

TIME AND US

DAILY SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

SATURDAY
 ● SEPTEMBER, 30, 2017
 ● 09 MUHARRAM 1439 AH
 ● ISSUE: 227
 ● VOLUME: 03
 ● PAGES: 08

| WEATHER TEMPERATURE | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| STATION | MAX TEMPERATURE | MIN TEMPERATURE |
| | ACT | ACT |
| SRINAGAR | 29.9 | 10.1 |
| JAMMU | 34.7 | 22.6 |
| LEH | 21.5 | 9.1 |
| KARGIL | 25.8 | 6.6 |

SUNSET SATURDAY: 06:19 PM
SUNRISE SUNDAY: 06:26 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR
 Mainly Clear Sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 29°C & 13°C respectively.

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

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UMAR AKMAL BANNED FOR 3 GAMES, FINED RS.1 MILLION BY PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD

GRAND MUFTI OF SYRIA CALLS ON MEHBOOBA MUFTI

Describes her a role model for the Muslim world

Srinagar, Sep 29: The Grand Mufti of Syria, His Eminence Dr. Ahmad Bader Eddin Mohammad Adib Hassoun called on the Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti here today.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed several issues confronting the Muslim ummah and the need to weed out the cult of violence from the Muslim society. They also underscored the need for inculcating values of peace, tolerance and coexistence among the younger generation.



The two leaders also exchanged ideas on education, social system, history and welfare of the Muslim ummah and the need for an effective inter faith communication to spread the message of Islam.

Mehbooba Mufti informed Dr. Adib Hassoun of various socio developmental initiatives undertaken by her Government in the State including the education and empowerment of women.

▶ See **Model**...Pg 02

Braid cutting; Police to reward people who will help, inform

Establishes helplines in all districts of Kashmir

Srinagar, Sep 29: Jammu and Kashmir police has established helplines so that people could inform and seek assistance with regard to any braid cutting incident.

To speed up the investigation process, Special Investigation Teams (SITs) have also been constituted in every district headquarters of the valley.

Besides, Police Community Group meetings were also held wherein PCPG members were advised to help and assist police in keeping a close vigil regarding braid cutting incidents in their respective areas.

General public is requested to call on the helpline numbers in case of any suspicious movement. The person who will give credible information and assist in nabbing any anti social element found in such incidents will be rewarded rupees 3 lac by IG Kashmir. The particulars of that person will be kept secret.

All the district SsP have also been directed to utilize all the resources and men under their command and intensify the joint patrolling with the people of their respective jurisdictions to nab the culprits.

The help line numbers are as under. In Anantnag, people are advised to call on these numbers (Police Station's) Anantnag- 9596777621, Bijbehara- 9596777622,



BRAID CHOPPING INCIDENTS VERY SERIOUS: CONGRESS

Srinagar, Sep 29: Expressing serious concern over the continuous incidents of Braid Chopping in South Kashmir and elsewhere in the valley, the J&K Pradesh Congress Committee has strongly condemned the braid chopping and described it as an attempt to create fear psychosis among the people.

Reacting to the Braid Chopping Incidents, Congress General Secretary Hilal Ahmad Shah stated that Braid Chopping ▶ See **Braid**...Pg 02

Indian Defence Minister visits forward post

Srinagar, Sep 29: Indian Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman who arrived in Kashmir capital Srinagar on Friday for a two-day visit to take stock of the security situation and review ▶ See **Indian**...Pg 02

BSF, Pak Rangers hold flag meet on IB, sniping, ceasefire violations discussed

JAMMU: BSF and Pak Rangers today held a flag meeting along the international border in Suchetgarh sector of R S Pura here while issues like sniping and ceasefire violations were discussed.

"On the request of Pakistan Rangers from 1100 hrs to 1245 hrs, a Sector Commander level Flag Meeting was held between Border Security Force and

Pakistan Rangers on International Border in Suchetgarh area," official spokesman here said.

He said the BSF delegation comprising 17 officers was led by P S Dhiman, DIG BSF Jammu Sector and Brig Amjad Hussain, Sector Commander Chenab Rangers, Sialkot Punjab, Pakistan led the Pakistan delegation comprising of

14 officers, including three Wing Commanders.

Last meeting of Sector Cdr level was held on March 9, 2017.

This meeting is the first Sector Commander level meeting on request of Pakistan Rangers between two border guarding forces since heavy shelling ▶ See **BSF**...Pg 02

Patients feel 'cheated' as outside docs mushroom in valley

Beware from fraud ads about clinics: Dir Health

Srinagar, Sep 29: Kashmir valley seems to have become a money minting machine for the outside doctors. Owing to the lack of proper healthcare policy there is no check about the credentials of the medicos who come to Kashmir from various parts of India and loot poor people on a pretext of "better treatment".

Dozens of doctors especially from Chandigarh, Amritsar, Delhi, could be seen visiting Kashmir every month and issue advertisements in print and Electronic media appealing people for special treatments. ▶ See **Patients**...Pg 02

Urgent initiatives need to be taken to start dialogue process: Dr Karan Singh

'I will visit Jammu next month'

Srinagar, Sep 29: Member of Parliament and senior Congress leader, Dr Karan Singh's four day visit to Valley concluded today during which he met several mainstream politicians.

Singh met various mainstream political party leaders including Governor NN Vohra, former chief minister, Omar Abdullah, senior Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) leaders headed by Peerzada Muhammad Syed, Taj Mohiuddin, Prof.



Saif-u-Din Soz, Abdul Rashid Dar, PDF delegation headed by Hakim Yaseen, CPI (M) leader, Mohd Yousuf Tari-

gami and many other prominent political figure and some Civil Society groups.

Sources told KNS that a wide spectrum of interactions over the political situations and day to day circumstances were carried out between the leaders.

"I benefited greatly from my interactions and took careful note for the sentiments that were expressed. The common theme was deep concern regarding article 35-A, which ▶ See **Karan**...Pg 02

Army livestreamed 2016 surgical strike to Delhi headquarters, reveals officer

New Delhi: The Indian Army commandos participating in last year's surgical strike on terrorists' launchpads in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir livestreamed the entire operation back to army headquarters in Udhampur and Delhi, the officer-in-charge of the operation has revealed.

"Yes, we were getting the images live. I was sitting in the operations room in our command headquarters in Udhampur. I saw the entire operation live how our teams attacked the targets, and the entire live feed was being sent to Delhi Army Headquarters," former General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Indian Army's Northern Command (retired) Lieutenant General DS Hooda said in ▶ See **Army**...Pg 02

Police foil Muharram processions

Normal life disrupted in parts of Srinagar, Scores detained

Srinagar, Sep 29: Amid restrictions in parts of Srinagar city, police on Friday foiled Muharram Procession by detaining scores of mourners. The Muharram procession was scheduled to be taken out from Karan Nagar to Dalgate, however, a large contingent of police personnel had been deployed to foil the procession.

Reports said that police used mild force to disperse the mourners who appeared near Shaheedganj, Karan Nagar, Chotta Bazar, Habakadal, Abi Guzar and Dalgate.

The restrictions had been placed mostly in some areas of Shaheed Gunj, Karan Nagar,



Maisuma, Kothibagh, Sherghari, Kralkhud, Batamalo and Ram Munishi Bagh police ▶ See **Normal**...Pg 02

3 killed after SUV of HC judge rolls down into gorge

Justice Hanjura was not travelling in the car

Srinagar, Sep 29 (KNS): Three persons were killed while another injured after a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV), of High Court (HC) judge rolled down into a deep gorge on Srinagar-Jammu highway in Ramban district on Friday.

The car belonged to HC judge Justice MK Hanjura. However, Hanjura was not travelling in the car.

Police said the SUV, bearing registration number JK02 BB 6686, skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge near Seri Ramban. The Quick Reaction Teams and police immediately carried out the rescue operation.

The four injured were shifted to District Hospital ▶ See **Judge**...Pg 02

J&K Bank organizes farewell for RBI Regional Director

Srinagar, Sep 28, CNS: J&K Bank organized a farewell for Regional Director RBI Nitya Kishore Sahu, who is superannuating on 30th September, 2017. Chaired by the bank's Chairman and CEO Parvez Ahmed, the function was attended by the bank's Executive Presidents, Presidents and Vice-Presidents.

Sahu took over as the Regional Director last year in June. Prior to his posting at Jammu, Sahu was Chief General Manager and Banking Ombudsman for the States of West Bengal and Sikkim.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman said, "The essence of this get-together is a humble acknowledgment of N K Sahu's great support



to us throughout our association." "While discharging his duties as the ▶ See **Bank**...Pg 02

Corporal punishment:

Police register case against Physical Teacher

Pattan, Sep 29: Police have registered a case against a Physical Teacher for assaulting a student who has been going under treatment after suffering from internal head injury.

As per the complaint filed by the parents of a Class 10th student Muhammad Asif Dar, resident of Hanjivera Pattan area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district, the Physical Teacher Sajad Ahmed of Pioneer Educational Institute thrashed Muhammad Asif Dar badly during lunch break and threatened him of serious consequences in case he reported the incident to his family. ▶ See **Teacher**...Pg 02

Border dispute with China can be resolved through dialogue, says Rajnath Singh

Mana post: The Sino-India border dispute can be resolved through a "structural dialogue" and a positive approach, home minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday.

Singh made the remarks while visiting a forward post in Uttarakhand where he met jawans of the Indo Tibetan Border Police.

Undertaking the first-ever visit by a senior minister to the China border after the recent resolution of the stand-off in the Doklam area of the



Sikkim sector, Singh said there has been a "perceptual difference" of the border between the two neighbours for long and that he was sure that this issue will be "resolved" with time. "The border issue will be ▶ See **Rajnath**...Pg 02

resolved once we have structural dialogue (with China). What we need is a positive approach (to the issue)," the home minister said at the ITBP post located at an altitude of 14,311 feet.

Singh said the Doklam "deadlock" was resolved similarly and without any confrontation.

The 'Mana' ITBP post is located in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand as the last battalion centre of the ▶ See **Rajnath**...Pg 02

Search for new KU VC begins

Incumbent unlikely to get second term

Srinagar, Sep 29: The serving Vice Chancellor of University of Kashmir is unlikely to get a second term even as a three-member search committee has been constituted by the government for finding an eligible person for the coveted job.

The term of VC Dr Khurshid Iqbal Andrabi is ending on 17 October this year when his three-year term ends. Andrabi was appointed October 2014.

Sources told KNS that Andrabi is unlikely to get the second term as the university has not shown any remarkable achievement in the last three years. ▶ See **Term**...Pg 02

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MODEL

The Chief Minister invited the Grand Mufti and his delegation to visit the State again for exhaustive sessions with the ulema, local religious scholars and academicians.

The Grand Mufti informed the Chief Minister that he was happy to meet her and know about her views on the subjects discussed. "You are a role model for the Muslim world and Syrian women would take an inspiration from your personality", he told the Chief Minister while extending an invitation to her to visit Syria.

The visit of the Syrian Grand Mufti has been coordinated by Indian Council of Cultural Relations, New Delhi.

Ambassador of Syria to India, Dr. Riad Abbas; Advisor in Syrian Embassy, Nazen Nasri and other officials of Syrian Embassy besides Regional Director, ICCR, Balwant Thakur accompanied the Grand Mufti during the visit.

INDIAN

preparedness of troopers on borders, met several senior Army commanders.

Sitharaman was received by Northern Army Commander and the Chinara Corps Commander at the Old Airfield. Later in the day, she visited a forward post on the Line of Control in Kashmir. She also met senior commanders as well.

This is the Nirmala Sitharaman's first visit to the state after she assumed office as the Defence Minister of India earlier this month. She is also expected to visit Siachen on September 30.

BSF

and firing experienced on the International Border in the month of September 2017 in which BSF gave strong calibrated reply to Pakistan.

"During this period of firing and shelling, BSF successfully foiled a number of infiltration attempts from Pakistan's soil, including killing of one intruder who infiltrated on September 4, 2017 in area of Arnia Sector," he said.

The spokesman said during the meeting, BSF objected on dastardly acts of snipping of two BSF soldiers - Late Constable Brijendra Bahadur and Constable K K Appa Rao on 14 September and 25 August 2017, respectively while performing their duty on forward duty points along the border security fence by Pak Rangers and further carrying out unprovoked cross border firing and shelling on a number of Indian border villages targeting innocent civilian and their properties.

"BSF conveyed strong protest with message that such provocative acts will not be tolerated and are unacceptable by BSF and shall be responded with equal and more measures," he added.

The spokesman said that besides discussion on number of other issues related to border management, BSF strongly objected for allowing movement of armed intruder in close vicinity of International Boundary during night time for infiltration attempts into India from Pakistan territory.

"During discussion, Pak Rangers assured for taking required measures to maintain peace at border with request that BSF should also restrain as much as possible in counter measures to see that minimum civilian loss caused on Pak side," he added.

"It was decided to re-energize instant communication between field commanders, whenever required, to resolve the petty matters," said the spokesman, adding that the meeting was held in a cordial, positive and constructive atmosphere and both sides agreed for expeditious implementation of the decisions taken in the earlier meeting and committed to each other to maintain peace and tranquility at International Border.

BRAID

Mattan- 9596777623, Ashmuqam; 9596777624, Pahalgam-9596777625, Achabal-9596777626, Kokernag-9596777628, Doooru-9596777627, Srigufwara-9596777629, (Police Post's) Khanabal-9596777631, Janglat Mandi-9596777632, Bus stand-9596777633, Sherbagh-9596777630, Sangam-9596777636, Uttersoo-9596777635 and Larnoo-9596777634.

In Kulgam people are advised to call on 01933260160, 7051510660.

In Pulwama people are advised to call on 01933-241280, 241986.

In Shopian people are advised to call on 01933-261891, 9596768831.

In Awantipora people are advised to call on 01933-247369, 7051404001.

In Budgam people are advised to call on 01951-255207, 255042, 7051531798.

In Ganderbal people are advised to call on 2416478, 2416564, 9622688825, 9906668731.

In Bandipora people are advised to call on 9596767411, 9596767421, 9596767431, 9596767415, 9596767441, 9596767440, 9596767427, 9596767430, 9596767418.

In Sopore people are advised to call on 9596773024, 9596773025.

In Handwara people are advised to call on 01955-262295, 9906767076, 7051404201, 7051404206.

In Baramulla people are advised to call on 01952-237830, 9596767768, 9596767717.

In Kupwara people are advised to call on 01955-252204, 7051404938.

CONGRESS

is a very serious matter and Govt must take measures to contain such shameful activities. He urged upon the Govt to wake up to such shameful activities the fire of which has started engulfing the entire valley.

He described these anti-social activities as an attempt to disturb the peace, tranquility and asked the Govt to take effective measures to ascertain the identity of culprits for severe punishment.

He also questioned the Govt as to why it has not been able to identify the culprits, so far, as result, fresh incidents of Braid Chopping are taking place.

Congress General Secretary expressed apprehensions that situation may deteriorate again in case such shameful and anti-social activities are not stopped, so Govt must take stringent measures to identify the culprits and punish them sternly.

PATIENTS

These doctors here see the patients in various private nursing homes and other clinics and later advise these patients to visit their (doctors) outside clinics.

Sources alleged that these doctors and their agents mentally prepare the patients to visit their outside nursing homes and everyone in this chain gets their due share.

"The nexus is going on between doctors who are looting patients. Authorities should examine the ground situation and act upon accordingly," official sources told KNS.

Sources also said that patients who visit such doctors are mostly being "cheated".

Sources revealed that these doctors after visiting valley first ask the patients to undergo the tests in respective clinics and nursing homes here at higher rates and later they are mentally prepared to visit their (doctors) clinics in outside states like Delhi and Chandigarh.

In one such case, a patient (name withheld) had to face a worst experience after he had seen an advertisement in a newspaper that read a senior-most "orthopedician from Delhi" would be available in Srinagar on a particular date.

"I visited the place along with my wife. The said doctor that was mentioned in the advertisement was not available there instead a group of some five doctors were seeing the patients. These doctors then mentally prepare the patients to visit their respective clinics and hospital outside the State for the better treatment and they fetch heavy amount money from the innocent patients," he said.

A senior doctor told KNS that most of these outside doctors who visit the valley on short term private practices are surgeons. "We rarely see physicians coming."

He said majority of these doctors have done their degrees in foreign countries like Russia, Bangladesh and China. "They also have smart percentage of marks. There is no check whether these doctors have qualified the Medical Council of India (MCI) examinations or not," said a senior doctor at SKIMS, wishing not to be named.

Repeated attempts to contact MoS Health Asiya Naqash proved futile.

Talking to KNS, Director Health Services Kashmir Dr Saleem-u-Rehman said they check the credentials of doctors who visit the valley. "But at times we also find that some addresses don't exist on the ground. Like an advertisement in any paper that a doctor from outside will visit here. And when we go to the place we don't find any such clinic. People should remain cautious and inform us as well," he said.

KARAN

is under consideration of the Supreme Court," Singh said. He said that while senior government authorities have publicly assured that Kashmir's sentiments in this matter will be respected, the fact is that the final say will be of the SC and the Government of India (GoI) has not so far filed any affidavit.

"There was a demand that the union government must put up a strong defence of the article before the court in discussions regarding the present political situation in the valley, almost all the people I met suggested that it was important to open talks with the Hurriyat leaders, although it seems that they have not yet publicly expressed their willingness to talk with government of India representatives," he said, adding that "in my view, talks are to be welcomed, whether at the national, state or regional level, whether at track one or track two, and some urgent initiatives need to be taken to start the process."

He said that there was general dismay that for the second year in a row the tourist influx into the valley has virtually collapsed. "This has deprived Kashmir of thousands of crores of rupees income as well as extensive employment, spread across all sections of society from five-star hotels to the Shikara and pony workers. This is a cruel blow to the economy of the valley and one can only hope that at least from next year all elements to have genuine sentiments for the welfare of the Kashmiri people will ensure that peace and stability is restored so that national and international tourism can be resumed," he said.

Member of Parliament further added that also any disruption of the education structure is a major disservice, which should be eschewed.

Meanwhile, he said that "much to my distress, to once beautiful Dal Lake continues to visibly deteriorate every year."

"I did mention during my meetings that the sentiments of Jammu and Ladakh have to be factored in when we address all the current issues. Unfortunately, the unanimous demand for declaring Maharaja Hari Singh's birth day as a public holiday, as is Sheikh Abdullah's, fell on deaf ears. This is a tri-regional state and all sentiments must always be taken into account. I will visit Jammu next month," he said.

ARMY

an interview with India TV. Asked who all in Delhi were watching the live feed, Hooda said: "I don't know who were watching in Delhi. In Udhampur, we were watching and the feed was going to Delhi too."

However, he refused to disclose as to whether the live streaming was done through satellite or some other technology.

"I can't disclose what technology we used, but the Indian Army has the capability where you can see livestreaming of operation that was going on. We have the capability," Hooda said.

Giving details of the strike, Hooda said the last team of special forces returned at around 6.30 a.m.

"Some teams arrived earlier. They had left earlier and had struck at targets soon after midnight, while some other teams went in later and returned late."

"There was panic in the ranks of Pakistani forces. In some places, they were firing randomly. We had also planned a backup. If any team failed to return, we had teams ready to go in, retrieve and rescue and bring them back," Hooda, who had planned the strikes, revealed.

The former Lieutenant General also revealed that the government had made up its mind to make an announcement soon after the surgical strike was over.

"It was decided in advance. The government had decided that we will announce the surgical strike having taken place, own it up. Had it not been successful, then they would have had to take criticism also. So, the pressure on the army (to

make it successful) was big," he said.

Hooda said there were heavy casualties at four or five terror launchpads.

He admitted that there was a day's delay in carrying out the strikes.

"The initial planning was, the forces would go in on September 27, but the final execution took place on September 28," he said.

NORMAL

stations. After the outbreak of militancy in Kashmir, authorities have not allowed the procession since 1990.

Heavy deployments of police and paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in full riot gear had been deployed in the restricted areas.

Pedestrian and vehicular movement had also been suspended.

However, official sources told CNS that this was a precautionary measure to maintain law and order. No restrictions were imposed in major parts of the city, including Moulana Azad road, Residency Road, Maistuma, Abi Guzer, Lal Chowk, Budshah Chowk, Hari Singh High Street, Jehangir Chowk and Batmaloo had been closed by the Government forces.

Despite restrictions, scores of people tried to take out the processions at Shaheedgunj, Batamaloo and Karan Nagar areas of Srinagar city. However, their attempt was foiled by police.

Police fired a couple of tear-smoke shells to disperse the mourners at Maulana Azad Road. Scores of mourners who tried to defy restrictions were detained by police. They were lodged in different police stations of the city.

A group of youth from Shaheedgunj locality, defied the restrictions and tried to take out a procession towards Dalgate. When the youth reached near Jehangir Chowk, they were stopped and sent back.

A similar Moharram procession was taken out from the nearby Karan Nagar area towards Lal Chowk. Police also foiled procession at Batamaloo. Police arrested several mourners and lodged them in police station Batamaloo.

Normal life in different parts of Srinagar city was affected due to processions and the restrictions.

The 8th Muharram procession would traditionally start from Guru Bazar and Shaheedgunj areas of the Srinagar's downtown and pass through Maulana Azad Road and Residency Road to end at Dalgate. However, since 1990, authorities have disallowed Muharram processions in uptown areas while smaller congregations in localities of downtown Srinagar and in the outskirts are allowed.

Anjuman Shari Shai organized multiple Muharam processions across Kashmir Valley. Thousands of mourners participated in Zuljina procession that was carried out from Madeen Sahab Zaidal area of Srinagar city.

Besides, Zuljina processions were taken out at Abadpora, Awadawra, Bogha Chhal, Astan Sharif Wuyen Chadoorra, Palar Budgam, Malik Gund Chatargam, Astanpora Sikan-darpora, Gulshan Bagh Batakadal, Khomeni Chowk, Awdeena, Zalpura, Gund Nawgam, Sonaburn, Inderkoot, Gaw-madao, Kehnpeth, Chhalipora and other areas.

Anjuman Shari Shian President and senior separatist leader Aga Syed Hasan while condemning the use of force on mourners said that authorities welcome Yatris during Yatra but thrash mourners for organizing peaceful religious processions.

"It is direct intervention into the religious affairs that is highly condemnable. The curbs on these processions are uncalled for and need to be lifted without any delay," he said and added that a conspiracy is being hatched to create a wedge between Shia and Sunni Muslims in Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Chief Yasin Malik was arrested in Srinagar to prevent him from taking part in a Muharram procession, said a spokesman.

He said that Malik was arrested from his Abi Guzar office. "A police party reached at the JKLF office and arrested Malik sahab. He has been arrested to prevent his participation in Muharram processions," said the spokesman.

A huge procession was taken out in Kargil district of Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir.

JUDGE

Ramban where three of them succumbed, Police said. The vehicle was on the way to Jammu from Srinagar when the accident took place.

The deceased were employees of the High Court. "Justice Hanjura was scheduled to reach Jammu by air," they said.

BANK

Chief Representative of the regulator in J&K, he never compromised on professional commitments and meanwhile mentored the Banks operating under his supervision in undertaking day to day challenges. Mammoth task of Demonetization of SBNs would not have been an exceptionally smooth affair in our State without his guidance and support," he added.

The chairman further said that the special restructuring package extended to state borrowers by the RBI was the hallmark of his compassionate approach towards the state and its subjects.

On the occasion, N K Sahu said, "I will never forget my tenure in J&K for the love and affection which I got from every stakeholder, especially the J&K Bank."

He appreciated the passion of the J&K Bank while discharging its obligations towards the society that too in line with the regulatory guidelines. "Their approach to the problems of any nature and resolving the issues in most amicable manner is laudable. I appreciate it. Besides, I must say that the way J&K state level bankers committee meetings are conducted and problems are solved, is commendable," said Sahu. Precisely, he described J&K Bank as a wonderful success story in the landscape of banking from J&K state.

He gladly offered himself to the bank for any kind of free guidance/consultancy on any matter related to the banking.

TEACHER

Asif shortly after reaching home felt unconscious and he was admitted to Sub-District Hospital Pattan under MRD number 75151. The doctors after conducting multiple tests including ECG and City Scan revealed that the student has

suffered an internal head injury. The student is currently treated by a neurologist.

Meanwhile, school authorities have assured family that they will bear all the expenditures on the treatment of the victim student.

"We have registered a case and waiting for the response of the school management," said a police officer to news agency CNS.

An official from the Educational Institution in question said that they will initiate action against the erring teacher. He added that school will bear the expenses incurred by family on the treatment of the student.

RAJNATH

paramilitary that serves forward border bases along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Interacting with the jawans of the force during a 'Sainik Sammelan' at the border post, Singh also made the announcement that "light clothing" for winters and to combat frosty weather will be provided to the ITBP troops, who are mostly deployed above the height of 9,000 feet.

He assured the troops that issues such as better promotional avenues, exemption of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) canteens from the GST and enhancement of infrastructure and other facilities for them will be taken up on priority.

The minister expressed concern that not many promotions have been effected in the force, as he asked ITBP Director General (DG) RK Pachnanda to undertake more steps in this regard. The force has recently promoted about 1,600 personnel across various ranks.

"We are trying to give the best facilities to our jawans... we have recently promoted about 36,000 troops (in the constabulary) in all the CAPFs, including 3,500 from the ITBP. "These things will keep going on...we will surely look into all your issues," he told the jawans.

Singh praised the ITBP personnel and called them "multi dimensional" as they render a variety of duties in the internal security domain of the country. "We are proud of you," he said.

The 90,000 personnel strong ITBP is tasked with guarding the 3,488km long Sino-India border across five states from Jammu and Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh.

TERM

"No significant achievement took place as far as administrative, infrastructure and academic activities are kept in consideration. Many hopes were pitched when the present VC was given the top job," students as well as faculty members told KNS.

Last week, committee comprising Prof. D P Aggarwal, former chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Prof. Seyed Ehtesham Hasnain, VC of the Jamia Hamdard University, Delhi along with Prof. Vinay Gupta, incumbent VC of the Sharda University, Noida was formed to look for the new VC.

Students said that the academic schemes like Choice Based System and two-shift classes did not help in their academics but created confusion.

They said that for these schemes proportionate and necessary infrastructure and faculty was not upgraded. They said that for research scholars no incentives and scholarship was increased for them.

The teachers rue that their long-pending demand of increasing their retirement age to 65 and promotions to the eligible faculty members were not met.

Amid the search for new VC, several professors of the university who are eligible for the job are in contention. They include Professor G M Sangmi of Management Studies, Prof Ghulam Mustafa of Zoology and Prof Akbar Masood of Bio-chemistry.

KU'S JOURNALISM STUDENTS RELEASE HEART-THROBBING SHORT FILM

'Film's theme is to help the needy people'

Srinagar, Sep 29: At a time when the film makers remain busy in shooting conflict and love stories in Kashmir, a group of eleven Journalism students from Kashmir University have come-up with a short film consisting of a message for the society.

The film titled as 'Succour' was written by Pard-eep Singh Dardi and directed by Idrees Bukhtiyar.

Studying in 3rd Semester at Media Education Research Centre (MERC) Kashmir University, the 24 years-old director of the film Bukhtiyar said that the aim of making this short film was to create an awareness among the masses. "We mostly neglect the poor people who beg in front of us but among there are such type of people who in dire need of money to feed themselves or their families," he said. "We tried our best to create an awareness to the entire world that a small contribute can't make you poor but can change somebody's life," Bukhtiyar added.

Dardi who has penned down the script of the film said the idea was a challenging one for him that has change his life completely.

"On my way to University, every day I use to see a number of beggars and where nobody would pay any heed to them. But then, I decided to write a short story over it and make this awareness to the public," he said.

"In beginning, it was very tough to set the thing on the track in terms of my script but later my colleagues helped me out and now you can see its result," Dardi added.

With the duration of 3 minutes and 18 seconds, the film has been shot at Boulevard and Hazratbal, the locations on banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar.

The film was released on social media last night and has received more 30,000 views so far.

The cast of the film includes Faisal Sidiq, Arif Zargar. The actors in supporting role include Rahil Hussain and Nazima Rashid. The film crew includes Useeba Bashir on sounds, Sheikh Saman on make-up, Tahil Ali on camera and Syed Jesarat, Faisal Hussain as Line Producers.

Direct Tax Revenue Collections up to 18th September, 2017 in the current Financial Year

New Delhi, September 29: The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Shri Arun Jaitley said that Income Tax Department of the Ministry of Finance has taken various initiatives in the last 2-3 years in order to bring about efficiency, transparency and fairness in tax administration. Highlighting the initiatives, the Finance Minister said that a Single Page ITR-1 (SAHAJ) Form was introduced for taxpayers having income up to Rs. 50 lakhs. Rate of tax for individuals having income of Rs. 2.5 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs was reduced from 10% to 5%, which is one among the lowest in the world, the Finance Minister added. The Finance Minister Shri Jaitley further said that the concept of 'no scrutiny' was introduced for the First Time Non-Business Tax Payers having income up to Rs. 5 lakhs so that more and more people are encouraged to join the tax net and file their IT returns and pay the due amount of taxes. The Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley was addressing the Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Finance on the subject of "Initiatives of IT Department" in the national capital here today.

Highlighting the other initiatives of the income Tax Department, the Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley said that corporate tax was reduced to 25% for companies with turn-over up to Rs. 50 crore thereby covering almost 96% of the companies. The new manufacturing companies incorporated on or after 1st

March 2016 were given an option to be taxed at 25% without any deduction. The MAT credit was allowed to be carry forward up to 15 years instead of 10 years as part of procedural reforms, the Finance Minister added.

Highlighting the initiatives of the Department in the field of E-Governance, the Finance Minister said that 97% of the income tax returns were filed electronically this year, out of which 92% returns were processed within 60 days and 90% refunds were also issued within 60 days. The Finance Minister further said that the Income Tax Department also introduced Grievance Redressal System- E-Nivaran which integrated all the online and paper grievances and tracks them till their resolution. Every grievance is acknowledged and resolution is intimated through email and SMS. The Finance Minister said that 84% of 4.65 lakh E-Nivaran grievances have been resolved so far.

The Finance Minister, Shri Jaitley said through E-Sahyog, all cases of information mismatch are handled in non-intrusive manner to avoid full investigation. The Finance Minister further added that about 1.9 crore salaried tax payers are being informed every quarter by the Income Tax Department of the amount of TDS deposited by their employers. The Finance Minister Shri Jaitley said that all these E-governance initiatives of the Department have helped in having minimum direct interface between the tax assessing authorities

and the assesses which in turn helped in minimizing harassment, curbing the menace of corruption and time saving among others.

The Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley also highlighted the initiatives of the Income Tax Department as far as Ease of Doing Business and promoting Financial Markets are concerned. In this regard, he specifically mentioned about introduction of Presumptive Taxation Scheme for Professionals having income up to Rs. 50 lakhs. Similarly, threshold for Presumptive Taxation Scheme for business income raised from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 2 crore and companies located in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) have been exempted from Dividend Distribution Tax and to pay MAT @ 9% only.

The Finance Minister informed that India has entered into Foreign Collaboration with 148 countries as far as Exchange of Information for tax matters is concerned and with 39 countries for criminal matters. He said that changes in the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) with Mauritius and Singapore have been incorporated to allow for source based taxation of capital gains on shares and interest income of banks.

As far as the drive against black money is concerned, the Income-tax Department has taken various initiatives since the present Government came to power. In this regard, the Finance Minister mentioned about the enactment of

the Black Money Act, 2015, Comprehensive Amendments to the Benami Act 1988 and Operation Clean Money among others. The Finance Minister said that after the intense follow-up of demonetization data from 9th November 2016 to 10th January, 2017, about 1100 searches were made resulting into seizure of Rs. 610 crore including cash of Rs. 513 crore. He said that undisclosed income of Rs. 5400 crore was detected and about 400 cases have been referred to ED and CBI for an appropriate action.

In order to promote less cash economy and digital transactions, the Finance Minister said that the Income Tax Department took various initiatives including penalty for cash receipt of Rs. 2 lakh or more, limit of cash donation to charitable trusts reduced from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 2000/- and no cash donations of Rs. 2000/- or more to political parties.

Highlighting the impact of demonetization and the proactive initiatives of the Income Tax Department, the Finance Minister said that the revenue collections in case of direct taxes rose to Rs. 8,49, 818 crore during the Financial Year 2016-17 at a growth rate of 14.5 per cent. The Finance Minister further said that net collections up to 18th September, 2017 in the Current Financial Year 2017-18 rose to Rs. 3.7 lakh crore with a growth of 15.7%. He said that the number of tax payers increased significantly from 4.72 crore in financial year 2012-13 to 6.26 crore dur-

ing the Financial Year 2016-17.

Earlier, the Chairman CBDT, Shri Sushil Chandra made a presentation about the initiatives of the Income Tax Department before the Committee.

Participating in the discussions, the various members of the Consultative Committee gave various suggestions in order to improve both the revenue collections and the overall performance of the Department. The members congratulated the Finance Minister for making historical tax reforms both in case of direct and indirect taxes. Some of the members suggested that some more incentives be given to the new tax papers so that more and more people are encouraged to file tax returns and pay due taxes which in turn would help in widening the tax base. They appreciated the initiatives of the Department to reduce the tax rate from 10% to 5% in case of individual tax payers having income of Rs. 2.5 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh per annum. Some members also suggested for reducing the tax slabs in order to give incentive to the people to pay their due taxes. They appreciated the initiatives of the Income Tax Department for issuing Appreciation Letters to the honest tax payers. Some of the members suggested reducing the banking or transaction charges in order to promote digital transactions. They said that only by reducing or waiving off these charges more and more people will be encouraged to go for digital transactions. The members

also suggested that more time be given to the people living in those areas where there is either frequent power failures or having no internet facilities to file their returns. Some of the members also suggested that more searches may be conducted against the black money holders as still many people are transacting in black money.

Along with the Union Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley, the meeting was also attended among others by Shri S.P. Shukla, Minister of State for Finance, Finance Secretary, Shri Ashok Lavasa, Revenue Secretary, Dr. Hasmukh Adhia, Secretary, DIPAM, Shri Neeraj Kumar Gupta, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Shri S.C. Garg, Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Dr. Arvind Subramanian, Chairman, CBDT, Shri Sushil Chandra and other senior officers of the Ministry of Finance.

The Members of the Consultative Committee who participated in the Meeting today include Shri Anirudhan Sampath, Shri Jayanta Jai Panda, Shri J. Jayasingh Thyagaraj Natterjee, Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, Shri Pratapsinh Chauhan, Shri Ram Charitra Nishad, Shri, S.P.Y. Reddy, Shri Sharad Kumar Maruti Bansode, Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria, Dr. Udit Raj and Shri Yerram Venkata Subreddy (all Members of Lok Sabha); Shri Anil Desai, Shri N. Gokulakrishnan, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Shri Sanjay Seth and Kumari Selja (all Members of Rajya Sabha).

India registers significant decline in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)

New Delhi, September 29: India has registered a significant decline in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR). According to the just released SRS bulletin, IMR of India has declined by three points (8% decline), from 37 per 1000 live births in 2015 to 34 per 1000 live births in 2016, compared to two points decline last year. Not only this, India also recorded a major drop in birth cohort, which has for the first time come down to below 25 million. India has registered 90000 fewer infant deaths in 2016 as compared to 2015. The total number of estimated infant deaths have come down from 930000 (9.3

Lakhs) in 2015 to 840000 (8.4 lakhs) in 2016.

According to the SRS Bulletin the gender gap in India for child survival is reducing steadily. The gender difference between female and male IMR has now reduced to <10%, giving a major boost to the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme of the Government.

The results signify that the strategic approach of the Ministry has started yielding dividends and the efforts of focusing on low performing States is paying off. Among the EAG States and Assam, all States except Uttarakhand have reported decline in IMR in comparison to 2015. The

decline is reported as 4 points in Bihar, 3 points in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand and two points decline in Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Rajasthan.

These remarkable achievements in merely one year is also the result of a countrywide efforts to increase the health service coverage through various initiatives of the Government that includes strengthening of service delivery; quality assurance; RMNCH+A; human resources, community processes; information and knowledge; drugs and diagnostics, and supply chain management, etc.

Union Home Minister exhorts IAS probationers to help realise PM's dream of New India

New Delhi, September 29: The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has exhorted young IAS probationers to help realise the Prime Minister's dream of a New India. Addressing the Officers Trainees of 92nd Foundation Course at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie in Uttarakhand today, Shri Rajnath Singh said, "You need to work hard to help the people. You have to create

a sense of confidence among the people with your hard work."

Noting that God has given them an opportunity to serve humanity and common citizens of the country, the Union Home Minister said the Officers should empathise with the citizens who come out with their problems. "You should not try to postpone the resolution of their problems," he said, adding, "Your approach should never be

individual centric. Always be system centric."

Cautioning the young IAS Officers against harbouring egos, Shri Rajnath Singh said, "Ego is like a decimal point which if added before a number reduces the value of that number." He also inspired them to remain committed to high moral values and become role models. "You will become role model for others only when you adhere to high moral values. You

should always be cautious in public life," he said, wishing the probationers a bright future and successful career.

The Union Home Minister will visit the Mana Border Out Post (BOP) of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) later today. During his four-day visit, Shri Rajnath Singh will also visit the Laphthal and Rimkhim Border BOPs of ITBP and witness Rock Climbing and Commando Storming Op-

erations at ITBP's Mountaineering and Skiing Institute, Auli. He will also inaugurate the Civic Action Programme and Blood Donation Camp at Joshimath.

Yesterday, Shri Rajnath Singh was received by Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat as he arrived in Dehra Dun on a four-day visit to the state. The two leaders later held talks on various issues.

NHAI'S PROJECTS TO GENERATE APPROXIMATELY 50 CRORE MAN-DAYS EMPLOYMENT OVER NEXT FOUR YEARS

New Delhi, September 29: The ongoing and targeted projects of National Highways Authority of India would generate estimated employment of approximately 50 crores man days over the next four years on a seasonal basis. This would be averaging to nearly 12.5 crore man-days yearly from 2018-2022. Of this, about 1.0 crore will be professional man-days, 3.5 crore skilled labour man-days and 8.0 crore semi-skilled and un-skilled man days.

The NHAI currently has 282 projects having length of about 20,000 km under implementation across the country out of which 10,000 km of length is targeted to be completed over next one to two years. There are around 220 projects having length of about 31,000 km which are targeted to be awarded and completed in the next 3 to 4 years across all the States in the country under NHDP and Bharat Mala Schemes. Thus, NHAI plans to construct approximately 50,000 km Highways in next 4 years.

This will generate seasonal employment opportunities as successful and efficient execution of projects invariably requires qualified professionals, skilled and semi-skilled work force.

In order to meet the requirement of professionals, skilled and semi-skilled work force, NHAI has undertaken an elaborate exercise for Skill Development. The Chairman, NHAI Shri Deepak Kumar, held a meeting with the officers of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to chalk out the road map for skilling of professionals, skilled and semi-skilled workers. Various issues connected with the Skill Development were discussed in the meeting. The Chairman, NHAI asked the officers of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to submit detailed plan of Skill Development in tune with the requirement of NHAI projects. The plan would be finalized in discussion with the concerned stakeholders.

ASIEA NAQASH CONDOLES WITH ABDUL HAMID OF HAZRATBAL

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 29:- Minister of State for Health and Medical Education, Housing and Urban Development, Asiea Naqash today expressed grief over the death of Abdul Salam, father of a political worker Abdul Hamid of Gossu Hazratbal.

In a condolence message, the Minister conveyed her heartfelt sympathies and condolence to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

Measures afoot to eradicate crop-damaging pests from Ladakh: Basharat Bukhari

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 29: Minister for Horticulture, Syed Basharat Bukhari today called for efficient integrated pest management strategies in Ladakh region to tackle agriculture pest and insects damaging crops.

The Minister said this while chairing a meeting of experts regarding management of insects, pests and aphid in Leh and Kargil districts of Ladakh. He said the horticulture industry in the cold arid desert region of Ladakh has enough potential to produce best quality crops.

Vice Chairman Horticulture Development Board, Abdul Salam Reshi, Secretary Horticulture, Manzoor Ahmad Lone, Director Horticulture, Mathoora Masoom, Director Horticulture Planning and Management, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, Director Law Enforcement Agriculture Production Department, Head Division of Entomology SKUAST Kashmir, Chief Horticulture Officer Bandipora, In-charge DLSMS Penology Baramulla



and other concerned were present in the meeting. The Minister was apprised about various insects and pests damaging crops in Ladakh region, including Codling moth (Cydia pomonella) and Brown tail moth (Euproctis Chrysoorrhoea). He was informed that these moths create a serious threat to apricot, the basic commercial fruit crop of the region.

Experts informed the Minister about the methods required for management of these moths. It was given out those moths in cold arid region

of Ladakh needs a sustainable approach to integrated pest management based on scientific principles to achieve desired results.

He was told that various modern and scientific methods adopted to control Codling moth are installation of light traps, installation of Trichogramma embryophagum for the egg parasitization, and Pheromone trap installation, among other means.

The meeting was briefed that other than modern methods sanitation of the orchards including burn-

ing of the fallen leaves, twigs and pruned wood, burying of the damaged fruits, scrapping of the bark manual destruction of the larvae are some cultural practices to prevent the spread and multiplication of this pest.

On the occasion, Bukhari directed for constituting a team of experts from horticulture and SKUAST who will tour Ladakh region to find out effective and sustainable methods to tackle insects and pests damaging the crops.

He said that a proper strategy is needed involving local growers community for implementing the programme to eradicate this noxious pest.

The Minister directed for mass popularizing of the pest management practices, preferably biological and eco-safe measures for long-term sustenance by the Horticulture Department. There lies a dire need, he said, to extend the evolved technologies among the growers' communities to provide a breakthrough in the horticulture sector of the region.

Farooq Andrabi reviews progress of dev works in Dooru Constituency

DOORU, SEPTEMBER 29: Minister of State for Hajj & Auqaf, Syed Farooq Ahmad Andrabi today conducted an extensive tour of Dooru Constituency to inspect progress of various ongoing developmental works there.

The Minister accompanied by senior officers of concerned Departments visited Kapran, Chougund, Checkiwangni, Halsidar, Lower Manda, Rangimundoo and Verinag area of the Constituency.

Andrabi took stock of macadamization works in Dooru Constituency and asked the concerned to speed up the



pace of works and complete them before the coming winter season. He asked the concerned to work in synergy and redouble their efforts and complete all ongoing devel-

opmental works under various sectors within the stipulated time frame. He also asked them to use the earmarked funds for the current fiscal in full and judiciously. He di-

rected engineers to ensure the quality of work is not compromised with.

Interacting with the people at different places, the Minister said that the Govern-

ment headed by the Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti is committed to provide basic amenities to the people of all the three regions of the State. He said gigantic developmental programmes have been launched by the Government in the State with an aim to improve the living standard of the people especially living in far-flung and remote areas.

Referring to former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Saeed's vision towards the development, prosperity and peace of the State, Andrabi said that the present dispensation is pushing forward the

agenda of the legendary leader.

During the day-long tour, several deputations met the Minister and apprised him about various issues like issuance of timber on concessional rates, replacement of damaged electric poles, construction of lanes, drains, culverts and foot bridges, up-gradation of Government educational institutions and sanctioning of IAY cases.

The Minister gave them a patient hearing and assured that their genuine demands will be looked into for their immediate redressal.

DAILY
Time and US
SRINAGAR
J&K

Tokyo dreams

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has gambled his career by calling snap elections to the Lower House of the Japanese Diet in late-October. The term of the House would have ordinarily lasted another year, but he clearly senses a turn in the popular breeze in his favour. Whether the electorate will vindicate his judgment, however, may well depend on the grit and tenacity of his challenger, Tokyo's first woman Governor, Yuriko Koike. The former television anchor achieved an unprecedented feat last year by taking the city's top job, trouncing the official nominee of Mr. Abe's Liberal Democratic Party in a triangular race. Ever since, Ms. Koike, who had served briefly as defence minister during Mr. Abe's first term in 2006-07, has become accustomed to thriving in a crisis. In a repeat of her growing penchant to take on a male-dominated establishment, Ms. Koike floated a local party earlier this year, which spectacularly captured the Tokyo city assembly in July. Now, following the surprise announcement of polls to the Lower House of the Diet, she has launched the Party of Hope, drawing a number of parliamentarians from across the spectrum, including the ruling camp. She has even pledged that her new party would field candidates across the country. In fact, Ms. Koike has been quick to exploit Mr. Abe's decision to seek a fresh mandate more than a year in advance as merely a device to shore up power.

But the Tokyo Governor, in turn, would also be mindful of criticism that she is abandoning her current responsibilities with the plunge into national politics. This is especially so given the coming Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2020, and any impression that she is abdicating the preparatory work could be damaging. Meanwhile, the divided and demoralised opposition Democratic Party, in the midst of a leadership crisis, could work to project Mr. Abe as a symbol of relative stability especially at a time when the North Korean crisis shows no sign of abating. His own personal ratings have also seen a remarkable revival, after allegations of his links to controversial transactions in a land deal had led to a significant dip in opinion polls. The Prime Minister still has his share of challenges to contend with. A new anti-conspiracy legislation to combat terrorism was criticised for lack of public scrutiny and for incorporating intrusive provisions on individual privacy and free speech. Even if he can win a re-election, regaining the current two-thirds majority for his party is far from certain. Such a tally is critical for Mr. Abe to legislate the controversial revision to Japan's pacifist constitution, over which he has staked his reputation. In substantial terms, though, voters may have little to choose between the conservative nationalist stances advocated by Mr. Abe and Ms. Koike.

WILL SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN BE A SUCCESS?

► **Bezawada Wilson**

In the third year since its launch, the purpose of Swachh Bharat is still not clear. We have to understand one thing: this entire campaign is to make India clean. But the people who actually make the country swachh (clean), and have kept it swachh so far, have been left behind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to achieve this goal without their participation.

The caste link
To clean the country, you have to address the problems of those who have spent a lifetime cleaning the country. You come out with your brooms and clean for a day. It is a photo opportunity for most of you. But I want to ask, what of the remaining 364 days? Who will clean your dirt? In India, there is an inextricable link between occupation and caste; the occupation of manual scavenging is linked with caste. We have to break the link between caste and occupation before we set out to achieve Swachh Bharat. It cannot be achieved by preaching 'cleanliness is next to godliness'. You have made certain communities from particular castes clean the country. If that were not the case, why is it that for the last 4,000 years, the same communities are cleaning the countryside? Without breaking the chain, those who make Bharat swachh will never be a part of the campaign. You will be projecting an illusion and to promote that, you will conceive of campaigns where the success of the illusion will depend on how well you promote it.

The Prime Minister has already missed the target before he set out to achieve the goal. He has to come out openly and say that caste is the root cause of the problem he wishes to annihilate. He has to say that despite the Constitution declaring the abolition of untouchability in Article 17, it is still practised by perpetuating occupations such as scavenging. The cause has not been made clear by the Prime Minister. Cleaning India is not a spiritual experience and he should not glorify it. In the Indian context, manual scavenging is a misery, drudgery, so one cannot worship it. Can a manual scavenger worship his occupation by cleaning someone's faeces? One has to begin by recasting society and its target, reconstructing society first by breaking the links between occupation castes. Slogans like 'Clean-up India' are an illusion.

Shaming no solution
People are not using toilets because they neither have access nor the capacity to use one. You cannot organise campaigns to shame them. If your priority is the poor, let them choose what they want. The Constitution says the state cannot interfere in people's lives. But by appointing whistle-blowers who shame those who do not use toilets, the state is terrorising people.

Then, let us come to the toilets being constructed. Each toilet requires a septic tank. My question is, who will clean the



septic tank? Instead of modernising the sewer lines and septic tanks and investing money and energy on smart techniques of sanitation, you are adding more problems to the existing problem. You have no concern for those who are dying cleaning sewers. People who have given up their lives in keeping Bharat clean, you have not spoken about their Right to Life. All of this shows the insensitivity in setting this goal. The sewers are being cleaned by those very people shamed in the campaign. Every month, there is news about people dying in manholes after being ordered to clean them. Why hasn't any thought gone into mechanised cleaning of manholes in the city? Why is it the job of the most depressed man to clean up and lose his life in the process?

Bezawada Wilson is national convener of the Safai Karmachari Andolan. He was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2016

Swachhta (cleanliness) was an idea first articulated by Mahatma Gandhi, who said that sanitation is even more important than political freedom. A mission as fundamentally transformative as Swachh Bharat will not only result in intended physical outcomes but also a lifestyle and mindset change.

The demand-driven performance in the last three years is anchored in the passion with which Prime Minister Narendra Modi transformed this mission into a project of the people. He is the first Prime Minister to have spoken of sanitation from the ramparts of the Red Fort, on August 15, 2014. In his scheme of things, sanitation is social transformation and is as, if not more, important than economic transformation.

Mission on course
How are we faring on the toilet construction front? In the short span of three years, about 50 million toilets have been constructed in rural India, increasing the coverage from 39% to 69% now; another 3.8 million have sprung up in cities and towns and another 1.4 million are presently under construction. As against this, only 300,000 toilets were built during the 10-year period between 2004 and 2014.

So far, 248,000 villages have been re-

corrected from the ignominy of open defecation; 203 districts, over one-third of the total, have banished open defecation. Five States have declared themselves Open Defecation Free (ODF) in rural areas: Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Uttarakhand and Haryana. About 1,200 of our cities and towns, about one-third of the total, have already become ODF. More importantly, all ODF claims are scrutinised by third-party independent verification.

One might cynically argue that building toilets is easier than putting them to use. This is valid only up to a point. Credible surveys show that 85% of toilets built under this mission are being used. Long-inculcated or forced habits take time to change, but they definitely will. The alternative to not using toilets is to walk long distances either at night, as is the case mostly with women and girl children, or at sunrise. This is more a forced option and a habit than a preferred choice. Such habits must be made to vanish, and will for sure.

It's about women
Prime Minister Modi's mission will work for sure since its success will have the most liberating impact on the women of our country. Surely no one can seriously believe that defecating in the open is a safe and viable option for women.

All houses being built under the 'Housing for All' mission will have toilets and the title will vest in the name of women, either individually or jointly. This is about women's empowerment, freeing them from domestic subjugation besides liberating them from humiliating open defecation.

Proper integration of various components of the sanitation chain such as ensuring water supply, seepage management, sewerage networks, prevention of manual scavenging and solid waste management form the key for the Swachh Bharat Mission. Given the efforts underway to make this chain work, the way forward is towards a Clean India.

Cynics and critics may point at something lacking here or there. They cannot, however, question the need for Swachh Bharat. With such consensus and the evidence avail-

able so far, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan will work — the only alternative is neither affordable nor viable in an aspirational India. The ongoing mass mobilisation campaign 'Swachhata Hi Seva' highlights sanitation as the real service to the nation. We owe a 'Swachh Bharat' to the Mahatma on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary in 2019.

The key problem with the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) is that the government is primarily focussed on promotions and events of a repackaged scheme than its implementation.

The SBM was earlier known as the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan under the UPA government. Moreover, duplicate entries, ghost beneficiaries and missing households were the first stumbling blocks in SBM, as pointed out by researchers from the Accountability Initiative of the Centre for Policy Research in a study conducted in December 2015. The study tracked beneficiaries across 7,500 households in 10 districts and five States. This made even the World Bank jittery, which is why it downgraded the project and refused to release the first instalment of a \$1.5 billion loan. The overall ratings have gone down on three parameters in the World Bank report dated February 2, 2017: progress towards achievement of programme development objectives from 'satisfactory' to 'moderately satisfactory'; overall implementation progress from 'satisfactory' to 'moderately unsatisfactory'; and overall risk rating from 'nil' to 'substantial'.

Rural skew
For 2017-18, the government has allocated ₹13,948 crore for the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) project; for the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) project, the allocation was merely ₹2,300 crore. This has to be seen in the light of the 2011 Census, according to which 31.16% of the total population lives in urban areas. Also, the growth of population in urban areas is 32% over a decade and rural is 12%. The fact that the urban population is growing at a much more rapid rate has been ignored by the government. As for the national capital, the only instalment the Modi government released to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi was in 2014-15; no money has been given since then.

In urban areas, huge landfill sites running beyond capacity are the biggest problem. Decentralisation, segregation of garbage at source, and encouraging community/household treatment of waste is the only viable alternative. These alternatives have been successfully implemented at various places including Alappuzha in Kerala. The Centre for Science and Environment, in its survey of June 2016, assessed Alappuzha as one of the leading cities in terms of innovation and improvement of the SWM, but the government's Swachh Survekshan rated it poorly, which reflects the ill-conceived direction of SBM-U.

Expanding the common ground

► **Harsh V. Pant**

Hours after U.S. Secretary of Defence James Mattis landed in Kabul, he was welcomed with six rockets landing near Kabul's international airport, as if to remind Washington what's at stake in the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan. This visit came weeks after the Trump administration unveiled its South Asia strategy which in many ways marks a radical departure from the past by putting Pakistan on notice and bringing India to the centre stage of Washington's Afghanistan policy.

This was reinforced by Gen. Mattis during his visit to India this week when he suggested India and the U.S. would work together to fight terrorism. "There can be no tolerance of terrorist safe havens," he said. "As global leaders, India and the United States resolve to work together to eradicate this scourge." While announcing his new Afghanistan policy, U.S. President Donald Trump had mentioned, "We appreciate India's important contributions to stability in Afghanistan, but India makes billions of dollars in trade with the U.S., and we want them to help us more with Afghanistan, especially in the area of economic assistance and development."

In line with this, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made it clear that while "there shall not be boots from India on the ground in Afghanistan," New Delhi will be stepping up its development and capacity-building engagement with Afghanistan.

Wider role in Kabul
India has decided to take up 116 "high-impact community developmental projects" in 31 provinces of Afghanistan. India and Afghanistan have also agreed to "strengthen security cooperation", with New Delhi agreeing "to extend further assistance for the Afghan national defence and security forces in fighting the scourge of terrorism, organised crime, trafficking of narcotics and money laundering". India will be training Afghan police officers along with Afghan soldiers. This is aimed at sending out a message to Pakistan, which continues to assert that India has "zero political and military role" in Afghanistan.

After handing over four attack helicopters to Kabul as part of its assistance package, India is keen to expand the scope of its security cooperation with Afghanistan which had remained limited in the past not only due to geographical constraints, but also due to Wash-



ington's desire to limit India's security engagement in the country.

The U.S. is sending about 3,000 more troops to Afghanistan, most of which are preparing to arrive in the coming weeks. "A lot is riding on this of course as we look toward how do we put an end to this fighting and the threat of terrorism to the Afghan people," Gen. Mattis said in Kabul. "We are here to set the military and security conditions for that but recognise ultimately the responsibility for the Afghan leadership to step up and fully own the war."

The convergence between India and the U.S. on Pakistan has evolved at an extraordinary pace. The Trump administration's hard-line approach on Pakistan's support for terrorism comes at a time when New Delhi has led an active global campaign to marginalise Islamabad and bring its role as a state sponsor of terror to the forefront of the global community. During Gen. Mattis's visit,

Ms. Sitharaman reminded the U.S. that "the very same forces which did find safe haven in Pakistan were the forces that hit New York as well as Mumbai". Mr. Trump had made it clear that Washington "can no longer be silent about Pakistan's safe havens for terrorist organisations, the Taliban and other groups that pose a threat to the region and beyond". The Xiamen BRICS declaration earlier this month also listed Pakistan-based terror organisations for the first time. It is not surprising, therefore, that Pakistan's Foreign Minister has had to admit that terrorist Hafiz Saeed and terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) are a "liability" for his country and for the South Asian region.

The visit of Gen. Mattis also underscored the growing salience of defence ties in shaping the trajectory of Indo-U.S. relations. Washington is no longer coy about selling sensitive military technologies to India. China's growing assertiveness in the wider Indo-Pacific is a shared concern and this was reflected in the reiteration by the two countries of the critical importance of freedom of navigation, overflight and unimpeded lawful commerce in the global commons. Bilateral defence ties have been growing in recent years, "underpinned by a stra-

tegic convergence". As Gen. Mattis suggested, the U.S. is looking forward to "sharing some of our most advanced defence technologies" with India "to further deepen the robust defence trade and technology collaboration between our defence industries."

The sale of 22 Sea Guardian Unmanned Aerial Systems, which was announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. earlier this year, is high on the agenda. With this deal, the Indian Navy will not only acquire the world's most advanced maritime reconnaissance drone, it will also lead to greater defence technology sharing.

As India and the U.S. expand military cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, new alignments are emerging which have the potential to reshape the regional security architecture. In the past, India had been reluctant to play an active role in East and Southeast Asia. Now as part of its 'Act East' policy, India's engagement with the region has become more robust and Washington has been encouraging India to shape the regional strategic realities more potently. At a time when regional security in the wider Indo-Pacific has taken a turn for the worse, the U.S. is looking at India to shore up its presence in the region.

Centre to review flexi-fares on select trains, says Goyal

NEW DELHI: The Union government will review the flexi-fare system introduced in premium trains last year, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday. The Railways were also planning to reset its timetable by reducing the travel time for 600-700 trains through rescheduling and increasing speed, he said. "We are holding discussions to review flexi-fare system in a way that passengers do not face inconvenience and the Railways are also able to meet its revenues. There are chances of a few changes in the flexi-fare system," Mr. Goyal said at a press conference. Minister of State Railways Manoj Sinha said the government was not considering any hike in the rail fares at present.



The Railways introduced the flexi-fare scheme in September last year in Rajdhani, Duronto and Shatabdi trains, under which 10% of the seats were sold at normal fare. The fare was increased thereafter by 10% for every 10% of the berths

sold. The highest fare was 50% more than the normal price of the ticket. The Railways had delayed the release of its timetable by a month to November 1 to redraft it focussing on speed and efficiency. The Railways are also in discussions with the Indian Space Research Organisation to use GPS technology to monitor trains for punctuality. "My preliminary assessment is that travel time will be reduced on 600-700 trains when we increase train speed and rewrite the timetable via organisation research keeping in mind efficiency and better utilisation of rail assets," Mr. Goyal said, adding that around 48 ordinary mail or express trains would be upgraded to "superfast services."

Maintenance work The timetable would also be realigned keeping railway safety in mind so that stoppage of traffic for maintenance work gets priority. "We have ordered that whenever a safety team demands a traffic block, it should be immediately given," Mr. Goyal announced. This move holds importance in the light of derailment of Utkal Express near the Khatauli railway station in Uttar Pradesh that killed at least 21 people and injured more than 90 in August. The preliminary probe had found that the Khatauli station officials did not allow stoppage of traffic for repairs and the maintenance team started working on the track without due permission.



Centre defends decision to deport Rohingya

NEW DELHI: The Home Ministry has replied to a notice issued by the National Human Rights Commission over the planned deportation of Rohingya Muslims. The Ministry is learnt to have defended its decision, deeming Rohingya "illegal immigrants" from Myanmar. The deportations would be done as per the laid-down procedure. A Ministry spokesperson confirmed that a report had been sent to the NHRC. Another Ministry official said a factual report was sent to the NHRC and the various provisions of Foreigners Act and Passport Act, which bar foreigners from illegally staying in the country, have been mentioned in the reply. "The decision to deport the Rohingya rests with the executive. This was told to the Supreme Court as well. The same reply has been given to the National Human Rights Commission" an official said. Taking cognisance of media reports, including The Hindu's, the NHRC had asked the Home Ministry about the government's plan to deport the Rohingya by setting up "detention centres". It observed that the "refugees are no doubt foreign nationals but they are human beings". The Home Ministry is learnt to have told the NHRC that a procedure for detection and

deportation of illegal immigrants existed under the Foreigners Act, 1946 and that consolidated instructions were issued afresh on April 19, 2014. In its affidavit filed in the Supreme Court on September 18, the Home Ministry said, "A fragile north-eastern corridor may become further destabilised in case of stridency of Rohingya militants, which the Central government has found to be growing, if permitted to continue. There is also a serious potential and possibility of eruption of violence against the Buddhists who are Indian citizens who stay on Indian soil, by the radicalised Rohingya." "Tedious" process On August 19, the Home Ministry issued a circular, asking all States to identify illegal immigrants and deport them as per the procedure. An official said that identifying an undocumented citizen was a "tedious" process and the final decision lay with a tribunal, set up in such cases to determine their nationality. "The local police first enquires if the person is not an Indian citizen. He or she will be subject to trial and, if the tribunal decides against the subject, the deportation process will begin. A communication will be sent to the Myanmar government to verify their address," the official said.

'Do not follow those who undermine your dignity': journalist Ravish Kumar urges PM Modi

NEW DELHI: The issue made headlines soon after renowned journalist Gauri Lankesh's assassination. One Nikhil Dadhich, from Surat, posted a seriously offensive and insensitive tweet after Lankesh's murder. Not only was the language of the tweet derogatory, he seemed to approve Lankesh's killing. PM Modi follows Dadhich on Twitter. There are many other people whose tweets reek of intolerance and PM Modi happens to follow them. NDTV's senior journalist Ravish Kumar expressed disappointment over this and posted a letter on media channel's website saying that following such people does not befit the dignity of PM's office. "The sad part is that you happen to follow some of these people on Twitter who use grotesque language and indiscriminately dole out threats.

And you have continued to subscribe to their accounts even after their malevolence was highlighted in public and sparked controversies. That such people should be able to claim or have any affiliation to you does not befit either you or the dignity of your office," his appeal to PM said. Kumar has also cited examples of him being at the receiving end of such tweets or rather threats. The senior journalist has also said that some of these people have been seen in photographs with certain Union Ministers. "I have a question for you. Do you really follow Niraj Dave and Nikhil Dadhich? Why? A few days ago, I shared a couple of screenshots from their WhatsApp group on my Facebook page @ RavishKaPage. An investigation by Pratik Sinha and Neelsh Purohit of AltNews shows that Niraj Dave is a resident of Rajkot and is the Manag-

ing Director of an export company. You follow Niraj Dave. When I asked him not to use abusive language, he replied that he is sad that I am alive," Ravish Kumar wrote. Former Maharashtra Chief Minister and Congress MP Ashok Chavan on Thursday raised concerns over threats to senior journalists Rajdeep Sardesai and Ravish Kumar. The MP from Nanded wrote to Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh seeking protection to both scribes in the wake of attacks on rationalists. Deeming the trend 'extremely dangerous' Chavan has asked Rajnath Singh to intervene and stop the 'attack on the fought pillar of democracy'. The Congress leader claimed that the two senior journalists were doing their jobs in a democratic manner and threats attempting to silence their voices was not acceptable.

Delhi woman Alleges 23 men gang raped her in Bikaner; police arrests six accused



NEW DELHI: According to News18, the woman had gone to Ridmalsar Purohitan, Bikaner, on 25 September to check on a plot that she owns. She was allegedly dragged into an SUV by two men when she was waiting for transport near Khatu Shyam Mandir on the Jaipur Road. The Indian Express quoted her as saying that the duo took her towards Palana via a kutch road. She filed a complaint with the Jai Narayan Vyas Colony police station and said that the two men drove her around "some mines for several hours and repeatedly raped her in the vehicle." They later called up six others who assaulted her. She said she was taken to an office building

where more men raped her. In her police complaint, she has alleged that "about 23" men raped her. However, according to The Times of India, the woman told Bikaner superintendent of police, Sawai Singh Godara, on Tuesday that she was raped by 23 men but in her statement registered before the magistrate under Section 164 of CrP, the woman alleged she was raped by eight men. The woman was abandoned near the same temple from where she was picked up. The Bikaner police has arrested six men in connection with the case. Godara said that the accused have claimed that she was engaged by them as a sex worker through a tout. He further said that the police is verifying all claims and are also on a lookout for the alleged tout. This comes just days after a woman was allegedly gang raped in a moving vehicle in Noida's Sector 39. She was reportedly abducted by three men and left near New Delhi's Akshardham temple. The woman was forcibly pulled into a Mahindra Scorpio near the Golf Course Metro Station and raped in the moving car.

'Economy in free fall but govt praising itself': Yashwant Sinha in fresh attack

NEW DELHI: Former finance minister and senior BJP leader Yashwant Sinha has hit out at the Narendra Modi government again, saying it refused to acknowledge the downturn in the Indian economy and "kept singing praises of themselves, patting their backs". Sinha's attack was the latest in his tirade against the government which has also seen his son and Union minister, Jayant Sinha, come out in defence of the Modi government and finance minister Arun Jaitley. In a stinging rebuttal to Jaitley's comments that Yashwant Sinha was a "job applicant at 80", the former finance told Indian Express in a lengthy interview which appeared on Friday, "If I was a job applicant, he (Jaitley) would not be there in the first place". Yashwant Sinha's criticism of the government came after official data showed India's economic growth sliding to a three-year low in the last quarter, prompting the Opposition to criticise the government for dis-

rupting business activity through demonetisation. Gross domestic product also grew at just 7% in April-June, its slowest pace since the January-March quarter 2014. Sinha wrote a hard-hitting article in the Indian Express on Wednesday criticising the government's economic policies, saying that demonetisation proved to be an "unmitigated economic disaster" and that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was a "badly conceived and poorly implemented" havoc. The next day, his son Jayant's write-up appeared in the Times of India in which he appeared to be countering his father's views, saying that "several articles... draw sweeping conclusions from a narrow set of facts, and quite simply miss the fundamental structural reforms that are transforming the economy". In his latest interview, Yashwant Sinha said the government "completely misread the situation and kept chipping away at the margins,

instead of attacking the problem at its roots." And that's the reason why, year after year, even in this regime, bank NPAs (nonperforming assets) have been going up. In this situation, the first thing that should have been done was to stop the growth of bank NPAs and then deal with them," he said. He added that "40 months down the line, you cannot hide behind the (argument) that these are legacy issues", an apparent reference to the Modi government's frequent claims that some of the problems in the economy were due to alleged wrong policies of the previous Congress-led regime. He also rubbished the government's claims of "structural reforms" to shore up the economy. "First, I don't consider demonetisation as a reform at all... It was an administrative measure, and all the objectives of demonetisation — they appeared as having failed... The entire black money is back in the system. So demonetisation, apart from dis-

rupting the economy, has made no other contribution," he added. In a question on how he foresaw the economy, Sinha said there was very little prospect of big changes before the general elections in 2019, which many expect will test Modi's popularity after his overwhelming victory in 2014. "They have one budget. Next year's budget will be the last regular budget of this government, and the 2019 budget will only be vote-on-account. And whatever they do in the budget of next year will take its own time to produce results. So I don't see results being produced before the election of 2019," Sinha said. "Employment is the most important thing. The economy must grow, private investment must come, the demand in the economy must go up to absorb the present capacity, leading to the creation of fresh capacity." He also asserted that his criticism was not a "father-son" fight in light of Jayant Sinha's write-up.

Trump to skip India in Asia tour, but could meet Modi

NEW DELHI: The White House on Friday announced President Donald Trump will travel to Asia in November, which will take him to China and four other nations but not India. But the trip could lead to a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the Asean summit in Manila that the American leader will attend. Although there has been no announcement by India yet, Prime Minister Modi is expected to attend the regional summit as well, given the "act East Asia" push he unveiled at the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) summit in 2014 and that he returned to participate in every summit since; the last one in 2016. If they do indeed meet in Manila, it will be their third encounter so far, following a day-long, substantive meeting accompanied by their respective delegations in June in Washington DC and an "impromptu interaction" during the G-20 summit in Hamburg,

Germany in July. It will be their first meeting since Trump unveiled his South Asia policy urging India to play a larger role in Afghanistan. New Delhi will focus almost exclusively on development and economic help, but Pakistan has thrown a tantrum expectedly, arguing, without any success, that India be denied a role. Trump's first Asia trip as president on November 3-14 will take him to China and Vietnam and allied countries Japan, South Korea and Philippines. He will attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Dan Nang, in Vietnam and Asean in Manila, Philippines. "The President will participate in a series of bilateral, multilateral, and cultural engagements," the White House said in a statement announcing the trip and the Apec and Asean meetings, "demonstrating his continued commitment to the alliances and partnerships of the United States



in the region." The US president, who will also be accompanied by First Lady Melania Trump, will "discuss the importance of a free and open Indo-Pacific region to America's prosperity and security", said the White House, a possible ref-

ference to the South China Sea disputes involving Beijing's aggressive claims in the region. "He will also emphasize the importance of fair and reciprocal economic ties with America's trade partners," the statement said. North Korea, which poses a direct threat to the US and its allies Japan and South Korea, will also figure in his parleys. "The President's engagements will strengthen the international resolve to confront the North Korean threat and ensure the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," the White House said. President Trump's first foreign trip after taking office in January was to West Asia — Saudi Arabia, Israel, Palestinian National Authority — Belgium and Italy; followed by trips to Poland and Germany for G-20, and a visit to France, marked for history by a never-ending handshake with President Emmanuel Macron.



MILLENNIAL, GEN Z OR BABY BOOMER: FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF TRAVELLER ARE YOU

There's one generation of traveller that's more likely to book a bucket-list vacation than others. And another generation that's more likely to book an outdoor adventure. That's according to a new report which teases out travel habits among Baby Boomers, Generations X and Z. Conducted by Northstar Research Partners for Expedia Media Solutions, the report found a few commonalities, and differences when it comes to the way different generations approach their travel plans. Across all generations,

researchers found that while most American travellers (90%) look for values and deals, their ultimate priority is activities and experiences over discounts when making their travel plans. But there are other patterns that are distinct to different age groups. Here's a snapshot:
Generation Z
As the youngest of the age groups, Gen Z, the generation born after millennials, travel an average of 29 days a year. They are outdoor explorers and are guided by the #YOLO

philosophy. Despite their young age, they seek out bucket-list trip ideas. More than a third travel for concerts, festivals and sporting events. The biggest expenditure for this generation is the flight — which takes up a quarter of their budget. They're more likely to skimp on hotels and are more likely to consider alternative accommodations. Predictably, 90% of Gen Z travelers said their decisions are driven by social media, with Facebook and Instagram being the most influential platforms. Mil-

lennials log more travel days than any other generation at 35 days a year. While they share Gen Z travellers' #YOLO philosophy, they prefer all-inclusive, worry-free beach vacations and spa treatments. More than any other generation, 70% of Millennials also stayed in a hotel on their last trip. But they also spent less of their budget on hotels than Gen X travellers and Baby Boomers. Generation X At 26 days of travel a year, Generation X travels the least of the other generations. The majority of

travellers in this age group travel domestically. They're also deal hunters who are more likely to read reviews before making a decision. Their travel preferences: relaxation, sightseeing vacations and family visits.
Baby boomers
Boomers travel an average of 27 days a year. More than 67% of Boomers are travelling to visit family. Other travel priorities include relaxing and sightseeing vacations, with itineraries filled with museums, historical sites, arts and culture.

Rapid low-cost test for Zika, dengue developed

A new pregnancy strip-like test can quickly and accurately detect Zika and dengue viruses from blood, according to a study which used serum samples from several affected countries including India. The test developed by researchers, including those from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US, accurately diagnoses Zika and dengue and can tell the two mosquito-borne viruses apart. Researchers checked the accuracy of the test by testing blood serum samples taken from people in regions where Zika has hit hardest, including Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, India, Mexico and Panama. It resembles a pregnancy test strip and contains antibodies that react to the presence of Zika or dengue virus, and gold nanoparticles that respond to the antibody reaction. "In light of the problems with Zika virus causing microcephaly - a genetic abnormality resulting in a smaller-than-normal head - and other defects in babies born to infected mothers, it is important a pregnant woman would know if her fever is caused by Zika virus or dengue virus," said Lee Gehrke, a professor at MIT.

To use the test, a medical professional would dip the strip into a tube of either blood serum or whole blood, the study published in the journal *Science Translational Medicine* stated. "If it is a positive test, then we see a dot or a line on the test that results from seeing the gold nanoparticles that signal the antibodies recognising the viral protein," said Gehrke. The test can tell Zika from dengue, and also can distinguish among four different strains of dengue, Gehrke added. Zika and dengue both belong to the same viral family, which are called flaviviruses. They are two closely related viruses spread by the same mosquito, researchers said. The team developed the new test because current testing products sometimes cross-react between Zika and dengue, providing a false positive for Zika when the patient actually has the other virus.

Tech to make skin cancer detection cheap, painless

Costly, time-consuming and painful, a biopsy in the country often leaves cancer patients exhausted much before treatment begins. In an attempt to simplify the process and alleviate the pain, IIT Ropar has come up with rough sketches of what promises to be, a low-cost mechanism to detect skin cancer. The thermal imaging process to detect skin cancer is a mechanism that will make detection of skin cancer considerably cheaper and also ease the existing process, which involves a painful extraction of skin tissues for testing. The research team, headed by professor Ramjee Repaka, proposes to cut the process to a painless 20-minute hospital sitting. The technology uses highly sensitive infrared (IR) thermal cameras to videograph the surface of the skin. The camera designed to capture an 'image' of the thermal activity in the body, maps cellular-level temperature changes during the procedure to confirm presence of cancer cells. "It is a noninvasive and non-contact solution that we are working on," says Ramjee, explaining the procedure. In the first step, a patient is made to place a cold gel pack on the surface of their skin to cool the body temperature. Following this, the skin is allowed to transition to room temperature, while the IR camera records the change in thermal state. "If the human hand is tested, the healthy cells may return to say 37°C (average body temperature), while the cancerous cells will be 0.1°C higher, distinguishing themselves from the remaining cells."

Teens' online friendships as meaningful as face-to-face ones



Online friendships in teenagers are just as intimate and have similar characteristics as offline relationships, a study suggests. Many parents worry about how much time teenagers spend texting, sharing selfies and engaging in other online activities with their friends. However, a study by researchers at the University of California, Irvine in the US, found that many of these digital behaviours serve the same purpose and encompass the same core qualities as face-to-face relationships.

"Increased peer interaction in cyberspace has led to growing concern that today's adolescent friendships are now less intimate and an inadequate substitute for those back in the day that took place in person," said Stephanie Reich, from University of California, Irvine.

"Many contacts between adolescents are mediated through technology and can provide additional opportunities for friends to spend time together, share thoughts and display affection than in offline spaces alone," said Reich. Researchers identified six core characteristics of offline friendships - self-disclosure, validation, companionship, instrumental support, conflict and conflict resolution - and their digital parallels. For each quality, they noted ways in which online interfaces corresponded with or differed from in-person communication. The results are detailed in the May issue of *Adolescent Research Review*. Reich and Yau found that digital exchanges offer more benefits in some areas and carry increased risks in others.

On the plus side, online contact enhances companionship between friends via conversations that can continue throughout the day and night without disrupting others, and it also allows more time to control emotions and calm down before crafting and sending a response to something upsetting. Conversely, friendships can be damaged by gossip and rumors, which spread much faster and farther through cyberspace. "Digital communication may increase the ramifications of conduct due to the permanence of information and the speed by which it travels, but at the core, friendships seem to have the same key characteristics," Reich said. "The majority of adolescents interact electronically most often with individuals they consider friends offline," he said. "So rather than reducing intimacy in these relationships, technology-mediated communication may provide additional benefits to teens as connections occur both face-to-face and online," he added.

Early babies have poor fitness throughout their lives compared to others

Early babies, delivered between 37 and 38 gestational weeks, are more likely to have poor cardio-respiratory fitness - circulatory and respiratory systems - throughout their lives compared with babies born at 39 to 42 weeks, a recent study finds.

Cardio-respiratory fitness reflects the ability of the circulatory, respiratory and muscular systems to supply oxygen to muscles during exercise and is a major indicator of metabolic and cardiovascular health.

According to University of Queensland researchers, babies born even a few weeks early are more likely to have poor physical fitness throughout life. Associate Professor Isabel Ferreira from the University of Queensland in Australia said that babies delivered between 37 and 38 weeks had a 57% higher risk of poor cardio-respiratory fitness throughout their life compared with babies born at 39 to 42 weeks.

"Recent trends towards electively



delivering babies earlier are worrisome in view of the health risks this may bring to the child," Dr Ferreira added. It is becoming increasingly evident that babies born earlier - even by only a few weeks - may face more adverse health outcomes as they get older.

These could include neurological, cognitive and respiratory issues in adolescence and early adulthood. Dr Ferreira said the research had implica-

tions for public health policy. "Health care providers and mothers should be informed of the lifelong health risks that early term deliveries may have on babies and refrain from these unless there is a medical reason," she said. Mothers could be deterred from having scheduled caesarean-sections or induced labour without a medical reason. The research is published in journal of the American Heart Association.

World Heart Day: Watch out for these 5 signs to know if your heart is weak

This World Heart Day, take a step towards ensuring that your heart is healthy. When it comes to heart diseases, being vigilant about signs and symptoms of heart disease is key to catching the ailment in a timely fashion. Rapidly changing lifestyle factors like a sedentary routine, lack of exercise, smoking and the use of tobacco, consumption of alcohol, are some of the factors that increase the risk of cardiovascular diseases, including heart failure. Dr Sundeep Mishra, Professor of Cardiology, AIIMS, New Delhi, clarifies that heart failure does not imply that your heart is failing and there is no looking back. In scientific terms, heart failure is a progressive condition which occurs when the heart muscle weakens or stiffens overtime, reducing the heart's ability to pump blood and oxygen across the body. This denies proper nutrition to all the



organs. Heart failure is confused with heart attack, and most often the symptoms of heart failure are attributed as the tell-tale signs of ageing. Dr Mishra shares 5 symptoms that indicate heart failure:

Shortness of breath: Heart failure can cause the fluid in the body to gather in the lungs which may

cause shortness of breath while carrying out routine activities such as walking or climbing the stairs. If you have trouble breathing while lying down, forcing you to sleep in a sitting position or with multiple pillows, it is an alarm sign to visit a cardiologist immediately. Rapid heartbeat: Heart failure reduces the

heart's capacity to pump blood to all the other organs of the body. In order to make up for the deficiency of oxygen and nutrition supply in the body, sometimes the heart beats at a faster rate, which causes a thumping feeling in the chest. Swelling in the ankles, legs and abdomen: A weak heart muscle leads to a fluid build-up

in the body, occurring a frequent interval. The fluid can collect in the legs, ankles, and abdomen, and in severe cases, in the lungs as well. This manifests as external swelling in the effected body parts. Loss of appetite and sudden weight increase: A build-up of fluid around the gut/stomach area can affect digestion and might cause a loss of appetite, or make one feel sick while eating. One can also experience significant and sudden weight gain, of as much as two to three kilograms in a week. Therefore, it is important not to always associate a sudden weight gain with binge eating or drinking. Frequency of urination: Heart failure effects the functioning of all vital organs, including the kidneys. Owing to reduced blood supply to the kidneys, their functioning becomes weak, which impacts the filtering capacity. This leads to a marked decrease in the frequency of urination.

ArcelorMittal plans \$1 billion investment in Mexico by 2020: Lakshmi Mittal

MEXICO CITY: ArcelorMittal, the world's largest steelmaker, will invest \$1 billion in Mexico over the next three years, in part to boost its North American trade operations, the company said on Thursday.

Mexico is a key production platform for the company. During the first half of 2017 ArcelorMittal produced nearly \$12 billion of steel in North America while shipping about \$11 billion from the three-country region linked by the 23-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement, which is currently being renegotiated.

"I am delighted to announce a \$1 billion investment in Mexico over the next three years so we can meet Mexican demand for steel products, which is growing rapidly," the company's chairman and chief executive, Lakshmi Mittal, said at an event in southern Chiapas

state attended by President Enrique Pena Nieto.

The event launched the government's new special economic zones in southern Mexico, the country's poorest region, in a bid to attract infrastructure investment.

Steel magnate Mittal said that "starting immediately" ArcelorMittal will modernize assets at the Pacific coast port of Lazaro Cardenas, one of Mexico's busiest commercial hubs, as well as "downstream operations" aimed at meeting Mexican consumer demand.

Lazaro Cardenas is home to ArcelorMittal's primary steelmaking operations in Mexico.

The investment covers construction of a new hot strip mill, which upon completion in about three years will allow production of 2.5 million tonnes of flat rolled steel. "Coils from the new hot strip mill will be supplied to domestic,



non-auto, general industry customers," the company said in a statement.

The spending will also boost ArcelorMittal's Mexican mining operations and will "support ArcelorMittal's NAFTA operations by providing high-quality semi-finished steel slabs," the company added.

There was no further detail on how the investment will boost trade within the NAFTA block, and the company's press office did not immediately return an after-hours call for comment.

ArcelorMittal operates six facilities at three ports in Mexico.

ArcelorMittal currently produces about 4 million tonnes per year, but after the investment is completed, annual production is seen growing by about a third to reach 5.3 million tonnes.

In addition to flat rolled steel,

the company expects to produce about 1.8 million tonnes of long steel and 1 million tonnes of semi-finished slabs, according to the statement.

In 2007, ArcelorMittal bought a \$1.4 billion steel plant at Lazaro Cardenas, alongside another plant it already owned at the port.

Separately on Thursday, Mexican steelmaker Ternium announced plans to build new facilities in Mexico and Colombia.

Ternium's Mexican plans include a new hot rolling mill with an investment of \$1.1 billion. The facility's annual production capacity will be 3.7 million tonnes and it is scheduled to be operational by the second half of 2020, Ternium said in a statement. The plant will produce products for the auto sector as well as other industries including construction, energy and home appliances.

Etihad Airways names Tony Douglas new CEO

DUBAI: Gulf carrier Etihad Airways on Thursday said it had appointed former Abu Dhabi airport chief Tony Douglas as its group chief executive officer following the exit of James Hogan early this year.

Douglas will take over the charge of the new position in January next year, Etihad Airways said in a statement today. As of now, Ray Gammell has been serving as Interim Group CEO since May. Etihad, which is the national carrier of United Arab Emirates (UAE), is a strategic investment partner in domestic full service carrier Jet Airways, holding 24% stake in it. At present, Etihad Group's chief of support services Harsh Mohan is its nominee to the Jet Airways board.

Etihad's earlier board members in Jet Airways--Hogan and CFO James Rigney--quit the airline earlier this year and thereby automatically resigned from it. Douglas joins Etihad from the UK's Ministry of Defence,



where he had served as CEO of the defence equipment and support department, responsible for procuring and supporting all the equipment and services for the British Armed Forces, the airline said.

He has also held, in the past, senior positions in the UAE, including as CEO of Abu Dhabi Airports Company and as CEO of Abu Dhabi Ports

Company, it said. "We are delighted to have Tony return to Abu Dhabi to lead Etihad. He has guided the transformation of large organisations in the UAE and the UK, and he understands the UAE and the region. He is also deeply knowledgeable about commercial aviation and keenly familiar with Etihad's challenges and opportunities in a rapidly changing

industry," chairman of the Board of Etihad Aviation Group Al Mazrouei said in the release.

As group CEO, Douglas will work with the Board and leadership team to expand and implement a range of strategic initiatives to position Etihad for sustained success in an increasingly competitive regional and global aviation market, the airline said.

"Etihad and its talented workforce have helped to reshape global and regional aviation. With new challenges and new opportunities, Tony will guide the company into the next phase of its development," Gammell said. Etihad also said that Douglas will be supported by an experienced group leadership team which includes Gammell, who will return to his position as Group chief people & performance officer, Ricky Thirion, interim Group CFO, Kevin Knight, Group chief strategy & planning officer, among others.

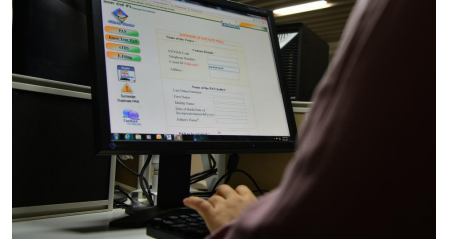
I-T told to widen net, to add 1.25 crore new taxpayers this fiscal

NEW DELHI: The Income Tax Department has been tasked to add 1.25 crore new return filers in the current financial year as part of the government's plan to widen the tax base in the country.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), that makes policy decisions for the I-T department, has directed the taxman to undertake "focused efforts to significantly increase the tax base in the current financial year of 2017-18."

The target, the CBDT directive accessed by PTI said, is to add 1.25 crore new I-T return filers. A new I-T return filer is defined as a person who has not filed return in the previous years but is liable to do so under the law. The taxman has to add such entities and get them to do the filing of their I-T returns.

The Hyderabad and the Pune regions of the department have been given the highest targets to add 12.8 lakh and 11.8 lakh new filers respectively. They are followed by Chennai with 10.47 lakh new filers and Chandigarh at 10.41 lakh fresh filers. The plan to widen the tax base in the country was also discussed and finalised during the recently concluded 'Rajswa Gyansangam' conference of top I-T officials held here. The CBDT, in an official



statement, had said during the conference "strategising of tax base were discussed in detail with special focus on verification of data collected during demonetisation and statement of financial transactions (SFT)."

"The CBDT aims to add a sizeable number of new taxpayers in the current fiscal. It was directed that special focus be given to popularise the Operation Clean Money portal such that an environment of voluntary compliance can be created," it had said.

As per official data, the total number of all returns (electronic + paper) filed during the financial year 2016-17 was 5.43 crore, 17.3% more than the returns filed during the 2015-16 fiscal. Similarly for fiscal 2016-17 (till June 30), 1.26 crore new taxpayers (return filers + non-filers making tax payments) were added to the tax base.

Amid Sinha-govt row, India's flagging economy draws dire warnings of recession

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power on a euphoric wave of promises to boost India's economy, add millions of jobs and bring "good times" to the developing nation. Three years later, the country's economic prospects look decidedly grimmer. India's economic expansion has slowed to its lowest level in three years. Small businesses are struggling, or even shutting down, after demonetisation and implementation of the Goods and Services Tax.

Modi's own allies warn of a dire outlook, with some raising the spectre of an economic depression. While government ministers have urged patience, analysts and others in the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party are not so sanguine about the current trends.

"A hard landing appears inevitable," Yashwant Sinha, a BJP lawmaker and former finance minister, said in a stinging commentary on Wednesday.

He accused the government of rushing through poorly planned economic reforms, which he said will hobble home-grown businesses for years to come.

"Private investment has shrunk as never before in two decades, industrial production has all but collapsed, agriculture is in distress, construction industry, a big employer of the work force, is in the doldrums... exports have dwindled," he said. Another leading BJP lawmaker, Subramanian Swamy, said India was facing the possibility of a "major depression."

"The economy is in a tailspin. Yes, it can crash. We need to do a lot of good things to revive the economy. Even a tailspin can be made to steady."

If nothing is done, we are heading for a major depression," he said last week. Last week, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development scaled back its economic growth forecast for India to 6.7% for the 2018 fiscal year, down from 7.3% predicted earlier this year. Other organisations and banks have made similar downward revisions.

Economists have said the country needs to maintain 8% growth to add enough jobs for some 12 million young people joining the work force every year.

The warnings have been sobering for Modi, who appointed a new Economic Advisory Council this week to offer him advice independent of the finance ministry. Economists said that may be too little, too late.

"The rot has set in. I don't see how the Economic Advisory Committee will help," said Biswajeet Dhar, an economist with New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University. And "whether the government will act on that advice is yet to be seen".

Tata Capital names Rajiv Sabharwal as new CEO and MD

NEW DELHI: Tata Capital on Thursday named Rajiv Sabharwal as its next CEO and MD who will take charge from April next year. Sabharwal will join Tata Capital in January 2018 and would take over the position from current Managing Director & CEO Praveen P Kadle, Tata Capital said. Kadle will assume other responsibilities in the Tata Group effective April 1, 2018. "With India's financial sector growing at a rapid pace, we are confident that his extensive experience will be highly beneficial as we expand our footprint in this industry. His expertise and knowledge will help Tata Capital chart the next phase of growth in

financial services," N Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons said in a statement. An IIT graduate from Delhi and post graduate from IIM Lucknow, Sabharwal currently is a partner at True North Managers LLP, formerly India Value Fund Advisors. He is a banking veteran of over 26 years experience and served as executive director on ICICI Bank's board before joining True North. The Tata Group subsidiary caters to retail, corporate and institutional financial needs through consumer finance, advisory services, commercial finance, infrastructure finance, investment banking, private equity advisory and credit card.

Aeris Communications partners BSNL for IOT solutions

NEW DELHI: Aeris Communications on Friday entered into a partnership with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to provide packaged Internet of Things (IoT) solutions and services to small, medium businesses and public sector undertakings (PSUs) in India.

The company will leverage BSNL's wide network

coverage, to provide a comprehensive, end-to-end IoT services platform for enterprises, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and service providers.

"Our partnership will ensure faster permeation of IoT across India and help businesses and PSUs gain remarkable advantages," Rishi Bhatnagar, President,

Aeris Communications India said. The collaboration is aimed at propagating IoT projects across the country as part of the digital transformation drive. We will, through this partnership, translate the potential of IoT into tangible benefits on the ground," added Anupam Shrivastava, Chairman and Managing Director, BSNL.

Renting an office in Mumbai costs more than one in London, Dubai: Knight Frank

MUMBAI: Three Indian metros - Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi - have earned the highest prime office yields among 34 leading international markets, a Knight Frank report said on Thursday.

The flagship global report reveals the trends shaping 40 leading international cities across the globe.

Bengaluru topped the table with 10 per cent yields followed by Delhi at 9.20 per cent and Mumbai 8.50 per cent, the report said.



Bengaluru's Whitefield is the most affordable technology district among 29 global tech hubs in the world, the report noted. Ranking 25th on the Tech Districts Index,

Volkswagen takes another \$3 billion hit over diesel emissions scandal

BERLIN: Volkswagen added provisions of around €2.5 billion (\$3 billion) on Friday to the mounting total from its diesel emissions scandal, which has already cost the company around €20 billion.

"The reason is an increase in provisions relating to the buyback/retrofit program for 2.0l TDI vehicles, which is part of the settlements in North America that is proving to be far more technically complex and time consuming," it said in a statement.

Its shares dropped after the statement and were down 3.1% by 0757 GMT, at the bottom of the German blue-chip DAX index, which was up 0.2%.

Volkswagen has recalled around 11 million vehicles worldwide since admitting two years ago to manipulating emissions tests in the United States. About 8.5 million of those are in Europe.

"You have to ask if this is a bottomless pit," said one Frankfurt-based trader.

Volkswagen said the extra provisions would be reflected in its third-quarter operating results, which are due to be published on Oct 27. Porsche SE, which owns a 30.8% stake in Volkswagen, said the new provisions would also affect its results, but stuck to a wide range for its expected 2017 post-tax profit of between €2.1 and 3.1 billion.

Munich prosecutors arrested a former board member of Porsche in connection with the emissions scandal at Audi, a person familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

Audi admitted in November 2015, two months after parent Volkswagen's diesel emissions scandal broke, that its 3.0 litre V6 diesel engines were fitted with an auxiliary control device deemed illegal in the United States.

Gurugram's Cyber City at \$20.40 per sq ft beat Madrid's Julian Camarillo area at \$13.65 per sq ft and Kuala Lumpur's Cyberjaya Office Market \$11.55 per sq ft in office rents, it further said.

In the Skyscrapers Index, Mumbai ranks sixth in terms of growth in six months to the second quarter in 2017. "Prime office rents in the upper floors of high rises in Mumbai see 1.8 per cent growth, among the top six international rent appreciating markets," the report said. The India's financial capital pipped iconic global destinations such as London, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Dubai, it added. Established office markets such as Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, on the other hand, saw negative growth.

Bengaluru emerged as the most valued destination on the Employment and Property Cost Index with total cost (salary and property) of \$1,264,000, the report said. In terms of eating out spends, Bengaluru and Mumbai topped the chart among 10 future cities, and among the top five cities in terms of households with significant incomes.



Umar Akmal banned for 3 games, fined Rs.1 million by Pakistan Cricket Board

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board today banned controversial batsman Umar Akmal for three matches following breach of central contract. The parent body imposing a hefty fine of one million rupees with additional sanction on plying his trade in private T20 leagues. The PCB today announced that chairman Najam Sethi had reviewed the recommendations of the inquiry committee, which found Akmal guilty

of violating clauses 2.2.5, 4.1 and 4.4 of his Central Contract. The PCB Chairman as a result agreed to impose the following sanctions on Akmal. Imposition of a three (03) match ban on Umar Akmal from participation in the next international or domestic matches, whichever come first; Imposition of a Fine amounting to Rs. 1,000,000/- (Pakistan Rupees One Million Only); and No NOC for participation in

any foreign leagues/tournaments/matches be issued to Umar Akmal for a period of two (02) months. Sanction from playing private league means that Akmal will not be able to take part in the lucrative Bangladesh Premier League or South Africa's Global T20 league. The batsman was already signed up by a franchise to play in the Global T20 and was also in demand in the BPL both scheduled to start from early

November. PCB Chairman, Najam Sethi said he had imposed the sanctions with a heavy heart but with the hope that it served as a precedent for all cricketers, who should be mindful of their obligations and the consequences of their actions. The PCB chairman formed the inquiry committee after Umar Akmal had an altercation with Pakistan's head coach Mickey Arthur at the National Cricket Academy last month.

He later alleged in the media that Arthur had abused him. A PCB official made it clear the committee had found Umar guilty of violating his contract clauses but had not investigated the matter of Arthur using abusive language against the batsman. "That is something for the chairman to decide. If he wants he can set up an inquiry committee to probe the allegations made by Umar against the head coach," he said.

Serena Williams' coach happy to let her handle pressure points

LONDON: Next year's U.S. Open is set to allow coaching during matches but the man who guides Serena Williams has vowed to keep quiet for fear of making the 23-times grand slam champion too reliant on him in high-pressure situations. Patrick Mouratoglou, who began coaching the American in 2012, went on to say that offering advice to the 36-year-old during matches could also stop her doing what she does best -- turn matches around. The American in hoping to return to action in early 2018 following the birth of her first child last month and has not ruled out launching an audacious defence of her Australian Open title in January. "I don't want her to start thinking she

needs someone to turn a match when she's in trouble," Mouratoglou told Reuters in an interview at the U.S. Open earlier this month. "She's been doing this better than anyone for 20 years. I don't want her to start to think like this. It would hurt one of her main strengths and would be wrong." On-court coaching -- where players can call their coach onto court once per set -- is currently allowed on the WTA Tour but not at the four grand slams or on the men's ATP Tour. At this year's U.S. Open, players in singles qualifying were allowed to consult their coach -- from the stands -- between points and at the end of games, so long as they were ready for the next point.

Australian cricket team first victim of new ICC law on 'fake fielding'

MUMBAI: The ongoing JLT Cup in Australia provided one of the first instances where a new rule pertaining to on field play, released by the International Cricket Council (ICC) recently, was put into practice by the umpires. Among the several new playing conditions rules released by the sport's global governing body is one to prevent 'fake fielding', which often creates doubts in the minds of batsmen that could lead to their dismissals.

Playing in the JLT Cup match for Queensland Bulls against the Cricket Australia (CA) XI on Friday, Marnus Labuschagne's error saw the umpires adding five additional runs to CA XI's total for his 'fake fielding'. In the 27th over of CA XI, Labuschagne dived to his right side and failed to stop the ball which was hit in his direction

by CA XI batsman Param Uppal. The fielder failed to collect the ball but as the batsmen were scurrying for a run, he faked to have stopped it and gestured throwing it towards the wickets, reported Fox Sports. CA XI batsman Clint Hinchliffe got alarmed and increased his pace to complete the run, but soon realised that the fielder had faked the throw. The umpire spotted the mistake and immediately signalled the scorers to add five more runs to CA XI's total, despite Labuschagne's apology. The Queensland Bulls were charged five penalty runs according to the new ICC rule of 'intentionally deceiving or distracting a batsman'. The report claimed that such a rule was finalised in Australian cricket even before the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) introduced their updated laws on the game earlier this year.



UEFA Europa League: Centurion Olivier Giroud helps Arsenal win, Everton held

EUROPA: Olivier Giroud scored his 100th Arsenal goal as a youthful Gunners side beat BATE Borisov 4-2 in Belarus in the Europa League on Thursday, as Everton were held to a shock 2-2 draw by 10-man Apollon Limassol at Goodison Park.

Theo Walcott netted twice for the Gunners and Rob Holding was also on target as they eased to a second victory in as many matches in Group H. Arsene Wenger's side beat Cologne 3-1 at home in their first outing a fortnight ago, and the Germans lost again on Thursday, going down 1-0 at home to Red Star Belgrade.

Wenger made nine changes to the Arsenal team after they travelled to eastern Europe on the back of a 2-0 win over West Bromwich Albion on Monday. Only Shkodran Mustafi and Mohamed Elneny kept their places, while a number of youngsters featured with Joe Willock being handed a first senior start. It was two comparative veterans who combined for Arsenal's early opener, though, with Jack Wilshere setting up Walcott to head in from close range. Walcott made it 2-0 midway through the first half after an awful error by BATE goalkeeper Denis Scherbitski, who miscued a clearance straight to the England forward. Holding then bundled in his first Arsenal goal but a superb header by Mirko Ivanic allowed the Belarusian champions to pull one back before the half-hour.

Holding and Walcott hit the woodwork and Giroud converted from the penalty spot early in the second half, becoming the 19th player to reach a

century of goals for Arsenal. That was not the end of the scoring, though, as Mikhail Gordeichuk got the hosts' second of the night. "When you score four goals away from home, you're always likely to win," Walcott told BT Sport. "There was a chance for me to take the penalty for a hat-trick, but knowing Olivier was on 99 goals, it was a great opportunity for him so that's why he took the penalty." Spaniard Hector Yuste snatched Cypriots Apollon a point at Everton. Everton were stunned less than 12 minutes in as Adrian Sardinero took advantage of a mistake from Ashley Williams to bundle into the net. But just as the crowd were starting to get on the home side's backs, Wayne Rooney pounced on a woeful back-pass to score his third goal since returning to Goodison Park from Manchester United.

Winger Nikola Vlasic, 19, came off the bench and slotted into the corner midway through the second half to score his first Everton goal. But after Valentin Roberge was red-carded, Ronald Koeman's out-of-form hosts switched off and Yuste flicked in a header from a free-kick. Everton are now bottom of Group E, three points behind leaders Atalanta, who drew 1-1 against Lyon. Milan survive Rijeka scare Patrick Cutrone struck in the dying seconds to grab AC Milan a 3-2 victory over Croatian visitors Rijeka in a dramatic Group D encounter at the San Siro. Milan forward Andre Silva continued his excellent Europa League form this season, as he put them in front with his sixth goal in just three matches in the competition. Mateo Musacchio made it two for the seven-time European champions, but Boadu Maxwell Acosty pulled one back with six minutes left and Josip Elez drilled home a 90th-minute penalty. There was still time, though, for Cutrone to convert Fabio Borini's cross in the fourth minute of injury-time. Marseille lost 1-0 away to Salzburg in Austria in Group I while Athletic Bilbao and Hertha Berlin both lost in Group J. Lokomotiv Moscow midfielder Manuel Fernandes scored a hat-trick inside the first 17 minutes as the Russians beat Czech outfit Zlin 3-0 to go top of Group F.

In Group K, Alassane Plea scored twice as Nice beat Vitesse Arnhem of the Netherlands 3-0 in a game interrupted for around 15 minutes due to floodlight failure. Former UEFA Cup winners Zenit St Petersburg were 3-1 winners at home to Real Sociedad in Group L.



Rawalpindi, UBL, SNGPL emerge early winners

KARACHI: Rawalpindi, United Bank Limited (UBL) and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) all took a day off after sealing three-day victories in the opening round of the Quad-i-Azam Trophy National Cricket Championship on Thursday.

Rawalpindi were the first winners on penultimate day of the four-day Group 'B' fixture at the Pindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi where they humbled Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) by 105 runs to grab nine points.

Resuming at 83, KRL's second innings was swiftly blown away for just 77 by the pace duo of left-arm Nazir Hussain (5-31 in 12 overs) and the lanky right-armer Ataullah (5-46 in 11).

Pakistan's rising leg-spin star Shadab Khan made a fine debut for former champions SNGPL who crushed Peshawar by 154 runs in

the Group 'A' encounter at the Abbottabad Cricket Stadium.

Peshawar, who were chasing 282, mustered a miserly total of 127 in their second innings as wickets fell at regular intervals. Shadab claimed 4-12 in 8.4 overs to end up with match figures of 7-35. Skipper Mohammad Hafeez had 3-14 in eight overs after veteran left-arm seamer Samiullah Khan Niazi took wickets upfront.

Earlier, left-arm pacerman Taj Wali picked up 5-81 as SNGPL were dismissed for 277 in their second innings.

UBL were even more clinical in their rout of Karachi Whites by an innings and 73 runs in the Group 'B' match here at the UBL Sports Complex.

After adding 42 to their overnight score of 392-7, UBL ended up making a commanding 434 to secure a huge 226-run lead on

the first innings. Stand-in captain Hammad Azam was out for 128 (243 balls, 11 fours and three sixes) while Sohail Khan, who put on 160 with Hammad, perished for 63. Ex-Test pacerman Mohammad Sami claimed two more wickets to finish with decent analysis of 5-84 in 32 overs.

Sohail then made life miserable for the lower half of Karachi batting as the sturdy fast bowler captured his second five-for in the match as he helped himself to 5-54 in 14.5 overs, giving him magnificent match bag of 11-113 on a sterling debut for UBL. Only discarded Pakistan opener Khurram Manzoor offered some fight. The right-hander was bowled by spinner Mohammad Nawaz for 54.

Left-arm seamer Rumman Raees Khan lent good to Sohail by taking 3-34 from 14 overs. Lahore Whites were on verge

of starting the first-class season on a winning note as well when they reduced Pakistan Television (PTV) to 98-5 after setting the departmental outfit a massive 466-run chase by declaring their second innings at 382-7 at the LCCA Ground in Lahore.

Umaid Asif, better known in domestic circuit for his fast-bowling exploits, had a day to remember. He first bludgeoned a career-best 97 off only 114 balls with 17 fours and one six before returning later in the afternoon to grab three PTV wickets.

Habib Bank Limited (UBL) need another eight wickets on Friday's fourth and final day after Fata reached 93-2 after being asked to chase an unlikely 507 at the Jinnah Stadium in Sialkot.

Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) were also certain to complete an emphatic victory early on



day four after Islamabad slumped to 66-5 after being set a target of 458 at the Diamond Club Ground in Islamabad.

Earlier, Imam-ul-Haq matched his opening partner Fakhar Zaman's score on Wednesday by

scoring 111 (214 balls, eight boundaries) and former Pakistan batsman Imran Farhat hit before HBL closed their second innings at 446-6.

Another ex-Pakistan player to shine was the once wily off-spinner Saad Ajjal who snared four

wickets for 107 runs in his first first-class appearance after two years as National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) took advantage of a bland Iqbal Stadium pitch in Faisalabad to collect 397-8 in response to Faisalabad's 361.