

TIME AND US

DAILY

SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

SATURDAY

- SEPTEMBER, 16, 2017
- 24 ZHUL HIJAH 1438 AH
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WEATHER TEMPERATURE		
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	26.6	10.0
JAMMU	34.0	21.0
LEH	20.9	12.0
KARGIL	26.2	9.2

SUNSET SATURDAY: 06:38 PM
SUNRISE SUNDAY: 06:16 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR
 Partly Cloudy Sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 28°C & 11°C respectively.

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

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IRFAN COMPLETES BAN PERIOD, HOPES TO PLAY T20 AGAINST SL IN LAHORE

Authorities impose restrictions in Srinagar, suspends class work

Jamia Masjid closed, JRL protests against NIA raids



Srinagar, Sep 15: Authorities on Friday imposed restrictions in Srinagar parts falling under the jurisdiction of five Police Stations while the Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) staged protest against the National Investigation Agency (NIA) raids and arrests.

An official said that the restrictions under section 144 CrPc were imposed in the Srinagar areas falling under the jurisdiction of five

Police Stations including Nowhatta, M R Gunj, Rainawari, Khanyar and Safakadal as a precautionary measure to avoid any untoward incident.

A huge contingent of forces was deployed in these areas to thwart any possible protest called by JRL including Hurriyat (G) chairman, Syed Ali Geelani, Hurriyat (M) chairman, See **Srinagar**...Pg 02

KCCI delegation calls on Chief Minister

Mehbooba urges trade bodies to become catalysts in strengthening industry foundations

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 15: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today asked the trade bodies to become catalysts in further strengthening the foundations of industry in the State.

Interacting with a delegation of new office bearers of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) which called on her here today, the Chief Minister said her Government is taking steps to ensure reforms in business, industrial, labour and



other sectors of economy to make the business activity in the State much more easier. She invited the delegation to share their views and ideas with

the Government to further ease the business activity in the State.

Minister for Finance, Dr. Haseeb Drabu was also present on the occasion.

Complimenting the new office bearers of KCCI on assuming charge, Mehbooba Mufti hoped the new team would be able to galvanize this one of the oldest business platforms of the State into a vibrant activity forum

See **Mehbooba**...Pg 02

MANMOHAN SINGH-LED CONGRESS GROUP ARRIVING VALLEY TODAY

To meet opposition parties, various delegations

Srinagar, Sep 15: The Congress' Policy and Planning group led by former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh is arriving Srinagar on two day visit starting from Saturday.

The group will meet various delegations from Kashmir Valley including Opposition Parties, at Hari Niwas, See **Manmohan**...Pg 02

MHA to make security forces more protective in JK

'Forces to receive full body protectors, bullet proof jackets'

Srinagar, Sep 15: To avoid casualties during "anti-militancy operations" and while maintaining law and order problem, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is going to make the security forces better equipped in the Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources told KNS that the Ministry of home affairs was concerned that security personnel suffered casualties in the

valley while fighting with the militants and against stone pelters. "In view of increase in attacks, the MHA wants security forces to be better prepared to deal with any situation without losing any lives or to get injured" sources maintained.

One of the senior officials of MHA told KNS that the security forces are going to See **MHA**...Pg 02

DIALOGUE IS THE WAY FOR MAJOR ASIAN POWERS TO SECURE SELF-INTEREST: AKBAR

NEW DELHI: Suggesting that both India and China have the potential to lay down the path to be followed through dialogue, Minister of State for External Affairs M.J Akbar today said the powers of Asia realise that it was counter-productive to allow disputes and differences to become conflicts.

Major nations should therefore opt for dialogue to secure their self-interest and manage their economic welfare, Mr Akbar said at a conference on 'Changing Asia 2017: Perspective on Regional and Global Cooperation', organised jointly by The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses and the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg.

Describing how Asia was reinventing itself with See **Akbar**...Pg 02

Payment of advertisement bills to be made within 10 days of receipt of bills: Govt

Srinagar, Sep 15: The Government has ordered that the payment of advertisement bills of the newspapers shall be made within 10 days after the receipt of bills.

According to an order issued by the Commissioner Secretary Information, Mr M H Malik, the payments to the newspapers shall be made online by the respective Joint Directors of Information, Kashmir/Jammu who have been already designated independent controlling See **Govt**...Pg 02

Categorization of Newspapers: DIPR seeks update, objections from stakeholders

Srinagar, Sep 15: To ensure judicious and transparent distribution of advertisements to the newspapers and periodicals in the State, the Government is in the process of categorization of the approved publications in light of the guidelines laid down in Advertisement Policy-2016. The Government has

already constituted an official panel headed by Joint Director Information (Headquarters) for release of government advertisements to be submitted to the newspapers as per the parameters laid down in Govt Order No: ID/A/22/2017 dated: 13-03-2017.

As a first step the newspapers and periodicals empanelled by the Department

of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) for release of government advertisements were asked to submit various details like circulation, reach, periodicity, language, infrastructure including professional human resource and other similar parameters to facilitate See **DIPR**...Pg 02

SHRC DIRECTS GOVT TO PAY 35 LAKH COMPENSATION TO JAMMU MAN

'He lost 7 family members in an attack by unknown gunmen'

Srinagar, Sep 15: J&K State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) Thursday directed the Chief Secretary of J&K to pay Rs 35 lakh compensation to a man who lost seven members of his family

The man had alleged that seven members of his family were killed by unknown gunmen during an attack on his house on July 2, 1999. He had then received ex-gratia compensation of just Rs one lakh from the state government.

According to reports, after scrutiny of the material available on the record, the commission felt satisfied See **SHRC**...Pg 02

HC to introduce Video-Conferencing facility for litigants from far flung areas: Chief Justice

Justice Badar Durrez visits Kargil Courts, interacts with Judicial Officials, Lawyers

Kargil, Sep 15: Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Justice Badar Durrez Ahmed today said efforts are on to introduce video conferencing facility for the litigants from far flung areas of the state.

Chief Justice is on a tour to Ladakh and was speaking during his visit to various courts in Kargil. He said in order to ensure speedy disposal of cases and to lessen the inconvenience to the litigants hailing from Kargil and Leh districts; the High Court will soon introduce a mechanism for hearing cases through video conferencing



from Srinagar and Jammu. He said Video See **Justice**...Pg 02

PDP APPRECIATES GOVERNMENT EFFORTS FOR EMPLOYEE'S WELFARE

SRINAGAR, SEPT 15: Peoples Democratic Party General Secretary Nizamuddin Bhat has appreciated Government for giving utmost priority in granting jobs and Ex-gratia relief to kins of employees who die in harness or die in discharge of law and order duties.

Government is also been taking extra care for providing similar relief to kins of those killed in incidents of militancy.

Bhatt said that victims of fate or militancy are receiving support from union Government which helps state in rehabilitation and relief process. Huge number of deserving cases gets assistance for academic pursuits, besides cash relief for sustenance. See **PDP**...Pg 02

India, Pak hold talks on Indus Waters Treaty

WASHINGTON: India and Pakistan are holding high-level talks on technical issues of the Indus Waters Treaty here, a senior World Bank official has said.

"These meetings are a continuation of a discussion on how to safeguard the Treaty for the benefit of the people in both countries," a World Bank spokesperson said.

The meetings between India and Pakistan on the technical issues of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) are taking place in Washington on September 14-15, the spokesperson added.

The World Bank in August had said that under the IWT, India is permitted to construct hydroelectric power facilities on tributaries of the Jhelum and Chenab rivers with certain



restrictions. Pakistan opposes the construction of the Kishanganga (330 megawatts) and Ratle (850 megawatts) hydroelectric power plants See **India**...Pg 02

PROTESTS IN SOUTH KASHMIR

Anantnag, Sep 15: During a cordon and search operation, Army allegedly thrashed locals and vandalized private property including dozens of vehicles in Mattan area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. The incident sparked massive protest on Friday. Locals informed that Government Forces headed by Army launched a search operation during night hours at Tikibagh Kralpora area of the district.

They said that during the operation, Army targeted people without any See **Protest**...Pg 02

India's futuristic vision rests on engineers' shoulders: Nirmal Singh

Dy CM attends 50th Engineers' Day, pays tributes to Sir M Visvesvaraya

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 15: Calling engineers as an interface between science and society, Dr Nirmal Singh referred to them as backbone of development and progress.

The Deputy Chief Minister said this during a function to mark the celebration of 50th Engineers' day on the theme "Role of Engineers in developing India". This day is being celebrated all over the country to commemorate the 156th birth anniversary of Sir M



Visvesvaraya, Bharat Ratna. The function was orga-

nized by The Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu Local Centre at its Institutional Complex, Channi Himmat.

Minister of State for Public Works (R&B) and Revenue, Sunil Kumar Sharma, besides large number of engineers from various departments and organizations were also present on the occasion.

Deputy CM said that India has futuristic vision in See **Nirmal**...Pg 02

Expedition India completes 2nd leg

Adventure races will promote Kashmir globally: Dir Tourism

Srinagar, Sep 15: The Expedition India 2017 - 450km Adventure Race completed its second leg at Sonamarg where teams had to do 28km hike at an altitude of 13000 feet.

The teams left for Leh to complete leg 3rd to Leg 7 different 350km adventure activities.

It will be first ever international adventure event where athletes will move through Land of High Moun-

tain Passes at an average altitude of over 3500m, breathtaking Valley's, and beautiful rivers making it one of the most fascinating and highest adventure races in the world.

Earlier in the first leg on Wednesday, the teams were flagged off jointly by Secretary Tourism M H Malik and J&K Bank CEO and Chairman Parvez Ahmad at Shankaracharya hill where athletes ran 1.5km downhill up to Nehru Park. At Nehru Park, the teams

boarded the shikaras and raced to SKICC lawns to complete the first leg of the adventure race. On the same day, the teams left for Somamarg for the second leg which was held on Thursday. At Sonamarg, The teams hiked 28kms at an altitude of 13000 feet to complete 2nd leg.

In Leh, the third leg has 75 kilometers of rafting, 43 kilometers of mountain biking of 4th leg, 53 kilometers See **Tourism**...Pg 02

BATAMALOO SHOPKEEPERS PROTEST OUTSIDE CM RESIDENCE

Srinagar, Sep 15: The Shopkeepers, transporters and road vendors Friday staged a protest outside Chief Ministers officials residence seeking their rehabilitation prior to the shifting of Batamaloo Bus Stand to Parimpora.

Scores of protesters including shopkeepers, transporters and road vendors operating from Batamaloo Bus Stand assembled outside Gupkar based Chief See **Batamaloo**...Pg 02

Continue from Front Page.....

SRINAGAR

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and JKLF Chairman, Muhammad Yasin Malik.

The protest was called against the NIA raids and arrests. The forces who were deployed on roads had erected concertina wires to thwart the vehicular movement in restriction bound areas.

Authorities also barred people to offer the mandatory congregational prayers at the historic Jami Masjid here. Locals said that a heavy contingent of force was deployed around the Jami Masjid here who disallowed people to offer the congregational prayers there.

The authorities had also placed the head cleric of Jami Masjid, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq under house detention at his Nigeen residence on Thursday evening.

Besides imposing restrictions, the authorities had also suspended the teaching activity in all the educational institutes and colleges today.

As reported by KNS, the official on Thursday had said, "In the evening we had decided to close higher secondary schools and colleges only."

Meanwhile, as soon as the Friday congregational prayers culminated at Gaw Kadal Masjid, the JRL leaders and activists took to streets and protested against the NIA raids and arrests.

The protesters were holding placards and were chanting slogans against NIA and Government of India.

The JRL leaders termed the NIA raids and arrests of political leaders, journalists and others as frustration of Government of India.

They said that the NIA raids are aimed to defame the pro-freedom leaders and the freedom movement.

The protesters further added that the government of India with the full support of the state government is trying every bid to change the demography of the state, which will be opposed tooth and nail.

MEHBOOBA

for enhancing industrial growth, expanding social inclusion and further deepening the social responsibility of the business community.

The delegation invited the Chief Minister for the coming meeting of the apex trade body. They thanked her for initiating steps to improve tourist footfall in the coming winter months. They also thanked her for redressing their pleas regarding reducing tax rates on walnut industry and shawl vendors.

The delegation sought taking steps for improving awareness about GST, filing of returns and remissions among the trader community. They also sought help in developing Chamber House at Srinagar.

The delegation comprised Javed Ahmad Tenga, President; Nasir Ahmad Khan and Fayaz Ahmad Punjabi, Vice Presidents; Dr Gazalla Amin, General Secretary; Parveez Naqash, Asif Siddiq, Sheikh Ashiq Ahmad, Syed Masood Shah, Sheikh Gowhar Ali, Sheikh Zahoor Ahmad and other members.

MANMOHAN

Srinagar, as per the programme.

The Group comprises Former Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram, Gulam Nabi Azad (LoP in Rajya Sabha), Ambika Soni General Secretary AICC.

Apart from meeting various delegations former Prime Minister is all addressing PCC Executive at 1150 Hr on 16th and CLP meeting on 17th Sept at 9.30 AM, at Hari Niwas, Srinagar as mentioned above.

The group will meet 30 delegations during its two-day visit that begin on Saturday.

The group, formed following the continuation of fragile political and security situation in the Valley, aims to hold dialogue with all stakeholders and help for peace building in the state.

The group, according to the sources, was constituted after the senior leader Tariq Hameed Karra urged the party high command to take concrete steps regarding the resolution of Kashmir issue.

MHA

be better equipped to deal with the situation effectively. "The security personnel soon will be provided full-body protectors better armed to ensure their safety. Orders have been issued in this regard," the official said and added that the funds in this regard have also been released.

He said that the step has been taken in view of that the security forces in the Jammu and Kashmir have lost so many men and hundreds got injured during the recent years.

According to the figures of the State Home Department, 3398 security personnel were killed by militants between 2001 to January 2017.

During 2002, 539 security personnel were killed and the number dropped to 384, 330 and 244 during 2003, 2004 and 2005 respectively. During 2015, the security forces suffered 39 casualties but the number rose to 84 in 2016.

The Army has suffered highest casualties with 1693 personnel being killed between 2001 and January 2017, comprised (309) in 2001, (240) 2002 and (46) in 2016. The JK Police suffered 629 casualties, (128) in 2001, (91) 2002, and (17) in 2016. Besides, 409 SPOs were also killed in 15 years.

305 BSF personnel were killed in these years, followed by the CRPF (228), VDCs (96) ITBP (15), SSB (8). The others who suffered casualties are ITBP, BECON, IB and the CISF.

Over the past three years, south Kashmir has become a breeding ground for militants with many youths joining their ranks. The number has gone up considerably following the killing of Hizbul Mujahidin commander Burhan Wani. According to reports, 31 local youths joined militancy in 2013, the number for 2015 jumped to 66. The number of youth having joined militancy has reached to 95 during the preceding year.

Further, the official said: "We are trying our best to change their minds. It is also the responsibility of the parents and society to guide their children. We have identified the children vulnerable to inimical propaganda and started counseling them in small groups so that these kids do not fall prey to militancy."

AKBAR

powerful dynamics, he said the continent was not only in the process of reinventing itself, it was doing so through solutions.

The Minister underscored that despite being a conglomeration of nations with diverse languages, religions and political systems, Asia had one common stand ? creating a better economy and better life for its people. The continent is beginning to act as a vanguard of future developments globally, he stated.

Termining terrorism as the most dangerous 'ism' of the 21st Century, the Minister emphasised that prosperity was impossible without peace and the biggest threat to peace emerges from terrorism.

GOVT

authority for the release of government advertisements and the payments thereof.

The decision to decentralize advertisement distribution was recently taken on the initiative of Minister for Information, Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali, and accordingly by virtue of Govt Order No: 32-ID of 2017 dated: 08-09-2017, the provincial Joint Directors of Information in Jammu/Kashmir divisions were vested with the controlling and regulatory powers in this regard.

Pertinently, 467 newspapers and periodicals including 271 in Jammu and 196 in Kashmir division are presently empanelled with DIPR for release of government advertisements.

The DIPR released a payment of around Rs 31 crore to the newspapers and periodicals on account of advertisements during the fiscal 2016-17, including past liabilities, while for the current financial year the advertisement budget is to the tune of Rs 30 crore.

To ensure judicious distribution of the government advertisements in light of the Advertisement Policy 2016, the Government has recently constituted a Committee headed by Joint Director Information (Headquarters) for categorization of the approved newspapers and periodicals on the basis of their circulation and other parameters including institutional framework and professional standards.

The Government is also in the process of formulating a separate advertisement policy for the electronic and the digital media.

DIPR

the DIPR to categorize each publication on the basis of its merits.

After repeated reminders, while most of the approved newspapers have submitted the requisite information in bits and pieces some publications are yet to submit the full details.

The details, as provided by various publications in this regard, to the respective Joint Directors of Information, Kashmir/Jammu, have been uploaded in the Notifications section of the official website of the DIPR at <http://www.jk-dir.in/> to seek updation/objections, if any, from the stakeholders.

The updations/objections can be mailed at advnt@jkinformation.co.in & jdinformationjk@gmail.com by 7th October, 2017. No objections would be entertained after the stipulated date and the DIPR would proceed ahead with the categorization of the publications on the basis of the data provided by the newspapers as also on the basis of the data collected by DIPR through various official/independent mechanisms.

The newspapers which fail to submit the requisite information within the prescribed time limit would be treated as de-listed from the list of empanelled newspapers.

Pertinently, 467 newspapers and periodicals including 271 in Jammu and 196 in Kashmir division are presently empanelled with DIPR for release of government advertisements.

The Government has also constituted two separate sub-committees for Kashmir and Jammu divisions to review whether the newspapers and periodicals empanelled by DIPR meet the norms set out in the Advertisement Policy-2016 and recommend delisting of any approved newspaper violating the said Policy.

The sub-committees have been vested with powers to recommend delisting of the approved newspapers and periodicals in light of the Provision 6.1 of the Advertisement Policy-2016, if these publications violate the said policy in any respect.

SHRC

and directed J&K Chief Secretary to pay sum of Rs five lakh each to the complainant against the killing of seven members of his family.

The delay on the part of the government to provide adequate compensation to Lal was amounted to glaring "violation of human rights".

Roop Lal, a resident of Mendhar in Jammu & Kashmir's Poonch district, had lodged a complaint with the J&K State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) alleging that seven members of his family were killed by unknown gunmen during an attack on his house on July 2, 1999, and he had received ex-gratia compensation of just Rs one lakh from the state government.

JUSTICE

Conferencing will save precious time of the people living in far flung areas.

He said the DPR for the construction of New Court Complex at Kurbathang Kargil has been submitted to the Government and the construction of the complex shall start next year.

During his visit to the Court Complex Kargil, the Chief Justice took stock of its functioning. He was accompanied by High Court Judge Justice Tashi Rabstan, Registrar General J&K High Court, Sanjay Dhar, Principal Secretary to the Chief Justice Jawad Ahmad, Principal District and Session Judge Kargil Syed Sarfaraz Hussain Shah, Chief Judicial Magistrate Kargil Spalzes Angmo, other judicial officers and members of the Bar Association Kargil.

The Chief Justice also interacted with the judicial officers and members of the Bar Association Kargil and inquired about the status of cases that are sent from district Kargil to the High Court for disposal.

Justice Badar Durrez also inquired about the membership status of the association and gave a patient hearing to the

issues and demands raised by the bar members on the occasion which included the establishment of Circuit Bench of High Court, construction of court building, establishment of consumer court, steps for making District Jail Kargil functional, grant in aid to the Bar Association and construction of chambers for new bar members and installation of heating facilities in the court complex.

The Chief Justice also inspected various sections of the Sessions Court, CJM Court and Special Court housed in the Court Complex and inquired from the officers about the status of civil and criminal cases in the district. He was also apprised about the functioning of Munsif Court Drass, Sankoo and Zanaskar. In the e-Section of the Court Complex he took stock of the updation of cases on the Case Information System (CIS).

Later, the Chief Justice also visited the allotted site for the construction of New Court Complex and inquired about the status of the land. The officers of the Revenue Department informed the Chief Justice that out of the total committed allotment by the District Administration, 47 Kanals of land has already been allotted to District Court Kargil while as 13 canals shall be formally allotted in near future.

The Chief Justice emphasized upon the revenue officers to take immediate measures in this regard so that the construction work is facilitated in the smoothest possible manner.

Earlier, the Chief Justice also visited Munsif Court Drass and underlined the need for introduction of innovative measures for effective disposal of cases. He also visited Drass War Memorial at Bhimbhat and paid rich tributes to the martyred soldiers.

PDP

He said several measures are being conceived by Government to further the cause of such victims and relief rules in getting the relief quickly and in an easy way.

He said it is in continuation of these efforts that Government has recently relaxed rules for Police Personnel under SRO 250. This SRO, he said gives relaxation in qualification and age, which will help almost all cases related to police personnel seeking employment.

Bhat said, Government has been envisaging similar relief to persons disabled in urest through pellets or firing, which is a good step.

Bhat said while it is painful to have such victims, it is an imperative that they get full attention and support. He prayed for peace and stability so that society is saved from such tragedies and any such dependence on Government did not arise.

"Till that ideal situation arises, it is obligatory for Government to show concern and extend support". He added.

Bhat made an appeal to Government to rationalize further the cases under all SRO categories and show an equal regard and concern for needy and distressed lot without regard for source of distress or tragedy. Bhat was interacting with kins of victims of violence and fate.

He told them that Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has been herself concerned and she has recently directed General Administration Department to sort out for support all SRO cases. She has also taken up the plight of such families with Union Government seeking assistance under welfare schemes from the centre.

Bhat said such cases reflect on the moral duties on society and in the state of Jammu and Kashmir cases in distress have piled over the years compounding miseries of thousands of families. While society and Government play their role in extending help, extra effort is needed to minimize the pain of orphans, widows, disabled and distressed lot.

He hoped that with Government aware of this, things should improve for society to look conscious and vibrant and Government to look responsible.

INDIA

being built by India, it had said in a fact sheet issued at the conclusion of secretary-level talks between the two countries over the IWT.

The IWT was signed in 1960 after nine years of negotiations between India and Pakistan with the help of the World Bank, which is also a signatory.

The World Bank's role in relation to "differences" and "disputes" is limited to the designation of people to fulfil certain roles when requested by either or both of the parties, the fact sheet said.

PROTESTS

provocation. "Army men resorted to ransacking of houses and damaged vehicles. They thrashed people irrespective of age and gender. Search operation was just an excuse while their real motive was to target the people. Kids were so scared that they started weeping while witnessing their family members getting thrashed by the armed forces," the protesters said while blocking the Khanabal-Pahalgam (KP) road.

The protesters raised pro-freedom and anti-army slogans. "The authorities must curb these unbridled forces who on the pretext of search operations even don't spare women-folk," said a protesters to news agency CNS.

A district official said that matter will be looked into while an official from police department denied the allegations saying the search operation culminated peacefully.

NIRMAL

the areas of space research, defense, rural development, renewable energies, agriculture, information and communication technology and education which rests on the shoulders of engineers who are working tirelessly to bring this vision in to reality.

He also recalled the sterling qualities of Sir M. Visvesvaraya like austerity, integrity, competence and discipline.

Addressing the gathering, MoS, Sunil Sharma said that engineering needs to be understood in the context of its role in society, within an institution and ultimately within society. He called upon the engineers to continue applying their technical skills to serve our nation, contributing towards evolution of world-class engineering in the country.

Rich Tributes were paid to Sir M. Visvesvaraya by Er. Supinder Jeet Singh Sodhi, AMIE; Regional Head (North), Himachal Futuristic Communication Ltd.

Further, on this occasion Er. D. S. Pawar, FIE was honoured

with IEI Award for his outstanding services rendered to the engineering profession and to the Institution of Engineers (India). He was presented with Gold Medallions as a mark of respect.

The Deputy Chief Minister also presented R. L. Sharma Memorial Gold Medal to Er. Supinder Jeet Singh Sodhi, AMIE for presenting the Best Technical Paper during the year 2016 - 2017 and Rudra Bhagwati Silver Medal to Er. Vijay Kumar Sharma, MIE for presenting 2nd best technical paper during the year 2016 - 2017 respectively.

Er. S. C. Thukral, FIE; Er. P. K. Nanda, MIE; Er. K. R. Suri, FIE; Er. Ashok Kumar Sharma, MIE; Er. Sewa Ram, MIE; Er. Vijay Kumar Sharma, MIE; Er. Ranjeev Sawhney, MIE; Er. Supinder Jeet Singh, AMIE; Er. Rajesh Kumar Angural & Er. Akash Dugotra, AMIE were honored with mementoes for presenting two or more technical papers during the year 2016 2017.

Later, first issue of 15th Volume of quarterly News Letter of Jammu Local Centre was also released by the dignitaries on the occasion.

TOURISM

of trekking and uphill running of 5th leg, 120 kilometers of mountain cycling of 6th leg and 59 kilometers of camel safari in Nubra Valley of 7th and final leg which will also mark the culmination of first ever international adventure event in Kashmir and Ladakh on September 22, 2017.

Notably, all the 14 teams, including 13 teams mainly from the countries like South Africa, Australia, United Kingdom, Sweden, New Zealand, Ireland, France, Argentina and Czech Republic and a local team, have been equipped with GPS system which is tracking their race.

The race can be tracked live at <http://www.kineticgear.org/live-tracking/> which is being continuously updated. The teams are also with 25 foreign media persons who provide daily coverage to the international media on the event.

The organisers also made a fascinating promo of the event which had also generated lot of response on social media. Some of the films will also be made by the organisers for the event which will also promote Kashmir and Ladakh at global level.

Director Tourism Kashmir Mahmood A Shah said the adventure race has received overwhelming response from the across the globe.

"The race has foreign teams and some of the world champions in swimming have also participated in the event. This has generated huge response from the athletes all over the world and is watched live by lakhs of the people," said Director Tourism Kashmir.

The event is being organized by Johannesburg based company Kinetic Events in collaboration with department of Tourism and J&K Bank.

"This is perhaps first of its adventure event in the world where teams will have to trek through high mountain passes to prove their grit. Some of the renowned faces are participating in the race which will boost our adventure tourism," said Director Tourism Kashmir.

He said the adventure race will also help dilute negative perception and also help us remove advisories by foreign countries.

"This race will be our biggest platform and USP to get foreign advisories on Kashmir lifted. The athletes will be our brand ambassadors in their own country," said Shah.

The teams as per their ranking in the first two Legs are listed below:

Addicted2adventure, Adventure Life, Afterwork Athletes, Aventura Infantil San Jua, Bsb Rangers, Greenthings, J&K Mountaineering And Hiking, Nevarest Jabberwock, Red Ants, Sanza, Sea Level, Skyotec Adventure, Vaulcluse Aventures Evasions, Yo Running Club.

On September 12 evening, the Expedition was formally inaugurated by MoS for Tourism, Technical Education Priya Sethi, Chairman & CEO J&K Bank Parvez Ahmed, Commissioner Secretary Tourism M H Malik and Director Tourism Mehmooh Shah, in a grand function organized at SKICC Srinagar wherein besides organizers of the event, participating teams and media personnel were present.

BATAMALOO

Ministers residence.

They were trying to attract the attention of Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti when police swung into action and detained some of the protesters. Reports said that Chief Minister who was present at her residence called the protesting traders inside and assured them of every possible help.

The protesting traders thanked Chief Minister for her kind support and assurance and hoped that Mehbooba Mufti will keep her word and will rehabilitate them without any delay.

'SWACHTA HI SEVA' KICK-STARTS IN GANDERBAL

GANDERBAL SEPTEMBER 15:- With a vision to promote cleanliness in all spheres of district, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Dr. Piyush Singla kick started week-long "Swachta He Seva" today in presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Assistant Commissioner Development and all District/Sectoral officers including a large number of people. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Singla said the main motto of conducting the "Swachta He Seva" in the district is to create awareness amongst the masses so that the message of cleanliness can be spread to every nook and corner of the whole district and every person contributes in the noble cause of promoting cleanliness.

The DDC also appealed the masses to come forward and help concerned Government departments in promoting cleanliness everywhere. Later, the Deputy Commissioner led the district officers around the mini-secretariat premises and cleaned up the area. The district officers outside the Mini secretariat similarly cleaned the premises of their respective offices.

Indian Army strives to ensure success of Swachh Bharat Campaign

New Delhi, September 15: While 'Swachhta' and 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' is being run all over the country, the Indian Army takes pride in environmental conservation being intrinsic to its character, ethos and traditions. Army troops deployed in remote areas of the nation have always taken keen interest in environmental conservation. As part of routine, the long range patrols covering snow bound, high altitude and treacherous areas of Himachal Pradesh, along the borders with China and Tibet make it a drill to clean the areas where they patrol. All expedition to these areas bring back non-biodegradable wastes and clean areas in the process.

The Indian Army covers the conservation drive in various verticals which include serving personnel, ex-serviceman, and initiatives within and outside the cantonments and in operational areas. 'Shramdaan' and clean the area in and around the place one works, is intrinsic into the character and routine activities of Indian Army personnel. Daily cleanliness drive is carried out by serving personnel on almost daily basis. The families and children join men in tree plantation, hygiene and sanitation awareness camps and cleanliness drives. Roll calls, Sainik Sammelans and briefings during everyday routine find this aspect being highlighted.

Ex-Servicemen are true ambassadors of such disciplined and holistic initiative. They on their part involve societies and civilian population with them to focus on fundamental issue of overall cleanliness, menace of open defecation and tree plantation. In most of our ESM camps and interaction steps are taken to facilitate them to achieve the same. Cantonments are one of the cleanest places. All actions possible are taken within the cantonment to keep them clean. Other than the composite conservancy staff, additional manpower and equipment have been bought by stations and cantonments to clean their respective areas. Events like 'Swachhta Pakhwada',

'Cleanliness Drives', 'Run for clean environment', are a regular feature to bring in the awareness. All the schools run by the Army have a special focus on this very important aspect other than tree plantation. All stations and cantonments have been working very closely with CEOs and Cantonment Boards to arrive at a robust cleanliness mechanism. Huge cantonments like Delhi, Lucknow, Ambala, Pathankot, Kolkata etc today can easily be nominated as the cleanest areas of the country. Biodegradable toilets, neat cubicle toilets have been established in almost all such stations and cantonments. Efforts are on to ensure that there is no open defeca-

tion in any of the cantonments of Indian Army. Even in operational areas while Indian Army is deployed at far flung places in mountains, deserts or in other treacherous areas, the brave soldiers make genuine endeavour to clean the areas wherever it is. They involve local population and enmass create campaign for cleanliness and awareness. The patrols which go out to snow bound high altitude areas in Himachal Pradesh, UP, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and in border areas of Tibet and China find the areas where they patrol. The Indian Army does not leave any stone unturned to ensure that their areas are clean, hygienic and worthy to live in.

Union Home Minister launches "Swachhta Hi Sewa" campaign of Ministry of Home Affairs

New Delhi, September 15: The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the "Swachhta Hi Sewa" campaign of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), at ITBP campus, Tigri here today. A 'Swachhta pledge' was also administered by the Union Home Minister to the Force personnel on this occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Rajnath Singh said that the Government is confident to fulfill Prime Minister's vision of making India Open Defecation Free (ODF) by October, 2019. He said that providing toilet facility at home will ensure safety and dignity of women. He also said that 'Swachhta Hi Sewa' campaign will help in improving nutrition and productivity of our children. For Swachhta, the Government is implementing Rs 12,000 crore Action Plan through 76 ministries, he added. He said that the use of technology for creating wealth from waste is Government's priority. Shri R.K. Pachnanda, DG, ITBP conveyed his gratitude to the Home Minister and MHA for giving the opportunity to the ITBP for hosting "Swachhta Hi Sewa" campaign programme and assured that the Force will participate in the campaign in letter and spirit.

The Home Minister along with senior ITBP officers and jawans participated in cleanliness drive around the unit campus. A Swachhta demonstration by ITBP's women personnel was presented. Theme song created and composed by ITBP personnel on cleanliness was also presented.

The Swachhta drive undertaken today will culminate on Gandhi Jayanti i.e. 2nd October, 2017. The Ministry of Home Affairs and all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) will clean the areas in and around official and other premises. The MHA will undertake cleanliness drive in all rooms, and vicinity of North Block, NDCC-II building etc for awareness generation and community mobilization activities.

PM salutes engineers on Engineers' Day

New Delhi, September 15: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has saluted engineers on Engineers' Day. The Prime Minister also paid tributes to Bharat Ratna, Shri M. Visvesvaraya, on his birth anniversary. "I salute all engineers on Engineers' Day and appreciate their paramount role in the development of our nation. Tributes to Bharat Ratna M. Visvesvaraya on his birth anniversary. An exemplary engineer himself, he is a source of immense inspiration", the Prime Minister said.

Indigenous Development of Trawl System by DRDO

New Delhi, September 15: R&DE (Engrs), a premier system engineering laboratory under Armament & Combat Engineering (ACE) cluster of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has recently undertaken the design and development of Trawl System for the minefield area in the battle zone to meet the operational requirements of Indian Army.

The indigenous developed Trawl System is employed for breaching of land mines and creating a vehicle safe lane, through a minefield for the advancing columns of mechanized forces in combat zone. The equipment consists of Trawl roller, track width mine plough and electro-magnetic device (EMD), which caters to the need of all types of mines usually encountered by the battle tank in such a scenario. The Trawl System developed by DRDO is capable of breaching a variety of land mines including passive and active influence mines. The Trawl system recently crossed a major milestone with the successful completion of blast trials in collaboration with HEMRL Pune, which demonstrated the survivability of the equipment, when subjected to successive series of blast directly underneath it. The fieldable prototype of the Trawl System is in final stage of realization and would be shortly ready for conduct of User Evaluation Trials by the Army.

Shri Rajnath Singh to operationalise the New Intelligence Set-up of SSB on 18th September

New Delhi, September 15: The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh will operationalise the New Intelligence Set-up of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) at a function here on September 18, 2017. On the occasion, he will also launch the Welfare and Rehabilitation Board (WARB) App and distribute scholarship to the children of SSB martyrs.

The SSB has been mandated the responsibility of guarding the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders where there are no restrictions on the movement of people on either side. The border population on both sides has strong regional, cultural and economic ties. There is trans-

border movement of criminals and anti-national elements which pose a major challenge on the border in the context of the visa free regime. Besides, SSB has also been declared as the Lead Intelligence Agency (LIA) for both the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders. Thus, it was felt that a well knit intelligence network of the highest capabilities that can function and deliver would be the prime requirement of comprehensive border management. This was quite essential as the operations of SSB have to be intelligence based so as to prevent criminals and smugglers from taking advantage of the friendly borders with Nepal and Bhu-

tan. MHA has accordingly sanctioned 650 posts in various ranks from Battalion to Frontier Headquarter.

The Mobile App named "WARB" is available on Google Play store and is user friendly. It contains various useful features to facilitate retired CAPFs and Assam Rifles personnel to get their genuine grievances redressed, seek skill development training through National Skill Development Corporation under "Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna, re-employment and other relevant and important information. This mobile App shall also help retired personnel to have better coordination with WARB

and its field formation at states/UTs and district level.

It's a matter of great pride that 43 Officers and personnel of SSB have sacrificed their lives for national security. In this year only in Chirang district of Assam Shri Amal Sarkar in an encounter with NDFB militants not only killed one militant but also sacrificed his life. SSB's Women Welfare Association "SANDIKSHA" has taken up the task to help out children of such martyrs. SSB's Women Welfare Association is providing financial help to children of martyrs who are still studying in school, colleges and universities to continue their studies.

Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi addresses at the National Seminar on the occasion of "Engineers' Day"

New Delhi, September 15: Union Minister for Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi today said here that the Government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been utilising the resources of the country through latest technology for welfare of the poor and weaker sections and fulfilling the vision of "New India".

Addressing at the National seminar on "Enhancing Opportunities through Social Engineering" organised by The Institution of Civil Engineers (India) in New Delhi, on the occasion of "Engineers' Day", Shri Naqvi said that "technology is a tool for transformation".

Shri Naqvi said that Indian technology and technocrats are one of the best in the world. Be it defence sector, infrastructure, Railway, space technology, India's engineers and other technocrats

have made the country proud through their talent.

The Minister said that the Government has created a "vibrant and positive atmosphere" for technocrats and other professionals. He said that the Centre has been utilising various technologies to make people's life more comfortable. Through technology, we have filled the gap between governance and the common people.

Shri Naqvi said that the Government has been utilising the technology to ensure "leakage proof" and transparent system for welfare of the common man. India is moving towards becoming a "digital economy". Money meant for welfare of the common people is being going directly to bank accounts through "Direct Benefit Transfer" (DBT). Crores of students are getting their scholarships

directly into their bank accounts through DBT.

The Minister said that engineers play a crucial role in nation building. Through their creative thinking and dedication and hard work, they give a new direction to the country.

Shri Naqvi said that it is true that providing basic amenities and infrastructure is the responsibility of the Government. At the same time, engineers, doctors and other professionals have also a role to play in this regard. They can make the people's life easier through their innovative ideas and fulfilling the vision of "New India".

Shri Naqvi said that the Centre has ensured a better atmosphere for technocrats and other professionals. They are coming back to India and are contributing to the vision of "New India".

Sham Choudhary inaugurates 'Swachhata Hi Seva' sanitation campaign

Andrabi for taking collective initiatives to preserve natural resources

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 15: In order to carry it forward and realize the dream of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's clean India, the Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE), Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Sham Lal Choudhary today inaugurated 'Swachhata Hi Seva' a nation-wide sanitation campaign in Kashmir.

Minister of State for Haj & Auqaf, PHE and Irrigation & Flood Control, Syed Farooq Ahmad Andrabi was also present on the occasion.

To create awareness on environmental cleanliness in the entire State 'Swachhata

Hi Seva' cleanliness campaign, will be observed from 15th September upto Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October.

Speaking the occasion, Sham Choudhary announced that an amount of five lakh rupees would be given for face lifting of the department's establishments in every division across Kashmir.

He added that concerned Chief engineers will be supervise the process and on 2nd October concerned engineers will be awarded on the basics of their performance.

Sham Choudhary impressed upon the PHE em-

ployees to ensure active and whole hearted participation by mobilizing all the resources and manpower to make the nationwide sanitation campaign 'Swachhata Hi Seva' a success.

He urged that all PHE establishments should be maintained neat and clean by putting in extra efforts of removing the garbage and providing adequate number of dustbins, besides white washing of walls before 2nd October.

Sham Choudhary urged all officers to accelerate Swachhata activities during the September 15th to October

2nd 2017 and pledged to continue the drive to make a better eco-friendly environment.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Farooq Andrabi said that the preservation, conservation and rejuvenation of water resources is our priority.

He said the officers as well as employees should be entrusted with the responsibility to keep department's establishments clean, plant trees in their surroundings and keep premises garbage free.

The Minister said that Jammu and Kashmir is a tourist State which needs to take good care of its natural resources.

Poultry, Fisheries sectors have huge employment generation potential: Kohli

Inaugurates Common Facility Center at Khalsi Leh

KARGIL/LEH, SEPTEMBER 15: Minister for Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries, Abdul Gani Kohli who is on a 4 day extensive visit of Kargil and Leh districts today said that establishment of Poultry and Fisheries sector has huge potential for employment generation.

This was stated by the Minister while chairing a high level meeting to review the working of the departments under his control at a meeting held at Kargil here today. Chief Executive Councilor Kargil Kacho Ahmad Ali Khan, Executive Councilor for Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries Aga Syed Hassan Armaan Moosavi, Director Animal Husbandry Muhammad Yusuf Chaproo, Director Sheep Husbandry Muhammad Ramzan Sheikh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kargil Barkat Ali Lone Nizami besides concerned officers were also present in the meeting.

The Minister called upon the officers to closely monitor the performance of their departments to ensure time bound delivery of services and completion of projects well

in time. He also called upon the veterinarians and other officers to work with missionary zeal and lay focus on creating mass awareness regarding various developmental schemes so that maximum numbers of people are in a position to avail the benefits of these schemes thereby raising their socio-economic status.

The Minister was apprised about the steps being taken to augment these sectors in the district and measures being taken to raise livestock. It was given out that a 20 liter capacity Liquid Nitrogen Plant has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs 2.85 crore, a major project for cross breeding for conservation of yak at Rs 1.20 crore, fodder development programme at a cost of Rs 1.35 crore while as a project for Pashmina Development has been sanctioned at a cost of 8.25 crore.

The meeting was also informed that projects worth Rs 2.53 crore for strengthening, up gradation and modernization of Karakul Sheep Fram Kurbathang and Development of Pashmina Wool in Kargil district



at a cost of Rs. 14.2 crore under National Livestock Mission (NLM) and Revised Wool Sector Schemes under Integrated Wool Development Programme (IWDP) at a cost of Rs. 12.23 crore, fodder development at a cost of Rs 7.50 crore besides development of Zanskari horse at a cost of Rs 40 lacs stand submitted to the Central Government which are expected to be sanctioned in near future.

Officers of Fisheries Department informed the meeting that artificial trout breeding has been introduced in the district for the first time this year and 6 to 8 thousand seeds have been produced so far and with the completion of the hatchery at Dam-sna the production shall go up to

around 1 lakh seeds.

The Minister directed the officers of Fisheries Department to conduct surveys for the establishment of fish farms in Sodh, Shakar Chiktan and other areas and fixed target of one year for completion. He also directed the officers to conduct livestock census in the district and underlined the need to procure high yielding yaks from Arunachal Pradesh for hybridizing purpose so as to ensure the enhancement of yak breed in the district.

Mr Kohli issued on spot directions to the officers to prepare proposal for the establishment of fish farms and stock assistants training institute and assured the CEC and

EC Animal and Sheep Husbandry that proposals for creation of the posts of SDOs and LDOs shall be framed and sent to the Finance Department in due course of time.

Later, enroute to Leh, the Minister also inaugurated Extension Centre of Animal Husbandry Department at village Dha Beama in Khalsi. The centre is exclusive meant for the benefits of the people of Aryan dynasty in the area. The representatives of the community had demanded setting up breeding centre in the village for local live stock in the area.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister underscored the need to organize awareness camps at block levels to aware farmers about the policies and programme of the Government besides latest technologies adopted by the Animal and Sheep Husbandry Departments to increase livestock production in the State.

During the tour, the Minister visited Poultry Farm Khalsi and took stock of its activities besides inaugurating Common facility center of Animal Husbandry center.

DDC Kupwara visits Model Village Kachihama

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 15: In connection with redressal of public grievances, the District Development Commissioner Kupwara, Khalid Jahangir conducted an extensive tour of Model Village Kachihama

During the visit DDC interacted with various delegations, which projected their demands and matters relating to improvement of road connectives drinking water, power, irrigation and Health care in the area.

The DDC while responding to the public grievances assured that all the basic facilities would be made available to people immediately without any delay and directed the concerned officers on spot for early redressal of the demands.

The DDC Kupwara also visited the fire sufferers of Doban Kachihama area whom residential houses were recently damaged in fire incident and assured them that necessary steps for their rehabilitation will be taken immediately.

During the inspection of Meeliyal Kachihama road the DDC advised the concerned land owners cooperate with the concerned agency, so that widening and surfacing of said road shall be done in current financial year followed by black topping in the next.

During the inspection of different institutions like Government High School, Health Sub Centre, Food Store, of the area the DDC Kupwara directed the concerned controlling officers to take necessary action against absent employees and ensure the presence of all employees in future.

Later, DDC reviewed different developmental works in the area and directed the Chief Horticulture Officer and District Sheep Husbandry Officer for establishing density fruit gardens and viable sheep units of live stock in the area.

DAILY Editorial
Time and Us SRINAGAR J&K

GOOD AND SIMPLE TAX

India's goods and services tax regime is nearing the end of its first full quarter since roll-out this July. Revenue collections from the first month appear robust, with just 70% of eligible taxpayers bringing in ₹95,000 crore. At this rate, the total tally could well surge close to ₹1.2 lakh crore. This would be significantly higher than the ₹91,000 crore indirect tax target for the Centre and the States on an overall basis. This initial trend will need to be corroborated by inflows for subsequent months, but with many more taxpayers registering in August, the GST appears to have begun well as far as the exchequer is concerned. If revenues remain healthy, the government would, over time, get the necessary fiscal room to rationalise multiple GST rates into fewer slabs and possibly lower levies as a stimulus. However, for businesses the going has been far from smooth, with firms of all sizes across sectors struggling to file their first set of returns under the GST due to significant glitches in the GST Network, its information technology backbone, and issues of connectivity. The government has extended the deadline for GST returns for the first month twice, with GSTR-3 now required to be submitted as late as November 10. A group of Central and State ministers has been tasked with resolving the GSTN's challenges. To inspire confidence, this group must act not only expeditiously but also transparently — especially with regard to the GSTN's operational capacity.

However, as it stands now the delay in filing returns for the first, and therefore subsequent, months means that taxpayers expecting a refund from the authorities on taxes already paid (for example, by exporters) will end up waiting for almost four months (for the period of July alone). This is bound to crimp their working capital availability and create an unjust burden on their finances, impacting their ability to scale up production ahead of the high-turnover festive season. The problem is most acute for exporters, for whom the Council has now formed a special committee under the Revenue Secretary. Provided there are no further setbacks on these timelines, these procedural problems need to be resolved as soon as possible for industry to be comfortable with this switch-over. Amid all this, the GST Council has already changed the announced tax rates on over 100 products and services within about 75 days of the roll-out. An ever-changing policy landscape is hardly conducive for attracting investment. The fact that industrial output grew just 1.2% in July may not be a coincidence. Clearly, a lot of things were not thought through or tested (such as the GSTN) when the government opted for a July 1 launch for GST instead of the September 16 date that the constitutional changes made last year allowed. Admitting to the errors of judgment so far is essential for a genuine course correction.

Double jeopardy

By DIVYA TRIVEDI

MAKE no mistake. It is genocide. With 1,20,000 people having fled to Bangladesh within a fortnight, 2,00,000 stuck in no-man's land between borders and 1,000 killed (United Nations figures), it is the unfolding of a humanitarian crisis of mammoth proportions. The latest wave of ethnic cleansing by Myanmar security forces alongside Rakhine extremists or ultranationalist Buddhists has resulted in an exodus of the ethnic minority Rohingya to Bangladesh. While Bangladesh already has 4,00,000 Rohingya refugees and might not want more, its border guards have been allowing the Rohingya to enter. Hundreds of Hindus escaping the violence and blockade in Rakhine have also reportedly arrived in Bangladesh. But India is branding the Rohingya on its territory as "illegal immigrants" and threatening to deport them to Myanmar where they face certain death.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Myanmar in the thick of the violence. While international pressure mounted on the Nobel laureate and Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi, Modi's government was also being watched to see what it would do for the most persecuted community in the world. "Prime Minister Modi must also use his visit to push the Myanmar authorities to allow full and unfettered humanitarian assistance to people in need. Nothing can justify denying life-saving aid to desperate people. At the same time, PM Modi should also reaffirm his own government's commitment to protect Rohingya refugees and asylum seekers in India who have been recently threatened with deportation," said Aakar Patel, executive director of Amnesty International India.

The Indian government has mandated the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to register and provide assistance to refugees from non-neighbouring countries and Myanmar. There are 16,500 Rohingya registered with the UNHCR in India, and the government claims there are 40,000 of them in the country, but India does not recognise them as refugees and is now making a volte-face. In August, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju disregarded the UNHCR recognition of Rohingya and said he had instructed the States to start the process of deportation. In a circular issued to all State governments and Union Territory administrations on August 8, his Ministry said the "detection and deportation of such illegal immigrants from Rakhine state, also known as Rohingyas, is a continuous process". The Ministry advised all States and Union Territories to "sensitise all the law enforcement and intelligence agencies for taking prompt steps in identifying the illegal immigrants and initiate the deportation process expeditiously and without delay".

I want to tell the international organisations whether the Rohingyas are registered under the UNHCR or not, they are illegal immigrants in India," said Rijiju. The Supreme Court sought the government's stand on the issue when a plea filed by the Rohingya refugees Mohammad Salimullah and Mohammad Shaqir came up before a



bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud on September 4. The bench refused to issue an interim stay on deportation. The next hearing was listed for September 11. While the advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing the refugees, asked for an assurance that the state would not take any steps to deport the Rohingya, Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta refused to make any such statement.

"Proposed deportation is contrary to the constitutional protections of Article 14 (Right to Equality), Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) and Article 51(c) of the Constitution of India, which provides equal rights and liberty to every person. This act would also be in contradiction with the principle of non-refoulement, which has been widely recognised as a principle of Customary International Law," the plea said. The international principle of non-refoulement is part of customary international law and is binding on India. It forbids states from forcibly returning refugees or asylum seekers to a country where they would be at real risk of serious human rights violations. India is also a state party to other international treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, under which it must comply with this principle.

The Rohingyas who were gathered at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi to protest against the violence in Myanmar were a worried lot. Ever since the government directive, police visits to their camps have become a daily affair. Intelligence Bureau officials ask them to gather around with their families before proceeding to photograph each and every family in the camp. Alarmed by the frequent police visits that have criminalised the Rohingya in the neighbourhood, many of them have been sacked from employment, and several landlords have refused to extend the rent agreements for the following year. On Eid, the Rohingyas in Faridabad got two buffaloes in donation. But local goons came and forcefully took the buffaloes away and brutally beat up 10 Rohingyas.

"If we are a burden or threat to India, as the Indian government imagines, then please take us out of India but not to Myanmar, to any country where we can live peacefully. When we look at the comments of Indian people below any news regarding the Rohingya, we feel we may be killed any time and we are totally not safe here," said a Rohingya refugee, requesting anonymity. Several of the Rohingyas stayed away from the protest in order to avoid the CB-CID, whose officials intimidated them. They also doubted whether Modi's visit to Myanmar would bring them any relief. "When the Myanmar government shows one-sided fabricated evidence against us to Modi ji, which it is bound to do, our conditions will only worsen," one of them said.

News of death and destruction from Myanmar only added to their woes. While the Myanmar government claimed the death toll was 400, the Rohingyas themselves said it was nothing less than 3,000. As journalists, researchers and aid workers were denied access to the western State of Rakhine, there was no way to verify these numbers. But the images of death, destruction and migration coming out from the area told a gruesome story.

On September 6, Modi and Aung San Suu Kyi vowed to work together to tackle terror and parroted the same lines after their meeting in Myanmar's capital, Nay Pyi Taw. In a joint statement with Modi, Aung San Suu Kyi thanked India for the strong stand it had taken against the "terror threat that came to our country", in reference to Rohingyas Muslims. "Together, we will ensure terror is not allowed to take root in our country, on our soil or in neighbouring countries," she said.

"We share your concerns about extremist violence in Rakhine State and violence against security forces, and how innocent lives have been affected," Modi said. He said that India understood the challenges and praised Aung San Suu Kyi's leadership of the "Myanmar peace process". He said it was important to work together towards the security "of our land and maritime borders".

According to news reports, as many as

19 corpses were found floating in the river Naf, which connects Myanmar to Bangladesh, after the boat carrying them capsized in the end of August. The dead included children. The elderly and the injured (with bullet and shrapnel wounds) were carried through heavy rain and marshy land on makeshift carriages of bamboo and baskets tied together with belts and dupattas. Children were seen carrying younger children on their backs. Hundreds of men and women squatted on their haunches on the banks of the waterbodies with what was left of their worldly possessions—an umbrella, a hen, a steel tiffin box. Black smoke billowed out on the horizon from Rohingya hamlets set on fire by the military. Charred and twisted corpses in villages entirely gutted in the fire gave an impression of where a home might have been. Some of these bodies were beheaded. Reportedly, the Myanmar Army has laid landmines near the country's border with Bangladesh to prevent the return of the refugees.

Scores of people were "missing" or hiding in the hilly regions of Rakhine State, unable to either escape through the border or enter any village. "Army personnel in plain clothes along with extremist Rakhine are shooting anybody they see, so it is very risky," said Ali Johar, a member of the Rohingya community in Delhi. "Either the military will kill us or we will die of starvation," the father of Maung Maung Khan, another Rohingya in Delhi, told him over phone on the ninth day of the recent cycle of ethnic cleansing in Myanmar.

The current wave of ethnic cleansing supposedly began on August 25 in Rakhine State when the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) attacked police stations, checkpoints, government offices and an army base. But the Rohingya say raids had started in three villages from August 20: any male above 12 years of age was arrested and some were brutally beaten to death. The community realised that the military wanted to finish all Rohingya members and whether they protested or not they would be killed. The insurgent group ARSA, or Harakah Al Yaqeen, meaning the Faith Movement, emerged in this climate of desperation and claims to fight for the "liberation of persecuted Rohingyas".

The ARSA declared the "Burmese Brutal Military Regime" a "terrorist organisation" for causing "terror and destruction to ethnic Rohingya population". On August 24, it released a statement saying that the Rohingya community in Rathedaung had been blockaded for more than two weeks, leading to starvation deaths. It also said that a dozen people had been killed in the township in two days by Myanmar security forces along with Rakhine extremists. "As they prepared to do the same in Maungdaw, and conducted raids and committed atrocities in some Rohingyas villages in the township last night [August 24], we had to eventually step up in order to drive the Burmese [Myanmar] colonising forces away," it said. The ARSA's official Twitter handle described it as a legitimate step to "defend the world's persecuted people and liberate the oppressed people from the hands of the oppressors!"

Bolder by the day

By G.T. SATISH

A DAY before the shocking video of Dalit men being brutally beaten by a group of people for allegedly skinning a dead cow in Una in Gujarat surfaced on July 11, five Dalits were attacked by a Hindutva group at Shantipura village near Jayapura (Chikkamagaluru), about 300 kilometres from Bengaluru, for allegedly stealing a cow and slaughtering it. Bajrang Dal activists, numbering about 25, armed with sticks and other weapons, attacked five Dalits of the village, Balaraj (56), Muthappa (26), Dhanush (24), Sandeep (20) and Ramesh (35).

Balaraj, a physically challenged person, said: "They beat me and others up for nearly an hour. They were all Bajrang Dal activists and they attacked us even after the arrival of two police constables." The incident came to light only two weeks later, on July 23, when Komu Souharda Vedike, a forum for communal harmony, held a press conference.

The Dalits had allegedly slaughtered a cow when Hindutva activists barged into Muthappa's place. They informed the police, who arrested three of the Dalits, while Ramesh and Sandeep escaped. They were slapped with charges under the Prevention of Cow Slaughter and Cattle Preservation Act, besides the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

They were released on bail the next day after they were produced before a judicial magistrate. The police seized a carcass weighing about 60 kg. "When the police took us to the station, we were not allowed to tell them what actually happened. If we had done something wrong, the police are free to act. But who are these goons to attack us?" asked Balaraj. All the Dalits are primarily engaged as agriculture workers and have no landholdings. They work in plantations, earning up to Rs.300 a day when there is work. In recent years, the younger generation has got into other jobs such as driving, painting and construction work, which earn them slightly better wages. After they were released on bail, Sunandamma, Muthappa's mother, filed a complaint against the attackers under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The complainant identified seven attackers—Annu, Sampath, Santhosha, Manjushree, Rajesh, Sundresha and Sandeep—all residents of Jayapura and nearby villages. They got anticipatory bail.

The accused have been identified with Hindutva groups, primarily the Bajrang Dal, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the Hindu Jagarana Vedike. They are known to regularly participate in the events of all these groups, though

they are primarily activists of the Bajrang Dal, which was the first among the pro-Hindutva groups to start activities in the district. These groups have found ground in the district since the 1990s, particularly after their attempts to take over the Sufi shrine, Guru Dattatreya Baba Budan Swamy Dargah, in the Baba Budangiri range of hills near Chikkamagaluru.

The activities that began with the shrine as the focus gradually involved other issues like cow protection and opposing the entry of plantation workers from Assam into the estates in the district over the years. "When I was a young boy, cattle slaughter was not a 'crime'. I used to slaughter the animals in broad daylight and sell beef in the streets close to a police station. Then nobody questioned me. Only after the Bajrang Dal gained strength did beef eating become an 'offence'," said Balaraj. Bajrang Dal activists have often stopped vehicles transporting cattle and informed the police. In some cases, the activists have allegedly assaulted people in the cattle trade.

Praveen Khandya, a native of Khandya near Balehonnur and vibhagiya pramukh of the VHP, is among those who have organised the Hindutva groups in Koppa and Sringeri taluks. Khandya has nearly 25 cases against him, including 16 in the Balehonnur police station for

rioting, assault, kidnap, wrongful confinement and illegal assembly. He has been absconding since the Basavanahalli police in Chikkamagaluru town registered a case against him and four others in connection with the kidnapping of a financier for ransom on July 4. Interestingly, a police officer, who later allegedly committed suicide, is also an accused in this case. Those opposing the Hindutva groups allege that the leaders of these groups enjoy the tacit support of the police, which is what emboldens them to act as "enforcers".

The victims of the Shantipura incident allege that they were assaulted in the presence of police constables, but the police deny that. "The goons also asked the police that we be forced to carry the carcass of the animal in a procession in the village, but fortunately, that did not happen," said Balaraj. He recalled a similar incident near Heruru in Koppa taluk in 2006 when three cow slaughterers were forced to march with the carcass in the village.

Opponents of Hindutva groups allege that the activists, using caste and social ties, have developed contacts with local police officers, which enables them to act with impunity. As recently as July 12, a gang led by a known Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supporter stopped a vehicle allegedly carrying cattle near

Koppa and informed the police. The police registered a case against Ramesh and Muttu, both belonging to Bhadravati in Shivamogga district. In this case too, before the police could reach the spot, the accused were assaulted by the group. It is said the victims were pressured to not file a case.

Besides the police, these groups have the support of the people's representatives of the BJP, particularly former Ministers C.T. Ravi and D.N. Jeevaraj, whose constituencies fall in the district. Incidentally, both cut their political teeth as activists of the Bajrang Dal, the VHP and the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh before joining the party. Both are three-time MLAs and they have a hold over the youths involved in these groups.

Jeevaraj, who was recently appointed president of the party's Chikkamagaluru district unit, held a press conference in Chikkamagaluru on July 26 to defend the Bajrang Dal activists accused in the Shantipura case. He claimed that those who had been accused of assaulting the Dalits were innocent. "Nobody was assaulted in the incident. Congress party leaders are making use of Dalits for their political reasons. Only three Bajrang Dal leaders had gone to help the police find the place where the animal was slaughtered, but the case has been registered against seven," he alleged.

Accusing Congress leaders of running a cattle trade racket in the district, Jeevaraj said cows were being stolen and slaughtered to feed "Bangladeshi infiltrators" working in many estates in the district. Hindutva groups often term Assamese people working in coffee estates as "illegal migrants" or "terrorists" from Bangladesh.

Two residents of Assam were allegedly beaten up by a gang of Bajrang Dal workers near Alduru near Chikkamagaluru on July 25. A group of about 60 workers had just arrived from Assam and were heading to their estates when Bajrang Dal workers stopped them and asked them to go back. Following an argument with them, two Assam youths were assaulted and one of them fell unconscious. The police admitted him to a government hospital in Chikkamagaluru. The Alduru police have registered a case for "rioting" and "attempt to murder" against 10 people. Six of the accused were arrested on July 26.

Beef is part of the diet of Muslims and Dalits in the district. Until recently, there were many beef stalls in the district. However, they were all closed during the BJP's rule, and the beef-eaters had no place to get their food. "We cannot afford costly mutton or pork. Beef is the only affordable non-vegetarian food for us," said Baby, a resident of Shantipura.

Rajiv Gandhi assassination: Centre files report in SC on probe into bomb making

NEW DELHI: The Centre filed a report on Friday in the Supreme Court on the investigation being carried out on the conspiracy aspect behind the making of the bomb that had killed former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi 26 years ago.

The report was filed in a sealed cover before a bench of Justices Ranjan Gogoi and Navin Sinha, which fixed the matter for hearing on September 19.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Maninder Singh told the bench that they have filed a note as per the apex court's direction and it cannot be given to the petitioner. "We have gone through the note," the bench said.

Advocate Gopal Shankararayan, appearing for convict A G Perarivalan, contended that he had not said that the report should be given to him, but if the court permits, he would peruse the Centre's report in the court itself.

The bench said it would hear the matter next Tuesday.

The apex court had on August 17 asked the Centre and the CBI to apprise it of the probe being carried out on the conspiracy aspect behind the making of bomb after Perarivalan had claimed that this aspect was not being probed properly. Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on the night of May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu by a woman suicide bomber, identified as Dhanu, at an election

rally. Fourteen others, including Dhanu herself, were also killed.

This was perhaps the first case of suicide bombing which had claimed the life of a high-profile global leader.

Perarivalan's counsel had earlier told the court that several aspects, including the conspiracy angle behind making of the bomb, has not been probed properly. He had said besides this aspect, which was directed to be probed by the Justice Jain Commission, there were other issues like missing files concerning security provided to Rajiv Gandhi and the murder of a Delhi-based journalist, Rajinder Kumar Jain, which were not investigated thoroughly.



The counsel had told the court that Perarivalan was held guilty of supplying the batteries for the belt-bomb worn by Dhanu that had killed Rajiv Gandhi.

The apex court had earlier commuted to life term the death sentence awarded to Perarivalan in the case.

His counsel had argued that

the government had set up the Jain Commission in August 1991 to examine the conspiracy angle behind the assassination. The commission, in its report, had recommended that there were several aspects which needed further detailed investigation.

The apex court was hearing a plea by Perarivalan, who has alleged that neither the CBI's special investigation team, nor Multi Disciplinary Monitoring Agency (MDMA) headed by it, had proceeded with the probe in a proper perspective to bring the accused to book, as several top people were involved in it.

The bench had earlier asked the CBI to file a detailed investiga-

tion report along with a time-frame within which the probe would be completed and said that the larger conspiracy behind Rajiv Gandhi's assassination has to be investigated. The apex court had also sought the response of the Centre and the CBI on the plea which has alleged that investigating agency did not probe the conspiracy behind the killing of Rajiv Gandhi despite an order from a TADA court in Chennai. The apex court had on February 18, 2014 commuted the death sentence of Perarivalan to life imprisonment, along with two other condemned prisoners -- Santhan and Murugan -- on grounds of a delay of 11 years in deciding their mercy pleas by the Centre.

Wait for affidavit to know government's stand on Rohingyas: Rajnath Singh

NEW DELHI: Home minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said the government will inform the Supreme Court of its stand on the Rohingya immigrants on September 18, and refused any further comments on the issue.

Asked about the politics over the Rohingya refugees, a persecuted community of Muslims from Myanmar who have fled the country in large numbers, the home minister said: "Whatever affidavit we have to file, we will file on September 18."

The Supreme Court has fixed Monday for hearing of a plea challenging the government's decision to deport illegal Rohingya Muslim immigrants back to Myanmar.

Several Union Ministers, as well as ministers in the Assam government, have in the past said that the Rohingyas are illegal immigrants in India and will have to leave the country.



An affidavit on the issue, which the government later said was just a draft and being worked upon, was leaked after it was inadvertently served on the counsel for petitioner Muhammad Salimullah.

In the draft affidavit, the Centre said there were "contemporaneous inputs" received by it that indicated links of some of

the unauthorised Rohingya immigrants with Pakistan- and Bangladesh-based terror organisations. The Centre also said that it was found that there were organised network of agents and touts facilitating illegal migration of Rohingyas in India.

"The continuity of Rohingya immigration and their continued stay in India, apart from being

illegal, has serious national security ramifications," said the draft. "It has also been found that many Rohingyas figure in the suspected sinister design of IS (Islamic State terror group)/ other extremist groups, who want to achieve their ulterior motives in India, including that of fanning up communal and sectarian violence in the sensitive areas of the country," the Centre's affidavit read. Rajnath Singh spoke on the sideline of the promotion of Home Ministry's 18-day "Swachhta Hi Sewa Mission" cleanliness campaign programme launched on Friday at the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Tiger camp here.

The campaign will end on October 2.

While inaugurating the cleanliness campaign, Rajnath Singh said the Home Ministry and all the troopers of the paramilitary forces would clean the area in

and around the official premises.

The Home Minister elaborated upon various steps being undertaken by the government towards cleanliness mission in the country and a "Swachhta pledge" was also administered by him on the occasion.

"For cleanliness campaign, the government is implementing a Rs 12,000 crore action plan through 76 Ministries," he said.

"Providing toilet facility at home will ensure safety and dignity of women. The campaign will help in improving nutrition and productivity of our children," Rajnath Singh said.

"The government is confident of fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making India open defecation-free by October 2019."

He also said that the government's priority is to use technology for creating wealth from waste.

Six-year-old girl allegedly tied to table, gangraped in govt school in Rajasthan

BARMER: A six-year-old girl was allegedly gangraped inside the premises of a government school in Rajasthan's Barmer, police said on Friday. Police said they filed a complaint on the basis



of the victim's father's statement, which said the girl - a student of Class 2 - was tied to a table in a room near the school toilet and gangraped on Thursday. Two people, both sweepers of the school, have been detained.

Anita Rani, in-charge of the women's police station in Barmer, said an FIR had been filed under section 376(D), 376-2(1) of the Indian Penal Code and the anti-child sexual abuse act. The victim is in hospital and is stable, doctors said. The incident came to light after the victim complained of pain in her private parts to her parents, who rushed her to a local hospital. Doctors there suspected sexual assault and informed the police.

Superintendent of police Gagandeep Singla and district collector Shivprasad Nakate inspected the school premises and questioned the authorities.

Rahul Gandhi may like to be Congress President through internal poll: Moily

HYDERABAD: Senior Congress leader M Veerappa Moily on Friday said Rahul Gandhi would like to emerge as the party president through an internal election process, and hinted that he may assume the charge as early as next month.

The Gandhi scion had recently said that he was "absolutely ready" to take up an executive responsibility if the party asked him to do so.

The former Union minister said that Rahul's taking over would be a game-changer for the party.

"He (Rahul) should immediately take over as Congress president. That's good for the party, good for the country," Moily told PTI. "Everybody (in Congress) feels it is (his elevation) delayed. Now, he (Rahul) is waiting for organisation elections. He would like to emerge as the president of AICC only out of the election process," he said.

The internal election process in states is expected to be completed this month, which would be followed by the one at the AICC level, the former chief minister of Karnataka said.

Asked if he expected Rahul to take over next month, Moily said, "Possibly yes".

On what needs to be done to boost the prospects of the Congress, he said, "Rahul Gandhi is doing it. We will have to address the issues in respect of each of the state, because each state is different from the rest. So, that requires state-wise strategies not only for the coming state elections but also parliamentary polls in 2019."

Moily said Rahul has a "new approach and new method".

"...definitely very much rooted with the legacy of the Congress party. It (Rahul becoming Congress president) is a game-changer. Not only game-changer but also Congress is well-rooted in continuity and legacy... with Congress virtues, he has an attitude for change, and he will do that," Moily said. On what he wants Rahul to do once he assumes charge, Moily said he has to "first thoroughly reshuffle the people who are in-charge of the states, reshuffle immediately within a time-frame, all the state-level organisations right from grass-roots levels. These things will have to be reorganised." "Our policy at the national



and state levels should be reoriented and published so that people think there is always an alternative to the present NDA government," he said.

On the coming Assembly elections in Karnataka, Moily said, "Congress will come out with absolute majority. There is no question of BJP coming back."

Moily charged the BJP with failure to honour election promises and alleged that the economy and exports have sharply declined. "They (NDA government) have failed miserably. This is a worst scenario. The myth of the present NDA government will explode during the Lok Sabha elections in 2019," he said.

On the government favouring bringing petroleum products under the ambit of GST, Moily, the former oil minister, indicated that it would have to be done eventually.

"That (proposal to bring petrol and diesel under GST) cannot be opposed. It has to be brought under the GST today or tomorrow; instead of bringing it in future they have brought it (proposed now). (But) the manner in which they are hiking the petrol and diesel prices is totally unjustified," he said. Moily also said that states have been opposing the move right from the beginning as they would lose money if it were to be implemented. But bringing petroleum products under GST would be good for the industrial sector.

'If Taslima Nasreen can become Modi's sister, why can't Rohingyas become his brothers?': Owaisi

HYDERABAD: Citing example of refugees from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka residing in India, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday tore into Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Government over sending the Rohingya Muslims back to Myanmar, saying that Rohingya refugees should be allowed to take shelter in the country just like other refugees are.

Owaisi also mentioned about the noted Bangladeshi writer, Taslima Nasreen, who has been living in India in exile since 1994 and asserted that if the former can be the sister of Prime Minister Modi, why can't Rohingyas be his 'brothers'.

"If Taslima Nasreen can stay here, why can't Rohingyas? If Taslima can be the prime minister's sister, can't Rohingyas become his brothers?" Owaisi said, while addressing a gathering here.

"Is this humanity to send those people back who have lost everything? This is wrong. Under which law, can the Centre send all the Rohingya refugees back?" he added. He even questioned India's wish to get a permanent membership in the United



Nations Security Council.

"The Indian Government wants a permanent membership in the UN Security Council. Will this be their attitude as a super power? Can the Centre send back those Muslims back, who even have the permission of the Human Rights Council to stay here?" Owaisi said.

Further referring to the Sri Lankan refugees staying in Tamil Nadu, Owaisi said that they were allowed to stay in India even after being accused of spreading terrorism.

He even mentioned about the Chakma people of Bangladesh, who came to India in 1971 and have been

living in Arunachal Pradesh, and Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama, who is treated as a guest in India.

"Isn't a refugee staying in the camps of Tamil Nadu, even when it was claimed that these refugees are involved in spreading terrorism? Why were they not sent back to Sri Lanka? After the formation of Bangladesh, the Chakmas came to India, and got the status of refugees," he said. Owaisi even requested the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government to not see Rohingyas as Muslims, but to consider them as refugees.

"We hope that the government of India gives shelter, an opportunity

to live a respectful life and a future to their children, because the Indian Constitution gives the Right to Equality and the Right to Life, not only to its own citizens, but to all refugees as well," he said.

Meanwhile, India has sent the first consignment of humanitarian assistance to Dhaka, in response to the humanitarian crisis being faced on account of the large influx of refugees into Bangladesh.

This development came days after Bangladesh briefed India about the problems faced by it due to the influx of refugees from Myanmar following the ethnic violence in the Buddhist-majority nation.

As per reports, on August 9, the government had told the Parliament that according to available data, more than 14,000 Rohingyas, registered with the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR, are presently staying in India.

The UNHCR had said that at least 2,70,000 Rohingya refugees have fled from the violence-affected Myanmar's Northern Rakhine state and sought refuge in Bangladesh where the limited shelter capacity is already exhausted.

Need to learn formula of safe, clean travel from Japan: Shiv Sena on bullet train

MUMBAI: The Shiv Sena on Friday questioned the feasibility of the bullet train project at a time when there is a "marathon among trains to get derailed" and called for learning the formula of safe and clean travel from Japan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe yesterday launched India's first bullet train project between Ahmedabad and Mumbai, which would cover the distance of over 500 km in less than three hours. However, the Sena expressed apprehensions over the viability of such a project at a time when the country has witnessed a number of rail accidents in the recent past. "Nobody has any doubt that this is the most shameful period of negligence on the part of

Indian Railways. Nowadays, hardly any day passes without a train getting derailed. It seems as if there is a competition among trains to get derailed," the Sena quipped in an editorial in its mouthpiece "Saamana". "Even the railway's most famous train Rajdhani Express hasn't been left behind. It derailed near the national capital. Isn't it serious that a train derailed on the most secured rail section of the country?" asked Sena, which is the ally of the BJP at the Centre and in Maharashtra. Japan is running bullet trains since 1964 at a speed of 500-600 kms per hour. The speed is not important but what has to be seen is that there has never been any rail accident at such high speeds, it said. "It is important to know that a bullet train in Japan is cleaned within 7 minutes and even a minute of delay throughout the train journey comes under scrutiny. Compared to Japan, trains crawl here and despite a marathon among trains to get derailed, no accountability is fixed," it said. "Why can we not learn from Japan the art of ensuring 100 per cent security in rail travel? Can we not learn their formula of a safe and clean travel? The nation would have been happier if India would have learnt from Japan the technique of safe rail travel," the Sena said.

Coffee and tea found to increase longevity of diabetic women!

Tea and coffee are two beverages that can never get old. Being global favourites, they can be found in kitchens across the world.

In all their varied forms, tea and coffee both have numerous health properties and connoisseurs love to experiment with all their various flavours and fragrances.

Previous studies have often associated tea and coffee with reduction in diabetes risk, however, a new study has given emphasis on the health benefits of tea and coffee specifically for diabetic women.

According to the study, drinking coffee or tea regularly may lower death risk in women who suffer from diabetes. More than 80 percent of the world's adult population consume caffeine daily, mostly from coffee and tea. Average daily coffee consumption is between 100 milligrams (mg) and 300 mg per day,



depending on age and country.

Many studies have shown a beneficial effect of drinking coffee on the risk of death from all causes in the general population, but little is known about the role of caffeine on mortality in people with diabetes.

Researchers including those from the University of Porto in Portugal examined the association between varying levels of caffeine intake and mortality in over 3,000 men and women with diabetes from the 1999 to 2010. Participants reported their

caffeine intake from coffee, tea, and soft drinks when they entered the study using 24-hour dietary recalls - structured interviews to accurately assess intake for the previous 24 hours. Over the course of the 11-year study, 618 people died. The researchers found that women with diabetes who consumed up to 100mg per day - one regular cup of coffee - were 51 percent less likely to die than those who consumed no caffeine. Women who consumed 100-200mg per day had a 57 percent lower risk of death compared with non-consumers, and for those consuming over 200mg per day - 2 regular cups of coffee - the reduced risk of death was 66 percent.

No beneficial effect of caffeine consumption was noted in men with diabetes. There was a decrease in cancer related mortality among women that consumed more caffeine

from tea. When divided into four groups of tea consumption (zero, low, medium, high), the high caffeine from tea consumers had an 80 percent reduced risk of cancer compared with women with zero caffeine consumption from tea. However, as the overall consumption of tea was low in the study, the results must be interpreted with caution and considered as exploratory, requiring confirmation in larger studies, researchers said. "Our study showed a dose-dependent protective effect of caffeine consumption on all-cause mortality among women," researchers said. "The effect on mortality appears to depend on the source of caffeine, with a protective effect of coffee consumption on all-cause mortality and cardiovascular mortality, and a protective effect of caffeine from tea on cancer mortality among women with diabetes," they said.

Antidepressants up risk of death: Study

Medications commonly prescribed to reduce depression and anxiety may increase the risk of death by preventing multiple organs from functioning properly, researchers have warned.

The researchers reviewed studies involving hundreds of thousands of people and found that antidepressant users had a 33 per cent higher chance of death than non-users. Antidepressant users also had a 14 per cent higher risk of cardiovascular events, such as strokes and heart attacks, according to the findings published in the journal *Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics*. "We are very concerned by these results. They suggest that we shouldn't be taking antidepressant drugs without understanding precisely how they interact with the body," said lead researcher Paul Andrews, Associate Professor at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada.

It is widely known that brain serotonin affects mood, and that most commonly used antidepressant treatment for depression blocks the absorption of serotonin by neurons. It is less widely known, though, that all the major organs of the body - the heart, kidneys, lungs, liver - use serotonin from the bloodstream.

Antidepressants block the absorption of serotonin in these organs as well, and as such the medications could increase the risk of death by preventing multiple organs from functioning properly.

Since depression itself can be deadly - people with depression are at an increased risk of suicide, stroke and heart attack - many physicians think that antidepressants could save lives by reducing depressive symptoms. "Our findings are important because they undermine this assumption. I think people would be much less willing to take these drugs if they were aware how little is known about their impact outside of the brain, and that what we do know points to an increased risk of death," study co-author Marta Maslej from McMaster University.



Swine flu may put you at risk of type 1 diabetes

A study suggests that infection with swine flu may put people, particularly children, at greater risk of developing type 1 diabetes.

The study found that Norwegians aged 30 or younger who were infected with the H1N1 influenza virus, or hospitalised with influenza, during the 2009-2010 pandemic were twice as likely to go on to develop type 1 diabetes (T1D) than the general population.

T1D is a chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system destroys the cells needed to control blood-sugar levels. More than 65,000 new cases of type 1 diabetes are diagnosed worldwide annually. Yet the exact cause of T1D is not clear, researchers at Norwegian Institute of Public Health in Norway said.

People inherit a genetic susceptibility to the condition, but an environmental trigger is also needed for it to appear. Viral infections may provide that trigger.

Infection with H1N1 influenza has previously been linked with the development of autoimmune disorders including narcolepsy.

In the new study, Paz Lopez-Doriga Ruiz and colleagues analysed health registries of the whole Norwegian population aged 30 years and under between June 2009 (when a wave of pandemic influenza H1N1 spread across Norway) and June 2014, to investigate whether pandemic influenza diagnosis is linked with increased risk of T1D.

Following the 2009 pandemic, 2,376 individuals were diagnosed with T1D, researchers found.

Those who reported influenza-like illness during the pandemic were 18 per cent more likely to subsequently be diagnosed with T1D than those who did not have influenza. This association was even stronger in children aged 15 years or younger - who had a 25 per cent increased chance of developing type T1D.

Results also showed that Norwegians with laboratory confirmed H1N1 influenza, or who were hospitalised with an influenza diagnosis during the pandemic season had a doubled risk of later developing type 1 diabetes compared to the general Norwegian population, researchers said.

In contrast, those diagnosed with influenza-like illness in primary care were not at significantly increased risk of developing T1D, they said.

Researchers, including those from Oslo University Hospital, Norway, said this is because of two factors: these cases were less serious, and not all of them were the H1N1 variety of influenza.

Get moving: Apart from drug therapy, physical activity helps people with lupus

Daily routine of physical therapy should be considered as an interventional strategy to be used alongside the current medical treatment for lupus. In the mouse model of lupus, researchers from The Ohio State University found that moderate exercise (45 minutes of treadmill walking per day) significantly decreased inflammatory damage to the kidneys. While 88 per cent of non-exercised mice had severe damage, only 45 per cent of treadmill-exercised animals did. And the researchers think they know why: Several biomarkers known to drive inflammation plun-

meted in the exercise group. To take the research a step further, the team wanted to see what happened to those same biomarkers in lupus mice exposed to a well-established animal model of repeated social disruption known to induce psychological stress - in particular, daily encounters with a stronger "bully" mouse. The results were almost exactly the opposite - the inflammatory markers shot up, which caused substantial kidney damage in the mice. "If we observe similar results in human studies, this could mean that stress reduction and a daily regimen of physical

therapy should be considered as interventional strategies to be used alongside current medical treatment," said study senior author Nicholas Young, a research scientist in rheumatology and immunology at Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center. "We may have started to characterize an effective way to reduce inflammation and help people with lupus aside from conventional drug therapy," he said. Previous studies have supported the idea that physical activity is good for lupus patients, but hard scientific evidence explaining why has been scarce, he said.

Study associates a fifth of global deaths to poor diet

You are what you eat' is a saying that not many take seriously and forget the important role of a good diet needed for a healthy life.

What people don't realise is that an unhealthy food consumption can lead to numerous health issues and can even lead to a premature death in the long term. As per researchers, fewer children are dying before their fifth birthday and although humans are living longer than ever before, one in five deaths last year were linked to poor diet. More than 1.6 million people in poor countries died in 2016 from diarrhoea caused by contaminated water and food, while another 2.4 million succumbed to lung infections that mostly could have been prevented or treated.

Another two million mothers and newborns perished due to complications at birth that rudimentary health care could have largely avoided. AIDS

and tuberculosis each claimed more than a million lives, while malaria killed over 700,000 people, according to half-a-dozen studies published jointly in *The Lancet*, a leading medical journal. But trend lines have declined over the last decade for these communicable diseases.

The same cannot be said for viral hepatitis, which killed 1.34 million people in 2016 - 22 percent more than in 2000, according to the World Health Organization. "Hepatitis deaths can be avoided," said Raquel Peck, CEO of World Hepatitis Alliance, pointing out that no global facility exists to combat the disease and that most sufferers don't even know they have it.

"Globally, only five percent of people living with viral hepatitis are aware of their condition."

Nearly 55 million people died in 2016, while 129 million were born, leaving a net gain of 74 humans on

the planet. Global life expectancy last year was 75.3 years for women, and nearly 70 for men. The Japanese averaged 83.9 years, while citizens of the Central African Republic beat the odds if they make it past 50, a discrepancy of more than three decades between highest and lowest lifespans. Nearly three quarters of all deaths in 2016 were caused by non-communicable diseases, with heart disease related to restricted blood flow - 9.5 million deaths - the single biggest killer of all. That's an increase of nearly 20 percent in a decade. Similarly, mortality due to another so-called "lifestyle" disease, diabetes, went up by more than 30 percent over the same period to 1.4 million. Cancers - led by lung cancer - are also on the rise, accounting for nearly nine million deaths in 2016, 17 percent more than in 2006. Tobacco is blamed for 7.1 million of those fatalities. Startlingly, the study

finds that - combining the two extremes of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy eating in richer communities - poor diet is linked to one in five deaths worldwide. "Among all forms of malnutrition, poor dietary habits - particularly low intake of healthy foods - is the leading risk factor for mortality," researchers concluded. The studies, drawing from the input of 2,500 experts, also showed that one in seven people - 1.1 billion - are "living with mental health and substance use disorders". Major depression ranked among the top ten causes of ill health in all but four of the 195 countries and territories covered. Mental health services are chronically underfunded in most nations, especially in the developing world. In China, only six percent of people coping with common mental illnesses such as depression or anxiety disorders or with substance abuse and dementia seek

out a doctor, earlier research has shown. Less than one percent of national healthcare budgets in China and India is allocated to mental health. The global population afflicted with Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease stood at 2.6 million worldwide in 2016, a more than 40 percent surge from only a decade earlier. Alcohol and drug use accounted for some 320,000 deaths, including 86,000 for opioids. Opioid abuse - mostly pharmaceutical - in the United States has reached epidemic proportions. "We are facing a triad of trouble holding back many nations and communities - obesity, conflict and mental illness, including substance abuse disorders," said Christopher Murray, director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington in Seattle, which centralised and analysed the millions of data points used the studies.

Govt launches free contraceptive shots for women

Once every three months, women in the age group of 18-45 years will be given contraceptive injections free of cost at all state-run primary health centres and hospitals, state health minister C Vijaya Baskar said.

Launching the centrally-funded 'Antara' scheme at the

Egmore Women and Children hospital on Thursday. The depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA) injection - added to the present basket of options such as condoms, intra-uterine devices, oral pills, morning-after pills and sterilisation procedures for men and women - contains

the birth control hormone progestogen and is promoted as a safe option for women.

It will be administered by doctors and staff nurses at government hospitals nearly four times a year to women who want to delay or avoid pregnancies.

The injection is a safe and

effective means of birth control for three months, said state family welfare director K Jyothi. "It offers an additional four week grace period before which the woman has to take the next shot. If the woman does not want to continue, she can get pregnant in four to six months." It gives

women who are not able to convince their partners to use contraceptives another option. Gynaecologists say it is ideal for women who tend to skip oral pills every day.

It does not interfere with sex or breast-feeding and helps women overcome problems of

irregular, heavy or painful periods. It also reduces risk of ovarian or uterine cancer. "It is extremely good for a mass contraceptive programme," said senior gynaecologist Dr Jayashree Gajaraj.

Like any other medication, this contraceptive has its limi-

tations and side effects. While it can't be given to women with heart diseases, side-effects such as irregular bleeding will last for more than three months. "It is best to discuss options with the health care provider before using injectable or any other contraception," Dr Gajaraj said.



Maruti Suzuki Commits \$600 Mn For A New Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Factory In Gujarat

MUMBAI: A lot has been happening in the country's electric vehicle space. Tata Motors is looking to revamp Nano as an EV, in a bid to boost sales. Mahindra Group, on the other hand, is preparing to enter the cab aggregator sector with electric cars. In a related development, the Japanese parent of Maruti India, Suzuki Motor, is gearing up to manufacture EVs at a factory in Gujarat.

Touted as Suzuki's first commercially-available EVs, the cars will be sold in both Indian and global markets. Previously, in 2010, the automotive giant showcased an electric version of Swift, known as Swift REEV or Range Extender, which didn't make it beyond the development phase.

Commenting on the development, aimed at utilising the country's resources to create a global manufacturing base, Suzuki Chairman Osamu Suzuki stated at a meeting in Gujarat, "For the last 35 years, we have been working towards 'Make in India' with you all."

The meeting in question was attended by a number of dignitaries, including PM Narendra Modi and current Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe. As part of the initiative, Suzuki is also looking to infuse \$600 Mn (INR 3,900 Cr) for the construction of a new plant at Hansalpur. The proposed factory will boast a manufacturing capacity of over 250K units.

With the investment, the company's funding in Gujarat will reportedly cross \$2.1 Bn (INR 13,400



Cr). According to Osamu, the ultimate goal is to increase the state's annual manufacturing capacity to more than 750K units in the next few years.

Production at one of these plants has already commenced, while production target for the new plant is slated for 2019, sources revealed. The company is also working to establish a combustion engine facility with a capacity of nearly 500K units.

Additionally, Suzuki has announced plans to set up another factory that would be manufacturing lithium-ion batteries for electric as well as hybrid cars. For the project, the company has partnered with Denso to build the core technology. It will also be working with Toshiba to create the fuel cells and cell modules. So far, the three companies have committed \$180 Mn (INR 1,151 Cr). The plant will be opera-

tional by 2020. At present, Maruti India, a 56.21%-owned subsidiary of Suzuki, boasts an annual manufacturing capacity of 1.5 Mn units in Haryana through factories in Manesar and Gurugram.

Exploring The Scope Of Electric Vehicles In India

The electric vehicle space in India has been abuzz with activities lately. According to a report by the Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles, there has been a 37.5% rise in the sale of EVs in India in recent years. In a bid to achieve 100% electric vehicles by 2030, the government has taken the bold step of reducing tax on electric vehicles to around 12% with the roll-out of GST. In January 2017, the Indian government agreed to bear up to 60% of the research and development (R&D) costs for developing the indigenous low-cost electric technologies.

In May, it was reported that the government is inking a deal with SoftBank for low-interest funding of around 200K electric buses to be deployed in public transport. To cut losses on one of its biggest investments in India, Japanese firm SoftBank reportedly even announced plans to turn Ola into an electric car manufacturer.

Around the same time, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis inaugurated the first multi-modal electric vehicle project in India, along with an Ola electric charging station in Nagpur, in order to celebrate the third anniversary of the Narendra Modi-led government. In June, international EV behemoth Tesla Motors' CEO Elon Musk was reportedly in talks with the Indian government for import exemption on EVs. A month later, Mercedes Benz urged the central government to offer incentives for

the manufacturing of electric vehicles. The German automaker claimed that it would be able to introduce electric vehicles in India by 2020, provided it receives adequate support from regulatory authorities.

In the second week of August, Mumbai-headquartered JSW Energy announced plans to launch electric vehicles (EVs) in India by 2020. To that end, the company has promised \$545.72-\$623.68 Mn (INR 3,500-INR 4,000 Cr) for the next three years. The Government of India also recently invited tenders for up to 10,000 EVs and 4,000 charging stations in Delhi NCR. Six of the country's leading automakers, including Tata Motors, Renault, Hyundai, Nissan, Maruti Suzuki, and Mahindra & Mahindra, have reportedly expressed interest in partnering with the government for the project. The move is part of a bigger initiative aimed at putting more than 1 Mn electric three-wheelers and 10,000 electrically-powered city buses on the country's roads by mid-2019.

Most recently, the Karnataka state government, in its efforts to become the Electric Vehicle Capital Of India, has approved the state's Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy 2017. This is in line with the state's "Make In Karnataka" vision.

With its latest initiative in Gujarat, Maruti Suzuki will join the ranks of Tata Motors, Hyundai, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Nissan as an electric vehicle manufacturer operating in India.

Asia shares fall after North Korea's latest missile launch

HONG KONG: Asian stocks were mostly lower Friday after North Korea fired off another missile over Japan, ratcheting up geopolitical tensions and denting investor sentiment. Keeping score: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index edged up 0.1% to 19,835.30 but South Korea's Kospi lost 0.4% to 2,369.32. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.7% to 27,571.42 and the Shanghai Composite in mainland China shed 0.6 percent to 3,353.11. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 sank 0.6% to 5,704.90.

Missile tensions: North Korea launched an intermediate-range missile that flew 3,700 kilometers (2,300 miles), setting off alarms as it flew over Japan to land in the Pacific Ocean. The launch was the latest sign of Pyongyang's willingness to defy international opinion as it moves closer to building up a military arsenal targeting U.S. forces. Trader talk: "Risk-off sentiment is at the front and center of markets once again with North Korea's latest missile firing," said Jingyi Pan, market strategist at IG in Singapore. "Asian shares are expected to be weighed with the heightening of tensions as investors digest reactions from world leaders."

Fed watch: Investors were also digesting the first of a batch of U.S. economic data as they await the Fed's next move on interest rates. Data released Thursday showed U.S. consumer prices rose in August at their fastest pace in seven months, a possible sign inflation is picking up pace. Industrial production and retail sales figures are due Friday, which could provide more hints on whether the Fed, which meets next week, will remain on track to raise rates by the end of the year. Wall Street: Major US benchmarks ended mostly lower. The Standard & Poor's 500 index slid 0.1 percent to 2,495.62. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.2 percent to 22,203.48. The Nasdaq composite slumped 0.5 percent to 6,429.08. Energy: Oil was hovering near its seven-week high. Benchmark U.S. crude futures slipped 23 cents to \$49.67 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 59 cents, or 1.2 percent, to settle at \$49.89 a barrel Thursday, the highest closing price since the end of July. Brent crude, used to price international oils, shed 35 cents to \$55.12 barrel in London. Currencies: The dollar slid to 110.19 yen from 110.26 yen. The euro weakened to \$1.1906 from \$1.1919.

Chinese bitcoin exchange announces it is ending trading

BEIJING: One of China's biggest bitcoin exchanges says it will end trading after news reports regulators have ordered all Chinese exchanges to close caused the price of the digital currency to plunge.

BTC China said on its website it will "stop all trading business" on Sept. 30. The exchange said it was acting "in the spirit of" a central bank ban last week on initial coin offerings but gave no indication it received a direct order to close. The central bank has not responded to questions about the currency's future in China.

There was no immediate word from other Chinese bitcoin exchanges about their plans.

Bitcoin's value tumbled 15 percent on Thursday to about \$3,300. The famously volatile currency has shed about a third of its value since Sept. 1 but is up from about \$600 a year ago. Bitcoin surged in popularity in China last year as its price rose. Trading dwindled after regulators tightened controls and warned the currency might be linked to fraud. Two business newspapers reported Thursday regulators in Shanghai, the country's financial center, gave verbal instructions to Chinese bitcoin exchanges to close. Bitcoin is created and exchanged without the involvement of banks or governments. Transactions allow anonymity, which has made bitcoin popular with people who want to conceal their activity. Bitcoin can be converted to cash when deposited into accounts at prices set in online trading. A Chinese business news magazine, Caixin, said at one point up to 90 percent of global trading took place in China.

GDP to remain below 6% in Q2 of 2017-18: SBI report

MUMBAI: Country's GDP is likely to remain below 6 per cent in the second quarter of 2017-18 owing to muted agriculture growth and sluggish performance of manufacturing and mining sector, says a SBI research report. The GDP stood at a three year low at 5.7 per cent for April-June quarter of 2017-18, which the report said has raised concerns about the annual GDP numbers for the fiscal. While it has estimated GDP numbers to remain muted at sub-6 per cent for the July-September quarter, the third and fourth quarter growth is expected to be below 6.5 per cent. "Second quarter growth numbers are likely to be muted, almost like the first quarter numbers (below 6 per cent), and the reasons are many," the 'SBI Ecoflash' report said. "The support that first quarter got from trade, hotel, transport and public expenditure will not be there in the second quarter," it added. Further, the report noted the agriculture growth is expected to be muted as rainfall in the first three months of monsoon was hugely deficit in key foodgrain producing states like Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh and there was sluggish growth in manufacturing and mining sector. "July IIP (index of industrial production) data shows that production was particularly weak in consumer durable goods," the report said.

Sensex advances 30 points to extend gains for 7th day



MUMBAI: The BSE benchmark edged higher by 30.68 points, or 0.10 per cent on Friday to close at 32,272.61 in a volatile trade as gains in IT, auto, oil and banking stocks helped it extend winning streak for a seventh day amid lingering worries about North Korea.

The 50-share NSE Nifty, however, ended 1.20 points down, or 0.01 per cent, at 10,085.40 after hovering between 10,043.65 and 10,115.15 on alternate bouts of buying and selling. On a weekly basis, the Sensex rose by 585.09 points, or 1.84 per cent while the Nifty gained 150.60 points or 1.51 per cent. The 30-share Sensex had opened lower and the day's low of 32,138.38 in early deals. However emergence of buying in the last hour of the trade helped the index wipe-off losses and close up 30.68 points, or 0.10 per cent at 32,272.61. The Asian markets ended mixed on a flurry of selling and European shares too were in negative in early trade following an explosion on an underground train at a busy station in southwest London today. North Korea today fired off its second missile over Japan.

GST: Tax department to probe Rs 65,000 crore credit claims of traders

NEW DELHI: Transitional credit claims worth Rs 65,000 crore received from traders under GST have stumped the government and the tax authorities are now preparing to check the veracity of claims of over Rs 1 crore.

The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has asked its officials to verify all transitional credit claims for more than Rs 1 crore as it does not rule out ineligible claims "due to mistake or confusion".

If the entire Rs 65,000 crore transitional credit claims are found genuine, it could burn a deep hole into the anticipated revenue collections under GST. Apart from transitional credit, government would also receive claims for input tax credit, the figure of which is not yet known. Finance minister Arun Jaitley had said that the government had collected Rs 95,000 crore as GST for July with 64 per cent compliance.

"The statement received from GST Network revealed that so far, the registered persons have claimed over Rs 65,000 crore as CGST transitional credit. The possibility of claiming the ineligible credit due to mistake or confusion cannot be ruled out. Accordingly, it is desired that the claims of

credit of more than Rs 1 crore may be got verified in a time-bound manner," Mahender Singh, Special Secretary and Member, CBEC, has written in a letter to Chief Commissioners across the country.

A list of assesses in the Delhi region, who have claimed more than Rs 1 crore as credit in their Tran-1 showed a firm even claiming up to Rs 228.82 crore as transitional credit.

"The carry-forward of transitional credit is permitted only when such credit is also permissible under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) law. It is required that such credit be verified to ensure that only eligible credit is carried forward," Singh said in the letter. Such a verification would include matching the credit claimed with closing balance in returns filed under the earlier laws and checking the eligibility of credit under GST regime.

"It is desired that the same should be done at the earliest with regard to assesses under your jurisdiction and a report sent to this office by September 20," the letter says.

The transitional credit claims of Rs 65,000 crore are only for Central GST. The states may also follow a similar

examination and verification process of claims received under State GST.

Listing out the key reasons for the staggering claims of transitional credit, GST expert Pritam Mahure told IANS: "One, it could be pertaining to closing stock lying with the manufacturers and traders (such as cars and electronics lying with dealers).

"Second, in certain cases, due to invert duty structure (mainly in pharmaceutical industry), many taxpayers had substantial excise duty credit balances, which may have been claimed as transitional credits. Third, the government had allowed traders to avail excise duty credit on the one-year-old stocks, which was not available to them earlier." Experts also suggested that traders should themselves review their claims, before the government initiates scrutiny and subsequent action.

"The government seems to have concerns with input tax credits claimed in TRAN-1 forms by taxpayers and thus, it is advisable that the taxpayers should immediately get these credits independently reviewed to avoid subsequent penal implications on inadvertently claimed credit," Jigar Doshi, Partner, SKP Business Consulting, said.

Question Me, Don't Harass My Son: Chidambaram To CBI On Aircel-Maxis Case

NEW DELHI: In tweets this morning, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram said the CBI should "not harass" his son Karti Chidambaram in the Aircel-Maxis case and "question me".

Karti Chidambaram yesterday refused to appear before the investigating agency for questioning in the case, which involves foreign investment clearance to the Aircel-Maxis deal in 2006, when his father was union finance minister. He said a special court had discharged all the accused and ended proceedings, a claim strongly contradicted by the CBI, which asserts that the investigation is still on.



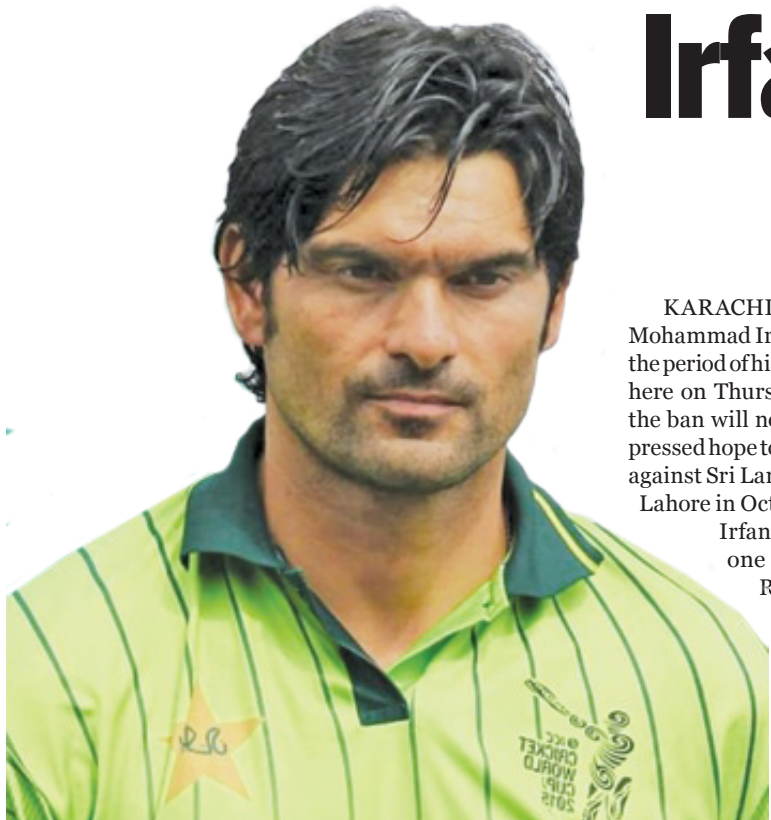
P Chidambaram today hit out at the CBI on social media, accusing it of "spreading misinformation".

In 2006, Aircel was sold to Maxis, owned by Malaysian billionaire T Ananda Krishnan. According to the CBI's chargesheet, the Mauritius-based Global Communication Services Holdings, a subsidiary of Maxis, had requested approval for an investment of 800 million dollars in Aircel.

Though a cabinet panel led by the Prime Minister should have signed off on the deal, the CBI alleged, then finance minister P Chidambaram unilaterally cleared it.

P Chidambaram was examined in 2014 by the agency in connection with the case.

Earlier this year, Mr Chidambaram had said that the deal was sent for approval to him by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board or FIPB, which reports to the Finance Ministry. "FIPB consists of five Secretaries to the Government of India...who...submitted the case to the Finance Minister and sought approval. As FM, I granted approval in the normal course of business," he said..



Irfan completes ban period, hopes to play T20 against SL in Lahore

KARACHI: Giant fast bowler Mohammad Irfan, who completed the period of his six-month PCB ban here on Thursday, is hoping that the ban will now be lifted and expressed hope to play the T20 match against Sri Lanka, set to be held in Lahore in October this year. Irfan was suspended for one year and fined Rs1,000,000 after he admitted his failure to report approaches by bookmakers linked to spot-fixing and his central contract was suspended for six months.

The cricketer also had to provide substantial assistance to the PCB vigilance and security and had to participate in programmes of Anti-Corruption Education, which included giving lectures on anti-corruption. The player's central contract with PCB remained suspended and no new contract was offered to him, and it was stated that if the sportsman succeeds in following the suspension guidelines of the PCB then he will be able to play cricket after six months. Irfan, however, expressed sadness at missing the Independence Cup matches against the World XI which would have given him opportunity to play in front of home crowds and on home turf.

The fast bowler told Dawn News that the six months of the ban were the most crucial of his life and career. "I was very unlucky to have the ban at a time when international cricket was returning home and was not able to be a part of the historical match," he said. "Being a cricketer knowing that you cannot play cricket hurts badly. When a player is banned for which he has worked hard all his life, it really hurts especially when you see your dream match happening in front of you," he said. He further added that he is eyeing to make a comeback in the team before the Sri Lankan series of which the last T20 match is scheduled to be held in Lahore. "I always has a dream to play international match at my home ground in front of Pakistani fans and I am sad that when all this is happening I am not able to be part of the match," he said. "I have worked on my fitness for the last six months, day and night I went to my private gym and ground for training privately. I am all set to take part in the upcoming Quaid-i-Azam Trophy representing Wapda and will give my best to perform and make comeback in the national team," he said. "I am eyeing to be part of the Sri Lanka series where the last T20 match will be played in Lahore."

He also thanked all the people involved during his ban. "I am glad I was surrounded by such good family and friends who supported me well in these six months, but this has made me realize that how important is to inform the PCB officials about anyone contacting you for spot fixing," he said. Talking about the official announcement of the end of his ban, he said, "As every official of PCB is busy in the World XI series, I will be contacting them over phone and then they will give me time to meet and for the official letter after which I will be able to play cricket."

Perera gets out after thrashing Pakistan as World XI chase 184

The star-studded World XI are at 112/6 in 14 overs as they chase down a 184-run target set by Pakistan in the series decider of the Independence Cup being played at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium on Friday. Shadab Khan gave away 24 runs in the 13th over as Thisara Perera hit him for three sixes and a four. But Babar Azam took his catch off Rumman Raees in the very next over to pull the game back for Pakistan. The World XI skipper Faf du Plessis was run out for 13 off 13 balls in the 10th over. They still need another 116

runs in last 10 overs. An inside edge by George Bailey went on the dislodge the leg stump as he tried to get a boundary against Imad Wasim. Hassan Ali bowled Ben Cutting out for five while Hashim Amla was run out the very next ball as a result of a mix-up in the fifth over. The international team opened their innings with hard knocks from Tamim Iqbal. The Bangladeshi cricketer was bowled by Usman Shinwari in the second over. With the series poised 1-1, Pakistan and the World XI are embroiled in a gripping



battle for victory. Ahmed Shehzad's 89 propelled Pakistan to a contestable total of 183 runs for the loss of four wickets. The highest run-scorer on the Pakistan side, Shehzad

smacked eight boundaries. He was run-out after three back-to-back 6s in the first T20 cricket in the 17th over. Pakistani openers Fakhar Zaman and Shehzad slowly piled on the pressure in the first innings with aggressive knocks, striking up a 61-run partnership. But with Fakhar falling to a run-out at the hands of Darren Sammy, the heat returned to the batting side, as Shehzad and Babar Azam struggled to keep the total moving. Babar and Imad Wasim both got out in the last over trying to take Pakistan over the line. World XI skipper Faf du Plessis won the toss and put Pakistan in to bat first, as was the case in the first two matches of the series.

Afridi finally agrees to formal send-off from PCB



LAHORE: Mickey Arthur believes Pakistan have made "significant strides" in one-day international cricket since his appointment as head coach, but admits there is work to do in the Test arena. The experienced South African took charge in May 2016 with his new employers languishing down in ninth place in the ICCODI rankings. While there were growing pains at the start of his reign - Pakistan were beaten 4-1 by both England and Australia - they rose to the challenge at the ICC Champions Trophy in June, stunning rivals India in a one-sided final on English soil. While Arthur sees a bright future in the shorter formats, he accepts his younger players need to step up in Test cricket as they begin life without batsmen Younis Khan and Misbah-ul-Haq, who both retired after the 2-1 series victory over West Indies in May. "We've almost come full circle. When I took over a year-and-a-bit ago, the emphasis was on one-day cricket, because that's where we were lagging," he told ESPNcricinfo. "We've made significant strides in that area with our brand of cricket. Players certainly are playing with a lot more sense of freedom, with us looking to strike with the ball, particularly in those middle overs, and our fielding." "The Test team was very settled [when I took over]. It was just a continua-

tion, and we had that fantastic series against England [in 2016]. "Now, though, the wheel has turned. Our one-day team seems pretty settled and is going in the right direction in terms of our brand, but we sit with a Test team that we need to develop, primarily in the batting." "But I'm very excited to see how the likes of Asad Shafiq, Babar Azam and Azhar Ali become our premier players. How they adjust to that responsibility is going to be fantastic." Arthur pinpointed a specific moment during the tour of Australia that made him realise how desperately Pakistan needed to improve in limited-overs cricket. "The tipping point for us was when we needed some fresh legs for the one-day series in Australia," he explained. "I'll never forget taking the one-day players who just arrived out onto the outfield to do some work at lunchtime in front of a packed house at the MCG. The standards that those players arrived in was embarrassing. I was embarrassed to see those players run on the outfield." "Ultimately, that was a reflection of the culture, a reflection on our dressing room. The reflection I wanted on our dressing room was one that was thoroughly professional, one where we push the standards all the time and look to improve ourselves."

Peter Handscomb added to Australia squad in India as cover for Aaron Finch

MUMBAI: Peter Handscomb has been flown in to India as a cover for opening batsman Aaron Finch after the latter aggravated his calf injury during training in Chennai. Aaron Finch has been ruled out of the early part - possibly for as many as the first three contests - of the five-match ODI series starting Sunday. According to cricket.com.au, Aaron Finch will remain with the Australian squad in India as the tourists hope that he will be able to take part in the series at some point. Finch had suffered his calf injury about six weeks ago playing in England for the County side Surrey. The scan on Finch's calf has revealed that he will miss the early part of the five-match ODI series starting

Sunday at Chennai, which will be followed by a three-match T20 series. The injury had kept Finch away from the only warm-up match on this tour as well. Peter Handscomb had reached home in Melbourne from Australia's tour of Bangladesh for a two-Test series just recently, and will leave for India on Saturday to be available for selection for the first ODI slated to be played on Sunday. Australia team physio Alex Kountouris said, "Aaron re-aggravated his pre-existing calf injury during warm-up at training yesterday. He has had a scan in Chennai and although we believe it is not a serious recurrence, he will not be available for the first few one-day matches here in India. He will remain with the squad whilst

we assess the injury and establish his return to play timelines." Finch has had a rich experience of playing limited-overs cricket in India, which also includes his IPL experience playing for teams such as Delhi Daredevils, Mumbai Indians, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Rajasthan Royals and Pune Warriors India. He has played an overall 14 ODIs against India, in which six of them were away games. Peter Handscomb made his ODI debut for Australia against Pakistan at Perth earlier this year, scoring 82. He was also a part of the depleted Australian side sent to New Zealand for an ODI series, in which he also kept wickets in two matches. Even though batting all-rounder Hilton

Cartwright had played the warm-up match in place of Finch, and the announcement was made regarding Handscomb's addition, Australia had signalled that Travis Head would occupy the No 4 slot. In absence of regular coach Darren Lehmann, the stand-in coach David Saker had confirmed a few days ago that Head is slated to bat at No. 4. Head can also be a handy spinner for the visitors. "Hopefully he's the one that can do it. He just seems to keep getting better every time he plays for Australia, so that's a real positive. His training ethic is as good as you'd get so it's a good reward for him," Saker said before Peter Handscomb was added to the ODI squad.

Indian women's hockey team lose 3-1 to Ladies Den Bosch in third Europe Tour match

NEW DELHI: Indian women's hockey team suffered a 3-1 loss to Ladies Den Bosch team in their third match of the Europe Tour. Goals from Ireen van den Assem and Imke Hoek were enough for the hosts to register the win against the visitors as defender Navdeep Kaur (47th) was the lone player to be on target for India. The match saw both the teams locking horns mostly in the midfield as the focus was on defence. In the first quarter, India started strongly as they retained possession for the first ten minutes. A counter attack from Ladies Den Bosch saw them earn a penalty stroke in the 12th minute which was well converted by Ireen van den Assem to give the hosts a 1-0 lead at the end of the first quarter. The second quarter saw some more action as both sides created opportunities inside the opposition's half. Indian forward Lalremsiami came close to scoring in the 22nd minute, only to be denied by Den Bosch's goalkeeper. In the same minute, Indian goalkeeper Savita made a terrific save to keep



the score down to 0-1. However, Ladies Den Bosch showed why nine players from their team play for the national team as they added to their goal tally when Ireen van den Assem beat Savita again in the 45th minute to take a 2-0 lead at the end of second quarter. India brought on goalkeeper Rajani Etimarpu in the third quarter to replace Savita and the former was forced into action straight away as she made a diving save in the 33rd minute. The visitors stepped up their efforts to make a comeback into the match as Captain Rani's shot was saved by the Dutch goalkeeper in the 36th minute while an-

other good team effort went wide of the goal two minutes later. India started the fourth quarter swiftly as a brilliant team move saw defender Navdeep Kaur score in the 47th minute to make it 2-1. The visitors earned a penalty corner in the 50th minute but it was met with a diving save from the Den Bosch custodian. India continued to put more pressure on the home side in the fourth quarter as chances went wide. In the 57th minute, the Dutch side pounced on the opportunity to score as they converted a penalty corner through Imke Hoek to make it 3-1 and secure the victory.

Virat Kohli turns down multi-crore sponsorship deal. Here's why

MUMBAI: Virat Kohli's strict fitness regime has brought about drastic changes in the team, as his work ethics and insistence on being at the peak of his fitness has rubbed on to the others. Kohli, whose personal game relies heavily on strokes played along the ground and accumulating runs with sharp and quick singles as well as doubles, has even pushed some of his teammates to the brink of exhaustion; just ask Kedar Jadhav. Under Kohli's captaincy, the fitness tests for those trying to make a comeback into the side have been made stricter. Virat Kohli had earlier told The Hindu that he would never ask his players to do something which he cannot do first, and keeping in line with his belief, the Indian captain has now rejected a multi-crore deal offer to promote an aerated drink. "I first convince myself I can do it and only then ask my teammates to go for it," Kohli had said. "If I myself won't consume such things, I won't urge others to consume it, just because I am getting money out of it. When I started my fitness turnaround, it was more of a lifestyle thing initially.



"If something goes away from that, I would not want to be a part of that or be promoting that," said Kohli in an interview earlier. Kohli credits the drastic turnaround that he underwent to the assistance and guidance of Shankar Basu, with whom he has worked in the Indian team set-up as well as at Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore. In an interview with bcci.tv last year, Basu revealed how strict Virat Kohli has been about his work ethic in the gym and on his diet chart. "Virat will never challenge you once he is convinced about your methods. I found an athlete who was ready to go

through the grind and work hard consistently whenever the need arose. He is very good with his nutrition plans and discipline factors. He has also made a lot of lifestyle changes. Kudos to him." "There are lots of players in the Indian team who are in pursuit of excellence and Virat Kohli is the front-runner. He is just the tip of the iceberg, there are lots more to come." "Virat is a great role model in terms of his approach towards his game, towards lifestyle, his nutrition and training. He inspires a lot of people around him. He has made my job a lot easier as he motivates others, whereas I am just required to do my work," he added.