

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 SATURDAY: 05:53 PM
SUNRISE SUNDAY: 06:44 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: Anti-social elements trying to create law and order problem: IGP

Asks people not to thrash innocents, cooperate with Police

Srinagar, Oct 20: Asking people to don't thrash innocents, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday said that the anti-social elements are trying to create law and order situation in Kashmir.

Police also said that the department is not only investigating the braid chopping incidents but are also studying the cases occurred outside the state.

Talking to KNS, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Range, Munir Ahmad Khan said that the anti-social elements are taking advantage of the situation in Kashmir. "The anti-social elements are taking advantage of the situation and are trying to create law and order situation. Besides creating fear psychosis among the people," he said.

IGP said that the innocents mistaken as braid choppers are being beaten blue and black. "We have arrested several persons involved in



thrashing of innocents. Eight persons were also arrested from Srinagar and all the arrested persons have criminal back records. Strict action will be taken against the persons who are involved in thrashing of innocents," he said.

Khan also appealed the senior citizens of the respective localities to think where they are heading. "I appeal to the people to don't pay heed to the rumours. Innocents shouldn't be thrashed and people should cooperate with the Police. I don't claim

that we (police) are angels but if we see, these things led to the sufferings of a common person," he said.

IGP informed that whenever they receive any information about the braid chopping incidents or any rumours, they register a case and start investigation in this regard but nothing has come to fore so far. The different statements are coming to fore over the braid choppers as some claim that they use to wear spring shoes, black jackets while some claim that use to jump from the rooftop or fled from the spot through the walls. If this is the issue then these are the unnatural things," he said.

Khan said that they are seriously pursuing the cases of braid chopping incidents. "I believe none of the state has followed the braid chopping case seriously as we are following," he said, as per the KNS.

He said that these incidents ▶ See **IGP**...Pg 02

Ahead of Durbar move, Cabinet to meet on Monday

'Vacant posts likely to be filled'

Srinagar, Oct 20: State Cabinet, which is meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti on Monday is likely to order postings in the civil administration besides taking decision on the routine administrative agenda.

Official sources told KNS that Cabinet is scheduled to meet Civil Secretariat, Srinagar at 3 PM on Monday, and this would be the last meeting of the highest decision making body before the closure of Durbar at Summer Capital of the State.

Sources said that many Departments particularly in Kashmir valley have been lying vacant during the past quite long time and cabinet is likely to fill up the same. The departments lying vacant include Chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control, Regional Transport Office Srinagar Kashmir.

Farooq Ahmad Rather, Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, was transferred on September 20 and posted as Chief Executive Officer, Integrated Watershed Management Programme, J&K, against an available vacancy.

Irrigation and Flood Control Department Kashmir is headless for the last two weeks.

The previous Chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control got retired on September 30 and since then government has failed to appoint the new head of the department. "The dredging

▶ See **Durbar**...Pg 02



PARTS OF SRINAGAR WITNESSES RESTRICTIONS TO PREVENT PROTESTS

SRINAGAR | OCT 20: Authorities imposed restrictions in parts of Srinagar on Friday to prevent separatist-called protests against growing incidents of braid chopping in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Restrictions under section 144 of CrPc will remain in force in Khanjar, Rainawari, Nowhatta, M.R. Gunj, Safa Kadal, Kralkhud and Maisuma. The restrictions have been imposed to maintain law and order in the city," a police officer said.

▶ See **Parts**...Pg 02

BRAID CHOPPING: NAEEM AKHTAR SPEAKS UP, ASKS OTHERS TO SPEAK UP

Says Sopore incident bone chilling, worst poster of Kashmiriyat

Srinagar, Oct 20: Senior PDP leader and Works Minister Naem Akhtar Friday broke his silence about the increasing incidents of braid chopping.

In a long Facebook post, he said: "Whether braid chopping is real or hysterical, physical or psychological one thing has become clear, we as a people are the worst posters of what we claim to be-Kashmiris or Muslims."

Akhtar further posted: "Neither Kashmir's ethos nor the teachings of the religion that we claim to be following ▶ See **Naem**...Pg 02

Continuous siege of Jamia Masjid tragic: NC

PDP BJP government has failed on all fronts: Nasir

Srinagar, Oct 20: National Conference General Secretary Haji Ali Mohammad Sagar on Friday castigated PDP BJP government for barring Friday prayers in the historic Jamia Masjid Srinagar for four consecutive weeks.

In a statement issued to KNS, the NC General Secretary said, "Stopping people from praying at Jamia Masjid has been the only 'achievement' of this government so far. Last



year they broke all records by putting the historic Masjid under continuous lockdown for 40 Fridays consecutively. Unfortunately the same practice is still going on."

NC general Secretary said that the restrictions being imposed in downtown with each passing day and barring people from offering Friday prayers is a glaring example of the failures of this government. "Needless to say such actions create hostility and restlessness among the people and will inevitably lead to a situation where people of Shahr-e-Khaas would feel ▶ See **Nasir**...Pg 02

MISTAKEN AS BRAID CHOPPER, 'MENTALLY UNFIT MAN' RUTHLESSLY BEATEN IN SOPORE

'Kashmiris on social media express anger'

Srinagar, Oct 20: With no let up in mysterious braid choppings across Kashmir, an angry mob on Friday severely thrashed a man on the suspicion that he was a braid chopper.

The mob also tried to burn him alive. A mobile phone video that was circulated on social media shows a group of men ruthlessly beating him, stripping him and attempting to set him on fire.

The victim was later identified as Wasim Ahmad Tantray, who according to Police is a mentally "challenged person". "We received information this morning that an alleged ▶ See **Mistaken**...Pg 02

Our forces are capable to challenge any security threat in J&K: Jitendra

JAMMU: Lauding the troops deployed in Jammu and Kashmir Union MoS in PMO Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday said that our forces are capable to deal with any security threat in the State.

"Our security forces are capable enough to deal with any security threat in Jammu and Kashmir," Dr Singh here told reporters on the sidelines of a function.

He said, "troops deployed along the international border and the Line of Control are effectively dealing with the challenges of infiltration," adding, "simultaneously terrorist-related incidents in the State are also being very successfully dealt."

He also showered words of praise for the jawans of Jammu and Kashmir Police for



their excellent role in fighting against terrorists. Dr Singh however, slammed a section of anti-national forces, who are misguiding youth in the Valley. ▶ See **Jitendra**...Pg 02

'OFFICIALS FORGE BDO'S SIGNATURE, SWINDLE RS 21 LAKH MGNREGA FUNDS'

Case filed, Rs 80,100 recovered, investigation on: BDO Pahlloo Srinagar, Oct 20: Three officials of Block Pahlloo in South Kashmir's Kulgam district have allegedly embezzled the money amounting to Rs 21 lakhs by using the forged signatures of the previous Block Development Officer (BDO), officials said.

The officials as per the KNS correspondent, Zahoora Andrabi said that three officials identified as Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Senior Assistant, Manzoor Khanday Works Helper and Shabir Ahmad Kohli Gram Rozgar Sevak (GRS) have embezzled the money amounting to Rs 21 lakhs by using the forged signature of the erstwhile BDO, ▶ See **Funds**...Pg 02

Address long pending demands of ASHA workers: Tarigami

Urged govt to fix monthly honorarium to ASHA workers

Srinagar, Oct 20: Urging the government to provide a dignified monthly honorarium to ASHA workers who essentially act as backbone of the health structure in rural areas of the state, CPI (M) leader and MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami has said the custom of paying poor compensation for extreme hard work should come to an end to protect the women folk working in different sectors in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that government has totally neglected ASHA workers who are contributing a lot to make the National Health Mission (NHM) a success scheme. He urged upon the



government to consider their genuine demands which include enhancement and timely disbursement of honorarium, six hour duty ▶ See **Tarigami**...Pg 02

EVERYBODY KNOWS WHO IS BEHIND BRAID CHOPPING INCIDENTS: NC

Terms Yasir Reshi's statement as his frustration

Srinagar, Oct 20: A day after PDP MLC Yasir Reshi held National Conference (NC) responsible for the braid chopping incidents in Kashmir, the NC legislator from Habba Kadal constituency, Shameema Firdous on Friday said that the PDP leader was mentally ill and he needed treatment.

"I believe the statement made by the PDP leader is his frustration. He needs treatment at the earliest," Firdous told KNS.

She said everybody knows who is behind these mysterious braid chopping incidents. "I don't even know him ▶ See **NC**...Pg 02

JKLF protests against braid chopping incidents in Kashmir

Attacking innocents while safeguarding honor of womenfolk is gruesome: Malik

Srinagar, Oct 20: Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) on Friday staged protest against the growing incidents of mysterious braid chopping incidents in Kashmir.

The activists and leaders of JKLF after the culmination of Friday prayers took to streets at Saraibala and marched towards Amira Kadal to protest against the braid chopping incidents in Kashmir. As per the statement issued to KNS, the spokesman said



that on JRL's call, JKLF leaders and activists along with people from all walks of life staged a laudable protest rally against growing attacks on Kashmiri women.

JKLF leaders and activists including Zonal general secretary Sheikh Abdul Rashid, Zonal vice president Muhammad Sideeq Shah, Zonal organizer Bashir Ahmad Kashmiri, Zonal press in charge Ashraf bin Salam, Muhammad Azeem Zargar and many others along with people from many walks of life gathered at Sarai Balla today and marched towards Amira Kadal where they staged a peaceful sit-in.

The protesters were holding placards in their hands and were raising slogans against growing attacks on women folk. JKLF leaders Sheikh Abdul Rashid and Bashir Ahmad Kashmiri addressed the protesters.

Termining these attacks as cowardly acts of hidden enemies, speakers said that growing attacks on women and ugly acts of braid chopping are a direct attack on our ▶ See **Malik**...Pg 02

GOVT WITHDRAWS SECURITY FROM MY JAMMU RESIDENCE: EX-MINISTER MAJID WANI

Says govt isn't run by launching political vendetta

Jammu, Oct 20: Senior Congress leader and former R&B Minister Abdul Majid Wani Friday castigated the state government for withdrawing security from his residence in Jammu.

In a statement issued to KNS, Wani said he played an important role in supporting the nationalist forces in whole erstwhile Doda district during the days when militancy was at its peak in the Chenab Valley region.

"I not only supported the nationalist forces but also succeeded in maintaining peace and harmony among Hindus and Muslims, especially during the 2008 Amarnath ▶ See **Wani**...Pg 02

ALTAF BUKHARI RELEASES MAIDEN JOURNAL OF 'JK KNOWLEDGE INITIATIVE'

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 20: Minister of Education, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, today released the first journal of JK Knowledge Initiative - a group constituted to chalk out modalities for operationalization of Knowledge Initiative in Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, third issue of Higher Education's newsletter Edu Plus was also released in presence of Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon, Director Colleges, Zahoor Ahmad Chhatt and other concerned officials of Higher Education Department.

Altaf Bukhari said that JK Knowledge Initiative's journal is a great initiative to highlight research activities of the department and provides an opportunity to faculty of Higher Education Department to publish their research papers.



He hoped that the journal will go a long way to promote quality research in the field of Higher Education.

In the first issue, the focus of JK Knowledge Initiative has been on publication of mostly research papers and articles by faculty members recently recruited over last

one year in various disciplines.

Dr. Samoon said the group is determined to set benchmarks in achieving a qualitative shift towards "Education, Engagement and Empowering J&K's youth in a Global Knowledge Society."

In the third issue of Higher Education's newsletter 'Edu

Plus', the emphasis has been laid to highlight the various activities of the department and an opportunity has been provided to faculty to express their views and concerns on various issues of academics and extracurricular activities and update on development of infrastructure and allied matters.

GANGA LISTENS TO PEOPLE'S ISSUES AT NANDPUR Announces Rs 1.5 crore road works

SAMBA, OCTOBER 20: The Minister for Industries and Commerce, Chander Parkash today toured Nandpur area in Vijaypur assembly constituency and attended a grievance redressal camp there.

He was accompanied by DDC Sheetal Nanda, SSP Anil Magotra, ACD Sushil Attri, SDM Ravinder Sharma, CMO Dr Rajinder Samyal, BDO Mukesh Sharma, XENS Ashok Gupta, Surinder Kumar Abrol, Er K.S Nathyal from PDD, PHE, PWD respectively and District officers from various departments.

The programme was organised as part of public outreach programme to redress the grievances of general public. The people raised issues mainly pertaining to health infrastructure upgradation, regular transport facility, improvement of roads and basic amenities.



Speaking on the occasion, Ganga urged officials to work with commitment and dedication and timely sort out problems faced by the border people. He informed that blacktopping works of various roads shall be taken up in few days including 01 km Khour Salarian to Defence Ditch under BAPD at Rs 50 lakh, 20 km Link road to Shamshan Ghat from Khour Salarian and Village Kot-

li Matkalian link road. He added that under 'City and Town' scheme Black topping work on one km Hira Chack to Chack Chataka road shall be taken up at the cost of Rs 20 Lakh. The Minister urged the local residents to avail various govt schemes for their socio-economic well being.

The Minister also cautioned public against erroneous campaign launched re-

garding Rs 2 lacs scheme launched by Social Welfare Department. He said that no such scheme exists and an enquiry has been initiated to find people behind this false campaign.

Later, the Minister also inaugurated various works being executed in convergence with MGNREGA. These works included lanes/drains, Boundary wall and tile flooring of school library.

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IGP

occurred in other states as well while the experts including the doctors investigated the matter thoroughly. "The doctors finding outside the state in this regard revealed that these incidents are mass hysteria," he said.

Ruing the lack of cooperation by the victims and their families, IGP Kashmir said, "It is difficult to find out the facts without getting a proper cooperation by the victims and their families. Whenever we will get the proper support, we will investigate the matter properly."

He further said that following the HC directions in this regard, they have started mapping of the localities where these braid chopping incidents occurred. "Due to the lack of cooperation by the victims, we have also started scientific investigation in this regard. We have started collecting the blood samples of the victims and the hair samples were also sent to the FSL to get a proper lead," he said.

DURBAR

work has been severely affected as we don't have Chief Engineer who could issue orders for various important decisions," an official of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, told KNS.

The official said that presently the Chief Engineer Public Health Engineering was holding the additional charge of Irrigation and Flood Control Department.

Sources believe that there was tussle between the PDP and BJP over appointment of Chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Department. The BJP wants that Chief Engineer should be from Jammu while the PDP wants that a Kashmiri should be appointed there.

Meanwhile quoting some examples, sources said that cabinet may also fill up the post of secretary tourism, floriculture, parks and gardens. Similarly sources said that departments, including revenue, disaster management, relief rehabilitation and reconstruction and science and technology may also be filled.

Sources said that the possibility of Cabinet ordering transfers and postings in the Police Department cannot be ruled out.

One of the BJP minister confirmed to KNS that Cabinet meeting will be held on Monday in the civil secretariat. However the minister said that the agenda of the meeting was not yet circulated.

PARTS

Shops, public transport, other businesses and educational institutions remained closed in all seven areas placed under restrictions. Reports said that attendance in government offices and educational institutions were also affected due to the prohibitory orders.

Private transport in uptown areas of Srinagar and inter-district transport were found moving normally. Joint resistance leadership (JRL) comprising Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umer Farooq and Yasin Malik have called for the post-Friday prayer protests.

NAEEM

allows, much less recommend the kind of behaviour that we display."

He was referring to the incident of Sopore where a mentally challenged man was beaten up on the suspicion for being a braid chopper.

Akhtar added: "The political position from where I operate currently would obviously invite questions about my own role. But that will only be an argument. It won't solve the problem. Neither would arguing resolve the severe moral crisis facing us. It is a millstone around OUR neck and we alone can and must throw it away. You, me and every Kashmiri."

He said, "No braid chopper has been apprehended so far. But numerous innocent persons have become the victims of our collective criminal behaviour. The Sopore incident, bone chilling as it is, is only the latest. We are only proving those people right who want us painted black. Having reached here in our disastrous moral descent we will need no one to argue against us. And of course no one can argue in our favour too. Unless we introspect and speak up. SPEAKUP."

NASIR

cornered and targeted," he said.

Meanwhile NC Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani said that the state government has failed to normalize the current deteriorating situation in Kashmir.

While addressing a one day convention of Block Amira Kadal delegates at Nawa e Subah, the Provincial President said, "Continuous spree of braid chopping incidents happen-

ing across Kashmir is a clear reminder of how bad the situation is and how miserably this government is handling such incidents. Rather than coming up with preventive measures the administration is giving out a confusing signals."

Asking people to remain vigilant Nasir said, "This government has failed on all fronts. Whether it is development or providing security to the people, Mehbooba Mufti and her coterie believes in only giving rhetorical statements. They are more concerned in saving their chairs rather than alleviating the miseries and fears of people."

Reminding the people of the daunting challenges Kashmir and its people are up against Nasir said, "It has fallen upon all of us to defeat the evil designs of our enemies and remain united and maintain brotherhood and harmony among different sections of the society."

The NC Provincial President said there was a groundswell of support in favour of National Conference and the youth were yet again reposing their faith in the party's vision of inclusive, youth-oriented politics of honour and dignity. "We do not believe in compromising on our ideology or our promises for the lure of power and the youth have realized that National Conference is the only political institution and movement which can salvage the State's bartered honour and dignity", the NC Provincial President added.

The convention was also addressed by provincial vice president Mohammad Syed Akhsoob, Minority wing Incharge Sardar Jagdish Singh Azad, YNC District President Khalid Rather and others.

MISTAKEN

braid chopper had been attacked by locals in the Fruit Mandi area of Sopore. The police rushed him to a hospital, but his condition is said to be critical," a police official told KNS.

SSP Sopore Harmeet Singh told media persons that an FIR has been registered and culprits have been identified. "Action will be initiated against the culprits," he said.

IGP Kashmir Muneer Khan said the man who was thrashed was mentally ill. "Had police not reached on time, they would have lynched him to death. Is this justifiable," he said.

As soon the video of the mentally challenged man being beaten up by the mob went viral, Kashmiri netizens on social media expressed anger and resentment over the action.

"Those who harm or beat anybody are worst criminals than the braid choppers and declared enemies of our society... stop it..." posted Nayeema Mehjoor, chairperson State Women Commission, on Facebook.

Essar Batool, another Facebook user said, "...Mobs don't have a mind but individuals do. While I understand everyone needs to remain vigilant but could we also ensure that no untoward incident happens and that we don't resort to violence."

Rafeem Ul Salam in his post said: "Haywaniyat on its peak.....! RIP humanity,"

Another Facebook user, Sheikh Mehraj, "Humanity bleeds in Kashmir nowadays...For God sake stop this now."

Pertinently, over 130 incidents of braid chopping have been reported in the Valley in the past one month. Special teams have been set up to contain the incidence, which has spread panic among the citizens, but the police have failed to make any arrests.

JITENDRA

The Union Minister after releasing a short film "Muntazir" on elders abuse, said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government in Centre has taken many initiatives to address the genuine of problems of the elders."

"It has happened for the first time that even the people who have never been into a government or some other job, have been provisioned to get pension after attaining the age of retirement."

"Indian society would soon become a system where there will be old age pension for all on the pattern of Western societies," said Dr Singh. The short film is created by the Jammu and Kashmir Social Welfare Department.

FUNDS

Muhammad Sharjeel.

"The erring officials have made 33 advises under MGNREGA scheme but no work was done on the ground. The officials while discharging the amount of 33 fake advises from the bank have used forged signatures of the erstwhile BDO," they said, adding that the amount, they have released were transferred to the accounts of locals.

"Two among the account holders were identified as Manzoor Ahmad Kohli and Shabir Ahmad Kohli," they said, adding that it has been found that the money amounting to Rs 11

lakhs were transferred into their accounts.

Officials said that the newly appointed BDO for the Pahloo block prior to the development had sent a letter to Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) in this regard, who had asked him to investigate the matter. "After investigating the matter, the BDO has found the embezzlement of Rs 21 lakhs," officials said.

BDO Pahloo, Javaid Ahmad Sheikh admitted the embezzlement of Rs 21 lakhs by three officials and said that the erring officials were placed under suspension.

"Three officials and a private person are involved in the embezzlement of the funds. I have registered a case in this regard at Police Station Devsar," he said, adding that they have so far recovered an amount of Rs 80,100 from the officials.

He informed KNS that the advices made by the officials were fictitious while no work was done on the ground. "The investigation is still on," he added.

TARIGAMI

per day, supply of special kits, social security benefits like EPF and pension, etc. "ASHA workers have been instrumental in providing better medicare to the rural people especially the women folk and their young ones, besides ensuring social mobilization."

Tarigami said ASHAs work in rough terrains of rural areas tirelessly and selflessly, despite all the difficulties they are confronted with. The government must take serious note of the brewing discontentment among these workers and take necessary action for the immediate fulfillment of their demands, failing which; the national health mission may get affected badly.

Tarigami regretted that although the government had started the National Health Mission with much fanfare, but the main work force 'ASHAs' are being asked to provide services to the community without being provided with proper wages and other benefits.

Exhorting upon ASHAs to strengthen their organization and join the broader struggle against the anti-people policies of the government, Tarigami said the government must acknowledge the contribution of ASHAs to the NHM and the improvement of the health status of the poor, especially mothers and infants.

NC

(Yasir Reshi). But the statement he has made is because we protested against their (Govt) failure," she said.

She said that instead of blaming NC and others for the braid chopping incidents, the PDP leader should point out his finger on the government as they have utterly failed to nab the culprits behind the braid chopping.

"He (Yasir) would have felt the pain of the womenfolk if his family could have become the victim of braid chopping incident," Firdous said and termed his statement as 'ridiculous'.

The MLA Habba Kadal further said that people are raising their voice for genuine reasons as the increasing number of braid chopping incident have created fear among the locals. "The men don't even dare to offer Fajr (morning) prayers at Masjid's due to the fear," she said.

The PDP leader and MLC Yasir Reshi had Thursday said that there might be some percentage of agencies involved behind the incidents of braid chopping, but 90 percent of such incidents are done by NC.

Reshi had said he has a recording of previous year, in which NC legislator Shameema Firdous is heard asking her workers to disturb law and order so that it creates more problems for PDP and blame will be automatically shifted on PDP.

MALIK

self-respect and no Kashmiri can bear these attacks anymore. Speakers said that Kashmiri mothers, sisters and daughters are under attack from some veiled enemy but the rulers, their police and other agencies remain absolutely clueless about it. "The rulers are busy riding scooters and organizing music concerts and their forces and agencies are calling this menace as mere frenzy and hysteria," they said.

JKLF leaders said that hundreds of sisters have been left traumatized by unidentified attackers and police and forces who take no time to identify everyone till now claim no breakthrough.

Meanwhile, Malik as pr the spokesman said, "Safeguarding the honor of mothers, sisters, daughters is important but attacking and hurting innocents in this name gruesome and criminal. Unabated attacks on Kashmiri women and failure of the rulers and their police in stopping these highly con-

demnable."

He also appealed people to show restraint and magnanimity while dealing with this issue.

Termining recent incidents wherein many innocents have been beaten, tortured and injured by unruly mobs, Malik in his message said that attacking, lynching, hurting and injuring innocents in the name of braid chopping is shameful and those indulging in this practice are actually harming the sacred cause of Kashmiris and actually helping the cause of hidden enemy.

Termining the attack on a mentally unsound person at Sopore as regrettable, JKLF chairman said that "we cannot lead our society to anarchy where there is no distinction between an innocent and a guilty."

Emphasizing on the need of unity to fight this menace, Malik said that "while dealing with the menace of braid cutting, we should enhance our society based vigil but deal with nobility, restraint and magnanimity. We cannot become unruly and rude and push our whole society towards anarchy in the name of braid chopping. Our vigil should continue but under the command of elders and Masjid committees and if during our vigil somebody suspicious is seen or caught, he should be brought to elders and Masjid committees members and investigated properly so that no innocent gets harmed."

Meanwhile, spokesman said that Human Rights Commission today adjourned the cases of Syeda Asiya Andrabi and 17 youth who have been 'falsely' inducted in DSP lynching case till 23rd of October 2017.

"The cases were listed for hearing today but due to some unavoidable circumstances, respected Commission adjourned these till 23rd," spokesman said.

JKLF also paid tributes to martyr Gulam Mohi ud din Bhat of Bogam Budgam who was injured in a grenade attack on 7th September 2017 and breathed his last recently.

A JKLF delegation comprising of Nazir Ahmad, Molvi Abdul Rashid and Tikka Khan visited the bereaved family and expressed solidarity with them.

WANI

row. The whole of J&K was burning, but Doda maintained peace and communal harmony with the efforts and personal influence of Abdul Majid Wani and his father Late Khawaja Gulam Ahmad Wani, who himself was seriously injured in a militants' attack, during the peak militancy days in 1995 and had to be airlifted first to the Military Hospital Satwari and then remained under treatment in Delhi for months together," Wani said.

He said apart from this, their whole family business was badly damaged, as well as, their number of houses, other properties in Doda district and in Srinagar was burnt out by the militants.

"This was duty of the security reviewing agencies in J&K to go through all these records, before taking the biased and one sided decision taken on behest of some vested interests," he said.

This shall further damage the already deteriorating law and order situation not only in Kashmir valley, but also in Chenab Valley region, as the staunch supporters of the nationalist forces like him will be forced to keep a silence and also stop them from making mass contact in tough and hilly terrains of the Chenab Valley and speaking openly against the militants and other anti-nationalist forces, which are otherwise in dormancy stage and waiting for main stream politicians like him to get weakened up and restrained not to reach people in remotely situated regions.

Expressing his shock and annoyance over the decision of the state government in withdrawing security at his residence in Jammu, Abdul Majid Wani said that the decision is biased and against the main stream leaders, who along with their families are being made vulnerable to anti national forces under a mischievous design.

He made an appeal to Mehbooba Mufti Chief Minister of J&K to immediately intervene into this serious issue and change the decision of the state security review agency and also to review the security and a number of police personnel provided to the police officers in their residences posted either in non-operational zones or in civil/ traffic or other such wings of J&K Police.

He further alleged the decision to withdraw security from his residence is a move "reeks of bias" and has made political leaders like him and his family members "soft targets" and "sitting ducks" for the terrorists.

Wani further said the governments are not merely run by launching political vendetta against the political opponents but the major government decisions and policies need to be framed only in close consultations and taking opposition political parties leaders into confidence.

The Power of Tourism - 16th day of Paryatan Parv celebrated across the country

New Delhi, October 20: The Prime Minister in his Mann Ki Baat address mentioned that "There will be a value addition in tourism only when we travel not only as a visitor but also like a student and make efforts to assimilate, understand & adapt. This is my personal experience, I had a chance of visiting more than five hundred districts of India. In more than four hundred & fifty districts, I had a night stay too. And now, when I am shouldering this responsibility in India, that travel is coming in very handy and proving to be very useful. That helps me a lot in understanding things. I request you too, to feel the "Unity in Diversity" which is not a mere slogan but is a storehouse of enormous energy. The dream of "Ek Bharat - Shreshtha Bharat" is inherent in this. How many varieties of cuisines there are ! If we eat a new dish every day, we won't have to repeat any variety throughout our life. This is the power of our tourism. I would request that during these vacations do not go out just for a change but leave with the intention to know, understand - & gain something. Internalize India within yourselves. Internalize the diversities of millions of

denizens of India within you. These experiences will enrich your lives. Your vision will expand. And, you can be a better teacher than experience!"

The country is blessed with numerous tourists sites, its cuisine, dance, music, attire, customs etc. and under the umbrella of Paryatan Parv one can get glimpses of all this and more. The power of tourism can be seen when one looks at the wide spread participation in the event by State Governments, Central Ministries, Travel Associations, Organisations, School and College students and the general public.

Airports have been decorated, Railways Stations are wearing a festive look, the tourists sites are illuminated, Sites are getting a cleaner look, Service Providers are being made aware of the benefits of the tourism, youth camps are being held, Rural Tourism is getting a fillip, Workshops and seminars are being conducted, cultural evenings are enthralling the tourists, Heritage walks and nature walks are being undertaken, it is literally activities galore during Paryatan Parv.

Highlight of the day sixteen of

Paryatan Parv was launch of Tourism Projects by Ministry of Rural Development in Aibawk Rurban Cluster for Development of Cycling Track, Construction of 3 km road and footpaths, Beautification of Historical Sites and setting up of Orchid Research Centre at Aizawl, Mizoram. The other activities organized in Aizawl were Sensitization Programme for local community, Painting Competition for Children Cultural Show, Eco Trail.

Ministry of DONER in association with the State Government of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh has organised Cultural evening at Aizawl, Illumination of Ita fort at Itanagar and Sensitization Programme for taxi drivers and distribution of waste disposal at Naharlagun respectively. Cultural Evening at Kohima was also organised by the Ministry of DONER in association with the State Government of Nagaland. Atithidevabhava Sensitization Programme for shopkeepers, vendors, rickshaw and autorickshaw drivers, has been organised at Borabari, by IHM, Guwahati

The Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with Ministry of Culture and the State Government of Karnataka has organised various activities

like Heritage Walk, Tourism Exhibition, Exhibition of Handicrafts/Handlooms, Quiz / Essay / Painting Competitions for Students, Illumination of Site, Cultural Evening at Hampi.

The State Government of Gujarat has organized Grameen Olympics at Olpad Village, Surat. Hygiene Awareness for street food vendors and other unorganized sector stakeholders was organised at Law Garden by IHM, Ahmadabad. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has organised Punjabi Food Festival at the Hotel Highlands, Pachmarhi.

The State Government of Uttarakhand has organized yoga session at Rishikesh. Essay and painting competition was organised at Kozhikode District by the State Government of Kerala.

India tourism Kolkata has organised a seminar on "Road Map for Development of Cultural Tourism in and around Shantiniketan & Birbhum" at Vishwa Bharti University. Tourist Awareness Programme on Swachhta at Boat Jetty organised by IITM, Goa. Distribution of new trash bags and Excursion trips for students was organised by IHM Chennai at Mamallapuram.

PM visits Kedarnath, lays Foundation Stone for infrastructure projects

New Delhi, October 20: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, visited Kedarnath today. He offered prayers at the Kedarnath Temple, and laid the Foundation Stone for five infrastructure and development projects. These include the development of retaining wall and ghat on the Mandakini River; development of retaining wall and ghat on Saraswati River; construction of main approach to Kedarnath Temple; development of Shankaracharya Kutir and Shankaracharya Museum; and development of houses for Kedarnath Purohites. The Prime Minister was briefed on the Kedarpuri Reconstruction Project.

Addressing a gathering, the Prime Minister said he was happy to be in Kedarnath, a day after Diwali. He said that the start of a New Year is being celebrated in Gujarat today, and conveyed his greetings to everyone around the world.

Noting that the service of the people is the service of God, the Prime Minister pledged to devote himself fully to realising the dream of a developed India, by the time we mark 75 years of freedom in 2022. Recalling the natural calamity of 2013, the Prime Minister said that as Chief Minister of Gujarat, he had come to do all that he could for the victims; and offered support from the State of Gujarat for the reconstruction effort.



The Prime Minister said that through the work that is being done in Kedarnath, one would be able to see how an ideal "place of pilgrimage" should be - in terms of both amenities for pilgrims, and the welfare of the priests. He said that the infrastructure being developed in Kedarnath would be of good quality, adding that it would be modern, but would preserve the traditional ethos, and ensure that the environment is not damaged.

Shri Narendra Modi said that the Himalayas have much to offer for spiritualism, adventure and tourism, and for the nature lover. He invited everyone to come and explore the Himalayas.

The Governor of Uttarakhand, Dr. K.K. Paul, and Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, were present on the occasion.

POLICE COMMEMORATION DAY TO BE OBSERVED TOMORROW

New Delhi, October 20: The Police Commemoration Day is observed on October 21st every year. The Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh will attend the Police Commemoration Day Parade at the Police Memorial Ground here tomorrow. On the occasion, he will also lay wreath and pay homage at the Police Memorial.

The day commemorates the sacrifices of ten policemen while defending our borders with China in 1959. Indian Police personnel were responsible for manning the 2,500 mile long border of India with Tibet until the autumn of 1959.

On October 20, 1959, three reconnaissance parties were launched from Hot Springs in North Eastern Ladakh in preparation for further movement of an Indian expedition which was on its way to Lanak La. While members of two parties returned to Hot Springs by the afternoon of that day, the third one comprising of two Police Constables and a Porter did not return. All available personnel were mobilized early next morning in search of the missing personnel. A party of about 20 Police personnel led by Shri Karam Singh, DCIO proceeded ahead on horseback, while other followed on foot in three Sections.

At about mid day, Chinese Army personnel were seen on a hillock who opened fire and threw grenades at the party led by Shri Karam Singh. Since there was no cover, most personnel were injured. Ten of our brave Police Personnel attained martyrdom and seven others sustained injuries. The seven injured were taken prisoners by the Chinese while the remaining managed to escape. Bodies of the ten personnel were returned by the Chinese only on November 13, 1959, a full three weeks after the incident. These bodies were cremated with full Police honours at Hot Springs.

The Annual Conference of Inspectors General of Police of States and Union Territories held in January 1960 decided that October 21 would henceforth be observed as 'Commemoration Day' in all Police Lines throughout India to mark the memory of these gallant personnel who were killed in Ladakh and all other Police personnel killed on duty during the year. It was also decided to erect a memorial at Hot Springs and, every year, members of Police Forces from different parts of the country trek to Hot Springs to pay homage to those gallant martyrs. Since the year 2012, the Police Commemoration Day Parade is being held at the National level at the Police Memorial, Chanakyapuri.

So far since Independence, 34,418 Police personnel have sacrificed their lives for safeguarding the integrity of the nation and providing security to people of this country. During the last one year, from September 2016 to August 2017, 383 Police personnel have laid down their lives.

DY CM CELEBRATES DIWALI WITH SECURITY FORCES

JAMMU, OCTOBER 20: Deputy Chief Minister Dr Nirmal Singh celebrated Diwali with security forces at Border Outpost (BoP) Garkhal in Akhnoor sector along the Indo-Pak International Border (IB) on Thursday.

The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by his wife Mamta Singh and other family members. Praising commitment of the soldiers towards protection of the borders, Dr Nirmal Singh said their presence on the frontiers ensures that countrymen celebrate the day peacefully.

The Deputy Chief Minister, while celebrating Diwali with the army and Border Security Force personnel lauded them for guarding and protecting the country while living away from their homes. Dr Nirmal Singh interacted with the soldiers and distributed sweets among them.

"Every citizen of the country is proud of the security forces, who are guarding our borders and giving us peaceful nights," he said. He also said that the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to the "welfare and the betterment" of the security personnel in every possible way. Earlier, Dr Nirmal Singh paid tributes to the martyr soldiers who laid down their life while safeguarding the border. Meanwhile, IG BSF Ram Awtar, gave a detailed briefing to the Deputy Chief Minister on the prevailing security scenario on Border, the measures undertaken by BSF to strengthen the border protection, threat perception existing on the IB and the existing border control & protection mechanism undertaken vis-à-vis the likely threats.

OPENING CEREMONY OF INDRA-2017

New Delhi, October 20: In a glittering opening ceremony at Vladivostok, Russia this morning Indian Task Force Commander Maj Gen ND Prasad and Chief of Staff, Eastern Military District of the Russian Federation Lt Gen Solomatn declared the tri-service Exercise INDRA 2017 open.

The opening ceremony witnessed Maj Gen ND Prasad and Lt Gen Solomatn inspect-

ing the smartly turned out contingents, which was followed by a march past by the tri-service contingents of both sides. The opening ceremony also witnessed an astounding display of traditional martial arts and folk dances by the Indian troops and a flypast by four fighter aircraft of Russian Federation Air Force.

In his opening address, Maj Gen ND Prasad, the Indian Task Force Commander

said that the initiative taken for the first ever tri-service exercise between both countries reflects the vibrancy of the continued Indo-Russian strategic partnership and that with the rich operational experience of both Russian and Indian armies in counter insurgency operations, both sides will gain immensely from each other and further develop their capabilities. Lt Gen Solomatn, Chief of Staff,

Eastern Military District of the Russian Federation stated that the tri-service exercise will further strengthen the relationship between the two defence forces and lead to enhanced mutual cooperation between the two great countries.

Lt Gen JS Negi, leader of the tri-services Observer delegation, during his media interaction, said that the conduct of the first ever tri-

service exercise between the two countries is a significant step in mutual cooperation and marks an important milestone in the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. He expressed his confidence that the joint training between the two defence forces over the next ten days will result in gaining from the experience and best practices of each other and would

further enhance mutual confidence.

The opening ceremony was followed by a ceremonial banquet hosted by the Russian side, where both sides interacted in an informal atmosphere and expressed their common intent and strong resolve to conduct the exercise in a professional manner, so as to achieve the overall objectives of Exercise INDRA 2017.

Dy CM inspects development projects in Jammu, peripheries

Visits Bus-stand, Maharaja Hari Singh Park, Birpur JDA colony



JAMMU, OCTOBER 20: Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Nirmal Singh today visited different parts of Jammu and inspected pace of work on mega developmental projects underway in and around the winter capital.

During his visit to Multi-tier Parking and Commercial Complex construction site at General Bus Stand, Deputy Chief Minister was informed that the work on prestigious Rs 201 crore project is in full swing and targeted for completion by November 2018.

He was briefed that project will have a bus terminal, provision of parking facility for around 1500 vehicles besides shops and food courts. He also visited Maharaja Hari Singh ji Memorial Park and inspected the ongoing pace of work of installation of solar lights. He was also informed that newly established library in the premises of the park has been decked up with latest books and references for the convenience of general public.

Deputy Chief Minister directed for iron fencing of the Park along the Tawi river side for the safety of visitors and proper maintenance of landscaping, flower beds and other public utilities.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister visited upcoming JDA colony at Birpur to inspect progress of ongoing development work. He was informed that the colony would have 730 plots and installation of electric poles by PDD has already been completed. The work on laying of water supply pipes is also in progress, while construction of lanes and drains and flood protection works along the river side have been completed.

The Deputy Chief Minister called for expediting work on all the key projects to complete these within the set time-frame for the benefit of people. "Our focus is on expediting development works, ensuring good governance and providing a corruption-free administration," he said.

Vice Chairman Jammu Development Authority Rajesh Kumar Shavan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr Arun Manhas and other officers accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during his visit.

Gurezi for early tendering of Bandipora-Gurez Transmission line

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 20: The Deputy Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Nazir Ahmad Gurezi today asked the Power Development Department (PDD) to immediately issue tenders for Bandipora-Gurez transmission line and start construction work on the project so that it is completed within stipulated time frame.

The instruction was given by the Deputy Speaker in a meeting of officers of PDD and Power Development Corporation (PDC) convened to review the status of work on various power projects and Bandipora-Gurez transmission line.

Detailed discussions were held on dumping of Diesel in Gurez area for winter. It was decided that 66 tankers of Diesel are to be dumped in Gurez within shortest period for use of power generators in Gurez area. It was also informed in the meeting that an amount of Rs 2 crore has been released by the Government for the purpose.

It was further informed in the meeting that an amount of Rs 10 lakh has been released for purchase of Generator for village Abdul-

lain in Tulail area.

The Deputy Speaker asked the concerned authorities to take up the construction work of 7MV Achoora Power Project at the earliest as the Detailed Project Report (DPR) have already been approved for it.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Speaker stressed for exploration of Wind Power in the Tehsil Gurez as the area has a huge scope of hydro power. He said the area is suffering a lot due to shortage of power supply and hoped that due to completion of transmission line from Bandipora to Gurez and other proposed power projects the scarcity of power supply will be minimized. He directed the PDD and other concerned authorities to work with utmost dedication and also asked them to work in tandem and complete the all ongoing projects in a time bound manner. The meeting was attended by Power Development Commissioner, Asgar Ali, Chief Engineer, PDD Shahnaz Goni, Director Finance, PDD, Superintendent Engineer M&RE Bandipora besides other Senior Officers of the concerned departments.

DGP Prisons celebrates Diwali with jail inmates

JAMMU, OCTOBER 20: In an unprecedented gesture, DGP Prisons department S.K Mishra, along with his family, shared the Diwali festivities with the inmates here at the District Jail (Ambphalla).

The DGP joined 500 inmates and witnessed a scintillating cultural program presented by them. The DGP Prisons also gave away Medals and Certificates to the participants - as a token of appreciation, as also distributed

sweets amongst the inmates and jail staff.

In his address, he stressed that as being part of the Prison family he will take all possible steps required for the reformation & rehabilitation of the inmates.

Govt making innovative interventions to boost horticulture sector: Basharat Bukhari

Consultant to be hired for formulating JKHPMC revival plan

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 20: Minister for Horticulture, Syed Basharat Bukhari today said necessary interventions and innovative measures are being implemented so that JK's horticulture sector is properly augmented both in terms of human resource and infrastructure.

The Minister was addressing officers during a meeting held in sequel to the pre-budget meeting with the Minister for Finance, Dr Haseeb A Drabu to discuss the requisite budgetary support and interventions needed to give the requisite fillip to the horticulture sector. Principal Secretary, Finance Mr Navin Kumar Choudhary, Secretary Horticulture Mr Manzoor Ahmed Lone, MD JKHPMC, Dr Kabir Dar and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

While discussing the recent walnut committee report, the Minister said necessary measures are afoot to give the requisite fillip to the walnut industry which is among key horticultural exports and a major contributor to the rural economy. He said the recommendations of the committee would be implemented so that

necessary interventions are made in this sector at various levels to increase productivity and marketing.

The Minister also directed for exploring the possibilities of hiring cold storages for the fruit produce so that the shelf life of the same is increased. He said this would give the growers the requisite facility of storing the produce and also selling it at the fruit mandis when the rates are good which would in turn ensure that they get good returns. The Minister while hailing the recent initiative of the government to declare

JKHPMC as debt free said the step would go a long way in rejuvenating the corporation which would ensure that the fruit produce of the is marketed in a proper way in other state's of the country as well. He said since JK is the largest fresh fruit producer so the marketing and packaging facilities are imperative in selling the produce in the present competitive market in the country and globally.

The meeting also decided to hire a consultant who would prepare the report about the measures to be taken for infusing a new life in the corporation and also harness the assets to create new processing units thereby reviving the corporation. The Consultant would also prepare the correct report of the available resources, capital resources, trade options.

The meeting also discussed the status of compliances (Accounting and Audit Compliances) taxation issues, ROC Compliances. It also discussed suggesting viable options for revival plans, extent of renovation needed for existing defunct plants for optimum utilization, suggestions for new investment options based

on available land resources, for capacity building, for undertaking the PPP mode if desire and also implementation viable options in a tax free manner.

The proposal for developing marketing intelligence and also infrastructure for setting up of urban mandis and processing units for medicinal plants was also discussed, bankable scheme to explore the avenues for ensuring that the growers establishes high density orchards was also discussed as the present scheme of intervention lasts for two years only.

DAILY Editorial Time and Us SRINAGAR J&K

SAVING CHILD BRIDES

By ruling that marriage cannot be a licence to have sex with a minor girl, the Supreme Court has corrected an anomaly in the country's criminal law. Under the Indian Penal Code, it is an offence to have sex with a girl below 18 years of age, regardless of consent. However, it made an exception if the girl was the man's wife, provided she was not below 15. In other words, what was statutory rape is treated as permissible within a marriage. By reading down the exception to limit it to girls aged 18 and older, the court has sought to harmonise the various laws in which any person under 18 is a minor. Overall, the judgment is in keeping with the reformist, and indisputably correct, view that early marriage is a serious infringement of child rights. The judges draw extensively on studies that demonstrate child marriage is a social evil that adversely affects the physical and mental health of children, denies them opportunities for education and self-advancement, infringes on their bodily autonomy and deprives them of any role in deciding on many aspects of their lives.

As a move to strengthen the fight against child marriage and help stricter enforcement of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, the judgment cannot be faulted. But the practical implications of the judgment are worrying. Are all men married to girls between the ages of 15 and 18 to be condemned to face criminal cases as rapists? Given the prevalence of child marriage in this country, it is doubtful whether it is possible – or even desirable – to implement the statutory rape law uniformly in the context of marriages. What, for instance, does this mean for those married under Muslim personal law, which permits girls below 18 to be married? The age of consent under the IPC was raised in 2013 from 16 to 18 to bring it in line with the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. However, the age above which marriage is an exception to rape was retained at 15, as fixed in 1940. POCSO criminalises even consensual teenage sexual activity and the latest ruling has brought this into the domain of marriage. A teenager could be prosecuted for a sexual offence under POCSO even if he was just a little above 18. In the same way, a teenage husband may now be threatened with prosecution for rape. Significantly, if boys under 18 but over 16 are charged with penetrative sexual assault under POCSO or rape under the IPC, which can be termed 'heinous offences', they could face the prospect of being tried as adults, according to the juvenile law as it stands now. Treating all below 18 as children may be good for their care and protection, but whether 18 is the right age for consent in this day and age remains a moot question. The state's argument that given the widespread prevalence of child marriage it is not possible to remove the exception may be flawed from a formal standpoint, but its concerns about the implications of the verdict must not be underestimated.

India should stand by ally Sheikh Hasina on the Rohingya crisis

Sanjoy Hazarika

Few in India seem to understand the scale of the Rohingya crisis that has overwhelmed Bangladesh.

In the space of six weeks, half a million people, men, women and children, have fled Myanmar to seek shelter across the choppy waters of the Naf River which marks the borders between the two countries. Top UN officials say that the crisis is continuing with people "fleeing for their lives and requiring immediate support" in the world's fastest developing refugee situation.

The refugees come struggling ashore, climbing uncertainly down from country boats and settle usually on a small spit of land on the river bank before they are taken to makeshift shelters where they often stand in rain and in muddy slush waiting for food.

The issue is front page news every day in Bangladesh in Bangla and the English media, the top anchors and talk shows are all about this. When Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister, returned to Dhaka recently from a long visit to the United Nations and London, she was welcomed with banners with proclaimed her as "Mother of Humanity". She had campaigned for the Rohingya, for Myanmar to end its devastating assault and urged international support to meet the pressures on Bangladesh.

The view from Dhaka is very different to that in Delhi and the feeling one gained from an intense visit was that many in the country, not least Sheikh Hasina, were stunned by India's position on the crisis. While there may be understanding of the assertion by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Aung San Suu Kyi to fight terrorism, especially after the coordinated attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on the Myanmar army and police positions, it has also been strongly felt that New Delhi should have counselled restraint to Myanmar.

A former diplomat familiar with the Rohingya situation spoke of how overreach, credible accounts of brutality and collateral damage by security forces in the Arakan could create a new security threat to Eastern South Asia: such violence and prejudice could be a magnet for jihadi elements from different parts of the world, who were being tossed out of Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria. People in Myanmar who are knowledgeable of the situation say that this patch of land along the Bay of Bengal is where the Pakistani ISI is already involved, supporting ARSA.

Apart from the proximity to Bangladesh, where there has been a surge in violent extremism, one cannot forget that the area abuts parts of the North-east. There is growing communal tension in Assam on a range of issues. The BJP-led alliance there cannot ignore this visible trend and yet appears to be either unwilling or unable to counter it.



A FORMER DIPLOMAT FAMILIAR WITH THE ROHINGYA SITUATION SPOKE OF HOW OVERREACH, CREDIBLE ACCOUNTS OF BRUTALITY AND COLLATERAL DAMAGE BY SECURITY FORCES IN THE ARAKAN COULD CREATE A NEW SECURITY THREAT TO EASTERN SOUTH ASIA: SUCH VIOLENCE AND PREJUDICE COULD BE A MAGNET FOR JIHADI ELEMENTS FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD, WHO WERE BEING TOSSED OUT OF IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN AND SYRIA. PEOPLE IN MYANMAR WHO ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE SITUATION SAY THAT THIS PATCH OF LAND ALONG THE BAY OF BENGAL IS WHERE THE PAKISTANI ISI IS ALREADY INVOLVED, SUPPORTING ARSA.

Wisdom should inform political leaders that relentless discrimination and abuse of minority groups will push the latter to the wall and lead to radicalisation. Should that happen, then the ease of connectivity can enable collaboration with elements in Bangladesh and Myanmar, making eastern South Asia potentially unstable. The Act East Policy would be adversely affected.

That is why India's support to Sheikh Hasina is critical at this juncture. At talk shows and commentaries, her party leaders as also panelists known to be pro-India are pointedly asked – "You gave transit, what did you get in return?" "You gave the information gateway, what did you get in return?" "You haven't got a drop of Teesta waters". On the Rohingyas, where India is seen to have supported Suu Kyi and the army crackdown, Bangladesh is portrayed as help-

lessly trying to cope with the massive influx.

Sheikh Hasina is seen as overdependent on India. This is an especially sensitive issue with a year to go for the general elections where her Awami League will be contesting against the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the Jamaat-i-Islami. Despite handicaps and the criticism of the vast power concentrated in her hands, she remains the only credible popular choice which India must continue to back. She has taken enormous political risks to go the extra mile with India – opening economic and transport routes, including access to Chittagong port, handing over top insurgent leaders, providing an information gateway and helping Modi clinch the border agreement.

There are two issues where India's

help is critical: First, Teesta water sharing for the dry winter months, without which Bangladeshi farmers face disaster. This should not be done closer to the elections – it would be regarded as an election gimmick. Second, use its influence to quietly engage Suu Kyi and the generals to enable the return of some refugees and the restoration of an initial peace. Discussions with ARSA are probably some time away: there are reports that Bangladesh intelligence may be connected to some ARSA leaders, part of the usual South Asian game of stealth and power, as earlier with ULFA and other groups.

Sanjoy Hazarika is Director of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI).

SHOWCASE INDIA'S PAST, EMBRACE IT AND MONETISE IT

The publicity-seeking pronouncements of BJP MLA Sangeet Som must be seen for what they are – pandering to what he thinks is his constituency. But what is worrying is that this sort of folly is becoming the trend among a certain class of politician who try to prove their patriotic credentials by casting aspersions on the past and its contributions. So we have people like Azam Khan in an attempt at irony questioning the legitimacy of Rashtrapati Bhavan and asking for the destruction of old structures and of course a myriad so-called nationalists attacking Mughal monuments.

The answer should have come in no uncertain terms from the tourism minister – these monuments are a magnet for Indian tourism and a huge revenue generator. It makes eminent sense to promote these as part of our inclusive heritage and market them to both national and foreign tourists, not to mention that they provide a rich seam of information for historians and students. After all, much of Goa's tourism is based on the fact that it was a Portuguese colony, Pudukcherry's unique draw is its



French heritage and Kerala's lovely churches and magnificent synagogues draw people from all over the world. These were not indigenously created and we are justifiably proud of them.

Other countries have appropriated artefacts from different places as for example the Elgin marbles which were taken to Britain from Greece and showcased as attractions. Similarly, vast

treasures from India generate revenue for the British government as also do Egyptian artefacts. Istanbul's Sofia Hagia was first a church, then a mosque, a church again and today a mosque.

This is seen today as a symbol of a glorious Ottoman past and draws millions to a country which is a fraction of the size of India. Many monuments in Spain were once Islamic in nature

but are today Christian sites.

The past is something to be embraced and displayed as part of our collective heritage. If one were to question the antecedents of each monument or heritage site, we would be impoverishing our own culture which is not monolithic and exclusive. Clearly, those who consider ancient monuments a blot on our national credentials have little knowledge of history or its rich and subtle nuances. In which case, they should know when to leave well alone. It is not enough to say that money will be spent on the surroundings of structures like the Taj, their historical value and significance should be emphasised. These should not even be a matter of political discussion unless it is with a view to enhancing their importance and monetary worth. The Taj is one of the most recognisable buildings in the world, one which has moved poets like Tagore to great lyricism. No one, and certainly, not petty political personalities should be allowed to detract from that.

Modi attacks Congress for 'refusing help' in Kedarnath reconstruction

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a disguised attack on rival Congress on Friday for not allowing his Gujarat government in 2013 to help in the reconstruction of the Kedarnath temple town, which was devastated due to flash floods in the summer.

Modi visited the shrine a day before it closes for the winter — his second visit in six months — and laid the foundation for five projects worth Rs 150 crores.

He also did the 'Rudrabhisekh' ritual before addressing a gathering where he thanked people for electing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the assembly polls held earlier this year.

"As a chief minister of Gujarat I visited Uttarakhand in 2013 and offered to handle reconstruction works... Then CM and official agreed on my proposal but the government in the



ANI

Centre (the Congress-led UPA government) was not okay with it and in next one hour state government bowed to pressure as well," Modi said in a 35-minute address. The Prime Minister did not name the principal opposition party in his speech.

The works he inaugurated include construction of residence for the local priests and a museum of Adi Shankaracharya.

Modi promised the pace of the reconstruction works will be faster. The PM had visited the shrine when it opened in May this year. On Friday, he said he reached the temple shrine to send a message that it was safe for pilgrims.

"I am happy that some 4.5 lakh pilgrims reached at Kedarnath in the season and this number will certainly cross by 10 lakh in the next year".

PM recalled his initial days when he spent time at Garur Chatti near Kedarnath in search of spirituality. "I intended to serve baba (Kedarnath) but he perhaps had different plan for me... He possibly wanted me to serve 125 billion babas," Modi said.

The PM mentioned flagship schemes by his government and said in 2022, when India completes 75 years of independence, it will be crucial for the country to showcase its "tremendous potential".

He hailed the state government's performance and asked the TS Rawat government to focus on promoting holistic healthcare and organic farming.

Kerala Tourism 'salutes Taj Mahal for inspiring millions', Twitter users say it's a message for UP

Twitter users say Kerala Tourism — run by the state's government — is teaching a lesson to its Uttar Pradesh counterpart on how to do its job.

The Kerala Tourism department has thanked the Taj Mahal for "inspiring millions to discover India" amid controversies triggered by Bharatiya Janata Party leaders questioning the origin and heritage of the monument of love. Controversial BJP MLA Sangeet Som recently said the Taj Mahal was built by someone who wanted to wipe out Hindus, adding to a row over the iconic monument that draws crores of rupees in annual revenue. His remarks come days after the Taj Mahal, considered one of the seven wonders of the world, wasn't mentioned in an Uttar Pradesh tourism booklet and received no fresh funds in the state budget. "Many people were disappointed when Taj Mahal was removed from Indian history. What history are you talking about? The creator of the Taj Mahal (Mughal em-

peror Shah Jahan) imprisoned his own father. He wanted to wipe out Hindus from Hindustan," Som can be heard telling a crowd in a video. Shah Jahan never imprisoned his father Jehangir. It was Shah Jahan's son, the sixth Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, who placed him under house arrest at Agra Fort.

Another BJP leader, Vinay Katiyar, added to the row by saying that the moon-white marble mausoleum stands at a site where a Hindu temple dedicated to god Shiva once stood. The Kerala Tourism handle did not refer to the controversial remarks by BJP leaders in its tweet. The Taj Mahal is India's top tourism destination but has received a barrage of negative comments from top BJP leaders, including chief minister Yogi Adityanath — who in June said the ivory-white marble mausoleum didn't represent "Indian culture". The 17th century structure has also seen a steady decline in footfall in recent years and is battling mounting pollution.

500 long distance trains to run faster from next month

The Indian Railways will soon cut short the running time of over 500 long distance trains by up to two hours, a senior railway official said on Friday.

The new timings will be updated in the November timetable of the railways, he said.

Following directions from Railway Minister Piyush Goyal earlier this month, the national carrier incorporated "innovative timetabling" under which running time of popular trains will reduce by 15 minutes to two hours.

The new timetable will also provide each railway division two to four hours for maintenance works.

"Our plan is to maximise the use of the existing rolling



stock. It can be done in two ways - if we have a train that is waiting somewhere to return, we can use it during the lie over period.

"In the new timetable around 50 such trains which will be run like this. Fifty-one trains will immediately see reduced run time from one to three hours. This will go up to more than 500 trains,"

Jodhpur Express will reach 95 minutes early while the Guwahati-Indore Special will complete its 2,330-km journey 115 minutes early and the 1929-km journey of the Ghazipur-Bandra Terminus Express will be completed 95 minutes earlier.

The national transporter has also reduced the halt time of trains at stations. Similarly, trains will not stop at stations where footfall is less.

Coupled with track and infrastructure upgrade, automatic signalling and the new Linke-Hofmann-Busch coaches that allow a 130 kmph top speed, trains are expected to run faster.

The railways has also in the process of reviewing permanent speed restrictions.

India shares Tillerson's optimism for Indo-US ties: MEA

India said on Friday that it appreciates US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's positive evaluation of the Indo-US ties, asserting that New Delhi shares his optimism and looks forward to welcoming him here next week for discussions to strengthen the partnership. Secretary Tillerson has made a significant policy statement on India-US relations and its future, an external affairs ministry statement said.

"He brought out its various strengths and highlighted our shared commitment to a rule-based international order. We look forward to welcoming him in India next week for detailed discussions on further strengthening of our partnership," the statement said.

Making a statement on



"defining our relationship with India for the next century", Tillerson last week had said the US is India's "reliable partner" at the world stage in this period of uncertainty and angst.

In a major India-policy speech, the first by the Trump administration, Tillerson had referred to the rise of China, saying its behaviour and action was "posing a challenge to the rules-based international order".

"China, while rising alongside India, has done so less responsibly, at times undermining the international, rules-based order -- even as countries like India operate within a framework that pro-

Virbhadra Singh files nomination from Arki constituency

Six-time Himachal Pradesh chief minister Virbhadra Singh filed his nomination from the Arki Assembly constituency in Solan district for the November 9 state polls on Friday.

Singh had vacated the Shimla (rural) seat for his son Vikramaditya Singh and shifted to Arki.

It was a show of strength as hundreds of supporters and party workers greeted the chief minister outside the office of the assistant returning officer.

This is for the fourth time that the 83-year-old Congress leader has shifted his constituency. He had contested from Jubbal and Kotkhai in 1983 and 1985, Rohroo in 1990, 1993, 1998, 2003 and 2007, and shifted to Shimla Rural in 2012 after the Rohroo seat was reserved for Schedule Caste.

After filing his nominations, Singh said the Congress would contest the upcoming elections on development plank and return to power with comfortable majority.

"The decision of demonetisation and hasty implementation of the Goods and Service tax (GST) will cost heavily to the BJP as it has caused harassment and hardship to both traders and the common man," he said.

The prices have gone up after GST, while traders are up in arms against the new tax system, he said.

Taking a dig at state Congress chief Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, who is contesting from Naudan, the chief minister said, "As per rules, the state Congress president should manage polls instead of contesting them. But if he (Sukhwinder) has decided to enter the fray, someone else should be made the state party chief for smooth conduct of elections." Both the leaders have been at loggerheads with each other.

RSS leader's killing in Ludhiana: Punjab govt to hand over probe to NIA

The Punjab government has decided to hand over the probe into the killing of RSS leader Ravinder Gosain in Ludhiana to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh issued orders in this regard today while announcing a Rs 5 lakh compensation for the deceased's family and a government job for one of his progeny.

Gosain lost his wife to cancer some years ago and is survived by four children. Orders regarding an NIA probe were issued by the chief minister on the request by an RSS delegation that met him at his residence on Thursday, an official spokesperson said. The chief minister acceded to their request taking into account the "international ramifications" of the case, he added.

Investigations into similar incidents in the past suggest that the handlers of the assailants were operating from foreign soil, said the spokesperson, adding that Singh felt that with the NIA stepping in, there would be better coordination between the central agencies and the state police.

Two unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants had shot dead RSS

leader Gosain in Kailash Nagar in Ludhiana on Tuesday.

Sharing the delegation's concern over the brazen killing, the chief minister strongly condemned the act, saying there was no place for such violence in the state.

Asserting that his government would not tolerate such lawlessness, Singh said it was taking all measures to prevent such targeted killings.

Singh assured the delegation that the state police was working hard to solve all the previous similar cases and that he had issued directions for expediting the investigations. No effort would be spared to catch the culprits and bring them to book in cases of targeted killings, which were clearly aimed at destabilising the state and destroying its peace, said the chief minister.

Arunachal assembly resolution on citizenship to Chakmas, Hajongs kicks up fresh row

A resolution adopted by the Arunachal Pradesh assembly this week asking Centre to protect rights of tribal population while considering citizenship to Chakmas and Hajongs refugees residing in the state for decades has kicked up a fresh row.

After a marathon discussion lasting nearly five hours, the assembly had adopted the resolution moved by parliamentary affairs minister Bamang Felix on Wednesday. Members cutting across party lines felt granting citizenship to Chakmas and Hajongs would alter the state's demography.

Last month, the Centre had decided to grant citizenship to Chakmas and Hajongs (original residents of Chitragong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh) living in Arunachal Pradesh since the 1960s, as per a 2015 Supreme Court order.

The move led to widespread protests in Arunachal and the state government also wrote to Centre saying it could create problems. This led the Centre to assure that rights of local tribes would be pro-



ected. While speaking on the resolution on Wednesday, chief minister Pema Khandu accused Chakmas and Hajongs of "creating law and order problems" and encroaching upon over 7,000 hectares of forest and government land.

As per official records, 65,851 Chakmas and Hajongs reside in Changlang, Namsai and Papum Pare districts.

Khandu told the assembly that of the 4,367 applications for citizenship, 2,810 were taken up for hearing by the district administrations.

Over 1,500 of them were found to have expired, shifted residence or were absent while none among the other 1,222 were found to satisfy all conditions laid down by the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Chakma and Hajong organisations have deplored the assembly resolution.

Ads by ZINC

"This is nothing but an excuse to contemptuously reject the judgements and directions of the Supreme Court, vitiate the atmosphere of peace, communal harmony and inter-community relationship," said Subimal Bikash Chakma, president of Committee for Citizenship Rights of the Chakmas and Hajongs of Arunachal Pradesh (CCRCHAP) in a statement.

Chakma National Council of India, the apex body of Chakmas in India, urged Khandu to follow 'raj dharm' while resolving the Chakma-Hajong issue.

In a statement issued on Thursday, CNCI castigated the chief minister for trying

to project all Chakmas as criminals.

In Mizoram, following a demand by NGOs in the state, two parties — Zoram Nationalist Party (ZNP) and Mizoram Peoples' Conference (MPC) — have decided not to field any Chakma candidates for next year's assembly polls.

Earlier this week, Young Mizo Association (YMA) adopted a resolution in the youth organisation's 71st general conference seeking abolition of the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) in Mizoram. Of the state's about one lakh Chakma population, 43,528 reside in CDAC areas.

"By demanding the abolition of CADC, the YMA is communalising the administrative arrangements made for minorities in the state," Paritosh Chakma, convener of Mizoram Chakma Areas Single Administration Demand Committee (MCASADC) said in a release.

Mizoram government also came under sharp criticism from various Chakma organisations earlier this year after four students of the community were denied MBBS seats.

9 killed as portion of Tamil Nadu's transport corporation building collapses



Nine Tamil Nadu transport staffers were killed early on Friday when a part of the roof of an old bus stand collapsed on them.

Three others sustained injuries in the accident that took place in Nagapattinam's Porayar, officials said, and hundreds of people gathered to protest against the deaths.

Seven of the dead were bus conductors with the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation and eighth victim a driver. A ninth person succumbed to injuries later.

As soon as news of the deaths spread, hundreds of people congregated near the bus stand and surrounded state transport minister MR Vijayabhaskar and the district collector.

They demanded adequate compensation as well as a government job to one of the family members of the deceased.

Chief minister Edappadi Palanisami announced a solatium of Rs 7.5 lakh to the family members of each of the deceased and Rs 1.50 Lakh to the seriously injured. Those with minor injuries will receive Rs 50,000 according to a government announcement. The CM also announced a job for a family member of the deceased in the transport department, on the basis of their qualifications. Transport minister Vijayabhaskar told media persons that the roof collapsed since the building was 70 years old. He has ordered an inquiry and promised compensation to family members of the deceased.

CONGRESS INVITES AZHARUDDIN TO CONTEST 2019 TELANGANA ASSEMBLY ELECTION

The Congress in Telangana has invited former cricketer Mohammed Azharuddin to contest the next state Assembly election, due in 2019. "We are inviting him (Azharuddin)," state Congress president N Uttam Kumar Reddy told PTI on Friday. Reddy said he invited Azharuddin after the former cricketer expressed his readiness to play an active role in Telangana. "If we work together again, our Congress government will come in Telangana," Azharuddin said at a public event here on Thursday. To this, Reddy then said, "I am inviting you, in Telangana, whichever MP or MLA... you want to contest. We will call you to contest." The state Congress would like Azharuddin to contest the polls in Telangana and also campaign for the party, he said. Azharuddin, who hails from Hyderabad, had earlier served as Congress MP from Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh. He unsuccessfully contested the 2014 Lok Sabha election from Rajasthan.

A good diet in adulthood can improve physical fitness in old age

A study looked at the long-term effect of a healthy diet during adulthood on physical function in older age and found it boosted physical fitness. The team, led by scientists at the University of Southampton, gathered data from 969 British men and women whose lifestyles have been monitored since they were born, in March 1946.

The team collected information from the participants at ages 36, 43, 53, and 60-64, examining the participants' diets at different ages in relation to three standard measures of physical function at age 60-64 — chair rise, timed up-and-go speeds, standing balance.

The chair rise test measures the time taken to perform ten chair rises, rising from a sitting to a standing position and back down again; the timed up-and-go test looks at the time taken to rise from a chair, walk three metres at normal

pace, turn around, return to the chair and sit down; and a standing balance test measures the time a person can stand on one leg with their eyes closed up to a maximum of 30 seconds.

The results showed that those who ate more fruit, vegetables and whole grain cereals, and fewer highly processed foods, during their adult years performed better in the three tests of physical function.

In addition, the team also found that those who had improved their diet by age 60-64, when compared to their diets at a younger age, had a faster chair rise speed and a longer standing balance time, suggesting that making diet improvements even in early older age could still be particularly important for physical performance.

Lead author Sian Robinson, Professor of Nutritional Epidemiology at the University of Southampton, comment-



ed on the results saying, "Improving the quality of your diet can have a beneficial effect on health whatever your age. However, this study suggests that making good dietary choices throughout adulthood — by cutting down on highly processed foods and incorporating more fruit, vegetables and whole grains into your diet — can have a significant beneficial effect on strength and physical performance later in life, helping to ensure a much healthier old age." Professor Cyrus Cooper, Director of the MRC LEU, added that, "The link between dietary patterns and frailty in older people will open the door to effective interventions against the age-related decline in musculoskeletal function which is such a growing cause of disability in ageing populations worldwide." The findings can be found published online in The Journals of Gerontology: Series A.

World Osteoporosis Day: Indians' calcium intake one of the lowest in world

People in India, like some other countries in Asia-Pacific region including China, Indonesia and Vietnam, have very low calcium intake — less than 400 mg a day, raising the risk of fractures and osteoporosis, according to a new review of the global calcium map.

The findings showed that countries in the next lowest intake categories — 400 to 500 and 500 to 600 mg/day — are clustered in South America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil) and scattered throughout the Far East, North Africa and elsewhere.

"Outside of North America and most of Europe, particularly northern Europe, there is lower intake than there should be for good bone health," said lead author of the review report Ethan Balk, Associate Professor at the Brown University in the US.

"In many parts of the world, a low average calcium intake may be putting most people at increased risk of



fractures and osteoporosis," Balk added.

For the new study, appearing in the journal Osteoporosis International, the team gathered data sources for many studies that reported national averages of daily calcium intake among adults pertaining to 74 countries.

Southern and eastern Asia had world's lowest average

intakes — often less than 400 mg a day, while only North European countries registered intakes of greater than 1,000 mg a day.

Countries in South America and Africa mostly had average intakes in the middle, between about 400 and 700 mg a day, the report revealed.

The findings would motivate action to promote in-

creased calcium consumption, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region and in places where it hadn't been documented, the researchers said.

"This work draws attention to regions where calcium intake needs to be assessed and where measures to increase calcium intake are likely to have skeletal benefits," Balk noted.

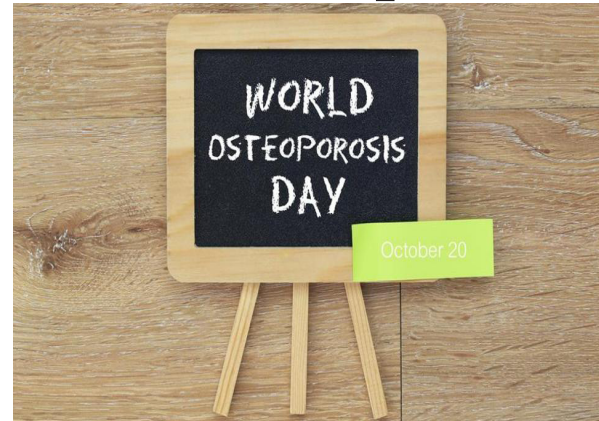
World Osteoporosis Day: Here are 3 ways to boost bone health post-menopause

By the time of menopause — often around age 50 — many women discover they have reduced bone density due to a condition called osteoporosis, causing bones to become weak and brittle and more prone to fractures. Ahead of World Osteoporosis Day on October 20, here's a roundup of some recommendations on how to reduce the risk and keep bones healthy:

Get moving during childhood

Increased exercise — at least three and a half hours per week — for young children, during growth but before puberty, can help boost bone density according to recent research.

Sports with a high osteogenic (bone-building) effect include soccer, basketball and handball, when practised young. Playing these team sports at an early age guarantees greater accumulation of bone mass in comparison with low osteogenic effect sports such as swimming. Moreover, low bone strength appears to be less of



a problem for children who get moving or start walking early, according to a British study published in May 2016.

An anti-inflammatory diet

According to research published in January 2017 in the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research, women who scored highly on the dietary inflammatory index (DII), a measure of the inflammatory potential of diet, had twice the risk of hip fracture than those eating diets with lower inflammatory potential. A Mediterranean diet — rich in fruit, vegetables, fish, omega-3

and whole grain cereals — may therefore be of interest. Plus, vitamin D (sardines, mackerel, calf's liver, eggs, cod liver oil) is essential for building and regenerating bone.

Ads by ZINC Calcium, vitamin D and exercise after menopause

Whether a preventative measure or after a fracture, it's important to ensure sufficient calcium intake after menopause by eating foods such as yogurt and cheese, as well as fruits and vegetables like broccoli, spinach, and dried fruit and nuts (walnuts,

almonds, dried figs). It's also important to keep an eye on sun exposure to help maintain vitamin D levels. Beware of drinking too much coffee or alcohol. While up to two glasses of red wine can be beneficial for osteoporosis, three can make the condition worse.

When it comes to exercise for preventing the loss of bone mass, walking is a good compromise for women needing to avoid impact sports but seeking a cardiovascular workout. Head out for an hour-long walk over the weekend and keep the pace brisk. Or try hiking with Nordic walking sticks, for example, to get the upper body and arms moving too. What's more, hopping carefully for two minutes a day could strengthen the hip bones in older people, helping to reduce the risk of fracture in the event of a fall, according to research from the National Center for Sport and Exercise Medicine (NCSEM) at Loughborough University in the UK.

A bout of inflammation can train your skin to heal faster

In a recent research, scientists have found that stem cells help skin close recurring wounds faster. The discovery could advance research and treatment of psoriasis and other inflammatory diseases. Inflammatory skin diseases are considered to be the most common problem in dermatology. These diseases come in many forms, from occasional rashes to chronic conditions such as dermatitis.

The researchers found that these stem cells, which replenish the skin's outer layer, take their cue from inflammation, the body's own response to injury or infection. The first bout of inflammation sensitises these cells: the next time they sense it coming

on, they respond more rapidly. The scientists provide the first evidence that the skin can form memories of an inflammatory response.

"By enhancing responsiveness to inflammation, these memories help the skin maintain its integrity, a feature that is beneficial in healing wounds after an injury. This memory may also have detrimental effects, however, such as contributing to the relapse of certain inflammatory disorders such as psoriasis," said Elaine Fuchs, the Rebecca C Lancefield Professor.

Whether burned by the sun, attacked by microbes, nicked by a paper cut or worse, the skin quickly becomes inflamed as the body seeks to halt the damage and initiate repair. It has long

been known that the immune system maintains a memory of inflammation to mount faster responses to recurrent infections. But scientists in the Fuchs' lab suspected that other types of long-lived cells might similarly remember inflammation.

In experiments with mice, Shrutti Naik, a postdoc, and Samantha B. Larsen, a graduate student, showed that wounds closed more than twice as fast in skin that had already experienced inflammation than in skin that had never been damaged, even if that initial inflammatory experience had occurred as long as six months earlier, the equivalent of about 15 years for a human.

Inflammation can sometimes run

amok, as happens in autoimmune diseases like psoriasis, a disorder marked by scaly, red patches that often flare up repeatedly in the same spot. Larsen said, "Inflammatory diseases have long been blamed on immune cells that turn against the body. However, that is clearly not the only cause: stem cells may also be important contributors."

While taking about the study, Naik concluded, "A better understanding of how inflammation affects stem cells and other components of tissue will revolutionise our understanding of many diseases, including cancer, and likely lead to novel therapies." The story was published in journal Nature.

Do you take Chinese herbal remedies? Beware, you may be at risk of liver cancer

The findings of a new study suggest stronger measures are needed to prevent people from consuming chemicals called aristolochic acids (AA), which are derived from the woody vines of the Aristolochia plant family, said the report in the journal Science Translational Medicine. The acids can be found in some traditional Chinese medicines that are given during childbirth, to prevent parasites and promote healing.

Researchers tested 98 liver tumours that were stored at hospitals in Taiwan, and found that 78% contained mutation patterns that indicated the cancers "were likely due to contact with the chemicals", said the study. Since these acids cause "a well-defined mutational signature", researchers also looked at 89 samples of liver cancer in China, and found that 47% showed a link to this traditional medicine component.

In Vietnam, five out of 26 tumors studied were a match (19%), along with five out of nine from other countries in Southeast Asia (56%). The link to traditional Chinese medi-

cine was far less common in North America (five percent of 209 liver cancers studied) and 1.7% of the 230 looked at from Europe. Taiwan banned in 2003 some herbal preparations using the plants after it was discovered that aristolochic acids could cause kidney failure and urinary tract cancers.

However, there is no outright ban in China or Taiwan, and "only specific plants, rather than any plant and product containing AA or its derivatives, are regulated", making it hard for consumers to avoid them, said the report. Researchers found that the prevalence of AA-associated mutations in liver cancers in Taiwan did not drop after the ban was implemented.

This could be because it would take more time for a drop in cancers to be noticeable in the data, as was the case with tobacco-related cancers after smoking was revealed to cause lung tumours. Or it could be that people continue to be exposed to these acids through other products and herbal mixtures that still contain them.

Drink up! Alcohol can help you improve your foreign language skills

Alcohol is known to impair cognitive and motor functions as well as 'executive functions,' which include the ability to remember and inhibit inappropriate behaviours, are particularly sensitive to the acute effects of alcohol. But according to a new research, excess alcohol might impair the ability to speak a second language.

On the other hand, alcohol increases self-confidence and reduces social anxiety, both of which might be expected to improve language ability when interacting with another person. The researchers

tested the effects of a low dose of alcohol on participants' self-rated and observer-rated ability to converse in Dutch.

Participants were 50 native German speakers who were studying at a Dutch University (Maastricht) and had recently learned to speak, read and write in Dutch. Participants were randomised to consume either a low dose of alcohol or a control beverage that contained no alcohol, before they chatted with an experimenter in Dutch for a few minutes.

The exact dose of alcohol varied depending on partici-



pants' body weight, but it was equivalent to just under a pint (460ml) of 5 percent beer, for a 70kg male. The chat was audio-recorded and participants' foreign language skills were subsequently rated by two native Dutch speakers who did not know if the par-

icipants had consumed alcohol or not (observer-ratings). Participants also rated their own Dutch language skills during the conversation (self-ratings). The researchers found that participants who had consumed alcohol had significantly better observer-

ratings for their Dutch language, specifically better pronunciation, compared to those who had not consumed alcohol. "Our study shows that acute alcohol consumption may have beneficial effects on the pronunciation of a foreign language in people who recently learned that language. This provides some support for the lay belief (among bilingual speakers) that a low dose of alcohol can improve their ability to speak a second language," said Dr Inge Kersbergen, from the University of Liverpool's Institute of Psychology.

Living near trees makes people less stressed by boosting their brain

Living near an abundance of trees makes adults less stressed, according to new research. People who build their homes in the lap of mother nature may have a healthier brain and may be at lower risk of developing stress-related depression and anxiety disorders than those living near the urban green or wasteland, the research says. The findings showed that city dwellers are at a higher

risk of psychiatric illnesses such as depression, anxiety disorders and schizophrenia than countryside dwellers.

This is because life in a city is full of noise and pollution, and many people scramble in a confined space, increasing the risk for chronic stress.

In the study, appearing in the journal Scientific Reports, city dwellers' showed higher activity levels of amygdala

-- a central nucleus in the brain that plays an important role in stress processing and reactions to danger.

On the other hand, people living close to a forest showed indications of a physiologically healthy amygdala structure and were therefore presumably better able to cope with stress compared to those living the urban green, water or wasteland, the researchers observed.

RBI worried about rise in inflation: MPC minutes

Worry that rising consumer prices will threaten the central bank's inflation target of 4% led the majority of the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy committee (MPC) to vote to keep rates steady.

Committee members also said at their October 4 meeting they expected that a slowdown in economic growth to its lowest in more than three years in the April-June quarter could prove transitory, and it was prudent to wait for more evidence.

"It is important to recognise near- and medium-term risks to the inflation outlook," RBI governor Urjit Patel said, according to the minutes of the meeting released on Wednesday.

"There is a need for more data to assess whether the recent headwinds



in overall GDP growth prints are transient or sustained."

The RBI's six-member monetary policy committee voted 5-1 to keep

the repo rate unchanged at the October 4 meeting after inflation in August surged to 3.36% from a year earlier — not far off the central bank's 4% target. However, data after the meeting showed inflation held steady at 3.28% in September, in line with a downwardly revised number for August, although analysts said they expected the repo rate to remain unchanged for now.

Michael Patra, an executive director of the RBI, reiterated a call made earlier in the year that the central bank even needed to be ready to raise rates, according to the minutes.

"It is time to be in readiness to raise the policy rate to quell the underlying drivers of inflation if they strengthen further," Patra said.

China to give foreigners greater access to banking sector: Chief regulator

China's top banking regulator said on Thursday that the country will further open up its banking system to foreign investors, who have failed to make inroads into the highly regulated sector and seen their market share decline.

"We will give foreign banks more space in the form of their establishment, shareholder qualifications, the percentage of their shareholding and their scope of business," said Guo Shuqing, chairman of the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) at a news conference during the 19th Party Congress. The market share of foreign banks in China has decreased to 1.2% now from 2.4% 10 years ago, Guo said.

"This is not beneficial for promoting competition and structure optimisation," he said.

Guo's comments are the latest indication that the world's second-biggest economy may lower barriers to overseas participation in its financial services sector, which has frustrated some foreign firms.

The regulator's comment comes as Beijing

faces mounting pressure from Western governments and business lobbies to remove investment restrictions and onerous regulations that prevent foreign firms from operating in its markets. China has responded by renewing earlier promises to open its markets further. Making moves to open markets now may be a case of "too little, too late", said Keith Pogson, EY's global assurance leader for banking and capital markets.

"Many foreigners have lost interest in participating in the Chinese market directly," said Pogson, following years of market curbs exacerbated by the competitive threat of China's biggest state-owned banks and rising non-bank financial sector.

There were 39 wholly-owned foreign banking institutions operating in China at the end of last year, according to CBRC statistics.

In July, the People's Bank of China published rules allowing foreign rating agencies to establish wholly-owned businesses on the mainland to assess the credit risks of domestic bonds.

Now, Air India looks for Rs 1,500 crore short term loans

Disinvestment-bound Air India has sought proposals for short term loans worth Rs 1,500 crore to meet "urgent" working capital needs, according to a document.

This is the second time in little over a month that the flagship carrier has floated tenders for short tenure loans even as the government is working on the modalities for the stake sale.

The debt-laden carrier, which is surviving on taxpayers' money, is battling multiple headwinds, including financial woes and stiff competition.

In a document issued on October 18, Air India said it is looking for "government guarantee backed Indian Rupee short term loans totalling up to Rs 1,500 crore to meet its urgent working capital requirements".

The loan would have a tenure up to June 27, 2018 from the date of being availed



and the deadline could be extended.

"The amount of Rs 1,500 crore will be drawn in one-three tranches... The Government of India guarantee, is valid up to June 27, 2018 or till the date of disinvestment," the document said.

With regard to the loan, the carrier has requested banks to submit their financial bids along with the amount they are willing to provide by October 26.

floated last month.

As part of a turnaround plan approved by the previous UPA regime, Air India is to receive up to Rs 30,231 crore from the government subject to meeting certain performance thresholds. The 10-year bailout package began from 2012.

The embattled carrier has received around Rs 26,000 crore under the package so far. In June this year, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave its in-principle nod to the strategic disinvestment of the airline -- which has a debt burden of more than Rs 50,000 crore.

A ministerial group is now working on the disinvestment modalities, including treatment of Air India's unsustainable debt, hiving off of certain assets to a shell company, demerger and strategic disinvestment of three profit-making subsidiaries.

Google, Microsoft, Amazon most authentic brands in India, says report

Search engine giant Google has emerged as the most authentic brand in the country, followed by Microsoft, Amazon, Maruti Suzuki and Apple, according to New York-based global communications firm Cohn & Wolfe.

Sony, YouTube, BMW, Mercedes Benz and British Airways are the other brands to feature in the top 10.

The communications firm, part of WPP group, noted that Indian consumers are becoming more positive in their perceptions of brand authenticity.

About 67% of Indian consumers are more likely to buy from brands perceived as authentic, it said in its 2017 Authentic Brands Study for India, a part of a global consumer survey on the role of authenticity in business.

It observed that in India, 37% of respondents perceived brands to be open and honest compared to a global average of 22%. Similarly, 38% of consumers surveyed in India agreed that brands take full



responsibility for their actions, compared to the global average of 25%.

"Brands that behave and communicate with authenticity will build better relationships with customers and deliver improved user experiences. To differentiate their offerings and grow market share, our research shows that brands in India need to focus on the three drivers of authen-

ticity -- reliable, respectful and real," Cohn & Wolfe Asia Pacific president Matt Stafford said.

E-commerce giant Amazon is ranked as the world's most authentic brand, followed by Apple, Microsoft, Google and PayPal. Technology brands comprise 70% of the top 10 most authentic global brands.

The study is based on a

combination of primary and secondary research, including surveys on more than 1,400 brands conducted in May and June this year, with over 15,000 respondents in 15 markets -- Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States.

India's tightened consumer goods standards could hurt China imports

India is tightening quality controls for consumer and capital goods, officials say, a move that follows calls to curb cheap imports from China amid diplomatic tensions between the world's two most populous nations over their shared border.

The new rules target toys, electronic goods, machinery, food processing, construction and chemicals, sectors dominated by China, and come amid greater scrutiny of mainland firms looking to enter India's multi-billion dollar power transmission and telecoms business.

For India's toy retailers, who import everything from toy cars to musical phones and even robots from China, the new requirements have meant supply disruptions just ahead of the Diwali festive season.

The government's Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has approximately 23,000 standards across industries, many of which are never fully enforced, officials say. Now, government departments have been asked to carry out laboratory tests and spot inspection to ensure goods conform to the regulations.

"We have started this work on a war footing, to have quality control orders for almost every product that we are consuming in the country," said Ramesh Abhishek who heads the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

The new rules apply to both foreign manufacturers and domestic firms.

However, two people familiar with trade policy who did not want to be named said the sectors targeted are ones in which China controls more than two-thirds of the market, such as toy and stainless steel good industries, and where there have been "chronic" complaints of substandard products.

Separately, Indian Steel Secretary



Aruna Sharma said her department will soon release new guidelines, raising quality norms for welded stainless steel pipes that are used in oil and gas as well as construction sector.

"There is evidence of China exporting semi-finished and finished goods using stainless steel that do not meet the BIS standards," Sharma said.

India's trade ministry did not respond to Reuters' request for comment on the new rules. China's foreign ministry referred questions to the commerce ministry, which did not immediately respond to request for comment. Bilateral trade between India and China boomed to \$71.45 billion in 2016-17 from \$1.83 billion in 1999-2000, though most of this is skewed to Chinese exports.

The trade deficit has widened to \$51.1 billion over the past year, a nine-fold increase over the last decade, despite repeated Indian calls for China to address the imbalance and open its markets.

Those trade differences are now being amplified by the resurfacing of a long-running border dispute, which

has stirred protectionist sentiment in India.

In June, a nationalist group tied to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party began a campaign to discourage the use of Chinese goods in the country. The Swadeshi Jagran Manch, an affiliate of the main Hindu nationalist organisation that fights for domestic industry and agriculture, has planned a protest rally in Delhi later this month against the influx of Chinese products.

Toys from China The new testing requirements for toys focus on their chemical content and flammability and demand more stringent testing for those that are electrically operated.

China accounts for 85 percent of India's \$760 million toy industry and these are priced at anything from 50 cents to \$150.

Several toy importers are urging the government to delay the new regulations until the festival season is over, saying it would choke supply.

"It comes out of the blue, with no forewarning and gives no time for

retailers to prepare for compliance," said Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO, Retailers Association of India that represents over 1,000 members.

"As a result, it will have grave consequences, such as losses in terms of huge amounts of money paid as advance by retailers to suppliers overseas and a loss of jobs as some businesses that sell only toys will have to shut shop."

While the new rules could hurt local retail consumption, other industry participants argue they will ultimately help local firms by improving standards and keeping low-end imports in check.

They follow similar moves in August, when the government ordered makers of light emitting diode (LED) bulbs to register their products with the BIS for safety checks in an industry where smuggling of Chinese products is rampant.

"There is a need for stronger enforcement for compliance to these standards," said Sumit Joshi, vice chairman and managing director, Philips Lighting India, the country's largest LED maker.

Air India disinvestment: Unions to meet to discuss strategy next week

Air India unions are likely to meet next week in the national capital to discuss their strategy amid the government going ahead with the disinvestment process.

Sources say efforts are on to bring all staff unions of Air India including those of the pilots and engineers on one platform and work out a strategy to deal with the situation arising out of the government's decision to offload its stake in the flag carrier.

"In the last few months, several Air India unions have held discussions at an individual level with the management on the issue of disinvestment.

"But now there is need for all unions to come together and talk to the government in one voice on airline's privatisation," said a leader of one of the largest unions at Air India.

Air India, which has over 20,000 employees on its roll, has as many as six recognised unions, representing ground and commercial staff, pilots, cabin crew and engineers, among others, besides, several unrecognised unions.

To revive the loss-making state-run car-

rier, which also has a debt burden of over Rs 50,000 crore, the government has decided to go for its strategic disinvestment and the modalities are being worked out by a Group of Ministers headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

"We are going to talk to all the unions and bring them on one platform to prepare a common strategy while we sit with the management on the issue of disinvestment next time. We are planning to call a meeting of all these unions next week," the source said.

Significantly, seven Air India unions have already expressed their opposition to the airline's privatisation.

On June 28, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had given in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment of Air India and five of its subsidiaries.

The government has already invited applications for engaging up to two advisers, a legal adviser and asset valuer for the strategic disinvestment of Air India and its subsidiaries/ joint venture.

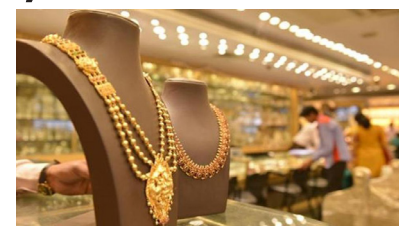
GOLD SPARKLES ON DIWALI DEMAND, TOPS RS 31,000

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 75,000 for buying and Rs 75,000 for selling of 100 pieces.

Joe Root must 'con' England cricket team into Ashes mindset: Michael Vaughan

Joe Root, England cricket team captain, must convince his team they can win in Australia, even if he has to "lie a bit and con" them, says former Ashes-winning skipper Michael Vaughan.

Vaughan, speaking just over a week before England depart, said Steve Smith's Australians are still a formidable side at home even though they are not the dominant force they once were.

The tourists, who could be without talismanic all-rounder Ben Stokes, will be desperate to avoid anything like the 5-0 drubbing handed out to them last time they travelled Down Under in 2013-14 but there are questions over the make-up of the side, particularly the top order.

"His (Root's) greatest challenge is going to be to convince the team they can win," said Vaughan.

"It may be that he has to lie a bit and con them. He might have to blow up a few tyres that might be flat and convince them they are good enough to beat this Australian team."

"I don't think it is right to go there and talk down the Aussies. I've been around captains that do that and it doesn't work. It is worth saying they are good. They are not what they were 20 years ago but they are dangerous and you know what they will produce over five matches."



Vaughan, who famously captained England to a home Ashes triumph in 2005, ending 16 years of Australian domination, said Root would have to convince his players that they could not blitz the opposition into submission.

"I don't see them blowing Australia away in three days," said the former captain.

"They will win over there by playing how they did in 2010-11, by scoring lots of runs in the first innings, batting for periods of time, nullifying good spells of bowling and not thinking 'we are going to attack all the time!'"

Root's men, who are Ashes holders after winning at home in 2015, will start their campaign in the no-

toriously hostile arena of the Gabba in Brisbane on November 23

They may be without Stokes, who will not be on the flight out on October 28, though no final decision has been taken on his involvement in the series.

The Test vice-captain was arrested in September on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm and suspended from internationals until further notice following an apparent fight outside a nightclub.

The powerful all-rounder, who was released without charge but remains under investigation, was included in the Ashes squad despite reportedly injuring his hand in the incident that led to his arrest.

Vaughan, speaking at the launch of BT Sport's Ashes coverage in London in his capacity as a pundit, admitted that if Stokes were missing, it would be a huge boost for the opposition.

"I am sure Australia respect a lot of our players but the one they fear the most is not going to be there," he said.

"I've not seen too many celebrations from the Australians but I am sure in private they have cracked open a few bottles. If (batsman David) Warner was injured next week and out of the Ashes I am sure you would find the England players celebrating."

"It is not disrespecting Alastair Cook but I would say Stokes is England's second best player with the bat. With the ball he is erratic at times but he has an impact."

"In the field you know he will produce something. More importantly it is his mindset. I watch England walk out on the field and when Stokes is in the team they walk out two inches taller. If he is not there in Brisbane you would have to say the Australians are clear favourites to win the series."

England have lost two of their past three tours in Australia 5-0, either side of their 3-1 win in 2010/11.

Following the Brisbane opener, they play further Tests in Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne and Sydney.

Chris Lynn signs million-dollar deal with Big Bash League franchise Brisbane Heat

Chris Lynn has signed a five-year million-dollar deal with the Big Bash League (BBL) franchise, Brisbane Heat.

Lynn, who has represented Heat since 2011, will continue with Brisbane Heat until the 2021-22 season.

The 27-year-old Chris Lynn had sustained a shoulder injury for the third time in two years while attempting a diving outfield catch for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the early part of the 10th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) season.

The agreement was complemented by confirmation that coaches Daniel Vettori and Shane Bond had accepted two-year contract extensions that keep them with the Heat for eighth and ninth edition of BBL.

"I'm honoured that the Heat have shown confidence in me for the coming seasons and given us the opportunity to achieve something special as a club in the future," said an excited Lynn, the BBL player of the series last year.

Lynn and Heat captain Brendon McCullum cut a swathe through the BBL last season, with the former New Zealander equalling the fastest ever 50 for Heat, off 18 balls, while he



and Lynn produced a record unbroken stand of 148 for the second wicket against Perth at the WACA.

The 27-year-old right hander said he was making steady progress in his return from shoulder surgery.

"I've had some good reports from the surgeon and the QC medical staff and we're working to the recovery plan. It is feeling okay now, although there is still a way to go," Lynn said.

Heat coach Daniel Vettori said the club had created a formidable foundation to build upon for the future.

"Lynny is a dominant, world-class player and as coach, I'm delighted he will be with us for the foreseeable future," he said.

"The playing group we are assembling will give us impact and options as we enter the next few seasons," he added.

Yuvraj Singh's mother Shabnam asks, 'What is Akanksha fighting for after two years?'

Out of the blue, two years after his brother Zorawar separated from his wife, cricketer Yuvraj Singh has been named in a domestic violence case, filed by his estranged sister-in-law Akanksha Sharma, as of now known as a former Bigg Boss contestant.

Mother Shabnam Singh, also named as co-accused, along with Yuvi and Zorawar, is furious, especially as the rumours are spiralling out of control. When we call her, Shabnam Singh asks, "What has Yuvraj got to do with all this? The only relationship he has with Akanksha is that Zorawar happens to be his younger brother. This is such a torture when people call us saying, 'Has Yuvraj been arrested?'"

The cricketer's family lawyer, Damanbir Singh Sobti, will file a response in court on October 21. The Singhs were served with a notice on October 18, after Akanksha filed a petition in court, accusing Yuvraj,



Zorawar, and Shabnam of domestic violence.

Sobti points out, "Akanksha has just filed a domestic violence petition. There's no culpability fixed, there is no booking, no criminal FIR, and no inquiry. You can also file a petition against a dead person and put a Rs 10 stamp on it and get a notice issued by misstating [anything]."

In her petition, Akanksha's lawyer has stated that since Yuvraj was a silent spectator to all the alleged "mental and financial violence" that her client faced in the Singh household, he is an equal party to

it. Reacting to this, Shabnam says, "This is so contradictory. In all her interviews and also on Bigg Boss, Akanksha has maintained that Yuvi has been always nice to her, like a brother and a guide. And now she has eaten her words for reasons known to one and all."

The one admitted fact is that Akanksha moved out of her matrimonial home in September 2015; she is separated from Zorawar, but not yet divorced. Shabnam says it's very strange how she has come up with these allegations

only now. "We want to ask, what is she fighting for after two years? Clearly, Akanksha is not fighting for her marriage or [for] Zorawar here. What justice is she seeking [through] these baseless allegations?"

Saying how Akanksha is trying to play the victim card, Sobti reveals that the situation was actually the other way round. "Zorawar is the one who got sick and tired of Akanksha's mental cruelty and drug abuse," says the lawyer. "As an individual, regardless of whose brother and son he is, he's first a husband, who wanted divorce from his wife. And so, without going to the media or leveling allegations, he quietly filed a divorce petition."

A source close to the family further says, "Akanksha is only trying to extort money, because the [Singh] family is influential. Her screaming foul is so null and void; she's doing this all for cheap publicity, using Yuvraj's celebrity status."

State Football League-2017: J&K Bank Academy thrashes Rahim Green Solina by 5-0

Iqbal Sports beats SFA by a solitary goal in Premier-Division match

Srinagar, Oct 20: In the ongoing State Football League-2017, two matches were played at Synthetic Turf TRC on Thursday (Oct 19) in which J&K Bank Academy and Iqbal Sports emerged winners.

In the Premier-Division match, Iqbal Sports defeated State Football Academy (SFA) by a solitary goal. Right from the start of the match, Iqbal Sports team played aggressive football and attacked the goal posts of opposite team frequently. In 7th minute of the play, Rayees breached the defence lines of SFA and ensured Iqbal Sports takes an early lead in the match.

After conceding the lead the SFA players made several attempts in the first half to score an equaliser, but the defence lines of Iqbal Sports thwarted their attempts. The first half ended with Iqbal Sports leading 1-0. As the second half began, both the teams initially played defensive



football and only in the last 20 minutes of the match, there was some urgency shown by the SFA to score an equaliser. However, they missed several opportunities to score and when the referee blew the final whistle, the score line read 1-0 in favour of Iqbal Sports. Rayees was declared man of the match for his performance.

In the Super Division match of the day, J&K Bank Academy thrashed Rahim Green Solina team by five goals to nil in a one-sided encounter. Bank team dominated the match right from the start of the play and the helpless de-

fenders of Solina team couldn't match them. Sahil Bashir opened the account for the Bank in just 5th minute of the match and just five minutes later doubled the lead. Yasir Rafiq made it 3-0 for the Bank Academy in 13th minute of the match while Sajid scored fourth goal in 29th minute.

The Solina players tried their best to score, but the defence lines of Bank team thwarted all their attempts. At the end of the first half, the score line read 4-0 in favour of the Bank. In second half also the Bank players were all over the ground and Sahil Bandy scored the fifth goal

ensuring a thumping victory for his team.

More than 500 football teams and clubs with over 12000 players and over 1500 team officials are participating in State Football League-2017, a mega event, first of its kind in the history of J&K football. The aim of holding such a mega event is to unearth the hidden talent across the state.

While B-Division League of State Football League is already completed with IPC Nowgam winning the title, the A-Division League has reached to the final stage with Fort View FC and Novelty FC qualifying for final. In Super and Premier Division leagues, more than 60 percent matches have been completed. More than 500 football teams and clubs with over 12000 players and over 1500 team officials are participating in the mega event, the aim of which is to unearth the hidden talent across the State.

AB de Villiers passes Virat Kohli to reclaim top spot in ICC ODI batsmen's ranking

Swashbuckling South Africa cricket team batsman AB de Villiers has once again grabbed the top position in the ICC ODI Player Rankings for Batsmen.

The 33-year-old, who has leapfrogged Australian David Warner and Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli, first attained top position on May 30, 2010 and the number of days he has spent at the top is second most after retired Windies great Vivian Richards. De Villiers has now been at the top for 2,124 days while Richards was number one for 2,306 days.

An astonishing knock of 176 by De Villiers in the second ODI against Bangladesh in Paarl, which consisted of 15 fours and seven sixes and came off only 104 balls, has also helped South Africa edge India at the top of the ODI Team Rankings by taking a 2-0 winning lead in the three-match series.

The latest rankings, which take into account the first two matches of the South Africa-Bangladesh series and the first three matches of the ongoing Pakistan-Sri Lanka series in the United Arab Emirates, sees De Villiers climb to the top of the ODI table for the 14th time in



his career.

Other batsmen to move up include Pakistan's Babar Azam (up two places to a career-best fourth position), the South African pair of Quinton de Kock (up three places to fifth) and Hashim Amla (up two places to ninth), and Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim (up five places to 18th).

Among bowlers, Hasan Ali's haul of five for 34 in the third ODI against Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi, which his team won by seven wickets for a de-

cisive 3-0 lead in the five-match series, has given the pace bowler a big boost in ranking points.

The 23-year-old, who has taken nine wickets in the series so far, has moved up six places to become the fifth bowler at the top of the ODI rankings this year after Trent Boult, Imran Tahir, Kagiso Rabada and Josh Hazlewood.

Outside of the top 20, Sri Lanka's Suranga Lakmal (up three places to 36th), South Africa's Andile Phehluk-

wayo (up 30 places to 52nd) and Bangladesh's Rubel Hossain (up seven places to 61st) are the other bowlers to move northwards.

Pakistan's Mohammad Hafeez is back as the top all-rounder, edging Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan. Hafeez, who first attained top ranking in January 2013, has reached the top spot for the ninth time.

Meanwhile, India will be looking to wrest back the top spot in the team rankings when they take on New Zealand in an upcoming three-match series.

South Africa and India are both on 120 points with South Africa ahead on decimal points. South Africa can reach 121 points if they complete a 3-0 series win over Bangladesh but India will overtake them if they win the opening match against New Zealand, to be played the same day as the last South Africa-Bangladesh match, on 22 October.

If India win that match, they too will be on 121 points but ahead in decimal-point calculation. However, India will have to win the series against New Zealand 3-0 to retain the top spot should South Africa win the last match against Bangladesh.

Neymar fined \$1.5 million by Brazil court for tax evasion

He may be quick on the ball and one of the finest strikers in modern football, but Neymar has been fined over a million dollars for his attempts to delay a tax evasion case. According to reports quoting judicial sources, Neymar has been booked for using legal manoeuvres to avoid paying taxes.

The parents of the PSG and Brazil international as well as three companies that administer the player's portfolio have all been fined, says ESPN.

An appeals court in Brazil has fined Neymar \$ 1.19 million, approximately two per cent of the value that Brazilian tax officials intend to get from the superstar for tax evasion and fines.

According to the Tax Office, the striker created several companies so as to receive part of his salaries and his image rights, with the aim of not paying personal tax (27.5 per cent) which is superior to corporate entities, which can vary from 15 to 25 percent, reports ESPN.



Magistrate Carlos Muta considered in his ruling that Neymar's conduct in the process "characterises litigation of bad faith and a detrimental act to the dignity of Justice" because of the clear intention of the capacity of his defense to extend the case. The magistrate considers that the former Barcelona and Santos player only wants to "obstruct the continuity of the process."

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The tax evasion case has not affected Neymar's form. Both Neymar and Mbappe were on target as Paris Saint-Germain underlined their dominance of Champions League Group B on Wednesday with a 4-0 rout of Anderlecht.