

# TIME AND US

DAILY

SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

WEDNESDAY

● MAY, 09, 2018  
 ● 22 SHABAN 1439 AH  
 ● ISSUE: 108  
 ● VOLUME: 04  
 ● PAGES: 08

WEATHER TEMPERATURE		
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	21.4	9.5
JAMMU	32.3	18.2
LEH	15.5	5.0
KARGIL	15.2	2.2

SUNSET WEDNESDAY: 07:21 PM  
 SUNRISE THURSDAY: 05:35 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR  
 Partly Cloudy Sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 23°C & 09°C respectively.

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

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GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO GET ACCESS TO INDIAN PHARMA IN KEY MARKETS: SURESH

KARNATAKA BJP RAKES UP SONIA GANDHI'S ITALIAN ORIGIN AHEAD OF VISIT

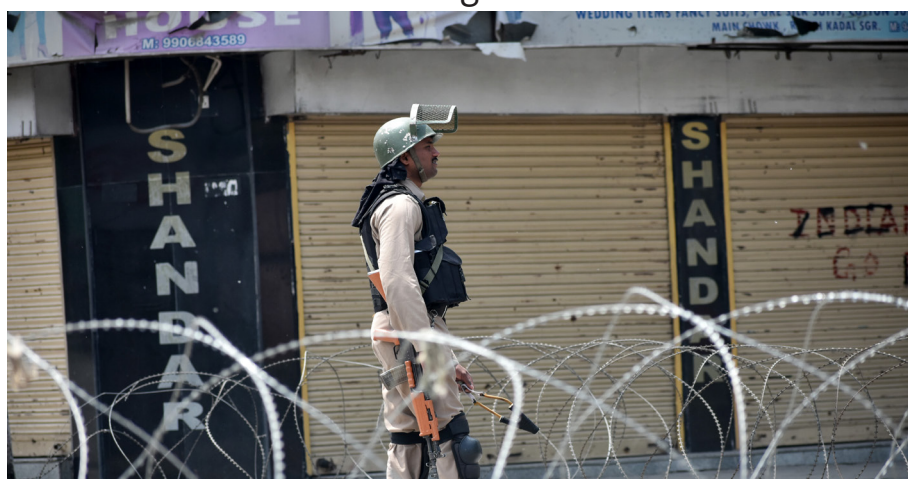
SENSEX, NIFTY END FLAT AS INVESTORS POCKET GAINS, ICICI BANK GAINS 7%

IPL 2018: HOW SUNRISERS HYDERABAD 'SNEAKED' PAST ROYAL CHALLENGERS

SHOPIAN KILLINGS:

## Valley shuts for second consecutive day

Restrictions continue in Srinagar areas



Srinagar, May 08 (KNS): Authorities on Tuesday continued to impose restrictions in parts of Srinagar city and other areas of Kashmir valley keeping in view of the extension in the call for shutdown till Tuesday by the Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL).  
 Police said that restrictions remain in force in Rainawari, Khanyar, Nowhatta, M.R.Gunj, Safa Kadal, Maisuma and Kralkhud.

All the educational institutions, including universities, colleges and schools have been closed for the second consecutive day while as the train services between Baramulla and Banhal also remained suspended for the second day in running.  
 However, a civilian who had sustained injured during the post encounter clashes

### RESUME NORMAL ACTIVITIES FROM TODAY: JRL TO PEOPLE

Urges youth to maintain discipline while protesting against atrocities

Srinagar, May 08 (KNS): Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) comprising Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Muhammad Yasin Malik while terming the present prevailing situation in Kashmir as extremely worrisome and painful for every citizen stated that Kashmir has been turned into graveyard of Kashmiris where each day we have to shoulder the coffins of our dear ones brutally killed by Government forces.  
 JRL, all of who continue to remain caged at home or in jail said that our streets, villages and roads have been turned red with the blood of our youth by the trigger-happy forces who kill anyone be it armed youth protestors or even those inside their homes. Those that do not die of the forces brutality are either blinded maimed or

Khanyar Massacre: May 8, 1991

## Human Rights body releases report

Srinagar, May 8, CNS: Chairman, International Forum for Justice and Human Rights Muhammad Ahsan Untoo Tuesday released a report regarding Khanyar Massacre of 1991 in which over 22 innocent civilians were killed by armed forces.

The report has quoted various witnesses and it carries the names and address of at least 17 slain persons gunned down by armed forces. Some of the slain persons mentioned in the report included Fatima Begum of Rozbal Khanyar, Muhammad Shafi of Khwaja Yarbal, one year old kid Ahmed from Yarbal Saida Kadal, Muhammad Maqbool Ganaie of Chottabazar and Muhammad Latif Qadri of Khanyar.  
 Abdul Majeed Sofi, a witness has been quoted as having said that: "when a lady was fired and her clothes went off leaving her naked. My father approached near her dead body to cover her, he too was shot dead by troopers."  
 Muhammad Ahsan Untoo told CNS that he had filed the petition on 28 February 2013 before the SHRC and the Division Bench of the Commission presided by Mr Javaid Kawoosa and Mr Rafiq Fida had sought report from Director General of Police Jammu



### APHC remembers Khanyar massacre victims

Srinagar, May 8: Paying glowing tributes to the martyr's of Khanyar, Srinagar on their 27th martyrdom anniversary, All Parties Hurriyat Conference said that exactly 27 years ago on this day 25 unarmed innocent people were massacred by the government forces by resorting to indiscriminate firing and leaving dozens of others seriously wounded.  
 On the directions of incarcerated APHC chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, a delegation comprising Mehrajuddin Choo,

## Killing of a tourist invites widespread condemnation

Srinagar, May 8, CNS: The killing of a non local from Chennai in a stone pelting incident in Narbal area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district has been widely

condemned in the valley, with both mainstream politicians and the separatist leaders criticising the attack that took place on Monday.

The victim has been identified as Thirumani, from Southern Indian State Chennai. The incident invited widespread condemnation.



### Mehbooba Mufti

"My head hangs in shame," was all that she could tell the family," Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti tweeted.  
 She added: "Its truly heart-breaking when a

Omar Abdullah  
 "We have killed a tourist by throwing stones at the vehicle he was travelling in. Let's try and wrap our heads around the fact that we stoned a tourist, a guest, to death while we glorify these stone-pelters and their methods," Omar said and added: "This young man from Chennai died in my constituency & while I don't

Democratic Freedom Party  
 Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) today expressed dismay over the death of a Tamil Nadu Tourist, Thirumani at Narbal area and said that whole Kashmiri nation is grieved over the incident even we are being mercilessly killed and maimed by the Indian forces.

### Mirwaiz Umar Farooq

Senior separatist leader, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said: "Deeply saddened by the news of death of a tourist due to stone pelting.

Joint Resistance Leadership  
 Joint Resistance Leadership comprising Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Muhammad Yasin Malik while expressing grief over the death of Channai tourist and injuries to a local lady said that such incident bring bad name to the Kashmir Movement.  
 They said that such

Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami  
 MLA Kulgam Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami Tuesday said that such unfortunate and condemnable incidents send a wrong message which ultimately damages the interests of the people of the state. Whose

## Mehbooba stresses on factoring in state's heritage, culture in craft designs, promotions



Srinagar, May 8: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today stressed on the need for factoring in heritage, history and cultural moorings of the State in craft designs

and promotions to make these world class attractions.  
 The Chief Minister said this while reviewing the plans to showcase the crafts and art forms to a wider canvas

of art lovers, buyers and markets.  
 Mehbooba Mufti said there is a dire need to celebrate the anonymous artisans, craft

## 'DEAL CAREFULLY WITH SITUATION, ESPECIALLY DURING ANTI-MILITANCY OPERATIONS TO AVERT CIVILIAN KILLINGS: MHA

Take strict action against those posing threat to anti militancy operations

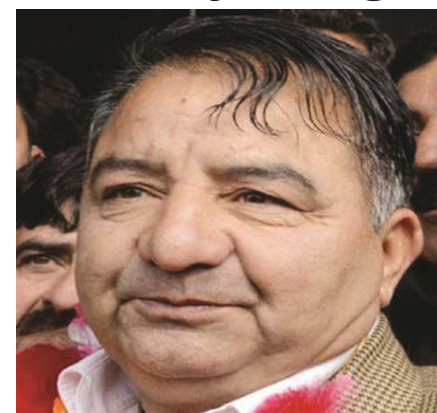
Srinagar, May 08 (KNS): The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has directed forces to deal carefully with the situation in Kashmir, especially during anti-militancy operations and protests to avert civilian killings and collateral damage.  
 However sources told KNS that the MHA has made it clear to the security forces not to hesitate to take strict action against those who create law and order problem and pose threat to anti militancy operations.  
 One of the top officials of the MHA insisted not to be named told KNS that the top police and other security officials have been directed to ensure that the forces at the site of encounters and protests, handle the situation very

## INCREASING BLOODSHED PAINING KASHMIR

Srinagar, May 08 (KNS): The escalating bloodshed in the valley has rapidly become the center of attention for news headlines and analysis throughout the world. Bloodshed and violence has destroyed mental peace of common Kashmiris and also destroyed him or her on emotional levels, as loss of near and dear one means life-long trauma.  
 It is known to one and all Peace is a product of a positive mental attitude, while violence is the result of negative thinking. Peace is the natural state of society; violence is an unnatural state. Peace is as much in accordance with nature's plan as violence is against it.  
 The pulse on the ground zero in Kashmir is that steps have to be taken to stem the monstrous cycle of never ending bloodshed in Kashmir. We talk to cross section of

## Govt have no policy to deal with prevailing situation in Valley: Monga

SRINAGAR, MAY 08 (PTK): J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) vice president and MLC GN Monga said that state and centre government have no policy to deal with the prevailing situation in Valley.  
 While talking to Press Trust of Kashmir said that everyday young boys are being killed in Kashmir. "The situation has gone back to the 1990s" when such killings were the order of the day. Whether someone is killed on this side or the other side, it is a human tragedy. But when killings galore, the two parties are pulling in different directions", he said.  
 He added that the present situation is reminiscent of 1990's. "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

## TEACHER BOOKED AND SUSPENDED FOR 'BLACKMAILING' A WOMAN IN SUMBAL BANDIPORA

Bandipora, May 8, CNS: Department of Education has suspended a teacher cum compounder for blackmailing a woman in North Kashmir's Bandipora district. The department took the measure after it received a report from police asking it to initiate action against the accused teacher under rules.  
 The accused teacher who has been arrested by police has been identified as Ali Muhammad Rather, a resident of Sarai Dangarpora Sumbal area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district.  
 A police official said that a woman filed a complaint at police station Sumbal claiming that one Ali Muhammad Rather, a teacher by profession who also runs a medical shop in the area has been sexually abusing her from past

## Vibrant education sector foundation of strong nation: Zulfkar

Minister reviews functioning of School Education Dept

SRINAGAR, MAY 08: Minister for School Education, Hajj and Auqaf and Tribal Affairs, Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali today asked education officers to work tirelessly for upgrading State's education sector.  
 The Minister convened a high-level meeting to review the functioning of the Education Department across the State.  
 In his maiden review meet-



ing, the Minister said that the vibrant education sector is a firm foundation of a strong nation.  
 "We all must take an oath to work for bringing vibrancy into the education system of the State. It is only possible

## MODI PURSUING DIVIDE AND RULE POLICY: MODI

VIJAYAPURA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today accused the Congress of pursuing the policy of "divide and rule", and asserted the party would be uprooted from Karnataka in the Assembly elections.  
 Modi lashed out at the Siddaramaiah government over alleged corruption, saying there is not a single minister who is not facing allegations of financial wrongdoing.  
 "Congress believes in the policy of divide and rule... divide on the basis of caste and religion.... Make brother fight brother. But people of this land of Basaveshwara will not allow it to happen," he told an election rally here in Bijapur district.  
 Modi repeatedly referred to Basaveshwara, the 12th

# ADVISOR TO CM VISITS MEDIA COMPLEX SRINAGAR, INTERACTS WITH TRAINEES

Prof Mattoo hails DIPR-FTHI Pune for organizing advanced training courses for media professionals

SRINAGAR, MAY 08: The Advisor to Chief Minister, Prof. Amitabh Mattoo today visited the Media Complex Srinagar and interacted with the students undergoing training in Still Photography and Screenplay Writing.

The month-long Foundation Course in Still Photography and Screenplay Writing is being jointly organized by FTHI Pune and the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) for

media professionals in J&K under Skill India in Film and Television (SKIFT) initiative. Around 50 media professionals from across the state including Kargil and Leh are presently undergoing training in these two courses.

As a part of this initiative, FTHI Pune & DIPR-JK have already organized a month-long course in Digital Filmmaking at Srinagar while a course on Film Appreciation will be organized at Jam-

mu from tomorrow. The other courses to be organized at Srinagar, Jammu and Leh as a part of this collaboration include Digital Cinematography, Digital Film Production, Acting, Video Editing and Writing for TV Fiction. Hailing the DIPR-JK and FTHI Pune for this novel initiative, Prof. Mattoo said that exposure to latest technology and techniques in filmmaking and photography would go a long way in harnessing the creative skills of

the local youth and building their capacities for the related jobs. He said DIPR could and should play a proactive role in honing the skills of the local media professionals to expose them to the latest technological interventions in the field of filmmaking and digital journalism.

The FTHI faculty who are imparting training to the students in Srinagar, while acknowledging and appreciating the enthusiasm, inquisitiveness and ingenu-

ity of the trainees said that they are keen to learn as much as possible within the shortest possible time and make use of the new and imaginative techniques in the related field.

The students expressed gratitude to the DIPR-JK and FTHI Pune for organizing such innovative courses in Srinagar. They also thanked the FTHI Pune faculty for their dedication and passion in teaching and imparting new techniques

to them. Speaking on the occasion, Director Information & Public Relations, Mr. Muneer-ul-Islam while thanking the FTHI Pune faculty for coming all along from Pune to Srinagar to train the local media professionals said DIPR is ready to elevate the skills of youth in the media industry and would facilitate such programmes for them in future as well so that they can keep pace with changing requirements of media.

## Continue from Front Page

### SHUTS

In Shopian district identified as Sufail Ahmad Bhat (17), son of Ghulam Hassan Bhat of Dachoo village of Nagbal has succumbed to his injuries today at Srinagar hospital, taking the death toll of civilians to six.

As already reported JRL Monday evening asked people to continue shutdown today to protest against the killings of 10 people, including five civilians and five militants in south Kashmir's Shopian district last Sunday.

Top Hizbul Mujahideen commander, Sadam Paddar and an Assistant Professor of Kashmir University, Muhammad Rafi Bhat, were among the five militants killed in the gun battle with the forces in Badigam village of Shopian district.

Separatist leaders, Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq continue to remain under house detention while as JKLF Chairman Muhammad Yasin Malik continues to remain under preventive detention.

Exams scheduled for Tuesday were postponed. Mobile Internet services also remained suspended for the third day in southern district as well as in Srinagar and Ganderbal districts of central Kashmir.

Meanwhile all the shops, public transport and other businesses establishments continued to remain shut in Srinagar city and all other district headquarters.

A police official told KNS that the situation barring few stray incidents of stone pelting, the situation across the Valley remained under control.

### JRL

grievously injured for life. In a joint statement issued to KNS, JRL mourned the death of 17-year-old Saif Ahmed, resident of Nagabal, Shopian injured in forces indiscriminate firing and bloodbath of Sunday succumbing at SMHS today. JRL paid glowing tributes to all those killed by the Indian forces in Shopian and said their sacrifices are etched in our collective consciousness even as we mourn their deaths.

The Leadership applauded the courage and bravery of people of Kashmir for remaining steadfast and resolute in this toughest hour of repression and said resistance to oppression has to be made a way of life both at individual and collective levels. It has to be inculcated in our daily lives so as to stay persistent on our stand for achieving our fundamental political right of self determination and to withstand the illegal forcible military control of New Delhi.

JRL asked people to resume their work from tomorrow May 9, 2018. It appealed people of all walks of life that include employees, lawyers, teachers, traders and transporters and others to continue their protest and resentment against unabated killings by government forces by wearing black badges on arms and fixing black flags atop houses, shops and vehicles.

JRL also urged the Imams of all the mosques, shrines and Imam Baras to offer funeral prayers in absentia for the martyrs of Shopian and Srinagar after congregational Friday prayers on May 11 and to read and pass a JRL resolution.

The leadership said that unabated killing of civilians is a critical concern for the nation and JRL had met last week to deliberate upon it and was going to take the public on board regarding the deliberations but the authorities did not allow them to do so as they were again detained. JRL said once the leadership gets to meet future course of action regarding the issue will be shared and inputs taken.

JRL also strongly condemned and expressed grief at the sad incident at Narbal in which a young tourist from Tamil Nadu was hit with a stone who later died in hospital and a local lady was injured. JRL said that such incidents go against the grain of our humanity religion and culture. Elements who do so defame the sacred people's movement by such inhuman actions. The leadership said people of Kashmir have always welcomed tourists as our guests even in the most trying of times and this practice will never change.

JRL urged the youth to maintain discipline while protesting against the atrocities and killings of people by the government forces.

### REPORT

and Kashmir. "About five in the evening on May 8, 1991, when a peaceful procession carrying the dead bodies of persons killed in Dachigam incident and those killed at Saidakadal locality were being brought for burial, reciting verses of Holy Quran, the armed force deployed at Khanar Srinagar area of Kashmir Valley started indiscriminate firing on the mourners and killed about 20 unarmed civilians and injured more than 52 persons."

"In this incident one infant aged two years and his father were also killed. Also four persons of the same family got killed whose dead bodies were in the mosque of the locality till late night. Number of dead persons could not be identified and were buried later after great difficulty. The authorities didn't allow anyone to perform the religious ceremonies."

"A team of local and foreign media men tried their best to visit the spot but were not allowed by the Forces and the Government. However, some media men already accompanying the mourners procession while performing their professional duties have also witnessed the occurrence and agreed that no provocation was offered by anyone from the mourners but armed forces indiscriminately fired and killed scores of people."

"After sometime when the firing stopped, people tried to move to their respective places, a group of Para-military forces coming from Nowhatta started firing again on the passers-by due to which some more persons got killed and number of others injured."

"This again is clear evidence that innocent people are

being killed in Kashmir. In this incident five ladies namely Fatima of Khanyar, Shamima of Rainawari, Samina of Rainawari, Dedri of Rajourikadal, Khati of Seshagari Mohalla Khanyar and an infant of two years got killed."

"Some official was nominated by the Government to look into the massacre, however, people rejected the appointment. They apprehended that the official was to clear the guilty personnel. They demanded enquiry by a judge of High Court, sitting or retired. Government didn't agree for obvious reasons of exposure. The people of Kashmir therefore choose to appoint a public enquiry commission headed by a retired judge of Jammu and Kashmir High Court. Justice MB Farooq was kind enough to extend his services," the petition reads.

The report released by Untoo has been submitted by Jammu Kashmir Home Department before the State Human Rights Commission after a gap of five years.

Government in its reply has said that the investigation with regard to killing of civilians at Khanyar case was closed and challaned. It said that the file was submitted to Home Department for accord of government sanction, wherefrom the case file was returned with some observations/queries.

### APHC

Muhammad Syed Deedamari, Advocate Yasir Dalal, Farooq Ahmed, Sahil Ahmed War, Khateeb of famous shrine of Khanyar Moulvi Nazir Ahmed Qadiri besides many prominent faces of trader fraternity offered Fateh khavani for the slain martyrs of Khanyar. The delegation said that the mission of martyrs would be taken to its logical conclusion and asked people to remain steadfast till the ongoing movement reaches its goal.

The delegation strongly condemned the forces highhandedness in Shopian and other south Kashmir districts and imposition of strict curfew in majority of downtown areas. The delegation expressed solidarity with the bereaved families.

The delegation also strongly condemned the continuous house detention of APHC chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and other resistance leaders terming it as political vendetta.

### MEHBOOBA

family saves for years to realise their dream of visiting Kashmir & while they are here they face their worst nightmare. I have no words strong enough to condemn this tragic incident or even begin to condole the family. Without a sustained, meaningful dialogue & outreach, not just from the govt but from the entire country, J&K will get pushed deeper into this vortex of gloom. My deepest condolences to the deceased's family & my prayers go out to the girl who was injured in the same incident.

### MIRWAIZ

Condemn such hooliganism and rowdiness. It is totally against our ethos of treating tourists as respected guests and brings a bad name to the peoples' movement."

### OMAR

support these goons, their methods or their ideology I'm deeply, deeply sorry that this happened at all & that too in an area I've been proud to represent since 2014."

### JOINT

incidents provide an opportunity to enemy to present our Movement in bad light across globe. "We clarify and reiterate that tourists are our esteemed guests and in no way they should be harassed. We appeal people particularly to youth to maintain discipline and never indulge in anything that could defame our Movement which we have irrigated with sacred blood," they said.

### PARTY

said that tourists are being targeted by elements who are hell bent to give the ongoing freedom movement a bad name. These elements have in future also tried to damage the freedom struggle of Kashmiri people but have failed so we firmly believe that anti-movement elements will fail again in their efforts. The party termed the Narbal incident as unfortunate and expressed solidarity with the bereaved Chennai family.

### TARIGAMI

'cause' is fulfilled by such brutal killings, he asked. "At a time when the people of Kashmir are facing tough times what is required is utmost restraint and wisdom to garner more support from the people and civil society of the country so as to put pressure on the authorities to listen to the legitimate voices of the people of Kashmir. Unfortunately such acts only serve the interests of those who want to undermine and ignore the democratic aspiration of Jammu and Kashmir," Tarigami said.

### MEHBOOBA

workers and other people and bring them to fore as the factors behind these immortal pieces of art from the State. This, she said, would immortalize these art forms for posterity and also attract more people to join these arts.

The Chief Minister directed tie ups with world class marketing platforms like Amazon etc. to create a wide and attractive marketing base for the products from the State. She also asked for undertaking research by concerned Departments to know the customer choices and preferences and factor the same in the design pattern of these art products.

Mehbooba Mufti suggested curating constant designs, focusing on continuous R&D in designs and organising regular camps at the Craft Development Institute for the local artists and entrepreneurs to popularize the crafts and designs.

On the occasion, famed designer Manish Arora also gave

his suggestions from making the brands from the State globally acceptable and attractive.

Minister for Tourism, Tassaduq Mufti; Commissioner-Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Shaileendra Kumar and other officers were present on the occasion.

### MHA

carefully to avoid civilian casualties and collateral damage. "All security agencies have to strictly adhere to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) formulated for anti-militancy operations and dealing with protests," the MHA has directed.

Sources said that the MHA has been informed by the top brass of the security forces in JK that it was unprecedented situation in Shopian where thousands of people assembled at the encounter site and pelted stones on the security forces who had engaged a group of militants in an encounter.

Sources said that the MHA was concerned over the presence of civilians at the encounter sites despite being repeatedly asked not to do so.

However, sources said that the MHA was satisfied with number of killings of the militants by security forces and thwarting of infiltration attempts by the troops along the LoC.

Meanwhile sources told KNS that top officials of the MHA, dealing with security related issues of Jammu and Kashmir has received reports that some elements are regularly fuming trouble in parts of the valley. "After analyzing the reports the ministry has asked the security forces to identify them and take strict action," sources in the MHA informed.

Sources said that MHA was watching Kashmir situation very closely and have gathered all information of security situation prevailing in Valley from the officers of police, CRPF and other agencies.

Sources said that top security officers were asked to give their views on the ground situation, especially the security situation in Kashmir including counter-insurgency operations and infiltrations from across the border.

Sources said that after analyzing the information, the MHA believes that the role of some instigators could be the major reason for stone-pelting incidents occurring in a synchronized manner in the parts of the valley especially in south Kashmir.

Pertinent to mention here that at the insistence of the MHA, the state government had announced amnesty scheme on November 23, 2017, to bail out the first-time stone-pelters.

More than 3,650 youths had benefited from the initiative to lead a normal life showing Centre's resolve to scale down tough stand towards locals in tackling militancy

According to state government's statistics, over 9,000 juveniles were likely to be covered under this initiative

Meanwhile sources said that police has taken a cognizance of the stone pelting incidents especially one in Narbal area in which a tourist from Chennai was killed and five others were injured. "We are identifying the people who are involved or are behind in regular stone pelting incidents," one of the top police officials said and added that after identification strict action under the law will be taken.

### INCREASING

the society to understand the disastrous impacts of the continued bloodshed in the valley.

Lawyer and Political activist, Advocate Nazir Ahmad Malik, while talking to the Kashmir News Bureau on this serious issue stated - "Bloodshed has disastrous impacts on every Society. The loss of near and dear ones impacts the whole eco system of the society. India and Pakistan should initiate meaningful talks to end this ugly cycle of bloodshed. The whole fabric of Kashmiri society is disturbed as educated and highly professional youth are getting consumed."

As the former CM Omar Abdullah held the current govt responsible largely for pushing youth to wall and I agree with his assertions. The government should introspect and brainstorm with civil society to end this bloodshed. Both as a parent and lawyer, activist my heart bleeds due to this bloodshed."

Many are also hopeful that if North and South Korea can have peace achieved why not in Kashmir.

Affan Yesvi, prominent Youth activist and columnist from Kashmir states - "Killing innocents is wrong. When North Korea and South Korea can settle their decades old bilateral dispute and choose peace and mutual economic growth as the way forward, why can't our region follow suit to end tragedies inflicted by violence."

Guns and bloodshed have never yielded positive, meaningful outcomes. Uninterrupted and uninterrupted dialogue is the only way stakeholders can resolve disputes, by coming to the table. One hopes that day comes soon for our region, before more bloodshed, before more loss of young, blossoming lives."

On April 6, 2018 the State Chief Minister stressed the need to end the bloodshed. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti appealed to the country's political leadership, cutting across party lines, to listen to the voices of pain from Jammu and Kashmir and help the people of the state get out of the vicious cycle of killings.

Syed Ilyas, social activist from Ganderbal district stated - "Bloodshed has an enormous impact on all the walks and streams of life. Younger generation when it becomes resistant to bloodshed becomes hardcore and overall pain caused due to it creates havoc. Its impacts on education field to all other fields are disastrous. Younger generation should be given direction through proper, calmer thoughts and vision. Stakeholders should take all the needed steps to ensure end to this bloodshed, as this is not solution to any problem. Muslim societies have suffered especially worst in past few decades

due to bloodshed; dialogue and pen are way forward to ensure peace in societies. A common Kashmiri on ground zero feels disturbed due to this huge bloodshed."

The voices of sanity in unison are stressing the need to end the gory scale of bloodshed in the Kashmir valley so that happiness once again returns on sad faces.

### MONGA

constitutional duties to safeguard the lives of citizens and the hostile approach of Centre has badly damaged the socio-political scenario in the State"

Monga added that there is a need to have a sustained dialogue with all stakeholders and then only there is possibility of peace. He added, "The lack of political will to engage with the stakeholders with a sense of seriousness

has created an enormous trust deficit"

### TEACHER

one year. The woman claimed that she had arrived at his clinic to get respite from acute pain. As per her statement: "Ali Rather administered her a vaccine and she felt unconscious. After a day, he showed her obscene pictures which he had clicked on his cell phone while she still was unconscious."

The accused exploited her sexually repeatedly and to avoid him, she informed her husband and they both approached police station.

"We booked the accused and registered a case vide FIR number 57/2018 under section 354 B, 506 RPC against him," said SHO police station Sumbal Parvez Ahmed to news agency CNS adding that they even have written to Education Department asking it to initiate action against the accused under law.

Zonal Education Officer Sumbal, Ishtiyaq Ahmed confirmed that they have already suspended the accused teacher. "We are investigating the matter on what basis he was running a medical shop," he said and added that even Director School Education has sought a detailed report from them.

Meanwhile, Deputy Drug Controller Kashmir Mrs Irfana said they will send a team to investigate the matter.

### ZULFKAR

when the education officers, especially chief education officers will start working on the ground," the minister said.

"There is a greater need to delink academics from the administration. Teaching is a respected profession and we must work to bring all the positive changes in our education system," he said.

The Minister was flanked by Minister of State for School Education, Shakti Raj Parihar, Secretary Education, Farooq Shah among others. The meeting was also attended by the Director School Education, Kashmir, Director School Education, Jammu, Mission Director RAMSA, Director Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Officials from JKBOSE, SIE and other administrative departments.

The Minister while interacting with the officers called for timeline completion of infrastructure works and effective interventions under SSA and RMSA to bring down dropout rate in the government schools. He also directed for holding remedial classes to compensate loss of studies due to certain reasons. The Minister took detailed review of the department, saying that education could contribute for the overall welfare of the State. It was informed that the department has mooted proposal for up-gradation of accommodation of various Higher Secondary and High schools.

Highlighting the importance of school education, the Minister said that there is strong need to work towards realization of the fundamental objective of making government schools as hub of modern education centres.

The Minister reiterated the government's resolve to meet bare minimum educational requirements including infrastructure and staff in all the government schools. He said that government had prioritized education with the launch of numerous reformative measures in this regard.

He emphasized the need for involving all stakeholders, including parents, teachers and local legislators, in further streamlining of the vital sector on which the onus of building a strong and developed nation lies.

The minister stressed the importance of regular and effective monitoring of functioning of the schools, especially in rural and hilly areas, for better outcome.

The Minister exhorted the officers to ensure that all these centres of learning were equipped with enhanced basic facilities besides a good sports infrastructure to enable overall development of students. "There is a need of collective efforts and a well-knit strategy to further add to the standards of curricular and extracurricular activities, especially in rural areas," he said. Later the Minister released Education Planner, (Educause) and newsletter of the department.

### MODI

century reformer-statesman, who is worshipped by the Lingayats, in an apparent effort to win over the numerically strong and influential community.

The state's ruling Congress has recommended religious minority tag for the Lingayats, a traditional vote base of the BJP, a move, many feel, was aimed at splitting their votes.

BJP's chief ministerial candidate Yeddyurappa belongs to the the Lingayat community.

"Tell me the name of a single minister who is not facing allegations of corruption," he said, a day after Siddaramaiah sent legal notices to Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah, threatening to file civil and criminal defamation suit against them for making unfounded allegations against him.

Modi claimed now even senior Congress leaders have lost confidence in Rahul Gandhi's ability to secure victory for the party in Karnataka. "Even Congress leaders have begun to feel that the son would not be able to help the party win Karnataka. So, send the mother to ensure its candidates can save their security deposit," Modi said. (AGENCIES)

# 15th Asia Media Summit to be hosted by India from May 10-12, 2018 in New Delhi

New Delhi, May 08: The 15th Asia Media Summit (AMS) 2018 is being hosted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, jointly with the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi and Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), from 10th-12th May, 2018 in New Delhi. Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Textiles, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani will be presiding as the Chief Guest over the Inaugural ceremony of the Summit on 10th May.

The AMS 2018, an annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) Kuala Lumpur, is a prestigious summit in the Asia Pacific Region and India is hosting the event for the first time. The Summit, with the

theme 'Telling Our Stories - Asia and More', would be organized in two parts Pre-summit workshop (8th-9th) and Summit (10th-12th). Participants would represent organizations like Ministries responsible for Information and Broadcasting in the Asian region, International Organizations UNESCO, FAO, UN; Regulators; Radio and Television broadcasting companies both national/ public and private broadcasters; Television channels and networks, Institutes/Academies of Communication, Media Research; Community Radio groups; Press and Media, and broadcast equipment manufacturers.

The Summit would encourage regional and bilateral dialogue and cooperation to respond to challenges to the broadcasting sector in the region. It would provide a unique

opportunity for broadcasters in the Asian region to share their thoughts on software and hardware aspects of Broadcasting. There are also opportunities for networking, facilities for business to business meetings and prospective translation of these meetings into trade and economic relations after the summit.

Dignitaries attending the Summit include Minister of Information from Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu, Minister of Information from Cambodia, H.E. Dr. Khieu Kanharith, H.E. Mr. Sam Seog Ko, Standing Commissioner Korea Communications Commission and Dr. Abbas Naseri Taheri, Director General, International Department and Advisor to President, IRIB, Iran. Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi Director, UNESCO New Delhi Office would also be present at the inaugural

function.

Further, participation in the summit includes over 200 foreign delegates representing 39 countries of SAARC (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka); ASEAN (Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) East Asia (Korea, Hong Kong, Japan); Africa (Mauritius, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia); Oceania (Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea) Europe (France, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom) Syria, Uzbekistan, USA, China. There are over 100 Indian delegates also.

The Agenda of the summit would include Plenary Sessions on Media regulation policies: Ethics, rules and

laws and Our Exciting Stories. Parallel Sessions would be held on Asian values as broadcasting themes; Should all good stories be commercially successful?; New technologies in the Broadcasting and Film Industry to Enhance Story-Telling; Media business models in the new era; Telling compelling stories: Challenges and Opportunities - Radio and Community Radio; Sustainable development Stories - Special Focus; CEO Roundtable Story-telling and the success of media.

In the concluding session, World Television Awards 2018 would be presented by Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs & Sports, Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore. The Closing Ceremony would witness the handing over of the baton for hosting the next AMS to Philippines.

## Environmentally Healthy and Clean India is at the Core of the Government's Long Terms Goals: RK Singh

New Delhi, May 08: Environmentally Healthy and Clean India is at the core of the Government's long term goals says the Minister of State (I/C) Power and New and Renewable Energy Shri RK Singh. Inaugurating NTPC's two day conference on Agro Residue and Municipal Solid Waste to Power, today he said the intent is to generate power keeping the environment health and contributing to Swachh Bharat. The Minister added that social objective is that of a healthier planet and there are costs attached to attain this objective. The intent is to design policies so that long-term social goals are met for clean India. Agro residue and municipal solid waste can both be used for power generation, this just need to address the challenges to optimally leverage this process.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri A.K. Bhalla, Secretary, Power said NTPC is the flagship company of the whole country and complemented the management for bringing in the spirit of innovation to tackle these issues for a clean environment. The conference is an ideal platform for all stakeholders to collate and interact on imperatives and issues facing the sector and use them at power projects on Pan-India basis.

In its effort to curb air pollution, the NTPC had invited tender for procurement of agro residue based biomass pellets. It has been successful in obtaining the commitment for receiving approximately 200 metric tonnes per day of agro residue based fuel at NTPC Dadri. It will generate approximately 150 MU of renewable electricity annually.

NTPC is actively working to find out the solution for Agro residue and Municipal Solid Waste to Power the workshop is deliberating issues amongst policy makers, pellets manufacturers, regulators, financiers and power professionals, waste to energy experts and companies in the field of waste to energy.

## DC Kargil reviews functioning of Revenue Department

KARGIL, MAY 8: Deputy Commissioner and CEO LA-HDC, Kargil Vikas Kundal today convened a meeting of officers to review the functioning of Revenue Department in the district. Additional Deputy Commissioner Imteaz Kacho, SDM Sankoo Gulam Mohiuddin Wani, SDM Shakar Chiktan Ghulam Mehdi, SDM Drass Pawan Kotwal besides all Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars of the district attended the meeting. The DC said that effective and efficient functioning of Revenue Department assumes greater significance for timely grievance redressal in the district adding that all out commitment is required to achieve the set administrative targets in the sector.

The meeting reviewed the progress of writing of Jambandies, Girdawaries, Attestations of pending mutations, record position of revenue targets, revenue court cases, attestations of mutations of lands and other related issues. The DC directed the Ad-



ditional Deputy Commissioner to submit a roundup of mutations and further directed the concerned officers to conduct special camps to clear the pending cases. The officers were further directed to listen to public grievances daily for 2 hours during their office hours to ensure delivery of public services and redressal of all grievances in a time bound manner.

The DC said that to ensure time-saving and swift delivery of services the District Administration is connecting all the SDM offices to the District Headquarters through Video Conferencing system in the first phase adding the Tehsil Offices shall also be provided with the facility fol-

lowed by the SDM offices.

Issues like the identification of land for the establishment of Emergency Operation Center at Sankoo besides matters relating to infrastructural and manpower requirements at the SDM, Tehsildar and Niabat offices also came up for discussion.

Further, the DC asked the concerned to tour their respective areas periodically for redressal of the grievances of the general public with regard to revenue related matters.

The DC said that fortnightly meetings of Revenue Department shall be held from time to time so as that the Administration remains well posted about the status of the overall functioning.

## Government Committed to get Access to Indian Pharma in Key Markets: Suresh Prabhu

New Delhi, May 08: Ministry of Commerce and Industry is fully committed to promoting the Indian pharmaceuticals industry globally, said Commerce and Industry Minister, Mr Suresh Prabhu, after inaugurating 'IPHEX' in New Delhi today. The 6th annual International Exhibition of Pharma and Healthcare (IPHEX) is being attended by over 650 delegates from 130 countries, including scores of regulators. The Minister said that Government is committed to promoting pharmaceutical exports to untapped markets, including China which has agreed for a high level bilateral Round Table to pave the way for Indian Pharma to get market access and penetration in their vast market.

Shri Prabhu assured the global pharmaceutical players and regulators, of best quality and affordability of the Indian drugs. He emphasised the need for reaching out to newer markets, especially in

Africa, where affordability is the key issue, which can be very well addressed by the Indian exporters. He stressed on the need of both competitive and complementary strategies, so that each segment of Pharmaceutical sector can benefit. He further said that there is need to make both traditional and preventive medicine, to work together. He also said that Genomics is the new branch in medicine, which can play a major role for the Indian Pharmaceutical sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Commerce Secretary Mrs Rita Teaoitia said that effort is on to ensure uniform quality in the pharmaceutical sector. The Ministry is committed to ensure that consistent quality and efficacy is maintained by Indian pharmaceutical products.

Enumerating the measures to improve Ease of Doing Business, the Drugs Controller General of India, Dr Eswara Reddy, announced increasing

the validity of the GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) Certificate, from two to three years. He further stated that protocol for clinical trials approval has also been changed, setting the time line of 45 days. Once approval does not come within this timeline, the protocol would have deemed to be approved.

Chairman of the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) Mr Madan Mohan Reddy expressed confidence that the global business will be retained in India because of competitive cost of production. He complimented the Commerce and Industry Ministry for taking several measures to make India the main source of global manufacturing in pharmaceuticals.

PHARMEXCIL Vice Chairman Mr Dinesh Dua said besides generics, India will soon emerge as a force to reckon with in the area of innovative drugs.

## Ashraf Mir reviews functioning of Legal Metrology Department

SRINAGAR, MAY 8: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Mohammad Ashraf Mir today held a meeting to review the functioning of the Legal Metrology department here.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, FCS&CA, Dr Abdul Rashid; Director, FCS&CA (Kashmir), Nisar Ahmad Wani, Controller, LMD, J&K, R K Katoch and other concerned officers of the department.

On the occasion, the Controller LMD briefed the minister about the functioning of the department. While enquiring about the achievements, the minister was informed the department has recovered Rs 86.42 lakh from 6721 violators in the state as penalty in 2017-2018.

"Besides, Rs 1.87 Crore was recovered as stamping fee on account of verification of commercial weights and measures from the violators," they said. The Minister was also briefed about various state and centrally sponsored schemes with regards to the ongoing construction works in the department.

Appreciating the efforts of the department, the minister asked the officials to be polite and gentle while carrying out their professional duties. He stressed that the stakeholders should not be subjected to any kind of harassment while conducting market checks.

"However, there should be close vigil on market violations. The interest of the consumers should be of paramount importance while you discharge your duties. You should come up to the expectations of the people," he said.

## Rs. 14.60 Cr earmarked under BADP for Leh: DC

LEH, MAY 08: Deputy Commissioner Leh, Avny Lavasa, today said that measures are afoot to develop border belts of the district. The DC stated this during officers meeting she chaired here today. The Councilors of Leh district representing Nyoma, Tangtse, Nubra and Khaltsi were also present on the occasion.

She directed the officers of Rural Development Department and R&B to gear up their men and machinery to ensure timely completion of ongoing developmental works at Nyoma, Tangtse, Nubra and Khaltsi.

She said that under Border Area Development Programme (BADP), Rs. 14.60 crore has been approved for the year 2018-19 for construction and upgradation of roads, buildings community gathering centres, footpaths, link roads, culverts, minor irrigation channel in the borders belts of the Leh district.

She asked officers of the concerned department to personally monitor the ongoing development works in their respective jurisdictions.

## Dy CM reviews functioning of I&C Deptt Stresses on timely completion of dev schemes

SRINAGAR, MAY 08: Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta today chaired maiden review meeting of the Industries & Commerce (I&C) Department here at SanatGhar, Bemina.

The Deputy Chief Minister, who also holds the portfolios of Industries & Commerce and Transport Departments, took a detailed review of the functioning of the I&C department, including status of spending and the revenue generated by its allied departments and Corporations.

Minister of State for Power Development and Industries & Commerce, Asiea Naqash, Principal Secretary Industries & Commerce Shaileendra Kumar, Directors, Managing Directors of allied departments, Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and other heads of the department concerned officers from various offices and corporations attended the meeting.

The Deputy CM was informed about various interventions introduced in the department to bring in fiscal discipline in its allied departments to make them profit-generating units. He was also apprised about the infrastructure development carried out by different government departments and agencies.

Speaking on the occasion, Gupta said that all the developmental schemes should be implemented in a time-bound manner as it would greatly help in percolating the benefits of these schemes to its intended target.

Urging for timely disposal of cases, he said that a conducive work environment needs to be created so that people will receive their due in a time-bound manner. He impressed upon the officers to maintain high standards in delivering



their professional duties, saying it will send a positive message among masses.

During the meeting, Gupta said that human resource is the pivotal part for the smooth functioning of any organization and ensuring the welfare and timely promotion of employees translates in getting better results from them.

Speaking on the occasion, Asiea Naqash stressed the need for highlighting the achievements of all the allied departments of Industries & Commerce.

Welcoming the good work carried out by the allied departments and corporations, the Minister said Industries & Commerce is the backbone of the State and there is need to invest more in the sector so that people at the grass root could benefit from it.

Earlier, the Deputy CM was briefed about the working and achievements made by various allied departments in recent past.

Giving details about SICOP, the meeting was informed that SICOP achieved a turnover of Rs 779.21 crore during the financial year 2017-18 against the target of Rs 647.50 crore. It was also revealed that SICOP is managing 52 industrial estates through the State.

## SDM inspects Middle School Mangu, Industrial Estate Khaltsi

LEH, MAY 08: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Khaltsi today paid surprise inspection of Middle School Mangu and Medical Sub Centre, Mangu. During the visit, the

SDM interacted with the students and later visited ICDS centre Mangu. Numbardar on behalf of villagers submitted a memorandum to SDM to expedite

the preparation of revenue papers for the Zoom Sapta link road. SDM assured that action shall be taken at an earliest. Meanwhile, SDM Khaltsi along with Regional

Manager, SICOP made an inspection of the Industrial Estate, Khaltsi wherein he inspected the various small-scale industries functioning within the premises.

## Exhibition to commemorate the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, inaugurated at NGMA, New Delhi

New Delhi, May 08: Exhibition titled 'Gurudev: The Journey of the Maestro', to commemorate the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore was inaugurated at The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, yesterday, the 7th May 2018. The exhibition was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Daniel Chuburu, Ambassador of the Embassy of the Argentine Republic to India, Mr. Jeffrey Sexton, Minister Counselor for Public Affairs from U.S. Embassy, New Delhi, Prof. Dr. Zoltan Wiliam, Director, and Cultural Counselor, Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre, Embassy of Hungary, Mr. Zhang Jianxin, Cultural Counselor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India, Mr. Santiago Ruy Sanchez, Cultural attaché, Embassy of Mexico to India and Mr. Carlos Varona Nervion, Director, Spanish Cultural Institute, New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General, NGMA, Shri Adwaita Garanyak said that "These artworks of versatile genius give a glimpse of his precious contributions to the visual language." Speaking about Rabindranath Tagore he said "The maestro was fascinated by the worlds of literature, art, music and dance at an early age. In 1913, he became the first Indian to receive a Nobel Prize in Literature for his novel 'Geeetanjali'. He left his imprint on art and played a role in huge transforming its practices and ushering into modernism."

## High Court hears Katra Municipal Law PIL via video-conferencing

SRINAGAR, MAY 08: A division bench of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Srinagar today heard a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) pertaining to prevention of violation of the municipal laws and master plan for Katra city via video-conferencing.

The bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar and Justice Sanjeev Kumar heard the PIL here. The bench was apprised of the steps taken by the Municipal Council Katra in respect of solid waste management during the proceedings.

The court impressed upon the Katra Municipal Council to pursue the matter regarding solid waste management "in the right direction so that the Katra city is seen clean and eco-friendly."

The bench also called upon Katra Development Authority "to make inspections and prevent un-authorized constructions in violation of municipal laws and Katra master plan. Counsel for Katra Shrine Board and Katra Development Authority were directed to file follow-up status reports.

The next hearing of the case was fixed for May 21, 2018. Meanwhile, according to the Registrar Judicial Srinagar, hearing of the case through video conferencing was widely appreciated by the legal fraternity. "The step initiated by High Court is likely to fulfil the expectations of the seekers of justice," the Registrar said.

## Time and Us

Editorial  
SRINAGAR  
& J&K

### A violent time: on the protests in Shopian

Shopian in south Kashmir is on edge. On Sunday five militants, including slain Hizbul Mujahideen 'commander' Burhan Wani's aide and a Kashmir University assistant professor, were killed in Badigam village of Shopian district in an encounter. In protests that followed, at least five civilians died and over 130 were injured in clashes with the security forces. Sunday's violence capped a week of violence in Jammu and Kashmir, with a death toll of at least 24. Early on Sunday morning, a gunfight broke out after a Rashtriya Rifles unit launched a cordon-and-search operation on a specific input. As the firefight between the two sides began and when security forces rushed in more reinforcements, including para-commandos and the Jammu and Kashmir police's Special Operations Group, civilians began to gather in protest. Dozens took to the streets, throwing stones at the security forces, who retaliated with teargas and pellet guns. The security forces believe it was a strategy to distract them and facilitate the militants' escape. The protests were not just limited to the operation site, and clashes were reported from at least two other locations in the Valley. Sunday, unfortunately, was not an unusual day in the Valley. It reflected a new normal, which includes daily violence involving the security forces, civilians and militants, all of it mostly ignored by the Indian political establishment. It not only highlighted how Shopian, once a relatively peaceful area, has been transformed, but also how violence in the Valley shifts to different geographies instead of being confined to traditional militant strongholds.

According to official data, after claiming a few thousand lives annually starting 1990, violence in the State began to decline in 2007-08, with 2012 seeing it dip to 117 deaths. However, starting 2013 it has been climbing back up sharply. The killing of Burhan Wani in July 2016 triggered a fresh round of violence and several dozen local youth have taken up guns since then. In 2017, all of 358 people died in the Valley. Episodic spells of stone-pelting, with the intensity and duration varying, have posed a particularly difficult dilemma for the security forces and the civil administration. The challenge is not only to calm the street and stare down militants. It is to do so in a manner that keeps civilians out of harm's way, so that alienation does not deepen. That the authorities are failing to do so is evident from reports of increased recruitment by militant groups even in once-tranquil areas such as Shopian. Home-grown militancy is a reflection of alienation, and the alarming reports of its revival demand a security strategy as well as a political outreach. In 2010, the political establishment responded to the summer of intense protests by reaching out to the Valley with an all-party delegation. The Centre must consider sending a similar all-party delegation to the State, before summer sets in.

# Where the law needs to change track: on the Railways Act



► K. Kannan

The railway administration should have continuous audit of tracks; when new roads come on either side, traffic must be calibrated, adequate infrastructure built, and safety measures put in place. The Railways Act 1989 (through Section 124) provides compensation on strict liability basis. This means that "when an accident occurs in the course of working a railway"

In late April, a bus with schoolchildren collided with a train at an unmanned railway level crossing, near Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh. Thirteen of them died. This is not the first time that an incident of this nature has occurred, so some questions need to be asked. Is there any mandate for manning all level crossings? In an incident such as this, where the bus driver was reportedly negligent, is the railway administration liable even if the train engine driver cannot be faulted?

#### Legal issues

We can look for some answers in a 1997 Supreme Court judgment (Union of India v. United India Insurance). In May 1979, at Akaparampa in Kerala, 40 passengers and the driver of a passenger bus that had been hired were killed when the vehicle was hit by a train at an unmanned level crossing. Cases were filed before the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal, Ernakulam, claiming compensation against the owner and insurance company of the bus as well as the Indian Railways. The Tribunal awarded compensation against the owner. The liability of the insurance company was restricted to a measly ₹500 per victim on the basis of restriction of liability contained in the terms of the policy. In appeals taken to the High Court, the Railways too was made liable for negligence in not making provisions for a gate and personnel to mind the gate. Aggrieved, the Railways went to the Supreme Court. The legal issues addressed by the Supreme Court are instructive for what the Railways was required to do.

A claim for damages for negligence of the defendant falls in the arena of a civil wrong called a tort action. In relation to claims for railway accidents, the Railways Act provides for fixed compensation on predetermined scales. It also provides a forum for passengers to make claims in the form of Railway Claims Tribunals situated in different parts of India. But there is a limitation. Only a passenger on a train can make a claim before the Tribunal. Passengers of a bus or motor vehicle who may have been harmed after a collision with a train can only approach the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal. However, this tribunal can entertain the claim against the Railways also as a joint tortfeasor if the negligence of the Railways is established.

In the course of the judgment, the Supreme

Court borrowed the neighbourhood principle articulated in *Donoghue v. Stevenson* (1932). It said that the duty of care for the Railways extends not only to those who use the Railways' services but also to people who are "neighbours" — namely, users of vehicles on roads that intersect with tracks. Consequently, there is a common law liability for the railway administration for an accident at an unmanned crossing, even in the absence of specific provisions in the Railways Act, where the Central government can direct the administration to lay manned crossings. An action at common law can be filed for non-feasance because the Railways was involved in what are recognised as dangerous operations and hence is bound to take care of road users.

It took up the issue of whether there could be any breach or a common law duty on the part of the Railways if it does not take notice of the increase in the volume of rail and motor traffic at the unmanned crossing, and if it does not take adequate steps such as putting up gates with a watchman to prevent accidents at such a point. It said that there existed a precedent from England that was examined by the House of Lords — that the Railways should take all precautions that will reduce danger to the minimum. It approved the estimate made in *Lloyds Bank Ltd. v. Railway Executive* (1952) that if 75 to 100 vehicles crossed the level crossing per day, the Railways owed a duty of care at common law to provide for a gate with a watchman. If such a duty can be seen from factual circumstance, the corollary shall be that non-exercise of the power of the government to direct the Railways to lay gates shall be construed as irrational. Alternatively, if the plaintiff had no idea of particularly relying upon the exercise of power by the authority in his favour but is a matter of general reliance, society could by previous experience expect the exercise of such a power and if such an expectation stood belied, then too a conclusion could be drawn that the non-exercise of power by the authority was irrational. The running of trains by the Railways, as pointed out in *Commissioner for Railways v. Mc Dermott* (1966), has been recognised as inherently perilous and creates a general expectation that safety measures have been taken by the railway administration.

#### Need for continuous audit

The decision by the Railways to equip all level crossings in India with gates by 2020

does not mean that unmanned gates will be relegated to history. After all, these gates have not come about because the Railways laid tracks across roads and kept these places unguarded. On the other hand, because of the operations of the Railways, where tracks are laid across large tracts of land, there is greater human movement in these areas; in turn, roads are laid across tracks on both sides. The railway administration should have continuous audit of tracks; when new roads come on either side, traffic must be calibrated, adequate infrastructure built, and safety measures put in place. The Railways Act 1989 (through Section 124) provides compensation on strict liability basis. This means that "when an accident occurs in the course of working a railway" (a collision between trains, or when one is a train carrying passengers, or derailment, or any other accident with a train or any part of a train carrying passengers), then whether or not there has been any wrongful act, neglect or default on the part of the railway administration, an injured passenger or one who has suffered a loss can lawfully maintain an action and recover damages.

#### Have an amended law

On instructions from the principal Bench in Delhi, in every one of the major accidents in India between 2016 and 2017, the families of victims were contacted by the Tribunals where the families resided, and applications for compensation filed. There was quick adjudication for payments. In the incident of a stampede on a foot overbridge at Elphinstone Road station, in Mumbai in 2017, the Bombay Bench of the Railway Claims Tribunal awarded compensation amounts without any contest from the Railways. Hitherto, responses to claims for compensation arising out of accidents have been on an ad hoc basis but it is time the government amends the Railways Act to provide for compensation on a proactive basis without driving victims or their families to file applications in Tribunals. The ex gratia payments will then be substituted by rights-based compensation regimes that will sensitise the Railways to administer their operations with greater focus on public safety. It is also essential to include within Section 124 of the Railways Act a provision for a claim from a "neighbour to a passenger" in the manner that the Supreme Court recognises, namely, a road user of a motor vehicle.

(Courts: The Hindu)

## DEFYING THE LOGIC OF DEMOCRACY: ON SIMULTANEOUS POLLS

► Neera Chandhoke

Intent on creating a unified India through the adoption of one language, one dominant religion, one culture, one nation, one tax, and now one poll, the Bharatiya Janata Party seeks nothing less than the renegotiation of the basic terms of the political contract that inaugurated democracy in the country.

A great deal has been written and said on the advantages and disadvantages of simultaneous elections ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi began to speak of this practice as a good thing. Commentators charge the government with institutionalising managed democracy and with double-speak. Instead of scheduling simultaneous elections to the Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat Assemblies in late 2017, the Election Commission held the Gujarat polls a month later in December, for obvious reasons. The argument that simultaneous elections will prevent corruption, and improve administrative efficiency has been dismissed as flimsy.

There is another objection to the

proposal that should be, perhaps, taken seriously. The implications of holding simultaneous elections to the Parliament and State Assemblies run contrary to the spirit of democracy, as well as that of federalism. Admittedly, Mr. Modi does not want to touch the relationship between the Central and State governments. What he wants is clear and undisturbed five years of rule between elections, so that his projects of governance can be consolidated.

In other countries we have seen the rhetoric of governance replace the logic of democracy. We have arrived at the same juncture. In fact, we are already there since the time this government took over in 2014. Arguments that juxtapose governance and democracy simply overlook the fact that governance is about administration, democracy is about popular sovereignty. We expect governments to give us good governance, but not at the cost of democracy. In contemporary history, populist leaders have rallied people around the banner of good governance, but forgotten the D of democracy. We might need to remember the basics of the system.

Democracy is a protean concept, justified for many reasons, and some of these reasons are purely instrumental. Democracy, for instance, enables peaceful transfer of power from one political elite to another. It is, relatively speaking, more economical than authoritarian governments, which spend an inordinate amount of money in suppressing dissent. And above all, democracy provides legitimacy and enables accumulation of power in the name of 'the people'. The idea that democracy is valuable because it secures a designated good, however, poses a dilemma. If tomorrow a benevolent despot provides these goods, is democracy dispensable?

Democrats will have to find reasons why democracy is a good in itself and not because it leads to desired outcomes. Arguably, democracy is a good because it initiates, fosters and sustains a conversation between the rulers and the ruled. Elections constitute definitive moments in this conversation. They (a) enable the selection of candidates who will speak for and to the citizens; and (b) allow citizens to hold representatives responsible. That is, elections ensure a

necessary correlation between the interests of the citizens and the accountability of the ruling class.

In between elections, citizens can hold the rulers responsible for all acts of omission and commission through participation in movements, campaigns and other modes of representation in civil society. Citizens and their representatives thus engage in permanent conversations. Elections facilitate and develop the conversation between citizens and representatives. Elections are not equivalent to democracy; they are a definitive component of the democracy project.

Unlike direct democracy, modern democracies are based upon the principle of representation. All elected representatives 'stand in' for their constituents in legislatures, but the responsibility of the ruling party is much more. It has to represent the interests of even those citizens who did not vote for it. If it fails to do so, and if the Opposition can muster the numbers in the legislature, it can vote the government out and provide an alternative government. Alternatively, the country can go to the polls

to elect a new government. Under the proposed scheme, if the government fails to heed the mandate given by citizens, but the Opposition cannot offer an alternative government, and elections cannot be held before the stipulated time, the government will continue to rule, but illegitimately. This is the conundrum of simultaneous elections.

Representative democracies are based upon two crucial preconditions. One of these preconditions is that citizens must be well-informed on affairs of the state, the region, the local, and the global, before they make choices that are reasonably intelligent. In large and unwieldy societies like India, citizens should be able to distinguish between national issues, for example foreign policy and defence, and local issues that affect their quotidian lives, lack of education and health, the pathetic state of roads and water bodies, provision of infrastructure, and ease of living one's life in relative autonomy from political intervention. The case for a federal form of government is constructed precisely on the need for decentralised power, decentralised finances, and accessible governments.

Across the world the trend is towards regional autonomy. In India where this demand has acquired serious proportions in many parts of the country, any push towards the standardisation of elections will exacerbate the problem.

Two, citizenship lies at the heart of electoral democracy. Citizens are stakeholders in the political system — therefore, they have the right to participate in processes of decision-making that affect them individually and collectively. Participation in national and State elections expands the spaces of citizenship. Imagine the dismal political scenario if the timing of all elections is controlled. No periodic elections, no sound, no fury, no old and tired political agendas we attack, no new faces in politics, no stand-offs, no colour, no band, baja and baraat. Indians will be deprived of the very things they love about elections: intense political theatre. When the curtain drops we the, otherwise, disempowered decide the fate of those very politicians who disregard us most of the time. This is the time to choose who we want to enter into a conversation with.

(Courts: The Hindu)

# Karnataka BJP rakes up Sonia Gandhi's Italian origin ahead of visit

Bengaluru: Ahead of UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi's visit to poll-bound Karnataka on Tuesday, the BJP raked up the issue of her Italian origin by referring to her maiden name Antonio Maino.

"Today, Ms. Antonio Maino is here in K'taka to save her last citadel from falling! Madam Maino, K'taka needs no lessons from the person who was solely responsible for wasting India's 10 precious years.

"And to Congress, need to remind you of your 'import' jibe?" Karnataka BJP said in a tweet.

The BJP was responding to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's recent remarks calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his own Uttar Pradesh counterpart Yogi Adityanath "North Indian imports".

"@BJP4Karnataka by waiting for North Indian imports like PM Modi, UPCM Adityanath is admitting they have no leaders in the state. They have reduced their CM face @BSYBJP to a dummy," Siddaramaiah had tweeted.

Hitting back, BJP had then said in a tweet, "Imports? How much low



can you stoop Mr. CM? Your attempt at North-South divide is disgusting."

It is not the first time that the issue of Sonia Gandhi's foreign origin has been raked up during the Karnataka polls. At an election rally on May 1 Modi had dared Rahul Gandhi to talk for 15 minutes about the achievements of the Karnataka government in any language, including his "mother's mother tongue".

Modi was responding to Rahul Gandhi's dare to allow him to speak

for 15 minutes in Parliament on various issues, including corruption, and that the prime minister will not be able to sit for 15 minutes.

"I dare the Congress president to speak in Hindi, English or the mother tongue of his mother to deliver a speech in Karnataka for 15 minutes, without reading out from a piece of paper, on the achievements of the party government... people of Karnataka will draw their own conclusion," he said.

The BJP's tweet was also in response to an earlier tweet by Congress party calling Yogi Adityanath by his birth name Ajay Bisht.

"We are glad that Mr Ajay Bisht was able to take some lessons of good governance from CM @siddaramaiah and is headed back to be with the people of Uttar Pradesh in their time of need."

The Congress party had referred to Adityanath cutting short his election campaign in Karnataka and returning home following deaths in his state that was ravaged by storm.

Almost two years after abandoning a road show in Varanasi ahead of the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, Sonia would address a poll rally in Vijayapura Tuesday.

The then Congress chief Sonia had not campaigned for Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Nagaland Assembly elections.

Sonia Gandhi's son and successor, Rahul Gandhi, is currently touring Karnataka extensively. He will visit Chikkaballapura and Tumakuru districts on the hustings on Tuesday.

# Withdrew SC plea on CJI impeachment as due process not followed: Kapil Sibal

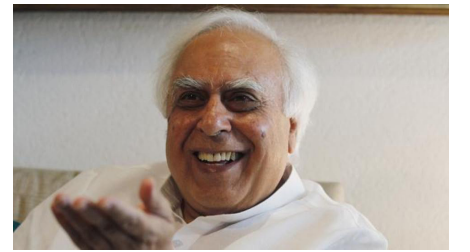
New Delhi: The Congress said on Tuesday it withdrew from the Supreme Court a petition related to its move seeking the removal of Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra because the matter was referred to a five-judge bench without following the due process.

"The petitioners are entitled to know about the authority that passed the order to refer this matter to five distinguished judges. If the authority happens to be the Chief Justice, the petitioners are entitled to be informed of the order... a copy of the order (must also) be given to the petitioners before any proceedings take place," said party leader Kapil Sibal.

On April 20, seven opposition parties led by the Congress had submitted to Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu a notice for the launch of impeachment proceedings against Chief Justice Misra on five counts of "misbehaviour". The notice was rejected three days later, following which Congress MPs Pratap Singh Bajwa and Ameer Yajnik filed a petition against Naidu's move in the top court.

The constitution bench formed late on Monday to hear the matter did not include five senior-most judges of the court. It was supposed to hear the plea on Tuesday.

The bench did not include the five senior-most judges of the Supreme Court — Justices Jasti Chelameswar, Ranjan Gogoi, Madan Lokur and Kurian Joseph, and Chief Justice Misra himself.



Justices Chelameswar, Gogoi, Lokur and Joseph had on January 12 held an unprecedented press conference in Delhi during which they raised objections to the Supreme Court's functioning and the way cases were allotted.

Sibal remarked that he was entitled to a copy of the order setting up the five-judge bench because it was his "constitutional right", and not something that comes under the Official Secrets Act. "Once we get it, we will decide whether to challenge it or not. Every order in this country — of the PMO, the executive, or any public authority — can be challenged. Is this the only order that cannot be challenged?" he asked.

The senior advocate, who was appearing on the behalf of Congress's Bajwa and Yajnik, pointed out that Supreme Court rules do not allow the Chief Justice to pass an administrative order referring the case to a five-judge bench because this gives rise to a "substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution".

# Karnataka election results will teach BJP a lesson to mend ways, says Kharge

Kalaburagi: The May 12 Karnataka assembly election results would teach a lesson to the BJP to mend its ways and send a larger message that people will not accept what the NDA-led party is doing on the advice of RSS, senior Congress leader M Mallikarjuna Kharge has claimed.

While the Congress' campaign theme revolves around development, it's also an "ideological fight" against the RSS-BJP which he alleged is taking people for a ride.

"They (RSS-BJP) are implementing their own agenda. Particularly the weaker sections, minorities and poorer sections, they feel insecure under the BJP and RSS-supported government," the leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha alleged.

Karnataka assembly poll is "very crucial" not only for the state's interest but also from the national perspective,



he said.

"If you don't prevent BJP here (in Karnataka), then definitely they will destroy the democracy; they are talking a lot of things about change of Constitution and also 'Hindutva' against the minorities. All these arguments (of the BJP), people don't accept," Kharge told PTI.

On some opinion polls forecasting a hung verdict in the poll, he said pre-election survey predictions depend on

their terms of reference and on parameters they were conducted. Karnataka is 'ahead' in development, and on law and order, investment and employment-generation fronts and, so, the ruling Congress would be 'ahead' in election also, Kharge said.

Alleging that the BJP-led NDA government did not fulfil election promises, Kharge listed various schemes and welfare programmes of the Siddaramaiah government

in Karnataka.

"I don't think people will let us down," he said.

Kharge claimed that the BJP has deployed 30 to 40 Central ministers and about 100 ministers from various States for campaigning in Karnataka and drafted RSS workers for door-to-door canvassing. "This itself shows that they (BJP) are afraid of Congress," he added.

The coming election is "very important and crucial" as it would send a "message" that "whatever the BJP is doing, on the advice of RSS, people are not going to accept."

Charging the BJP with trying to weaken institutions, including the Judiciary, Kharge said people would be happy if such a party is defeated at the hustings.

"This will teach them a lesson to mend (ways), (and) to act according to the Constitutional methods," he said.

# Modi orders ministries to calculate jobs created since 2014: Report

Bloomberg: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked his team to crunch numbers and figure out how many jobs were created in the four years of his rule -- a key factor watched by the nation headed for elections in 2019.

Ministries have been instructed to come up with a detailed note on the projects and programs undertaken by them and calculate the jobs they helped generate, according to people familiar with the matter. They were also asked to measure the impact of various programs on GDP growth, said the people, who asked not to be identified, citing rules.

The focus on jobs in the government's report card is aimed at helping Modi counter a perception that he's failed to deliver on his promise of creating 10 million jobs each year. That's key if he wants to repeat his 2014 poll performance when he swept to



power with the biggest electoral mandate in three decades.

Jagdish Thakkar, a spokesman in the prime minister's office, didn't respond to calls.

Modi, who completes four years in office on May 26, has seen mixed results in state elections and his Bharatiya Janata Party faces its next big test in the southern state of Karnataka on May 12. His popularity may have taken a hit among voters in some pockets, but he remains a favourite with investors.

A fractured mandate in 2019 could make investors wary of putting money in India, especially when interest rates

are rising elsewhere.

While the government introduced programs such as 'Make in India' that helped attract record foreign direct investment, there's no official data on job numbers. A surprise cash clampdown in November 2016 made things worse, with people losing jobs.

Growth in the economy, which saw world-beating pace prior to the cash ban, is forecast to have slumped to a four-year low of 6.6% in the fiscal year 2018 that ended March 31. Unemployment remained high even during the boom years and that led to Modi's opponents concluding

that the \$2.3 trillion economy was seeing jobless growth.

Modi said in his address to BJP workers on Monday that unemployment is a legacy of the previous Congress government, which ruled the country for about 60 years, adding that he's focusing on creating more opportunities in the government as well as private sector.

India's jobless rate dropped to 5.86% in April from a 15-month high of 6.23% in March, data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt., a Mumbai-based business information company, show.

Employment creation is a top priority for Modi as he prepares to seek re-election early next year. Modi's instructions to his ministerial colleagues also include ranking the top five districts that have benefited the most from government programs.

# CPI(M), BJP tie up to counter Trinamool in Nadia ahead of Bengal panchayat polls

Kolkata: Arch-rivals BJP and the CPI(M) have joined hands in Nadia district to defeat the Trinamool Congress in the upcoming panchayat polls in West Bengal.

Describing it as a "formal seat sharing adjustment", a district level CPI(M) leader said that the party had to opt for seat adjustment in many seats as several villagers wanted a one-to-one fight against the TMC.

The CPI(M), which follows an ideology opposite to that of the BJP, has described the saffron party as a "divisive force".

The BJP's north Nadia district unit president termed the development as an "isolated incident".

The bonhomie first came to light in the last week of April when both the parties organised a joint protest rally in Karimpur-Ranaghat area of Nadia district against the alleged violence of the TMC during the panchayat poll process.

Cadre of both parties carried their respective flags during the protest programme.

CPI(M) Nadia district secretary and state committee member Sumit De agreed that there have been adjustments at the grassroot levels in many seats as several villagers were in favour of a one-to-one fight.

It has nothing to do with the party's policy, he added. "Yes, there have been adjustments at the grassroot level. In many seats as the villagers had wanted one-to-one fight, we had to respect it and act accordingly. But it is not that there have been several rounds of discussions between parties and it is a formal seat sharing adjustment," De told PTI.

Senior CPI(M) leader and state committee member Rama Biswas, who was present at the joint rally of the BJP and CPI(M), admitted that a rally had been taken out by villagers against the violence of the TMC.

West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh too admitted that supporters of the BJP and the CPI(M) were present at the rally.

"I have received information that we had called a rally against the violence of the TMC. CPI(M) workers also came and joined our protest rally as they too were attacked," Ghosh told PTI.

A senior state BJP leader who did not wish to be named, said in areas where the BJP could not field a candidate "it has given enough hints to the voters and party cadres to counter the TMC which has unleashed violence".

Agreeing that such "isolated incidents" had taken place, the BJP north Nadia district president Mahadeb Sarkar told PTI, "In some seats where we could not field candidates, our workers at the grassroot level have extended support to independent candidates".

"In most cases, these independent

candidates are actually CPI(M) workers", he said.

In several gram panchayat seats of Nadia-Karimpur area, BJP candidates were asked to withdraw their nominations so that the CPI(M) could fight against the TMC and vice-versa, a district BJP leader said.

In those seats, the party (either CPI(M) or BJP) which has not fielded any candidate is campaigning for the other one to defeat the TMC, the BJP leader of Nadia's Karimpur area, who did not wish to be named, said.

CPI(M) central committee leader Sujan Chakraborty said few "isolated incidents" should not be used to judge the CPI(M)'s political line against BJP.

"We are the only party in India which has the most clear approach against BJP and its communal policies. We are not like the TMC which is not serious about fighting BJP. Our policies should not be judged

based on isolated incidents. In panchayat poll such isolated incidents do happen. You will find it in other parties also", Chakraborty said.

The TMC claimed that the political development in Nadia only proves that the BJP and the CPI(M) are having a "tacit understanding in Bengal".

"We are not surprised at this development as we were aware of such developments in various districts. Only the TMC is serious about fighting the BJP and its anti-people policies," TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee said.

According to West Bengal SEC (State Election Commission) sources, of the 48,650 seats in 3,358 gram panchayats, 16,814 were uncontested and of the 9,217 seats in 341 panchayat samitis, 3,059 were uncontested.

In the 20 zilla parishads, 203 of the 825 seats were uncontested, they said.

# MODI FAILED IN 'ACHHE DIN' PROMISE, SAYS SONIA GANDHI IN FIRST ELECTION RALLY IN 2 YEARS



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is intolerant and his policies have made people go hungry, said Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday as she joined her party's campaign in Karnataka and addressed her first election rally in nearly two years. Gandhi's speech accused Modi of failing in his promise of bringing 'achhe din' (good days) to the people and disfavoured Karnataka.

"All states that suffered drought were given compensation [by centre], Karnataka was provided with the least. This was like rubbing salt into the wounds of farmers. I ask Modi ji, is this your sabka saath, sabka vikas?" she said in Vijayapura district. "Modi ji par Congress mukt bharat ka junoon hai, unhe iska bhoot laga hai, Congress mukt bharat chhorिये, vo apne saamne kisi ko bardaash nahi kar sakte," said Gandhi [PM Modi is obsessed with removing Congress from the country. But leave aside Congress, he can't tolerate anyone in front of him].

"I'll be happy if his speeches can end hunger of the country but speeches cannot fill empty stomachs."

Karnataka is among the four states that Congress rules still after a series of election setbacks that started in 2014 and the party has deployed its top leaders to retain power. Congress president Rahul Gandhi earlier on Tuesday said in Bangalore he was "pretty confident" that Modi will not be re-elected as prime minister in the 2019 elections.

Modi, who spoke hours before Sonia Gandhi in Vijayapura, accused the Congress of practising divisive politics. "Congress believes in the policy of divide and rule... divide on the basis of caste and religion... make brother fight brother. But people of this land of Basaveshwara will not allow it to happen," he said.

# Supreme Court pulls up govt for delay in Cauvery case, says Centre cannot abdicate its duty

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the union water resources secretary to appear before it on May 14 with a draft of the Cauvery management scheme for implementation of its verdict on water sharing between four states, including Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra told the Centre that once the judgment has been delivered on the issue, it has to be implemented.

"We do not want to come back to square one. Once the judgment has been delivered, it has to be implemented," the bench also comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud said.

Attorney General KK Venugopal once again claimed the draft scheme was ready but was not approved by the cabinet since the ministers were busy due to elections in Karnataka. He also urged the court to hear the matter after

Karnataka elections are over.

Referring to the violence and deaths that followed the Supreme Court order in the SC/ST case, Venugopal said the presentation of a scheme before the elections can create a law and order problem in Karnataka just before the polls. Nine persons has died after violent protests broke out in various parts of the country against the SC/ST verdict that barred immediate arrest of those facing al-

legations under the law meant to protect members of the community. The CJI said court was not keen to let the matter linger and that the Centre cannot abdicate its duty to frame the scheme.

"By now the authority should have framed the scheme. It can't go on like this. What you have done is sheer contempt."

"As per the judgment it's the duty of the authority to implement the decree. The

executive authority has to deal with it. How much water problem is being faced by which state, only the authority can decide it. You are under obligation to implement the judgment," CJI told the Centre.

Venugopal assured the court that once the scheme is ready, water shall be released as per the SC judgment and the authority shall ensure the same. Senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, appearing for Tamil Nadu said, "this is the

fit case for contempt. Somebody has to be sent to jail".

The bench then fixed the matter for further hearing in May 14. The apex court had earlier asked the Centre to formulate a scheme to ensure compliance of its judgment on the decades-old Cauvery dispute. It had modified the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) award of 2007 and made it clear that it will not be extending time for this on any ground.

# Have you checked your blood pressure lately?

Doctors have declared this May Measurement Month worldwide, in a bid to get people to pay closer attention to their BP and avoid the silent killer, hypertension. It's called the silent killer because there are no real symptoms — until associated conditions like kidney failure, stroke and even blindness occur.

Hypertension is defined as sustained high blood pressure over five weeks or more. Symptoms can include dizziness, shortness of breath, headaches, fatigue, and sometimes chest pain, palpitations and nosebleeds, although the last three are quite rare.

An estimated 200 million adults in India suffer from hypertension. According to a health ministry statement, only about 40% of urban Indians with hypertension know they have it, and only 20% are taking active measures to keep it in check.

So, on Wednesday, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) along with other stakeholders signed on as part of May Measurement Month, a worldwide public screening initiative.

### STEP 1: Get tested

It was at a health check at his office that Keyur Chotalia, 37, discovered he had abnormally high blood pressure.

It was so high that Chotalia was advised to take a break and return for a fresh reading. When that didn't



help, the doctor advised a thorough check. Chotalia, an account director at a Mumbai media agency, was diagnosed four years ago.

"My mother, too, has high BP, so I should have been getting tested regularly," he says. Since the diagnosis, medication has helped keep his BP in check, and ease his frequent headaches and lethargy.

Chotalia now has his blood pressure checked once a month, meditates every night and plays table-tennis at work and cricket on weekends as a way to get some exercise.

"I have completely stopped eating items very high in salt, like papads and pickles. I avoid butter, fried and oily food. I want to control my condi-

tion and not develop another chronic illness as a result of hypertension," he says.

If you have no family history of hypertension, aren't diabetic or don't have any other lifestyle-related disorder, you must get a checkup done annually after 30. In high-risk cases, every month is advisable for early detection, doctors say.

### STEP 2: Keep it down

The idea of getting screened is to get treatment in time.

"Screening without treatment serves no purpose. High blood pressure in most cases requires treatment that includes lifestyle modification and medication. Most people diagnosed need to be on medication for life,"

says D Prabhakaran, executive director of the Centre for Chronic Disease Control.

Lifestyle changes such as maintaining a healthy weight, eating fruits and vegetables daily, and exercising for about 30 minutes a day can be as important as medication when it comes to keep blood pressure in check.

"Another important factor is reducing salt intake. Don't sprinkle salt on your food. Avoid pickles, papads, chutneys and processed foods high in salt and sodium. Even some sweet items such as jams and pies have high salt content, so be aware of what's in your food," says Dr Prabhakaran.

If you can't fit in half an hour of exercise a day, divide it into three 10-minute sessions, says Dr C Venkata S Ram, director of the World Hypertension League, a collective of health bodies working in association with the World Health Organization to control hypertension.

Just how bad are awareness levels? A recent health camp in a Delhi slum found that 37% of subjects with no known health conditions had high blood pressure.

"We deliberately picked supposedly healthy people so we could get an idea of health awareness levels, and the results were shocking," says Dr Upendra Kaul, chairman of the Batra Heart Centre. The Batra hospital led the initiative.

# People with no visible symptoms are more likely to spread dengue fever

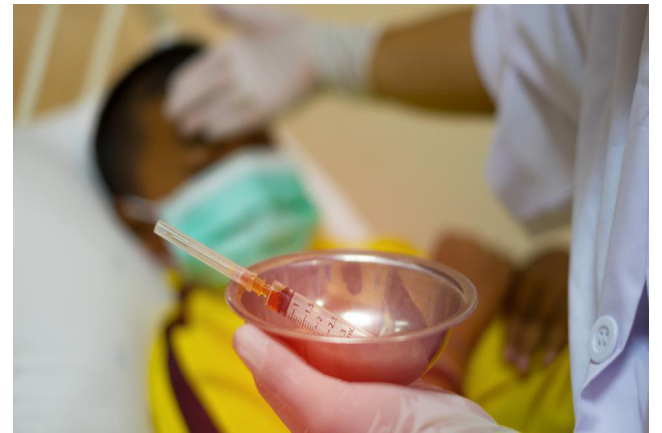
Seems like, a specific kind of people is primarily responsible for dengue virus transmission.

According to a study conducted by the University of Notre Dame, people showing virtually no symptoms are likely the primary source of dengue fever. Nearly 400 million people each year are infected with dengue virus, which is transmitted by mosquitoes.

The study estimated that more than 80% of dengue virus infections are attributable to individuals with mild to no symptoms who do not seek treatment from a physician. The study also indicated that nearly a quarter of dengue virus transmission is the result of mosquitoes biting those already infected before the onset of symptoms. By the time those symptoms appear, the opportunity to prevent the virus from spreading has passed.

"Until a few years ago, it was assumed that individuals with mild to no symptoms contributed relatively little to dengue virus transmission," said Alex Perkins, senior author on the study. "Our research reveals that people showing no symptoms of dengue virus infection are contributing much more than was previously recognised so that we now have a better idea of the large extent to which they contribute to the spread of this disease."

The team of researchers used mathematical modelling to quantify what fraction of dengue virus infections might be caused by people whose illnesses were undetected by



public health surveillance systems. The lead author of the study is Quirine ten Bosch.

Their work involved integrating data sets on the amount of virus in the blood during various stages of infection, the severity of symptoms in relation to previous infections and the proportion of infections resulting in clinical consultation.

The World Health Organization currently focuses disease surveillance efforts on detecting outbreaks, monitoring trends in the number of cases and assessing the possibility of outbreaks. This surveillance encompasses the monitoring of suspected and confirmed dengue cases.

"Unfortunately, based on our study, those who need to be targeted with interventions are either being identified after they have already contributed to transmission or are not being identified at all," said Perkins. "Our results indicate that it might be necessary to shift emphasis toward more proactive disease prevention strategies that do not rely as strongly on responding to detected cases."

## YOUR DEEP WOUNDS CAN BE HEALED WITHIN MINUTES BY A PORTABLE 3D SKIN PRINTER

In a first, researchers have developed a portable 3D skin printer that deposits even layers of tissue to cover and heal deep wounds within minutes.



For patients with deep skin wounds, all three skin layers - the epidermis, dermis and hypodermis - may be heavily damaged. The current preferred treatment is called split-thickness skin grafting, where healthy donor skin is grafted onto the surface epidermis and part of the underlying dermis. Split-thickness grafting on large wounds requires enough healthy donor skin to traverse all three layers, and sufficient graft skin is rarely available. This leaves a portion of the wounded area 'ungrafted' or uncovered, leading to poor healing outcomes.

Although a large number of tissue-engineered skin substitutes exist, they are not yet widely used in clinical settings. "Most current 3D bioprinters are bulky, work at low speeds, are expensive and are incompatible with clinical application," said Axel Guenther from University of Toronto in Canada.

The team believes their in-situ skin printer is a platform technology that can overcome these barriers, while improving the skin-healing process - a major step forward.

The handheld skin printer resembles a white-out tape dispenser - except the tape roll is replaced by a microdevice that forms tissue sheets. Vertical stripes of 'bio ink,' made up of protein-based biomaterials including collagen, the most abundant protein in the dermis, and fibrin, a protein involved in wound healing, run along the inside of each tissue sheet.

"Our skin printer promises to tailor tissues to specific patients and wound characteristics. And it's very portable," said Navid Hakimi, PhD student at University of Toronto.

The handheld device is the size of a small shoe box and weighs less than a kilogramme. It also requires minimal operator training and eliminates the washing and incubation stages required by many conventional bioprinters.

The researchers plan to add several capabilities to the printer, including expanding the size of the coverable wound areas. Working with Jeschke's team at Sunnybrook Hospital, they plan to perform more in vivo studies.

They hope that one day they can begin running clinical trials on humans, and eventually revolutionise burn care.

# Limit harmful trans fats to less than 1% of dietary calories: WHO

Saturated fatty acids (SAFs) that come from butter, meat, and tropical oils (palm oil, coconut oil, canola) should comprise not more than 10% and Trans fatty acids (TFAs) found mainly in processed food not more than 1% of your daily calorie intake, recommends World Health Organization's (WHO) draft guidelines launched on Friday.

The recommendations are applicable to both adults and children. WHO reviewed its draft guidelines on the intake of unhealthy fat found mainly in processed foods—a risk factor for developing noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, certain cancers, diabetes etc. that kill over 35 million people

annually. "These are latest guidelines based on scientific evidence," said Dr Francesco Branca, director, WHO department of nutrition for health and development. WHO's priority areas for reducing noncommunicable diseases include tobacco, alcohol, physical inactivity and poor diet.

Poor diet generates a larger burden of disease than the other three risk factors combined. It accounts for an estimated 11.3 million deaths annually, compared with 2.1 million for low physical activity, 6.1 million for tobacco smoke and 3.1 million for alcohol and drug use.

The problem predominantly reflects an unhealthy



global food environment dominated by processed foods high in sugar, salt, saturated fats and, crucially, industrial TFAs, which is why WHO decided to come up with guidelines to protect people from risks associated with its consumption.

Read more Industrial TFAs are add-

ed to processed or packaged food, mainly to prolong shelf life and enhance taste and texture at a low cost.

This survey was conducted by experts from Batra Hospital and Amity Institute of Public Health. The Amity researchers collected and analysed the data for over three weeks, and faulty eating

habits was one of the contributing factors for obesity and being overweight.

Since the 1990s, research evidence has accumulated demonstrating that TFA consumption substantially increases people's risk of coronary heart disease. It does this mainly by elevating harmful low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol levels and decreasing protective high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol.

TFAs may also increase the risk of Alzheimer's disease and certain cancers, and worsen insulin sensitivity, thereby increasing the risk of type 2 diabetes.

"There could be other sources of fats as well in your

diet but when it comes to these harmful fatty acids, people need to reduce their intake," said Dr Chizuru Nishida, coordinator, nutrition policy and scientific advice unit, WHO department of nutrition for health and development. The draft guidelines will be available on WHO website for public comments till June 1, 2018.

\* Saturated fatty acids should not comprise more than 10% of your daily calorie intake.

\* Trans fatty acids should not comprise more than 1% of your daily calorie intake.

\* Use heart-healthy polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) as replacement.

## Meat-based diet, dairy added during transition to solids helps infants grow

Giving formula-fed infants a higher protein diet such as pureed meat can improve their early length growth, new research suggests. The findings, published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, suggest that meat, such as pork, can be an important source of much-needed protein in an infant's diet during the transition to solid foods.

"Meat, such as pork, provides important micronutrients, is an excellent source of protein and can be an important complementary food for infants who are ready for solid foods," said lead study author Minghua Tang, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at University of Colorado Denver-Anschutz, in the US.



"Our research suggests introducing higher amounts of protein and introducing meat, such as pork, into the diet at five months could be potentially beneficial for linear growth (length gain)," Tang said.

In the study, a small group of healthy, formula-fed infants ate meat-based complementary foods, such as pureed

ham and beef, or dairy-based complementary foods from ages five to 12 months old, increasing their protein intake from two grams of protein per kg each day before the study up to three grams per kg each day during the study period.

While the protein increased, both calories and fat intakes stayed the same between the meat and dairy groups, regardless of protein source. The researchers found the pureed meats promoted a greater rate of growth -- with length of nearly one inch greater compared to the dairy-fed group at 12 months of age, with no increase in risk of being overweight at the completion of the seven-month study.

## Walnuts may reduce colorectal cancer risk by impacting gut bacteria

Walnuts may improve heart health and reduce colorectal cancer risk by impacting the gut microbiome - the collection of trillions of bacteria in the gastrointestinal tract, a study has found.

Walnuts are just one in a line of foods that contain dietary fibre and have interested scientists for their impact on the microbiome and health, said researchers from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the US.

Dietary fibre acts as a food source for gut microbiota, helping the bacteria to do their jobs - breaking down complex foods, providing us nutrients, or helping us feel full, they

said.

Diets rich in nuts, such as walnuts, have been shown to play a role in heart health and in reducing colorectal cancer, researchers said.

The study, published in The Journal of Nutrition, shows that consuming walnuts not only impacted the gut microbiota and microbial derived secondary bile acids, but also reduced LDL-cholesterol levels in the adults in the participants.

This in turn is beneficial for cardiovascular, metabolic, and gastrointestinal health, researchers said.

"We found that when you consume walnuts it increases



es microbes that produce butyrate, a beneficial metabolite for colonic health. So the interaction of walnuts with the microbiome is helping to produce some of those health effects," said Hannah Holscher,

an assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"It is about getting to the 'black box' that is all the microbes in our GI tract to see how they are interfacing with

the food we eat and having downstream health effects," said Holscher.

"Some of those health effects are hypothesized to be related to the metabolites bacteria produce," she said.

For the study, 18 healthy male and female adults consumed diets that either included no walnuts or 42 grams - about a third cup or a palm-full of walnuts - for two, three-week periods.

Faecal and blood samples were collected at the beginning and end of each period to assess secondary outcomes of the study, including effects of walnut consumption on faecal microbiota and bile

acids and metabolic markers of health. Walnut consumption resulted in higher relative abundance of three bacteria of interest: Faecalibacterium, Roseburia, and Clostridium.

The microbes that increased in relative abundance in this walnut study are from one of the Clostridium clusters of microbes, and there is increased interest in those because they have the ability to make butyrate," Holscher said.

"Unfortunately in this study we didn't measure butyrate, so we can't say that just because these microbes increased that butyrate did increase. We still need to answer that question," she said.

## DEPRESSIVE ADOLESCENTS LESS LIKELY TO SHOW SYMPTOMS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Adolescents who are at risk of depression are less likely to exhibit depressive symptoms on social media as they age, finds a study. The research suggests that adolescents with a diagnosis of depression may feel less stigmatised describing depressed mood on social media than previously hypothesised.

Social media use can provide important information on the mental health of adolescents, including their own descriptions of their experiences. The purpose of this study was to analyse the patterns of social media posting describing depressive symptoms among an at-risk cohort of adolescents at two time points.

The study measured Facebook posts by participants at two time periods, labelled Time 1 as adolescents and Time 2 as young adults. Content analysis applied the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) criteria for depression to identify displayed depression symptoms on Facebook. The study found that the average number of references to depression among displayers was 9.30 at Time 1 and 4.94 at Time 2, showing a dramatic decrease in posts between adolescents and young adults. "Considering differences between posts in Time 1 and Time 2, it is suggested that as teens develop, the likelihood to express depressive symptoms is lowered," said Dr. Kathleen Miller, one of the authors of the study.

"This may be related to the development of the prefrontal cortex which plays a role in inhibiting impulsive decisions." Examples of posts referencing depression included "Basically at the point of giving up" and "Feeling the worst right now, just wanting to cry." The average number of references to suicide or self-harm was .34 at Time 1 and .08 at Time 2.

# Sensex, Nifty end flat as investors pocket gains, ICICI Bank gains 7%

Mumbai: Stocks weathered yet another choppy session on Tuesday, to end with modest gains as participants chose to book profits amid elevated global crude oil prices and geopolitical uncertainties.

ICICI Bank was the star performer in Tuesday's session, comfortably topping the gainers' list by surging nearly 7%.

The private sector lender on Monday reported a 45% drop in March quarter net profit following a spike in bad loans due to changes in asset classification norms.

However, investors took heart from the management's commentary that the bulk of the bad loans problem is behind it and the focus now shifts to recoveries and resolution, brokers said.

Global crude oil prices hovered above the \$75 per barrel mark on uncertainties over the US re-imposing sanctions on Iran, fanning fears of a supply disruption.

The 30-share Sensex opened positive and advanced to the session's high of 35,388.87. However, profit-taking by investors ahead of Karnataka elections this week trimmed the gains, with the gauge sinking to the day's low of 35,136.01. It finally settled 8.18 points or 0.02% higher at 35,216.32.

The NSE Nifty, after hitting a high



of 10,758.55, closed at 10,717.80, up just 2.30 points, or 0.02%. It touched a low of 10,689.40 intra-day.

Meanwhile, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) net bought shares worth Rs 1,037.23 crore, while foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) sold equities worth Rs 635.24 crore on Monday, provisional data showed.

"Market turned volatile as investors are concerned on the movement of rupee and surge in oil price which could eventually lead to tight monetary policy.

"Albeit, banks outperformed as sentiment improved on account of early recognition of stressed assets. Continued outflow of foreign money will keep rupee on tenterhook while increasing GST collection and RBIs

open market operation may soften the volatility," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

In the Sensex pack, ICICI Bank emerged on top with a rise of 6.86%, followed by SBI 1.42% and Axis Bank 1.18%.

Other winners were Power Grid 1.14%, Bharti Airtel 0.69%, NTPC 0.47%, TCS 0.39%, Maruti Suzuki 0.37%, Coal India 0.34%, Adani Port 0.29%, ITC 0.16%, Dr Reddy's 0.15% and HUL 0.13%.

On the other hand, M&M fell 2.26%, IndusInd Bank 1.78%, L&T 1.70%, Infosys 1.52%, Yes Bank 1.19%, Tata Motors 0.88%, Bajaj Auto 0.87%, HDFC Bank 0.75%, Wipro 0.67%, Asian Paints 0.60%, HDFC 0.48%,

RIL 0.43%, Sun Pharma 0.40%, ONGC 0.35% and Kotak Mahindra Bank 0.25%.

Sector-wise, bankex index spurred 1.32%, followed by realty 1.06%, PSU by 0.80%, oil and gas 0.36%, FMCG 0.19% and Power 0.17%.

However, capital goods slipped 0.85%, consumer durables 0.81%, tech 0.57%, IT 0.53%, auto 0.42%, infrastructure 0.19%, healthcare 0.18% and metal 0.16%.

Broader markets showed a mixed trend. The S&P BSE Small-Cap index inched up 0.10% while the mid-cap index shed 0.10%.

Asian markets closed mostly higher following firm leads from Wall Street overnight.

However, European shares opened broadly flat as investors prepared for President Donald Trump's decision on whether to withdraw the US from the Iran nuclear deal.

Brent crude futures, the international benchmark for oil prices, shed 0.85% to USD 75.52 a barrel.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 1.36%, Shanghai Composite Index gained 0.79% and Japan's Nikkei ended 0.18% higher.

In Europe, Paris CAC declined 0.42%, while Frankfurt's DAX traded lower by 0.44% in early deals. London's FTSE, however, was up 0.08%.

# GST, weak bank balance sheets slowed economic growth, but gradual recovery expected: UN

United Nations: India's economic growth was pushed downward in 2017 due to the Goods and Services Tax (GST), as well as protracted issues of corporate and bank balance sheet problems, according to a UN report which said the country is expected to recover gradually and grow at 7.2% in 2018.

According to estimates in the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific's (ESCAP) flagship publication the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, India's GDP grew at 6.6% in 2017, down from 7.1% in 2016.

The report said that India's GDP is forecast to grow 7.2% in 2018 and 7.4% next year.

In India, the recently introduced GST as well as weak corporate and bank balance sheets resulted in modest economic growth, but signs of recovery emerged in the second half of 2017, it said. "The recently introduced Goods and Services Tax (GST) as well as protracted issues of corporate and bank balance sheet problems pushed the growth rate of India downward" in 2017, it said.

Developing Asia-Pacific economies are on track to record an overall growth rate of 5.8% in 2017, compared with 5.4% the previous year. They are projected to grow by 5.5% in both 2018 and 2019, with a slight moderation in China offset by a recovery in India and steady performance in the rest of the region.

"In India, a gradual recovery is expected; private investment is expected to revive as the corporate sector adjusts to GST, infrastructure spending increases and corporate



and bank balance sheets improve with government support," the report said.

Tax reform and strengthening tax collection could also add as much as 8% to the gross domestic product (GDP) of countries such as Myanmar or Tajikistan; and about 3 to 4% in larger countries, like China, India or Indonesia, according to ESCAP.

Further, weak corporate and bank balance sheets in India also contributed to a sharp slowdown in investment; thus, simply lowering policy interest rates was not enough to revive investment in that country. In India "the new bankruptcy code and the recapitalization package for public sector banks are expected to support a gradual recovery in private investment." The report said consumption also strengthened in India as the impacts of demonetisation faded.

On the problem of India's bad loans, the report said the share of non-performing loans in the country has doubled, and defaults on corporate bonds and syndicated loans have surged in recent years. By mid-2017, distressed bank loans reached a record high of 9.5 trillion rupees (USD 148 billion), but more recent revelations suggest that the actual figure.

# ICICI shares soar, CEO Kochhar says bank getting grip on bad loan problem

ICICI Bank Ltd., India's second-largest private sector lender by assets, was Asia's best-performing bank stock on Tuesday after its top official said bad-loan ratios will improve. ICICI jumped 6.3% as of 10.20 am, set for the biggest gain since Oct. 25, and was the top stock on Bloomberg's Asia Pacific Banks Index. Chief executive officer Chanda Kochhar, who has been assuring investors since 2015 that the bank has gained control over its bad-loan problem, guided that the net ratio will narrow to about a quarter of the current level over the next two years.

ICICI's net income halved from the previous year to Rs 10.2 billion (\$152 million) in the three months ended March 31, despite a Rs 33.2 billion gain from the sale of the bank's stake in its ICICI Securities Ltd. unit, the Mumbai-based lender said in an exchange filing after the market had shut on Monday. Provisions



more than doubled.

While the guidance on asset quality is comforting investors, it's dependent on too many moving parts including timely resolution of stressed assets under India's bankruptcy process, said Kranthi Bathini, director of Mumbai-based financial advisory company Wealth Mills Securities Pvt. "The rally may have limited legs as investors remain unhappy about the way in which the bank's board addressed corporate governance issues."

ICICI's bad-loan ratio rose to 8.84% from 7.82% at the

end of December, the highest among top private lenders in the country, and compared with 1.3% at larger rival HDFC Bank Ltd. The soured assets have weighed on the bank's shares, which are the worst performers among private-sector peers since May 2009, when Kochhar took over as CEO.

The Central Bureau of Investigation has started a preliminary inquiry into allegations of impropriety over loans made to Videocon group, whose Chairman Venugopal Dhoot had links with Kochhar's husband, according to

officials from the agency.

ICICI Bank didn't comment on the investigations in the earnings statement. Kochhar declined to comment on the allegations in a subsequent conference call with reporters.

Any investigation could undermine investor confidence in the bank and have potential implications for funding costs and liquidity in an extreme scenario, Fitch Ratings Ltd. said in a note on April 9. The ratings company also flagged reputational risks, saying the bank board's reluctance to support an independent probe has created doubts over the strength of the lender's corporate governance practices.

Shares of the lender pared this year's losses to 1.9%. The broader S&P BSE India Bankex Index has risen 1.4% this year.

Other key earnings figures reported by ICICI: - Provisions for bad loans rose to 66.3 billion rupees in the quarter from Rs 28.9 billion a year earlier

# Oil wobbles near \$70 as Trump keeps world guessing on Iran deal

London: Oil retreated from the highest level since 2014 before President Donald Trump announces whether he'll scrap an accord with Iran, a move that could significantly affect the OPEC nation's crude exports.

New York futures slid as much as 1.5 percent, with Trump set to make a call on whether he'll pull out of the 2015 deal between Iran and world powers that eased sanctions on the oil producer in return for curbs on its nuclear program. In the previous session, prices briefly slid below \$70 after breaching the level for the first time in 3 1/2 years following news that an announcement would be made at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Washington.

"The most important event of the week is today," said Naeem Aslam, chief market analyst at brokers Think Markets UK in London. "Investors will be watching Donald Trump's decision on Iran very



closely." The price volatility has been spurred by swirling speculation over the impending decision. While foreign officials and analysts say Trump is likely to remove the US from the pact, the president may also surprise allies by agreeing to stay in the accord a while longer as American and European diplomats forge side deals aimed at addressing his concerns.

The potential fallout in the oil market is unclear. While consultant FGE is among industry watchers that have said renewed US measures may

Total volume traded Tuesday was about 10 percent above the 100-day average.

Brent for July settlement fell 64 cents to \$75.53 a barrel on the London-based ICE Futures Europe exchange. Prices on Monday climbed 1.7 percent to \$76.17. The global benchmark crude traded at a \$5.54 premium to July WTI.

Futures for September delivery on the Shanghai International Energy Exchange rose 0.2 percent to 459.1 yuan a barrel. The contract climbed 2.6 percent Monday.

While oil has rallied this year on everything from heightened geopolitical risks in the Middle East to persistent output curbs by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and turmoil in Venezuela, it's been driven by speculation over Iran in recent days. It's helped overshadow booming US production that risks undermining OPEC's production cuts.

# Coca-Cola goes to school: Wants to catch young customers with new range of products

New Delhi: Coca-Cola India Pvt. Ltd., the local unit of the American beverages maker The Coca-Cola Co., is working on a strategy to catch Indian consumers young.

The Atlanta-based maker of Coca-Cola, Thums Up and Sprite aerated drinks, which has so far restrained itself and its bottling partners from selling its beverages at schools as part of its global policy, is now taking a re-look. "We are evaluating how to do it. This has to be in agreement with our global headquarters. And, we'll certainly propose this," T. Krishnakumar, president, Coca-Cola India and South-West Asia, told Mint.

Coca-Cola's decision to look at schools as a potential point of sale comes with the fast-changing portfolio of the world's largest beverage maker that now has a lot of options that are not carbonated. According to Krishnakumar, Coca-Cola will look at selling in schools enhanced hydration products like Aquarius Glucocharge, nutritious product Minute Maid Vitingo, fruit juice variants of Minute Maid and dairy products, a segment the company is planning to re-enter at end of the year.

According to data published by the ministry of human resource development in September 2012, there were 1.39 million schools in India till 30 September 2010. Of these, there were 740,000 primary schools, 120,000 secondary schools, 440,000 upper primary schools and 71,814 senior secondary schools. With schools, Coca-Cola's distribution will get a massive boost. At present, Coca-Cola products are sold at 2.6 million of the country's estimated 9 million retail outlets.

Globally, Coca-Cola follows a strict policy of not selling its aerated products in schools across 200 countries, where its products are sold. According to its global website, the company does not sell any of its beverages in primary schools. However, it does have a limited presence at secondary schools in some countries, but that is restricted to water, juices and some of its regular beverages, including low-calorie variants.

# Creditors afraid to take decisions on bankrupt firms, push them into liquidation

The wait for investors to acquire some of the \$210 billion of stressed assets up for grabs in India is likely to get longer. That's because creditors are afraid to take decisions.

Current and former top bankers from at least four state-run lenders are under investigation for alleged impropriety over their lending decisions, while the Central Bureau of Investigation has started a preliminary inquiry into an alleged nexus between Videocon Chairman Venugopal Dhoot and the spouse of ICICI Bank Ltd. CEO Chanda Kochhar after ICICI extended credit to the conglomerate.

Indecisiveness among bankers is pushing insolvent companies toward liquidation, which erodes the value of the assets, said Hemant Kanoria, chairman of SREI Infrastructure Finance Ltd.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attempt to slash bad loans and accelerate the pace of lending is being stymied by his fight on corruption. Creditors are concerned that the nation's investigative agencies will second-guess their decisions to conclude bankruptcy sales. Alok Industries Ltd. and Lanco Infratech Ltd. are among the large stressed borrowers that are heading for liquidation after the bids to buy these firms didn't receive required approval from the so-called lenders' committee, exchange filings show.

"Despite receiving bids from willing buyers, some of the companies are going into liquidation as there is a fear psychosis among lenders," Kanoria, whose



firm is a creditor to several companies that have been referred to the bankruptcy court, said in an interview at the Bloomberg office in Mumbai last week. "Bankers want the decision of their back as they can be probed later and they could just end up behind bars."

Dithering bankers Meanwhile investors from Blackstone Group LP to Oaktree Capital Group LLC wait in the sidelines. Oaktree "under the right circumstances," may open a physical office in India at some point, according to Jay Wintrob, chief executive officer at the Los Angeles-based firm.

Federal investigators are probing allegations of impropriety against bankers including Kishor Kharat -- the chief executive officer of Indian Bank, Melwyn Rego -- CEO of Syndicate Bank, M S Raghavan -- former chairman of IDBI Bank and Arun Kaul -- former head of UCO Bank, regarding loan-approvals they were part of in their current or former roles. Bankers are dithering about taking

some decisions as they fear that if the decision goes wrong, even five-to-seven years down the line, it could be subject to probes the way some of their peers are undergoing now, Rajnish Kumar, chairman of State Bank of India, the country's largest lender, said in an

interview to Bloomberg TV in Manila. "But on the other side, while taking decisions, people will be more careful and would take effort to properly document their rationale."

"Doubt & fear" Bankers would prefer liquidation if they believe they won't be able to recover at least a quarter of their dues, Kumar said. Even under a wind down, investors can bid for the companies and some of them might be revived too, Uday Kotak, managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., told reporters last week.

However, each of these liquidations is destroying valuable assets, wrecking supply chains, and razing eco-systems, which will take money and time to recreate, said Kanoria, whose finance company has assets worth Rs 46700 crore (\$7 billion) under management.

"Steps have to be taken to make sure that this environment of doubt and fear is put to an end and decision-making is encouraged," he said.

# Walmart likely to announce Flipkart deal before end of week: Report

Mumbai: Walmart is likely to announce its much-anticipated deal to buy a controlling stake in Indian e-commerce player Flipkart before the end of this week, people aware of the development said, in what is likely to be the US retail giant's biggest acquisition of a business.

Walmart and Google parent Alphabet Inc will buy up to 75% of Flipkart, 2 people familiar with the matter said, declining to be named as the talks are private.

Bentonville, Arkansas-based Walmart will acquire about a 60% stake in Flipkart, while Alphabet will get a roughly 15% stake in the online marketplace for about \$3 billion, one of the persons aware of the matter said.

Reuters previously reported that Walmart was in advanced talks to acquire 51% or more of the e-commerce player for \$10 billion to \$12 billion, valuing Flipkart at some \$18 billion to \$20 billion.

Both the persons aware of the deal said that Flipkart Group chief executive Binny Bansal held a closed-door meeting with the firm's top leadership at its Bengaluru headquarters on Monday, and one added that Bansal said that Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal would exit after the Walmart deal is sealed. Flipkart last year named Kalyan Krishnamurthy, a former executive of investor US hedge fund Tiger Global Management, as the head of its core business, while Binny Bansal took the broader strategic role of group CEO. Sachin Bansal remained as executive chairman. The Flipkart Group includes fashion portals Myntra-Jabong, payments unit PhonePe and logistics firm Ekart. Sachin and Binny Bansal, both former Amazon.com Inc employees, founded Flipkart in 2007, and like their US rival, began by selling books. Walmart is expected to get three board seats at Flipkart and will also have a say in the appointments of the group's finance, legal and compliance heads, one of the person aware of the matter said. Krishnamurthy and Binny Bansal will remain in their current roles after the deal.

## IPL 2018: How Sunrisers Hyderabad 'sneaked' past Royal Challengers Bangalore

Hyderabad: Sunrisers Hyderabad had to dig deep to eke out a five-run win against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Monday. Captain Kane Williamson said on tough surfaces like the one at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here it was their fighting mentality that helped his team sneak through.

After SRH had given RCB a 147-run target, the chase was going well till captain Virat Kohli was at the crease. But he was dismissed on 39 by a superb one-handed catch by Yusuf Pathan off Shakib Al Hasan in the 10th over while AB de Villiers got out to Rashid Khan in the next over as RCB look doomed.

"What would've been great was to get heap of wickets early, that's what you are always after. But some of these surfaces that we have played, it is difficult to do that unless batsmen come very hard at you. It was hard to bring in the slip fielders as there was little swing and the pitch was on the slower side. We wanted try and commit to a plan for as long as we could. We know when we do it on some of the



varied surfaces that we have played we can build the pressure (in the middle overs) and things can happen quickly," Williamson said after the match.

"Our bowling attack has been outstanding and so is the fielding. But today we weren't at our best in either. But we saw signs of brilliance from both parts which made the difference in just sneaking across the line. Sometimes, it's the nature of the surface which dictates the fighting, scrappy mentality on them with the bat and

the ball."

SRH, after getting to 112/3 in 16 overs, lost the last seven wickets for 34 runs. Williamson said they are looking for improvement in the coming games.

"It was a varied surface. We were targeting about 150. We weren't far away from that. The game ebbed and flowed. At times we were struggling a little bit. We were looking good to get a 155 to 160 run total. We got 140-odd, and we were certainly in the game at the halfway point. Then with the

ball it was similar, we took wickets, stemmed flow of runs but they built little partnerships. We did feel that if we were at our usual standard, we could have operated better on the field. That is something we would want to do in the next game. At the end of the day, it was good to fight hard and get the win," he said.

Williamson also defended his middle order batsmen. Apart from himself and Shakib Al Hasan, the lower order fell to ambitious shots, but the Kiwi batsman was reading too much into it.

"It's really important that as batters we go out and play with freedom. We have been playing on surfaces where it's very difficult to do that especially coming towards the end and do it from ball one. It's really important to play smart cricket and at the same time get as many runs as you can. We were targeting about 150, we were just five runs off it," Williamson said.

Williamson-led SRH next face Delhi Daredevils in an away match on Thursday.

## After BCCI's refusal, Australia to host Sri Lanka in day-night Test

Melbourne: A day after the BCCI poured cold water on their tradition of hosting a day/night Test at Adelaide, Cricket Australia on Tuesday confirmed playing Sri Lanka in a pink ball match at the Gabba in Brisbane early next year.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had on Monday written to the CA refusing to play under lights after which the Australian board confirmed playing the Islanders in a day/night game in January.

"We can confirm that we have received advice from the BCCI that it is not prepared to participate in a proposed Day-Night Test in Adelaide this summer," a CA spokesperson was quoted as saying.

"Whilst we appreciate some Adelaide fans may be disappointed, we know how popular the Adelaide Test is and look forward to hosting India there in December.

READ | England fans' tampering taunts won't make Australia cry - Nathan Lyon

"We are committed to hosting at least one day-night Test each home summer as part of our continued focus to grow Test cricket, and



we are excited about the Day-Night Test against Sri Lanka at the Gabba in January," he added.

According to the current International Cricket Council (ICC) Playing conditions, a home nation can only host a day-night Test match "with the agreement of the visiting board" and India have confirmed that they want the match played with a traditional red ball.

India are one of only two current Test-playing nations to have avoided playing pink-ball cricket at the international level, with Bangladesh the other.

In contrast, Australia have played four pink-ball Tests and won all of them, including the historic first game against New Zealand in Adelaide in 2015.

## ROBERTO MANCINI REACHES AGREEMENT TO COACH ITALY FOOTBALL TEAM: REPORT

Milan: Zenit Saint Petersburg manager Roberto Mancini has reached agreement to become the next Italy coach after accepting a pay cut to take the job, according to reports on Tuesday.

Gazzetta dello Sport reported that the 53-year-old Italian has agreed a two-year deal worth two million euros (\$2.3 million) a year which will be penned after the end of the Russian season which concludes next Sunday. Zenit are fifth in the Russian Premier League, ten points behind already-crowned champions Lokomotiv Moscow with one match left.

The Russian club are reportedly reluctant to let Mancini leave and the Italian Football Federation FIGC do not want to pay any compensation to release him from his contract. The former Italian international joined the Russian club last year on a three-year deal thought to be worth 4.5 million euros (\$5.3 million) a year.

The annual budget for the future Italy coach and his backroom staff has been fixed at five million euros.

Italy have been without a permanent coach since Gian Piero Ventura was sacked after they failed to qualify for the World Cup for the first time in 60 years after losing to Sweden in November.

Italy's under-21 coach Luigi Di Biagio has been filling the position on an interim basis.

During his 17-year coaching career Mancini led Manchester City to their first English league title in 44 years in 2012, and won three Serie A titles with Inter Milan. He also won Italian Cups with Inter, Fiorentina and Lazio.

Meanwhile, Gazzetta also reported that Mancini wants to bring back Mario Balotelli into the national fold, and will ask goalkeeper legend Gianluigi Buffon to play against the Netherlands for a farewell appearance in Turin on June 4. In-form Nice striker Balotelli, 27, has scored 13 goals in 33 appearances for Italy but has not been picked since the 2014 World Cup.

Former Bayern Munich coach Carlo Ancelotti turned down the opportunity to coach the four-time world champions saying he preferred to stay in club coaching.

"Mine was a choice, I want to coach a club," Ancelotti told Milan TV. "It was a difficult decision, but I have to listen to what I feel." Roberto Mancini is an excellent coach, he is motivated and has international experience. If the next coach was him, I think the national team would be in good hands."

## Virat Kohli feels teams in IPL 2018 will do well if they have strong characters

Hyderabad: A dejected RCB captain Virat Kohli said that his team "deserved to lose" its do-or-die IPL game against Sunrisers Hyderabad as players didn't show the kind of strong character that is crucial to winning crunch games.

"We were not good enough and not up to the mark. We deserve to lose this game. We didn't show enough application. The kind of shots we played were not on at that stage. This has been the story of our season," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

The Indian captain lauded Sunrisers Hyderabad for defending 25 runs from 18 balls with Siddarth Kaul and Bhuvneshwar Kumar bowling brilliantly to win the match

by five runs.

"If you have strong characters, you will always do well. SRH had a few guys who did well under pressure, that's been the story of their season. They understand strengths, know their limitations. That's why they've been successful," Kohli said.

Asked if Kane Williamson's team are the best, Kohli observed that CSK or Kings XI Punjab look more solid as all-round outfit but undoubtedly the best bowling attack of IPL belongs to Hyderabad franchise.

"From the bowling point of view, SRH is the strongest. Overall, maybe you'd pick Kings XI or CSK."

Kohli's opposite number Kane Williamson said that on a tricky surface like the



one at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, a target around 150 would always have been challenging.

"I think it was another varied surface. We were certainly targeting about 150 (147), so we weren't far away

from that. In terms of the game, it ebbed and flowed," Williamson said in the post-match press conference.

Williamson said that being able to take wickets at crucial phases was important.

"Even with the ball, it was

fairly similar where we sort of took wickets, stemmed flow of runs and then, some partnerships. We did feel that if you are able to be at our usual standard in the field, we could have operated a little bit better.

"But, it is something that we can build on going into the next game. But, at the end of the day, it was very nice to fight hard in the field again and come away with the win," he said.

Asked if the lack of finishers is a worrying factor for him, Williamson agreed that his batsmen need to play with a bit more freedom.

"Moving forward, we are off to Delhi now and it will be another different surface. It is important we adapt and prepare for whatever we are faced with," he said.

RCB's Mohammad Siraj hoped that his team would do better in the coming matches. "It was a crucial match for us. We lost the match. But, we did very good bowling," he said.

## Andres Iniesta's China move cast in doubt by Chongqing Lifan

Andres Iniesta's expected move to the Chinese Super League could be off. A tearful Iniesta announced at a news conference last month that this season would be his last at Barcelona.

The Blaugrana captain was expected to join CSL side Chongqing Lifan, with the club's sponsor stating they were "positive" about the chances of a deal.

But a statement from Chongqing released via Chinese social media site Weibo on Monday indicated a deal for the 33-year-old could be off due to financial concerns.

"Recently, the media reported that

the Spanish star Iniesta will join the club on a high salary," wrote club president Jiang Lizhang. "There are many different opinions on this matter. I made the following three statements on this matter. 'My club will never violate the development prospects of Chinese football, and is determined to make due contributions to the healthy development of Chinese football.'

"My club is firmly rooted in Chongqing, and has made every effort to increase the investment in the youth training system at all levels. It is our responsibility to provide excellent players for Chong-

qing football and Chinese football.

"Any violation of the policy of the Chinese Football Association and disruption of market order violates the development philosophy of our club.

"The other sports industry sections of our club's controlling shareholder have in-depth cooperation with Mr Iniesta in sports brokerage, sports marketing, and youth education.

"Do not rule out that in the future, there could be more in-depth cooperation between the two parties in the Chinese market, but this does not mean that Mr Iniesta will join the club as a player."

## Nathan Lyon back in Australian cricket team ODI squad, Tim Paine named captain

Nathan Lyon is back in Australia's one-day international squad for the five-match series against England, with Test skipper Tim Paine to captain. Lyon last played for his country in the 50-over format in 2016, but the off-spinner gets a chance to add to his 13 ODIs after being included in a 15-man squad.

With pace duo Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins out injured, Lyon is likely to play a key role in leading Australia's attack in England in June.

"Nathan is our number one off-spinner and has excelled with the red ball, however he is not new to white-ball cricket and deserves his chance to push for World Cup selection," national selector Trevor Hohns said. "England potentially have a number of left-handers in their side and we look forward to seeing what he can produce with the white ball in English conditions."

Paine has been named skipper for the series, with Aaron Finch to act as vice-captain, but Australia are yet to make a decision on who will take the role full-time.

Alex Carey is set to get a chance to add to his one ODI, while D'Arcy Short was named in the squad for the first time.

Australia also named a 14-man Twenty20 squad for their tour of Zimbabwe in July, following the England series.

Finch will captain the team



for the series, while Jack Wildermuth and Mitchell Swepson were named in the side for the first time.

Nic Maddinson was also included in the squad despite losing his New South Wales contract earlier this year.

"Nic has been selected off the back of a very good Big Bash season," T20 selector Mark Waugh said.

"He is a very talented player and with his batting skills has the ability to be very dangerous in this format."

Australia ODI squad: Tim Paine (c), Aaron Finch (vc), Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Nathan Lyon, Glenn Maxwell, Shaun Marsh, Jhye Richardson, Kane Richardson, D'Arcy Short, Billy Stanlake, Marcus Stoinis, Andrew Tye.

Australia T20 squad: Aaron Finch (c), Alex Carey (vc), Ashton Agar, Travis Head, Nic Maddinson, Glenn Maxwell, Jhye Richardson, Kane Richardson, D'Arcy Short, Billy Stanlake, Marcus Stoinis, Mitchell Swepson, Andrew Tye, Jack Wildermuth.

## LAURENT KOSCIELNY OUT OF FIFA WORLD CUP 2018 WITH ACHILLES INJURY

France defender Laurent Koscielny will miss the World Cup and faces six months out after undergoing surgery on an Achilles tendon injury he suffered in Arsenal's Europa League defeat at Atletico Madrid, his club manager Arsene Wenger said on Tuesday.

The centre back was withdrawn in the 12th minute of the semi-final second leg last Thursday after losing his footing at the Wanda Metropolitan as Arsenal were eliminated from the tournament following a 1-0 defeat in the Spanish capital.

"Koscielny is, of course, devastated because he had surgery," Wenger told a news conference ahead of Wednesday's Premier League trip to ninth-placed Leicester City.

"He will miss the World Cup... you will not see him until December at best.

"We always try to be positive, but overall you can only try to support people when they suffer. What is unusual in his case is that he had a tendinopathy for a long time and usually it does not rupture but in this case it went."

The 32-year-old Koscielny, who has earned 51 caps for France, made 25 league appearances for Arsenal this season and was expected to feature in Didier Deschamps' squad at the June-July World Cup in Russia.

Arsenal will also be without Santi Cazorla for their remaining two games as the midfielder recovers from a persistent Achilles injury. The Spaniard's future at the club is uncertain as his current deal runs out at the end of the season.

Cazorla has not played since October 2016 and has already had multiple operations resulting in a loss of eight centimetres from the tendon in his right ankle and nearly lost his foot after contracting gangrene.

"He looks good, prepares well, runs well, but medically it is too much of a risk to rush him back," Wenger added. "It is a shame. I brought him here and I love the player and the person."

Wenger, who will leave Arsenal at the end of this campaign after a reign of almost 22 years, said he was hopeful Jack Wilshere would sign a new deal with the midfielder's contract set to expire next month.

"The latest conversation I had with Jack, it looks positive for the club. I am not involved any more in negotiations but of course I'm still in touch with Jack."