now also the first protein known to have a reversible disulfide bond on/off switch of this type. "This is a very different kind of on-and-off chemistry than the kind that medicinal chemists would (typically) use," Khosla said. The results are published in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

SOME ESSENTIAL TESTS FOR WOMEN IN THEIR 40'S

Women in 40s undergo subtle changes that need to be addressed before they become problems. Here are some of the most common health shifts that women experience:

"Being proactive towards your health can prevent several problems. Go for regular health checkups, stay healthier, sharper, more energetic, and more fulfilled for years to come. There are a bunch of tests that can prevent and detect many diseases early," suggests Dr. Ravi Gaur, COO, Oncquest Lab.

A list of suggested routine medical screening tests for women over the threshold of 40 years are:

- Pelvic Examination and Pap Smear: After reaching the age of 40, it is always advisable to go for a complete pelvic examination, Pap smear and Tests for HPV. Cervical cancer is a leading cause of death among most women in India. Recently, a cervical cancer vaccine has also been introduced.

- Complete Breast Examination, Mammogram: Breast cancer is one of the leading causes of deaths in India. As the risk of breast cancer increases with age, every ageing woman should get mammogram/ultrasonography done and follow it with recommended guidelines. The clinical examination of breasts by a qualified physician to detect early lump etc is mandatory to detect abnormalities. BRCA mutation testing for breast and ovarian cancer susceptibility is advisable, especially if there is any family history of cancers.

- Bone Mineral Density Test: It may not be fair, but it's true: If you're a woman, you're automatically at greater risk for osteoporosis than men. This happens due to declining levels of hormone estrogen which plays a protective role on bones in women. Osteoporosis is a degenerative



condition of the bones, where vital minerals like calcium trickle from the bones, making them weak and brittle. The International Osteoporosis Foundation estimates that osteoporosis affects about 200 million women worldwide. Women start with lower bone density than their male peers and they lose bone mass more quickly as they age, which leads to osteoporosis in some women. Between the ages of 20 and 80, the average white woman loses one-third of her hip bone density, compared to a bone density loss of only one-fourth in men.

- Vitamin D, Serum calcium, Parathyroid and other hormone tests should also be done for adequate understanding of bone metabolism and body functions.

- Thyroid Test: Weight gain, hair loss, brittle nails and exhaustion etc are few of the common complaints of women post 40 years of age. A common reason for this is an under active thyroid or Hypothyroidism. This gland secretes hormones T3, T4 and TSH, which is responsible for controlling the metabolism of the body. Any alterations can produce serious changes in the body. Women are more prone to this due to the major hormonal changes we experience during pregnancy, delivery, lactation, and menopause. Women should get this test done once in 3 years after the age of 40.

- Ovarian Cancer: Ovarian cancer is mostly common among women post-menopause. These cancers arise due to changes in DNA cells that lead to the development of cancer. To prevent the risk of ovarian cancer, it is best to undergo a check up before one reaches the menopause age. Routine ultrasound, tumour markers like CA125, CEA etc can easily detect early onset of disease. - Diabetes, Obesity, and hypertension screening: A blood sugar test, Hb A1c and lipid profile should be done to diagnose diabetes, pre diabetes and allied conditions.

Beetroot juice supplements can benefit heart failure patients

Beetroot juice supplements may help certain heart failure patients by enhancing their exercise capacity, according to a study. Exercise capacity is a key factor linked to these patients' quality of life and even survival. The study examined the impact of dietary nitrate in the form of beetroot juice supplements on the exercise capacity of eight heart failure patients with reduced ejection fraction, a condition in which the heart muscle doesn't contract effectively and can't get enough oxygen-rich blood to the body.

Tens of millions of people suffer from heart failure. In about half of all such people, the ejection fraction of the heart is reduced. Because of their condition, these patients exhibit labored breathing, have diminished peak oxygen uptake and use more energy while exercising than would otherwise be the case. Researchers found that the beetroot supplement resulted in significant increases in exercise duration, peak power and peak oxygen uptake while exercising.

Those improvements were not accompanied by any changes in the breathing responses of the patients, and there was no change in their exercise efficiency, a measure of how much external work a person gets for a certain input of energy. "Abnormalities in aerobic exercise responses play a major role in the disability, loss of independence and reduced quality of life that accompany heart failure," said Andrew Coggan, an associate professor in the Department of Kinesiology in the School of Physical Education and Tourism Management at IUPUI and one of the researchers who conducted the study. "Perhaps more importantly, elevations in ventilatory demand and decreases in peak oxygen uptake are highly predictive of mortality in patients with heart failure." A second important aspect of the study is there were no untoward side effects from the dietary nitrate.

Asians, Europeans more vulnerable to severe dengue

Turns out, genetics make Asians and Europeans susceptible to severe dengue, a new study has stated. As globalisation and climate change spread tropical infectious diseases around the globe, not all populations have the same degree of susceptibility.

A study conducted by researchers from the Institut Pasteur, CNRS and the Institute for Research, and Innovation in Health-University of Porto (i3S) identified gene variants common in people of Asian and European ancestry, making them more prone than those of African origin to developing severe dengue, which can lead to potentially fatal dengue shock syndrome.

Dengue fever is endemic to tropical and subtropical regions of East Asia and the Americas, but the virus responsible for the disease has recently spread to North Amer-

ica and Europe due to the introduction of its vectors - mosquitoes of the Aedes genus - into these regions. The dengue virus can lead to a wide spectrum of illness, ranging from classic dengue fever (DF) to the potentially fatal dengue shock syndrome (DSS).

Ethnic diversity has long been considered as one of the factors explaining why the severe forms of dengue are more prevalent in Southeast Asia than elsewhere, as previously shown in epidemiological research, yet the phenomenon has never been explained by human genetics. In the new work, the team of Anavaj Sakuntabhai studied the genetics of 411 patients admitted with dengue virus infection to three hospitals in Thailand between 2000 and 2003.

The researchers identified two genes related to blood vessel inflam-



mation that confer risk of severe dengue, and four genes related to metabolism that affect the risk of

classic dengue fever. Further experiments showed that variations in the genes led to observable

changes in cellular dynamics. Additionally, a comparison with the genetic databases of individuals of African and European origin showed that the prevalence of these variations varies based on ethnic ancestry.

Sakuntabhai concluded, "The particular genetic risk conferred by these genes indicates that Southeast and Northeast Asians are highly susceptible to both phenotypes, while Africans are best protected against severe dengue. Europeans, on the other hand, are less susceptible to classical dengue fever but more susceptible to severe dengue fever."

This research offered insights that can help understand the pathophysiology of this infectious disease and develop new therapeutic approaches. The results are published in the journal *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*.

Dementia affects 30-day hospital readmission rate for worse



Turns out, dementia affects the hospital readmission rate for worse.

A new study has suggested, dementia increases the risk of 30-day readmission to the hospital after discharge. Researchers in Japan recently published a study to learn more about the effects of dementia and being admitted to the hospital within 30 days of a previous hospital discharge. About 25 percent of older adults admitted to hospitals have dementia and are at increased risk for serious problems like in-

hospital falls and delirium - rapid change in mental function. As a result, older adults with dementia are more likely to do poorly during hospital stays compared to older adults without dementia.

Until now, little was known about the effects of dementia on early hospital readmission. The researchers studied information from people 65-years-old and older who had been discharged from hospitals between 2014 and 2015 and then followed them for six months. The team was

looking for unplanned readmissions to the hospital within 30 days of the patient's discharge.

Older adults with dementia had about twice the risk for hospital readmissions compared to the risk for those without dementia. However, the rate of risk depended on the older adult's diagnosis. For example, people with dementia who were hospitalized for hip fractures were at higher risk for hospital readmission than people with dementia who were diagnosed with gallbladder inflammation. In 17 of the top 30 most common health conditions, older adults with dementia were more likely to be readmitted to the hospital than people without dementia.

The researchers noted that three issues may raise the risk of being readmitted to the hospital if you have dementia: Older adults with dementia may have difficulty following directions about taking medication and attending follow-up visits. This may lead to poor health and readmissions. People with dementia may be less able to express their symptoms, which can delay decisions to seek treatment.

Mumbai: Doctors remove 'world's largest brain tumour'



Surgeons at Neurosurgical department of BYL Nair Hospital have removed a massive brain tumour - weighing 1.8 kg - which protruded from the top of the patient's skull. They feel it is the largest brain tumour in record. Santal Pal, 31, who came here from Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh, was admitted with swelling under the scalp, heaviness, headache and decreasing vision in both eyes. "This case is a very unique and rare case."

It was a very huge tumour, the size of which was nearly the size of the head. Size, vascularity and the involvement of the brain and the bone possessed a challenge in the case," Dr Trimurti Nadkarni, Head, Department of Neurosurgical told ANI. "The operation lasted for about seven hours. During the operation, he lost tremendous amount of blood which is life threatening. So, constantly we had to transfer 11 units of blood during the surgery," he added. "After cross-checking medical records, we believe it could be the largest ever brain tumour to be successfully removed," he said.

Air India losses set to top Rs 13 crore if govt's share sale fails to take off: CAPA report

Air India Ltd is set to report an estimated loss of \$1.5-2 billion (₹10,035-13,380 crore) for fiscal years 2019 and 2020, if the divestment of the national carrier fails to take off, aviation consultancy CAPA (Centre for Aviation) India said on Friday on its Twitter feed.

Failure to divest Air India could see the state-owned airline shut down unless the government pumps in taxpayers' money into the airline, CAPA India said, adding that it would be a far less expensive proposition for the government to make the terms and conditions of the divestment more attractive to investors and make the sale happen. "Failure to divest could see AI (Air India) close unless govt willing to spend taxpayer funds. Far less costly to make offer more attractive to investors," CAPA India said on its Twitter feed.

"Unless bidders (are) confident



that they will be ring-fenced from possible political risks if successful, this could prove to be a key reason for possible non-participation by some parties at RFP (Request For Proposal) stage," it said.

CAPA India added that it is criti-

cal for the divestment of the national carrier that the terms in the expression of interest (EOI) — particularly for labour and debt — are amended, as the successful bidder will need to invest in restructuring and absorbing losses for several years, in addition

to paying a substantial amount for buying a 76% stake in the airline.

The government had on March 28 issued the preliminary information memorandum for the proposed divestment. However, major airlines such as IndiGo, Jet Airways, Emirates and Qatar Airways decided not to join the race. The Tata group, long considered a potential suitor, is also unlikely to bid, a Reuters report dated April 11 said, attributing the group's unwillingness to the terms and conditions of the sale, which were considered "just too onerous".

On May 1, the government extended the privatisation process by a fortnight. EOIs for the airline will now be accepted till May 31, against the previous deadline of May 14, and qualified bidders will be announced on June 15, against the previous date of May 28, said a corrigendum to the EOI document.

Walmart may bring along Google as partner and investor in bid for Flipkart

Walmart, which is in the final stages of talks to buy a majority stake in e-commerce firm Flipkart, is likely to bring along search giant Google as a strategic partner and investor after the deal, according to two people familiar with the latest discussions.

Flipkart's board has virtually given the green light to the sale to Walmart and the deal is expected to close over the coming weeks, the people mentioned above said, requesting anonymity. Walmart will buy at least 55% of Flipkart at a valuation of \$20-21 billion, but the stake could end up being higher by the time the deal closes, they said.

Most of Flipkart's existing investors are expected to sell off their entire stakes, though a few prominent investors, such as Flipkart's earliest backer Tiger Global Management, are expected to retain a small stake. Other investors who will retain small stakes include Tencent and Naspers. SoftBank is also expected to sell off part of its current stake, the two people said. Walmart also wants Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal (group chief execu-



tive officer) and CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy to continue in their roles after the acquisition, the people said. Mint reported on May 2 that Flipkart's executive chairman and co-founder Sachin Bansal had not yet taken a decision on his future or how much stock he will sell in the proposed deal.

The Economic Times reported on Friday that Sachin Bansal may leave Flipkart after the conclusion of his company's sale to Walmart.

Binny Bansal and Krishnamurthy, a former executive at Flipkart's most influential shareholder Tiger Global, are likely to continue in their current roles after the deal, Mint reported then.

Forex reserves intact, India need not worry about Rupee fluctuation: ADB Chief Economist



Manila: India need not worry much about currency fluctuation at the moment as the country has good accumulation of foreign exchange reserves, but a depreciating rupee could put inflationary pressure on the economy, ADB Chief Economist Yasuyuki Sawada said on Friday.

He said the Asian Development Bank (ADB) does not foresee a sharp increase in oil prices which has touched USD 75 a barrel recently. "Foreign exchange reserves have been accumulating over time. There has been no indication of depletion of reserves so I don't think, we need to worry much about the exchange rate fluctuation."

"Of course depreciation can be good or bad. Good news is exporting sector can gain from this depreciation of rupee. The potential negative impact is this depreciation will put inflationary pressure on the economy," Sawada told PTI in an interview.

According to reports, Indian rupee has been among the worst performing currencies in the emerging market pack this year and has lost over 4.5 percent against the US dollar. The rupee closed at 66.65 against the American currency yesterday. India's foreign exchange reserves touched a life-time high of USD 424.864 billion in the week ended April 6, aided by increase in foreign currency assets.

Sawada, however, said he does not expect any sharp increase in oil prices.

"What happens if there is sharp oil price increase? Oil importers will be adversely affected. But renewable energies are being adopted by the region. And the likelihood of sharp increase in oil prices, I don't see this is realistic," he said. ADB in its Asian Development Outlook last month had projected crude oil prices to remain around USD 65 a barrel in 2018 and USD 62 a barrel in 2019.

"Oil prices are determined by demand and supply. We are seeing some fluctuation in oil prices, but unless overall fundamental demand supply changes happen, we don't see any substantial deviation from this baseline forecast," Sawada said.

India sources about 86 percent of crude oil, 75 percent of natural gas and 95 percent of LPG from Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

With India being over 80 percent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs, a recent firming of international rates has sent domestic fuel rates higher, which in turn would impact inflation numbers. Petrol prices have hit a four-year high while diesel rates have touched an all-time high in the national capital. With regard to the implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST), Sawada said the new indirect tax regime would play a role in stimulating the economy as more revenues earned through it could be used for more public investments.

GST, which subsumed over a dozen local levies, was introduced on July 1, 2017, and has transformed India into a single market for seamless movement of goods.

Although India is enjoying demographic dividend as of now, Sawada advocated that the government should move towards a national pension system and a universal health coverage plan to prepare itself for the ageing population. "India still has many years to face ageing population. Ageing will slow down growth because productivity and savings will decline and working age population slows. Also, in order to take care of elderly people, the government has to spend more which has to be budgeted." Government should set up national pension system which takes a long time. In order to set up fully funded pension system, which is sustainable, you have to start setting up at the age of 20. "Although Indian government has many years to counter the ageing population, the system should be set up as early as possible. National pension system, universal health coverage, should be constructed as early as possible. In this respect, securing tax and tax revenue and expanding fiscal capability is critical otherwise government cannot start this new system," the ADB chief economist said.

IRCTC website back online after brief outage

New Delhi: The official online portal of the railway ticketing site www.irctc.co.in as well as the mobile app are back online after a brief outage. The app as well as the website of IRCTC were not working on Friday for close to two hours.

Earlier, when we tried opening the site as well as the app it displayed a message stating, "Due to maintenance activity e-ticketing service is not available. Please try later. For cancellation/filedtr, please call at customer care no. 011-39340000, 011-23340000 or mail at tickets@irctc.co.in."

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corp (IRCTC)

website was shut down for six straight hours starting Wednesday till the wee hours of Thursday due to which customers could no access the Passenger Reservation System (PRS), call centre, IVRS touch-screen and 139 enquiry system.

Media reports have said that IRCTC is upgrading the PRS which will make online ticketing more passenger friendly and more secured.

Meanwhile if you want to book tickets through Tatkal, these points might come handy for you.

- Tatkal booking opens at 10 AM for AC Classes and 11 AM for NON-AC Classes on one day in advance of the ac-



tual date of journey excluding date of journey. For example for train leaving on 6th, Tatkal Booking will Commence at 10 am for AC Classes on 5th and at 11 am for NON-AC Classes on 5th.

- As per the IRCTC website,

- Passengers can claim full refund of fare and Tatkal charges if the train is delayed by more than 3 hours at the journey originating point of the passenger and not the boarding point if the passenger's journey originating point and boarding point are different.

- Refund will be also given if the train is to run on a diverted route and passenger is not willing to travel. If the train is to run on diverted route and boarding station or the destination or both the stations are not on the diverted route.

- In case of non attachment of coach in which Tatkal ac-

commodation has been earmarked and the passenger has not been provided accommodation in the same class, passengers can claim refund.

- If the passenger has been accommodated in lower class and does not want to travel. In case the passenger travels in lower class, the passenger will be given refund of difference of fare and also the difference of Tatkal charges, if any.

- You can book a maximum of only four passengers per PNR for Tatkal tickets.

- The facility of change of name is not permitted on the bookings made under Tatkal scheme.

Bug found in Twitter: Here are some tips to keep your account safe

New Delhi: Micro blogging site Twitter has urged its more than 330 million users to change their passwords following a bug that stored passwords unmasked in an internal log.

Twitter has disclosed the issue in a blog post and series of Tweets, saying it that has resolved the problem assuring that the company's internal investigation has showed that there has been no indication of breach or misuse by anyone.

Twitter, however, has urged all users to consider changing their passwords. You can change your Twitter password by going to the password settings page.

Twitter CTO Parag Agarwal has shared some tips on account security in a blog post that can help keep your account safe:

Change your password on Twitter and on any other service where you may have used the same password.

Use a strong password that you don't reuse on other websites.

Enable login verification, also known as two factor authentication. This is the single best action you can take to increase your account security.

Use a password manager to make sure you're using strong, unique passwords every-



where.

All about the Bug

Agarwal has explained the bug elaborately in his blog post.

He wrote, "We mask passwords through a process called hashing using a function known as bcrypt, which replaces the actual password with a random set of numbers and letters that are stored in Twitter's system. This allows our systems to validate your account credentials without revealing your password. This is an industry standard."

"Due to a bug, passwords were written to an internal log before completing the hashing process. We found this error ourselves, removed the passwords, and are implementing plans to prevent this bug from happening again," he added.

GST Council meeting ends; approves making GST-network a government entity

New Delhi: The 27th meeting of the GST Council considered introduction of simplified tax return form and also decided on proposal for converting GST Network into a government company. The Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley chaired council, comprising state finance ministers, met through video conferencing. The Council has also deferred the decision on imposing cess on sugar and the issue has been referred to group of five states.

The GST Council approved making GST-Network a government entity by taking over 51 percent stake held by private entities. Currently, five private financial institutions -- HDFCLtd, HDFC Bank Ltd, ICICI Bank Ltd, NSE Strategic Investment Co and LIC Housing Finance Ltd -- hold 51 percent stake in GSTN, which was incorporated on March 28, 2013, in the erstwhile UPA regime.

"Central government will



own 50 percent in GST-Network and states will collectively hold the remaining 50 percent, Jaitley said after the meeting.

The meeting comes at a time when Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections achieved its record high by exceeding Rs 1 lakh crore milestone in April. The government mopped up Rs 1.03 lakh crore in GST collections last month. The new indirect tax regime, which was rolled out on July 1 last year, had

earned a revenue of Rs 7.41 lakh crore in entire 2017-18.

Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia said that the new system of single monthly return for GST will come into force in six months. Jaitley had earlier this month asked Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia to examine the possibility of converting GSTN into a majority government company or a 100 percent government company. GSTN provides the IT backbone for the new indirect tax regime.

Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal likely to quit company board: Report

Flipkart's co-founder and chairman Sachin Bansal may quit the company board as Walmart is inching close to sealing the deal with the e-commerce company, as per a report in the Times of India.

The TOI report said that Walmart will retaining only one of the two founders, the other being Binny Bansal. Quoting sources, TOI said that Walmart in all probability will pick up all the shares of Sachin Bansal. Walmart will also retain Kalyan Krishnamurthy, who took over as the CEO of Flipkart in January last year.

US-based retail behemoth Walmart, is eyeing a majority or controlling equity stake in it to foray into the multi-billion dollar Indian retail space. Walmart wants to buy a majority stake in Flipkart for as much as USD 12 billion, even though rival Amazon is still jostling to turn the deal



in its favour.

Amazon is believed to have offered Flipkart a higher valuation of about USD 22 billion, along with a break up fee of USD 2 billion, compared to Walmart's USD 18-20 billion valuation of the Bengaluru-based company.

Flipkart on Thursday bought back \$350 million worth of shares from its invest-

ors as it seeks to convert its Singapore-incorporated company to a private limited firm, in a move that could ease the way in for a new strategic investor.

Flipkart Ltd purchased shares for \$350.5 million from some of its investors including Shekhar Kirani of Accel, SoftBank executive Deep Nishar's family trust, IDG Ventures

and a host of pension funds, according to May 3 regulatory filings from Singapore's Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority, sourced by business intelligence platform paper.vc.

It also began the process of converting Flipkart to a private limited company, changing its name to Flipkart Pte Ltd, the filings showed.

India's services sector activities improve in April; job-creation pace fastest in over 7 years

New Delhi: India's services sector continued to improve in April, mainly spurred by increased business activities, and job-creation accelerated at the fastest pace in more than seven years, a monthly survey said today.

With growth in new orders and easing inflationary pressures also helping in improved demand conditions, the Nikkei India Services Business Activity Index climbed to 51.4 in April from 50.3 in March.

"This signalled a faster expansion in output at Indian service firms than in the prior month," the survey report said. According to the report, the country's service sector continued to improve at the start of the quarter, with business activity rising at a faster pace, supported by new order growth.

"Reflecting improvements in demand conditions, job-creation accelerated to the sharpest since March 2011," it added.

Aashna Dodhia, Economist at IHS Markit, said it was encouraging to see the Indian service economy report a positive start in the April quarter, with output growth gaining momentum as demand conditions improve.

"India's overall economy also saw price pressures moderating further, with input and output charge inflation registering at the slowest since September 2017 and June 2017, respectively. The service economy continued to recover further from February's temporary decline," Dodhia, who is also the author of the report, said.

MS Dhoni swinging it like old, scripting resurgence story of IPL 2018

Mumbai: MS Dhoni's stature as one of the most destructive batsmen in the world was not built merely on the runs he made, but it was the strike rate that caught the imagination.

Sample this: April 2004, India versus Pakistan ODI at Visakhapatnam: 148 off 123 balls; October 2005, India versus Sri Lanka ODI at Jaipur: 183 not out off 145 balls; February 2006 versus Pakistan ODI at Lahore: 72 not out off 46 balls; February 2006 versus Pakistan ODI at Karachi: 77 not out off 56 balls.

Even Dhoni's 91 not out in the 2011 World Cup final took just 79 balls.

However, in the last few years, Dhoni was getting the runs but had slowed down. Naturally, it led to the question whether he was approaching the finish; like the painstaking innings at Antigua in 2017 when Dhoni faced 114 balls for 54 but still couldn't take India home chasing a modest 189.

For his critics it was the final proof the legend was done and dusted. Twitterati had a field day, mocking his game. Since then, runs have been coming off his blade but not at the rate at which Dhoni is expected to score.

DHONI'S IPL RESURGENCE

Back in his favourite yellow jersey of Chennai Super Kings in IPL 2018, he has turned the clock back spectacularly, rebutting all trash-talk that his reflexes were slowing.

Now, Dhoni is batting like he used to when he first came on the scene,



looking to smash from the first ball to emerge the most destructive batsman in IPL 2018.

Written off some time ago, among the first questions to his IPL teammates now is about Dhoni's hitting. There's nothing copybook about his game. The technique is all 'Made in Ranchi'. He is just allowing his instinct to take over.

BETTER BAT SWING

From sources close to the player, his bat swing is better and may have made the difference. He is now using bats weighing 1185 gm and 1230 gm and is no longer hung up on using only a heavy bat. He has the habit of using bats with two different weights in the same innings, and Dhoni is known to change bats in between, depending on the stage of the match.

"Being in the later stage of his

career, timing is more important. By using a lighter bat, he is getting the extra time. The last shot he played to finish the game against Royal Challengers Bangalore (April 25 in Bangalore) best showed he's got the swing back. You can see that with a lighter bat the swing is better, like a golfer."

The other thing about Dhoni's bat is he has understood the science of wood better. The fascination of batsmen to have more grains on their bat is well known. But Dhoni is not falling for the look of the willow. "He now prefers a good ping over the look of the bat. He has understood that knots and spots are also good; it's not just about more number of grains."

To simplify the term "having a good ping", it's the sound and bounce that comes off the sweet spot of the blade. The willow may have 16-17

grains, but if it doesn't have the sound it will not have the same stroke; a bat may have just five-six grains, but if it has that sweet sound then it's the one.

FEEL OF BAT

For his unconventional game, feel is the key. Somehow, it had gone missing for a long time. To be back for CSK meant a lot to him. The desire to do well for the team on their return from a two-year suspension has certainly had an impact on his game as well.

It showed in the way he prepared for this edition. Leading up to IPL 2018, he was training like a man possessed; it was difficult to get him out of the nets. That is where he discovered the old feel from his Ranchi days, when crowds filled up when they heard 'Dhoni mar raha hai'.

CSK opener Shane Watson said in an interview to the official broadcaster after the last game at Pune: "Seeing (Dhoni's) desire to do well for Chennai Super King on their return was an inspiration for me as well."

In nine innings before Saturday, Dhoni has aggregated 329 runs, averaging 82.25 with a strike rate of 169.58.

And with knocks of 25 (12 b) versus Sunrisers Hyderabad, 79 not out (44 b) versus Kings XI, 70 not out (34 b) versus Royal Challengers Bangalore, 26 (21 b) versus Mumbai Indians, 51 not out (22 b) versus Delhi Daredevils and 43 not out (25 b) versus Kolkata Knight Riders, Dhoni is filling up the stadiums again.

IPL 2018: R Ashwin says Jasprit Bumrah made the difference for Mumbai Indians

Indore: On an evening when almost all his teammates went for over eight runs per over, Jasprit Bumrah conceded only one six to end with figures of 1/19. At a ground with short boundaries, Bumrah's 11 dot balls proved vital in Mumbai Indians' six-wicket win over Kings XI Punjab in the Indian Premier League at the Holkar Stadium, Indore on Friday.



R Ashwin, KXIP skipper, was all praise for the MI fast bowler. "He (Bumrah) bowled really well. You can say he made the difference. He did well in the death overs and didn't leak a lot of runs in the powerplay when (Chris) Gayle was batting."

Asked to bat, Chris Gayle (50) and KL Rahul (24) added yet another fifty plus stand but KXIP's middle-order once again failed to capitalise. Yuvraj Singh, promoted to No. 3, managed just 14 while Karun Nair (23) and Axar Patel (13) also couldn't do much.

Same was the case in KXIP's game against Sunrisers Hyderabad last week (April 26). The openers had stitched a 55-run stand before the middle-order caved in against the formidable SRH bowling attack, losing by 13 runs while chasing a modest 132 at Hyderabad.

Ashwin admitted that KXIP were at least 10-15 runs short but backed the likes of Yuvraj, Axar to fire in the upcoming games.

"We were about 10-15 runs short. The wicket was a bit sticky early on. I thought

180+ would be a good score but we lost wickets in the middle overs. Gayle set it up with his knock and but we couldn't finish well.

"Yes, the middle-order has been a bit shaky but it's important to have faith in them," he added.

Fast bowler Ankit Rajpoot, who took a five-wicket haul against SRH, and Marcus Stoinis, leaked a combined 68 runs from six overs. Mujeeb Zadran took two wickets while Andrew Tye and Stoinis took a scalp each.

Asked about the team's bowling performance, Ashwin, who finished with figures of 0/23, said: "I thought we bowled well for most part of the innings. You can say we erred in length in the 17th, 18th and the 19th over. It does happen sometimes.

"I don't think we played bad cricket. It (Indore) is a difficult ground to defend. We had a good chance till the 15th over but Rohit (Sharma) was there till the end for MI. There aren't a lot of games MI lose when Rohit Sharma stays till the end," he concluded.

BRIGHTON BEAT MANCHESTER UNITED TO SECURE PREMIER LEAGUE SURVIVAL

Brighton secured their place in the Premier League next season as Pascal Gross's solitary goal inflicted a 1-0 defeat on Manchester United on Friday.

Just over two weeks ahead of the FA Cup final against his old club Chelsea, United manager Jose Mourinho made six changes and was punished as Brighton recorded their first win over the Red Devils since 1982.

Chants of "we are staying up" rang around a packed house at the Amex Stadium at full-time as victory moved Brighton up to 11th and more importantly eight points clear of the bottom three.

The theme tune to the World War II movie 'The Great Escape' also rang around the stadium as the players celebrated after an epic effort.

With third bottom Southampton and 17th-placed Swansea to meet on Tuesday, Brighton now can't now be relegated. By contrast, defeat means United must wait to secure second place as they remain five points clear of Liverpool with Tottenham a point further adrift.

United were without either of the injured Romelu Lukaku or Alexis Sanchez, and their firepower was missed as Anthony Martial and Marcus Rashford failed to make the most of rare chances to start up front.

The visitors did have the ball in the net after just four minutes when Marouane Fellaini turned Rashford's free-kick in from close range, but the Belgian was rightly flagged for offside.

United secured a top-four finish by beating Arsenal 2-1 last weekend, and Brighton's more desperate need for the points shone through.

David de Gea was the only United player selected in the PFA's Premier League's team of the year and the Spaniard showed why he has again been his side's outstanding performer this season with a stunning finger tip save to turn a dipping volley from Glenn Murray behind.

At the other end Lewis Dunk bravely put his head in the way of a powerfully struck effort from Rashford, but then presented possession to the English international on the edge of his own box moments later.

Rashford's indecision in failing to pick out Martial or go for goal himself, though, summed up a frustrating night for United with Mourinho quick to show his discontent on the sidelines.

Brighton's survival party had been put on hold by a run of seven games without a win.

Virat Kohli reveals his lack of emotion after 2011 World Cup win

Mumbai: The victory in the 2011 ODI World Cup was the most memorable moment for generations of Indian cricketers and fans. The victory brought special joy to the legend Sachin Tendulkar, who was playing his sixth and final World Cup, and skipper MS Dhoni, who scored the winning six to end a 28-year wait for the cricket-crazy nation.

However, for current Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli, it was not that emotional a moment. Kohli, who is currently captaining Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the Indian Premier League (IPL), made this revelation while featuring in an All India Bakchod (AIB) video titled 'Behind The Stumps'. Kohli appeared in the show alongside his RCB teammates AB de Villiers and Yuzvendra Chahal.

"I didn't feel as emotional as other guys because it was my first World Cup. I saw the emotions in the eyes of the guys that hadn't won it for five World Cups. Sachin hadn't done it. Bhajji (Harbhajan Singh), Yuvi (Yuvraj Singh), Zack (Zaheer Khan), everyone was emotional. MS was emotional because he led his idols to World Cup win.

"I didn't have any of those emotions. I pushed myself to like cry because everyone was crying," Kohli said while talking to the hosts.

Kohli also spoke about his infamous 'middle finger' incident during the tour of Australia in 2011-12. The 29-year-



old said the gesture was result of frustration because of his low scores in the series. He also shared how Ishant Sharma came out with the same gesture when bugged by Australian fans during the tour.

"I still remember. It came out of frustration. After that incident, match referee called me and asked what happened. I said nothing. Then he showed me the photograph of my gesture in the newspaper and I said I am sorry.

"After that incident, Australians had cameras everywhere we went. And once someone said something nasty to Ishant, he flicked fingers too," he said.

Kohli was all praise for

his RCB teammate de Villiers and shared an interesting anecdote highlighting the African batsman's fan following in India.

"There was one game in Mumbai and once de Villiers came out to bat, crowd started chanting 'AB, AB'. This really irked Rohit, who is from Mumbai. He was like what is this. More than 50 thousand voices were chanting AB's name that day."

Kohli pulled the leg of his India teammate Chahal too recalling a Ranji match where the leggie batted for 76 balls and scored a duck before getting stumped.

"He is the only guy in the Ranji trophy history who faced 76 balls and scored 0 run and then got out stumped."

AUSTRALIAN MEDIA THE WORST

During the interview, de Villiers dubbed Australian media the worst in the world saying dealing with them is really tough.

"Australian media is the worst in my opinion. The English journalists are also quite bad but they are clever. So they will ask tricky questions. Aussies are straight," he said.

The three cricketers were also asked to share the names of cricketers whose posters they kept in their rooms while growing up. While Kohli said he had Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid's posters in his room, de Villiers and Chahal took the names of Jonty Rhodes and Shane Warne, respectively.

Mumbai Indians' Krunal Pandya happy with his performance against KXIP

Krunal Pandya said he was disappointed that he couldn't take Mumbai Indians past the finishing line against Royal Challengers Bangalore but on Friday against Kings XI Punjab, he knew he had a chance to make amends as his unbeaten 12-ball 31 helped the defending champions stay in IPL 2018 playoff contention.

"It was a do-or-die situation for us. I couldn't deliver in the last game (against RCB). I'm happy with my performance. I wanted to stay till the end," Krunal said at the post-match conference.

Chasing 167 against RCB, the Pandya brothers kept MI on track before Krunal got out for 23 in the second last over.

Hardik's fifty also couldn't help Rohit Sharma's side avoid a 14-run loss.

Against KXIP, MI were 125/4 in 16 overs in chase of 174. The asking rate had shot up to 12.5 and they needed a big over soon. Skipper Rohit Sharma (24*) smacked two sixes off Mujeeb Zadran in the 17th over and a four off Marcus Stoinis in the very next over to ease the nerves.

Krunal joined the party as he took Stoinis and Andrew Tye to the cleaners to clinch an important for his side.

The elder Pandya lavished praise on Rohit, saying MI needed his experience at such a crucial stage of the game.

"We did really well in restricting them

to 174. The ground is a bit small and the wicket was nice to bat on, a bit on the slower side. So we were confident of chasing it."

"Rohit's blows in the 17th and 18th over were the turned it around for us. Our batting is very flexible. Anybody can bat anywhere," he added.

Krunal also lauded Jasprit Bumrah (1/19) and Mitchell McClenaghan (1/31) for mixing up their deliveries well. "I thought they were exceptional in powerplay overs. Both used the variations to good effect. That proved vital for us."

MI now face Kolkata Knight Riders at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday (May 6).

Virat Kohli will benefit from county stint, says Gary Kirsten

Former India coach Gary Kirsten feels Virat Kohli's decision to have a county stint ahead of the England tour will help him prepare for the gruelling two-month long tour.

The India skipper has opted to play for Surrey in June across all formats in a bid to acclimatise to English conditions ahead of a tour that comprises five Tests, three one-dayers and three T20 Internationals.

"Playing domestic cricket season in UK is a great opportunity and every player in

the world aspires to play there. If Kohli is playing the season ahead of the tour, it's going to be helpful for him to familiarise with the conditions and will be helpful for the Indian team too," said the former South Africa opening batsman.

Kohli had a poor outing on the last tour of England, in 2014, and averaged a measly 13.5 in the five-Test series.

He will miss the one-off Test against Afghanistan that begins on June 14.

Kirsten, who coached India from 2007 to 2011, was



hopeful of India putting up a good performance in England.

"I haven't watched the Indian team's performance lately, but India have always been a strong team with so

many strong players. So I don't have any doubts about their performance on the tour of England," he said on the sidelines of the launch of his academy here on Friday.

He, however, did say that the series against England will be challenging for India. "Test cricket has always been dear to the England team and they take it very seriously. However, since the last World Cup, they have done great work on their ODI team and are now ranked No. 1. So it's going to be a challenging series.

"It would be unfair to compare the current Indian team with the World Cup-winning team of 2011 as I haven't been closely watching this team's performance. However, what

I have observed is that every year a few talented youngsters come up and use IPL as a platform to get used to high intensity games. Whether they (go on to) play for India in the next World Cup or not, you don't know but there is now a wider pool available to the selectors," he added. Kirsten was considered the force behind India's improvement ahead of the 2011 World Cup. Former India captain MS Dhoni had described him as the best thing to have happened to Indian cricket.

SANIA MIRZA SAYS PREGNANCY WON'T END HER TENNIS CAREER, EYES 2020 OLYMPICS

New Delhi: After a career-pausing break and motherhood, will Sania Mirza bounce back to the tennis court for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics? It's a long way off, feels the former doubles World No.1 who says resuming her game is a priority as soon as the pregnancy is done.

She wants to set an example that people shouldn't give up dreams just because they're pregnant.

Sania and her cricketer husband Shoaib Malik, who got married in 2010, announced her pregnancy last month.

"It was just about time... I was down with my knee injury anyway and we had been thinking about it for a while... We thought it was a good time to start a family and experience this new phase of our lives," Sania told IANS over phone from Hyderabad.

The tennis ace is suffering from a condition called jumper's knee, which has kept her off the game for over six months. She even missed the Australian Open earlier this year.

"It definitely is. I haven't played since mid-October, so it has been a solid six months and more. Rest was something everyone was recommending... So, I won't say it's perfect, but it's better," said the sportswoman, who finds it difficult to rest.

"The 2020 Olympics is a long way off. I've said this many times that as tennis players, we wish we knew what our lives brought us tomorrow. Having said that though, it definitely looks very doable right now. But one has to wait and watch where life really takes you. Most definitely, I would say coming back to playing is priority as soon as the pregnancy is done," said the 31-year-old, who is due to deliver her first child in October.

She is not letting weight woes worry her.

"Weight is so superficial. For a woman, it's all about embracing the pregnancy. When you're pregnant, what's most important is having a healthy baby. I really want women to understand that whether you're a celebrity or not, it doesn't matter. You are going to get bigger when you're pregnant and you will lose the weight as long as you want to."