

TIME AND US

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| WEATHER TEMPERATURE | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| STATION | MAX TEMPERATURE | MIN TEMPERATURE |
| | ACT | ACT |
| SRINAGAR | 29.2 | 11.9 |
| JAMMU | 33.6 | 23.7 |
| LEH | 26.1 | 6.4 |
| KARGIL | 26.9 | 6.8 |

SUNSET SATURDAY: 06:29 PM
SUNRISE SUNDAY: 06:22 AM
LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR
 Partly Cloudy Sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 27°C & 11°C respectively.

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

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 NATIONAL | 5 PM MODI TO WATCH LIVE SURGERY ON CATTLE BY IVRI EXPERTS IN VARANAS
 BUSINESS | 7 NSE TO AUCTION INVESTMENT LIMITS FOR RS 2,800-CR GOVT BONDS
 SPORTS | 8 IRFAN RARING TO RETURN AFTER SIX-MONTH BAN

CM chairs meeting of District SPs, range DIGs of Jammu province

Reach out to people in more professional ways: Mehbooba to Police

'Deal strongly with drug abuse, even use PSA against chronic peddlers'

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 22: Expressing zero tolerance towards corruption in public service delivery, Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today asked the Police to reach out to people in a more professional way to redress their grievances and problems, particularly in far flung and hilly areas.

Chairing a meeting with all the District Superintendents of Police and range DIGs of Jammu province here, the Chief Minister asked the Police officers to adopt professional approaches of community and social policing to provide relief to the people from the situations of distress and difficulty. She asked the District SPs to ensure that the officers and constabulary in their jurisdictions perform their duty with utmost dedication.



She asked them to take any genuine complaint of corruption against any

of them with all seriousness.

The Chief Minister directed the District SPs to make sure that no individual, community or group of people is harassed unnecessarily during any investigation or performance of routine law and order duties, particularly in the cases of Bovine smuggling or cow vigilantism. She said by adopting compassion with honesty coupled with dedicated service, Police would not only be winning over people at large but also earning the force much more respect.

Terming the drug addiction a challenge to the society, the Chief Minister directed the Police to deal strongly in wiping out the menace of drug abuse and its transportation in the

▶ See **Mehbooba...**Pg 02

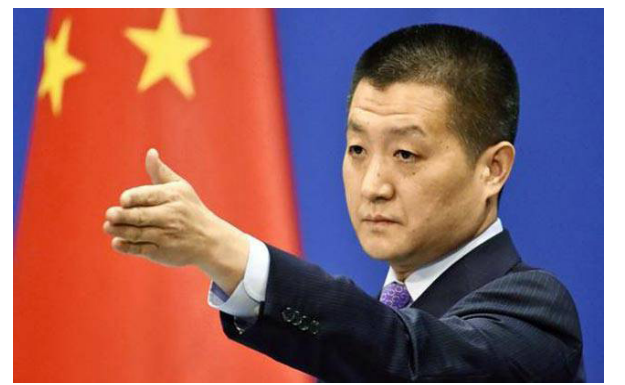
Kashmir should be handled bilaterally by India, Pakistan: China

Beijing: China said on Friday the Kashmir issue should be handled bilaterally by India and Pakistan, sidestepping a demand from Islamabad that the United Nations should appoint a special envoy for the region.

Responding to a question on the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) asking for UN resolutions on Kashmir to be implemented, China's foreign ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said the matter was left over from history and New Delhi and Islamabad should increase their interactions to address the matter.

"China's position on the Kashmir issue is clear-cut. The Kashmir issue is left over from history. China hopes India and Pakistan can increase dialogue and communication and properly handle relevant issues and jointly safeguard regional peace and stability," Lu told a regular news briefing.

Addressing the UN General Assembly on Thursday, Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi had urged the world body to appoint a special envoy for Kashmir and claimed



the "struggle" by the people of the region is being "brutally suppressed" by India.

While responding to Abbasi's statement on Friday, the Indian delegate referred to Pakistan as "Terroristan".

"In its short history, Pakistan has become a geography synonymous with terror," Indian diplomat Eenam Gambhir said in her speech.

In her strongly worded speech, Gambhir said it was extraordinary that the country which protected and sheltered al-Qaeda chief Osama Bin Laden and Afghan Taliban head Mullah Omar was now playing the victim.

▶ See **China...**Pg 02

SSB attack: TWO BANIHAL YOUTH ARRESTED ALONG WITH WEAPONS, THIRD ABSCONDING

Banihal, Sep 22: Police on Friday claimed that it arrested two youth involved in an attack on SSB party near Banihal tunnel. The attack that was carried out on Wednesday night had left a Head Constable dead while an Assistant Sub Inspector was wounded.

A police official told news agency CNS that two youth were arrested in a Joint Operation. He identified the arrested youth as Gazanfar Iqbal Khan and Arif Wani. He added that third accused Aquib Waheed is still at large and hunt has been launched to trace him.

Two youth allegedly involved in an attack on SSB party near Banihal tunnel were arrested by police and

▶ See **Banihal...**Pg 02

Sushma Swaraj comes down heavily on Pakistan for terrorism

United Nations: External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj has underscored the need to combat terrorism in her multilateral meetings and sent a "very strong" signal to Pakistan to stop using it as an instrument of state policy, her spokesperson has said.

Swaraj, who is currently in New York to attend the annual UN General Assembly Session, held a series of multilateral meet-



ings, including with leaders of BRICS, IBSA, SAARC and India-CELAC.

India, China and South Africa) is a five-member grouping and IBSA (India, Brazil and South Asia) a

three-member bloc, whereas ICELAC stands for Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

"In almost all the multilateral engagements which EAM (external affairs minister) had, a reference to the counter-terrorism has been a common thread in most of the press releases and statements. This is something which has come out very strongly," external affairs ministry

▶ See **Sushma...**Pg 02

NO TERRORIST HAVENS IN PAKISTAN, DECLARES PM ABBASI IN NEW YORK

Washington: Pakistan's prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has rejected allegations that his country was not doing enough to rein in militant groups operating from its soil, saying the "perception that there are (terrorist) sanctuaries is absolutely not correct".

Abbasi was speaking at an event in New York on Wednesday, where he also said that Pakistan will act "when it's required" against Hafiz Saeed, the co-founder of militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba and one of the key people behind the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

"We have taken action against him. He is in house arrest. In the recent by-election, the candidate did use his picture in an election poster, which is illegal to do,

▶ See **Abbasi...**Pg 02

Opp parties for practical steps to initiate dialogue

'Mere statements won't yield results until practical steps are taken'

Srinagar, Sep 22: Welcoming the statement made by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader, Ram Madhav wherein he had stated that the government is open for dialogue with all the stakeholders without any pre-conditions, the opposition political parties on Friday said that the Government of India (GoI) must take practical steps to initiate a dialogue process with all the stakeholders in the state.

Reacting to Madhav's statement that "opposition cooperates with the government" for peace, they said that the BJP leader lacks information about the role played by the opposition over extending their support to restore



the normalcy in Kashmir.

National General Secretary of National Conference (NC), Ali Muhammad Sagar

▶ See **Opp...**Pg 02

LEGAL METROLOGY DEPARTMENT TAKES ACTION AGAINST DERMATOLOGIST CLINIC

Srinagar, Sep 22: The department of Legal Metrology received a complaint from a consumer namely Bashir Ahmad Mir of Khomeini Chowk Budgam against a dermatologist clinic operating from Srinagar city for an unfair trade practice. The consumer has approached the clinic for treatment of hair-fall and transplantation. The doctor in the clinic recommended certain medical tests before going for minor surgery of hair-transplantation. The consumer spent Rs 6000 for the tests and produced the same before the doctor for the analysis. The doctor assured the consumer that hair-transplantation surgery shall prove 100% successful as all the parameters are satisfactory. The Consumer deposited Rs 40,000 in the clinic for the surgery but the surgery proved unsuccessful. The

▶ See **Legal...**Pg 02

GST implementation smoother than expected: Jaitley

MUMBAI: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today said the implementation of the new taxation regime GST is going smoother than expected in initial phase.

The decision-making mechanism at the top between the Centre and the states has been "reasonably institutionalised" and the mechanism created to address day-to-day issues is robust, he said.

"... These are early days of the implementation of the alternative taxation system. It appears to be so far going on smoother than expected," Jaitley said, addressing the 70th annual general meeting of the Indian Banks' Association here.

He said the number of people coming un-



der the network itself is now likely to expand gradually.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was implemented from July 1 this year. It brings the economy under a uniform tax regime.

▶ See **Jaitley...**Pg 02

JKSSB DECLARES 41 SELECTION LISTS IN BOARD MEETING

Srinagar, Sep 22: The J&K Services Selection Board today conducted its 130th Board meeting under the chairmanship of its chairman, Simrandeep Singh and declared 41 Selection Lists, the vacancies for which were notified vide Advertisement No. 07 of 2015; Advertisement No. 01 of 2015; Advertisement No. 04 of 2016; and Advertisement No. 01 and 02 of 2016.

These results include for the posts of FMPHW in Health and Medical Education Department for Districts Ganderbal, Shopian, Pulwama, Anantnag, Kupwara, Budgam and Kulgam of Kashmir and for districts Udhampur, Kathua, Doda, Reasi, Ramban, Rajouri, Poonch, Kishtwar and

▶ See **JKSSB...**Pg 02

Atrocities on Rohingyas and detention of political prisoners:

Yasin Malik leads a procession in Soura

Srinagar, Sep 22: Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Muhammad Yasin Malik on Friday led a protest rally in Soura area of Srinagar to demand release of detainees languishing in various jails.

"Suppressing peoples' voices by killings and incarcerating people can be only termed as worst dictatorship. Only oppressive authoritarian regimes keep people in jails and incarcerations centers. Persecution of Burmese Muslims and inaction of the



international community on it is regrettable," Malik told the gathering.

JKLF chairman said that Islam teaches unity and oneness and if "we are able to

safeguard our unity and remain steadfast in our struggle, no power on earth can ever defeat us."

Terming Kashmiris' "languishing in jails and police stations as prisoners of conscience," Malik said that so-called biggest democracy and its allies in Jammu Kashmir have incarcerated thousands of young and old, men and women in the name of peace and law and order.

"Black Laws like PSA and investigating agencies

▶ See **Malik...**Pg 02

AGA SYED HASAN PITCHES FOR UNITY AMONG MUSLIM UMMAH

Budgam, Sep 22 Anjuman Shari Shian president and senior pro-freedom leader Aga Syed Hasan Almosvi Alsafvi in his Muharram message has laid stress on the unity of Muslim Ummah across globe particularly in Kashmir Valley.

During his Friday address at Imambara Budgam here in Central Kashmir, Aga Syed Hasan Almosvi Alsafvi paid rich tributes to the supreme sacrifices and services rendered by Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) for cause of Islam and urged for following the teachings and path of the Imam.

He also highlighted the faithfulness of companion of Imam Hussain (AS).

▶ See **Aga...**Pg 02

MIRWAIZ EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER ROHINGYA MUSLIMS' PLIGHT

'Approach adopted by Gol reflects double standards'

Srinagar, Sep 22: Expressing serious concern over the plight of Rohingya Muslims, Hurriyat Conference (M) chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said that thousands of Rohingya Muslims have been forced to flee their homes in Myanmar and are living in miserable conditions in various refugee camps with European Union and United Nations lodging strong protest over their conditions while as the approach adopted by the Government of India over the issue reflects "double standards."

According to a statement issued to KNS, addressing Friday gathering at the historic Jamia Masjid here after two weeks, Mirwaiz said the approach adopted by the Gol towards Rohingya Muslims is unfortunate stating that on one hand, Rohingya Muslims are labelled as illegal im-

migrants and considered as a danger for India, and on the other hand, Chamkha and Tibetan people who landed in India are being given refugee status. The refugees from Chamkha and Tibet are being provided every sort of help by the Government of India while as Rohingya Muslims are labelled as threat to country. Why these double standards?

Mirwaiz said labelling Rohingya Muslims with the terror reflects the ill mindset of Government of India as the fact remains that they being the Muslims are being forced to leave India. They are being deported just for the fact that they are Muslims, Mirwaiz said. He said that the treatment meted out to Rohingya Muslims is clear violation of basic principles of humanitarian laws established to protect humans in trouble irrespective of their religious



affiliations.

Welcoming the recent session of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at United Nations, in which many resolutions vis-a-vis Kashmir issue were passed, Mirwaiz said since he too was invited by the OIC to participate in the session but in absence of his travel documents, he couldn't make it to UN.

Mirwaiz said the stand taken by the OIC by advocating right to self determination for the people of Kashmir is a morale booster for the people of Kashmir. Mirwaiz said Kashmiri people always yearned for peace and wanted better relations between the two nuclear powers, India and Pakistan as it is the people of Kashmir who always suffer whenever the two countries are at loggerheads.

Mirwaiz said that Government of India should acknowledge the fact that the Kashmir struggle can't be muzzled by using military might and it's high time to accept the ground realities and resolve the issue as per the wishes and aspirations of people. Mirwaiz said that the Indian leadership must change its stubborn approach and take concrete and sincere steps towards settlement of Kashmir

issue which is taking a serious toll on human lives.

Mirwaiz also welcomed the statement of Pakistan Prime Minister at UN wherein he has strongly supported implementation of UN resolutions for resolving Kashmir and condemned the human rights violations in Kashmir. Mirwaiz said that stand adopted by the Pakistan at the international levels, provides major relief to the people of J&K.

Mirwaiz expressed serious concern over the growing social evils in the society terming it hazardous for the Kashmir as a conservative society if not prevented on time. Mirwaiz said in every area, in collaboration with the local masjids and area elders, a social reform campaign has to be started to ensure social evils are eradicated from the society before the situation turns ugly.

PRABHAT PHERRY STARTS WITH BIG FANFARE AT KATRA

KATRA, SEPTEMBER 22: Prabhat Pheries Reception Committee Katra today took out its first Prabhat Pherry, which is part of Navratri Festival being organized at Katra.

The Prabhat Pherry was flagged off by Shiv Kumar Sharma Joint Secretary J&K State Sport Council in presence of SDPO Ashok Kumar and Babu Ram Dubey former Chairman of Hotel and Restaurant Association of Katra.

Prabhat Pherry started from Bus stand Katra passing through Ban Ganga Road reached at Darshani Deodi and then came back via main bazaar to Bus Stand Katra, culmination point.

The procession was comprised of artists of Song and Drama Division, led by Durga Prakash, Senior citizens, local people and a large number of Maa Vaishno Devi devotees.

Enroute Darshani Deodi, the procession was welcomed by Inspector Manoj Kumar along with CRPF personnel.

Raj Kumar Padha Chairman of Prabhat Pheries Reception Committee thanked all the people who participated in the Prabhat Pherry especially CRPF personnels for their gesture and appealed all the sections of society to join in Prabhat Pheries to get the blessing of Maa Vaishno Devi.

It is pertinent to mention here that Prabhat Pheries will be organized till 29th of September on daily basis at 5:30 am from Bus Stand Katra.

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MEHBOOBA

province. She even suggested slapping Public Safety Act against chronic drug peddlers. She also suggested setting up of de-addiction centres for the rehabilitation of affected youth.

Mehbooba Mufti specifically sought feedback on drug abuse in Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu and other districts where the prevalence of the menace has been reported considerably. She directed constitution of specialised teams in every district to track down the menace.

The Chief Minister directed the District SPs to visit periodically the distant and far off areas of their districts to get a feel of the needs and difficulties of people. She also directed them to keep liaison with the community leaders in sensitive areas for maintaining peace. She specifically directed the District SPs of Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Ramban and Doda to ensure smooth traffic movement on the National Highways and be available to stranded passengers in case of accidents and exigencies.

Mehbooba Mufti also directed continued vigil on vital installations like tunnels, religious places and communally sensitive locations. She expressed concern over the rising crimes against women and sought a detailed feedback from the District SPs about the functioning of women police stations set up at various places last year in the province. She directed the District SPs to act tough against the people found involved in cases of eve teasing, domestic violence, rape, and other crimes against women and bring them to justice at the earliest.

The Chief Minister asked the District SPs to make the Grievance Cells at their offices more vibrant and pursue the probes in cases of public interest with speed till the closure of the cases.

Mehbooba Mufti also asked the DGP to furnish at the earliest the details of pending cases of wards of policemen who were martyred in action and in whose favour compassionate help or assistance could be extended.

In his address, Deputy Chief Minister, Dr. Nirmal Singh while appreciating the role of the Police force asked the District SPs to keep strict vigil on the situation. He also laid stress on close coordination with other security agencies within their jurisdictions.

Earlier, Director General of Police, Dr SP Vaid briefed the Chief Minister about the situation in the border areas, law & order, crime and drug abuse situations in the Jammu province. He said during the eight months of this year Police, on the directions of the Chief Minister, has confiscated 40 kgs of heroine, 580 kgs of charas, 142 kgs of ganja and 60 thousand capsules of different kinds from various areas of the province.

Issues like setting up of Forensic labs at range levels, demand of bunkers in border areas, manpower shortage in newly carved districts, auction of condemned vehicles, need for amendment in traffic rules and enhancing penalties, improving the criminal justice system and use of video conferencing for recording statements of jail inmates also came up for discussion in the meeting.

Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rohit Kansal; Inspector General of Police, Jammu zone, SDS Jamwal; Inspector General of Police, CID, Abdul Ghani Mir; range DIGs and all the District Superintendents of Police of Jammu province were present in the meeting.

CHINA

"By now, all Pakistan's neighbours are painfully familiar with these tactics to create a narrative based on distortions, deception and deceit. This august assembly and the world beyond know that efforts at creating alternative facts do not change reality," she said.

She added, "The quest for a land of pure has actually produced 'the land of pure terror'. Pakistan is now 'Terroristan', with a flourishing industry producing and exporting global terrorism."

Abbasi, delivering his maiden address to the UN General Assembly, also accused India of indulging in terror activities against Pakistan and warned of a "matching response" if it "ventures across the Line of Control" or acts on any doctrine of limited war against Pakistan.

BANIHAL

army in a joint night raid along with snatched weapons, an official said today.

"Two service rifles, including an AK assault rifle and an Insas rifle, which were snatched during the attack, were also recovered from their possession," he said.

SUSHMA

spokesperson Raveesh Kumar told reporters here on Thursday.

"EAM herself in her speech did come down heavily on terror groups operating with support system by other countries. It is basically a very strong signal to Pakistan to stop using terrorism as an instrument of state policy, stop giving sanctuaries to known terrorist outfits that are recognised by the United Nations," Kumar said.

Swaraj also called for disruption of terrorist networks and terror financing, he said.

In addition to attending the tri-lateral meeting, Swaraj also had meetings with her counterparts from Kyrgyzstan and Argentina. Late in the evening, she also attended a dinner hosted by the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group.

In the BRICS meeting, the leaders "reaffirmed the commitment for the full implementation" of the Xi'an declaration as well as the outcomes of the past summits. "This is very significant," he said, adding that a joint statement issued later referenced to Security Council reforms.

"There was an agreement for the need for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations Security Council and to increase representation of developing countries," Kumar said.

BRICS ministers had a very strong language formulation on terrorism, including adoption of comprehensive convention on international terrorism CCIT, he said, adding that role of BRICS counter terrorism group was also highlighted.

At the IBSA meeting, which was chaired by Swaraj herself, she mentioned that terrorism was a threat to the world.

"All the countries, who are part of this grouping they agreed with this nature of threat. We did announce at the IBSA foreign ministry meeting that India will be hosting the sixth IBSA summit in 2018," Kumar said.

After BRICS and IBSA, Swaraj also attended a luncheon with her counterparts from all the members of SAARC nations.

During the meeting, Swaraj gave an account of the initiatives which have been launched by India as part of its regional policy, he said.

"We mentioned South Asia satellite, we did mention the South Asian University and also the progress which has been made on SAARC disaster management center. We also highlighted energy and connectivity as major issues," Kumar said.

"Again, EAM flagged terrorism as a scourge, which should be eliminated and also urged that the ecosystem that sustains terrorism should end," Kumar said.

He, however, did not give an account of the reaction from Pakistan and other SAARC member countries on this.

"However, there is commonality of agreement regarding terrorism as a scourge as a threat to humankind. At this stage I don't have the details of what the foreign minister of Pakistan spoke of doing that meeting," he said.

Swaraj, thereafter, co-chaired a meeting of India-CLAC which is basically an outreach India has towards the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Participants included El Salvador as the co-chair, Dominican Republic, Grenada and Mexico.

At the beginning, one minute's silence was observed for the victims of the recent hurricanes in the region.

"We proposed cooperation in sectors like renewable energy cooperation, space cooperation, Three broad sectors were discussed, trade and investment and climate change and we also saw their support for the international Solar Alliance," Kumar said.

ABBASI

and action will be taken against him by the election commission," he said, according to PTI.

In addition to India, Afghanistan and, more lately, the United States, have accused Pakistan of looking the other way on terrorism. Abbasi was largely addressing concerns on support to Taliban and groups that operated in Afghanistan from support based in Pakistan.

On Tuesday, the US Senate passed a first legislation to halt military aid to Islamabad if it fails to take action against Saeed's Lashkar-e-Taiba. The law will need to be backed by a similar legislation in the US House of Representatives to come into force.

"This perception that there are (terrorist) sanctuaries is absolutely not correct. We have defeated the enemy on our own territory. We have destroyed the sanctuaries," he said.

"And today the cross-border incursions, if they happen, are from Afghanistan into Pakistan to attack our forces," he

added.

"We have told Afghans that if there is any sanctuary that they can give us coordinates for, we will take action against that sanctuary. As far as we are concerned, today no sanctuaries exist on Pakistani soil from which any activity takes place against Afghanistan," Abbasi said.

Asked about Saeed in Pakistan, Abbasi said he belonged to a proscribed organisation.

"We have taken action in the past and will act where it's required. He (Saeed) has been under detention for over 2-3 years now," the prime minister said.

Abbasi was addressing an audience at an event organised by the Council on Foreign Relations -- a top American think-tank.

OPP

said that dialogue with the stakeholders is the only way out to resolve the Kashmir issue.

"Violence, use of force and other measures have not yielded any result so far. NC has always said that the dialogue must be initiated with all the stakeholders to resolve the Kashmir issue," Sagar told KNS.

Sagar said that Madhav lacks information about the role played by opposition over restoring the normalcy in Kashmir.

Madhav on Thursday had said that normalcy will be restored soon if "opposition cooperates with the government."

"We have already extended our support to the government over the restoration of peace in the Valley. I think Ram Madhav should go through the steps taken by the opposition regarding the restoration of peace. NC is responsible opposition party and has taken every possible initiative to help the government in restoring the peace in the Valley," he said, adding that the government is making statements in "frustration".

Opposition Congress said that the party takes the statements of BJP with disbelief.

"It is a mere statement until dialogue is started with the separatists and all stakeholders. Unconditional dialogue is in their Agenda of Alliance, but they have not implemented it practically even more than three years have gone by," Congress Vice President and MLC G N Monga told KNS.

"If the BJP is serious, let them start the dialogue. But given their contradictory and rhetorical statements, we don't believe in them. They give one statement here and contradict it in New Delhi and Jammu," he said.

About the role of opposition which Madhav pointed out, the senior Congress leader said that their party has been all along supporting peace and progress of the state and the whole country.

"The situation is deteriorating because people are angry with PDP-BJP government; because of their deeds and what they did with the people. They cannot blame us for their wrong deeds and decisions," he said.

CPI (M) senior leader and MLA Kulgam, Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami welcomed the statement made by Ram Madhav but said that mere statements would not yield any results.

"We welcome his statement but at the same time we want to say that mere statements wouldn't yield any result until the government formulates any strategy to have dialogue with all the stakeholders."

"The government must evolve a proper mechanism to initiate a dialogue with all the stakeholders in Kashmir. They should talk to the people especially youth, who are alienated with them," he said, adding, that a concrete framework should be adopted to start a dialogue process for the resolution of Kashmir issue.

LEGAL

consumer approached the clinic again for the deficiency of the service but he received a poor response from management of the clinic and unsuccessful surgery and treatment was attributed to his slackness of taking the medicines regularly. The consumer got hurt by the response of the management of the clinic and was put into deep mental agony.

After going through the complaint, the department observed that the medical prescription issued to the complainant does not carry the details of surgery and treatment as are required under Medical laws. The notice was issued to the clinic for their response against the said complaint. The clinic through their counsel raised certain legal objections which were cleared in the department's second notice. The private hospitals/nursing homes/clinics fall under the purview of Jammu and Kashmir Consumer Protection Act, 1987 as these institutions are providing service against payment/consideration. The Govt. has empowered the officers of Legal Metrology department to lodge the consumer complaints in the consumer courts of the state. Both the parties attended the office of the Deputy Controller Legal Metrology (Consumer Protection) Kashmir to be heard in person. They mutually agreed to settle the dispute amicably in order to avoid

any litigation. The management of the clinic offered the complainant a cheque amounting to Rs 22000 as compensation for his mental agony in presence of Mr. Amar Singh Jt Controller Legal Metrology Kashmir. The consumers are informed to preserve the medical prescriptions, clinical reports, receipts of surgery-charges/medicines etc as these stand evidences in relevant forums whenever there is a consumer dispute.

JAITLEY

India's GDP grew slower at 5.7 per cent during April-June — the lowest in three years of the Modi government while lagging China for the second straight quarter — as manufacturing slowed ahead of the GST launch and note ban impact lingered.

Jaitley had recently attributed the lower GDP numbers to pre-GST de-stocking of goods and expressed hope that the economy will grow at 7 per cent, saying manufacturing has bottomed out.

On demonetisation, Jaitley today said it was a conscious effort to alter the saving and spending pattern of the Indian society, which was largely cash dependent.

A lot has happened to the country and the economy in last one year and there is a lot of concern with regard to banking system, which is lifeline for the economy, he said.

While credit goes to the banking sector for financial inclusion as well as handling demonetisation drive successfully in a few weeks, Jaitley noted that stressed assets are core area of concern for the banking system.

"It has been the major challenge with regard to the increasing number of stressed assets. I think it is this which is really the core area of concern today," he said.

"Whatever steps that are required to be taken to find a resolution to this problem (NPA) we will expeditiously work with India's banking system in order to strengthen it," he said further.

JKSSB

Jammu of Jammu division. Besides, the results for the posts of MMPHW of Pulwama district were also declared. The results for the posts of Food Safety Officer for Jammu and Kashmir divisions were also announced. It is pertinent to mention that Food Safety Officers are immediately needed to implement the provisions of Food Safety Act. Other results which were announced included those for the posts of Assistant Public Analyst of Kashmir Division (Health department), Copiest (Information department), Junior Grade Nurse (Health department) of Divisional Cadres Jammu and Kashmir; Junior Staff Nurse (Health Department) of districts Ramban, Kathua, Reasi and Kishtwar and Assistant Camera-man (Information department).

The meeting was attended by the Members of the Board including Mrs. Rukhsana Gani, Prof. Tasleem Peer, Mohammad Akbar Wani, Musheer Ahmad Mirza, Shafiqat Iqbal, Anil Koul, Mohammad Saleem Malik and Nawab din. Secretary of Board, Tassaduq Hussain Mir, was also present.

MALIK

like NIA are being used to jail and intimidate people. He said that from Tihar jail Delhi to jails in Jammu Kashmir, thousands are being terrorized and tortured that too in the name of democracy," he said.

Malik also condemned the ongoing massacre of Muslims in Rakhine state of Myanmar, saying that "humans are being killed, raped, looted and persecuted with impunity and state of Myanmar is engaged in ethnic cleansing of an entire nation."

"International community till now has stood as a mere spectator on this mass killing and exodus of humans and this persecution and inaction of the international community on it is regrettable and most condemnable," he added.

AGA

He said that in this modern age Muslim Ummah was facing problems across the globe.

"Without unity among Muslims, problems could not be resolved. Enemies of Islam were making untiring efforts to defame Islam, however, their designs would be frustrated and they could not succeed in their nefarious designs. It is the need of the hour to show unity," he said.

Aga Syed Hasan urged upon Muslim Ummah to freely participate in Muharam-ul-Haram processions. He said that Imam Hussain (AS) sacrificed his life while fighting the anti-Islam and anti-humanity forces.

He said that it was the responsibility of every Muslim to stand against every evil force in the society.

He also highlighted the issue of Rohingya Muslims and said that it was the need of the hour to show unity to world and play role for peace and get genocide of Burma Muslims stopped.

M/O Culture and its Organisation's pushes for massive awareness during ongoing Swachhta Pakhwada

New Delhi, September 22: Swachhta Pakhwada' and Swachhta hi Seva abhiyaan is being conducted by the Ministry of Culture and its 43 organisations to create a massive awareness among all stakeholders of the society. During the current swachhta Pakhwada various autonomous, attached and subordinated organisations under the Ministry of Culture have undertaken more than 100 activities such as Shramdan by staff (cleanliness drive), various lectures, seminars, competitions, nukkad natak and painting exhibitions with an objective of dissemination of the message of Swachh Bharat widely.

North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad has organized poster making by

children giving message for cleanliness. Sangeet natak Academy has organised Vimal Pravah Yatra during 19-21 September to give message of swachh Bharat through cultural performances. The staff of the regional Centre of Anthropological survey of India has cleaned the approach road of the office premises located in Andaman & Nicobar, Port Blair. Teachers from different schools have participated in the Swachhta programme conducted by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on September 18, 2017 at Gandhi Darshan during ongoing swachhta hi seva abhiyan. Nukkad natak as a medium of powerful IEC (Information Education and Communication) is being used by the Delhi Public Library in

Delhi and North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur in various NE state capitals. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata took the swachhata drive with just not cleaning, but creating awareness among the future Indians to maintain the Clean Environment by tree plantation.

A Free Residential Home - Premasree - for Blind and Visually Impaired Children participated in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan campaign organised by Central Reference Library, Kolkata, during ongoing Swachhta Pakhwada. Regional Science Centres under the National Council of Science Museums-NCSM have organised hand washing and other swachhta activities for the students. Also Centre for Cul-

tural Resources and Training (CCRT) has trained more than 100 students of Guru Ramdas College of Education, Delhi on the occasion of ongoing Swachhata Pakhwada.

Sahitya Akademi participated in the pakhwada by organising tree Plantation Programme on 21st September, 2017 in Ravindra Bhavan Campus, New Delhi. In this series Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sanghralaya organised a marathon walk as part of awareness programme for 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan'. The walk commenced from museum and continued till Boat Club; during the walk participating employees and officers spread messages of cleanliness through slogans. Everyone collected the garbage spread on the route and disposed it properly.

Empowering the Soldier by Project Yash Vidya

New Delhi, September 22: Empowering the soldiers has always been the endeavour of Indian Army. A MoU was signed by Lt Gen Ashwani Kumar, AG, IHQ of MoD (Army) and Prof. E Vayunandan, Vice Chancellor, Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU), Nasik on 21 Sep 2017 at New Delhi.

The Bachelor's degree Programme designed for the Army Personnel gives special recognition to the in-service training/Army courses completed and by providing exemption from studying certain courses. Apart from the highly subsidised fees charged, the courses offered for study by the university have been carefully selected on the basis of their relevance and overall usefulness.

The University will award Diploma in Self Empowerment and a Bachelors Degree in Arts or Commerce under PROJECT YASH VIDYA enabling them with academic qualifications for better future.

North Eastern States can show way to other States: Dr Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, September 22: The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh has said that the North-Eastern States can show the way to other States and particularly the other hill States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand can emulate several of the successful experiments and initiatives taken in the Northeast.

Addressing the 3-day "Sustainable Mountain Development Summit" at Mizoram University in Aizawl yesterday, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the other States of India have much to learn from the North-Eastern States and in this regard, he cited the example of Mizoram, where the conference was being held. He said, a small State, which formed just over 30 years ago and has a population of just over 10 lakh, has a very high literacy rate which is, perhaps, next only to Kerala. Not only this, he said, the State of Mizoram, comprising four hill districts with more than 50% of the state's population living in these districts, has successfully introduced "New Land Use Policy" by giving the farmers an alternate sustainable land based activity through this policy wherein the farmers have successfully switched over

to other vocational activities like horticulture, sericulture, bamboo plantation, etc. He also complimented Mizoram for having introduced the new "Economic Development Policy" as a comprehensive growth strategy for the State.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the proposal for introducing "Air Clinics" comprising helicopter based OPD to cater to people in far-flung areas is almost through and very soon this, first of its kind, healthcare experiment in India, will be introduced in the North-Eastern States. He further said that this is one of the initiatives which could also be emulated by States like Jammu & Kashmir.

In the last three years of the Union Government, Dr Jitendra Singh said, a number of new initiatives have been undertaken which could have actually been undertaken several years ago. In this regard, he referred to the declaration of 19 new rivers in Northeast as "National Waterways" with thrust on the "Barak Waterways". This will not only provide alternative means of transport but the cost will be nearly four times lesser than the other modes of transport, he said.

The Indo-German collaboration with regard to Mizoram has already begun, disclosed Dr Jitendra Singh and added that Japan has also come forward to invest in Manipur and other States of the region.

Blockage of Working Capital of Exporters

New Delhi, September 22: There are lot of apprehensions expressed in the media about the problem of blockage of working capital for exporters post-GST. There are various figures also being discussed on the blockage of such funds, which are wild estimates. Such media reports are not based on facts.

i) First of all, it may be mentioned that in respect of 66% value of exports, exporters have preferred the duty drawback scheme instead of taking actual refund of input taxes in the pre-GST regime. Duty drawback scheme was actually extended in the post-GST regime for a period of 3 months, i.e. upto 30th September, 2017, subject to that exporter not taking input tax credit under GST. This means that as of now, for 66% of the value of exports, there is no blockage of funds.

ii) The remaining 33% of exporters always used to prefer a normal refund route for taxes paid on inputs for Central Excise separately and for VAT separately and that was made available to them only after the actual exports took place and, for such class of exporters, earlier also there was a normal blockage of funds for a period of 5-6 months at least except for those using facility of advance authorisation. Hence, the problem is not as grievous as it is made out to be. Notwithstanding this, the Committee on Exports is working on issues of export sector.

iii) A lot of people are speculating that

the refund for inputs in case of exports under GST will be available only when regular form GSTR 3 is filed for every month. This is not the case. We are trying to find a way of giving refund by linking form GSTR 1 with form GSTR 3B and, therefore, for the month of July, where form GSTR 1 is already filed, the authorities would be in a position to process the refund applications. Therefore, the exporters, who have not yet filed form GSTR 1 for July 2017, may be advised to file it immediately and not to wait till the deadline. GSTN application for refund is also getting ready. But, in the meantime, we are also finding other ways of giving refund, if necessary through a manual procedure.

iv) The Committee on Export set up by the GST Council met on 19th & 20th August, 2017 and have discussed various methods of resolving the issue of blockage of funds for the exporters. The Committee also interacted with the exporters of eight sectors who made detailed presentations on the problems being faced by them. The Committee would present the solution to their problems before the GST Council as soon as possible.

v) In the meantime, the authorities of State Governments as well as Central Government have been requested to clear the pending refund claims of Central Excise and VAT for the pre-GST period, so that the exporters will get immediate relief.

Clarification about Transition Credit

New Delhi, September 22: There are lot of speculations in the media about the credit of Rs. 65,000 crore claimed by taxpayers in respect of Central Excise and Service Tax in the pre-GST period. Some people are under the impression that because of Rs. 65,000 crore claimed as transition credit, the income of Government this month has plummeted.

Firstly, Rs. 65,000 crore is the credit claimed by the taxpayers in the TRANS 1 form as their balance of credit. It does not mean that they would have used all of this credit for payment of their output tax liability for the month of July 2017.

It may be clarified that this is far from the truth. Secondly, it may be clarified that an amount of Rs. 95,000 crore, which was received in the month of August 2017 for GST, is the amount actually paid in cash other than availing credit.

Thirdly, this figure of transition credit claimed is also not incredibly high, since Rs. 1.27 lakh crore of credit of Central Excise and Service Tax was lying as closing balance as on 30th June, 2017 as per department's record. This includes credit in Central Excise as well as Service Tax. Of course, some of these credits may not be admissible under GST regime, for example the credits, which are blocked under Section 17 (5) of CGST Act or which are not covered under the definition of GST. Also, some of the credits, which are claimed in TRANS 1 form may be under litigation and, therefore, it may not be available to the assessee to carry forward or utilisation. It is from this angle that CBECS is examining the transition credits, which are claimed by the assessee in TRANS 1 form in certain cases.

It is possible that some assessee would have committed mistake in filing TRANS 1 form of admissible credit. It has, therefore, been decided to provide facility for revision of TRANS 1 by the GST Council. This facility would be available by middle of October 2017 and assessee are requested to revise their TRANS 1 form before 31st October, 2017, so that they themselves can remove the error.

DDC conducts inspection of schools, AWCs, PHCs

Cleanest School, AWC, PHC to be felicitated at district level on Oct 2

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 22: In an attempt to make the district Open Defecation free and ensure toilet facility at all the institutions of the district, District Development Commissioner, Ravinder Kumar today conducted inspection of various Schools, Anganwari Centres and Health institutions under the fortnightly campaign 'Swachhta Hi Sewa'.

Taking a serious note of filthy toilets in various institutions, the DDC strictly directed the authorities to make the toilets clean and functional within a week's time.

The DDC further stressed upon the concerned authorities to maintain cleanliness at Schools, AWCs and Health institutions for ensuring good health of the beneficiaries. He also stressed on the importance of toilets in maintaining hygiene and good health of the students.

Besides, he informed that the cleanest School, cleanest AWC and cleanest PHC of the district would be felicitated with attractive prizes on the final day of the campaign, i.e., October 2.

During the inspection, the DDC interacted with the students regarding the facilities being provided to them and took stock of the Mid-day meal scheme.

The institutions visited by the DDC included Government High School Roun, Government Girls High School Jaganoo, Government Primary Health Centre Jaganoo and Anganwari centre, Jaganoo etc.

Ganga inaugurates annual exhibition of Handicraft at Katra

KATRA, SEPTEMBER 22: Minister of Industries and Commerce Chander Parkash Ganga today said that state's artisans would be encouraged and promoted across all lines so that they earn their livelihood through finished goods.

The Minister, after inaugurating annual exhibition by Handicrafts department, said that the government has introduced different crafts in this field and maximum efforts would be made to introduce more crafts in future for welfare and uplift of the artisan's class.

Earlier, the Minister along with senior officers took round of the ground to inspect different stalls set up by the handicraft department.

Lauding the efforts of artisans, cooperative societies and trainees for their improved quality of work, the Minister said that effective platforms would be provided to them



for excellence and progress in individual crafts to make them potential entrepreneurs.

The Minister directed the department to explore more possibilities for establishing clusters on the pattern of one under process in Samba, Jammu and Kathua. He stressed for revival of handicraft sector in Jammu division in a big way.

The Minister also asserted that loans facilities

under Artisan Credit Card (ACC) scheme would certainly be increased in future for benefits of artisans.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Handicrafts Dr Mushtaq Ahmed informed that the new designs have been introduced in different crafts. He said that the instructors would be equipped with modern designing skills at School of Designs at Jammu and Srinagar as a part of their

refresher course.

In the exhibition, over 18 handicraft cooperative societies are taking part to display their finished goods in different crafts. The Government district stores from Reasi, Udhampur, Ramban, Rajouri, Poonch, Jammu, Samba and Kathua also participated.

The exhibition having 25 stalls of various categories would remain alive from 22 September to 1 October.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Reasi Prasanna Ramaswamy G, Managing Director Handloom, Joint Director Handicraft Pawan Kumar Sharma, Development Officer Handicrafts Jammu Mamta Devi, Deputy Director Technical Education, Assistant Director Handicraft Reasi Om Parkash, Deputy Registrar Induscos Sarvar Hussain, HTO Om Prakash and other officers of handicraft.

DGMO Level talks between India And Pak

New Delhi, September 22: DGMO level talks on behalf of Pak DGMO was held on 22 Sep 17. During the talks the Pak DGMO raised the issues of targeting of Pak Civilians opposite the Jammu Sector by own troops.

Indian DGMO in response highlighted that all Cease Fire Violations in the Jammu Sector were initiated by Pak Rangers and the BSF troops deployed only responded appropriately to them. It was also emphasised that no targeted firing on civilians was carried out by own troops. Apart from these, firing by BSF troops were initiated onto Armed intruders attempting to infiltrate from close proximity of Pak posts along Amritsar Border.

DGMO also put across emphatically that the trend of infiltration along the LC continued with active support of Pak forward posts impacting peace and tranquility along the LC and also the internal security situation. This was evident from continued attempts of sniping and targeting of our troops undertaken through cross-border actions duly supported by Pak Army troops.

DGMO reiterated that the Indian Army is a professional Army and reserves the right to retaliate appropriately to any incident leading to loss of life of our troop. He reaffirmed the sincerity in the efforts of Indian Army to maintain peace and tranquility along the LC provided there was a reciprocal effort from Pakistan.

Tax Payers Advised To Confirm Identities Of Income Tax Search Authorities

New Delhi, September 22: The Income Tax Department in the Delhi region regularly conducts search/survey/verification exercises in case of suspected tax evaders to uncover concealment of undisclosed income/assets as per the law.

However, instances have been brought to the notice of department wherein, certain unscrupulous elements have conducted unauthorized / illegal searches through forged identity cards claiming to be from Income Tax Department, Delhi.

It is reiterated that the tax payers is well within his rights to seek & inspect the warrant of authorisation, confirm the identities of authorized Income Tax Authorities mentioned on the warrant. The assessee can seek the telephone numbers of immediate supervisory officers of the search/survey party for the purpose of verification of genuineness.

In case, any doubts still persists then the Income Tax Department can be contacted on the following number 9013850099 for the specified purpose of confirmation of identities of officers/officials working in the Delhi region.

Navratra Festival Katra: All India Devotional Songs competition begins

KATRA, SEPTEMBER 22: As part of Navratra Festival 2017, all India Devotional Song Competition began at Yog Ashram Complex last evening with lighting of traditional lamp by Yog Acharya Swami Yoga Nand Ji Maharaja in presence of celebrity singers Nidhi Kohli, Peji Shah Koti (Brother of famous singer Master Saleem).

Others present were Additional SPs Naresh Singh and H.K.Nazar, SDPO Ashok Sharma, Rakesh Wazir Chairman Devotional Song Committee, SHO Arvind Sambyal, Shyam Lal Kesar, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Virender Kesar and locals.

In the preliminary round of competition, Vivek Mohan from Jammu

and Anmol Raja from Hoshiarpur bagged 1st position while Mohinder Soni from Jammu and Sukhjinder Yamla from Amritsar got 2nd position and 3rd position was clinched by Sargam Sharma from Link road Jammu, among the 12 auditioned participants in which 5 participants were from outside state and 7 participants were from the state. The winners were provided cash prizes of Rs.10,000, Rs.5,000 and Rs.3,000 respectively.

The Devotional Song Competition was adjudged by a panel of experts which was comprised of Dr. Usha Bhagati Ex. HOD Music, Prof. Parveen Sabharwal Professor Music Department and Ravi Magotra



former Programme Head in Radio Kashmir Jammu.

The grand finale of the All India Devotional Song Competition will be held on 29th of this month and winners will be awarded with gold amounting Rs. 3 Lakh and a recording contract with Venus Records and Tapes Ltd. besides the runners

ups will get gold worth 1 lakh and Rs. 50,000/- respectively.

The proceedings of the competition were conducted by Rakesh Wazir, who is also the Chairman of this competition. He informed that famous singers lined up for their guest performances on the stage of the event are Shanker Sahni and Amrinder Bobby on 25th September, Hasmat/Sultana on 26th September, Nooran Sisters on 27th September, Diljaan and Masha Ali on 28th September and finally Hans Raj Hans will perform in the finals to be held on 29th September and live telecast of the event is available on Shradha MH1 from 9 PM onwards daily.

The All India Devotional Song

Competition is being organized by SMVD Shrine Board and Department of J&K Tourism with active support of District Administration, Shradha MH 1, Shiv Khori Shrine Board, J&K Bank, Ramada City Center (now open) Jammu, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super Specialist Hospital, Pure Roots Herbal, Nidesh Builders Pvt.Ltd. Jammu, 92.7 Big FM and the local host Community. The first position holders of daily competition will compete with the winners of the quarter final on 28th of Sept., for their entry into final and the quarter final will be held on 27th September which will be of 2nd and 3rd position holders of daily competition.

DAILY
Time and US
SRINAGAR
J&K

Editorial

TAPER TIMETABLE

Quantitative easing has concluded in the world's largest economy — at least for now. Almost nine years after the U.S. Federal Reserve started its unprecedented programme of liquidity infusion through the purchase of asset-backed and Treasury securities in the wake of the global financial crisis, Fed Chair Janet Yellen announced on Wednesday that starting next month the central bank would begin the normalisation of its balance sheet. To their credit, Ms. Yellen and her colleagues on the Federal Open Market Committee have walked the talk on their June decision to unwind the mammoth \$4.5 trillion balance sheet. Most crucially, they have done it in a manner that precludes the risk of a 'taper tantrum' similar to that in 2013 — when Chairman Ben Bernanke had hinted at starting to turn off the tap — by setting out a slow, long-drawn and well-calibrated timetable to shrink the Fed's holdings. The asset wind-down will begin with monthly reductions of a modest \$10 billion in the three months through December. That amount will gradually increase in quarterly increments of \$10 billion so as to reach, in October 2018, a monthly cap of \$50 billion. It will continue at this level till such time the Committee concludes that the size of the central bank's asset holdings is optimal for the effective conduct of monetary policy. Interestingly, Ms. Yellen, who asserted that the balance sheet was not intended to be an "active" policy tool in normal times, especially now that economic activity had strengthened, also placed a caveat. The Fed, she said, "would be prepared to resume reinvestments" if the economic outlook were to deteriorate so significantly as to warrant "sizeable" interest rate cuts.

Not that Ms. Yellen sees the healthy expansion undergirded by household spending weakening, the damage from the recent hurricanes that have battered coastal regions in the U.S. south notwithstanding. The FOMC has, in fact, marginally raised its median projection for U.S. real GDP growth in 2017 to 2.4%, from the 2.2% estimated in June, and signalled that it is on course to raise the federal funds rate one more time this year after leaving interest rates unchanged for now. However, the one element in the Fed's policy calculus that eludes, in Ms. Yellen's words, a more perfect "understanding" is the lower-than-anticipated trajectory of inflation. Given that monetary authorities in the U.S. are focussed on reflating the economy by supporting "further strengthening" in the labour market through an accommodative stance, the central bank has to remain vigilant in warding off any let-up in expansionary momentum. For Indian policymakers, there are both positive and not-so-welcome cues. While the ongoing moderate expansion in the U.S. bodes well for the country's struggling exporters, the end of easy money conditions could augur a slowdown in investment inflows from abroad and resultant pressure on the current account deficit. The Reserve Bank of India, though, should welcome the clarity in messaging from its U.S. counterpart.

DERAS AND EVANGELICALS

► JAYATI GHOSH

AT first sight, it seems completely inexplicable: a man convicted of rape of his own young followers in at least two cases and believed to have committed many more; also accused of murder in a case yet to be decided and forced castration of 400 men; who openly flaunts incredible wealth and shamelessly promotes his own family; a tech-savvy "rock star baba" with a penchant for wearing outlandish costumes and heavy jewellery, who is the multi-role hero of several films he has produced — this man presents himself as the religious and spiritual leader of tens of millions. And the bulk of his following continues to take him at his word, venerating him as a saint, lapping up his extreme behaviour, seeing the cases against him as attempts to frame him, and willing to die or turn violent for his sake.

How do we explain the extraordinary popularity of the bizarrely flamboyant Guru Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh Insan of the Dera Sacha Sauda, and the deep loyalty he still seems to command? In many ways, this represents an extreme version of what is now a widespread sociocultural phenomenon not just in India but across the world: the rapid rise of millennial religious forces that are oriented to the needs and aspirations of the most downtrodden and marginalised segments of society. The emergence and expansion of these sects is a response to the social and economic exclusion experienced by their followers within older and more established organised religions, but it is also an outcome of at least some material improvement in their conditions and their associated political assertion.

The many deras in north India, for example, clearly came up in response to the exclusionary caste practices of established religions. The surprising and unfortunate resilience of caste within Hindu groups is well known. But, in addition, despite its supposedly "Hindu" origins, the caste system's tentacles have extended their grasp across all the major religions of the Indian subcontinent, such that caste-based hierarchies and discrimination (including continued endogamy, or marrying within the caste, and even refusal of people of higher castes to eat with members of lower castes) persist not only among Hindus, but also Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and other denominations.

Ironically, Sikhism, which began with an egalitarian ethos that reacted against caste and in its early phases was explicitly oriented to eliminating such practices, experienced a cementing of such caste distinctions, especially over the past two centuries. Practices of extreme discrimination, including social and economic boycott by upper castes against lower caste "transgressors" of rigid caste disciplines, have occurred even very recently. In Punjab and Haryana, the States where these deras proliferate, the tensions have arisen particularly between the dominant Jat caste (whether Sikh or Hindu) and Dalit communities, who have



become major participants in such deras. The religious practices of Jat Sikhs (organised by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee) tend in practice to be deeply exclusionary, with separate gurdwaras and cremation grounds for Dalit Sikhs and many other forms of daily discrimination.

There has been a complex interplay between such cultural-religious practices and political economy processes. Dalits in Punjab (where they constitute around one-third of the population) and Haryana have historically been deprived of land, with even their homestead land often the property of upper castes. They had no choice but to work as agricultural labourers for the landed castes, especially Jats. But over the years since the Green Revolution, the combination of mechanisation of agriculture and influx of migrant workers from other regions made such work harder to come by. There was thus a significant amount of out-migration (especially from Punjab) to other countries. This mobility, and the increased remittance incomes it generated, reduced the economic dependence of Dalit households on local landed groups and also made them more socially and politically assertive. This, in turn, was met with a backlash from upper castes, expressed also in sociocultural terms as heightened discrimination. Growing involvement in some of the deras that provided more substantive social equality became a way for Dalit communities to deal with this.

While deras have a long history — sometimes of centuries in this region — the recent rise of some has been spectacular. In Punjab alone, there are estimated to be more than 9,000 deras, but only a few of them have become really substantial in size, with mass followings of millions of devotees. The Dera Sacha Sauda is one of these, but there are also Radha Soami, Nirankari, Bhanjarawala, Namdhari, Sachkhand Ballan, Divya Jyoti Sansthan and others.

Inclusionary
The chief attraction of these deras, especially for Dalits and marginalised groups, is that they are independent but inclusionary sects outside the organised control of mainstream Hindu and Sikh religions, of-

fering non-sectarian spaces to their followers. The Dera Sacha Sauda, for instance, does not ask its followers to renounce any previous religious affiliations since it believes that all gods are one, and their current guru, Ram Rahim, himself frequently appeared in front of images of gods from many different religions. This fundamentally syncretist approach was not entirely harmonious with other religions, however. They have been periodically oppositional to more established religious forces, such as the 2007 episode when there was violence after Ram Rahim appeared dressed as the 10th Sikh guru, which was sacrilege for the orthodox.

These deras are mostly inclusionary, explicitly rejecting caste identities. Sacha Sauda asks all its followers (whom they call "premis") to adopt the last name "Insan" (human), thereby removing the possibility of caste identification. It has also taken up issues of other groups that are discriminated against: organising mass weddings of former sex workers, facilitating widow remarriage, and filing a case in the Supreme Court for the legal rights of transgender people.

Many women are attracted by the dera's emphasis on abstinence: followers should renounce alcohol and drugs (both addictions being huge problems in Punjab and Haryana), turn vegetarian and avoid extramarital sex. (The fact that at least one of these restrictions was not adhered to by the leader himself is simply rejected by most followers.)

In addition to these social reform measures, these deras tend to be hugely aspirational, with hopes of socio-economic betterment of followers encouraged by dramatic accounts of miracles, instances of which become part of the folklore of the followers.

The massive camps or physical spaces that house the ashrams are sites of security, social equality and togetherness and inclusion for bhakts, and the grandiose architecture and various entertainment centres within add to the sense of being a self-contained community.

This also enables such religious orders

to become big economic enterprises, employing large numbers of workers. The Sacha Sauda complex in Sirsa, Haryana, is a mini-city that contains several factories, a movie theatre, many restaurants, schools, training institutes, a multi-specialty hospital, petrol pumps and much else. The dera has ventured into food processing and other consumer goods industries, trading on its reputation and relying on its following to be both the producers and the market. Four of the films produced by Gurmeet Ram Rahim became blockbusters, reaping revenues well beyond the average Bollywood movie (the fifth one, recently released, may well do the same, despite everything). So, the dera was not just a space for spiritual satisfaction, entertainment and social inclusion but also a significant source of employment.

In such a context, it is easy for followers to turn a blind eye to or be in a state of denial about transgressions of the leader and believe that he has been framed by those who oppose the dera for other reasons, for there is simply too much at stake for them to accept the truth. Similarly, no politician can afford to ignore the deras — so the mainstream parties have paid obeisance to the guru and at various times have managed to garner the support of this large vote bank. While it earlier had links with the Congress party, since around 2012, and especially in the last few years, Sacha Sauda has backed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). But its leadership has expected something in return — specifically, the dropping of cases against Ram Rahim — and so the recent events are being seen by followers as a betrayal, despite the softly-softly approach of the Haryana Chief Minister during the recent violence sparked by the court judgment.

Within the region, the perception is that this particular battle has been won by the Jat Sikhs, but the war will go on, even if at present the discontent among the dera's followers is only simmering. For the BJP, this relationship is now a double-edged sword: the risk of alienating Dalits, whom they are assiduously courting for the next general election, has to be set against the risk of upsetting Jat Sikhs who are equally important in terms of numbers.

Parallel in Pentecostalism
All this may seem very local or national in flavour, despite the Dera Sacha Sauda's claim of having 60 million followers across the world. But the rise of millennial sects and religious tendencies in other regions point to a broader trend of which this may be a part. Specifically, Pentecostalism, which has become the fastest growing form of Christianity, throws up many parallels. From Los Angeles to Sydney, from Brazil to South Korea, from Nigeria to Guatemala, Pentecostalism has witnessed a dramatic rise and spread, especially in the last two decades. It is now estimated to have around half a billion followers across the world, second only to Roman Catholicism, which it may soon overtake.

DOWNTURN BLUES

► C.P. CHANDRASEKHAR

SEPTEMBER did not begin well for the Narendra Modi government. As it prepared for a makeover in the form of a Cabinet reshuffle with Elections 2019 in sight, news came that India's GDP (gross domestic product) growth had slowed significantly to 5.7 per cent during the April-June quarter. This deceleration comes in the wake of a fall in growth rates from close to 8 per cent a year earlier to 6.1 per cent during the January-March period this year.

As expected, the government chose to attribute this trend to short-term shocks, which will not dislodge the economy from a 7-8 per cent growth trajectory that is considered to be the magical norm under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). T.C.A. Anant, the Chief Statistician of India, whose real job is to oversee the preparation of the figures and not to explain them, declared at his press conference that the April to June deceleration was not the consequence of the botched demonetisation, but of pre-GST (Goods and Services Tax) apprehensions that had resulted in de-stocking. Wanting to clear their stocks before the new rules and rates applied, manufacturers chose to

dispose of their stocks and not add to them with new production, was his claim. Since he had similarly declared when reporting the January to March deceleration that the trend cannot be attributed to demonetisation, the Chief Statistician was at least being consistent. The fact remains that a continuous deceleration in growth from 7.9 per cent in the first quarter of financial year 2016-17 to a three-year low of 5.7 per cent in the first quarter of this financial year cannot be dismissed as being the result of unwarranted short-term fears of some economic agents. What the figures do point to is a loss of dynamism in the principal commodity-producing sectors in the economy — agriculture and manufacturing.

The most recent deceleration is disturbing also because it has occurred at a time when the government has chosen to loosen its purse strings and sustain, if not increase, spending. According to figures from the Controller General of Accounts, Central government spending during the first four months of financial year 2017-18 (April to July) amounted to 38 per cent of the budgeted total, as compared with 33 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year. This frontloading of budgeted expenditure should have had a stimulating effect

on the economy in the short run. Yet, growth has slowed.

Moreover, export performance has improved considerably. India's exports, measured in dollar terms, rose by 8.7 per cent during April to July 2017, compared with a fall of 3.6 per cent in the corresponding period of 2016. Although exports are by no means an important stimulus for growth in the Indian economy, this improved performance suggests that a poor global environment cannot be held responsible for the deceleration of growth in India.

That leaves the residual factor, which is private consumption and investment demand, the dampening of which must have been significant enough to overwhelm the stimulating effect that front-loaded government spending would have had. This contraction in private expenditure and demand has both long-term and short-term sources. The long-term factor holding down private investment is the deflationary environment in which the economy has been placed by the fiscal component of neoliberal reform. Ever since such reform has been pursued, beginning in the early 1990s, a declared goal of the government has been to rein in the fiscal deficit. Since such fiscal consolidation is favoured by foreign fi-

nanial investors looking for evidence of "macroeconomic stability", liberalisation of rules governing capital inflows and outflows makes fiscal deficit reduction imperative. So, in the late 1990s the government chose to postpone adherence to strict fiscal deficit targets and the growing accumulation of the stock of portfolio investment in the country forced it to adopt the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act in 2003. The FRBM Act effectively tied the hands of the government and has since its passage resulted in a decline in the fiscal deficit to GDP ratio to 3.5 per cent in 2016-17. Since this occurred in a period when the government sought to move to an investor-friendly tax regime, which capped and even reduced the tax-to-GDP ratio, a consequence has been curbs on spending that had an overall deflationary impact on the economy.

This, however, did not show through during the 2003-08 high growth years, essentially because of a spike in bank lending facilitated by the liquidity injected by large foreign capital inflows. Consumption and investment spending financed by this credit boom also served as a stimulus for growth. Besides a sharp increase in retail lending, especially for housing, commercial bank exposure to

the large corporate sector increased hugely. Much of this lending financed investments in the infrastructural area, which are characterised by long gestation lags and low returns. Since the government chose to privilege such investments by the private sector, huge loans for highly leveraged capital-intensive projects were advanced on the basis of the government's hype. By the start of the second decade of this century, it was becoming clear that many of these projects were failing to generate cash flows to meet the interest and amortisation payments on the loans taken. What followed was a huge increase in non-performing assets, which is proving to be an intractable problem for both the public sector banks and the government.

Having had to sacrifice profits or incur losses on account of provisioning for these bad loans, banks have turned cautious, leading to a sharp slowdown in credit growth in recent months. The effect of this on demand and growth has been so adverse that even when the government sustains spending, demand is depressed and growth falters. Read in this fashion, the deceleration in growth in recent quarters is by no means the result of self-correcting short-term disturbances or shocks. Rather, the down-

ward trend is the result of the inability of the system to sustain the artificial stimuli that the neoliberal policy environment had facilitated. Growth that was riding on a credit bubble has proved unsustainable, and the economy is in deceleration mode.

This, in fact, may be the beginning of the bust unless the government can find alternative ways of propping up growth without violating its self-imposed fiscal consolidation measures. Recent actions signal three possibilities. The first is to accelerate privatisation and strategic sales so as to substantially increase the volume of non-debt creating capital receipts that are excluded from the calculated fiscal deficit. Privatisation receipts have been set at a high of Rs.72,500 crore in Budget 2017-18. They could be raised further. The problem is that selling assets to finance current expenditures does not make financial sense. But a desperate government is hardly interested in fiscal correctness. The second is to transfer the so-called "profits" of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the form of dividend payments to the government, which "owns" the central bank. There are no commercial operations that the central bank undertakes.

PM Modi to watch live surgery on cattle by IVRI experts in Varanasi



NEW DELHI: Experts and staff at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly are all set to meet an "unusual" request from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office.

IVRI director RK Singh was informed about the PMO's request on Wednesday giving him a very narrow window to make the arrangements in Shahanshapur on the outskirts of Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi, where he will inaugurate a week-long Pashu Arogya Mela or an animal fair on Saturday.

"We have been asked to send a field surgery team to demonstrate the live surgery of animals to the Prime Minister and his

team," said Singh as he reviewed the preparation by the institute's surgery team that will set up a stall in Shahanshapur.

"We sent a nine-member advance party with some equipment via road on Wednesday evening itself. The remaining equipment and experts are leaving today (Thursday)," he added.

Though there were no fixed guidelines from the PMO as to what has to be displayed, IVRI experts have decided to demonstrate three surgeries, a list of diagnostic techniques, equipment, and description of an array of veterinary diseases.

"The experts will demonstrate median patellar dysrectomy (surgery of extended ligament), re-

moval of kidney stone of a goat and rumenotomy (rumen surgery) of bovine cattle," Singh said. "Surgeries for these abnormalities are very common and performed regularly by our experts at the institute polyclinic," he added.

On display will also be colour Doppler machines, diagnosis, and surgery kits.

Traders from various districts with over 20,000 animals, including cows, buffaloes, horses, goats, sheep and camel are expected to participate in the cattle fair.

The state's animal husbandry department will hold free vaccination camps for the cattle.

A 40-member team of the department has also been deployed at the fair.

"Our aim is to vaccinate at least 1000 animals each day. Our teams will also demonstrate techniques of deworming animals and hygienic practices to prevent disease in cattle," said AN Singh, director of disease control with the department. Officials of the department believe that demonstrations by veterinary experts at the fair will pave the way for animal diagnosis and treatment camps like those held in Gujarat. These camps are usually held at district level once every month where veterinary experts gather and provide assistance to cattle owners. Such camps, according to officials, were started by Modi in 2002 when he was the chief minister of the western state.

Congress loses leadership of parliamentary panel on poll reforms

NEW DELHI: With the Congress and the BJP standing level in terms of numbers in the Rajya Sabha, Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu has divested the Congress of the chairmanship of one of the three parliamentary panels the party was heading. Both have 57 members each in the Rajya Sabha. The coveted standing committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, will now be headed by BJP general secretary and Rajya Sabha member Bhupender Yadav instead of Congress leader Anand Sharma. A formal order is expected in the next couple of days. The committee was debating electoral reforms, specifically proportional representation vs first-past-the-post system of elections especially in the context of recent Uttar Pradesh elections. In the 2017 Assembly polls, the BJP got 39% of the vote share but won 312 seats, while the Samajwadi Party, with 21.8% votes, got 47 seats and the Bahujan Samaj Party, with 22.2%, got 19 seats.

Mr. Sharma had shot off a five-page questionnaire on all aspects of elections from state funding, to paid news, to internal democracy in political parties to the tedious process of filing nomination papers. Interestingly, while all the other parties have made submissions on the issue, Mr. Yadav, on behalf of the BJP, had sought additional time thrice. A majority of the Opposition parties have advocated a mix of proportional representation and the first-past-the-post electoral system.

There are eight department-related standing committees in the Rajya Sabha. Out of these, at present, the Congress heads committees on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice; Science & Technology, Environment & Forests; and Home Affairs.

Congress protests According to sources, as per the new arrangement approved by Mr. Naidu, the BJP and the Congress will lead two committees each. The chairmanship of the remaining four will be given to the Trinamool Congress, the Samajwadi Party, the Janata Dal (United) and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD).

It is the first time the Akalis would get chairmanship of a Rajya Sabha committee. The Congress protested, claiming that Mr. Sharma is still working on the report on electoral reforms and should be allowed to continue. "Why should they get a concession? When they were in power, they did not give chairmanship of the Law and Justice committee to the Opposition. They kept it for themselves. They want to keep it with them even when they are out of power," a BJP functionary said.

The Congress will retain the committee on Home Affairs, which is currently headed by P. Chidambaram.

The committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests is the other one that will remain with the Congress.

Police to pursue forensic psychology to probe Pushkar's death

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police on Thursday told the Delhi High Court that it wanted to embark upon a new mode of investigation, called forensic psychology, in the death case of Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's wife Sunanda Pushkar.

The police told a bench of Justices G S Sistani and Chander Shekhar that this mode of investigation would take a maximum of eight weeks after which it will file its report. Forensic psychology is an emerging field which makes up an integral part of criminal investigation, prison and profiling systems, which is now used in some developed countries.

Responding to the police's appeal, the



bench said the probe started in 2014 and it was September 2017 now when the

agency wants to pursue an additional mode of investigation. The court then asked the police, "should any investigative agency drag the probe for so long?" In response, Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, who appeared for the police, said this new tool of investigation, which relates also to the personal questioning of certain individuals, was being resorted to ensure that "no stone is left unturned". Thereafter, the bench told the police to file an affidavit within two weeks placing on record the approximate time that would be taken to conclude its probe.

During the hearing, BJP leader Subramanian Swamy, who had sought a court-

monitored SIT probe into Pushkar's death, said the franchisee cricket tournament Indian Premier League was also an angle which needed to be examined in the case.

Therefore, the Enforcement Directorate should be made a party in this matter, he said. The court, however, refrained from going into this aspect saying it will consider it at an appropriate stage.

"We do not want to create any distraction at this moment," the court said and listed the matter for further hearing on October 26. Pushkar was found dead under mysterious circumstances in a suite of a five-star hotel in south Delhi on the night of January 17, 2014.

Supreme Court allows two rape survivors to abort



The Supreme Court on Thursday permitted two minor rape survivors to medically terminate their pregnancies on the advice of the medical boards which examined them.

The victims, a 13-year-old girl from Delhi and a 17-year-old from Bengaluru, had separately approached the apex court for permission to abort their pregnancies. They had both passed the 20th week of pregnancy, until which the law allows abortion.

The 13-year-old was examined by a board of doctors from AIIMS, while the court ordered a medical team from the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute to examine the other victim. Both medical teams had given opinions in favour of medical termination of the pregnancies. The 13-year-old was in her 23rd week of pregnancy and the Bengaluru-based victim in her 24th week. The Bench, comprising Justices Amitava Roy and A.M. Khanwilkar,

directed preservation of the terminated foetus for DNA sampling during the investigation in both the cases. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971 does not allow abortion if the pregnancy has crossed 20 weeks. Under the 1971 law, an exception to the 20-week cap is made if a registered medical practitioner certifies to a court that the continued pregnancy is life-threatening for either the mother or the baby. This was meant to be a safeguard against female foeticide. The court had recently denied permission to a 10-year-old rape survivor from Chandigarh to abort her foetus. Shortly after the court's denial, the girl gave birth. The apex court awarded 10 lakh compensation for the girl. Recently, the Centre had written to States and Union Territories about the apex court's suggestion to appoint permanent medical boards to provide rape survivors urgent access to medical care.

Pass Women's Reservation Bill in LS, Sonia urges Modi

NEW DELHI: Congress president Sonia Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to get the long-pending Women's Reservation Bill passed in the Lok Sabha, taking advantage of the majority the BJP enjoys in the House.

This comes at a time when there is speculation that Mr. Modi is planning to bring the Bill, possibly in a changed format, to try and woo the women's constituency.

Ms. Gandhi, who worked very hard to get the Bill passed during the United Progressive Alliance's (UPA) tenure, party sources say, is, therefore, trying to pre-empt any such effort by the BJP. The UPA succeeded in getting the Bill passed in the Rajya Sabha on March 9, 2010.

In her letter, Ms. Gandhi assured Mr. Modi of her party's support to the law which, she said, would be a significant step forward in the empowerment of women. "I am writing to request you to take advantage of your majority in the Lok Sabha to now get the Women's Reservation Bill passed in the Lower House as well," Ms. Gandhi said in the letter, dated September 20. At a press conference in New Delhi, the new Congress women's wing chief, Sushmita Dev, questioned the alleged delay by the government in ensuring the passage of the Bill in the Lok Sabha. The BJP, she said, should show that its commitment towards legislation is not mere "symbolism".

Mr. Modi must assure the country's women that the Bill would be passed



soon so that in the next general elections, it could be implemented, she said, pointing out that given the work that will have to be done once the Bill is passed, the government should get going with the business "right now".

Reading out Ms. Gandhi's letter, Ms. Dev said, "The question we ask Modiji after three years of the BJP coming to power is: why the delay?"

In her letter, Ms. Gandhi recalled that the Congress and its late leader Rajiv Gandhi had first suggested quotas for women in panchayats and municipal bodies through Constitution amendment bills.

Ms. Gandhi said the Bills were "thwarted" by the Opposition in 1989, but were passed by both the Houses of Parliament in 1993.

Answering a question on why the Congress did not take the matter up

with the government after the BJP came into power, Ms. Dev said the issue was flagged on several occasions, including during debates on the floor of the House.

Recalling that Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, as Parliamentary Affairs Minister, had said the government had received several letters from public representatives and NGOs pressing for the passing of the Bill, she said the government too was "discussing and seriously thinking" about the Bill. "Once a Parliamentary Affairs minister makes that statement on the floor of the Lok Sabha, and if Sonia Gandhiji gives him six months or a year to implement that, I will say it was her faith in the government's motive. But this did not happen," she said. Former Mahila Congress chief Shobha Oza seconded Ms. Dev, saying

the Congress had collected "lakhs of signatures" from across the country and these would be submitted to President Ram Nath Kovind.

BJP redirects

The BJP on Thursday said Ms. Gandhi was better off directing her enquiries on the fate of the Women's Reservation Bill to her former alliance partners in the UPA — Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav and Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Mulayam Singh Yadav, rather than Mr. Modi.

"Rather than writing to the Prime Minister, Congress president Sonia Gandhi ought to have written or spoken to her alliance partners like Lalu Prasad and Mulayam Singh Yadav to find out why they blocked the passage of the Bill when the UPA was in power," said BJP spokesperson G.V.L. Narasimha Rao. While the official word by the BJP was a taunt at the Congress' own failures to get the Bill passed, party office-bearers said the BJP was in favour of the Bill and saw advantages for itself with its passage.

"We have enough leadership among women to take advantage of the reservation, but smaller parties like the SP and RJD, which are mostly family concerns, will be hit," said a senior office-bearer. "We want to pass the Bill, especially before 2019, but, like the desire for simultaneous Assembly and Lok Sabha polls, this is a nuanced matter requiring fundamental changes to our electoral system," said a senior general secretary of the party.

Govt relaxes rules for people in Gulf nations to hire Indian women as maids

NEW DELHI: The government has made it easier for foreigners to hire Indian women in jobs such as housemaids in their countries, a measure aimed at combating shrinking offshore jobs and growing illegal recruitment rackets.

Prospective employers from 18 'ECR' countries, which includes those in the Gulf region, Indonesia and Malaysia, will no longer need to deposit a \$2,500 bank guarantee if they wanted to hire an Indian woman through the government-run agencies in six states.

The bank guarantee was introduced two years ago to protect against exploitation of Indians who migrate with non-skilled jobs. "Government of

India has decided that deposit of Bank Guarantee of US \$ 2500 or equivalent is henceforth not required for recruiting female ECR passport holders for overseas employment in any of the 18 ECR countries, when they are recruited through any of the... six State Government Recruiting Agencies", said an official missive sent out early this month.

External affairs ministry issued a circular to this effect to Indian embassies in these 18 countries and protector of emigrants. ECR, or emigration check required, is a migration protocol followed in the case of people who are regarded vulnerable for exploitation, mostly in jobs involving labour. These include people who have not passed the tenth



grade or come from impoverished backgrounds.

"The bank guarantee worked as a deterrent for employers to use the formal channel. This pushed the recruitment process underground and led to thriving

irregular channels for domestic worker recruitment.

The removal of this bank guarantee for the 6 public recruitment agencies is expected to support the creation of legal pathways for migration," said Seeta Sharma,

national project coordinator at the International Labour Organisation. But other experts see this as a move that can make Indian migrant workers more vulnerable. "The bank guarantee was a sort of insurance against

employers misusing the domestic workers, all the more so because the countries they work in don't have ample legal protection for labourers," said Ginu Zacharia Oommen, an expert in illegal migration, who is a member of Kerala Public Service Commission. He said many labour-sending countries are increasingly putting in measures for the welfare of the workers. Other conditions for hiring an Indian woman worker, such as the minimum age bar of 30 years, stay on. There is no up-to-date data of the number of Indian migrant domestic workers. But people who were given an emigration clearance for recruitment in gulf countries between September 2014 and December 2016

is 58,163, according to the external affairs ministry. The domestic help service remains a drawing sector while jobs across categories are drying up in these countries.

The rule change comes in the wake of the fall in numbers of Indian workers migrating to many countries, especially the six Gulf countries. Indians emigrating to GCC nations fell to 507,296 in 2016 from 775,845 in 2014 due to a slew of factors

"However, there needs to be continued investment from the government in the emigrate system... Strengthened welfare measures as well as dialogue with civil society organisations could further support this process", Sharma said.

Walk, do a household chore, hit the gym: Live long by being active for 30 min daily

How active are you in your everyday life? If you find that you are not even engaged in physical activity of any kind for even 30 minutes a day, it's time to find time to exercise and change your lifestyle. The Prospective Urban Rural Epidemiology (PURE) study involving more than 130,000 people from 17 countries, led by the Population Health Research Institute of McMaster University and Hamilton Health Sciences, showed

that any activity is good for people to meet the current guideline of 30 minutes of activity a day, or 150 minutes a week to raise the heart rate.

Although previous research, from high income countries, showed that leisure time activity helps prevent heart disease and death, the PURE study also included people from low and middle-income countries where people don't generally don't participate in leisure-time physical

activity. "By including low and middle-income countries in this study, we were able to determine the benefit of activities such as active commuting, having an active job or even doing housework," said principal investigator Scott Lear. He added that one in four people worldwide do not meet the current activity guideline. The PURE study showed that by meeting the activity guidelines, the risk for death from any cause was reduced by 28%, while heart



disease was reduced by 20%, and it didn't matter what type of physical activity the person did. The benefits also continued at very high levels with no indication of a ceiling effect; people getting more than 750 minutes of brisk walking per week had a 36% reduction in risk of death. However, less than 3% of participants achieved this level from leisure time activity while 38% of participants achieved this level from activities such as commuting, being active at work

or doing household chores. Lear said that in order to realize the full benefits of physical activity, it needs to be incorporated into daily life. "Going to the gym is great, but we only have so much time we can spend there. If we can walk to work, or at lunch time, that will help too. If everyone was active for at least 150 minutes per week, over seven years a total of 8% of deaths could be prevented," he added. The study is published in The Lancet.

Parents, as long as you manage your conflicts well, your child is fine

It is very normal for conflict between couples, but according to a recent study, it's how you manage it that has an impact on your kids, not the spat itself. In a new paper, University of Arizona researcher Olena Kopystynska looked at how the way parents handle conflict with each other affects their parenting styles and how emotionally secure their children feel after being exposed to conflict between their parents.

Her study focused on constructive versus destructive styles of conflict management. In constructive conflict management, there is calmness and respect, despite a difference in opinion; the conflict stays focused on one topic; and progress is made toward a resolution. When conflict is handled destructively, there is anger and re-

sentment, and the argument often strays off topic to things that may have happened in the past. Kopystynska and her colleagues found that when even one parent handles conflict with a partner destructively, it can leave children feeling more emotionally insecure about their home life.

"Children are very good at picking up on little nuances of how parents interact with each other, so it really matters how parents express and manage their daily life challenges because that determines children's confidence in the stability and safety of their family," Kopystynska said. "If parents are hostile toward each other, even children as young as 3 years old may be threatened that their family may be

headed toward dissolution. They may not necessarily be able to express their insecurities verbally, but they can feel it." As far as the impact on children's emotional insecurity, researchers found that when one parent handled conflict destructively and the other constructively, children's emotional insecurity was higher than what was reported for children whose parents both handled conflict constructively.

The fact that the group in which both parents were arguing in destructive ways was so small might help explain one surprising finding of Kopystynska's study -- that emotional insecurity levels were lowest for children of these parents. Also contributing to that finding could be the fact that those couples may

have broken up and physically separated from each other by the time the data was collected, meaning that children may not have been as directly exposed to their parents' interactions, Kopystynska said.

"Not all conflict is bad -- it's about how you manage it," Kopystynska said. "Given that children are going to encounter conflict out there in the real world, exposure to some conflict can be beneficial.

However, it's really how parents handle that conflict that sets the tone for how safe children feel, and may further promote similar conflict management behaviors for when children are confronted with conflict of their own."

The study is forthcoming in the Journal of Family Psychology.

New handheld device can spot fake alcohol

Scientists have developed the world's first handheld device that can detect counterfeit vodka and whisky while still in the bottle. Spatially Offset Raman Spectroscopy (SORS) devices give highly accurate chemical analysis of objects and contents beneath concealing surfaces, such as glass bottles. They work by using 'an optical approach' where lasers are directed through the glass, enabling the isolation of chemically-rich information that is held within the spirits.



Such devices are already commercially available but are usually used for security and detection of hazardous materials, screening and pharmaceutical analysis. The new version, developed at University of Manchester in the UK, is the first such handheld tool being used for a food or beverage product.

"Food and beverage counterfeiting comes with the very real potential for serious health, economic and social consequences, especially when it comes to alcohol products," said Roy Goodacre, professor at University of Manchester, who led the research.

"An essential part of ensuring consumer confidence is to provide assurance that these products are authentic and have not been either contaminated or counterfeited," said Goodacre.

Fake alcohol can also have massive implications for the health of its drinkers. Counterfeit alcohols do not follow stringent health and safety procedures, and often contain dangerous levels of methanol - a chemical used in antifreeze, which can cause sore throats, dizziness, sickness and even blindness.

"Sales of illicit spirit drinks can also

have serious health impacts when industrial alcohols or methanol are used by counterfeiters and unknowingly consumed, with multiple deaths reported worldwide each year," said David Ellis, co-author of the study published in the journal Nature.

"That is why we have developed this approach, not only to ensure brand authenticity, but also to safeguard public health," said Ellis. The team tested the gadget on around 150 well-known brands of Scotch Whisky, rum, gin and vodka in closed glass containers, including 40 counterfeit products. As well as detecting the contents of fake alcohol, the researchers could also discriminate between multiple well-known Scotch Whisky brands and detect different levels of alcohol.

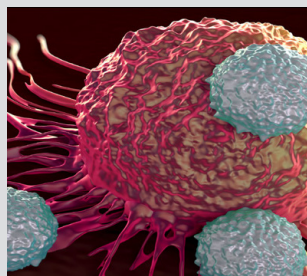
The team also tested the device on several bottles of spirit drinks bought 'off the shelf' from local shops.

These were first measured unopened, then opened and contaminated with different levels of methanol (1, 2 and 3 percent) and the tops replaced.

The device detected the contamination with methanol through multiple colours of glass bottles in several types of spirit drinks including Scotch Whisky, gin and vodka, researchers said.

Researchers identify new way to fight cancer

Researchers including one of India origin have identified a new way to fight cancer by reducing the growth of cancerous cells inside the body.



Researchers have found a way to target an enzyme that is crucial to tumour growth while also blocking the mechanism that has made past attempts to target that enzyme resistant to treatment.

They were able to use this finding to develop a drug that successfully inhibits tumour growth of melanoma as well as pancreatic and colorectal cancer in mice.

The target is an enzyme called PPT1, which controls both the mechanistic target of rapamycin (mTOR), a major regulator of growth in cancer cells, as well as a process called autophagy, a built-in resistance mechanism which allows cells to survive when under attack by breaking down unneeded parts and recycling them to stay alive. Numerous drugs that target mTOR are approved by for cancer patients by the US Food and Drug Administration, but targeting mTOR with these currently available inhibitors turns on autophagy, thus making the tumour resistant, the study said.

"What we learned in this study is that mTOR and autophagy aren't opposed to each other as previously thought. They're actually complementary, because autophagy provides the nutrients that allow mTOR to direct growth, while mTOR shuts off autophagy when the nutrients aren't needed," said co-senior author Ravi Amaravadi, Associate Professor at Perelman School of Medicine at University of Pennsylvania in the US.

That yin and yang relationship takes place in a part of the cell called the lysosome. "We know that autophagy is an important mechanism for cancer resistance, but there are very few ways to block it. This is the first targeted approach to inhibiting the lysosome in order to block autophagy," Amaravadi said.

India urgently needs national dementia policy: Experts

With the increase in the ageing population, India urgently needs to formulate a national policy for tackling rising cases of Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia which can impair memory and significantly lower quality of life, health experts have said. Dementia affects an estimated 50 million people globally and in India, the number is estimated to be 3.7 to four million. "Dementia is a silent disease as it creeps in slowly. Due to lack of awareness, it remains unknown yet. In India it is slated to rise three-fold to reach 12 million by 2030," Manjari Tripathi, Professor of Neurology at

the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), told IANS. There needs to be a national dementia policy with a very clear and well defined action plan for India since India has a sizeable population of Alzheimer's disease affected people and certain traits like illiteracy and social taboos make the country unique" added Tripathi. Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia and nearly 5-6 per cent of the people in the age group of 65-70 years in India suffer from this problem. The reason behind its exponential rise in India is due to the increasing ageing population in the country.

Hard water can damage skin, cause eczema: Study

Hard water can damage the skin barrier that protects us from external threats like bacteria and sunburns, and lead to the development of eczema, a study has shown.

Researchers from the University of Sheffield and Kings College London in the UK have discovered that exposing the skin to hard water damages the skin barrier and increases the sensitivity of the skin to potential irritants found in everyday wash products such as soap or washing powder.

Hard water contains high levels of calcium and magnesium ions that bind to surfactants such as sodium lauryl sulfate (SLS) and sodium lauryl ether sulfate (SLES) which act as detergents or wetting agents making them insoluble, so they precipitate onto the skin.

Skin pH is normally acidic but



hard water has high alkalinity which means it can raise the skin surface pH. A shift towards alkaline pH disturbs the skin's natural function as a physical barrier and leaves it prone to colonization by potentially pathogenic bacteria which can cause infection. "By damaging the skin barrier, washing with hard

water may contribute to the development of eczema - a chronic skin condition characterised by an intensely itchy red rash," said Simon Danby, from the University of Sheffield. Patients with eczema are much more sensitive to the effects of hard water than people with healthy skin. This increase in sensitivity is

associated with a genetic predisposition to a skin barrier defect brought about by mutations in the gene encoding filaggrin. Filaggrin is a structural protein important for the formation of our skin's barrier to the outside environment. Up to half of all people with eczema carry a filaggrin gene. The new study reveals the mechanism by which calcium and magnesium ions in hard water, surfactants, and filaggrin interact to damage the skin barrier unlocking new information about how exposure to hard water could potentially contribute to the development of eczema. Symptoms of eczema include inflamed, dry skin and often secondary skin infections, which can affect any part of the body and every aspect of a person's life both physically and emotionally. The team of researchers examined

whether removing the calcium and magnesium ions using an ion-exchange water softener could mitigate the negative effects of hard water on the skin. They found that using a water softener reduces the harmful effects of surfactants, potentially decreasing the risk of developing eczema. "It is during the first few days and months of life that our skin is most susceptible to damage and most at risk of developing eczema," said Carsten Flohr from Kings College London in the UK. "For that reason we are now embarking on a pilot trial to investigate whether installation of a domestic water softener around the time of birth can prevent skin barrier breakdown and eczema in those living in hard water areas," said Flohr. The study was published in the Journal of Investigative Dermatology.

No harm in exposing your toddlers to pets, germs - Know why

Are you wary of exposing your toddler to pets and germs, afraid that they will catch an infection, allergy or become prone to other health problems? Don't be.

As per a study, allowing your kids to go near pets and germs early in their life, can reduce their risk of developing asthma later.

Previous studies have shown that reducing allergen exposure in homes help control the condition when it is already established in patients.

The new finding suggests that exposure to the allergens early on in life has a preventive effect on the condition. According to the study, coming in contact with felines, mice and cockroaches as early as the age



of three months, lower chances of developing asthma by the time children are seven-years-old. Exposure to certain bacteria around the house -

mainly those found in house dust - during infancy, was also associated with a reduced risk.

According to the Deccan Chron-

icle, the ongoing Urban Environment and Childhood Asthma Study, funded by NIH found higher concentrations of cockroach, mouse and cat allergens present in dust samples collected from children's homes during first three years of life were linked to a lower risk of asthma by age seven.

They found an association with dog allergen as well, but it was not statistically significant, according to the researchers.

The report added that further study showed that exposure to higher levels of all four allergens at age three months was associated with lower risk of developing asthma. The findings were published in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

Australian brewer to launch 'fossil beer'

An Australian brewer has announced of launching a "fossil beer" to commemorate 10 years of regional fossil research.

Mike Holden, an independent brewer based on Kangaroo Island, South Australia, said the ale was filtered through fossil-rich shale, a type of sedimentary rock dating back more than 500 million years, reports Xinhua news agency.

"We just thought for this one, why not let the millions of years of shale rock speak for itself and see what comes through?" Holden told Australian media on Friday.

"The beer definitely has a unique flavour to it, but it is not something that is off-putting or maybe something that people will not even recognise."

Kangaroo Island, a third of which is protected nature reserves, has been identified as something of a "hotspot" for palaeontologists with researchers from the University of New England collecting 6,000 specimens from the island since 2007. In 2014, the island made international headlines when "alien-looking" fossils from 500 million years ago were uncovered. John Paterson, leader of the University of New England's dig on the island, said that the shale used in brewing the beer was around 514 million years old. Holden said that innovation was necessary in Australia's competitive craft beer industry with an estimated 400 independent brewers now operating in the country.

SpiceJet's Ajay Singh set to take control of NDTV: Report

NEW DELHI: Ajay Singh, the co-founder and owner of low-cost airline SpiceJet and who coined the Bharatiya Janata Party's 2014 election campaign slogan 'Ab ki Baar Modi Sarkar', has picked up majority holding in news channel NDTV, the Indian Express reported on Friday. The newspaper quoted unnamed sources as saying that Singh will have a controlling stake in NDTV of about 40%, and its promoters Pranjoy Roy and his wife Radhika will hold some 20% in the company.

One of the sources said Singh, who acquired SpiceJet in January 2015 and turned it around, will also pick up NDTV's debt of more than Rs 400 crore. The total deal is valued at about Rs 600 crore. A part of the cash (up to Rs 100 crore) will go to the Roys, it reported.

"Yes, the deal has been finalised and Ajay Singh will take control of NDTV along with editorial rights," the source mentioned above was quoted as saying.

A SpiceJet official told the Indian Express the news was "absolutely false and baseless". The newspaper said NDTV did not respond to its request for comment. The Hindustan Times could not verify the report.

The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) data showed the promoter holding in NDTV as of June 2017 stood at 61.45% and the public shareholding was at 38.55%.

The Roys and the channel's promoter firm RRPR Holding Pvt Ltd are facing a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) investigation for allegedly concealing a share transaction. In June, the CBI raided the offices and homes of NDTV founder Pranjoy Roy over allegations of defrauding a bank, a move the news broadcaster denounced as a "witch-hunt" to muzzle free speech.

Gold prices rebound Rs 350 on global cues, weak rupee

MUMBAI: Gold prices recovered by Rs 350 to Rs 30,850 per 10 grams at the bullion market today, taking positive cues from the global market amid rupee falling to five-month low and increased buying by local jewellers. Silver too recovered by Rs 400 to Rs 40,700 per kg on increased offtake by industrial units and coin makers. Bullion traders said a firm trend overseas, where gold rebounded from a four-week low on renewed geopolitical tensions after North Korea threatened to conduct another hydrogen bomb test prompted investors to seek out the safe-haven asset, influenced the precious metal. The rupee depreciated by 34 paise to hit five-month low of Rs 65.15 (intra-day) against the dollar, making imports costlier and thereby stoking inflationary concerns. This has also fuelled a positive sentiment for gold, they added.

Globally, gold rose 0.57 per cent to USD 1,298 an ounce in Singapore today. Silver too up 0.21 per cent to USD 16.97 an ounce. Besides, pick up in buying by local jewellers at the domestic spot market to meet ongoing auspicious "Navratra" festival demand at domestic spot market too supported the uptrend. In the national capital, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity rebounded by Rs 350 each to Rs 30,850 and Rs 30,700 per 10 grams, respectively. The metal had lost Rs 250 yesterday.

Sovereign, however, pegged unchanged at Rs 24,700 per piece of eight grams in limited deals.

Silver ready bounced back by Rs 400 to Rs 40,700 per kg and weekly-based delivery by Rs 265 to Rs 39,930 per kg. Its coins, however, continued to be traded at previous levels of Rs 74,000 for buying and Rs 75,000 for selling of 100 pieces.

S&P China rating is 'wrong decision,' Finance Ministry says

MUMBAI: China rebuffed the S&P Global Ratings downgrade of its sovereign credit rating, calling it a "wrong decision" that ignores sound economic fundamentals and development potential.

The government is fully capable of maintaining financial stability if it remains prudent on lending, strengthens supervision, and controls credit risk, the Ministry of Finance said in a statement Friday, a day after S&P cut China's sovereign rating for the first time since 1999. The decision is "perplexing" because the economy is on a solid footing, the ministry said.

China can maintain reasonable credit growth, and S&P also ignores the characteristics of the country's financing structure, the ministry said. Under the Budget Law, the debt of local government financing vehicles should be paid by those state-owned enterprises themselves, and local governments don't shoulder the liabilities, it said.

The downgrade, the second by a major ratings company this year, comes just before President Xi Jinping gathers delegates from the ruling elite for the Communist Party's twice-a-decade congress, set for Oct. 18. Xi has made it a top priority this year to curb debt risk and ensure stability before his big moment, which will include a reshuffle of top leaders.

The government also responded with a briefing Friday in Beijing. S&P overstates government debt by including some debt of state-owned enterprises, Liu Shangxi, head of the Finance Ministry's Chinese Academy of Fiscal Sciences, told reporters. Liu added that the debt analysis framework used around the world "has problems" because it neglects how debt is used.

Sensex, Nifty take a hit amid concerns over stimulus plan to halt economic slump

MUMBAI: Indian shares fell 1 per cent on Friday, while the rupee hit its weakest point since early April amid concerns that the government's plan for a stimulus to halt an economic slowdown may have a negative impact on the fiscal deficit.

India is considering a plan to loosen the fiscal deficit target so that it could spend an additional 500 billion rupees (\$7.71 billion) in the financial year ending March 2018, two government sources said on Thursday.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had said earlier that the government was looking for ways to lift economic growth, which slipped to a three-year low of 5.7 per cent in the quarter to end-June. Global investor sentiment was subdued after

North Korea said it might test a hydrogen bomb in the Pacific Ocean and escalated a war of words with US President Donald Trump. "This remains a potential threat to the overall markets," said Teena Virmani, vice president, Kotak Securities.

The broader NSE Nifty was down 1.17 per cent at 10,003.10 as of 0708 GMT, while the benchmark BSE Sensex was 0.95 per cent lower at 32,061.94.

Both indexes extended falls into a fourth session and were on track to post weekly losses for a second time this month.

"Valuations are still a concern. There will be some kind of profit-taking at these levels wherein a large amount of froth had been built up in the last 1-1/2 months," said



Virmani. Banks were the top losers, with the NSE Bank index shedding 1.6 per cent in what could be its fourth straight session of decline.

ICICI Bank Ltd fell as much as 2.6 per cent, extending declines into a third session, while Yes Bank Ltd dropped as much as 4.7 per cent

after four consecutive sessions of gains. The Nifty PSU Bank index declined as much as 2 per cent to its lowest in nearly eight months, with State Bank of India sliding as much as 1.8 per cent.

Reliance Home Finance Ltd, which was demerged from Reliance Capital Ltd earlier this month, opened at 102.10 rupees on its trading debut, rising as much as 5 per cent.

Meanwhile, the rupee weakened past the 65 mark to hit near-six-month low against the US dollar as foreign investors continued to liquidate their holdings in the local equity markets due to domestic headwinds led by slowing growth, wider second quarter current account deficit and signs of a wider fiscal deficit.

Sebi imposes Rs 9 lakh fine on ING Vysya Bank's former official

NEW DELHI: Markets regulator Sebi has imposed a penalty of Rs 9 lakh on ING Vysya Bank's former official for violating insider trading regulations.

The fine was levied on Vinay Agrawal, who was regional head of business banking in ING from August 2011 till June 20, 2012. Later, he held the position of zonal head of cluster business banking till October 10, 2013.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had initiated adjudication proceedings against Agrawal, who was alleged to have not complied with PIT (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations.

After conducting an examination of trading in the shares of ING Vysya Bank



from August 2011 to May 2013, Sebi found that Agrawal traded in the shares valuing over Rs 5 lakh four times.

Upon buying and selling the shares of ING lead to change in the shareholding for more than Rs 5 lakh in value on January 17-18, 2012 and May 2-3, 2013.

According to the PIT regulations, he was required to make disclosures

about these transactions to ING and to BSE within two working days from the date of such dealing. However, he failed to make the disclosure.

"I conclude that the noticee has violated the provisions of...PIT Regulation," Sebi adjudicating officer Suresh Gupta said in an order dated September 21. Besides, Sebi said that Agrawal had entered into opposite transactions on three occasions.

"Upon entering into opposite transactions on three occasions...I conclude that the noticee has acted in violation of... of the model code of conduct... of PIT Regulations," Gupta added.

Accordingly, a fine totalling Rs 9 lakh was levied on Agrawal.

NSE to auction investment limits for Rs 2,800-cr govt bonds

NEW DELHI: The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has said it will auction investment limits for overseas investors for purchase of government bonds worth close to Rs 2,800 crore on Monday. The auction will be conducted on NSE's e-bid platform from 3:30 to 5:30pm after the close of market hours, the exchange said in a circular.

The auction quota gives overseas investors the right to invest in debt up to the stipulated limit.

Till Thursday, the total investment in the government debt category reached Rs 1,84,914 crore, 98.52% of total permitted threshold of Rs 1,87,700 crore, as per the latest update with depositories.

Consequently, the exchange will conduct an auction for the allocation of unutilised debt investment limits (Rs 2,786 crore) on September 25.

In an auction conducted earlier this month, the government bonds had attracted bids to the tune of Rs 6,663 crore from foreign investors against Rs 4,910 crore put on offer.

I-T dept asks taxpayers to update self info on e-filing portal

NEW DELHI: The Income Tax department has asked taxpayers, who file ITRs and conduct other I-T businesses online, to update their profiles and vital details on the official e-filing portal to ensure an "effective communication" between the two.

The department on Friday issued an advisory asking taxpayers to furnish their latest information such as personal and secondary email and mobile phone numbers, address and bank account details.

These details will be verified and processed after the taxpayer is sent a One Time Password (OTP) over the email and through SMS over the phone.

"New registration process to facilitate effective communication between the taxpayer and the department is enabled.

The existing e-filing users are required to update their profile by logging into e-filing account. Users who have registered already and not activated has to register again," the advisory said.

The updated information, a senior official said, is being sought to ensure that a communication sent to a taxpayer reaches him without fail and in good time.

"A taxpayer can do any business using their personal e-filing account only after updating the details," he said.

Uber loses licence to operate in London, can appeal decision in 21 days

LONDON: London transport authorities announced on Friday they would not renew Uber's licence to operate in the city when it expires on September 30 over public safety concerns, although it has three weeks to appeal. Transport for London (TfL) said the conduct of the ride-hailing app, which has around 25,000 drivers operating in the British capital, had raised concerns. "TfL has concluded that Uber London Limited is not fit and proper to hold a private hire operator licence," it said in a statement. It said Uber's "approach and conduct demonstrate a lack of corporate responsibility in relation to a number of issues which have potential public safety and security implications." These include its approach to reporting

serious criminal offences, and to obtaining criminal record checks for drivers. Under licensing laws, Uber has 21 days to appeal the decision, and can continue to operate until the process has been exhausted. Mayor of London Sadiq Khan said he fully supported the decision. "I want London to be at the forefront of innovation and new technology and to be a natural home for exciting new companies that help Londoners by providing a better and more affordable service," he said. "However, all companies in London must play by the rules and adhere to the high standards we expect - particularly when it comes to the safety of customers. Providing an innovative service must not be at the expense of customer safety and security."

Reliance Home Finance debuts at Rs 107 on NSE

MUMBAI: Housing finance company Reliance Home Finance Ltd (RHFL) -- part of Anil D Ambani-led Reliance Group -- on Friday debuted on the NSE at Rs 107.20. Tina Ambani, wife of Anil Ambani, rang the bell signaling the listing of RHFL on the NSE. Anil Ambani, Chairman, Reliance Group of Companies was also present at the event.

Speaking at the listing function Anmol Ambani, Executive Director, Reliance Capital Ltd said: "The listing results in Reliance Capital shareholders directly owning stake in RHFL, with over nine lakh shareholders, the largest shareholder base in a housing finance company."

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for 'Housing for All' he said: "Our focus remains on affordable housing and you will see proportion of that increasing in our overall book."

Reliance Capital holds 51 per cent in Reliance Home Finance.

"We are delighted to have achieved this milestone in such a short period of time.

But none of this would have been possible without the continued support of the strong team at RHF and our 33,000 customers, who have shown faith towards the Company and have allowed us to serve them," Ravindra Sudhalkar, Executive Director and CEO of RHFL said.

"All Shareholders of Reliance Capital Ltd. have already received one free share of RHFL for every share held in Reliance Capital Ltd. as on Record Date i.e. September 6, 2017," Reliance Capital had said earlier in a statement.

Reliance Home Finance has assets under management (including securitised portfolio) of Rs 13,022 crore (\$2 billion) as of June 30, 2017.

The stock also got listed in BSE.

At around 10:25 a.m. Reliance Home shares were changing hands at Rs 109.20 at BSE.

Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved hires two investment banks to raise Rs 1,000 crore

MUMBAI: Yoga guru Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved has hired two investment banks to raise structured credit worth Rs 1,000 crore, two people aware of the development said.

One of the two investment banks is a Hyderabad-based boutique firm specializing in the consumer packaged goods segment, the people mentioned above said on condition of anonymity, adding that the banks have been asked to approach both foreign and domestic funds.

In August, Patanjali had announced its intention to borrow Rs 1,000 crore to finance its expansion plans.

"The discussions assume significance since this is for the first time since its founding in 2007 that Patanjali is exploring an equity-linked fund-raise option," the first of the two persons cited above said.

Along with the typical interest payment associated with debt, structured credit may include an equity stake in the form of attached warrants or a conversion feature similar to that of a convertible bond.

The group has so far rejected offers, including from private equity funds, to sell equity stakes. In a recent interview to Moneycontrol.com, Acharya Balkrishna, Patanjali's group chief executive officer, also ruled out an initial public offering in the near future. "The investment banks have also been asked to explore possible investment structures that suit long-term capi-



tal needs of the group," the first person cited above said. "They (I-banks) have approached several foreign and domestic structured credit funds with an initial proposal," said the second person.

"Discussions are at an exploratory stage presently, but the company wants to tie up the funding in the next few months," this person said. "Among those who have been approached is a large global fund with private equity and structured credit operations in India."

A Patanjali spokesperson did not respond to emails and phone calls on Wednesday. The second person stated that Patanjali has a comfortable liquidity position, adding, "Compared to conventional bank credit, a structured credit investment which typically is debt with an equity upside will give Patanjali more flexibility over the re-

payment structure and tenor, as well as over the use of the funds."

In recent statements, Patanjali has said that it wants to raise long-term project finance to fund its upcoming food parks.

The company, which currently has 50 manufacturing units, wants to scale up production at its existing facilities in Maharashtra, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, a company spokesperson told Bloomberg Quint in August.

One of the fastest growing consumer goods groups in India, Patanjali group announced a 111% rise in revenues to Rs 10,561 crore in fiscal year 2016-17, with group companies Patanjali Ayurved Ltd, Divya Pharmacy Ltd and Patanjali Gramdhyog Ltd clocking Rs 9,346 crore, Rs 870 crore and Rs 345 crore, respectively.

Irfan raring to return after six-month ban

LAHORE: Mohammad Irfan expects to avoid a backlash from Pakistan fans after the paceman served a six-month ban for failing to disclose approaches made by bookmakers during a domestic T20 tournament and is happy for the chance to resume his career.

The 35-year-old, who played for Islamabad United in this year's Pakistan Super League (PSL), was fined and banned for a year — six months of which were suspended — as part of a probe by the country's cricket board (PCB).

The PCB was investigating whether an international betting syndicate tried to influence PSL matches and also handed out five-year bans to batsmen Sharjeel Khan and Khalid Latif as part of the spot-fixing scandal. "I regret that I didn't report it and I have realised how serious it is if you don't report a corrupt approach," Irfan told cricket website ESPN Cricinfo. "But



I am still very much accepted and people still like me.

"I don't want to go into details about whether the punishment was harsh. There were reasons I didn't report instantly but I did reject them [the bookies] straightaway.

"...I am happy that I am back after a minor ban and still have a chance

to revive myself."

The giant Irfan, who has played four Tests, 60 ODIs and 20 T20 Internationals, said the death of his parents had clouded his judgement and led to his delay in reporting the approaches to the PCB.

"The last six months have been very tough on me. In fact, it felt like

six years, during which I incurred great losses," Irfan said.

"Indeed, it was my mistake, and I admitted it instantly, but there was no fixing allegations against me. But, in all this, I am thankful the situation wasn't any worse. "I was actually working in my private gym at home to keep myself fit. But I had been training privately, so I hope things will go well. These six months, I think I can view it as a rest period which will help me rejuvenate."

Irfan believes the ban helped him rest his body and that he was ready for the rigours of international cricket. "In the last six months, I have been resting with no workload and that has really helped me," Irfan said.

"I got time to take a break from cricket; otherwise, the early part of my career, I was playing a lot.

Due to my height and body structure, I get tired early, and need more time for recovery."

Khalid Latif, banned Pakistan cricketer, got death threats, claims lawyer

KARACHI: Tainted Pakistan batsman Khalid Latif, who has been banned for five years by an Anti-Corruption Tribunal of the Pakistan Cricket Board on allegations of fixing has claimed to have received death threats.

"Khalid during third week of June got a call from a private number on his cell phone and the unknown caller told him clearly that if he tried to create a nuisance or resist in the spot-fixing case he would himself be buried between the graves of his parents in Karachi," his lawyer, Badr Alam claimed on Geo Super channel. Alam, who is representing Khalid Latif in the PSL spot-fixing case since February claimed that his client had informed him about the death threat at that time and also about some other messages and requested him (Alam) to keep silent while the spot-fixing hearing was going on before the tribunal. "That is why I didn't say anything but now that Khalid has



been banned and fined for something he didn't do. I have written to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) drawing their attention to the matter as security is needed for my client and his family," Alam claimed. The senior lawyer said he had no doubt that the cases of Sharjeel Khan and Khalid Latif were not as simple or black and white as they seemed or were made out to be by the PCB and its anti-corruption officials.

"I get this feeling that Khalid and Sharjeel have been given out a clear message by this syndicate that if you don't listen to us and cooperate with us you can't remain in the cricket mainstream," he said.

Bangladesh's Rubel Hossain cleared to travel to South Africa after ID mix-up



DHAKA: Bangladesh fast bowler Rubel Hossain flew out to join the tour of South Africa on Friday after his departure was delayed by a bizarre case of mistaken identity involving a look-a-like namesake with a criminal record.

Rubel departed nearly a week late after officials proved he was not the unknown man barred by South African authorities, who had the same name, similar personal details and looked identical in his photo.

"We received (from South African authorities) a photo, name and other information and all these things completely matched with Rubel though the person was different," Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan told reporters.

"(The person) they had banned was not our player Rubel. There was a similar kind of person

whose name, date of birth and all other information were similar, which confused them," he said.

Last week Rubel, who has taken 32 wickets from 24 Tests with one five-wicket haul, was prevented from boarding a flight to South Africa when he was denied immigration clearance.

Because of the delay, Rubel missed a three-day warm-up match at Benoni, but he should be available for the first Test which starts at Potchefstroom on September 28.

The second and final Test will be played in Bloemfontein starting on October 6. Bangladesh lost all four Tests in South Africa by an innings margin during their previous two visits in 2002 and 2008. They will also play three one-day internationals and two Twenty20 internationals during their month-long tour.

David Warner believes MS Dhoni is 'nurturing' Virat Kohli's captaincy

MUMBAI: David Warner believes former captain MS Dhoni's presence in the Indian side has been of great assistance to Virat Kohli, stating that Dhoni is 'nurturing' Kohli as a captain. MS Dhoni has been a strong force in the Indian team lately, both with the bat as well as behind the stumps. Dhoni has been in a red-hot form with the bat, and his lightning quick stumpings and invaluable feedback to the bowlers has resulted in many dismissals.

"MS Dhoni brought a sense of calmness to his captaincy. He did a great job as captain and he is still doing a great job, nurturing Virat and that is a great thing to do for a former captain," the Australian vice-captain was quoted as saying by India Today.

"He is nurturing Virat and that is a good thing to do for both men," David Warner added. The Australian side is under a lot of pressure having lost the opening two matches of the ongoing series against India. In both the matches, Australia had seized control but their batsmen have let them down.

On the other hand, the Indian team has been on a roll and their unbeaten streak is now of 11 matches across formats. India won all their nine matches across formats on the tour of Sri Lanka, and have begun the home season with two impressive victories over Australia. India won the rain-affected first match by 26 runs via Duckworth-Lewis Method at Chennai and the second game in Kolkata by 50 runs, meaning they lead the five-match series 2-0.

However, David Warner has warned Virat Kohli that real pressure will be felt only when his side will lose a few matches.



"Virat has not had a lot of non-success as captain but the real challenge comes when you start losing games. We are here for another three matches to go and hopefully we can turn that around and maybe we will see a different captain," he added.

The Australian batsman credited the Indian fast bowlers for using the conditions to their benefit early in their second innings. "The ball was swinging and it was challenging con-

ditions. Bhuvni (Bhuvneshwar) and Bumrah bowled brilliantly upfront.

"We lost two early wickets, established a partnership in the middle but did not have that one batsman going on to get a big score," Warner said. "We always talked about how if you restrict the Indian team to under 300 in their conditions, you are going a long way to winning the game. We did not get that key partnership in the middle," he added.

Kuldeep Yadav's hat-trick vs Australia felt like deja vu for Harbhajan Singh

NEW DELHI: Harbhajan Singh was overcome by a sense of deja vu while watching Kuldeep Yadav's hat-trick and feels that the feat will make the youngster an indispensable part of the Team India set-up just like him after that epic 2001 series.

"Wahi opposition, wahi lamha, wahi ground aur ek spinner jiska age bhi utna (The same opposition, same ground, another spinner of same age). Somehow as I was watching Kuldeep bowl, my mind travelled back to that afternoon (2001 March) at the Eden Gardens. It is a great achievement," Harbhajan told PTI, recalling his own hat-trick against Australia as a 21-year-old, in an epic clash.

"For a young spinner, when you get a hat-trick early in your career, your confidence shoots up to a different level. This is a milestone which each and every cricketer savours for the rest of his life," said Harbhajan, whose hat-trick during the 2001 Eden Test is a part of cricketing folklore.

"Eden Gardens never lets anyone return empty-handed. And this achievement will forever be etched in the history books," the 37-year-old, who has more than 700 international wickets in his kitty, fondly recol-



lected his exploits on the hallowed turf. And now Harbhajan feels that the 22-year-old Kuldeep's performance will make it very difficult for the team management to readily bring back Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja in the 50-over format.

Asked how difficult it will be for Ashwin and Jadeja considering that both Kuldeep and leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal are doing so well, Harbhajan was quite candid.

"It's always a difficult thing. If your current two spinners are doing well, then it becomes difficult for the senior spinners to make a comeback. For

Jaddu and Ashwin, it will be an onerous task to make a comeback in the ODI side," Harbhajan observed.

"At the moment, these two boys (Kuldeep and Chahal) are really doing well and I don't see them being replaced by Ashwin and Jaddu. You can't predict what's in store for the future," he said. What makes Kuldeep-Chahal combination special is the fact that the wrist spinners' ability to extract something from the pitch is independent of the conditions.

"Wrist spinners have certain advantages which is not condition dependent. Chahal has a good googly

and can get his leg breaks to turn sharply. Similarly, Kuldeep can also get it to turn both ways.

"His wrong 'un is very effective. They have that x-factor required at the highest level," explained India's third highest wicket-taker in Test cricket. He also observed that when the duo is bowling in tandem, their variation of pace through the air also makes it difficult for the opposition batsmen to pick it up.

"Both also bowl at different pace through the air. Kuldeep is a bit slower through the air while Chahal has a lower trajectory with slightly more pace on his deliveries. They complement each other well. They have maturity beyond years and I am impressed with their ability to read the situations." However, Harbhajan said the 2019 World Cup is far away and one can't predict who all will make it to that squad. "See, I don't know about the World Cup. World Cup is quite far away to be very honest but they are doing really well and I am really proud of them." Let's all wait and watch, how far these guys can go and continue doing well for India. I wish them all the luck and hope both grow from strength to strength."

From fake boots to flying missiles, Bengaluru FC's nightmare trip to North Korea



NEW DELHI: Top Indian football club Bengaluru FC's trip to North Korea last week to play Pyongyang's 4.25 SC in the AFC Cup was more a journey into the unknown and an experience that would stay with the players for long. Although the 2016 I-League champions, runners-up in the AFC Cup last year drew the return leg goalless after a 3-0 win at home to enter the inter-zone final, the Bengaluru FC squad got a glimpse of a nation in the thick of international controversy. AFC Cup is Asia's second-rung club tournament. The team's departure for the September 13 contest

was delayed by two days, which meant Bengaluru FC landed in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang barely 48 hours before kick-off at the cavernous May Day stadium. Bengaluru FC's former Australia midfielder Erik Paartalu has given a vivid account of the trip in an interview to bbc.co.uk.

North Korea is in the thick of repeated missile tests and threats to launch nuclear attacks on United States is hardly ideal for a sports team to visit the country. Lonely Pyongyang airport

"It is one thing going to play somewhere where there may be a war going on, or is

an unstable area, but North Korea is a different kettle of fish," Paartalu is quoted as saying by the BBC.

"The Australian government had put out a warning urging people not to travel to North Korea, there was no consular or embassy there and there was the threat of a nuclear war."

He added: "Once we arrived it was business; before we left, we were stepping into unknown." "Everything you see and hear on the news is different to what you see firsthand. It was a bit surreal landing in an almost empty airport," Erik Paartalu said.