

TIME AND US

DAILY Srinagar, Kashmir

SUNDAY

- SEPTEMBER, 24, 2017
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WEATHER TEMPERATURE		
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	29.9	11.7
JAMMU	30.8	22.1
LEH	24.6	15.3
KARGIL	25.8	6.8

SUNSET SUNDAY: 06:27 PM
SUNRISE MONDAY: 06:22 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR
Partly Cloudy Sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 29°C & 11°C respectively.

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

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COACH ARTHUR LOOKS TO EMERGING TALENT FOR SL SERIES

Corruption a scourge, support me in its eradication: Mehbooba tells officers

Jammu, Sep 23: Terming corruption as a scourge which eats up the vitals of the society, Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today asked the officers to support her in the initiative of providing a responsive and responsible administration to the people of the State.

Chairing a meeting of Deputy Commissioners of Jammu province here, the Chief Minister sought the support of officers in field to ensure a clean, prompt and result oriented governance to people, particularly those living in far off, hilly and disadvantaged areas of the State. "All alone I cannot do anything, your role is critical in providing an honest and responsive administration to people", she told the participants in the meeting.

Deputy Chief Minister, Dr. Nirmal Singh was also present in the meeting.

Complimenting the Deputy Commissioners of the region for discharging their duties with maturity and



maintaining peace and communal amity in their areas, Mehbooba Mufti asked them to continue with the tempo. To improve the imprints of governance, she asked them to further enhance their public outreach and

conduct periodic visits to forward and far flung areas to know the difficulties of people there. She also asked the DCs to specify one day in a week for meeting people in their offices and redress their grievances on spot.

The Chief Minister, however, cautioned the DCs against harassing any community or group in the drive against encroachments or protection of forest areas. She asked them to handle such issues compassionately while enforcing law. Also, she said, law must be enforced on equal terms while dealing with cases of bovine smuggling or cow vigilantism. She directed the DCs to be strictly tough with the elements that are found indulging in sowing seeds of hatred among communities and people.

Mehbooba Mufti asked the DCs to start working on approaching winter months and ensure stocking of essential supplies and fuel at areas which generally remain cut off due to snow. She also took a detailed feedback regarding the arrangements made by various District administrations for the people dislocated due to shelling in border areas of the province.

The Chief Minister asked the
▶ See **Mehbooba**...Pg 02

Border Skirmishes:

Two BSF troopers and Three civilians wounded

Jammu, Sep 23: In continued border skirmishes between India and Pakistan, at least two Indian Border Security Force (BSF) troopers and three civilians were injured as the armies from both the countries traded heavy fire and shelling along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Saturday.

"The two troopers and three civilians were injured in the overnight Pakistan ceasefire

violation in R.S. Pura and Ramgarh sectors. "The Pakistan Rangers used mortars, automatics and small arms to target over half a dozen BSF posts and civilian areas in the firing that started at 10 p.m. Our troops effectively retaliated," the police said.

Villagers in the areas close to the international border said their crops have

▶ See **Two**...Pg 02

NIA to quiz trade body chief, Kashmir university scholar in terror funding case

Srinagar: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has summoned a prominent trade association leader of Kashmir and a research scholar at the Kashmir University (KU) in connection with the ongoing probe into alleged funding of anti-national activities in the strife-torn Valley.

Mohammad Yasin Khan, who heads the Kashmir Economic Alliance (KEA) and Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF), and Aala Fazili, a research scholar at the pharmaceutical sciences department of KU, are scheduled to appear at NIA headquarters in New Delhi on Monday.

▶ See **NIA**...Pg 02

Civilian Killings: Tral shuts for 2nd day

Tral, Sep 23: A Complete shutdown was observed on the second consecutive day on Saturday in Tral town of south Kashmir's Pulwama district to mourn the killing of two innocent civilians.

Two civilians including a young girl were killed after a grenade attack on the cavalcade of PDP leader and R&B Minister Naem Akhtar

▶ See **Tral**...Pg 02

Kulgam: TWELVE INCIDENTS OF BRAID CHOPPING INCIDENTS IN A WEEK SEND SHOCK WAVES

Kulgam, Sep 23: Twelve incidents of braid chopping in just a week's time in South Kashmir's Kulgam district have created fear psychosis among people. Police is still clueless and have miserably failed to get any clue or lead to solve the mystery.

In a fresh incident on Saturday, the braid of a 15 year old girl Fancy Jan daughter of Abdul Hamid Dar was chopped off when she was doing work in her kitchen at Naikpora Kulgam.

The incident sparked protest while people alleged that police have not been taking the incidents seriously, a charge
▶ See **Waves**...Pg 02

Development, not votes, is our priority: PM

SHAHANSHAHPUR (Varanasi): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today lashed out at his political rivals, saying for BJP, politics was not for the sake of votes as it considered the country's development as the top-most priority.

Addressing a public meeting after inaugurating a 'Pashu Arogya Mela' (cattle health fair) here on the second day of his two-day visit to his Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi, he also promised to



double farm income and provide homes to the homeless by 2022.

He said his government had "waged a war" against black money and corruption, for which the poor has had to suffer because of "the loot" by the dishonest.

"Our (BJP) politics is not for votes, our culture is different. In politics, people do only that task which yields votes, but our character is different.

"Some politicians work
▶ See **PM**...Pg 02

FUEL PRICES WILL COME DOWN SOON: PRADHAN

AHMEDABAD: Attributing the recent rise in fuel prices to a hurricane in the US, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan today said the rates will come down in the next few days.

"Fuel prices have gone up recently due to the hurricane in the US. As the prices reduce in the international market, they will come down here also," the Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister told reporters here.

The rates have already started to come down in the last three days," he said, adding that the petrol and diesel prices had been linked to the market since the last 20 years.

When asked over the possibility of reduction in taxes on petroleum products to curb the fuel prices, Pradhan said taxes can't be slashed as funds are necessary for
▶ See **Fuel**...Pg 02

Working with India to take ties forward post-Doklam, says Chinese consul general

Kolkata: China and India are working together to "take forward" their relationship leaving behind the Doklam episode, the Chinese consul general said in Kolkata.

Chinese consul general Ma Zhanwu also asserted that by working together cooperation and exchanges can be further enhanced.

"India and China are working together. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping had a meeting on September 5 to discuss how to enhance the relationship," Zhanwu said on Friday night while addressing an event to mark the 68th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

"As long as the two countries work to-



gether, we will be able to enhance and develop exchanges and cooperation," he said.

Asked if both the countries have left behind the Doklam episode, Zhanwu said, "Yes we have left that behind and are working
▶ See **Doklam**...Pg 02

HANDWARA POLICE ARRESTS NOTORIOUS DRUG PEDDLER

Handwara, Sep 23: Handwara police in its drive against drug menace arrested a notorious drug peddler and recovered narcotic substance from his possession.

Acting on a specific information, Handwara police arrested a notorious drug peddler namely Hilal Ahmad Darson of Abdul Rehman Dar resident of Chogal Handwara from main town of Handwara. Narcotic substance, which was meant to be distributed among the youth of the district, was recovered from his possession.

A case FIR number 298/2017 under section 8/20 NDPS Act was registered and investigation was taken up.
▶ See **Handwara**...Pg 02

Batamaloo bus stand row: Traders and transporters continue their protest against government

Srinagar, Sep 23: Police on Saturday foiled a protest of Batamaloo traders and transporters marching towards the official residence of Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti at Gupkar in Kashmir capital Srinagar.

The protestors earlier held a massive protest at Press Enclave against shifting of General Bus Stand Batamaloo to Parimpora.

Police intercepted the protesting members of All Traders Joint Coordination Committee on the busy residency road.

Several protesters were detained while police cane-charged others.

The protesting traders were shouting slogans like "We want justice"
▶ See **Traders**...Pg 02



Some of the protesters fainted while facing the wrath of the police. They were shifted to hospital for treatment.

Transporters and traders are up in the arms against government proposal to
▶ See **Traders**...Pg 02

LADAKH TO GET ITS FIRST COLD STORAGE SOON

'Fruits, green vegetables will be available throughout year'

Srinagar, Sep 23: Ladakh region will soon get its first cold storage to overcome the shortage of fruits and green vegetables during six-month long winter season when the region remains closed down from rest of the world.

The 1000-metric ton Controlled Atmosphere Storage and Cold Storage facility, whose foundation stone was laid by Minister for Cooperatives and Ladakh Affairs Chering
▶ See **Ladakh**...Pg 02

Globalisation is here to stay, we proved sceptics wrong: Manmohan Singh

MOHALI: Globalisation is here to stay and those who were sceptical about the success of India's "new policies" 25 years ago have been proven wrong, says former prime minister Manmohan Singh.

It was a matter of pride that the broad thrust and direction of economic policies had remained unchanged in the last 25 years, added the renowned economist, considered to be the architect of India's reforms in the early 1990s.

The senior Congress leader was speaking at the 15th edition of the Indian School of Business Leadership Summit 2017 here last evening.

"All of you know that in 1991, we adopted a new approach for the management of the economy involving progressive liberalisation of both the internal and external economy.

"At that time there were many people who were sceptical about the success of new policies. However, we have



proved them wrong," he said.

It was also a period associated with significant growth rate of GDP and a decline in the proportion of people living below the pov-

erty line.

"There are undoubtedly still many challenges, particularly in areas like health, education and environment, and in the pragmatic measures to bridge inequalities of income and wealth. However, the acceptance of the broad approach of liberalisation has come to stay."

Taking a question from the audience, mostly comprising young business graduates, the former prime minister
▶ See **Singh**...Pg 02

TRADERS CALL FOR KASHMIR BANDH ON SEPT 25

Srinagar, Sep 23: Traders of Kashmir Saturday called for 'Kashmir Bandh' on September 25 (Monday) against NIA summons to Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Association (KTMF) president Yaseen Khan.

This was announced during a joint press conference of traders in Srinagar.

The press conference was attended by KTMF, KEA and transporters.

Pertinently, Khan has been asked to appear before the NIA on September 25.

The agency has also summoned student leader and
▶ See **Bandh**...Pg 02

KAVINDER FOR HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF GANDHI NAGAR CONSTITUENCY

Speaker kicks start multiple development works

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER-23: Speaker, Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Kavinder Gupta today laid foundation stone for multiple development works in Gandhi Nagar Constituency.

The works included construction of 1.5 km long road from Bermini to Rati Sarari funded under NABARD to be constructed by PWD(R&B) at an estimated cost of Rs 2.5 crore.

The Speaker also kicked started Rs 4.5 crore of upgradation work of Gurudwara-Preet Nagar road in Nanak Nagar, Nai Basti market road and Digiana-Rani Talab Road. The augmentation of roads will meet the long pending demand of the locals.

Emphasizing holistic development of Gandhi Nagar Constituency, the Speaker said

that he is committed to equal development of all sections of society irrespective of region, caste, creed, language, religion, colour of skin or gender.

Stressing on strict adherence of timelines, the Speaker directed the concerned officials for proper utilization of resources in a time-bound manner to ensure holistic and sustainable development of the area. People are the ultimate beneficiaries of the development works, the Speaker added.

Highlighting the development initiatives taken by him, the Speaker said that to redress the water supply issues, two new water supply projects costing Rs 18 crore each included in the development plan of the constituency. He said that delivering good governance with pragmatic ap-

proach at the doorstep of the people is his priority.

On being apprised of the problems pertaining to road connectivity, water supply, electricity, transportation, education and other basic amenities and developmental needs by locals of Bermini area, the Speaker assured them that all their genuine concerns will be looked into on priority and directed the concerned officials to take adequate measures to mitigate the problems of the locals in a time bound manner.

The Speaker assured the locals that works related to construction of Bhatindi - Barmini road, Bus stand, playground along with the upgradation of schools in the area will be included in development plan.

Reiterating his commitment, the Speaker said that

he is making all out efforts to fulfill the demands of the people, with special focus on providing all basic amenities to the residents of his constituency with the agenda of equitable development. Collaborative efforts need to be made, especially in the rural and backward belt for improving and uplifting their social and economic status, he added.

Locals appreciated the efforts of the Speaker and expressed their gratitude for taking up their long pending demand of on priority and also brought some other issues for his notice for early disposal.

MLC Vikram Randhawa, SDM Sonu Pargal and senior functionaries of concerned departments besides prominent citizens of the areas were present on the occasion.

CELEBRITY SINGER BALRAJ ENTHRALLS AUDIENCE AT DEVOTIONAL SONG COMPETITION

KATRA, SEPTEMBER 23: All India Devotional Song Competition entered in second day late evening with several mesmerizing presentations by famous artists like Celebrity singer Balraj at Yog Ashram Complex.

CMO Laxman Das, Senior Journalist Harbans Nagoke, Celebrity Singer and former winner of the competition Vibha Bharti, BMO Gopal Dutt, Deputy SPs Kulbir Honda, Subash Bhardwaj, Rakesh Wazir President Hotel Association, Katra and Chairman All India Devotional Song Committee, Yog Acharya Swami Yoga Nandji Maharaj, Virender Kesar and others were present on the occasion.

In the preliminary round of competition, Reema Devi from Kanyala bagged 1st position and Sohani Sharma from Jammu clinched 2nd position while the 3rd position was held by Varsha Jamwal from Jammu, among the 10 auditioned participants in which 2 participants were from outside state and 8 participants were from within



the state. The winners were presented cash prizes of Rs.10,000/-, Rs.5,000/- and Rs.3,000/- respectively by Balraj in presence of other dignitaries.

The Devotional Song Competition was adjudged by a panel of music experts including Dr. Usha Bhagat, Former

HoD Music, Professor Parveen Sabharwal, Professor Music Department and V.K Samba and Retired Director All India Radio.

Balraj, known for his hit songs like Jan Te Bani, Candle light dinner, 3 saal da pyar etc., and Vibha Bharti winner of MH One Awaz Punjab Di

enthralled the audience with their melodious songs.

The proceedings of Competition were conducted by Rakesh Wazir who is also the Chairman of the said Competition.

Famous Celebrity Singer Gulzar Lahoria will perform tomorrow.

The All India Devotional Song Competition is being organized by SMVD Shrine Board, Department of J&K Tourism and Shradha MH one in association with Shiv Khori Shrine Board, J&K Bank, Ramada City Center (now open) Jammu, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super Specialist Hospital, Pure Roots Herbal, Nidhesh Builders Jammu Pvt.Ltd., 92.7 Big FM, District Administration 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 to be held on 29th Sept. and the quarter final will be held on 27th Sep, which will be of 2nd & 3rd position holders of daily competition.

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MEHBOOBA

Divisional administration to ensure that the farmers of Basmati rice whose lands are to be acquired for Jammu semi ring road project be adequately compensated. She also asked for rationalization of teachers in the province so that adequate number of teachers conversant with teaching of Punjabi and Dogri languages is made available in schools.

Mehbooba Mufti directed installation of crash barriers on priority on the Ramban-Banihal stretch of National Highway to avoid frequency of accidents.

The Chief Minister took a detailed review of the pace of work on the three medical colleges coming up at Rajouri, Doda and Kathua and AIIMS at Vijaypur. She also reviewed progress on projects like Jammu-Akhnor road widening, Jammu airport expansion, Tawi barrage, new Assembly complex at Jammu, Dental College, Jammu, Mubarak Mandi Heritage project, Suchetgarh border tourism project, Chenab water supply scheme, Solid waste management project at Kote Balwal, railway projects, National Highway expansion and other projects.

Mehbooba Mufti asked the Deputy Commissioners to personally supervise the completion of these projects within the time schedule and ensure that in no way should the delays in the completion of these projects be incentivized. She asked them to ensure compliance and execution of PSGA in the service delivery by various Departments in their Districts. She also asked the DCs to make the Grievance Cells in their offices properly functional and make sure that no complaint from people goes unanswered.

Earlier, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Dr. M. K. Bhandari gave a resume of developmental activities in the province.

Advisor-Infrastructure, Pradip Singh; Chief Secretary, B. B. Vyas; Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rohit Kansal; and Deputy Commissioners of all the districts of Jammu province were present in the meeting.

TWO

suffered extensive damage due to the shelling. Residents of the border villages have also started moving to safer places.

Government has also evacuated local population to safer places.

Pakistan had claimed that its six civilians were killed in Indian firing on Friday.

NIA

Khan and Fazili both confirmed to HT that they have received the summons and said they have been asked to report at 11am on Monday at the NIA office in New Delhi.

The KTMF and KEA have said summons to Khan was an attack on traders of the Valley and have called for a Kashmir bandh on Monday. Major markets across the valley are expected to remain shut on Monday.

The NIA has also summoned Syed Naseem Geelani, son of hardline Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Geelani for another round of questioning on Monday.

These summons come at a time when the NIA has arrested seven separatist leaders and two alleged stone-pelters from Kashmir and conducted several raids in the case of alleged funding of anti-national activities in the Valley.

Most of the arrested are close aides of Geelani and moderate Hurriyat chief Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, including Geelani's son-in-law Altaf Shah. Of the two alleged stone pelters one is a freelance photo journalist in south Kashmir.

TRAL

on Thursday.

Pinky Kour daughter of Ichpal Singh resident of Chatargam and Ghulam Nabi Trag son of Ghulam Ahmad Trag resident of Tral-e-Payeen were killed and over 30 persons were injured in the incident.

Reports said that 11 shops, business establishments and educational institutes remained closed while public transport remained off the roads.

INCIDENTS

refuted by Kulgam police station head, Muhammad Athar Khan who told news agency CNS that police can't do anything unless and until the victims speak out.

"We are unable to do anything because victims are narrating nothing. We are ourselves baffled," Khan said.

Out of 12 braid chopping incidents, police have registered formal FIR's in over 8 cases while some victim families have not reported the incidents to police. The victims are not only teenage girls but also married women. Ulfat Begum wife of Sartaj Ahmed of Banimula Kulgam, Rani Jan wife of Bilal Ahmed of Ikhwana Colony and Shakira Bano wife of Bilal Ahmed of DH Pora are among the victims who are middle aged women.

Police identified some of the teenager victims as Ishrat Hasan (FIR number 48/2017), Asmat Manzoor of Milipora (FIR number 49/2017) and Bisma Hasan of Devsar (FIR number 50/2017).

The relatives of latest victim Fency Jan said that they found her unconscious with her braid cut in the kitchen. "After regaining conscience, she said she felt something from back and lost her senses."

A few days' back, police had arrested a non-local for her alleged involvement in braid chopping incident in Chamer DH Pora village. "We questioned him but the allegations proved wrong. Even the local Auqaf Committee vouched for his innocence as according to them the accused used to work in the house of the victim and he has no role in the incident," said Kulgam Police Station Head Muhammad Athar Khan.

Locals are shocked and scared. Some locals believe that a group of non-locals is active who do it for attaining so-called magical powers on the directions of their so-called Gurus. "I heard that some people believe that they will possess magical powers if they cut the hair of females. This is the work of such group and there is nothing magical," said Javid Ahmed.

"Whatever it is, we are investigating the matter seriously," said police officer.

PM

only when it fetches them votes. But we have been brought up in a different culture. ... For us, the nation is above all and it is our top-most priority, not votes," Modi said.

Referring to the mega animal fair being organised for the first time on 1800 acres of land here, he said "these animals don't go to cast their ballot. They are not anyone's voters."

He said proper healthcare of the cattle through such initiatives, would help increase milk production in India which is lower than in several countries.

Encouraging the farmers to adopt dairy and animal husbandry as alternate sources of income, Modi said such initiatives would lead to "a new path of progress" that would not only raise farmers' income but also the overall income.

Maintaining that crores of families are still homeless, he said the government has decided to provide each of the urban and rural poor, a shelter by 2022 when the country celebrates 75th year of independence.

"When crores of houses are built across the country, it will require bricks, cement, iron and wood. It will generate jobs for thousands and open up new avenues of income and employment," the Prime Minister said.

Modi, who distributed Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana certificates to some beneficiaries, said "By 2022, every poor, whether in urban or rural area, will get a home. Building crores of homes will generate jobs and income."

"If Modi will not take up such an arduous task, who else will," he posed.

He also targeted the erstwhile Samajwadi Party government in Uttar Pradesh for not providing to the Centre the list of homeless requiring houses in the state.

"The previous government had no interest in giving homes to the poor. After mounting pressure, they gave a list of only 10,000. But the current (Yogi Adityanath) government has given a list of lakhs of people to avail benefit," Modi said.

Referring to his government's cleanliness drive, he said toilets at home can save up to Rs 50,000 per annum as per a survey.

Praising villagers, where he went for laying foundation of a toilet for naming it as "Izzatgarh", Modi said, "I liked this word so much. Where there is Izzatgarh, there is honour of our mothers and sisters. I also congratulate the state government for recognising it as Izzatgarh. In the days to come those

who are concerned about their honour, will construct Izzatgarh."

Thanking Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for organising health treatment for cattle programme, Modi said cattle were brought here from different places and specialist doctors are here to treat them.

"I hope such programme for health of cattle will be held across the state through which we will take care of cattle of poor. It will be a relief for them," he said.

Modi said such camps would help poor farmers who could not afford treatment to their animal because of poverty and pointed out that dairy farming gave them a major economic support.

Earlier, he went around the animal shelter and even patted some cows at the 'gau shala'.

He spoke to the staff there enquiring about their work. Modi said that the government has kickstarted a big battle against blackmoney, corruption and dishonesty.

"A common honest man suffers as corrupt used to loot him. The campaign of honesty is going ahead like a festival. The way in which our trader brothers are associating with GST and Aadhar. Every penny of people will be spent for their welfare. We are moving forward fast," he said.

On the first day of his visit, Modi inaugurated 17 infra projects worth over Rs 1000 crore including the Ramnagar-Samne Ghat bridge and the Balua Ghat bridge.

He also flagged off the third Mahamana Express train between Varanasi and Vadodra.

FUEL

infrastructure development and welfare schemes.

"Don't you need good roads? Don't you need pure drinking water? Don't you need good education for your children? Don't you need good health care? (You cannot have laddus in both your hands)," Pradhan said.

"In democracy, it is from the taxes of the people that welfare schemes are funded. This is not any hidden system. Everybody knows that most part of the revenue earned through taxes is spent on the welfare schemes," he added.

DOKLAM

together to take forward the bilateral relationship". Prime Minister Modi had met President Xi on the sidelines of the 9th BRICS Summit on September 5.

The two leaders had agreed that both the countries should put in more effort to strengthen the cooperation between their security personnel and ensure that Doklam-like incidents do not recur.

The Chinese and the Indian troops were engaged in a prolonged standoff in the Doklam area of the Sikkim sector since June 16 after the Indian side stopped the construction of a road by the Chinese Army.

On August 28, India's External Affairs Ministry announced that New Delhi and Beijing have decided on "expeditious disengagement" of their border troops in the disputed Doklam area.

HANDWARA

Pertinent to mention here that the accused being habitual offender was previously booked under PSA and other heinous offences.

These efforts of police in eradicating the grave menace of drugs from the society which ruin the life of the youth has been appreciated by the general public of the area.

TRADERS

shift the historical Batamaloob bus stand to Parimpora. They have been protesting from past one month. The shopkeepers doing their business in Batamaloob frequently shut their business against government move while transporters have also resorted to 'chaka jam' for couple of days.

"We have been continuously protesting against government proposal but PDP led by government seems to be callous towards our hardships. The government doesn't care about us as the shifting of the bus stand will have serious economic implications," said Muhammad Ashraf to news agency CNS.

The protesting transporters and traders have been alleging that government under a well hatched conspiracy wants to deprive them economic benefits.

LADAKH

Dorje in July last year at Agling Leh, is being constructed will full pace.

The storage will relieve the residents of the 'cold desert' from the shortage of fruits and green vegetables during the severe and freezing six-month long winter which remains closed to the rest of the world due to accumulation of huge snow at Zojilla pass on Srinagar-Leh highway.

Giving details of the vital storage, Dorje said the project is being constructed at a cost of Rs 9 crore, out of which Rs 4.50 crore is available under 13 Finance Commission and Rs 4.50 crore has been allotted under the Prime Minister's Development Package.

"The storage will relieve us of the shortage of fruits, vegetables, and other food items during winter season. It will store food items all through the year," Dorje told KNS, adding that the work on the project is going on at full pace.

"We expect it to get completed as soon as possible and we are hopeful that it will be started next year," he said.

Of the 1000 Mt capacity, 250 Mt is climate controlled and 750 Mt will be for cold storage, the minister said.

Constructed by Public Works Department, the project will be handed over to a cooperative society of Leh, Ladakh Cooperative Marketing Society, for operation and maintenance.

The minister said that farmers will be benefited a lot as the storage facility will facilitate regular vegetable supply to people, army and will also meet the vegetable and fruit produce demands of the hotels and guest houses throughout the year.

SINGH

said, "I think globalisation has come to stay..." China, he added, has also become a great champion of globalisation.

Singh said India is a land of immense opportunities but does face internal challenges.

"It has a vast market to build long lasting, innovative and competitive enterprises. While as a democratic nation we do face internal challenges for a variety of reasons, the particular advantage of democracies lies in their ability to handle such situations with maturity."

"Authoritarian responses cannot solve the real problems of the people or make life worth living," Singh said, stressing on the promotion of scientific temper, on which India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru laid great emphasis.

He urged the young business graduates to imbibe democratic values in life and in the management of enterprises entrusted to their care.

"You are makers of tomorrow's India. Your creative abilities will greatly influence the place that India occupies in the global economy," he said.

Quoting Nobel laureate Venkatraman Ramakrishnan, the senior Congress leader said, "India currently is using a development model with cheap labour and so it can attract companies for manufacturing based on labour costs. But if we are not careful we are going to miss the boat completely—because manufacturing is going to become largely automated."

"Ramakrishnan, therefore, suggests that if India has to solve its development problems of poverty, ignorance, disease and unemployment, more emphasis has to be there on science and innovation," Singh said.

The former PM also said that if we wanted to improve the quality of governance, we needed to streamline administrative processes.

"There is a need to improve administrative processes in states like never before," he added.

BANDH

Kashmir University Scholar Aala Fazli on the same day. It has re-summoned pro-freedom leader, Syed Ali Geelani's son, Syed Naseem Geelani as well.

The Central probe agency is probing a case of alleged funding registered on May 30 this year.

CM launches film on Kashmir tourism

Mehbooba regrets negative portrayal of Kashmir, appeals media to look at stories of hospitality, warmth of place

'Campaign being launched to persuade tourists to come to Kashmir, a good winter season being planned'

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 23: Regretting the negative portrayal of Kashmir by some television channels, Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today appealed the media to portray the place with all its facets including aesthetic, spiritual and adventurous.

Addressing a function after launching a film on the spiritual and hospitable aspects of life in Kashmir, the Chief Minister said tourism to Kashmir is not about its physical beauty alone but the exploration of a deep rooted spiritual system which needs to be experimented. She said hospitality and warmth are deeply ingrained in the life of people here which has aptly been reflected by the film.

The Chief Minister said there are countless examples to illustrate this hospitable nature and tourist friendly attitude of its people. She recalled that when recently Amarnath Yatris were killed by some enemies of peace, people thronged hospitals to donate blood and even took to streets to condemn the heinous crime. Similarly, she said last summer a Shikarawallah



lost his life while saving his guests. "These are the empirical evidences of this hospitality", she said and appealed local, national and international media to highlight these aspects while reporting or commenting on Kashmir. Mehbooba Mufti regretted that the negative portrayal of Kashmir has affected the tourism industry of the State badly which employs a sizeable chunk of population. She said her Government would be planning

a much more intense promotional campaign to persuade people to come to the State. She said the Tourism Department has been asked to prepare for a good winter season this year for which preparations are being made.

Minister for Public Works, Naeem Akhtar; Legislators, Anjum Fazili and Khurshid Alam; Vice Chairman, JK TDC, Rafi Ahmad Mir; Commission Secretary, Tourism, MH Malik; heads of several wings of Tourism Department;

members of tourist trade fraternity; mediapersons and a large number of people were present during the screening ceremony.

The film 'The Warmest Place on Earth' has been produced by Jaibeer Ahmad for J Walter Thompson producers and it brings to fore the hospitable, warm and spiritually rooted nature of the people of the place. The screening of the film received a warm reception from the audience.

Asiea emphasizes for creating a sustainable assets

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23: Minister of State for Health and Medical Education, Housing and Urban Development, Asiea Naqash today, while presenting a vote of thanks to all those who attended the Real Estate and Infrastructure Investors' Summit 2017 at Mumbai, emphasized on working together for creating a sustainable development.



The Minister said that it was an honor to attend the conclave which had brought together stakeholders of real estate and infrastructure not just from India but outside too, enabling a dialogue and discussion on finding solutions and showcasing promising growth of the Indian Real Estate and Infrastructure sector to Investors.

She said that the discussions held during the summit will change the lives of millions across the rural and urban areas of India.

The Minister further added that there is a housing infrastructural defect in India today and summits like this will help in overcoming that.

Naqash remarked that efforts should be made to resist the temptation of constructing a map of "Developed India" from the standpoint of the "what would lure the outsiders tourists. She said infrastructure should be built in such a way that it is accessible and beneficial to both.

For building more cities with investors from across the globe, there is a need to have a private sector initiative, she urged. She said that this shall include shared spaces; places for formal and informal education; the economic infrastructure; the social infrastructure for community quality of life especially with reference to women, children and elders-as places for family outings, places for creative expression through arts, theatre, literature, sports, retreats challenged people; historic houses; public lavatories with improved sanitation, clean drinking water.

In order to create best infrastructural marvels, the Minister said that an exchange of ideas, and learning innovations from each other, is an important component.

The Minister said that there is primarily need on real funding in Real Estate investment, Private Equity, and Infrastructure Investment to dream of a Developed India but also of sustainable development.

Dy CM lauds role of NMO, others for organizing medical camps in remote areas

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 23: Lauding the role of National Medicos Organization (NMO) besides others who organized medical camps in rural and border areas of the State, Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Nirmal Singh said that steps are afoot to provide quality healthcare facilities to people at their doorstep.

Deputy Chief Minister said this during valedictory function of five-day long Rishi Kashyap Swasthya Sewa Yatra (RKSSY) at Government Medical College, Jammu here today.

RKSSY was conducted by National Medicos Organization, Ekal Abhiyan, Sewa Bharati and Arogya Foundation of India.

Dr Singh said that such medical cum awareness camps help in bridging the gaps by creating awareness among general public about the prevention of various diseases and their treatment. He recognized the efforts of doctors



from various states of India who dedicated their free and selfless services to people of Jammu and Kashmir during this 5-day health campaign.

He urged the participants who came from outside the State to share their experiences in their respective States. He said that doctors should be appreciated for their ded-

ication to keep up with advances in their respective fields, and for the kindness and charity they give to the society.

About 17000 patients suffering from various ailments were attended by doctors and representatives of National Medico Organization during the camps. A total of 111

Medical Checkup camps were organized in various remote and border areas of the Jammu and Kashmir State during which free medicines were also distributed among beneficiaries.

NMO aims to organize and motivate allopathic doctors for serving under-privileged sections of the society, settled in the tribal village and slum areas. From its inception, NMO is working untiringly in providing devoted voluntary health services primarily to interior villages through Seva activities and with its slogans 'Swasthya Seva - Rashtira Seva'

The RKSSY was organized under the supervision of Principal GMC Dr Sunanda Raina, National Secretary NMO, Dr Om Parkash and other members of National Medicos Organization.

Among others, doctors, faculty members and students of GMC and other parts of the country were also present on the occasion.

Bali Bhagat inaugurates 12th State Level Dental Conference-2017

Says Govt endeavouring to create adequate posts of medicos to meet increased patient flow

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 23 - Minister for Health & Medical Education, Bali Bhagat formally inaugurated the 12th J&K State Dental Conference at Nageen Club here today. The 4-day Conference (22nd to 24th Sept) has been organized by the Indian Dental Association (IDA), J&K State Branch on the theme "Emerging Challenges & Newer Solutions".

The aim and objective of the conference is to enrich and update the knowledge of State dentists with the innovative advancements in the field of dentistry. The theme chosen is forward looking perspective and assumes great significance in the backdrop of worldwide phenomenon of emerging diseases to be discussed in the debate by the Dental Luminaries with diverse ideas.

More than 350 delegates from Jammu and Kashmir and other neighbouring States

including Punjab and Delhi are participating in the Conference and sharing their ideas in the latest innovations. The senior faculties will deliver their lectures and enlighten their junior fellows in the respective field.

Speaking on the occasion, Bali Bhagat said that such conferences provide great opportunities to the budding doctors to learn new techniques in the medical sciences from their seniors. He stressed the need for organizing such informative events frequently to keep the doctors abreast in their field, which can ultimately lead to the betterment of healthcare. He congratulated the Organizing Committee of the IDA for organizing such a big event and said that the conference shall prove quite fruitful for the medical academicians and all other stakeholders of the State.

Bhagat said that State

Government is committed to upgrade the overall health infrastructure to enlarge the facilities for the patients at their doorsteps in view of huge flow of patients rush is witnessed in health institutions over the years. He said new hospitals buildings were constructed in the newly carved districts with the signboards of District hospitals, but creation part remained unattended, with the result the existing staff is facing lot of hardships in catering to the flow of patients. He said present Government is focusing on creation of adequate number of posts of doctors/paramedics as per the actual requirements in the health institutions to ensure overall improvement in the patient care. Referring to the enhancement of PG seats in the Government Dental College, Srinagar, Minister said that government is seriously considering this proposal as also

starting PG courses in Jammu Dental College soon. He said necessary formalities are being completed and after that the Union Government will be approached for granting approval to the enhancement in the intake capacity in both the institutions. He also said that Government is keen to promote private sector, especially in Dental care to supplement government endeavour in providing best facilities to the patients.

Expressing happiness over the recently concluded elections of State Medical Council, the Minister said the Government revived this important body after many years, and hoped that the mechanism shall help in ensuring transparency in the dental sector and addressing the issues of dentists expeditiously. He called upon the doctors to work with added zeal and dedication and serve the patients with missionary.

Jawahar tunnel to remain open 24x7 for transportation of fruit

Basharat Bukhari reviews arrangements for hassle-free movement of fruit trucks

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 23: Minister for Horticulture, Syed Basharat Bukhari today directed for making Jawahar tunnel operational round the clock during fruit season to ensure smooth, safe and timely transportation of horticulture industry produce to outside the State.

The Minister said this while chairing a meeting here today to review measures being undertaken to ensure the hassle-free movement of fruit carrying trucks on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway.

Vice Chairmen Horticulture Development Board, Abdul Salam Reshi; Vice Chairmen JKHPMC, Ghulam Mohammad Mir; Director General of J&K Police, S P Vaid; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Baseer Ahmad Khan; Inspector General J&K Traffic Police, Jagjit Kumar; Secretary Horticulture, Manzoor Ahmad Lone; Excise Commissioner, Mohammad Javid Khan; Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing (P&M) Manzoor Ahmad Qadri; Commanding Officer 24 Bn CRPF (Incharge, Jawahar Tunnel), Sumit Kumar; Commanding Officer Beacon, Varinder Singh; J&K Bank Officials, members of various fruit associations and fruit growers were also present in the meeting.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Inspector



General J&K Police Jammu, S D Singh Jamwal, and other concerned administrative officers participated in the meeting via video conferencing.

Terming farmer heart and trader mind of horticulture industry, the Minister said that the Government has undertaken a holistic programme for ensuring equitable and sustainable development of horticulture sector of the State.

He said that trucks carrying fruit should be given priority during the season while travelling on Jammu-Srinagar Highway so that trader, as well as grower, can fetch good returns.

He directed the concerned for checking and maintaining genuine

load carrying charges during the fruit season.

Bukhari directed the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir for making special arrangements of trucks for timely transportation of horticulture produce during the fruit season.

The Divisional Commissioner assured the Minister that all necessary steps will be taken to avoid inconveniences faced by the traders and required fleet will be made available as per the demand of mandies.

The Minister was informed that steps are being taken to ensure Jawahar tunnel is made operational 24x7. He was told that J&K Police will paste a special security check sticker on

fruit carrying trucks which will be valid for a limited period.

It was said that Horticulture Department in collaboration with J&K Bank will also paste a special fluorescent sticker on fruit carrying trucks for their easy identification and hassle-free movement on the National Highway.

During the meeting, various trade associations informed the Minister that trucks are not being allowed by the Police to move before 8 pm. The Minister directed the IGP to look into the matter, besides take up the issue of frequent traffic snarls at Azadpur Mandi, Delhi with concerned quarters.

Bukhari directed the CRPF and Beacon officials to take innovative measures for making Jawahar tunnel operational round the clock during the fruit season, besides submit a detailed report regarding critical spots on the Highway.

The Minister directed the Divisional Commissioner Jammu to appoint an officer who will remain in touch with Horticulture P&M Department to avoid communication gaps. He also directed DIG to appoint nodal officers who will remain in touch with the Department to ensure hassle-free movement of fruit carrying trucks via Mughal Road and Lakhanpur entry point.

Formation of clusters under SFURTI

Ganga inaugurates workshop at KVIB Jammu

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 23: Minister for Industries and Commerce, Chander Parkash Ganga, today inaugurated a day-long workshop on formation of clusters under the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) held at J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) Jammu.



The workshop was organized to sensitize the artisans about the formation of clusters under the SFURTI scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that such clusters will provide sustained employment for traditional industry artisans and rural entrepreneurs by improving their capacity building and manufacturing skills through training and exposure visits.

He said it will also facilitate increased production of traditional merchandise and help in the economic betterment of the involved artisans, adding that these clusters will also include Common Facility Centres (CFCs) and Raw Materials Banks (RMBs) for artisans.

Ganga also said that an amount of Rs. 4.00 crore has been sanctioned for each of the five clusters established at different regions. Speaking in reference to the SFURTI

scheme, the CEO KVIB said the objectives of the cluster is to organize the traditional industries and artisans into a cluster so as to make them competitive, provide support for their long-term sustainability and enhance marketability of such the cluster by providing support for new products, design intervention, improved packaging and also improvements in marketing infrastructures.

CEO KVIB, Directors KVIB, Director Industries (Jammu), Assistant Director KVIB, Director RSETI and other concerned senior officers were also present on the occasion.

Later, the I&C Minister visited Samba, where he laid foundation of office of Association of Industries (Regd.). He was accompanied by Chairman Vinod Rishi, President Vijay Agarwal and Secretary Ritesh Mahajan among other association members.

DAILY Editorial Time and Us

TAX TRAUMA — ON GST NETWORK

For a reform that was cracked up to be India's biggest tax overhaul since Independence, the roll-out of the goods and services tax is off to a less-than-desirable start. Over 80 days after its introduction, the GST Network, its online backbone, is struggling to keep pace with the millions of invoices and returns being filed electronically by businesses across the country. The government has extended the deadline for filing GST returns for July, the first month of the GST era, twice. And Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has reiterated an appeal to taxpayers to not wait till the last day, to avoid burdening the GSTN. But even those filing returns well before the last date have struggled. It is clear that the network had not been fully tested for chinks before July. A ministerial group formed by the GST Council to resolve the GSTN's glitches gave an assurance last Saturday that 80% of the problems would be fixed by the end of October. For a country that takes pride in its IT edge, this is a strange impasse. Critically, for an economy that is slowing down for multiple reasons, even more troublesome is the implication of these implementation stumbles for 85 lakh taxpayers now registered for GST.

Exporters, for instance, have already alerted the Centre that the delayed timelines for filing GST returns (the last of which must be sent in by November 10) will mean that no refunds can be expected before mid-November on input taxes paid in advance and the integrated GST levied on goods they imported. By their reckoning, as much as 65,000 crore of working capital will get blocked, cramping their ability to ramp up capacity and raw material procurement in time for festive season orders from around the world. Terming these as 'wild' estimates, the government has asserted that many exporters' funds were blocked for five-six months even before the GST, even as it said a solution to speed up refunds is being worked out. Those producing only for the domestic market are no better off. Therefore, expectations of a rebound in manufacturing activity may be misplaced. Moreover, in contrast to the 95,000-crore GST collections recorded so far for July, about 65,000 crore has been claimed as transitional credit (that is, taxes paid on stock purchased before the GST). On Friday, the government clarified this is not 'incredibly high' as firms had outstanding credits of 1.27 lakh crore for central excise and service tax levies on June 30. Though the deadline to file the relevant return has been extended to October 31, initially only those who filed by September 28 were to be allowed to revise their credit claims. While revisions will be enabled from mid-October, the tax department is already examining some of these credit claims, triggering unease among firms. Several revisions in deadlines, tax and cess rates, rules, clarifications and tweaks later, the GST regime is turning out to be neither simple nor friendly for taxpayers.

Indomitable spirit

By BAGESHREE S.

GAURI LANKESH married her craft of journalism to social and political activism in a manner few have done in recent memory, and paid the ultimate price. Journalism for her was a calling, not a mere job.

There were many sceptics when Gauri Lankesh took over Lankesh Patrike after her illustrious father, P. Lankesh's death in 2000. They sniggered at her for her "lack of experience", her "political naivete" and what they claimed was her "poor hold on Kannada". Evidently, she was stepping into the big shoes of her father, a leading light of the Navya movement of literature in Kannada, film-maker, playwright and a journalist who shaped a generation through his writings in the 1980s and 1990s. And anyone less gutsy than Gauri Lankesh would have shrivelled under the intense heat of such expectations.

The distinct path Gauri Lankesh chartered from then on until her brutal killing on the night of September 5, 2017, was all her own as much in journalism as it was in political activism. In fact, the two roles melded into each other and lent her a trademark style. Her indefatigable confidence and hard work soon silenced the sniggers. Gauri Lankesh doggedly kept the magazine going during the most trying times. Money to run it was always hard to come by, and she brought it out almost single-handedly, right down to proofreading the pages, with little or virtually no help.

The transformation of the weekly tabloid's masthead from Lankesh Patrike to Gauri Lankesh in 2005, though not by choice but because of a dispute with her brother, Indrajit Lankesh, who claimed proprietorship, could well be seen as symbolic of the shaping of her distinct identity.

Journalism from the trenches

The magazine her father ran with unprecedented success in Kannada journalism's history, with no advertisement support, was unique for the way it lent a literary flavour to the bold tabloidy analysis of contemporary politics. Gauri Lankesh, though arguably the most starry-eyed fan of her father (she kept the chair and table her father had used in the editor's office, but never used it herself), soon successfully moved out of his shadow, freely admitting that she was indeed not the "litterateur" that her father was. The weekly she edited did not have the same flavour as the one her father ran, but there is little reason to argue that it should have been. While individual style is one matter, the spirit of the times after 2000, marked by the rise of Hindutva in Karnataka, most notably in its coastal belt, certainly played a major role in shaping Gauri Lankesh's uniquely feisty personality.

Taking on the Sangh Parivar
What made her voice distinct in the years that followed was the unapologetic plunge she took into activism and how she used the paper she ran as a forum to espouse those causes. Issues such as communal politics, women's rights, Dalit liberation and farmers' agitations constantly found place in her paper, and there was no ambiguity as to whose side she was on. There was no "balancing of views" as mainstream journalism would call it. Her critics sometimes said that her style lacked "nuance",



but she vociferously argued that this was often a ploy to play safe or to obfuscate ideas and political positions. She was never "careful" as an editor; nor was she a "careful" as a person.

Predictably, this resulted in obnoxious trolls, online and offline, and defamation cases became her constant companions. Around the time of her death, she had gone on appeal to the High Court on a prison sentence pronounced by a lower court in connection with a defamation case filed by the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Dharwad Member of Parliament Prahlad Joshi. She particularly "offended" the Sangh Parivar affiliates (whom she always referred to as "chaddis", often in bold letters on the tabloid's cover) in edition after edition. Scanning through the issues over the past few years, it is hard to come across even a single one that did not take on the Hindutva political actors in what some would describe as language that was shrill and strident.

However, as G. Rajashekhar, culture critic, political activist and regular contributor to both Lankesh Patrike and Gauri Lankesh points out, it was not unbridled iconoclasm. Gauri Lankesh held the Indian Constitution sacrosanct across contexts and never advocated violence to take on those whom she unsparingly attacked in her magazine every week. "You cannot find a single line in any of her editorials that advocates defiance of the Constitution or taking to violence," he says. Gauri Lankesh had the courage to publish Rajashekhar's strong critique of the seer of the Pejaraw Mutt in Udipi that most mainstream magazines were afraid to touch, but there were always limits she would not cross.

Mainstreaming Naxalites
Her unwavering faith in constitutional values was also reflected in the enormous effort she put in to bring those who were once in the forefront of the naxal movement back into the mainstream along with like-minded persons such as the freedom fighter H.S. Doreswamy.

Two important leaders, Sirimane Nagaraj and Noor Sridhar, who joined the mainstream thanks to her persistent efforts,

became active in democratic struggles and even wrote occasionally for Gauri Lankesh. Interestingly, Gauri Lankesh's fallout with her brother involved disagreements over publishing an interview with a naxalite leader, which Indrajit strongly opposed. While her touchstone was the Constitution, she believed that journalism should hear out every side of a story to reflect genuine plurality.

Lingayat issue

In fact, her virulent opposition of the BJP and the Sangh Parivar could also be read as stemming from her abhorrence of those who did not believe in the constitutional values of secularism and moving towards a casteless society. Rather than shut out such forces, she constantly engaged with them, especially in social media platforms. Over the past few months, when the demand for a separate religious tag for Lingayats escalated in Karnataka ("Struggling for a new status", Frontline, September 15), Gauri Lankesh wrote extensively on the issue both in Gauri Lankesh and in English publications.

In an article for the news website, "The Wire", she wrote: "Lingayats are followers of Basavanna and the sharanas, whose philosophy is expressed in thousands of vachanas. In several vachanas, the sharanas have rejected the Vedas, shastras, smritis and the Upanishads. They also rejected the system of caste based on the varnashrama, rebuffed faith in karma based on caste, denied the concept of paap and punya which was based on karma, spurned the notion of heaven and hell as based on paap and punya. They scorned temple and idol worship. They rejected the phallic linga symbol of Siva and opted for ishtalinga, which represents inner conscience. They declared that work was worship and tried to break the barriers of caste by inter-caste dining. They fought against discrimination on the basis of gender and birth. They abhorred superstitions. They ignored Sanskrit—which was understood by very few—and addressed the people in Kannada. Essentially, Basavanna and all sharanas rejected everything about the Hindu religion and rebelled against it."

She pointedly observed that the demand for a separate status for Lingayats was raised by many even during the drafting of the Constitution, especially by Lingayat members of the Constituent Assembly such as S. Nijalingappa. The scholar M.M. Kalburgi, killed two years ago in a manner strikingly similar to how Gauri Lankesh was killed, also held similar views. She may not have been a scholar, but her keen appreciation of why the issue rankled the Hindutva bigots who had no time, patience or inclination to understand culture in its multifaceted dimensions and nuances of which religion is only a small part ensured that she stayed her course come what may.

For those who felt that her magazine lacked nuance, the editorials Gauri Lankesh wrote every week under the title "Kanda Haage" (As Perceived) showed another face of her potential as a writer and journalist. They reflected the vastness and depth of her understanding of the world as a journalist that the screaming headline may have often masked. Her editorial on triple talaq (published in the September 5 issue), for instance, hailed the Supreme Court verdict but also questioned the earlier verdict on "love jihad".

An abiding role model

The last editorial Gauri Lankesh wrote (in the issue dated September 13) titled "Sullu Suddigala Yugadalli" (In the age of fake news) is a fine analysis of the Sangh Parivar's untiring fake news manufacturing machinery. She confesses to falling prey to one such photoshopped image herself, and, after a detailed analysis of how fake news is created and spread, talks about the newly emerging young band of activists who are countering them online and offline. She was all praise for Youtuber Dhruv Rathi, who has the "looks of a college boy" as she put it, and expressed happiness over many youngsters like him raising their voice of dissent. In fact, anyone who closely interacted with Gauri Lankesh could not have missed her drive to nurture the young to be right-thinking and bold in their resistance to right-wing politics. She kept in close touch with young activists such as Kanhaiya Kumar and Jignesh Mewani and called them her "adopted sons". Many young journalists, especially young women, looked up to her as a role model. She entered journalism in the 1980s. Gauri Lankesh concluded her last editorial with a note of optimism: "I offer my salaam to the lonely soldiers of truth who are exposing the fake news propagated by chaddis. May their tribe increase..."

It is not clear what will happen to the magazine that carries the legacy of Gauri Lankesh and in some ways her father as well. The rights over the magazine, which has no strong financial backing or editorial structure, will now go back to the family. Her sister, Kavitha Lankesh, who is a film-maker, said she would not want to take it on but would be happy if some friends and colleagues of Gauri Lankesh wanted to keep it alive. For now, Gauri Lankesh's friends and admirers are busy putting together an edition of Gauri Lankesh that will be a tribute to its slain editor and her indomitable spirit. Gauri Lankesh had put together a similar special edition as a tribute to her father when he passed away in 2000.

A DISSENTER SILENCED

By PARVATHI MENON

It grieves me to write about Gauri Lankesh in the past tense. The television news flash on September 5 of her brutal murder on the steps of her house in Bengaluru was met with initial disbelief and incomprehension by her large constellation of friends, colleagues, acquaintances and admirers. Stunned, friends called each other for confirmation of the dreadful news and to assimilate its import: the similarities between the killing of the distinguished and outspoken academic M.M. Kalburgi in 2015 and Gauri's murder; the knowledge that Gauri would also have been in the crosshairs of the same forces for her uncompromising stance against communalism; the enabling atmosphere in the country over the last few years for hate crimes of this sort to be committed. These connections provided tentative answers to the question on everyone's mind: Why Gauri?

The response to news of her death in Bengaluru and other parts of the country assumed the proportions of a tidal wave of grief, anger and, perhaps, fear too. There is also the growing realisation that her killing, though one in a long line of similar killings of secular writers, activists and public intellectuals in recent months and years, represents in some sense a turning point, a new

and significant moment in the growing environment of intolerance in the country. For Gauri is—was—a force in Kannada journalism, having carved out a niche in a special kind of adversarial journalism. She has been on the media scene from the 1980s—first with the English media, and since 2000 in Kannada journalism. Her tabloid, Gauri Lankesh Patrike, an offshoot of Lankesh Patrike which her father started and she took over after his death, is widely read precisely because it offers an alternative kind of journalism.

Gauri adopted her father's anti-establishment, muckraking tone and style but steered the publication onto a fundamentally new path. She used it as a platform for waging a relentless battle-of-the-pen against the rising tide of Hindutva fundamentalism and its growing hold on India's body politic. That is why she and her publication incurred the wrath of the Hindu Right. Gauri made no bones about her publication's bias. She had declared herself an activist-journalist and used every public platform to speak out against communal politics, whether at the State or Central level. She campaigned on the ground and in her newspaper on some of the major flashpoints of communal tension in Karnataka—the Hubli flag-hoisting controversy, the attempt by the Sangh

Parivar to convert the Sufi shrine of Babudangiri into a Hindu temple, and the widespread phenomenon of moral policing by Hindu right-wing groups in coastal Karnataka. She was also active on issues of social justice and women's rights, though it was unquestionably her anti-communal and secular credentials that she was known for.

It is not surprising that Hindu right-wing groups in Karnataka hate her, and the further down in the pecking order of the Sangh Parivar an organisation or group is, the more lethal its threats and abuse towards her. I recall covering the Babudangiri crisis for Frontline in December 2003. (This was well before the era of social media, Twitter especially, which as we know has today become the platform of choice for anonymous purveyors of hate.) There had been a big mobilisation by the Bajrang Dal of young men who were to storm the shrine on the occasion of the annual Urs. My photographer colleague, V. Sreenivasa Murthy, and I had visited the shrine and were stationed in Chikmagalur on the day of the Urs. A large contingent of political activists from Left parties, along with prominent writers, artists and academics under the banner of the Karnataka Souharda Vedike, had also gone to Hassan to do what they could to foil the plans of the Bajrang Dal. Sensing a

clash between the two groups, the district administration had imposed curfew in Chikmagalur. Gauri was a prominent member of the Vedike, and was present there both in her role as a journalist and as an activist. She and a group of around 500 members of the Vedike somehow smuggled themselves into Chikmagalur at night, and on the morning of the protest, held a public meeting in the town. They were all arrested and held in detention in the Chikmagalur jail grounds. We managed to get permission to speak to them but were told we could not take pictures. Sreenivas, however, let his camera hang at hip level as if unused and kept photographing Gauri while I engaged her in conversation through the bars of the iron gate behind which they were kept. (The photograph was carried prominently in the next day's edition of The Hindu.)

That evening, the Bajrang Dal called a public meeting in Chikmagalur's Azad Maidan, which was addressed by several pontiffs (heads of maths) along with many of the leaders of the Bajrang Dal and allied organisations. The then State convener of the Dal, K. Sunil Kumar, and its south India convener, Pramod Muthalik, addressed the gathering. The two special targets of their attack were Gauri and Girish Karnad, the noted Kannada playwright. I can never forget the stream of filthy and

personal invective and threats that were directed at Gauri from the podium that night, with each abuse being met with roars of approval from the crowds. Of interest to note is that the recent spate of attacks on journalists has been on those working in the vernacular media. There are reasons for this. Investigative stories in the vernacular have a potency and impact at the State level that the English media do not have.

Publications in the language people speak and read reach wider audiences and therefore play a substantial role in shaping public opinion amongst ordinary people. Bold and uncompromising journalists working for small vernacular publications are also vulnerable as they usually do not have the backing of powerful newspaper managements. Gauri's political writing, especially on communalism, penetrated the interstices of the sociopolitical landscape, offering readers a close-up view of political processes at work. But she also strode two journalism worlds, the English and the vernacular, which gave her views an even wider reach and impact.

Gauri's assassination has rightly been connected to the other prominent three unsolved killings—of Narendra Dabholkar, Govind Pansare and M.M. Kalburgi—for several reasons, the most important being a common hatred for

Hindutva bigotry. But it is also important to comprehend the differences among them, and the distinctly individual paths that led them to oppose Hindutva. They were no bandwagon followers of secular movements. Indeed, each of them opposed the Hindutva ideology for reasons that were initially integral to their subject specialisations. They raised the hackles of the bigots for similar as well as different reasons. Pansare was a communist, well known for a popular Marathi book on Shivaji. Dabholkar, a medical doctor, was a staunch rationalist who engaged in a lifelong fight against superstition. Years of dogged research took Kalburgi to a position that could only be construed as anti-mainstream orthodox religion (see article by Rajendra Chenni on page 17). His studies revealed the manner in which the original social reform and anti-caste principles of the Lingayat faith were hijacked and replaced by a formidable form of Hindu orthodoxy by the ruling Lingayat elite. Gauri stood with the others on basic principles, but she too came to that place from a different background—that of journalism. She may have made common cause with them in her fight for secular values, but like them her fight was also unique. It is obvious that the Hindutva forces felt aggrieved by each of the four fallen heroes. Gauri's murder is a powerful assertion of the logic of the right wing;

Sushma's UNGA speech today: Here's what she said on Pakistan, climate change last year

NEW DELHI: External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj will address the UN general assembly on Saturday, and is likely to refer to Pakistan after its prime minister attacked India in his speech earlier. According to an official, Swaraj's speech will be "broad-based" and thematic, focused on five key elements — UN reforms to expand the security council, counter-terrorism, climate change, south-and-south cooperations (among developing nations) and peace-keeping and "peace-building".

As Swaraj prepares to speak at the UNGA, we take a look at what she said in her address at the 71st UNGA in New York last year. Here are excerpts from her 2016 speech: "The true challenge of our time is to end the curse of harsh poverty that still lurks in so many corners of our world; to ensure that the fruits of growing prosperity reach those who need it most; to take forward the mission of gender equality and protect women where there is gender regression; and to ensure peace across boundaries, not least because there can be no prosperity without peace."

I congratulate you for the priority you have given to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

by making them the theme for the 71st UNGA. I am happy that the 17 goals adopted by this Assembly are matched by the development vision of my Government, which is geared towards the achievement of these same objectives. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India Campaign), more than 400,000 toilets have been constructed in schools. The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Educate the Girl Child, Save the Girl Child) programme has become a nation-wide mission. The Make in India brand is receiving international acclaim. Almost 250 million bank accounts have been opened for the poor under the Jan Dhan Yojana, the largest financial inclusion programme in the world has ever seen. Digital India is transforming the country. Under the Skill India initiative, a number of programmes are underway to enable youth to reap the demographic dividend. These initiatives have added a new dimension to India's growth story, making it the fastest growing major economy in the world at a time of slow global growth.

We are all aware that 1/6th of humanity lives in India. Therefore global success in realizing SDGs depends on the success achieved

in India. We are committed to the wholehearted implementation of the Agenda 2030 as a national effort. We have decided to dedicate one day in each session of our Parliament for discussions only on SDGs. This will enable us to constantly monitor their progress and this will give us good results.

However, in a globalised world, national effort needs to be supplemented by international cooperation for the successful implementation of Agenda 2030.

Climate change is yet another serious challenge confronting us. There are enough resources on this planet to fulfil everyone's needs, but not enough to fulfil anyone's greed, for greed is limitless. In this context PM Modi has championed a new concept — Climate Justice. If we respect nature, nature will respect and nurture us and future generations. But, if we exploit nature mindlessly, then we must be mindful that nature will unleash its fury upon us. In different parts of the world, we have already seen nature drift towards the unnatural — from torrential rain to excessive heat, from tsunamis to storms and cloudbursts.

We must curb reckless consumption, and adopt lifestyles in harmony with nature. Yoga, the storehouse of India's ancient wisdom, epitomises a sustainable lifestyle. Let me record our gratitude for the unprecedented global response to the International Day of Yoga.



In the Paris Agreement, the principle of 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities' and 'Respective Capabilities' has been acknowledged and accepted. This makes clear that while our responsibility is common, obligations are different. Developed nations must discharge their responsibility in the search for the common good, with finance and technology transfer. India has launched an ambitious

domestic effort to transform our energy mix to achieve 40% energy from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. The massive investments required entail a predictable and stable environment towards which we are working actively. Apart from this, our path-breaking initiative for an International Solar Alliance is intended to make efficient solar technology available for all.

I assure this Assembly that India will continue to play a leading role in combating climate change. We have decided to submit our Instrument of Ratification of the Paris Agreement on October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi who epitomised a

lifestyle with the smallest carbon footprint. Let me now turn to a subject of the most critical importance, one which deeply concerns every member of this Assembly. This month we marked the 15th Anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks on this city. Tragically, less than 15 days ago, another attempt at killing innocents was made through an act of terror in this same city. We, who have suffered in Uri recently, understand the pain inflicted by the same forces. The world has been battling this scourge for long. However, despite the blood and tears of innocent victims, attacks this year alone in Kabul and Dhaka, Istanbul and Mogadishu, Brussels and Bangkok, Paris, Pathankot and Uri as well as daily barbaric tragedies in Syria and Iraq, remind us that these malevolent forces are yet to be defeated. We must acknowledge that terrorism is undoubtedly the biggest violation of human rights. It targets the innocent and kills indiscriminately. Terrorism has gone way beyond affecting individuals or nations — it is a crime against humanity itself. But it is important to ask — who is behind this and who benefits from it? Terrorists do not own banks or weap-

ons factories, so let us ask the real question: who finances these terrorists, who arms them and provides sanctuaries? We heard similar questions being asked by Afghanistan from this podium.

History proves that those who seed extremist ideologies, reap a bitter harvest. The germ of evil has grown into a hydra-headed monster, backed by technological sophistication that threatens the peace and harmony of our world. We will not be able to win against terrorism by making specious distinctions between your problems and mine, between terrorists who attack you and those who attack me. For we do not know who this Frankenstein's monster will devour next. Therefore if we want to defeat terrorism, there is only one way — that we unite across our differences, add steel to our resolve and inject urgency in our response. We need to forget our prejudices and join hands together to script an effective strategy against terror. This is not an impossible task provided we have the will. We can do it, we must do it. Otherwise our future generations will forever hold us to account. And if any nation refuses to join this global strategy, then we must isolate it.

SC lets States frame rules for Pollution Control Boards

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday directed State governments to frame guidelines or recruitment rules within six months for appointment of suitable professionals in State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs).

It set aside an August 24, 2016 order of the National Green Tribunal laying down guidelines for SPCB appointments, saying it exceeded its jurisdiction.

A Bench of Justices Madan B. Lokur and Deepak Gupta granted liberty to "public spirited individuals" to move the High Court concerned if any ineligible person was appointed.

Taxpayers can verify identity of officials

NEW DELHI: The government on Friday reiterated that taxpayers are within their rights to verify the warrants of authorisation and confirm the identities of authorised Income Tax officials in the event of a search, survey, or verification exercise. "The Income Tax Department in the Delhi region regularly conducts search/survey/verification exercises in case of suspected tax evaders to uncover conceal-

ment of undisclosed income/assets as per the law," the Ministry of Finance said in a release. "However, instances have been brought to the notice of the department wherein, certain unscrupulous elements have conducted unauthorised/illegal searches through forged identity cards claiming to be from Income Tax Department, Delhi," the release added. "It is reiterated that the tax payer is well within his rights to seek and inspect the warrant of authorisation, confirm the identities of authorised Income Tax Authorities mentioned on the warrant," the release said. "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 of any doubts, taxpayers can call 9013850099, to confirm the identities of officials working in the Delhi region.

Village which gave shelter to Mughal emperor Humayun hosts PM Narendra Modi

SHAHANSHAHPUR: Four centuries ago, Mughal emperor Humayun stopped by, giving the village its name. Today, Shahanshahpur had another brush with fame when it hosted Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The village, some 30km from Modi's Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi, has had its tryst with history. Legend has it that the village was named after 'Shahanshah' Humayun, who had taken shelter in the hut of an elderly woman here after his battle with Sher Shah Suri more than 450 years ago. On Saturday, Shahanshahpur played host to Prime Minister Modi, who inaugurated the Pashu Arogya Mela, being organised for the first time in the village, on 1,800 acres.

The Prime Minister, who addressed a public meeting, also laid the foundation stone for a toilet under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in the village. Uttar Pradesh governor Ram Naik, chief minister Yogi Adityanath, Minister of State for Rural Development Mahendra Singh and BJP's UP President Mahendra Nath Pandey were also present on the occasion.

The residents of the village take pride in the lore about the Mughal emperor's visit.



"The prime minister's visit has given the villagers a reason to relive the tale," said MLA Neelratna Patel Neelu of the Apna Dal (S), which is an ally of the BJP. The story goes that Humayun reached the quiet village after crossing the Ganga late at night after Sher Shah Suri defeated him in the battle of Chausa.

That was when the elderly villager gave him shelter in her hut without knowing that her

lodge was none other than Humayun, say locals. Years later, when Humayun's soldiers succeeded in locating the village, the residents learnt who the overnight guest was.

After Humayun restored his rule, he sent his soldiers to say thanks to the elderly woman. Unfortunately, she was dead by then. That was when their village — till then known as Kalupur — was named Shahanshahpur.

It is for States to crack down on cow vigilantes: SC

NEW DELHI: State governments cannot wash their hands of their responsibility to crack down on cow vigilante groups.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra ordered the Chief Secretaries of 22 States to file their compliance reports on steps taken, including the appointment of dedicated nodal police officers in the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), to prevent cow vigilantes, or 'gau rakshaks' as they call themselves, from "taking the law or becoming a law unto themselves."

Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Gujarat have already filed their compliance affidavits.

Counsel for Bihar and Maharashtra said they will file the reports in the course of the day. compliance reports have to reach



the court before October 13, the next date of hearing. The court had on September 6 given the 29 States and seven Union Territories a week's time to put in place a counter-mechanism to act against and prosecute cow vigilantes. "Let the compliance reports

be filed...nobody can wash their hands of [their duty]. We will give directions to all the States," Chief Justice Misra said. However, the court did not entertain a submission made by senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for a party in the case, regarding Ju-

naid, a boy who was killed by a group of fellow passengers while returning to his Ballabgarh home with his brothers after Eid shopping in Delhi on June 23. Ms. Jaising submitted that his family members were not paid any compensation and his father has been hospitalised.

On September 6, the Bench had expressed concern on an application filed by Mahatma Gandhi's grandson Tushar Gandhi on the dangers posed by gau rakshaks to public safety and personal freedoms.

Mr. Gandhi had complained of the lack of responsibility and accountability shown by the Centre and the States, even as cow vigilantes wreaked havoc and resorted to murder in broad daylight in the name of the cow.

He said Dalits and Muslims have been at the receiving end of a rash of violence unleashed by lynch mobs.

India calls for global action to counter use of Internet for radicalisation

NEW DELHI: Responses to terrorism must be similar across geographies and cultures and differential standards must not be accepted, India has said, seeking global action to tackle the evolving threat of Internet being used by terrorists for radicalisation and terror financing. Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar made the remarks during a high-level meeting at the U.N. on 'Preventing Terrorist Use of Internet' hosted by the U.K. and Italy on Wednesday. "Internet backbone, critical Internet resources and data centres should be dispersed and redundant to mitigate impact of major terror attacks," Mr. Jaishankar said, according to a transcripts released by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations on Friday. "Responses to terrorism must be similar across geographies and cultures. This is an issue where differential standards must not be accepted," he said.

"Where the Internet is concerned, we all recognise how effective a tool it is for terrorism. Its utility for radicalisation, indoctrination, recruitment and financing is by now well-proven. In such a situation, we cannot be passive. This forum is an effort to more actively attack this problem and we applaud that," he said. The top Indian diplomat said that India is cognizant of the threat posed by terrorists using Internet. "Our pluralism and democratic values make us particularly sensitive to its dangers. We may have held out better than many others, yet the rapid growth of internet users — now close to 500 million and growing — underlines the scale of the challenge," he said. In his remarks, Mr. Jaishankar said the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) is an encouraging development because combating terrorist us-

age of Internet has stakeholders beyond the government. "It calls for new policies but more important, new mindsets. And what we see is a positive change," he said. The meeting agreed that terrorists using Internet is a global issue that needs innovative, international solutions.

In the presence of U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May, French President Emmanuel Macron and Italy's Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni, leaders from industry and several countries met on the margins of the U.N. General Assembly to re-affirm their collective determination to prevent the Internet from being misused by terrorist groups and individuals. Participants of the meeting in a statement said that they believe that the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism provides the best over-arching mechanism to tackle the evolving threat posed by Internet being used by terrorists. "We have recognised the international nature of the online terrorist threat and the need to build global momentum to tackle it in a comprehensive way. We agreed to support the Forum, as well as existing regional initiatives in the sector of countering terrorism online, as they take vital steps towards this through their work to undertake research, share knowledge and develop technical solutions that will help their industry as a whole to protect their global user base," it said. As leaders of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT), Facebook, Microsoft, Twitter and YouTube emphasised their shared ambition to prevent terrorists from exploiting the Internet to radicalise, recruit and spread propaganda, and to protect their users from terrorists and violent extremists online.

Nirbhaya compensation scheme in disarray: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI: A 10-year-old rape survivor from Chandigarh, who gave recently gave birth, has not received the 9 lakh due to her from the Central Victim Compensation Fund under the Nirbhaya scheme. The money, to be put in a fixed deposit, was meant to take care of her psychological well-being, medical treatment and education. It was part of the total 10 lakh the Supreme Court had awarded her while denying her an abortion. So far, her family has received only 1 lakh. On Friday, the Supreme Court found that the Chandigarh case was only the tip of the "utter confusion and unhappy state of affairs" over the disbursement of compensation to sex-

ual assault victims under the Nirbhaya scheme started in 2013 following the brutal gang-rape and death of a 23-year-old student in Delhi. The Bench of Justices Madan B. Lokur and Deepak Gupta recorded "there is a lot of confusion" among the three Ministries — Finance, Home Affairs and Women and Child Development — over what their responsibilities are as far as the scheme is concerned. The Centre has disbursed 200 crore each to the States to compensate sexual assault victims under the Nirbhaya fund, senior advocate Indira Jaising, the court's amicus curiae, said. She referred to an affidavit filed by the Home Ministry and pointed out

that the Centre had never asked for any feedback from the States on how they had spent the Nirbhaya funds. Ms. Jaising said some States have spent the money on CCTV cameras and other "paraphernalia" rather than using it to pay compensation to the human victims of sexual assault and abuse. The court referred to the Home Ministry affidavit, which showed "anomalies" like the Jharkhand government's disbursement of 2.48 crore to women victims of sexual assault, but with the column showing the number of victims was blank. Similarly, Delhi has disbursed 4.29 crore, but the column showing the number of victims is blank.

One in four teen girls at increased risk of depression: Study

A team of Briton researchers has recently found that one in four adolescent girls, especially poor, are at an increased risk of depression.

The researchers from the University of Liverpool and University College London found that a quarter of girls (24 percent) and one in 10 boys (9 percent) are depressed at age 14.

Lead author Dr Praveetha Patalay said that in the recent years there has been a growing policy focus on children's mental health. However, there has been a lack of nationally representative estimates of mental



health problems for this generation.

The team analysed information on more than 10,000 children born in 2000-01.

Parents reported on their children's mental health at ages three, five, seven, 11 and 14.

Then, when the children reached 14, they were themselves asked questions about their depressive symptoms.

Based on the emotional problems of 14-year-olds, the findings indicated that 24 percent of girls and nine percent of boys suffer from depression.

The team also investigated the links between depressive symptoms and family income.

Behaviour problems, such as acting out, fighting and being rebellious decreased from infancy to age 5, but then increased to age 14. Boys were more likely than girls to have behaviour problems throughout childhood and early adolescence.

The new research also suggested that signs of depression are generally more common among children from poorer families, they explained.

The research appears in National Children's Bureau journal.

Worried about diabetes Here are three ways to control the disease



As the lifestyle disease of diabetes becomes increasingly common in India, there is hope from new studies which show that it can be kept in control. Based on diet and frequency of mealtimes, three scientific studies presented at the annual congress of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) held last week in Lisbon, Portugal, may help pave the way for therapeutic choices: Six meals per day instead of three keeps blood sugar under control.

Greek researchers from the Agricultural University of Athens, the Athens University Medical School, the Attikon University Hospital, and Harokopio University found that eating six meals containing the same number of calories as the usual three helped obese pre-diabetic and type 2 diabetes patients to better control their blood sugar levels.

According to the findings, type 2 diabetics saw a decrease in their glycated hemoglobin and glucose levels, which is a sign of better blood sugar control. For pre-diabetics with severely impaired glucose tolerance, six meals a day regimen reduced the occurrence of peak insulin readings and delayed the time it took for blood glucose to reach peak levels after eating sugar. Finally, the study noted that the participants, who did not gain weight during the 24-week experiment, felt fuller and were less eager to eat between their mealtimes. Milk reduces the risk of diabetes.

A British study, which monitored 12,000 individuals aged between 30 and 65, reports that there may be a link between dairy consumption, skimmed milk consumption and body fat mass distribution, which is an indicator of metabolic and cardiovascular disease. Participants who consumed more low-fat dairy products had better abdominal fat distribution and a higher lean fat mass, two criteria associated with a lower risk of metabolic diseases like type 2 diabetes. The study also remarked that this protective effect was not observed for any of the specific dairy subtypes like cheese, butter, yogurt and ice cream. Coffee increases life expectancy.

A second study undertaken by the University of Porto in Portugal, which monitored 3,000 diabetics over 11 years, showed that female diabetics who drink coffee are less likely to die prematurely than female diabetics who don't. The caffeine contained in coffee had a significant impact on the risk of premature death from all types of illnesses as well as cardiovascular disease. One cup of coffee per day (100 mg of caffeine) reduced the risk of mortality by 51%, as opposed to 66% for two cups a day. At the same time, the risk of cancer among patients in the study group who drank tea was reduced by 80%, when compared to the risk of women who did not.

Smartphone apps may help reduce depression

Smartphone apps are an effective treatment option for depression, a finding which may pave the way for safe and accessible interventions for the millions of people with the mental disorder, researchers have confirmed.

The results showed that smartphones open up non-stigmatising and self-managing avenues of care for the people with depression because smartphones can help them monitor, understand and manage their own mental health.

"The majority of people in developed countries own smartphones, including younger people who are increasingly affected by depression," said lead author Joseph Firth, postdoctoral research fellow at Australia's National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM).

"Smartphone devices may ultimately be capable of providing instantly accessible and highly effective treatments for depression, reducing the societal and economic burden of this condition worldwide," Firth added.

Importantly, no difference was found in apps which apply principles of mindfulness compared to cognitive behavioural therapy or mood monitoring programmes.

Apps, which are used as an "integrative medicine" approach, can be particularly useful for improving mood and tackling symptoms in patients with a range of mental health symptoms and conditions including major depression, mild to moderate depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety and insomnia, the researchers said in the paper published in the journal World Psychiatry.

"Given the multitude of apps available - many of them unregulated - it's critical that we now unlock which specific app attributes reap the greatest benefits, to help ensure that all apps available to people with depression are effective," emphasised co-author Jennifer Nicholas, doctoral student at the Black Dog Institute -- a Sydney based not-for profit organisation.

For the study, the team systematically reviewed 18 randomised controlled trials which examined a total of 22 different smartphones-delivered mental health interventions. The studies involved more than 3,400 male and female participants between the ages of 18-59.

Decoding gluten-free diet: It may not affect your weight loss

Popular American chef, James Beard once said, "Good bread is the most fundamentally satisfying of all foods; and good bread with fresh butter, the greatest of feasts." However today, the demand for bread has gone down because of the rise of the conscious eater and the Internet. Most of us are unaware about gluten intolerance or have varied assumptions about gluten. And this is probably the reason why we now avoid bread. But experts disagree. "Unless you are proven gluten intolerant, you shouldn't leave it," says nutritionist Kavita Devgan. Gluten is the protein part of wheat. Gluten is the reason why the atta (flour) binds, when you add water to it.

The same thing would not happen to almond flour or coconut flour, since they have no gluten. Experts suggest that earlier, gluten did not affect us as are gut was used to it. "The problem with the current state of gluten, is the strain of wheat from which it is derived. Agriculture came into function and in order to get more yield from a crop to feed the growing population, the processing methods changed drastically, affecting the quality of wheat," says nutrition and diabetes expert Rashi Chowdhary. As a result, more than 80% of people are sensitive to gluten and don't even know it. Gluten takes place in our gut and this causes histamine levels to go up, which causes inflammation in our gut, over a period of time.

Navratri 2017: Heres how fasting detoxifies the body and improves immunity

Fasting can detoxify the body, provided that good amount of fruits, vegetables, milk products and unsweetened beverages are included. It can also improve cardiovascular function, blood composition, and blood pressure, say experts.

Drinking a lot of liquids such as coconut water and herbal tea help aggressively in flushing out toxins from the body and maintaining electrolyte balance.

Another benefit of fasting is that it brings self-discipline and keep us away from eating unnecessary snacking.

Following the pattern of the traditional and Satvik diet that includes fruits, lassi (Buttermilk), lemon water, sendha namak, etc eases the digestive system, which helps in preventing constipation and dehydration. Ketosis, or the fat-burning, is reached by fasting.

It helps in burning the fat reserves. Excessive central fat stored around organs, like your liver and kidneys, interferes with organ function. Fasting, helps in reaching ketosis and hence improves the organ function.

Leptin, which is the "satiety" hormone, also increases thyroid hormone



production. Due to fasting, leptin sensitivity increases and this in turn increases the rate of metabolism in case of sluggish thyroid.

Due to fasting, body secretes less insulin because there is not enough and steady doses of sugar coming into the body. So, these lower levels of this hormone lead to increased sensitivity in those with insulin resistance. Blood

triglycerides decreases during the fasting state. Having fatty blood increases your risk of developing narrowed arteries. So, fasting reduces this risk. Fasting reboot, the immune system, clearing out old immune cells and regenerating new ones.

This process could protect against cell damage caused by factors such as aging and chemotherapy.

Sleep deprivation can effectively treat depression symptoms

Sleep deprivation - administered in controlled settings - may rapidly reduce symptoms of depression, a study claims. Researchers found that partial sleep deprivation - sleeping for three to four hours followed by wakefulness for 20-21 hours - was as effective as total sleep deprivation for 36 hours. Although total sleep deprivation or partial sleep deprivation can produce clinical improvement in depression symptoms within 24 hours, antidepressants are the most common treatment for depression, which typically takes weeks or longer to show results. The first review on the subject in nearly 30 years, by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania in the US, hopes to provide relief for the estimated 16.1 million adults who experienced a major depressive episode in 2014. Previous studies have shown rapid antidepressant effects from sleep deprivation for roughly 40-60 per cent of individuals, yet this response rate has not been analysed to obtain a more precise percentage since 1990 despite more than 75 studies since then on the subject. "More than 30 years since the discovery of the antidepressant effects of sleep deprivation, we still do not have an effective grasp on precisely how effective the treatment is and how to achieve the best clinical results," said Philip Gehrman, associate professor at University of Pennsylvania. Our analysis precisely reports how effective sleep deprivation is and in which populations it should be administered," said Gehrman. Reviewing more than 2,000 studies, the team pulled data from a final group of 66 studies executed over a 36 year period to determine how response may be affected by the type and timing of sleep deprivation performed, the clinical sample, medication status, and age and gender of the sample. They also explored how the response to sleep deprivation may differ across studies according to how "response" is defined in each study. "These studies in our analysis show that sleep deprivation is effective for many populations," said lead author Elaine Boland, a research psychologist at the Corporal Michael J Crescenz VA Medical Center in the US. "Regardless of how the response was quantified, how the sleep deprivation was delivered, or the type of depression the subject was experiencing, we found a nearly equivalent response rate," said Boland.

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Meet Nirvaan, India's smallest and youngest baby born after 22 weeks

This boy from Mumbai has been is being called as miracle baby after he fought for his life for 132 days in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at a city hospital. Nirvaan, India's smallest and youngest pre-term baby who was born after 22 weeks only, has a normal brain, vision, hearing and potential for long-term neurological development. According to doctors, Nirvaan was treated by a team of 14 doctors and 50 nursing staff. The baby, who was born on May 12, 2017 during the 22nd week of pregnancy, had a birth weight of 610 gms, with 22 cm head size and a length of 32 cm. "Nirvaan had immature lungs at birth requiring ventilatory support right from the labour room. He required respiratory support for 12 weeks which included six weeks of ventilator support. Multiple doses of surfactant injections were instilled into the breathing tube to expand his lungs," said Bhubendra Avasthi, Director of Surya Child Care, Surya Hospital. Explaining the compli-

cations, Avasthi said the patient survived life threatening events such as pneumothorax (air accumulation around the lungs) and brain bleed to emerge as a victor. "A month-long steroid treatment was needed to help him breathe on his own. The steroid treatment also increased his risk of having infection and high blood sugars which required antibiotic and insulin therapy. Multiple blood transfusions, LASER treatment of eyes and hernia surgery were also required during this period. Oral feeds could be given only after three months of age," said Avasthi. Medical science says that infants born between 22 and 24 weeks of pregnancy are considered periviable infants or infants born at the limits of viability, as a foetus may not exist independent of the mother prior to 22 weeks. Medically, when it comes to 22-week gestation premature infants, 40-50 per cent of them are born dead (still born) worldwide. Among those born alive, less than five per cent continue to survive.

Dear men, when it comes to women, 'one sex move for all' doesn't always work

Turns out, women have more diverse touch and stimulation preferences related to sexual pleasure than believed.

The findings from the Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington and the school's Center for Sexual Health Promotion, from the research team's OMGYES Pleasure Report: Women and Touch, focused on orgasm and sexual pleasure as related to genital touch and stimulation.

"There had been little known at the population level about detailed aspects of women's sexual pleasure and orgasm," said lead author Debby Herbenick. "Most previous studies utilised clinical, college and convenience samples. We worked to change that with this research and provide data surveying a U.S. nationally representative probability sample of



adult women." The study results challenge the mistaken, but common, notion that there are univer-

sal 'sex moves that work' for everyone," said Dodge. "On the other hand, the data also make

clear that there are certain styles of touch that are more commonly preferred by women, emphasising

the value of studying sexual pleasure - and not just sexual problems."

The study found that the more than 1,000 women, ages 18 to 94, surveyed reported a diverse set of preferences for genital touch, location, pressure, shape and pattern. Further, 41% of women preferred just one specific style of touch, underscoring the value of couples having conversations about their preferences and desires. This study provides the first U.S. nationally representative data on pathways to orgasm during intercourse, noting that nearly 75% of women reported that clitoral stimulation was either necessary for their intercourse-orgasms, or helped their orgasms feel better, while 18% noted that vaginal penetration alone was sufficient for orgasm. The study is published in the Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy.

Arvind Subramanian to continue as chief economic adviser for another year

NEW DELHI: The government will extend the term of chief economic adviser Arvind Subramanian by one year till October 2018, finance minister Arun Jaitley said on Saturday. Subramanian, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, was appointed India's chief economic adviser (CEA) in October 2014. His term was for three years, which was to end on October 16. Interacting with reporters on Saturday, Jaitley said Subramanian will get one year extension. The BJP-led NDA government's 5-year term ends in May 2019.

The CEA is usually the main go-to person for advice for the finance minister on macro-economic matters, and primary responsibilities, among others, include authoring the mid-year analysis and the Economic Survey. Subramanian's predecessor was Raghuram



Rajan, who quit the position in September 2013 after being appointed the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Subramanian graduated from St Stephen's College, Delhi, and got an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He obtained M Phil and D Phil from the University of Oxford, UK.

Air India disinvestment process moving 'quite well': Jaitley

MUMBAI: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said on Friday the process for Air India disinvestment is moving "quite well" and transaction advisors would be appointed soon.

To revive the loss-making Air India, the government has decided on strategic disinvestment of the national carrier and its five subsidiaries. Jaitley, who is heading the ministerial group set up to decide on the modalities of the disinvestment, said the panel held a couple of meetings and that transaction advisors would be appointed soon.

About the disinvestment process, he said: "I think it is moving quite well", adding that transaction advisors would tell the government about the universe of bidders.

"It is a case where once we have a feel of the market and the universe of bidders, then you decide what your



terms of bidding are going to be. And then we work alternative strategies in place," the minister said at an event in Mumbai. "I think once we get into the realisation of the universe of bidders and what the likely response would be, we will settle the terms and ask for further movement on this,"

Jaitley said, "always remember, privatisation is the art of the possible".

It is an exercise which has to be transparent, acceptable to a cross section of public and political opinion. It is an exercise which will then result in a better performance itself, he noted. "The prospective buyer or the universe of buyers must be such that their identity itself inspires confidence," he said. Last week, the government invited applications for engaging up to two advisers and a legal adviser for the strategic disinvestment of Air India and its subsidiaries/ joint venture. On June 28, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had given in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment of Air India and five of its subsidiaries. Air India has huge debt burden and is staying afloat on taxpayers' money.

Govt seeks asset valuer for Air India stake sale

NEW DELHI: As the government prepares to peg a price tag to Air India for its stake sale, it has invited applications for an asset valuer for the national carrier as well as its subsidiaries and overseas offices. The Union Cabinet has given its in-principle approval for disinvestment of the debt-laden Air India and has constituted a group of ministers to chart out the future course of action.

According to the tender document floated by civil aviation ministry, the asset valuer will have to carry out the valuation of land, buildings, aircraft, engines, stock inventory of spares, maintenance facilities, furniture, office appliances and computer systems, among others. This exercise will have to be conducted for the airline, its subsidiaries, joint ventures as well as its offices across the world.

The applicant will have to be a



valuer registered with the either of the following institutions -- Income Tax Department, Reserve Bank of India, Central Public Works Department, Public Sector Banks or Institution of Valuers. However, bids by a consortium or a group of bidders will not be allowed. Proposals have

to be submitted by October 16. "The bidder is required to complete the aforesaid services/ work including submission of final valuation report within a period of 120 days from the date of issue of letter of award," the tender document states. The government had earlier called for applica-

tions for a legal advisor and up to two transactional advisors. Air India has five subsidiaries -- Air India Express Limited (AIEL), Air India Air Transport Service Limited (AIATSL), Air India Engineering Services Limited (AIESL), Airline Allied Service Ltd (AASL) and Hotel Corporation of India (HCI). It also has a joint-venture with Singapore Air Transport Services (SATS) called AISATS. AI group serves 42 international destinations and over 70 domestic stations. It has an operating fleet of 142 aircraft comprising 65 A320 aircraft, 15 B777 aircraft, 24 B787 aircraft, 23 B737-800, 4 B747 aircraft and 11 ATRs. Air India has a debt burden of more than Rs 50,000 crore and has also planning to take short term loans worth up to Rs 3,250 crore to meet working capital requirements.

India's drug prices regulator calls for better oversight of private hospitals

MUMBAI: India's drug pricing authority called for better regulation of the country's massive private healthcare industry on Friday to ensure government efforts to cut prices benefit patients. To cut the cost of procedures such as angioplasty and knee surgery, India's National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has dramatically reduced prices of knee implants and cardiac stents in recent months.

The move has been hailed as a major effort by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make healthcare affordable, but it has been met with stiff resistance from healthcare providers. Several hospitals across the country have hiked prices of related services which are an essential part of such surgeries - like doctors' fees and hospital stay costs - to make up for the price caps, according to industry insiders and activists.

These actions risk impeding the efforts of the NPPA, as it considers bringing more medical devices under price control with the aim of making healthcare more accessible in a country where it is still a luxury for many. "We have to find a way to rationalise the cost of hospital care," NPPA Chairman Bhupendra Singh told Reuters. "There is no legal framework to regulate hospital charges." India spends roughly one percent of its gross domestic product on healthcare - among the lowest in the world - this has resulted in a broken public healthcare system that few trust. Nearly 70 percent of healthcare



delivery is therefore in the hands of private players, from small clinics to large hospital chains. But this private industry is largely unregulated. The government think-tank NITI Aayog has been pushing for further privatisation of healthcare services, which some experts have expressed concerns over, pushing instead for improvements in the public health infrastructure. Alexander Thomas, president of the Association Healthcare Providers of India, said hospitals hiking prices after the price control measures are doing so to cover treatment costs. Most private hospitals, he added, adhere to standards and the AHPI has also been advising its member hospitals to bring in more transparency in the billing process. Singh said the impact of bringing down the prices of knee implants and stents had been "substantial," but more needs to be done, such as clear display of treatment costs by hospitals so patients can compare prices across providers. The health ministry could also look at standardising the cost of certain treatments, so the prices don't vary across hospitals, Singh said.

An evening to honour and celebrate Maratha achievements

NEW DELHI: Sanjay Dalmia, industrialist and philanthropist, through his NGO, Bharat Maa Shaheed Saman Trust, felicitated an evening to honour Marathas and accomplished Maharashtrians at The Rooftop, Trident in Mumbai recently.

Amongst people who were honoured were Maharaja Samarjitsinh Gaekwad of Baroda, Maharani Radhika Rajee Gaekwad of Baroda, Uday Mahurkar, Vijayendra Ghatge, Ujjwala Raut and Nachiket Barve. Late Kishori Amankar and Late Bhimsen Joshi were posthumously remembered and honoured at the evening.

"We all know Marathas were great warriors and rulers, Chhatrapati Shivaji being the greatest of all. There is much more to Marathas and Maharashtrian achievements which not everyone knows. They are geniuses who have created milestones in various subjects including art, culture, politics, science," said Dalmia.

He also highlighted that the first plane was created and flown by an Indian pioneer Shivkar Bapuji Talpade, a Maharashtrian, at Chowpatty several years before Wright Brothers. "While people from Maharashtra have been making the nation proud by creating excellence in various walks of life, we must also acknowledge that some of the best politicians of India have been from Maharashtra," added Shaina NC, the Chief Guest.

The evening was attended by known personalities of Mumbai and Royal families including Roubal Nagi, Bina and Talat Aziz, Poonam Dhillon, Nachiket Barve, Nisha Jamwal, James Ferreira, Pallavi Jaikishan, Princess Krishna Kumari of Panna, Brazilian Console, Rashmi Jolly, Lerato Mashile, Consulate General of the Republic of South Africa, Asad Lalji, Jamini Ahluwalia, Nazneen Bedi, Arzaan and Khushnuma Khambatta, Radhika Seksaria, Leena Singh, Seema and Jaideep Mehrotra and many others.

Petition against Uber's London ban hits 500,000

A petition organised by Uber against London's decision not to renew its operating licence has gathered 500,000 signatures, little more than 24 hours after the decision was announced, a website monitoring its progress showed on Saturday.

The online petition was started on Friday after transport authorities in the Brit-

ish capital deemed Uber unfit to run a taxi service and stripped it of its license from next week.

The petition calls on London Mayor Sadiq Khan, who also acts as chairman of local regulator Transport for London, to reverse the decision to withdraw Uber's license to operate ride-hailing services in the city.

Parijat Industries leverages its multi market verticals for synergistic growth

NEW DELHI: Parijat Industries is one of the few Indian agrochemical companies with a unique multi-market presence in all three verticals of exports, Indian branded sales and corporate bulk sales to institutional factors. Agriculture by its very nature is seasonal and largely dependent on local climatic conditions. Consequently, agrochemical companies are directly impacted by success or failure of climatic season in a market. This has been further exacerbated by climate change.

Conventionally, Indian Agchem companies are focused on only one section or two of the market at maximum. Parijat has strategically built its market with equal emphasis on domestic and international business.

This strategy has provided two key advantages to Parijat. First, international exposure to markets with similar pestilence and climatic issues, typically along similar latitudes, equips Parijat with market intelligence to forecast future potential products for the Indian market. Experience with White Fly control in Spain, spurred Parijat to begin registering Pyriproxyfen in India long before the molecule gained its current centrality for cotton farmers. Decreasing demand for Tricyclazole - a rice fungicide - due to lowering of residue acceptance levels in USA allowed Parijat to predict the requirement for a Tricyclazole substitute. The second advantage of this diversified strategy has been in terms of risk-management, so that

a failure of the domestic season is hedged against performance in international markets. Investments in regulatory strength for Indian and export markets have served to bolster each other and complementarily enhance each in turn. Parijat's ecosystem of diversified subsidiaries, global partners and vast distribution network enable delivery across a vast suite of agrochemical products. Parijat has established 6 international offices globally.

This subsidiary and office network has enabled it to penetrate challenging markets and access diverse sources of products. The company's experience in different and diverse geographies globally coupled with over 300 registrations, is positioning Parijat as an ideal

partner for global business. The company's branded formulation exports have reached over 70 countries since its operations which are now well over a decade old. Parallely Parijat's domestic strategy is built on two pillars - Branded sales through a network of 4000 dealers and distributors across the country; and sale of proprietary products (which Parijat has exclusive rights to import) to corporate buyers including most major Indian players in the industry. This out-licensing strategy has enabled Parijat to access wider shelf-space for the products it is pioneering. Parijat's strategy through its corporate sale division has been to build up the market size rather than battle for market share. The company has proactively in-

vested in being an early mover and in some cases the first Indian company after the MNC to register newer generation off-patent molecules. Parijat's domestic retail business began in 2008. With presence pan India, a formulation plant, strategically placed at the mouth of its agricultural hubs, in Ambala, Haryana; and an upcoming technical plant, Parijat offers over 60 branded products to Indian farmers. Working through 24 depots, Parijat's retail staff of over 300 sales persons and 75 development executives, a vast network of over 4000 distributors are catered to. Parijat's key strength and the driving force for its exponential growth, is their strategic 9(3) registrations in key products.

SBI launches India's first bond index series at London Stock Exchange

LONDON: State Bank of India (SBI) on Friday launched India's first bond index series for overseas investors at the London Stock Exchange (LSE).

The FTSE SBI Bond Index Series, launched by India's largest commercial bank along with global index and data provider FTSE Russell, is positioned as a first-of-its-kind transparent benchmark for investors in international markets to analyse India's government bond market.

"In respect of the Indian government bond market, we didn't have any international indices on which the international investors could take a call. With the

launch of this index alongside FTSE Russell, our intention is to give people a benchmark based on which they can make investment calls," SBI Chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya said at the launch ceremony at the LSE on Friday. The FTSE SBI Bond Index Series "demonstrates SBI's commitment to play befitting leadership role" in development of India's bond market, SBI said in a statement. The launch follows the November 2015 visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the UK when a letter of intent was signed between SBI and FTSE to jointly develop the new index tracking Indian fixed income



securities. The Indian bond market is worth around \$1.7 trillion.

While there are no specific products linked to the index as

yet, SBI has plans to come out with an exchange-traded fund (ETF) over the next 4-5 months. We are hopeful that the LSE will

help us in getting a few products in. We have already approached the capital market regulator in India to allow us to use this index in order to launch an ETF. But even though there may not be products in the interim, we still expect the index to be used by investors as a benchmark," Bhattacharya explained. The launch has been described by the LSE as an "innovative" move, which demonstrates significant progress in the development of India's bond market, a priority of the India UK Financial Partnership (IUKFP).

"India has a significant domestic bond market that continues to see strong demand from

foreign investors. This partnership with SBI, a leading Indian bank, enables us to be at the forefront of fixed income index innovations in India and we look forward to further developing index products that can create greater awareness and foster liquidity across the India domestic fixed income spectrum," said Waqas Samad, CEO of Fixed Income and Multi Asset at FTSE Russell, which is ranked among the top three fixed income index providers globally.

London's financial hub, the City of London, welcomed the SBI launch as a symbol of the city's importance for the Indian

financial industry. Sherry Madera, City of London Corporation, special advisor for Asia, said: "SBI has been a long-standing partner in the City since 1921, establishing its first international office and successfully expanding its business to now within 35 countries across the globe." Madera added: "The City of London is delighted to welcome the FTSE Russell State Bank of India Bond Index Series and considers it an excellent example of London's commitment to the Indian financial markets and offering tools and products for international investors seeking exposure in India."

Coach Arthur looks to emerging talent for SL series

LAHORE: While anticipating good competition even from a struggling Sri Lankan team in the UAE playing conditions during the forthcoming series, Pakistan head coach Mickey Arthur believes there are players in national ranks who can replace stalwarts Misbah-ul-Haq and Younis Khan who quit the game early this year.

"In these [UAE] conditions Sri Lanka are a good team; they are in rebuilding process so they will have nothing to lose while competing with us. And remember Pakistan is also in rebuilding process, as we have lost Younis Khan and Misbah-ul-Haq [due to their retirement]," Arthur said in an exclusive interview to Dawn.

When pointed out that the struggling Sri Lankans even lost a home Test to Bangladesh in March this year, Arthur reckoned still Sri Lanka were capable of playing tough cricket in the UAE conditions. "I would not take them easy."

After the departure of Younis and Misbah, Arthur underlined, Azhar Ali, Asad Shafiq and Babar Azam were the guys who could keep the batting department strong for the next four, five years.

"We also have good emerging talent in Haris Sohail, Sami Aslam and Usman Salahuddin to keep the batting department strong,"

the 49-year-old coach said.

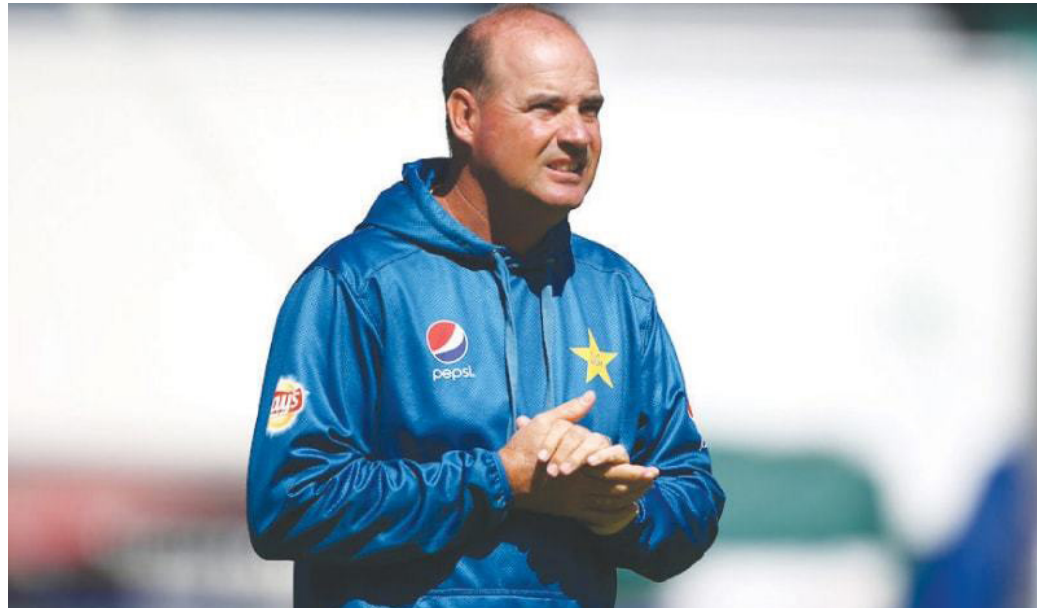
About 28-year-old left-hander Haris, who has faced fitness problems during the last couple of years, Arthur said, "He is quite fit now and I hope he will perform well in future."

Pakistan face Sri Lanka at the neutral venues of the UAE in a two-Test series starting on Sept 28, followed by five ODIs and three T20 Internationals.

When asked to comment on Pakistan's seam bowling attack for the said series, Arthur hinted left-arm pacer Mir Hamza may be part of the team for the Test series against Sri Lanka.

"Currently, we have a very good seam bowling attack in Wahab Riaz, Mohammad Abbas, Hasan Ali, Hamza and Mohammad Amir," the coach said, who held a meeting with chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq on Friday to discuss team selection for the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka.

The squad for the said series is likely to be announced on Saturday. The coach also hinted that 31-year-old off-spinner Bilal Asif — who made his ODI debut against Zimbabwe in 2015 — may also be part of the Test team. "Bilal's selection [in the 18 probables' list] is interesting because Sri Lanka have a good number of left-handers in



the middle, so we would keep this off-spin option."

To a query regarding Asif's recall after a two-year gap, Arthur was absolutely categorical that players should receive proper chances. "I hate chopping and changing all the time; Inzamam-ul-Haq [chief selector] and I hold the same philosophy that no player would feel confidence if he does not get proper chances."

Speaking about the playing future of pacerman Wahab Riaz and seasoned all-rounder Shoaib

Malik in the lead-up to the 2019 World Cup, Arthur while lauding the experienced duo for their services emphasised that performance would be the decisive factor.

"Wahab is a very skilled bowler who has got pace as well as reverse swing and has long career ahead of him. Like all other cricketers his performance too is being monitored, which is vital to keep one's place in the team," he said.

"Shoaib is a senior and professional cricketer who has been outstanding in the last one year

or so. We build the team around abilities and he is one of the pillars, an asset and example for all youngsters." But again to play till 2019, his performance will be the main factor. "On planning for the 2019 World Cup, Arthur feels promising youngsters must first undergo T20 test before being considered for tougher ODI duty.

"We have a good number of rising youngsters like Usman Shinwari, Mohammad Nawaz, Faheem Ashraf and Aamer Yamin, who I think should be given prop-

er chances in T20 format. There they can be tested as to how they perform under pressure before they are exposed to ODI contests," he said. "It is great to have a lot of experienced players but it is also great to have skilful, fit, very strong youngsters who are good in terms of performance."

When asked to comment on losing opener Sharjeel Khan (recently banned by the PCB for spot-fixing) and whether Fakhar Zaman could plug the gap, the coach said the latter had shown promising signs but was yet to fully mature for cut-throat international clashes. "I am disappointed at not having Sharjeel and Fakhar batting together. However, I am excited about Fakhar who — possessing a very aggressive batting technique in ODIs — is the right replacement of Sharjeel in ODIs."

"Fakhar however is still in learning stage and we have to continue to work on him in order to develop his defence so that he may also do well in Test cricket, as Australia's David Warner has done after acquiring a strong defence technique," he said. Answering a question, the head coach flatly denied there was any acrimony between him and Inzamam over the issue of Umar Akmal's physical fitness for the ICC Champions

Trophy held in June this year.

"Not at all, we work together and I am really enjoying working with him [Inzamam]. We have been conducting the players' fitness tests after every month. And there was a significant gap of one month between Umar's fitness tests which were conducted first in Lahore and then in England," he said. Asked if he would forgive Umar if he sought the same for levelling allegations against him (Arthur) of improper use of language against the batsman, the head coach said, "I was very disappointed at his approach of reaching out to the media [on the issue] because I gave him a lot of respect, and fought to get him back in the team because he has great talent."

"Yes, I would listen to him if he comes to me and have a conversation," he added. Arthur, who earlier worked as coach of South African and Australian teams, said he was enjoying working with Pakistan, his first assignment with an Asian outfit. "It is really a fantastic job which I am really enjoying. I think we are making a start with this [Pakistan] team and I feel quite satisfied and comfortable that I am moving on the right track. As regards my experience of the culture in Pakistan, I would say I am enjoying it a lot," Arthur concluded.

Ronaldinho believes FIFA U-17 World Cup can be crucial for young players

NEW DELHI: Ronaldinho, former Barcelona and Brazil legend says that the FIFA U-17 World Cup which will be hosted in India later this year can be crucial for many young players as it has given him "a wonderful start" to his glittering career when he won it for the first in 1997.

Ronaldinho won Brazil's first FIFA U-17 World Cup 20 years ago in Egypt.

He is the only player to have won both FIFA U-17 World Cup (1997) and FIFA World Cup Finals (2002) titles. A total of 12 players who have played in FIFA U-17 World Cup have also represented their countries in a FIFA World Cup Finals.

"The U-17 World Cup is a very special tournament for me. It opened the door for my professional career."

I was lucky enough not only to take part in the competition but to win it too.

I can honestly say that it opened the door for my professional career," said Ronaldinho, who was named FIFA World

Player of the Year in 2004 and 2005. "The U-17 World Cup can be crucial as for many players it marks the start of their careers. Young players dream of making it big, and this competition gives them a fantastic opportunity to make that dream come true. It got my career off to a wonderful start and will always be close to my heart," he was as quoted as saying by www.fifa.com.

In a career spanning almost 20 years, the Brazilian won almost every title in football, including the 2002 FIFA World Cup, the FIFA Confederations Cup 2005 and the UEFA Champions League in 2006.

"The most wonderful moment of the tournament was when we became world champions and I got to lift the trophy."

It was something Brazil had never done before and experiencing something like that was wonderful," Ronaldinho recalled.

Ronaldinho, now 37, has played for Brazil senior side 97 times and has 33 international goals to his name.

Virat Kohli can equal this MS Dhoni record with a win over Australia at Indore

MUMBAI: Virat Kohli is on the verge of equalling MS Dhoni's record of most consecutive wins in ODI cricket, if his team manages to get the better of Australia for the third time in the ongoing five-match series.

The Virat Kohli-led Indian cricket team is leading the series 2-0 having won the first two ODIs played at Chennai and Kolkata. If they win the third match on Sunday at the Holkar Stadium in Indore, the 28-year-old Indian captain will match the record set by his predecessor.

India have so far played 37 ODIs under the captaincy of Kohli, and have won 29 of those games. India have been on a roll over the last few months, having not lost a single game since their tour of Sri Lanka.

The Men in Blue won all five ODIs in Sri Lanka as well as the three Tests



and the one-off T20I, and the two wins against Australia at the start extends their winning run in ODI cricket to eight matches.

India were last defeated in ODI cricket by the West Indies in July this year, when the Caribbean team won

their contest at North Sound in Antigua by 11 runs. Since then, India have won each of their ODIs. If India manage to beat Australia on Sunday at Indore, Kohli will be equalling Dhoni's record of most consecutive ODI victories for an Indian captain

— nine wins — recorded from February 2008 to January 2009.

It will be yet another feather in Kohli's cap. In the last game at Kolkata, Kohli became only the third Indian batsman after Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid to have scored more than 10,000 runs in the matches that India have won across all formats.

Kohli, who fell for 92, missed out on surpassing former Australia captain Ricky Ponting's record of 30 ODI centuries. Sachin Tendulkar holds the record for most number of ODI tons with 49, Kohli is currently level with Ponting's haul of 30 centuries.

If Kohli manages to score a ton on Sunday and win the game for India — possibility of the latter being greater since Australia are struggling with their batting — it would indeed be a special day for the Indian captain.

Aaron Finch trains hard ahead of Indore ODI, Australia batsmen get extended spin trial

INDORE: After weeks of persistent rain, the sun finally shone on Indore. The covers at the Holkar stadium were removed. Australia arrived at the ground early and immediately got to work.

During the training session, the first notable sight was of Aaron Finch making a 100-metre dash from cover to long off. The 30-year-old did four 100-metre sprints and looked in no serious discomfort. The Australian right-hander had missed the first two ODIs in Chennai and Kolkata due to a calf strain and Hilton Cartwright made his debut.

Following Cartwright's twin failures, Australia will be hoping Finch gets fit for the third ODI. Speaking at the pre-match press conference, David Warner said, "He is a very good player and has



played a lot of cricket for us in the past couple of years. He brings a lot of aggression at the top of the batting order.

It was good to see him practicing hard and hopefully he will be fit for the game tomorrow." Following the intense train-

ing session, Finch undertook some batting practice at the side wickets for close to 30 minutes.

Trial by spin

That Australia's batsmen have been working hard to counter spin was evident. David Warner and Travis Head took alternate turns to bat but Glenn Maxwell had an extended batting session for close to an hour.

The 28-year-old right hander faced a lot of deliveries from legspinner Adam Zampa and a local left-arm spinner.

Another intriguing aspect of Australia's session was Peter Handscomb practicing with wicketkeeper gloves on, hinting that he might be included at the expense of Matthew Wade, who has struggled with form.

Pakistan name squad for cricket series vs Sri Lanka, a fit Yasir Shah returns



LAHORE: Pakistan's prolific leg-spinner Yasir Shah passed a late fitness test Saturday to join the 16-man squad for the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka starting next week. The 31-year-old Yasir Shah has been team's leading wicket-taker since making his debut in 2014, with a tally of 149 scalps in 26 Tests. Shah's 24 wickets in three Tests helped Pakistan beat Sri Lanka away in 2015 but the stocky spinner has struggled for fitness in the past few months. Chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq said Yasir Shah was told in clear terms that he would not be selected if he didn't pass the final fitness test. "Yasir has been our main bowler for the way he has taken wickets consistently, but he needed to maintain a fitness standard and was told he had to pass the test and he did to get a place in the squad," said Inzamam while announcing the squad. The first Test starts in Abu Dhabi on Thursday. The second Test — a day-night affair — will be played in Dubai on October 6.

The two teams will also play five one-day internationals and three Twenty20s, the last of which will be in Lahore on October 29 — subject to security clear-

ance. The series will be Pakistan's first without stalwarts Younis Khan and former skipper Misbah-ul-Haq, who both retired following the team's last series in the West Indies in May.

Sarfraz Ahmed, already leading Pakistan in one-day and Twenty20 internationals, will lead the Test side for the first time, with youngsters Usman Salahuddin and Babar Azam likely to fill in for the two guests.

"I am sure youngsters will try their best to fill the places left by Misbah and Younis and do their best," said Inzamam. Pakistan have also selected 25-year-old uncapped left-arm fast bowler Mir Hamza who has taken 216 wickets in 46 first class matches. The squad has five fast bowlers and three spinners.

The 31-year-old spinner Bilal Asif has not played a Test but has featured in three one-day internationals in the past.

Pakistan cricket squad: Sarfraz Ahmed (captain), Azhar Ali, Shan Masood, Sami Aslam, Babar Azam, Asad Shafiq, Haris Sohail, Usman Salahuddin, Yasir Shah, Mohammad Asghar, Bilal Asif, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Amir, Hasan Ali, Mohammad Abbas, Wahab Riaz

Caroline Wozniacki batters Garbine Muguruza to reach Tokyo tennis final



TOKYO: Defending champion Caroline Wozniacki flattened world No 1 Garbine Muguruza 6-2, 6-0 on Saturday to reach her fourth Pan Pacific Open final.

The Danish former No 1 will face Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova as she chases a third Tokyo title after the Russian toppled Angelique Kerber 6-0, 6-7, 6-4 in a see-saw first semi-final.

Top seed Muguruza, playing her first tournament since reaching the top of the women's world rankings, was blown off court in just under an hour in a stunningly lopsided match. "I didn't feel that fresh," the Spaniard told reporters.

"It was always going to be a battle but I felt my

energy was a little bit low," added Muguruza.

"I was struggling a bit in the long rallies and didn't make the important shots. I'm very disappointed, but she just played better."

Third seed Wozniacki tore through the first set, sealing it when Muguruza wafted a routine forehand badly wide.

Muguruza cut a forlorn figure as she trudged back to her seat but things went from bad to worse for the Wimbledon champion in the second set.

A dipping forehand pass gave Wozniacki an early break, consolidated after another wild Muguruza backhand in the fourth game.

Wozniacki, a two-time Tokyo winner and finalist in 2014, put Muguruza out of her misery by forcing the Spaniard into another whiffed backhand on match point after just 59 minutes.

"Obviously you don't go on court thinking that's going to be the scoreline," said Wozniacki. "But I just kept my head down and stayed aggressive."