

TIME AND US

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WEATHER TEMPERATURE		
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	25.0	6.4
JAMMU	33.6	17.5
LEH	10.7	6.9
KARGIL	19.0	3.9

SUNSET THURSDAY: 05:55 PM
SUNRISE FRIDAY: 06:42 AM
LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR
 Partly Cloudy Clear Sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 25°C & 06°C respectively.

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

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BRAID CHOPPING:

Five wounded in Army firing

Soldiers thrashed in North Kashmir

Srinagar, Oct 18: With authorities still clueless and 'desperate' to unfold braid chopping mystery, Kashmir continues to remain on edge while on Wednesday dozens of persons suffered injuries during clashes that sparked after fresh braid cutting incidents in various localities across Valley. Clashes erupted in Mehjoor Nagar area of Kashmir capital Srinagar after the braid of a woman was chopped off by unidentified miscreants. The incident created panic in the area while large number of youth hit to roads and clashed with government forces. The shopkeepers lowered their shutter as Forces fired a warning shot in air after agitated youth resorted to massive stone-pelting. Police lobbed tear-smoke shells, however, protesting youth continued to hurl rocks on Forces for hours together.



Protest erupted in Chattabal area of Srinagar city against an overnight braid chopping incident there. Large number of women hit to roads and

raised anti-government and anti-police slogans. Divulging information about the incident locals said: "a miscreant barged into the secluded house

of Bilal Ahmed Gojri, a conductor by profession who lives with a non-local better-half. The miscreant attacked the woman while Gojri during confrontation lost the balance and fell down on the ground from the window. Gojri suffered injuries and is unable to move," they said. The protesters mostly women amid slogans castigated government for failing to protect the honour and dignity of women folk. Eyewitnesses told CNS that panic gripped in Dandarkha area of Batallo when the braid of a woman was chopped off. Reports said that people found the victim unconscious with her braid cut and she was immediately rushed to SMHS Hospital for treatment. Police lobbed tear-smoke shells

CM meets Rajnath amid spurt in violence in Kashmir Valley

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti today met Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and discussed various issues, including the recent spurt in violent incidents in the Kashmir Valley, an official said. During the 30-minute meeting, the chief minister briefed the home minister about the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the steps taken to maintain peace in the state.



Singh assured Mehbooba of all central assistance to her government in maintaining peace in the state, a home ministry official said.

Braid Chopping: SWC raises question over SITs, Police investigation

SIT has failed to share details with us: Nayeema Mehjoor
 Srinagar, Oct 18: Chairperson State Commission for Women Wednesday questioned the investigation by Police and Special Investigation Teams (SIT) regarding the growing incidents of mysterious braid chopping, saying that they have failed to share details of the enquiry done so far. "We had asked the SITs to share the details of investigation on daily basis but they so far failed to share the details even of a single case," the Commission's chairperson, Nayeema Mahjoor told CNS. Mehjoor added that she doesn't even know what SIT has investigated so far and how they are working and where are they working. Nayeema Mahjoor said that the SIT has failed to share details of the investigation

GOVT SLASHES CALL RATES FOR SOLDIERS ON PAK, CHINA BORDERS

NEW DELHI: Minister for Communications Manoj Sinha on Wednesday announced Diwali gift of slashed talk-time and waiver of fixed monthly rates to soldiers serving on the Pakistan and China borders. Briefing mediapersons here today, Mr Sinha said, "From Diwali day (19th October, 2017), no monthly fee will be taken for using DSPT service, that is, the current monthly fee of Rs 500 will be 'Zero' from Thursday. And also, the present telephone charges of Rs 5 per minute is being reduced to Re 1 per minute. In order to use the facility of DSPT, the soldiers & officers at present are required to pay monthly fee of Rs 500 and call charges of Rs 5 per minute."

See **China**...Pg 02

'No cabinet reshuffle in near future': BJP National Vice president

'Govt serious over braid chopping issues'
 Srinagar, Oct 18: Denying the possibility of changing the portfolios of ministers, BJP's National Vice president and Kashmir affairs in-Charge Avinash Rai Khana Wednesday rejected reports of a proposed Cabinet reshuffle. For the past few months, a list of who's who of BJP leaders, likely to be inducted in the much awaited reshuffle of the Mehbooba Mufti led PDP-BJP government is doing rounds on various media plat-



There were also speculations that the PDP and BJP may go for a reshuffle of the cabinet min-

isters, he said both the parties have not yet decided to make any immediate changes in the cabinet. He said that BJP and PDP ministers are working well. "They are taking forward the agenda of peace and prosperity in the state as envisioned by Prime Minister Modi," Khana claimed. However Avinash Rai Khana further added that the central party leadership

See **BJP**...Pg 02

POLICE FAILED ON ALL FRONTS TO HANDLE MISCREANTS, NEFARIOUS ELEMENTS: NC

SRINAGAR | OCT 18: The National Conference (NC) while strongly condemning the killing of PDP worker in South Kashmir and blazing of house of the deceased alleged that the Jammu and Kashmir police has failed on all fronts to handle miscreants and nefarious elements of the society, adding, the spree of braid chopping has taken a heavy toll on the Kashmiri psyche but curiously government has not been able to crack any of such cases yet. In a statement to PTK, NC spokesman Aga Syed Ruhullah said the party stands in solidarity with the family of the slain Sarpanch Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh of Imam-sahib Shopian south of Kashmir in this moment of inconsolable grief. He was deceased was a common unarmed Kashmiri. His killing brings back the memories of hundreds

See **NC**...Pg 02

Hakeem Yaseen demands Spl. Central Employment Package for Kashmiri youth

Expresses concern over delay in regularization policy for DRWs

Srinagar, Oct 18: Chairman PDP and MLA Khansahib, Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen has expressed serious concern over the inordinate delay to announce a comprehensive regularization policy for casual, daily wagers, and contractual workers in various Government and Public sector understandings, as promised by the present Government.

He said that thousands of daily wagers and their families are facing nightmare to see their future as uncertain alleging that so far Government has been doing only lip service to announce regularization policy for them.

In a statement issued to CNS, Hakeem Yaseen has alleged that the that the PDP led



Government has totally failed to fulfil its promise to regularize all genuine need based, daily rated and adhoc workers working

See **Yaseen**...Pg 02

EIGHT CIVILIANS INJURED IN CROSS BORDER FIRING

Poonch, Oct 18: At least 8 civilians were wounded and some of the private vehicles damaged in cross border firing in Rajouri and Poonch villages along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday morning.

Police sources told news agency CNS that due to border firing in Manjakote Sector in Rajouri, three civilian identified as Liaquat Hussain of Khorinar his daughter Insha and elderly man Muhammad Zaffar of Mangalnar near Baryani Gali received injuries and were shifted to Army dispensary.

Police sources added that in Balakote Sector of Poonch district two persons, Tariq Mehmood and Ayaz Ahmed both residents of Dharti received injuries and shifted to PHC Dharkloon. Moreover 3 private vehicles were also damaged.

See **Border**...Pg 02

India can help US to keep an eye on Pak: Haley

WASHINGTON: India can help the US keep an eye on Pakistan as President Donald Trump has "taken tougher approach to Islamabad harbouring terrorists", US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley has said.

Noting that Trump recently announced a new strategy for combating terrorism in Afghanistan and South Asia, Haley said one of the pillars of that strategy is the development of America's strategic partnership with India.

"America's overriding interest in Afghanistan and throughout South Asia are to eliminate terrorist safe havens that threaten us. And to keep nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists, we will use all the elements of our national power economic diplomatic and



military to pursue these goals," she said. Critically we will look to our economic and security partnerships with India, she added.

See **Haley**...Pg 02

BRAID CHOPPING GOVT SPONSORED DESIGN: G. A. MIR

SRINAGAR | OCT 18: J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President G. A. Mir while reacting over the firing incident in Wullerhama village of Salar area in Anantnag district said that government has failed to control the present situation.

He told PTK that not only in Anantnag such incident happened in Shopian where during night hours army arrives to threaten locals. He added, "The situation is out of control of the government. They are unable to use their mind that how to control it".

Mir also reacted strongly over the increasing incidents of braid chopping. He said that government is responsible for such incidents. "When people try to catch braid chopper, why government forces are also there. It clearly indicates that it is a government sponsored design", Mir said.

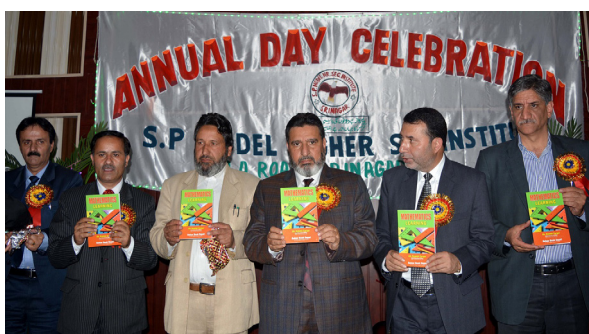
See **Mir**...Pg 02

Altaf Bukhari for insulating academics from politics

'Need to secure future of students through best possible education'

Srinagar, Oct 28: Appealing for insulating education from politics, Minister for Education, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari today said that disturbing academics for serving political interests will lead the society into the perpetual darkness and threaten future of students.

He appealed the leadership across the political spectrum to spare education from politics.



"The precious time of students should not be wasted by involving them in any political activities. It is the time when students should focus on their studies and later on they can decide their future course accordingly," Bukhari said.

The Education Minister made these remarks during the Annual Day celebrations at S.P Higher Secondary School, M.A Road which

See **Bukhari**...Pg 02

FAMILIES OF MILITANTS ACCUSE ARMY OF RANSACKING HOUSES

Army terms allegations baseless

Shopian, Oct 18: Locals from a Shopian village Wednesday staged a protest against alleged Army raids in the houses of militants and subsequent their ransacking and thrashing of inmates.

The protesters who assembled at Safanagri village of South Kashmir's Shopian district alleged that Army raided the houses of militants not only in their village but also in Baba Khidhar, Turkawangam and Malikgund villages.

"The army men without any provocation barged into the houses of militants and thrashed the family members. They let loose a reign of terror and without any reason damaged the houses and beat relatives of militants

See **Families**...Pg 02

DR JITENDRA INAUGURATES NEWLY CONSTRUCTED BHINI BRIDGE

Rs 22 cr project improves connectivity with HP, Punjab

KATHUA, OCTOBER 18:- Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region, Dr.Jitendra Singh today said that time has come to gear up men and machinery for accelerating the pace of development in the Jammu and Kashmir and enable the people to reap maximum benefit from series of projects taken up in the state.

public gathering after inaugurating newly constructed Bhini Bridge at Billawar of Kathua district executed by BRO under Project Sampark.

The bridge having span of 259 Mtr has been built over river Bhini at 42.59 KM on Dhar-Udhampur road and completed at an estimated cost of Rs 22 Crore.

The union home Minister said that the ambitious project has great strategic

importance as it provided an alternate link along the National Highway from Jammu to Pathankot besides tackling increasing traffic on the road.

Jitendar Singh said that the Central Govt. is committed to facilitate State Government in achieving the targets set for making Jammu and Kashmir a model and developed State. He expressed his delight and said the long pending

demand of the people living in Billawar has been met with the commissioning of this Bridge. He further said that it will not only improve connectivity to the area with neighboring states of Punjab and Himachal but also decreases travel time. Dr Singh also announced Rs 1 Crore from his MPLAD fund for development of stadium at Bhaddu, conservation of ponds, augmentation

of health infra and construction of community hall at Billawar. He also said that provision for installing Solar Lights on this bridge is under active consideration.

He said centre has sanctioned Rs 2800 Crore under PMGSY for J&K and Kathua - Udhampur parliamentary constituency would also get its due share. He further stated that all PMGSY projects will be completed in the year 2018-

19, thus giving major fillip to road connectivity. Listing various ambitious projects taken up in Kathua, he said ambitious Chattergala Tunnel project proposed on Basholi Bahderwah road has been formally approved to provide an all-weather inter district connectivity. He also announced that Keerian-Gandial bridge will be completed by June 2018 adding that the another ambitious.

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FIVE

to disperse scores of protesters at Lasjan Bypass after a fresh braid chopping incident in the area.

Locals said that miscreants chopped off the braid of a woman at Golapora Lasjan. The incident sparked protest while agitated youth hit to Lasjan highway and tried to block the traffic. Government Forces swung into action and fired tear-gas shells.

Reports from North Kashmir's Baramulla district said that a group of people mistook three army soldiers in plain clothes as braid choppers and thrashed them mercilessly. Reports added that blood oozed out from the nose of one of the victim.

A police official said that three army men posted at Kit-chama, were on way to Baramulla when a group of "miscreants" stopped them near Sheeri and after checking their identity cards thrashed them. "They were thrashed before police rescued them. An FIR has been registered and investigation taken up," he added.

At least five persons suffered bullet injuries after Army allegedly resorted to firing to disperse protesters who were chasing an alleged braid chopper in Wullerhama village of Salar area in Anantnag district on Wednesday.

Eyewitnesses told news agency CNS that unidentified miscreants tried to chop off the braid of wife of Muhammad Zulifkar Sofi during wee hours while agitated people caught hold of a suspect and thrashed him mercilessly. They said shortly after the arrival of army, the suspect tried to flee in an army vehicle, while agitated people stoned him and the army vehicle.

"The army fired upon the protesters that left at least five protesters wounded who were immediately rushed to District Hospital Anantnag," said locals.

Some of the wounded were identified as Jana Begum, Muhammad Irshad and Abdul Rashid.

Reports said that after this incident the situation in Wullerhama and Sallar villages remained tense while youth at the both villages fought pitched battles with government forces during the day.

Reports from Kulgam district said that the braid of a 13 year old student, daughter of Nisar Ahmed Ganai was chopped off by unidentified miscreants. Eyewitnesses said that people ran after the suspect but he managed to escape from the spot. "We were mulling to register a massive protest against this overnight incident on Wednesday morning, but our village was cordoned off by Army who conducted a search operation here," said a local from Zangalpora Kulgam village.

Pertinently, over a 100 incidents of braid chopping have occurred in different parts of Kashmir Valley during the past month while police is still clueless.

The victims have told their families and police that unknown persons cut their hair after knocking them unconscious with some spray.

The police have formed Special Investigation Teams to probe the incidents. However, so far the police and the authorities have been clueless.

The police have announced a reward of Rs six lakh for credible information leading to arrest of any person behind braid chopping incidents. So far, no arrests have been made.

At several places, vigilante mobs have thrashed innocents mistaking them for braid choppers.

CM

The spurt of violence in Jammu and Kashmir include attacks on security personnel, killing of a PDP worker and the subsequent attack on his house and throat slitting of a teacher.

Alleged incidents of braid chopping have also triggered panic in some parts of the state. Today, four persons were injured when security forces fired on a mob in Pahalgam area following an alleged braid chopping incident.

The constitution of a study group to examine the problems being faced by the people living near the International Border and the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir was also believed to have been discussed during the meeting, the official said.

The group was set up by the home ministry recently. The home minister had recently said five to six terrorists are killed by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir everyday. The chief minister also met Railway Minister Piyush Goyal yesterday.

BRAID

done over the braid chopping incidents.

"I believe some among the officials appointed in the SITs are not taking our directions seriously due to which they don't share details so far," she said, adding that she could have come up with the facts within one week in case she had proper resources.

"I can't say that the SITs are not investigating the matter but we have to work on war footing basis to bring respite to the people especially to the womenfolk," she added.

She said that the SITs constituted must share the details about the investigation over braid chopping to the commission.

Asked about the Police claims that the victims are not cooperating, Mehjoor said, "I believe that some among the victims have cooperated with the Police as I talked to some of the victims as well as the Police officials and their statements were quite similar, which seems that the victims at few places have cooperated. Police should investigate those cases first so that they may get a proper lead in this regard."

She further said that Police must come up with the facts in case they are claiming that these incidents are 'mass hysteria'.

teria'.

"First of all I am not going to buy any such statement, which terms braid chopping as mass hysteria as the number of the incidents continues to swell with each passing day. Police should come up with the proper evidences to prove their statements that the growing incidents of braid chopping are mass hysteria. If there is no criminal element involved in it then it should be made public with the proper evidences," she said.

"The only thing Police share to me is the number of incidents, which are mounting with each passing day," she said, adding that Police should build confidence among the public so that the facts would be come to the fore.

"I also held a serious of meeting and talked to Police chief and Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti also in this regard. The CM assured me of proper investigation while the Police chief rued lack of cooperation," she said, adding that "I am also trying to find out the facts but what can I do without any resource."

She also questioned the role of Director Health Service Kashmir, who was tasked by Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti to formulate a team to investigate the chemicals being used prior to the braid chopping incidents. "Why the health officials have failed to formulate a board to find out the facts regarding the chemicals," she questioned.

Admitting that the braid chopping victims are in trauma, Mehjoor said, "I visited SMHS and talked to the medicos who were treating the victims. The medicos informed me that the victims were in trauma and didn't share anything in this regard. I appeal to the womenfolk to not to get harassed or intimidated. We know the hair is our dignity, but don't let the situation to harass you."

Mehjoor asked the people not to take the law in their hands. "If they have proper evidences then they should come to me along with the evidences. I will personally look into that."

CHINA

He said, "With this special Diwali Gift from Government of India, Defence personnel can now talk without worrying for more expenses to their home and their Headquarters."

Communication Minister said, "The soldiers and officers of various army and para-military units like CRPF, BSF, BRO, ITBP, etc, deployed in remote and far flung areas to protect Borders and they use only DSPT service provided by BSNL because there is no other means of communications available in those areas."

"The soldiers and officers are working day and night without bothering about difficult weather conditions and as they are posted away from their homes and headquarters, there is a constant requirement for them to speak to their family and also to their Headquarters," he added.

BJP

is regularly assessing the performance of their party ministers in different states including the Jammu and Kashmir and where ever some intervention is required in the interest of the masses and the state party unit, the party high command takes a call after holding threadbare discussions within the party.

Commenting on the braid chopping issues in Kashmir, Khana said that government is serious over the issue and won't allow any body to create uncertainty in the state.

The BJP with 25 seats has eight cabinet and three ministers of state, including Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh, while the PDP has 13 ministers, including Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti.

Meanwhile a senior BJP leader, who recently attended National Executive Meeting, said that the central leaders remained busy on chalking out national agenda of the party and how to improve programme implementation of various central schemes meant for poor across the state. "There was neither specific discussion on the state centric issues nor any performance audit of the JK BJP leaders," the BJP leader said.

It is to mention here that the BJP General Secretary, Ram Madhav, and Avinash Rai Khana had recently held one-on-one meeting with his party ministers in Srinagar. Almost all ministers had met the two leaders and have briefed them about their respective departments.

NC

of brutal murders of political workers in Kashmir over the past three decades.

"The atmosphere of fear has engulfed the whole region and no one either from the administration or the police seems to have a clue about how to tackle it. The recent spree of braid chopping has taken a heavy toll on the Kashmiri psyche but curiously government has not been able to crack any of such cases yet."

Ridiculing the police and the administration for their abject failure in providing security to the bereaved family Chief Spokesperson said, "Our heart goes out to the family of Late Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh who not only lost a precious member but were subjected to the trauma of losing their house and property."

"It's sad that now even simple law and order situations are not handled by police anymore. CM Mehbooba Mufti who happens to be states home minister as well seems to have forgotten her responsibility which is to ensure protection of the lives and property of the state subjects.

Clearly she has failed to do so," the chief Spokesperson said adding, "The PDP-BJP government and especially Chief Minister should therefore acknowledge their shameful role

in bringing Jammu and Kashmir to this situation and take moral responsibility for the continuously deteriorating situation in the state."

Alleging that the state police has failed on all fronts in Kashmir he said, "Has the Police department given up its main responsibility which is to maintain law and order? Where were they at the time when Sheikhs house was burnt down or are they expecting security forces to handle miscreants and nefarious elements of the society?"

YASEEN

in various Government departments and PSUs adding only press statements are being issued in this regard to kill time. He said no concrete proposal has come forth till now from the present Government in this regard.

He said that the inordinate delay caused by the Government to announce a realistic regularization policy for daily wagers has caused horrible despair and depression among them.

"If the problems of about 70,000 daily rated and need base workers is not solved immediately, the repercussions would be alarming and its whole responsibility would lie of the present Government," Hakeem Yaseen cautioned adding that they could easily get exploited by the anti national elements.

Hakeem Yaseen said that both Central and state Governments should jointly address the problems of daily rated and need based workers without wasting further time as the state was already at the hit list of anti national forces to cause trouble and un certainty here. He has also demanded a special central employment package for the educated youth of the state in various central Government departments and PSUs to bring maximum number of youth in the mainstream and to address the feeling of alienation among the general people.

BORDER

In the same sector, three more labourers got injured due to border firing. They were identified as Vasu Ram of Udhampur, Urmila Devi and Kusum Kumari, both residents of Madya Pradesh. A Defense official said that Pakistan resorted to unprovoked firing while Indian Army too retaliated effectively.

HALEY

In her address to an event organised by US India Friendship Council, Haley said Trump has taken a "tougher approach to Pakistan harboring terrorists."

"Pakistan has been a partner to the US at times. We value and respect that. But, we cannot tolerate this government or any other government giving safe haven to terrorists who target Americans. This new approach will require understanding and restraint from both Pakistan and India," she said.

The US, she said, is looking at India to help US more in Afghanistan particularly in economic and development assistance.

India has already made important contributions to the stability of Afghanistan.

"We are really going to need India's help in Afghanistan. They are the good neighbours and partner that we have in the region," she said.

"So, having them help not only with infrastructure and the aide that they can give towards rebuilding Afghanistan, (They can) also help us to keep an eye on Pakistan," Haley said.

"That is going to be really important in making sure that we hold them accountable, because we are at a point where we kind of laid the ground work that we need to see better partnership from Pakistan. We can't continue to see them harboring the terrorists. We have to see something change. India is going to witnessing that. India is going to help us with that," Haley said in response to a question.

The Trump Administration is hoping to expand India's contribution in Afghanistan through a deep partnership, she said.

The partnership between India and America is strong and getting stronger because it is rooted in a shared belief in hard work education family and achievement, she said.

"President Trump said when he hosted Prime Minister Modi on his visit to the US in June that, India has a true friend in the US and it is a friendship based on shared values," Haley said.

"Working at the UN really brings home how important it is for countries to share our commitment to democracy. Countries that honour and respect a voice of their people don't threaten peace and security. But, take a look at the countries that are causing most of the trouble in the world. And you will see countries that don't respect the will of their own people," she said.

For instance, Haley said, Trump has just announced a new tougher approach to ensuring that Iran never gets a nuclear weapon.

"It would be catastrophic for the safety of Americans and the world if Iran became a nuclear power. But India is a nuclear power and nobody gives it a second thought. Why," she asked.

"Because India is a democracy that threatens no one," she said.

The US and India have both felt the pain of terrorism and we share the commitment of defeating terrorists and the hateful ideology that motivates them, Haley said.

Responding to a question, Haley said India is a responsible nuclear power.

"We want to show the world that yes there are countries

that have nuclear weapon, but they are not supposed to act like North Korea. They are not supposed to manage themselves like Iran," she said.

Haley also said there was a plan for her to travel to India by the end of this year, she said responding to another question.

"There was a plan, possibly I would go (to India) by the end of this year but there's another crisis that has come up that will send me somewhere else. But yes, I mean I would love to go back to India," she said.

"It's amazing and special for me. I was fortunate to be there a few years ago, for the first time when I was two. And it was as magical as my parents say about it. So I look forward to going back to India," she added.

MIR

He said that the chief minister Mehbooba Mufti is scoring her interests by such incidents. What women can expect from such type of government where they can't feel safe at home", he said.

However Mir further added that, "Mehbooba Mufti has designed this plan to torture women socially and mentally. On the other hand Mehbooba says that people must help them to catch these braid chopper and when people try to catch braid chopper, force use tear gas and firing upon people. Even FIR's are being lodged against common people. It shows that it is the designed led by Mehbooba Mufti.

ALTAf

he attended as the chief guest. Secretary School Education, Farooq Ahmad Shah, Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Ittoo, Special Project Director RMSA, Tufail Mattoo, CEO Srinagar, Farooq Ahmad Dar, Principals of various educational institutions, Chairman Private Schools Association, G.N Var and other concerned were present on the occasion.

During the celebratory function, several cultural programs, skits, qawali, solo songs were presented by various groups of students which were highly appreciated by the audience.

The Minister appreciated the performances of the students and said that these functions provide a platform to students where they can showcase their talent and also highlight issues confronting them. He said that the students of Kashmir are talented and they have proved their mettle at national as well as international levels.

"A place like J&K which has been a source of inspiration for knowledge in the entire sub-continent has to be revived as a hub of emancipation for our future generations," the Minister said and added that the present generation of youth in Kashmir have gone through the most turbulent times in history unlike their predecessors and it is now time to secure their future through best possible education.

The Minister also hailed the contribution of the Higher Secondary in keeping the light of education beaming amid difficult circumstances in Kashmir in the past. He also complimented the private sector for supplementing the Government's efforts towards the betterment of education in the State.

On the request of the students, Bukhari announced that the bus service will be provided to SP Higher Secondary School and Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothi Bagh. He said that the bus service for the students will start from March next year on experimental basis.

He also announced that the CM's Super 50 coaching classes will be conducted in S.P Higher Secondary School too. Bukhari also asked the school authorities to start students counselling cell.

Addressing the function, Secretary School Education said that various initiatives have been taken to revive the education sector in the Valley. He said that the Government is upgrading infrastructure in various schools so that students get benefitted.

In order to make education sector more vibrant, Shah said, "we will be declaring the results in one month after the examinations. By this students don't need to wait for long and can get more time for studies."

Later, Bukhari released 'Mathematics Learning', a book to understand mathematics authored by ZEO Narbal, Abdul Rashid Zargar. He also distributed mementoes among the students for their better performances in sports and art.

On the occasion, Director School Education announced the prize of Rs 10,000 for the group of cultural performance students. They were also invited to participate in the tour to Gulmarg which is sponsored by Directorate of Education.

Meanwhile, students from Amira Kadal Girls Higher Secondary School who participated in ISRO quiz at Hyderabad met the Minister and shared their experiences with the Minister.

FAMILIES

to pulp," said protesters to news agency CNS.

Army according to protesters barged into the houses on Tuesday night. "They forcibly dragged us from houses and ransacked them. After causing massive damage to houses, they thrashed us mercilessly," said protesting family members.

Pertinently, a couple of militants from these villages are active and affiliated with Hizbul Mujhadeen and Lashkar-e-Toiba.

Srinagar based Defense Spokesperson, Colonel Rajesh Kalia while terming the allegations baseless said that Army men neither manhandled anyone nor caused damage to the property.

2nd Lamp Lighting Ceremony and Annual Day function of SMVDCoN Kakryal

Governor for developing Nursing College as a front rank institution in nursing and research

KAKRYAL, OCTOBER 18: The Lamp Lighting and Oath Taking Ceremony of the 2nd batch of B. Sc. Nursing students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), Kakryal, and the Annual Day function of this College was held here today.

Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, was the Chief Guest.

Mr. H. L. Maini, Mr. Justice (Retd) Permod Kohli and Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma, Board Members; Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University; Mr. Jitendra Kumar Singh, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board; Mr. Prasanna Ramaswamy G, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi; Dr. M. K. Kumar and Mr. Anshul Garg, Additional CEOs of the Board; and Mr. Tahir Bhat, SSP Reasi were present on the occasion.

Speaking at the function, Governor recalled that after he became responsible for the functioning of the Shrine Board, the Members had unanimously agreed with his suggestion that as major portion of the resources with which the Board is blessed should be ploughed back, particularly for promoting the provision of education and healthcare

to benefit the society at large. In this context, he observed that well over Rs 350 crore had been spent on the establishment of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, well over Rs 300 crore on setting up the Superspecialty Hospital which is progressing well to provide tertiary care to the needy, and Rs. 15.5 crore to establish the Gurukul and Rs 16 crore to start the College of Nursing which is functioning satisfactorily and in the very first year of its functioning its students are showing promising results. He observed that this College, which is imparting quality nursing education, will produce highly qualified and trained nurses who will help in strengthening the functioning of the health sector. Mata Vaishno Devi University has already made a mark in imparting education of high standards to 1675 residential students from J&K and various parts of the country.

The Governor underscored the crucial need for all the stakeholders to intensify effort to ensure that the College of Nursing develops as a front rank institution in nursing and research and for its alumni to serve medical care with distinction.

On the happy occasion of the



Lamp Lighting and Oath Taking Ceremony, to finally induct the 2nd Batch (2017-21), Governor congratulated the student nurses for embarking on this noble profession and wished them a productive and prosperous future ahead.

Governor gave mementos and prizes to the students of the 1st Batch (2016-20) who have excelled in academics and co-curricular activities during the past year.

Governor asked CEO of the Shrine Board to ensure that the School of Architecture and Planning, New Delhi, very early finalizes the Mas-

ter Plan of the area adjoining the Superspecialty Hospital so that an independent complex for the College of Nursing could be established expeditiously, to be followed by the establishment of the proposed Medical College.

In his welcome address, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma, Member of the Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Body of the College, gave details of the achievements of the College in academics and co-curricular activities since its establishment last year.

Earlier, all the Nursing students

of 2nd batch of the college assembled on the stage holding candles, the Faculty lit their candles and, thereafter, took Oath for rendering professional, ethical and selfless service. This ceremony initiates the students into the noble profession of nursing. Adorned in their uniforms for the first time, the students shall hereafter study and practice in actual medical care surroundings.

Dr. (Brig.) M. M. Harjai, Administrator of the Nursing College, presented Vote of Thanks.

Dr. Shailla Cannie, Principal of the Nursing College, administered the Oath to the students and presented the Annual Report of the College for the period 2016-17.

A musical drama was presented by the students of the Nursing College on this occasion which was highly appreciated by the audience.

Among those who attended the function included Dr. V. Verma, Dean SMVDU; Dr. Suneet Marwah, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDNSH; Mr. Manu Ramachandran, Facility Director; medicos and senior executives of the Superspecialty Hospital, Kakryal; officers and staff of the Shrine Board and the faculty, staff, students of the Nursing College and their parents.

PM's interactions with Directors and Deputy Secretaries

New Delhi, October 18: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, interacted with around 380 Directors and Deputy Secretaries working in various departments and Ministries in the Government of India, in four groups. The interactions happened on various days in the month of October 2017. The last of these interactions was on October 17, 2017. Each interaction lasted around two hours.

Subjects such as Governance, Corruption, Public Enterprises, Government e-Marketplace, Health, Education, Skill Development, Agriculture, Transportation, National Integration, Water Resources, Swachh Bharat, Culture, Communication, and Tourism came up for discussion during the interactions.

The Prime Minister exhorted the officers to work with full dedication towards creation of New India by 2022. He said that silos are a big bottleneck in the functioning of the Union Government. He urged the officers to adopt innovative ways to break silos, which will result in the speeding up of various processes of governance. In the same vein, he said officers at the level of Director and Deputy Secretary must create teams, to achieve better results.

MoS, PMO Dr Jitendra Singh, and senior officers from PMO and Cabinet Secretariat were present during the interactions.

CIPAM-DIPP Launches Logo and Tagline Contest for Geographical Indications of India

New Delhi, October 18: The Cell for IPR Promotions & Management (CIPAM) under the aegis of the Department of Industrial Policy Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has launched a logo and tagline/slogan contest for Geographical Indications (GIs) of India on MyGov.in website.

A Geographical Indication (GI) is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory. Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin. Some of the examples of registered Indian GIs are Darjeeling Tea, Tirupathi Laddu, Kangra Paintings, Nagpur Orange, Kashmir Pashmina etc.

GIs are not only part of our rich culture and collective intellectual heritage, but they also supplement the incomes of our rural farmers, weavers, artisans and craftsmen across the country. The promotion of GIs is in line with the Government of India's 'Make in India' campaign and therefore, it is our responsibility to preserve and protect them.

Taking forward its ongoing social media campaign #Let'sTalkIP to promote Indian GIs, DIPP aims to launch a certifying GI mark/logo that can be used to identify all registered GIs irrespective of the categories, and a suitable tagline/slogan for promotion of GIs. This will also help in engaging more people on the subject of GIs and making them aware about the benefits of a GI tag.

DIPP has taken several initiatives for promoting awareness and outreach on GIs. One of the ways to promote GIs could be to present them as gifts. In this context, CIPAM has also launched 'Gift a GI' campaign to enhance the visibility and thus help in branding and promotion of registered GI products. DIPP is also working with State governments to spread awareness on GIs.

This contest is an opportunity for creators who aspire to see their creation recognized on a national platform. The last date for receiving entries is 17th November, 2017. The winning entry will receive a cash award of Rs. 50,000/- each, for logo design and slogan for GIs of India.

The details of the logo competition for 'Design a Logo and Suggest a Tagline Competition' can be obtained from MyGov.in online platform.

Comments and Suggestions Invited for Amendment of Income-tax Rules wrt Registration of Charitable or Religious Trusts

New Delhi, October 18: Vide Finance Act, 2017, a new clause (ab) was inserted in sub-section (1) of section 12A of the Income-tax Act, 1961 ('the Act') w.e.f 01.04.2018 to the effect that where a trust or an institution, which has been granted registration under sections 12A or 12AA of the Act has subsequently adopted or undertaken modification of the objects and such modification does not conform to the conditions of such registration, then such trust or institution shall be required to obtain registration again by making an application within a period of thirty days from the date of such adoption or modification of the objects.

As per the Memorandum related to Delegated Legislation laid on the floor of the Parliament along with the Finance Bill, 2017, the form and manner in which an application of registration u/s 12(1)(ab) shall be made to the Principal Commissioner or Commissioner for registration of the trust or institution subsequent to modification of its objects, is required to be prescribed.

The rules for making an application for registration of charitable or religious trusts under section 12A of the Act are laid down under Rule 17A of the Income-tax Rules, 1962 ('the Rules'). As per the Rules, the application, for registration of charitable or religious trusts under section 12A of the Act, is to be made in Form 10A.

Accordingly, subsequent to the aforesaid amendment to the Act, Rule 17A and Form 10A are proposed to be amended. In this regard, draft notification providing for the amendment of Rule 17A and Form 10A has been framed and uploaded on the website of the Income Tax Department www.incometax-india.gov.in for comments from stakeholders and general public.

Kavinder for providing better road connectivity in rural areas

Kick starts macadamization work at Khwas Khan

JAMMU, OCTOBER 18: Emphasizing on better road connectivity in rural areas, Speaker Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Kavinder Gupta today said that Government is making concerted efforts towards meeting this objective.

"Government has laid full focus on development of infrastructure and provide better civic amenities to the people in rural areas with special focus on improving road connectivity" he said after launching macadamization work of 500 mtr road here at Khwas Khan Village. The work is estimated to cost Rs 5.33 lakh.

The Speaker said that upgrading of the Khwas road was a long pending demand adding that more macadamization work will be taken up to provide better road connectivity to the area. He said that construction of roads is being taken up with a broader perspective of improving rural economy.

Kavinder instructed the officials to construct proper drainage system alongside the road to prevent the problem of water logging.

Asking people to become partner in the development process, he said that the present Government is committed for equitable development of all sections of the society and it has launched various flagship programmes in this regard.

Government is making all out efforts for rural development by improving power supply, health, irrigation, roads, drinking water, housing and employment, he added.

The Speaker also stressed on effective monitoring of the rural development schemes launched by the Centre as well as the State Government to improve quality of life of the people. He said rural development holds a key for the growth of State's economy and stressed on infrastructural growth for the overall development of these areas.

On being apprised of the problems and developmental needs of the area, the Speaker assured locals that all their genuine concerns will be looked into on priority. He directed the concerned officials to take adequate measures to mitigate the problems of the people in a time bound manner.

For augmentation of power supply, Kavinder directed the concerned officials for installation of 100 KVA transformers in the village at the earliest.

Kohli inaugurates Rs 57.40 lakh laboratory block of Sheep Husbandry Deptt in Ganderbal

Inspects activities of Wool Board at Nowshehra

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 18: Minister for Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries, Abdul Gani Kohli today inaugurated Rs 57.40 lakh district laboratory-cum-store building of Sheep Husbandry Department at Haripora in Ganderbal district.

The building housing fully equipped laboratory would facilitate treatment of livestock besides act as multiple store for feed and fodder.

On the occasion, the Department organized an awareness camp for the sheep breeders of the area in which a good number of farmers were present.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that about 80% population of the State lives in the rural areas and most of them are directly or indirectly involved in livestock farming. He said this sector is emerging as important growth leverage to State economy and its share to Gross State Domestic Products is also increasing. He said that with the strenuous efforts of the present dispensation the livestock is emerging as an important sector in the economy.

He further said the ration dealers should be allowed to share transportation vehicles if they few fair price shops fall on the same route.

Zulfkar for timely payment of commission, carriage charges to ration dealers

JAMMU, OCTOBER 18 - Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) and Information Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali today directed the FCS&CA department to ensure timely payment of commission and carriage charges to the ration dealers.

The Minister was speaking at an open interactive session, 'Mahapanchayat' organized by the department at Food Store, Nagrota to listen to the grievances of the ration dealers.

MLA, Marh Sukhnandan Choudhary, MLA, Jammu East Rajesh Gupta, MLC Ramesh Arora were also present on the occasion.

Responding to the grievances of ration dealers, the Minister stressed on proper weighing of allocated ration to each fair price shop. He also instructed the dealers to lift ration from the stores after they are satisfied about the quantity and weight of the food grain they have been allocated.

The Mahapanchayat of ration dealers of Jammu was also attend-

ed by Deputy Commissioner, Jammu Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, General Manager, Food Corporation of India Kishore Kumar, Director, FCS&CA Jammu R.A Inqalabi, Director, FCS&CA Kashmir Nisar Ahmad Wani, SDMs, officers of the Legal Metrology Department, Tehsil Supply officers and representatives of oil companies and

He further said the ration dealers should be allowed to share transportation vehicles if they few fair price shops fall on the same route.

The Minister further directed Director, FCS&CA Jammu to provide Atta in bag package on trial basis to minimize the possibility of less quantity of ration distribution to the beneficiaries. He asked the DC Jammu to submit updated list of beneficiaries in Jammu after placing right person in the right category so that ration cards can be distributed to the people as early as possible.

The Minister said that more than 80,000 quintals of Atta is available in food stores in Jammu. He asked the ration dealers to immediately



"From livelihood perspective, the livestock is considered as an important instrument in poverty alleviation," said the Minister. He said livestock provides the major extra contribution to agriculture through manure, fuel and as a fertilizer apart from meat, milk, eggs that grant a regular supplementary income and employment.

Kohli urged upon the farmers to come forward and avail the benefits of several innovative and welfare schemes launched by the Government.

The Minister said that reformative measures have been taken in the Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisher-

ies Departments during last three years which include preparation of seniority lists of all the employees of these Departments, framing of poultry policy, setting up of poultry and milk villages etc. He said that the Government is contemplating to set up a separate University for Animal and Sheep sectors aimed at to provide a boost to these sectors.

Earlier, the Minister inspected functioning of Sheep Products Development Board commonly known as Wool Board at Nowshehra, Srinagar and took stock of its activities.

The Minister was apprised that the Board has earned an

amount of Rs 1.50 crore on account of sale of graded wool during this year, so far. He was informed that there is 6.40 lakh kgs raw wool available in the Wool Boards of Kashmir and Jammu. Out of this, 3.56 Lakh kgs raw wool is available with the Wool Board Kashmir while as 2.84 Lakh kgs raw wool is in the stock of Wool Board Jammu.

The Minister was informed that the Board has purchased 54000 kgs of wool from breeders during this year for which 17 procurement centres have been established all over in the Valley.

The Minister enjoined upon the Department's officials to work in synergy and ensure to provide better services to the breeders. He stressed upon the concerned to ensure maintenance of cleanliness in and around the complex.

Director, Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, Dr Muhammad Ramzan, Managing Director Wool Board, Dr Sharief Din, Sub Divisional Magistrate Kagan and other Senior Officers of Animal and Sheep Husbandry Departments were present on the occasion.



lift the flour and distribute it among the beneficiaries.

Enumerating the steps being taken by the department to enforce transparency and accountability in ration distribution, the Minister said online allocation of food grains, supply chain management has

greatly helped in streamlining the system. He said installation of PoS machines in fair price shops is another major reform being introduced by the department.

The Minister further directed the officers of LMD to constitute squads to keep check on overcharg-

ing and profiteering during the festive season. He asked the oil companies to improve home delivery system of LPG cylinders and avoid the sale on the roads.

Underlining the need for mass awareness about the departmental schemes, the Minister asked the local administration at sub-division and Tehsil levels to hold awareness programmes to educate the people about the scale and rates of food grains under NFSA and MMSFES.

The Minister also placed under suspension TSO Dansal and Inspector, City Circle-2.

Meanwhile, the legislators also raised their concerns related to distribution of ration in their constituencies. MLA, Jammu East Rajesh Gupta sought to ascertain the possibility of distributing sugar to Non Priority Households in Jammu.

MLA, Marh Sukhnandan Choudhary asked for distribution of new ration cards to the people soon and put forth the problems faced by the people in getting ration in rural areas.

Time and Us

Editorial
SRINAGAR
J&K

OF FAITH AND FEVER

Faced with one of the worst dengue epidemics it has seen, this year the Tamil Nadu government responded by freely distributing a herbal concoction, nilavembu kudineer, recommended for fevers under the ancient Siddha system of medicine. Even though there is no evidence of their efficacy, alternative remedies such as papaya-leaf juice for dengue find many takers during epidemics. While it is hard for government bodies to curb such practices, what they must never do is to endorse them. Yet, there are growing instances of exactly this happening. For example, last year the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research launched an anti-diabetic herbal pill called BGR-34 on the strength of what appeared to be very poor evidence. One of the several ingredients of nilavembu kudineer comes from a plant called *Andrographis paniculata*, which appears in herbal medicine systems across South Asia. As is often the case with such herbs, some evidence exists for its potency against a range of illnesses. For example, *A. paniculata* is known to inhibit the dengue virus in animal cells in a laboratory, and to reduce symptoms of respiratory tract infections in small human trials. But innumerable other herbal remedies also show such early promise. Sadly, only a tiny handful of these remedies go on to prove their efficacy in large-scale, placebo-controlled human trials, the gold standard of modern medicine. This is because the science of developing drugs from medicinal plants is complicated. Polyherbal remedies like nilavembu are a mix of several compounds, while most of modern medicine relies on single-compounds. Plus, the amount of the active ingredient — the compound in a herb that acts against an illness — varies across plants. So drugmakers have to find a way to identify this ingredient and test it in large-scale trials. This exercise requires not only massive financial investment but also intellectual honesty.

Unfortunately, too many attempts in India by the government to validate traditional medicine are driven less by honesty and more by blind faith. This has led to the promotion of herbal remedies with scant evidentiary basis. Against this background, the endorsement of nilavembu — even if it is not pushed as an alternative to allopathic medicine — has its consequences in the face of a deadly epidemic. It is possible that people will misconstrue a supplement for a cure. The risk of patients who need medical attention, such as those with dengue haemorrhagic fever, opting for this drug instead of rushing to a hospital should not be underestimated. So far dengue has made over 87,000 people sick across the country, while killing over 150. Both numbers are underestimations, given the government's poor surveillance systems. At a time when modern medicine is advancing towards greater transparency and replicability in clinical evidence, the government's claims on nilavembu aren't fooling anyone in the scientific community. But these are misleading laypeople in ways that can hurt them. This is a matter of shame.

Making the Internet disappear

► Gautam Bhatia

Imagine this situation. A region of the country is deeply annoyed with the actions of the government. There are plans for widespread and aggressive protests. The government fears that the protests might turn violent. It decides to cut-off the water supply to the entire region for an indefinite period of time, reasoning that people will be too busy looking for water to protest, and too exhausted by the time they have found it. In this way, law and order has been preserved.

Our intuitions rebel against this kind of reasoning. We think — rightly — that access to water is a basic, non-negotiable right, a part of the right to life, and that it cannot simply be left at the mercy of the government. If the government wishes to keep law and order, then it must find other, less drastic ways of doing so, such as increasing security, perhaps a curfew, or even winning the trust of the people and addressing their grievances.

CUTTING OFF E-ACCESS

In the 21st century, the Internet has assumed an increasingly important place in our lives. From banking to political speech, and from complex medical procedures to the purchase of basic necessities, important aspects of our economic, social, and cultural life now depend upon the Internet. Many of the fundamental rights guaranteed by our Constitution — the freedom of speech and expression, the freedom of association, the freedom of trade — are exercised in significant part on the Internet. But the growing importance of the Internet in personal life, as well as its growing use to challenge governmental authority, has led to a backlash, where governments attempt to reorient the relationship between the individual and the state in their favour by controlling the Internet. In India, one ubiquitous form of such control is the "Internet shutdown". Just like the government may cut-off water supply to prevent protests, the government may — and actually does — cut-off Internet access for purposes as comically diverse as preventing violent protests (Kashmir) and cheating in exams (Gujarat).

In an article published in May 2016, Apar Gupta and Raman Chima pointed out that with 37 Internet shutdowns, triggered by 11 States over a two-year period, India had attained the dubious distinction of joining Iraq in "reporting the highest number of incidents involving government mandated shutdown of Internet access" — with serious consequences both for civil rights, and for business. In another article, published just two weeks ago, Nakul Nayak pointed to 55 Internet shutdowns in 2017 alone. The sheer ubiquity of Internet shutdowns makes it clear that it is being used as a routine card in the ever-expanding "law and order" toolkit of the state. To return to the analogy with which this essay began, think of a situation where the standard —

and primary — response of the government to a potential law and order problem was to immediately cut-off water access for an entire area, indiscriminately.

THE LEGAL ANGLE

For a long time, the legal basis of Internet shutdowns was unclear. A few years ago, the High Court of Gujarat invoked Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to uphold an Internet shutdown. Section 144, which has its roots in the colonial-era British police-state, authorises prohibitory orders to "prevent... obstruction, annoyance or injury to any person lawfully employed, or danger to human life, health or safety, or a disturbance of the public tranquility, or a riot, or an affray."

Section 144 is primarily used to secure an area from damage or harm in the case of a potential or actual law and order disturbance, and more notoriously, to ban protests or other forms of political action in places such as central Delhi.

A key flaw in the Gujarat High Court's decision, however, was its failure to understand that the provisions of the CrPC cannot directly be transposed into the online world. In the way that it is commonly used in the physical world, Section 144, at its worst, only ends up placing certain specific areas beyond the bounds of large assemblies and associations, and always for a temporary period of time. An Internet shutdown, however, takes away an entire — and critical — platform of communication and work altogether.

In an attempt to adjudicate a fair constitutional balance between the fundamental rights of individuals on the one hand and the interests of the state in maintaining law and order on the other, the Supreme Court has often insisted that the state's rights-infringing action must be "proportionate": that is, there ought to be no greater invasion of the individual's right than what is strictly necessary to achieve the state's goal. Internet shutdowns, clearly, fail the test of proportionality. This is because they are indiscriminate, in both whom they target (that is, everyone within a defined area, whether potential disruptors of law and order, or the entirely innocent), and the manner in which they do so (cutting-off access to the entire Internet, which includes a vast majority of entirely bona fide and legal uses of the Internet).

MORE STRINGENT RULES

Perhaps realising that Section 144 of the CrPC was a poor peg on which to hang Internet shutdowns, in August 2017, the government notified certain "Suspension Rules", taking the cover of yet another colonial law — the Telegraph Act of 1885. While these rules were meant to bring transparency and clarity to the procedure through which Internet services were suspended, they remain deeply problematic in themselves. As Nayak points out, there was no transparency or democratic debate when these rules were framed; their scope is frighteningly vast, and includes phone calls as well as Internet calls; and there is

no provision that envisages a lifting of the shutdown after any specific time. But perhaps what is most important about these rules is the virtual non-existence of mechanisms of accountability. After designating certain officers who can authorise Internet shutdowns, the rules only require a "review committee", whose scope is limited to decide whether the declaration was valid or not.

Even if we grant that in certain exceptional situations, such as a public emergency, the government may be justified in temporarily blocking access to certain parts of the Internet, this is a power that is liable to all kinds of misuse, and must be tempered with stringent safeguards. Just like the police must present an individual before a court within 24 hours if they want to keep her in custody, the government must, by law, subject Internet shutdowns to judicial scrutiny as soon as reasonably possible. And courts must take into account the exceptional character of Internet shutdowns and their impact on core civil liberties before validating them.

The notion that the government must have the ability to control the Internet in order to preserve law and order is an intuitively attractive one. However, like many other intuitively attractive ideas, the concentration of more power in the hands of the government will only further disempower the individual against the state, and achieve a temporary illusion of security at the cost of a permanent loss of freedom.

Gautam Bhatia is a Delhi-based lawyer.

POLITICAL AND PARTISAN

► Feroze Varun Gandhi

G. S. Dhillon, Speaker of the Lok Sabha (for two terms), was asked to step down by the Prime Minister in 1975, and made Union Minister for Shipping — a precedent that has allowed future holders of the position to harbour political ambitions.

There are numerous such instances in our polity where the Speaker of the Assembly has precipitated a political crisis by seemingly political decisions. For example, the Anti-Defection Law. The determination of whether a representative has become subject to disqualification, post their defection, is made by the presiding officer of the House, offering ample scope for Speakers to exercise discretion. In 1988, Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker P.H. Pandian disqualified six senior AIADMK ministers for giving up their party membership, along with 27 other MLAs (disqualified for not attending a confidence motion), identified with the pro-Jayalithaa faction. Sixteen MLAs in the Arunachal Pradesh Assembly (out of a total of 41 of the ruling party) were disqualified by the Speaker, Nabam Rebba, in 2016 despite not officially leaving the party or defying its directives. Similarly, the Uttarakhanda Assembly Speaker, Govind Singh Kunjwal, disqualified nine MLAs

from the ruling party in 2016, despite the MLAs not leaving the Congress or voting against it in the Assembly. Furthermore, while the MLAs had voiced dissenting notes against the Budget, the Budget itself was declared passed without voting by the Speaker. The Meghalaya Speaker, P.R. Kyndiah, suspended the voting rights and later even disqualified five MLAs in the 1990s, just prior to a no-confidence motion. Shivraj V. Patil lamented the "weak points" of the anti-defection law and then ruled that a split could happen in drips, one MLA at a time, effectively neutering the Anti-Defection Act.

Consider the example of Ireland, a parliamentary system close to ours, where the position of Speaker is given to someone who has built up credibility by relinquishing his or her political ambitions. The Westminster system considers it a taboo to induct a Speaker into the cabinet. Only the U.S., with its rigorous separation of powers between the judiciary, executive and legislature, allows the Speaker to openly engage in active politics. Offering future rewards for performance as a Speaker has made the position a stepping stone for political ambition.

The position of the Indian Speaker is paradoxical. The holder of the position, whether in Parliament or in State As-

semblies, contests the election for the post on a party ticket, and yet is expected to conduct himself or herself in a non-partisan manner, all the while being beholden to the party for a ticket for the next election. Tejaswi Yadav, when Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister, vocalised this perception, when asked about his commitment to coalition dharma with the Janata Dal (United), by saying: "Had we had any intention to arm-twist the government into surviving we would have kept the Speaker's post."

Such instances highlight the need for greater clarity in the interpretations associated with the Anti-Defection Law. Perhaps, it might be better for such critical decisions, associated with representative disqualification, to be determined by the President instead, with inputs from the Election Commission.

The absoluteness of the Speaker's decisions can also be an incentive for potential abuse. Instances of suspension of almost all the MLAs of the Tamil Nadu Assembly in 2016, where members of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam were evicted en masse from the House while protesting, raise crucial questions about the health of our democracy. Such suspensions are increasingly becoming common across State Assemblies, with a partisan Speaker in the vanguard of eroding India's democratic character.



The need for reelection also skews incentives for the Speaker. No sitting Speaker of the House of Commons in Britain has lost his or her seat, given the convention not to field candidates in the Speaker's constituency. In comparison, in India, there are many Speakers who have lost their seats in general elections (Dhillon; B.R. Bhagat; Balram Jakhar). Also, Indian Speakers are not made members of the Rajya Sabha after they demit office; the British Parliament automatically elevates the Speaker to the House of Lords. The Page Committee, headed by V.S. Page, suggested that if the Speaker had conducted himself or herself in an impartial and efficient man-

ner during the tenure of his or her office, he or she should be allowed to continue in the next Parliament. One could even argue that anyone seeking the office of the Speaker should run for election to the Lok Sabha or the Assembly on an independent ticket. Any Speaker should be barred from future political office, save that of the President, while being given a pension for life.

Taking partisanship out of the post will require establishing other conventions. Until 1996, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha always belonged to the ruling party. The election of P.A. Sangma of the Congress, on a unanimous basis, set another convention — with the Speaker

belonging to a party other than the ruling party. More recently, we have reversed track and moved back towards having the Speaker being from the ruling coalition.

And finally, as a democracy, we must condition ourselves to expecting and promoting neutrality in the Speaker. Instances where the Speaker is named on a list of MPs who withdraw support from the government (as was the case with Somnath Chatterjee in mid-2008; he subsequently defied his party) must be avoided, to prevent encroachment on the Speaker's neutrality. Such neutrality should not be accompanied by political banishment. The CPI(M)'s expulsion of Somnath Chatterjee in July 2008, after the United Progressive Alliance government survived a no-confidence motion, for violation of party discipline, is a sad example of this. The CPI(M) West Bengal Secretary Biman Bose's comment that "Chatterjee may have acted according to the Indian Constitution but the party constitution is supreme in case of party members" is a reflection of the state of our democratic temper. To engender neutrality, such expectations ought to be changed.

Feroze Varun Gandhi is an MP representing the Sultanpur constituency for the BJP.

'Abuse victims in India are suffocating because of stigma', says Kailash Satyarthi

NEW DELHI: Nobel laureate and child rights activist Kailash Satyarthi reached Delhi after completing his 11,000-km-long Bharat yatra across 22 States, from Kashmir to Kanyaumari, against child sexual abuse.

Speaking to Soumya Pillai, Mr. Satyarthi, said his yatra was aimed at providing a platform to several children, youth and their families to speak out about the sexual abuse and violence they faced and how it scarred them.

After touring almost 22 States, you met with President Ram Nath Kovind today (Monday). What were the core issues that you discussed with him?

A major issue that I experienced through my work in all these years and from the plac-

es I visited as part of the Bharat yatra is that children in India are suffocating because of the diktat we feed to them in the garb of family, honour and dignity. They want to speak, but there is no outlet.

I have requested to the President to order the creation of National Children's Tribunal, an exclusive court to address crimes against children, which would ensure time-bound disposal of cases. Senior judges should be part of this tribunal.

In most States, the pendency of such cases is almost 90% to 95%. There should also be child-friendly police stations where training should be given to police officers to handle these cases more sensitively.

What was your experience



during the Bharat Yatra?

There is a major conflict between children's aspirations

to grow and the social taboos they face. In most cases of abuse, children are taught to remain

silent and not report the case because of family honour and the stigma attached such crimes. Many children came running to hug me and shake hands with me during the yatra and thanked me for providing a platform to them to speak up about their traumatic experiences.

My aim was that children and youth should break free from the stigma which is caused by a sick mentality of the society. It is this stigma which gives rise to victimisation, where children, especially girls, are made to feel vulnerable. The victims have no reason to feel guilty.

There is mass apathy from the society, and this fans fear among victims and their families. Somebody had to challenge

it. Change is knocking on the door. It is time that the politicians, police and the judiciary listen to it and awaken.

Were the incidents of child abuse different in different States?

There were some issues particular to some States. For example, in sensitive regions such as Srinagar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, there were cases of violence against children. In Punjab, on the other hand, many children were pushed towards drugs from an early age. We tried to address these issues, while keeping a broader umbrella of violence and abuse.

Was this yatra just an initiative to provide a platform to these people, or were the issues

taken up with the authorities?

We took up the issues of the public with the government. We also tried to involve religious leaders on the same platform so that the problem of abuse can be addressed head on.

Over 40 lakh people came forward to take a pledge to show zero tolerance towards cases of sexual abuse. Apart from this, religious leaders were made to admit that cases of abuse happen and they should denounce those who abuse children.

In many States, chief ministers came forward and addressed the issue of violence against children. In Kashmir, MP and Punjab, the CMs assured that laws will be framed for stricter punishments for the culprits.

U.S. wants to deprive Iran of Indian energy market: Tehran's envoy to New Delhi

NEW DELHI: Accusing the U.S. of trying to ensure that India reduced oil imports from his country, Iranian Ambassador Gholamreza Ansari said that even so, U.S. President Donald Trump's policy shift would not affect the India-Iran relationship, and the development of the Chabahar port project remained on track. "The U.S. wants to deprive Iran of the Indian energy market and is working to ensure that India reduce its oil trade with Iran," Mr. Ansari told The Hindu in an exclusive interview days after the U.S. announcement of a tougher line on Iran, even imposition of possibly new sanctions.

No immediate impact
"I don't think the U.S.'s statement [on Iran] will have any immediate impact on the India-Iran relationship. Our relationship and payment details have been ironed out," Mr. Ansari said.

He was referring to a meeting between Indian and Iranian Finance Ministers on the sidelines of a meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington where they had discussed routing payments for India's imports.

India has cut its oil imports from Iran by approximately 20% in 2017, though its global imports have risen by 5.4%. Some compa-



nies such as Essar oil have dropped imports from Iran in August by as much as 75%, according to oil industry estimates.

The Petroleum Ministry says India has been trying to "diversify" its imports so as to get more competitive rates.

One major development is India's decision to import its first shipment of crude oil from the U.S., with an order of 8.45 million barrels,

giving rise to speculation that New Delhi's new policy will come at the cost of imports from Iran.

"We want to have good relations with India, and we understand its need to have eggs in many baskets. We do, however, want that India's policy to Iran must not be affected by others," Mr. Ansari said, when asked about whether Iran would lose as a result of the new push for diversification.

In an interview to The Tehran Times last week, Indian Ambassador Saurabh Kumar echoed that view on the issue of reduced oil imports, saying India's ties "stand on their own feet" and are not a "zero-sum game" with the "western world".

Continued commitment
Speaking to The Hindu, the Iranian Ambassador pointed to the development of the Chabahar port as a sign of India's continued commitment in Iran.

"The India-Afghanistan-Iran trilateral agreement for Chabahar should be ratified by the Iranian parliament in the next few months," Mr. Ansari said, indicating that the Iranian government would want to discuss a possible bid for the management of the port with India as well.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

visit to Tehran in June 2016, India committed to invest \$500 million, including \$85 million in developing two container berths and three multi-cargo berths at the Chabahar port, as well as about \$1.6 billion to build the Chabahar-Zahedan railway line, which will facilitate trade to Afghanistan.

Port completion
After a year of relatively slow progress, Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari travelled to Iran in August 2017, promising to complete the project in 2018.

His Iranian counterpart, Abbas Akhundi, is expected to visit New Delhi soon in order to take the discussions on the Chabahar port forward, while the next meeting of the Economic Joint Commission is also due, to work on long-standing differences over Indian banks being used for bilateral trade, officials said.

Mr. Ansari said he hoped that India would join in the reconstruction effort in Syria and Iraq after the fall of the Islamic State, which is imminent.

"After Daesh [IS] is defeated, rebuilding these countries will not be possible without the cooperation of all countries, and it is an opportunity for both India and Iran to work together," he said.

Let judicial panel probe Jay Shah: Congress

BENGALURU: The Congress on Tuesday demanded a high-level probe into business dealings of the firm owned by Jay Shah, son of BJP president Amit Shah, by two sitting Supreme Court judges.

"To conduct an independent and credible investigation, a commission comprising two senior Supreme Court judges should be appointed to submit a report within a time frame," said Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala.

He alleged that the business of Temple Enterprise Private Ltd., the firm owned by Mr. Jay Shah, had increased 16,000 times in one year. "What is this magic wand by which the company earned a surplus of merely 18.8 lakh in 10 years from 2004-14 and made a loss in two successive years (2012-2014), and then proceeded to increase its turnover 16,000 times within a year of formation of the BJP government?" he asked. "Will Mr. Modi stand on the side of friendship and party politics or will he stand with truth, accountability and morality? The entire country is watching."

He reminded Mr. Amit Shah that previous BJP presidents L.K. Advani, Bangaru Laxman and Nitin Gadkari had resigned when allegations surfaced against them. Questioning the silence of the PM and the BJP chief, he asked: "Will Mr. Modi and Mr. Amit Shah not break their silence?"

Search on for 10 Indian sailors of sunken merchant vessel

CHENNAI: A lifeboat has been located by a Boeing P-81 Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti-Submarine warfare aircraft of the Indian Navy during efforts to locate 10 missing sailors of m.v. Emerald Star that sank off the Philippines coast on Friday. The vessel had 26 crew members, many of them from Tamil Nadu. While 11 were rescued by m.v. Densa Cobra and are currently in Xiamen, China, five were rescued by m.v. SM Samarinda and they are in the Philippines.

"The crew of the aircraft sighted an inverted lifeboat about 10m long in the search area. The same was relayed to the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) Okinawa to investigate. A JCG ship reported that it has already searched the boat and didn't find any survivors or bodies," the Navy said.

Officials of Vridhi Maritime Pvt Ltd. that manages the ship told The Hindu that they did not receive any update on the status of the missing sailors. "We are awaiting information on those missing... We are yet to get any update," a spokesperson for the company said.

Against job reservation in private sector, says Niti Ayog VC

NEW DELHI: Joining the debate on job reservations, Niti Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar said that he is against extending the policy to the private sector, while admitting that more efforts are needed to generate greater employment. Several political leaders have advocated reservation for members of scheduled castes/tribes (SC/ST) in the private sector.

"There should not be job reservation in the private sector," Kumar said when asked to comment on the contentious issue. He however made a case for generating more employment, saying that the government is able to provide employment to 10-12 lakh youths, though 60 lakh young people join the labour force every year. Many people used to find some kinds of jobs in informal sec-

tor but that has reached a point of saturation, resulting in complaints from different sections of the populace, Kumar said.

The Lok Janshakti Party led by Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan has recently demanded job reservations in private firms. Similar demand has been made in the past by other political outfits as well.

Karnataka Chief Minister Sid-

daramaiah had made a case last year for extending the reservation policy to the private sector. "It is high time to think about reservation in private sector. It should be achieved through debate and dialogue," he said. Bihar chief minister and senior JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar had also made a strong case a few months ago for extending reservation in private sector. "In today's time of

economic liberalisation, if reservation is not provided in the private sector, then it would be playing a joke with the concept of social justice," he had said. However, several industry associations have maintained over the years that introducing reservations could create hurdles in growth due to dearth in skilled labour, and hurt chances of attracting investments in the state.

Nationalism can't be imposed, says Pranab

MEERUT: Addressing the bi-centenary celebrations of the founder of Aligarh Muslim University, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, at Aligarh Muslim University, former President Pranab Mukherjee on Tuesday said that "nationalism can neither be imposed by law nor implemented by decree or be enforced by a dictum". He said that attempts to "redefine" nationalism were "unnecessary."

Debate on nationalism

"There have been, from time to time, attempts to redefine nationalism. According to me, such attempts are unnecessary since our concepts of nationalism and national identity predate the modern-postmodern constructs of identity," the former President said. He sought to distinguish the Indian concept of nationalism from the idea of European nation-state. "The concept of nationalism in the context of European nation states is a new phenomenon in Indian civilization," Mr. Mukherjee said, adding that the British tried to enact the "foundation of Indian statehood in their concept". "Indian statehood is believed to have been in existence since long. Indian civilization is society-oriented and not politically dominated," he said.

What is India?

Emphasising on the vastness and diversity of the country, he said, "What is India? The vast land of around 3.3 million sq km, with people practising seven religions every day, speaking 100 languages in daily life, bound by one Constitution, one flag, one identity. That is India." He pointed out that the AMU was "a perfect example of Indian nationalism and ethos, where students from different regions, ethnicity, linguistic backgrounds and culture integrate and work together in productive ways."

Kamal Haasan apologises for backing note ban, says Modi should accept mistake



MUMBAI: Apologising for supporting demonetisation, actor Kamal Haasan said he will again salute Prime Minister Narendra Modi if he also accepts that the note ban was a mistake.

In an article in the Tamil magazine Anandavikatan, the actor said accepting and correcting mistakes is a marker for great leaders which Mahatma Gandhi was able to do.

Haasan said Modi should not be stubborn in arguing that the rabbit he had caught has three legs. On his initial support for the demonetisation of 1,000 and 500 rupee notes, Haasan said he had welcomed the move and

tweeted that it should be supported regardless of party affiliation. "I thought people should bear with minor irritants in the goal to eradicate black money," he wrote.

The actor said his friends and those who know economics had called him and criticised his support for demonetisation.

Haasan said he later thought that demonetisation was good but the manner in which it was implemented was wrong.

He said now there were voices saying demonetisation was a deception and the weak response from the government raises serious doubts about the scheme.

Northeast monsoon may come by October-end

CHENNAI: As the Southwest monsoon recedes, attention is focussed on the potential of the Northeast monsoon to make up for the deficit this year in some parts of the peninsular States, particularly Tamil Nadu. The winter monsoon is likely to have a delayed onset, around the last week of October.

The Northeast monsoon brings significant rainfall to coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

A well-marked low pressure area lying over central and adjoining south Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify into a depression by Wednesday. This is expected to be the last weather system of the season, as the Southwest monsoon withdraws.

Once it moves towards north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coast, the stage would be set for the arrival of the Northeast.

"We expect the northeasterly winds to set in by October 22 or October 23. This would make conditions favourable for the onset of monsoon. While the onset may be delayed by a couple of days, we expect normal rainfall over the entire region," according to S.B. Thampi, Deputy Director-General of Meteorology, Chennai.

Tamil Nadu receives nearly 44 cm of rain during the Northeast monsoon.

International agencies that rely on

various weather models have diverging results in their forecasts. Meteorologists and informed weather bloggers say the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), one of the reliable weather models, and South Asian Climate Outlook Forum indicate close to normal rainfall during the Northeast monsoon, especially for Tamil Nadu.

A team of bloggers under the banner 'Chennaiyil Oru Mazhaikalam' interpret the ECMWF and Climate Forecast System of National Centers for Environmental Prediction to mean the monsoon may set in between October 27 and November 2, and follow on vigorously over the fortnight beginning November 7. Some districts, particularly those along the coast like Karaikal, Kanyakumari and Chennai, need a good Northeast monsoon to touch their normal annual rainfall. There may be four weather events in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian sea from the second half of October to December. Weather experts also note that the monsoon activity is more important than its date of onset. Y.E.A. Raj said the Northeast monsoon set in around the last week of October during 2015 and 2016. While 2015 brought torrential downpour, last year's monsoon witnessed drought.



Diwali 2017: Look your best this season with these simple skin and haircare tips

While we are busy ensuring that the festival of lights is welcomed with perfect preparations, we may tend to overlook caring for ourselves.

Given the stress and smoke you will be subjected to this week, it is important to follow a skin and haircare routine, suggest experts.

Cleanse your skin before you go to sleep and skip products like hair mousse. Opt for a blow dry instead.

Skin care tips:

Cleanse your face at the beginning and end of the day. Remove all makeup before you go to sleep.

Our skin needs to remain moisturised as much as possible. One of the easiest ways to compensate for the lack of moisture is by the use of car-

rier oil like grapeseed. This carrier oil lightens marks and dark circles, tightens and tones skin, and helps skin become baby soft.

It also helps lighten blemishes, stretch marks, sunburn as well as controls itchiness and irritation.

Treat your skin with Vitamin E and essential oil rich creams and oils, which protect the skin. Remember to complete your intake of 8-10 glasses of water, which is the best way to getting glowing skin.

Wear sunscreen. Use one which provides good UV protection which fights free radicals.

A healthy scrub bath on the morning of Diwali with the choicest nourishing scrubs available in the market

is another great tip. Experience the richness of shea, olive and xemenia which have rich oils and will hydrate the skin. They help in exfoliating dead skin cells and stimulating blood circulation, which gives a fresh look to the skin.

Keep the consumption of sweets in control. Overdosage of fried and sugary foods can lead to breakouts, weight gain, dull-looking skin and allergies too.

To brighten tired eyes, take two used tea bags, soak them in a little warm water, squeeze out the water and apply on the eyes like eye pads. Cotton wool soaked in rose water can also do the trick.

Haircare tips:

Festive season means socialising and trying different hairdos. Your hair is also exposed to pollution. Wash your hair with rosemary lavender shampoo bar.

It will provide it with the kind of nutrition that hair needs to become voluminous.

After the wash, let it dry and apply Moroccan argan oil as a post-bath serum.

It gives your hair an attractive shine, restores and strengthens damaged hair.

Protects it from the heat of hair dryers, curlers and flat irons.

It also deeply conditions hair, helping get rid of split ends and tames frizzy hair.

Scared to get the flu? Follow these simple tips to protect yourself

Heading into winter signals the start of flu season, as the temperature drops and we spend more time wrapped up indoors. Here are simple tips to stay healthy:

Get a flu shot

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses. Although there are different flu viruses, a flu vaccine protects against the viruses that research suggests will be most common, and can reduce the number of flu illnesses, doctors' visits, missed work and school days, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalisations. The CDC recommends a vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older by the end of October, if possible. Although children younger than six months are at high risk of serious flu illness, they are too young to be vaccinated, with the CDC advising that people



who care for infants should be vaccinated instead.

Practice good hygiene

Good hygiene practices every day can help prevent catching or spreading the flu virus. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. Wash your hands often with soap and water, or if they are not

available use an alcohol-based hand rub. Also, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth as this can also spread germs. At home, clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.

Avoid spreading disease

Try to avoid close contact with those who are sick, and with healthy people if you are the one feeling

under the weather. If you are sick with flu symptoms, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone and only go out for medical care or necessities.

Be extra careful with those at high risk of flu

Certain groups are at a higher risk of developing complications with the flu, which can become very serious and may even result in hospitalisation or death. Take extra care with children under 5, especially those younger than 2, seniors 65 years or older, pregnant women and women up to two weeks postpartum, people with asthma, heart disease, chronic lung disease, and neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions, people with blood, kidney, liver, endocrine, and metabolic disorders, including diabetes mellitus and those who have a weakened immune system due to disease or medication.

Two in one? New pill may curb type 2 diabetes and aid weight loss

A new study has revealed that a new pill could stop type 2 diabetes and help lose weight. Diabetes is considered to be a silent killer by medical professionals across the world. Even a single symptom reflecting the onset of the disease is a cause for concern. It is a disease that could be hereditary and can also develop due to an unhealthy lifestyle. Semaglutide is reportedly the first pill to help incite weight loss, according to a report by the Daily Mail. 71% of the 632 patients in the study were able to lose weight test results revealed.

The study was conducted by a team from Leicester Diabetes Centre. Patients who were taking Metformin were given the pill.

There are many medically prescribed ways and means to ensure prevention from developing the potentially lethal disease and those who are at immediate risk, are often advised diet control.

Researchers are hoping the new pill can control the common condition as some of the treatment currently available provides

weight gain and worsens type 2 diabetes. The pills also stopped patients from needing insulin.

The pill could offer a relief for those who struggle with injecting themselves. "For some patients injectable therapies are a problem, so having something available orally makes it more accessible to some patients," lead author Professor Melanie Davies told the Daily Mail.

Type 2 diabetes is deadly as it can cause heart failure, blindness and leg amputations. "Type 2 diabetes is a serious condition with potentially devastating complications which is posing a major challenge to health services across the world because of the increasing numbers of people developing it," Professor Davies told the Daily Mail.

Many experts are enthusiastic about the findings. "These latest results are hugely encouraging and will be welcomed across the diabetes community,"

Oliver Jelley, editor of The Diabetes Times told the Daily Mail.

Lack of support may increase pregnant woman's biological age

Low socioeconomic status during childhood and poor family social support appear to prematurely age pregnant women on a cellular level, potentially raising the risk for complications, a new study has found.

For the study, the researchers examined blood from pregnant women to evaluate the length of telomeres -- structures at the end of chromosomes that are used by scientists as a measure of biological (as opposed to chronological) age.

Shorter telomeres mean an older cellular age. The researchers also asked the participants about stressors, including low socioeconomic status and trauma during their childhood and current

social support.

The findings published in the journal *Psychoneuroendocrinology* showed that women who reported low socioeconomic status as kids and who struggled with family support as adults were biologically older, as indicated by shorter telomeres. "Access to support, care and resources is so important to expectant moms," said the study's senior author Lisa Christian, researcher in Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in the US.

This study did not examine birth outcomes, but prompted the researchers to wonder if this rapid biological ageing could put a woman at greater risk of premature delivery, gesta-

tional hypertension,

preeclampsia and other problems.

Previous research already has established worse birth outcomes in women with psychosocial risk factors.

The cellular ageing found in this study is one possible explanation, Christian said.

For now, telomere assessment is strictly used for research purposes and not something that would translate into clinical practice, she said. But it is possible that the knowledge gained by research into cellular ageing could prompt useful interventions in obstetrics practices -- including greater focus on moms' psychological well-being and support systems, Christian added.

This is how seizures may lead to memory loss

Researchers have discovered a mechanism that can explain how even relatively infrequent seizures can lead to memory loss and other cognitive deficits. The study published in the journal *Nature Medicine* may lead to future strategies to reduce cognitive deficits in Alzheimer's disease and other conditions associated with seizures, such as epilepsy.

"It's been hard to reconcile how infrequent seizures can lead to persistent changes in memory in patients with Alzheimer's disease," said corresponding author Jeannie Chin, Assistant Professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, US.

"To solve this puzzle, we worked with a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease focusing on the genetic changes that seizures might trigger in the memory centre of the brain,



the hippocampus, that could lead to loss of memory or other cognitive deficits," Chin said.

The researchers measured the levels of a number of proteins involved in memory and learning and found

that levels of the protein deltaFosB strikingly increase in the hippocampus of Alzheimer's disease mice that had seizures.

In this study, the researchers found that after a seizure, the protein remains

in the hippocampus for an unusually long time.

"Interestingly, because deltaFosB is a transcription factor, meaning that its job is to regulate the expression of other proteins, these findings led us to predict that the increased deltaFosB levels might be responsible for suppressing the production of proteins that are necessary for learning and memory," Chin said.

"In fact, we found that when the levels of deltaFosB increase, those of other proteins, such as calbindin, decrease," Chin said.

When researchers experimentally increased deltaFosB levels in normal mice, calbindin expression was suppressed and the animals' memory deteriorated, demonstrating that deltaFosB and calbindin are key regulators of memory.

This exercise can boost brain power

Researchers have found that practicing what is known as a "dual n-back" exercise can lead to improvement in working memory, which is what people rely on to temporarily hold details in their mind like phone numbers and directions. The "dual n-back" is a memory sequence test in which people must remember a constantly updating sequence of visual and auditory stimuli.

"People say cognitive training either works or doesn't work. We showed that it matters what kind of training you're doing," said lead author Kara Blacker who was with Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore at the time of the research. "This one task seems to show the most consistent results and the most impact on performance and should be the one we focus on if we're interested in improving cognition through training," said Blacker, now a researcher at the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for Advancement of Military Medicine Inc in Maryland.

The researchers decided to compare directly the leading types of exercises and measure people's brain activity before and after training.

First, the team assembled three groups of participants, all young adults. Every-

one took an initial battery of cognitive tests to determine baseline working memory, attention and intelligence.

Everyone also got an electroencephalogram (EEG) to measure brain activity. Then, everyone was sent home to practice a computer task for a month. One group used one leading brain exercise while the second group used the other. The third group practiced on a control task. The training programmes compared are not the commercial products available sold to consumers, but tools scientists rely on to test the brain's working memory. Everyone trained five days a week for 30 minutes, then returned to the lab for another round of tests to see if anything about their brain or cognitive abilities had changed.

The researchers found that the group that practiced the "dual n-back" exercise showed a 30 per cent improvement in their working memory.

That was nearly double the gains made by the group working with the other common task, known as "complex span".

The dual n-back group saw squares flashing on a grid while hearing letters.

They had to remember if the square they just saw and the letter they heard were both the same as one round back.

Do you have high blood pressure? You may be at risk of heart valve disorder

You may have to exercise and take a proper diet daily as high blood pressure from early life may increase the risk of developing the most common heart valve disorder, particularly among older people, warns a recent study. Researchers from the George Institute for Global Health at the University of Oxford followed 5.5 million adults in the UK over 10 years. It found that higher blood pressure in early life was associated with a significantly greater future risk of mitral regurgitation, a condition which makes the heart less efficient at pumping blood around the body and in severe cases can lead to heart failure.

Lead researcher Kazem Rahimi from the George Institute UK, said that the research suggests this common and disabling valve disorder is not an inevitable consequence of ageing, as previously assumed, but may be preventable. "Given the large and growing burden of mitral valve disease, particularly among older people, we believe these findings are likely to have significant implications for medical policy and practice around the world," Rahimi added. Mitral regurgitation leads to a backflow of blood into the heart, causing symptoms such as shortness of breath, tired-



ness, dizziness and chest pain. It is more common in older people, and may be associated with a greater risk of mortality.

Despite significant advances in the understanding of valve disease, mitral regurgitation has until now been largely considered a degenerative disorder, resulting from a weakening of the valve over time due to 'wear and tear'.

This has led medical practitioners to focus on treatment -- namely surgery to repair or replace the valve -- rather than prevention. The new study suggests further research is needed to test whether lowering blood pressure -- through exercise, diet or blood pressure-lowering drugs -- could reduce the risk of the disorder occurring. The research is published in the journal *PLOS Medicine*.

Here's why autism spectrum disorders are more common in boys

Scientists have discovered differences in a brain signalling pathway that causes autism spectrum disorders (ASD) to be more common in boys.

"One intriguing aspect of autism is that it predominantly affects males; four boys are affected for every one girl," said Ted Abel, from the University of Iowa in the US. "We don't understand what it is about this disorder that predisposes boys as compared to girls to develop autism," said Abel. This male bias is also seen in other neurodevelopmental disorders, like attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and specific language impairments. Nearly one in every 200 cases of autism is caused by the deletion of a section of DNA on a particular chromosome.

This type of disorder is also known as a copy number variation (CNV). The mouse model of autism used by the research team is missing the same stretch of DNA. Researchers tested the mice for abnormalities in reward-learning behaviour -- learning to associate actions with rewarding outcomes. This type of learning is mediated by a part of the brain called the striatum and is disrupted in people with autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

The study, published in the journal *Molecular Psychiatry*, shows that only male mice with the autism-associated genetic deletion have abnormal reward-learning behaviour. Female mice with the same genetic deletion are not affected. Moreover, these sex-specific behavioural differences are accompanied by sex differences in molecular signalling pathways in the striatum brain region.

"Problems with reward learning could explain why individuals with autism don't interact socially, because they don't find it rewarding in the same way," said Abel.

Magenta Line to offer quicker, better service

NEW DELHI: Commuters on the Delhi Metro's new Magenta Line, a section of which is likely to be operational by the end of November, will not have to stand in long queues waiting for passengers ahead of them to swipe their cards or tokens to enter the station. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), which conducted a trial run of the Botanical Garden-Kalkaji Mandir section on Tuesday, demonstrated the 'open mode' automatic fare collection (AFC) gate at the Botanical Garden metro station.

Under this mode, the panels of the AFC gates will remain open unless a commuter fails to swipe his/her metro card or token.

"This will help in crowd management and will save time for commuters, who will not have to wait for the AFC gates to open and shut every time a passenger passes through," a DMRC spokesperson said.

Many firsts

The Botanical Garden-Kalkaji Mandir section of the Botanical Garden-Janakpuri west (Magenta) line is set to open to the public by November.

The DMRC officials said that the 12.64-km stretch is complete and is awaiting clearance from the Commissioner for Metro Rail Safety.

This section of the new line will have some attractive features for users such as platform screen doors, which will help in crowd control. Similar doors have been installed at the Rajiv Chowk and Chandni Chowk stations, however, this is the first time such gates have been installed in phase-III of the metro.

The line will also have the first-ever elevated stabling yard at Jasola Vihar-Shaheen Bagh metro station, where the trains are parked for maintenance. The Botanical Garden metro station will become the first interchange station of the NCR. The station is expected to cater to 1,23,020 passengers a day by 2021. Even after completion



of phase-III, the Botanical Garden station will remain the only interchange station in the NCR," a statement by the DMRC read. The station will be an interchange point for the Blue (Noida City Centre to Dwarka

sector-21) and Magenta lines.

With the opening of this section, residents of Noida will save up to 30 minutes of travel time while going to south Delhi.

This section will also be the first

to be operated using the Communication Based Train Control signalling technology, which will facilitate movement of trains with a frequency of 90 to 100 seconds. Once the entire 38.23-km line is opened operational, com-

muters from Noida will be able to go to Gurugram by changing trains at Hauz Khas metro station. This will help in decongesting the Rajiv Chowk station, which is currently the interchange point for travellers between the two cities.

Nine stations

The Botanical Garden-Kalkaji Mandir section has nine stations: Kalkaji Mandir, Okhla NSIC, Sukhdev Vihar, Jamia Milia Islamia, Jasola Vihar Shaheen Bagh,

Kalindi Kunj, Okhla Bird Sanctuary and Botanical Garden. Except for Kalkaji Mandir, all other stations in the section are elevated.

The section also saw Delhi Metro building its third bridge over the Yamuna. The 574-metre long bridge, with 14 spans (41 metres each) and 15 piers, has come up between the Kalindi Kunj and Okhla Bird Sanctuary stations, and is 85 metres downstream of the Okhla Bridge.

Notable increase in foreign exchange purchase by India: US

MUMBAI: Observing that there has been a notable increase in the scale and persistence of India's net foreign exchange purchases, the US Department of Treasury has told the Congress that it will closely monitor New Delhi's foreign exchange and macroeconomic policies.

"Over the first half of 2017, there has been a notable increase in the scale and persistence of India's net foreign exchange purchases, which have risen to around USD 42 billion (1.8% of GDP) over the four quarters through June 2017," the Treasury said in its latest half yearly report to the Congress. In its report to the Congress "Foreign Exchange Policies of Major Trading Partners of the United States," the Treasury said India has a significant bilateral goods trade surplus with the US, totalling USD 23 billion over the four quarters through June 2017.

"Treasury will be closely monitoring India's foreign exchange and macroeconomic policies," it said. In its report, the Treasury said that it assesses net purchases of foreign currency, conducted repeatedly, totaling in excess of 2% of an economy's GDP over a period of 12 months to be persistent, one-sided intervention.

Switzerland and Brazil meet this criterion for



the four quarters ending June 2017, as per Treasury estimates. "India is very close to meeting this criterion for the four quarters ending June 2017, with net purchases of foreign currency slightly below 2 per cent of GDP," it said.

The report said, China has an extremely large and persistent bilateral trade surplus with the US, by far the largest among any of the US' major trading partners, with the goods trade surplus standing at USD 357 billion over the four quarters through June 2017. Moreover, China continues to pursue a wide array of policies that limit market access for imported goods and services, and maintains a restrictive investment regime that adversely affects foreign investors.

In comparison to the extremely large and per-

sistent bilateral trade imbalance, China's multi-lateral external position has undergone greater adjustment in recent years, with its current account surplus falling to 1.4% of GDP in the first half of 2017 from 1.8% of GDP in 2016, and down from 10% of GDP in 2007, the report said.

Further, after engaging in one-way, large-scale intervention to resist appreciation of the renminbi (RMB) for a decade, China's recent intervention in foreign exchange markets, tightened capital controls, and increased discretion over setting the daily fixing rate of the RMB have likely prevented a disorderly currency depreciation that would have had negative consequences for the United States, China, and the global economy. "Treasury remains concerned by the lack of progress made in reducing the bilateral trade surplus with the US," the report said. The Trump Administration remains deeply concerned by the significant imbalances in the global economy, the report said. Bilateral trade imbalances with many of our major trading partners have grown to very large levels, it said adding that more broadly, current account surpluses in several major trading partners have not only been large but unusually persistent over the last decade.

India's fuel demand rose 9.9 percent in September



NEW DELHI: India's fuel demand rose 9.9 percent in September compared with the same month last year. Consumption of fuel, a proxy for oil demand, totalled 16.26 million

tonnes, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry showed.

Sales of gasoline, or petrol, were 17.9 percent higher from a year earlier at 2.14 million tonnes.

Cooking gas or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) sales increased 4.1 percent to 1.95 million tonnes, while naphtha sales surged 4.9 percent to 1.16 million tonnes.

Sales of bitumen, used for making roads, were 7.5 percent up, while fuel oil use edged lower 14.0 percent in September.

Goldman Sachs' Q3 results beat forecasts despite drop in trading

NEW YORK: Goldman Sachs' third-quarter profits fell 3% from a year earlier, as the trading desks at Wall Street's biggest investment bank were weighed down by a slow summer that also affected most of its competition. The results still beat analysts' forecasts, however. The Wall Street bank said it earned a profit of \$2.04 billion, or \$5.02 a share, compared with a profit of \$2.10 billion, or \$4.88 a share, in the same period a year earlier. The firm's per-share profit rose because there are fewer Goldman shares outstanding compared with the same period a year ago. Analysts had been looking for Goldman to post a profit of \$4.17 a share, according to FactSet. Goldman's trading desks, which are weighted toward bonds, currencies and commodities, struggled this quarter, as did those at its competitors JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup and Bank of America. Net revenue in that business was \$1.45 billion, down 26% from a year earlier. Markets have been abnormally quiet this year, which has hurt investment banks' trading profits since they benefit when markets are more active. Despite the struggling trading operation, Goldman's investment banking business had an especially good quarter, reporting a 17% rise in revenue. Revenue from underwriting and companies turning to Goldman's investment bankers for advice both increased during the quarter. Goldman's return on common equity, a measure of a bank's profitability by showing how well it performs with the assets on its books, was 10.9% in the quarter. Investment banks like Goldman aim for that measurement to be above 10%. In a statement, Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein called the firm's overall performance so far this year "solid." Company-wide revenue was \$8.33 billion in the quarter, compared with \$8.17 billion a year earlier. Analysts were looking for Goldman to have revenue of \$7.53 billion. Goldman's stock fell \$2.17, or 0.9%, to \$240.24 in early morning trading.

Can't revisit decision to change tax transfer date, Centre tells states

NEW DELHI: The Centre has communicated to states that there will be no rethink on the change in the date for transferring their share of federal taxes.

As reported by HT on Monday, the Union finance ministry had informed states that this devolution of central taxes will happen on the 15th of every month instead of the 1st, for the remaining months of this financial year, and from 2018-19, it will be transferred once every three months.

Following this, states have expressed their displeasure to the central government

and had requested reconsideration. According to the 14th finance commission, 42% of central taxes are shared with states and this money is used by them for paying salaries, pension, wages, administrative costs and interests. So, it is crucial that this money is transferred on the first day of every month. "We have got representation from states and we are looking into them. But we have also explained to them the rationale behind the change in schedule of tax devolution to them," said a senior government official who did not wish to

be named. The Union finance ministry has said the tax realisation under the GST has been shifted to the 20th of every month. Moreover, corporate and income taxes are received in quarterly installments, which makes it difficult to transfer the states' share at the beginning of every month.

In fact, the central government has already had to borrow twice in the past six months to keep the tax devolution commitment to states, reads a note prepared by finance ministry.

"Tax receipts pick up as a financial year

progresses, but the amount of revenue to be shared with states is already committed and then transferred in 12 installments throughout the year. But any change in the schedule has been done in consultation with states otherwise it is extremely unfair on them. How will states manage their expenses?" said a former finance secretary. Top sources in finance ministry said advance notice has been given to states about quarterly transfer of tax money, so they should be prepared from the next year.

Gujarat signs 3 MoUs, to see Rs 10,000 crore investments

GANDHINAGAR: Gujarat government on Tuesday signed MoUs with three companies for different projects envisaging cumulative investments worth Rs 10,400 crore. These projects in man-made fibre, garments, agrochemicals and intermediate sectors are expected to generate direct and indirect employment to around 21,300 people.

Grasim Industries Ltd, a part of Aditya Birla Group, has entered into an agreement for expansion of its viscose staple fibre (VSF), a man-made fibre, facility at Vilayat in Bharuch with investment of Rs 3,500 crore. The proposed facility is expected to be operational by the first quarter of 2020 and will generate employment to 1,000 locals.

"The company is also interested in expanding its cellulosic fibre facility at Kharach, Kosamba in Surat district with a proposed investment of Rs 600 crore with employment potential for 300 individuals," the state government said.

The company is also interested in expanding its



cellulosic fibre facilities at Kharach and Kosamba in Surat district with a proposed investment of Rs 600 crore with employment potential for 300 individuals. The facility is expected to be completed and commissioned by December 2018," the state government said

in a statement. Textiles-to-retail conglomerate Arvind Ltd inked an MoU for a first of its kind mega apparel facility, under the new Gujarat Apparel policy. The company intends to infuse Rs 300 crore in two phases for the project, which will come up at Dehgam near Ahmedabad and will have a capacity to produce 24 million garments once it is fully operational. "We plan to commence commercial production in the fourth quarter of 2018 and we plan to create 10,000 jobs, a majority of which will be for women. We are confident that with such a conducive policy Gujarat will emerge as a major destination for garmenting," said Kulin Lalbhai, executive director, Arvind Ltd.

An agrochemical sector company also signed an MoU proposing a facility to produce agrochemicals and intermediates at Dahej, Bharuch with a Rs 6,000 crore investment. The project is expected to provide direct and indirect employment to about 10,000 people.

All the three agreements were signed at Gandhinagar in presence of chief minister Vijay Rupani.

Gold sparkles on Diwali demand, tops Rs 31,000

NEW DELHI: Gold prices spurted by Rs 290 to 3-week high of Rs 31,000 per 10 grams on the eve of Diwali at the bullion market on Wednesday on increased buying by local jewellers to meet festive demand.

A weak trend overseas, however, capped the gains.

Silver held steady at Rs 41,000 per kg in limited deals from industrial units and coin makers.

Bullion traders said increased buying by local jewellers, driven by Diwali festival demand in domestic spot markets, mainly led to rise in gold prices.



Globally, gold fell by 0.12% to \$1,283.20 an ounce and silver by 0.06% to \$16.98 an ounce in Singapore. In the national capital, gold of

99.9% and 99.5% purity surged by Rs 290 each to Rs 31,000 and Rs 30,850 per 10 grams respectively, a level last seen on September 27. It had lost Rs 140 yesterday.

Sovereign, however, remained steady at Rs 24,700 per piece of eight grams on little doing.

On the other hand, silver ready held steady at Rs 41,000 per kg, while weekly-based delivery fell by Rs 130 to Rs 39,860 per kg.

Silver coins continued to be traded at previous level of Rs 74,000 for buying and Rs 75,000 for selling of 100 pieces.

Have queries on direct tax issues? Ask I-T dept's 'online chat' for answer

NEW DELHI: The income tax department has launched an 'online chat' service for taxpayers so that they can seek answers to their basic queries and doubts relating to direct tax issues.

A window has been hosted on the main page of the department's website -- www.incometaxindia.gov.in/ -- with a prominent icon stating 'Live Chat Online - ask your query'. A team of experts from the department and independent tax practitioners has been deputed to answer the general queries of a taxpayer.

This first-time initiative is aimed to enhance taxpayer services in the country," the officer said.

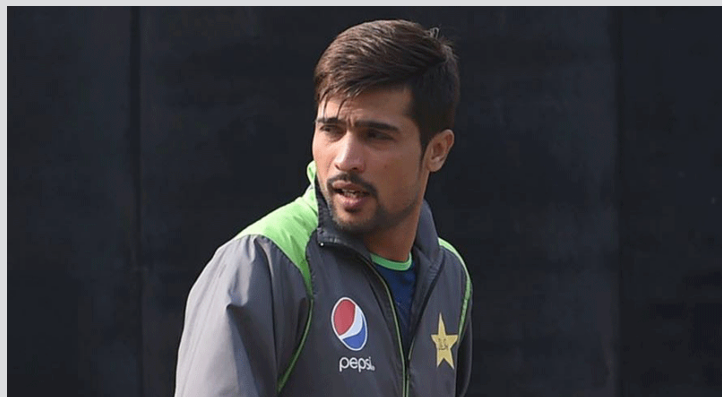
He added that more features would be added to the online chat system based on the feedback received by the department. A person can enter the 'chat room' by furnishing an email-id and ask questions as a guest.

"An option has also been provided to the taxpayer for emailing the entire chat to their ids for future reference," the officer said.

Unfit Amir named in T20 squad for Sri Lanka series

LAHORE: Unfit pacer Mohammad Amir was named in the T20 squad for the Sri Lanka series on Tuesday while all-rounders Mohammad Nawaz, Amir Yamin and young fast bowler Usman Khan Shinwari were also recalled as the national selectors announced a 16-member Pakistan squad for the three matches, two scheduled to be played in the UAE and one in Lahore. The T20 series starts on Oct 26.

Amir, who has been struggling with a shin injury since the second Test against Sri Lanka in Dubai, has been retained in the team subject to his fitness before the start



of the T20 series. Sarfraz Ahmed will lead the team.

AFP adds: Sri Lanka Cricket on

Monday confirmed their team will tour Lahore in a 'fly in, fly out' arrangement for just one day — eight

years after their team bus was attacked by gunmen in the same city.

Pakistan successfully hosted the final of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) in Lahore earlier this year and last month's three-match Twenty20 series against a World XI revived international cricket in the country.

Squad: Sarfraz Ahmed (captain), Fakhar Zaman, Ahmed Shehzad, Babar Azam, Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Hafeez, Imad Wasim, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Fahim Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Aamir Yamin, Mohammad Amir (subject to fitness clearance), Rumman Raees, Usman Shinwari, Umar Amin.



Why David Warner asked Rohit Sharma to 'speak English'!

MUMBAI: David Warner has revealed why he demanded Rohit Sharma to 'speak English': an infamous on-field remark made by the Australian cricketer during India's tour Down Under in 2014-15.

Warner was labelled 'thuggish' and 'juvenile' by former New Zealand captain Martin Crowe and Cricket Australia (CA) CEO James Sutherland served a warning to the explosive opener after his run-in with Rohit during a match in Melbourne.

Warner has clarified that he wanted Rohit to 'speak English' because he presumably would have been penalised had the world seen him saying the same word in English on the big screen.

Years down the line, Warner has mellowed down from being called 'The Bull' — only for his explosive batting and 'The Reverend' for the changes that he has brought about in his personality, earning himself the Australian vice-captaincy. "After the Rohit Sharma incident (I stopped). I felt I had a valid point there, because if I'm going to swear in a different language on the big screen, nobody is going to do something about it. But if I said what he was saying to me, in English, and you could lip read me — I'll still get in trouble anyway," Warner was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"That's where I was really disappointed with what happened. Everybody interpreted it the way I actually said. It wasn't being racist or anything like that. I just clearly wanted him to swear at me in English so everyone else could hear what he was saying."

The Australian vice-captain, who has been in news of late for his explosive comments on England and the impending Ash-

es 2017-18, says he could be going back into his previous aggressive mode.

"I'll be doing everything I can to make sure that when we're out there, we've got a lot of energy and buzz. Whether that's being vocal or with my intent batting and in the field. When it comes to the Ashes, it's a massive thing for us," he said.

"Given what happened in India, given the IPL and county cricket. Everyone's mates, we are mates, but sometimes you have to really try and work a way out to actually build some kind of — I used the word 'hatred' the other day. But some dislike, make things a little bit uncomfortable for blokes when they're out there," said Warner, in a way clarifying his recent comments that sparked a controversy. "A big one is stump mic. You can hear the guys from fine leg saying stuff, so it's very hard to actually say things these days. Because it gets picked up everywhere, you look at the stuff that happened with Michael Clarke. People turn around and go 'Woah, I wouldn't have expected that to happen on a cricket field,' but that's the aggression that happens. That shouldn't have been put out there. But when you're on the field, these little things can happen and it gets you going," Warner explained.

Don't mess with Virat Kohli
The Australians seem to have conceded that sledging the Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli is not worth taking a risk.

"We talk about guys like Virat Kohli, not to have a go at him or say anything to him because it inspires him. That is what some players do, they do take a little bit of inspiration out of that and determination to go one better," said Warner.

Arthur urges players to maintain momentum

ABU DHABI: Mickey Arthur, Pakistan's head coach, urged his players to keep their winning momentum intact as they prepare for the third One-Day International against Sri Lanka that will be played here on Wednesday.

Arthur, however, felt Pakistan's overall performance wasn't up to the mark.

"I was a bit disappointed with the overall performance in the second game," Arthur told Wisden Pakistan.

"I think the partnership between Babar (Azam) and Shadab (Khan) was good, but we lacked a little bit in the intensity in our overall performance. We were still good enough to win which was great.

"We bowled well to defend that low total," said Arthur of his team's bowling, led by Shadab's 3 for 47. "I think our bowling was great but I was disappointed with our standard of fielding last night."

Pakistan dropped as many as five catches, with Tharanga getting three lives. "It seemed that we have just taken the foot off the pedal. But the real positive was that the guys fought really well and fought for each other," said Arthur. "The attitudes have been good and I cannot find fault the commitment and the work ethic of the team."

"I am hoping that we turn it around and put in a really good performance. It's six in a row for us, which is great and we want to keep building on that and keep this winning record going for as long as we possibly can because this provides stability and provides us the confidence we need going forward."

Sachin Tendulkar to don this new avatar in a comic book



MUMBAI: Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar is all set for a new start as a comic book hero, with his autobiography 'Playing It My Way' being converted for children.

According to a report in Times of India, an abridged version of the book will be published for children. The book will be in stands in about a week's time.

The publishers of Tendulkar's autobiography, Hachette India, have confirmed that a part of 'Playing It My Way' is being converted into a comic book, and will have 'elements' that are expected to attract children.

The comic hero portion will have about 25 pages mentioning some of the most memorable stages of the cricket legend's life, including his sparkling show in Sharjah against Australia, which is fondly remembered in Indian cricket circles as 'desert storm'. It reportedly features very prominently in the book.

The book will also have the famous tale of his childhood, which tells about why Tendulkar's coach Ramakant Achrekar would place a one rupee coin on the stumps — for bowlers to claim if they rattled Tendulkar's stumps — and make him bat for hours.

"Sachin's team has worked on the book and it will have features that will be exciting for the young readers," said Thomas Abraham from Hachette India.

The report added that the new upcoming edition will be half the size of the original autobiography which was of 486 pages. The price of the book will be 'one-third' of the original one, released in 2014.

Delhi go on top with innings win, Bengal and Karnataka secure victory

NEW DELHI: Delhi spinners Manan Sharma and Vikas Mishra took an hour to grab the remaining four wickets as the Ishant Sharma-led team beat Railways by an innings and 105 runs in their second Group A league match of the Ranji Trophy.

With seven points including a bonus by virtue of an innings victory, Delhi are now on top of Group A with 10 points from two games.

Ashok Dinda, Mohammed Shami shine
Ashok Dinda made it a memorable 100th first-class game for himself with figures of 10 for 47, overshadowing India star Mohammed Shami's match-haul of eight wickets as Bengal walloped Chhattisgarh by an innings and 160 runs in a Ranji Trophy Group D encounter. Following on, Chhattisgarh started the final day at 229 for 5 but lost the final five wickets for only 30 more runs as they were all out for 259 in their second innings. The match was over in less than 12 overs as Shami and Dinda shared the spoils between them.

Gujarat win thriller

Defending champions Gujarat started their Ranji Trophy group B encounter on a winning note against Kerala despite some anxious moments during their low-scoring chase. Chasing a target of 106, Gujarat started the day at 22 for 1 with the Parthiv Patel-led side needing only 83 runs on the final day. Overnight not out batsman Chintan Gaja (4) was out with an addition of nine runs.

Opener Priyank Panchal then added 24 runs for the third wicket along with Bhargav Merai (21) in 11.3 overs but the former then ran himself out with Gujarat still needing 50 runs. Manprit Juneja was the fourth batsman to get dismissed at the team total at 75. Jalaj Saxena and Sachin Baby the increased opposition's woes with couple of quick wickets, leaving Gujarat reeling at a score of 81/6. They still needed 24 runs to get past the target. It was the captain, who played small but crucial knock in company of Chirag Gandhi as they shared 27 runs for the seventh wicket to finally end the game on a winning note.

FIFA U-17 World Cup: Late start means heat won't be an issue, says Germany coach

KOLKATA: Germany's requirement to be at their best in this FIFA U-17 World Cup is simple: all they need is a good pitch. Weather conditions don't matter, said coach Christian Wuck on Wednesday.

Germany are in Kolkata for Sunday's quarter-final after cruising 4-0 past Colombia and though they seemed more comfortable playing in New Delhi, where it was cooler, after being based in Goa, Wuck said it won't make a difference.

"But it is very good that we are playing at 8pm which means it would be less than 30 degrees (Centigrade)," he said, after a light workout with some of his players late in the morning when the temperature and humidity was more than what Wuck would have described as ideal.

"It is very hot here but it is not



important that we played in New Delhi last. All we need is a good pitch. The pitch in New Delhi was good and I am sure it will be so here too," said Wuck. That Germany have won four men's World Cup titles but are yet to be champions as teenagers --- their

best is a third-place finish in 2007 --- doesn't bother his boys, said Wuck. "For us, development is very important. It doesn't matter that we haven't won this World Cup. We have a good programme and our target now is to get these boys to be good enough to play

at the U-18 level. That is the first step. So it is important that players take part in tournaments as these. It becomes an important part of their development," said Wuck.

Germany will miss wide player Dennis Jastrzembski, who is suspended for the quarter-final. They began with a laboured 2-1 win against Costa Rica, were stunned 0-4 by Iran before recovering to beat Guinea 3-1 and qualify for the round of 16.

Their best match so far came in the first knockout round where they made the most of some basic errors from Colombia.

Germany have qualified for the semi-finals thrice earlier, in 1997, 2007 and 2011. Their best finish came in 1985 when Germany lost to Nigeria in the final in a tournament that was then for U-16s.

Concrete Kuldeep Yadav cements place in Indian cricket team attack

NEW DELHI: India cricket team's rising star, spinner Kuldeep Yadav, believes bowling on concrete has made him battle-ready for any surface that a rival cricket power can lay out for him.

Kuldeep, who claimed a hat-trick in his country's triumphant one-day series against Australia, has become a household name at 22 and with just two Tests and 11 one-day internationals to his name.

He played a big part in India's 4-1 win over Australia cricket team, but many believe the real test will come in tours of South Africa and England next year. Ahead of India's series against New Zealand, starting Sunday, Kuldeep said that his varied left-arm wrist spin will be a weapon on any track.

"It doesn't matter to me where

I am playing because since my childhood I have bowled on cemented wickets. So if you can turn the ball on concrete then you can spin it anywhere," Kuldeep said.

"If you have skill, good variation and are beating the batsmen in the air then you can find success anywhere," added Kuldeep, who hails from the northern city of Kanpur. Kuldeep started as a pace bowler but at the age of nine he switched to wrist spin at his coach's insistence. "I started my career in 2004 as a fast bowler. After practising for a few months my coach advised me to switch to spin."

I did not like it at the start, but the first ball I bowled was wrist spin and I had no idea what it was. So, he must have thought I have a talent and he worked on it. "Ini-



tially it was tough but when I got down to it, the hard work paid off."

Warner wicket
Kuldeep has made his mark in the Indian Premier League Twenty20 competition with the Kolkata Knight Riders.

But his rise as a top-class spinner has been instrumental in India becoming top of the world Test and one-day rankings.

The latest addition to India's rich spin tradition made an instant impact with four wickets in his

debut Test against Australia in Dharamsala this year. He impressed in Sri Lanka in September and then bamboozled Australian batsmen, including star opener David Warner, with his wrist spin, winning many more fans.

"Australia are a good team and compared to other sides always play dominating cricket. Their batsmen don't allow you to settle and just want to dominate a bowler," Kuldeep said. "Australia are a dangerous side because they play freely and put you under pressure. I played in the West Indies and then in Sri Lanka but they don't play as attacking as the Aussies." Kuldeep grew up watching videos of spin legend Shane Warne and still calls the Aussie great his reference point in learning the rare art. Warne re-

cently compared Kuldeep to Pakistan's established Test spinner Yasir Shah, saying the Indian can become "the best leg-spinner" if he remains patient.

"I don't plan much" "It's great to be compared to a top spinner like Yasir Shah. It's heartening to see praise coming from my idol. It reassures my belief in my talent," said Kuldeep.

"It makes me happy that he (Warne) backs me and I feel there is some more talent in me." Kuldeep has formed a partnership with leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal and they are providing competition for veterans Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja.

"You cannot replace anyone. Ashwin and Jaddu bhai are the number one and number two spin-

ners of India and I will always look up to learn from them," Kuldeep said of his seniors. They have done extremely well in Test, ODI and T20 cricket. We are very young and have to play much more cricket to even get close to them," he added. Kuldeep insisted that individual success comes out of the team's hard work and praised skipper Virat Kohli for nurturing young talent. "It has been a team effort and especially the way Virat Kohli has led the team and backed us youngsters. It has made all the difference and been the biggest factor for our success," he said. "I don't plan much. I just think that every game is important and the more I keep performing, the better my chances of enjoying a long run with team India."