

EDITORIAL

CHECK ON
ROAD-RAGE

Aggressive driving is not just a problem on the roadways for a while but can also put a question mark on our lives at times. Incidents of shouting, rude gestures and sometimes even violence are frequently recorded on our roadways to the point where road-rage has earned its name.

Road rage was named by local news station KTLA in Los Angeles after shootings occurred on several freeways in the city. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, road rage is when a driver "commits a traffic offense so as to endanger person or property; Assault with a motor vehicle or other dangerous weapon by the operator or passenger of a motor vehicle."

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) explains the difference between road rage and aggressive driving. Where the first is a criminal charge and the second falls under the category of a traffic offence. This definition places blame on the driver.

If we discover that we have provoked another driver, whether the fault is actually ours or not, we should not react or resist the other driver on the road. Resistance only makes things worse. This only causes the situation to escalate. We just have to remind ourselves that the other driver is just bad to deal with the stress, avoid eye contact and continue to practice safe driving habits.

Unfortunately, it doesn't look like this problem will be going away any time soon. We can do this by being a considerate, aware driver and obeying the rules of the road as much as we can.

Although it may be extremely difficult, one should not foster feelings of anger or rage on the road.

Before blowing the horn, we should think twice or four times whether we are honking unnecessarily.

If you or I are stuck in a traffic jam, it would be foolish to honk at that time. We never know when unnecessary honking may cause the anger of the person sitting in the cars around us.

It is more important to reach home safely than teaching someone a dangerous lesson.

Road rage mostly occurs due to inattention and stress. If everyone follows the traffic rules, does not lose their temper over small things, exercises restraint and patience while walking on the road, then this can be dealt with in a very simple way.

There is a direct positive correlation between driving stress and road rage. As driving stress increases, however, the likelihood of a person developing road rage increases dramatically.

Additionally, teenagers are more likely to engage in road rage behavior than other types of people. Most cases of road rage occur due to cutting off traffic and violating traffic rules, parking spot disputes, rude gestures and lane changes.

Fresh controversy for AAP as Delhi chief secy in flap over a land deal

By: Dilip Cherian

In the never-ending tussle between the Narendra Modi Sarkar and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi chief secretary Naresh Kumar finds himself embroiled in a fresh controversy. While his previous headline-grabbing act involved sending files directly to lieutenant governor V.K. Saxena on service matters, bypassing the CM's office, this time, the storm is over a dispute over the valuation of land earmarked for the Dwarka Expressway, and his alleged role.

The plot under scrutiny was set to be acquired from two Delhi businessmen, one of whom shares a marital connection with the promoter of a real estate firm that employs Mr Kumar's son. Despite concerns regarding a potential conflict of interest, Mr Kumar denies any wrongdoing.

According to sources, the dispute centres around the substantial increase in compensation awarded by the district magistrate of southwest Delhi, Hemant Kumar, which shot up from Rs 41.52 crores to Rs 353 crores for the same parcel of land.

Despite the chief secretary's attempts to distance himself from the controversy, doubts persist about this failure to declare the potential conflict of interest when the National Highway of India (NHAI) raised concerns.

For Mr Kejriwal, who is back

against the wall after the arrest of deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and other senior leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for what he calls a witch-hunt unleashed by the Modi Sarkar, this episode may be a chance to hit back. Mr Kejriwal has referred the matter to the vigilance department, and minister Atishi Singh has initiated an inquiry. Mr Kumar, meanwhile, denies the allegations and attributes them to a political agenda aimed at tarnishing his reputation. Meanwhile, some in the bureaucracy are also questioning Mr Kejriwal for signing off on the transfer of district magistrate Hemant Kumar. Hemant Kumar was among the 21 IAS officers to be recommended for posting, in his case, to the administrative reforms department.

Which way this will go is anybody's guess. But in all this, Delhi's bureaucracy has split down the middle, which is not a good sign for administrators. Public trust is at stake.

Election dynamics? Unpacking strategic babu changes

In a significant move, the appointments committee of cabinet (ACC) recently gave the nod to a major reshuffle of IAS and IRS officers, elevating several to the rank of additional secretary. As the dust settles on these appointments, observers cannot help but ponder the motivations behind the move, particularly in the middle of five critical state elections.

The list of newly appointed additional secretaries includes

seasoned babus from various cadres, each entrusted with crucial responsibilities across diverse ministries. Notable among them are Anurag Agarwal, now additional secretary and financial adviser at the ministry of external affairs (MEA) and Rupinder Brar, assuming the role of additional secretary at the ministry of coal.

The reshuffling extends to key domains such as health, petroleum, textiles and rural development, with officers like Deepti Gaur Mukerjee, Pallavi Jain Govil, and Carolyn Khongwar Deshmukh taking up key roles. Furthermore, the appointment of Amit Kumar Ghosh as additional secretary in the department of social justice and empowerment underscores Modi Sarkar's focus on key issues facing marginalised communities.

The question that arises is: what could be the underlying rationale behind these appointments, especially at a juncture when the stakes are high for the Central government in the states that are having elections? Is this a routine babu reshuffle or does it carry deeper political implications?

Notably, officers have been upgraded in situ to the rank of additional secretary, signifying recognition of their capabilities and the need for experienced hands in crucial positions. Only time will reveal the full picture behind these recent appointments.

Cadre distribution confusion

lands in court

Almost a decade after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and the creation of Telangana in 2014, babus in the state continue to grapple with the cadre distribution at that time. Current proceedings in the Telangana high court shed light on the enduring confusion surrounding the allocation of cadres, particularly for six IAS/IPS officers.

The Centre, however, reiterated its stance to the high court that the judgement pertaining to former Telangana chief secretary Somesh Kumar's case should be applied to the pleas filed by these six officers. The government's primary argument appears to be a straightforward one — there is nothing more to discuss! However, the officers in question, including director general of police Anjani Kumar, vehemently oppose this assertion, contending that their cases are distinct from the precedent set by the Somesh Kumar judgement.

The legal tussle is unfolding as the high court navigates through the contentions of 13 officers who express grievance regarding the Central government's decisions and cadre distribution process. While the Centre's counsel maintains that the cases of six officers align with the Somesh judgement, seven others necessitate further deliberation. The divergent claims of officers caught in the web of cadre confusion will need a nuanced approach to the issue.

Language cannot be a reason for mutual exclusion and antipathy

By: Vijay GarG

Communication is central to all living entities. Plants communicate; creatures and animals communicate; and, of course, human beings communicate. They communicate not only amongst themselves but also across different categories and species. The examples are many, the illustrations are numerous, hence, there is no need to over-emphasise this aspect of communication. The big concern is not with the act of communication but with the modes of communication.

For example, the uses and anatomy of communication among plants are well mapped, but there are not many who attempted an extensive research study of plant communication.

Plants don't make sound in the way that animals, insects or some other creatures do. This makes the act of communication between insects and animals somewhat more sophisticated. The chirp of the insects of one variety or another is an act of communication, as indeed is the howling, barking, whining, and such acts of the animals among themselves and across species.

All these creatures make sounds through their throats and mouths, and depending on the kind of noise that comes out of the animal, it is encoded and decoded. There are sounds of fear, just as there are sounds of invitation. There are sounds of anger and the sounds of nothing more but peace and the invitation of an attempt to put together a group or give an alert about a danger. All put together, the derivation is obvious: 'communication' is not just a human phenomenon. It is as rich as the mind of the entity.

A dog, for example, communicates in multiple ways and is capable of sounds of aggregation, mating, warning, and more. The sound of a dog varies from species to species and from one breed to another. It is another matter that not many texts have been scripted on this theme, and hence there is little available on the language of the dogs.

Amongst human beings too, all races don't have a script, yet within the race, they communicate. The matter does not end there.

Amongst human beings too, as indicated, there are a large number of variations among those of human species that don't have a script for their

language but still communicate with each other. The difficulty with such a situation is the lack of standardisation and communication that the group needs when dealing with a new group. Thus, there is a geographical limit to the expanse and range of languages. In the more evolved type of human species, a script is available, and after a period of practice, the script is comparatively evaluated. In the times of yore, there was a Roman script, there was a Dravidian script, a Devanagari script, and there were Chinese scripts; there may have been a few other scripts that are no longer alive but must have existed. As time passed and the human species moved, mother scripts of Latin, and Sanskrit, acquired prominence and thus many modern languages were sprouted under their impact. It is not clear how many human languages exist on the planet today or, for that matter, how many languages are dead today.

Literature, as we understand it, is available in some of the languages.

The coming of writing was another phenomenon. It is reported that in the earlier stages of writing, the writ-

ing was on palm leaves, and pointed tips of hard material like bamboo branches were used to sketch an imprint on the leaves. The growth of writing is a specialisation in its own right, it is not feasible to attempt to document different stages of writing here. Put one clear thing, if that is the only clear thing, that the writing of the language adds to its durability.

Language is a binding force between individuals and groups. It also attempts to integrate a range beyond the sounds of languages and written scripts of languages.

In most parts of the world, among all human beings, there may be a struggle between human groups for dominance, but certainly no struggle over the value of any language. Any language within its range, growing along with each other, should be a binding force. It cannot be a force for mutual exclusion and antipathy. Put simply language is the vehicle of the mind.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)

JTFRP significant in raising critical infra and livelihood creation: CS

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 16: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday chaired the 5th Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of the World Bank funded Jhelum & Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) implemented by J&K Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA) here.

Besides the Secretary Tourism & CEO, ERA the meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce; DG, Planning; and others concerned.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary reviewed the pace of the ongoing projects and stressed on further enhancing it for projects nearing completion so that these are dedicated to public before the onset of winter season. He further instructed for completing the infrastructure projects in all respects so that people do not face any kind of inconvenience in their smooth utilization.

Dr Mehta called JTFRP very pivotal in improving public utilities like schools, colleges, hospitals and other disaster mitigating assets. He asserted that project has also revived the traditional handicrafts which has directly and indirectly provided employment to thousands of our artisans and craftsmen.

Regarding the unutilized funds lent by the World Bank to JTFRP the Chief Secretary directed for looking into the ways and means for securing extension of the project, if possible. He made out that the projects completed under it have proved lot more beneficial for the people and the funds can be used to bring about further improvement in critical infrastructure and livelihood opportunities for

people.

Dr Mehta took note of the delay caused in 2019 & 2020 due to unforeseen Covid-19 situation. He asked for making best use of the time window available with them. He also advised them to prioritize the projects that can be implemented in a short span of time.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the detailed progress of all the sub-projects and directed that the ones under execution through JKPC shall be taken over by the Public Works (R&B) Department on priority basis.

The Chief Secretary asked the Public Works Department to take-up the incomplete infrastructure projects for executing them within the deadline. He also directed the respective line departments to take over all the completed sub-projects under JTFRP within a weeks time.

He asked for bringing in innovation and further augment the productivity of these projects poised to create livelihood opportunities for our people. He called for examining the projects completed till date so that their functionality is ascertained afresh especially that of the Storm Water Drainage projects around the Srinagar city.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the budget and audit report of the agency during the meeting. He directed the CEO to rework the cost of the AMC of the projects beyond the project completion period. He also gave directives for increasing the efficiency of projects besides broadening their scope for encompassing people from other walks of life.

In his presentation, the CEO, ERA, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah highlighted

the performance of the agency made from 2019. He gave out that out of 213 works, 174 stands completed and 39 are currently at the advanced stages of completion. He further informed that contracts worth ₹1763 Cr stands awarded against which a cumulative expenditure to the tune of ₹1320 Cr has been incurred till October this year.

It was revealed that the JTFRP focused on recovery and mitigating risks linked to occurrence of floods here and it has largely achieved this goal. It was given out that the restored and improved public buildings have served 2,185,798 people, way above the target of 1,000,000.

Moreover the infrastructure works completed under JTFRP includes 52 Schools, 4 higher education buildings, one fire station, 80 km of roads, 4 bridges, 75 km drainage network and 33 storm water drainage pumping stations.

It was added that critical medical equipment and supplies to 36 hospitals, augmenting 100- Helpline with 68 critical care ambulances, commissioning of 30 oxygen generation plants covering all districts of Jammu and Kashmir was also achieved under this project.

With respect to livelihoods augmentation it was said that market access for 600 families associated with cocoon rearing, enhanced cocoon procurement capacity and production capacity has already been created. In addition to these interventions similar developments were made in wool, handloom and handicraft sectors of the UT, as was given out in the meeting.

Minister for Finance Uttar Pradesh calls on LG Sinha



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 16: Suresh Kumar Khanna, Minister for Finance and

Parliamentary Affairs, Uttar Pradesh called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Thursday.

Dr Rohit Gupta visits GMC Jammu to enquire about condition of Doda accident victims



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 16: Apni Party Provincial Secretary Dr Rohit Gupta along with other leaders of the Party visited Govt Medical College and Hospital, Jammu to enquire about condition of critically injured persons who were airlifted to Jammu from District Doda following a road mishap that consumed enormous lives when a passenger plunged into a gorge on November

15.

Dr Rohit Gupta was accompanied by Daljit Singh and Om Prakash Dansalia during their visit to the GMC&H Jammu.

They met the family members of injured persons to enquire about their present condition while the hospital authorities were requested to provide them better medical care.

He demanded ex-gratia relief in favour of the affected families in the road mishap.

Meanwhile, he demanded that overloading of the passenger vehicle plying on Doda - Kishtwar roads should be checked and the licenses of the drivers should also be checked.

He said that the old vehicles should not be allowed to ply on the roads of Chenab Valley as they pose a serious threat to the commuters and passengers.

Kesri demands stricter enforcement of traffic rules in hilly areas

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 16: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri in a press conference in Jammu today expressed serious concern over devastating accident which claimed 38 lives and left 19 others injured in Doda district saying that this tragedy is not just a standalone incident. It is a stark reminder of the recurring problem that has plagued our UT for years - the lack of proper road safety measures, especially in hilly and remote areas.

Addressing media persons, Kesri said that reasons behind the accidents in hilly areas are poor vehicle maintenance, reckless driving, and hazardous road conditions. In Jammu and Kashmir, where the terrain is challenging, the stakes are drastically higher, and the margin for error is perilously thin. It is high time the concerned authorities take a hard look at the system that allowed such a disaster to happen, added Kesri.

Kesri further said that government and transport authorities must come together



to address this issue. He demanded stricter enforcement of traffic rules, including those relating to overloading of vehicles. Overloading not only strains the vehicle's mechanical integrity but also makes it harder to control, especially on steep, curving mountain roads. Also, the condition of the vehicles themselves must be regularly monitored. Vehicle fitness checks should be compulsory and thorough, added Kesri.

Kesri observed that older vehicles in poor condition should not be allowed to ply, especially in challenging terrains. Furthermore, investments in road infrastructure are essential. He said better road construction, regular maintenance, safety barriers, and signage can go a long way in

preventing accidents. He said many accidents can be avoided with better driving skills and awareness of safety measures. Drivers need to be trained to navigate the challenging terrains that are so common in this region.

Kesri maintained that Doda accident is a tragic reminder of the price we pay for negligence. As we mourn the loss of lives, it is important that we also strive to ensure that such incidents do not recur. Every life is precious, and it is our collective responsibility to safeguard them by making our roads safer. In that regard Government and the concerned authorities share the prime responsibility for making roads safer and prevent such heart-wrenching tragedies in the future, added Kesri.

CCI expresses shock over tragic Assar accident



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 16: In a meeting of the office bearers of Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) held on Thursday at Chamber House, Arun Gupta, President CCI expressed deep shock, anguish and sadness over the tragic Bus Accident that occurred Assar in Doda district yesterday in which 39 people including women and children have lost their pre-

vious lives and 17 persons have been injured.

The meeting also expressed heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved families and also prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the Bus accident.

Arun Gupta, President CCI expressed thanks to Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India for announcing Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased and Rs. 50 thousand for the

injured from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

Arun Gupta also thanked Manoj Sinha, LG UT of J&K for announcing ex-gratia relief of Rs. 5 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased and Rs. 1 lakh for the injured besides every possible help.

The meeting also called on the State Administration to take effective steps so that such unfortunate incidents does not take place in future.

The other office bearers present in the meeting include Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Manish Gupta, Secretary General, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary and Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer.

Kashmiri Displaced People Wing of DPAP expresses grief over Assar accident

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 16: In a joint statement, President Sanjay Dhar, Piaray Lal Pandita Chairman, Raj Kumar Tickoo General Secretary and other Leaders of Kashmiri Displaced People Wing of Democratic Progressive Azad Party J&K have paid their deepest condolences to the families, who have lost their dears and nears in the unfortunate tragic bus

accident at Assar Doda and have prayed for the eternal peace to the victims, with bestowing the courage to the families to bear the losses of their kits and kins.

The leaders prayed for earliest recovery of the injured and have appealed the Govt to favour the injured with specialized treatment for recovery and have demanded immediate compensation to the families, lost their nears and dears.

Zaffar Manhas, other Apni Party leaders visit residence of Shabir Reshi's to condole demise of his parents

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 16: Apni Party Vice President and District President Shopian Zaffar Iqbal Manhas on Thursday visited the residence of DDC Harwan and Party's Provincial Organiser, Kashmir, Shabir Ahmad Reshi to condole the demise of his parents.

As per a press release, Manhas led delegation

extended their sympathies and solidarity with the bereaved family members, especially to party colleague Shabir Ahmad Reshi over the death of his parents, on behalf of the Party.

While meeting the family members, Zaffar Iqbal Manhas prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family members to bear the irreparable loss.

NOTICE

It is to inform the general public at large that Mr Sumit Kerni and Mr Mani K Kerni, both sons of late Sh Surinder Kumar Kerni, R/o House No 1, Link Road Jammu are going to mortgage a shop and residential house with J&K Bank Branch Chand Nagar, Jammu. If anybody having any objection, kindly intimate the concerned Branch Office, J&K Bank Branch, Chand Nagar, Jammu within 7 days from the publication of this notice.

FROM PAGE 1

IAF helicopters deployed at site of bus accident in Doda' Assar

helicopter service was being arranged to airlift the injured.

"Injured being shifted to District Hospital Kishtwar and GMC Doda as per requirement. Helicopter service to be arranged for shifting the more injured ones. All possible help, as required, is being provided," Singh said on X (formerly Twitter).

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also approved an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each for the next of kin of those who have lost their lives due to the unfortunate bus accident in Assar, Doda.

Additionally, he has also approved an amount of Rs 1 lakh for those injured and assured all possible assistance to the affected families.

In a tweet, he stated, "An ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each would be given to the next of kin of those who have lost their lives due to the unfortunate bus accident in Assar, Doda. Rs 1 lakh would be given to those injured. J-K UT Administration will provide every possible assistance to the affected families."

The accident took place on a remote mountain road in Doda area, about 200km southeast of Srinagar city.

Despite winter setting in, no reduction in infiltration attempts along LoC: Army

The Army Officer said that upon infiltrating, the terrorists were engaged, leading to a exchange of gunfire.

"Following the exchange, a detailed search of the area revealed numerous terrorist casualties, though the exact number remains unconfirmed due to the proximity to the LoC," he said.

The officer said two bodies were recovered, along with warlike stores, including AK series rifles, two pistols, few Chinese grenades, ammunition, medical supplies, eatables, Pakistani currency, and identification papers.

"A significant outcome of the operation was the elimination of Bashir Ahmad Malik and his companion Ahmad Gani Sheikh," he said.

He said Malik, a prominent figure in cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, served as a launch commander aiding infiltrations for the past three decades.

"He played a key role in facilitating infiltrations across the LoC, resulting in the loss of numerous Indian lives, including those of the armed forces. Malik's demise deals a severe blow to the terror infrastructure operating across the LoC," he said.

He said the recent incident shows the desperation of terrorists to infiltrate to this side despite winter season setting in.

"But Indian Army is well prepared to foil all their attempts," he said.

Finance Deptt and SIDBI enters into agreement for availing of SIDBI Cluster Development

Fund

nodal agency to coordinate and submit the proposals to be considered under SCDF.

On this occasion Sivasubramanian Ramann, Chairman and Managing Director of SIDBI said, "We are poised to be an ever strong and vibrant MSME ecosystem in the country and more so in Jammu and Kashmir. To further strengthen the infrastructure gap, SIDBI join hands with State government and Union Territories and transforming both hard and soft infrastructure shall be mainstay of such collaborations. This structured support will lend impetus to the culture of enterprise development in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir."

Dr S.S. Acharya, CGM SIDBI while signing the Master Agreement reiterated SIDBI's commitment for MSMEs and vision to take forward the industrial growth in the country. We envision that by creating such focused MSME infrastructure development fund, States and Union Territories may improve the ease of doing business and aspire youth to become entrepreneurs and be a job creator than job seeker.

Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary to Govt., Finance Department expressed happiness at the signing of Agreement with SIDBI and said that "this partnership with SIDBI shall lead to many innovative infrastructure improvement and development in the UT and in overall growth of the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir. It will be an endeavor to build processes and systems with the support of SIDBI to utilize SCDF by key departments supporting MSMEs like Industries and Commerce, Tourism, Power and Skill

ITBP force initiates recruitment drive for constables

Development etc."

Quota Recruitment 2023, has set the stage for eligible candidates to apply online through the official portal recruitment.itbp-police.nic.in

A total of 248 vacancies have been advertised in India. The online application process commenced on November 15, 2023 and will close on November 28, 2023.

Rehana Batul presents certificates to GKET students at Sallan

was three months.

Chief Guest Rehana Batul, Commissioner/Secretary, Labour & Employment Department, Naresh Kumar (Assistant Director Employment) and other officials were present.

Rehana Batul congratulated the students for passing out in the respective skill course and presented certificates to them.

GK Educational Trust is committed to create opportunities and improving the lives of people in the community by skilling them in particular field.

Ammar Nehvi (Director GK Educational Trust), Pritpal Kour(Centre Incharge) and other staff members were also present.

Jharkhand | Three Policemen suspended for

lapse in PM's security

Bhagwan Birsa Munda Memorial Park-Freedom Fighter Museum, near Jail Chowk in Ranchi.

Later, he visited Birsa Munda's birthplace Ulihatu village in Khunti district on Wednesday on the occasion of the third Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas and paid tribute to the tribal hero.

He also launched a Rs 24,000-crore project aimed at the development of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

The PM also flagged off the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra', released the 15th instalment of Rs 18,000 crore under the PM-KISAN scheme, and inaugurated and laid the foundation of projects worth Rs 7,200 crore in the state.

Over half-a-dozen structures damaged in major fire in Doda

houses, a guest house and a food point were gutted in a major fire that broke out in Bhaderwah town of Doda district, officials said on Thursday.

An official said that the fire broke out in Chinote locality of Bhaderwah town in the wee hours today.

He said that soon after the incident fire tenders rushed to the spot, however, half a dozen residential houses, a guest house, a food point were reduced to ashes by the time they reached.

SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom said that police have started investigation into the matter, but as per preliminary probe short circuit seems to be the reason behind the fire.

Sensex, Nifty open lower tracking weaker financial stocks; Bajaj Finance falls

The S&P BSE Sensex was down 134.68 points at 65,541.25 at 9:25 am, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell 37.50 points to 19,637.95.

NEW DELHI, Nov 16 (Agencies): Benchmark stock market indices opened lower on Thursday, dragged down by shares of financial companies.

The S&P BSE Sensex was down 134.68 points at 65,541.25 at 9:25 am, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell 37.50 points to 19,637.95. The broader market indices were mixed, signalling an increase in volatility.

It may be noted that both the benchmark indices, Sensex and Nifty, gained over 1 per cent in yesterday's trading session, supported by a decline in domestic and US inflation. This helped them register their best closing in nearly a month.

Sectoral indices were also mixed in early trade, with Nifty Financial Services falling nearly 0.3 per cent. Nifty Bank was also trading marginally in negative territory. Nifty Oil & Gas and Nifty Auto were the only two prominent indices that registered decent gains.

The top five gainers on the Nifty 50 were NTPC, ONGC, BPCL, Coal India and Hero MotoCorp. On the other hand, the top losers were Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Hindalco, Grasim and JSW Steel.

Bajaj Finance shares fell sharply by 3 per cent in early trade after the



Reserve Bank of India directed it to immediately stop lending via two products – 'eCOM' and 'Insta EMI Card'. Bajaj Finserv shares also fell over 1 per cent as a result. The Bajaj twins were the top losers on the Nifty 50.

"We wish to submit that the Key Fact Statement ('KFS') are being issued for the loans booked under the above mentioned two lending products," Bajaj Finance said in a stock exchange filing.

"However, based on the supervisory concerns raised by the RBI, we will undertake a detailed review of the KFS and implement requisite corrective actions to the satisfaction of the RBI at the earliest," it added.

However, according to analysts, domestic markets are likely to gain momentum despite the weak opening.

Ahead of the market opening, Aditya Garggar, Director of Progressive Shares, said, "On the

daily chart, the Index has made a long-legged DOJI candlestick pattern and not only breached its falling trendline but also gave a convincing close above its 50DMA (19,580) which shows bullishness in the markets."

"Now the next critical hurdle for the Index stands at 19,840 while the downside is protected at a strong support zone of 19,550-19,580," he added.

Meanwhile, Mandar Bhojane, research analyst at Choice Broking said, "Analyzing the daily chart, Nifty displayed a gap-up opening, followed by a sustained upward movement, forming a hammer candlestick pattern with substantial volume."

"This pattern signals a bullish momentum in the index. Presently, the 19,500 level serves as immediate support for Nifty. On the higher side, resistance levels are identified at 19,850 and 19,900," Bhojane added.

'Sahara matter will continue': Sebi chief after Subrata Roy's death

NEW DELHI, Nov 16 (Agencies): Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch said on Thursday that the market regulator will continue its pursuit of the Sahara case despite the death of the conglomerate's founder Subrata Roy.

Roy died on Tuesday aged 75 due to cardiorespiratory failure, following a prolonged illness.

While speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a FICCI event, news agency PTI quoted her as saying that the Sahara matter was about an entity's conduct and added that it will continue regardless of whether an individual is alive or not.

The Sebi-Sahara case is a long-standing legal battle, involving allegations of financial irregularities and violations of



securities laws by two Sahara Group entities – Sahara India Real Estate Corporation Ltd (SIRECL) and Sahara Housing Investment Corporation Ltd (SHICL).

The case originated in 2008

when Sebi launched an investigation into Sahara's fundraising practices, particularly the issuance of Optionally Fully Convertible Debentures (OFCDs), which Sebi deemed to contravene securities regulations.

In 2011, the Sebi issued directives to Sahara Group entities, SIRECL and SHICL, ordering the refund of funds raised from approximately 3 crore investors through OFCDs. Sebi, citing violations of its regulations, prompted a protracted legal battle.

On August 31, 2012, the Supreme Court upheld Sebi's decision, instructing the two firms to refund the collected amount with a 15 per cent interest.

As a result, Sahara was mandated to deposit an estimated Rs 24,000 crore with Sebi for further investor reimbursements, despite the group's claim of having already directly refunded over 95 per cent of the investors.

Merchandise trade deficit hits record high in October



NEW DELHI, Nov 16 (Agencies): Merchandise trade deficit expanded to a record high at \$31.46 billion in October, driven by an increase in gold imports during the festive season and a rise in oil prices.

Official data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry revealed imports in October stood at \$65.03 billion, while exports at \$33.57 billion.

On a year-on-year

(YoY) basis, there has been nearly 20% rise in trade deficit. In October 2022, it was at \$26.31 billion, with imports at \$57.91 billion and exports at \$31.60 billion. Interestingly, in September 2023, the trade deficit was significantly lower at \$19.37 billion, with merchandise exports at \$34.47 billion, and imports at \$53.84 billion.

According to Satya Srinivas, additional sec-

retary at Department of Commerce, the large trade deficit was on account of a 95% YoY increase in gold imports during October, during Diwali festival. Gold imports were at \$7.23 billion for the month. Commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal said the disparity in dates between Diwali celebrations in October this year and November last year contributed to the surge in gold imports in 2023.

Despite falling commodity prices, Barthwal expressed optimism about stabilising "green shoots", which bodes well for India's exports. Brent crude prices during October rose to \$92.63 per barrel, up from \$89.00 per barrel in the same period last year.

Manipal group tries its hand at test prep app



CHENNAI, Nov 16 (Agencies): Karnataka-based Manipal Education and Medical group has recently launched MedAce, a mobile-first app focusing on students preparing for National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET PG), Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE), INICET and National Exit Test (NEXT).

It also provides basic science classes as supplementary education for first and second year medical graduates. Speaking to the media in the city, Ravi Panchanathan, MD and CEO of Manipal Global Education Services said there is no focus on the subscription in next 15 months. It is currently focusing on adoption, improving content quality, building the app, taking feedback and rebuilding, he said.

When asked about the post-pandemic dip in online course enrollment, he said online courses are here to stay. Students learn best when they do surgical and clinical projects and audio visual mediums and it is a very good supplement to medical students apart from learning from faculty, he said.

Yearly heat-related deaths to see fivefold rise by mid-century: Lancet report

NEW DELHI, Nov 16 (Agencies): The yearly heat-related deaths are likely to increase nearly fivefold the current numbers by mid-century if current temperature trends continue and there is no substantial progress on adaptation, according to a report of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change.

Against this backdrop of climate inaction, the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change in its eighth annual global report projects heat-related labour loss might increase by 50 per cent.

Heatwaves alone could lead to 524.9 million additional people experiencing moderate-to-severe food insecurity by 2041-60, aggravating the global risk of malnutrition, it said.

The report further projects an increased spread of life-threatening infectious diseases by mid-century, with the length of coastline suitable for Vibrio pathogens expanding by 17-25 per cent, and the transmission potential for dengue increasing by 36-37 per cent.

Vibrio pathogens are responsible for foodborne diseases such as cholera.

The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change is an international, multidisciplinary collaboration and is published yearly, according to the British journal's website.

The collaboration monitors the "evolving health profile of climate

change" and provides an "independent assessment of the delivery of commitments made by governments worldwide under the Paris Agreement", the website says.

Climate inaction is costing lives and livelihoods today and the new global projections reveal the grave and mounting threat to health of further delayed action on climate change, the 2023 report said.

With 1,337 tonnes of CO2 emitted every second, each moment of delay worsens the risks to people's health and survival, it said.

The projections are an indication of what the future looks like because as "risks rise, so will the costs and challenges of adaptation," according to the report, which drew on the expertise of 114 scientists and health practitioners from 52 research institutions and UN agencies worldwide.

The analysis showed that of the total days reaching health-threatening high temperatures in 2020, human-caused climate change made over 60 per cent of them more than twice as likely to occur.

Further, heat-related deaths in people older than 65 years increased by 85 per cent compared with 1990-2000, the analysis found.

The report said that this was "substantially higher than the 38 per cent increase that would have been expected had temperatures not changed".

Despite such instances, the 2023 report

found that the world is "often moving in the wrong direction", even as the 2022 Lancet Countdown report highlighted an "opportunity to accelerate the transition away from health-harming fossil fuels in response to the global energy crisis".

The latest report found that oil and gas companies are further reducing their compliance with the Paris Agreement, driven in part by record profits.

As of early 2023, the strategies of the world's 20 largest oil and gas companies will result in emissions surpassing levels consistent with the Paris Agreement goals by 173 per cent in 2040, an increase of 61 per cent from 2022, the report predicted.

Meanwhile, global fossil fuel investment increased by 10 per cent in 2022, reaching over USD 1 trillion, with oil and gas extractive activities being supported through both private and public financial flows, the report found.

With little progress in transitioning to clean energy, the persistent use and expansion of fossil fuels will ensure an increasingly inequitable future that threatens the lives of billions of people alive today, it said.

Only 2.3 per cent of electricity in low Human Development Index (HDI) countries comes from modern renewables, against 11 per cent in very high HDI countries, the report said, attributing this to structural global inequi-

ties in the development of, access to, and use of clean energy.

It further said that 92 per cent of households in low HDI countries still relied on biomass fuels to meet their energy needs, against 7.5 per cent in very high HDI countries and that deaths had increased in medium HDI countries, where access to non-polluting energy and air quality control measures were lagging.

In the 62-country analyses that included India, the report found household air pollution to result in 140 deaths per 1,00,000 in 2020.

In this context, the transition to renewables can enable access to decentralised clean energy, which could help avoid deaths due to exposure to dirty-fuel-derived, outdoor, airborne, fine particulate matter pollution as well as indoor air pollution, the report said.

The report acknowledged that scientific understanding of the links between health and climate change is rapidly growing.

Also, the health dimensions of climate change are increasingly acknowledged in the public discourse, with 24 per cent of all climate change newspaper articles in 2022 referring to health, the report said, adding that these trends "signal what could be the start of a life-saving transition."

The report, however, found few signs of the urgently needed progress, in a world still bound to fossil fuel ambi-

tions and thus, called for "a people-centred transformation: putting health at the heart of climate action".

The pace and scale of mitigation efforts continued to fall very far short of those required to safeguard people's safety, with current policies putting the world on track for a potentially catastrophic 2.7 degrees Celsius of heating by 2100, the report warned.

Revealing a way forward to a healthy future, the report suggested "redirecting subsidies, lending, investment, and other financial flows away from fossil fuels".

Health-centred urban redesign can promote safe active travel, reduce building and transport-based air pollution and emissions, and increase resilience to climate hazards, it said.

Increasing urban green spaces can also offer local cooling, increase carbon sequestration, and provide direct benefits to physical and mental health, it said.

With climate change claiming millions of lives annually and its threats rapidly growing, seizing the opportunity to secure a healthier future has never been more vital, it said.

Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease spreads tentacles in state: Study

More prevalent among residents of Solan, Sirmaur, Shimla districts



SOLAN, Nov 16 (Agencies): Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) is becoming increasingly prevalent in the hilly areas with a study on 500 residents from Solan, Sirmaur, Shimla, Bilaspur and Kinnair districts showing its high incidence.

Dr Sanjay Aggarwal, a Solan-based laproscopic gastro surgeon from a local hospital, who conducted the study said: "One third of the patients were from urban areas and the rest from rural areas. It was found that people who were not consuming alcohol also suffered from various stages of fatty liver."

Elaborating upon the study, Dr Aggarwal said the survey was

conducted on 541 persons. As many as 70 of the 220 persons residing in urban areas had NAFLD while out of 321 rural residents, 78 had NAFLD.

He said, "The first stage of fatty liver is a pathological finding, in which the cells of liver have a higher percentage of fat. The second stage involves inflammation of the liver and a bit of fibrosis develops in the liver tissue in the third stage."

The fourth and most critical stage includes cirrhosis in which the patient starts having swelling in the body and also experiencing symptoms like loss of weight, loss of appetite, upper gastrointestinal bleeding and other signs similar

to an alcoholic liver disease."

Dr Aggarwal said the main criterion to detect the disease was an ultrasound of the liver. It was found that the prevalence of fatty liver was more in the families consuming more vegetable oil. "More than 3 to 4 litres of vegetable oil consumption in a family of four in a month invites risk," the doctor said.

The disease had little relation to age though it was found more in the elderly. It was equally prevalent among males and females. It was, however, found that people involved in hard manual work had lesser incidences of the disease. Also, if alcohol was consumed, the progression of fatty liver to the extreme stage was seen.

"A random analysis, revealed that about 50 per cent of individuals having this condition were in stage one. About 35 per cent of persons from urban areas had the disease while the rural population had a lesser incidence," observed Dr Aggarwal.

He also stressed on the need for regular physical activity for at least 30 to 45 minutes with vigorous exercise, yoga or meditation to prevent the disease.

Final destination: Kohli, Iyer tons & Shami's 7-star show take India into 4th final

MUMBAI, Nov 16 (Agencies): The Kiwis fought like tigers, but the job at hand demanded a miracle, and there was no miracle man in the New Zealand camp tonight.

Daryl Mitchell may have fancied himself as one, but when, at 10 minutes past 10 in the night, he drove the ball high towards the midwicket fence, going for his eighth six, the hopes of a miracle were over — the game was as good as over. The ball was caught by Ravindra Jadeja close to the rope, and the valiant Mitchell had to trudge off the turf, his ears ringing with shrieks of triumph from the Indian partisans in the stands.

Now, New Zealand needed 92 off the final 28 balls and, with seven wickets gone, the hopes of a miracle evaporated.

India's total of 397, starring Virat Kohli's 50th ODI century, but in effect powered by a 70-ball 105 by Shreyas Iyer, proved to be more than enough, though Mitchell (134 off 119) and Kane Williamson (69 off 73) did make the capacity Wankhede Stadium crowd go quiet a bit during their stand of 181 off 149 balls.

But there was a mountain — perhaps not much different from Mt Everest, which captain Williamson was reminded of yesterday by a sharp reporter — to climb. Mitchell and Williamson had got together in the eighth over, at 39/2, when the asking



rate was 8.52 an over; over the course of the next 27 overs, they kept the team in the game with cool aggression, driving and lofting the ball over the fielders, finding the gaps; when even Jasprit Bumrah went for 14 runs, in the 31st over, New Zealand were 185 runs from the target, needing to score at 9.73 off the final 19 overs. The crowd was restive, even worried, despite the 397 on board.

Two overs later, the tide turned — first ball of the 33rd over, from Mohammed Shami, Mitchell got to 100 off 85, but then Williamson, going for a six, struck the ball right into the lap of Suryakumar Yadav right at the midwicket boundary. Next man Tom Latham survived one ball before Shami got one to dart into him, trapping him in front of the wicket — the most clear of all LBW decisions. Glenn Phillips heaved two sixers and

four fours before Bumrah got him with a slower ball — New Zealand five down, needing 103 from 43 balls. Off the last six overs, the Kiwis needed 98, but those overs were to be bowled by the quality pace trio of Bumrah, Shami, and Mohammed Siraj. Mitchell fell to Shami, and it was only a matter of time before the lower order panicked, flailed, fell. Shami made a killing, ending up seven for 57 off 9.5 overs.

India's innings had Kohli in the top billing, but in fact it was turbo-powered by an Iyer special, his second consecutive century of the tournament, and by innings of no lesser importance by Rohit Sharma (47 off 29) and Shubman Gill (80 off 66). KL Rahul's cameo of 39 off 20 ensured India reached a total that would shock and awe the opposition, though the Kiwis refused to be awed — Mitch-

ell and Williamson, especially, fought as if they were fighting for their lives.

The pitch wasn't responsive, and the big New Zealand pacemen didn't have a clue where to put the ball — Trent Boult began by bowling at Rohit's pads and was punished. Tim Southee did the same with Gill, and India were off. Rohit then put Boult in the stands over extra cover, and struck Southee for a four and six, and Boult for another over long leg — 47 in five overs! Mitchell Santner, the left-arm spinner, was hit for 4-6 off consecutive balls in his first over by Rohit. The captain fell when he sliced a slower ball from Southee, and it went up high towards long off, and Williamson ran back, made a last-second adjustment and caught the ball. Gill attacked, nevertheless. The Kiwis tried to take the pace off the ball by bowling slower ones, bringing on the spinners, but Gill took a heavy toll of them before he walked off due to cramps.

Iyer, in the form of his life, was merciless against the spinners and pacers alike — sixers off Rachin Ravindra, Southee, Phillips, Boult, everyone! — playing his role of destroyer to perfection, allowing Kohli to play the aggregator.

What they aggregated would have frightened any team, and the Kiwis tried to soar — but not high enough.

50AT: Kohli eclipses Sachin's 49 tons

MUMBAI, Nov 16 (Agencies): 'Kohli, Kohli, Kohli...' screamed thirty thousand people at the Wankhede, and Virat Kohli screamed, too... He leapt up and punched the air and sank down to his knees. Then he looked up — the second run that he'd run, in the 42nd over of India's innings, had put him in a perfect position to celebrate his feat, for he looked up and saw his idol clapping, his wife blowing kisses to him. Kohli took off the helmet and raised his arms and bowed with a flourish to Sachin Tendulkar, and blew kisses to Anushka Sharma.

Kohli's wait for his 50th ODI century wasn't even a fraction as painful and torturous as his idol's wait for his 100th international century; just 10 days after scoring his 49th ODI century in Kolkata, which put him at par with Tendulkar, Kohli set the new record during the run-fest after India won the toss and elected to bat first. Kohli's timing was impeccable — his 49th was made on his 35th birthday, the 50th in the biggest match so far in the tournament, the first knockout.

The timing was near-perfect in the middle, too; after Rohit Sharma's blitz at the top had created the perfect launch pad, in walked Kohli at 71/1 in the ninth over. He was beaten on the second ball by Tim Southee, but the ball took the inside edge and went for four.

Kohli was scarcely beaten after that, never hurried or harried, as he could afford to take his time to get going, because at the other end Shubman Gill was driving and pulling the ball with authority, lobbing it over the infield to repeatedly hit the fence or clear it. Kohli was a sedate 29 off 39 balls, while at the other end Gill galloped to 78 off 64, India 157 after 22 overs; Kohli struck his third four on the 41st ball he faced, smashing a short one from Mitchell Santner to the boundary.

Gill walked off the field just then, with cramps, indicating that his leg from thigh down was in pain; in came Shreyas Iyer. Three quiet overs followed, but then Iyer turned to be a force-multiplier, exceeding Gill's scoring rate. The unfortunate Rachin Ravindra got struck for the first of Iyer's eight sixers of the day. Kohli was on a relatively quiet 52 off 63, but when Trent Boult, premier left-arm, came in for his second spell, first ball, Kohli skipped down the track and lifted the ball over the man at mid-off, four. Next over, Southee was brought on for a wicket or respite — and Kohli stepped out and swung him, with that whippy swish of his, for six over wide long-on.

It was Iyer's show after that, but the limelight was on Kohli — he went past Tendulkar's record of most runs in a single World Cup, 673, set in 2003. While Iyer was smashing sixers, Kohli, to move from 84 to 100, took 20 balls, in the interim getting treatment for pain in his right thigh, which he got strapped.

He then got that couple that took him to 100, and then changed gears — next ball from Lockie Ferguson, Kohli ran two, and pulled the next to the midwicket fence. Southee came back and bowled four balls that brought joy and gloom to those shouting his name — third ball of the 43rd over, Glenn Phillips ran hard but dropped Kohli near the midwicket fence; next ball, Kohli sent the ball flying over Phillips over the fence — his second six. After running two, Kohli tried to clear the fence at deep square leg — he failed, caught by Devon Conway; 117 off 113 balls, 48 off boundaries, but 69 run hard in his usual hectic manner, not bad for a man in his mid-30s.

Kohli walked off, perhaps the one time he walked happy and grinning after getting out, and yet another Kohli show, the latest in an amazing series, was over.

A David vs Goliath contest

Can perennial 'chokers' South Africa tame powerhouse Australia?

KOLKATA, Nov 16 (Agencies): South Africa sense an opportunity to finally get rid of the choker's tag but the onerous task entails getting the better of the most successful team in the history of 50-over World Cup, Australia, in today's semifinal here.

Hurt by a combination of bad luck and nerves in the business end of the showpiece event, South Africa are pitted against a powerhouse who thrive in those big moments as Australia have demonstrated with five titles.

The Proteas need to be in control of their nerves to be in control of their destiny, and barring the batting meltdown against India, they have looked formidable finishing second in the group stage behind the hosts.

There is plenty of firepower in their top-order and Australia got their fingers burnt when Quinton de Kock's rapid hundred secured the Proteas' comprehensive victory in a group match in Lucknow.

South Africa, who have never progressed beyond the last-four, are fretting over the availability of skipper Temba Bavuma, who is nursing a hamstring strain. "Obviously not 100%... I'm

quite confident, but it's not a unilateral decision that will be made," Bavuma said today.

Should he miss the semifinals, Aiden Markram would lead the side, while Reeza Hendricks is likely to open alongside de Kock, who has smashed four hundreds in his final ODI tournament.

They have looked more comfortable setting targets than chasing one though, and they will expect more penetration from their bowlers against a resurgent Australia.

Regardless of how their group stage campaign ebbed and flowed, it came as no surprise when Australia hurled towards the knockout stages by stringing together seven wins in a row following that defeat by South Africa.

"I think what helps us is we've got a lot of guys that have been in this situation before, that have won the One-day World Cup, T20 World Cup, various other tournaments in big moments," Australia captain Cummins said on the eve of their clash.

Travis Head's return from a hand injury has rejuvenated their batting lineup, allowing others to play with more freedom.

Why would you go and help Virat when he had a cramp?: Ex-Aussie bowler questions Kiwis

MUMBAI, Nov 16 (Agencies): Cricket fraternity the world over might be cherishing Virat Kohli's record-setting 50th ODI century but former Australian pacer Simon O'Donnell has flayed New Zealand's gesture of helping the batting great when he was suffering from cramps during the World Cup semifinal here.

Kohli, was seen struggling with cramps during his 113-ball 117, which powered India into the World Cup final at the Wankhede Stadium here on Wednesday.

A few New Zealand players opted to assist the star India batter while he was struggling with cramps, and O'Donnell said he had a "problem" with that gesture.

Kohli's century and pacer Mohammed Shami's seven-wicket haul helped India maul the Blackcaps by 70 runs.

"I had a problem a couple of times last night. Virat Kohli gets



cramp, they're (India) heading for 400 (runs) and (New Zealand) blokes go over and help him," O'Donnell, who played 87 ODIs for Australia primarily as a pace bowler, said on Sen Radio. "Why would you go and help Virat Kohli when he had a cramp? When they're heading for 400. In a World Cup semifinal. Spirit of the game is play-

ing within the laws. Virat Kohli is tearing your country apart and you want to go over and give him a hand."

On whether it made any difference to the outcome of the match in the end, O'Donnell indicated the Kiwi players shouldn't have gone anywhere near Kohli when he was cramping.

"Don't care. Under no circum-

stances should you have gone within 20 metres of Virat Kohli when he had a cramp.

"He (Virat) threw his bat away and one of the Kiwis went and picked it up. Go and pick your own bat up while you've got a sore hamstring and a cramp. Stop hitting us for sixes and fours."

"That's not a big deal. That's not outside the spirit of the game. It's being competitive and saying, 'Ok, he's being physically challenged, why are we assisting him to stay physically ok to belt the crap out of us?'"

India opener Shubman Gill had retired hurt due to cramps when on 79 and Kohli too was seen struggling during the later part of his 149-minute stay at the crease.

"I don't get it, I just don't get it. Stuff helping him out, he's made 50 One-Day hundreds, why help him make the 50th against you in a World Cup semi-final? Give me a spell."

Rohit Sharma "Fearless Captain, His Body Language Is Infectious": Shreyas Iyer

MUMBAI, Nov 16 (Agencies): Following his team's 70-run win over New Zealand in the semifinals of the ICC Cricket World Cup, Indian middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer has said that the backing from coach Rahul Dravid and skipper Rohit Sharma has been pivotal for him and he faces Jasprit Bumrah in the nets for preparation. Mohammed Shami's seven-wicket haul and Virat Kohli's record 50th ODI century were the highlights as India secured a 70-wicket win over New Zealand in the semifinals of the Cricket World Cup at Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday.

"Rohit sets the template, gives us the starts where we have to just go and carry forward from the base he gives. He is a fearless captain. You can see that in his body language and it's kind of infectious, rubs off on all the players," told Iyer to Star Sports.

"(On the backing from the management) It is pivotal, coming from the captain and coach. I did not have a great start to the World Cup. They told me not to worry about the outside noise, we are backing you, so you just got to go out there and express yourself. (About handling pressure) To be honest, in pressure situations, you tend to get nervous but at the same time it is also fun playing in front of so many people and if you perform they lift you up. (How intense are the net sessions given the quality of the bowling attack) It is definitely intense. We see to it that we play the most difficult bowler. Whenever Bumrah comes with the new ball I face him because you know it's going to be difficult and it helps you for the matches," he added.



Shreyas Iyer on Wednesday made history, becoming the first middle-order batter to smash 500 runs or more in a single edition of the ICC Cricket World Cup.

With his second successive century in the tournament during the semifinals against New Zealand, Shreyas broke plenty of records and continued his purple patch in ODI cricket.

In the match, Iyer was at his most fierce. He smashed 105 in just 70 balls. His knock consisted of four boundaries and eight sixes. He struck his runs at a strike rate of 150.

In this tournament so far, Iyer has smashed 526 runs at an average of 75.14 and a strike rate of over 113. He has scored two centuries and three fifties, with the best score of 128*. The batter is the fifth-highest run-getter in the tournament so far.

The previous best-run tally by a middle-order batter in a single World Cup was by New Zealand's Scott Styris. In the 2007 edition of the tournament, Styris smashed 499 runs at an average of 83.16, with one century

and four fifties in nine innings.

This century by Iyer, which he reached in 67 balls, is the fastest-ever in a Cricket World Cup knockout match. He has surpassed legendary Australian wicketkeeper-batter Adam Gilchrist, who smashed a 72-ball ton against Sri Lanka in the 2007 WC final.

Iyer is also only the third Indian batter to score two or more successive WC tons, with other two being Rohit Sharma (three in 2019) and Rahul Dravid (two in 1999).

Iyer smashed eight sixes in his knock, which is the highest by an Indian batter in their World Cup innings. He has overtaken Sourav Ganguly, who smashed seven sixes during his knock of 183* against Sri Lanka in 1999.

Also, Shreyas Iyer reached his 4,000 international runs. In 116 matches, he has scored 4,036 runs at an average of 42.48, with six centuries and 29 fifties in 113 innings. His best score is 128*.

Iyer has scored 666 runs in 10 Tests at an average of 44.40, with one century and five fifties in 16 innings.

ODIs are Iyer's best format. In 57 ODIs, he has scored 2,327 runs at an average of 50.58, with five centuries and 17 fifties in 52 innings.

In 49 T20Is, Iyer has made 1,043 runs at an average of 30.67, with seven fifties in 45 innings. Coming to the match, India opted to bat first and scored 397/4 in their 50 overs. Skipper Rohit Sharma (47 in 29 balls, with four boundaries and four sixes) and Shubman Gill (80 in 66 balls, with eight fours and three sixes) delivered a fine start with a 71-run opening stand.

Waugh-supported centre for children bat for Australia



KOLKATA, Nov 16 (Agencies): Legendary former Australian captain Steve Waugh got associated with Udayan, a residential centre for the rehabilitation of leprosy patients' children on the outskirts of Kolkata, 25 years ago. A meeting with Mother Teresa in the city in 1996 inspired him to begin charity work and a couple of years later he decided to help out children of leprosy patients through the non-government organisation.

Since then the association as one of the patrons of the NGO has only grown with the World Cup-winning captain also making sure he visits the centre whenever he is in the country. The last visit he made to the centre located at

Sewli Telinipara village, Barrackpore, was in 2020 when the centre celebrated its 50th anniversary.

With Australia playing South Africa in their all-important semifinal in the city on Thursday, the children have decided to cheer for the team from Down Under which once was led with great pride by their philanthropist. "The children are not visiting the stadium for the match. Instead, they will watch it live on a projector at our recreation centre," Dipak Sahu, director of Udayan, told this daily.

As Waugh is not here at the venue, where his team once famously won its maiden World Cup with him being an integral part of it, the children wanted to send a message saying they

are standing firm behind the team from his country. "At the moment, the NGO is supporting 113 girls and 157 boys. All of them along with us will watch the match and cheer for the Aussies. We have been certified by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) India and Waugh donates around Rs 40 lakh to '50 lakh every year through it to Udayan,'" informs Sahu.

The centre aims at providing children quality education including tertiary study and training like nursing, mechanics and physiotherapy which in turn provides them job opportunities. Waugh's donation ensures the children get involved with tertiary study and vocational training. "His donation helps us impart employment-based training to children which in turn helps them land jobs and make a living out of it. He is one of our patrons and his continued support is one of the reasons we are able to deliver year after year," signed off Sahu.

Oil Tanker Union demands amendment in BPCL'S carriage tender



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 16: All Jammu And Kashmir Oil & LPG Tank, Truck Drivers & Cleaners Union have expresses serious concern over the terms and condition mentioned in a recent tender notification for Road Transportation of Bulk (POL) Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant issued by the BPCL, Bhartiya Petroleum Corporation Limited for J&K.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, Ranjit Singh Raina, the President of All Jammu and Kashmir Oil & LPG Tank, Truck Drivers & Cleaners along with Harasis Singh another senior member of the Union informed the mediapersons that BPCL in its tender notification dated November 1, 2023 have completely ignored the welfare and interest of the transporters of Jammu

and Kashmir which would ultimately affect the drivers and cleaners.

They apprised that in the road transportation tender of the BPCL, in comparison to past tender of year 2017, this time the number of vehicles (tank lorries) have been decreased from over 300 to 225 and the capacity of requisite tanker have also been increased.

The terms and conditions of the tender requires new model vehicles whereas the rate bracket in the tender have not been increased in comparison to the inflation rate of last five years for the same route.

The Drivers union President said they would not accept this injustice and they would stand with the Oil Tanker Owners Association because already the transport sector in J&K is going through a very difficult time.

He said the rates of maintenance of vehicles including cost of insurance, tyres, taxes have increased manifold but the rates provided in the BPCL tender does not match even the input cost of the transporters and labour of the drivers of the tankers.

The Drivers union warned that if the BPCL authorities does not amend the terms and conditions of the tender notification so that even the marginalized transporters get a fair opportunity to participate in the tendering process then they would be compelled to adopt the democratic method including holding protest demonstration against the BPCL authorities who formulated such ant-transporters tender.

It is pertinent to mention here that after every 5 years such tender for road transportation of POL is issued by the BPCL, HPCL and IOCL for transportation from Jammu Depot to Kashmir and other different locations of Jammu.

Besides President Ranjit Singh Raina and Harasis the other Union members present during the press conference include Swindles Singh.

Farooq, Omar conveyed condolences

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 16: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the passing away of Khan Mohd Khan former Provincial Secretary Jammu Province who passed yesterday at Bhaderwah and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family.

In their messages, Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah prayed for peace to the departed soul and expressed solidarity with other members of the family.

In the condolence message, General Secretary Haji Ali Mohammed Sagar, Dr Sheikh Mustafa Kamaal, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra Additional General Secretaries, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu, Khalid Najeev Suharwardhy former minister and Provincial Vice President, Qazi Jalal Ud Din Ex-MLA, Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo former minister and Zone President Chenab Valley, Sajjad Shaheen District President Ramban, Dr. Chaman Lal Bhagat Ex-MLA, Tanveer Ahmed Kichloo District President

Kishtwar, Mehboob Iqbal, Abdul Qayoom Baghwan District President Doda Rural Bhaderwah, Zafarullah Rather District President Doda, Arif Mir, Abid Magrey have also expressed grief and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Meanwhile, National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the sudden passing away of Sheroo Kumar Son of Bahadur Lal Vice President JKNC District Jammu (Urban) and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family.

In their messages, Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah prayed for peace to the departed soul and expressed solidarity with other members of the family.

GDC Darhal organizes Essay Writing Competition on "Women's Right"

Top News Report

DARHAL, Nov 16: With a view to bring awareness about Women's Right and to discuss the strategies on raising the awareness, an essay writing Competition was conducted in the college premises jointly organised by NSS and Department of Political Science, based on the theme "My Constitution My Pride" under the patronship of Prof. Musaraf Hussain Shah, Principal of the College.

The main aim of the competition was to raise voices about the issues that women face on a

daily basis. Spark up conversations through words and make people aware if they are misinformed.

In essay writing competition the first position was secured by Hibza Malik of Sem first, second position was secured by Danish Ali of Sem first while the third position was secured by Sayra Jabeen of Sem Fifth.

Consolation prize was given to Ummar Khalil of SEM Third.

In his address Prof Shah, Principal of the College, exhorted that women rights are very important for every-

one all over the world. It does not just benefit her but every member of society.

When women get equal rights, the world can progress together with everyone playing an essential role. If there weren't any women rights, women wouldn't have been allowed to do something as basic as a vote.

Further, it is a game-changer for those women who suffer from gender discrimination. The event was coordinated by Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch (NSS PO) and Dr. Mehwish Bukhari (HOD Pol Science).

Breaking Taboos, Empowering Lives: LFO-BHF 'Mission R-SAP' to transform J&K



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Nov 16: Live For Others- Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF) announced a significant milestone in their joint initiative with J&K Bank, "Mission R-SAP (Remove Shyness Apply Pads)."

This Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project aims to provide access to menstrual hygiene by distributing 5,00,000 sanitary napkins and conducting 100 awareness seminars, benefiting 50,000 people across all 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir and remove the taboo regarding menstruation from the society.

The 4th district to successfully complete this mission is Rajouri, where more than 25,000 sanitary napkins were distributed, comple-

mented by eight impactful awareness lectures targeted more than 2500 people. The resource person for these seminars was Jyoti.

These activities were carried out in government as well as private schools located in peripheral areas, namely New National Public School, Nowshera; Ambica Public School, Nowshera; TMP Higher Secondary School, Nowshera; Govt Girls Higher Secondary School, Nowshera; Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Kalsian; Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Bhawan, Rajouri; Govt. High School, Dabber, Potha; Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Seri, Rajouri.

"We are thrilled with the progress of 'Mission R-SAP' and the positive impact it's having on women's health and

hygiene and currently we are looking forward to others districts and our team is simultaneously working on it," said Vivek Parihar, CEO & Founder of LFO-BHF.

LFO-BHF extends their gratitude to the Director School Education Jammu, C.E.O Rajouri & Principals of all the schools and Sukhmeet Kour appointed coordinator for these seminar by CEO office Rajouri for giving their full support in organising such seminars on this important topic and as well as students for showing their active participation and support said Shubam, President Jammu Province.

Members who were present are Jyoti, Shubam, Gagan, Aaghav, Tushar and Zrafat.

Army Goodwill School Farooona conducts 15 days National Integration Tour



Top News Report

KARGIL, Nov 16: Sata Battery Unit under the banner of 8 mountain DIV Khumbathang conducted National Integration Tour for the students of Army Goodwill School Farooona,

Kargil.

A group of 25 students including with two male teachers and one female teachers and three Army Staff accompanied Army Major Himaliya for a national Integration Tour.

During the tour, these students

are visits Srinagar Jammu, Chandigarh, Delhi and Agra.

The tour aims to broaden their horizons by showcasing various facets of India to gain first-hand experience of varied cultures, traditions, development, and technological & eco-

nomical advancements across the Nation.

This will motivate them to achieve better jobs and careers through education and contribute towards nation-building.

The students of Army Goodwill School Farooona called with the president of India Droupadi Murmu during their National Integration Tour at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 14 November 2023.

During the interaction President of India Droupadi Murmu shared her thoughts and good wishes to the students on occasion of children's day.

Archoo Hakima and Nissar Ali shared their experience and expressed their gratitude to the Indian Army for conducts such national Integration Tour.

All students participated with great amount to zeal and enthusiasm.

MSME sponsored A-ESDP Training programme started at GDC Sopore

Top News Report

SOPORE, Nov 16: Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura inaugurated week long Existing Management Development Programme (E-MDP) on "Statistics, Big data Analytics and Machine Learning in Agriculture and Allied Sciences" at Government Degree College - Sopore on 16th November, 2023.

The training programme was organised by Division of Agri. Economics & Statistics, Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST-K, Wadura campus in collaboration with Govt. Degree College, Sopore under the sponsorship of the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

The programme was inaugurated by Prof. Salma Ahad, Principal, Govt. Degree College Sopore, who was the Chief Guest of the training programme.

The training programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Rameesa Jan from the Department of Statistics, GDC-Sopore, followed by the keynote address by Dr. Showkat Maqbool, Coordinator of the programme, from Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST-K, Wadura.

He highlighted upon the topic journey of statistics to data science. He enjoined upon the par-

ticipants to develop interest in the subject of Machine Learning, Artificial Neural Networks, Artificial Intelligence, Data Mining, Deep Learning and Cloud computing to keep pace with the changing times.

He also impressed upon the participants to get familiar with R and Python Software Languages which forms the core of the Data Science. The participants were enthused to learn the technical skills of Data Science for improving their field of livelihood like Agriculture, Business Management and any other Entrepreneurship.

The training Programme was coordinated by Dr. Nazir Ahmad Khan, HOD Statistics and Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Shah, HOD Computer Sciences.

Dr. Faheem Jeelani Wani, Assistant Professor (Agri. Statistics), emphasized on students to perform and conduct data driven investigation by managing and visualising all types of data and gain ample experience in the training, so that they can be considered for diverse international projects in marketing, healthcare, and other areas

The Former Head of the Division, Prof. Tariq Ahmad Raja deliberated upon the use of Statistics, Big Data Analytics, Machine Learning and related aspects in order to under-



stand the problem on phenomenon with respect to a set of real world data.

He emphasized on the main purpose of the programme that is to provide both theoretical & practical knowledge to the students in the field and subfields of data science.

The training programme is based on the basic computer science studies incorporated with advance

data science field and its applications.

Prof. Bilal A. Bhat, Head of the Division of Agri. Economics & Statistics, Faculty of Agriculture congratulated the Division for initiating such a programme for students that would expose them to the broad areas and subjects of Applied Statistics, Data Mining, Predictive Modelling, Big Data

Analytics, Machine Learning, data Visualization across various sectors using hands-on experience and avail the opportunity to grow their career prospects.

The inaugural event was attended by Prof. M. S. Pukhta, Head Division of Agri. Statistics, Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-K Shalimar, who deliberated on importance of Machine Learning and

Data Science in the present scenario, besides various Dignitaries, Scientific Staff Members, Faculty Members of the Department of Statistics, Mathematics and Computer Sciences and Participants of the programme.

Prof. Salma Ahad, Principal GDC - Sopore thanked SKUAST-K Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura and the organising team for conducting the training programme at GDC Sopore and hoped that such events will continue to happen in future for the betterment of students.

The inaugural function concluded with formal vote of thanks by Dr. Farheen Naqash, Lecturer (Agri. Economics). She thanked the Principal Govt. degree College Sopore for her coordination in this training programme and the Organising Team of the College and the Division which included Prof. Tariq Ahmad Raja (Former Head of the Division of Agri. Econ & Stat); Prof. Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Head of the Division of Agri. Econ & Stat; Dr. Sajad A. Saraf Assistant Professor Agri. Economics; Dr. Showkat Siddique, Assistant Professor, Mathematics, and all the non-teaching staff members of Govt. Degree College Sopore, for their efforts to conduct the training programme.